

 AULTMAN COLLEGE

CONNECTION

Magazine

Fall 2025



Rise,
Shine,
Thrive!

New Day Cleveland Visits

Diversity: Spreading Love and
Acceptance with Campus Quilt

History of X-ray

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Dear Friend of Aultman College:

Welcome to the Connections Newsletter,

Thank you for **connecting** with our campus this year! Whether you are a colleague, alumni, donor, parent, student or friend of campus (maybe even wearing multiple hats in this list), we RISE, SHINE and THRIVE because of your involvement with us and our students. Campus certainly isn't the same without you.

Fall 2025 has brought such energy and excitement to our hallways and classrooms. The start of the semester was full of record-breaking highlights:

- This fall, we welcomed our largest entry class in Aultman College history, with 176 new students joining our ranks! This group included a cohort of 20 students in our newest program, diagnostic medical sonography (focusing on cardiac and vascular diagnostic studies).

We are thrilled to continue to provide our community with market-relevant programs that lead to jobs in our local healthcare workforce.

- Fifty seven (57) new future nurses enrolled with us this fall, which is the largest number we've seen in one semester since fall 2017. Offering both the associate and bachelor's degree in nursing meets different populations with different needs, but all students work toward passing their licensure examination to work as a registered nurse (RN) in our local healthcare settings.
- We are equally proud to report that our persistence and retention rates of returning students continue to increase. Students not only start with us, they continue, graduate and start their careers in healthcare. In 2025, we have already seen more than 100 new providers exit our doors, ready to work!

And that's just the beginning of one semester. This year's magazine is full of fresh starts, growth, collaboration and opportunity to further **connect** with many different points in our year and story. I hope you are inspired by many of the accomplishments outlined within.

And of course, for me, people are the point. It goes without saying that I would love to **re-connect** with you and your ideas on how we can continue to RISE, SHIN, and THRIVE — don't hesitate to reach out.

Jean R. Paddock

Jean R. Paddock, PhD.
President
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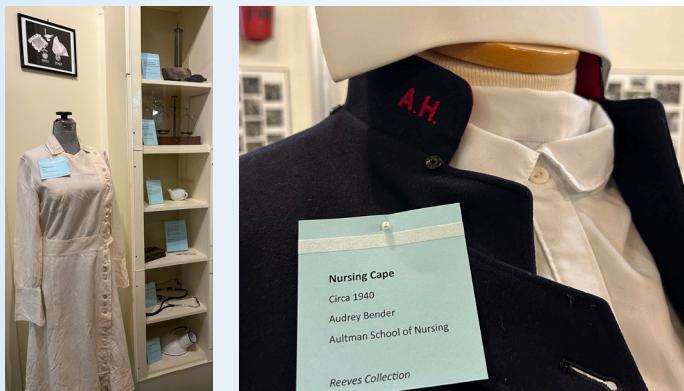


Connecting the Community

Archival Items Featured at Dover's Reeves Museum

In June, the Reeves Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum in Dover opened an exhibit titled, "The Human Touch: Our Local Nursing Legacy," which features several items from Aultman College. The items were selected by museum staff from the college's archives to help tell the local history of nursing.

President Jean R. Paddock and Dr. JoAnn Donnenwirth, dean of nursing, visited the exhibit in the museum's carriage house and were able to see the items in their new, temporary home. Aultman School of Nursing and Aultman College artifacts are featured prominently throughout, noted as "Item Courtesy of Aultman College, Part of the Aultman Health System."



Catch Us on Streaming

Aultman College is broadcasting advertisements on a variety of streaming media sources, including Fox 8 News, Disney+, Hulu and more. So far, the advertisements have proven to be extremely successful for promoting visits to the Aultman College website. There are several campaigns that are being aired, based on the media source and viewing audience. However, the goal of the advertisements remains to attract students to Aultman College and the Aultman College website to learn more about how Aultman College can be the right fit for them.

New Day Cleveland Visits

On May 21, New Day Cleveland and Fox 8 News visited the Aultman College campus. They filmed several segments on why students should choose Aultman College and what makes it unique as a place of higher

education. Several staff members participated in the filming process, explaining the role Aultman College has played in their lives and in their careers and why it can be the best place for current students. The segments aired over the course of several days, showcasing all of the hard work that staff and faculty put into these pieces to gain student attraction and publicity.



2024 Stark County's Choice Community Awards

On Sept. 10, 2024, Aultman College attended Stark County's Community Choice awards gala. As a first-year nominee for Stark County's Best College/University category, Aultman College beat out its competitors for the award. Thank you to everyone in the community who voted to support us.

With student-centered values that prepare healthcare professionals who lead the community to improved health, this award drives home the hard work, passion and dedication the college's faculty and staff have for its students.

Faculty and Staff



Faculty & Staff Promotions



Wendi Alston, MA, Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Wendi started at Aultman College in February 2022 as financial aid administrator and was promoted last year to assistant director of financial aid. In this new role, Wendi oversees awarding and processing all federal, state and institutional aid. She also supervises the financial aid staff and works with the enrollment management team to successfully move new and returning students through the admission process. Through this position, Wendi also maintains an extensive knowledge of federal aid regulations and requirements.

Wendi has been married for 37 years and has four children and two grandsons. She likes to read, travel and bake, while also enjoying the beach and sunshine. Wendi has 14 years of strong financial aid experience under her belt, as she obtained a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's degree in human services, with an emphasis in student affairs.



Publications & Presentations

Nicole Bradford, MHA, BSRT (R)(CT), Assistant Professor of Radiography

Bradford, N. (2025). Image Acquisition in Computed Tomography. *ASRT Directed Reading Supplement*.

Kristi Rohm, MS, MLIS, RN, Associate Professor of Nursing

Higginbotham, K., Segovia, L., Rohm, K., Anderson, C., Breitenstein, S. (2025) Social vulnerability index and health outcomes in the United States: A systematic review. *Family and Community Health* (48), 2, 81-96, <https://doi.10.1097/FCH.0000000000000421>

New Hires



Zack Rodak, Student Success Advisor

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330-363-1233

Background

Zack graduated from Miami University with a degree in sociology and entrepreneurship. He has had many different job experiences that have brought him to where he is today. Zack has worked as a bartender, valet driver, ski/snowboard instructor and an ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor before he finally found his place at Aultman College.

Responsibilities

Zack acts as a guide for the students' journey through their time at Aultman College. He is here to support students to achieve their academic and career goals by helping them navigate their coursework, understand their program and degree requirements, and connect them to campus resources.

All About Zack:

How would you describe working for Aultman College in a few words?

Working at Aultman College is like being in a family, where we are all working together to raise our collective student body children.

What is the best advice you would give to someone just starting at Aultman College?

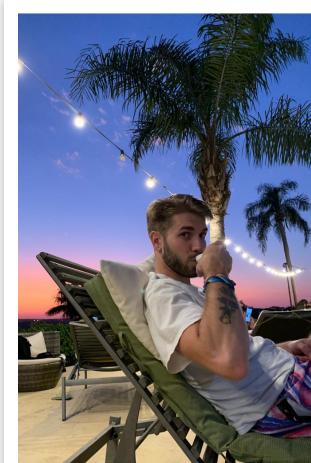
Best advice for a newbie like me would be to act like a sponge and to enjoy the process. Everyone here is incredibly smart and qualified with a ton of experience and knowledge and they're excited to share that with you, so being able to rely on your colleagues is an amazing feeling.

How would you describe your desk?

I would describe my desk as a good mixture of work and fun. My computer, scanner, phone, pencils and paper indicate that I mean business, while my kinetic sand, hacky sack, small figurines and Lord of the Rings posters remind me not to take myself seriously.

What do you like to do in your own time?

In my free time I like to spend time with family and friends, make/eat food, exercise, ski/snowboard in the winter and paddleboard/swim in the summer. I like to read sci-fi and watch true crime documentaries.



New Hires



Bella Hayward, Student Success Advisor

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Background

Bella graduated summa cum laude from Capital University with a degree in English literature and Spanish in May 2024 and then began working at Aultman College in August. During her time at Capital, Bella developed a strong passion for student success through a variety of leadership positions. She served as president of her sorority, vice president of finance for student government, an orientation leader, and a writing consultant at Academic Success. Bella also worked as a social media intern at Capital's marketing team and was honored as a 2024 Distinguished Senior Leader. Over the past year at Aultman College, Bella has continued to build on her experiences by connecting students with resources, providing personalized support and contributing to a welcoming, student-centered environment. Bella looks forward to growing with Aultman College and helping students achieve their goals!

Responsibilities:

Bella advises ASN and AASR students on academic progress, helping them stay on track to meet graduation requirements. She serves as the primary point of contact for students, addressing their questions and connecting them with the appropriate resources, and monitors student progress using tools like Dropout Detective to identify and intervene with at-risk students. She also establishes consistent communication with students throughout the academic year to ensure they receive continuous support.

All About Bella:

How would you describe working for Aultman College in a few words?
Joyful, collaborative and worthwhile!

What is the best advice you would give to someone just starting at Aultman College?

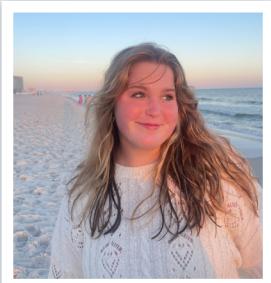
Take time to ask questions and connect with others within your division and across departments. Everyone is here to support you, and building those relationships will not only help you grow but also make your experience more fulfilling!

How would you describe your desk?

My desk is fun and functional: colorful sticky notes all over, strawberry coasters, and a green keyboard to keep things feeling bright.

What do you like to do in your own time?

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, going to the beach, singing, shopping, and breaking it down in Zumba!



New Hires



Sarah Adkins, Clinical Field Coordinator, Sonography

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330-363-3933

Background:

Sarah has an insurance background with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in healthcare management. She also holds an associate's degree in diagnostic medical sonography with a focus on cardiac. Sarah has worked in the Aultman Deuble Heart & Vascular Hospital for over six years.

Responsibilities:

Sarah is responsible for helping to plan, implement and evaluate students when they go to their clinical sites for training, while also working with faculty and staff to make them successful.

All About Sarah:

How would you describe working for Aultman College in a few words?

It has been an honor to be selected to help form a new foundation of cardiac and vascular sonographers through the new program. I have worked really hard to get to this point, and I look forward to helping educate the new generation of sonographers.

What is the best advice you would give to someone just starting at Aultman College?

It will be hard! Do not let anyone tell you that you can't do this job. Do not be the one that stands in your own way. Confidence in yourself is key. ALWAYS bet on yourself first!

How would you describe your desk?

My desk is usually pretty neat. Clutter makes me cringe so there is usually a spot for everything.

What do you like to do in your own time?

In my own time I love to cook, take cruises and golf. All are very strategically done as I am very busy navigating the lives and schedules of everyone in the house. My husband, Aaron, and I have four children: Nora, 16; Gavin, 14; Camden, 13; and Logan, 11. If I am not busy cooking and cruising, I am usually on the baseball field watching the two older boys play or I am coaching the youngest.



New Hires



Makenzie Gill, Clinical Field Coordinator, Nursing

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330-363-4265

Background:

Makenzie earned her ASN from Aultman College in 2018. She also has a BSN from the University of Akron that she earned in 2019. Makenzie is currently pursuing her MSN in nursing education at Kent State University. She has worked bedside at Aultman Health System for three years on a step-down neurology floor. In 2021, Makenzie started a position at Aultman College as an adjunct clinical faculty member, teaching nursing clinicals and labs. Makenzie has instructed clinicals throughout Aultman Health System for the ASN and BSN programs.

Responsibilities:

As the clinical field coordinator, Makenzie performs tasks in all aspects related to clinical. This includes evaluating clinical sites and instructors each semester, orienting clinical adjunct faculty and being a point person throughout the semester to assist with any problems or questions that arise. She also ensures students are up to date on all requirements for each clinical site and that they have all the resources they need to have a beneficial clinical experience.

All About Allyson:

How would you describe working for Aultman College in a few words?

Supportive, rewarding and collaborative.

What is the best advice you would give to someone just starting at Aultman College?

Don't be afraid to ask questions. One of the things I love the most about working at Aultman College is the people. We work well together and support each other to reach a common goal. If you ever have a question or need help, just ask and there will always be someone there to assist.

How would you describe your desk?

Organized ... I love sticky notes and lists.

What do you like to do in your own time?

On my own time, I love to spend time with my family and pets. I enjoy gardening, taking care of my chickens, travelling and hiking. I try to spend as much time as possible outside.



New Hires



Payton Rhodes, Marketing and Communications Intern

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330-363-6347

Background:

Payton joined the Communications and Public Relations team in January 2025. Originally from Hartville, Ohio, Payton is currently a junior at the University of Akron, on track to graduate May 2026, with a bachelor of business administration in marketing. Along with interning at the college, Payton also works at the Starbucks on her campus as a shift leader. Payton has had two marketing internships prior to Aultman College, one with a local company called NeoFill and one with Congress Lake Country Club. She is excited to continue her marketing journey with the college. Payton is looking forward to helping Aultman College with their marketing endeavors in order to showcase all that the college has to offer.

Responsibilities:

Payton creates social media posts for various college events, following along with each month's Hoot Review. Working alongside other members of the marketing team, she collaborates on projects and brainstorms ideas for different marketing strategies. She also worked on revamping several marketing designs, such as the college's email communication plan and the Connection magazine.

All About Payton:

How would you describe working for Aultman College in a few words?

Goal-oriented, caring and fun!

What is the best advice you would give to someone just starting at Aultman College?

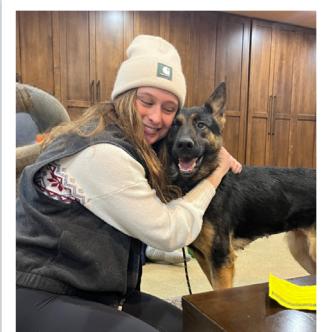
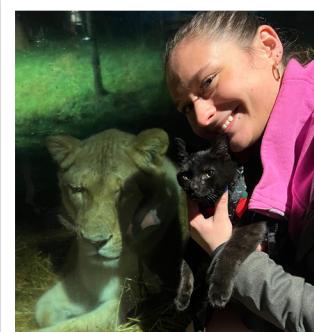
Everyone is super kind and wants to get to know you. Say "hi" and introduce yourself to as many people as you can when you are on campus!

How would you describe your desk?

I am a pretty organized person, so my desk is clean and orderly overall.

What do you like to do in your own time?

I enjoy going to the gym, reading, cooking, spending time with my cat and dog, and doing activities outside, such as hiking, going on runs and biking.



New Hires



Allyson Vasbinder, Project Manager Intern

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Background:

Allyson is a current student at The Ohio State University studying health information management and systems. Her past job experience includes working as a student assistant in The Ohio State University College of Medicine where she mainly performed administrative tasks such as scheduling advising appointments for students, scheduling tours for prospective students, and answering phone and email inquiries. At Ohio State, Allyson is also a member of the Health Information and Systems Student Organization and Block O, which is the official student section of Ohio State Athletics.

Responsibilities:

Some of Allyson's responsibilities include creating and maintaining project documents, assisting in developing project timelines, and monitoring project performance for the incoming Aultman College sonography program. In her role, she supports the planning and allocation of resources while also participating in meetings and contributing to discussions with staff and stakeholders on project scope, deliverables, and progress.

All About Allyson:

How would you describe working for Aultman College in a few words?

Impactful, educational and collaborative.

What is the best advice you would give to someone just starting at Aultman College?

Be where your feet are!

How would you describe your desk?

My desk is pretty neat, usually just keeping my laptop, my textbooks for school, and a few pictures of my family and friends on it.

What do you like to do in your own time?

I love reading, attending sporting events, trying new coffee shops, painting, and hanging out with my dogs.



Around the College



Rylee McLaughlin Scores the Highest at OSRT Symposium

Second-year radiography students attended the annual Student and Educator Symposium hosted by the Ohio Society of Radiologic Technologists (OSRT) on April 10 in Columbus, Ohio. The symposium consisted of many educational lecture sessions led by professors and professionals that the college students could participate in. Also offered by OSRT is the Ballinger Self-Assessment, which is a mock registry exam for students. Out of all 235 students from all around the state of Ohio who took the exam, Rylee McLaughlin scored the highest with an 86.5%. She received a certificate and won \$50 for her outstanding score and achievement.

"I am so thankful for all of the Aultman College teachers because they care about our success and set us up to do well for the exam," said McLaughlin.

Rylee graduated summa cum laude on May 8, and she is working at Aultman Massillon. She has set an amazing example for future radiography students. Her achievement radiates the message that Aultman College cares about the success of the student body and is always willing to lend a helping hand.



Virtual Reality is Not Just for Gaming

The college has integrated Virtual Reality (VR) nursing simulations into both its ASN and BSN nursing programs. At the beginning of spring semester 2025, VR simulations were implemented in mental health nursing, with plans to expand into OB and pediatrics in future semesters. VR simulations enable students to learn in an immersive environment and interact with artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled simulated patients. VR's immersive environments will provide far more realistic simulations of pediatric and OB patients than current manikin-based technology. Furthermore, AI-enabled simulated patients will greatly enhance students' ability to practice therapeutic communication in a simulated environment.



New Website

A new website is the works for Aultman College! The new website is set to launch in the coming months. Stay tuned for further updates and follow along as we approach this exciting milestone in the Aultman College journey.

Around the College



New Library Website Helps Enhance Students' Research Experience

For the first time in 15 years, the library has transitioned to a new Library Management Software (LMS) and shifted to a new provider for its database discovery services. These updates enhance research capabilities and improve the overall user experience.

The Aultman College Health Sciences Library (ACHSL) moved away from EBSCO as its primary provider and adopted Ex Libris' Alma for library management and Primo for discovery services. This change allows for seamless searching across various library databases and physical collections, offering more integrated and efficient research experience.

Library staff members Mike Jundi and Elaine Ott underwent extensive training on the new systems. Their goal is to continue providing the high-quality service and support that library users expect. The new website layout and access points went live in late summer 2025, along with updated tutorial videos and walkthroughs to help users navigate the new platform.

In addition to these major updates, ACHSL is actively expanding its offerings. New materials, research guides and other valuable resources are being added to the homepage. And for a fun twist, the library has even incorporated a bit of AI-generated music! Two songs crafted by the AI tool Suno celebrate the incredible support and resources available at ACHSL.

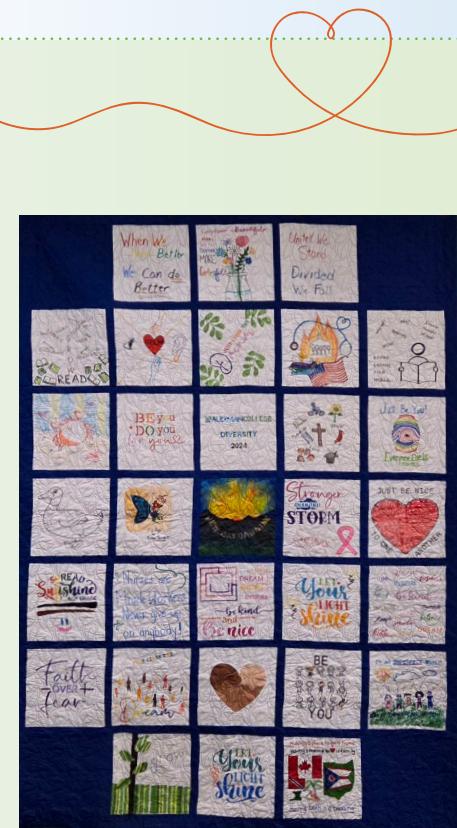
Stay informed and explore all the latest library updates at: <https://aultman.libguides.com/home>.

Diversity: Spreading love and acceptance through a campus quilt

The Diversity Quilt, reflecting conversations of diversity shown through art, was hung in the Aultman College Health Sciences Library on March 27. This project serves as a visual representation of the different ways Aultman College recognizes, understands and values diversity.

Quilts are known throughout history as portraying a story, and this quilt helps to tell ours. It is important to understand that culture tells the story of a person's life through a means of clothing, language, religious beliefs, values, tradition, identity, sexual orientation, food, music, etc. Members of Aultman College were asked to think of a story that they wanted to share that conveyed a certain aspect of their culture throughout their lives. In the library, there was a quilt station set up where blank canvas squares, stencils and a variety of letters and shapes were provided so that members could visually create their story.

Once completed, all 31 of the squares were sewn together to make the quilt, reflecting the diversity and culture of a plethora of staff, faculty and students throughout the college. The inspiration for this project came from the Wheeling Heritage community project, in which similar work was created.



Featured Story



Rise, Shine, Thrive!

Aultman College is stepping away from the theme of "On Your Own but Never Alone" and adopting a new theme for the coming year: "Rise, Shine, Thrive!" This motto is simple, yet memorable, and it encourages students to be purposeful in their studies, along with their future careers. This theme was premiered in August during the first week of classes and will be incorporated into lessons and activities throughout the academic year, according to Cynthia Martinez, student success services coordinator.

Rise encourages students and staff to step up to challenges. Shine highlights the value of bringing your best self to your work, studies and community. Thrive is an overarching metaphor for the ultimate goal: to grow and succeed, both personally and professionally.

We spoke with several students and alumni, who reflected on the motto as it relates to their own educational and professional journeys.

Students on the Rise

Emma Rennicker, a nursing major, has learned a lot about herself since starting college. She's a 2024 graduate of Tuscarawas Valley High School and is originally from Bolivar, Ohio. Emma said she chose the nursing field because *"I want to help people during their most vulnerable moments. A hospital experience when I was younger showed me how much of a difference compassionate skilled nurses can make, and I knew I wanted to be that person for someone else."* She said that Aultman College has taught her persistence. *"It's about showing up for yourself and believing in your ability to grow. Every time I choose to rise instead of giving up, I become stronger."*

Emma said that while her nursing courses can be difficult at times, she's learned that consistency and effort pay off. *"This lesson has helped me better prepare for the challenges ahead,"* she said. *"It reminds me that being a successful nurse starts with building good habits and the right mindset now."*

Through family and friends who work at Aultman College and the health system, **Grant Furcsik** heard of Aultman College's reputation of being a challenging school – and he was ready to rise to the occasion. *"To me, that was exciting. I knew Aultman College would challenge me and turn me into the best nurse that I can be,"* he said.

Grant is now halfway through his bachelor's degree in nursing and said the skills he's learned have already paid off in his life outside of work. *"I have gained better time management and multitasking skills that have been very useful at my workplace as a server,"* he said.

Helping Recent Graduates to Shine

Jada Cook graduated from the radiography program in spring 2025 and works as a radiologic technologist at Ortho United. She said that while at Aultman College, the assistance from instructors and technicians during clinicals helped her immensely – but now, she's adjusting to working on her own. *"This involves trusting your instincts regarding patient positioning, selecting the appropriate technical factors for optimal image quality, and even making judgment calls in unexpected circumstances. Initially, it was slightly overwhelming to begin working independently, but I trusted my training and have done well so far."*

That training came in handy when she X-rayed a patient in a wheelchair who was in extreme pain due to a foot fracture. *"My immediate assessment, guided by the critical-thinking skills developed at Aultman, indicated that standard positioning would be impossible."* Jada was able to adapt and take one view of the patient's ankle while they remained in a wheelchair, which gave providers critical information to help treat the patient.

Makalyn Anderson, a 2025 radiography graduate, said Aultman College gives students the foundation of what it takes to shine in the healthcare industry. *"As a radiologic technologist, I've seen success come from maintaining strong professionalism and a solid work ethic,"* she said. *"I strive to provide the best patient care by clearly explaining procedures, addressing questions or concerns, and staying within my scope of practice while delivering respectful and compassionate care."*

Alumni Who Thrive

Deborah Courser is a 2021 graduate of the radiography program who returned to Aultman College and completed her bachelor's degree in health sciences in 2023. She said her initial training gave her the "how to" for her job, and her bachelor's degree taught her the "why" in the healthcare industry. She's used her newfound knowledge to help create a new phone reminder system for radiology patients and investigated unaddressed student needs at the college. This research led to policy change and was featured in her presentation at Aultman's Spirit of Inquiry, earning her the Committee's Choice Award. Deborah has returned to the college again and is serving as an adjunct and tutor.

Janelle Perger graduated from Aultman College in 2014 in the radiology program and said the college gave her the confidence she needed to succeed and thrive in her career. *"I started working in a cardiac cath [catheterization] lab, then came back to Aultman Hospital for the launch of their hybrid OR [Operating Room] program,"* she recalled. *"I became the lead radiologic technologist of the hybrid OR, and now I am currently the director of the CVOR [cardiovascular operating room]."*

From new students to alumni, from the desk side to the bedside, Aultman College is proud to serve as a platform for individuals to **"Rise, Shine and Thrive."**



Nursing Graduate Journal: From the Aultman College Archives

Dr. Jo Ann Donnenwirth, Dean of Nursing

As we enter a new academic year, I would like to congratulate the 2024-25 graduates on their success. You did it! All your hard work, sleepless nights, and determination have paid off, and today you celebrate not just a degree, but a journey full of growth and perseverance. We're all so proud of you and excited for everything the future holds.

The next step in your journey is the licensure or registry exam. I am confident that you are well-prepared for this important step. I would like to share a journal entry of Marie P. Harmon, a nursing graduate in the class of 1945.

October 20, 1945

My long awaited dream of some 3 years ago came to be a reality today.

Yes, Mac and I both received the word that we are now registered nurses in the State of Ohio. Just think now I can legally sign my name Marie Harmon, R.N. and it won't mean 'Runaway Nurse' as it did in the first few months of training.

I still have to keep pinching myself to make sure it isn't just a dream. My arm is almost black and blue from pinching it so often. I think I could have enjoyed my two day stay in Akron much more if I had known what I know now. Poppy brought the letters up to us. Margaret got some sort of a big magazine in an envelope. When I saw only the one big envelope the only thing I could think of was that the rest of us flunked the test. Was soon relieved of this fear.

Wishing you all success and happiness in this next chapter of life!

Dr. Jo Ann Donnenwirth, Dean of Nursing

Alumni What's Next?

The Association continues to evolve with purpose and heart. As part of our renewed commitment to meaningful alumni engagement, we've been focusing on creating more intentional opportunities to connect with fellow alumni. This year, get ready for special alumni-focused events — like the return of milestone recognition for the 50th, 25th and 10th reunion classes — and new alumni gatherings. Keep an eye on your inbox, social media and mailboxes for updates, opportunities and ways to stay involved! We look forward to seeing you at future events and our 2026 Connect Weekend!!



Make sure your information is correct.

Update your contact information and receive a free Alumni Association tumbler!



Aultman Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1945

Update your information by scanning this code:



History of X-rays

**Nicole Bradford, MHA RT(r)(CT),
and Naomi Stiffler, Bs Rt(R)**

X-rays are one of the most unique innovations of the 19th century because they were discovered purely by accident on Nov. 8, 1895, by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen. Roentgen was experimenting in his laboratory with an evacuated glass tube using a different kind of rays, cathode rays, when he made this discovery. While working with the tube, he noticed a plate covered in fluorescent material began to glow when coming close to the tube. This is when he realized he was not dealing with cathode rays¹. With this discovery, Roentgen worked diligently to learn more properties of his now-named X-rays. He put many different substances in the way of these X-rays and in 1896 published the first X-ray of his wife's hand.

Even though X-rays were discovered by accident, they quickly became integrated into our society and the world of medicine. The use of X-rays allowed the medical community to learn many new things about the human body; as a result, they were even taken out into society for convenience. In the 1930s, shoe-fitting fluoroscopes were introduced into some shoe stores. These were "real-time" X-ray machines that stores could use to check to see if shoes fit the patron. The customer would place their foot into what looked like a box, and the store associate would be able to see an X-ray of the customer's foot in the shoe they were trying on². Additionally, in 1964, the Tuberculosis Institute and McDonald's teamed up to kick off the annual tuberculosis campaign. This campaign was to screen inmates on "skid-row" for tuberculosis. For this campaign, if the inmates elected to get a chest X-ray to check for tuberculosis, then they also received a free hamburger and coffee from McDonald's³. Although the use of X-rays had been increasing since their discovery the safety standards at the time left much to be desired.

As X-ray continued to be used at the medical and community levels, radiation safety soon became a concern. Efforts began to be made to regulate and develop standards for the safe use of radiation. Radiation protection is defined as effective measures to protect individuals from unnecessary radiation exposure. Over time, the three "cardinal rules" that have developed when dealing with radiation are time, distance and shielding⁴. Following these rules has helped mitigate the unnecessary exposure to radiation and potential deaths that may follow substantial amounts of exposure. Today, the standards of radiation protection continue to be enhanced as innovation and technology that uses X-rays advance into the future.



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How One AHSON Alumna is Shaping the Future



JOAN PARCELL

When Joan began her nursing education, she was filled with excitement and ambition, set to graduate with the class of 1961. But life had other plans. At the time, nursing students were not permitted to be married — and Joan, who had just wed, had to step away from her studies to care for and build a family.

Years later, when the rules changed, Joan returned to where it all started — Aultman College. In 1975, as a wife and mother, she completed her degree, knowing firsthand the challenges of balancing family, work and education. "I needed help, too," she reflected. That experience of needing support stayed with her throughout her life.

Joan's education at Aultman College was more than just academic — it was transformational. She said that her time there prepared her to be a confident and compassionate nurse. And for nearly five decades, she served her community with skill, compassion and dedication.

Her commitment to care didn't stop at the bedside. After many years working in the hospital, Joan joined the staff at Aultman College, where she played a pivotal role in the early development of the college's scholarship programs. During her own studies, she had noticed students — often parents or caregivers themselves — struggling to make ends meet while pursuing their calling to serve others. "Many of the people attending the college had families and needed the help," she said.

That's why Joan created an endowment scholarship fund for Aultman College students — a legacy that will continue to support aspiring nurses long after she's gone. She hopes others will consider doing the same.

"You don't have to give the full amount right away," Joan said. "You can spread your gift over three to five years. It's manageable — and it matters."

When asked why she's leaving a legacy to the college, her answer was simple: "Why not? Heaven only knows we need nurses."

Through her gift, Joan is ensuring that the next generation of nurses has the support they need to follow their calling, just as she once did. Her legacy is one of care, resilience and unwavering belief in the power of education.

Now, she invites others to join her in leaving a lasting impact.



Create a Legacy and Double Your Impact

Right now, every gift you make supporting the 1892 endowment — whether a one-time donation or by pledging to create your own legacy scholarship through an endowment pledge — will be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to a special philanthropic challenge. But this opportunity is only available while matching funds remain. That means a \$12,500 gift becomes a \$25,000 legacy of impact for Aultman College and its students. Even a \$100 gift will be doubled to \$200. Every gift counts, and every gift makes a difference.

"This is one of the most powerful times to give," says Vi Leggett, chief development officer. "This matching opportunity allows alumni and friends to magnify their generosity while ensuring their legacy will live on in every student who walks through our doors."

This is more than a chance to give — it's a chance to shape the future, at a time when nurses and healthcare workers are needed more than ever. Many alumni, like Joan, are stepping forward not just as donors, but as partners in legacy-building. Their support reflects a deep belief in the mission of Aultman College and a heartfelt desire to empower future generations of nurses, caregivers and healthcare leaders.

Make your gift today. Leave your legacy that lasts.

Planned-Giving — A Legacy That Lasts Beyond a Lifetime

Planned-giving allows you to ensure that your values and commitment to Aultman College will live on well beyond your lifetime. It is one of the most profound ways to leave a legacy of care, compassion and opportunity — without impacting your current financial security.

With your planned gift, your story lives on in every graduate who provides care, offers comfort, and shapes the future of healthcare.

Ways to leave a legacy through planned giving include:

- **Bequests** – A simple provision in your will or trust can designate a gift that reflects your priorities and extends your values for generations to come.
- **Retirement Assets** – Naming Aultman College as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or pension plan creates a future where students have the resources they need to succeed.
- **Life Insurance** – Transform an existing policy into a gift of hope for future students by naming Aultman College as a full or partial beneficiary.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts** – Provide income for you or your loved ones today, while ensuring tomorrow's students are supported through your generosity.

If you've already included Aultman College in your estate plans, we'd love to hear from you so we can honor your intentions and recognize your future gift. Or if you are just starting to think about your estate plans, contact Vi Leggett at 330.363.6183 or vi.leggett@aultman.com to learn more.

The information in this story is intended to be for informational and educational purposes only and should not be construed as tax or legal advice. We recommend you discuss estate planning and planned giving with your financial advisor.

Doubling the Impact, Leaving a Legacy

Story of Impact



“ I chose Aultman because of its strong reputation, and once I toured and met with the admissions team, I knew it was the right place for me.”

Megan Owens, a sophomore in the associate of science in nursing program, is just three semesters away from fulfilling her dream of becoming a nurse. But her journey hasn't always followed a straight line. For the past 15 years, Megan built a career in the culinary arts, a field she loved for the creativity, connection and comfort it brought to others. She saw firsthand how food could bring people together in celebration or offer solace in moments of grief. Still, there was always a quiet voice inside her asking, “Is there something more I can do to help people?”

That voice grew louder in 2019 when she found herself helping to care for her in-laws. For the first time, Megan began to seriously consider a career in healthcare. Then, the pandemic hit. She was laid off and had time to reflect, which transformed the “what if” into a clear calling. Megan began taking prerequisite courses with the goal of applying to nursing school — and that's when she found Aultman College.

“I chose Aultman because of its strong reputation, and once I toured and met with the admissions team, I knew it was the right place for me,” Megan shared. *“I love the small classes and how many great friends I've made; it's like finding a second family.”*

Now well into her program, Megan recently completed her first clinical experience and said she absolutely loves working with patients. Still, going back to school as an adult wasn't without its challenges. She and her husband knew that returning to school full-time would mean financial sacrifices.

That's why receiving the **Margaret Lazar/Emma Luperh Scholarship** meant so much. *“I actually cried when I got the email,”* Megan said. *“It was overwhelming in the best way. The scholarship lifted a huge weight off my shoulders and allowed me to focus on my studies. Because of that support, I was able to make the Dean's List.”*

Scholarships don't just ease financial burdens; they affirm that someone believes in your potential. For Megan, that belief was everything.

To others considering a career change, Megan offers this advice: *“Change is frightening, and it's OK to be scared. Keep your head down, work hard and know that the path – no matter how difficult – is moving you forward.”*

Scholarship Donors

Thank You to Our Scholarship Donors



Gifted (Direct) Scholarships

1892 Gifted Scholarship
Alice Ott Memorial Scholarship
Ann and Tom Kinney Scholarship
AultCare Scholarship
Austin-Bailey Health and Wellness Scholarship
Bernadine Raicevich Nursing Scholarship
Bev Frase Scholarship
Bob and Jeannine Shambaugh Scholarship
Calhoun Charitable Trust Scholarship
Charity School of Kendal Foundation Scholarship
Class of 1959 Scholarship
Dianne J. Gibbs Geriatric Scholarship
Don Leggett Memorial Scholarship
Edna "Smitty" Shukis Scholarship
Eileen Welker Williams Scholarship
Elizabeth Aultman Harter Society Scholarship
Dr. Ella Scott Community Healthcare Scholarship
Health Foundation of Greater Massillon Scholarship
The Hippocrates Society Scholarship
Kersten Family Scholarship
Margaret Lazar/Emma Luper Scholarship
Jean and Thomas Paddock Scholarship
Patricia Polen Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Kimberly Poorman Memorial Scholarship
SAL Compassion Award
Sharon Lane Nursing Scholarship
The Finish Line Scholarship
David & Debbie Thiel Family Scholarship Fund
T. Raymond Gregory Family Scholarship
Tommy Miller Scholarship
Visiting Nurse Society Scholarship

Endowed Scholarships

1892 Scholarship (2007)
Aultman Hospital Endowed Scholarship (2010)
Bettie Sponseller Memorial Scholarship (2008)
Bev Frase Endowed Scholarship (2023)
The Blessings Scholarship (2024)
Bobbi and Bill Schauer Family Endowed Scholarship (2024)
Carol Zurakowski Endowed Scholarship (2024)
Cathie and Eric Belden Endowment (2024)
Hanna V. Bett Memorial Scholarship (2025)
Chris and Stacy Remark Scholarship (2007)
Clair and Eileen Good Scholarship (2007)
Deanna Hatfield Family Endowed Scholarship (2024)
Hippocrates Society Scholarship (2024)
Don Leggett Family Endowment (2023)
Ella Mae Kuecher Nursing Scholarship (1999)
Elsie Schroeder Memorial Endowed Scholarship (2012)
Fred F. Silk Charitable Foundation Scholarship (2015)
Joan Parcell Nursing Scholarship (2025)
Harley C. & Mary Hoover Price Foundation Scholarship (2021)
Helen and Nick Rajkovich Scholarship (2002)
Homer and Ann Black Endowed Scholarship (2023)
Jean and Thomas Paddock Family Scholarship Fund (2021)
Josephine Walters CareStar Endowed Scholarship (2016)
Kathryn L. Greer Nursing Scholarship (2009)
Kersten Family Endowed Scholarship (2024)
Mary Green Nursing Scholarship (2012)
Mary Roden Memorial Nursing Scholarship (1991)
Rebecca J. Crowl Endowed Chair (2018)
Rick and Vicki Haines Family Scholarship (2007)
Roslyn Messerly Lifetime Achievement Scholarship (2014)
SAL Compassion Endowed Scholarship (2024)
The Schroer Group Endowed Scholarship (2019)
The Women's Board of Aultman Hospital Scholarship (2024)
Suzanne Spahr Endowed Scholarship (2015)
Theresa and Ed Roth Scholarship (2007)
Wherley Family Endowed Scholarship (2014)

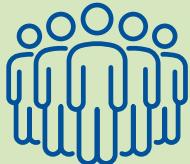
* Gifted scholarships are an annual commitment made by a donor to support students.

* An endowed scholarship is a donation that is invested and grows over time. The income earned is used to award scholarships in perpetuity.

Annual Report

347

Total Enrollment



48%

Part Time

52%

Full Time

87%

Female

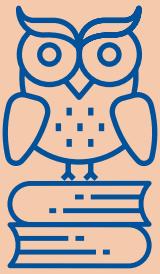


13%

Male

9:1

Student
Faculty Ratio



11

Average
Credit
Hours



25

Average Age
of Students

21

Median

19

Mode

2024 - 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS



135
Scholarships
Awarded

92
Scholarship
Recipients

\$1,512 average per semester per scholarship

\$3,025 average annual scholarship per student

\$278,325 total awarded

INSTITUTIONAL AID (Tuition Discounts)



205 students received institutional aid

\$2,838 average annual institutional
aid award per student

\$581,793 total awarded in institutional aid



Aultman College is transitioning to digital!

**Please provide us with your updated information including email
to get the latest news about Aultman College at a faster pace.**



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