Celebrating 140 Years of service to our community
Sharing Their Memories
A few colleagues and retired physicians shared some of their favorite memories of St. Anthony’s on the occasion of our 140th anniversary of the opening of St. Anthony Hospital.

**COLLEAGUES**

**Paula Bushur, ER Registration**

What is your favorite memory of working here at St. Anthony’s?

When I was in high school, we had candy stripers who could come after school and other times to help with supper trays, getting water, etc. It was a volunteer group and we wore pink pink-striped jumpers and a little hat. We had meetings and it was open to girls and boys (mostly girls) but there were a few young men. We would have meetings and socialize. I think I still have my candy striped hat...This was in the late 60’s, about 1967, 1968.

Have other family members worked at St. Anthony’s over the years?

Yes. My Dad was a Pinkerton (Security at that time), probably in the 60’s. He had been a patient in the early 60’s. He was in the hospital for three months after a tree had fallen on him. He had a crushed pelvis and broken leg. He had to be in traction. All the Hospital Sisters were so good us when we visited. I especially remember Sister Lucy, who was from China. I remember going onto the balcony, when he was on third floor. Now that is closed off to all visitors. I loved the view from there.

**Rita Habing, ICU**

What is your favorite memory of working here at St. Anthony’s?

Funny memory...how nurses have gone from wearing white dresses, white pantyhose and white hat to wearing to wearing a green gas station attendant color. Touching memory... the years never change what a kind touch of the hand can do for patients and nurses. Amazing memory...it’s been an amazing 40 years of no two days the same, amazing friendships with many co-workers, and an amazing nursing life. God has been good.

Have other family members worked at St. Anthony’s over the years?

Yes. I started her ICU in 1977. Pauline Haarmann, RN, was my manager. My name then was Rita Haarmann. When my mother died in 1978, Pauline would be the best mother sub a girl could have. All 6 of my children started as CNAs here at St. Anthony’s – Maria, RN; Monica, RN (works in ICU here),Elisa OT; Philip, Pharmacist; Renee, Nuclear Med; and Anna working on here RN at St. John’s.

What is the best thing about working at St. Anthony’s?

Working at St. Anthony’s has never really been a job. It’s more like being part of a family that you might get annoyed with one day, but the next day you realize how much you love that family and all it stands for.
Jill Knierim, Hospice/Home Care

What is your favorite memory of working here at St. Anthony’s?
I have worked at St. Anthony’s for over 20 years and have met so many awesome co-workers and taken care of some wonderful people but the most important person I have ever met while working at St. Anthony’s was my husband. We both worked in the dietary when we were 16 and I was training him on the dishwasher. I always tell people I was training him to do dishes then and I’m still training him to do dishes now! We have been married for 14 years this year and been together for 19 years thanks to our job together at St. Anthony’s.

Have other family members worked at St. Anthony’s over the years?
Yes. My mother, Norma Jones, worked as LPN on Medical Care and eventually Skilled Care. Pam Jones, my sister, worked on third floor and eventually Skilled Care as a registered nurse. Cheryl Apke, my sister, works on fifth floor currently and has for many years as registered nurse.

What is the best thing about working at St. Anthony’s?
The people you meet.

Sara Stone, Cardiology/Imaging

What is your favorite memory of working here at St. Anthony’s?
One of the single most touching moments in my life occurred while working the night shift in our ICU. I was taking care of a patient who was critically ill and death was imminent. He had been a soldier in WW II. He told me a story about when he was in the war, and he had yelled and swatted away young boys who were eating out of the soldiers’ trash. He sobbed and expressed how he had carried that guilt with him his entire life. He feared never being forgiven. We talked about how his duty as a soldier put him in terrible situations. I explained to him how I felt about forgiveness and how I was sure that God had forgiven him. This patient had no idea, but at the time I was struggling with forgiving a person in my life. This patient taught me a lesson on forgiveness and because of him, the next day I reached out and gave forgiveness.

RETIRED PHYSICIANS

Dr. John Gapsis

Years on St. Anthony’s Medical Staff: 1993-2012

What is your favorite memory of working here at St. Anthony’s?
In the early years of being on the Medical Staff, I remember one of the Sisters manned the reception desk in the main lobby. She was always eager to be helpful and to get directions to where you needed to go.

What was the best thing about serving at St. Anthony’s?
The efficiency, conscientiousness, and friendliness of the nursing staff and other allied health providers.

What makes you the most proud about the years you provided health care at St. Anthony’s?
The opportunity to be part of the legacy/history of the hospital and its close relationship with the community.
Dr. James Gartner

Years on St. Anthony’s Medical Staff: 1962-2000

What is your favorite memory of working here at St. Anthony’s?
One of my favorite memories which seems strange in these times is that the ER was covered from the doctors’ offices or at night from home.

If our own patient would come to the ER, he/she was usually seen by his/her own physician. If the patient did not have a local physician, then he/she was seen by the doctor who was on call, which was a rotating list.

The ER was located on the sixth floor to be close to surgery. So when an accident came in, the elevators were very busy with lab, x-ray and stretches. This frequently required walking or running up six flights. At that time, it didn’t seem like a big deal, but looking back it seems more like a challenge now. Fortunately, OB was on the second floor.

What was the best thing about serving at St. Anthony’s?
On arriving in 1962 from an ancient hospital, Cook County Hospital, also known as “The Old Lady of Harrison Street,” which served mostly the very poor and indigent, with a limited nursing staff and shortage of supplies, where beds were in the hallways and one nurse per ward of 30-50 patients. To come to a relatively new hospital was quite a change to say the least and I felt blessed.

I was most impressed with the dedicated, compassionate and caring nursing staff. The Medical Staff was so much more qualified then I was associated with before coming here. And of course the Administration was responsible to a large degree for this excellent facility. St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital at that time had several nuns who were available 24/7 and always willing to give their all foe the patient, and I am very grateful for their devotion.

What makes you the most proud about the years you provided health care at St. Anthony’s?
Thanks to the nursing, Medical Staff, and Administration, it my hope that the patients received the best possible care.

Dr. Peter Kollinger

Years on St. Anthony’s Medical Staff: 1954-1997

What is your favorite memory of working here at St. Anthony’s?
Excellent nursing service….informing and making rounds with the attending physician.

What was the best thing about serving at St. Anthony’s?
Outstanding medical care the patients received at St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital.

What makes you the most proud about the years you provided health care at St. Anthony’s?
The cooperative spirit and consultations on the sixth floor among physicians.