

Fall 2018

CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CAREER CENTER

Catalyst

COLLEGE & CAREER CONNECTION

CVCC Alumni Spotlight



*The Robertson sisters:
(left to right) Alice,
Heather, Brittany.*

CVCC has always prided itself on the “family-like” atmosphere that surrounds the halls. There have been many generations of families who’ve attended CVCC throughout the years. One of those families being the Robertson sisters, Alice, Heather, and Brittany. All sisters were enrolled in and completed CVCC’s Adult Education Nursing Program at different times over the past ten years. Alice attended CVCC’s full-time program from 2007-2008, Heather attended the part-time evening program from 2014-2016, and Brittany just graduated from the part-time evening program in June 2018.

Alice originally found CVCC’s Adult Education Nursing Program through an online search and, after the success she had in the program, her sisters followed suit and worked hard to qualify for the program as well. Alice chose to attend CVCC because she was able to complete the course in the amount of time that best fit her life and career goals. In nine months, she was able to work hard and complete the program that would have taken her much longer to complete elsewhere. Alice has many fond memories of her time at CVCC, including making many friends that she still keeps in contact with today. She also enjoyed learning from CVCC’s teaching staff and even missed going to class once the program was over!

After graduating from the Nursing program, Alice started working at a nursing home in their dementia unit. She worked at the same place for six and a half years. Alice stopped working once she had her second child and is now a stay-at-home mom. She continues to renew her nursing license and plans to return to nursing as soon as her children are in school. Alice shared that CVCC’s Nursing Program was very structured and helped her learn so much. There are many things in the nursing field that one really does not learn until needing to do it hands-on, but Alice truly feels that CVCC prepared her to be a good nurse.

Heather chose to attend CVCC as well after deciding for certain that she wanted to pursue nursing. She researched many nursing programs and found that CVCC’s Practical Nursing Program was the best choice. Not only because her sister Alice previously attended the program, but many other nurses Heather had worked with had attended the program too. CVCC’s program also had the best scheduling options for Heather with offering the part time evening option since Heather worked full-time as a nursing assistant while in school.

Heather has many memories from attending CVCC, she specifically remembers being a little scared to have Mr. Zana as a clinical instructor, however once she had him as an instructor a few times, she realized he is just a big teddy bear and learned so much from him. One of Heather’s favorite memories was the sensory deprivation lab, it was really eye opening to experience what patients go through. Heather’s favorite memory of all time during the program was visiting the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office and watching a live autopsy, she was even able to hold a human heart in her hands, along with a brain, a piece of the skull, a tongue, a liver, a lung, and many other parts. She never realized how huge a human liver was before this experience! The Pathologist, along with CVCC instructor, Mrs. Loeding, educated and quizzed Heather and her classmates on the intricacies of the organs as they went along. It was so enriching to Heather’s education to see, and to be hands-on with what her class had learned so much about!

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Heather currently works at Hospice of the Western Reserve as an Extended Care Nurse. Heather feels that CVCC gave her the education she needed to pass the Ohio Board of Nursing licensure, as she sat and took the NCLEX exam, almost every question brought her back to the classroom as she could almost hear the instructors repeating phrases over and over so she and her fellow classmates wouldn't forget. She remembered hearing CVCC Adult Education Nursing Program Supervisor, Mrs. Mandula saying to "throw out" erasers for quizzes and always go with your first thought. CVCC also gave Heather the framework and knowledge needed to become the great nurse that she is today.

Brittany chose to attend CVCC and follow in her sisters' footsteps. She feels her sisters are two of the strongest nurses she knows and has worked with throughout her nine years of healthcare experience and knew attending anywhere other than CVCC was not an option. Brittany, along with her sisters, values the lifelong friendships made throughout their courses at CVCC. She also feels they learned amazing skills that other programs would not have made available to them.

Brittany also noted that the clinical experiences throughout the nursing program were her standout memories. She and her classmates not only read about the needed skills, but also performed them. She was able to get out of her comfort zone and learn how to do the skills confidently and properly. Many nurses who Brittany has worked with that did not attend CVCC have commented that they felt they should have been better prepared within their school years, and are very impressed by the experiences Brittany had the opportunity to partake in. Brittany joins her sister Heather with the live autopsy being her favorite experience of the entire program. It truly was the most fascinating experience!

Brittany currently works as a nurse's aide, and is waiting to take her board examination. Brittany feels she has learned so much throughout the nursing program. She has not only learned to become a nurse, but has also learned to become a better caregiver. She is very grateful for CVCC's program and all that it has helped her become.

What encouraging words from all three sisters on CVCC's Adult Education Nursing Program. When all three sisters were asked if they encouraged one another to join the program, they all answered yes! Each one of them encouraged the next, knowing that the program would help in furthering their healthcare education and careers. Alice, Heather, and Brittany have a younger sister who they are hoping will join the CVCC family as well! CVCC is honored to have alumni like the Robertson sisters, and hope to continue serving all current and future students to reach their education and career dreams!

For more information on CVCC's Adult Education Nursing Program, please visit <http://www.ccccworks.edu/Nursing.aspx>.

CVCC Business Spotlight

CVCC's Adult Education Dental Assisting Program Values Local Business Partnerships

One of the many qualities Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) prides itself on is its relationships with industry businesses. CVCC's Adult Education and High School Dental Assisting Programs have worked with Dr. Papandreas of Papandreas Orthodontics for many years, creating a beneficial and successful partnership.

Papandreas Orthodontics has been in business for over 30 years in the city of North Royalton, one of CVCC's associate districts. A new orthodontics office has recently opened in Brunswick as well. Papandreas Orthodontics has worked with CVCC for several years, with staff member Betsy Klos being particularly involved, as she has been a CVCC Dental Assisting Advisory Board Member for about six years.

When asked, "What do you think makes CVCC's Dental Assisting program unique or stand out?" Dr. Papandreas exclaimed, "We love the Dental Assisting program- the students come out of the program ready to work and learn." What encouraging words!

When Dr. Papandreas was also asked, "What is the most important aspect of the Dental Assisting profession, and do you think CVCC's program prepares students appropriately?" Dr. Papandreas answered, "I would say the most important aspect is the care and service you give your patients, and yes, I feel [CVCC's] program really helps the students understand that."



Dr. Papandreas



Betsy Klos

Dr. Papandreas also shared that in his opinion, the most beneficial element to CVCC's Dental Assisting Program is the instructor, Mrs. Lisa Theodore. Lisa, who just won the very coveted Staff Member of the Year Award in 2018 is outstanding with her students. She goes above the standards of teaching and truly cares for her student's wellbeing and education.

CVCC is especially thankful to Papandreas Orthodontics as they not only support the Dental Assisting Program through partnership, but they also hire many CVCC students as dental assistants for their offices! Just as CVCC is thankful to work with such great businesses, Papandreas Orthodontics is equally grateful to CVCC's Dental Assisting Program. Dr. Papandreas expressed what a wonderful feeling it is to give back to students as well as to be a part of the learning process to help students achieve their career dreams! CVCC is so proud of its relationship with Papandreas Orthodontics and its other industry partners and continues to make strides in preparing students to be as successful as possible!

For more information about Papandreas Orthodontics, visit www.DrPapandreas.com . For more information on CVCC's Adult Education Dental Assisting Program, visit <http://www.cvccworks.edu/dentalassisting4183.aspx> or contact Karen Schroedel at kschroedel@cvccworks.edu or 440.746.8205.

CVCC Welcomes New Staff Members!



*Top Row:
Shawn Fahey
(left), Jeff
Gordon
(middle),
Nathan Janka
(right)*

*Bottom Row:
Adam
Karpowicz
(left), Justin
Hensley
(middle),
Timothy
Averre (right)*

CVCC welcomes six new additions to our staff! Shawn Fahey, CVCC's new Sports Medicine Exercise Science instructor who comes to CVCC with over 20 years of physical therapy, athletic training, and orthopedic experience. CVCC also welcomes Jeff Gordon, CVCC's Network Engineer, Nathan Janka, CVCC's Computer Technician, Adam Karpowicz, CVCC's Part-time Computer Technician, and Justin Hensley, CVCC's new custodian. Jeff, Nathan, Adam, and Justin are all CVCC alumni; we are thrilled to welcome them back! Another addition to the staff is Tim Averre, CVCC's new VoSE Instructor who comes with many years of expertise and an abundance of knowledge. CVCC welcomes Shawn, Jeff, Nathan, Adam, Justin, and Tim with open arms and looks forward to what's to come!

Upcoming Events

- ✦ Monday, September 3, 2018 ♦ Labor Day
- ✦ Wednesday, September 5, 2018 ♦ 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. ♦ Adult Education Graphic Design for Print Production Info. Night
- ✦ Wednesday, September 5, 2018 ♦ 7:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. ♦ Adult Education Web Design Info. Night
- ✦ Thursday, September 6, 2018 ♦ 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. ♦ High School Open House
- ✦ Monday, September 10, 2018 ♦ Adult Education HVAC Technician Program Starts
- ✦ Monday, September 17, 2018 ♦ Adult Education Dental Assisting Program Starts
- ✦ Wednesday, September 26, 2018 ♦ 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. ♦ College and Career Planning Seminar
- ✦ Wednesday, October 3, 2018 ♦ 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. ♦ College Night
- ✦ Wednesday, October 17, 2018 ♦ 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. ♦ FAFSA Workshop
- ✦ Thursday, October 25, 2018 ♦ 5:00 P.M. ♦ CVCC All Boards' Dinner; Board of Education Meeting immediately follows



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