

Scholarship Opportunity for Children of Mercy Co-workers

Applications for the 2004 Charles E. Thoele Scholarships are being accepted through March 1. The program, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Health System, makes scholarships available for dependant children up to age 23 of active, full-time and regular part-time co-workers of Mercy facilities. A total of 20 scholarships, providing \$1,000 each, will be awarded for the 2004-2005 school year. Application forms and information may be obtained from Mercy human resources departments or by contacting Tricia McAfee at the corporate office, (314) 957-0460 or tmcafee@corp.mercy.net.

Sister Norita Cooney Joins Mercy Board

Newly appointed to the Sisters of Mercy Health System Board of Directors is Sister Norita Cooney, RSM. She has been appointed to a three-year term beginning January 1.

Since 2002, Sr. Norita has served as vice president of mission services and community affairs for Alegent Health in Omaha, Nebraska, a regional healthcare network that includes seven hospitals and over 100 physician clinics. She was fulltime chair of Alegent's Board of Directors from 1996 to 2002. Previously, Sr. Norita served for 10 years as CEO of Bergan Mercy Health System in Omaha, which merged with Immanuel Health



Sr. Norita Cooney, RSM

Systems in 1996 to form Alegent Health. She served as president of the Sisters of Mercy, Regional Community of Omaha, from 1979 to 1986.

Sr. Norita has a bachelor's degree in history from the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, a master of science degree in sociology from Saint Louis University in St. Louis, and has pursued doctoral studies in conflict and change from Michigan State University in East Lansing. Among her numerous board memberships, Sr. Norita served on the board of St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis from 1987 to 1996.

Sister Mary Roch Honored for Distinguished Service to Hospitals

Sister Mary Roch Rocklage, RSM, sponsorship chair of the Sisters of Mercy Health System, was awarded the Missouri Hospital Association's (MHA) Distinguished Service Award in November during MHA's Annual Convention. Sister Mary Roch was honored for her leadership, advocacy and commitment to healthcare. The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor given by MHA. It is awarded annually to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to Missouri hospitals, communities and the healthcare industry.

Mercy Volunteer Corps Seeks Compassionate Individuals

Applications are being accepted for Mercy Volunteer Corps, a full-time volunteer program sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. Mercy Volunteer Corps invites women and men, 21 years or older, to work with people who are economically poor or marginalized in our society. Volunteers commit equally to compassionate service, a simple lifestyle in community, and spiritual growth. They serve for one or two years, during which time housing, medical insurance and transportation are provided, along with a

monthly personal stipend and food allowance. Volunteers serve in an array of education, healthcare and social services placements in urban and rural sites across the United States, Guyana, South America and other international locations. All faith traditions are welcome. Mercy Volunteer Corps service makes volunteers eligible for school loan forbearance and the AmeriCorps Education Award.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with priority given to those postmarked by April 1. International placements require an earlier application due date as well as a discernment weekend and additional cross-cultural training. Interested individuals should contact Sister Elizabeth Leiwe, RSM, coordinator of Mercy Volunteer Corps (St. Louis region), at (314) 909-4653 or eleiwe@corp.mercy.net.

Russian Healthcare Team Visits Mercy in Oklahoma



Mark Johnson, M.D. (left), chief medical officer, leads a team of Russian medical directors and doctors on a tour of Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City.

An eight-member team of Russian medical directors and doctors visited Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City in October as part of an eight-day tour of the state to learn more about the U.S. healthcare system. The visit was part of the Open World Program, an exchange program established and supported by Congress to build relations between Russia and the U.S. Led by Mark Johnson, M.D., Mercy Health Center's chief medical officer, the Russian visitors received an overview of the Sisters of Mercy Health System, governmental and regulatory relationships, financing and public health issues, and toured both Mercy Health Center and the Oklahoma Heart Hospital.

St. Joseph's Mercy Receives Distinguished Hospital Award

St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas, has been named a recipient of the 2003 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence by HealthGrades, a national healthcare quality firm. The distinction places St. Joseph's among the top 3.3 percent of all acute care hospitals in the country and in a unique group of facilities recognized for their overall clinical excellence across several service lines. The 163 recipients of the award for clinical excellence came from the

Sullivan to Join Mercy as Chief Operating Officer

John Sullivan will join the Sisters of Mercy Health System as executive vice president/chief operating officer on March 1. Sullivan has spent the last 20 years in Catholic healthcare, serving in leadership positions at both the facility and system level. Since 1999, he has served as executive vice president of Loyola University Health System in the Chicago area, with responsibility for hospital operations



John Sullivan

and all service lines, as well as system oversight for areas such as service excellence, human resources, and a variety of management forum and satisfaction programs. From 1989 to 1998, Sullivan served in executive positions with Resurrection Health Care in Chicago. Prior to his positions in the Chicago area, he served six years as president/CEO of Lourdes Hospital, a diocesan-sponsored hospital in Paducah, Kentucky, and nine years in leadership positions with the Amarillo Hospital District, a four-hospital system serving the Texas panhandle. Sullivan received a bachelor of science degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and a master of science degree in hospital and healthcare administration from the University of Iowa.

"John is an exceptional individual, and we look forward to bringing his experience and leadership skills to Mercy," said Ron Ashworth, Mercy president/CEO.

analysis of HealthGrades' annual study of 4,864 hospitals. The study is based on a three-year, risk-adjusted analysis of 20 procedures and diagnoses in six clinical specialties: cardiac surgery, cardiology, orthopaedic surgery, neuroscience, pulmonary and vascular surgery.

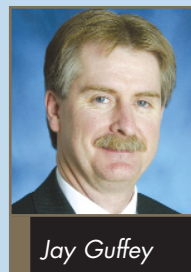
St. John's Mercy Plans for Construction of Heart, Emergency Services Tower

St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri, will soon begin construction of a new eight-floor heart and emergency tower. The building will bring all cardiovascular and emergency services together into one comprehensive facility, including diagnostic services, cardiovascular services, a cardiac catheterization lab, cardiac rehabilitation services, education resources and physician offices. A new emergency department, including adult emergency services, St. Louis County's only Level I trauma center and a new pediatric emergency department, will be located on the first floor of the building, with approximately 100 private inpatient heart care rooms housed on other floors. The addition, estimated to cost \$100 million, is scheduled to be completed in 2006.

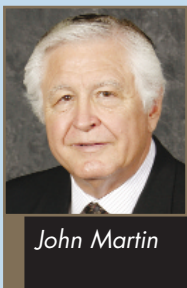
Leadership Changes



Dick Escue



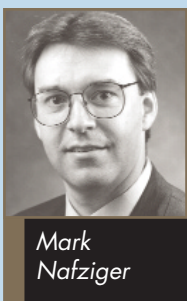
Jay Guffey



John Martin



Tobias Meeker



Mark Nafziger



Kathy Taylor

Dick Escue has been named vice president and chief information officer of the Sisters of Mercy Health System. Escue previously served as CIO of Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jay Guffey has been named vice president—clinical systems for the Genesis Project. Guffey previously served as vice president for St. John's Health System in Springfield, Missouri.

John Martin has been named chief information officer for the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City. He previously served as vice president of software development for Middlewire, Inc., in Sunnyvale, California.

Tobias Meeker has been named vice president of mission and ethics for Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas. He most recently served as CEO of The Kitchen, Inc., an outreach ministry in Springfield, Missouri.

Mark Nafziger has been named senior vice president/chief financial officer for Mercy Health System of Oklahoma. He previously served as chief financial officer for Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas.

Kathy Taylor has been named executive director of the Mercy Health Foundation at St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Taylor previously served as executive director of the Ouachita Area United Way in Camden, Arkansas.

Mercy is published quarterly by the Sisters of Mercy Health System. Its purpose is to communicate Mercy activities and issues, to share ideas and information useful in managing or delivering healthcare, to assist in spreading a common Mercy culture, and to reinforce the Mission and Core Values of the Health System.

Ronald B. Ashworth
President/Chief Executive Officer

Barbara W. Meyer
Director, Corporate Communications

Sarah Kramer
Senior Communications Specialist

Nichole Burgdorf
Communications Specialist

Sisters of Mercy Health System
2039 North Geyer Road
P.O. Box 31902
St. Louis, Missouri 63131-0902

Visit our Internet site at
<http://www.mercy.net>

 **MERCY**
SISTERS OF MERCY
HEALTH SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 31902 ■ 2039 NORTH GEYER ROAD ■ ST. LOUIS, MO 63131-0902

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