

Alumni Board Members

Anne L. Coonrad (*President*)
avonfrickencoonrad@gmail.com

Barbara Holmes (*Chair, Welsh Fund*)
blh3312193@hotmail.com

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

Carl M. Cacciotti
(*Communications and Historical*)
c-cacciotti@hvcc.edu

Chelsea Zellar (*Mosley Fund*)
chelseazellar@yahoo.com

Martine Grignon
(*Belknap Scholarship Fund*)
Martine_grignon@yahoo.com

Kristen Lockart
(*Courtesy & District liaison*)
ksads23@gmail.com

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

Claudia Graham
(*Seber fund*) (*Vice President*)
Claudia.graham@sphp.com

Patti Cannistraci
(*Dean - Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing*)
patricia.cannistraci@sphp.com

Susan Quinn
Susan.quinn@sphp.com

Gail Moore
(*Nominating & Historical*)
gail.moore@sphp.com

Trish Kelly
(*Secretary*)
trishkelly374@gmail.com

Maha Ghorayeb
(*Sheldon/Charitable*)
Ghorayebmaha@gmail.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

From the President's Desk



Hello to all my fellow alumni members. As you may be aware, Mary Rose DeMarco has stepped down as our association's President. The board has appointed me as the next President of the association pending full member approval at the November dinner meeting. The dinner will be at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in Wynantskill and we will be following recommended Covid precautions.

We are fortunate to have two speakers at the meeting, Valerie Falzo, RN and graduate of our school and Peter D. Semenza, Vice President, Philanthropy for St. Peter's Health Partners. Mr. Semenza will provide a brief overview of how the foundation is able to assist our organization in its mission to remain vibrant going forward. I urge you to attend to ask questions and raise any concerns. We need to harness all resources at our disposal to assure our association is sustainable and available to future graduates of Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing.

2021 has turned out to be a busy year for me personally—not only have I stepped up to be the President of our alumni association, but I am running for Rensselaer County Family Court!

I look forward to working with all of you as we grow our alumni association.

Anne L. Coonrad, 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 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,

Our Fall 2021 semester begins as another pandemic chapter unfolds; this one is entitled ‘Delta Variant’. It seems almost surreal to run a nursing program under such conditions. I can say we are getting better at managing learning, students and faculty needs, and safety as we live with the uncertainty of a pandemic.

Students are fully back in clinical (except for pediatrics). In fact, this coming December 2021 we will graduate a class of students who have only known and experienced nursing education under pandemic conditions! Just let that sink in for a moment, they have only provided care wearing N95s, face shields, gowns. They themselves have had to quarantine due to exposures. They have worked through dramatic staffing shortages while patients have lined the hallways of the emergency department.

Back in March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act was passed by Congress. This bill directed money towards people and institutions negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The school has benefitted greatly from these funds. Part of the money is directed to support continued student learning despite being removed from actual clinical in the hospital. We have been able to purchase new simulation mannequins including a birthing mother, a child, and two infant mannequins. These have been helpful since pediatrics and obstetrics tend to limit student engagement as the virus activity increases. As I mentioned above, students have NOT been in pediatrics since March of 2020. In our Andrea Lewis Siek Simulation Education Center, we can now replicate the clinical experiences students might otherwise be missing out on.

ACEN Board of Commissioners granted the school eight years of continuing accreditation. That is the most desired results for an accreditation visit. Needless to say, we are all excited and proud of these results.

Our May and August graduations were held in person, with limited family attendance. In total, the alumni grew by 32 new associate degree graduates in May and 14 LPN graduates in August. Our NCLEX pass rates remain impressively high. These are the most recent pass rates for each program:

	Practical Nurse**		Registered Nurse	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Samaritan	100% (12/12)	100% (9/9)	100% (49/49)*	100% (52/52)
NYS Average	71.27%	80.59%	80.91%	72.91%
National Average	79.50%	86.26%	82.15%	72.23%

*data from 01/01/2021-06/30/2021 **No 2021 data as yet

We are extremely excited that the LPN and Nursing 2 Flu Buggy will be back in action this fall. It is wonderful to see the students so visible throughout the hospital and on the St. Mary’s Campus. The Student Government Association will be selling active wear again and getting involved in community focused events as the pandemic allows.

Hope all of you are well. Stay pandemic safe!

Patricia Cannistraci, Dean

Bits and Pieces Fall/Winter 2021

Lillian Rita Huges Westbrook '60 shares that her youngest son and family are recovering from Covid. She extends prayers to everyone during this time.

Barbara Goetz Einemann '66 shares that she has retired.

Theresa J. Kulzer Potter '75 shares that her father, Thomas J. Kulzer passed away 1/2/2021. She is currently for Capital Skin Dermatology.

Holly A. Smolinski '75 shares that she is retired and enjoys practicing golf.

Lisa Scherer Williams '88 shares that her father passed away on Christmas 2020 of natural causes. He was 81 years old.

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

Kristen D. Lockart 2020 is proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Penelope Rose, born on 12/31/2020.

Condolences to:

- The family of Donna Dearborn; Class 1968
- The family of Lois Link Bielass; Class 1956
- The family of Vera Ward; Class 1954
- The family of Alice Lucey; Class 1952
- The family of Lynn Delaney; Class 1963
- The family of Margaret Garren LaPosta; Class 1955
- The family of Mary Patrice Bonham; Class 1983
- The family of Margery Harrand; Class 1967
- The family of Francis Jastremski Myers; Class 1956
- The family of Gail Ingram Litherland; Class 1960

Mosley Fund

– Chelsea Zellar, Mosley Chair

Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Fall Dinner Meeting

When: Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

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

Time: 5:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Valerie Falzo, BSN, RN
(Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing
Graduate, Published Author)

Topic: "A Remarkable Covenant: Help For The
Caregiver"/Presentation of her book,
"Extraordinary Souls I Have Known"

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

Tendered Veal Simmered in Marinara Sauce,
with Red and Green Bell Peppers

Eggplant Layered with Romano, Mozzarella
Cheeses in Marinara Sauce

Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please return reservation with \$20.00 (member) or \$25.00 (nonmember) with the fee payable to Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc by November 4, 2021.

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

Mail to:

Anne Coonrad, 1400 Sausse Ave, Troy, NY 12180.

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

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Belknap Fund

We encourage all Samaritan Alumni to apply for Belknap Scholarship while pursuing their degree. It is awarded to graduate students and beyond. Application can be found on the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing website. This is annually disbursed in December of each year. Annual Alumni dues must be paid by February to be considered for the scholarship. You must respond by May 2022 to be considered.

– *Martine Grignon, Belknap Chair*

Seber Fund

Fall 2020

3 awards of \$300.00 each given

Spring 2021

6 awards of \$225.00 each given

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

Any Samaritan graduate who is a member of the Alumni, in good standing i.e. has paid yearly dues for the current year prior to February 1st of said year OR a female student in the Registered Nurse program of the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing. Members must be matriculated into a nursing program.

Applications must be received by the Seber Fund Committee at least one month prior to the beginning of the semester.

You must reapply every semester. Lifetime total award is \$ 2,500.

Applications may be obtained from the financial aid officer at the School of Nursing or downloaded from the Alumni/school website.

– *Claudia Graham, Vice President*

