



**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**

Fall 2018

Troy, New York

*Please join us -
Dinner Meeting
on
Tuesday, November 13, 2018
5:00 PM at
Paolo Lombardi's
Ristorante
Wynantskill, NY*



We would love to see you at our next gathering!



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*From the
President's Desk*

I am happy to report that at our May dinner meeting the request for additional members to our standing committees was very positive. Welcome to those who have agreed to participate in such a productive way for our Alumni.

Thank you to Christina Yerdon for her years of service on the Board. I know we will continue to see you at our Alumni functions. Welcome to our newest Board members, Carl Cacciotti and Chelsea Zellar. The Board recognizes all you have done this past year and looks forward to continue to have you serve on the Board.

As the School of Nursing continues to settle into their new home, you will note some additional features. Carl Cacciotti has made and installed a display case that now houses Samaritan Hospital and Alumni memorabilia. Thank you Carl for sharing your skills. It is lovely! Stop by and see it!



On behalf of the Alumni, I would like to welcome Patricia Cannistraci as our new Director of the school. Patti has a broad background along with a specialized skill set and brings great enthusiasm to her new position. We are looking forward to working with her.

Mary Rose DeMarco '77, President

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 2018 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.

Thanks to Healthy Families!

On May 7, 2018, the staff from Healthy Families of Rensselaer County at Samaritan Hospital surprised the students with power snacks before their final exams. This was a thank you for the coat drive and Easter baskets that the students donate each year. The students loved the snacks. Big thanks from the school!



From the Director's Desk

Fall 2018

National Nurses Week this past May was more special than ever for me. It was the week I arrived at Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing to assume the Director position. I have spent the summer becoming acquainted with the excellent staff and expert educators and learning more about the LPN and RN programs.

I have been a nurse for 38 years. Growing up, I thought I wanted to be a physical therapist; however, I couldn't get into a PT program. My oldest brother suggested nursing since it's "the same thing physical therapists do!" So I applied to the nursing program at Long Island University. Quickly I learned two things: my brother was unequivocally incorrect with his comparison of physical therapists to nurses, but at the same time, I discovered my passion in nursing and never looked back.

Like many nurses I worked in a variety of settings: medical-surgical, ICU, NICU, and pediatrics. While completing my masters at Russell Sage College as a clinical nurse specialist in women and children's health, I learned that the College offered the opportunity for graduate nursing students to teach undergraduate nursing classes. Although nursing education was never on my radar, I signed up for my first teaching assignment and truly enjoyed the classroom setting. To witness students grow from an anxious bundle of nerves to develop a sophisticated skillset coupled with critical thinking skills is powerful! I enjoyed teaching so much that I completed my doctorate in nursing education and leadership.

The energy here at Samaritan's School of Nursing is positive, infectious, and compassionate. Samaritan's students are enthusiastic learners willing to work hard, and the faculty is eager to teach and support students through their learning. Both programs enjoy excellent National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) pass rates, consistently higher than the national average pass rate in New York State.

I look forward to meeting you at the Alumni Dinner next spring and sharing more news about the good things happening at Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing.

Patricia Cannistraci

Then and Now . . .

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

Korissa Gohlke Nurse of the Year 2018

Korissa Gohlke, Class of 2013 has been presented with the 2018 Nurse of Distinction Award from the St. Peter's Health Partners Acute Care Troy medical staff. This award is given out to two registered nurses annually and is voted on by the medical staff at Samaritan Hospital. This award recognizes that Korissa is a nurse who demonstrates excellence in clinical practice and promotes positive patient outcomes in collaboration with physicians.

Korissa also serves on the Alumni Board as Secretary and chairs the Belknap Committee.

Congratulations Korissa and keep up the great work!



Welsh, Sheldon, Belknap and Seber Funds

The William F. and Josephine H. Seber Scholarship Fund was created in 1973 through funds left to the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni, Inc. in the last will and testament of Sarah Etola Peck. Miss Peck's will stated that the Fund is "to be used to provide scholarships for the study of nursing. This fund is to be made available, from time to time, at the discretion of said corporation to young women who desire to become registered nurses or to registered nurses who desire to do graduate study in nursing, but who need financial assistance in order to do so." These funds are only eligible to applicants seeking graduate study in nursing.

Seber awards will be awarded at the end of the semester to ensure compliance with Seber Fund rules. The applicants must be in good academic standing and supply proof, such as a copy of grades for the semester for which they are applying, with their application. Furthermore, registered nurses seeking funds for graduate assistance must be in good standing (dues paid or waived according to association rules) with the Alumni Association Inc. Please see the rules of the Seber Fund attached to the application. If you are not compliant with established fund rules you may not be eligible for future awards or you may be required to return funds received. This spring five scholarships were awarded and the committee will meet again in December. Applications for the Seber Fund may be found online via the St. Peter's Health Partners website, under Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Inc. We encourage anyone eligible to apply.

Sue Quinn, Seber Chair

The Belknap scholarship will be awarded this December and so far we have three applications. It is not too late to apply if you are in the BSN or Master's program. Alumni members only need apply.

Korissa Golke, Belknap Chair

Take the Pledge!!



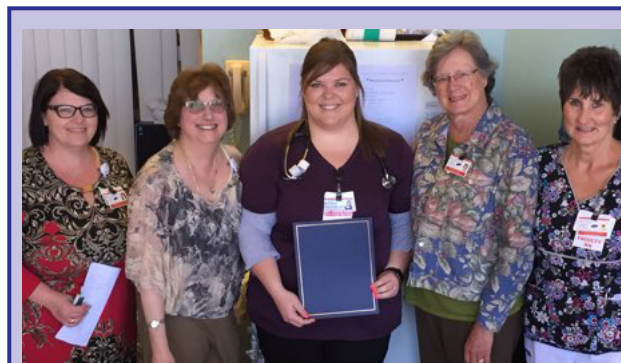
You've probably taken a "selfie" or smartphone photo and quickly posted it to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. But why not make a stand for injection safety, the next time you do it?

On May 3, during National Nurses Week, healthcare provider Arlene Walch, MSN, RN, Education Coordinator at Columbia Greene Memorial Hospital, took the NY One & Only pledge and made a stand for injection safety. It's a simple way to show colleagues and patients that you as a provider, have committed to following safe injection practices as outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Standard Precautions". (This might be a good time to review with staff what those Standard Precautions on injection safety entail. See link below.) www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/basic-infection-control-preventionplan-2011/index.html

This is not meant to be an "empty gesture!" Medical literature has shown that providers who show their public commitment, by posting their photo holding a pledge or simply signing a pledge and posting it at their facility, have a greater commitment to the principle (in this instance, injection safety). www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24474434. This is also a nice activity for conferences, to demonstrate your solidarity with injection safety principles as a professional organization.

It's easy! Here's how you can take part:

1. Click on this link to the NY One & Only Campaign state partner web page: www.oneandonlycampaign.org/partner/new-york
2. On the left hand column under "News and Events", download and print out the pledge.
3. Sign the pledge and post a photo of yourself or with colleagues holding the pledge. Post on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Pinterest. (Landscape view looks best.)
4. Alternatively, you can email - marybeth.wenger@health.ny.gov and we might feature the photo you send on the NY One & Only page. (Note: by sending it to us, you give us your permission to use it on our web page or social media channels.)



Shown above from left to right: Doris Yetto, *Nurse Manager*; Gail Moore, *Learning Resource Coordinator*; Ryann Cullen, Susan Birkhead, *Director of the School of Nursing* and Donna Breault, *Nursing Instructor*

Ryann Cullen 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 Spring Semester recipient is Ryann (Fredricks) Cullen. The students expressed that Ryann is a professional nurse who has gone above and beyond in assisting students and providing teaching support to them in the clinical setting. As a role model, her professionalism, positive attitude, patience and excellent clinical practice are positive influences on our students.

The specific qualities that were noted by the students nominating her were:

- "Helpful and willing to teach."
- "Welcomed us to the floor and was willing to help us out."
- "Receptive to my questions. Is an excellent role model for the students."

Condolences to:

- Shirley Diven Class 1980 on the loss of her sister, Carolyn
- Claudia B. Zapisek - Class 1959 on the loss of her husband, William
- Dawn M. Lemire - Class 1995 and Michelle Dupuis Class 1992 on the loss of their mother
- Barbara Cottrelle Brown - Class 1955 on the loss of her husband, Leo
- Mary Alice Costello Donlon - Class 1955 on the loss of her husband, Edward
- Susan G. Russell - Class 1977 on the loss of her father, Ernest
- Linda Cline Gertiesen - Class 1968 on the loss of her sister, W. Sandra
- Colleen Hannigan Bornhorst - Class 1980 and Kimberly Hannigan Class 2006 on the loss of their sister, Joann
- Carol McNaughton Shaughnessy - Class 1958 on the loss of her husband, James

Condolences to the families of:

- Jane Cook Kelso - Class 1972
- Patricia Germond Killeen - Class 1948
- Jane A. Downing Smith - Class 1955
- Rosanna Lombard Crawley - Class 1948
- Sandra Andrew Dyer - Class 1963
- Patricia Thomas Golas - Class 1959
- Melissa Hudson McMahan - Class 2010



Bits & Pieces

Dorothy Buckley 1961 - Just retired 2/18 after over fifty years at SPH

Patricia M. Kurywka 1966 - Retired RN

Darlene J. Hoffman, NP 1975 - Received Nurse Practitioner of year award from Regional Nurse Practitioner Association. It was a great honor.

Louise E. Brooks 1976 - Retired

Kathleen M. Korniak 2010 - If it weren't for Susan Birkhead, I would have never fulfilled my dream to become an RN. I will be forever grateful. I am currently a neuro surgeon for DOH AT Care.

Ann Coonrad, 1984 - Son-in-Law, Dr. John Paige III, Doctor of the year at Samaritan Hospital. Stony Brook Undergrad, Albany Med Residency.