



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Winter 2022

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From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

They say timing is everything, and now I see that to be true. Since 2020, I've been waiting on Homecoming! Just about the time we thought it was safe to get together, a new variant would come along! Finally, we were able to gather for Homecoming 2022 in October, and a fine event it was! The delay meant a celebration that was even more joyous – and more poignant – as we gathered in the old Education Building for the last time. So many memories to share with our classmates and friends!

New and Old

As we look forward to 2023, the school will move to a new building at a new site on the Delgado campus. It is reassuring to know that Charity School of Nursing will carry on the history and many of the traditions we held so close at 450 South Claiborne. The new site will have an Alumni Office, the pin will remain the same, the diploma will remain the same.

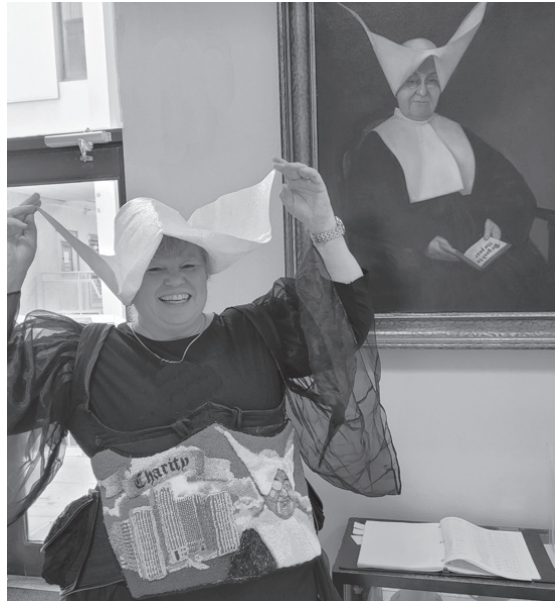
With the generous donation from the family of **Patricia Carreras Pankey '69**, we will have a Meditation Labyrinth in the shape of the Charity pin – a place for students to study and find peace in the hectic schedule of nursing school. We will also have two amazing skills labs named for **Patricia Pankey** and **Rose**

Ella Chenevert Miller '58. The name of **Charity School of Nursing** will continue on, along with our proud legacy!

Questions

There are so many questions we all have about what will happen to... a hundred things! A lot of the answers are: *We don't know*. We will just have to wait and see

Top to bottom: Homecoming 2022 guest Paula Kopp of the Dames de Perlange marching club in her Mardi Gras tribute to Sister Stanislaus; Ecoee Rooney '99 and Patrick Brady '83 enjoy brunch at the Audubon Tea Room.



how best to work some things out. But there are a couple of questions we have at least partial answers for.

Class Photos

The class pictures that line the walls of the first-floor hallway will go with us, of course, but they will not be displayed in frames at the new site. The originals will be filed in our archives, and our plan is to find a digital solution to displaying them – something like a digital picture frame which can be mounted outside the Alumni office and will continuously scroll through the photos.

The Alumni will also have a display case so we can do rotating displays of historic artifacts and photos.

Bricks

You can still order a brick and get a brick certificate, but we are no longer mounting them on the wall at 450 South Claiborne. The **Patricia Pankey Memorial Meditation Labyrinth** on the City Park campus will incorporate the alumni's

Commemorative Bricks. The bricks already on the wall will be replaced and mounted at the new site. We will share more about plans for the Labyrinth as they develop.

Pins for Students

You know about the Pin Awards that we present as part of our scholarships program for outstanding students (see

page 14). But this semester we were approached by SGA President **Cole Hackney** about providing pins to seniors who were unable to pay for graduation pins. Cole set up an application process to identify students in need, and a committee review to ensure fairness, and reported to us that five seniors needed assistance in order to be able to take part in the Pinning Ceremony in December.

We were able to provide pins to all five thanks to the generosity of our alumni, family and friends. Pins were given in memory of:

Ruth Christ Sullivan '43, Patricia Carreras Pankey '69, Cynthia Steinkamp Michel '72, Kirk LeVasseur '79 and Heber B. Dodson, father of retired faculty Evelyn Dodson.

Thank you to the wonderful donors! It meant the world to these students to be part of the Pinning Ceremony – such an important milestone for all of us! And thanks to Cole for initiating this partnership! Cole graduated in December and I know he's going to be a tremendous addition to nursing – and the Alumni Association!

Forward Together

At this point, we are planning to go back to our regular five-year Homecoming schedule in 2025, and that might turn out to be the best time to give everyone a tour of the new building once everyone has settled in. We'll keep you up to date on the plans!

But next up is our Alumni Spring Breakfast on **April 1st** and that's no 'April Fool'! But it will be a bit 'fishy' – with a French twist! Mark your calendars – and there's more information on page 26!

Elections

Don't forget to renew your membership and cast your votes for the 2023 Board of Directors. We are so gratified to see two nursing leaders stepping up to join the Alumni Board for the first time: **Patty Dufrene '85** and **Sandy Spitale '83**. And thank you to **Ursula Allain '65** and **Charlene Berger '79** for choosing to continue on the Board. And most of all – thanks to you, alumni, for allowing me to serve you as President! I am so proud to lead an organization of such pride and such strong support for future nurses!

A New Year

Let us welcome this new year and all the new opportunities to provide the best educational experiences to a new generation of Charity nurses. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2023, and look forward to seeing you again very soon!

Patrick



Dean's Report

By Joan Ellis, PhD
Executive Dean CSN Campus/
Dean of Nursing

As we reflect back on 2022, there is no doubt that it was a very exciting, challenging, and productive year.

I have just reached my one-year milestone as Dean of Nursing at Delgado

Charity School of Nursing, and I could not be prouder of having the opportunity to work with such an exceptional group of faculty, students, and staff!! I'm truly blessed to serve with a group that consistently personifies teamwork, commitment, and excellence.

As the new year quickly unfolds, I have no doubt that our premier nursing program will continue to thrive and flourish as we navigate through continued growth opportunities, initiatives, and change. We are definitely ready for the challenge!

Fall 2022 Whirlwinds

Last semester was very fast-paced and unpredictable! Eight hundred students returned to campus for in-person classes in August. The fall sent us multiple thunderstorms, power outages, and numerous personal challenges along with successes!

We were able to hold the Promotion Ceremony for the first time since the pandemic. After two-years of no ceremony, it was surprisingly emotional to recognize the students advancing to Level 3, as well as those receiving Clinical Excellence Awards and Alumni Scholarships! The alumni gave a slide show to explain the origin of each scholarship. The family of the late faculty member **Bernice Bonds** was there to present a scholarship in her memory and the faculty gave a standing ovation in Ms. Bonds' honor. A few tears were shed in sadness and pride!

Pinning Ceremonies

Our seniors were able to successfully navigate through the many difficulties to achieve their dream of becoming Charity nurses. There were 104 graduates from the Associate Degree Nursing Program and 33 graduates from the Practical Nursing Program in December 2022.

The following students received special recognition at the ADN and the PN Pinning Ceremonies in December.

Associate Degree Awards:

Dominique Smith – Highest GPA

Cole Hackney – Award of Distinction

Heather Bordelon – Sr. Stanislaus Malone Award

Bailey Weber – Sr. Blanche McDonnell Award

Elaine Robinson – Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

Practical Nursing Program Awards:

Faith Guillot – Florence Nightingale Award

Avante Blakeney – Award of Distinction

Janaya Fobb – Award of Service

Miranika Jones – Clinical Excellence

Janika McGee – Most Spirited

Elizabeth Broussard – Highest GPA

We are extremely proud of every one of our nursing graduates! Congratulations to all of them for a job well done!

Career Day and Collaboration

We were also able to resume our Career Fair at Charity in October. Representatives from hospitals and university programs gathered in the gym to discuss their institutions and offerings with the students in another return to normal activities.

The Respiratory program is now collaborating with two nursing levels – for oxygenation in Level 2 and with the patient simulation experience in Level 3. We are making plans to increase collaboration with other programs, such as Pharmacy technology, funeral services and more, when we move to the City Park campus.

ACEN and NCPN

I attended the ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) Administrator Workshop in Virginia in April for a review of standards and criteria, integration of policies, and maintenance of accreditation. Our Associate Degree Nursing program at CSN is accredited through the spring of 2025, and the next Self-Study Report is due in Fall 2024.

I was sorry to miss Homecoming, but I was at the National Career Pathways Network Conference in Atlanta that weekend, attending sessions on career counseling, teaching, and learning, designing programs, growing partnerships, and workforce development. There were also presentations on developing career pathways from high schools and adult education programs to college settings which is something we are looking to strengthen at CSN as our nursing and allied health programs at Delgado continue to grow and evolve.

Faculty Recognition

I can't overstate the hard work of our faculty, and their incredible flexibility during this past year. So it is even more impressive to see their accomplishments and the recognition they have received from the college and nursing community.

Betty Wolff and **Wendy Garretson** were both nominated for the Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award by Delgado Community College for 2023. This is the most prestigious award that a faculty member at the College can receive. They are both outstanding educators and the nominations are well-deserved.

Congratulations to **Dr. Pamela Kemp** for completing her doctorate in higher education and administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in November.

Special thanks to **Wendy Garretson, Elizabeth Serpas, Angie Shoemake, Robin Smetana** and **Cheree Wiggins '95** for teaching in the PN Bootcamp to prepare students for their upcoming NCLEX exam this January.



Left to right: Catherine Strength, Joan Ellis and Jennifer Fernandez at the Great 100 ceremony.

I was honored to be named among the Great 100 Nurses in October 2022, a list that rightfully included Delgado Vice-Chancellor and Provost **Dr. Cheryl Myers** and CSN Assistant Dean **Jennifer**

Fernandez, faculty **Catherine Strength**, and twenty Charity alumni! (See page 20 for the list of alumni.)

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) honored faculty and staff of community colleges for their service at the annual statewide conference in New Orleans this past September. CSN's **Dr. Kim Uddo** was recognized for 25 years of service, and administrative staffer **Vivian Smith** was named a Distinguished Retiree for 36 years of service.

Dr. Michelle DeLima '87, Dr. Karen Massey-Stewart, Raul Salas, Robin Smetana, and Mia Woodroof authored an article entitled "Faculty Collaboration in Transitioning to NextGen Test-Item Writing," which was accepted for publication in the January 2023 edition of the journal of the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) - more on page 13!

OADN Convention

This year's OADN convention in New Orleans was a tremendous success, setting one of the highest attendance records reported for their conventions! There are two great articles starting on page 10, so I will just add my thanks and congratulations to our Delgado administrators and CSN faculty and students who represented us so well – and received some special awards!

New Campus Update

Construction on the new nursing and allied health building at City Park is progressing rapidly and is on schedule for a Spring 2023 ribbon-cutting ceremony. Without question, the new building is exceptional and cutting-edge architecturally. However, it is also state-of-the-art in terms of technology, high fidelity simulation, student learning labs, learning resources, and well appointed classrooms. Every detail has been considered to ensure that student learning needs are effectively addressed in a phenomenal setting.

We are currently packing at Charity School of Nursing and making preparations for the historic move this spring. As you can imagine, we're extremely excited about this once in a lifetime event and are looking forward to our next chapter!

Wishing you a safe and happy new year!

Joan

Homecoming 2022: Farewell to the Education Building...

By Joycelyn Jeansonne, Class of 1978

Saturday morning, October 22 was bright and beautiful as over two hundred Charity friends gathered at 450 South Claiborne Avenue to celebrate Homecoming 2022. Our theme was “Ain’t Dere No Mo’... But We’re Still Here!” and the alumni were anxious for a last walk through the Education Building since the school will be moving to Delgado’s City Park campus next year. Coffee and pastries were served in the lobby, and many perused the class photos in the first floor hallway before heading upstairs.

Welcome Home

In the gym, President **Patrick Brady ’83** welcomed the alumni, guests, faculty and students to Homecoming. The event was rescheduled from 2020 because of the pandemic. “I kept asking Lista and the Board, *Is it time yet?*” said Patrick. “I am so excited to see everyone – two years in the making and two years overdue!” He went on to reassure everyone that, even though the school will be moving to a new building next year, the name *Charity School of Nursing* will remain the same. “We will still have an Alumni Office and we will keep our identity,” said Patrick. “This site will be gone, but we will *Still be Here!*”

Jenn Garnand ’11 gave her usual thoughtful and insightful blessing, riffing on the meaning of home (see page 9).

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Delgado Vice-Chancellor/Provost, shared her feelings that, like many of us, she grew up at 450 South Claiborne, serving as faculty and administrator – most recently as Dean of the School of Nursing. “This is home for me, too,” she said.

Dr. Myers explained that since 1992 there had been plans for a new building that would house the nursing school and allied health programs together. Several potential sites were discussed since the bond for \$34 million for construction passed in 2012. With the donation of \$20 million by Ochsner, a new construction on City Park campus became possible. Their contribution gave Ochsner naming rights for the building itself, which will be the Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health. Dr. Myers reiterated that the nursing school name will remain *Charity School of Nursing*.

The new building is 120,000 square feet and includes a simulation hospital, has a capacity of 1500 students (900 in nursing), and two state-of-the-art skills



Top to bottom, Patti Granzin ’78, Carol Guidry ’83, Cathryn Smith ’78, Mary Maher ’78; students dressed in vintage uniforms; Kathy Hug ’65 and Patrick Brady; Dr. Myers and retired faculty Gwen Beter and Rick Crouse; Jovita Chapital ’79 and Patty Dufrene ’85.



Left to right, top to bottom: Michelle McLean '16, Elaine Ponce-Gaudin '16, Lisa Williams '88 and Glenda Veal '89; Brittany Chacon '16 and Brooke Zeringue '16; Gay Riley '85 and Trudy McLaurin '98; Mary Kothmann '88, Juliet Watkins '90, Kristi Guillot '90, Beverly Chapoton '67, Kevin Besse '91 and James Craig, Jr. '82; Sandy Spitale '83 and Doris Burvant '60; Sharon Burel '80.

labs made possible by bequests from Charity alumni **Patricia Carreras Pankey '69** and **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58**.

The ribbon cutting for the new building is planned for February 2023. Dr. Myers explained that the current building belongs to the state and will revert back to LSU. The dormitory building is now housing a long-term care facility (which prevented any visits to the old dorm).

CSN Report

Pat Smart, CSN Level 2 Faculty Coordinator, gave a report on the school, sharing that she started teaching at Charity in the diploma program in 1986. She let us know that Delgado College celebrated its 100-Year Anniversary earlier this year and that the annual OADN Convention would be in New Orleans in November and that many faculty and students would be participating. She praised the faculty for donating generously to the school's food pantry for students struggling with food insecurity, and thanked the Alumni Association for working with the SGA to identify students who could not afford graduation pins. The Alumni funded five pins for students who otherwise could not participate in the Pinning Ceremony. Pat also stressed how much CSN needs full-time and part-time faculty and encouraged alumni to apply.

Roll Call

The classes with the most in attendance Saturday morning were 1972 and 1978 with nine each, followed closely by 1990 and 2017 with seven each. Six retired faculty members also joined us, which was a special treat.

Lunch and Drawings

We sang the Alma Mater, and lined up for a lunch of red beans and rice. The 50/50 Drawing was won by **Kathy Hug '65** who donated her winnings of \$155 to the scholarship in memory of **Rita Bares Raphael '65**. Kathy had donated a framed cross-stitch she had stitched, and that drawing was won by **Jovita Chapital '79**. The raffle for an antique CHSN cape was won by **Mary Ellen Kothmann '88**.



The auction for a framed Big Charity print, donated by the family of **Joan Cousins Damon-Simon '71**, was won by **Linda Scarmado Heldenbrand '89**.

The Mystery Girl of the Library statue was won by Patrick Brady.

Retired faculty **Joan Hodge '78** and **Susan Schaff** graciously led tours of the school. Yearbooks were set out to be taken home for free. A Flea Market featured miscellaneous knick-knacks from the school, AD banners and old decommissioned library books.

Souvenirs included mugs featuring the Charity Cap, and wooden ornaments of the three Charity buildings: the hospital, the dormitory and the Education Building.

Saturday Night

The Pajama Party on Saturday night was terrific fun as alumni danced to the music of the Andrew

Wolfe Trio and enjoyed a spectacular Italian buffet at the Chateau Country Club. The meal was topped off with delicious custom-made macarons in the shape of tiny peanut butter and jelly sandwiches – a nod to the late night snacks at the old dorm. Moon centerpieces flickered with changing colors and everyone was festive in jammies and robes. We shared many giggles at the stares from folks in fancy evening-wear attending other events in the building. We know they were all jealous of our comfy clothes!

Sunday Brunch

We gathered again on Sunday morning, October 23, at the beautiful Audubon Tea Room – an event that sold out well in advance! Our theme was “Dey All Axed for You!” and it was a gorgeous venue with arching ceiling and surrounding gardens. Patrick welcomed those in attendance and **Jenn Garnand '11** once again led us in a moving blessing before we tucked into a breakfast of grits and grillades.

Roll Call

The classes with the most in attendance Sunday were 1968 and 1972 with twelve each, and 1969 with nine. Certificates were presented for class anniversaries, and we tried to catch up on some of the classes that missed big milestones in the pandemic, but we will continue following up with those celebrations at the next alumni event!

We had to invent a new recognition for **Mary Smith Singletary '49**! We presented her with a certificate for an Athenian Anniversary – for 73 years as a very active



Left to right, top to bottom: Amanda Babin '68 and Gail Viator '68; Andrea Tanner '86 and Georlene

Vander '85; Mary Trosclair '73 and Joan Hodge '75; Erin Justison-Weieber '97 and Amanda Mossman-Bonnette '97. Below, Class of '69ers Sylvia Aupied, Gail Kelley, Jane Duggan and Ginny Clark.





Sunday Morning, left to right: Virgis Boudreaux '56, Sandra Owens Robert '56 and Mary Singletary '49; the Aucoin Family; Ginger Andry '58, Suzy Andry '59 and Katrina Bankston, December '22; Priscilla Simar '72 and A'Drain Bocage '83; Geraldine Veal '89 leads the singing of the Alma Mater.



member of the Alumni Association who attends every event. The alumni gave her a standing ovation!

We were thrilled to welcome an entire family of Charity graduates: mom **Rosalie Tullier Aucoin '52** and her daughters **Michelle Aucoin Stieffel '92**, **Deidre Aucoin Bensimin '93** and **Jayne Aucoin Dominique '95** were accompanied by Rosalie's two other daughters, plus Rosalie's Charity roommate **Julia Bull Schomaker '52** and her daughter Peggy.

Prizes and Auctions

Drawings for door prizes brought alumni scampering up from their seats to collect gifts that included several signed copies of *Big Free*, the novel by Martha Boone, which she generously donated. Auctions included another

Charity cape won by **Shirley Carmonche '81**, and an antique wooden folding chair from Big Charity won by **Ecoee Rooney '99**. **Madeline Totten '72**'s husband Mike won a mailbox bank.

Geraldine Veal '89 led us gloriously in the singing of the Alma Mater. What a voice she has!

As all our many voices rose together, we thought about the countless memories and traditions that we share, and realized that none of that is going away. Bricks and mortar are not what makes the Charity experience. The Charity Alumni are embracing the future. We look back in pride at our many generations and look forward to welcoming the many generations to come.

Because We're Still Here! ❖





Left to right, top to bottom: Saturday morning, Rosalie Gonzales '78, Collette Falgout '79, Charlene Berger '79 and Terri Espinosa '78. Saturday evening Pajama Party fun with Thais Sigur '92; Kimberly Blake '94, Malinda Ferrell '89, Maria Vaidya '89, Ashley Lieux '19, Amanda Weinberger '19 and Lista Hank '97; Sunday at the Audubon Tea Room:



Amber Stokes '13 and Ursula Allain '65 work the registration desk; Charlotte Arras '71, Paula Savant '71 and Carol Gonzales '80.

Connections

By Renee Oncale, RN

Thank you, Charity Alumni Association, for the opportunity to join you at your Homecoming, and share the jewelry that I create from bits of Charity Hospital marble and travertine.

I am not a Charity graduate, and until that morning, Lista and I had only communicated via emails and phone calls to arrange for me to attend Homecoming and sell my jewelry. When she opened the door at the School of Nursing and we saw each other, she said, "I know you!" We soon figured out that we had both worked as nurses at Touro a few years ago. Nursing is a global profession, but more importantly, a small world with connections that last a lifetime.

For Homecoming Saturday, I had help from my two cousins: Charolette and her grand-daughter, 16-year-old Laikyn. Laikyn was my designated cashier for the event. She is a sophomore in high school and wants to be a nurse.

Laikyn was in awe of the history she observed that day. I could see her imagining herself in some of the class pictures lining the first-floor hallway. Many of the nurses that shopped with us graciously shared stories with Laikyn: happy stories, sad stories, and some very funny stories! The camaraderie and lasting relationships of the nursing profession were obvious, even to a 16-year-old.

When it was time to pack up and leave, I asked Laikyn how she felt about going to nursing school now. She said, "I can't wait!"

One of the speakers that day talked about the alumni helping out students who couldn't afford to purchase their graduation pins. The idea of students missing their Pinning Ceremony because they couldn't afford pins touched my heart! I have sent the Alumni Office a check for \$150 for your Pin Fund.

If anyone is interested in purchasing the jewelry I create from small pieces of Big Charity marble and travertine, please visit my website at www.rennaize.com. Thank you! ❖



Blessings

By Jenn Garnand, Class of 2011

Saturday Morning

It's often said that change is the only constant in life... It's what keeps us engaged, curious, and evolving toward better. In fact, we've gotten quite used to change particularly over these last couple of years. Despite our ability to continue to show up and face new challenges, it never really gets easier.

But it's also been said that "if you're finished changing, you're finished" (*Benjamin Franklin*). And we know for certain that's not who we are.

Since 1894, lives have been changed in an exponential way, first by what was happening within these walls, and then by ripple effect, as the product of this amazing place left this campus and went out into the world to touch, heal, lead and serve others.

Today we find ourselves here... at a turning point. Knowing that if we don't change, we don't grow. And "if we don't grow, we aren't really living" (*Gail Sheehy*).

But here's the good news: We are NOT a building, we are Charity School of Nursing, and we're still here!

A House is Not a Home

What *is* a home versus a house? "A house is made with walls and beams, a home is built with love and dreams" (*Ralph Waldo Emerson*).

Let's examine our current structure: **CHARITY**

Community

Hearth

Achievement

Resilience

Integration

Tradition

and most importantly...

You

We know that a house is not a home. This house is just a physical structure. Our home is our living legacy... chock-full of memories. "We're grateful for the home we have, knowing that in this moment, all we have is all we need" (*Sarah Ban Breathnach*).

Home is about belonging. And while belonging tends to mean being a part of a group, an organization, or a community, belonging also enables a person to find their own identity. This home has done that for each of us, and for the thousands who have entered our figurative walls.

Think about it... Where would you be – Who would you be – if not for Charity? How has your life changed because of this legacy?



On the journey forward, no longer will the walls of a building define us. We will be known and remembered for the humility, skill, compassion, empathy, leadership, strength and fortitude of our nurses. We will continue to be admired for our resilience and flexibility, the way we adapt to changing times and growing needs.

Go forth and live our legacy. Hail, Charity! Amen. ❖

Sunday Morning

"People working together in a strong community with a shared

goal and a common purpose can make the impossible possible" (*Tom Vilsak*).

Yesterday, we examined the structure of **CHARITY**. Today, we focus on the pillars on either end of this structure: Community and You.

"Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter" (*Brian Solis*).

The vocation you have chosen is one of honor, trust, and loyalty. We have inherited the privilege of serving our community. Most importantly, we all came to Charity as individuals, each in search of something. We unexpectedly left as family – community – with unique, but intertwined, goals and journeys.

"When the roots are strong, there is no reason to fear the wind" (*Melissa Bolton*). As we move forward into the next chapter of our story, this is the comfort that community gives us.

YOU are the other pillar. And after all, as The Meters sang, "They all asked for you..."

The need to be needed is an individual's sense of significance rooted in the idea of being part of a community or cause bigger than themselves. We want to feel significant in the eyes of others, even if it's only one other person.

This is your reminder that YOU matter. Charity is our beginning, but you are our story. You are Charity ignited in the world. *You* are our living legacy.

"We learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow" (*Albert Einstein*).

And it's really *up to you*. "Tomorrow is not a promise, but a chance" (*Rachel Joy Scott*).

A chance to be great. A chance to make an impact. A chance to make belonging matter to yet another.

Go forth and live our legacy into tomorrow. But never forget to occasionally 'come on home!' Amen. ❖

Delgado & Charity Well Represented at OADN Conference

By Patricia Smart, MN, RN, CNE, FAADN
CSN Professor of Nursing
Educational Coordinator for Level 2

The Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) held their annual convention in New Orleans this year. The theme of the convention was "Owning Your Influence" and it was held at the downtown Hyatt Regency on November 18-20, 2022. Delgado and Charity faculty and administrators were there in force to learn about current national trends and represent our school and city.

Delgado Second Line

Local influences were visible everywhere. Before the opening ceremony, Delgado Music students provided entertainment. Entering the ballroom, the band was followed by Delgado Chancellor **Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib**, Charity's Assistant Dean **Jennifer Fernandez** and other faculty waving white handkerchiefs in true New Orleans second-line fashion. The American flag was presented by a local VFW group and Jennifer Fernandez sang the national anthem. Dr. Littleton-Steib welcomed approximately 600 nurse educators from around the country to New Orleans and the conference.

The first keynote session was given by Ms. Tracey Moffatt, the System Chief Office for Ochsner, on "The Increasing Importance of the Associate Degree Nurse in the Current Healthcare Climate." **Dr. Ecoee Rooney**, a 1999 graduate of Charity School of Nursing, was featured in another general session and spoke on "Creating a Nurturing Culture for our Future: It starts with Us."

Students Spotlight Diversity

After the keynote sessions on Friday, there were posters presented by nurse educators and students highlighting research, evidence-based practices and innovative techniques being utilized in nursing education. Four nursing students from Charity's Spectrum organization: **Degrusha Darrien**, **Marquita Canatella**, **Stephanie Matthew**, and **Chelethea Thompson**, under the leadership of **Shena Sanders**, their faculty sponsor, presented their poster "Barriers to Diversity in Nursing – an Ongoing Dialogue."

Their poster won first place in the student poster category! The students received a certificate for their outstanding poster and a \$1,000 award.

Faculty Share Resilience Research

There were sessions on Saturday and Sunday, which faculty could choose areas to enhance their professional growth. Two Charity nursing professors **Dr. Kimberly**



Top to bottom: Delgado Music students led the second line with Charity Assistant Dean Jennifer Fernandez (at far right); Delgado Chancellor Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib addresses the convention; Pat Smart (center) is inducted as a fellow into the Academy of Associate Degree Nursing.

Uddo and Wendy Garretson gave a popular session entitled "Building Resilience in Nursing Students and the Nursing Curriculum." It is a topic with a lot of resonance in nursing education now.

Preparing for New NCLEX

The business meeting and awards luncheon on Saturday had Mardi Gras centerpieces on the tables continuing the local flavor. The closing session on Sunday was headed by Mr. Jason Schwartz the director from NCSBN, with a presentation on "Next Generation NCLEX: Countdown to Launch," engaging an audience that is trying to prepare students to be successful in taking the new NCLEX. The inaugural testing with the new NCLEX will start in 2023, and the faculty at Charity have been incorporating the ideas of clinical judgement and reasoning for the past two years. We are confident the Charity graduates will do well with this new format of the NCLEX for licensure.

Honor for Service

At this convention, I was humbled and honored to be inducted as a fellow in the Academy of Associate Degree Nursing in recognition of my contributions to health care through the advancement of Associate Degree Nursing. Those who receive this honor have demonstrated



a commitment to Associate Degree education, research, and practice.

As a faculty member with Charity's ADN program since its beginnings, I have strived to be an advocate for associate degree nursing through local, state, and national efforts. I have served as president for the LA Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (LOADN), Secretary and President for OADN, and Treasurer and Director of the OADN Foundation for five years. My thanks to Dr. Cheryl Myers and Jennifer Fernandez, who wrote letters of support for me to receive this honor.

This recognition for my passion to assist students to reach their goal of becoming Charity graduates, and to mentor other nurses and faculty to grow professionally, is a true highlight of my professional career. As a fellow in the Academy, I will continue to mentor other nurse educators. ❖

Spectrum Students Own Their Influence at OADN Convention

By Darrien Degrusha,
Spectrum President, Level 1 Student

This past November, nine members of Spectrum had the opportunity to attend this year's OADN convention held at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans – thanks to the Charity Alumni Association. This year's conference was themed *Owning Your Influence*, and I'm very proud to say that is exactly what we Charity students did!

We began by attending a half-day workshop, which gave us better insight into breaking down Nursing NextGen questions. It included helpful handouts, group activities and practice questions we can share with classmates at Charity.

We then headed over to the opening ceremony and, as we walked in, we were greeted by smiling faces, Mardi Gras beads, and the sound of a brass band playing in the distance. We managed our way to the front of the crowd, and found Ms. Smart and Charity faculty members dancing a second line! It was the perfect way to start the festivities with a traditional New Orleans touch! We didn't hesitate to get out there and have some fun! Looking back, it's one of my most memorable moments. It was really cool to share that with my teachers and peers.

After the welcome introductions and two additional seminars, it was finally time for the poster presentations! My fellow researchers, **Marquita Canatella**, **Chelethea**



Thompson, Stephanie Matthew, and I hurried to stand in front of our poster entitled "Barriers to Diversity in Nursing... An Ongoing Dialogue." We were so proud to show off our hard work. For the next hour, attendants walked around to check out the research posters and ask questions on the various topics.

Before long, we had a crowd of people standing around our poster, waiting to talk to us about our research. It turns out, professionals from many different programs are facing the same dilemma of how to increase diversity in their places of work; and they were asking *us* how they can do it!

It was such an amazing and surreal opportunity to share our ideas and thoughts with nurse educators from all over the country, who will take back information from our research project to implement into their own programs. After speaking with many professionals in the field, it's clear that there's still a lot of work to be done in the area of diversity. It's such an honor to share our ideas and to be a part of the conversation for change.

As if we weren't already beaming with joy, we got the message the next day that our project won the first place prize in the competition, beating out students from all the other states!

It's rewarding that our efforts paid off and that this message so close to our hearts resonated with others. We also learned a lot along the way, and grew closer as friends.

We want to extend a special thank you to everyone who helped us along the way. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to **Ms. Shena Sanders** for encouraging us to participate in the contest; to **Ms. Patricia Smart** for giving us the resources to succeed; to **Mrs. Wendy Garretson** for her advice on designing a poster; to the **Alumni Association** for funding our project; and to all of the faculty who gave us words of encouragement, believed in us, and showed up to support us. You can deservedly *Own Your Influence* on us! ❖



Top, left to right: Stephanie Matthew, Darrien Degrusha, Marquita Canatella and Chelethea Thompson at OADN's poster presentations; below: Spectrum's winning poster.

Building Resiliency for Professional Success

By Tiffany Mitchell, Class of 2009

It's not often that I sit and read the entire *White Cap*, but this summer's issue and especially the articles on resiliency



captivated me. I am beyond proud that CSN is taking steps to address the well-being of faculty, staff and student nurses. I concur with the sentiments provided by Dr. Uddo and Professor Garretson in their *White Cap* articles. As a nurse manager, I was thrilled to read about the faculty having an open discussion about

resiliency from a nursing student perspective.

I recently took the opportunity to reflect on my nursing journey and my experiences at Charity School of Nursing.

Staffing Needs

I have been working in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex for the past ten years. In my current role, I have been tasked with planning the future for a PACU staff almost entirely comprised by baby boomers. Most of these nurses anticipate retirement in the next three to five years. The severity of the nursing workforce shortage has been exacerbated by the pandemic, forcing tough decisions to maintain adequate and competent staffing.

Thinking back to my perioperative clinical rotation, it was minuscule in comparison to the other clinical experiences. I believe this is the reason many nursing students do not graduate with a strong desire to work in the perioperative areas, especially the recovery room. However, I viewed opening up the PACU to graduate nurses as a necessity to safely turnover my staff. Last fall, I interviewed for our system's first PACU nurse resident position for the February 2022 cohort. Outside of that challenge in itself, it would be the first cohort to not utilize the Versant® program, as our system was transitioning to an in-house educator-led program.

Lack of Exposure

Many candidates I interviewed had no perioperative rotation or simulated-only clinical experiences because of the pandemic. The only reference available for PACU nurses is a 600-page guide offered by the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPA)...not something I would find appealing after completing my necessary coursework!

Nevertheless, I secured my resident (who fortunately chose the perioperative areas for her clinical site senior

rotation). She had to complete skills training and check-offs with various entities throughout the hospital. Some days were split between on-site education and working on the unit. It was a difficult and demanding regimen.

Struggling for Connection

The first two months were touch-and-go. The generational differences between me and the resident were apparent. It was difficult for me to tell her what to expect because this was a new program. I could see she was struggling, but I didn't have answers. I didn't want to lose this nurse, or have her just 'get by.' I needed to find a way to support her.

I decided to increase rounding with my graduate nurse to once a week. Surprisingly, our talks became more about her expressing her feelings and less about needing me to do something. I realized that, not only did my approach need to change, but the preparation of graduate nurses' entry into the workforce needs to change as well. I believe much of the answer lies in building resiliency skills.

Advice for Students

I would like to share my thoughts from a leadership perspective on how nursing students can build resiliency in their journey to becoming a professional nurse.

First, talk. Verbalizing your feelings is a necessity. Make time to talk to someone, or you can journal (if writing is your thing).

Second, have fun. I cannot stress enough the need to find an outlet for wellness. Schedule regular time for yourself to do something you love and treat it as a necessity. Please participate in extracurricular activities the school offers, join a campus organization, volunteer in a community event, or encourage your clinical group to do something fun together. It helps your brain process the profession in a different light. You experience a sense of togetherness and purpose.

Third, give thanks. The opening speaker for this year's American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) conference was Shabnam Mogharabi, and she spoke about *The Power of Joy* and her steps in *The Joy Toolkit*. Her Step #1 is: Express gratitude. Showing gratitude does not require an elaborate presentation: just drop someone a thank-you card to tell them why you are grateful for them.

I encourage nursing students at all levels to incorporate all of these practices regularly into your lives. You will continue to need them for a successful transition into professional practice.

Cherish the Moment

For me, being a graduate of Charity helped build my resilience. Not all nursing schools are devoted to the quality of nurses they produce, so cherish these moments. It is an exciting time for Charity School of Nursing!

Thank you to all of the Alumni Association for keeping the *White Cap* alive, and for events like Homecoming. It is so inspiring to see the amazing support for the School

of Nursing and her students!

If there are any seniors contemplating relocation to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, or if you need some objective advice – or just to talk! – please don't hesitate to contact me!

Tiffany C. Mitchell, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, PCCN

Nurse Manager PAT/OPS/PACU

Phone: 817.848.5114

Email: TiffanyMitchell2@texashealth.org ❖

NextGeneration NCLEX Inspires Changes in CSN Curriculum

By Michelle DeLima DNP, RN, CNOR CNE

Class of May 1987, CSN Professor of Nursing



Beginning in April 2023, our nursing graduates will take the updated National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) NCLEX-RN licensure exam. You may have already read about this change in your nursing journals, online and on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) website.

This change is based on the Clinical Judgment Measurement Model (CJMM) which adjusts the steps of the nursing process from the assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention, and evaluation (ADPIE) nurses currently use. Comparatively, the CJMM incorporates a six-step framework which includes recognizing cues, analyzing cues, prioritize hypotheses, generate solutions, take actions, and evaluate outcomes.

From Theory to Practice

NCSBN determined this change was needed since over time health care organizations have expressed concern that new RN graduates were having trouble adapting their nursing practice from theoretical knowledge learned in school to providing safe, competent care in the practice setting. Since 2017, NCSBN has been publishing quarterly newsletters to inform nursing programs and faculty of the upcoming changes to the licensure exam. These changes are referred to as Next Generation NCLEX, NextGen and NGN in the nursing literature and other education resources used by Charity School of Nursing.

CSN faculty that attended the Organization of Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) conference in Fall 2019 attended sessions that provided introductory

information on NextGen; the Level 1 faculty began piloting NextGen test questions on unit exams in Spring 2021. Over time, as subsequent nursing courses began including NextGen test items, it was evident that the CSN curriculum needed to adapt their testing policy to include NextGen.

Incorporating Changes

The curriculum committee formed a task force in Spring 2022 to develop policy changes to present to faculty for approval, which were adapted by the full faculty in March 2022.

The members of the task force, **Dr. Karen Macey-Stewart, Raul Salas, Robin Smetana, Mia Woodroof**, and I wrote a manuscript for publication with the intent of helping other nursing programs by sharing our process transitioning to NextGen. This past fall, the manuscript was accepted for publication in *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*, the quarterly OADN journal, and we look forward to seeing it in print soon.

Adapting for the Future

Regarding nursing academics, content delivery is constantly changing, and faculty are always seeking more innovative methods of teaching and leading the clinical experience. Incorporating the CJMM will help our students prepare for NCLEX testing; additionally, faculty can apply the CJMM to the clinical experience to ensure students learn how to prevent errors, recognize changes, and rescue patients before untoward and irreversible effects emerge.

As a nursing faculty, and a nurse still working part time in the acute care setting, I can attest to the fact that graduates of Charity School of Nursing are STILL held in high regard across the country. Adapting our classroom delivery, testing and clinical experience to meet the expectations of the Clinical Judgment Measurement Model will benefit our students and graduates in continuing to provide exceptional nursing care. ❖

Ever Considered Being a Nurse Educator?

Charity School of Nursing is always in need of faculty, and a swelling enrollment has made the need especially acute! If a Charity education meant a lot to you, pay it forward by becoming a nursing instructor! Full and part-time positions are available. You need a master's in nursing degree to apply. Please contact CSN Assistant Dean Jennifer Fernandez to apply at jferna@dcc.edu. You can help grow future nurses! ❖

Scholarships & Awards

In September 2022, the Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association presented \$13,350 in scholarships and awards to twenty-six students of Delgado Community College's Charity School of Nursing. All awards are made possible through generous donations from Charity nursing alumni, their families, faculty and friends. We thank all of you who make these awards possible! Congratulations to these recipients of the Fall 2022 awards (pictured left to right, top to bottom):

LEVEL 2

Megan Edwards,
Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship, \$500

LEVEL 3

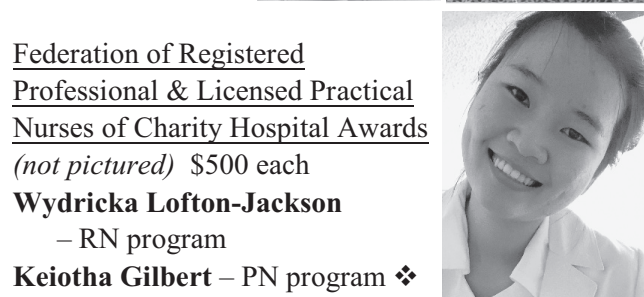
Kaitlyn Alphonse (not pictured),
Georga Helmer '79 Scholarship, \$500
Alisha Amaya, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38
Scholarship, \$1,000
Hannah Babin, Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 Scholarship, \$500
Danielle Catalanotto, Tommielu Sparks '60 Scholarship, \$500
Alessandro Chapman,
Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 Scholarship, \$1,000
Tyana Chatham-McCaskill,
Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship, \$1,000
Ryan Etienne, James and Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57
Scholarship in memory of their children Nathan and Laura, \$500
Jessica Gavrock, Jan Carrio '76 Scholarship, \$500
Trolaycia Guidry, Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship, \$500
Bianca Rivera, Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship
in memory of Victor and Rose Jeanne Buccola '49, \$1,000
Paulina Rodia, Joanne Delaune '78 Scholarship, \$750
Amber Swenson, Christine Hurley Carbon '71 Scholarship, \$500
Denise Williams, Leah Valerie Boudreaux '93 Scholarship, \$500

LEVEL 4

Katrina Bankston, Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship, \$1,000
Charity Brown, Barbara Pitre Philipps '61 Scholarship, \$500
Ashley May, Bernice Bonds Scholarship, \$500
Phuong Nguyen, Sister Camilla Gaudin DC Scholarship, \$500

GRADUATION PIN AWARDS (not pictured)

\$100 towards graduation pin
Brittany Armand, Bernice Bonds Pin Award
Brooke Batiste, Jane Hardy Barrow Pin Award
Cole Hackney, Charles William Myers Pin Award
Wayneisha Jefferson, Audrey Sandolph Pin Award
Karen Penns, Elizabeth Drueding Ours '86 Pin Award
Jasmine Hampton, Richard V. Famiglio Pin Award



Federation of Registered
Professional & Licensed Practical
Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards
(not pictured) \$500 each
Wydricka Lofton-Jackson
– RN program
Keiotha Gilbert – PN program ❖

These White Scrubs

By Nicole Anderson, Class of 2021



To say that I didn't know what to expect when beginning nursing school would be an understatement.

If you would have told me that I would start my clinical days with excitement and nervousness to practice new skills, to learn my way around facilities, and to gain from seasoned nurses how to be *that* nurse, or how NOT to be *that* nurse, I would have concurred. But what I

wouldn't have understood, or even fathomed, is the sheer amount of skills, emotions and humbleness that would come along with this role.

The excitement of trying on my crisp, clean white scrubs and wrapping my brand new stethoscope around my neck for the first time was a feeling like no other.

Hearing

That fresh, new stethoscope – oh, the sounds it would hear! Diminished lung sounds with crackles in the upper lobes of a 56-year-old woman with Congestive Heart Failure secondary to Coronary Artery Disease. *Only 56*, I thought to myself. So much more life to live.

I yearned to understand how and why she had gotten to this point in life. Wasn't she educated on how to eat the right foods and avoid the wrong ones? How to reduce stress in her life? Someone in the medical field certainly must have told her. Didn't she care? We are in the South, I thought, the 'wrong' foods and the stress of impending hurricanes are a way of life here.

How could the trajectory of this woman's life have been changed? Did the healthcare system fail her? Was she just lazy? How many more hearts and lungs would I hear throughout my career that would continue to beat and breathe for salvation?

Feeling

These white scrubs sat beside and comforted a teenage girl who had attempted to take her own life – because she was so overwhelmingly sad and simply didn't know why.

These white scrubs hoisted and bathed a body who had, until recently, lived a successful and self-sufficient life. A body that had just weeks earlier performed and functioned the way it always had – until, one day, it didn't.

These white scrubs went into rooms for a simple Accucheck and walked out with a changed perspective after listening quietly to stories of fear, abandonment, shame, faith, and hope.

If you would have told me that – through just the simple of act of observing nurse, provider, patient or nursing assistant interactions – I would learn and

understand more in one clinical day than I would through years of living without these experiences, I would have told you, *No way!*

I can read about that, I can watch videos, I would have said. But what the literature wouldn't give me, is the goosebumps on my skin after feeling the presence in the room when a patient's family finally decided to transition their loved ones care to comfort measures.

Videos wouldn't have allowed me to experience the smell of liter after liter of blood that was lost to a 25-year-old G1P1 who lay on the OR table, hemorrhaging after the birth of her first child. The young woman who put all of her faith and trust into the team to stop her bleeding, to save her, so she could raise her daughter.

Listening

I finally graduated, and as I transition from those white scrubs that scream *student* to my hospital-specific navy blue, I'm slowly beginning to come to terms with what nursing school was actually trying to teach me. I'm realizing that it wasn't just how to recognize S1/S2 heart sounds, or the proper way to administer medications through an NG tube, or maintaining sterile technique while inserting a Foley catheter. Not even the basics of reverse triage during times of a disaster and who to save first.

Nursing school was trying to teach me to simply listen, to be aware, to try my best to always remain mindful of what I'm capable of, and how my choices will undoubtedly affect others.

While attending lectures and listening to my instructors, I wasn't comprehending the exact magnitude of what points they were trying to get across. But now, in practice as a *real* Registered Nurse, I find myself coming home after a long shift, and oftentimes plopping down in front of my computer and listening to those old recorded lectures. The concepts I didn't fully understand in school are now coming full circle in practice.

I am incredibly thankful for all of the instructors who consistently reminded me that I am competent and capable, that often it will take time for things to click, and that's okay.

I am honored to have the ability to care for my patients and I have made an oath to myself to always treat each and every person the way I would want my loved ones treated.

To Charity School of Nursing: Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Nicole wrote this article shortly after graduating in December 2021. ❖



Three Generations: A Legacy of Nursing

By Bailey Scharenbroch Weber, Class of 2022



I am a 27-year-old southern lady from Mississippi. I traveled to Charity School of Nursing from the small Mississippi town that I call home. Sixty miles to school each day was a sacrifice I was willing to make to follow the path of the women I have the honor to call my family.

Let me take you down memory lane to where all this started. Charity School of Nursing is full of rich history, so

I want to tell you how the seed was planted in my life.

My grandmother enrolled at Delgado in 1993 with the goal to apply to Charity School of Nursing and become a registered nurse. She was a mother and wife, and still she went after her dream. Beginning a career later in life was not something to hold her back, and that is an inspiration I hold on to. But that was only a small part of the challenges she endured while going to school. In April 1993, she was hospitalized and went through two brain surgeries.

That life-changing event would set anyone back. Who would blame her if she didn't continue with nursing school? It would never be questioned if she turned to her family and said she was going to quit and just live her life the way it was. But I do not come from a family of women that back down from their passions. My strong, beautiful grandmother did not let anything stand in her way. She was accepted into Charity, and in December 1996 she walked across that stage with her degree in hand. She had made it! Through trials and triumphs, long clinical hours at Big Charity, being a mother and a wife, she was now a Charity graduate!



made it! Through trials and triumphs, long clinical hours at Big Charity, being a mother and a wife, she was now a Charity graduate!

Starting a Legacy

A small snapshot of the times in 1996: My mother would always tell me about how, before technology, my grandmother and her best friend would chase the mailman down every day for the results of their NCLEX. What a time, right?

Both passed their boards, and my grandmother was now **Debra Jackson, RN**. She started in her career at the

famous Charity Hospital in Neuro ICU. Little did my grandmother know that her choices, fighting spirit, and success would impact the generations that followed her.

Debra's daughter is **Kristy Jackson Scharenbroch**, the woman I am blessed enough to call *Mama*. Watching her mother endure life's toughest battles, and still achieve a career in nursing, set Kristy in motion to do the same. She came home to my dad after the last day of registration at Delgado and told him she was going to be nurse. Again, she was a wife and mother to two children. This did not discourage her. She dove headfirst into her school career. As you would imagine, Debra was proud to know her daughter was following the footsteps she had created. But unfortunately, that was to be the only part of her legacy my grandmother would witness on earth. While Kristy was in her prerequisites for nursing, my grandmother Debra passed in May 2001. Our matriarch, our inspiration, had been called home at 45 years of age. She only had the opportunity to serve her community as a nurse for five years.

Facing New Challenges

Who would blame my mother for turning to her family and deciding to quit after such a tragedy? That did not take place. Like her mother, she was a fighter. She was going to be a Charity graduate like her mom, and she was going to be a nurse.

Growing up, I watched my mother through her entire experience. I watched her surrounded by fifty pounds of books, scattered papers, recordings on full blast every day.



I watched her, and the school friends she had made, sit in a circle in our living room studying and talking about things I could never understand at the age of ten. I would hear her leave at four in the morning to go to her clinicals. I got to witness it all firsthand.

They say God gives the toughest battles to His strongest soldiers. In December 2004, two days before her final in her last semester, my mother had a STAT

C-section for my youngest sister who we did not expect to arrive until January. This set her back a full semester. Some of us can relate to how upsetting and defeating that is. Recent loss of her mother, now three children to care for: she rose above those circumstances and finished her degree in May 2005.

My mother graduated as a member of SGA, Phi Theta Kappa, and her class representative. She accomplished her dream of graduating from the same school of nursing as

Upper left, Bailey Weber, Class of December 2022; below left, Debra Jackson '96; right, Kristy Scharenbroch '05.

her mother, and is now **Kristy Jackson Scharenbroch, RN**. She carries on the legacy she was so very proud of. Kristy has been a mother/baby nurse at St. Tammany Hospital since and has been an amazing advocate and nurse to every patient that has encountered her.

Accepting a Setback

As you can see, I came from some remarkable women. Back at the age of ten, I had no indication that playing with my mother's saline bags and syringes would lead me here typing this story to you. I am my mother's daughter, so was it a surprise to anyone around me that I planned my college career around one day going to Charity School of Nursing? Not really! Boy, do I have some big shoes to fill!

The road to my dreams has not been completely smooth either. As an 18-year-old, I had my life planned out. I was going to be a nurse by 22, have a husband and babies. I learned quickly that was not to be my timeline. I had my own health challenges to face. After graduating high school, I was diagnosed with Grave's Disease. I had to do a round of radiation that I did not expect to impact my life the way it did. The biggest setback was starting college late. But I picked my head up, took it slow and started my journey.

Accepted to Charity

Imagine how it felt, sitting in a little country diner, distracting myself in the minutes counting down to an email that would determine the trajectory of my life. When we heard the chime of my email, my mother, sisters and I ran out of the diner! I couldn't even look at it! I made my mother open it, and when I saw her start to jump up and down with excitement, I broke into a million pieces in her arms. *I am going to Charity*. The emotion in that moment is something I cannot describe.

When I was able to step in the hallway where the photos hang of my family in their white uniforms, I felt I was in an intense new reality. I now walked on the floors my grandmother and mother did. I even had the honor to be taught by some of the same faculty. These are things that will always hold meaning to me. Even if I were unsuccessful in my Charity career, no one could ever take away those small things.

Finding New Strength

What I didn't know then, was that Charity would change my life. It has brought me beautiful things: my best friend, growth, confidence, a stronger marriage, proud parents, inspired sisters, thankful patients, wonderful instructors, a community. It has brought me hard things: stress, tears, defeat, failures, difficulties, fear. I wouldn't change one thing though.

Charity is a lot like life. It will bring out the best things in you and teach you life's hardest lessons. I have grown into a woman I am fully proud of. I have been pushed beyond limits, gone through hard times, but I have never



Kristy Scharenbroch '05 and daughter Bailey Weber '22 show the pins earned by their family's three generations of Charity nurses.

given up. I never will. I don't think I would have gotten to where I am as a person without this experience. I live by grace, empathy, and love for others.

I used to think being sensitive and empathic made me weak. I have found this to be my greatest strength. If I can make a patient's day a little better with my care, my cup will be full. This is what I was made for. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for me as a new nurse.

Being Thankful

I could have not done this without the support of everyone in my life. A special thank you to my family, husband, friends: You have always believed in me even when I couldn't and you have loved me through it all.

Thank you to my instructors that have molded me and filled me with knowledge. Thank you to the Charity Alumni for going through your own challenges to be the historically excellent Charity Nurses. I am proud to stand with you.

To my Mawmaw, I hope you are looking down and knowing that because of you, I am here. I promise to carry your legacy with pride. To my Mama, God knows I could never have done this without you in my corner. To be your daughter is an honor and I love you.

I graduated from Charity School of Nursing in December 2022 and I look forward to my new career as **Bailey Weber, RN**. It is my honor to share what it's like to be a third-generation Charity graduate. To say I am blessed is an understatement.

Bailey was awarded the Sister Blanche McDonnell Award at the Pinning Ceremony in December. ❖

Alumni Notes

Nancy Roper (Woodbridge, VA) sent us Blue Ribbon Membership dues -- despite not being a Charity alumni! "I'm just a fellow nurse who long ago lived in the New Orleans area. I'm paying dues in order to cover the costs of receiving the newsletter. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this wonderful group!"

S. Joanne Philbrook Newton '56 (Orangevale, CA): "Sorry to see our home on South Claiborne Avenue will be no more. I always enjoy the *White Cap* with the latest news. My three years at Charity were the best. Great life-long friends and a career that lasted 40-plus years. At 87, I appreciate so much the life that my training at Charity gave me."



Above, left to right: Jo Ann Toval '80, Judy Ross '68, Catherine Holland '68, Marianne McCrory '68 and Sandra Robert '56 at the Audubon Tea Room Homecoming Brunch.

Sandra Owens Robert '56 (Gonzales, LA): "I just want to say how lovely the Homecoming brunch was for me. So many of the grads who worked the Charity ICU when I was Supervisor came up to me for a hug and a chat. It really warmed my heart!"

Patricia Higgins Russell '58 (Kansas City, MO): "I can't thank you enough for finding the yearbooks I wanted! I only wish my mother's had been available (**Lena Zamponi Higgins '37**), but maybe they did not make yearbooks then. It will be wonderful to see pictures of my dear friend and roommate **Sydney Wood Womack '57** in her younger years. (Sydney Womack passed away in March 2022.) I originally had horrible roommates, who did childish things like put Vaseline on my toothbrush and the doorknobs, and lock me out of the big corner room the three of us shared. When I finally had to tell the nurse in charge of the dorm, she said I could have the big room and she would move them out. I said, no, let them have it. I would go elsewhere. I had temporary, nice but not thrilling, roommates for a few months, then Sydney asked if I would like to move in with her! She was a Godsend! She was mature, did not do

childish, mean things, played mellow Nat King Cole music, and was a good solid confidante and a wonderful friend and roommate. I think we both got a lot out of our year together. Thank you all for being such good cheerleaders for our good old Charity! There will never be another time like that. We were lucky to have that once in a lifetime experience."

Peggy Portie Parigi '67 (Beaumont, TX) has been a Sustaining Member of the Alumni for many years. Her daughter Alison Edwards recently wrote to us, "My mom was diagnosed with Dementia two years ago and has recently declined so much that she is lost in her own house and unable to recognize my dad and their three children, myself included. It is terribly sad, but I just wanted you to know that she is not responding to email for a real reason. She was so proud to be a Charity graduate and nurse!"

Amanda Antrim Babin '68 (Luling, LA): "Happy New Year! The alumni sure made some lasting memories at Homecoming 2022 - and we are yearning for more in 2023! My 1968 classmate **Gail Viator** and I are still enjoying a life long friendship that started with our days at Charity! We celebrated 50 years of nursing in 2018 and this year makes 54 years!" **Gail Oubre Viator '68** (Theriot, LA) also wrote to say, "Thank you so much for the wonderful weekend of Homecoming events! Four alumni complimented me on my shoes and asked where I got them. I am a shoe lover so I know how they feel. I confess I have stopped total strangers to ask about shoes! I bought them online, and I couldn't remember just then how I found them, so I would appreciate you sharing this for the ladies who are interested! Go to Google, and type *Wholee Lace Mesh Chunky Heeled Boot*. Next year will be our class's 55th Anniversary!"



Lorraine Fearheiley '69 (Duplessis, LA): "Thank you for alumni newsletters! I always look forward to hearing about my classmates and new ventures! After reading about the student whose house was broken into, and had to access emergency funds to replace the door, I just had to contribute to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund! God bless!"

Carolyn Bartsch '70 (Collingsworth, NJ): "Enclosed is my annual Sister Stanislaus Membership. I pay \$100 each year so the school will receive more money from me instead of doing a one-time Sustaining Membership."

We got a big laugh from Mike Totten! He attended Homecoming with his wife **Madeline Totten '72**, and won the auction for a mailbox bank. He sent us a couple of postcards -- which he loves to make out of old cereal and cookie boxes! Both things are especially funny because he

used to work for the Post Office! Says Mike, "I want to thank you for a wonderful weekend with the Charity Nurses!"

Jacqueline Porth-Owen '73

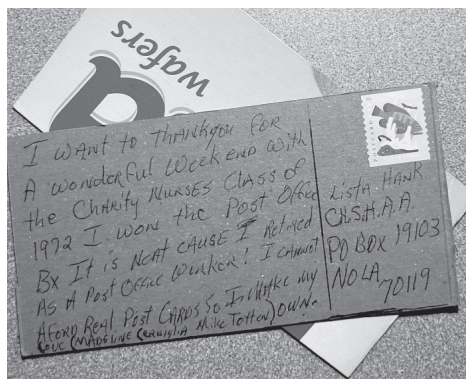
(Harvey, LA): "My freshman class was quite large, I believe 200. Freshman General Assembly was a large group! But we only graduated 76. At the time, CHSN was a three year program. There were three other hospital based nursing programs in New Orleans, Mercy which closed first, Hotel Dieu and Baptist which later affiliated with William Carey. I had a choice of a BSN or Charity and, to this day, I believe that I made the best choice! When we graduated, we were able to, as I heard said, 'hit the floor running.' I was very upset when I heard an Associate Dean of LSU Nursing make the statement on Channel 8 news that BS Nurses have better patient outcomes and I called to speak to the program director and sent an email but no one contacted me! I hope that her unfounded remark did not cause someone to change their mind about pursuing a nursing degree due to the additional money and time required by a BSN program. This is a sad possibility!

I love Charity and am very sad to see the hospital closed and in disrepair! I am hopeful that current plans for her will come to fruition! Many things have changed over the years, better drugs, improved diagnostic tests and better treatments. But there is no substitute for experience and Charity was filled with an abundance of experiences. I will always be grateful for the time I spent there!"

Karen Howard Smith '78 (Slidell, LA): "I love being able to brag that I'm a Charity graduate. Best education and clinical practice any nurse could ask for. Graduates are prepared for anything and everything. I went to Charity as a wife, mother of three daughters, and at the time was also very active as a volunteer in the community as well as my children's activities. I graduated at the age of 35 and am currently 79.

After graduation I was employed at Slidell Memorial Hospital, working in all areas, but I was most interested in Oncology. One of my favorite patients, as a student nurse, had a diagnosis of Esophageal Cancer. He succumbed to the disease, but I learned a lot from him in our conversations, about how to face the reality of living with cancer and all the challenges through the process.

In 1985, seven years into my nursing career at Slidell Memorial, I was approached by the CEO Jerry Peterman asking if I could put up a Hematologist/Oncologist at my



house while he attended an American Cancer Society meeting. After the meeting the three of us discussed developing a cancer program on the northshore. Dr. Agustin Suarez, Hematologist/Oncologist, Dr. Charles Crumpler, Pathologist, and myself as a RN, OCN, CTR and Cancer Program Coordinator, took the ball and ran with it. The program was approved by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and I'm happy to say is still running strong.

Nursing has been a dream come true and a fulfillment in life. I have toured hospitals in various locations of the world and found crash carts to be the same. I was humbled and honored in 1995 to be recognized as a Great 100 Nurse, I have served as President of the Louisiana Cancer Registrars Association and, in 2000, was one of 27 United States of American Oncology Certified Nurses to travel to China to share ideas and knowledge in the treatment of cancer. Thank you, Charity!

Charity nurses are the best! Thanks to all of you who carry the torch for future nurses. I have two nieces and one granddaughter who have followed in my footsteps. Nurses will always be necessary and a valued workforce. God Bless future nurses, the most wonderful and needed profession in the world."

On the left, Karen Smith '78, Cancer Program Coordinator at Slidell Memorial Hospital and, on the right, Ruixan He, RN, Head Nurse of Abdominal Department, Cancer Institute Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science, in Beijing, China.



We had lost track of **Alison Gilbert '84** (Dallas, TX), so we were delighted when she wrote us! "My friend and classmate **Cathy Clark McMullen '84** (Metairie, LA) sent me a copy of the *White Cap*. I read it cover to cover and enjoyed it. Enclosed is my check for membership dues. I used to wear my nurse cap to work once a year to remind the new young nurses what it was like. I have many fond memories of my student days. I also received an excellent education. Still to this day, the young nurses will ask me how I know something and I often say it was something the great instructors at Charity taught me. I have worked mostly in women's health, currently in post-partum at Dallas County Public Hospital. I will be retiring early next year."

Elisa Christina DaSilva '85 (*Celebration, FL*) visited the School of Nursing in July 2022 with **Cathy Allen Doggett '86** (*Jacksonville, AL*) and wrote in the guestbook, "Thank you, Charity School of Nursing, for my success in life!"

Anthony C. Amadeo II '97 (*Arabi, LA*): "I'm doing well, and glad to be back in contact. After Katrina I was a travel nurse for 10 full years. Maine to Florida, Seattle to California, and 10 other states in between. Fourteen states, 20 different hospitals. I was actually recruited out of Seattle to go into management for Ochsner. Worked out because we were coming home anyway, for the kids to start school. I went into management, got a MBA and second Master's in Healthcare Administration. When I needed a change three years ago, I started doing chemo. So I have only done ER, Cath Lab and chemo in 20+ years. And, of course, management. I'm still here at Ochsner, but looking for something else. The money is not very good in chemo and my oldest boy will be starting Jesuit... so the honeymoon is over! Also, **Lynn Bozant**, who was a long-time staffer in Admissions at Charity, passed away a few years ago. She was my aunt."

Ieasha Ross '21 (*Hammond, LA*): Ieasha graduated in December 2021 and has been a RN at St. Tammany Hospital for almost a year. In November, the hospital honored her with a Daisy Award. The Daisy awards acknowledge above-and-beyond compassionate care for patients and their families. Ieasha wrote to Dr. Kim Uddo to say, "Thank you for teaching resilience. With all that I have been through, this was very fulfilling and rewarding." Dr. Uddo tells us, "Ieasha has a very powerful story of resilience and I admire her greatly. She is a caring and empathetic human being. We should all be proud of her and thankful she is a nurse."

The Great 100 Nurses Foundation was established in New Orleans 36 years ago. Nurses are selected based on their concern for humanity, their contributions to the profession of nursing, and their mentoring of other nurses. Congratulations to these twenty Charity Alumni who were named **Great 100 Nurses of Louisiana** at a celebration in October 2022:



Blaire Barrios - Class of 2011
Kristen Lohr Beckmann - Class of 2013
Monique Breaux Bienvenu - Class of 2002
Tammy Croom Brumfield - Class of 1982
Monique Luce Erdozain - Class of 1996
Laurie Stine Finger - Class of 1984
Charlene Hammond-Lewis - Class of 2006
Helen Howard - Class of 2015
Melissa Howard - Class of 2004

Gavin Kenning - Class of 2008
Janice Gendusa Long - Class of 1992
Gwenn L. Marelo - Class of 2008
Heidi M. Martin - Class of 2012
Melanie M. McCrary - Class of 2006
Bentley E. Montes - Class of 2005
Kelvin Norman - Class of 2001
Tanya Sordelet - Class of 2015
Suzanne Stuke - Class of 1992
Jennifer Tubre - Class of 2009
Ryan Venturella - Class of 2011

In November 2022, the **Louisiana State Nurses Association** (LSNA) recognized individuals, organizations and nursing programs representing the best of nursing in Louisiana with their 2022 Nightingale Awards. Charity alumni **Stephanie Coig '06** received the Contribution to Quality Award, and **Janice Long '92** and **Alfred Alphonso '15** were Nominees for Registered Nurse of the Year.

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank, Class of 1997

Once again, January has already rolled around as we put the finishing touches on the *Alumni News*, but it's another fat one and well worth waiting for! Some of you may remember when the *Alumni News* was first started by **Sally Cooper '59** in the winter of 1983. It was just two pages, mailed out in the late fall as an adjunct to the *White Cap* because, "We have news we want to share," and she didn't want to wait another six months for the next *White Cap*. For years the *Alumni News* was just a half-dozen or so mimeographed pages, and only mailed to paid members who could vote in the Board election.

Well, things have changed as you can see. This issue is 28 glossy pages of newsy bits, articles and photos! If you enjoy receiving the *Alumni News* - and the *White Cap* every summer - please renew your membership because that's what makes it possible for us to keep doing this! We appreciate the many terrific articles provided by graduates, faculty and students - and welcome news and articles from everyone for future newsletters!

Delgado 100-Year Anniversary

Ursula Allain '65 and I enjoyed representing the Alumni Association at the Delgado College 100-Year Anniversary Celebration. We sat at a table with retired Vice-Chancellor **Joseph Toomey**, who told us about how he had helped the remaining nuns move out of the old Charity dorm in the early 90s, and **Linda Green**, Program Coordinator for the Practical Nursing program.

Lots of Charity faculty were there, too, and Charity SGA student volunteers **Raylynn Hayes** and **Cole Hackney** were easy to spot in their clinical uniforms!

Displays on the history of several college programs included Charity's own Nurse Cadet Corps – which fit in perfectly with the National World War II Museum venue!

There was a wonderful video about the college and its history that featured interviews with luminary alumni like **Ecoee Rooney '99**, Director of Nursing Leadership Development for Ochsner Health and the immediate past president of LSNA. We are proud that Charity School of Nursing is part of a singularly respected college with a great history and so intertwined with the progress of this region!

Senior Lunch

In a welcome return to normalcy, we were able to serve lunch to the seniors on their Professional Issues Day this fall. It's a great opportunity to introduce the seniors to the Alumni Association, and present them with their first year of membership for free as a graduation gift.

Video of Charity History

I was asked to be part of a faculty committee formed to create a video introducing new students to the history and traditions of the School of Nursing. I sent an email out to alumni early last fall to collect ideas for what things were most important to preserve. I got so many absolutely wonderful responses! I want to share them with you but there was just no room in this already groaning newsletter. I'm hoping to print a bunch in this summer's *White Cap*.

Thank you to chairman **Shannon Perkins** and **Ann Burghardt-Dietz '80**, **Michelle DeLima '87**, **Carol Leefe '92**, and student **Hannah Babin**, the CASN Historian, for their enthusiasm to keep our traditions alive! At Homecoming, Ann was able to coordinate with Delgado's Media Services to tape short interviews with alumni to include in the video. Once the project is completed, we will screen it at an alumni event!

Students at OADN

Faculty **Pat Smart** and student **Darrien Degrusha** wrote fantastic articles for this issue on participating in the



Top to bottom: At Delgado's 100-year Anniversary Gala, students Raylynn Hayes and Cole Hackney; faculty members Pat Smart, Bridgette Dufrene, Gina Herrera and Jennifer Fernandez. At Homecoming Pajama Party, Carol Leefe '92 and Joycelyn Jeansonne '78.

OADN Conference this fall, but I want to mention **Shena Sanders**, faculty coordinator of Spectrum at Charity. She thought it was important for the members of that student organization to attend the conference and asked OADN for a discount on the students' admission. She then asked the Alumni Association for help with those fees. Because of your generous donations to our Student Activities Fund, we were able to pay for nine Spectrum students to attend the conference.

We were beyond thrilled when four of the students stepped up to do a poster presentation! They did an amazing job of research and preparing a display, and we also paid for the professional fabrication of the huge poster to OADN's specifications – which the students will show off at our April alumni breakfast! Thank you to the alumni – and to Shena and Pat for lighting a fire under the students!

Forward Together

It was a joy to see everyone at Homecoming! I want to give special thanks to just a few of the *many* folks who helped make Homecoming successful – and who make my job easier and more fun every day: **Dr. Joan Ellis**, **Dr. Cheryl Myers**, **Mary Trosclair '73**, **Carol Leefe '92**, **Pat Smart**, **Joan Hodge '75**, **Susan Schaff**, **Patty Dufrene '85**, **Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80** and, of course, our amazing Board: **Patrick**, **Ursula Allain '65**, **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78**, **Charlene Berger '79**, **Vivian Manes '70**, **Judy Ross '68** and **Amber Stokes '13**.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and peaceful 2023. As always, please keep in touch!

Lista

Goodbyes



Lois Esther Wills Owen '47 passed away in February 2015. At Charity Hospital, she met Dr. Alfred P. Owen, and they married after she graduated. They lived and worked in New Orleans, Shreveport, New York and Germany and finally settled in Huntsville, AL, in 1955. Alfred opened his ob/gyn practice where Esther worked with him for many years, and they raised four children.

Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49 grew up in an orphanage, dreamed of being a concert pianist, and decided to attend nursing school to have a dependable livelihood. After graduation she worked at Charity Hospital, and met her husband Vic when he was a patient in the burn unit. She followed him around the world through his many Air Force postings, working as a nurse in military hospitals. Ultimately they returned to Louisiana and, in 1970, Rose Jeanne became the first female U.S. Customs Agent in the New Orleans district. She retired in 1986 and served as Executive Director of the Charity Alumni Association for many years. After 65 years together, Vic died in 2015, and Rose Jeanne endowed the **Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship in memory of Victor and Rose Jeanne Buccola** in the name of their longtime friend Sister Laurentia. She said "I will make it in memory of Vic and myself because sooner or later, I'll be gone too." Rose Jeanne passed away just this past July 2022 at 93.



Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 entered nursing school at the age of 16. After graduation, she moved to Kansas to work as head nurse at a small hospital before returning to New Orleans after one year. She worked at Charity Hospital, first on the urology ward, then became the head nurse of the female orthopedics floor. It was there she met intern Dr. Robert Elliott. They married and moved to Ohio, where her husband worked as a family physician and county coroner. Margaret assisted with his practice, raised their six children, and volunteered with the Red Cross Blood Bank. Margaret was a generous supporter of the Alumni Scholarship Fund for many years and, in 2021, she and her daughter Michele donated \$30,000 to establish the **Margaret Robichaux Elliott Endowed Scholarship Fund**. Margaret said, "I have wonderful memories of



Charity and the sisters that taught me and my classmates. I loved being a nurse and am grateful for the education I received." Margaret passed away from complications of Covid in November 2022.

Margaret Oalmann Palmisano '49: After graduating from Charity School of Nursing, Margaret obtained a BS in Nursing Education at LSU Medical School and Loyola, and went on to complete a Doctorate in Public Health from Tulane Medical School. She was a Professor of Pathology, Preventive Medicine, and Public Health at LSU. In the 1960's, she was invited to join the International Atherosclerosis Project and began her focus on coronary research, becoming part of the team that first established a connection between arterial plaque and heart disease. In 2012, Margaret endowed the **Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award** presented at graduation to a student of Charity selected by the faculty. She was an active member of the Charity Alumni Association for many years where she served as President, on the Board of Directors, and on the Advisory Committee. She passed away in October 2022 at 93.



After graduation, **Patricia Bourgeois LeBlanc '58** served in the U.S. Air Force as a First Lieutenant until 1968. She lived in Morganza, LA, and passed away in July 2022.



Noel Hatton Tramontana '58 loved writing and, in her 50s and 60s, authored two novels based on her childhood, wrote dozens of magazine articles, published several works of poetry and won a Creative Writing award in 1985. She passed away in June 2022 at 85.



Judith Jones Stegall '63 worked as a RN at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans before moving to Georgia in 1967. She was a stay-at-home mom for her daughters while volunteering with Hospice and Meals on Wheels and being involved with the Junior League of Cobb-Marietta and Cobb Medical Auxiliary. After 25 years, Judy reinstated her nursing license and served as a Home Health Nurse and then Discharge Planner for Wellstar Cobb Hospital. She passed away in April 2020 at 77.



Susan Nebel Nielson '66 worked as a RN at JoEllen Smith, Meadowcrest and Ochsner hospitals for 45 years. She was a Sustaining Member of the Alumni Association, and passed away in November 2022. **Margaret Meme Gay '66** sent us a donation to the Scholarship Fund in Susie's memory, writing, "She was a loving wife and mother, an outstanding nurse, and a cherished friend."



Mary Margaret Cavallino '70 passed away in June 2022 after many years taking care of the health and well-being of others. **Roberta Bartee '66** remembers Mary as a student when she herself was a new instructor at Charity. "It was beginnings for both of us," says Bobbie. "I remember the day when all the clinical students

chose partners to practice injections. Poor Mary was left with only her instructor to practice on! Can you imagine having to give your instructor an IM in the hiney? I hope I was as gracious as she was that day." Bobbie has purchased a commemorative brick for Mary to go in the new Meditation Labyrinth.



Fay Duke Hernandez '77 was one of 10 children, and a twin to her brother Ray. A nurturer from a young age, her family tells a story of the school bus breaking down one morning, and sixth grader Fay safely walked all the children to school. Fay was drawn to nursing and graduated from Charity in 1977. She displayed decisive leadership in emergencies and

was assigned as a head nurse very early in her career. Later she moved to quality assurance, successfully leading hospitals undergoing hospital accreditation review. Fay was respected and admired by colleagues and patients alike, and she advocated for her patients as she would a loved one. Fay showed great courage, facing multiple health challenges with acceptance and grace. She was a marvel of positivity, especially in the face of illness. In her final days, she said she was very fortunate because she had loved and had been loved. Fay passed away in December 2022 at the age of 66.

Sheila Ann Sorrell '78 died in May 2022 at the age of 67. Her classmate **Ann Christy Wallhaus Marino '78** wrote to us, "I met Sheila as a 19-year-old at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. She was larger than life! Brilliant, diligent, lively, and funny! She was my sister from



another mother. Sheila, **Joanne Delaune** and I studied together through nursing school. Sheila lived on the same floor at the dorm. She was a great nurse!! Although we went our separate ways, we always picked up where we left off. I will always miss her! I know she is up in heaven with all her animals." In 2021, Christy had a commemorative brick inscribed with both her and Sheila's names.

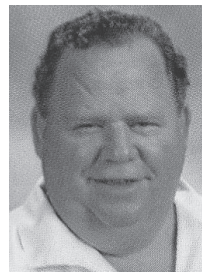


Debra Bowman Jackson '96 died in May 2001 at the age of 45. She was a nurse at Chalmette Medical Center for five years before her death. She inspired both her daughter, **Kristy Jackson Scharenbroch '05** and her grand-daughter, **Bailey Scharenbroch Weber '22**, to attend Charity School of Nursing and become

registered nurses. Says Kristy, "It was incredibly emotional to see my own daughter, a third-generation Charity grad, receive her pin in December." (See the article by Bailey on page 16.)



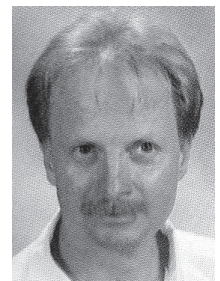
Melani "Mel" Deck Autin '97 was an ambulance paramedic and continued working through nursing school. She went on to a career as a Registered Nurse at Ochsner until her retirement in 2014. She passed away in July 2020 at the age of 72 following complications from open heart surgery.



Marvin Lee "Red" Huling, Jr. '97 started as a volunteer fireman and eventually was a full-time operator for the Harvey Volunteer Fire Department and a paramedic for West Jefferson Medical Center. He also served as Director of Operations for the New Orleans Health Department EMS. After graduating from Charity, he worked at

Lakeland and Meadowcrest Hospitals, and later with Humana and Aetna. He was a mentor to so many before passing away in May 2017.

Jacob Oberman '97 was director of the New Orleans Emergency Medical Service, Director of Training and Special Operations, from 1985 to 2009. He developed and trained EMS Special Operations groups such as Urban Search and Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Bike Teams, and Tactical EMS. He coordinated specialized medical training for various City agencies such as First Responder programs for the New



Orleans Fire Department, Recreation Department, the Office of the Investigator General. He also supervised the Community Outreach programs. Jacob passed away in October 2018.



Sholatha George Hunter '09 passed away ten years ago in August 2012 at the age of 42. Her classmate **Tiffany Mitchell '09** has made a generous donation to establish an ongoing Pin Award in Sholatha's memory. "Sholatha was a LPN prior to entering Charity's nursing program, so selecting a student who also started as a LPN would pay homage to her.

Sholatha was the eldest in our clinical group and she gave great advice and seemed to find joy no matter what was going on. Her smile is what I remember most about her. It's going to take a village to keep nurses positive and in the profession... I just want to do my part," says Tiffany.



In Memoriam

Lois Esther Wills Owen '47 (2/20/15)
 Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49 (7/1/22)
 Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 (11/6/22)
 Margaret Oalman Palmisano '49 (10/2022)
 Rosa May Estelle Theriot '49 (10/25/20)
 Audrey Leaber Moyant '50 (3/31/22)
 Patricia Bourgeois LeBlanc '58 (7/10/22)
 Noel Hatton Tramontana '58 (6/7/22)
 Doris Bullock Ritchey '60 (9/15/19)
 Elizabeth Thibodeaux Sibley '62 (9/17/22)
 Judith Jones Stegall '63 (4/20/20)
 Patricia Sturm Payne '64 (11/4/20)
 Susan Nebel Nielson '66 (11/4/22)
 Mary Margaret Cavallino '70 (6/29/22)
 Fay Duke Hernandez '77 (12/4/22)
 Sheila Ann Sorrell '78 (5/24/22)
 Debra Bowman Jackson '96 (513/01)
 Melani Deck Autin '97 (7/30/20)
 Marvin "Red" Huling '97 (5/28/17)
 Jacob Oberman '97 (10/2018)
 Cathy Carter '98
 Sholatha George Hunter '09 (8/31/12)



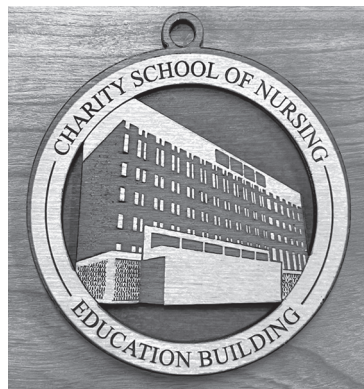
Order your Charity Ornaments

Charity School of Nursing ornaments aren't just for the holidays! Enjoy them all year 'round!

Our newest ornaments are the three iconic Charity buildings: Big Charity, the Sister Stanislaus Memorial dorm, and the Education Building. The Diploma and Associate Degree Pins designs are also still available.

These are beautiful wooden ornaments, light brown with blue backgrounds, approx. 3.5" in diameter.

Ornaments are \$7 each plus \$5 shipping for up to three ornaments. Order online at CharityAlumni.org or send a check to: CHSN Alumni Association, PO Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179. You can include your membership dues and write just one check! Be sure to specify which ornament you want. ❖



2023 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, MSN, Doctorate in Nursing Practice, and a PhD in Nursing Education. As a Sigma Theta Tau member, he served as President of the Upsilon Theta Chapter from 2009 to 2011 and now serves as the Faculty Counselor. Patrick is currently a Professor of Nursing at William Carey College, as well as director of the RN-BSN, RN-MSN, MSN and MSN/MBA programs and Quality and Compliance. He has been an active CHSNAA member since graduating in 1983 and resides in Slidell, LA.

TREASURER CANDIDATE - Unopposed



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

NOMINATIONS CHAIR CANDIDATE - Unopposed



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

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Two positions - Unopposed



PATRICIA DUFRENE, Class of 1985: Patty earned a BSN, MSN as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Pediatric Critical Care, and a PhD in Nursing Education and Administration. She has served in a variety of roles from nurse, nursing faculty, simulation lab director, and department chair for faculty development, to her current role in regulation. Patty spent twelve years at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing as the Director of Education and Examination, providing oversight of RN and APRN education programs, and applicants for clinical experiences and licensure by examination. In 2021, she moved to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners as the RN Practice Consultant. She is involved in numerous local and national nursing organizations, including a recent term on the Leadership

Succession Committee of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, as well as the Advisory Committee of the Charity Alumni Association. Patty lives in Metairie, LA.



SANDY BRETT SPITALE, Class of 1983: Sandy was the Honor Pin recipient of her class at Charity, and went on to earn a BSN and MBA. "I had the pleasure of leading the School of Nursing's Admissions and Recruitment Department in the 1980's and worked at Charity Hospital on the 4th floor for many years." Sandy is Director of Strategy Advancement for Humana Home Solutions and the Senior Vice-President of the *onehome* Utilization Management and Quality teams, creating home care solutions for the Medicare Advantage population at Humana, Inc. "I have long been grateful for my training, my friendships and the colleagues I've gained through my Charity experiences. It is time for me to give

back. I'd be extremely honored to participate as a member of the Board of the Alumni Association." Sandy lives in Metairie, LA. ❖



Spring 2023 Alumni Breakfast

Poisson d'Avril

Here we call it 'April Fools Day' but, in France, school children tape paper fish to the backs of the unsuspecting and yell, "April Fish!"

Well, we don't know why this tradition never caught on in New Orleans, but it's high time it got started! So, it's o-fish-al! The Charity Alumni are 'schooling' together for *Poisson d'Avril* – April Fish!

Join us on April 1st for goofy fun and silly puns – and a delicious brunch! – with friends and classmates! We will supply the paper fish, but come in your Spongebob t-shirt, Baby Shark hat, mermaid fashions – or come as you are! Prizes for best outfits! Plus raffles, auctions, souvenirs, 'catchy' door prizes

and so much more! We'll have a REEL Good Time!

Saturday, April 1

At The Ridgeway of Old Metairie

2431 Metairie Road at Ridgeway Drive

(Plenty of free parking around the building and across Ridgeway Drive)



Buffet Menu:

Eggs Benedict,
Shrimp and Grits,
Grilled Veggies,
Fruit Salad,
Beignets,
Coffee, Tea, Juice



Registration and Cash Bar open at 9:30am, Buffet opens at 10am, Program at 10:30am
\$45 per person

Spring 2023 Alumni Breakfast Reservation Form

Use this form and mail to: CHSN Alumni Association, PO Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179

Or purchase tickets online at www.CharityAlumni.org

DEADLINE to purchase tickets: March 27.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Name _____ Class of: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Home _____
First name Graduating name (if different from last) Last name

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Total number of people _____ @ \$45 each.....\$ _____

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

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.....\$ _____
 Student Activities Fund.....\$ _____
 Student Emergency Assistance Fund.....\$ _____
 Art & Archives Preservation Fund.....\$ _____
 Bernice Bonds Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____
 White Cap/Alumni News Fund\$ _____
 Other: _____

Annual Membership Dues:

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

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

Memberships and/or donations at the \$25 level or above, please select your gift:

- ☐ Personalized 2023-24 Alumni pocket calendar
☐ Alumni notepad
☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm
☐ Pelican Coaster
☐ No gift, please.

Mail to: **CHSN Alumni Association**
P.O. Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 25. Circle your selections on the Ballot at right, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope and mail to the CHSN Alumni Association.

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

Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than March 1, 2023, 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 "2022" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2022. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2023.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2022, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2023 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. ❖

2023 ELECTION BALLOT

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

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE
PATRICK BRADY '83

TREASURER
URSULA ALLAIN '65

NOMINATIONS CHAIR
CHARLENE BERGER '79

BOARD MEMBERS - Two Positions

PATRICIA DUFRENE '85
SANDY SPITALE '83

Check one:

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

Mail your ballot to: **CHSN Alumni Association,**
PO Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179

Charity Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PO Box 19103

New Orleans, Louisiana 70179

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

*What is that number
by my name?*

The four-digit number following your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "2022" next to your name means your membership expired at the end of 2022. You can renew your membership now for 2023 on page 27 or on our website: CharityAlumni.org



**Charity Hospital School of Nursing
Alumni Association**

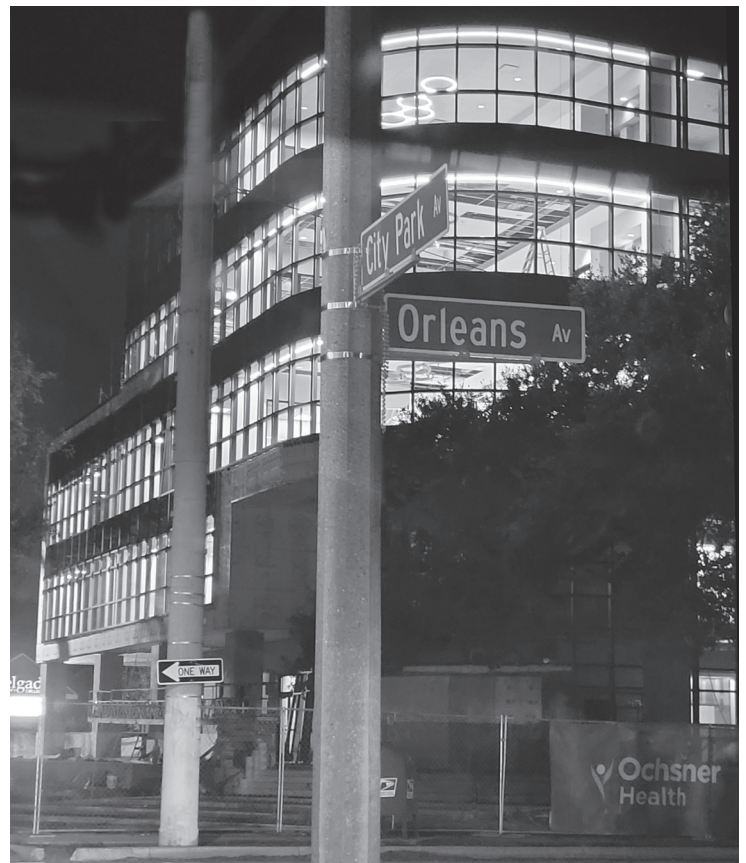
PO Box 19103

New Orleans, Louisiana 70179

Email: chsnaaoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.CharityAlumni.org

Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA



*Construction of the new nursing and allied health building
on Delgado's City Park campus is almost complete!*