



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Winter 2020

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From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

March 13, 2020, is one of those days we will remember, just like Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor. That was my last day in the classroom, and our last day of freedom. I'm sure that, just like we mark time here in Louisiana by the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, in the future we will refer to events as 'pre' or 'post' pandemic.

Our profession has suffered through with dedication and pride, and a new respect that we've never known. Our colleagues have stood in arms to meet the challenge before us. We have delivered on our promise of the Nightingale pledge. We have saved lives and the country.

Finding Hope

For the first time in several months, we see a glimmer of hope in control of the pandemic. The promise of a vaccine brings us optimism, in an otherwise gloomy time. We wonder if our lives will return to normal, but to be honest, we have adapted in so many ways, maybe for the better. Who knew how much we would enjoy spending time outside, visiting our family and friends in the yard or on the porch. Our hectic lives have slowed down - not by choice, but maybe we should keep some of our new habits and ways of doing things.

Technology has saved us in so many ways, the safe way to connect with our friends and loved ones, even visits to the doctor. Telemedicine and telehealth are here to stay!

Our Work Goes On

Nursing education also rose to the challenge of continuing instruction during pandemic times. I'm sure there are children and family members who became 'patients' without a choice as students practiced assessment techniques! Many of us remember, before there were injection pads, practicing injections on an orange. Well, old has become new again. I'm sure there were students practicing injections on oranges before the skills labs could reopen. Students and educators have been quite inventive in continuing nursing education. I know you'll enjoy reading Pat Smart's continuing account of teaching during the pandemic.



2020 Louisiana RN of the Year
Jenn Garnand

*Congratulations to **Jenn Garnand**, Class of 2011, who was named the Louisiana RN of the Year by the Louisiana State Nurses Association in October. Jenn was Chief Flight Nurse at Ochsner Health, and recently became Director of Oncology at University Medical Center.*

The Alumni Association Board and Advisory Committee have kept in touch by email; Ursula, Joycelyn, Lista and I had the opportunity to meet and ensure that much of the alumni business carries on as usual. We gave out several thousand dollars in Student Emergency Grants to students who lost jobs and even family members to the pandemic. The Scholarship Committee will again do their deliberations by phone and email over the next few weeks. We will present our new batch of scholarships and awards in February. As ever, we could not do any of this without YOU, your amazing generosity even in these uncertain times. YOU make the difference! YOU make it happen! Thank you for ALL you do!

New Scholarship Endowments

Now some really good news! **Georgia Helmer '79** has established an Endowed Scholarship fund with a \$10,000 donation (which will be matched by the state) to recognize outstanding Charity nursing students for academic and

clinical achievement and for involvement in community service and/or mission work. She also donated \$5,000 to provide scholarships each semester through the Alumni Association until the **Georga Helmer Endowed Scholarship Fund** can generate awards through dividends and interest. Our profound thanks to Georga for this wonderful gift to support Charity nursing students now and for generations to come! (*Read more about Georga on page 20.*)

We heard from Michele Elliott, the daughter of our dear **Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49**. Margaret has been a regular and very generous contributor to our Scholarship Fund, sending us \$1,000 (and often more) each year, and we have presented many scholarships in her name to Charity students. Margaret hasn't had a great year. After a fall in late 2019, she moved from Florida to Ohio to be near Michele, but Covid precautions in her assisted living facility kept them from seeing each other except outdoor visits. Then this past November, Margaret contracted Covid. She has recovered, but is slow to recover fully. Nevertheless, her thoughts are with helping the students of Charity! She and Michele are establishing the **Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Endowment Fund** with a gift of \$30,000 to provide scholarships for Charity nursing students that will go on indefinitely. What a wonderful enduring legacy for Margaret – helping the outstanding students of the school she loves so much!

Jim Philipps, the former husband of **Barbara Pitre Philipps '61** (who passed in May), has also been in touch with us and is planning to establish an Endowed Scholarship Fund in Barbara's memory, too.

It's impossible for us to express how grateful and honored we are by this tremendous show of support! Each of these amazing gifts is an investment in the future of a great nursing school and in continuing the spirit of Charity!!! Thank you so very much!

An Unexpected Addition

When the estate of **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58** was completely settled, we received an additional \$15,500! We are going to add these funds to her gift already dedicated to a state-of-the-art Skills Lab that will be named in Rose Ella's honor in the new building. And we so much appreciate the support of Rose Ella's family! (*More about the building in the Dean's Report on page 3.*)

A New Year

We sure miss you alumni - and the alumni events! Ever the optimist, I hope we can have an alumni function in Fall 2021. As we move into the new adventure of this new year, let us remember all our alumni members – the ones that we've lost this year, those on the front lines, the educators and the students – and keep the hope of seeing each other soon!

Best Wishes for a great new year!

Patrick

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

The *Alumni News* was started by **Sally Cooper '59** in the winter of 1983, because there was news to share and she didn't want to wait until the next *White Cap* in the spring. So ever since then, we have had two newsletters a year. Who knew what a lifeline they would be - keeping us in touch during these dark days when we can't gather together?

As I've said many times before, your dues and donations are our lifeblood! From printing our newsletters (and the postage to mail them!) to scholarships to emergency assistance grants to archive preservation, we can only do it because of your generous gifts. Please check your dues expiration date on your mailing label and renew if you haven't already!

Staying Busy

Though we have missed seeing each other in 2020, things continue to be busy here at the Alumni Association! We had over 500 face mask orders to pack and ship. We got donations (and mask orders) from many alumni we haven't heard from in years! It is so good to hear from everybody, and I love reading all your sweet notes! Even though the pandemic is keeping us apart, we are feeling very close to you!

We received over 40 scholarship applications at the end of this fall semester, a new record! So many students who toughed it out - and achieved so much - through yet another challenging semester! We are excited about awarding many more much-needed and well-deserved scholarships this spring!

A Year for Celebration

Delgado Community College will celebrate its 100th year anniversary in 2021. As the School of Nursing embarks on its 127th year of excellence in nursing education, we remember that Isaac Delgado was an early benefactor of Charity Hospital, so we have a long history together! And Delgado Community College saved the nursing school from closing its doors in the early 90s! We hope to be involved in the Centennial Celebration – wouldn't Homecoming 2021 be great? - but once again, we will make plans only when we know our alumni will be safe and feel comfortable.

Send Us Your News

If you are on the frontlines of Covid-19, or having other adventures personally or professionally, or have some good memories, please share with us so we can print them in the *White Cap* this summer. We love getting photos, too! Just email us at: chsnaaoffice@gmail.com.

Each of you is in our thoughts. Stay safe, stay strong, stay Charity Proud! Take care - and please keep in touch!

Lista

Dean's Report

By Cheryl E. Myers, PhD, RN
Vice Chancellor for Academic and
Student Affairs/College Provost

As we go through the winter holiday season, I hope this finds each of you safe and healthy.

The 2020 Fall semester at CSN was a success. In August, classes resumed via the use of Zoom video-conferencing for classroom presentations. Following strict college protocols, which included daily symptom screening, distancing, face coverings and frequent sanitizing, we were able to return to the lab and clinical agencies to complete skills and patient care assignments. The faculty, staff and students all put forth extraordinary efforts to ensure the learning process went as smoothly as possible. One hundred and fifty-four Charity graduates received their school pins and diplomas in December. We are extremely proud of their perseverance during this pandemic!

As you know, Delgado Community College has been making plans for a new building to house the School of Nursing along with all the Allied Health programs. Unfortunately this has taken more time than anticipated with the initial plan of renovating a building on Tulane Avenue falling through. This very exciting announcement that has just come from **Chancellor Larissa Littleton-Steib**: The Ochsner Foundation will be making a substantial donation to the Delgado Community College Foundation for the construction of a new Nursing and Allied Health facility! It will be located on the City Park Campus of Delgado Community College.

We are very excited for the opportunity to teach the next generation of Charity nurses from a state-of-the-art building! The current education building has served us well over the years, and we will certainly miss it. However, having a brand new building that can be designed with input from our faculty and students is a once in a lifetime opportunity that we are grateful to have.

In September 2020, eighteen students received \$11,000 in scholarships and awards from the Alumni Association. Without your never-ending support, many of these students would not be able to continue in the program and fulfill their dream of being a Charity nurse. This fall semester was especially difficult for the many students who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Your generosity is uplifting and most appreciated.

On a more personal note, I have news to share. Effective November 30, 2020, I was appointed to the role of Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs/College Provost at Delgado. While I am looking forward to this new professional opportunity, I am sad to



*Dr. Myers at the
December 2020
virtual graduation*

be leaving the daily world of nursing. I have been at Charity School of Nursing for 28 years, the last nine and a half as the Dean.

I remember the first alumni event I attended - it was awe-inspiring! To see so many accomplished nurses gathered in one room, and the Charity pride that was evident in the group was amazing. When I made my comments, I apologized for not being a Charity graduate, but promised to continue to work to instill in our graduates the values, skills, and pride a Charity graduate should have. I hope I have lived up to that promise.

I am leaving the program in good hands. **Dr. Debbie Skevington '79**, will assume the role of Interim Dean. Debbie 'came home' to the program in 2006, and has served as the assistant dean since 2012. I am confident we won't miss a beat in upholding the Charity reputation.

I do plan to attend your Homecoming event when it can be rescheduled, and hope to continue to join in as many other events as possible. While I will assume a different role on a different campus at the college, Charity will always be home! Thank you for your support during my tenure. I wish nothing but the very best for each of you.

Cheryl

From the Interim Dean

By Debbie Skevington, PhD, RN
Interim Executive Dean CSN Campus/
Interim Dean of Nursing

Dear Fellow Alumni,

As the new Interim Dean of Nursing at Delgado Community College-Charity School of Nursing, I want to take a minute to let you get to know me. I am a May 1979 graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing. I had attained what I had wanted since a little girl – to be a nurse. But I was more than just a nurse. I was a Charity nurse!

My area of specialty was primarily surgical intensive care with intermittent stints in PACU. When not at the bedside, I managed nursing units. My last hospital employment was at Methodist Hospital in New Orleans East where I was the Director of Education at the time of Hurricane Katrina.

I obtained my BSN from Loyola University and my MSN from the University of South Alabama many years before entering academia. It was with a pleasant sense of déjà vu that I came up the steps at the front of 450 South Claiborne Avenue for a job interview following Katrina. I soon found that my love of patient care had a strong rival in educating our future nurses. I obtained my doctorate from William Carey University in 2014. Soon afterwards, I moved from my position of course coordinator to that of Assistant Dean. Now, I look forward to serving the school as the Interim Dean, and I look forward to working with the Alumni Association in any way I can.

Debbie

Graduation Awards

Congratulations to all the seniors who graduated in the troubled year of 2020! It has been an incredibly difficult year to be a student and a particularly challenging time to enter the nursing profession. Graduation ceremonies for both semesters were held as drive-through events, with students being handed their diplomas in their cars. The School of Nursing pinning ceremony was held virtually. Not traditional, but happy nonetheless. These will certainly be unique nursing school memories!

We want to recognize the recipients of these graduation awards from the Year 2020:

Class of Spring 2020

Seweryn Mekarski, Honor Pin

Madeleine Reidy, Award of Distinction

Emily Combe, Highest GPA

Andrew Reaves, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award

Kayla Bruce, Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award

John Spooner, Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

Class of Fall 2020

Kokoro Schwartz, Honor Pin

and NODNA Leadership Award

Amelia Ballast, Award of Distinction

Justine Hamrick, Highest GPA

Travis Brooks, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award

Ebony Simmons,

Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award

Michael Gurrola-Coner,

Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Awards

Fall 2019

Chelsea Evans

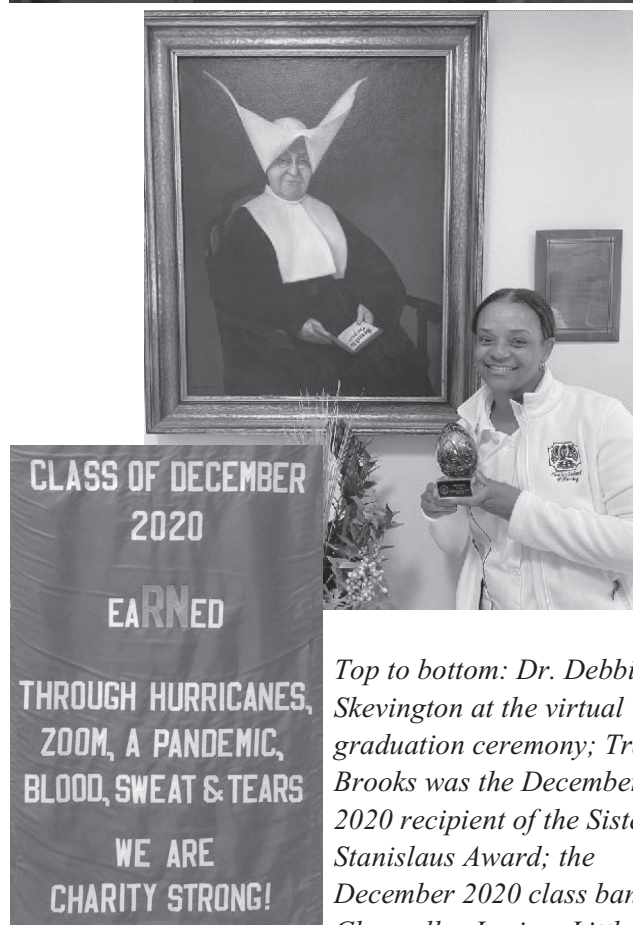
Allison Solino

Spring 2020

Emily Combe

Mary Ellen Mura

Madeleine Reidy



Top to bottom: Dr. Debbie Skevington at the virtual graduation ceremony; Travis Brooks was the December 2020 recipient of the Sister Stanislaus Award; the December 2020 class banner; Chancellor Larissa Littleton-Stieb presents a diploma in the drive-through ceremony.



Add a Few Hurricanes

By Pat Smart, MN, RN-BC, CNE
Professor of Nursing

Greetings, Alumni!

Once again I want to share with you my story of teaching and preparing future nurses in a pandemic. In my last article, published in the summer *White Cap*, I told you about learning how to teach online in one week. My experiences as a nurse educator have continued to evolve!

In May, I accepted the position as the interim coordinator for Level 2. I have been teaching at Delgado-Charity since August 1991. I was hesitant to leave the clinical area and classroom to accept a middle-management position, but I decided to step out of my comfort zone and give it a try. I truly had no clue what I was stepping into! It has been a wild ride and journey.

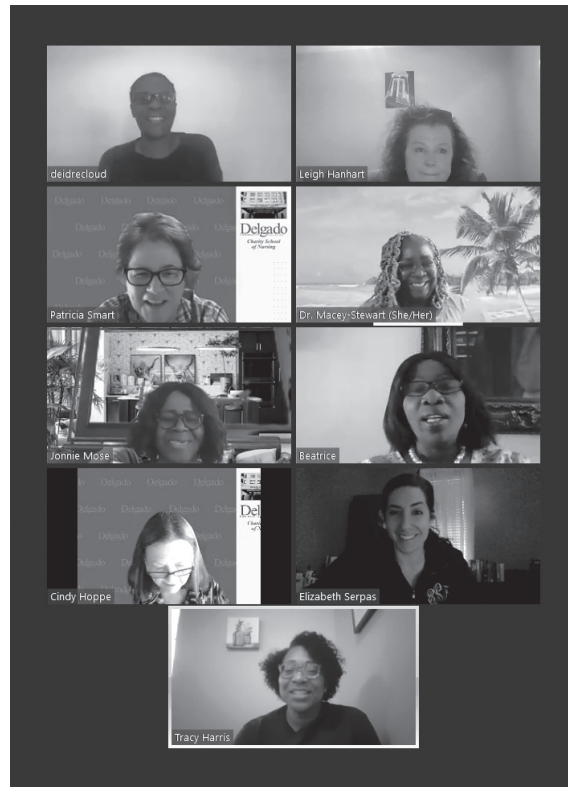
As a teaching faculty, I lived in a bubble. I took care of my eight clinical students and assisted them any way I could to be successful in the courses and program. Nothing is more gratifying then seeing a student you taught receive their Charity pin at the pinning ceremony and then see them in the workforce and hear their stories of being a nurse.

New Job, More Technology

On June 1, I started my new position. Before the summer semester started, I turned my dining room into my home office. My son set up my newly purchased computer and a monitor to function more efficiently. My son is a Mac believer and since he is my on-call IT person, I went with a Mac computer. Unfortunately, it became apparent that Mac computers aren't always compatible with the programs I needed to use. I had to add another computer to my office. I was able to get a loaner laptop from the college. I would alternate computers depending on what program I was working with at that time.

Daze of Summer

For the summer, we had 80 students enrolled in Mental Health Nursing and 120 students enrolled in Pharmacology II. We had to continue to have virtual clinical, since the hospitals were



Top, a Level 2 faculty Zoom meeting - "Do we look like the Brady Bunch?"; bottom, "My dining room/home office - full of technology!"

still not allowing students in their facilities. I had four faculty each teaching two groups of clinical.

We used virtual simulation and had students discuss the patient situations in debriefing sessions. It was the best we could do. Our classes also continued to be held virtually and testing was done remotely. The Level 2 faculty held weekly meetings to see how the clinical course was going and to check on each other. In spite of all, the mental health nursing course

had an 86% success rate in the summer!

I thought that was a rough semester! Looking back, it was a piece of cake! I was learning how to navigate the testing software and the *Canvas* site where the syllabus, class content and announcements are posted for the students. My mentor, **Dr. Mary Barrow**, was always there to help me in so many ways. At times, we would talk through the weekend so I could be prepared for the coming week. She only threatened to strangle me on a few occasions!

Into the Fall

The fall semester began in mid-August. The students in Level 2 could be enrolled in three courses - Nursing II, Mental Health Nursing and Pharm 2. There were approximately 190 students, nine full-time faculty and eleven adjunct faculty I was responsible for coordinating. Add to that, three of the full-time faculty and two of the adjunct faculty were new to nursing education. Can you imagine coordinating that?



My previous teaching bubble and comfort zones had burst, but I was recharged and excited on August 27. We were able to bring students to the building for lab time and return to the hospitals for clinical! I couldn't contain my excitement when I saw students in person. It had been five months since I had

seen an actual, physical student! Viewing their faces on Zoom is not the same.

The sections had to be staggered to use the labs at school to follow safety precautions established by the college. All who entered the building also had to complete a screening process by using an app that Delgado had created. Faculty had to validate that they and the students were healthy before they began clinical time. All lecture classes remained virtual and testing was done remotely.

Technology hurdles continued for faculty and students, but we all learned together. The administration team had weekly meetings to stay informed about the ever-changing world and college policies and to plan for the faculty and students. Our Level 2 faculty had monthly virtual meetings to stay informed and discuss problems and issues. I chose to identify myself as the *leader* of the faculty for Level 2, rather than their boss. The new faculty were paired with experienced faculty as mentors. We worked together to do our best for students.

Stormy Weather

We made it through two weeks and then Hurricane #1 came to the Louisiana coast. The college closed for a couple of days and the calendar had to be revised. Thankfully that hurricane turned west, but the chaos of re-scheduling three courses (with a new coordinator!) still happened. I lost power and went to a neighbor's home to sleep and use their internet to work and stay connected. We got through a few more weeks and the second hurricane comes, forcing the college to close again! Another revised calendar!

The good news is the students were continuing to learn and have clinical experience. Faculty were telling me how far the students had come with clinical knowledge. I had the opportunity to visit faculty and students in the clinical setting. As I talked to students and hospital nurses, I could appreciate how much nursing education was occurring! I was able to talk to students in person and help them apply theory to their patients' conditions. It is truly gratifying to see the lightbulbs going off for them and to witness the learning that was taking place!

Difficult Times

The final hurdle was when Hurricane Zeta did hit this area. Once again, the calendar was upended. Many students were affected by damage and/or loss of power.

This is a portion from an email I received: "I am having to write from my personal email account because my phone doesn't pull up *Canvas* or Delgado email for some reason. I am still without power, over a week now, and no internet. I have three children at home, I am a single mom, and live in an 850 square-foot house. I do the best I can. I strive to do my best despite a not ideal (or even reasonable) environment for learning and testing. I cannot wait to get back on campus for testing. My neighborhood is tucked in between a railroad line and an interstate, neither of which are affected by our lack of power. My

neighbors and I call daily to try to get an estimation of when it will be restored and are only assured that they will get to us 'when they can.' Preparing three meals a day for three kids, on an outdoor camping stove, has been trying to say the least. I didn't write to give you a sob story, because we all have one since these difficult times have started, but I am writing to inform you of my situation."

This student and several others in the program were unable to do remote testing. As faculty, we made arrangements for these students to come to the building and have faculty proctor them as they tested.

Another student situation I became aware of was a student living in their car and not having family support. Their instructor encouraged the student to look to Single Stop, from the college, to obtain assistance. Faculty often have many roles, including being a life coach for community college students trying to become a nurse and improve their lives. Nursing educators and students are so resilient and flexible. At some point, I had to change my Delgado email password and I included the word 'flexibility.' This was my theme in Fall 2020.

Struggling

There were students who had to take a withdrawal due to personal situations and I truly feel for them and those who did not succeed. As you remember, nursing school even in normal times is challenging. Think of the students as they navigated hurricanes and all the upheavals during the pandemic. Some of our students were home-schooling their children, many were having personal, family and financial struggles. I admire their strength.

Students were affected by COVID themselves or in their family. During the semester, the college added a nurse to the Student Health Department to assist with tracking and communication with students. At times the challenges seemed insurmountable. We all continued to fight our way through. My belief that nursing school is a marathon, not a sprint, was never more true than in 2020.

Surviving

By hard work, teamwork and resilience, we survived the fall semester. At many times, my stress response was in full gear. I used antacids to help with the heartburn and continued to walk in the evenings to try to stay healthy. At times, my mind wouldn't turn off at night and I couldn't sleep. There were many days when my prayer was, "Jesus, take the wheel, I'm struggling to drive this vehicle." Then I would see my efforts and work pay off as I talked to faculty or students about the semester and all of the changes.

I have to give a huge 'Thank You' to the Level 2 faculty for supporting me as I made mistakes when I was learning so many new things at one time. I also have to express my gratitude to **Dr. Cheryl Myers, Dr. Debbie Skevington, Mr. Raul Salas, Mrs. Bridget Dufrene** and my mentor, **Dr. Mary Barrow**. They were always available for me as I learned my new role.

As the semester ended, I was amazed we had over an 85% success rate in all courses. This is very similar to the rate when we teach in person.

Keeping On Track

As the semester came to an end, I received this from a student through email. "I had several conversations with other students over the semester about how kind and understanding you are. I believe everyone felt cared for and that you had them in their best interest. Personally, I felt encouraged on the day you visited my clinical at the hospital. You did a great job as the Level 2 coordinator. You have been a Wonderful Coordinator. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to us students!"

Another student shared their story at the end of the semester, "I really struggled this semester. Not so much with classes being held via Zoom, but with everything else surrounding classes this semester. I care for two children, one with a disability. Covid-19 restrictions left me alone with these children in a small apartment. I have had extremely limited respite care. Then throw in the threat of hurricanes, an *actual* hurricane, a crazy election, unemployment, topped off with an unsupportive spouse and... whew, what an exhausting semester."

This student continued: "I wanted to say thank you for keeping us on track this entire semester. You kept us informed about every detail and announcement pertaining to school. So, I say again - thanks to you and the Level 2 faculty for a great semester."

Reading student stories help me remember why I am in nursing education. As a teacher, I can influence the next generation of nurses. In my role as coordinator, I can also mentor and influence new nurse educators. Knowing the number of students they will interact with convinces me that, in this position, I can be exponentially influential for future Charity graduates. This makes the rewards of this position outweigh the trials and tribulation!

Graduation Joy

Graduation is a very gratifying time to be a nurse educator. There were 154 students who finished the program. A virtual pinning was recorded and put online on December 14th. The students came to the school to obtain



their pins and could hear their names called on the Zoom recording.

Delgado held a drive-through Commencement on December 15 at the City Park campus. The College conferred degrees for 1,069 graduates. Several hundred graduates participated in the drive-through ceremony. Two of the students I had in clinicals in 2019, **Savanna Faught** and **Sara Moore**, attended the Commencement and shared their pictures with me. Savanna told me she had tears in her eyes as she drove up and received her degree from the Chancellor. She was so appreciative of the faculty standing in the cold weather to clap for her and acknowledge her accomplishment.

I am sure you remember your relief as you completed the program and the pride you felt as you obtained your degree and Charity pin. Can you imagine what these newest Charity graduates have struggled through and overcome since March 2020? To say I am proud of all the graduates is an understatement!

Charity pride continues to shine through a pandemic and three hurricanes. As we close out the Year 2020, I marvel at how we have navigated the Year of the Nurse in nursing education at Delgado-Charity. I appreciate you allowing me to share my story with you.

Pat

Top to bottom, Pat greets Savanna Faught at drive-through ceremony; nursing faculty at the Commencement give students a socially-distanced high five; Sara Moore and Savanna Faught with their diplomas. "They are among the newest Charity alumni! I know you can see the joy in their faces as they reach their goal of becoming a Charity graduate!"

The Seventh Bale

By Elizabeth Lillian Barron Rupert '59



I grew up in a farming community where many farmers depended on the cotton crop for financial survival from year to year. So it was with my family. From the age of ten, I wanted to be a nurse. My parents didn't discourage me, but they wondered where the money would come from to make it happen. At the start of my senior year in high school, my father evaluated our cotton crop and

announced that he figured we should make seven bales that year. If we did, he said, the seventh bale would be mine to pay for nursing school. I prayed a lot that season while picking cotton, and rode the cotton gin sitting in the wagon on top of my Bale #7 which carried my future!

Walking up the sidewalk to 450 South Claiborne Avenue was the scariest thing I'd ever done. And as I walked through those doors my learning experiences began. Among the things I learned: to be brave (because most everyone I encountered that day was probably as scared as I was), to have compassion, that loss of privacy can lead to tolerance, when to speak and when to listen, what to listen for, how to triage in any situation, and nursing skills that few other schools teach. These lessons served me throughout my life – down many unexpected paths!

Big Decision

After graduating from Charity Hospital School of Nursing on 9/10/59, I worked at Ochsner Hospital on a Med-Surg unit. In July 1962, I met Thomas Rupert, a cute sailor assigned to the *USS Semmes* being built at Avondale Shipyard. We started dating and immediately discovered that we were quite compatible. By early November, the ship was destined to be home-ported to Charleston, South Carolina. Big decision for us: do we start a long-distance relationship? Do we get married? Forget the whole thing? We got married and I was off to Charleston.

I got a job at the Charleston Medical College Hospital on another Med-Surg unit which included orthopedic, neurologic and neurosurgical patients. In order to communicate with some of the patients, I learned to speak a bit of Gullah. After two years I accepted a 3-11 supervisory position. During this time, Tom and his ship were deploying on one to four week-long sea trials. When the ship was in port, crew members had duty every third day. So with me working different shifts, having time together was a challenge.

In 1966, the ship and its dependents were transferred to

the Portsmouth Shipyard in Virginia for an overhaul. I was hired by Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth for a part-time position on Unit 8, which was primarily Med-Surg but included a few beds for psychiatry. This was my first experience with chemical convulsive therapy – quite interesting and a bit disconcerting. After two months, the Assistant Head Nurse wanted to go part-time, so (with the Head Nurse's approval) we switched positions and I became Assistant Head Nurse.

After one year in the shipyard, the *USS Semmes* was deemed seaworthy again, so the ship et al were transferred back to Charleston, and I picked up my supervisory position at Charleston Hospital again.

Sea and Shore

Ships are meant to go to sea and the *Semmes* did not shirk her duty. She cruised to the Mediterranean in late December, and I flew to Italy to meet Tom. We explored Rome, then flew to Nice in France to meet the ship in Villefrance-Sur Mer to spend Christmas with the shipboard 'family.' It was a glorious week – then it was back home for me, and back to work.

In 1969, Tom was due for shore duty. He received orders for recruiting duty in East Liverpool, Ohio, on the Ohio River where Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania meet. I started working Med-Surg at East Liverpool City Hospital. Kent State University had recently established a branch there and I began taking a few night classes. The East Liverpool School of Nursing offered me a position as a teaching assistant to work with students doing clinical rotations. That evolved into doing classroom instruction as well. I enjoyed teaching (which greatly surprised me). Tom was an effective recruiter and we developed many lifelong friendships during our time in Ohio.

Aloha

In 1972, Tom's next assignment was to a ship in Hawaii. We found a nice apartment overlooking Honolulu. Our landlord suggested I apply to Kuakini Hospital, a Japanese hospital in walking distance from our apartment. I walked over and was offered a position on (wait for it) a Med-Surg unit. Starting work there, I realized that all the staff spoke pidgin. I was appalled and swore that I would NOT! But within 48 hours I realized that in order to communicate with anyone – especially the patients – pidgin was what I must speak. To my surprise, I immediately felt quite comfortable doing so.

Within a year, a new Med-Surg unit opened and I was offered the Head Nurse position, which I delightedly accepted. The staff was, naturally, quite varied - Hawaiian, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Chinese, Latino and Portuguese. We had very interesting potluck dinners! Our time in Hawaii was delightful.

In 1976, it was time to leave paradise. Tom was assigned to a ship in Norfolk, Virginia. I took a 3-11 staff position at Virginia Beach General Hospital – on a

Med-Surg unit, of course! Within a few months I was Assistant Head Nurse and within the first year I was a 3-11 supervisor.

By 1980, I was working in Staff Development, orienting all medical staff, doing in-service education programs for all shifts, teaching CPR, and getting certified as a CPR Instructor Trainer. We developed a refresher course for nurses who had been out of the workplace for ten years or more, and a preceptor program for new grads. In 1990, I became Admitting Manager, in charge of all registrations for admissions, ER and out-patient procedures as well as pre-admitting OB patients.

New Challenges

Around 1994, I was feeling burned-out and adrift. I requested transfer to the hospital's Home Health program. Within a year, Hospice care was added to the program and I volunteered. It was the most challenging and satisfying nursing I've ever done.

In 2000, I was forced to retire because I could no longer drive due to Intractable Vertigo. But Tom needed me at home anyway. He had been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1988 and had retired from the Navy after 32 years of service. We stayed in Virginia Beach. His disease progressed until he finally succumbed in January 2018. We had a great life together!

Who could know as I rode that bale of cotton so many years ago, the adventure that awaited me? The unexpected turns of a rich and rewarding life started as I climbed the stairs at Charity Hospital School of Nursing.

Another thing I learned at Charity: pride in the institution that prepared me for just about any life situation. I'm forever grateful to Charity.

I'm donating my three yearbooks, my Nightingale lamp, my pin, and enclosing a check for the Arts and Archives Preservation Fund. Thank you to the Alumni Association for your dedication to the many aspects of a formidable institution.

...and the greatest of these is Charity! ❖



The Mayor of New Orleans recognized this group of Charity students heading to clinicals at Tulane Medical Center and tweeted out their photo.



Masks All Around

When **Lynn May Griggs '72** showed her family her new Charity Face Mask, they loved it! Her nephew, Mason Champion, asked her to order masks for him and his wife. Mason is a legislative assistant with the U.S. House of Representatives, and his wife works for the RNC. They suggested that Louisiana's congressmen might like them, too. "With everyone in masks, the congressmen like to wear something that helps identify them. These would show they are from Louisiana." Lynn was inspired!

She ordered a lot more masks and sent them to local state legislators, the U.S. senators and representatives for Louisiana of both parties, the Governor and the Head of Coastal Restoration (who also happens to be her nephew Chip Kline).

"Once they wear them, I think you will get a lot more orders from staffers," says Lynn. "I wouldn't be a bit surprised if these don't take off like a rocket! I hope they do – to benefit the Alumni Association."

Mason sent a photo of himself with Garret Graves, representative from Louisiana's 6th congressional district – both in Charity masks! Said Mason's wife, "He loved the mask and wanted to say *Thank You!*" ❖

My Tribute to Charity Hospital

By Lynn May Griggs '72

Lynn sent us this tribute to the hospital that she had posted on her Facebook page. The movie, Big Charity: The Death of America's Oldest Hospital, can be viewed online.

That wonderful place will always be part of my heart and part of who I am. I am a Charity Registered Nurse. I was so fortunate to have been educated here at Charity Hospital School of Nursing.

I have seen the movie *Big Charity* twice, and twice it brought me to tears. The movie shows how very sad it was for the people of New Orleans to be deprived of such a wonderful place in their time of greatest need after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. They also were deprived of receiving the best medical care that could be offered at the time and the opportunity to continue the training of physicians, nurses and other allied health care workers during a major time of tragedy that hit this beautiful city. A very sad political story to say the least.

Thank you, General Russell Honoré, for saving our Big Charity and restoring it to be of service again to the people within just three weeks after Katrina devastated lives and property. Truly an unbelievable endeavor on your part and also a tribute to the men and women who served under



Left to right, Garret Graves, Louisiana's 6th district representative, and Mason Champion (in suit), legislative assistant for US House of Representatives in Texas, wearing their Charity face masks.

your leadership. Too bad the powers that be failed to see the immediate need to serve the people of New Orleans, and instead chose to shut it down while medical care was being administered in huts on the street.

So very sad, my forever lovely, beautiful Big Charity!! You are so loved and will never be forgotten! Thank you for your service to all of us who feel so indebted to you for our lives and for our educational journey that blossomed into satisfying and fulfilling careers. We continue services to our patients today, all of which began in this fabulous building. Big Charity, your life and the beat of your heart, lives on through us, your servants. THANK YOU,

THANK YOU, my dear Big Charity! You were and always will be The Best!! ❖



The old Charity Hospital building is currently in redevelopment. You can learn more online at 1532tulanepartners.com

A Country Girl in the Big Easy

By Anneta Stanton Kraus '60

It isn't my habit to tell people that I am a Registered Nurse. They may expect me to actually know something about today's medical world! Sixty years of change makes a lot of my knowledge all but obsolete - somewhere in the neighborhood of one of the typewriters in Miss Causey's 1956 classroom. But every now and then, a sliver of knowledge recalled can be very helpful to someone in my life needing that information.

My career started in September 1957 at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. As a kid growing up in Hardee County, Florida, I dreamed of going to far away places like mysterious, European-flavored New Orleans. When I decided to go into nursing, Charity was my first and only choice. My grandmother was a bit horrified. She saw *The Big Easy* as Sin City.

I was certainly not disappointed! New Orleans stole my heart. That is why I had this push-me/pull-you conflict about going back post-Katrina. It was terribly painful to see my beautiful, gracious, exciting city injured and depressed. My land of dreams was struggling for life and it seemed that no amount of therapy would revive her. I ended up settling in Florida.

A Long History, A Broken Heart

Charity was originally built three decades before the Civil War to care for the indigent ill of Louisiana. The twenty-story, three-wing Big Charity hospital was completed in 1939 with 3,018 beds. It was once called "The Stone Uterus of Louisiana" because so many people were born there, and so many died there. Those stone walls no longer hear the cries of the newborn or the last gasps of the dying. There are no longer joyful expressions of gratitude when doctors and nurses successfully bring forth God's blessed healing. The elevators don't move and the delicious smell of chicory coffee no longer wafts down the long halls. The constant wailing of ambulances picking up or discharging the sick, injured, or mentally ill is only a memory. The huge American flag no longer waves at Charity's entrance. Katrina did what over two hundred years of politics, wars, epidemics, or lack of funds could not do. It closed the doors of Charity. Her loving, caring heart is broken, and my heart is broken for her.

School Days

In 1957, CHSN had around five hundred student nurses from all over the country, but mostly from Louisiana. We had a fourteen-story residence that housed the student nurses, student anesthetists, and some of the Daughters of



Charity that ran the school and hospital since 1834. LSU Medical School was on one side of the hospital and Tulane Medical School was on the other side. Veterans Administration Hospital was in back. There was an additional building of nothing but TB patients, and in the beginning of my experience there was another building of polio patients. One whole floor had nothing but iron lungs.

God's Geese

I was in awe of the Daughters of Charity with long flowing dark blue habits, starched high collars and cuffs, and huge triangle bird-like hats. They were known as 'God's Geese.' I unfairly placed them in such high esteem that I was roundly shocked to find that they were quite human, struggling with human frailties just like the rest of us. That does not mean that they did not run the school like a nunnery to keep a limit on those human frailty issues!

No men were allowed above the first floor (and no men were allowed in the student body). A student could have a gentleman caller in one of three visiting parlors as long as you left the door open. We had to be in by nine on weeknights and eleven on weekends. We were required to

sign in and out at the front desk under the watchful eye of a hostess. No drinking, un-ladylike language, or smoking was allowed.

You were not allowed to be late for anything, and God forbid you miss an assignment or class! If you left an operation or your unit assignment for any reason, just pack your bags. When in our stiff,

starched uniforms, we had to have on the cap, pin, white hose and shoes, neat and clean to the last detail. (Today I am still amazed to see nurses in athletic pants, no cap or pin, sneakers, and adorned with all sorts of jewelry.)

Peyton Place

My roommate was from Pontiac, Michigan. Lil was a year older than I. She had many more life experiences, coming from a northern city. To my advantage she was very bright, a top student. More than once she pulled me out of academic catastrophe, like the time I failed a chemistry exam because I made one of those notorious 'bad decisions' to read *Peyton Place* the night before instead of studying. She is 'Aunt Lil' in our family to this day, a real Auntie Mame type.

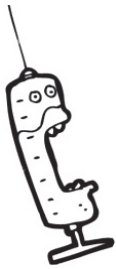
Historically math went in one ear, through my brain, and out the other ear at record speed. I never handed in a paper to Miss Thelma Cole Miller that was not tear-stained. This was a problem that I had to overcome in nursing. In those days you had to use math to figure dosages. Some IVs required eight or more medications to be added by the nurse. Now the pharmacy takes care of it.



Now meds and intravenous bags are sent to the nursing station in single-use packets ready to be used with all disposable parts.

Adventures in Patient Care

As a pre-clinical (a student nurse in the first nine months of training) we had regular classes as well as clinical classes on the hospital floors, such as the technique for giving shots with glass syringes. First we practiced with oranges (Florida oranges, of course), then we gave each other a shot. The first time I gave a shot to a real patient he promptly gasped his last breath. No, I did not get the dosage wrong! My supervisor was right there observing me, but the patient had a very precarious heart problem. He had his third and final heart attack. I almost had my first and final!



The hospital had wards that contained twelve beds. No private suites to be found here. Privacy was secured by drawing curtains around the bed. Early on, another student and I had been assigned the task of giving a bed patient an enema. Enemas were not the tidy little squeeze bottles of today. They were rigs of a glass bottle attached to a pole with rubber tubing leading to you-know-where. We curtained-off our patient, and I rigged the enema. Betty placed the inflatable basin under the patient and said for me to start the enema. Well, everything went smoothly until I felt this warm trickle down my white hose and into my shoes. Betty had forgotten to inflate the basin!

The operating room turned out to be my own private torture chamber. I hated every second I spent there. Even in obstetrics I tried to dodge the bullet. A staff nurse would yell down the hall, "Emergency Section," grabbing the nearest student nurse to scrub up. I would dash like a bolt of lightning for the nearest stall in the ladies room. I would stand on the toilet seat so no one could spot me under the door of the stall until the danger was past and another student had been snared. This technique was perfected in high school, as I would avoid gym class hiding behind the cars in the parking lot and drawing my feet up behind a tire so I couldn't be spotted.

On the Job Training

In our pediatric rotation we had little training or classes before we were needed on the wards. I think it is known as 'on the job training.' My first day, a staff nurse pulled me into a rocking chair, thrusting a tiny squirrel-like baby into my arms, along with a bottle. She told me Joey was six-months-old, with a serious heart defect. She instructed me to pound him on the chest if he stopped breathing and to call her if that did not work. There were no fancy monitors on the wards in those days. This is where my training in prayer at the Wauchula First Methodist Church really kicked in!

One day a Cajun classmate came upon me just as I

pulled out my trusty bandage scissors and sniped off a dirty rope from around the waist of a toddler that I was bathing. She looked horrified! I had unknowingly removed a voodoo charm placed on the child to ward off evil spirits so that the child would get well!

One of the most spiritual occasions of my life occurred one night shift in the newborn nursery. With the help of two aides I admitted thirty-two newborns to the nursery! It was an awesome feeling to look from the twelfth-story window of the nursery over the city as the sun finally came up, burning off the veil of fog over the Mississippi River. It was the miracle of a new day with so many new lives to be lived.

All crisis psychiatric patients in the city were sent to Charity. Whatever the diagnosis, mental patients can be very clever indeed. One little old lady straight out of *Jane Eyre* wouldn't eat. Miss Nightingale here decided she could feed that lady. Sure enough, the woman opened her mouth like a hungry chick in the nest. I was confident and delighted. Suddenly her eyes twinkled. Her head rolled back then forward as she spit the whole mess all over me. She had my number but good! There was nothing to do but laugh with her, and go back to the dorm to shower and change.

Not Much Money, But Plenty of Fun

My tuition was \$290. Because my father was lost in the submarine service of WWI, I received a stipend of \$197 a month. My mom signed it over to me and said, "That's it," my budget for everything. I could only afford two tickets home a year even though I usually chose to work on my day off once a week for \$5 a day. Some of my best

memories are the times a classmate would invite me home with them to some small bayou town. Cajun culture is unique, generous, and loads of fun.

None of us had any money to spare, so entertainment was usually of the nearly-free type such as the zoo, gardens, museum, etc. Often we would simply walk from one end of the city across town through the French Quarter to get chicory coffee and beignets at Café



DuMonde on the riverfront. Believe me, there was plenty of entertainment on that walk! Those were the days when we would see Gov. Earl Long's state trooper-driven car parked in front of the club where his stripper girlfriend Blaze Star danced.

Of course that wild uninhibited carnival called Mardi Gras was the main entertainment of the year! We loved the parades, calling out for the krewe members to throw their beads toward us. To this country girl from dry Hardee County, Mardi Gras Day was somewhat frightening, with everyone drinking, costumed and masked. They left their inhibitions at home!

A Carnival to Remember

One memorable Mardi Gras was spent in the emergency room of Charity on the evening shift. I could write a whole book on the drama of that night! There was the drunk who swallowed a fifty-cent piece on a dare and ended up with major abdominal surgery. Then there was the older, obviously well-off lady from a northern state who had too much to drink and stumbled into a ditch, tearing out stitches from a recent mastectomy. She had been 'rolled.' She had not a dime to her name. I gave her a dollar for a payphone call to her family, then notified one of the Sisters to see if she could help. Social Service was not the essential presence in the hospital as it is today!

A handsome young college student came in after an unknown assailant simply leaned out a window and sliced him across his face ear to ear. The slicer apologized, saying that he had mistaken him for someone else.

Two young cousins driving out of the city had been hit by a drunk driver. As I was taking the blood pressure of one cousin, he asked me about the other. I had just seen that young man die in another room but was not allowed to say so. That was the doctor's task.

As I was leaving the ER the next morning, I spotted a little old fellow in the waiting room. He had been sitting there patiently all night. When I asked him what his problem was, he showed me his ear in the towel pressed to his face.

Home - But No Holiday

We were year-round students rotating through different services with a one-month vacation each year. My senior year vacation was in February. Our little hospital on Main Street in Wauchula called me to come in to work. There was a flu epidemic going on with more than the usual number of patients being admitted. Staff was calling in sick. I experienced as much drama in that tiny facility as I had at Charity!

I recall a very brave and exceedingly tough cowboy that needed an IV. He asked why I was not doing the IV. I explained that at my hospital, medical students started IVs and I had never done so. He stuck out his arm and insisted I learn. His arm was so leathery and tough that the needle would just bounce off. On the fifth try I got a running start and finally got it in. A male high-school classmate, who shall remain anonymous, took one look at me and refused to let me take care of him.

My training at Charity led to an offer for my first job as an assistant instructor in my hometown nursing school for a little over two years. When I married I became a traditional Polly Homemaker of the sixties. Eventually, coming out from behind my vacuum cleaner in 1979, I started to work as the In-service Director (teacher) in a local 209-bed skilled nursing home. Actually I could be pulled, and often was, to be anything from administrator on down. On my fifth shift, I was called upon to be

supervisor of the house on the night shift. I prayed constantly that God would not allow me to do anyone any harm until I could get caught up! I had never even used a commercial phone system, much less sophisticated new medical technology and drugs! But... I had cared for as many as 24 seriously ill patients at one time! Many nurses coming in for jobs had never cared for more than five or six at a time.

A World of Changes

The world of medicine had changed drastically. No more autoclaving. Everything was disposable. New medicines controlled heart failure, emphysema, and other long-term diseases. Pneumonia could most often be cured. TB was almost non-existent. Polio was a bad memory. Advanced surgery, physical therapy and occupational therapy rehabilitated those who used to see a death sentence when they fractured a hip.

The downside of modern medicine was that people were living longer with serious disabling diseases, needing care when our mobile society and two-income couples left them without the traditional family caregivers. Because people were living longer, many were developing dementia (from many causes, but often Alzheimer's), which takes away their very humanity. There was one patient who put it starkly. She said, "You know, we aren't people any more."

After two years in the nursing home, I dedicated the next twenty-one years of my professional life advocating and caring for the elderly and their families in a private geriatric care management company I developed in 1980. Being raised in Hardee County taught me to care. Charity taught me how to put that caring into practice. I am deeply grateful to both.



Plan for Your Later Years

As we enter our more senior years - and especially in these uncertain times - I cannot urge you enough to plan for these years. Talk to your family about how you want to live these years. Play the 'what if' game: posing different possible circumstances and what you would see as an appropriate response to those circumstances. Many times, we plan for our financial needs, but that is all. Educate yourself about the location of the best medical care for serious illnesses available to you. Look at your options for long-term care. Know what your medical insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Veteran Administration programs will, and will not, do for you. Consult an Elder Care Attorney to assist you in setting up your finances in such a way to legally protect your assets, maximize assets, provide for surrogate decision-making, and provide legal tools to enforce your wishes at the time of a terminal illness. The best way to keep control of your life is to plan ahead.

Good luck and best wishes to you all! ❖

Goodbyes

Aloysius Scallan Watermeier '42 was one of the first Nurse Anesthetists in Louisiana and served as President of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She was born in 1918, in Mansura, LA, and lived for a short time in Shreveport, before moving to New Orleans in 1932. She came from a large family that was exceptional for its religious vocations, education and strong and independent women. She worked at Touro Infirmary for over 25 years, and earned a bachelor's



degree from Loyola University. Aloysius liked to say, "I'm the luckiest girl alive." She passed away peacefully of natural causes in her beloved Canal Street home in July 2020 at the age of 102. **Roberta Bartee '66** established a Pin Award in Aloysius' honor because "there are so many Charity graduates who have done so much – all just as unknown as the unrealized potential of each of our new graduates."

Nuncie Correro Garland '46: Nuncie's daughter Ann Foley wrote to us: "Mom died in 2014. She talked fondly of her time at Charity, even in her last days. I am sending her cape and a Sister of Charity doll which I believe Mom would like us to donate to the school."

Rosemary Saucier Laborde '46 was a native of New Orleans and resident of Lafayette. She worked as the Head Nurse in the Surgical Unit at Charity Hospital for many years before starting her family. She served as president of the Lafayette Parish and Louisiana State Medical Auxiliary. She was a charter member of the Krewe of Attakapas in Lafayette and, in 1990, ruled as Queen Karakondye XXII. In 1998, Rosemary received an Honorary Degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana School of Nursing. Rosemary passed away in 2017. Her son Gregory Laborde only recently notified us of her death because, "My dad really enjoyed getting the alumni newsletters. He has now also passed, so now you can remove Mom from your mailing list."

Elaine Guedon Penedo '49 was supervisor of recovery at Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in New Orleans before joining her husband in the family jewelry business, Penedo and Swiber. She died in July 2020.

Rowena Smith Christensen '51: Rowena's nursing career spanned over 49 years including private duty nursing at Charity Hospital, Med/Surg nursing at Baptist Hospital, Nursing Supervisor at New Orleans Home and Rehabilitation Center, and director of Nursing at both Saint Charles Healthcare and Magnolia School. She



retired from active practice in 2000. Rowena also pursued a successful career in Real Estate and was an instructor in Dale Carnegie Salesmanship. Over the years she earned numerous achievement awards, and liked to say, "The value of hard work and knowledge has never eluded me." Rowena passed away in June.

Judith Laing Caraway '55 battled pancreatic cancer for two years before succumbing in July 2007 at 72 years old. She spent more than 50 years as a registered nurse and over the years donated more than ten gallons of blood for those who needed it.

Laura Oursso Watanabe '56 was born, the 8th of 11 children, in Luling, Louisiana, in 1935. She won a full scholarship from Charity Hospital School of Nursing. At Charity Hospital she met James Watanabe in the infant diarrhea section of the infectious diseases ward. As interracial marriage was not possible in New Orleans, she followed him to Seattle where they were married in 1958. They moved to Spokane when he was offered a job at Sacred Heart Hospital. She raised four children, and fulfilled a life-long dream, earning two college degrees with top honors in 1983 from the lovely nuns at the Fort Wright College of the Holy Names. She worked as a geriatric nurse and used to spin stories for her children in later years. She was noted for her vinegar tongue, her dirty limericks, her wicked sense of humor, a kind heart, an encyclopedic memory for trivia and her love of books. She passed away in 2016 at the age of 81.

Sandra Miller Cockrell '57 went on to graduate from Charity's School of Anesthesia, and earned a Master of Marriage and Family Therapy from Our Lady of Holy Cross in New Orleans. She attained numerous certifications and worked in anesthesia, critical care, public health, healthcare administration and as a psychotherapist in private practice until she retired in 2005. Sandra implemented many community based programs in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. She was a leader in civic and professional organizations, and an advocate for the disadvantaged.

Marie Goudeau Felder '57 practiced as a nurse for over 50 years, passing away in May 2020 at the age of 85. Says her classmate **Lucille Capo Castine '57:** "Marie and I became friends in high school in Covington. Then we were classmates at CHSN. Our friendship lasted all these years and when she returned to Louisiana after her husband's death, we were able to connect once more. She was able to attend one of the Alumni Luncheons with us. She was a true friend and she accepted her illness with grace and courage."

Theresa Louella LeMaire Riviere '57 was from Gueydon, Louisiana, and enrolled at Charity's School of Nursing. On a bus ride from Gueydon to New Orleans, she met her future husband. After marrying, they settled permanently in New Orleans. She passed in August.

Betty Loving Braden '62 died in May 2020 at the age of 80. She was a native and resident of Kentwood, LA. She loved being a nurse and she worked in several hospitals including Greensburg and Lallie Kemp Hospital. She also taught many nursing students at the St. Helena College and Career Academy. Ky and Kelly Collette, friends of Betty's in Kentwood, sent us a generous donation in her honor. "We know Betty loved Charity School of Nursing and she will be dearly missed."



Sandra Power Krobert '64 was born in Canada, moved to Florida with her family at a young age, and proudly maintained dual citizenship. In her 20s, she moved to New Orleans, and fell in love with the city and Mardi Gras. She graduated from Charity in 1964 and "adored being a nurse." She passed away in May 2020 at 77.

Sherry Palmer Laurent '65 loved adventure and learning new cultures, and always welcomed a challenge. Born into a U.S. Air Force family and married to a career U.S. Navy officer, Sherry embraced change and new opportunities. Before settling down in Charlotte, NC, she had lived in



sixteen locations, including overseas. Sherry was fiery and often applied Frank Sinatra's "I did it my way" mantra to her life. Professionally, Sherry had a passion for education, knowledge, and public health. While raising two sons she worked evenings and weekends to earn a Masters of Nursing from Catholic University and went on to earn a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of

South Carolina. Sherry served as a Professor of Nursing at Queens College in Charlotte before moving to Carolinas Health System to head the epidemiological research department, guiding studies and trials for medical advances, while pioneering gender leadership. Sherry passed away in June after a short illness.

Teresa Hebert Dias '67 passed in October 2018. This October, her classmate **Bonnie Glover Williams '67** sent us a check in honor of Teresa, writing, "I just want to let her family know that she is still remembered." Teresa retired as Director of Nurses at D'ville House Nursing

Home. **Sandra Owens Robert '56** knew Teresa and wrote this: "In later years, Teresa was dealing with some health issues, including complications of childhood polio, and was confined to a wheelchair. She was a friend with a great sense of humor." We will use Bonnie's gift to create a Pin Award in Teresa's memory.



Linda Weber Lyons Stiger '70

worked as a paralegal before attending Charity School of Nursing. She became a certified case manager working with Exam Works and Quinlin Medical Management. She was a member of Volunteers of America. Linda passed in August 2020.

Kay Toups Jackson '72: "Please accept this check in memory of my wife's dear friend Kay Toups who recently passed away. Please use it for the Student Emergency Assistance Fund. My wife, **Penny Rutledge Nobles '72**, was a proud graduate of Charity. She passed away in 2018 at UAB Hospital in Birmingham from a ruptured cerebral aneurysm. On her behalf I am sending this donation in Kay's memory." - *James Nobles*

Lynel Leonard Pinkozie '73: After graduating from nursing school, Lynel worked at the Napoleon Surgical



Center for several years, then went on to a successful career as a Home Health Nurse for Capital Home Health, ultimately promoted to Regional Supervisor. She spent the last 14 years of her life serving as the Office Manager for D.P.P.

Anesthesia. Lynel was a Sustaining Member of the Alumni Association, and is survived by her husband of

28 years, **Dennis Pinkozie**, also an alumni from Charity's Class of 1973. Three of Lynel's classmates - **Mary Moore Staudinger**, **Peggy Nicaud Prosser** and **Mary Iannazzo Trosclair** - joined together to make a generous donation to create a Pin Award in Lynel's honor.

Richelle Hammond-Soniat '85 was born in 1962. After the death of their mom at age 7, she and her brothers were reared by her uncle. Upon graduating from Riverdale High School, Richelle attended Charity School of Nursing with devoted and lifelong friends, **Nanette Rochon Birdsall** and **Rev. Estella Johnson**. Richelle became a RN, earned her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Dillard University and her Master of Nursing degree from Loyola University where she was inducted into the Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau International. Richelle served her



community through her church, as a youth Sunday School teacher and a church nurse. Richelle joined Ochsner in 1992 and spent 28 years working in the Cardiac Stepdown Unit. She was a Unit Director for over 18 years and was affectionately given the esteemed title 'Boss Lady' by her team. She was promoted to Assistant Vice President of Nursing in 2018. She was

named one of Louisiana's Great 100 Nurses. Richelle nurtured her staff with a spirit of excellence. Many of her mentees are in leadership roles throughout the world. During treatments and throughout her health challenges, Richelle worked tirelessly, rarely missing a day and ensuring that her departments operated with excellence, were well-staffed, and provided exceptional care. She passed away after a courageous battle against cancer in October 2020. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations go to The Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Research Center to find a cure for Leiomyosarcoma.

Clory Aldrich Putnam '91: Clory's daughter Jacqueline Epstein wrote to us, "My mother was a devoted wife,



mother and grandmother and passed away peacefully at her home at the age of 60. After graduation, Clory joined the Medical Surgical Unit at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans in 1991, where she cared for patients for 26 years. Clory retired after Katrina, in 2007, and dedicated her time to her family. She is survived by her loving husband and high school sweetheart, Lex Putnam with whom she shared 45

years of happiness, two daughters, a son, and six beautiful granddaughters. Clory shared warmth, wisdom and love to all that knew her, but those closest to her were sincerely blessed. Clory spent her time caring for others, reading, collecting antiques and traveling with her family. My father and I commissioned an emblem of the Charity Pin from a metal works company to be placed on my mom's headstone." They also purchased a Charity Commemorative Brick in Clory's memory.

Wallace Allen III graduated from Lyon College in 1999 and was partner and co-founder of W. Allen Construction for over two decades. He was on track to complete the nursing program at Charity in Spring 2021, but passed away at home in October 2020.

An Elegant Lady

By Barbara V. Signorelli

My mother **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall** was a proud alumna of Charity Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1942. She was born during the great Depression in May 1921. She and her brother were raised in poverty by my hard-working grandmother with help from family. Mom tried secretarial school, but found her true calling in nursing. A close neighbor and friend gave her the \$25 tuition to enter nursing school. She loved every minute of her experiences, learning, training and living in the student nurses dorm.

She met my father, Robert F. Vanderwall, a handsome paratrooper at a USO dance. The attraction was so strong for both that he kept coming in from his army base in Georgia every weekend to visit her. The house mother allowed them to stay in the dorm lobby longer than usually allowed to visit. They married at the end of WWII and loved each other and raised my brother and me until my father died in 1984, before their 40th wedding anniversary.



Mom worked for forty-two satisfying years in her profession as a private duty nurse at almost every hospital in New Orleans and in private homes. Some patients became good friends, and came to dinner at our home, and kept in touch for years. She had so many memories and stories about her patients.

Her favorite hospital was Ochsner from the days at the Old Barracks through its expansion to Jefferson Hwy. She told many inspiring stories about the Ochsner Founding Fathers, especially Dr. Alton Ochsner, Sr. She said he would greet everyone in the hallways with a smile. Everyone knew he didn't condone smoking and tried not to get caught.

She formed many friendships among the nurses she worked with. After the Ochsner ladies retired, they formed a club, which met at different restaurants every second Tuesday of the month. As I had been an X-Ray Technician and a mammographer at Ochsner, I was welcomed into this group of special ladies I had known since I was a child.

My mother would work seven days a week, usually 7am to 3pm, sometimes doing double shifts. There were many holidays we waited until she got home to celebrate. Yet she found the time to garden, bake desserts, and travel with my father and as a family. She was a great mother.

Mom enjoyed the Charity Alumni breakfasts and luncheons - as did I. She loved meeting new people there, but would ultimately seek out the table with familiar faces



from the 40s.

I am so proud of Mom - for her bravery in life, her dedication and genuine caring for her patients and her love for her family and friends. She was an elegant lady who'll be forever missed.

Elizabeth Vanderwall '42 (standing in this photo, with Barbara sitting at her side) was a dedicated member of the Alumni

Association, attending almost every alumni event with Barbara. She always enjoyed being applauded as the oldest alumni in attendance! She passed away in June at age 99 of natural causes. ❖

Doing What She Loved

By Patricia A. Washington

As long as I can remember my mother **Carol Washington Griffin Kendrick** wanted to be a nurse. My aunt remembers my mother talking about becoming a nurse when she was a child. My mother married at a very



young age. She had four children and was widowed at age 25. After the death of my father, my mother began to work full time in order to take care of her four children.

I remember her being in school off and on while I was in high school and college. My mother graduated from college the same year I graduated from high school. However, I was only the first of her four children. Finally, once all of

my siblings had graduated from high school, were out of her home, and doing well for themselves, did she begin to pursue her lifelong dream career of nursing. I can recall my mother quitting her job in order to totally focus on being a full-time nursing student. I remember her talking about how difficult nursing school was. I remember her talking about her classmates falling by the wayside because they couldn't endure the vigorous challenges of nursing school. I recall her excitement whenever she would pass critical exams. Most importantly, I remember her graduation in 1985.

My mother finished nursing school the same year my niece was born. I recall her being at Charity Hospital on the night my sister gave birth. I was so very proud of my mother! She had accomplished her lifelong goal of

becoming a nurse. I sat in St. Joseph Church for the graduation with my chest poking out with such pride and admiration for her.

My mother's nursing career extended well over thirty years. In hospitals throughout Louisiana, California, Georgia, and Maryland. She loved working in the emergency room and ICU. She often said the training she'd received at Charity Hospital prepared her for the fast pace of emergency rooms anywhere. She often spoke of the accolades she received when doctors discovered she was a Charity Hospital School of Nursing graduate who worked in Charity Hospital. That carried a lot of weight. That said you'd seen pretty much every situation a nurse could experience in a year that took some a lifetime to experience. My mother passed away in April 2016. She retired from a career she loved dearly two years prior due to some health challenges. Otherwise, I do believe she would still be somewhere doing what she loved, Nursing!

❖

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42 (6/2/20)
 Aloysius Scallan Watermeier '42 (7/5/20)
 Myrtle Marie Landry Muller '44 (11/29/20)
 Nuncie Correro Garland '46 (8/30/14)
 Rosemary Saucier Laborde '46 (5/23/17)
 Gertrude Harmon Vaio '47 (7/1/17)
 Billie Hilton Robertson '48 (7/2/20)
 Elaine Guedon Penedo '49 (7/19/20)
 Rowena Smith Christensen '51 (6/30/20)
 Wanda Anderson Perry '52 (9/30/20)
 Judith Laing Caraway '55 (7/22/07)
 Elizabeth Reumuth Landesman '56 (11/17/19)
 Laura Oursso Watanabe '56 (2016)
 Sandra Miller Cockrell '57 (4/13/07)
 Marie Goudeau Felder '57 (5/2/20)
 Theresa Louella LeMaire Riviere '57 (8/28/20)
 Betty Loving Braden '62 (5/9/20)
 Lena Ann Tiesi Porche '62 (11/28/20)
 Sandra Power Krobot '64 (5/18/20)
 Sherry Palmer Laurent '65 (6/2/20)
 Linda Weber Lyons Stiger '70 (8/28/20)
 Kay Marie Touns Jackson '72 (6/9/20)
 Lynel Leonard Pinkozie '73 (11/23/20)
 Carol Washington Griffin Kendrick '85 (4/16)
 Richelle Hammond-Soniat '85 (10/15/20)
 Clory Aldrich Putnam '91 (6/6/20)
 Adine Geraldine Kravet Hamback '97 (7/7/14)
 Florence Logrande Maurin '97 (8/12/20)
 Rachelle Nicole Wright '09 (10/10/20)
 Wallace Allen III, Spring 2021 (10/27/20)

Faculty and Staff

Margaret "Peggy" McElhill Yuan (6/11/20) ❖

Scholarships and Awards

In September 2020, the Alumni Association presented \$11,000 in scholarships and awards to eighteen Charity nursing students. These awards are made possible through generous donations from Charity alumni, family, faculty and friends. We thank you all for your generosity!

Congratulations to these recipients of the Fall 2020 awards (*pictured right to left, top to bottom*):

Level 4

Kokoro Schwartz, Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship;
Robin Loetzerich, Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 Scholarship;
Jade Mills, Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot '46 Scholarship;
Sara Moore, Doris Tucker Burvant '60 Scholarship;
Selena Bailey, Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 Scholarship.

Level 3

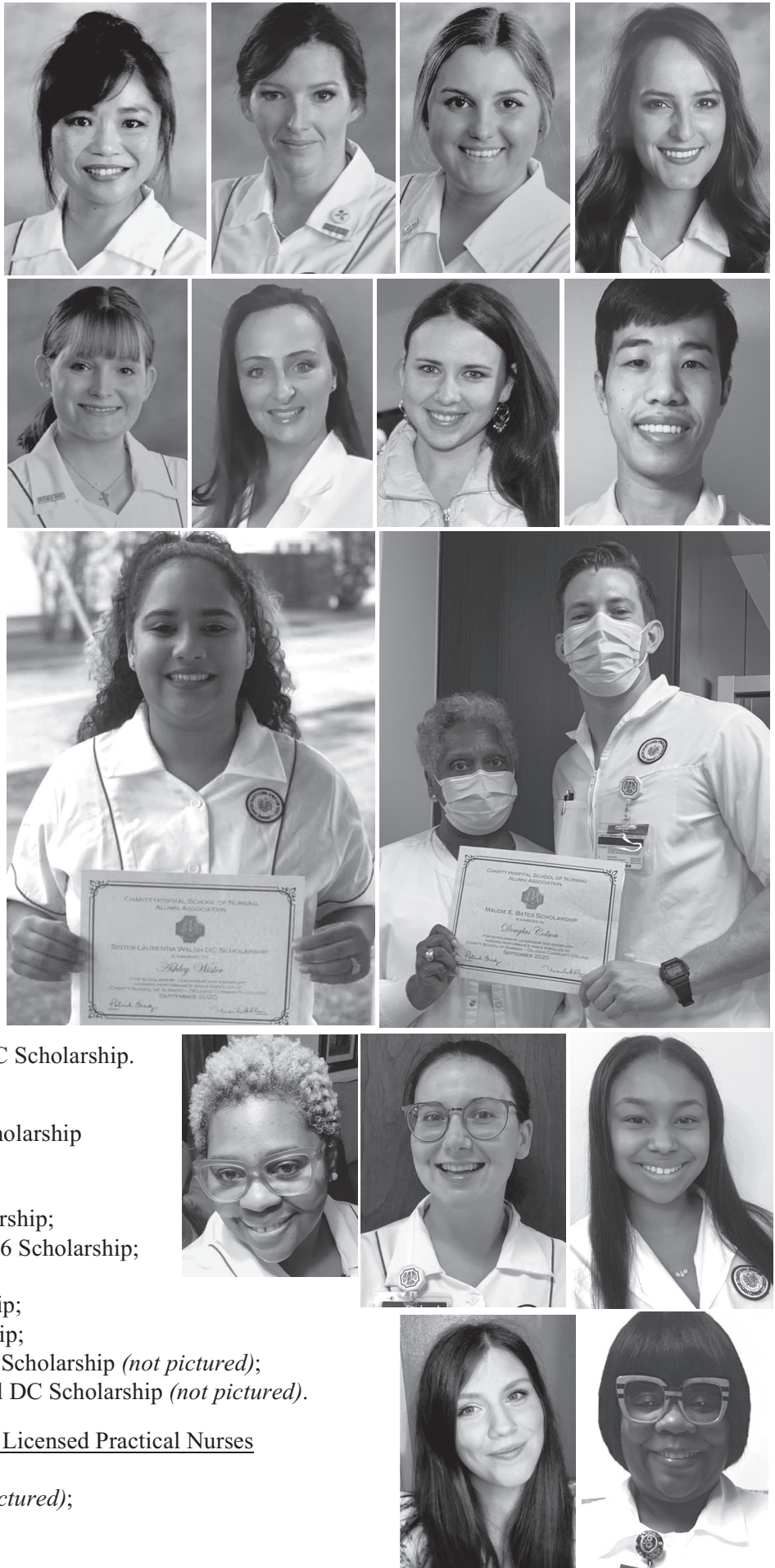
Jamie Adcock, Sister Camilla Gaudin DC Scholarship;
Kathryn Boudoin, Linda Grant McLachlin '78 Scholarship;
Huy Duc Tran, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship;
Ashley Wisler, Sister Laurentia Walsh DC Scholarship.

Level 2

Douglas Colson, Maudie E. Bates '50 Scholarship (*pictured with his clinical instructor Ms. Jacqueline Warren*);
Erez Martin, River Oaks Hospital Scholarship;
Danielle Crais, Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship;
Shareace Guidry, Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship;
Jane Adams, J. Stephen Hank Scholarship;
Grayson Niederhauser, Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship (*not pictured*);
Amanda Sims, Sister Blanche McDonnell DC Scholarship (*not pictured*).

Federation of Professional Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards:

Shahmetra Sanchez, RN program (*not pictured*);
Orayon Butler, PN program.



Alumni Notes

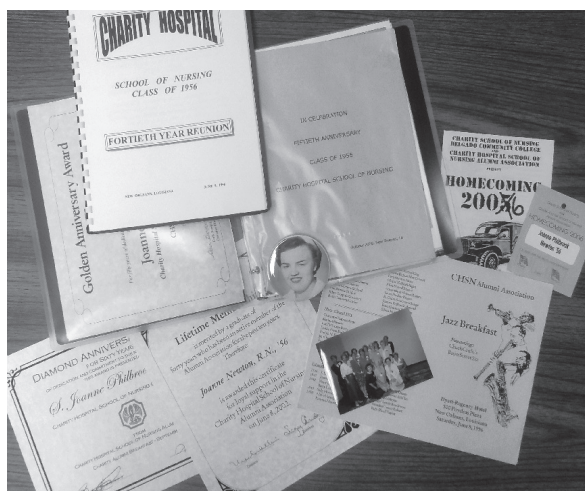
Lorraine Landry Shaheen '50 (*Donaldsonville, LA*): Lorraine sent us \$500 this summer to use where needed most, so we wrote her to say we plan to give a scholarship in her name in Spring 2021. Lorraine responded, "I am so honored and happy to know that I will contribute in a small way to the future of a Charity Nurse! Your letter actually brought tears - no joke! Thank you for this honor. Charity is the best!"

Marion Jones Morgan '51 (*Collins, MS*): "I graduated in June 1951, got married in '52, had two children and got divorced. I was so glad I had a way to provide for my children. My daughter became a lab tech, married, had two children, and died at age 48. My son was a helicopter and fixed-wing pilot and retired from the Air Force. He has two children and lives close enough for visits. My granddaughter manages several doctors' offices in Savannah. One grandson is an EMT. I finally retired at age 83 and work at home - gardening, handwork and painting in acrylics and watercolor. My time at Charity was the happiest of my life!"

Barbara C. Vinet '53 (*Baton Rouge, LA*): "Thank you for all you do for nursing. I treasure my time at Charity, and I read my *White Cap* cover to cover!"

Marilyn Massey Carter '54 (*San Antonio, TX*): Marilyn ordered a face mask and sent \$25 for a Blue Ribbon membership even though she is a Lifetime Member. "I would love to have a 2021-22 pocket calendar. I am so proud of my school!"

Shirley Joanne Philbrook Newton '56 (*Orangevale, CA*): Shirley sent us her 1954-56 yearbooks, and a host of scrapbooks, programs, certificates and photos from her class reunions for our archives. "At this time in our lives, we are in the process of downsizing. It will be hard, but I have decided it's time to relinquish my memorabilia of Charity. Of course, the memories will always be in my heart."



Rosemary Myers

Breau '58 (*Clinton, LA*): "I always say that the three years I spent at Charity were among the most treasured years of my life. I'll never forget them - ever! So many memories!"

(I remember Pat O'Brien's well! My late husband Gerald and I enjoyed it a LOT in my senior year! Good old days!) I enjoy reading the *White Cap* over and over! It's been a rough 2020, my knee surgery was cancelled twice. I'm doing the best I can. My family has been safe - we are truly blessed. I am sending a donation to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund. I just wish I could see my classmates again! God bless, stay safe, and take care."

Diane McMinn Scott '60 (*Broad Run, VA*): Diane ordered a dozen Charity masks ("I will be so glad to have them!"), sent \$500 for a Sustaining Membership and made a \$100 donation to the Art & Archives Preservation Fund. Wow!

Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62 (*Zephyr, TX*): "I enjoyed reading every page of the *White Cap*! Yes, the virus has taken a toll on our country, states, schools, government, military and hospitals. I pray next year will be better for everyone. Ya'll keep up the faith! God bless and keep all of you safe."

Roberta Purvis Bartee '66 (*New Orleans*) sent us a check for \$1,000 (as she does every year) for the **Sister Blanche McDonnell and Sally Cooper '59** Scholarships. "Here's a toast to two models of nursing so they can continue to do what they have done for me, in nursing school (Sister Blanche) and in my first faculty position (Sally)."

Betty Shannon Griffin '70 (*New Orleans*) was featured in a campaign ad for her daughter, Judge Piper Griffin. The ad opened with photos of Betty in nursing school and of her Charity graduation.



"She was a single mother," says the judge about her mother, "and a nurse at Charity Hospital. She worked overtime to provide for our education. And more than material things, what she gave us was character. The values my mom taught... have guided every decision I made in 20 years as judge." As a student at Charity, Betty was awarded the Lee Phillips Shlenker Memorial Scholarship in 1969 for having the highest scholastic average at the end of her freshman year. She served on the school's Judiciary Board and was inducted as a Lifetime

Member of the Sigma Alpha Chi Honor Society in 1970. Betty graduated in June 1970 and went to work in surgery at Charity Hospital.

Janice Gates Redlich '71 (*Lake Charles, LA*): "It is with great pleasure that I am sending my Sustaining Membership dues! I have had many blessings over the years, including, as of July 2020, forty-nine years as a RN, forty-nine years of marriage to my husband Joey, and 70 years of age. Nursing has allowed me many opportunities and blessings. Thank you, Charity!"

Jo Ann Rizzuto '71 (*North Ft. Lauderdale, FL*): "Thank you for my Charity mask. I was making masks for myself and anyone who wanted one, but unfortunately I can't find pre-cut material at present. I am so proud to be a Charity graduate (Class of 1971!) and part of this organization. The best decision I made 50 years ago!"

Warren Hebert '79 (*Lafayette, LA*) was one of three panelists for a July AARP *Coronavirus Tele-Town Hall*.

Georga Helmer '79 (*Lacombe, LA*): "My passion to minister to the sick began at the age of eight with my dollhouse I turned into a hospital. My dolls all had bandages, ace wraps and casts! That passion led me to attend a program at Rabouin High School, and to graduate at 17 as a LPN. Since I couldn't work past 10pm due to child labor laws, I worked part-time and went back to school. Taking the long route, I climbed the ladder to earn a Charity diploma in 1979 and a BSN from LSU in 1984. After 14 years of working in the Charity Hospital Med-Surg, ICU and management, I decided to attend the Charity/Xavier Anesthesia School from 1994 to 1996. Completing 31 years of Charity/LSU state employment, I retired and now work part-time in the private sector as a CRNA." Georga was a Great 100 Nurse in 1988, and was President of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists. "I have been blessed to be at the 'head of the bed' instead of 'on the bed.' I am thankful for God's favor, wisdom and direction. My faith has kept me strong throughout my career. Charity has always been my champion."



Joell Ackerman '84 (*Okemos, MI*): "I always enjoy the *White Cap*. So many interesting stories, including those of passed-on graduates who lived their lives full out and accomplished so much. Blessings and safety to you all!"

Mary Ann Baronne '90 (*Kenner, LA*): "Add the extra few dollars I included in my check to the 'kitty.' Love the *White Cap*! Thank you!"

Julie Martinez '05 (*Frisco, TX*): "I'll always be proud to be an alumni of Charity!" ❖

The Road Forward

By Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66

I read the articles, in this summer's edition of *The White Cap*, regarding the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on both the faculty and the students. *Learning to Teach Online* by Pat Smart and *Lessons in Silver Linings* by Kokoro Schwartz both illustrated the challenges that nursing education is facing at a time when the country needs more nurses in so many different roles. Both articles made me think about how much has changed since I graduated and about the state of the nursing profession.

I have had a varied and exciting nursing career which had its roots in the education I got at Charity, but also reflects the enormous changes that time has wrought. I hope I can give some encouragement to anyone challenged and frustrated by all the upheaval!

Beyond the Bedside

When I graduated in 1966, BSN programs were in their infancy and associate degree programs were just emerging. State Boards had only that year become a national endeavor with many states using a standardized format. Medicare was new, Medicaid still not formulated. Bedside nursing was the focus of nursing education, particularly in hospital-based diploma programs.

For most of my class, hospital nursing was the inevitable choice, either at the Big Charity or back home in a community hospital. Of course, there were other options. Military service, and higher education if one was interested in advancing one's career into teaching or (God forbid) management.

So it was that many of my generation were destined to become bedside nurses until marriage and family, poor health or old age drove them into a different trajectory.

But in 1966, the Vietnam war was raging, segregation was ending. The Voting Rights Amendment and a changing political landscape were reshaping our lives in ways that we could not imagine. Whatever all of that meant to our futures as nurses, my classmates and I were on the precipice of change.

Outside the Box

Initially I enjoyed my hospital patients and the satisfaction that I was actually helping someone in need. In time that role became fraught. The Class of '66 was the first class allowed to marry before graduation, and I was one of those. I suddenly found myself with two children and supporting my husband in law school. Shift work, mandatory overtime, weekend schedules - it was a nightmare for childcare and weekends when my husband needed to study. Hospitals at that time offered poor pay, and even poorer benefits. I had a feeling that I was trapped at the bottom of a hole of my own making!

Surely the profession that I had chosen as a little girl offered more - and I was determined to find it.

Opportunity comes to one who waits but who works like hell while waiting. I realized that this initial bedside role could be a means to an end.

This is not to say that hospital nursing is not desirable or necessary - but it is not the only game in town. I began to think outside the box.

Seeking RNs

In 1969, I saw an advertisement in the Washington Post that Medicare was seeking RNs with analytical training to audit claims for fraud and abuse. Yes, employers did run ads in newspapers and one did appear at an interview and, yes, there was a job for a well-versed, clinically trained nurse - with or without a degree. Suddenly my professional focus changed and my career took off in so many different directions that I am still speechless that I could have been so lucky. And I have Charity to thank for all those varied opportunities.

Over the years I have audited claims, analyzed trends, become a regulatory expert, and a Licensed Health Care Risk Manager. I also worked in social services as a discharge planner and case manager. I have done utilization review and infection control. I pursued advanced education as a medical legal statistician that has been beneficial in the work that I do today. I volunteered doing adoption case studies for disabled children and am currently volunteering in a program that addresses Medicare fraud and abuse.

Retirement and Renewal

I retired in 2010 after 30 years in hospital risk management. Being dormant was not something I relished and quickly found that debating the finer things in life with my husband (also newly retired) and talking to my dog was not sufficient personal satisfaction. My company reached out to me and in January 2011, I began working from home - defending denied insurance claims, arguing cases before administrative judges in the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, and writing opinion papers for upper management. I suddenly found a niche for my aging body and my active mind. The clinical skills that I learned so long ago at Charity were again a foundation for another avenue in a career that I had carefully developed and absolutely loved.

Options Are Out There

The philosophy of caring is engrained in the soul of every nurse, and there are many avenues to a fulfilling career outside of the obvious.

Diploma programs have given way to associate degree programs in local community colleges as they provide the basis for continuing on to higher education and preparation in far more avenues than what was available 50 years ago for nurses just beginning their careers.

Pandemic Pressures

We are all so thankful for the nurses working heroically during this pandemic. They are truly essential! I know many who are on the front lines. So much pressure has

been placed on nurses in hospitals, and has drained much of the joy from bedside nursing. I hope the many nurses who love the bedside will soon find their way back to that joy. But for those like me, who are physically or constitutionally unable to find satisfaction in that kind of nursing, there is a place for us all as professional nurses. We have much to contribute, too.

It is my fervent hope that anyone thinking of leaving nursing - with the belief that it is too great a challenge with too little reward - will rethink the options and look outside that box. Bedside nursing is not for everyone, but there are so many other possibilities.

As I look back at the many roles I have held in over the years, I can clearly associate my success with the incredible education that I got at Charity.

Charity was my entry - and it can be yours. ❖

Endowed Scholarships

Our profound gratitude for these Endowed Scholarship Funds that have been established by our alumni, family and friends:

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46

Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46

Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C.

In Memory of Victor and Rose Jeanne Buccola '49

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49

Patricia Haggerty Horn '50

Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57 and Jim Leissner

In Memory of their children Nathan and Laura

Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58

Georga Helmer '79



A Graduate in Need

Faculty member **Cheree' Wiggins** wrote us about **Michelle Theall Landeche**, Class of 2011. Michelle is a 36-year-old mother of two. She had just started a new nursing job in November when she experienced a brain bleed from a ruptured aneurysm. After weeks in the ICU, she is home and doing better, but since she was so new to her job, she did not have any accrued sick or vacation time and her insurance is still pending.

A GoFundMe account was set up by friends to help Michelle with the considerable expenses she is facing. If you would like to contribute, go to: **www.gofundme.com** and search for: **Michelle Theall Landeche Angel Fund**.



2021 Election Candidate Biographies

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE - Unopposed



PATRICK BRADY, Class of 1983: Patrick is the current President of the Alumni Association, having served on the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee in previous years. He earned a BSN from Loyola University, a MSN from William Carey College on the Coast, a Doctorate in Nursing Practice in 2010 from the University of South Alabama, and a PhD in Nursing Education in 2018 from William Carey University. As a Sigma Theta Tau member, he served as President of the Upsilon Theta Chapter from 2009 to 2011 and now serves as the Faculty Counselor. Patrick is currently a Professor of Nursing at William Carey College, as well as director of the RN-BSN, RN-MSN, MSN and MSN/MBA programs and Quality and Compliance. He has been an active CHSNAA member since graduating in 1983 and resides in Slidell, LA.

TREASURER CANDIDATE - Unopposed



URSULA ALLAIN, Class of 1965: Ursula worked full-time for thirty years at Charity Hospital, mostly in the OR, then part-time for another ten years as a Patient Liaison in the Emergency Room. She retired from Charity Hospital after Hurricane Katrina. She was an active member in the New Orleans Chapter of AORN for many years. Ursula has served CHSNAA as President, Board Member, on the Nominating Committee, and as Treasurer for many years. Ursula also serves as chairman of the Alumni Association's Scholarship Committee which interviews over two dozen student applicants each semester. Ursula lives in Kenner, LA.

NOMINATIONS CHAIR CANDIDATE - Unopposed



EMILY OVALLE, Class of 2013: As a student, Emily was the Student Government President. "I enjoyed working with my fellow classmates and the faculty of CSN towards common goals to improve life on campus." She was awarded the Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship in 2014. Since graduation, she has remained active as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Alumni Association and served as Nominations Chair for the last four years. She is currently working as a Case Manager at Ochsner Baptist "I have great organizational skills. I enjoy creative projects, volunteering in the community and bringing people together. I am honored to work with the Alumni and happy to help this organization in any way." Emily lives in Marrero, LA.

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Two positions - Unopposed



CHARLENE BERGER, Class of 1979: Charlene began her career as an Oncology Nurse at Tulane Medical School from 1980 to 1989. Then she became the Research Director of a Private Research Center for four years. She recently retired from the Pharmaceutical Research area after 25 years as Site Manager of Clinical Research sites throughout the US. Working in many different therapeutic areas has broadened Charlene's nursing experience but Oncology and Rheumatology have always been her foremost interests. She is a very active volunteer for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Charlene has served on the Alumni Association Advisory Committee and has been on the Board of Directors for six years. She is also on the Scholarship Committee. Charlene lives in Kenner, LA.



AMBER STOKES, Class of 2013: Amber is a Peritoneal Dialysis nurse at Fresenius as well as working prn in the ER at Ochsner Saint Bernard. She was the SGA Vice-President for her class while at Charity as well as the Community Service Coordinator for the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN). Amber was the recipient of the Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship while in school and received the Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award at graduation. Amber is a strong believer in community service and has been involved in numerous activities with the Second Harvest Food Bank, and the New Orleans Medical Mission. She fosters animals in need through the LASPCA and Take Paws animal rescue. Amber lives in New Orleans. ❖

CHSNAA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check your mailing label for the year your membership expires. Use this form to renew, or to make a donation.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Class of: _____

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name Last name

Address: _____
 _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home

Email: _____

I Want to Contribute to:

Alumni Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____
 CASN Convention Travel Fund.....\$ _____
 Student Emergency Assistance Fund.....\$ _____
 Art & Archives Preservation Fund.....\$ _____
 Other: _____ \$ _____

Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Member*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Member*
- ☐ \$100 Sister Stanislaus Member*
- ☐ Sustaining Member: a one-time gift of \$500
(and never pay dues again).*

*Members at these levels, please select your choice of:

- ☐ Personalized 2021-22 Alumni pocket calendar
- ☐ Alumni notepad
- ☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm
- ☐ No gift, please.

Mail to: **CHSN Alumni Association**
 Delgado Charity School of Nursing
 450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.

You can write one check for your membership dues and any donations. You can mail your ballot in the same envelope as well. You can also do everything (except vote) online at
www.CharityAlumni.org

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 22. Circle your selections on the Ballot at right, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope and mail to the CHSN Alumni Association.

You may include the membership form and your dues in the same mailing envelope. Your Ballot will be placed in a secure ballot box immediately upon receipt.

Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than January 31, 2021, to be counted.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Only current members are eligible to vote. Check your mailing label for your membership status. The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. If you see "2020" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2020. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2021.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2020, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2021 or greater, or if it is 9999, 8888 or 7777 (special membership categories like Lifetime or Sustaining), then you do NOT need to renew your membership and you can go ahead and vote. ❖

2021

ELECTION BALLOT

DIRECTIONS: Circle the names of the candidates of your choice. Cut out the ballot, fold and mail. You can include in the same envelope with your dues.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE
PATRICK BRADY '83

TREASURER - **URSULA ALLAIN '65**

NOMINATIONS CHAIR - **EMILY OVALLE '13**

BOARD MEMBERS - Two Positions

CHARLENE BERGER '79

AMBER STOKES '13

Check one:

- ☐ I am current on my membership dues.
- ☐ I am renewing my membership today.

Mail your ballot to: **CHSN Alumni Association**,
 Delgado Charity School of Nursing
 450 South 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

What is that number by my name?

The four-digit number following your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "2020" next to your name means your membership expires at the end of 2020. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2021.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2020, you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now. Your dues keep our newsletters coming, and support the many Alumni Association programs.

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

To renew your membership, use the form on page 23, or go online to:

www.CharityAlumni.org

*Happy New Year
from the
Charity Alumni Association!*

**If you received this newsletter in error,
or need to change your address, please
let us know at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**

Cut this out and put on your bulletin board!



Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-571-1395

Email: **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**

Website: **www.CharityAlumni.org**

Facebook: **Charity Alumni NOLA**