



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing **ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

Spring 2019

Troy, New York

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

Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing
1300 Massachusetts Avenue
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From the **President's Desk**

The place looks a little different . . .

The new five-story Heinrich Medicus Pavilion at Samaritan is now complete and all the units are occupied. And once you park in the parking garage, it is no longer necessary to be exposed to the elements! The parking garage connects to the new pavilion and Tower building by way of the 1st floor walkway.

Thank you to all who donated to the "Wall of History" in the vestibule of the new Pavilion at the hospital. A special thank you to Carl Cacciotti Class of 2015, who built the cabinet that houses artifacts of our legacy and nursing profession. Thank you to Susan Birkhead for gathering the items and setting up the display. From the glass syringe, the silver tea set and the navy cape, each piece has its own story and brings a special memory to mind. Thank you to Cheryl Rankey for her help with our last minute touches and bringing it all together. I encourage everyone to stop and see it.

The buildings and grounds around Samaritan have definitely changed over the years but, the empathy and caring that takes place inside its walls has not changed. Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing continues to prepare nurses that are capable to meet the challenging demands of the ever changing health care system.

I have gotten several request of how best to obtain information about the Alumni and its committees. Here is our website address:

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

Also, please feel free to contact me or any of the committee chairpersons via the Alumni Office.

The address is: 1300 Massachusetts Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

Phone: 518-268-5010

I am looking forward to attending the Annual Alumni Banquet in June. It is always fun to reconnect with classmates and friends from our days at Samaritan as students, instructors and staff. I hope to see many of you there!

Mary Rose DeMarco '77, President



Alumni Apparel Sale

March 15th through April 15, 2019!

Exclusive Items for Alumni!

Visit - wickedsmartapparel.com

"Samaritan Alumni" Webstore is under "Online Collections"!

Items can be shipped or picked up!

Email Erin Berghela at erin.berghela@sphp.com with any questions!

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 Schools of nursing under (Hospitals & affiliates). On the next page in the bottom right-hand corner under (Join our alumni Associates) click learn more. This should take you directly to our webpage.

Carl M. Cacciotti, Chairperson



From the Director's Desk

Dear Alumni,

Happy spring! The alumni numbers continue to grow. The December graduation added 19 RN graduates to the workforce and the August graduation added 9 PN graduates. NCLEX pass rates remain much higher than state or national averages for both programs. These are the pass rates for the 2018 calendar year:

	Practical Nurse	Registered Nurse
Samaritan	100%	92%
NYS average	81%	80%
National average	84%	84%

In the fall, students were busy with service to the community, staffing the Flu Buggy for four days at Samaritan Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. Students also participated as part of the Eastern New York Homeless Veterans Coalition to present its annual homeless veterans stand down event at the Colonie Elks Lodge in Latham. The event served 209 local veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless and was staffed by nearly 300 volunteers from throughout the Capital Region.

The picture above shows the students who participated along with their faculty, Jeannine Kaskoun. Feedback from the event emphasized how the students provided skilled, professional care, used critical thinking and clinical decision making skills, and communicated effectively with this diverse and underserved population.



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Students also participated in Trunk or Treat – this is a fun and safe way for children and families to experience Halloween. Many different units within the St. Peters Healthcare System participated by decorating cars and filling the trunks

with candy. Students chose a Candyland theme for their car decoration. The event was held in the parking garage of Samaritan Hospital.

The Student Government Association is very active and champions causes that align with SPHP mission and vision. They held bake sales raising money for suicide awareness and Wreaths Across America.

The spring semester is in full swing. The nursing I class has 32 students of which 11 are males. This is the largest number of male students the program has ever had in 1 class. The remarkable faculty and staff remain committed to excellence in education. Three faculty members (Erin Dolen, Jeannine Kaskoun, and Gail Moore) traveled to Philadelphia to attend the Organization for Associate Degree Nurses conference to present a poster highlighting research they conducted on how and when students best learn critical thinking.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Alumni Dinner on Friday, June 7th.

Thank you for your continued support of this amazing school of nursing program.

Patricia Cannistraci

Belknap, Mosley and Seber Funds

The Belknap committee had awarded the 2018 Leona Belknap Scholarship to Kimberly Hannigan class of 2006. Kimberly works as a nursing instructor at the Capital Region BOCES and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Nursing program at SUNY Empire State College. We thank you Kimberly, for your support as an active alumni member. We wish you much success in your studies.

The Board would like to welcome Martine Grignon, class of 2010, as she has taken over as Chair of the Belknap Scholarship Committee. Korissa Gohlke has stepped down as chairperson and will stay on as a committee member. We encourage all Samaritan Alumni to apply for the Belknap Scholarship while pursuing their Baccalaureate or Masters degree. Applications can be found on the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing website. This annual award is disbursed in December of each year. Annual Alumni dues must be paid in order to be considered for the scholarship.

Korissa Golke, Belknap Chair

The Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Spring Dinner Meeting will be held at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante, 104 West Sand Lake Road (Rt 150), Wynantskill, NY on May 14th at 5pm. The guest speaker will be Deborah Elliott, MBA, RN (Executive Director of Center for Nursing and Director, Foundation of New York State Nurses). The topic of discussion for that evening will be "Nurses Making a Difference in the Health of Communities across New York".

Chelsea Zellar, Mosley Chair

The Seber Fund awarded nine applicants \$120.00 each this year. Anyone attending school in a nursing program is eligible to apply. Please see our website for more information and the application form.

Claudia Graham, Vice President and Seber Chair

Condolences to:

- Colleen Hannigan Bornhorst Class 1980, Kathleen Hannigan Middleton Class 1991 and Kimberly Hannigan Class 2006 on the loss of their mother, Nancy J. Burt and sister Joann Brochu
- Barbara Carr Class 1961 on the loss of her brother, Lawrence R. Carr
- Lynn Boule McNall Class 1978 on the loss of her mother in law, Ann Marie McNall
- Karen Reinhart Henchey Class 1968 on the loss of her brother in law, Charles J. Taft
- Tara Burke-Muscattello Class 1994 on the loss of her father, Eugene Burke
- Holly Smolinski Class 1975 on the loss of her mother
- Tracy Wagner Ivory Class 1981 on the loss of her mother and father
- Judy Shibley Gacek Class 1959 on the loss of her husband, Frederick A. Gacek
- Sandra Harris Class 1966 on the loss of her mother, Mina Vanderhyden
- Maureen Mouso Class 1967 on the loss of her husband, Marcus L. Shoobe MD
- Shirley Diven Class 1981 on the loss of her mother
- Lisa Wagoner Piscatella Class 1990 on the loss of her father
- Nancy Pennamacor Digeser Class 1977 on the loss of her mother

Condolences to the families of:

- Linda Seith Kohut Class 1967
- Winifred Lillie Cabot Class 1946
- Mary Alice Bedell Class 1958
- Leah Schwebel Gaies Class 1942
- Robert Jude Smith Class of 1999
- Gail F. Belanger (Alleman), Class of 1967



Bits & Pieces

Maureen A. McDonough '52 shares that she now lives in Senior Apartments in Cohoes with her husband, Bill. They have five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren with another one coming soon. After retiring in the 90's, she went back to work in school nursing and loved it.

Virginia G. Heislein '53 writes that she "Loved it all!" She retired 5 years ago. She has one daughter, one daughter-in-law, one granddaughter, and one grandson, who are all RN's. "I am very proud of all of them"

Muriel F. Dufendach '53 shares that she is still managing a meal program for the homeless and needy in her area. "Some of us just don't know how to stop!"

Frances Myers '56 writes that she and her husband just celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary, October 18, 2018.

M. Colleen Sand '57 writes that she had a wonderful nursing career for 40 years at Samaritan Hospital.

Judith S. Gacek '59 shares that her husband Fredrick A. Gacek passed away April 16, 2018.

Lillian Rita Westbrook '60 shares that she is retired and stays active in church and community volunteer work. She stays in touch with her classmates. They celebrated their 55th Reunion in 2015. She reports that they have lost 3 classmates, Patricia Farnan, Claudia Burdick (Lee), Joyce Hull (Higbee).

Marcia F. Lindstrom '61 shares that she feels that Samaritan Hospital prepared her well. She absolutely loved her nursing career. She frequently thinks about her career, education and experiences in nursing.

Barbara Carr '61 shares that her brother Larry passed away from Alzheimer's disease on 9/24/2018 at Fulton Center in Gloversville, N.Y. He received excellent care at Fulton Center.

Nancy Post '64 writes that she is retired. She enjoys traveling, especially taking cruises. She also enjoys golf, bridge and mahjong. She spends as much time as they can with their 3 grandchildren.

Mary Jane Gibbons '64 writes that after 50 years of working as an R.N. in many different fields, she is retired. Now she is very busy volunteering at her local soup kitchen, and her daughter's school. She also helps with her 3 grandsons who live close by!

Patricia Prisk '65 writes that she and her husband Bill are retired and are loving it. They love living in Florida and cruise often.

Georgene S. Beaver '65 shares that she is enjoying retirement. She has traveled to China and Africa and is going to the Philippines in January on a medical mission. "Life is Good!"

Barbara Einemann '66 writes that she is retired after working 40 plus years in hospital nursing.

Sandra L. Harris '66 shares that her mom, Mina Vanderheyden, passed away July 2018 at the age of 95 years.

Helen E. Millard '66 writes that she is still singing with the Tampa Oratorio Singers. She is busy trying to keep up with her 19 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Maureen A. Mouso '67 shares that her husband Dr. Marcus L. Shoobe passed away.

Virginia D. Welch '68 writes, "Many thanks to the planners of the 6/8/18 Annual Alumni Banquet and for featuring the 50th Anniversary of the Class of 1968. Thank you for arranging the tours of the new hospital E.R., ICU and School of Nursing. Amazing"

Donna J. Dearborn '68 shares that she is retired from nursing.

Virginia L. Perry '68 writes that she is retired and enjoying life. She and her husband watch their great granddaughter Lorelei, while her mother is finishing her pre-requisites for a nursing program. She is hoping to transfer to the Texas Health Science Center, S.A.

Marjorie Barrows '69 shares that she is retired from her Federal Government position but, is still working part-time as a N.P. in a private office. She and her husband David, travel in the winter to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and Florida. They have 10 grandchildren that they visit several times a year traveling to Alabama, Florida, N.Y. and North Carolina.

Gerry Moss '71 writes that she is 'Happily retired!'

Marsha Smith '71 shares that she continues to work as an N.P. in urgent care and in a nursing home.

Sandra Farnam '74 shares that she retired as of 7/1/2018.

Bonnie J. Erickson '74 writes that she is happily retired since 2011. She and her husband John enjoy touring the wineries of N.Y.S.

Carol M. Lapointe '74 writes that she retired 12/20/2018 and is loving it! She worked 25 plus years at Samaritan in Maternity, primarily in the newborn nursery, then 19 years in an OB/GYN doctor's office. She is looking forward to spending more time with granddaughters Olivia, age 6 and Brooke, age 4.

Mary E. Hannan '75 shares that she is retired from nursing and is currently working for Keller Williams Capital District as a licensed Real Estate Salesperson.

Holly A. Smolinski '75 shares that she retired 10/2015 to care for her aging parents. Her mother passed away 1/2017 and her father passed away 3/2018. She is now living in North Carolina, plays golf 5+ times a week and is loving retirement.

Diana B. Mertrude '75 writes that she continues to work in ICU and GI procedures at UCSD Medical Center.

Deborah Saffan '75 writes that she is working in Hospice Home Care.

Katherine Rubin '78 shares that she has been a Family Nurse Practitioner since 1999. She has been unable to work since 2017 due to a "rare" auto immune condition. She would love to hear from anyone coming to Florida and Disney World. carouselkr@gmail.com.

Debra A. Jeffs '78 writes that she had great fun celebrating her 40th Class Reunion at the Annual Alumni Banquet in June of 2018. It was fun to reunite with classmates and students she taught while at the S.O.N. from 1979-1987.

Joanne F. Reynolds '78 writes that she is "Enjoying retirement!"

Tracy Ivory '81 writes that she is working as a Vascular Access Specialist in Utica, N.Y. She shares that her mother passed away in June of 2018.

Shirley A. Diven '81 shares that her mother passed away on June 21, 2018.

Victoria A. Callagan '82 writes that she has a Master's degree in Nursing Education and has now completed her Ed. D. in Health Sciences Education in May of 2018.

Colleen D. D'Amico '85 shares that she is the proud grandparent of twin girls, born September 2017.

Lisa A. Piscitella '90 shares that her father passed away 1/27/2018. Her daughter graduated from Catholic Central High School and is now attending the College of St. Rose, studying early childhood education.

Tamara F. Yankowski '92 writes she is working at SPHP Bariatric/Metabolic Care. She is enjoying her grandsons Jordan, 11 and Tyler, 9.

Dawn M. Lemire '95 writes that she is working at the Department of Corrections: Classification Health Analyst.

Ewa A. Parker 2014 shares that she obtained her Oncology Nursing Certification in December 2017 and her Hospice and Palliative Nursing Certification in June 2018. She continues to work at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, SC as an oncology nurse.

Tiffany R. Knapp 2015 shares that she is unable to work at this time due to a car accident in 2017.

Then and Now . . .

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



**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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*Please join us -
**Dinner Meeting on
Tuesday, May 14, 2019***

The cost is \$20.00 (member) or \$25.00 (non-member) with the fee payable to Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc by Thursday, May 9, 2019.

If you are a student and and plan to attend, the fee is \$10 per person.

Mail to: Anne Coonrad,
44 Sausse Ave, Troy, NY 12180.

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 2019 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.

Bindu Jose is Recipient of Student Choice Award



In the spring and fall semesters, the students at Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing participate in the Student Choice Award. The Student Choice Award is given to a nurse from SPHP who has been inspirational to the students. The School presented Bindu Jose with the Student Choice Award in November 2018. She was so surprised, it was great!



Erin Berghela, President of SGA, at the 2019 Valentine's Day bake sale raising money for the Student Government Association.

Courtesy Committee

The Homebound List is currently comprised of 15 alumni. These are members who have a debilitating medical issue or are in a position where they are less able to participate in activities as they used to.

If you know of a classmate or other alumni who should be added to our list please email Karen Henchey at khenchey@aol.com or call 518-283-4967. We remember these alumni at Thanksgiving and Easter with cards and with a plant at Christmas time (when funds permit). Also, please notify Karen of any alumni who have passed away. A monetary donation is made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund in their memory.