Graduate Nurses of the Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing recite the Nightingale Pledge at the conclusion of Thursday evening’s Commencement Exercises.

**Congratulations Class of 2017**

*It was a big moment* in the professional lives of 32 graduates of our Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing. The school celebrated its 120th commencement exercise Thursday evening at the Morgan Auditorium at Pennsylvania State University, Schuylkill Campus, where the graduates were awarded diplomas and nursing pins.

“This is a time for celebration and recognition of the accomplishment of these students,” says Lynne Hausman, MSN, School of Nursing Director. Awards were given on behalf of community representatives, organizations, physicians and staff members. “Tonight ends one chapter, but the next chapter has already begun,” Hausman says. “Our program is known for being very intense. This is a significant milestone for our graduates. We congratulate them and wish them well.”

School of Nursing representatives and faculty, LVH–Schuylkill leaders and LVHN representatives participated in the ceremonies, offering words of wisdom and good wishes. The keynote Speaker was Schuylkill County native Cynthia Cappel, DNP, Acting Vice President of LVHN’s Division of Education. Cappel discussed her own journey and reminded graduates that they possess the opportunity to embrace the nursing profession as they move forward.

Members of the graduating class join 2,398 other graduates of the program, which was established in 1895. It has been the primary source of registered nurses for local hospitals, physician practices, clinics and other organizations throughout the region. “Additionally, graduates of our program have pursued opportunities around the globe, not just as bedside nurses, but as professors, practice managers, attorneys, executives, administrators, advanced practitioners and more,” says William Kirwan Jr., Chairman of the LVH–Schuylkill Board of Directors.

In the coming weeks, the graduates will be sitting for their NCLEX RN exams (national boards) and transitioning into nursing positions throughout the region. Fourteen of the graduates will be joining LVH–Schuylkill.

“Many of our graduate nurses have already begun pursuit of a BSN, and some who already have a degree are planning to pursue RN-to-MSN programs,” Hausman says. “This exemplifies the high caliber of students we have, their work ethic and their continuing pursuit of knowledge and education.”

*See page four for more pictures.*
Welcome New LVH–Schuylkill Colleagues

Joan Lordy  
Emily Soubik

Kelsey Czachor  
David Hall

Joshua McClelland

Legacy Students

A Legacy Student is one who has family ties to an alumni of an institution. The family of Legacy Students typically have a loyalty to and pride for that school. Three Legacy Students participated in Thursday evening’s commencement. Pictured are Sue Noonan, RN, class of 1988, with her son Brian Noonan, Katie Jo Sheeler with her father, Tom Sheeler, RN, class of 1988, and Alexandra DiNicola, the granddaughter of Elizabeth “Betty” DiNicola, RN (deceased), class of 1954.

The Shredding of Uniforms

It has become a familiar sight this time of year in front of the Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing – shredded uniforms hanging from the building.

“It’s a rite of passage, a tradition, not only for our students, but for many nursing programs,” says Melanie Bendinsky, MSN, the school’s Medical/Surgical Coordinator. “At one time, instructors, clinical mentors and others would tear the student’s uniforms apart on the last day of clinical rotation. For many years now, we do that in the school itself, away from patients.” The soon-to-be graduates would then hang their shredded uniforms from the school to symbolize the transition and the fact that they would no longer be wearing a student nurse uniform.

Our tradition dates back as far as the establishment of the school itself in the late 1890s with its first graduating class. Many former graduates, staff nurses, hospital colleagues and local residents reminisce that they always know it is graduation time when the uniforms hang from the School of Nursing. The uniform display remains in place until shortly after graduation.
Casual Conversations Help Set the Tone

A MESSAGE FROM BILL REPPY, LVH–SCHUYLKILL PRESIDENT

It was the first of what will be an ongoing dialogue among colleagues at LVH–Schuylkill. They’re called Casual Conversations, and during our first ever session, 15 colleagues from a cross-section of departments met with me to talk about where we have been, where we are now and where we are going.

These types of get-togethers are very important. For one hour, we can collaborate without interruption. I can share with you the direction of our organization, and you can share with me what’s on your mind.

Our first Casual Conversation was just that, a spontaneous chat with open and flowing dialogue. Much of our discussion focused on our service lines, growth and facilities, as well as how other health systems in our region might affect us.

I’ll host a Casual Conversation every other month. Each session will include a small group of about 15 colleagues, and provide time where you can talk in an open, relaxed forum. Casual Conversations do not replace Senior Leadership Rounding to units and departments or PRIDE Rounding for patients and colleagues. They are, however, one more way we can keep the lines of communication open between leaders and front-line staff.

If you’re interested in participating in an upcoming Casual Conversation, talk with your supervisor. I look forward to talking with you to learn what’s on your mind and to hear from you about our successes and opportunities at LVH–Schuylkill. Until then, thank you for all you do for our health network and community.

ER Accolades

“You’ve got to accentuate the positive. Eliminate the negative. Latch on to the affirmative. Don’t mess with Mister In-Between.”

If you find yourself singing those words, perhaps it reminds you of the old jazz standard that talks about looking to the brighter side of things. We sometimes hear about challenges or opportunities for improvement. As health care professionals, it’s something we accept as we strive to continuously improve to give our patients the best possible experience. Our drive helps us be better providers, become a stronger organization and help our patients achieve optimal health.

This week in a local publication, it was nice to see this comment from a patient who had a positive experience in LVH–Schuylkill's new ER.

“The people up there – from the front desk, to the doctor, to everyone in between – treated me with respect and understanding. They always had a smile on their face. I want to say thank you so much.”

“That is exactly the kind of experience we want our patients to have,” says LVH–Schuylkill President Bill Reppy. “Our patients do notice what we do, what we say and how we say it. You represent us not only with your clinical and technical abilities to do your job, but also with your interpersonal and patient-focused skills. To our ER team and the rest of our colleagues, keep up the good work.”

Attend the Colleague BBQ

LVH–Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street
Thursday, Aug. 10
6:30–8 a.m., breakfast in the cafeteria
11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., executive parking lot, rear of second floor
4:30–6 p.m., executive parking lot, rear of second floor
LVH–Schuylkill S. Jackson Street
Thursday, Aug. 17
6:30–8 a.m., breakfast in cafeteria
11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., School of Nursing parking lot
4:30–6 p.m., School of Nursing parking lot
More photos from Thursday’s School of Nursing Graduation