

Alumni Board Members

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From the President's Desk

Wow, I never thought wearing a mask outside the O.R. or an Isolation Room would be considered “normal”! As a nurse, we must continue to educate the public on why it is so important and how to correctly wear our facemasks. Patient teaching does not stop once we leave our place of employment.

Due to the pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus, our Alumni activities have been put “on hold” but, our Alumni Board continues to carry out their duties. We have maintained our regular scheduled meetings by phone conferencing. Be aware that each committee chairperson continues to fulfill their duties. Applications for scholarships, Welsh and Sheldon awards are evaluated. The Courtesy and Communication Committees continue with their respective duties.

Elections for Board members that were due to take place at our Annual Meeting in May 2020, have been postponed until May 2021. Until that time, the current Board members have appointed two new Board members, Martine Grignon (2010) and Trish Kelly (2019). We are very happy to have Martine and Trish on the Board and are looking forward to working with them.

In an effort to support our fellow nurses, the Board voted to donate money to the Belknapp Sock Fund and to The Nurses House in Guilderland. The Belknapp Sock Fund offers financial support to students in need and The Nurses House is a national organization offering assistance to RN's who are struggling due to their health and financial situation.

I hope that everyone stays healthy and that we will be able to be together again soon.

Mary Rose DeMarco '77, President

Communications

Please help us in keeping our alumni address list as current and up to date as possible whenever you have changes to yourself or classmates. I also just wanted to remind everyone that the newsletter and information concerning the Alumni Association can be found on the alumni website at St. Peter's Health Partners (www.SPHP.com). A brief roadmap directly to our link: once you are on SPHP.com click careers, then schools of nursing (left side of page), then Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, then Alumni Association. This should take you directly to our webpage. So, please be cautious during these challenging times and feel free to contact us if you have any questions pertaining to the Samaritan School of Nursing.

Respectfully submitted

Carl M. Cacciotti, Chairperson



From the Directors Desk

Dear Alumni,

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has certainly turned our lives upside down. Who could have imagined living during a pandemic? In March, Governor Cuomo required all institutions of higher education to move course delivery to an online format. Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing rapidly made changes to classes, labs, and clinical experiences to protect the safety and health of our students and community, while also maintaining the rigor and integrity of the curricula.

Students attended classroom lectures via Webex, a video conferencing service. However, we needed to consider that many of our students were now the teachers for their children. Therefore, lectures were also recorded and made available to students for viewing at a convenient time. Labs and clinical experiences relied heavily on virtual simulations and asynchronous case studies. Students showed a tremendous amount of patience, perseverance, and poise during this unsettling time.

Our May graduation was postponed and combined with our practical nurse certificate program August commencement. Despite the setbacks and changes the pandemic brought upon the school, we had 32 associate degree graduates, and 10 practical nurse graduates join the alumni ranks. NCLEX pass rates remain impressively higher than state or national averages for both programs. These are the most recent pass rates for each program:

	Practical Nurse	Registered Nurse
Samaritan	August 2020 – 100% (1/1) <i>1 student has tested already!</i>	May 2020 – 100% (32/32)
NYS average	76.31%	86.29%
National average	85.94%	85.95%



Practical Nurse students wearing their new SHSON face covering and eye protection. This is the new “back-to-school” look!

The School of Nursing is completely open again and classes are back in full swing, with a few modifications. All students, faculty, and staff are screened daily. Face coverings are required at all times. Social distancing is practiced in the classrooms, hallways, student lounge etc. All things considered, our “new normal” is rolling along nicely.

In the last newsletter I wrote about the Andrea Lewis Siek Simulation Education Center. We are very excited to share that we are adding a Pyxis Medstation System to the Center’s equipment. The Belknap Trust is donating the money for the new Pyxis system.

This will be a game-changer in teaching students how to competently and expeditiously access meds for their patients. When students can practice and learn in a safe environment, free from the fear of making a mistake, students learn better!

The Student Government Association is meeting later this month. They are planning ways they can contribute to the community and comply with COVID-19 regulations. Staffing the Flu Buggy will be a priority! The Food Pantry is still robust and a great example of students living the mission and values of St. Peter’s Health Partners.

Hope all of you are well. Stay safe!

Patricia Cannistraci, Dean

Bits and Pieces Fall 2020

Louise E. Brooks '76 shares that she has been retired for 5 years. She has one daughter who is married with one son and two daughters.

Debra A. Jeffs '78 shares that she was nominated and selected as one of the Great 100 Nurses in Arkansas in 2020.

Margaret E. Sullivan '91 shares that she is currently the Director of Behavioral Health at Montetiore Nyack Hospital in Nyack, N.Y.

Lisa Williams '88 shares that she and her husband Rob will celebrate 28 years of marriage this year. She is working per diem. Ryan graduated from UCLA this Spring, Phi Beta Kappa with a B.S. in Neuroscience. He has been accepted to medical school commencing Fall 2020. Rhys continues as an accounting major at SUNY Albany, maintaining a perfect grade point average. Evan is a High School Senior.

Carl M. Cacciotti '15 shares that he graduated from Sage Colleges of Albany this past May with a Master's of Science Nurse Practitioner in their adult geriatric program. He passed his ANCC boards in July. He is now currently a AGNP-BC. He is still currently working at Samaritan Hospital.



Then and Now...

Please send us your then and now pictures from your time at nursing school with what you are up to now!

Alumni Giving Helps Current and Future Students

Leah Schwebel Gaies Class of 1942

Leah's family members have established the Leah Schwebel Gaies RN, '42 Nursing Scholarship to perpetuate the legacy of Leah Schwebel Gaies and the values she exemplified throughout her life as a nurse, educator, community volunteer, family member, matriarch, and friend. In all of these roles and with each individual she encountered, Leah demonstrated respect and compassion for others. This scholarship also recognizes her pride in the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, nursing profession, and her commitment to care for vulnerable individuals with kindness and expertise. This award will be made with a preference to a nursing student with a record of academic achievement and commitment to geriatric nursing. This scholarship provides a \$500 award for students pursuing their RN (associate degree) from the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing.

Connie LaPosta Class of 1955

Connie has included the school in her estate planning. The Connie Malone LaPosta RN, '55 Nursing Endowed Scholarship was created to support the entire tuition costs every two years for one student and if funds are available, partial tuition costs for a second student annually to obtain their RN (associate degree) from the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. More than 60 years later, Connie still feels a deep tie to the school and the Hospital. Through her estate planning she hopes to help have a deep impact on future nursing students.

Maureen Mouso Class of 1967

Maureen made the donation in memory of her late husband Dr. Marcus L. Shoobe, an Albany urologist, to honor his love of teaching and medicine. The Maureen A. Mouso RN, '67 and Dr. Marcus L. Shoobe Endowed Nursing Scholarship provides an annual \$2,000 award for students pursuing their RN from the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. The selected recipients will be second semester first year or second year RN program students who have consistently exhibited academic excellence and have need.

Beverly Sefcik Class of 1961

The Beverly A. Hansen Sefcik '61 Scholarship has been established by Jim Sefcik in loving memory of his late wife, to assist in furthering the education of nursing students at the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. This scholarship provides a \$500 award for students pursuing their RN (associate degree) from the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. Beverly's wish was to partially pay back Samaritan for the fine training she received that assisted her throughout her career in nursing, and also because she was further energized by the school's advancements, she saw firsthand at her Class's 50th reunion celebration, which included a tour of the hospital and school.

Thank You

A special thank you to our two Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing graduates Janice and Stacy who dropped everything to go work downstate in hospitals to take care of COVID-19 patients. I am sure there are others of you who have been on the front lines... we are so proud of you all. Thank you for everything you have done to take care of our communities during these extremely difficult times.

Condolences to:

- The family of Colleen Hannigan Bornhorst Class 1980. Her sisters, Kathleen Hannigan Middleton Class 1991 and Kimberly Hannigan Class 2006. Colleen was an active member of our alumni including a past president.
- The family of Dorothy Brenenstuhl Requate Class 1953
- Mary Sestito Class 1990 on the loss of her father in-law, Joseph Sestito
- Christine Ludwick Lutringer Class of 1972 on the loss of her sister Susan Robertson.
- Dreena Verhagen, who graduated in December 2011, passed away on March 30, 2020.

District Liasion

- NNYPNO (formerly District #9) conducted a teleconference on June 25th. They reviewed the By Laws and adopted changes via vote.
- The Health Department approved the "BS in Ten" regulations and they should be signed in September or October 2020.

Mosley Fund

The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association will be postponing our Annual Dinner held in November due to the COVID-19 virus. Our health and safety are most important at this time. Tentatively, our next Dinner Meeting will be held on May 11, 2021.

Seber Fund

The Seber Fund gave out five \$225.00 awards for the spring semester.

Fond Memories Please send us your "fond memory."

Share a fond memory... tell us your story. Please send us a unique or funny story from your time at Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing, or an example of the changes/ differences that time brings. What are the nurses of 2020 doing much differently from the time you were in nursing school?

Please share your stories and pictures and we will feature them in upcoming newsletters.