

Alumni Board Members

(President) **Vacant**

Claudia Graham
(Vice President) (Seber Fund)
claudia.graham@sphp.com

Nikki Moore (Treasurer/Finance)
nsmoore@live.com

Ellen Nicpon (Secretary)
enicpon@nycap.rr.com

Christine Lutringer (Communications)
clutringer@nycap.rr.com

Gail Moore (Nominating & Historical)
mooreg4224@gmail.com

Trish Kelly (Belknap Scholarship Fund)
trishkelly374@gmail.com

Chelsea Zellar (Mosley Fund)
chelseazellar@yahoo.com

Barbara Holmes (Chair, Welsh Fund)
blh3312198@hotmail.com

Valerie Falzo (Welsh Fund)
Valeriefalzo13@gmail.com

Mary Renna (Courtesy)
Rennam0627@gmail.com

Susan Quinn
Susan.quinn@sphp.com

Dean of Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing

Patti Cannistraci
patricia.cannistraci@sphp.com

www.sphp.com/samaritan-hospital-school-of-nursing-alumni-association

Samaritan Hospital
School of Nursing

1300 Massachusetts Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
518.268.5010

Your Alumni Association Needs You!

The Nomination Committee seeks to find interested alumni available six times a year to help the Alumni Association fulfill its mission.

WHY ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT –

ALUMNI KNOW SCHOOL CULTURE – No one knows the culture of a school better than its students. By teaching a unique set of values and ideals, schools instill in their students a life philosophy that is put into action as they become alumni and go out into the world. The alumni perspective, formed by the values that their alma mater taught them, is key to retaining the strength of a school's culture. As schools inevitably change to continue providing the best education possible, alumni voices are invaluable in conversations about the direction in which a school is headed. This ensures that a school's mission is understood, sustained, and empowered as it grows.

ALUMNI BUILD SCHOOL REPUTATION – Each alumni reflects the way in which a school shapes its students and is a living testament to a school's mission statement.

ALUMNI SUSTAIN SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT – Alumni who are motivated to advance their alma mater's mission provide a strong donor network on which a school can rely to continue its development.

ALUMNI PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES – A school's alumni base offers a wealth of opportunities for its students and fellow alumni. As students graduate and pursue their various interests, their experiences provide fellow alumni information that can guide their own journeys. Alumni working in various healthcare industries can teach about their work and the path they took to get there. By connecting with alumni, schools can tap into a vast pool of knowledge to deliver to their current students.

ALUMNI INCREASE A SCHOOL'S NETWORK – By organizing alumni associations, publishing alumni communications, and hosting reunion events, schools develop a strong network amongst their alumni.

We have thirteen positions on the Alumni Board. Currently, there are three vacancies with a potential fourth one. The positions include President, Treasurer and Nominating chair. Please contact Gail Moore if you are interested and/or would like to hear more about these positions. Thank you to all those who are currently volunteering and to those who have volunteered in the past.



Save the Date

St. Peter's Health Partners

Annual Nursing Alumni Gala

honoring our past and enhancing the future

Friday, June 16, 2023

6:00 pm – 10:30 pm

Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

Join us for a great night of dinner, dancing and fun!



From the Dean's Desk

Dear Alumni,

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) has updated the standards used by schools to drive our systematic plan of evaluation. The changes are sensible and support the work involved in educating new nurses. The previous 6 Standards have been condensed to 5. The Standard: Resources is no longer a standalone but dispersed throughout the remaining Standards. The largest change is how the schools need to monitor, track, and report the NCLEX pass rates. The benchmark has not changed, schools need to be at or above the 80% mark on this exam. The faculty will examine the most recent pass rate **OR** the mean pass rate for the three most recent years, and this rate must meet at least one of the following based on the total number of test-takers:

- 80% or greater for all first-time test-takers; or
- 80% or greater for all first-time test-takers and repeaters; or
- at or above the national/territorial mean based on the nursing program type.

The scores that have been reported to you up until now, have always been “all first-time test-takers” and only those individuals. ACEN has incorporated a more innovative methodology for reporting. The sweeping change to the NCLEX-RN/PN this April has all faculty cautiously optimistic. We have been including “Next-Gen” questions on every written exam, so students are working through these complex questions. We are optimistic that students will continue to do well. Several students have commented that they appreciate the new types of questions as it helps them to truly use clinical judgment.

We are delighted to share the addition of a nursing tutor. Barbara Fane worked for many years in Nursing Professional Development and more recently as an adjunct for the School of Nursing. Barbara is a perfect fit as the tutor. And trust me, there is a line outside her door. Barbara can explain any concept or skill in 5 different ways. Students are very happy!

In December, 31 graduates earned the status of alumni! Our NCLEX pass rates remain impressively high. New York State and national averages for both programs have significantly dropped since COVID. Below are the most recent 1st time new graduate pass rates for each program:

	Practical Nurse		Registered Nurse	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Samaritan	93.75% (15/16)	87.5% (7/8)	87.93% (51/58)	95.08% (58/61)
NYS average	71.35%	70.68%	62.53%	63.36%
National average	79.16%	80.36%	69.45%	64.8%

The last news I would like to share is that the Nursing School Almanac annually ranks nursing programs in the state. I am delighted to share the Samaritan School of Nursing LPN program ranks #7 in New York State (Nursing School Almanac) and the RN program ranks # 6 (Nursing School Almanac).

Hope all of you are well. Stay safe!

Patricia Cannistraci, Dean



Pinning Luncheon December 2022



December Graduates 2022

Bits and Pieces Spring/Summer 2023

JoAnn Rinaldi Horton '75 writes: Living in TN. Practicing retirement working 2days/wk in surgery. Enjoying time with my grandchildren and looking forward to a reunion with my classmates whenever we can.

Colleen Doring D'Amico '85 writes: My husband and I downsized to a nice single floor ranch. Our twin granddaughters started Kindergarten this fall.

Ashley Wood '22 writes: My first job at Samaritan Hospital at Burdett Birth Center is everything I hoped it would be. I am so happy.

Debra McCallen Jeffs '78 writes: I retired from Nursing in December 2022. We have two grandchildren and moved to Colorado to be near them.

Jane Roberts Whitney '68 writes: Had a wonderful 6 week trip to England, Scotland & Ireland in 2022.

Martha Briggs Dean '82 writes: I retired in December!

Dawn Coulter Scott '75 writes: Semi retired. Working on keeping promises to myself.

Catherine Farrell Burns '89 writes: Retired from NYS Department of Health after 26 years in February 2021. Enjoying retirement with husband, children and grandchildren.

Nancy Sirigiano Post '64 writes: I'm retired, married and have 3 grandchildren. We enjoy traveling and cruising.

Sherry Decker Fliegel '86 writes: I am permanently retired from nursing.

Katrina Paley '07 writes: Graduated from SUNY Empire in 2020 with BSN.

Lou Ann Taft Savoyski '75 writes: My Husband Bob passed away 6/2022 from pancreatic cancer. I continue to work per diem at the Center for Wound Healing at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

Joy Rosso Aloan '77 writes: Reside in Georgia. Still working per diem for SPHP Informatics Department. Retired in June 2022. Enjoying time with my 2 granddaughters Katelyn and Allison.

Chelsea Zellar '17 '21 writes: Working at Bellevue's Women Center and loving it!

Mary Ellen Varcasio Dziarcak '76 writes: I am currently retired and enjoying every minute of it with family and friends.

Debra Madsen Saffan '75 writes: Currently retired. Attended my fifth high school reunion.

Michele Meehan Peetz '82 writes: Currently working as the medical care provider in the Saratoga County Correctional Facility and loving it.

John Welch '93 writes: A retirement in the Phillipines in 2023 with LPN native is planned with language training and classes. We will be 74 and 75 years young. For the beaches! Too Much!! Sincerely JWelch.

Lillian Rita Hughes Westbrook '60 writes: Retired 1995 from Marcy Psychiatric Center Crane Hill/Pinefield Children and Youth Service. 18 year breast cancer survivor.

Marjorie Stone Barrow '69 writes: Retired completely 3 years ago as a nurse practitioner.

Sandra Sawyer Phillips '76 writes: Happily retired! After 45 years in critical care and education.

Shirley Diven '81 writes: Contemplating retirement?

Helen Thayer Millard '66 writes: Enjoying visiting children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Thankful hurricane Ian spared us.

Cynthia Harrington '94 writes: Working as RN clinical documentation for Eddy Seniorcare.

Jacqueline Boyce Fitzpatrick '69 writes: Totally retired! Age 74! I still think about how thankful I am for my education at SHSON. I am serving on 4 Boards of Directors here in NH. Doing lots of community service.

Anne VonFricken Coonrad '84 writes: I was elected to the position of City of Troy Judge for a term of 10 years.

Mandy VanDerhyden Conroy '08 writes: Now working as a school nurse and as a nursing supervisor at Samaritan.

Georgene Watson Beaver '65 writes: I am retired and enjoying life with my family and friends. I had bilateral total knee replacements the end of October and am doing very well.

Sandra Meehan Farnam '74 writes: Enjoying retirement, friends, family & traveling.

Diana Bayer Mertrude '75 writes: I have retired from University of California Medical Ctr., but do work per diem in the burn unit and a medical ICU 1-2 days per week. Understaffed and forever busy.

Katherine Herzog Rubin '78 writes: Retired fully from nursing in 2017 due to a medical disability.

Susan Byer Oster '77 writes: Retired 11/1/2021.

Bertha Johnson Higgins '96 writes: I am permanently retired from Nursing.

Geraldine Jones Nabozny '78 writes: Retired NP. Working as RN in the fireman's home, Hudson, NY.

Theresa Kulzer Potter '75 writes: Celebrated daughter Meaghan's marriage to Corey Acker on May 7, 2022. Still working part time at Capital Dermatology in Clifton Park, NY.

Joanne Parchetta '81 writes: 2nd move now since I became semi-retired from a disability. My daughter moved to Nashville, TN so I followed her (LOL). She is nursing her singer/songwriter dream. Meanwhile she got an amazing job at a high school here as choir director. Look her up www.musicbyang.com.

Lisa Wagoner Piscitella '90 writes: About to celebrate my 25th wedding anniversary on November 8, 2022. Our daughter Jenna graduated Magna Cum Laude from the College of St. Rose in May 2022 with a dual major of Early Childhood Education and Special Education. I am still working at Albany Med - almost 13 years.

June Stuarts Metzger '50 writes: I am currently residing at Hawthorne Ridge with my 93 year old husband. I'm able to care for him as he is handicapped, with help. We have 4 children, 2 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. My last employment was in the health center of Russell Sage College, for 25 years.

Condolences to:

Lou Ann Taft Savoyski '75 on the loss of her husband Bob.

Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Spring Dinner Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 9th, 2023

Where: Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante,
104 West Sand Lake Road, (Rt 150),
Wynantskill, NY

Time: 5:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Patti Cannistraci, DNS, RN, CNE

Topic: "Updates to the Samaritan Hospital
School of Nursing and Changes to
the NCLEX"

Program: 5:00 PM gathering (Cash Bar)

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Alumni/Foundation Meeting

Dinner Choices: Breaded Breast of Chicken Topped
with Sauce and Mozzarella Cheese

Tender Veal Simmered in
Marinara Sauce with Red and
Green Bell Peppers

Eggplant Layered with Romano and
Mozzarella Cheeses in Marinara Sauce

Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please return reservation with \$20.00 (member) or \$25.00 (non-member) with the fee payable to Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc by Thursday, May 4th, 2023.

If you are a student and have an interest in attending, there is a fee of \$10 per person.

Mail to:

Claudia Graham, 1 Bridge Rd, Menands, NY 12204

All reservations must be honored. If a cancellation is required, please contact Chelsea Zellar at (518) 380-7359. If anyone has a topic they would like to see presented at an Alumni meeting, please contact Chelsea Zellar or other Board Member.

Print Name: _____ Class: _____

Student's Name: _____

_____ Chicken _____ Veal _____ Eggplant

We would like payments as soon as possible. Walk-ins are not allowed due to COVID restrictions. No more than 50 people in attendance per restaurant's request.



Samaritan Hospital
School of Nursing
Alumni Association, Inc.

ST. PETER'S HEALTH PARTNERS
Center for Philanthropy
310 South Manning Blvd.
Albany, NY 12208-1771

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 836
ALBANY, NY

Belknap Scholarship Fund

Scholarship monies are available for Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing graduates that are alumni members in good standing. Member must be matriculated in a Master's or Doctoral program in Nursing. Currently, we have one application for 2023. If you are interested, please visit the SPHP website to schools of nursing to Samaritan to Alumni association. Applications are accessed there.

– *Trish Kelly, Belknap Chair*

Seber Scholarship Fund

The William F. and Josephine H. Seber Scholarship is awarded to:

The William F. and Josephine H. Seber Scholarship Fund was created in 1973 through funds left to the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni, Inc. in the last will and testament of Sarah Etola Peck. Miss Peck's will stated that the Fund is "to be used to provide scholarships for the study of nursing. This fund is to be made available, from time to time, at the discretion of said Corporation to young women who desire to become registered nurses or to registered nurses who desire to do graduate study in nursing, but who need financial assistance in order to do so." However, these funds are also eligible to male applicants seeking graduate studies only.

Seber awards will be awarded at the end of the semester to ensure compliance with Seber Fund rules. The applicants must be in good academic standing and supply proof, such as a copy of grades for the semester for which they are applying, with their application. Furthermore, registered nurses seeking funds for graduate assistance must be in good standing (dues paid or waived according to association rules) with the Alumni Association Inc. Please see the rules of the Seber Fund attached to the application. If you are not compliant with established fund rules, you may not be eligible for future awards, or you may be required to return funds received. This past spring, one scholarship was awarded and five were awarded this past fall. The committee will meet again in May. Applications for the Seber Fund may be found online via the St. Peter's Healthcare Partners website, under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Inc. We encourage anyone eligible to apply.

– *Claudia Graham, Vice President*

Welch Fund

Do you need financial aid or assistance due to a disability or illness? The Blanche E. Welch fund was established in 1968 to assist with these expenses. Funds are available to any member in good standing (dues paying member for 5 years) or lifetime member based on review of applications but the committee.

Additional details and application forms may be found on the Alumni web site:
<https://www.sphp.com> >careers >School of Nursing >Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing >Alumni Association.

– *Barbara Holmes, Chairperson*

Sheldon Fund

Sheldon Fund provides financial assistance based on need to graduates in good standing with the Alumni to help those with limited resources enjoy a fuller life, particularly when they are no longer gainfully employed. If you are interested in applying, applications are available on our website.