



**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
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT #79



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

Troy, New York



Mary Rose DeMarco '77, Lisa Robert '86 and Teresa Smith '80 at the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing 2016 Annual Alumni Banquet

Thurman Hall Commemorative Brick

— ORDER FORM —

Please make a \$25.00 check payable to: SAMSON Student Government Association

Mail to: Susan Birkhead, Director
Samaritan School of Nursing
at St. Mary's Campus
1300 Massachusetts Avenue
Troy, NY 12180



Name _____

(please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



From the President's Desk

As our summer in Upstate New York comes to an end, I hope you have been able to enjoy this beautiful weather. Hopefully, this winter does not hold too many surprises for us.

At our May dinner meeting, the revised By-Laws passed with a unanimous vote. Thank you to the Board members who worked so hard to update this document. The By-Laws, along with much more information, can be viewed on our Alumni website. Be sure to visit it often.

Also, at the May dinner meeting two new Board members were elected. A warm "Welcome Aboard" to Barbara Holmes and Tara Burke. We are all looking forward to working with you.

It was fun to see so many familiar faces at the Annual Alumni Banquet. I hope everyone had a chance to visit and reconnect with classmates and friends. The Key note speaker, Nancy Witter, a Stand-up Comedian, Motivational Speaker, Life Coach, Teacher and Author was entertaining as she highlighted many of the situations we have all experienced at work and at home.

I would like to send a special message to my classmates to mark June 9, 2017 on your calendars now. That is the date for next year's Annual Alumni Banquet. If you check the dates, it will be our 40th Graduation Anniversary! Spread the word and let's see how many from the Class of 1977 we can round up.

To our most recent graduates, be sure to stay connected and join your Alumni Association. There are scholarship funds and funds for hardships available to Alumni members.

Hope to see many of you at our November dinner meeting.

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
Donna Breault (1980) Nominating Committee
Christine (Ludwick) Lutringer (1972) Communications Committee

ATTENTION!!! Applications needed

Seber Fund

Are you attending the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing or are an alumnus currently enrolled in a graduate program in nursing? Monetary assistance is available. Eight scholarships were awarded in the Spring of 2016.

Belknap Fund

Are you an alumnus matriculated in a Master's or Doctoral level program in Nursing? Scholarship assistance is available for you. There were no applications for the year of 2016.

Sheldon Fund

Are you a retired alumnus or in your "mature" years and need some financial assistance? The fund is here to help. Please apply. A total of 1 award has been given this year.

Welsh Fund

Have you suffered illness or are disabled and have medical expenses? Please apply for assistance. Since May 2016 the committee has awarded a total of 11 awards

All applications are confidential.

All applications and information regarding the Funds are located at sphp.com web site under schools of nursing. Select Alumni Associations and the select Samaritan. You will find the applications and the by-laws explaining the qualifications and procedures for the above.

Mosely Report

Dinner meeting will be held on November 8, 2016 at Paolo Lombardi's in Wynantskill, NY.

Gathering at 5:00 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker is David Caesar, Director of Facilities Planning Design and Construction for St Peters Health Partners.(FPDC) David has been a team member on the Troy Master Facility Planning from its inception in 2012 and is currently the lead senior project manager on the \$99M Troy Master Facility Project and is looking forward to managing the project to its successful completion in 2018.

His topic will be information on the Troy Master Facility Plan progress to date with a review of some of the interior features, building systems and finishes.

Joan (Sibley) McReavy (1968) Gemmell, Historical & Belknap Committees
Gail (Morelli) Moore (1978) Nominating Committee
Ellen Nicpon (2008) Mosley Committee
Susan (Rebhun) Quinn (1980) Seber Committee
Tara Burke (1994) Finance Committee
Christina Yerdon (1997) Welsh & Sheldon Committees
Barbara Holmes (1963) Welsh Committee



From the Director's Desk

Looking back at my last letter, I see that we were anxiously waiting for the final decision from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). I am delighted to report that in early April we were notified that the ACEN Board of Commissioners voted to accredit both the associate degree program and the practical nurse program! Of special note is that we were commended for exceeding expectations for two of the six standards: 1) the physical plant was thought to be exceptional; and 2) they found a high degree of rapport among our communities of interest – the hospital management and staff, the students, the faculty, the employers of our grads and our alumni. I am so grateful for all the efforts of the faculty and staff, and for the support that we received from all of you in this process. We certainly are basking in the glow of our new status!

Word of mouth ... it's so important. When I ask our new students how they found out about the school, the most common way is because a relative, friend or neighbor recommended the school. So please, talk it up and send the best and the brightest our way. We have noticed a little bit of softening in the numbers of applications, so it is very important that you continue to be our best PR people!

As I did in the spring, 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. If you haven't already done so, 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 know that Thurman Hall is 'in your bones' and a commemorative brick is waiting to help you celebrate that fact. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find an order form so that you may purchase your piece of history. The proceeds will go to support the activities of our Student Government Association.

Susan Birkhead, DNS, MPH, RN, Director

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.

Annual dues for NNYPNO are \$45.00 (\$22.50 for retirees) which are paid July 1st annually. Please view the website www.NNYPNO.com. The current Newsletter and Educational Opportunities are available there.

All NNYPNO meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (October, December, February, April, and June). The cost is \$35.00 for members and \$37.00 for non-members. Continuing Education certificates are made available to those attending when programs are presented.

NYSNA Campaigns for 2015-2016 Legislative Session

1. Safe Staffing for Quality Conduct (A1548/S7820)
Passed Assembly 108-32. Now to senate where a majority of members are sponsoring the bill.
2. Educational Advancement for RNs: BS in Ten
Would require registered professional nurses (RNs) to attain bachelor's degree in nursing within ten years of their initial licensure, while "grandfathering" nurses already in practice and nursing students already enrolled (S0294 & A02480) Passed in assembly. Has not moved to senate yet.
3. Enhanced Safety Net Hospital
Higher Medicaid reimbursement to public hospitals, vital areas or sole community hospitals, and private hospitals with high numbers of Medicaid or uninsured patients. Passed both houses. Awaiting governor's signature.
4. Advanced Home Health Aides
Allows advanced aides to perform duties (under the direction of an RN supervisor) in the home setting. Makes it easier for the disabled or chronically ill to avoid institutionalization and remain in their communities. Passed in both houses and awaits signature.
5. Health Professional Licensing
Allow back ground checks of all professionals (including RNs) and creating processes to make it easier to recind those who pose a threat to patient care. Passed in senate but did not reach the assembly.

For further information, you can visit NYSNA's legislative advocacy website at NYSNA.org.

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

Courtesy Committee

If anyone has knowledge of an alumni who should be placed on the Infirmid List or a grad who is recently deceased and should have a donation made to the Belknap Fund, please notify Karen Henchey at (518) 283-4967, khenchey@aol.com, or committee members: Diane Magnano Dare Class 1976 783-8790 and Tamara AuclairYankowski Class 1992.

To date in 2016, 9 condolence donations have been made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund. 19 donations (10 alumni) were made in 2015.

The Infirmid List currently is comprised of 16 alumni. Cards are sent to these members at Thanksgiving and Easter. Poinsettia plants are sent at Christmas dependent on available funds.

Karen Henchey, Chair

New Pavilion Update

As a Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni, you are a very big part of the history of the hospital as well as the school. Dr. Susan Birkhead has done a terrific job of keeping you informed as the SON has transitioned into their new location at the St. Mary's Hospital campus over the last few years and as the Chief Nursing Officer, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about things that are happening within the hospitals.

By the time you are reading this, the acute care nursing staff of both hospitals (except for the Emergency Departments) will be combining at Samaritan Hospital in anticipation of the opening of our new state-of-the-art five story pavilion by the end of next year. This transition has been occurring over the last year or so and is expected to be completed by early October. This is actually a few months earlier than planned since both our census and our decreased clinical workforce dictated that we move this up. The staff have come together very nicely and the model of care at Samaritan has changed to a primary care model which evidence indicates is a satisfier for both the patients and the nurses. Of course, we can always use nurses so.... I can't resist the opportunity to recruit alumni who might be interested in working with us at our new facility! You are always welcome back!

As part of this merger, we will be establishing a Medical/Oncology Unit and an Ortho/Surgical Unit allowing us to better care for these specialties. Evidence supports improved outcomes for patients that received this specialized care. Until the new Pavilion is completed, 5T will become the Surgical Unit and 6T will become the Medical Unit. All of the rooms in the new Pavilion will be private. Once completed, the Pavilion will allow us to house the medical patients on the 4th floor and the surgical patients on the 5th floor. These units will have 28 rooms each. The current PCU will be relocated to the 3rd floor of the Pavilion and also have 28 rooms. The new ICU will allow us to care for 24 critically ill patients on the 2nd floor.

Our current acute care capacity at Samaritan is 118. The new Pavilion will hold 108 patients with a surge-capacity of 138 by utilizing some of the rooms in the current Tower building. With the prediction of increasing outpatient services, decreasing hospital admissions and length of stay in the future, we feel that we are well prepared to meet the needs of our community.

One thing for certain is that healthcare is ever changing! We are proud of the services that we provide to Troy and the surrounding communities and that we have been fortunate enough to be able to build this brand new healthcare facility to help us meet those needs! If you haven't seen the improvements that are happening at the Samaritan campus, I invite you to stop by and take a look! Thank you for your dedication to the Samaritan School of Nursing and Samaritan Hospital (A member of St. Peter's Health Partners).

Carol P. Crucetti, MS RN CPHQ HRM-C

History Committee

No meetings were held this summer of 2016. We are very pleased that Colleen Panza Hatman, '72 has joined the History Committee. I will call the members with the date of our meeting.

Joan Mc Reavy, Chairperson

Condolences to:

- Alice M. Hill, Class 1968 loss of her husband Andrew Hill
- Nancy Z. Danish, Class 1968 loss of her mother Gladys D. Zeph
- Constance C. Slattery, Class 1977 & Mary Aiken Carpenter, Class 1975 on the loss of their father and father in law Stephen P. Carpenter
- Susan Lochner, Class 1977 on the loss of her mother Barbara Lochner
- Valerie Falzo, Class 1971 on the loss of her mother Joan C Falzo
- Virginia D Welch, Class 1968 on the loss of her mother in law Josephine Welch
- Leslie Krauter, Class 1974 on the loss of her father Donald W. Krauter
- Patricia R. Johnson, Class of 1975 on the loss of her father Paul F. Russman Sr.

Condolences to the families of:

- Suzanne Perrier, Class of 2002
- Ethel Villeneuve Howard, Class of 1951



Bits & Pieces

Kathleen Somnitz Gallichio '84 writes she is currently working per diem as a critical care RN in the float pool at Palmetto Health, Columbia, SC. She successfully passed and became board certified as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at ANCC ACNS-BC. She will be CCRN Certified 27 years in 2016.

Cathleen Gilhooley Hamel '77 writes she has a new position – CNE at St. Rose Dominican Hospital Siena campus and Nevada service Area. She is a new first time grandmother to Sa'ryiah 10/02/2015. Born on great grandmother's birthday.(Cathleen's mom Teresa Gilhooley)

Eleanor Lee Hill '50 writes she is thankful for life itself 5 years post ovarian cancer surgery. Prayers are appreciated.

Darlene Randall Hoffman '75 writes she worked 15 years as a NP with Troy Internal Medicine.

Barbara Smith McHale '77 writes she recently became a grandmother to William Joseph Ostrander on 06/05/2015 and Avery Grace Larkins on 11/23/2015. Son Kevin is graduating from the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point on 6/18/2016. She continues to work as a nurse navigator at St. Mary's Cancer Treatment Center.

Mary Quinn Mulligan '88 writes she is working part-time short term surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Christine Gilhooley Rem '70 writes she is currently adjunct clinical faculty at Russell Sage College, Troy, NY.

Deborah Madsen Saffan '75 writes she is currently trying to find a nursing job and is caring for her 89 year old father.

LouAnn Taft Savoyski '75 writes she is a hospice case manager at VNA of Northern New Jersey. She is enjoying weekends at her retirement home in Vermont.

Leona Bordeaux Schob '56 writes she is now fully retired and will celebrate her 60th year since graduation this year.

Elaine Sylofski Schuster '69 writes she retired 5 years ago after a 42 year career in nursing. She has been involved with Happy Tails pet therapy with her black lab for over 7 years. They visit residents in nursing homes in the Atlanta, GA area and special needs school children. She and her husband Gary celebrated their 44th anniversary in May 2016.



Our Alumnae enjoying their time together at the Annual Dinner.

Plan to join us at the November 8th Dinner Meeting!