

Save the Date



SAMSON 4th ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

Friday, June 10, 2016 6:00- 10:00 PM
At the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY

More information to follow!



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.
St. Peter's Health Partners
Center for Philanthropy
310 South Manning Blvd.
Albany, NY 12208-1771

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Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

Troy, New York



From the President's Desk

On behalf of the Alumni Board members, I would like to thank Beverly Brown for her commitment as treasurer for the Welch Fund for over 20 years. Beverly has decided it is time to step down from this position, but will be available to orient a new treasurer.

Thank you, Beverly, for your expertise and dedication to the Welch Fund.

We were not able to vote on the revised By-Laws at the November meeting, since we did not meet quorum. The vote will take place at the May 10, 2016 meeting. The revised version can be viewed online at the Alumni website. Please plan on attending the meeting or be sure to mail in your proxy card.

In order to proceed with the new Heinrich Medicus Pavilion at Samaritan, it was necessary for Thurman Hall to be taken down. I had mixed emotions as I watched Thurman Hall come tumbling down on November 5, 2015. I realized that in order to meet the evolving health care needs of our community it was necessary, but I had many fond memories of the years spent in Thurman Hall. It was where many of us laughed, cried, and questioned, "What am I doing here?" Freshman downstairs, Seniors upstairs. We signed in and out with the House Mother and waited in line for a free hall phone to use. "MAN ON THE FLOOR!" Fathers and brothers were allowed to carry luggage to your room only on Sunday evening. Lasting friendships were made.

Definitely, these are memories to be cherished, but we need to help build the future. It is exciting to look forward to the new, five-story patient pavilion that will provide the community with cutting edge services. In its new location, Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing will continue to prepare the best nurses who are able to meet the challenging demands of the ever-changing health care system.

Mary Rose DeMarco '77 President

Alumni Board Members

- Mary Rose (McDonald) DeMarco (1977) President
- Claudia Graham (2003) Vice President
- Karen (Reinhart) Henchey (1968) Secretary, Courtesy Committee & District Liaison
- Anne (Von Fricken) Coonrad (1984) Treasurer
- Kathleen Borge (1993) Communications Committee
- Donna Breault (1980) Nominating Committee
- Christine (Ludwick) Lutringer (1972) Communications Committee
- Joan (Sibley) McReavy (1968) Historical & Belknap Committees
- Gail (Morelli) Moore (1978) Nominating Committee
- Ellen Nicpon (2008) Mosley Committee
- Susan (Rebhun) Quinn (1980) Seber Committee
- Florence (Groeschel) Strang (1951) Finance Committee
- Christina Yerdon (1997) Welsh, Seber & Sheldon Committees

Belknap Scholarship Fund

If you are ready to advance your EDUCATION, YOU may be the one we are looking for...

Are You:

- A Samaritan RN with BSN?
- A Dues paying member of the Alumni Association (as of 1/31/16)?
- Pursuing either Masters or Doctorate in Nursing?

Here's what you need to do:

- Provide proof of Matriculation
- Submit an application by Oct. 31st

One award recipient per year announced in December.

Let us assist you in reaching your dreams!

Congratulations to the 2015 Belknap Scholarship Award recipient, Pamela Barrall RN, BSN, class of 1982.

Need Assistance? Maybe your Alumni Association can help!

Sheldon Fund

- Provides financial assistance to those with limited resources in their retired years.

Welch Fund

- Provides funds for sick and/or disabled nurses. Consider applying for the Welch Fund if you have experienced an illness or injury.

Applications can be found online through the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing website.



Hoping to own a piece of Thurman Hall history?

Stay Tuned!

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH.
Please take a moment to complete a brief survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WF8MF7J>

The Patient Wish List

Health care professionals need to be attuned to the subtle things that can color a patient's experience, as well as the fact that all hospital staff are part of that experience While hospitals focus on national patient experience surveys, what matters ... is whether we do something with the feedback that patients provide. That is a major way to demonstrate a commitment to partnering with patients....

... Written in the patient's voice, the items on this list show that "patients assume high quality clinical care and safety," says Lisa Allen, chief patient experience officer for Johns Hopkins Medicine. "They are asking us to treat them as a person, with caring and empathy."



1. Let me sleep. Do not take vitals throughout the night or draw blood between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless it is critical. If it is critical, please make sure I understand. My sleep helps me recover and feel better.
2. Keep the noise levels down at the nurses' station. This is so important – especially at night when my sleep is needed. Turn off the TV, radio, computer screen, etc., at night in my room, so there's not a glare or noise that can disturb my sleep.
3. Don't lose my personal belongings. Take an inventory and label everything with my name and medical record number so my personal belongings do not get misplaced. These belongings are an extension of me and make me feel more at ease. Taking care of my stuff feels like you are taking care of me.
4. Knock on the door before entering. This shows respect for me as an individual and my privacy. Introduce yourself to me, and shake hands or make eye contact when you do this. Call me by my preferred name (formal or first name).
5. Please keep my white board current and up to date. It gives me a quick reference of who is caring for me and my daily plan. Provide a notebook at the bedside so I can keep all my important papers, cards from my health care team and other staff, etc. in one place. Please make sure my name and my location (nursing unit, room number and room phone) are listed on the front.
6. Update me and my family if you notice changes in my condition. Keep communication open. Please keep me informed of delays. It lessens my anxiety during an already stressful time.
7. Keep my room clean – mop the floors every day, wipe surfaces to prevent the spread of germs, empty my wastebasket and keep my bathroom really clean so it even smells clean. If you are my housekeeper, please introduce yourself to me and say hello. I like to know who is taking care of me.
8. Listen to me and engage me in my care. Use plain language, and make sure I understand my plan of care.
9. Please orient me to my room and the hospital, so I know where important things are located, how to work the television, how to order food and when my linens may be changed. I am a guest here and don't know these things, yet these are important to me.
10. Please maintain professionalism in ALL areas of the hospital. While you may be on your break, you are still a hospital employee and a reflection of the hospital. How I perceive you is often how I perceive the hospital and care that I am receiving.

For complete article by Peter Pronovost: <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/patient-advice/articles/2015/10/15/the-patient-wish-list>

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPRING DINNER MEETING

Tuesday May 10, 2016 - 5:00 PM

Hilton Garden Inn, Hoosick Street, Troy, NY

Guest Speaker: Christina Yerdon MSN, ACNP-BC, MBA

Director of Care Coordination Acute Care Troy; Samaritan and St. Mary's Hospital Hospitalist

Topic: "How to have a positive hospital experience."

Reservation information to be mailed.

Congratulations to the December 2015 AD Graduates



Kristin Cosselman (2015) and her mother, Sandra Cosselman (1984)



From the Director's Desk

I am pleased to report that we are making steady progress on our initiative to be accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). We had a very successful site visit in September; the visitors determined that the programs met all six standards and recommended accreditation for both the associate degree program and the practical nurse certificate program. In late January, we cleared the second hurdle in the process. The ACEN Evaluation Review Panel also found that the programs are in compliance with all the standards and voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the school be accredited. The Board will make the final determination in early March and we will be notified in early April.

That we have come this far on the accreditation journey is a testament to the hard work of the faculty and staff of the school. While I knew at the outset that the programs were and are characterized by excellence, it was the job of the faculty and staff to convey that to ACEN in writing and in person during the visit. We tightened up a lot of processes in preparation for the review and all these efforts have truly paid off. We are thrilled to be so close to the goal!

I am requesting your assistance with a little bit of "institutional research". Not much is known about what additional education alumni may have pursued after graduating from this school. Please take a moment to go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WF8MF7J> to complete a brief survey. The information obtained will allow us to understand the extent to which graduates have obtained additional education in nursing and in other disciplines. You may also go to the Alumni Association's page on the school's website and access the survey in that way.

Here is the link:
http://www.nehealth.com/son/Alumni_Association/Samaritan_Hospital_School_of_Nursing_Alumni,Inc
Furthermore, this newsletter will be published on the website, so you can access the survey that way as well.

I hope to see you all at the Fourth Annual Alumni Banquet on Friday, June 10, 2016 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick Street in Troy. It is a wonderful event that will leave you smiling and ever-proud to be a Samaritan grad!

Susan Birkhead, DNS, MPH, RN, Director

NCLEX PASS RATES

	2013	2014	2015
Samaritan PN	95.2% (20/21)	95.2% (20/21)	94.4% Internal data (17/18)
NYS Average	81%	79.9%	78.6%
US Average	85%	69.8%	81.8%

Retrieved on 11/03/15 from:
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/nurseprogs-nclex-pn.htm>

	2013	2014	2015
Samaritan RN	90.2% (37/41)	91.7% (44/48)	93.3% (56/60)
NYS Average	78.1%	76.8%	80.5%
US Average	81.4%	79.3	84.5%

Retrieved on 01/31/16 from:
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/nurseprogs-nclex-rn.htm>

PURSUING A DEGREE IN NURSING?

Maybe your Alumni Association can help!
Seber Scholarship Fund

This fall seven Seber scholarships were awarded and 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.

History Committee

This committee retrieves, organizes and preserves SAMSON Alumni memorabilia and artifacts. Please consider donating your SAMSON memorabilia to this Committee in order to preserve our nursing history for future generations.

History Committee goals for 2016:

- Secure designation of the History Committee as an official part of the Alumni operations.
- Complete documentation all graduating class members from 1902 to the present.
- Organize the Alumni office contents to facilitate optimal storage of memorabilia, committee minutes, taxes and correspondence.
- Recruit an additional member to sit on the History Committee.
- Continue to present our Alumni History Committee donations to the Foundation for NYS Nurses for evaluation and restoration.
- Recognize Bunny O'Hara for her support and many years of tireless effort with the Alumni Association.

District Liaison

This committee serves as a liaison between the Samaritan Alumni Association and Northeast New York Professional Nurses Organization, Inc. (previously known as Capital District #9 of NYSNA). All bills proposed in the NYS Legislature and newly enacted laws and other pertinent information affecting the nursing profession are brought to the attention of the alumni membership. Membership and program information is available at www.NNYPNO.com

NYSNA Campaigns for 2015-2016 Legislative Session

1. Safe Staffing for Quality Conduct (A1548/S7820).
2. Educational Advancement for RNs: **Reintroduced
3. Defend public hospitals that never turn patients away.
4. Move from the "Basic Health Plan" toward Universal Single Payer Coverage thus providing high quality care for all.
5. Strong RN Standards. NYSNA members have united and won contracts that set staffing ratios, quality care conditions and professional pay and benefits.

The District Liaison Committee welcomes Sandra Sturtevant Nuttal Class 1968 to the committee. Another member is needed. If interested, contact me at 518:283-4967 or Khenchey@aol.com

Courtesy Committee

- Provides memorials for deceased alumni or their immediate family members.
- Provides a remembrance for those who are ill or disabled.
- 2016 – Two condolence donations have been made to the Belknap Scholarship Fund.
- 2015 - 19 donations
- Cards are sent twice a year and depending upon funds, a holiday gift is delivered to the 16 alumni currently on our infirm list.

If you have knowledge of an alumnus who should be placed on the infirm list or an alumnus who is recently deceased, please notify Karen Henchey at (518) 283-4967, khenchey@aol.com, or committee members: Diane Magnano Dare (Class 1976) 518:783-8790 and Tamara Auclair Yankowski (Class 1992)

Condolences to:

- Karen Leonard Houston (Class 1977) on the loss of her husband Jon R Houston
- Dawn Holbritter Duffey (Class 1975) on the loss of her mother Eva J. Holbritter
- Marge Dillon Gully (Class 1968) on the loss of her mother Innocenza Dillon
- Martha Briggs Dean (Class 1982) on the loss of her father Walden B Briggs
- Leah Schwebel Gaies (Class of 1942) on the loss of her sister Tobie Schwebel Kessler
- Ethel Villeneuve Howard (Class 1951) on the loss of her husband J.W.Howard
- Diana Whalen O'Brien (Class 1973) on the loss of her sister Joan Whalen Ayyappan



Condolences to the families of:

- Eleanor Addey Bakay (Class 1957)
- Mary Alice Delaney Bouchard (Class 1956)

Bits & Pieces

Catherine Wunderlich Barabas '49
Encourages nurses to join the Nurse Health Study (NHS3). As a charter member since 1976, she has found it to be a very rewarding experience.

Muriel Ferra Dufendach '53
Shares that she is still managing a small feeding program for the homeless and needy in her community. They provide one dinner meal a day. It is run entirely by volunteers and support from the community.

Edith Carter Bryant '55
Writes that she has worked 25 years as a visiting nurse and school nurse and is certified in community care.

Janet Read Mifflin '55
Writes that she did not renew her NYS Nursing license in 2014 or her Florida Nursing license in 2015. She has many happy memories from Samaritan and loved her career in nursing.

June M. Rock '55
Shares that she retired in 1991 from Dartmouth Medical Center. After graduating from Samaritan she served in the U.S. Navy Corp from 1956 – 66. She graduated from the University of Michigan, Anesthesia Nurse Program in 1963.

Irene L. Johnson Raiche '55
Shares that she is now "fully" retired and is enjoying her 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Patricia A. Brady Gorham '58
Writes that she has retired as a Nurse Practitioner in women's health care.

Nancy S. Stoughton Ethier '58
Shares that she retired in 1999 and had been cancer free for 2 years. She also shares that her husband passed away 2 years ago.

Greta I. Daun '59
Shares that she is retired and enjoys volunteering at Samaritan Hospital.

Dorothy Taylor Buckley '61
Writes that she has worked at S.P.H. for over 50 years! Currently, she is working per diem.

Helen J. Talbot Canfield '61
Writes that she is the Director of Nurses at a 135 bed Nursing and Assisted Living Facility in Ohio.

Nancy Sirigiano Post '64
Shares that she enjoys traveling, golf, bridge and most of all, her grandchildren. She and her husband celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary this year.

Georgene S. Watson Beaver '65
Shares that she is retired but, works one day a week at a pain center. She has started traveling more with recent trips to the East Coast and Destin, Florida.

Barbara Goetz Einemann '66
Writes she can't believe that in 2016 she will be celebrating 50 years of nursing! She writes that she has wonderful memories and is now enjoying retirement.

Helen E. Thayer Millard '66
Shares that she is busier now that she is retired. She enjoys church work, music and her grandchildren. She is looking forward to her 19th grandchild arriving in March 2016. She also has one great-grandchild.
Faith A. Facticeau Lewis '68
Shares that she moved back to New York and is now retired. She spent the last 22 career years as a Hospice Care Manager.

Robin Shellard Campbell '68
Writes that she retired in June 2014 after 46 years of nursing from Critical Care, Emergency Room, School of Nursing to Nursing Education. She is keeping busy volunteering in the E.R. at Glens Falls Hospital and traveling. She enjoys pickle ball and billiards. Her eldest granddaughter started Nursing School at SUNY Adirondack in 9/2015.

Jane E. Roberts Whitney '68
Shares that she has been retired since May 2013. She loves to travel and will visit her 7th continent, Antarctica in 2/2016.

Joan S. Sibley McReavy '68
Writes that she is now fully retired and is enjoying having more time to travel. She and her husband, Cliff celebrated their 2nd Wedding Anniversary.

Virginia Deecher Welch '68
Is hoping the bricks from the demolished Thurman Hall will be available to buy as souvenirs. (Yes! Check out this newsletter for information regarding the sale of the bricks)

Marjorie Stone Barrows '69
Shares that she is now retired from her full time position as a Nurse Practitioner at the V.A. in Albany. Currently she is working part-time as a N.P. in a rheumatology office in the area. She enjoys traveling frequently to visit her eleven grandchildren in Florida, Alabama and North Carolina.

Christine M. Carmody Martin '69
Writes that she is still working as a Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Emergency Departments at Samaritan and Memorial Hospitals.

Barbara Harrison Smith '70
Writes, "Retirement is wonderful". She is busy volunteering, making travel plans and spending time with her grandchildren.

Valerie S. Falzo '71
Shares that she retired January 2015.

Linda J. Bartow VanKessel '72
Shares that she celebrated the marriage of her youngest daughter, Katherine and she is expecting her third grandchild in December 2015.

Michelle J. Bechard '74
Shares that she retired July 1, 2015. "Yeah"

Bonnie J. Hart Erickson '74
Shares that she has been retire for 4 years. She and her husband, John just returned from a short jaunt to Cape Elizabeth, Maine. They are expecting their first grandchild this year.

Sandra A. Meehan Farnam '74
Shares that she is currently working in the Cath Lab holding area at St. Mary's in Athens, Georgia. She states that she is always proud of her training at Samaritan that prepared her for many different nursing experiences.

Darlene J. Randall Hoffman '75
Writes that she has been working as a Nurse Practitioner at Troy Internal Medicine for the past 14 years.

JoAnn Rinaldi Horton '75
Writes that she is still working in surgery. She was thrilled to reconnect with classmates at their 40th year reunion.

Margaret Martin Kaplan '75
Shares that she is looking forward to be moving to Florida in March 2016.

Diane B. Bayer Mertrude '75
Shares that she retired one year ago, but is working per diem in a medical CCU/ICU at UCSD Medical Center. She enjoys tennis and skiing in Vermont and Massachusetts with her family.

Sandra S. Sawyer Phillips '76
Writes that she has taken a new position as Director of Professional Practice and Nursing Quality at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA.

Joy A. Rosso Aloan '77
Shares that she recently relocated to Georgia to live closer to her son, Marc and his wife Ashlee. She is enjoying time spent with their granddaughters, Katelyn and Allison. "Miss you all. Love the newsletter."

Mary Beth Rourke Numann '77
Shares that her daughter, Taylor was married 7/11/2014. She retired from Sacred Heart School in Saratoga, CA. after 13 years. She misses the children but is looking forward to traveling to Boston more often to visit her daughter. Congratulations to Mary Rose McDonald DeMarco on her Presidency. "Thanks Bear!"

Maria F. Hendrickson '78
Shares that she gave a presentation on healthcare terminologies at the International SNOMED CT conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands last year.

Shirley A. Diven '81
Writes that she is still working at MVP Health Insurance.

Jessica L. Tracy Plackis-Useman '88
Writes that her twin boys, Connor and Carter are seniors in high school. She and her husband, Scott Useman, will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in Maui. She has a new job, Clinical Education for MGA home healthcare in Colorado Springs, CO.

Tamara F. Auclair Yankowski '92
Shares that she is working at FMG East Greenbush NEH as a Triage Nurse. She enjoys work, family and is looking forward to summer weather.

John Welch '93
Shares that he is currently working for Innovative Healthcare Plans.

Christina Yerdon '97
Shares that she is currently working as the Director of Care Coordination for Samaritan and St. Mary's Hospitals. She recently became engaged to Jason Church from Averill Park. A fall wedding is planned.

Mandy Allen Black '03
Shares that she graduated from the Sage Colleges MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner program in May 2014. She is currently a primary care provider at the Center for Disability Services in Albany, N.Y.

Janice L. Ceccucci '03
Shares that she is currently attending SUNY Upstate to obtain her DNP.

Kimberly E. Hannigan '06
Shares that she is currently enrolled in a Master's program at SUNY Empire State.

Rebecca L. Robinson-Ryan '11
Shares that after working for 3 years at Albany Medical Center in Neurosciences, a Doctor's office and in St. Mary's Emergency Department, she now works at Anthem BCBS as a Care Manager Registered Nurse.

Amanda N. Dunham '11
Shares that she has been working as an emergency room nurse since 2011. She completed her BSN in 2014 and is currently enrolled in a MSN program.

Jessica L. Landor '13
Shares that she has been working as an R.N. in the Burdett Care Center since 8/2014.

Kathleen A. McGuire '14
Writes that in November 2016 she and her family relocated to Michigan for her husband's job. She expresses peace of mind in such a big move knowing that as a registered nurse she will have no problem finding a job.



Show Your Pride in Your School

Consider purchasing a T-shirt or hoodie from the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Student Government Association (SGA). Orders are placed each semester and order forms are available by emailing: Jeannine.kaskoun@sph.com Proceeds benefit the SGA.