

Memories: an era of caring-1892 to 1999

A Tribute to Springfield hospital/Baystate Medical Center, School of Nursingⁱ

When Baystate Medical Center School of Nursing closed in 1999, the memory book committee with the assistance of Baystate Health Systems created a book entitled "an era of caring". The book contains memories from the classes of the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s. In the following, you'll find the memories of the classes from the classes of these eras.

Memories from the 30s:

Fondest Memories: The role model to follow-Blanche Blackman, she was brilliant and innovative, taking a personal interest in her students. She inspired us to continue with their education. The wonderful training that we received.

Worst Memories: Home sickness. The depression years were hard, **but** we were always expected to be groomed with hat and gloves.

How well-prepared did you feel for your first job: our curriculum was exceptional and we affiliated with other hospitals for our specialties. I felt well-prepared when I graduated.

Share a memory about the residence: Many wonderful memories over the three years. I enjoyed the choir and socializing in the recreation room .

Memories from the 40s

Fondest Memories: Long-lasting friendships and bonds. Respect for each other. Support and encouragement to each other during the trials and challenges of clinical experiences.

Worst Memories: First scrub in the OR . Dropping an instrument tray in front of the doctor. Assigned to scrub bedpans on my first day in my white uniform. Supervised as a probe by my big sister.

How well-prepared did you feel for your first job: Well prepared to supervise students. Well prepared to work at the VNA. A doctor stated that he knew I graduated from Springfield hospital as I knew just what to do.

Share a memory about the residence: Mice running back and forth in the kitchen as we studied. Sunbathing on the roof as the planes from Westover buzzed us. My first experience living away from home. The challenge of getting around the house rules. After hours parties.

WWII and the Cadet Nurse Corps. (See web page Memories of a Cadet Nurse)

Memories from the 50s

Fondest Memories: the doctors that took the time to teach us at the bedside. Dorm mothers who kept us in line. Formal events. The friends made.

Worst Memories: Probie period. State boards.

How well-prepared did you feel for your first job : I felt I was able to cope with any situation that occurred. Well prepared. The hands-on experience in clinical case the confidence.

Share a memory about the residence : the study hours were from 7-9 PM during the week. I enjoyed visiting after study hours. Helping each other sneak into the dorm after hours. Work and class hours total 44 hours a week.

Memories from the 60s

Fondest Memories: We would tell the freshman the dorm was haunted by Florence Nightingale. We throw spoons down the halls and make haunting noises to scare them. Lasting friendships.

Worst Memories Probie period; who had to wear your At all times, it was very embarrassing. Probie period was the most stressful time in my life.

How well-prepared did you feel for your first job: I felt what very well prepared for my first job at BMC. My clinical experience, prepared me well. Although my first job was overwhelming, I handled myself as a professional.

Share a memory about the residence: The challenge of getting back into the dorm after hours with the help of fellow classmates. Drinking was not allowed, so we injected fruit with booze, we never got caught. The S. bus. Greeting our dates in the formal living room. The watchful eye of the house mother.

Memories from the 70s

Fondest Memories: living in the dorm. Meeting nice people. Going to fraternity functions at other colleges. Glen Wood Café.

Worst Memories , Microbiology class, the teacher scale the grades, the highest was a C. and everybody else got a D.-F, he lasted two years. State boards took two days in Boston in a non-air-conditioned room, which was very very hot, my class all passed. I was hurrying around East 3 and bumped into a resident. My head hit him in the right eye, and I gave him a shiner.

How well-prepared did you feel for your first job The clinical experience made us better nurses and well-prepared for nursing positions. The individual attention and small classes gave us the edge.

Share a memory about the residence: we used to sing in the hallways and bathroom with our guitars. I loved my suite in my senior year, it was by the phone and it was my job to take messages.

Memories from the 80s

Fondest Memories: the fond memories of Mrs. B , our school secretary, greeting us in the morning. The class of 1987 hanging their uniforms on a clothesline outside the school. Fond friendships.

Worst Memories The first day of clinical. CPT's. State boards -hell in a hand basket.

How well-prepared did you feel for your first job . The amount and quality of the clinical experience, no other nursing school in western Massachusetts can compare.

Memories from the 90s

Fondest Memories: having the whole class greeted M.H with "Good morning Mrs. H." in unison. Walking back to N lot after class or clinical. New friends made. The involvement and commitment of the instructors to help us prepare for our nursing careers. Waiting to take a final in a conference room 3, and having all the instructors come in dressed in Hollywood costumes certainly reduced the stress on the exam. The bonding of classmates during our 'specialties'.

Worst Memories : Critical Care. Being crammed into a little lecture rooms. The first clinical day. My first patient who died. The stress of state boards. The day we were gathered together and told that the school would be closing.

How well-prepared did you feel for your first job Working with new grads from other schools, I was surprised at how little practical skills they had. I was able to step into my position easily and supervise staff within a short time. I was grateful for all the experience we received in our program.

ⁱDuza, P., Matusko, S. and Stiles, K. Memory Book Committee, 1999. *Memories: an era of caring-1892 to 1999:A Tribute to Springfield hospital/Baystate Medical Center, School of Nursing*, pp 14 - 50.