



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2015

Troy, New York

A Publication for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Graduates



From the President's Desk —

Fellow Alumni

On behalf of the Alumni Board and Alumni Members, I would like to thank Joy Aloan for her work and dedication to the Alumni Association as President. Although we are sorry to have you resign as President, we wish you much happiness and joy being close to your family in Georgia. Be sure to keep in touch!

Now, let me introduce myself. I am Mary Rose McDonald DeMarco '77. I have agreed to fulfill the remainder of Joy's term as President.

I have recently retired from Samaritan Hospital after 36 years. Having worn many hats while being employed, I have always enjoyed the opportunities for interacting with our students and new graduates. I hope to continue and promote that relationship among our new and established Alumni. Please help us stay connected by becoming an Alumni member. Check out the "Bits and Pieces" section to see what our Alumni have to share.

I am very much looking forward to working with our dedicated and committed Alumni Board Members. Thank you for this opportunity.

Mary Rose DeMarco '77 President

Alumni Spring Dinner Meeting May 12, 2015

Speaker:

Suzanne Sullivan, JD, RN,
Executive Secretary NYSBN

From the Director's Desk:

February 12, 2015



Many changes at Samaritan Hospital! The School of Nursing has had a front row seat on the construction of the new parking garage. The old laundry building was demolished last fall, and foundations for the parking garage were laid in December. This involved pile driving, with constant pounding for over a month. The pounding caused great tremors in Thurman Hall, and sometimes we wondered whether the building would collapse of its own accord. Everyone agrees that the parking garage is long overdue, and with the mountains of recent snow, parking is at a premium. Did you know that Miss Belknap's *The Story of Samaritan* mentions parking as a problem as early as 1916?

Representatives of the school and I have been working closely with the architects and builders who are creating the new space for us on the second floor of St. Mary's Hospital. The new "digs" will give us about 4000 more square feet. There will be three classrooms, which is what we have now, but we will have a larger library and computer lab that will eventually have 28 PCs. This will facilitate our use of the ATI online learning/testing/remediation products that we use to help our students achieve success on the licensure exam. The skills lab will be upgraded to include state-of-the-art simulation capabilities.

Speaking of NCLEX pass rates, I am proud to report that our pass rates for 2014 were impressive:

2014 NCLEX PASS RATES

	SAMARITAN	NYS	NATIONAL
ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM	91.7%	76.8%	79.2%
PRACTICAL NURSE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM	95.2%	79.8%	82.2%

I hope that you can join us for the 3rd annual Alumni Banquet on Friday, June 5th. Assuming all goes according to schedule, we will be settled into our new home, and we will hold an open house on the morning of Saturday, June 6. Please visit!

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Maybe your Alumni Association can help!

Courtesy Fund

Sheldon Fund

Welsh Fund

The Courtesy Fund was created to provide memorials for deceased alumni or their immediate family members. It also provides a remembrance for those who are ill or disabled. To date in 2015, 3 condolence donations were made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund. A total of 17 donations were made in 2014. Fifteen alumni are remembered with cards at Thanksgiving and Easter. Funds permitting, poinsettia plants are delivered at Christmas.

If anyone has knowledge of an alumni who should be placed on the Infirm List or a grad who is recently deceased, please notify Karen Henchey at (518) 283-4967, khenchey@aol.com, or committee members: Kathy Davis 273-4503, Ellen Dunn 283-0431, and Diane Dare 783-8790

Applications and information about all these funds can be found online:
<http://www.sphp.com/>

Click on:

Northeast Health → Schools → Alumni Associations → SAMSON Alumni Association

Bits and Pieces

Bernice C. Rooney '39

Writes that she is recovering from a fractured hip and blood stream infection. Hope your health continues to improve, Bernice!

Virginia Doring Heislein '53

Continues to enjoy her retirement with her husband. She keeps busy with volunteer work and spending time with her family. She shares that she is very proud of her family's professions in the health field. She has a daughter, daughter-in-law and a granddaughter who are R.N.'s and a daughter-in-law who teaches P.T. at Boston University.

Irene Johnson Raiche '55

Writes she is on the Board for the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut. She enjoys spending time with her 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Looking forward to another one on the way.

Nancy Stroughton Ethier '58

Wishes to thank the Alumni for condolences sent for her husband. They were married 43 years.

Marilee Felock Biel '66

Is amazed that her 50th class reunion will be next year.

Lillian Hughs Westbrook '60

Is busy arranging for the 55th Reunion in September 2015 at Moscatiello's Italian Restaurant in Troy for the Class of 1960.

Dorothy Taylor Buckley '61

Shares she continues to work weekends at St. Peter's Hospital as a Nursing Supervisor.

Mary Jane Welsh Gibbons '64

Retired in June 2014 after working as an RN for 50 years.

Georgene (Jean) Watson Beaver '65

Retired in September 2014 and states she is enjoying her new found freedom.

Helen Thayer Millard '66

Since retiring in June 2013 from acute care nursing, she states she is busy working at church, singing and enjoying her grandchildren. She is expecting her 1st great-grandson in December 2014.

Barbara Goetz Einemann '66

Is enjoying her retirement after over 40 years of hospital nursing. Now she "has time to do whatever I want."

Jane Roberts Whitney '68

Retired after 46 years in nursing. She writes that she is enjoying her grandchildren and recently traveled to Russia.

Virginia Deecher Welch '68

Writes that she is enjoying retirement with her husband, Jack. They travel back to Troy to visit family several times a year.

Angela Capone Pringle '68

Writes that she recently retired and is enjoying life.

Marjorie Stone Barrows '69

Shares that she retired from the V.A. and is now working part time as a N.P. in a Rheumatology office. She enjoys spending the winters in Mexico and being with her grandchildren the rest of the year.

Christine Gilhooley Rem '70

Shares that she has completed her Doctorate of Nursing Science from The Sage College. Congratulations, Christine!

Barbara Harrison Smith '70

Loves retirement life. She is heading to Texas in January to welcome her 6th grandchild. It's a girl!

Sandra Rozell '70

Writes she retired in November 2013 and is enjoying the warmth of Southwest Florida.

Christine Ludwick Lutringer '72

Retired in May 2014. She is enjoying gardening, grandchildren and traveling.

Lou Ann Taft Savoyski '75

Is currently working as a Hospice Case Manager with the VNA in northern New Jersey. She enjoys spending her weekends at their "retirement" home in Vermont.

Theresa Kulzer Potter '75

Is currently working as a Day Charge Nurse, PCL, Inc. Rubin.

Paula J. Sawyer '75

Has enjoyed working for the past 30 years at the V.A. in Albany. She is currently working for the National Program Office in Informatic Patient Safety.

Sandra Sawyer Phillips '76

Shares that she has a new job as Director of Professional Practice at St. Vincent Medical Center in Worcester, Ma.

Pam Bowen Viani '76

Shares that she is working as a Nurse Practitioner in a long term care facility in Poughkeepsie. She enjoys spending time with her family and 5 year old grandson.

Kathleen Hogan Meyers '77

Shares that she has retired from the V.A. in Albany and is spending more time in Sarasota Florida.

Debra McCallen Jeffs '78

Is currently employed at Arkansas Children's Hospital as Director of Academic Nursing Education. Her children, Jennifer and Brandon now live in Little Rock. She and her husband, Bill return to the area to visit family several times a year.

Nursing School Classrooms . . .



OUR PAST

THE PRESENT



Nostalgic about your student days at Samaritan?



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@sphp.com Proceeds benefit the SGA.

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL IN NURSING? Maybe your Alumni Association can help!

Seber Scholarship Fund Belknap Scholarship Fund

Applications and information about scholarships can be found online.

Go to: <http://www.sphp.com/>

Click on:

Northeast Health → Schools → Alumni Associations
→ SAMSON Alumni Association

This past fall four Seber Scholarships were awarded. And, for the first time, the Belknap Scholarship was awarded to an alumna in a doctoral in nursing program!

more Bits and Pieces

Debra Boissonneault-Cubillos '79

Writes that she is moving forward in a positive way since her disability and hopes to have an opportunity to share her story with everyone soon.

Martha Briggs Dean '82

Welcomed her 1st grandchild, Grace Carolyn Dean on 11/13/14. Congratulations, Martha!

Susan Bunk Darnell '84

Is now a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant. Congratulations, Susan! She will be doing adjunct work for Maria College.

Kathleen Somnitz Gallichio '84

Moved to South Carolina due to a job change for her husband. She is working per diem at Palmetto Health in Columbia, S.C. and is working on her certification by N.Y.S. Board of Nursing and A.N.C.C. as a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Christine Gill Jones '85

Is teaching Maternal Child Health to R.N. students at Ellis Medicine, The Belanger School of Nursing in Schenectady, N.Y.

Mary Quinn Mulligan '88

Is working part time as a short-term surgery recovery room nurse. She has two beautiful girls (Caitlyn, 14 & Keira, 10). She is still married to Neil.

Lisa Wagoner Piscitella '90

Shares she is working at Albany Medical Center as the IRF-PAI Coordinator for the Acute Physical Rehabilitation Unit. She just celebrated her 17th wedding anniversary, and her daughter Jenna started high school.

Shirley Ernst DeCamp '90

Retired in December 2012. She works per diem at Samaritan ICU.

Tamara Yankowski '92

Shares that she is working at the Family Medical Group in East Greenbush as an office nurse. She enjoys spending time with her grandsons, Jordon, 7 yrs. and Tyler, 5 yrs.

John Welch '93

Writes that the ANA and AMNP Association have recognized the New England Region ISR of #1 Oncology Patient Safety and Communication through Integration software. Implementation of this is scheduled for 2015 in Texas.

Tara Burke '94

Is currently a full time faculty member at Samaritan Hospital. She is in the Master's program at Sage Graduate School and was recently inducted into the nurse's honor society, Sigma Theta Tau. Congratulations, Tara!

Debra Murphy '96

Shares that she and her husband celebrated their daughter, Jessica's marriage to Michael Kloczko on 12/13/14.

Brittany Hurd '2012

Is currently working in ICU at St. Mary's in Troy and will be graduating with honors from SUNY Delhi with a BSN in May 2015. Congratulations, Brit!

Ewa Majewska Parker '2014

Is currently working on the 6th floor at Samaritan Hospital as an RN! Congratulations, Ewa!



PN Graduates
August 2014



PN Graduates
December 2014

Why Nursing?



The PN class of 2015

The PN class of 2015 was asked,
"Why did you choose this profession?"

Here's what they said...

- ♥ To care for and nurture my patients to make them feel good no matter the circumstances.
- ♥ To help others is one of the many reasons why I love healthcare.
- ♥ I want to be a hospice nurse. I consider it a privilege to be able to assist with such care.
- ♥ Promoting and sustaining good health is important to me.
- ♥ To help others who cannot care for themselves.
- ♥ I really enjoy taking care of people and nursing is an amazing, interesting and exciting field.
- ♥ Because of my son...He has taught me so many things about taking care of people. I want to help other children and families and use the experience I have to help them
- ♥ To give back to the community.
- ♥ I look up to nurses as a profession. I would like to accomplish nursing to be a role model for my son.
- ♥ I enjoy helping others.
- ♥ I enjoy the aspect of human flourishing and I love to learn new things.
- ♥ I can continuously learn new things and simultaneously help people.
- ♥ I enjoy helping and caring for people.
- ♥ To be able to care and advocate for the patient and enjoy continuously learning in this profession
- ♥ I've been a type one diabetic for 16 years and more than anything I want to give back to the group of people who have helped me so much through these years.
- ♥ I love interaction with people and also love to see all the changes in medical science.



**Samaritan School of Nursing
Alumni Association, Inc.**

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Save the Date!
SAMSON 3rd Annual
Alumni Banquet
Friday, June 5, 2015
at the Hilton Garden Inn
Time?

November 2014 Alumni Meeting



Our guest speaker at the November 2014 meeting was Dr. Kimberly Bertrand from The Nurses' Health Studies. Dr. Bertrand earned her Doctorate degree in epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health. She utilizes the research gathered from the Nurses' Health Study (NHS) and NHS II and the Health Professionals Follow-up Study (HPFS) in her focus on breast cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

From the NHS website, www.nurseshealthstudy.org
"The Nurses' Health Studies are among the largest and longest running investigations of factors that influence women's health. Started in 1976 and expanded in 1989, the information provided by the 238,000 dedicated nurse-participants has led to many new insights on health and disease. While the prevention of cancer is still a primary focus, the study has also produced landmark data on cardiovascular disease, diabetes and many other conditions. Most importantly, these studies have shown that diet, physical activity and other lifestyle factors can powerfully promote better health."

You can be a part of the solution. The Nurses' Health Study is recruiting 100,000 female RNs, LPNs, and nursing students for its third cohort: NHS3. Become part of the next generation of NHS!

Mentor Program



RN students: Nursing 1 and Nursing 2 students participating in the School Mentoring Program. This is the 21st century version of the **big sister/little sister program** that many of us remember so fondly. The second year students are passing on pearls of wisdom to the new students, and will provide ongoing guidance and, most importantly, friendship.

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) Coonradt (1984) **Treasurer**
Kathleen Borge (1993) *Communications Committee*
Donna Breault (1980) *Nominating Committee*
Christine (Ludwick) Lutringer (1972) *Communications Committee*
Eleanor (Lee) Hill (1950)
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*
Christine Yerdon (1997) *Welch & Sheldon Committees*