



A Publication of the Alumni Association of
Charity Hospital School of Nursing and Delgado Charity School of Nursing

Volume 50 Summer 2018



From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

If I told just anyone that a bucket list item for me was to be the president of my alumni association, I'm sure I'd get some strange looks! As Charity graduates, you all understand. What an honor it is to be the president of such a formidable association of nurses!

It was a really terrific Alumni Luncheon at the Hilton Airport in March! Thank you to Lista and Ursula and all of our hard-working Board members and volunteers for ensuring that we always have a wonderful time.

Health Care Hero

Our congratulations to Dr. Cheryl E. Myers, Dean of Nursing and Executive Dean of the Delgado Charity School of Nursing, who was named one of the New Orleans region's Health Care Heroes for 2018 in May.

The honor is sponsored annually by New Orleans CityBusiness newspaper. Fifty health care professionals in the New Orleans area are selected based on industry and community involvement and achievement that have set the pace for the overall community. We certainly applaud their selection, because Dr. Myers is *our* hero!

New Voices

We all love reading articles about alumni and their memories from early days at Charity. But in this issue, we are hearing much more from students. There have always been many different paths to and from Charity, but I am struck by how universal our experience is. The details vary, but the sense of discovery, the feeling of belonging to something bigger than oneself, the excitement of being part of Charity and her history - is something we all share.

I think you will enjoy reading about these members of the modern Charity community. The articles were written over the past year or so, and a couple of the authors are now newly graduated (and we are proud to welcome them



Top to bottom, left to right, Jasmarelda Smith '17 was the recipient of the Margaret Palmisano '49 Award at her graduation, and was thrilled to meet Margaret herself at the Alumni Luncheon this past March;



Dr. Cheryl Myers with Doris Burvant '60 at the Luncheon.

into our ranks). But their articles are from the student perspective. Please enjoy their stories throughout *The White Cap*, presented in their own words, and very much from their hearts.

Looking Ahead

Now that we have just installed a new set

of Board members, I just want to remind you that we hold elections at the end of every year, so why not think about running for office yourself? If you think you might want to get involved, attend a few Board Meetings to see what it's like. Contact the Alumni Office to get the dates.

Homecoming 2020 will be here before you know it! Start contacting your classmates so you'll be ready!

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all at the **Alumni Breakfast** this fall on **September 22!** The details are on page 26, and it's going to be a great time! Food, friends, raffles, door prizes - and don't worry, I'll still be holding down the Souvenir Table! I will not attempt to compete with Bryan on sartorial splendor, but I may →

have some surprises for you yet!

In closing, I want to say how much I look forward to serving you as president. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to Bryan Camus for his leadership - and for being willing to extend his term until I could run for office. I'll try to do you proud! ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

Well, another fat issue of *The White Cap*! I have to give thanks to **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** for being my truly excellent proofreader, and to **Donna Bayard**, CSN Media Services, who provides photos of school events (like the Pinning Ceremony) for our newsletters and Facebook page. She is not only a terrific photographer, but a wonderful friend to the Alumni Association.

September Daze

I know you will get a laugh reading the recent Pinning Ceremony speech by **James Purcell '17** (page 8) where he recounts the bewildering experiences that will be familiar to Charity students across the generations!

We decided that would be a great theme for our September Breakfast: "School Daze." All those things that scared us silly and now make us laugh! Needles that looked as big as bazookas... the mystifying fluid dynamics of IV tubing...

Wear your nursing cap, a funny nurse t-shirt or some goofy scrubs - or come as you are, but please attend! We have some great raffles... a papier-mache Pelican Pin plaque by Mardi Gras float designer Joseph Barth, a beautiful framed cross-stitch of the Charity Pin by the wonderful and talented **Kathy Hug '65**, a gorgeous antique CHSN cape, and a Lost Legacy afghan!

So be sure to bring your checkbook, and order your Breakfast ticket today! Use the form on page 27, or go to our website at www.CharityAlumni.org. Hope to see you there! ❖

2018 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT	Patrick Brady '83
TREASURER	Ursula Allain '65
SECRETARY	Joycelyn Jeansonne '78
NOMINATING CHAIR	Emily Ovalle '13
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Lista Hank '97



Dean's Report

By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Summertime! Most students and faculty are enjoying a much deserved break while others are engaged in the summer courses offered - Special Populations I and II and Pharmacology. The 2017-18 academic year was a busy, challenging, but successful year. During the year we continued our efforts to prepare graduates to be successful in the program, on NLCEX and in their careers. As of this writing, the Class of December 2017 has achieved a 96.49% pass rate on the licensure exam! We are very proud of the work the students and faculty have done to achieve this success.

In May, we signed a concurrent enrollment agreement with LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing that will allow students in the second, third and fourth semesters of our program to also take classes toward their bachelor's degree at LSU. The program, known as the Early Admission Registered Nurse (EARN) program, will decrease the amount of time needed for graduates to obtain their BSN upon graduation from Charity.

One of our very own, **Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80**, was recognized with Delgado's Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award. This is the most prestigious award a faculty member at the college can receive, as the selection process involves both student and peer recommendations, along with professional and community contributions. We are very proud of Ann!

An update on the possibility of a new building for the nursing program: A letter of intent to transfer the LSU Medical School building at 1542 Tulane Avenue (next to Charity Hospital) has been signed by the LA Community and Technical College System and LSU Health Sciences Center of New Orleans. If all goes according to plans, this will become the future home of the college's nursing and allied health programs. Stay tuned!

Thanks to generous donations from the alumni, over **\$9,300 (!!!)** in scholarships and awards were distributed this spring to 23 deserving students. Additionally, 18 student members of CASN were able to travel to the NSNA National Convention in Nashville this spring with your help to offset some of their expenses. The opportunity to interact with nursing students from around the country and to participate in the House of Delegates was a priceless professional experience for them. Our fall and spring graduates also enjoyed the lunch provided by the Alumni Association on their Professional Issues Seminar day. Your support of the students is an integral component of their success and we appreciate the opportunities you are presenting for our students to achieve their dream of being a Charity graduate.

Wishing you a safe, relaxing summer! ❖

Spring Luncheon Celebrates the Crescent City and Daughters of Charity

March 24 was a day for fleur de lis and joie de vivre! Over a hundred alumni gathered in the elegant ballroom of the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel to recognize the Crescent City's Tricentennial and the Daughters of Charity Bicentennial at the Spring 2018 Charity Alumni Luncheon.

Outgoing President **Bryan Camus '12** welcomed alumni and guests, and reminded us all that it was indeed his last time as president (after two terms!) and, in keeping with our New Orleans theme, donned a purple, green and gold fleur de lis hat - with lights!

Our friend **John Batty**, author of *Voices of Angels: Disaster Lessons from Katrina Nurses*, made a short appearance, wanting us to know that, out of all the nurse groups he speaks to, Charity nurses have the most energy and enthusiasm!

The blessing was given by special guest **Sister Bonnie Hoffman**, Daughter of Charity. Bryan introduced **Rae Ann Deroche '84** whose *Lost Legacy* artwork was made into the afghan being raffled that day, as well as into notecards and posters for sale at the souvenir table.

Rose Jeanne Buccola '49 was recognized for her donation of \$10,000 to establish the **Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Charity Alumni Scholarship** in memory of her dear husband Vic. Her donation was matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents to create an endowment for scholarships which will benefit Charity students for generations to come.

Rose Jeanne then explained how she had located **Sister Mary Paule Vardigan** (who was at Charity in the 70s) and brought her to the luncheon today. She announced that Sister would celebrate her 100th birthday on April 1, and presented her with a gift. The alumni joyfully joined together to sing *Happy Birthday* to Sister Mary Paule.

School Report

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, reported on the news of the school, and she thanked us for our continuing support of the Charity students.

Special Guests

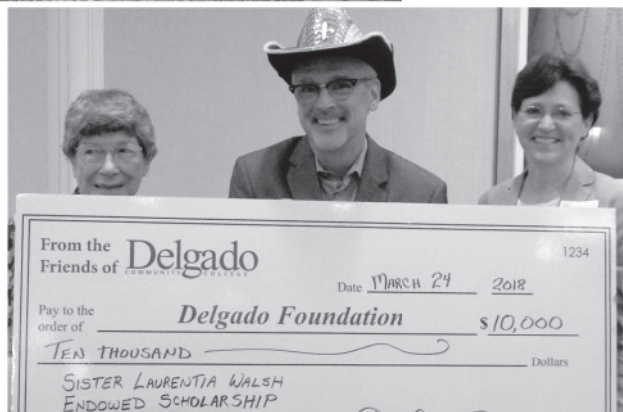
In celebration of their Bicentennial and their long history with Charity, special guests from the Daughters of Charity were invited to join us and tell us what the Daughters are up to these days!

Sister Bonnie Hoffman, DC, Vice-President of Mission Integration for the Daughters of Charity, is a RN who worked at Charity Hospital from 1982 until 1998. The Daughters of Charity began their work at Charity Hospital in 1834, and carried on →



Top to bottom, left to right: Outgoing President Bryan Camus '12; Lillian Samardzija '60, Sandra Robert '56 and Mary Singletary '49 with Sister Mary Paule Vardigan, seated;

Elizabeth Teague, Sister Bonnie Hoffman and Veronica Jean '87; Ursula Allain '65 and Rae Ann Deroche '84; Rose Jeanne Buccola '49, Bryan and Dr. Cheryl Myers.





with Hotel Dieu, and in to the present day with the Foundation for Primary Care and Prevention. She referred to it as “a long and loving history” with the city and region.

Elizabeth Teague, the Vice-President of Development for Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans, reported on the ten clinic locations and eight schools administered by Daughters of Charity that are currently serving the city.

Election Results

Emily Ovalle '13, Chair of Nominating Committee, reported that there was a tie in the votes cast for the two open board positions so, for this term, we would seat three new board members.

The newly elected members of the board came forward and Emily

administered the oath of office to: President: **Patrick Brady '83**; Secretary: **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78**; Board Members: **Vivian Manes '70**, **Patrick Reed '90**, and **Brooke Troxclair '17**.

In his first act as President, Patrick recognized Bryan for his service and presented him with a gift of pelican bookends from the Board.

Roll Call of Classes

Patrick and Joycelyn conducted the roll call, first recognizing our amazing and beloved ladies of the 40s who can always be counted on to attend.

The **Class of 1968** is planning their 50-year reunion for the fall but they just couldn't wait to see each other and eleven classmates were in attendance!

Two members of the **Class of 1958** were on hand to receive their 60-year Platinum Certificates: **Cecile Ginger Andry** and **Anne Matthiesen Daigle**.

Alumni events are family affairs and this luncheon was no exception.

Patricia D'Aloise '50 brought her delightful husband Gus, her daughter, her grand-daughter and her grand-daughter's fiancé! **Marie Christoff '76** brought her daughter (who was born at Charity Hospital), **Rita Olivio '86** brought three family members, and **Jeanette Robinson '80** brought one daughter and her sister - just to name a few.

Mothers and daughter alums were also there in force: **Kay Kinney '76** is always at the alumni events with her mom **Marie Beaulieu '46**. **Jacquelyn Bertucci '13** was with her mom **Barbie Hughes '88**, and **Elizabeth**



Top to bottom, left to right: Emily Ovalle '13 with retired faculty members Barbara Zeugner and Nora Steele; Anne Daigle and Ginger Andry, Class of 1958; Bethany Arnau '67, Donna Dauterive '83 and Lucy Whiddon '67; Marie Beaulieu '46 with daughter Kay Kinney '76; Elizabeth Ours '86, her daughter Alexandra Fahrenholtz '04 and her grand-daughter Valarie Milosovich '18; Barbie Hughes '88 and daughter Jacquelyn Bertucci '13; Cynthia Christoff with mom Marie Christoff '76 and Suzy Andry '59.

Ours '86 was joined by her daughter **Alexandra Fahrenheitoltz '04** and grand-daughter **Valarie Milosovich, May '18!**

Raffles and Drawings

A signed, numbered print of a watercolor of Popp's Fountain by the late, local artist Robert Guthrie was donated for our raffle by **Charlene Berger '79**, and was won by student **Shelley Blanda**. The antique CHSN Cape, donated by **Penny Tolchin '63**, was won by thrilled student **Laura Gamber**. The raffle for the *Lost Legacy* afghan was won by **Ursula Allain '65** (who later presented the afghan to Rae Ann's mother). The 50/50 Drawing was won by **Donna Cooper '65** who received \$160.

Alumni were enthusiastic over door prizes that included glassware with vintage New Orleans scenes, Mardi Gras crown jewel boxes, bottles of Nawlin's worcestershire sauce created by Charity student **Kevin Ayestas** (formerly a *sous* chef at Commander's Palace), and copies of the book *The Big Free* donated by author **Dr. Martha Boone**.

Board Member **Patrick Reed '90** (who is also president of the New Orleans District Nurses Association) stepped forward to ask everyone to read about and support Louisiana Senate Bill 202, stating that the multistate licensing compact would make it easier for nurses to work in other states.

Cindy Beniger '68 led us in our rousing singing of the Alma Mater. Our new president thanked everyone for attending, wished us safe travels home and promised to see us in September! ❖



Top to bottom and left to right: Class of 1957, Rosalind Baldwin, Soledad Cheramie and Sydney Womack; Cindy Beniger '68 and Linda Monica '68; Class of 1965, Carolyn Gassiot, Donna Cooper, Paula Jackson and Diane Howell; Cathy Holland '68 and Judy Ross '68; standing, Myra Porche '69, Cynthia Wagley '72 and, seated, Jeanette Robinson '80 with her daughter; husband Gus with Patricia D'Aloise '50; Rita Olivio '86 with a family member; student Laura Gamber in 1963 cape; Marianne McCrory '68 and Linda Songy '68.



You can see more photos from the Spring Luncheon and other Alumni events at our photo-sharing site:
<http://charityalumni.shutterfly.com>

CASN and Convention

By Brittany Brignac '18

I write to you on behalf of the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) with much appreciation for your continued support of the members of CASN and students of Delgado Community College Charity School of Nursing. I was the President of CASN for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. I was a recipient of the Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship and was one of the students who attended the National Student Nurses Association convention this spring. I am also a Charity School of Nursing graduate with the Class of May 2018!

When I was elected as President of CASN for the Fall 2017 semester, I was not sure how well I would do. I was nervous, shy, and anxious when speaking to large groups of people. Soon after taking on this position I found that, with the support of so many great nurses behind me, I would be very successful! It was you, the Charity Alumni Association, that helped guide me.

I am not sure if you realize the impact you have on us Charity School of Nursing students. Each time we are granted with your presence, you are warm, welcoming, and have the best advice to give or stories to tell. We are truly grateful for all the opportunities you give us during our journey through nursing school, including your very generous scholarships, grants, and donations. We, the students of Charity, strive to succeed so that we can one day join you in your support of the Charity School of Nursing student body.

National Convention

Eighteen CASN members attended the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) 66th Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, in April 2018. Your contributions toward our trip to the convention allowed us to focus more on maximizing our opportunities rather than worrying about the finances of attending.

At convention, students were able to attend focus sessions, participate in the House of Delegates, experience the Johnson & Johnson Global Nursing presentations, and network with many vendors in the Exhibit Hall.

"One of my favorite parts was being able to act in the role of a constituent to the House of Delegates where



Eighteen Charity students attended the National Student Nurses Association convention this April with financial assistance from the Alumni Association.

I was able to sit in on current issues being presented by fellow student nurses and participate in representing Charity in voting on resolutions," says **Angele Rains**.

"I loved the House of Delegates resolutions hearings," agrees **Shelley Blanda**. "There were some great resolutions this year! I felt very passionate about the resolutions on Nurse Licensure Compact, Safe Nurse to Patient Ratios, and Mental Health Screenings for Young Children. I was so excited that all three passed!"

Shelley also ran for the NSNA Nominating and Elections Committee South Division. We hope that she enjoyed this experience as much as we did watching her along the way. "Even though I was not elected, I am very proud of myself for going for it," says Shelley. "Speaking in front of hundreds of people was a huge step for me. I have gained confidence in myself, and experience in the process of running for a NSNA position. I hope to pass this knowledge along so that more students from Charity will want to run for a national position," says Shelley.

Focus on Leadership

The CASN students also attended focus sessions on a wide variety of topics. "I attended a session covering BCEN certification for emergency room nurses, and was able to hear firsthand accounts of the struggles and experiences of ED nurses," says **Misty Guchereau**.

"I was able to learn more about the different career specialties that are available within the nursing profession and also network with students all over the country," reports **Karen Bonilla**.

"Going to the NSNA Convention in Nashville was →

such an invaluable experience - which would not have been possible without the alumni's generosity and support," states **Mira Bull**. "Being surrounded by future nurses from around the country, we were part of a community that is 'hooked' on making the nursing profession the absolute best it can be. I had the opportunity to attend sessions where I learned about smarter ways of studying, career opportunities in Oncology, how to become a volunteer and save a life through Naloxone training, and became certified to provide health care services in disaster shelters through American Red Cross training. This opportunity opened my eyes to all that nurses are involved in and can become!"

Laura Gamber says, "Not only did the convention paint a glorious picture of this new chapter of my life as a nurse, but it also allowed me to bond with my fellow classmates."

"The highlight for me was attending the Plenary session," says **Monica Hevessy**, "It was sponsored by Johnson & Johnson and featured three nurses from different backgrounds, and discussed how nurses are cultural barrier breakers, innovators, and the driving force behind better outcomes for our patients and families. I left this session feeling empowered and encouraged to be the best nurse I can be."

We thank you for helping us attend the convention. It was truly a memorable experience filled with many opportunities for enhancing our future careers as registered nurses.

We are so thankful for your continued support as we work towards achieving our goal of becoming graduates of Charity School of Nursing - and Registered Nurses. It has been an honor to meet so many of you through our time at Charity. You truly inspire us to become the best Charity nurses possible. We truly appreciate you! ❖

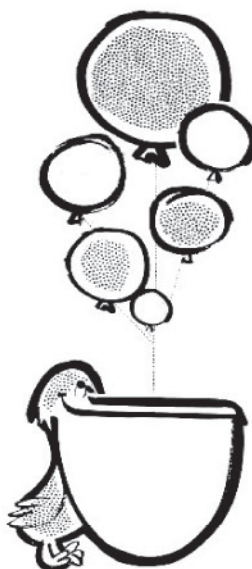
Charity Novel has Drama & Humor

The Big Free is a novel by **Dr. Martha Boone**, a urologist who obtained her surgical training at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Set in an inner city emergency room in New Orleans in 1982, *The Big Free* is a coming of age story about a women surgeon. Dr. Boone combines humor with inside knowledge of the life in an urban hospital (and some recognizable Charity characters!)



"The emotions and powerful memories of the Big C came flooding back as I read the beautiful prose. Where do I go to nominate a book for a Pulitzer?!!!" says **Warren Hebert '79**.

The Big Free is available in paperback in New Orleans at the Garden District Bookstore, and also on Amazon. ❖



Class Reunions

Plan a reunion for your class! The Alumni Office can provide a class list with any contact information we have, mailing labels and other assistance.

Take the first step! Contact the Alumni Office by calling 504-571-1395 or email us at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com.

Here are reunions that are in the works for September:

Class of 1983: Thirty-five Year Reunion

Contact: Donna Dauterive donna.dauterive@gmail.com

Class of 1977-78: Forty Year Reunion

Contact: Ellen Manieri ellenmanieri@gmail.com

Class of 1968: Fifty Year Reunion

Contact: Judy Lafleur Ross rossjl@cox.net

Class of 1949: Seventy Year Reunion

Contact: Rose Jeanne Buccola
104 Burguières Lane, Destrehan, LA 70047

"Where do the years go? 2019 will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our graduation. My how time flies!

Please let me know if you think you will be able to gather *once more* at the Alumni Breakfast in February 2019. If not, please send a bio for us all to read. We want to know about your nursing career, your hobbies, your health, your children, grands and great-grands! Send us a snapshot, too! We are still trying to locate Carmen Harbour Albach, Sarah Robbins Austin, Agnes Courtney Franz, Margaret Conway King, Delores Vasquez Malmquist, Annie Aigner Poole, Rosemary Borne Priest, Mary Neel Starbuck Sadler and Pauline Thompson Walsh. If you can help, let me know. Keep in touch! Luv ya all!!"

- Rose Jeanne Buccola '49

And for 2019:

Class of 1969: Fifty Year Reunion

Contact: Juanita Gauthier Deshotel
juanitagauthier@bellsouth.net

Class of 1959: Sixty Year Reunion

Contact: Suzy Hooks Andry susuhooks@yahoo.com

Pinning Ceremony of December 2017

On December 11, 2017, eighty-eight seniors received their graduation pins from Charity School of Nursing at the Pinning Ceremony at the Pontchartrain Center. Congratulations to all of these students who have joined our ranks as alumni and nurses in the past few months!

Special mention for the award recipients for the Class of December 2017 (pictured top to bottom, left to right):

Jonte Ray, Award of Distinction

James Purcell, Highest GPA

Margaret Tully, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award

Jasmarelda Smith, Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

Melvina Thomas, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award



We Did It!

By James Purcell '17

James Purcell gave this speech at the Pinning Ceremony for the Class of December 2017.

I am truly honored to have the opportunity to share a few words here with you at this very special ceremony celebrating this group of RN graduates. It is a humbling, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to speak at this ceremony, but I say - with utmost sincerity - that you could not pay me enough to repeat nursing school in order to have this opportunity to speak again!

Many Thanks

I would like to start by extending some myocardial-felt thanks - that's nurse talk for heart-felt.

First to the faculty and staff that work so hard to challenge us and ensure that we are prepared to be safe and successful RNs: Thank you, Dean Myers, Assistant Dean Skevington, the Level Coordinators, and all the administration for your leadership and courage in maintaining a steadfast dedication to upholding the high Charity standards even in the face of a frantic, indignant and pugnacious student body.

Thank you, faculty, for your angelic patience while we argued why the answer we picked was more correct than the answer that you deemed most correct.

And thank you for putting your licenses on the line during our clinical rotations so that we could learn to take care of real patients and not just the mannequin man in the



simulation lab that sounded suspiciously like a bassy →



Ms. Trosclair ("Hi, I'm Mr. Dardman").

In all seriousness though, thank you, faculty and staff, for all you do. We quite literally would not be here without you, so thank you.

To the family, friends and significant others that supported us, thank you for bearing with us while we disappeared into the abyss of nursing school and became insufferable bookworms who talked without shame about bodily functions at the dinner table and at other inappropriate times. For your sacrifices and enduring support, I encourage my fellow graduates to stand now and applaud you.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to my fellow classmates - for your camaraderie through the many challenging, hilarious, enlightening, exhausting and sometimes dispiriting experiences - thank you for venting with me, motivating me and inspiring me with your passion, perseverance and determination.

A Journey Together

I thought it would be nice to recount some of the journey we've taken to get here as a sort of reminiscence therapy for me and my fellow graduates and to appreciate just how far we've come.

So I'll take you back to Level I where we learned how to wash our hands and make a bed, and we practiced IM injections on oranges and other unsuspecting citrus. We studied up on medical abbreviations like SOB, which had nothing to do with that jerk that cut you off in traffic but was instead an alarming indication of poor oxygenation.

We spent time in nursing homes bearing witness to the universal process of aging. And we began to discover the foundations of the nursing profession and what it meant to care for another human being in their time of illness and vulnerability.

In Level II, we learned about mental health and got stressed out taking exams on stress and coping. We learned what persevere means, persevere means, persevere means... And we began delving into specific disease processes which meant we began self-diagnosing ourselves with every exemplar we studied. By the end of Level 2, I was convinced I had unstable angina, lupus and throat cancer. Turns out, it was just stress.

Coping Skills

We interacted with patients whose realities were very different from our own, who perceived the world in ways that we could not comprehend, but we were learning to empathize with them and care for their physical and psychosocial needs. In a way, by the end of Level II, a change in our own realities had begun: we were becoming nurses in our own right.

In Level III, we memorized important milestones in child development - like at what month babies begin drooling or babbling one-syllable utterances...which interestingly enough accurately describes the extent of

our functional capacity after taking tests in Level III.

We assessed lochia and massaged fundi and witnessed the beautiful miracle of birth...or we nearly passed out in the OR while observing a C-section.

By the end of Level III we had an enormous range of experiences with patients all across the human lifespan, and we were growing ever more confident with our clinical skills and knowledge.

Finally in Level IV, we learned to care for patients with medical emergencies like myocardial infarctions and likely experienced similar symptoms like tachycardia, tachypnea, diaphoresis and a sense of impending doom during our ICU rotations, professional issues group presentation and Code Simulation with "Mr. Dardman."

We cowered beneath ominous conglomerations of IV drips and meticulously managed the care of patients with chest tubes, ventilators, central venous lines, arterial lines and all manner of modern bionic technologies.

We felt intimidated and overwhelmed all along the way as we were confronted with the intense realities of life and death in the Intensive Care Unit, but in the end we said, "I got this."

And now, we're at the end of this chapter in our journey. We did it. We survived. We overcame the extraordinary challenges of nursing school - perhaps with a few more gray hairs and poor coping habits. But we're here. And if we can get through this program, we can get through anything.

Earning the Privilege

Nursing school is certainly the hardest thing I've ever done as I'm sure many of my fellow classmates would agree. I didn't know it would be so difficult before I started. All I knew is I wanted to be a nurse. And that passion and determination is what drove all of us to push through the adversity, the suffering, and the setbacks to stand here now as graduates who will wear those letters, RN, and who earned the privilege of serving others in their time of greatest need. I congratulate you all on your tremendous achievement.

Before I finish up, I'd like to take a moment to honor a few people who contributed to my journey to nursing. First, is my good friend Tom, who planted the seed in my mind that, like him, I could go back to school after a business degree and become a nurse. Tom passed away unexpectedly just this past summer, and he is missed dearly but I hope to honor his spirit as I pick up the torch and begin caring for my patients as the RN he inspired me to become.

I'd also like to honor the memory of my grandmother, Ma B, who told me I would be a great nurse back in 2012 when I was staying with her and helping care for her towards the end of her terminal illness. I was just starting to seriously consider nursing as a possibility, and her encouragement meant more to me than I think she or →

I realized at the time. A huge thanks to my parents, of course, who have always supported and encouraged me to pursue lofty goals.

And last, but certainly not least, my significant other Lindsey. Thank you for your patience and understanding and for not judging me when I melted into our couch and binge-watched entire seasons of Game of Thrones the weekend following an exam. I'm sure you all have stories of people that have inspired and encouraged you to pursue this profession and who you will now honor as you step into your roles as RNs and begin caring for patients.

I hear all good speeches have quotes, so I'll leave you with this quote by Marian Wright Edelman: "Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."

I believe we've chosen a unique profession that affords us the opportunity to serve everyday. So go forth, and serve. ❖

May 2018 Pinning and Awards

One hundred and ten Charity students graduated on May 15, 2018, part of the 794 students who received degrees, diplomas and certificates from Delgado Community College at the Lakefront Arena that day.

The day before, on May 14, Charity students received their nursing pins at the traditional Pinning Ceremony at the Ponchartrain Center. We are so proud of all of you and welcome you as our nursing colleagues!

Graduation awards were announced for these seniors

The graduates of May 2018 sing the Alma Mater.



(pictured top to bottom, left to right): **Christy Heitmeier**, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award (between **Dr. Debbie Skevington '79**, left, and **Dr. Cheryl Myers**, right); **Brittany Brignac**, NODNA Leadership Award, with NODNA president Patrick Reed '90; **Joshua Bourgeois**, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award; **Michelle Scherer**, Highest GPA for the class.

The Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Award recognizes the students with the highest GPAs in the academic year (usually five students, but there was a three-way tie this year.) The recipients of these awards were: **James Purcell** (highest GPA at Charity in the last five years), **Michelle Scherer**, **Molly Taylor**, **Leah Maloney**, **Margaret DesRoches**, **Hoai Tran** and **Holly Boe**. ❖

Scholarships & Awards

Spring 2018

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Spring 2018 CHSNA Scholarships and Awards. The awards were presented on February 5 at the Promotion and Awards Ceremony at the school. Congratulations to these students, and thank you to the many alumni, friends and family whose generosity made it possible for us to give a record \$9300 to twenty-three Charity students!

Scholarships - Level 2:

Heather Ney

Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship \$500

Stephanie Poche and William Pellegrin

Gloria Redmond Ashman Scholarships, \$500 each

Brandyn Filerman

Joan LeVasseur Scholarship \$500

Scholarships - Level 3:

Eric Stovall

Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship \$500

Misty Guchereau

Margaret Robichaux Elliott Scholarship \$500

Megan Guitreau

Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship \$500

Alana Bottoms

Leona Kruebbe Hilbert Scholarship \$500

Mira Bull

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship \$1000

Scholarships - Level 4:

Alicia McIntosh

Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship \$500

Mollie Tatum

Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship \$500

Brittany Brignac

Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship \$500

Bianca Robinson

Sally Cooper Alumni Association Scholarship \$1000

Pin Awards

\$100 toward the purchase of a graduation pin

The presentation of Pin Awards this semester was unusually emotional. Several of Charity's instructors lost parents this past year, and as each faculty member came forward at the ceremony to present their Pin Award to a student, they told us a little about their parents. As you can imagine, by the time the presentations were complete, there were few dry eyes in the room. These are the Pin Awards that were given, and the students who received them:

Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award

Mr. Dodson served his country as a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and had a long career as a petroleum engineer. He was the father of Charity faculty member **Ms. Evelyn Dodson**.

*Presented to **Brandi Borden***

John O'Reilly Breeden Pin Award

Mr. Breeden was a mechanical engineer in the local maritime industry. He loved cruising in the Gulf Coast and fishing in Louisiana marshes. He was the father of Charity faculty member **Ms. Joan Breeden**.

*Presented to **Desmetris Jones***

William Leonard Roberson Pin Award

Mr. Roberson was a Veteran of the US Air Force and proudly served his country during the Korean War. He was the father of Charity faculty member **Ms. Monica Scheel '92**.

*Presented to **Christy Heitmeier***

Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award

Mrs. Myers was a generous and selfless volunteer. A devoted member of St. Dominic parish for over 40 years, she served as president of the Mother's Club and the School Board, Fair Chairman, a Liturgical and Eucharistic minister, and as a member of the Rosary Altar Society and the rectory staff. She also served on the board of the Friends Alliance of the Mentally Ill. Mrs. Myers received the Order of St. Louis medallion from Archbishop Phillip Hannan in 1986. She was the mother of Charity School of Nursing Dean **Dr. Cheryl Myers**.

*Presented to **Anesha Prier***

We also presented Pin Awards in memory of four alumni who have passed away:

Geraldine Owens Fields Pin Award

"Gerry" graduated from Charity in 1959. She was a nurse for many years at the American Legion Hospital, and taught nursing at Louisiana Technical Institute in Baton Rouge. When Gerry passed away this past October, two of her classmates, **Linda Dixon Abney** and **Willene Brown Jordan**, made generous donations in her memory.

*Presented to **Lauren Trosclair***

Joan Trapani Ibos Pin Award

Joan graduated from Charity in 1966. She worked at St. Tammany Parish Hospital for 45 years, and passed away in October. Her classmate, **Roberta Bartee**, an alumni and former faculty at Charity, made a generous donation to create this Pin Award in Joan's honor. "We shared many clinical rotations and I remember her as a good nurse and a fine friend," says Ms. Bartee.

*Presented to **Jan Rupert***

→

Kirk LeVasseur Pin Award

This Pin Award was been made possible by a generous donation from one of our alumni and Board Members, **Charlene Berger**, in honor of her classmate Kirk LeVasseur, a 1979 graduate of Charity. Known to his friends as “Doc,” Kirk was a compassionate and dedicated nurse, working in the challenging field of drug and alcohol rehabilitation. He was also well known as a youth sports coach. He always made sure that the kids came first and worked to be a positive influence on them.

Presented to Valarie Malasovich

MarKeshia Williams Pin Award

MarKeshia graduated from Charity in 2015, and was a shining star at Charity. She received an alumni scholarship herself as a student and many of us here still remember her with great fondness. But she was tragically killed in a car accident in 2016. Many of MarKeshia’s classmates and other alumni made generous contributions in her memory to create this Pin Award.

Presented to Datia Drake

Federation of Nurses Awards

Megan Liebert – RN Program \$500

Ebony Montgomery – PN Program \$500



Pin Awards Created by Faculty, Continued by Families

In the past few years, it has become a bit of a tradition that, when family members of instructors pass away, the CSN faculty makes a donation to the Alumni Association Pin Award Fund. The teachers who lost loved ones then match those donations in order to provide graduation pins to Charity students. We think it is a great testament to the faculty that, in times of great sadness, they are thinking about how they can benefit the students of Charity. We are touched and honored that these colleagues choose this way to show their sympathy, and that faculty join them to memorialize family members with a pin award. Several instructors have gone on to give additional donations to continue the Pin Awards themselves, so pins in memory of their loved ones can be given for multiple years. We want to thank the entire faculty for this amazing support, and recognize these instructors for their commitment to continue the memorial Pin Awards for additional years:

Joan Breeden in memory of her father John O’Reilly Breeden (*Joan asked the faculty to make her retirement gift an extension of her father’s Pin Award*);

Michelle De Lima ‘87 in memory of her father Arthur Joseph De Lima, Jr.;

Evelyn Dodson in memory of her father Heber B. Dodson. ❖

Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award Extended to 2021

The family of **Carolyn Schwarz Myers** has made a very generous donation to extend the Pin Award in her memory through 2021. “My family was very touched by the awarding of the pin this spring, and with the recipient’s story and plans for her nursing career,” wrote Dr. Cheryl Myers. “We wanted to continue the award in our mother’s honor. Our parents instilled the value of education in all of us, as evidenced by all nine of us being college graduates, several with more than one degree. Our mother was a very generous person, and we know she would enjoy being able to assist nursing students to meet their goals.” The family has asked that, when possible, the award would go a student interested in the care of patients with dementia. ❖

Dedicated to My Father

By Monica Scheel ‘92

In 1989, I walked through the front doors of this institution – for my first day as a nursing student at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. At that time, it would be the last group of Diploma nurses to be enrolled in the program.

Over the next three years, I too faced the many struggles and challenges of being a nursing student in this strenuous program. And on one spring evening in 1992 – as I graduated at St. Joseph’s church across the street on Tulane Avenue – I finally fulfilled my dream of becoming a nurse. Not just ANY nurse – but a Charity nurse. There was no one prouder of me on that night than my father, William Roberson.

My father was always so proud of my being a nurse, and for all of my accomplishments during my 26 year career. He was especially happy when I chose to come back and teach at the same institution that started me on my nursing journey.

Late last year, my father suffered head injuries which resulted in subsequent hospitalization and neurosurgeries. He had the privilege of being taken care of in the ICU by several recent Charity-Delgado AD nurses – also recent students that I had taught. These nurses demonstrated not only the highest caliber of nursing skill – they also treated my father (and my family) with the utmost degree of compassion, respect, integrity and dignity. These are the values that Charity nurses have been known for, for the past 124 years. When my father died early on Thanksgiving morning, these nurses reached out to me to let me know how honored they were to have taken care of “Sweet William” – as he liked to be called – and to check on me and my family. I told them that it was indeed OUR honor to have had them taking care of HIM – and that the

care and level of humanism they displayed would never be forgotten by us. People will forget what you did and will forget what you said - but they will never forget how you made them feel. This is the "art and science" of professional nursing.

As a legacy to my father, my family, my CSN faculty colleagues and I decided to present a Charity nursing school pin in his memory to a deserving nursing graduate. The pin was awarded to senior **Christy Heitmeier** in February. It is our hope that when Christy wears this pin in honor of William Roberson, she will remember all that it represents and continue with the proud traditions of what it truly means to be a "Charity Nurse."❖

Alumni Notes

Joanne Philbrook Newton '56 (*Orangevale, CA*): "I enjoy the *Alumni News* so much - keeps informed of the happenings at Charity plus the news of my classmates. My three years at Charity were such a wonderful experience - helped me to grow and gave me a life-long career of helping people, as well as financial security. Retirement has been a time to enjoy family, friends and, so far, good health."

Patricia Bourgeois LeBlanc '58 (*Morganza, LA*): "Enclosed is my 1958 yearbook. I am very happy to donate it to the archives. My twin sister and classmate **Sheila Bourgeois Osiecki**, passed away in July 2007 after a long illness. We remained very close. I also have a younger sister who graduated from Charity, **Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching '63**. She lives in Arkansas. Phyllis once was a Navy nurse; Sheila and I were Air Force nurses. Thanks to Charity for all the wonderful memories and for making me the person I am now. I am 80-years-old and still live in Morganza - for the last 47 years."

Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62 (*Zephyr, TX*): "I continue to enjoy my White Cap and thank God every day for allowing me to get my diploma there. I always had good jobs and enjoyed my work in private duty, Air Force and Air Force Reserves! I worked until I was 70 and now I continue to do volunteer work in ICU in Brownwood, Texas, at Texas A&M Ed. Club and at Good Samaritan. Here at work, I met someone who was born at Big Charity in 1958 - and was also a nurse whose mom did volunteer work there! God Bless all of you and hope 2018 will be a great year for everyone!"

Penny Kistler Tolchin '63 (*LaMesa, CA*): "I hope this cape full of memories (and a few hidden holes) will be enjoyed and treasured by another Charity alumni. It saw good times and some struggles during the 'action' years of 1960-63. And subsequently some 50-odd 'battle' years in

an old cedar chest (the moths won a skirmish or two). Best wishes to you and all who look upon this symbol of historic times at Big Charity."

Chris Hurley Carbon '71 (*Lunenburg, MA*): "I thoroughly enjoy the *White Cap* publication."

Jo Ann Rizzuto '71 (*North Lauderdale, FL*): "Thank you for the lovely letter about scholarship recipient **Bianca Robinson**. As a Charity graduate, I had an excellent education. It has carried me a long way. Bianca has the right attitude - treat every patient like family. I wish her the best and definitely encourage her to go for her PhD in Nursing."

Rebecca Carter Fisher '76 (*Cleveland, MS*): "We have lived here in north Mississippi for 30 years. I have been married since 1981, have two children and five grandchildren. I am retired now. After working three years as a RN, I attended the Charity Hospital School of Anesthesia and worked as a CRNA for 30 years. It was the perfect career for me and I enjoyed it very much. Now I divide my time between grandchildren and traveling. I am still proud that I attended CHSN. It prepared me so well for my career, and also for life."

Zenida "Ziggy" Silva '85 (*LaPlace, LA*): "AKA 'Zee' in the medical world! I love seeing familiar faces on the web site. Great memories of being yearbook editor at school. I stayed in the nursing profession for 29 years. I worked pediatrics to hospice, telephone triage to case management and even travel nursing! My flexibility and easy to adapt attitude is a credit from my great educators from Charity School of Nursing. I hope to make it to my next reunion. Still proud of being a graduate!"

Tina Miceli '87 (*Harahan, LA*) is the mayor of Harahan, LA. Taking office in January 2015, Tina was the first woman to be elected as mayor of the town. Tina was an Oncology Nurse in the Radiation Oncology Departments at Ochsner Hospital and Touro Infirmary. She received an Excellence in Nursing Practice Award from Ochsner Hospital, and a Spirit of Caring Award from the American Cancer Society. Tina worked closely with cancer patients and their families helping them



through their journey for over 26 years. She also acted as the official liaison between non-nursing personnel and the professional staff, and developed programs to improve the quality of life for cancer patients. She has written a variety of educational materials and published a children's book on dealing →

with cancer. Tina has given presentations on multiple oncology subjects, participated in the development of national research studies, and continues to educate Delgado Radiation Therapy students.

Lorain Schexnaydre Landry '93 (*Convent, LA*) was named St. James Parish Hospital 2017 Employee of the Third Quarter. Lorain has worked at St. James for over ten years and is in the Emergency Department.

Lori Driggs '97 (*Gilbert, AZ*): "Such good memories, and I will never forget our graduation at St. Joseph's Church. It was so inspirational! After being an OR nurse, I found my niche in OB/GYN. I went back to school in Texas and graduated from University of Texas and then UT Southwestern as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, and then got a master's degree through a reciprocal program with Drexel University in Philadelphia. I do love seeing the women who come to our practice - it started with three docs and me leaving another practice and starting a new one. Now we have five locations, and I don't even know how many NPs and docs. Our kids are all grown and married and we have 32 grands. I'm still working full-time here in Gilbert, AZ. We are from here, so we are home now. But my best memories are from Charity School of Nursing. Blood, sweat and tears... a lot of work, but so rewarding." ❖

Alumni Receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80 (*Metairie, LA*) was awarded this year's Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award by Delgado Community College at the May 2018 Commencement. The endowed professorship is the college's most prestigious award bestowed on a member of the faculty and is presented annually.

Ann is a proud graduate of the School of Nursing and a strong ambassador for Delgado in the community. As a member of our alumni Advisory Committee, she provides advice and input to our Board of Directors at board meetings throughout the year. As a faculty member, she has brought important insights into how the Alumni Association can support students and faculty at the School of Nursing. Ann has written lengthy articles for our two publications, *The White Cap* and the *Alumni News* over several years, highlighting achievements of graduates.

Ann is a stalwart advocate for students - they know that she will demand their very best, but also that she will always "have their back."

Ann has been on the faculty at Charity School of Nursing since 2012 and is only the second CSN faculty member to receive this honor. **Barbara Hebert** received the 2013 Seymour Weiss Teaching Award ❖



Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80 received the teaching award at the Delgado College May Commencement Ceremony.

2018 CHSNAA Advisory Committee

Cecile Ginger Andry '58
Suzy Andry '59
Roberta Bartee '66
Alice Brady '64
Wedon Brown '10
Rose Jeanne Buccola '49
Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80
Doris Burvant '60
Beverly Cazayoux '61
Karen Chabert '77
Tori Harris Chatman '07
Rick Crouse
Ross Cunningham '84
Patricia Dufrene '85
Jenn Garnand '11
Marilyn Hammett '78
Joan Hodge '75
Ellen Manieri '77
Rebecca McCalla '78
Margaret Palmisano '49
Beth Pesses '76
Sharon Robinson
Judy Lafleur Ross '68
Susan Schaff
Lisa Stokes-Hasten '78
Sara Trahan '16
Mary Trosclair '73
Susan Wentz '11
Barbara Zeugner ❖

A Path Worth Taking: Student Journeys to Charity

Bianca Robinson, May 2018

My motivation to become a nurse was both a logical and a personal one. Nursing marries the arts of scientific thought, problem solving, critical thinking, commitment and compassion. These are the qualities exemplified by



professional nurses. Among health care careers, the nursing profession allows for a unique level of personal interaction in patient care. For me, nursing is the glass slipper that fits.

William Stevenson is the personal reason I chose a career in nursing. This man took on the role of both my grandfather and father figure when

my dad died when I was three-years-old. My grandfather made huge sacrifices so that I might one day have a bright future. He worked multiple jobs to help my mom pay my private high school tuition. He comforted me when I was sick. He was there for me when I needed advice or someone to talk to. It was through him that I first learned compassion and empathy.

My world crumbled when my grandfather was diagnosed with kidney failure in 2007. I made it my mission and sole focus to take care of him until ultimately he took his last breath in hospice. It was while taking care of my grandfather that I decided I wanted to become a nurse.

I entered a practical nursing program, and learned to treat patients with the same compassion, respect and dignity that I treated my grandfather, because they are someone's grandparent, parent, uncle, sibling or cousin. Although initially I struggled academically, throughout my grandfather's illness he told me to never give up! I made a promise to him on his deathbed that I would do everything in my power to achieve my goal. I cried when I graduated valedictorian in 2014. Even though the road was long and hard, I was finally able to fulfill the promise I made to my grandfather.

I worked as an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Nurse on the Team Gleason Unit for three years. But I wanted to expand on the commitment I made to my grandfather by completing the Charity's LPN to RN Bridge program. Before entering Charity, I thoroughly studied the mission, vision, history and core values of this nursing program. In order to become the most productive, confident and competent nurse that I can be, I know Charity is the right place for me. The philosophies that this program represents are reflections of my own.

I was honored to be inducted into Charity's honor society, Sigma Alpha Chi, and to be able to tutor fellow

nursing students. I received a Clinical Excellence Award due to my exemplary rapport and patient care. I received the Sally Cooper Scholarship from the CHSN Alumni Association. This program allows my values of excellence, respect and service to flourish. Charity School of Nursing allows me to serve my hometown. Having a chance to give back to my community that has greatly impacted my life is rewarding beyond words to explain.

At this moment I have laid down the foundation for my future. Now I am hoping to move forward full steam with my plans, to take hold of my dream of one day becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner and make it a reality. I am a natural-born caregiver, community activist, humanitarian, daughter and friend. All things to everyone.... just like a nurse.

Heather Ney, Level 2

"Where are you from?" was once the most difficult question a person could ask me. When you live on a military base, that question is rarely asked, probably because no one has a clue what to say. In Louisiana, it's almost as common as "What's your name?"

I'm an Army Brat. I moved nineteen times before my twenty-first birthday. I spent eight years in Germany,



including all four years of high school. When I moved back to the United States to begin college, on my own at 17, I wasn't prepared to answer that question. At first I responded with, "I grew up in Germany. My dad is in the Army." That only confused people: "You're German? But you don't sound German. Say something in German." So I started

telling them where my extended family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins - live. That didn't work either: "Wait are you from Baton Rouge or Shreveport? Where are YOU from?"

Having such a tough time providing an answer that was both truthful and easy for others to understand made me realize I wasn't from anywhere. From that point, I always said, "I don't know, I'm an Army brat." I spent the next ten years searching for a home – an answer to the simple question, "Where are you from?"

Once I planted roots in New Orleans and this amazing city became my home, the hardest question for me to answer changed. I have a bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in English. Writing is the only thing I wanted to do. During my last job in that field, I worked for a small ad agency. I spent six years proofreading Popeye's coupons. I could only correct the spelling of the word "chicken" so many times before I started questioning my life choices. It was time for a career change. I asked myself, "What do I want to do?" I wanted to help people. I wanted to make a positive impact on someone's life. I wanted to go to sleep each night feeling like I'd made →

some kind of improvement, no matter how small, in the world. And ideally, it wouldn't have a thing to do with fried chicken.

I kept landing on nursing, but it seemed so impossible. Can I really start over with a new career at the age of 31? How are we going to pay our bills if I can't work full-time? Am I any good at science? Can I handle blood, urine, feces and vomit? What if I'm not good at it? What if I spend the time and money pursuing this and fail?

Despite all of the unknowns and fears, "What do I want to do?" kept leading me back to nursing. The time would pass anyway, and I could spend the coming years unhappy and trapped in a job I had no passion for. Or I could make the most of that time by working toward something that made me excited about my future. I stopped thinking about it and started doing it – one small step at a time.

Now that I have found what I am meant to do in this life, the hardest question for me to answer has changed yet again: "How is nursing school going?" Truth be told, I have no idea how it's going 95% of the time. There isn't any time or brain power left after class, clinicals, studying and work to think about how anything is going. There aren't words to describe the experience: good, hard, scary, rewarding, interesting... all true, but they fall seriously short of painting an accurate picture.

Nursing school has been the most challenging thing I have ever done. The way I think, what I think about, my priorities, my idea of what's important in life – they are all different now. Nursing school is terrifying and beautiful. It makes me feel like I know a lot, and like I know nothing at all. How is it possible to be the happiest I've ever been AND the most stressed-out I've ever been at the same time?

Nursing school is a paradoxical experience that no one expects or can imagine, no matter how prepared you think you are. Finally finding a career I am passionate about, and being able to make the positive impact on others I've always craved, is like finding home all over again. But because you can only really understand all of that if you've done it, I'll stick with my standard response - true and easy for others to understand - "It's good! Really hard, of course, and I'm exhausted, but I love it."

James Purcell, December 2017

After graduating college in 2007 with degrees in International Business and Spanish, I knew I wanted to do work I could believe in, helping others and pursuing a life that put my values of service and compassion above material wealth. Being young and adventurous, I set out to change the world. I organized and embarked on a humanitarian service project in Latin America. My ambition and idealism were externally focused, but the change that I managed to create in the world was primarily internal. The two years I spent traveling and working with non-profit organizations and humanitarian projects

fostered a deeper understanding of myself, immeasurably expanded my perspective of the world and how I might contribute to it, and reinforced my passion for serving others. This journey eventually led me to discover my calling: nursing.

While taking prerequisite courses for nursing school, I volunteered on the Med-Surg unit at Ochsner Baptist in New Orleans to gain experience in the hospital setting. I had the opportunity to use my video production and editing skills to create a video celebrating the specialty of Med-Surg nursing in general and the accomplishments of our unit at Ochsner. The hospital used the video as a recruiting tool.

I earned my certification as a CNA and was hired as a Patient Care Technician in the same unit. The hospital hired me to create a teaching video to introduce and demonstrate bedside handoff as they rolled out their intervention to all their hospitals. I have learned in nursing school that education is an essential role in nursing, and being able to use my video skills to bring that teaching to life for an entire hospital system was incredibly exciting for me. The video projects also allowed me to move through different capacities within health care, from working alongside nurses to meeting with the Chief Nursing Officer. I hope to continue to fuse my nursing education and video production skills.

International humanitarian service continues to be an important focus for me. While at Charity, I spent two summers leading humanitarian service trips for teenagers in Peru, Ecuador and Costa Rica. I particularly enjoy the educational role I fill on these trips, teaching students about local culture and facilitating discussions.

My nursing plans are to work in emergency or critical care, with the long-term goal of being a flight nurse, Nurse Anesthetist, or Nurse Practitioner. I want to work or volunteer in underserved communities, particularly Spanish-speaking populations. I want to integrate my passion for international humanitarian service and intercultural exchange with my nursing knowledge by participating in medical service projects abroad. I was honored, humbled and grateful to receive the Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship from the Alumni Association in the Spring of 2017, especially considering Ms. Garcia Roach's history as a flight nurse and Nurse Anesthetist.

Misty Guchereau, Level 3

I am a second-career student who found myself drawn to nursing in the most profound way. Ten years ago, I graduated from high school, third in my class, but with no idea what to do with my life. I went to college because it was expected of me, and failed out quickly. Over the next few years, I gained some life experience, and after some bad decisions and misdirection, I found myself enrolled in school for Cosmetology. I knew when I

started, I had to finish, to prove to myself I was capable of finishing something I started. And I did. I passed my state board licensure exams on my first try, and started out apprenticing at a high-end salon. I still had much to learn.

Beauty school only teaches you a foundation of basics that you must build on each year that you work in the industry. It is ever evolving, therefore cosmetologists must be ever learning and changing with it. Everyone said, "The day you think you know everything is the day you need to quit." How could I have known that much of this would be true in my next career choice as well?



During my career I learned not only how to fine tune my abilities as a hairstylist, but also how to speak to people. How to ask the right questions to find out what they really wanted (even if they were using incorrect terminology). How to actively listen to someone as they are spilling their deepest, darkest secrets and worries. How to know when to speak and when to be silent. I learned empathy. I have seen how something as simple as a new hairstyle could completely transform a woman with no self-esteem, an abusive spouse, alopecia - and so many other issues - into someone powerful, confident, and ready to take on the world. I have cried with the people in my chair. Seeing how big of an impact I could make, with something so simple as a hairstyle or a listening ear, touched me in a way I could never put into words. I knew I was meant to do more, to help people more.

Nursing. I was meant to be a nurse. After five years of establishing myself as a cosmetologist, I was determined to go back to school. Failure was not an option. I came back strong my first semester with straight As. I remember telling people who asked what nursing school I was planning to attend - I always answered, "Charity. I want to be the best, and Charity is the best." Full-time working, full-time prerequisite classes, two years later I applied and was accepted. I knew Charity would be my home.

I am Media Coordinator for CASN, a member of Spectrum, and I try to volunteer for as many opportunities as I can, like training as a volunteer to sit with hospice patients, so their caretakers and family can get a break. I am someone who has come from absolutely no medical background, to diving headfirst into anything nursing related. I am really proud of myself for my hard work and dedication, but also for finding my passion, knowing it is a path worth taking, and being brave enough to go for it.

Stephanie Poche, Level 2

My path to Charity began in 2005, right after my son was born and my husband was sent to Iraq on his first deployment. I chose to stay home with my kids and support my husband as a Family Readiness Group Leader.

As a FRG Leader, I was a counselor of sorts, mentoring and supporting families as they navigated deployment life. I had no idea how impactful the next six years would be on me as a military spouse and a mother of three. Do you know how it feels when you are doing a task and are enveloped in the moment so much you feel as comfortable as your favorite sweat pants - or that you have "found your people"? I found my people. They were the people I helped change tires, or worked with to pay their bills, or even listened while they grieved over their son who committed suicide. In those moments I knew I needed to help people grow and develop, heal and laugh all in the same breath. We repeated the deployment cycle three times over, and so did the need to support others.

Life has a weird way of inching you into situations that groom you for the future. In the summer of 2015, my best friend of 17 years called me to say her mother was diagnosed with mesothelioma. Spike lived only a full six months after that. I watched the hospice nurse feel for her pulse, listen to her heart, and give words of comfort to her family. I distinctly remember the nurse verbally preparing Jessica and her family for the moment Spike would take her last breath.

I remember thinking to myself, is it wrong that I am so interested in these details, in how the body just stops



doing something its done so unconsciously all these years? And what can I do to help my friend who is in such agonizing grief? I am met with another situation where I am on the other side, I am grieving with my friend, but also a student of bereavement care inadvertently.

One short year later, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. I accompanied her to the oncologist visit that confirmed she had large B cell lymphoma in her liver. I watched my parents faces, they were stunned with disbelief. Their silence was so loud. I sat across from the doctor, made eye contact, nodded and asked questions, trying to communicate through the lump in my throat and holding back my tears.

This was not our first experience with lymphoma - my grandmother died at the young age of 63 of the same thing. We all knew what was in front of us. But we were ready to fight. It was the following summer that I made the decision to enroll at Delgado to complete the prerequisites for Charity.

My mom is in remission today. Her journey helped pave the way as my inspiration and my desire to "pay it forward." I would never have guessed I'd be in nursing school at the age of 39. The sum of all my experiences have afforded me the motivation to be where I am today, and I look forward to my next semesters at Charity and a lifetime of nursing. ❖

Goodbyes

"My precious mom, **Ann McMinn Fabre '38** passed away on July 28, 2017 just 2 weeks after we celebrated her 100th birthday; still living independently in her own home. She became a RN, turned 21 and married my daddy on the same day, July 14, 1938. She was so proud of being a Charity Hospital graduate and managed to work it in to a conversation every single day until her passing. She always said she wanted to come back as a Charity Hospital ER nurse to teach 'those residents a thing or two.' She had so many wonderful stories about her time there and spoke of them so often. The story *Marion Goes to Nursing School* in *The White Cap*, Summer 2017, brought back so many wonderful memories. Mom worked in every department in the hospital at some point but her passion always brought her back to the Emergency Department. When I decided to become a nurse there was no question for me where I was going, and of course I had an amazing time. I worked in the ED/Trauma at Charity during nursing school and after I graduated and have stayed in the ED my entire career. My youngest is in medical school also planning on an Emergency Residency. Mom was such a great inspiration for us."

- Susan Fabre '78



Carmen Alonso Bermudez '49 passed away peacefully on December 20, 2017 at the age of 90. She worked as a psychiatric nursing director at Tampa General Hospital and Florida Mental Health Institute. Carmen was highly regarded as a compassionate nurse and a mentor.

Celina Machin Haynie '51 worked for many years at the Lafayette General Medical Center, and was active in nursing organizations at the district, state and national levels. She was instrumental in establishing the LSNA Bayou District and could often be found in Baton Rouge advocating for patients and nurses. At the age of 76 she attended the Senate Health and Welfare Committee hearings to oppose the medication attendant bill. She was a delegate to the American Nurses Association's House of Delegates from 1962 to 1984 and participated in the NCAP Political Skills Workshop and the National Women's Education on Campaigning in Washington DC. In 1986, Celina became the first RN in Lafayette to be certified as a Nurse Administrator by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. At Lafayette General, she used those



administrative skills in roles that included head nurse, director of nursing quality assurance, director of quality assurance, director of housekeeping and linen services, and director of plant facilities, maintenance, clinical engineering, construction, housekeeping and linen. Celina has also been active in her community, volunteering for the Boy Scouts (she was named Den Mother of the Year in 1964 and awarded the highest honor conferred by the BSA), for the American Red Cross, and (for more than 15 years) at the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic where she managed services for residents with no health care coverage. Celina was honored as the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic Volunteer of the Year, and the "Acadiana Celebrates Nursing" Honoree, and received the LSNA District 4 Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2007, she was inducted into the Louisiana State Nurses Association Hall of Fame. Celina was a proud Charity alumni and a Sustaining Member of the Alumni Association. She had not been able to attend alumni meetings in the past few years since her friend and driving partner **Judith Crappel Perez '82** died. Celina passed away in February 2018 at the age of 87.

Marjorie Chapman Montaney '54 died on May 27, 2017. She was born in 1933 in the town of Kinder, LA, the second of eight children. They lived near the Cow Bayou in Indian Village. Marj worked at Charity Hospital for over a year, then was offered a position at Group Health Hospital in Seattle, WA. The very day Marj arrived in Seattle, she met the man she would spend the next 55 years with, Thomas Gray, just out of the Air Force and working for the Boeing Company. The two were married in 1957, making their home in Maple Valley, WA, for the next 45 years and raising three daughters. Marj enjoyed a busy life working as a registered nurse for 40 years and, after retiring, traveled and hiked with family and friends for several years. In 2003, Tom and Marj moved to Chewelah, WA where they bought a log cabin on 20 acres. Marjorie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2006. With her life changing day by day and Alzheimer's stealing her memories, Marj never gave up hope or her love of the Lord. She was cared for by her husband until he died in 2012. After that, she was taken care of by her three daughters, and passed away after "a truly long, long goodbye."

Emily Nell Sansbury Mulkey Kircher '67 worked at Charity Hospital for two years following graduation, then moved to Arizona and later to the US Virgin Islands, where she worked at the local hospital, lived on a boat in

St. Thomas harbor and had two children. Later, she assisted in the design of an intensive care unit in Jacksonville Beach. She returned to her hometown of Gainesville, and worked in the Emergency Department of UOFL Teaching Hospital/Shands (UF Health Shands Hospital). After retiring, Emily worked for UOF Oral Surgery Center. Emily and her current husband moved to Toccoa to be near her grandsons, who renamed her "Mimmie", and she went camping, kayaking and exploring in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina while working with Amedisys Home Health in Toccoa. Emily and her husband also traveled Georgia and North Carolina doing camp hosting at various parks.



Lee Vern Higgins Dove '83 was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas, one of ten children. In 1957, she was one of the classmates of the "Arkansas 9" of Dunbar Junior High School who successfully integrated the all white Central High School in Little Rock, the basis of the movie *Crisis at Central High*. Her leadership and strength was evident early in life as she

dropped out of school to help her mother take care of the house and all of the rest of her siblings. She met the love of her life and married husband Joseph in 1961, and they moved to New Orleans. Lee would dream about having a better life and opportunities to grow and better herself. Despite having three children by the age of 23, Lee started to invest in her future and her family's well being by enrolling at L.E. Rabouin and completing her GED. She went on to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked at Mercy Hospital for thirteen years. Then Lee decided that she wanted more. At the age of 40, while working full time and raising a family, she applied and was accepted into the nursing program at Charity School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse. She later went on to complete her BSN at the University of Phoenix. Lee loved nursing. Instead of retiring to sit back, relax, and enjoy the fruits of her long career, Lee preferred much more to continue working into her 70s because nursing brought her much joy. She never, ever quit nursing. She simply reached the finish line. Lee valued family over everything, and her garden was her refuge, where she would work for hours without a break. Lee inspired many with her drive and dedication to succeed. She did all that with the brightest and most beautiful smile that would light up any room.

Manolita Hoz Chesnut served as both Director of Admissions and Director of Public Relations at Charity School of Nursing from 1945 to 1954. She traveled

In Memorium

We publish the names of those alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death. Farewell to these friends:

Ann McMinn Fabre '38 (7/28/17)
 Ruby Nell Vowell Seghers '48 (5/6/18)
 Carmen Alonso Bermudez '49 (12/20/17)
 Celina Machin Haynie '51 (2/2/18)
 Mary Rohmer White '51 (4/27/18)
 Marjorie Chapman Montaney '54 (5/27/17)
 Marthann Strub Ello '59 (2/22/18)
 Geraldine "Gerry" Owens Fields '59 (10/27/17)
 Rita Raphael Bares '65 (1/14/18)
 Kaye Smith Kingsbery '81 (1/11/18)
 Lee Vern Higgins Dove '83 (4/10/18)
 Shari Reeves Hinojosa '01 (6/21/17)

Faculty & Staff

Manolita Hoz Chestnut (2/15/18)

through the southeastern United States in her efforts at recruiting student nurses. She established Student Nurse Recruitment Week, culminating in editorials in local newspapers, proclamations from the mayor of New Orleans and the governor of Louisiana, and she arranged for a contest at Pontchartrain Beach among the five local nursing schools for Miss Student Nurse. She was on the faculty at Charity and served as mistress of ceremonies at its graduations. She went on to teach high school, sell real estate, and was an active preservationist in New Orleans until her death in February 2018. ❖

Second Chance

Althea "Betty" Broussard Swanson had worked as a teacher for sixteen years before deciding to become a nurse at the age of 50. She graduated in 1993 from LSU School of Nursing and served as President of her class. Betty began her second career as a nurse at Lakeside Hospital and retired in 2010 as the House Supervisor. The sister of CSN faculty member **Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80**, Betty passed away on April 14, 2018.

In the midst of their grief, Ann and her family decided to honor Betty by helping a deserving nursing student. They asked that donations in Betty's memory be made to the Charity Alumni Association to establish the **Betty Swanson Memorial Scholarship Fund**, providing scholarships for a student in need who, like Betty, had chosen to become a nurse as a second career.

In addition, the Charity faculty also made a generous donation to the Alumni Pin Fund to show their sympathy, and Ann will match that donation to provide a Pin →

Award for a Charity nursing student this fall.

Thank you to these generous donors: Stephen Brett Hammock, William and Carol Hasenkampf, Clare A. Madere, **Ellen Williams Manieri '77**, Claire Noble, **Patricia Smart**, and the **CSN Faculty**. ❖

Time to Say Goodbye

By Robin Holliday

Mary Etta Authement was the younger sister of Charity graduate Margaret Palmisano '49. An accomplished artist, Mary Etta created numerous works for the Alumni Association, from etched glassware, to the 2010 Homecoming program cover, to a painting of the Sister Stanislaus Memorial dorm. Despite Margaret's urging, Mary Etta joined us for only one alumni event, so although many of us enjoy Mary Etta's etched champagne glasses or dorm prints in our homes, few had the pleasure of getting to know her. Mary Etta passed away on February 2, 2018. Her daughter Robin Holliday is a student at Charity School of Nursing and shared these memories with us.

My mom loved art, nature and her family – especially her five kids and her grandchildren. She was a country girl. She lived in Covington her whole life. She was a real animal lover - growing up we had horses, a goat, dogs, birds. She loved being in nature, walking, kayaking, or just lying in a hammock with the dogs. She and my dad loved to go walking on the Natchez Trace and collecting rocks there. She liked taking her grandchildren out to walk along the lakeshore, and get them away from the TV and computer screens. We all learned to love nature from her.

Mom was very creative. She painted, drew, etched. She loved to help out different organizations with her art. She was always making artwork and t-shirts to give to our high schools to help them raise money. And of course there were all the things she did for Charity. That was how she was - a loving person who would give you the shirt off her back.

Mom had the privilege of just being our mom. Not everyone has their parents around all the time. My mom was always there for us. She would go to every one of our sporting events - she was the biggest fan! And she was the same with her grandkids. Our friends would go to her for advice, too. She was blunt and honest, but very nurturing. She always said, "You need to figure out what's best for you."



My mom is why I decided to come to nursing school. I learned from her about caring about others. I really want to take care of people.

Of course I was going to go to Charity. When I started, I was up in the main office and I saw my mom's painting of the dorm hanging in the hall! Then I went in the library and saw my aunt's mementos displayed in the case there! I sent Mom a selfie of me wearing my uniform on the first day. She said how proud she was of me - and I remember, she said, "Keep smiling!"

Mom was a very positive person. She taught me to never give up. I would call her after a rough day in clinicals and she would say, "You're strong. You can do it." She was always on my side.

I moved out of my apartment and back in with Mom when I started nursing school. She would cook dinner for the two of us every night - it was great!

She was a good cook too. Not as good as my aunt, but good! I loved her rice and gravy, and her homemade lasagna. We always had these big family meals together at the camp, and my aunt would make her amazing andouille gumbo. The joke was always that Mom's job was to "burn the bread."

I guess I was pretty spoiled. Mom did everything for me - we were so close.

My dad died in 2013 from leukemia. Mom took care of him for the three years he was sick - she dedicated her life to him. When she was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer in November, she refused to get chemo or radiation. She had seen what my dad went through, and didn't want that. The cancer had already spread when she was diagnosed, she had tumors all over.

I was taking care of her while I was in nursing school. I learned a lot caring for her, and applying the things I learned in school. My siblings helped while I was in class and



clinicals - we were very organized. But I was there all night, helping her when she couldn't get up by herself anymore. I was always exhausted, and I ended up having to repeat Level 1.

When I re-enrolled for Level 1 this spring, I don't know how I ended up in Ms. Dieck's clinical group. When I told her what was going on in my life, caring for my mom, she recommended that I defer, to not take a chance on failing again. But I wanted to stay in school. And it was the best decision I ever made. Ms. Dieck was an incredible teacher, tough but wonderful. And the members of my clinical group are the most amazing people. We are all different ages and from different places in life, but we love each other. We are always there for each other. I know they are going to be my lifelong friends. People say that sometimes things happen for a reason. If I hadn't had to repeat Level 1, I never would have met them. I am so grateful that I did.

In February, I knew Mom was close to the end. I called Ms. Dieck to say I wouldn't be in that day, and she talked to me for a while. Then I turned on some classical music for Mom, and I was feeling really tired. I curled up next to her in bed and fell asleep. When I woke up a little while later, I could tell she was gone, and – if you can believe it – the music playing right at that moment was “Time to Say Goodbye.” I think Mom was just waiting for me to be ready to let her go.

I missed half of her funeral service because I had to be at school. She would never have wanted me to miss class, so I didn't. I listen to her voice in the back of my head saying, “Don't give up!” God and my mom are pushing me – and I am doing it for them. I know I want to be a nurse. When I have a patient with a diagnosis similar to my parents, I really connect with them. I would love to work with children with cancer.

I miss hearing the funny stories Mom would tell about her childhood – I'd heard them a hundred times, but I miss that. My niece is 13 and she's a real artist, so we gave her all Mom's art supplies and brushes.

The family is going to get together for a crawfish boil at the camp this summer. It will be the first time we've really gotten everyone together since the funeral. It was always my mom who would get everyone organized. Now I'm going to have to be the bossy one. ❖

Lost Legacy

Lost Legacy is a hauntingly beautiful artwork by **Rae Ann Deroche '84**, featuring an angel wrapping her

wings around Charity Hospital. Everyone who sees it is swept away by how gorgeous it is – and it has special meaning for all of us who love Charity Hospital.

We are making this captivating artwork available to our alumni in several ways! On our website, you can order *Lost Legacy* notecards and 12" x 16" posters anytime. We had an afghan up for raffle at the Spring Luncheon and are planning to do that again at the Fall Breakfast. In addition, we will be selling t-shirts in our Teespring store!

Teespring works this way: We open a “campaign” that runs for 21 days. Starting **August 1**, you can go on the Teespring website and order your Charity shirt with a credit card or Paypal. On **August 21**, the campaign will end, and the shirts are printed and shipped. You will receive your shirt about 2 weeks after the campaign ends. It's that easy! So, from **August 1 to August 21**, go to:

www.teespring.com/charity-nursing-lost-legacy

Select from a variety of colors and styles. Prices start at around \$22 and depend on the shirt style you choose, plus there's a \$3.99 charge for shipping & handling. ❖



Louisiana Enacts Enhanced Nurse Licensure

Louisiana became the 31st state in the nation to enact the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) on May 31, 2018, when Governor John Bel Edwards signed Senate Bill 202 into law. The planned implementation date is December 1, 2018. The Compact will give nurses far more travel flexibility, allowing them to practice across state lines in the member states with one multi-state license and without additional applications or fees. ❖

Members of Note

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48
Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49
Rowena Smith Christensen '51
Celina Machin Haynie '51
Betty Ogea Moore '51
Hazel MacKillican Wilson '52
Martha Phillips Gentry '53
Marijean Martin Pruett '54
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth '55
Jean Altice Blake '58
Anna Martino Meinert '59
Esther Ogea Doucet '60
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60
Frances Petho Aponte '61
Joan Bero '63
Barbara Johnson Roger '63
Dorothy Russell Stagg '63
Penny Kistler Tolchin '63
Janette Foy Brown '64
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle '64
Judith Wellman Quigley '64
Estelle LeBlanc Rome '64
Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot '65
Roberta Purvis Barteel '66
Susan Nebel Nielson '66
Beverly Poche Chapoton '67
Jean Hageney Houin '67
Karen Moulliet '67
Peggy Portie Parigi '67
Betty Schweitzer Toups '67
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon '67
Mary Wood '67
Dr. Marelle Yongue '67
Barbara "Bobbie" Bonner Folse '68
Patti Rouchon Burcham '70
Charlotte Arras '71
Marian Foret Offner '71
Jo Ann Rizzutto '71
D. Paxson Barker '72
Rosalie Parenton Vincent '72
Dennis and Lynel Pinkozie '73
Wilda Taylor '73
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair '73
Susan Duhon '74
Nancy O'Pry Gentry '74
Charlene White Persich '74
Mary Susan Le Compte Farrar '75
Jamie Walker Jensen '75
Julie M. Joyce '75
Vicky P. Kent '75
Maureen Connelly Mayeux '75
Barbara McClees '75
Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. '75
Graciela Pinto-Leyva '75
Jeannette Milligan Saal '75
Jan Carrio '76
Bryanne Murray Hamill '76

Lane E. McAlister '76
Myra Lee DiGange '77
Sheila Perrault Dahlgren '78
Marilyn Nola Hammett '78
Joycelyn Jeanson '78
Sandra Tracy Bailey '79
Vickie Morrow Gibert '79
Cindy Tschir Nuesslein '79
Karen DelValle Tampira '79
Claudette Boudreaux '80
Belinda Hutchinson Janeski '80
Cydney Trahans Begnaud '81
Elizabeth Kelly Carlini '82
Renee Rago Schuller '83
Patricia Dufrene '85
Elaine Riecke Bergeron '86
Gina West Ragland '86
Kevin Besse '91
Michael Harrison '92
Betty Trosclair Loumiet '92
Mitzi Ridgell Arnold '93
Craig A. Cedotal '94
Penny Authement Schuler '94
Margaret Johnson Jackson '96
Brenda Shields Simmons '96
Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen '97
Lista Hank '97
Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97
Cynthia Fernandez '10
Elaine Lauga '12
Danielle Chambers '14



SISTER STANISLAUS 2018

Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54
S. Joanne Philbrook Newton '56
Martha Meaux Genin '65
Rita Fay Borne Broussard '66
Patricia Darce Weed '68
Paula Favre Brewington '69
Ginny Graves Clark '69
Carolyn M. Bartsch '70
Gayle Guerin Fertitta '70
Janice Gates Redlich '71
Rosemary Lamia Hemelt '72
Debra Hailes Dumas-Hicks '77

SILVER STAR 2018

Joyce Allen Urode '60
Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62
Leona Lipari Lee '63
Marilee Keating Phillips '64
Susan Thibodeaux Grace '65
Constance Kennedy Proctor '65
Joyce Joy Champagne '66
Paulette Gallant Gravois '67
Mary Ellen Potier Hebert '67
Iris LeBlanc LaBruyere '67
Brenda Crump Trosclair '68
Mary Katherine Landry Bocz '69

Francine Taaffe Dyer '70
Pam Elias Welsh '70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70
Christine Hurley Carbon '71
Maria Compagno Roth '71
Fabian Thibodeaux Whitney '71
Patricia Polito Bruno '72
Mary Doucet Hains '72
Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72
Stephanie Laws '73
Pamela Schulingkamp Boos '74
Donna Blanchard Landry '75
Rebecca Carter Fisher '76
Connie Bousquet '77
Robert J. Martinez '79
Nancy Allebone Capponi '81
Ross Cunningham '84
Deborah Fischer Soniat '85
Veronica Gautreaux Theriot '85
Patrick D. Reed '90
Kevin Adams '92
Lyn Willis Scaffidi '92
Anne McCutchen Silverstein '98
Susan Wentz '11
Bryan J. Camus '12
Stanley Bagbey, retired faculty

BLUE RIBBON 2018

LaVerne Carter Stevenson '44
Frances L. Martine '52
Mary Katherine Brune Mollere '52
Sheila Fredricks Bayer '53
Jocelyn Mae Rice '53
Caroline Turner Barker '54
M. Delores Carter '56
Nell Domangue Colligan '56
Nancy Mynihan Comish '57
Rosetta Anzalone Tumminello '57
Rosemary Myers Breau '58
Millie Nash Worner '58
Geraldine Nolan Fulks '59
Rennie Clark Kaczorowski '59
Glenda Moak McKean '59
Catherine LaFleur St. Cyr '59
Ethel Faciane Friend '60
Mary Arnold Gardner '61
Antoinette Keating Sykes '61
Pamela Maycock Coulter '62
Judith Guion Barousse '63
Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching '63
Karen Krpata Bradley '63
Lynne Gordon Cook '63
Madeleine Moreau Crawford '63
Yvonne Gauthier McGaha '63
Brenda Raben Putman '63
Diane Blumberg Howell '65
JoAnn Pierce Ligon '66
Elaine Ledoux Phares '66
Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66
Virginia Faris Angle '67
Ellen Inguagiato Olivier '67
Carolyn Desselle Righter '67
Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67
Bonnie Glover Williams '67
Lana Collins Craig '68

Catherine Blackwell Holland '68
Cynthia Hebert Liebel '68
Judith Webb McNeil '68
Judy LaFleur Ross '68
Patricia Murphy Solomon '68
Jane Bentel Duggan '69
Lorraine Babin Fearheiley '69
Myra Bascle Porche '69
Josie Bailey Stanga '69
Mary Margaret Cavallino '70
Dianne Theriot Clavin '71
Patricia LaFleur Lewis '71
Stevie Reese McLaughlin '71
Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler '71
Joan Damon Simon '71
Lynn May Griggs '72
Patricia Populus McNeal '72
Susan Pye Stone '72
Myra Diaz Cheramie '73
Barbara Glover '73
Kathy Granier Herman '74
Connie Messmer Brown '75
Joan Hodge '75
Anita Barras Landry '75
Janice Breaux Samson '75
Marion Sams Johnson '76
Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76
Yvonne M. Lassere '77
Donna Abadie Earles '78
Mary K. Maher '78
Elaine Schulz Navaille '78
Cathryn Parsons Smith '78
Karen Howard Smith '78
DeeAnne Posseno Jewell '79
Patricia Lane '79
Bonny McDonald McGee '79
Jeanette Davis Robinson '80
Karen Jameson Rush '80
John Bertucci '81
Melissa Manuel Deshotels '81
James Craig, Jr. '82
Karen Freitag Craig '83
Karen Friley '83
Ellen Gautreaux '83
Joell Ackerman '84
Sharon Larche Spencer '85
Patsy Scallan Caffery '86
Mary Gabriel Russell '87
Marie Joseph-Brown '88
Margaret Yochum Caruso '92
Kim Keith Chatman '92
Kathleen Shaner Hyzy '92
Frances C. Loeske '92
Victoria Monte Hammond '94
Lauren M. Terrio '96
Regina Danner '97
Susan McWalters Rowell '98
Marjorie Krol Cheek '01
Pamela Thibodeaux Jackson '01
Beverly Rainey '05
Keesha Berkhalter '08
Kemberly Powell Johnson '08
Robyn Burchfield '10
Kimberly Dunn '14
Mary Elaine Ponce-Gaudin '16

Members of Note

Continued

*The following were received after
The White Cap 2017:*

SISTER STANISLAUS 2017

Rita Borne Broussard '66
Ginny Graves Clark '69
Allison Wood Drez '91

SILVER STAR 2017

Nancy Mynihan Comish '57
Marilyn Jo Jacob Klein '58
Nina Willis Long '68
Martha Watson Scurria '69
Maria Compagno Roth '71
Ella Ramagos Knight '72
Sherry Smith Simmons '73
Kathryn Ibert Imel '75
Elaine Schulz Navaille '78
Karen Friley '83
Victoria Poche' Millet '85
Estelle Collins Vincent '85

BLUE RIBBON 2017

Marion J. Morgan '51
M. Delores Carter '56
Diane Ducote Rachal '57
Glenda Moak McKean '59
M. Bettie Unsworth Nolin '63
Barbara Mahoney Helm '66
Joan Musacchia Taylor '66
Carolyn Desselle Righter '67
Judy LaFleur Ross '68
Susan Edwards Berry '69
Patricia Thomas LaFleur Lewis '71
Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler '71
Louise Schwartzberg Harrell '73
Fay Boudreaux Stevenson '74
Lynn Battaglia O'Niell '75
Janice Breaux Samson '75
Yvonne Lassere '77
Sabrina Goodlett '78
Patti Granzin '78
Cindy Albrecht Larsen '78
Mary K. Maher '78
Melissa Manuel Deshotels '81
Lori Monte Besselman '82
Elizabeth Fradella Dorman '87
Lori Sherwood Dykes '87
Deena Dodge Rabalais '90
Monique St. Romain '91
Andrea Thibodeaux '92
Sherri Pierce Hayes '93
Carolyn Robinson-Thomas '93
Lauren M. Terrio '96
Catherine Berns '14
Angela Ingargiola '15



2017-18 Outstanding Donors

*Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted
Funds since The White Cap 2017*

Alumni Scholarship Fund

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
Rosalind Goodbread Baldwin '57
Sydney Wood Womack '57
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60
Peggy Begnaud Johns '63
Martha Meaux Genin '65
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66
Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67
Barbara Bonner Folse '68
Mary Margaret Cavallino '70
Jo Ann Rizzutto '71
Jan Carrio '76
Connie Bousquet '77

Class of 1964 Scholarship

Charlotte Voinche Guinn '64
Sylvia Obregon Moffitt '64
Frances Patricia Giddings Mullens '64
Marilee Keating Phillips '64
Judith Wellman Quigley '64
Estelle LeBlanc Rome '64

Individual Scholarship Funds

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48
Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship

Mary Smith Singletary '49
Saundra Owens Robert '56

Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship

Kevin J. Jeansonne, MD

Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship

Martha Phillips Gentry '53
Anne Blinn Faist '54

Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship

in memory of Capt. Richard Whynot
Bartholomew and Rebecca McAndrews
Catherine Nolan
Karl Whynot

Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award

Evelyn Dodson

Geraldine Owens Fields '59 Pin Award

Lynda Dixon Abney '59
Willene Brown Jordan '59

Joan Trapani Ibos '66 Pin Award

Roberta Purvis Bartee '66

Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award

Dr. Cheryl E. Myers
and the Myers Family

Student Emergency Fund

Joan Bero '63 – *Catastrophic Grants*
Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53
Anne Blinn Faist '54
Betty Chalk Putman '54
M. Delores Carter '56
Rosemary Myers Breau '58

CASN Convention Travel

Jan Carrio '76

Arts & Archives Preservation Fund

Hazel MacKillican Wilson '52
in memory of Carolyn Pattison Roper '52
Lyn Willis Scaffidi '92

Sister Stanislaus Gardening Fund

Ursula Allain '65
Joyceyn Jeansonne '78

Multiple Funds

Margaret Tolson Markwood '52
Cecile Ginger Andry '58
Mary Margaret Cavillino '70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70
Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72 ❖

Charity Hospital School of Nursing
Alumni Association
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504.571.1395

Email:
chснааoffice@gmail.com

Website:
www.CharityAlumni.org

Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

Flower Power

“I’m just a farm girl,” says Charity faculty member Pam Kemp, “and I’m always happiest when I’m digging in the dirt.” Pam’s passion for planting has led to an underused space being transformed into an extraordinary urban oasis – right at Charity School of Nursing.

The patio off the school’s main lobby is the home of the Alumni Association’s Commemorative Brick Wall. Pam had already done a good bit of landscaping and fixing up in the patio back in 2015 to make the space attractive for alumni to visit during Homecoming that year.

This past semester, Pam ignited the interest of the Charity Student Government Association (SGA) in going much further, with a vision to radically change how students interact with the campus.

Need... and Opportunity

There has long been a need for an area for SGA events like the end-of-semester Crawfish Boil in the spring and Barbeque in the fall, which have for years been squeezed onto the circular drive in front of the Education Building.

With the sad death of the Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak in the rear yard of the Education Building, an opportunity presented itself. The area could become an outdoor event area.

In addition, the patio could be developed into a lush and welcoming respite by an intense program of landscaping and restoration – creating a Garden Courtyard.

“We are excited to create a safe and comfortable place for our students, faculty, staff and alumni to go have a breather or just sit and enjoy a beautiful day on our campus,” says **Amanda Weinberger**, SGA Treasurer. “We are incredibly passionate about building up our Garden Courtyard and making it useful for everyone, to give a little peace – and show off the alumni wall.”

Making It Happen

The Alumni Association has partnered with the SGA to provide funding to purchase



plants, soil, mulch and tools. Charvet’s Nursery in Metairie donated twelve Encore azaleas, some which now line the area below the Brick Wall.

Flowers, shrubs and even small trees now fill the pots and beds in the courtyard: shrimp plants, hot lips salvia, a Giant Dutchman’s Pipe Vine (that will spread and bear five inch long flowers), red knockout roses, and a bright red bottlebrush tree.

Sitting Pretty

Furniture and features have been repainted. “I trash-picked some perfectly good metal chairs,” says Pam. Seating has been arranged for secluded nooks as well as conversational groupings. Pam painted benches, pots, and even an old file cabinet – which she converted into a huge planter and filled with Mandevilla, purslane, tick weed and hibiscus.



In the rear of the Education Building, where was once little more than a grimy driveway, is now an open and sunny yard. Pam has built up a flower bed there where no one could have imagined anything growing. She even broke up concrete so she could plant a neon pink bottlebrush tree and surround it with white breeches, white grass, white vinca and sea shell Cosmos. The plants and supplies were paid for by donations from **Ursula Allain ‘65** and **Joycelyn Jeansonne ‘78** as a memorial for a friend.

That flower bed is the beachhead for

the next stage of the vision – an outdoor event area for the campus: the Sister Stanislaus Memorial Fairground.

There is still a lot of major, heavy machinery-type work to be done here – particularly clearing out the old roots of the oak and leveling the ground there, but SGA was able to host their Spring Crawfish Boil in the space. “It is so good to be within our own campus, instead of perched on the sidewalk in front of the school,” says Amanda. “The Fairground will be a huge enhancement to campus life.” A satsuma tree and plumbago are putting down roots along the fence.

Pam loves to take folks on tours and her knowledge of plants is extensive. “This was Thomas Jefferson’s favorite flower, the Vigna caracalla, or corkscrew vine,” says Pam fingering some green tendrils. “I ordered it from the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. It will have lovely, fragrant, creamy white and fuschia corkscrew-shaped flowers. It’s a prolific vine that will really spread!”

“Everything was selected to attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies,” says Pam. “Like this magnificent Lady Margaret red passionflower – it screams like a siren song to butterflies.”

Though Pam has personally provided most of the sweat equity, the Courtyard and rear yard allow the Charity community to enjoy that most therapeutic of activities – digging in the dirt. “The students have been so enthusiastic about doing the actual planting,” says Pam. The work is a relaxing, mind-freeing break from classes and studying. “I never knew we had such a love for gardening among our students and faculty,” says Amanda. “It’s great to have so many people involved.”

“Our hope is not only to create a wonderful space,” says Amanda, “but to start getting the students, faculty, staff and alumni more involved in our campus, to build relationships, and boost morale.”

The Sr. Stanislaus Fairground will be an inviting space for camaraderie and fun outdoor activities. The Garden Courtyard is already a place of peace and renewal. The Garden Courtyard is open during regular school hours and alumni are welcome to visit. You will probably run into Pam there, digging in the dirt. ❖

If you would like to volunteer to plant or water, contact the Alumni Office. If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of plants or other enhancements, you can use the form on page 27.

Opposite page, top to bottom: Pam Kemp watering; students and faculty enjoying the Courtyard; Amanda Weinberger and faculty Betty Wolff with their shovels. This page: The May Crawfish Boil was held in the Fairground behind the Education Building; flower bed by the tents set up for the Crawfish Boil; students sit in front of the Alumni’s Commemorative Brick Wall.



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Fall Alumni Breakfast
SCHOOL DAZE
at Charity
Saturday, Sept. 22

At The Ridgeway, 2431 Metairie Road

Metairie Road at Ridgeway Drive, between Bonnabel and Causeway
(Plenty of free parking around the building
and directly across Ridgeway Drive)

*Menu: Eggs Benedict, Fruit Salad,
Breakfast Pastries, Coffee, Tea and Juice*

**Registration and cash bar open at 9:30am,
Breakfast served at 10:30am.**

*Great food, great friends & great memories -
Plus souvenirs, amazing raffles, door prizes...
and so much more!*

**Please purchase your tickets by
Sept. 8 to guarantee your seating!**

Use the form on page 27 and mail your check for
\$40 per ticket to: CHSN Alumni Association,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112
or purchase on our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

You can use this form...

Or visit our website: www.CharityAlumni.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Class: _____
First name Maiden (or Graduation name if different from current name) Last name

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ I want to attend the Alumni Breakfast on Sept. 22



Reserve for me: How many? _____ Breakfast(s) @\$40 each...\$ _____

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their nametag:

PLEASE make your reservation by September 8 to guarantee seating!

Please reserve by the deadline! We need to know how many people to expect because we have to pay in advance for the correct number of attendees.

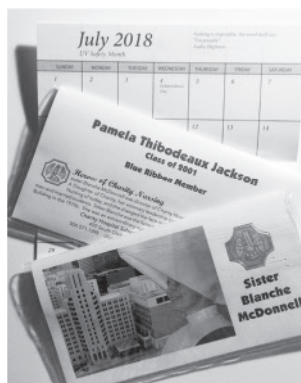
☐ I want to pay my Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Membership*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Membership*
- ☐ \$100 Sister Stanislaus Membership*

or ☐ Sustaining Membership: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at the \$25 level or above, please select your choice of:

- ☐ Personalized CHSNAA pocket calendar
- ☐ Charity pocket notepad
- ☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm



☐ I want to make a donation to the:

Art & Archives Preservation Fund..... \$ _____

CASN Convention Travel Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund..... \$ _____

Sister Stanislaus Gardening Fund..... \$ _____

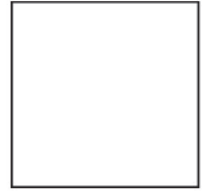
Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ _____

Other: _____ \$ _____

Mail this form with your check to: CHSN Alumni Association,
 Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112



Charity Hospital School of Nursing
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.CharityAlumni.org chснааoffice@gmail.com Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

Making New Orleans

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune selected Charity's **Sister Stanislaus Malone** as one of their *300 for 300*, a series recognizing the people who made the City of New Orleans.



As part of this feature in celebration of the New Orleans Tricentennial, a watercolor portrait of Sister Stanislaus was created by artist Alexandra Kilburn of Where Y'Art, and printed in the paper and online. It will also be included in an exhibit at the end of 2018 ❖

Order your tickets today!

Fall Alumni Breakfast

Saturday, September 22

What is that number after my name?

The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "Jane Jones 2018" means your membership expires at the end of 2018. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2019.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2018 (such as "2016"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a specialized membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining or Friend) and you do NOT need to renew your membership, but we do appreciate your donations!

If you have any questions about your membership, call or email the Alumni office. ❖