



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Winter 2018

Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
Alumni Office 504-571-1395 chsnaaoffice@gmail.com www.CharityAlumni.org Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

I am always in awe of our alumni! Our September Breakfast was a huge success and many of our alumni celebrated milestone anniversaries. I did a few calculations and we had over six thousand years of nursing experience in that room!

Alumni Associations are all about celebrating the glories of the past – but we also, too often, find ourselves saying farewell. Each alumni that passes is a profound loss to their families – but also a huge loss to our Charity community. Each was a classmate, a roommate, a friend. Among those who died this year are **Marie Beaulieu '46** who attended every alumni function, and **Gloria Ashman '48** who gave as much as she could each year to the scholarship program.

But what strikes me is how I see Charity folks responding to these losses. **Joyce Leissner '57** and her husband lost two of their children – and established an endowed scholarship in their memory. **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49** created an endowment in honor of her late husband Vic and Sister Laurentia, and the Hilbert Family remembered their mom **Leona Hilbert '46**, their dad and sister with an endowed scholarship as well. Beth Butler called the Alumni Office after her mom **Nancy Rodgers '83** died to find out how to set up a scholarship to memorialize her. Scholarships, Pin Awards, even just a small donation to the Alumni Association – in so many cases, in times of our greatest sadness, our response is to find a way to help Charity students. To see in each new nurse that graduates a kind of eternal life.

Charity Heroes

We look to the past with joy, nostalgia, and sometimes sadness. But we also look to the future. **Sally Cooper '59** was the Dean of the School of Nursing in the late 1980s when hospitals around the country were closing their nursing schools, moving from the hospital-based diploma educational model to university-based nursing degrees. Like the nursing schools at Hotel Dieu and Southern Baptist, Charity's School of Nursing could be going on



Left to right, Alumni Secretary Joycelyn Jeanssonne '78 and President Patrick Brady '83 at the Fall Breakfast.

today as only an alumni association – no new graduates to become new members each year, all gradually fading away. Sally was

determined that would not happen. She led the school through its merger with Delgado College, the development of its Associate Degree program, and its transition into the Delgado Charity School of Nursing of today.

The history of Charity nurses is full of heroes (**Maria Roach '38**, who died this year at 102, immigrated from Mexico as a child and flew air evacuation planes in World War II!) I am sure Sally Cooper never thought of herself as a hero, but she certainly was! She had courage and vision and an absolute determination that the School of Nursing would continue to produce excellent nurses.

Super Heroes

The theme for our Spring Luncheon will be “Charity is My Super Power!” Along with our nerves of steel and super-human strength, Charity gave us the ability to see into the future – and all the promise it holds. We see the future in each new group of students that walks anew in the same building where we agonized over tests and care plans – and made our friends for life.

It is a favorite sport of alumni to talk about how it was “in my day.” (Hmm, does that make us old?) But here’s another super hero you’ll recognize – Transformers! The power to change, to embrace the future, to see the Charity Spirit reborn in each new generation. We all cherish the legacy of Charity. But the greatest super power we can claim is our commitment to her future and each future Charity Nurse.

Thank you all for your incredible commitment and support for Charity and her students. And best wishes for a wonderful holiday season to you and yours! ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

If I got the *Alumni News* out any later in the year, it would have been a New Year's Edition! I know everyone is anxious to read about the school and your classmates. If you haven't written or emailed lately, please let us know what you are up to.

As always, the ballot for the new Board of Directors is included in the Alumni News, but this year it's a bit of a snoozer – everyone is a sitting board member and running unopposed! Well, we can be very grateful for a wonderful and proven slate of candidates! But if you've ever thought you might want to get involved, just contact the Alumni Office, and we'll send you a schedule of upcoming meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend Board Meetings to see what we do – it's probably less work and more fun than you think!

Don't forget to renew your membership! It's only \$15 annual dues to get two newsletters a year, and to support all the great stuff the Alumni Association does. Renew on our website or mail in the form on page 22.

Pow! Wham! Boom!

The Spring Luncheon will be April 6 at the elegant Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel. It is going to be a blast as we celebrate (Shazzam!) our Charity Super Powers! You know the feeling – when you do something kinda cool and resourceful and suddenly flash on the exact moment you learned it in nursing school! Or you manage to get through the most unbelievably awful, crazy day of your career - and instead of feeling totally enervated, you feel really proud and cocky! You're a Charity Nurse!

Dress like your favorite super hero, or the embodiment of the Charity super ability you are most proud of – or come as you are! But please join us for a day of memories, fun and friendships – old and new! You can mail in the form on page 23, or purchase your tickets at our website www.CharityAlumni.org. The food will be terrific and the company will be, well... pretty SUPER!

My Personal Thanks

On a personal note, my husband passed away this fall, and I want to thank everyone for your kind thoughts, your prayers and your hugs. I especially want to thank the Alumni Board of Directors and Advisory Committee for taking up a collection among themselves and creating two scholarships for Charity students in Steve's memory. Steve was a teacher, so he would have appreciated this kind of memorial. It certainly means a lot to me.

If you can't imagine anything more humbling than that, here it is: the CASN and SGA students made individual donations to create a Pin Award in Steve's name. It is impossible for me to express how touched I am by this. Steve was always proud that I became a nurse. I know he would have been very proud of each one of you. Thank

you all so very much.

Now, everyone go order your Luncheon tickets! And as always, please keep in touch! ❖

Dean's Report

By Cheryl E. Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Time flies when you're having fun - that is definitely true!! It's hard to believe we are getting ready to say goodbye to 2018. Faculty, staff and students have been working hard to uphold the Charity legacy. The classes of December 2017 and May 2018 both achieved a 96% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN! We are proud of their accomplishment and wish them well in their new profession.

I have told you in the past about the plans for a new building to house the college's nursing and allied health programs. We are moving forward to bring this to fruition. The LSU Medical School building at 1542 Tulane Avenue, next to Big Charity, has been identified as the site for this project. We recently began meeting with the architectural team who will be designing the new spaces. The project timeline takes us into the 2020-21 year, so I will keep you posted on our progress.

In August of this year, Chancellor Joan Davis left the college for a position at the system office. **Dr. William Wainwright**, Chancellor of Northshore Technical Community College, has been appointed Interim Chancellor. We welcome Chancellor Wainwright and hope he will be able to come out and meet with alumni at one of the upcoming events.

Our CASN students continue to uphold the Charity reputation. At the recent LASN convention, our group received many awards: Most Heart of Hope, Best Overall Scrapbook, and many raffle and scavenger hunt winners. **William Pellegrin**, a Level III student, received the highest award as Honorary Member of the Year.

Thanks to the generous donations from many alumni, over \$8,600 in scholarships and Pin Awards were distributed this fall to deserving students. Your support of the students is an integral component of their success and we appreciate the opportunities you are presenting for our students to achieve their dream of being a Charity graduate.

Additionally, a HUGE thank you to the Leissner family for creating the **Joyce Bonaventure Leissner and Jim Leissner Scholarship Fund** in memory of their son Nathan and daughter Laura. Their donation of \$10,000 was matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents, creating a \$20,000 endowment to fund scholarships that will go on assisting Charity nursing students forever. It is a wonderful legacy for Jim and Joyce and their children.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful holiday season. ❖

School Daze & A Second Line

It was a magical morning in September as Charity graduates gathered to celebrate milestones and create new memories at the Fall 2018 Alumni Breakfast. As President **Patrick Brady '83** tried to quiet the happy and raucous crowd, he laughed and said, "A noisy group is a great group!"

Jenn Garnand '11 gave a beautiful and thoughtful blessing. As they ate, the extraordinary gathering of over 170 alumni filled the Ridgeway on Metairie Road with laughter and old stories.

Patrick marked the passing of a dear friend. **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '49** died in August, and none of us could remember ever coming to an alumni event when Marie wasn't there. Marie's daughter **Kay Kenney '76**, who always accompanied her mom, brought her own daughter Jeanne. (We hope that is the start of a new tradition!) Kay shared a few words about her mother and **Bobbie Bartee '66** made a \$100 donation for a Pin Award in Marie's memory. Kay promised that she would continue the Pin Award in coming years.

Dr. Cheryl E. Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, gave her report (*you can read it on page 2*) and marveled at all the Charity spirit in the room! Dr. Myers said the faculty tries to instill this same spirit in the current students, and thanked the alumni for all their support.

Special Recognition

Executive Director **Lista Hank '97** introduced **Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57**. Joyce and her husband Jim donated \$10,000 last year to create an endowed scholarship in memory of their late children, Nathan and Laura. Their gift was matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents forming a \$20,000 endowment that will fund scholarships for Charity nursing students forever. Joyce and Jim had been unable to attend the Breakfast last year because Jim's Texas A&M class reunion was the same weekend! We were delighted that Joyce was able to join us at this breakfast, and have her picture taken with the Big Check! Joyce was accompanied on her visit to New Orleans by her three daughters: Blanche, Diane and Naomi. The Board hopes to make the first award of the Leissner Scholarship next fall.

Gifts and Scholarships

After their 50th reunion in 2014, Class →



Left to right, top to bottom: Jeanne Kenney, Roberta Bartee '66 and Kay Kenney '76; Joyce Leissner and her daughters with Dean Cheryl Myers; Classmates Charlotte Guinn, Marilee Phillips, Estelle Rome and Judith Quigley hold a certificate for the Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship.





Top to bottom: The Class of 1968 celebrates their 50-Year reunion; the Second Line.

of 1964 classmates **Charlotte Guinn, Marilee Phillips, Judith Quigley and Estelle Rome** were determined to keep in touch and see each other often. When they would travel to visit each other, they decided the best hostess gifts would be donations to benefit Charity students. That idea evolved into the **Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship** funded by generous gifts from the four friends as well as donations by other classmates. The first \$500 scholarship was awarded in September. Charlotte, Marilee, Judith, Estelle and six other classmates were all at the Breakfast to celebrate the scholarship and the endurance and power of friendship!

Roll Call and Rowdiness

When the Class of 1968 was in school, one of the faculty remarked on their rowdiness – and the name stuck! This year, **“The Rowdy Class of ’68”** marked their Golden Anniversary with a reunion of enormous proportions! Thirty-six graduates attended the Breakfast (and more were at their other weekend events). They all wore matching t-shirts with the Charity Pin on the front and a hurricane graphic on the back proclaiming their status as “Betsy’s Golden Girls” – recalling the storm that struck within a week of their arrival on campus. And they lived up to their reputation! When Patrick and Secretary **Joycelyn Jeansonne ’78** came to 1968 in the Roll Call of Classes, the ’68ers rose in unison and launched into a



Second Line! They wound their way throughout the assembled alumni, throwing beads and waving handkerchiefs and umbrellas to celebrate 50 years!

The **Class of 1958** celebrated their 60th reunion with six classmates in attendance to receive their Platinum Anniversary Certificates. The **Class of 1983** had so much fun at their reunion back in 2013 that they came back for a 35th reunion with eleven on hand to celebrate!

Caps and Capes

The Breakfast theme of “School Daze” was marked by bobble-head centerpieces of nursing students wrestling with giant stethoscopes and syringes, or overwhelmed with giant pill bottles and all the mysteries of pharmacology! Some alums wore silly scrubs or funny nurse t-shirts. **Saundra Owens Robert ’56** wore her Charity cape and cap – “a *real* Charity cap” that had to be starched and secured with pins. “And after the Breakfast I’m donating it to the alumni,” she said, along with her amazing nursing school scrapbook. “No one in my family cares about this stuff, but I know the alumni will,” said Saundra.



Merlin Leonard Simek '53 brought her cape to donate, too. "I want it to make some money for the students," she said. **Carolyn Karpick '68** was in tears when she saw Merlin carrying her cape. "I missed the chance to get a cape," she said, due to taking a few semesters off. A deal was struck – and Carolyn now has a beautiful cape to love and Merlin knows \$200 will go to help Charity students!

Raffles included a gorgeous framed cross-stitch of the Charity pin donated by **Kathy Hug '65**. Kathy does such beautiful work and her regular donation of these cross-stitch pieces is a wonderful boon to those of us whose relationship to needles is purely medicinal – like raffle winner **Patty Dufrene '85**!

The raffle for the *Lost Legacy* afghan, designed by **Rae Ann DeRoche '84**, was won by **Cathy Elstner '83**. The raffle for the papier-mache Pelican Plaque by Joseph Barth was won by **Lisa Penzato Reso '00**.

Student scholarship recipients, CASN members and SGA representatives were there and sold Charity t-shirts that were wildly popular! Our friend **John Batty** was there selling his book *Voices of Angels* and donated one as a door prize, as well as \$50 to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund.



Left to right, top to bottom: Elaine Bond, Ginger Andry, Anne Daigle, Myrna Smith, Lorre Lei Jackson and Lillian Gray of the Class of 1958; Saundra Robert '56, Rose Jeanne Buccola '49 and Lillian Samardzija '60; Merlin Simek '53 and Carolyn Karpick '68; Margaret Loisel and Betty Hebert, Class of '68; Patrick Brady '83 and Lucy Whiddon '67.



Lucy Whiddon '67 won the 50/50 Drawing - taking home \$283!

Cindy Beniger and Linda Monica of the Class of '68 led the singing of the Alma Mater – despite being hoarse from all the reunion festivities, and we parted with promises to see each other again in April! ❖

Left to right, top to bottom: Bonnie McNeese '68; Peggy Johns, Karen Bradley, Judith Barousse and Barbara Murray of the Class of '63; Doris Burvant '60 and Karen Moise '68; Patrick Reed '80 and Jenn Garnand '11; Linda Monica '68 and Linda Songy '68; Lana Craigo '68 and Amanda Babin '68; Sharon Burel '80 and student Monica Hevessey; Judy Ake '89; Patrick Brady, Gertrude McKinney, Cathy Elstner, Donna Dauterive, Lori Morris, Gregory Jacob, Betty Jo Mitchell, Giselle Murphy, Cynthia Edwards and Karen Craig of the Class of '83; Lucille Castine '57; Judy Ross '68 and Billie Wagnon '68; Brooke Troxclair '17; the Leissner Family: Diane, Joyce Leissner '57, Naomi and Blanche; Patty Dufrene '85 and Dean Cheryl Myers.



Charity Association of Student Nurses Stands Out at State Convention

By Brandi Borden, CASN President

The 64th Annual Louisiana Association of Student Nurses (LASN) Convention was incredible! Eleven CASN members represented Charity School of Nursing at the Convention in Marksville, Louisiana, this fall. There were great focus sessions and speakers, including sessions by two Charity Alumni, **Melinda S. Ferrell**, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC, Charity Class of 1989, and **Jenn Garnand**, RN, CEN, NRP, FP-C, Charity Class of 2011.

Hearts of Hope Donations

CASN won the award for the most Hearts of Hope donations! Thank you to the faculty, staff, alumni, students, and families who donated items, and a special thank you to Target of Covington for their large donation of school supplies. Because of your generosity, Hearts of Hope in Lafayette is able to provide clothes, toys, stuffed animals, and school supplies for victims of sexual assault.

Scrapbook is a Star

CASN won the award for Best Overall Scrapbook! **Laura Gamber**, CASN Historian, used her creativity and ability to think outside the box to put together a stand-out scrapbook! She represented each competitive category (cover, description of activities, and creativeness) while also incorporating the LASN theme "Nurses Call the Shots" into our Scrapbook. Laura had so much fun coming up with ideas! She has also designed t-shirts for various events that CASN members participate in.

Students in Spotlight

CASN's *Breakthrough to Nursing* Coordinator, **William Pellegrin**, received a Student Spotlight award! He also received the most prestigious award LASN has to offer, the 2017-2018 Honorary Member of the Year Award! Throughout the year, William helped LASN by designing their fundraising t-shirt, donating several items to be raffled, and contributing his time to help LASN before convention started.

Laura Gamber, **Melissa Mueller**, and **Kristina Landry** won first place in the Convention Scavenger



Hunt. **Kasey Hall** won a raffle for a two-year subscription to Picmonics and another raffle for a Paragon Hotel package including room, dining, and spa service. **Kristina Landry** also won two raffles: for a Picmonics subscription and a voucher for Performance Scrubs.

New Terms

Three CASN members who served on the 2017-2018 LASN Board of Directors ended their terms at the Convention. **Megan Guitreau**,

LASN Fundraising Director, and **Brandi Borden**, LASN Parliamentarian, said farewell to their positions. However, we are excited to announce that **Lindsey McDaniel** was re-elected as LASN Historian and we are confident she will do another amazing job again this year!

New Friends

Thank you to the Charity faculty, staff, and alumni for supporting, guiding, and helping us as we develop our skills as leaders. We also appreciate the

opportunity to attend conventions, listen to amazing speakers, learn about the many nursing opportunities, and build friendships along the way. ❖



Top to bottom, left to right: Laura Gamber holds her award-winning scrapbook; William Pellegrin shows his certificates for the Student Spotlight Award and Honorary Member of the Year Award; eleven CASN students attended the state student nurse convention this fall.

SGA Report

Greetings, Charity Alumni!

The Charity Student Government Association would like to thank you immensely for inviting us to your Fall Alumni Breakfast! We thoroughly enjoyed being able to meet and visit with you, hear your stories, learn from you, get advice and share a wonderful meal together.

One of our members (and a first time attendee) Erin Cloonan, Level 2, writes, "I am truly grateful for the opportunity of attending the Alumni Breakfast. Witnessing the comradery and support showed by the alumni was inspiring. I admire the dedication to fostering the spirit of Charity. I look forward to joining the ranks of Charity graduates who through their mentorship have displayed a positive example of becoming an active alumni member."

To fill you in on past and upcoming events this semester: SGA presented a Breast Cancer Awareness and Hazing Prevention event in October. We had a Susan G. Komen representative, a Hazing Prevention display, gave out student-designed breast cancer awareness shirts, provided pizza, and collaborated with CASN to encourage students to donate blood at the blood drive.

Our Level 4 *Countdown to Graduation* board can be seen on the third floor, marking the days until the December 18 graduation. SGA provided funds to facilitate its creation. The theme is *The Wizard of Oz* and faculty members graciously participated by becoming characters. The Flying Monkeys are Mrs. Dieck, Mr. Durling, Mrs. Shoemaker and Mrs. Garrity; the Tornado that drops us off in Oz is Mr. Salas, the Scarecrow is Mrs. Brown, the Tin Lady is Mrs. Dufrene, the Lion is Dr. Barrow and the Great and Powerful Oz is Dean Myers. We have also



Left to right, above, at the Fall Alumni Breakfast: Erin Cloonan, Amanda Weinberger, Mira Bull, Brandi Borden, William Pellegrin, Shelley Blanda, Angele Rains, Monica Hevessy, and Alexa Mora; below: Shelley Blanda, Karen Bonilla, and Angele Rains were part of the committee that created the Countdown to Graduation board.

ordered the class banner for the graduating seniors.

We would also like to thank the Alumni Association for hosting the Senior Lunch at the Level 4 Professional Issues day on November 20. The students were abuzz about the first year of membership you graciously extended to them and are excited to join the ranks of our prestigious alumni!

The upcoming Level 4 banquet hosted by the SGA for the December 2018 graduating class will be on the evening of December 5 at Andrea's Restaurant. We congratulate these students on all their hard work and accomplishments as they close out their time as students here at Charity.

Our big end-of-the-semester event will be our Fall BBQ, themed "Nursing Skills & Grills." It will be held December 7 in the courtyard and backyard. This is where the Alumni have helped support a beautiful garden area. We are excited to enjoy it once again for a campus event.

We are already beginning to plan for our upcoming Spring Orientation in January which we know will bring another amazing semester full of adventure and excitement for our students!

On behalf of the students of Charity, thank you for all of your support, and the kindness and generosity you show the students.

From the SGA Executive Board:

Angele Rains, President
Amanda Weinberger, Vice-President
Mira Bull, Secretary
William Pellegrin, Treasurer ❖





Scholarships and Awards

In September, the Alumni Association presented \$8,600 in scholarships and awards to twenty Charity students! All were made possible by the generosity of Charity alumni, friends and faculty who believe so strongly in the current Charity nursing students. Thank you to everyone who made donations, and congratulations to these recipients:

Above, left to right, top to bottom:

Levels 2 and 3:

Brandon Filerman, Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship;
Bethany Robeaux, Sister Blanche McDonnel Scholarship;
William Pellegrin, Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship;
Amanda Weinberger, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship;
Gary Pierce, Class of 9-11-64 Scholarship;
Laurie Siekkinen, Gloria Redmond Ashman Scholarship;
Kashanda Foley, Joan Bero Scholarship; **Ahoefa Agbogli**,
 Leona Kruebbe and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship.

Level 4:

Melissa Mueller, Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship;
Alexa Mora, Margaret Elliott Scholarship;
Shelley Blanda, Sally Cooper Scholarship;
Angele Rains, Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship.

Level 4 Pin Awards:

Karen Bonilla, Allyson J. Dean Pin Award;
Kevin Ayestas, Mary Etta Authement Pin Award;
Magan Resendez, Arthur Joseph DeLima Jr. Pin Award;
Natashia Swan, Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award;
Rachel Meunier, Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award; and
 (not pictured) **Kathryn Wittkamp**, John O'Reilly Breeden
 Pin Award.

The Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards were presented to **Andrew Reaves** in the RN program, and **Ahanti Henderson** in the PN program. ❖



Alumni Recognitions & Notes

These twenty-two Charity Alumni were among the Great 100 Nurses honorees for 2018:

Kathy Roth Jones '76
Rhonda K. Eubanks '78
Cindy Pittman Dimaggio '81
Suzanne Jacques Pfefferle '81
Alesia Payne Thompson '85
Margaret Wagley Kohl '89
Charlotte Morgan Parent '89
Stephanie Coghlin Ryan '91
Melody R. Kennedy '95
Phylis Merz Panquerne '95
Cheree Wiggins '95
Holly Leckelt Chuter '01
Shannon C. Atkinson '04
Jennie A. Miele '08
Terry A. Tate '08
Lisa A. Hoffman '09
Desiree D. Compton '10
Dawn M Clark-Young '11
Raphael A. Palacios '11
Nicky Culotta '13
Amy B. Finnegan '16
Tabitha R. Khidirov '16



These exemplary nurses were selected for the honor based on their concern for humanity, their contribution to nursing, and their mentoring of others. The award celebration was held on October 24.

Ruth Christ Sullivan Wyngate '45 (Barboursville, WV): Ruth was a Cadet Nurse at Charity, and after graduating she served as a nurse in the U.S. Army and earned a master's degree in Public Health. In 1960, her son Joseph



Ruth Wyngate '45 (right) with her son Joseph.

was diagnosed with autism, and Ruth discovered how little knowledge there was of the disease, and how many myths existed even in the medical community.

Ruth was a natural organizer, and quickly decided that the many parents who were raising autistic children needed to get together to help each other and become activists to spur awareness and research. In 1965, she helped create the National Society for Autistic Children, now known as the Autism Society of America. Ruth was its first elected president and is on the permanent honorary board of the society.

Ruth was the founder and Executive Director of the Autism Services Center, a nonprofit, behavioral health care agency that she founded in Huntington, West Virginia in 1979. It now provides services in four counties to families who have a family member with developmental disabilities. She retired from the Autism Services Center in 2007 at the age of 83.

Ruth served as a consultant on autistic behavior for the groundbreaking 1988 movie *Rain Man*. Dustin Hoffman worked with Sullivan and her son Joseph when practicing for his role, and thanked them in his Oscar speech.

Ruth was one of the lobbyists for Public Law 94-142 (the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA), which guaranteed a public education to all children in the United States. Before the passage of the law, individual school districts in most states were allowed to choose whether they were willing to educate a child with disabilities.

Ruth has given presentations in countries including Australia, South Africa, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Argentina, and France. She has written articles on autism from the point of view of parents and of care providers, most recently in the *Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders*. She wrote the foreword to *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's* by Temple Grandin, an adult with autism; she was the person who first asked Temple Grandin to speak in public about her autism. She is one of the founders of NARPAA, the National Association of Residential Providers for Adults with Autism.

"My mother is now in an assisted living facility," writes Ruth's daughter Julie Sullivan Winn. "But her long-term memory is very good still and she still reads, does email, etc. She really is an amazing person. Older memories are coming to the surface, as if revealed when the curtain of the recent past is lifted. Her best friend all her life was her Charity classmate **Emily Karam Shorts '45**. She loved Charity and the nuns and talks about them a lot. I think it was a high point in her life."

Marilyn Landry Roccaforte '46 (Groves, TX): "Big Charity played a huge part in my life. I worked at

St. Mary's Hospital in Port Arthur, Texas, and my pin and cap were recognized by several local doctors who had interned or were residents at Charity. I am 92 years old, but in relatively good health."

Ramona Moorefield Updegraff '50 (*St. Petersburg, FL*): "Glad to hear that all of you are still great – and producing great nurses! I graduated in 1950 – the best class ever! I am still active and still continuing to enjoy my past and looking forward to the future – four children, thirteen grandchildren, three great-grandchildren. Enclosed are my dues – and dues for my classmate **Janet Talbot Green '50** in Madison, Mississippi. Please send her the newsletter. Thanks, and God Bless!"

Thelma Walker Byrne '59 (*Dallas, TX*): "My mom graduated from Charity School of Nursing in 1959. Her nursing career meant a great deal to her and her time at Charity is something she always speaks fondly of. Not just of what she learned in the classroom and the clinic, but of the friends she made and the time she spent in New Orleans. She and my dad (who went to Tulane) moved to Dallas in 1968 with four kids (all born at Charity Hospital) and they had one more daughter in Dallas. Mom stayed home with us until the last child was in kindergarten, then she went back to nursing. She moved into administration and eventually got a master's degree in economics. Her nursing career paired with her degree made her invaluable in the places she worked. I could not be more proud of or impressed by her.

Recently Mom mentioned sadly that she lost her nursing pin years ago while working at Baylor University Medical Center. I didn't realize that had happened but apparently it had always bothered her.

For her 80th birthday this past August, her family planned a big celebration on Labor Day weekend. Her husband Gene, their five children and their spouses, twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren all



Above: Thelma Byrne's family at her 80th birthday party

gathered in Dallas to mark the occasion. With the help of the Alumni Office, we were able to order a replacement Charity pin. We presented the pin to her at the party. She was so surprised and thrilled to have her pin again! I've sent a couple of photos from the day – one of her opening the gift, and one of the whole family. Thanks again for your help!"

- Michelle Byrne



Above: Thelma Byrne '59 opening her pin

Bettie Unsworth Nolin '63 (*Bossier City, LA*): "Wish I could be with ya'll this year – maybe in the spring! Once again I am off on a pilgrimage with my church – a cruise of the Greek Isles. I am leading it and having a fantastic time. I retired from the VA in Shreveport in 2000 and have never looked back. I still lead two Weight Watchers classes on Thursdays and Fridays, and walk each day. I've sold Mary Kay for 35 years now. I also bring Communion to the sick in the hospital and nursing home one day a week. I am so blessed to have my healthy husband of 54 years, two children and 6 grandchildren – all grown up with the last two in college. I will send pictures of Greece next time. Here is a picture in France from last year. My



daughter Donna goes with me – my husband won't!

My training at CHNO has been part of who I am since I graduated. I learned from the best and was taught to think and use what I had on hand – LOL! I'll never forget all my training. God bless each and every one of you!"

Bettie Nolin '63 (left) with her daughter Donna in Paris.

Susan 'Scottie' Dowd '97 (*Picayune, MS*) received a Nurses To Watch Award from the American Health Council. Scottie is a RN in both Louisiana and Mississippi and is a certified case manager. She served as a Louisiana Certified Court Reporter for many years prior to entering the Nursing Profession and is an experienced Medical Litigation Specialist working with Louisiana medical malpractice and liability cases.

Jenn Garnand '11 (*New Orleans, LA*) was honored as the Hero of the Game at the New Orleans Baby Cakes Labor Day baseball game on September 3. Jenn threw out the first pitch to start the game and had a radio interview broadcast by iHeartRadio during the game. →

Jenn graduated from Charity in May 2011, and started her RN career in the Ochsner Main Campus ED. She went on to become a paramedic, a flight nurse with Ochsner Rescue 1, and a firefighter with the Third District volunteer fire department in Jefferson Parish. She teaches BLS, ACLS, PALS, and EKG. Jenn is also a mom! She has been a guest speaker at CASN meetings, served on the Charity Alumni Board, and is now on the Alumni Advisory Committee. In her spare time, she participates in triathalons throughout the United States!

Jenn was nominated for the honor by CASN member Kasey Hall, who views Jenn as a mentor. "Jenn is an inspiration to many of us here at Charity," says Kasey. "We are so proud of all of Jenn's accomplishments. Jenn has done so much for others."

Sister Miriam Rivera, S. de Martinez '16 (Oxnard, CA):

"I am truly living the spirit of Charity in a new role my Congregation has entrusted to me. The Auxiliary Sister of our Novitiate works in collaboration with the Mother Mistress for the formation of the new candidates. My mission is to help new Postulants learn to be Servants of Mary Minister to the Sick and acquire the knowledge and experience to be ready to say yes to God not just as a profession, but as their true vocation. It is for me a great grace and privilege to be part of their vocational journey.

I completely agree with the quote, 'Charity didn't just prepare me to be a good nurse, it prepared me for a good life.' Absolutely, Charity has prepared me to deepen the meaning and purpose of my life and give it in service. Not long ago, I came to understand that "charity" is nothing more than love made visible, or better said: love in action.

I truly believe my time at Charity was an important part in my development and in my readiness to serve and give my life in formation now. The love and admiration for my teachers has always helped me to get from them all the good they have and make it part of myself.

I'm so proud to be part of the alumni now. The scholarship I received from the alumni while I was a student was truly a blessing and honor. Please give my greetings to everyone. I continue supporting you in my prayers as you support so many who strive to become Charity Nurses."

Pictured: Sister Miriam Rivera '16 (right) with Mother Mistress Claudia Rodriguez (left), a graduate of the LPN program in 1993.

Tabitha Khidirov '16 (Violet, LA) received the Rookie of the Year Award at the 17th Annual Louisiana Nurses Foundation Nightingale Awards. Tabitha was one of seventeen Nightingale awards presented in Baton Rouge in March. ❖



Facebook Posts

A few posts from Charity Alumni NOLA:

Warren Hebert '79: "CHNO was a great place to learn. I was there just after turning 17, for x-ray tech school from '74 to '76. I worked as an x-ray tech at night at CHNO to pay my way through the School of Nursing from '76 to '79. Then I worked hemodialysis and renal transplant at Charity for my first six months as a RN."

Erin Lambert '80: "Three years at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. Best years of my life. The Big Free was the best."

Patricia Laster Facquet '81: "3.5 years of Nursing School @ CHSN - unbelievable, phenomenal experience. I spent my nursing student years working on W/E 1st, on 4th Floor West Orthopedics and the MER/MAR. After graduation I worked on 10 West Neonatal Unit as Night Supervisor. My nursing education and clinical experiences prepared me very well to work in NOLA inner city schools where my office turned into a MASH Unit. I am currently a Professor of Nursing and Public Health at Adelphi University College of Nursing and Public Health in Garden City, NY. I bring the 'Charity Method of Nursing Education' to all of my lectures and clinical rotations. #CharityForEver."

Melanie Milliman Ledet '89: "Proud Charity Grad! Thank you, Ms. Schaff, for making me stick it out!! Your support and compassion helped me get where I am today!!!"

Angela Jackson '95: "I'm a proud Charity grad. I was born at Big C, Mom worked there for 35+ years, my son was born there, and my career began there. I finally gathered the strength to watch the Big Charity film. Through many tears my heart swelled and I burst with pride knowing that I could relate to the discussions about those hallowed halls... the energy, the miracles, the sense of family. I'm SO HAPPY I found this page!!!"

Richard Bridges: "Charity Hospital and the people who worked and trained in it will always be some of the best. A wonderful building full of history. Can only hope that it will be used for something worthy of the care it once provided."

Cameron McCaig: "I have to say... I'd be seriously interested in obtaining a 'residential unit' in the new Charity Hospital renovation! How many other Charity vets feel the same?!" ❖

Viola Partaker Hondroulis: A Life of Service and Joy

Viola Partaker wanted to join the Navy, but standing in the Wisconsin recruiting station in her stocking feet, she hit a snag. "You're too short," the recruiter pointed to the mark on the measuring stick. "A half inch too short." Viola put



her hands on her hips. "Am I going to be fighting barefoot?" she demanded. She put on her shoes and cleared the regulation height – literally by a hair. The recruiter looked at the determined little woman – and signed her up.

"That was the kind of person she was," says Viola's daughter Antoinette Johnston. "Nothing could stop her."

Serving Honorably

In 1945, Viola went to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, then was sent to Louisiana to take basic nursing classes at LSU. She served as Lt. JG in both WWII and in the Korean War. One of her jobs in the Navy was to deliver mail to the officers, and she got the nickname "Carrier Pigeon" because she was so small and birdlike. She completed her nursing education at Charity Hospital School of Nursing, where the nickname was shortened to "Pidge." She graduated in 1951 with honors, and was inducted into the Who's Who list of Outstanding Nurses at the Smithsonian Institute. She remained in the Navy until 1954.

Viola met her husband while serving in the Korean War, and they lived in Baltimore for a time, where she worked at St. Agnes Hospital until 1958. Then they moved back to New Orleans, and she was a staff nurse at the Maison Hospitalier in the French Quarter – where she worked with one of her teachers from Charity, Patricia Rardin. "Mama was petrified of her in school," remembers Antoinette. "But they worked together at Maison and later at Baptist Hospital and they became lifelong friends." Years later, Viola was Ms. Rardin's caregiver in the months before she died.

Viola divorced her husband when she was seven months pregnant with Antoinette, and never got any child support, so she always worked two and three jobs to feed her three kids and send them to Catholic schools. She took

shifts at the Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital; Charity Hospital; Mercy Hospital and Southern Baptist Hospital. Antoinette was born at Baptist Hospital, and Viola taught at the School of Nursing there.

A Career in Industry

One of her part-time jobs was Store Nurse at the downtown Sears Roebuck on Baronne Street. She heard about an opening for a full-time position at what would be the new Oakwood Mall. She picked her way, in her white uniform, through the construction site to her job interview in a trailer. She got the job, and was the Occupational Health Manager at Sears for 28 years. She went on to create the hospitalization plan for all the Sears employees. Viola was instrumental in starting the Greater New Orleans Industrial Nurses Association, served as its President from 1974 to 1976, and implemented the Continuing Education program for Occupational Health Nursing at Delgado College.

An Industrious Volunteer

Viola volunteered regularly for the American Red Cross, assisting in relief efforts for Hurricane Camille in 1969, working the Tulane games and on Canal Street on Mardi Gras Day from 1970 to 1975 to help anyone who got injured in the festivities.

Even after she retired, Viola always stayed busy. She was a tireless volunteer for the St. Mary Magdalene Fair in West Metairie – and she was named the World Champion Shrimp Defroster! With Antoinette's help, she would thaw 250 pounds of shrimp a day, a total of 900 pounds for the jambalaya, gumbo and fried shrimp dishes served at the fair. She also worked part-time for a catering company.



Holiday Fun

Sears had a lasting impact on Viola - she loved the store decorations and collected the retired displays. Every holiday she would decorate her house in grand fashion. "For Columbus Day, she had three big sailing ships in the living room. At Christmas, it was nutcrackers," laughs Antoinette. "It looked like Macy's!" Viola also loved to costume for Mardi Gras

every year, often in outfits she made herself. In 2002, at the age of 77, she found a big Statue of Liberty mask at a Goodwill Store, dyed a sheet to wrap herself in, made a torch to carry, and walked down St. Charles Avenue getting photographed by everyone.

"We tried to throw Mama a surprise birthday party when she was 75," says Antoinette, "But she got wind of it and shut us down. So we tried again when she was 84. We figured she'd never suspect since 84 isn't a landmark birthday. It worked – and she was really surprised!" →



Antoinette Johnston holds a portrait of her mother Viola Hondroulis in Navy uniform.

Charity Memories

On December 17, 2015, at the age of 90, Viola “slid into St. Peter’s care. Literally slid, I think, because she was anointed with oil four times!” laughs Antoinette. “There is a eucharist that talks about ‘partaking’ and, at her funeral, the priest said that she was a ‘partaker of life’ – a play on her maiden name, Partaker. That was so true. She lived a great life. She was not only an interesting person, but she was interested in others, too,” says Antoinette. “She and I were joined at the hip – we did everything together. I miss her so much.”

Antoinette visited the School of Nursing to donate a collection of Viola’s nursing memorabilia to our archives. “I’m going to give all her Navy mementoes to the World War II Museum,” says Antoinette. Among the items Antoinette gave to Charity were Viola’s graduation pin, SAC pin, two nursing caps – one with her senior black stripe, ivory uniform buttons, her diploma, and her class’s “Last Will” – where she bequeathed her height to a classmate. Viola saved all the cards she got for her Charity graduation as well as alumni newsletters and correspondence, and her Commemorative Brick certificate. She also held onto the program from the September 1949 Capping Ceremony at Charity where she served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. In the program is a little prayer by Florence Westman that in a few lines seems to capture a bit of Viola’s philosophy of life: “I’ve loved it all, dear God... I loved it, and I tried to do it right.”

Another item tucked away in her papers was a yellowed handwritten prayer to Saint Catherine – perhaps given to her by a patient? At the bottom of the page, it reads: “To Miss Partaker: The most wonderful nurse I have ever met, or can ever hope to meet. God bless you.” ❖

Got Informed Consent? Thank Viola Hondroulis

Since 1975, Louisiana’s Uniform Consent Law had provided that the consent form for surgery could be a standard form, used for any procedure. Though largely

intended to basically protect a doctor from charges of battery (or a patient ‘changing his mind’ about having the procedure after the fact), the law in effect barred any claim against a doctor based on lack of informed consent if the standard form was signed.

In 1981, Viola Hondroulis was suffering from back pain, and her physician told her she needed surgery. She underwent a laminectomy that resulted in incontinence and numbness in one leg. She sued the surgeon because he had not told her there was a possibility she could lose control of her bladder as a result of the surgery.

Based on the Uniform Consent Law, the lower courts dismissed her claim but, in 1989, the Louisiana Supreme Court reversed those decisions, stating that simply presenting a patient with the same form used for every procedure did not indicate that she was adequately informed of the risks, or that she would have agreed to the procedure had she known the risk. (The court actually called it ‘absurd’ that the same language could be copied for every surgical procedure.) The Supreme Court stated that it was “the physician’s duty to disclose all known ‘material’ risks that are not obvious... allowing a reasonable person in the patient’s position to decide whether or not to proceed with the recommended treatment.”

Walking through a Mine Field

Many physicians were horrified with the court’s decision, some imagining that all consents would have to be videotaped to prove that they had presented the hundreds of possible things that could go wrong. One surgeon opined: “When a patient who is sick comes to your office, it is like someone who’s dying of thirst. She is looking to you to help her find a water hole. Now you may have to walk through a bunch of mine fields to find it, but she doesn’t want a description of the number of mines, where they stand, how you have to avoid them, or how much charge they got in them.” Doctors called it an assault on the patient-physician relationship and predicted that the decision would not be allowed to stand.

But the legislature took up the issue almost immediately and enacted amendments to the Uniform Consent Law that codified much of what was said in the Hondroulis case – that it was the doctor’s duty to provide the patient with information on risks specific to the procedure, on the likelihood of those risks, on alternative treatments, and the risks of doing nothing – and do it in language the patient can understand. An amendment also created the Louisiana Medical Disclosure Panel to prepare a list of what procedures required a consent and what risks should be disclosed for each procedure.

Thus the law in Louisiana endorses the notion that “informed consent... is based on the principle that every human being of adult years and sound mind has a right to determine what shall be done to his or her own body.”

And for that, you can thank a nurse. ❖

Old Yearbooks: You Want 'Em, We Want 'Em.

We have old yearbooks available! If you want one shipped, it's \$5 for shipping & handling. If you want to pick up, they are FREE! If you'd like to donate yours, we'll take it!

Most of the books listed below we have in large numbers, but * after the year indicates we only have two or three, so they may go fast. Please call or email the office to check availability.

Please note: If you graduated in December, your senior photo will be in the following year's yearbook.

The yearbooks available are: 1964*, 1969*, 1972*, 1973*, 1974*, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983*, 1984*, 1987*, 1988*, 1989*, 1992*, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004.

We Want These Years!

If, on the other hand, you would like to find a loving forever home for your yearbook, we would love to get extra copies of these yearbooks: 1938 through 1962 (especially 1951, 1952, 1956 through 1962!), 1965, 1968, 1978 and 1986. Just mail to our office: CHSN Alumni Association, Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112. Ship by "Media Mail" at the Post Office and it's pretty cheap. Or just drop off at the information desk at the school!

How to Order

If you want a yearbook shipped to you, you can order on our website: www.CharityAlumni.org. Click on the *Order Online* button and scroll down to the very bottom of the list, then click on page 3. You'll see the listing on that page.

If you want to pick one up at the information desk at the School of Nursing, there is no charge. But you have to notify us in advance! (Please do NOT just show up and ask for a yearbook. They will only be pulled out of storage when you contact us.) Please email the Alumni Office at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com or call 504-571-1395 to arrange for pick up, or to check availability on any years before you order. ❖



Reunion News

Classes of 1977, 1978, and 1979 and friends:

February 9 at Southport Hall

200 Monticello Ave.

Jefferson, LA 70121

7 to 10 pm

\$46 per person.

Open bar, buffet and
passed hors d'oeuvres.

For more information contact

Ellen Williams Manieri at ellenmanieri@gmail.com
or 504.232.8478. Please pay by February 2.



To order your ticket, go to: www.CharityAlumni.org

In the upper right corner, click on *Order Online*.

The second item on the list is the 77/78/79 Reunion.

Click on *See Details* to purchase your ticket.

Class of 1949: Seventy Years

Please contact: Rose Jeanne Buccola
104 Burguières Lane, Destrehan, LA 70047

"To the '49ers – Class of 49, not the Gold Rush year! We're looking forward to celebrating our 70th anniversary at the April 6 Luncheon. Please write to me! I know not everyone will be able to attend but, even if you can't, please send a bio and photograph so I can assemble a class booklet for everyone. Include a current phone number, too. We want to know about your career, your hobbies, your health, your kids! I've heard from **Florence Uzee Coleman** in Mobile and **Annita Verzal McReynold** in Texas (neither will be able to make it), and a few who are planning to attend, but I want to hear from the rest of you! We are still trying to locate Carmen Harbour Albach, Sarah Robbins Austin, Agnes Courtney Franz, Margaret Conway King, Delores Vasquez Malmquist, Annie Aigner Poole, Rosemary Borne Priest, Mary Neel Starbuck Sadler and Pauline Thompson Walsh. If you can help, please let me know. I'm thinking about you - but I need to hear from you!" – Rose Jeanne Buccola '49

Class of 1969: Fifty Year Reunion

Please contact: Juanita Gauthier Deshotel
juanitagauthier@bellsouth.net

Class of 1959: Sixty Year Reunion

Please contact: Suzy Hooks Andry
susuhooks@yahoo.com



Goodbyes

Maria Garcia Roach '38: Maria Esperanza Garcia was born in 1915, in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Her father, Alberto Garcia, was a former medical missionary who



came to New Orleans to study at Tulane University School of Medicine. While in New Orleans, he performed the first open heart surgery in Louisiana at Charity Hospital, on a young black cardiac trauma patient during Mardi Gras celebrations.

Dr. Garcia and his wife settled in Austin. He was the first U.S.-trained Mexican American

physician to practice medicine in Austin. The couple was dedicated to gaining social equality and justice for Mexican Americans in Austin. They created, edited, and published the first Spanish-language newspaper in Austin, *La Vanguardia*, and helped establish labor organizations to represent Mexican laborers in the United States.

Maria attended the University of Texas at Austin, graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1938, then trained as a nurse anesthetist at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. She taught anesthesia to medical students and physicians from the Tulane University School of Medicine. She also earned her private pilot license in 1938 at the New Orleans Municipal Airport.

At the outbreak of hostilities with the Axis powers, Maria volunteered her services to the Army Air Corps in 1942. She had initially intended to accompany Tulane's hospital unit for deployment as a field hospital, but due to her pilot training and nursing experience she was instead selected to join the fledgling Army Air Corps Medical/Air Evacuation system at Bowman Field, Kentucky, where she received her military pilot wings.

First Lieutenant Maria Garcia attended to numerous wounded soldiers during evacuation flights to the United States from the battlefields of North Africa, Asia, and Europe. She would frequently pilot some of these flights as a relief pilot, as she was qualified to fly four-engine aircraft. She subsequently became an instructor in air evacuation at Randolph Field, Texas. A decorated Army Air Corps officer, she continued serving her country with the State Department after the war.

Maria's husband, Hugh Roach, was a physics graduate and a British Foreign Service officer, district commissioner, and aide-de-camp to Governor Sir Allen Butts of the African Gold Coast. He later became the United Nations representative for Canada.

Maria created numerous scholarship funds for economically deprived and promising students at the

universities attended by herself, her late husband, and her father. She was a great supporter of our scholarship program benefiting Charity nursing students. Over a decade ago, Maria created the Hugh and Maria Garcia Scholarship Fund which funded two \$1,000 scholarships each year. Her significant donation was converted in 2016 to an endowment fund for scholarships that will continue supporting Charity nursing students indefinitely. Maria passed away in March 2018, at the age of 102.

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46: Marie was a native of Thibodaux and a resident of Metairie. She passed away on August 27, 2018, at the age of 91. Marie was a woman of



faith, a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and aunt. She trained as a nurse at Charity Hospital School of Nursing in the Cadet Nursing Program and worked for many years at Montelepre and Mercy Hospitals. Marie was the first female coach of a 16-year-old boy's baseball team, winning a city championship. Marie and her daughter **Kay Beaulieu**

Kenney '76 could be counted on to attend every Charity Alumni Association event. A Pin Award has been established in her memory.

Betty Mitchell Falterman '46 and Patsy Mitchell

Gordon Sanders '46: Betty Joy and Patsy Marie Mitchell were featured in an article in the *New Orleans Item* when they were born in 1926, as two of "Ten Twins Born in Seven Days in New Orleans." Seventeen years later, in May 1943, they were featured in another article with their mother, Mrs. Henry Mitchell. Mrs. Mitchell was a former nurse who decided to return to nursing when her husband joined the U.S. Army during World War II. She was taking a refresher course at Charity School of Nursing at the same time her twin daughters were student nurses. Patsy and Betty were pictured showing their mom how to take a blood pressure.



"My twin aunts Betty and Patsy were students at Charity and also in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps," writes Linda Mitchell. "I have another newspaper article entitled *Charity Nurse Class of 123 to Graduate*. The paper reported that the graduation ceremony at Charity was being held early, in mid-April that semester, because 110 members of the class were

were Cadets and many would be leaving before the semester ended to complete their senior training at Army hospitals. The students would not actually receive their diplomas until later that fall after they completed their training. "I have a beautiful picture of my aunts in their Cadet uniforms," says Linda. "My Aunt Patsy worked at Charity Hospital until she retired. She died of cancer in 1994. Aunt Betty passed this year, in June 2018."

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48: Gloria was born in April 1928 in Panama City, FL. She knew at age fifteen that she wanted to be a nurse and volunteered at a local hospital, learning as much as she could. "But my parents could not afford to send me to college or nursing training," recalled Gloria. "Then with World War II, there was a shortage of nurses, and the government created the Cadet Nurse Program to encourage more young women to become nurses. The program paid all the tuition and fees, plus room and board, and even a small stipend each month. I applied, was accepted, and was sent to Charity Hospital School of Nursing. This was a wonderful gift to me! It made it possible for me to become a Registered Nurse and to make a living."

After graduating in 1948, Gloria was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. While serving she met her husband Robert who was also an officer in the Air Force. Over the course of their marriage they traveled the world and had six children. "Bob and I had a great life," she said. Gloria worked in hospitals around the world. "I have met so many wonderful people and have always been proud of being a Charity Nurse," said Gloria.

Gloria returned to Panama City and Bob passed away in 1985. She went to work at H&R Block where she recently retired after 35 years. But she always did the continuing education to keep her nursing license current.

Gloria always said that the Cadet Nurse Corps enabled her to become a nurse and she wanted to "pay it forward" by helping current students. She donated thousands of dollars to our Alumni Scholarship Fund over the years, often sending a check for \$1,000 out of the blue, with a note and sometimes a photo. "I am not rich and have to save up months to give, but I will continue as long as I can," Gloria wrote. "I try never to forget all the people who have helped me along the way. It means a lot to me to be able to contribute to the Alumni Association. I feel

that this is something that I owe – to help others get their education." The Alumni Association established the Gloria Redmond



Ashman Scholarship in the fall of 2014 to recognize her generosity.

"I really enjoy hearing from the students who are scholarship recipients and knowing that the money really helps – I only wish it was a lot more," she wrote not long ago. Her letter closed with these words: "Best wishes to you all. I won't ever forget those years. I know you all will keep on helping." Gloria passed away on June 20, 2018.

Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58: Rose graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1958 and spent a number of years working in the premature baby intensive care unit which at that time was a ground-breaking area of medicine. Rose worked at the Point Coupee General Hospital for some forty years, many of those spent in a supervisory position. She was instrumental in training many in the nursing profession in Pointe Coupee.



Rose was a single mother to her only child who she adopted as an infant. Though stricken with Parkinson's disease in her later years, Rose wrote and published a devotion book of short stories.

Prior to her death, Rose donated her nursing cap, cape and pin to the Alumni Association. Rose passed away in June 2018 and was buried in her nursing scrubs.

Connie Young Imhoff '65: "Connie passed away on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 from complications following surgery. I had the honor of being her friend since third grade and we were roommates for our three years of nursing school at the Big C and for numerous years after graduation until the present. She completed her BS in Allied Health from Our Lady of Holy Cross in New Orleans. Connie leaves behind three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Connie worked in several medical facilities and in various positions throughout her 50+ year nursing career. She remained at Charity and worked Med/Surg on 5th floor after graduating. She also worked at Methodist Hospital, Montelepre Rehabilitation Hospital, the Orleans Parish School Board for 30 years as a school nurse, and at St. Joseph and Luling Nursing Homes. She was dedicated to her profession and was a caring, compassionate nurse."

– Sandra Woessner Zeringue '65

Teresa Hebert Dias '67: "Teresa was a native and resident of Napoleonville, LA. She retired as Director of Nursing at D'ville House Nursing Home. She died of a heart attack, but had many issues from complications of childhood polio and was confined to a wheelchair. She was a friend with a great sense of humor."

– Betty Falgout Hebert '68 →

Gloria Marie Boudreaux '62: Gloria graduated from Charity in 1962 then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Nursing. She was commissioned as an Army officer and rose to the rank of Colonel. She was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and retired after 30 years of service. Gloria taught at Texas Women's University and LSU-Eunice. She volunteered with the American Red Cross, and was named in Who's Who of Nursing. "Gloria was my 'Little Sister' at Charity," writes **Marie-Lynn Conque Martin '60.** "I've enclosed a donation in her memory to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund."



Nancy Carol Rodgers '83:

"Nancy graduated from Charity School of Nursing in the diploma program in 1983 after having raised five children. Becoming a nurse at this stage was a rebirth for her. She loved being a nurse and had worked all areas in what she described as going from the womb to the

tomb (labor and delivery, to ICU and elderly behavior health). She attempted to retire a few times, but this only lasted about a week as she just loved working as a nurse and missed being a part of that. She finally retired after more than 35 years of nursing at age 75. Within a month of retirement, she was diagnosed with a rare cancer, Angiosarcoma. She was determined to fight this awful disease and her spirits remained high, but unfortunately, less than a year later and shortly before her 76th birthday, she passed away. As a nurse myself, I was proud to walk in her footsteps. She inspired me but also so many colleagues, as well. Her co-workers and her patients just adored her, and it was her very own friends and co-workers that took care of her to the very end. This scholarship was created to not only honor my mother, Nancy Carol Rodgers, but to honor the commitment she had to the profession. We need good nurses, and we want to provide opportunity for a student pursuing a career in nursing to continue the legacy and spirit of my mom and the profession."

- Beth Butler, BSN, MS

Clinical Development Manager, Oncology, USA

Donations to the Nancy Carol Rodgers Scholarship have totaled over \$1,500, and plans are to present the first of three scholarships this fall. ♦

In Memoriam

Maria Garcia Roach '38 (3/27/18)
 Lillian Lockhart Marx '41 (12/29/14)
 Etta Lirette Lochbaum '42 (7/17/18)
 Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 (8/27/18)
 Betty Joy Mitchell Falterman '46 (6/27/18)
 Florence "Connie" Morel Lorino '46 (7/3/18)
 Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 (6/20/18)
 Frances Lee DeButts Hidalgo '48 (8/23/18)
 Denise Begin Gaddy '50 (6/3/17)
 Shirley Gray Knight '50 (10/26/18)
 Mary B. Rieth '51 (12/25/16)
 Anita Jeane Stewart Stentz '51 (9/11/18)
 Jacqueline Blancq Bruneau '52 (9/13/18)
 JoAnn Wingerter Kopelman '55 (8/12/18)
 Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 (6/2/18)
 Connie Young Imhoff '65 (11/13/18)
 Teresa Hebert Dias '67 (10/2/18)
 Sandra E. McConnell '71 (9/24/18)
 Lucille "Penny" Rutledge Nobles '72 (10/27/18)
 Michelle Dupre' Bel '82 (8/2/18)
 Nancy Carol Rodgers '83 (8/27/18)
 Susan Phillips Vicknair '84 (7/13/18)
 Jenine "Sissy" Godfrey '96 (9/2/18)
 Le'Tondra Moses Edwards '16 (10/8/18)

Faculty/Staff

Lynne Egan Bozant (6/30/18)

New Plan for Big Charity

A partnership named 1532 Tulane Partners was chosen to redevelop the old Charity Hospital with a combination of residential units, offices, research labs, shops and restaurants. The partnership was recommended by the LSU Foundation to the LSU Board of Supervisors, who must approve the proposal before it becomes official.

The 1532 Tulane partnership was chosen over another local real-estate company. The proposal anticipates that about a third of the money for the project will come from public funds, all from state and federal tax credits.

Residential Space

Questions still exist about the amount of residential units in the plan. "I think a big concern raised in both proposals was that they're both heavily residential and obviously we'd prefer to have a major anchor tenant or two from a commercial standpoint," said Louisiana's Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne, a

member of the selection committee. Dardenne wants to leave open the possibility of moving City Hall into the one million square-foot building. He has encouraged 1532 Tulane and the city administration to keep talking before a final plan is put in place.

"This is a building that cries out to be put back into commerce, and I think what everyone involved in this process is trying to figure out the most marketable scenario so it doesn't sit there in perpetuity," said Dardenne. This plan expects the hospital building redevelopment to cost about \$564 million, and estimates completion in late 2021 or early 2022.

Plans for the Neighborhood

Meanwhile, the Greater New Orleans Foundation is hoping to steer the renewal of the neighborhood surrounding Charity Hospital by preparing a strategic plan for the area. The *Spirit of Charity Innovation District* is envisioned as an economic development engine that would create jobs, offer affordable housing and provide new government office space. The plan is to eventually create a governance structure for the district that will be able to coordinate development in the area. ❖

Charity Mementos Have New Home with Award-Winning Future Charity Nurse

Many of us alumni have collected Charity memorabilia over the years, but **William Pellegrin** has a head start, while he is still a student! William received four very special gifts from his friend Crystelle Vaughn, the daughter of **Ruth Edna Cornwell '46**: Ruth's Charity pin, lamp, nursing cap and alumni plate. It's no surprise to us that Crystelle wanted to hand down her mom's beloved Charity mementos to William, because he seems like the perfect person to treasure them going forward.

Dream Delayed

Like many non-traditional Charity students, William always wanted to go to nursing school, but the dream was delayed. He joined the Navy after high school, then became an EMT. After a few years, needing to better support his family, William took a job in a friend's business, and he says, "seventeen years passed by." William woke up one day and knew it was time to pursue his dream. He was accepted to

Charity School of Nursing on his birthday and never looked back!

"My first semester was incredible," says William. "I was a search and rescue swimmer and corpsman in the Navy. I was a paramedic. But nursing school is the hardest thing I've ever done. I was tested, poked on, and prodded, but nothing could keep me down." At the end of it, he received a Clinical Excellence Award from the faculty and the Gloria Ashman Scholarship from the Alumni Association.

Breaking Out

He joined CASN, the student nurses association, and volunteered with a wide range of campus and community activities. He designed two t-shirts for CASN to sell as fundraisers and was elected CASN's *Breakthrough to Nursing* coordinator, reaching out to new nursing students. He was elected as a Student Government Association senator. He ran for a state seat at the Louisiana student nurse convention, and trained as a hospice volunteer.

"Since I have been here at Charity I have had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with so many great people," says William.

His first experience as a hospice volunteer was very different from conventional nursing. "I washed her car, took down her Christmas decorations, put flamingos in her yard. I was there to make her life better." The woman's son had drowned in her pond, and she had been unable to visit the site since his death. "I took her out to the pond, and made a little garden area for her so she could go and talk to him."

William was one of eighteen students who attended the national student nurses convention in April, became certified to administer Naloxone in emergency situations,

and even signed up to be a bone marrow donor. "I saw some amazing things there, new advances in medicine – like a biofilm being used to treat necrotizing fasciitis. I could not have had this experience without the financial help the Alumni Association provided to the CASN students who wanted to attend the conference," says William. "I grew so much over the last semester and had an incredible ride!"

This semester William is in Level 3. He was awarded the Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship by the Alumni Association in September, and was elected to the Executive Board of Charity's Student Government Association. →



At the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses Convention this fall, William received a Student Spotlight award, and he also was presented with the 2017-2018 Honorary Member of the Year Award, which is LASN's most prestigious honor.

William is already an active participant in the Alumni Association, coming to all of our events to sell CASN t-shirts because he just loves attending!

"I am proud to have gotten this far in my nursing journey and will have the chance to work in the field I love," says William. We know William will continue his extraordinary success and he will soon be an amazing Charity Nurse. And, thanks to a Charity alumni, he has already started his collection of mementos! ❖

LCTCS Awards

Two members of the CSN faculty, **Ann Burghardt-Dieck** and **Donna Bayard**, received Outstanding Professional Faculty and Staff Awards from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System this fall. The LCTCS manages all of the thirteen public two-year institutions in the state of Louisiana, including Delgado Community College. ❖

Left to right, Ann Burghardt-Dieck and Donna Bayard



Renew Your Membership!

Your membership dues help us to support the current students of Charity with everything from purchasing reference books for the library to scholarships to emergency assistance grants, plus it allows us to do other important projects like faculty development and archival preservation of our historical documents and photos. It

also helps fund our Alumni office so we can continue to publish newsletters twice a year, keep up our database, and maintain our website. All of this allows us to keep in touch with you and thousands of other Charity graduates throughout the country and around the world, and keeps the spirit of Charity alive through the many generations of alumni. All that for only \$15 in annual dues.

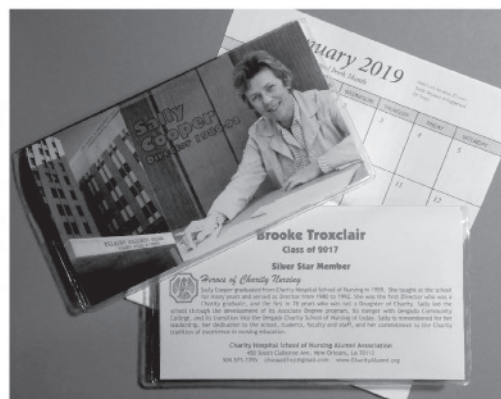
As a paid member, you are entitled to vote in elections for new Board members and officers. You receive the *White Cap* each spring, and the *Alumni News* each fall.

Renew your Alumni Association membership at the \$25 level or above and you will be listed in the 2019 *White Cap* as a "Member of Note." Plus you'll receive your choice of gifts: a 2019-20 personalized pocket planner featuring Sally Cooper, Dean 1980-92, or a handy 3" x 5" Charity Alumni flip-cover notepad (with ADN students on one side and diploma students on the other), or a vintage postcard of the dorm.

Use the form on page 22, or pay securely online at our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

*Personalized
2019-2020
pocket planner
featuring "Hero
of Charity"
Sally Cooper*



*Handy 3" x 5"
flip-top
note pad*

*Vintage postcard
of the old
Charity dorm*

And while you're there, order your Luncheon tickets! ❖



2019 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 an Associate Professor of Nursing, 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, Louisiana.

TREASURER CANDIDATE - Unopposed



URSULA ALLAIN, Class of 1965: Ursula worked full-time for 30 years at Charity Hospital, mostly in the OR, then part-time for another ten years as a Patient Liaison in the Emergency Room. Though retired, she is an active member in the New Orleans Chapter of AORN. 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, Louisiana.

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 two 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, Louisiana.

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. Charlene was on the Alumni Association Advisory Committee for two years and has served on the Board of Directors for four years. She is a very active volunteer for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Charlene lives in Kenner, Louisiana.



AMBER STOKES, Class of 2013: Amber is training to be a Peritoneal Dialysis nurse at Fresenius as well as working PRN in the ER at Ochsner St. 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 Pin Award at graduation. Amber is a strong believer in community service and has been involved in numerous activities with the Second Harvest Food Bank, the New Orleans Medical Mission, and aid to flood victims. Currently she is involved in fostering animals in need through the LASPCA and Take Paws animal rescue. Amber lives in New Orleans. ❖

2019 ELECTIONS 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 other items.

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 21. Circle your selections on the Ballot at left, 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 luncheon reservation 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, 2019, 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 "2018" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2018. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2019.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2018, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2019 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. ❖

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 Sr. 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 2019-20 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, donations, and your Spring Luncheon ticket. You can mail your ballot in the same envelope as well. You can also do everything (except vote) online at
www.CharityAlumni.org

Charity is My Super Power!

Spring Alumni Luncheon

Saturday, April 6

Hilton New Orleans Airport

901 Airline Highway FREE PARKING!

Registration & Cash Bar open at 10:30am;

Lunch served at 11:30am

Charity taught us to think - and think outside the box.

We learned to be rigorous - and to improvise.

Whatever it takes, we make things happen.

Charity Nurses are 'can do' nurses and our

Charity training is our secret super power!

*Join us for a celebration of Charity Nursing
and the lasting friendships we made at Charity!*



Savor your choice of two delicious entrees:

Bronzed Catch of the Day topped with

Shrimp Regency Sauce, or

Chicken Breast Poydras with

Brandied Mushroom Artichoke Cream Sauce,

Plus salad, sides, coffee and

New Orleans Bread Pudding for dessert.

Cash Bar.

Use this form, and make checks payable to:

CHSN Alumni Association

or order your tickets at our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

The \$40 ticket price covers only the cost of your meal.

If you value receiving our newsletters, or any of the other work of the Alumni Association, please consider paying membership dues or making donations to one of our many projects to benefit the School of Nursing

You can write one check for everything.

Use the form on page 22 or visit our website.

2019 Spring Alumni Luncheon Reservation Form

Mail to:

CHSN Alumni Association, Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

Or purchase tickets online at www.CharityAlumni.org

We must receive your payment by March 29, 2019,
to guarantee your seating!

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name (if applicable) Last name

Class of: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Home

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total number of people _____ @ \$40 each.....\$ _____

Choose your entree:

___ Chicken Breast Poydras or ___ Catch of the Day

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

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 adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "2018" next to your name means your membership expires at the end of 2018. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2019.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2018 (such as "2015"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

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

To renew your membership, use the form on page 22, or go online to:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Mark your calendar for the
Spring Alumni Luncheon

April 6, 2019



Cut out the box below and put on your bulletin board or refrigerator. You'll always be able to find the information you need to keep in touch!



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**

Photo Share Site:

<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>