



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Fall 2017

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From the President

By Bryan J. Camus '12

Yes, yes, those were my very own boogie shoes! I told y'all I was gonna find 'em! And, boy, am I glad I did; those of you who were at the brunch with us know what I am talking about.

How do all of you do it? These events are so much fun that I have to go home and take a quick eight-hour nap after every one of them. From the costumes and camaraderie, to the speakers and the prizes, from the music to the very nice bartenders, it was wonderful. But, of course, I have to take everyone's word on how nice the bartenders were because I never made it to the bar, as I am quite the teetotaler, ya know. Or is that "tale-teller"? I always get those two confused.

End of an Era

Well, this is my last President's Letter. You will no longer have to put up with my poor attempts at humor or misguided fashion sense. Being privileged to be at the head of this organization has been akin to being a hood ornament on one of those massive cars of the 60s: the car is going to go to all of the best places and the hood ornament is just a decoration that holds on and gets there first! And what an incredible 23 years it has been! Wait, what? It hasn't been 23 years? But it has to be more than the five short years the calendar says it was!

Let's see, in the time I have been President-Elect and President of the Alumni Association, about 1000 newly minted Charity Nurses have joined our ranks. I have watched you bless students with thousands and thousands of dollars in scholarships. You established and replenished an emergency fund to offer a helping hand to students when life has given them a little more than they can handle. You have set up scholarship funds that will go on long after we all have hung up our stethoscopes.

You had a Homecoming where we all had a really phenomenal time and still managed to add a little "something-something" to the alumni



Above, Pam Welsh '70 and President Bryan Camus '12 are stayin' alive at the Alumni Breakfast in September. Below: The shoes.

funds for the students. New scholarships and student awards for excellence were created. New tools for student success were added. New speakers spoke about the excellence you achieved. I got to wear platform shoes again... Are you absolutely, positively, 100% SURE it was not 23 years?

However long it was, I can sum it up in two words: you care. Nursing is all about caring and who better knows that than a Charity Nurse? You care about where you came from, you care about what you did, and you care about what legacy you leave. You care!

So, I want to leave you with a quote from Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

And now, a quote from James Brown: "I feel good!" They both describe my time with y'all! ❖



From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

Next year, the **City of New Orleans** will be celebrating its **Tricentennial Anniversary**, and there will be plenty of events around town to mark this historical occasion. We can't think of a better theme for our **Spring Alumni Luncheon** than a celebration of all things New Orleans! Can we ever have too many fleur de lis? I don't think so!

Another exciting anniversary we plan to mark at the Luncheon is the **Bicentennial of the Daughters of Charity**. The Sisters were an integral part of the history of Charity Hospital and the School of Nursing! We are delighted to celebrate this relationship and learn more about who the Daughters of Charity are today.

In Jeopardy

Ironically, as we go to press, Congress is considering a tax reform package that would eliminate the **Historic Tax Credit** which has led to the preservation of so many of our historic buildings! These credits have been essential to the restoration for new use and return to commerce of structures that have proved to be catalysts for economic development in New Orleans and across the country. Without the Historic Tax Credit, the recommendation by the Urban Land Institute to rehab **Big Charity** (*see story on page 20*) might very well come to nothing. Elimination of these credits could effectively kill the restoration and reuse of Big Charity. So ask your representatives in Congress to preserve the Historic Tax Credit! See more information from the National Trust for Historic Preservation at www.savingplaces.org.

Hats in the Ring

Thank you to all the folks running for the Board of Directors - for being willing to go the extra mile, come to meetings, make (sometimes tough) decisions, help out at events, and just do whatever needs to be done. Let's all show how much we appreciate these intrepid folks by VOTING! Candidate bios are on page 21 and the Ballot is on page 22. Those elected will be inducted into office at the Spring Luncheon, and President-Elect **Patrick Brady '83** will take over the presidential reins from Bryan (though Patrick has stated unequivocally that he will not make any attempt to match Bryan's sartorial flair at alumni events). Thank you, Bryan, for your amazing leadership, your enthusiasm - and for leaping in to every one of our wild themes with both feet!

It's been a good year here at the Alumni Association, and I really appreciate getting all your letters and emails - about who we have lost, your school memories, the honors you've received, and what you are doing now. I hope to hear from more of you in the coming year! I especially want to thank all of you who have given so much in support of us and the School of Nursing! We couldn't do any of the things we do without your membership dues,

and your additional donations to all of our funds, from Scholarships to Student Emergency Assistance to Art & Archives Preservation. From newsletters like this to the alumni get-togethers, we couldn't do it without your support. You make it happen. Thank you!

Now, 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

It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close. As 2017 winds down, the work the students, faculty and staff did over the past year is deserving of recognition.

In March, the program had its accreditation site visit by the ACEN. I am proud to report that we received continuing accreditation for eight years, which is the best outcome attainable. Our next visit will be in 2025 - we hope to be in a new building by then! No new information yet on the new building, but **Delgado Chancellor Joan Davis** is diligently working to make this happen.

We have an enrollment of approximately 750 students in the RN, PN and CNA programs. We continue to have more qualified applicants than we can accommodate. In 2016, we graduated 278 proud Charity program completers - 48% of the new graduates in the greater New Orleans area! Thanks to the support of the College, we have been able to hire nursing tutors to assist students to master the increasingly complex course material presented in the program. It is our hope that the tutors, combined with the ongoing efforts of students and faculty, will help more of our students complete the program successfully.

Thanks to the generous donations from many alumni, over \$7,700 in scholarships and Pin Awards were distributed this fall to fifteen 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 Charity graduates.

Additionally, a HUGE thank you to **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49**, for her scholarship donation which allows us to receive matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Regents to double impact of her gift. (*See the story on page 6.*)

On a personal note, we all know our Charity graduates are some of the best nurses in the world. I had the occasion to experience first-hand the knowledge, skill, and compassion of a Charity graduate during my mother's recent journey in hospice care until her death in August. My family and I will be forever grateful for the care we received from Laurie and her team. The spirit of Charity nurses lives on!

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season. ❖

Alumni Sparkle for Saturday Morning Fever

The Charity Alumni came prepared to boogie at the September Breakfast! Over 120 grads gathered for a disco celebration of '70s and '7s at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie.

President **Bryan Camus '12** was resplendent in a white leisure suit and sequined platform shoes. **Jenn Garnand '11** gave the blessing accompanied by her daughter Lily. Sunny plates of Eggs Benedict were served with asparagus and tomatoes, fruit salad and pastries with bread pudding to top it off.

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, was there to give us an update on the school. (You can read her report on page 2.)

Special Guests

Dr. Bo Frederick, co-author of the book-in-progress *Charity Tales* came in from Texas to join our celebration. Dr. Frederick was a resident at Charity from 1985 through 1990. He remembered that he was on-call on his first night as a resident and how he looked to the nurses to keep him on track. He said he has great memories of Charity Hospital: sad, funny, amazing! He explained that the book will be a collection of short stories depicting the pride of those who trained and worked at Charity. He recounted a couple of the stories he has collected so far, including one about a Charity nurse in Vietnam. She was recognized as a Charity nurse by her cap, and the doctors knew they could count on her resourcefulness. At one point, she used her Charity-acquired skills to fashion a chest-tube out of items at hand and save a soldier's life. (See page 20 for information on submitting your own stories.)

Our friend **John Batty**, co-author of *Voices of Angels: Disaster Lessons from Katrina Nurses* also joined us, donating a copy of his book for a door prize as well as making a nice donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Roll Call

Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 joined Bryan to conduct the Roll Call of Classes. Nine members of the **Class of 1977** stepped out for their 40-year reunion. The **Class of 1968** is planning their 50-year reunion next year, but couldn't wait to start the fun - eleven classmates showed up for the pre-reunion gathering!

Classes from 1946 to Spring 2017 were represented, plus seven students, three faculty and our beloved Honorary Member **Rick Crouse** who ran the Media Center →



Left to right, top to bottom: Joycelyn Jeansonne '78, Doris Burvant '60, Bryan Camus '12; Lisa Washington '82, Cynthia Sartin '77, Sharon Burel '80; Amber Stokes '13, Brooke Troxclair '17, Vivian Manes '70 and Charlene Persich '74.





Left to right, top to bottom: Rose Jeanne Buccola and Mary Singletary, Class of '49; Ross Cunningham '84, Bobby Torbert '60 and Ursula Allain '65; Marlene Bergeron '79 and Rae Ann DeRoche '84; Joan Guccione, Lucille Castine and Patricia Bourgeois, Class of '57; Patsy Caffery '86 and daughter Elizabeth Caffery '02; student Lauren Griffin and Charlene Berger '79; Patrick Reed '90, Brooke Troxclair '17 and Patricia Dufrene '85.



at the school for forty years. Bryan recognized mother and daughter alums, sister alums, twins and alumni spouses.

Cool Outfits

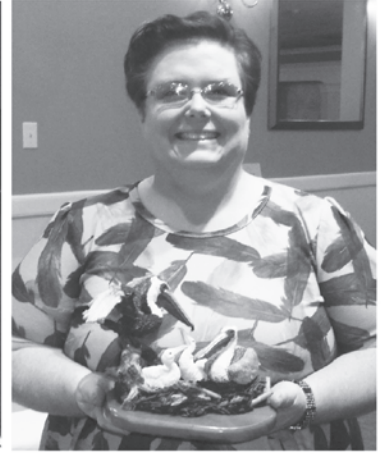
There was a three-way tie for the Coolest '70s Outfit. **Pam Welsh '70**, **Cynthia Sartin '77** and faculty **Barbara Zeugner** received goofy '70s memorabilia for their spirited styles.

Hot Prizes

The 50/50 drawing collected \$326 and winner **Doris Burvant '60** took home \$163. **Monica Johnson '93** won the raffle of a statue of a pelican family, and **Amber Stokes '13** won the raffle for a vintage CHSN Pennant. Door prizes were distributed to excited recipients, and **Cindy Beniger '68** led the singing of the Alma Mater.

Afghans, tote bags, ornaments and other souvenirs were eagerly purchased by attendees, and the mirror ball centerpieces were scooped up to carry home as mementos of a morning of fun and friendship. Everyone buzzed with excitement as plans were made to see each other very soon at the Spring Luncheon in March 2018. ❖





Left to right, top to bottom: Judy Ross and Sandra Hintz, Class of '68; Janis Ducote and Valrie Luker, Class of '75; Monica Johnson '93; Dr. Cheryl Myers and Suzy Andry '59; Jeanette Robinson '80; faculty member Evelyn Dodson and Elizabeth Dorman '87; Karen Bradley '63, Maureen McDonald '62, Lynne Cook and Peggy Johns, Class of '63; Fay Stevenson '74, Celeste Keller '74, Vanessa Elias '77, Karen Mathes and Julie Joyce '75; Dr. Bo Frederick and Tori Harris Chatman '07; Patrick Brady '83. ❖



A Charity Love Story

By Lista Hank '97

Victor Buccola joined the Navy in 1946 at the age of 17, serving in the Pacific Theater on an aircraft carrier. After WWII ended, he returned home to New Orleans, continuing in the Naval Reserves. In the summer of 1949, he was young and carefree, and looking forward to a hot date one evening. He washed his car, made a few tuning adjustments, then decided to degrease the engine. Without thinking, he threw gasoline on the hot engine. There was a flash of flames. Vic was severely burned and the ambulance brought him to Charity Hospital.



The Start of Something Big

Rose Jeanne Roussel was in her last year of nursing school. "I came in for the night shift, and the nurse who had been on duty told me, *That guy in Bed One has been giving everyone trouble*. I loaded up my tray of syringes to make the rounds giving everyone their antibiotic shots, and headed for Bed One. He was lying on his stomach because of the burns on his back and legs, and when I took his arm to give him a penicillin shot, he pulled away and fussed about how sore his arms were. I took my tray to the other side of the bed and tried the other arm, same reaction. So I came back around the bed again and just stuck him before he could complain! That's how it all started," laughs Rose Jeanne.



Despite his initial reputation among the nurses, "Vic was really so pleasant about everything. He had to get penicillin shots every three hours and sulfa shots every four hours, so he wasn't sleeping much at night. He would watch me charting and one day he asked me if I got sleepy at night. I said no, I was too busy to feel sleepy, but he offered me his little battery-operated radio. And I would carry the little radio from ward to ward as I made my rounds, listening to music."

Striking a Deal

Vic was popular among the other patients and the young guys would gather around his bed to play cards. But because he was in the military, Vic needed to be transferred out of Charity to the VA. "He told the doctor: *Don't send me over there with all those old people!*"

remembers Rose Jeanne. "He was well enough to drive, so he said, *Can I just go home and come in here to get my dressings changed?* The doctor said that would be okay, if he could find a nurse willing to do that on top of her other duties. So Vic began canvassing the nurses about how they got to work. When he got to me I said, *I take the bus.*"

Even though Rose Jeanne was still in school, and normally would have been required to live in the dorm, the residence was being painted and students were being shuffled around among the rooms, so she was allowed to live with her great-aunt. "I had to leave home at 9:30pm and transfer three times to get to work at Charity for 11pm. Vic said, *I'd be willing to pick you up and drive you if you would change my dressings*. Well, I jumped at the chance to get two more hours of sleep, so I agreed."

An Enduring Friendship

So Vic would pick her up and take her to work. "I couldn't do his dressing changes right away, because I had to give shots and take care of the patients, so he had to wait until 1 or 2 in the morning for me to be available. That's how he fell in with Sister Laurentia."

Sister Laurentia was the night nursing supervisor at Charity for over 30 years. She made the rounds of every unit, seven days a week, pushing a cart filled with drinks and snacks to feed the night staff. "She had keys to every unit so anything you needed, she would get for you. She had her own elevator where she kept all her supplies, and no one else was allowed to use it," remembers Rose Jeanne.

Hanging around the wards at night, Vic busied himself helping Sister Laurentia, and an enduring friendship was born. "He completely charmed her. He made her rounds with her - he was the only person who could ride in Sister Laurentia's elevator!" Vic loved to tease Sister Laurentia and he delighted in making her blush. "She adored him," laughs Rose Jeanne.



Driving, Then Dancing

Vic drove a '41 Chevy Club Coupe. "It was spotless inside and out. He would pick me up for work and we would go to a drive-in to get hamburgers since I couldn't go in a restaurant wearing my uniform." Before too long, they were dating. "We loved dancing and listening to music." They would go to Lenfant's, and parties on the roof of the Jung Hotel, "any place we could dance." They made friends among the New Orleans musicians. "One invited us to a wedding reception he was playing. I said to Vic, *We can't crash a wedding reception*, but Vic said, *Watch me!* That was his favorite line."

"I had never known anyone like Vic," says Rose Jeanne. "He was just so much fun. Nothing bothered him. He and I both had pretty tough childhoods. That had weighed on me a lot until I met Vic. But he let everything roll off. For Vic, life was a beautiful thing."

Vic was always broke on his tiny Reserves salary. One afternoon he picked up Rose Jeanne for a drive to the lakefront. "I was thinking about getting back and catching a few more hours of sleep before my shift when I saw his gas tank was on E! He tried to buy 50 cents worth of gas at a station. I gave him the couple of dollars I had so he could put gas in his tank and get me home!"

Looking to the Future

Rose Jeanne got the results of her Boards on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. "I didn't even have to open the envelope because it was addressed to Rose J. Roussel, RN. I was so happy. I had always wanted to be a concert pianist. I went to nursing school as a way to make money so I could afford to attend Juilliard. But I loved being a nurse."

Even though they were sweethearts, Vic made it very clear that "he was having the time of his life" and was never going to marry. So Rose Jeanne was making her own plans. "I had gone to talk with the Army Nurse Corps, and they were ready to sign me up and ship me out of state the moment I got my license. But I thought, right now I'm dating a great guy and having the most fun I've ever had. I decided I would wait until after the holidays to enlist."

As the holidays approached, Rose Jeanne got angry about her schedule at Charity. "We all worked 7 days on, 2 days off. I agreed to work on Christmas so I could have New Year's Eve off. When I saw the schedule, I was on for eight days, getting off at 7am New Year's Day. So much for New Year's Eve! I thought it was very unfair, so I quit." Sister Laurentia heard about it and before long she had a private duty nurse job lined up for Rose Jeanne. "She made sure I had work."

"Don't Leave Me"

When Rose Jeanne told Vic she was planning to join the Army in the new year, "he flipped. He said, *You have to join the Navy!* But I said, *I can't swim!*" As a child, Rose Jeanne had seen someone drown, and was terrified of water. "No way was I joining the Navy!" she says. But that wasn't Vic's real problem.

Finally, it came out. "He said, *Don't leave me,*" Rose Jeanne recalls with a smile. "He asked me to marry him. I made him pick the date because I suspected he was stringing me along. But he set it for February 1, 1950." And on that day, she became Rose Jeanne Buccola, RN.

Vic was a station-keeper at the lakefront Naval Air Station (where UNO is now located) and Rose Jeanne went back to work at Charity Hospital. "Dr. Nix delivered our first baby at Charity. He was going to let Vic put on scrubs and be there for the birth – they didn't let fathers



do that then! He could have made history! But Vic wouldn't do it," laughs Rose Jeanne. Sister Laurentia gave Rose Jeanne a silver rosary to celebrate the birth. "I still treasure it."

Seeing the World

They had two more children. Vic went career in the U.S. Air Force Security Service with top clearance. He served in Morocco for a year before moving the family to Texas. They went on to live on Okinawa, in Japan and in Germany. Rose Jeanne would work at the military hospitals wherever Vic was stationed. When they returned to New Orleans, she became a nurse with the Customs Service. Vic retired from the military, then worked as courtroom deputy in the U.S. District Court in New Orleans. They settled, finally, in Destrehan.

Charity Connection

Rose Jeanne has always been actively involved in the Charity Alumni Association, and served as Executive Director for several years. After she and Vic retired, they bought a motor home and toured the U.S. and Canada. Whatever city they visited, Rose Jeanne would pull out the Alumni Directory, call any graduates who lived there and organize an alumni get-together. Charity was always a big part of their life together, and "Everyone loved Vic!"

65 Beautiful Years

In his last years, Vic's health declined. In May 2015, Rose Jeanne was addressing invitations to a birthday party that she planned for Vic in a couple of weeks. She reminded her husband that he would be 90 years old soon. "He seemed a little surprised, but he smiled and nodded, then he said, *That's a whole lot of old.*" Vic died later that night. →

"We had 65 beautiful years together," says Rose Jeanne. "In ten million years, I could not have found a better mate than Vic."

An Enduring Legacy

This fall, Rose Jeanne decided that the best memorial for Vic would be one he can share with Sister Laurentia, who passed away in 1973. "They were just such good friends." With a gift of \$10,000 to the Delgado Foundation, which was matched with \$10,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents, Rose Jeanne established an endowed scholarship she chose to name the **Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Scholarship in Memory of Victor and Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49**. "I figure it will be in my memory too, before long," she chuckles.

The individual scholarships will be paid for by the interest and dividends from investment of the funds, so the principal will stay intact in order to continue to assist outstanding Charity students indefinitely.

Rose Jeanne wants the Sister Laurentia Scholarship to go to students who plan to continue their education and get a BSN. She also hopes it will encourage students to work the night shift because Sister Laurentia worked nights for all those years. "That would really be a great legacy for her," says Rose Jeanne.

Struggling Students

Vic and Rose Jeanne were both poor growing up. Rose Jeanne was from a broken home, and she and her younger brother spent years in an orphanage (which is where she learned to play the piano). So Rose Jeanne is very attuned to the financial struggles of nursing students. In her first semester at Charity, she broke her eyeglasses, but simply had no money for new ones. Her grades were suffering because she couldn't see the chalkboard and the guidance counselor called her in. When Rose Jeanne explained the problem, "she picked up the phone and called an eye doctor in the Maison Blanche Building on Canal Street. She told him she was sending me over for new glasses, gave me ten dollars to pay him, and off I went. Then she put me to work for the rest of the year playing piano for all the events at the school to pay off the loan." (The job had an unexpected fringe benefit. She was named *Most Talented* in three consecutive yearbooks - a Charity record!)

Helping with Education

After Rose Jeanne was married, her younger brother asked her for a loan so he could go to college. "Vic and I had a new baby and a mortgage, and I just didn't have the money to help him. I felt terrible." Her brother was able to borrow from friends and did graduate from college, going on to become a successful businessman. "But I always regretted that I wasn't able to help him go to college," says Rose Jeanne.

Now, this endowment will be assisting Charity students with their education for generations to come. "It means a

lot to me to know I will be helping students," says Rose Jeanne. And now a great Charity love story will live on forever, too.

"I know Sister Laurentia is in heaven," says Rose Jeanne. "I think Vic is there, too. I hope he isn't teasing her too much!" ❖



The Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Scholarship in Memory of Victor and Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49 will be the fourth Charity Alumni Endowed

Scholarship Fund created in partnership with the Delgado Foundation. The initial \$20,000 creating this endowment will be invested by the Delgado Foundation, but it will take two or three years for sufficient interest and dividends to accrue to start funding the scholarship.

The Alumni Board decided we didn't want to wait that long! In September, the Alumni Association awarded the first Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship to **Monica Hevessey**, a Level 2 student. The \$500 scholarship was made possible by generous donations from **Madeline Tolson Markwood '52, Sydney Wood Womack '57, Martha Meaux Genin '65 and Judith Monell Holbert '66**.

If you would like to help us maintain the Sister Laurentia Scholarship until the endowment fund kicks in, we would really appreciate it! Use the form on page 22, or you can donate online at our website: www.CharityAlumni.org. ❖

The End of the Oak

In 2016, the magnificent oak tree behind the School of Nursing was dedicated as the **Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak** and listed in the Registry of the Louisiana Live Oak Society. The tree was profiled a year ago in the 2016 *Alumni News*, and featured on the 2017 Alumni Association pocket planners. A metal plaque (donated by **Margaret Palmisano '49**) was installed in honor of Sister Stanislaus Malone.

Unfortunately, in August 2017, in the midst of the heavy rainstorms that flooded much of the city, the Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak was uprooted. It was felled by the weight of the water in its enormous canopy combined with damage to the root system from paving and shell backfill done many years ago. It was a sad day!

Luckily (or perhaps by the grace of Sister Stanislaus) the tree fell away from the school and did no damage to our buildings. (Some ventilation equipment at the VA got a little flattened.)

We never knew the exact age of the oak, but we have photographs that seem to indicate that it must have been planted shortly after the dorm was constructed, so it was

easily over 75 years old. It was 13.5 feet in girth and the spread of its branches was over 90 feet.

A New Memorial?

We are grateful that we decided to make a fuss over the oak when we did, and so sorry to lose it. The dead tree has been removed, and the Board is now pondering whether to replace it. The dorm is already the "Sister Stanislaus Memorial," but do we want to plant a new tree? Pick a new location? Maybe put a bench in the patio instead? There is already a Sister Stanislaus graduation award, but no scholarship in her name. Would that be a better use of funds? We welcome your suggestions. Let us know what you think. Call, write or email us with your ideas! ❖



Memories of Sister Stanislaus

By Ursula Allain '65

Sister Stanislaus Malone was in the first graduating class of Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1895 and served as Director of Nursing at Charity Hospital from 1914 to 1945. After rereading *A Nun with a Gun*, her fascinating, surprising and often very funny biography by Eddie Doherty, I was inspired to contact some of the alumni who were students during Sister Stanislaus' time at Charity, to ask for their personal recollections.



Everyone remarks on her humanity, compassion, caring, charity to others, gentleness when it was needed, and sternness when it was warranted. She doesn't seem to have ever raised her voice - the raising of an eyebrow was more than enough.

Whenever Sister Stanislaus attended a mandatory student meeting, the nursing students were always excited because they knew they would be getting a few hours of time off (which was greatly appreciated).

When interns or residents partied too much and came in tipsy, Sister would send an orderly to take them to their rooms and watch over them.

In the Garden

Sister Stanislaus would regularly sit in the garden area outside the Sisters' home, invariably reading her prayer book. She always took time to speak to students who happened to stop by. If someone was in need, she would open her book and there tucked between the pages, as if by divine providence, would be the few dollars that were needed to avert a crisis.



At Sister's funeral mass and procession in 1949 (above), nursing students lined the steps of St. Joseph's Church as the casket was brought in and out of the church for the mass. Everyone wondered who was taking care of the patients because it seemed every nurse and doctor from Charity Hospital was there at the funeral.

Thanks to **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42**, **Julie Chappuis Gutierrez '46**, **Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49** and **Julia Bull Schomaker '52** for sharing their memories. ❖

Wanted: 1958 Yearbook

Our library has copies of every Charity yearbook except 1958. We only have one or two copies of several other yearbooks in the late 50s. If you can part with your copy, please send it to us so there will be a complete collection of yearbooks - and memories - at the school! ❖

Recognitions

These twenty-one Charity Alumni that were among the Great 100 Nurses honorees for 2017:

Delores Carmouche Demma '78

Anne Romig Tucker '79

Lori Monte Besselman '82

Vanessa Druen Bergeron '87

Albertine Cordova Burgos '89

Rosemarie de la Tour '90

Patricia Dougherty Clesi '91

Andrea Thibodeaux '92

Angela Davis-Collins '93

Ann Boudreaux Mouille '96

Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97

Scott Duhon '99

Christine Thompson Bromley '02

Ashley Guidry Abboud '08

Nicole Tucker '10

Rachel Ferguson '11

Lisa Gelpi '11

Karla O'Rourke '13

Lacie Riviere '13

Paulette Guidry Lill '14

Dorothy Thomas Buggage '15



Nurses are 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 18.



Kimberly Uddo, faculty member at Delgado Charity School of Nursing, was named one of the New Orleans *CityBusiness* Women of the Year for 2017. Uddo was nominated for her positive beliefs, ideas and efforts in community college preparation of nurses. She has served as president of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, which received the national *Excellence in Chapter Leadership Award*. Uddo also received the *2017 Delgado Endowed Professor Award* sponsored by East Jefferson General Hospital. In 2014, she received the Loyola University *New Orleans Nightingale Award* at her graduation with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Paige Sensenbrenner '78 (New Orleans, LA): A senior partner-in-charge at Adams and Reese law firm in New Orleans, Paige was named a sustaining member of the Product Liability Advisory Council Inc. in September.



The invitation-only nonprofit association was formed in 1983 to analyze and shape the law of product liability and complex litigation, and membership includes product manufacturers and product liability defense councils in the US and abroad. Paige's practice includes pharmaceutical and medical device products liability, pharmaceutical pricing claims, insurance fraud, toxic torts and accounting malpractice/fraud, government relations and health care. Paige also serves as outside counsel for the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency and the Louisiana Cancer Research Center.

Yvette Bertaut '87 (Metairie, LA): Yvette has been vice-president of Patient Care Services at Ochsner Medical Center since 2013. During her 27 years at Ochsner, she has held a variety of nursing and administrative positions in human resources, acute and post acute care, behavioral health, respiratory and therapy services. Yvette has served as MSN/BSN preceptor for the schools of nursing at LSU Health Sciences and University of Alabama since 2011. She will be among the faculty for the *Nurse Leadership Institute* sponsored by the Louisiana Action Coalition in January 2018.

Joan "Ecoee" Rooney '99 (New Orleans, LA): Ecoee has worked in professional development for 13 years. Her experience includes developing preceptor programs and teaching skills in leadership, colleague care and peace in the workplace. Rooney is certified as a compassion fatigue educator and is a chapter co-author in the new core curriculum for nursing professional development through ANPD. She is currently director of Nursing Professional Development and Evidence Based Practice and Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing at Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans. Ecoee will be one of the faculty for the *Nurse Leadership Institute* sponsored by the Louisiana Action Coalition in January 2018.



Brandy Johnson Barbarin '04 and Lista Hank '97 were named *Circles of Excellence Distinguished Alumni* for 2017 by Delgado Community College. The ceremony in November also included presentation of plaques to Delgado faculty and staff who have served for 37 or more

years. Nursing faculty members **Mary Trosclair '73** and **Dr. Nora Steele** were among the honorees, as was **Sandra Lewis Palmer** of the OR tech program.

Steven Lyon '04 (*Harvey, LA*): In September, Steve was named Unit Director for the Operating Room and Sterile Processing at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans. Steve



began his career as a registered nurse in Iraq. His Army National Guard unit was activated the day Steve graduated from nursing school. Upon his return from active duty in 2005, Steve worked in the Recovery Room at West Jefferson Medical Center. He became a staff nurse at Touro in 2007 on Med/Surg unit. He

became the night charge nurse on the Total Joint Unit in 2009, then later transferred to the Operating Room where he was the team leader of the Open-Heart unit. Most recently Steve served as Clinical Supervisor in One Day Surgery. He is planning to pursue a BSN through the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. ❖

School Memories

Marilyn Massey Carter '54 (*San Antonio, TX*): "I was a nursing student in June 1954 and I was working a rotation in the Emergency Room of Charity Hospital. I had just



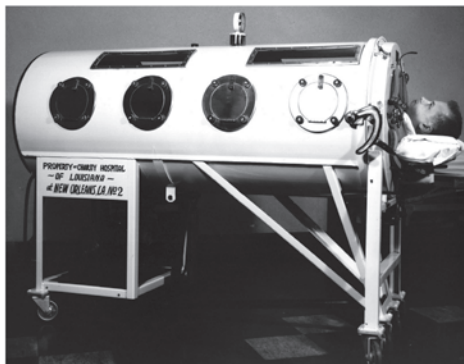
finished three months of psychiatric training and I felt physically and mentally worn out.

My first symptoms were a stiff neck, bad headache, nausea and vomiting. I was admitted to the infirmary for nurses at the hospital. A spinal tap was done, and the diagnosis was either polio or meningitis. I was unable to void for a few days, after which I was sent back to my room.

I tried to work but my legs would not support me. I was then admitted to the polio center, which was in a separate building from other contagious diseases. There was another student nurse my age. She was an affiliate from Mississippi, from the small town of Crenshaw. Our beds were close together. Her back was giving her lots of pain.

I could not see my classmates because I was still contagious. I became very depressed, but they finally let my sister come to see me, which helped.

The iron lungs were all around us, going constantly, and very loud. They helped people breathe who had the



Bulbar type of polio. We received wonderful care, including hot towels from a machine three times a day, plus whirlpool baths. Everything was donated by the March of Dimes

campaign. It was a bad year for the polio epidemic in the U.S., and they were also flying in patients from Mexico.

After I recovered, I worked without pay in the TB sanitarium to pay back the hospital for the time I spent in the polio center in excess of my sick leave. By this time, all of my classmates had left CHSN to go on their way to a new life. I was blessed to be able to graduate and to work as a RN with my built-up shoe and a brace on my leg. I did school nursing, worked in doctors offices and nursing homes, and for five years in a prison hospital. I married and had three sons.

I was working at the University of Michigan in the summer of 1955 when Dr. Jonas Salk announced he had developed the polio vaccine. Such great news!

Now I have post-polio syndrome. The muscles that took over for the ones I lost to polio are now worn out. I would love to come to another reunion of my class, but I have trouble walking. It is much more difficult to do things with my legs growing weaker; however, I won't give up! I enjoy hearing from **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** every Christmas. She has my Charity cape."

Patricia Kucera Ammon '58 (*Metairie, LA*): "I arrived in New Orleans on the train from central Florida in 1955. I had one Samsonite suitcase with no wheels. It was heavy and the handle broke, so I had to carry it in my arms. A friend from high school who was going to Tulane University picked me up from the train station and took me to the student nurse residence.

I arrived a day or two before my classmates and was assigned a room on the sixth floor. The first morning I looked down in the garden and saw Sister Urban cutting roses. She was wearing a full navy blue habit with the starched, snowy-white coronet. It took my breath away! I had never seen a Catholic nun. I felt overwhelmed and scared. I soon adjusted, though Sister Pauline could strike fear into anyone - especially if you'd done something wrong and had to go have a 'talk' with her.

All meals were served cafeteria style in the basement. Much of what was served was cooked in the hospital →



and carted across in containers. Every Friday was fish, but despite the abundance of local seafood, it was always frozen cod. If you were not Catholic and didn't want the fish, you could eat leftovers from Thursday - usually hot dogs. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were available in the evenings. A dress had to be worn to meals and, since this was before permanent press, we would have two or three 'dinner dresses' that were easy to wash and iron.

We could wear shorts or jeans only off campus, so even if you were going on a picnic or to Pontchartrain Beach, you had to wear a raincoat over your sportswear until you got away from campus.

None of my classmates owned a car. I don't know where they would have parked anyway. We walked everywhere or took the streetcar. We would sign up to usher at the Municipal Auditorium so we could see operas and musical events. We would walk to the Auditorium, and back. I never felt afraid out walking at night.

Eight Dollar Days

Tuition for three years was \$250. You got room, board, books, twelve uniforms, a first pair of duty shoes, bandage scissors and a navy blue wool cape. After the first nine months we received a monthly stipend of \$10. The streetcar was 7 cents, postage stamps were 3 cents and a candy bar was a nickle. If you maintained an acceptable grade point average, you were allowed to work an extra shift at the hospital on your days off for \$8 a day.

Our lives were closely monitored. If you were going off campus, you had to sign out and in at the desk in the main lobby. We were allowed to go out in the evening four times per month until ten, and four times until midnight. To go away for a night you had to have a permission slip signed by your parents. Otherwise you were required to be in your room studying by eight o'clock. Rooms were checked by the hostess and you had better be there with a book and not putting pin curls in your hair. A bed check was made every night.

There was no air conditioning in the dorm or the hospital, but we had a ceiling fan in our dorm room.

The uniform dress code was detailed and strict. There was no panty hose then, so we wore a garter belt to keep our white stockings up. White cotton hose had to be worn in the operating room. No jewelry of any kind, no nail polish and a hair net had to be worn no matter how short your hair was. No hair could touch your collar.

Engagements

There were no male students or black students. Everyone had to live in the dorm and married students were not allowed. If you got married (and it was discovered), you were out. Consequently, there were many students sporting engagement rings - not in class or at work, of course. Many weddings took place in the days following graduation - including mine!

All too soon it was August 1958. Dwight Eisenhower was President, Earl K. Long was Governor of Louisiana.

Alaska and Hawaii were not yet states, but would be the following year. Fresh faced and eager, we left our dear Charity, our home for the last three years, full of knowledge and skills to begin a new phase of our lives as registered nurses."

Rosemary Myers Breau '58 (*Clinton, LA*): "The years I spent at Charity were the best years of my life. I met my husband of 58 years there. He was a cousin of my classmates, **Patricia and Sheila Bourgeois**. Gerald Breau was my soul mate and best friend. We had three beautiful children, two boys and a girl, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I lost my dear Gerald in May of this year, but we enjoyed life to the fullest. I am sending my dues and a donation. I would love to see my classmates again. I would love to say hello to my roommate **Jody Jacobs**. I think of everyone and the good times we had often. Everyone, take care and God bless!"



Mary Kathryn Anderson (*Atlanta, GA*): "I was Mamie Anderson then and now. I was in the 9/10/65 class, but did not graduate. I have wonderful memories of Charity! I remember Ann Tomsu from Texas, BJ and Jean from New Orleans. Jean's family hosted us for many gumbo meals. So much laughter!

I would love to get back in touch with my classmate Maureen Mahoney. She was a bean pole, called herself Bony Mahoney. Wicked sense of humor with a ready laugh, a quick study with a tidy desk and good penmanship. She and I ate ice cream sundaes from Meal-A-Minute and shared shoes (my shoes were too big for her so she stuffed toilet paper in the toes).

We waded in the fountain to collect coins for quarter beers, and rode street cars with one transfer for hours. We climbed on the above ground cemeteries. We were fearless. Dumb, too. We washed our clothes at a local laundromat and overloaded the washers with clothes and too much soap. We flooded the floor and were so embarrassed that our underwear was floating in the bubbles.

If I remember correctly, we were required to wear dresses any time we were outside the dorm. Hot, humid dorm rooms. I had to learn how to wind my own alarm clock without my mother there to wake me. I had to learn



how to light a match so I could smoke - I wanted so much to fit in. Fortunately, I outgrew my tobacco habit.

The public libraries allowed card holders to check out pictures. I hung a large copy of *Starry Night* over my bed because it matched. I had no appreciation of Van Gogh. There was one dial phone propped on a short stand at the end of the hall. I don't think there was a time limit on calls - if a caller got through.

In our first semester, my expensive capped tooth broke off. Because I was afraid to tell my parents that I broke it again (and because it was almost impossible to hold in - even with a dollop of pink tooth wax), I usually kept my front tooth out unless a new date was cute. For our Christmas play, I kept it out as I sang, *All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth*. I can remember how pleased I was with myself when the audience of students laughed!

Darker Days

We had a TV in the dorm lounge which broadcast news of the Cuban Missile standoff (Oct 22 - my 18th birthday). We pre-clinical nursing students didn't breathe. We remembered our prayers and searched for our rosaries.

Mahoney and other classmates treated me to a birthday breakfast at a fancy restaurant - white tablecloths, real silver flatware and crystal glasses. We used our church company manners. The gloved waiter pulled out his silver lighter when we elegantly waved our unfiltered Camels, and we blew smoke circles. We hoped that we were noticed. Hoped that we didn't look 18. Twenty five was a good number.

Our Anatomy and Physiology instructor was excellent and demanding. We gave her wide berth. On our final exam we had to identify bones, and Sister tried to trick us by including a femur of an infant. But upper classmates had warned us!

Our Psychology instructor would tap on the microphone and say *One, Two, Three* in Cajun. The Sister who counseled me for my borderline grades also said that I should wear lipstick. I thought that was odd. We had the waxy, reddish tubes that melted in the heat.

Lessons Learner, Rules Broken

We grew up fast in the wards where 10 beds were filled with pitifully ill patients. They always seemed to be in good spirits. At Charity they had a bed and meals and plenty of attention from Tulane and LSU med students in new white jackets and from us in our stiff, starched uniforms and white tie-up shoes.

When I needed to collect a sputum specimen from a patient, I held the glass tube for her with my ungloved hand. Next time, I let the patient hold the specimen tube. Another student introduced herself in her usual perky voice to a patient who seemed to be sleeping. She took his temperature, three times. The mercury wouldn't register. Then she realized that her patient was dead. Not even warm.

Charity had state of the art operating rooms, but even complicated surgeries came back to the wards. Often a patient would hold up her gown to show me *what the doctor found*.

Meals were a time to barter food. Two hard boiled eggs for one banana would be traded from bed to bed. Special diets were ignored.

In the dorm, we also ignored rules like sit at your desk from 7pm until 9pm, lights out at 11pm. At the age of 18, we were not afraid of too much. But on the night that a 'bad man' was found in the dorms in the 5th floor stairwell, we huddled together. I remember the armed police in our building. They apprehended the intruder.

The Psych Ward was directly across from the back of the dorm. A few of our classmates witnessed a man jumping out a window. I wondered why windows in a psych ward weren't nailed shut.

I was homesick, and not ready for the demands of nursing school. I welcomed my failing grades. I did not accept the opportunity to repeat some classes. Mahoney and a handful of friends waved to me as I was sitting on the train heading home. Mahoney told me that I was well liked. I think I cried.

I completed my nursing degree ten years later in Jacksonville, FL. I have practiced approximately 30 years in Atlanta. It has been a joy for me."

Ella Ramagos Knight '72 (Prairieville, LA): "The education and experience I received at Charity was priceless. After graduation I worked for a year on Ortho-Neuro at Charity. Then I moved to Memphis, TN, after getting married. What a shock to work in a private hospital! I quickly adjusted, but I missed Charity so much.



We returned to Louisiana several years later and lived in my hometown of Morganza in Point Coupee Parish for 42 years. My career took me to the Home Health field. It was very different from hospital nursing but I have used all of my skills from Pediatrics to Geriatrics! I have been able to see Home Health progress and advance to the performance of many critical skills being done in the home. Many times I have had to improvise while performing tasks in the home - like using deer antlers for IV poles! It was a natural for me as I got to care for so many people that I knew. The appreciation from my patients and their families was such a great reward - as it had been from the patients we all cared for at Charity.

I enjoyed 23 years of Home Health and when our agency, Point Coupee Homebound Health and →

Hospice, opened a hospice agency I was recruited to work in hospice. I was Clinical Manager and enjoyed 15 years of caring for hospice patients and their families. Hospice is truly a ministry and I am so blessed to have had the experience.

In 2016, my husband and I retired. We relocated to Prairieville, LA, and are enjoying our 3 children and 6 grandchildren, Thank you, Charity for molding me into the person I am today!"

Andree Pere Blakemore '85 (Metairie, LA): "I haven't been in the building in many, many years, but I dream about riding in the elevators all the time! I dream of the



little ladies operating the elevators and how they used to have to go up and down to get the elevator even with the floor. In my dreams, I am always jumping out of the elevator so it doesn't get me! I loved my time at Charity. We had so much fun. I loved going to mass in the basement. What a great walk through Memory Lane!" ❖

Into the Nursing World

Sister Miriam Rivera, S. de Martinez '16 (Newbury, CA): Sister Miriam graduated from Charity in December 2016, and the following spring was sent by her order to join the staff at Mary Health of the Sick Convalescent and Nursing Hospital in California.

"I'm starting to find my way. As a Sister, I have always strived to live my vocation with passion but now, serving officially as a nurse, it reinforces and fulfills my vocation before God and the world.

The motto of my life has been: *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend* (John 15:13) and this love has grown and I've seen it fulfilled every day with deeper conviction. In thinking how God works to bring us where we are, I see my life in the right place. All that I am, have, and can be, finds its fulfillment in this home. This place, Mary Health of the Sick, is the workplace where God waited for me and prepared me to come.

I'm still working to get my nursing skills firmly established, but I guess it comes with experience, along with feeling confident in my new role. But, I am not alone. I can count on so many around me. I know that with their help and examples, I will be succeed.

I feel that in this place my heart, mind, and vision have widened to embrace in heart and prayer all those God has

entrusted to our prayer. Not just the residents but, also, the other staff. And what is that but *the true spirit of Charity* that was firmly rooted in me when I was in your midst.

The End was a New Beginning

Finishing nursing school was a great accomplishment in grace, and I had the prayers and encouragement of so many. At the end I could see that it was really just the beginning of a world filled with so many meaningful and new opportunities. I knew my life would never be the same after all the knowledge and experience I have gained. But, above all, becoming a nurse has truly committed me to humanity.

As a new nurse, I face a challenging world of medicine. In spite of the great preparation I received in nursing school, I still have so much to learn - about how to coordinate skills with love and compassion, too.



Charting, supervision, reports, and doctor's new orders, in addition to family at the bedside wanting answers and reassurance. So much information to acquire and organize! So many responsibilities! But I have realized what is the most important, the *essential*, that I can not ignore.

The One I Come to Serve

The patient who is entrusted to my care each day is the one I come to serve. He is someone who was well, but things have changed. What is his story? Is he afraid? Is he in pain?

I realize I needed to ponder and examine myself. How can I keep up in order to give to each one not just my skills, but my nurse's heart, the greatest gift I have to offer. That is what is *most* important in my vocation.

Just a few extra seconds, a loving touch, or a kind word can make a big difference in each patient's life. I've learned that sometimes illness is partnered with solitude and lack of love - and that can be alleviated with a peaceful spirit or a simple smile to show you care.

The Road Before Me

This is the spirit of the true Charity Nurse, and with great joy I understand better now that we are called to bring healing, our presence, and love. We are the good Samaritan for those we find on our road. I truly see that, to be a good nurse, I must deal with all in the challenges with patience and humility.

How proud I am to have this common last name of 'Charity.' I gain so much from the wisdom and experiences of others, and I am in a very privileged place: to see not just my perspective, but the firm road of wisdom that others have walked before me. *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.*" ❖

Classmates Create New Scholarship

We always say there are no friends like the friends you make at Charity. There is one group of classmates who are not only proving that adage, but showing that their 50-plus years of friendship is enriched by helping others.

Class of 1964 friends **Marilee Keating Phillips** and **Judy Wellman Quigley** were making plans to visit classmate **Estelle LeBlanc Rome** this past September. Estelle had invited them, along with **Charlotte Voinche Guinn** and all their husbands, to her son's lakehouse in Birmingham, Alabama.

A Gift Idea

"We were tossing around ideas for a gift for Estelle," says Marilee. "We decided that she would most enjoy some sort of monetary gift to go to Charity School of Nursing. We thought of a scholarship." But they did not want it to be just a one-time award. "We wanted it to be an ongoing scholarship. We decided to name it after our **CHSN Class of 09/11/1964**, with the first award to honor Estelle and her husband Robert, and our seventeen classmates who have passed away."

Judy, Charlotte and Marilee would provide the initial amount to establish the scholarship fund, then they would invite the rest of our classmates to donate money to the fund. "They can give in honor of our classmates who have died, or for someone dear to them," says Marilee.

Among the criteria for scholarship recipients will be plans to continue their nursing education. "We want to encourage Charity students who intend to go on for their BSN degree."

Marilee, Judy and Charlotte made an initial donation of \$2,000 to establish the CHSN Class of 09/11/1964 Scholarship Fund and presented a certificate to Estelle announcing the new scholarship during their visit. The first scholarship award will be presented in Spring 2018.

A Testament to Friendship

This is not the first time this group of friends has joined together to make a gift more meaningful by benefitting the Charity community. Last year, Marilee, Estelle and their husbands visited Judy and her husband James in California and they wanted to show their appreciation for Judy's hospitality. They made a generous gift in Judy's honor to Charity alumni **Kassidy Prestenbach '11**, who needed assistance to purchase specialized prosthetic hands (her hands and legs were amputated due to septic shock).

These gifts are a moving testament to a great and lasting friendship that began so many years ago at Charity School of Nursing.

Join With Your Classmates

If you are from the Class of 09/11/1964 and would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, you can use the form



Left to right, top to bottom: Marilee Phillips, Charlotte Guinn and Judy Quigley present Estelle Rome with a certificate announcing the CHSN Class of 9/11/1964 Scholarship.

on page 22. "We will be contacting our classmates to encourage their participation," says Marilee. "We want this scholarship to continue for years to come." ❖

Reunion Plans

Class of 2008: 10 Years
Contact Jessica Raibstein
Mackenroth at
jessmac319@gmail.com



Class of 1988: 30 Years
Contact **Tami Blanchard** at tami_blanchard@msn.com.

Class of 1968: 50 Years
We're celebrating our 50th reunion the same weekend as the Alumni Breakfast on September 22, 2018. Contact **Cindy Beniger** at ccbsinger@aol.com.

Class of 1963: 55 Years
Contact **Karen Bradley** at kbrad56@gmail.com.

You can plan a reunion for your class! Contact the Alumni Office to get a class list. ❖

Goodbyes

Capt. Richard Whynot: In 2003, Richard created a scholarship for Charity nursing students in memory of his recently deceased wife, a 1946 graduate. **Mary Ann Signorelli** was part of the Cadet Nurse Corps, a program



created to address the nursing shortage caused by World War II. She served as ship's nurse on the *USNS General Hersey* (where she met Richard, the ship's navigation officer) and on the *General Stewart* carrying

displaced persons from Europe to the US, Canada, Australia and South America after the war. Mary Ann and Richard both served in the US Army Transportation Services and U.S. Navy Military Sea Transportation Services during the Korean War. Richard commanded in the US Coast Guard Reserve, later becoming a civilian engineer and consultant. After retiring he became a researcher and lecturer on military and Spanish Colonial history. Richard passed away in September and his family asked that contributions in his memory be made to the **Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship** at Charity.

Edna Gannon Treuting '46:

Edna was part of the Cadet Nurse Corps at Charity. World War II ended in 1945, and Edna was able to complete her service at Charity Hospital in the "premature nursery" rather than a military posting. After a number of years there, she took a break to raise her children, then returned to nursing as a teacher. She earned a Masters of Public Health and Doctorate in Medical Care Administration from Tulane University. She became a professor there, then Dean of Nursing at Our Lady of Holy Cross College, then later the Chief Nurse of the Louisiana Department of Health. She was a trailblazer in the medical field. In 1972, Edna presented a proposal for the Nurse Practitioner Program to the state. Thanks to her research, passion and documentation of the potential benefits, the Nurse Practitioner program was approved. Today she is known as the matriarch of all the Nurse Practitioners in Louisiana.



Jean Carrigan '47: Jean came to Charity from Arkansas, joining the Cadet Nurse Corps. A few years ago, Jean

wrote this to us: "I could never have gone to Charity without the Cadet Nurse Corps. I'm so grateful for the opportunity it gave me. I spent my Senior Cadet period at DePaul Sanitarium in New Orleans. From 1947 to 1984, I worked at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I was proud to be awarded the Administrator's Hands and Heart Award, given annually to recognize an outstanding employee for exceptional, sustained, compassionate, direct patient care. The Cadet Corps and Charity enabled me to do this."



Jean retired from the VA after 37 years as operating room supervisor and infection control nurse, but barely slowed down. She volunteered with the American Red Cross, Planned Parenthood, and Washington Regional Medical Center where she spent years as the surgical waiting room volunteer. "She never retired from helping people," a news article about her said. After moving into a retirement community, Jean organized a volunteer service to help other residents get to their doctor appointments. "Some people just need physical help, but others need me to go with them and write down what the doctor says so they can tell their family later," said Jean. "I've had a lot of practice listening to doctors and asking questions."

Jean died in March 2017, and we received a wonderful box from her niece, Jo Wilson of Arkansas. "My aunt Jean passed away in March at age 91. She was a proud graduate of Charity School of Nursing. These are some items she kept that I thought you might like to have." The box was full of treasures: Jean's diploma and nursing license, her cape, a letter from the Charity registrar responding to her request for an application and information about the Cadet Nurse Corps, a handout from a Class Reunion, a 1946 yearbook, a class photo, a program from the June 1946 Commencement, a student handbook from 1943, a 1943 medical dictionary, a book of devotional readings given to her by a classmate, articles and letters and a beautiful portrait of Jean as a Nurse Cadet. They are wonderful mementos of a nursing life well-lived, and will be added to our archives.

Beryl O'Reilly Freeman '47: "For some time, I have meant to write to see if my mother could be mentioned in your *In Memoriam* section. She was a graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing Class of '47. Mom died June 21, 2016, from complications of Parkinson's Disease. One of the highlights of her later years was attending her 50 year reunion with my dad, Sol J. Freeman. They met when he was an intern at Charity Hospital. My five brothers and I were raised hearing many colorful stories about Mom's

and Dad's days at CHNO! Your newsletters were always such a treat for her." - *Keila Martin*

Elizabeth Jean Myers Reiter '54: "I am writing to tell you that one of my dear classmates, Joyce Reiter, known as "BJ" (Betty Jean Myers), passed away July 25, 2017. I met Joyce at CHSN in September of 1951 and we became great friends. We graduated in August of 1954. Joyce was from Biloxi, Mississippi, and her family took me in as another daughter. I was from Tennessee and could only go home once a year, so it was great to have a second home." - *Marilyn Massey Carter '54*

Virginia "Ginny" Fridal '56: Ginny graduated from Bob Jones University in 1953 and from CHSN in 1956. She became a missionary nurse with Sudan Interior Mission (SIM), and spent over 40 years in medical work in Niger, West Africa, mostly with leprosy patients. She retired to Florida in 2000, and passed away in April of 2017.

Peggy Jean Holden '66: "Peggy Holden expired in May 2017, leaving a void in a lot of lives. We were friends since our first day at CHSN when we were matched as roommates, and this is a difficult letter to write. Please accept the enclosed donation in Peggy's memory for a student in need - we both experienced that! During her three years at CHSN, Peggy worked extra on the units at Charity Hospital to finance her education and also to gain experience. After graduation, she rapidly became head nurse and then supervisor of a surgery unit. Later she returned to Covington to take care of her ailing parents and worked as a psychiatric home health nurse. One of 15 children, Peggy had tremendous loyalty and love for her large family and also for her patients. She touched a lot of lives with her generosity, both of time and finances. A fond farewell to a true friend and a dedicated nurse. We will miss her." - *Helen Devall '66*

Joan Trapani Ibos '66: Joan worked at St. Tammany Parish Hospital for 45 years. She passed away in October 2017. Her classmate Roberta Bartee sent a donation in Joan's memory. "We shared many clinical rotations and I remember her as a good nurse and a fine friend."

Michael Lloyd Eastin '71: Michael was the first male graduate of Charity, earning his diploma in July 1971. He went on to become a Nurse Anesthetist. He lived in Louisiana, loved Cajun music and cooking, and spent much of his free time hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed coaching youth soccer, and his teams won several local and state tournaments through the years. He passed away in June 2017 at the age of 72. ❖



In Memoriam

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

Capt. Richard Whynot (9/8/17)
Edna Gannon Treuting '46 (11/13/17)
Jean Carrigan '47 (3/12/17)
Beryl O'Reilly Freeman '47 (6/21/16)
Betty Shoemaker Cook '49 (8/22/16)
Jean Wilkinson '50 (6/20/17)
Josephine Latino Fasone '51 (1/30/17)
Carolyn Pattison Roper '52 (2/7/17)
Elizabeth Myers Reiter '54 (7/25/17)
Virginia "Ginny" Fridal '56 (4/27/17)
Elizabeth Beard Gardiner '57 (5/1/17)
Peggy Jean Holden '66 (5/1/17)
Joan Trapani Ibos '66 (10/9/17)
Emily Nell Sansbury Mulkey Kircher '67 (11/19/17)
Michael Lloyd Eastin '71 (6/13/17)
Judith "Judy" Crappel Perez '82 (6/23/17)
Abby Lynn Landry '88 (8/27/17)
Deidre Lynn Markey '03 (6/28/17)



Charity Ambulance

The Charity Ambulance was spotted at the World War II Museum's *Air, Sea & Land Festival* in October!

Margaret Gay '66 sent us these photos that she took at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport event. The antique World War II ambulance was donated to the Museum by the Charity Alumni Association as part of our Homecoming Celebration in 2006.



CASN Members Soar with Spirit

By Brittany Brignac, CASN President

The Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN), had a very productive semester, from participating in community events to attending the state student nurses convention.

Since our last report, CASN and the Charity School of Nursing organized and assisted the Blood Center with a blood drive held on October 9 in the first floor lobby. Our goal was to beat the 29 pints of blood collected last semester. We exceeded our goal with a total of 39 pints!

CASN partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank and held a donation drive for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We asked our fellow school organizations (SGA, SAC, and Spectrum) to assist with this drive. Items collected included canned goods, diapers, hygiene items, bottled water, and cleaning supplies. We collected over 500 pounds of donated items.

We volunteered for the *Out of Darkness Walk* at Audubon Park on September 16. The community walk raises awareness, encourages education and advocates for public policy to prevent suicide.

CASN members attended the Alumni Breakfast in September where we sold t-shirts, jackets and other items from the CASN store and networked with Charity Alumni. It is always an enjoyable time to hear the stories of the nurses whose shoes we hope to fill one day. Thank you for having us as your guests.

State Convention

Thirteen Charity students attended the LASN (Louisiana Association of Student Nurses) convention held in Baton Rouge on October 6-8. We represented CASN in all of the House of Delegate meetings, at the Opening Keynote, Candidate Luncheon, and House of Delegates Voting. We also attended many focus sessions including Neuroscience, Opioid Use Disorder, Trauma Nursing, ICU Nursing, ER Nursing, Pediatrics with Autism, Waterbirths, and Leadership. We attended the opening night party titled "Nursing Unmasked" where all the students dressed up in matching *Super RN* t-shirts paired with a wide variety of masks and funny accessories.

Four CASN members ran for board positions on the LASN Board of Directors. We now have two members who are part of the 2018 LASN Board! We congratulate **Lindsey McDaniel**, the new LASN Historian, and **Megan Guitreau**, the new LASN Fundraiser Coordinator.



CASN also won the award for "Best Scrapbook Cover" thanks to our very own CASN Historian, **Maria Santiago**. The convention was truly a memorable experience filled with valuable educational and professional opportunities!

Saints and Spooks

On October 15, CASN held a parking fundraiser in the CSN parking garage for the New Orleans Saints football game. We had five Charity student volunteers and raised over \$2,000 from this one event! This is the main way we raise money to attend state and national student nurse conventions. We will hold another Saints parking fundraiser in November. If you go to the Saints games, please come and park at Charity!

CASN, along with many other local organizations, volunteered for *Boo at the Zoo* at the Audubon Zoo on October 20 and 27. We had fifteen volunteers who assisted in the main game area, entertaining lots of little ghosts and goblins. What a fun event!

As the semester closes, the pinning ceremony for the graduating seniors is scheduled for December 11. CASN members will volunteer to usher and assist during the ceremony.

We would like to thank the alumni for all your continued leadership and support. We know that with your inspiration we will succeed as leaders in our time here at Charity - as well as in our future careers. ❖





Fall 2017 Scholarships & Awards

The Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association presented the following scholarships and awards, totaling \$7,700, to students of Charity School of Nursing on September 11, 2017, at the Promotion and Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to these students:

Pictured left to right, front row to back:

LEVEL 2

Mary Billiot

Sister Blanche McDonnell D.C. Scholarship \$500

Monica Hevessy

Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Scholarship \$500

LEVEL 3

Martynenez Grigsby

Sister Camilla Gaudin D.C. Scholarship \$500

Stephanie Barrera

Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship \$500

Desmetris Jones

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 Scholarship \$500

Kevin Ayestas

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 Scholarship \$500

Jacob Kindscher

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship \$1,000

LEVEL 4

Aileen Frashier

Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot '46 Scholarship \$500

Molly Taylor

Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 Scholarship \$500

Melvina Thomas

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship \$500

Margaret Tully

Sally Cooper '59 Alumni Scholarship \$1,000

PIN AWARDS

Lauren Griffin

Kirk LeVasseur '79 Pin Award

Adesola Omole

Rita Burrows Suhor Pin Award, mother of faculty member Patricia Smart

Not pictured:

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

Janice Sullivan - RN Program \$500

Alexis Blake - PN Program \$500

All Alumni Association scholarships and awards are made possible by generous gifts from graduates, friends and family. Thank you to all who have donated to assist outstanding students of Charity School of Nursing. ❖

Big Charity Could Anchor Redevelopment District

In November, a panel of urban planning experts spent five days evaluating the shuttered Big Charity hospital for a land-use study commissioned by the LSU Health Sciences Center of New Orleans and the LSU Real Estate and Facilities Foundation.

Representatives of the nationally-recognized **Urban Land Institute** see a world of opportunity in the iconic limestone structure.

"The hospital can be the artistic centerpiece and a useful facility for the community," said John Walsh, a Texas real estate consultant with the Urban Land Institute. The panel suggested forming "The Spirit of Charity Innovation and Tax Increment Financing District" surrounding the hospital. Tax revenue from within the district would seed the building's redevelopment.

The project could require about \$260 million to develop but, "It's about the vision, not the money," said Tom Murphy, a former mayor of Pittsburgh who led an effort to convert an old steel mill into an \$800 million public-private Pittsburgh redevelopment cornerstone.

Walsh cautioned, "It won't happen if you don't have a process," pointing out that there is currently no one entity in place to spearhead the project. The planners say the project should move forward on two tracks - one for the hospital and one for the district around it.

The panel noted the deep affection that the city has for the closed hospital, and called for an open and transparent process to determine what its future should be. A committee should be created representing a cross-section of local institutions and interests: hospitals, universities, the business community, the arts and nearby neighborhoods.

"I totally agree with the importance of bringing the neighborhood in because we destroyed a neighborhood to build the medical district," said Jeanne Nathan, of the Creative Alliance of New Orleans. "The neighborhood needs to be welcomed back to the process."

The ULI panel suggested that the best potential uses for the hospital would be educational and workforce development, a museum or retail space. A plan to move city government and local courts into the building was abandoned several years ago as not being cost effective, but the panel said it might work if there are other tenants. They also urged that the district be made more pedestrian friendly. Connectivity and walkability should be a priority in the redevelopment plans.

New York developer Carleton Brown said New Orleans needs to consider itself a competitor with other regional powerhouses vying for federal science grants, and activating assets like Big Charity is a key to doing so.

Earlier this year, the state spent more than \$6 million

to clean out the hospital.

The ULI panel will provide a full report by the end of the year. The panel suggested that the project should begin accepting proposals early in 2018 and begin the development process by the summer. ❖

Charity Tales

By Mark Brinker, MD and Bo Frederick, MD

Remember the long nights in the Accident Room and West Admit? Remember coming home after being up 48 hours, exhausted with your scrubs covered in blood...and worse? We all do, we trained at Charity!

In her day, Charity was a busy hospital and trauma center providing free care to tens-of-thousands of patients every year. She was also an unparalleled teaching hospital, training thousands of nurses and physicians.

There are books written about the history of Charity Hospital and a book describing her final days during Katrina. But there are no books from the nurse, medical student, and resident perspective. We all have stories from our days at Charity – some are funny, some are amazing, and some are just plain unbelievable. This is why we are contacting you. We plan to publish a book compiling Charity stories from those who trained and worked there. And we want to include your "Charity Tales."

Just go to our website: **www.CharityTales.com** You will need to register your name and sign the copyright release. (We cannot use your story without your signing the release.) You can submit as many stories as you like, and please include as many details as you can remember. If you have any questions, you can contact us through our email.

Please take a little time and help us write this book. When we think back to our years at Charity, the best memories are the stories we tell our friends about our time there. We need to share these stories before they are lost!

Thanks for your help,

Mark Brinker, MD
Tulane Orthopedics 1988-1993
mark@mbrinker.com

Bo Frederick, MD
Tulane Orthopedics 1985-1990
bo@upperextremitycare.com

Note: We prefer that you use the web site to submit your stories, but you can send them directly to us via our email or by regular mail to the address below. If you do not go through the web site, we will need to mail you a written copyright release to sign if your story is selected to go in the book. So please include your name and mailing address with any story submitted via email or regular mail.

9301 North Central Expressway, Suite 350
Dallas, Texas 75231 ❖

2018 Election Candidate Biographies *The Election Ballot is on page 22.*

SECRETARY



Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 - Unopposed

Joycelyn has been active in the Alumni Association since the 1980s, serving on the Board, as President, and currently as Secretary, a position she has held since 2012. Joycelyn also serves on the Alumni Scholarship Committee, and she and her husband Kevin sponsor the Jeansonne Scholarship every semester. Joycelyn has a BSN from Northwestern, a MN from LSUMC, and a post-graduate NNP certification from LSUMC. She worked for the state for 14 years, and was Supervisor of PICU at Big Charity before moving to Alexandria where she taught Pediatric Nursing at LSU Alexandria. Joycelyn guest lectures at Louisiana College, volunteers at the Alexandria Museum of Art, and has been Secretary, President and Captain of the Krewe of Medea, an Alexandria Mardi Gras krewe. Joycelyn lives in Alexandria, LA.

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Vote for Two



Brooke A. Troxclair '17

As a student, Brooke was the President and Community Events Coordinator of the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) and Treasurer of Sigma Alpha Chi. She is currently an ICU nurse at West Jefferson Medical Center. In her previous career, Brooke worked in accounting, office management, marketing and business development. She also has a creative side that includes cake decorating and music, and she designed several t-shirts that CASN has offered for sale at alumni events. "I am a PROUD graduate of Charity School of Nursing! At Charity, I fell in love with nursing, and I want to do anything I can to help Charity and its students." Brooke lives in Marrero, LA.



Patrick D. Reed '90

Patrick retired from Charity Hospital after 27 years as an ER nurse, Nursing Administrator and Quality Manager. He currently teaches RN-BSN and RN-Masters with Perdue University, University of Texas Arlington and Lamar University of Beaumont. He is President of the New Orleans District Nurses Association and President-Elect for the Louisiana State Nurses Association. He is on the Louisiana Action Coalition and co-chair of the Region 1 Action Coalition, and serves on the Advisory Board of the New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council. He has served on the CHSN Alumni Board as Nominations Chair. "I am proud of the service Charity nurses have and continue to provide for the people of Louisiana and around the world." Patrick lives in New Orleans.



Vivian Larkin Manes '70

Vivian is a board certified nurse case manager with twenty-plus years of experience, currently working for a private rehab company. She has been a board member of the Case Management Society of America and a member of the American Society of Pain Management Nursing. Vivian has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years, serving on the Nominating Committee, Advisory Committee, and currently as a Board Member. "I remain committed to a strong and dynamic alumni, focusing on support and encouragement of Charity students." Vivian lives in Metairie, LA. ❖

2018 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.

<p>BOARD MEMBERS (Vote for Two)</p> <p>VIVIAN MANES '70</p> <p>PATRICK REED '90</p> <p>BROOKE TROXCLAIR '17</p>

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, 2018, 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 "2017" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2017. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2018.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2017, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2018 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.....\$ _____
 Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____
 Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____
 Sister Camilla Gaudin 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 2018-19 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 online at **www.CharityAlumni.org**



JOIN US FOR THE 2018

SPRING ALUMNI LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Highway

FREE PARKING!

Registration/Cash Bar open at 10:30am; Lunch served at 11:30am

"2018 marks the city of New Orleans' 300th Anniversary and a time full of celebrations of our rich history, unique traditions and diverse culture. The Tricentennial will be a time to reflect on our past, embrace the wonderful, hospitable city that we have become, and look forward to our exciting future ahead." - 2018nola.com

The Charity Alumni will be part of the excitement!

Our Luncheon will be all about New Orleans! Join us for a few hours of friendship, fun, special memories, delicious food, souvenirs, raffles, door prizes, trivia - and so much more!

Special guests: The Daughters of Charity, celebrating their Bicentennial!

Savor your choice of two delicious entrees:

Bronzed Catch of the Day topped with a
Shrimp Regency Sauce

or Chicken Breast Poydras topped 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.

2018 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 16, 2018,
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.....\$ _____

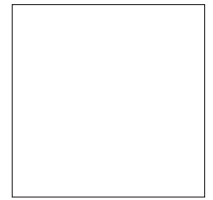
Choose your entree:

___ 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, "2017" next to your name means your membership expires at the end of 2017. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2018.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2017 (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

March 24, 2018



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/>