

THE



# WHITE CAP

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

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## From the President

By Patricia Dufrene '85

We are so proud to still be mailing out these hard-copy newsletters when so many organizations have gone digital. It's more expensive for sure, but when is the last time you read a digital newsletter from cover to cover on your phone? So have a sit-down and enjoy this issue of the *White Cap*!

There's a terrific report on the school by Dean Fernandez (who I hear was just nominated for *CitiBusiness Women of the Year...*) All the Charity faculty deserve every kudo they receive because they are keeping our beloved alma mater vibrant today and into the future.

Read the news about your classmates, and some farewells to old friends, and articles about how our students are poised to become future leaders of the nursing profession. Plus there's a list of scholarship recipients from this spring – a longer list every semester because of YOUR support!

### October is Party Time

Have you been hearing about Summerween? The idea came from an animated series where a town celebrated Halloween twice a year. It's become a bit of a cultural phenomenon for parties and social-media, and stores are trotting out skeletons and spooky stuff in July.

Well, the timing is good for us, because we were already planning our next Alumni event, and the date is going to be **October 24** – a week before Halloween! So.... we're throwing a **Crow Party!!** Don a black outfit and maybe a feather or two, and here's the most fun part: crows love to collect shiny objects, so bring a few trinkets to share and trade! Call your classmates, bring a colleague and your spouse, and join us on October 24! (*See the details on page 26.*)

### Donate Your Caps and Gowns

If any of you ADN alums have old graduation caps and gowns you'd be willing to donate, the school would love to have them! They will enable students who are struggling financially to walk down the aisle at one of



*Above, the Class of May 2026 in the Ochsner Center*

the most meaningful events of our lives! You can just drop them off at the campus police desk right inside the Ochsner Center, or contact the Alumni Office to get info on shipping or pick-up ([chsnaaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chsnaaoffice@gmail.com)).

As always, your membership dues and donations are what make this engine run! If you enjoy receiving our newsletters, and being part of all we do to support Charity and her students, please renew your membership!

Finally, I want to welcome the **Charity Class of May 2026** into our ranks! We are so very proud of YOU and hope you will be joining us at our alumni events – and in giving back to help each new generation of Charity students succeed. ❖

## Dean's Report

By Jennifer Fernandez, MSN, RN, CPN  
Dean, Charity School of Nursing,  
Delgado Community College

Every time I sit down to write this report, I find myself asking the same question: *How do you capture the heart of Charity in just a few pages?*

The truth is, you really can't. Because Charity has never been just a nursing school. It is a family. It is a legacy. It is generations of nurses answering the call to care for others. It is alumni who continue to give back decades after graduation. It is faculty who invest countless hours into helping students succeed. It is students who overcome obstacles that would stop most people in their tracks and somehow still find the strength to keep moving forward.

This year reminded me once again why I am so proud to be part of this incredible community. Through every challenge, every accomplishment, every celebration, and every transition, one thing remained constant: The heart of Charity is stronger than ever. And as we often say around the school – Here We Grow!

### **Opening Doors and Changing Lives**

At Charity School of Nursing, every student who walks through our doors brings a unique story, a dream, and often a tremendous amount of courage.

This year, we continued expanding opportunities for future nurses through our Associate Degree Nursing, Practical Nursing, LPN-to-RN Transition, and CNA programs.

Our innovative LPN-to-RN Evening and Weekend Track is made possible through our HERO Grant partnership with LDH and Ochsner Health. Designed specifically for working nurses, this program allows LPNs to continue to work while advancing their education and careers. Watching these students succeed while balancing jobs, family, and nursing school has been nothing short of inspiring. And our growing Certified Nursing Assistant testing program has quickly become an important pathway into healthcare careers.

These programs represent more than enrollment numbers. They represent opportunities. Second chances. Career advancement. Economic mobility. And lives transformed through education.

### **An Evolving Profession**

Healthcare continues to evolve at an incredible pace, and nursing education must evolve right alongside it. Throughout the year, our faculty engaged in extensive curriculum review and innovation efforts designed to ensure our graduates are prepared to enter today's complex healthcare environment with confidence and competence. Using feedback from healthcare employers, graduates, faculty, and students, we strengthened curriculum content related to clinical judgment, communication, escalation of care, documentation, medication safety, interdisciplinary collaboration, and patient advocacy.

### **Expand and Enhance**

Curriculum enhancements approved this year include expanded instruction in blood administration, ostomy



*Left, Dean Jennifer Fernandez*

care, insulin administration, and other clinical skills increasingly expected of new nurses. Clinical Judgment Measurement Model initiatives are designed to strengthen critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and decision-making skills. The goal remains simple: to graduate nurses who are not only clinically competent, but compassionate, adaptable, and ready to lead!

### **Innovation and Recognition**

Charity continues to gain recognition as a leader in simulation-based nursing education.

**Dr. Kimberly Beechler** presented at the SIM Expo hosted by Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, sharing best practices for transforming nursing education through simulation. She also inspired educators during Delgado's Spring Convocation through her presentation, *Come on Baby Light Their Fire: Taking Their Learning So Much Higher*.

**Dr. Alicia Quirk** was selected to serve on the national Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) Simulation Committee, a prestigious appointment recognizing her expertise and leadership in simulation-based nursing education.

These accomplishments reflect not only the talents of individual faculty members, but also Delgado's growing reputation as a leader in innovative nursing education. As healthcare continues to evolve, simulation is one of the most powerful tools available for preparing students to provide safe, effective, and compassionate care.

### **The Heart Behind Our Success**

If there is one thing I know for certain, it is that our faculty are the reason for our success. Every graduate who crosses the stage. Every student who passes NCLEX. Every nurse who gains confidence in their abilities. Every life changed through education. It all begins with a faculty member who believed in them first. This year, our faculty continued to distinguish themselves as educators, scholars, mentors, presenters, and leaders.

**Dr. Kimberly Uddo** represented Delgado nationally through her NISOD webinar presentation, *Academic Civility: What Can I Do?* highlighting the importance of professionalism and respectful learning environments.

**Andrew Mahoney** shared his forensic expertise, helping educate healthcare professionals through the Louisiana Nonfatal Strangulation Examination for Forensic Nursing program.

I was honored to represent Delgado as the community college representative on the Louisiana Organization for Nurse Leaders Nurse Educator Expert Panel, joining nursing leaders from across the state to discuss work-force development and the future of nursing education.

**Beth Prather** and **Deidre Cloud** represented Charity as ACEN Peer Evaluators, contributing their expertise to nursing programs across the country. Several faculty members completed TeamSTEPPS certification training and other professional development opportunities designed to strengthen teamwork, leadership, communication, and patient safety.

**Nelcia Alexis '05** was the recipient of the 2026 New Orleans District Nurses Association (NODNA) Beyond the Bedside Academic Nurse Educator Award, recognizing her exceptional dedication to nursing education, student success, and the advancement of the profession. **Monica Armstead** was also nominated for this award and we thank both educators for their outstanding service to the school and the nursing community.

**Sharon Celestine** and **Gina Herrera** were both nominated for Delgado's Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Dr. Janine Lemoine '03** earned her doctoral degree, and has been nominated for the 2026 Nightingale Awards Nursing Educator of the Year. **Devin Vernor** was nominated for Rookie Educator of the Year, too! And **Linda Hueschen** completed her Master of Science in Nursing Administration.

These accomplishments are impressive, but what makes me most proud are the countless moments that never make it into newsletters. The faculty member who stays after hours to help a struggling student. The instructor who spends their lunch break reviewing dosage calculations. The mentor who refuses to let a student give up on themselves. That is Charity. And that is what makes our faculty extraordinary.

#### Student Service and Success

One of the greatest joys of being Dean is watching our students discover that they are capable of becoming leaders, and our student organizations continued a long-standing tradition of service to the community.

Members of **CASN** organized blood drives, and attended the National Student Nurses Association Convention in Houston, representing Delgado on the national stage (*see more page 14*).

**Spectrum** members participated in community food drives, healthcare events, and service projects throughout the Greater New Orleans area. Their successful participation in the Crawfish Cook-Off even earned them an invitation to return next year! And the LSNA Nurses Day at the Capital opened their eyes to the role they can play in healthcare policy (*see page 17*).

#### Our Alumni Family

One of the most remarkable things about Charity is that our alumni never stop showing up for our students. This spring, the Alumni Association awarded \$15,500 in



*Left to right, Dean Fernandez with CSN faculty, Dr. Mary Barrow and Nelcia Alexis '05, at the NODNA 2026 Crescent City Nursing Excellence Brunch.*

scholarships and awards to Charity nursing students. These provide financial support, but they also provide something even more valuable: Hope. Encouragement. A reminder that generations of Charity nurses are cheering them on. The Alumni Association also continued supporting student awards, recognition programs, special events, and faculty celebrations throughout the year.

To our alumni: thank you! Your generosity and commitment continue to make a difference every single day.

#### New Beginnings and Lasting Legacies

This year brought both exciting new beginnings and heartfelt farewells. We welcomed **Latanya Parker**, a proud 2023 Charity graduate, to our full-time faculty team. We also welcomed numerous adjunct faculty members – many of them also Charity graduates – who returned to invest in the next generation of nurses.

We congratulate **Nelcia Alexis '05** on her appointment as Level IV Coordinator and look forward to the continued leadership and innovation she will bring to the role. And we pause to recognize **Dr. Mary Barrow**, whose retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable career dedicated to nursing education and student success. The impact she has made on generations of nurses cannot be measured. Her legacy will continue through every student she taught, every colleague she mentored, and every life she touched.

#### Answering the Call

One of the greatest challenges facing nursing education today is the national shortage of nurse educators and clinical instructors. The Charity School of Nursing is no exception. If you have ever considered teaching or mentoring, giving back to the profession that has given so much to you, now is the time. We are

actively seeking adjunct clinical faculty and student success coaches who are passionate about helping students succeed. Many of our strongest educators started exactly where you are today – as Charity graduates who wanted to make a difference. Adjunct clinical faculty opportunities are currently available through Delgado's website. (Go to [dcc.edu](http://dcc.edu), scroll to bottom of page to *Quick Links*, and click on *Career Opportunities*, or just google 'careers at Delgado.')

Student Success Coach positions are also available! Individuals interested in learning more about coaching can email **Assistant Dean Dr. Tracy Harris** directly at [tharri2@dcc.edu](mailto:tharri2@dcc.edu).

The next generation of Charity nurses is waiting. And they need you!

#### A Final Word of Gratitude

To our alumni, faculty, staff, students, clinical partners, donors, and friends: Thank you!

Thank you for believing in the mission of the Charity School of Nursing. Thank you for investing in our students. Thank you for carrying forward a legacy that began more than a century ago and continues today through every Charity nurse.

The future of healthcare will bring new challenges. But if history has taught us anything, it is this: Charity nurses rise to meet every challenge. We always have. And we always will. Because at Charity, we do more than educate nurses. We change lives.

And together – Here We Grow. ❖

## NODNA Honors

**Nelcia Alexis '05** was named a top Nursing Educator at the NODNA 2026 Crescent City Nursing Excellence Brunch on May 9. Nelcia is an Assistant Professor at Charity School of Nursing. She was the winner of the Beyond the Bedside Academic School of Nursing category, sponsored by Ochsner Health.

Because of our generous members, the Alumni Association was able to purchase a table so the CSN Dean and faculty could represent the school at the event.

Other Charity alumni nominees included: **Lisl Antee '02**, Nursing Leadership for a Manager nominee; **Monique Brown '24**, Mary Eliza Mahoney Award nominee; **Victoria Johnson '08**, Leadership for a Nurse Executive nominee; **Kaliah Powell '20**, Direct Patient Care Community Health nominee; **Melissa Breaux '81**, Direct Patient Care Out-Patient nominee; and Direct Patient Care Hospital In-Patient Nominees: **Trina Parker '15**, **Elizabeth Harris '21**, **Senedra Stephenson '10**, **Reinada Thomas '22**.

**Patrick Hutchinson, Jr., May 2026**, was named as a Rising Star Student Scholarship nominee. ❖



*Left to right, top to bottom: Blythe Picard; Ritah Njambi; Aleido Oliva; Kayla Gallagher; Alana Glenn; Claudette Short, and Patrick Hutchinson, Jr.*

## Pinning Ceremony Honors

The Spring 2026 Pinning Ceremony was held on May 15 at the Pontchartrain Center and a graduating class of 144 received their Charity Pins!

Five students were recognized for outstanding performance: **Blythe Picard**, Honor Pin; **Ritah Njambi**, Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award; **Aleido Oliva**, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award and Daughters of Charity Award; **Kayla Gallagher**, Highest GPA; and **Alana Glenn**, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award.

The Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Fund Nursing Awards went to the six students with the highest cumulative grade point averages for the academic year. Fall 2025: **Kelli Conrad** and **Lai Irvin**; and Spring 2026: **Kayla Gallagher**, **Tayah McNab**, **Jasmine Hines** and **Rose Neyrey**.

Lifetime membership in the Sigma Alpha Chi Honor Society was conferred on **Rebecca Boyett**, **Jaylynn Dibble**, **Alana Glenn**, **Audie Jones**, **Tanisha Love-Butler**, **Brittany Molinere**, **Blythe Picard**, **Marshana Stevenson** and **Vondranay Waters**.

**Blythe Picard** was recognized for her leadership as SAC President. **Claudette Short** was recognized for her service as the President of Spectrum. **Patrick Hutchinson, Jr.** was selected by his classmates to deliver the Salutation Speech (*see page 9*).

Congratulations, May 2026 graduates! We welcome you to your new nursing careers! ❖



# Equinox Fun Celebrates the Past and the Future

By Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

It was Saturday, March 21, and the alumni gathered to celebrate the Spring Equinox, when the sun is poised at the equator, and the world stands in perfect balance between winter's dark and summer's light, when the earth awakens and brings the gift of new beginnings!

Like harbingers of spring themselves, the alumni were festooned with fascinators, flowers, and bunny ears as they streamed into the Ridgeway of Old Metairie, a comfortable venue that we love!

Happy student volunteers from Spectrum and CASN were on hand to help us out selling souvenirs, raffle tickets and t-shirts.

Our President, **Patty Dufrene '85** recently had a knee replacement and sent her regrets, so Executive Director **Lista Hank '97** welcomed all members and guests.

**Jenn Garnand '11** was also unable to attend but sent her reliably spot-on blessing, weaving the theme with some nursing soul (*read it on page 8*).

## Family and Friends

Once we settled down with our buffet selections, Lista introduced some special guests in attendance.

**Robert Carbon**, who provides for an ongoing scholarship in memory of his wife **Christine Hurley Carbon '71**, came into town and joined us for breakfast along with his sister

**Vernon Raye Schmitt**. Chris had a long career in nursing before passing away in 2020. Robert says, "Chris loved Charity School of Nursing and was very proud to be a Charity Nurse." (The recipient of Chris's scholarship this semester, **Patrick Hutchinson, Jr.**, couldn't be at the brunch, but you can read his Salutation Speech on page 9.)



*Above, left to right; senior Trenice Varnado with Vivian Manes '70; Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 with Gwen*

*Traina '86; below, Taston Brookshire, April Brown and Manda Brookshire Brown; bottom left, Robert Carbon with his sister Vernon.*



**Manda Brookshire Brown** and her brother **Taston Brookshire**, children of the late **Angela Brookshire '95**, were at the brunch and were able to meet Level 2 student **April Brown**, this semester's recipient of the scholarship they created in their mother's memory. Angelica worked in the ED at Big Charity until Katrina and later at Lakeview Medical Center and St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

Other scholarship donors and recipients were also at the brunch. **Peggy Begnaud Johns '63** was on hand, though her scholarship recipient couldn't be. (*Read more about scholarships on page 10.*)

**Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76** created the **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 Endowed Scholarship** in memory of her mom, and this semester's recipient of Marie's



*Above, left to right, top to bottom: Lisa Sale and her daughter Level 2 student Emma Sale with Key Kenney '76 and her sister Robin Beaulieu; Level 2 student Oxana Gordon (standing) with Mary Singletary '49 (right) and Mary's niece Peggy Rome; Delia Tufaro '78 and Peggy Johns '63; seniors Blythe Picard and Ritah Njambi.*

scholarship, **Emma Sale**, who also brought along her mom Lisa to meet Kay and her sister **Robyn Beaulieu**. Marie was in the Cadet Nurse Corps at Charity and worked at Montelepre and Mercy Hospital.

**Sister Camilla Gaudin** served as supervisor of the orthopedic department at Big Charity Hospital and, later, as patient liaison. Not a graduate of the School of Nursing, Sister Camilla was named an Honorary Member of the Alumni Association. The **Sister Camilla Gaudin DC Scholarship** was established in her memory by two alumni who had worked closely with her: **Sandra Robert '56** (who has moved to Arizona and couldn't be here) and **Mary Smith Singletary '49** (who we can always count on to be at our alumni gatherings!) This semester's recipient of Sister Camilla's scholarship, **Oxana Gordon**, got to meet Mary and her lovely family, **Roberta and Raymond Cook** and **Peggy Rome**. *(See a bit more about Mary on page 8.)*

Other scholarship recipients there included seniors **Trenice Varnado**, **Ritah Njambi** and **Blythe Picard** -- who we will be welcoming into the Alumni Association shortly! Trenice was able to meet **Vivian Manes '70** who is one of the major donors of the **Rita Bares Raphael '65 Scholarship** she received this semester.

Finally, Lista introduced **Vicki Berry**, retired faculty at Charity and creator of the wonderful Charity School of Nursing artwork on many of our souvenirs, like the

popular yard flags. Vicki donated many of the items we had for sale and we were so pleased to have her join us!

**Dr. Tracy Harris**, Assistant Dean of Nursing, gave a report on the school, assuring us that Charity still has a "strong foundation" -- and a strong attendance with over 250 students enrolled in Level 1 this semester! That certainly indicates a strong future for the program!

#### **New Officers**

Newly elected officers came forward for their oath of office. I was honored to be installed once again as Secretary along with our new Treasurer, **Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80**, and returning Board Members **Vivian Manes '70** and **Judy Ross '68**.

#### **Roll Call and Anniversaries**

The Roll Call of Classes is always so much fun! The **Rowdy Class of 1968** lived up to its name with six members in attendance! The **Class of 1974** was also outstanding with four classmates, with **1960, 1965, 1971** and **1979** with three each. We were delighted to have thirteen current students there!

Anniversary Certificates were presented to the **Class of 1966** for their 60-year Diamond Anniversary, the **Class of 1976** for their 50-year Golden Anniversary, and the **Class of 1986** for their 40-year Ruby Anniversary.

#### **Raffles and Drawings**

The 50/50 drawing netted \$145 for winner **Kay**





*Left to right, top to bottom: Adrienne Thomas Poret '92 and Trenese Brown Ennis '00; Connie Lavendier '86 and Trina Calhoun '86; Sherry Yarborough '60 and Doris Burvant '60; Josie Johnson '74, Jeanie Johnson Southerland '74 and Olander Holloway '74; Joey and Janice Redlich '71; Tracy Harris and Cheryl Myers, retired DCC Vice-Chancellor and Honorary Alumni; Nick and Charlene Persich '74; Suzy Andry '59; Louise Dalili '71 and Paula Savant '71; Dale Eppling '68 and Judy Ross '68; Gerard Oncale '93, Ann Marie Pizeck '93 and Renee Oncale..*



**Kenney '76** – who graciously donated her winnings to the Alumni's Student Emergency Assistance Fund! Kay was having a lucky day, also winning a framed Big Charity poster! **Ann Pizeck '93** won a Charity garment bag and, of course, there were tons of door prizes!



### **Singing**

Our voices rose with our hearts as **Glenda Veal '89** led us in a resounding rendition of the Alma Mater. Celebrating our cherished past, we could look around the room and see so many representatives of our promising future – the gift of new beginnings! We are proud Charity Alumni – and proud to welcome each new graduate who is also proud to be a Charity Nurse! We hope you will join for our next Alumni Event this fall. And bring your family and friends! ❖



# Blessing of the Equinox

By Jenn Garnand '11

Let us begin our time together today in the Spirit of Charity...

What a gift it is to gather with this community – people who understand, in a way few others do, what it means to care deeply and to serve faithfully.

The Spring Equinox is a moment of perfect balance – day and night held in equal measure. Not for long, just a pause... a breath... before the world leans into light, warmth, and growth.

There's something profoundly familiar about that pause. Because in nursing, *we live in those in-between moments.*

We stand at bedsides where life is changing – sometimes suddenly, sometimes slowly. We witness the space between what was and what will be. And in that space, we are asked to be steady, to be present, to be human.

Not to rush the moment. Not to fix everything. *But to hold it.*

The equinox reminds us that balance isn't something we achieve once and keep forever. It's something we return to, again and again. Shift after shift. Patient after patient. Season after season.

And if we're honest, there are times when the scales don't feel balanced at all.

## Out of Darkness

There are seasons that feel like winter – long, heavy, exhausting. Times when the emotional weight of this work follows us home. Times when we give and give, often wondering if anything is left for ourselves.

But here's the beauty of the equinox: it doesn't erase winter. *It honors it* – and then gently moves us forward.

Spring doesn't demand that we forget the hard season. It simply reminds us that it won't last forever. That something new is always waiting to emerge.

In healthcare, we see that truth every day. We believe in what's possible.

We invest in people in fragile moments.

We show up, even when outcomes are uncertain. *And that is no small thing.*

Today, take a quiet moment for yourself – where are you being called into something new? Where might there be space for renewal in your own life? And what would it

look like to offer yourself the same compassion you so freely give to others?

Because you deserve that, too.

As an alumni of Charity School of Nursing, you are part of a *legacy* that is rooted in resilience, skill, and heart. That legacy is not just in what you've done – *it's in who you continue to be.*

So, as we step into this new season, may we embrace the balance – honoring both the challenges and the possibilities:

*May you find moments of peace, even in the midst of busy, imperfect days.*

*May we continue to be a source of steady light for those who need it most.*

And may we never forget... even the smallest acts of care can be the first sign of someone else's spring.

Amen. ❖

## Generations Connect Over the Years

In 2019, **Dionne Simms Hughes '95** attended a

Charity alumni event, and met another proud Charity Nurse, **Mary Smith Singletary, Class of 1949**. Says Dionne, "Ever since, I look forward to seeing her each time I attend an Alumni Breakfast and have committed to getting a snapshot each time ... as we grow older together. How beautiful is this?!! Two of many

Proud Charity Grads, from one generation to another!!! I hope to be just like her when I grow up and look forward to many more photos to come!" ❖

*Top to bottom, left to right: Dionne and Mary in 2019; Mary and Dionne at Homecoming 2022; Dionne and Mary in Spring 2026.*





## May 2026 Pinning Ceremony Salutation Speech

# Stepping Forward

By Patrick Hutchinson, Jr.

Today is not just a ceremony – it is the continuation of a legacy.

Charity School of Nursing carries a name that means something deeper than tradition. *Charity* is not just history – it is purpose. It reflects compassion, service, and an enduring commitment to care for all people, especially those most in need.

As a graduate, you are now part of that legacy. You carry forward a standard that has been shaped by generations of nurses who showed up with skill, courage, and heart.

Nursing is not just a profession. It is a commitment to compassion, dignity and humanity. It asks you to be both strong and gentle, both skilled and empathetic. You will be the calm in someone's storm, the advocate when a voice is not heard, and the steady presence when uncertainty fills the room.

### Showing Up

To the graduating class sitting before me: you have earned your place in this tradition. You have faced demanding coursework, long clinical hours, and moments that tested your confidence. You have learned more than how to care for patients. You have learned how to listen, to question, to speak up and speak for. You have grown into professionals who understand that nursing is as much about presence as it is about practice.

This moment represents years of early mornings, long nights, self-doubts, perseverance, and growth. You didn't just learn how to pass exams or master clinical skills – you learned how to show up for people on some of the best and worst days of their lives. That is something no textbook can teach.

### The Journey

Perseverance is the steadfast determination to keep moving forward despite obstacles, setbacks, and moments of doubt. It is the quiet strength that pushes a person to rise again after failure, to continue when the path becomes difficult, and to believe in the possibility of success even when it feels far away.

In the fall of 2020, a young man began his nursing journey with hope and ambition. By the time he reached his third semester, he faced his first major setback – failing a nursing course. Not long after, he faced another



challenge and failed a second course, forcing him to withdraw from the program he had worked so hard to be part of. It would have been easy to give up. But perseverance does not allow quitting – it demands resilience.

Instead of letting failure define him, he used it as fuel to keep going. He sought new paths, embraced growth, and refused to abandon his goal of becoming a Charity nurse. And now, five years later, that same young man stands before you – not as someone who failed, but someone who persisted. Today, I present this speech at my pinning ceremony, as a testament to the power of perseverance, and the belief that setbacks are not the end of the story, but part of the journey to success.

### Trust and Challenges

The pin you receive today is more than a symbol. It represents trust – trust from your patients, your colleagues, and your community. It represents responsibility – the responsibility to uphold the values of this institution and the profession you are entering. And it represents resilience – the strength you have already demonstrated and will continue to rely on throughout your careers. It represents the promise that you will carry forward the values of this profession with integrity and heart.

There will be days that challenge you. Days when the pace is relentless and the emotional weight feels too heavy to bear. In those moments, remember where you came from. Remember the training that prepared you, the classmates who stood by you, and the purpose that brought you here.

### Small Moments and Small Victories

Also remember this: the smallest acts of care often leave the greatest impact. A reassuring word, a steady hand, a moment of genuine compassion – these are the things patients remember long after they leave your care.

As you go forward, lean on one another. Celebrate the small victories. Continue learning. And never underestimate the impact of your presence, your kindness and your care.

To the families and loved ones here today: thank you. Your support, patience and encouragement helped make this achievement possible.

### The Spirit of Charity

Graduates, as you step into this next chapter, carry the spirit of Charity with you. Lead with compassion. Practice with integrity. Continue to learn, grow and serve. Step forward with confidence. The world needs you – not just for what you know, but for who you are.

Congratulations, Spring Class of 2026. You are ready. And the world is better because of the nurses you are becoming. ❖

# Scholarships and Awards: Wow!

This March, the Charity Alumni Association presented \$15,500 in scholarships to twenty-five students of Charity School of Nursing – a new record for the Alumni Association!

All our scholarships are made possible by the generosity of our alumni, family and friends.

The recipients of the Charity Alumni scholarships for the Spring 2026 semester are:

## Level 2

**Bailey Barrett**  
Madeline Tolson  
Markwood '52  
Scholarship \$500



**Brandi Bernard**  
Dorothy Aull  
Nugent Barkley '57  
Scholarship \$500



**Corey Blue**  
Georga Helmer '79  
Scholarship \$500



**April Brown**  
Angelica Brown  
Brookshire '95  
Scholarship \$500



**Anh Dao**  
Peggy Begnaud  
Johns '63  
Scholarship \$500



**Oxana Gordon**  
Sister Camilla  
Gaudin Scholarship  
\$500



**Ngoc Huynh**  
Mary Ann Signorelli  
Whynot '46  
Scholarship \$500



**Cali Latapie**  
Brenda Crump  
Trosclair '68  
Scholarship \$500



**Derrick Lawrence**  
Sister Blanche  
McDonnell  
Scholarship \$500



**Paige Rigaud**  
James and  
Joyce Bonaventure  
Leissner '57  
Scholarship \$500



**Emma Sale**  
Marie Gaudet  
Beaulieu '46  
Scholarship \$500



## Level 3

**Nicole Coleman**  
Lynel Leonard  
Pinkozie '73  
Scholarship \$500



**Ronulia Darensburg**  
Gerald Camus  
Scholarship \$500



**Danielle Morris**  
Class of 9/11/64  
Scholarship \$500



## Level 4

**Cindy Davis**  
Sally Cooper '59  
Scholarship \$1,000



**Janaya Fobb**  
Joycelyn Gondolfo  
Jeansonne '78,  
Scholarship \$500



**LaDonnalissa George**  
Leona Kruebbe  
Hilbert '46  
Scholarship \$1,000



**Jasmine Hines**  
Sister Laurentia Walsh  
Scholarship \$1,000



**Patrick Hutchinson Jr.**  
Christine Hurley  
Carbon '71  
Scholarship \$1,000



**Kiva Jasmin**  
Marcelle Jacobs  
Wright '41  
Scholarship \$500



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



**Blythe Picard**  
Dr. Patrick L.  
Brady, Jr. '83  
Scholarship \$1,000



**Trenice Varnado**  
Rita Bares  
Raphael '65  
Scholarship \$500



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

**Katerine Padilla Perez**  
– RN Program \$500  
**Tyjanique Houston**  
– PN Program \$500 ❖

# Escaping the Traditional Classroom

By Dr. Kim Uddo, DNP, RN, CCRN, CNE, Charity Professor of Nursing, and Mia Woodruff, FNP-C, Charity Skills Lab Coordinator

In April, the Level 4 students at Charity School of Nursing faced an unusual and provocative challenge: an Escape Room!

The Escape Room was designed by two faculty members to help students learn about sepsis in a creative and engaging activity, rather than the traditional classroom setting.

Skills Lab Coordinator **Mia Woodruff** originally reached out to **Dr. Kim Uddo** to see if Kim was interested in experimenting with an escape room activity for her sepsis class. Kim is the lead teacher for the Level 4 concept of infection, including sepsis, septic shock, and disseminated intravascular coagulation.

At first, Kim was a little resistant, as she loved her three-hour class that she had built over several years. But she also loves trying new ideas, so she quickly said, “Ok, let’s do it.”

## Planning and Collaboration

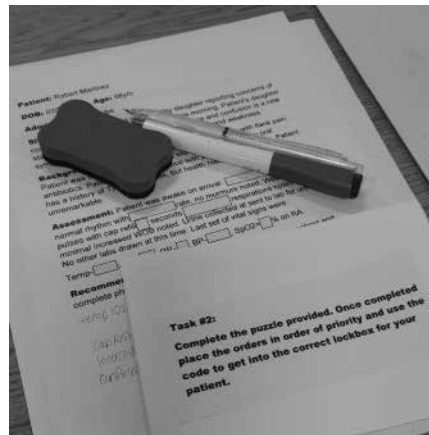
Kim sent Mia the class slides, test questions, and the class handout with the latest sepsis 2026 guidelines, and Mia began editing. Mia and Kim met with other faculty, **Dr. Alicia Quirk** and **Amanda Weinberger ’19** to collaborate.

Alicia had implemented an escape room in the past with her clinical group of eight students, but never as a class-wide activity. Her experience was helpful in the collaboration process.

Amanda was concerned about the order of the antibiotics to be hung. Her comments led Kim to visit the Emergency Department at Kenner Ochsner to learn the details of antibiotic administration during a Code Sepsis. Expert decision-making was shared to incorporate into the lecture and escape room activity. “Our partnerships with our hospital facilities are paramount for keeping abreast with the daily decision making of patient care. Information that may not be found in textbooks can be found through our clinical partnerships,” says Kim.



*Left to right, top to bottom: students try to figure out a clue; Dr. Kim Uddo lectures; a sepsis scenario and task; Mia Woodruff encourages students to think through questions themselves; students examine the manikin.*



Next, Mia planned several phases of the activity that would require students to complete tasks, decipher codes, put together puzzles, plus find and solve clues.

She decided students would need to compute a fluid bolus, calculate an infusion rate, and program the

infusion pump at the bedside.

## Setting Up for an Adventure

Once the details of the activity were agreed upon, Mia went into action, designing the room set-up. She placed post-it notes at different sites on the manikin so that, as students performed a physical exam, they would discover information like vital signs, and other

assessment information.

Color-coded lock boxes were lined up on a counter to represent the pharmacy, and Mia mocked up a pneumatic tube system station.

A jigsaw puzzle would have to be assembled to read the doctor's orders. The orders would then need to be prioritized to align with the sepsis one-hour bundle of care. A knapsack bearing a tiny lock was placed on the bedside IV pole. It would hold a much-needed bag of the potent vasopressor norepinephrine that students would have to find the key to access.

The goal of setting up all the different challenges was to make the escape room an active-learning activity, not simply a simulation.

The next step was to do a dry run, where Mia facilitated the escape room activity and Kim acted as the student. Additional tweaks were made and they were ready to try the escape room with actual students.

### Lecture, Video, Escape!

The three-hour infection unit was divided into a shorter lecture by Kim, plus a video and handouts with writing activities. Then, finally, the escape room! Students were assigned times to arrive at the virtual hospital on the second floor of the nursing building. After signing in, each student was given a sepsis



*Top to bottom, left to right: post-it notes provide initial vital signs; a jigsaw puzzle reveals the physician's orders; working at the pharmacy counter; a moment of doubt; checking the details of the scenario.*

awareness ribbon to pin on their scrub shirts. They stowed their book bags but kept their phones – only to be used as calculators!

Mia greeted the students with a pre-briefing to give them the general overview and guidelines for the

activity. The escape room session would last thirty minutes. It would be timed because, with sepsis, time matters!

### Unlocking Clues

After dividing into groups, the students headed for the ward and their manikin patients! Each group had to quickly identify the characteristics of sepsis in their patient and implement the one-hour bundle of care to save the patient's life.

Among the activities, students had to correlate physical findings, calculate dosages, and select appropriate blood collection tubes.

Correct answers would lead to new tasks, and keys to unlock new clues!

Readily visible post-it notes got them started with initial findings, but it wouldn't continue to be that



easy! If an intervention required a follow-up blood pressure assessment, the students would have to know that – and actually unroll the cuff to find the new BP reading.

The room was abuzz with chatter as students were thinking out loud, conferring with their group and cheering when they figured out a clue that got them to the next step. They were running back and forth to the pharmacy counter, and sending off their ‘blood draws’ so they could get essential lab results.

### Learning through Mistakes

Mia, Kim, Amanda and Alicia were on hand to observe, and they were all smiles watching students get so excited about their tasks. When one group of students was going astray, Kim almost gave away a clue, but Mia stopped her and allowed the students to make their mistake.

“It was a whole new way of playing with the content. Letting students apply what they learned successfully – and stumble over what they have not yet secured in their memory for application. Those stumbles help the student to realize what they need to study and work on to be

successful when caring for a patient with sepsis,” says Kim.

Just like in the real world, mistakes had consequences: a five-minute penalty for making a wrong decision!

### Lights Out!

In one session, there was an unintended test for the students: the electricity went out! Suddenly they were all in the dark! But the



*Top to bottom, left to right: students puzzle over correct blood tubes; calculating infusion rates; cellphone flashlights allow students to continue their work in the dark; Mia keeps students on track in the pharmacy area.*



students were so focused on the activity – and the friendly competition – that they just flipped on the flashlights in their cellphones and kept on going! (For the faculty, it was an eerie reminder of patient care during Hurricane Katrina!)

The student group with the fastest time in each session, or who got the furthest in the activity, was named the winner and the members received special gifts.

### Recap and Review

After the Escape Room exercise was completed, Kim led the debriefing, helping students analyze the sepsis scenario. Kim was in her element at the dry-erase board, recapping the plan of care, encouraging students to extrapolate from what they had experienced, getting them to think through all of the steps in their response. They reviewed the patient history, sepsis characteristics, the labs, medications and rationales for interventions. They traced the cascade of septic shock and disseminated intravascular coagulation.

Kim thanked the participants for engaging in the activity and hoped it helped them realize the importance of early identification of sepsis and how to implement the one-hour bundle of care to save lives.







*Above, Kim conducts the debriefing; below, a winning group receives their gifts.*

The Escape Room experiment was a success! It seems to have been an effective – and fun – learning experience!

#### **Going Forward**

Kim and Mia are so grateful to have the wonderful resources of the simulation hospital where students can apply what they are learning in a whole new kind of real-world classroom. Kim appreciated having a talented simulation expert like Mia to collaborate with. “She built a powerful learning activity and was an encouraging cheerleader for changing up my classroom,” says Kim. Mia is thankful that Kim gave her the trust she needed to make the experiment work.

#### **Positive Feedback**

The day after the escape room sessions, Kim was crossing the parking lot on her way to class. A car pulled up and the window rolled down. Student **Nathal Morgan** yelled out, “I loved the Escape Room! It was awesome! Keep doing it!”

That was all the feedback Kim needed! It looks like the Escape Room is a keeper. ❖



# CASN: Grounded and Growing

By Blythe Picard, May 2026

CASN Secretary/Treasurer

Thanks to the generous support of the Alumni Association, five Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) Board members were able to attend the National Students Nurses Association (NSNA) conference in April. **Chelsea Johnson, Kayleigh Helmrich, Katherine Murillo, Ritah Njambi, and Blythe Picard** were joined by Charity faculty advisor **Dr. Janine Lemoine '03** on their trip to Houston, in great anticipation of the conference theme: *Grounded in Purpose, Destined for the Stars*.

#### **New Beginnings**

This conference was especially meaningful for our chapter because it came at a pivotal time. In December 2025, these five students were all newly elected to the CASN board. When we gathered for our first board meeting, some of us were meeting each other for the first time, but we were all filled with enthusiasm – and determination to energize our organization.

As the semester progressed, we faced some unexpected challenges, including ice storms, flooded inventory, and a campus closure that forced us to reschedule a much-anticipated Valentine’s Bake Sale. Despite these obstacles, we continued moving forward, hosting a campus-wide blood drive, holding monthly meetings, and organizing a community baby shower.

Our board was learning as we went, but through those experiences, we grew not only as leaders but as teammates, supporting and encouraging one another.

#### **New Perspectives**

Attending the conference provided exactly the perspective we needed, affirming many of the goals we had already identified for CASN while also providing practical strategies, new resources, and examples from student nurse leaders across the country.

As we look back on our experiences at NSNA, we were struck by how closely the conference theme mirrored our own journey as an organization. We’d like to share some of our experiences and reflections from the event with you – and how the theme turned out to be so relevant for our local CASN chapter.

**Chelsea Johnson, CASN President:** “Attending the NSNA conference for the first time was an incredibly rewarding experience. The conference provided so many opportunities to expand my understanding of nursing, leadership, and patient care while connecting with students who share the same passion for the profession.

“Charity was granted constituency status, allowing us to join nursing students from across the country in the NSNA House of Delegates. Witnessing this firsthand was both empowering and educational. We were able to observe the process of presenting and debating resolutions, while also seeing the collaboration and countless hours of work that go into creating the resolutions. The power of student leadership and advocacy is immense! We are excited to bring fresh ideas back to CASN and continue building an organization that is strong and involved.



are all working toward the same goal of becoming safe, knowledgeable, and compassionate nurses.

“I enjoyed listening to nurses who are farther along in their careers. Hearing about where they started, what they went through, and everything they’ve accomplished – and are still accomplishing – was exhilarating. It made everything feel more real and possible for me. I even

found myself tearing up because, at the end of the day, we are all here for the same reason: to make people’s lives better.

#### **Kayleigh Helmrich, CASN Public Relations**

**Director:** “Going into the House of Delegates, I did not initially understand the significance of the meeting, but watching nursing students from all over the country discuss the changes they want to see in healthcare was inspiring! We discussed resolutions on everything from reducing burnout among nurses to how endometriosis needs to be studied more in depth. It was terrific to see students standing up for issues they are passionate about and working to improve nursing. Being part of those discussions made me realize how powerful student nurses’ voices can be and how much impact we can have on healthcare.

#### **New Insights**

“One of my favorite focus sessions was about breastfeeding. Though I knew there were benefits, I did not realize how significantly breastfeeding can improve infant health and lower certain health risks for mothers. It was eye-opening to learn how education and support for breastfeeding can make such a difference. I am interested in pediatrics and labor and delivery, so I left the session feeling excited to apply what I learned.

“Another focus session discussed the many different nursing specialties and career paths available after graduation. Med-Surg is a great place to start, but it doesn’t have to be the only route for new nurses. The speakers encouraged us to pursue a specialty we are passionate about. Hearing experienced nurses talk about following their goals and finding careers they truly loved was very motivating and gave me confidence to pursue my passion. I am excited to bring back everything I learned to share with members of CASN and other Charity students.”

#### **Katherine Murillo, CASN Breakthrough to Nursing**

**Director:** “Being surrounded by so many student nurses from all over the country revealed to me that I’m part of something so much bigger than just my own program. We

#### **New Confidence**

“A highlight for our group was earning certification in seizure response. In the midst of the course, I realized I had already learned much of the information in our class lectures. My instructors are doing a great job teaching us and preparing us for real life situations!

“One of the biggest things I will take back to CASN are ways we can continue growing and making our organization even better for students. We feel so much more prepared to strengthen our organization and help students become more involved, confident, and successful in nursing school and beyond.

“Attending the NSNA Convention confirmed my passion for nursing, expanded my knowledge, and gave me new insight into potential career paths. Most importantly, it reminded me why I chose this profession.”

**Ritah Njambi, CASN Vice President:** “The NSNA convention served as a real reminder that nursing is far more than a career. Hearing from nurses working in a variety of specialties and learning how their personal journeys shaped the care they provide today was uplifting. From bedside care to specialized certifications, every story reflected a commitment to excellence and lifelong learning. Now I am thinking beyond graduation and beginning to envision the unique ways I can contribute to the future of healthcare.

“The convention also opened my eyes to the many non-conventional roles nurses are pursuing beyond the traditional hospital setting. Sessions highlighted opportunities in education, training, technology and innovation, business, industry, public health, leadership, policy development, forensic nursing, and occupational health. It was exciting to see how nurses are influencing healthcare systems, shaping legislation, improving workplace safety and creating innovative solutions that improve patient care on a larger scale.

### New Options

"I was captivated to learn about the critical role that correctional nurses play in providing care to underserved and overlooked populations. Correctional nurses are responsible for medication administration, behavioral health support, emergency response, chronic disease management and patient advocacy within correctional facilities. The role requires significant autonomy, strong clinical judgement and ability to respond calmly in a high-pressure environment. I also learned about the landmark court case *Estelle v. Gamble* (1976), which established that incarcerated individuals have a constitutional right to adequate healthcare, a ruling that continues to shape correctional healthcare today.

"Nursing is a versatile profession with opportunities to lead and create change in almost every field. Some of the greatest innovations in nursing are often simple practices rooted in empathy, communication, and attentiveness. Whether improving patient education, strengthening teamwork or advocating for safer care environments, we can create lasting impacts on patients and communities alike."

### Rooted in Purpose

Fired up by the things we were learning, the CASN Board held an impromptu meeting one evening to discuss changes we might make. In our excitement, we stayed up until midnight sharing ideas and exploring options. Extra coffee was definitely needed the next morning!

Our experience at NSNA not only solidified many of our plans, but gave us actionable ideas and resources to bring them to fruition.

Chelsea reports, "Seeing how other chapters function motivated our group to reflect on ways we could strengthen CASN. After the convention, our board voted to amend our organization's bylaws to implement some of these changes. We approved a new merit system designed to encourage member involvement, and we voted to create a dedicated committee to develop a resolution for CASN to present at the Spring 2027 NSNA Convention."

Most of all, the conference gave our organization an opportunity to grow together – to strengthen not only our professional relationship, but our friendships as well.

### Reaching Higher

CASN has deep roots; we are 'grounded in purpose' as a long-standing organization for students at Charity School of Nursing. The current board members take seriously our responsibility to carry on this legacy and provide meaningful, enriching opportunities for our members and the school. But like any organization, there are times when a refresh is in order. This conference turned out to be exactly the catalyst we needed to help us become 'destined for the stars.'

We are eager to continue growing as an organization, making the most of opportunities like the NSNA convention where we can learn from leaders in the profession, hear the latest research, and be empowered to create meaningful change. The growth that resulted from this conference was all made possible because of the Alumni's generous support, and we thank you! ❖

*Below, left to right, CASN members attending the NSNA Convention: Katherine Murillo, Kayleigh Helmrich, Chelsea Johnson, Ritah Njambi and Blythe Picard.*



## Alumni Notes

**Madeline Tolson Markwood '52** (Williamsburg, VA): "I have many fond memories of Charity. When I finished my three years with my RN, I moved to Houston to work at the VA Hospital. I worked there until I married, then went to work in the GYN and breast cancer clinic at the then fairly new MD Anderson Tumor Clinic. When my first child arrived, I never practiced nursing after that happy event. Thank you for writing to me about the students who receive the **Madeline Markwood Scholarship**. The most recent recipient, **Bailey Barrett**, sounds like a very worthy future nurse. Several of the past recipients have written to tell me about their careers. All are great contributors to nursing. Charity was very special to me throughout my years, and I am so grateful that Delgado is carrying the torch." Madeline has also established a scholarship in memory of her friend and classmate **Sherrie Essner Cheney '52** (see page 20).

**Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54** (Metairie, LA): "Just a note to thank all who make the *White Cap* and *Alumni News* possible. It is a reminder of my three happiest years spent at the old Charity Nursing School. God bless the new and excellent nurses to carry on!"

**Diane Ducote Rachal '57** (Jacksonville, FL): "The memories came rushing back when I read about **Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57** in the *Alumni News* in January. Living across the hall from me in the dorm, she was quiet and kept to herself, but we introduced ourselves one

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# Shaping Future Nurse Leaders through Legislative Advocacy

By Sharon Celestine, MSN, APRN FNP-BC, CSN faculty

Nursing education extends far beyond textbooks, simulation labs, and clinical rotations. While these experiences are essential in preparing students for bedside care, they represent only one dimension of nursing practice. Today's nurses are also expected to serve as advocates, leaders, educators, and voices for healthcare reform. One of the most effective ways to introduce students to these roles is Nurses Day at the State Capitol.

I was honored to accompany a group of Charity nursing students to this event in April, along with **Dr. Stephanie Wright**, DNP. Hosted by the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA), Nurses Day at the Capitol provides nursing students with firsthand exposure to the legislative and policy-making processes that directly influence healthcare delivery. Students get an opportunity to step outside of the traditional classroom setting and witness how healthcare policy is shaped, discussed, and implemented. For many students, it is a transformative experience that broadens their understanding of what it truly means to be a nurse.

## From Abstract to Tangible

Nursing students learn about disease processes, medications, and patient care in classes and clinicals. However, they may have limited opportunities to explore how laws and public policy affect healthcare systems, patient access, and provider responsibilities. By attending Nurses Day at the Capitol, students gain valuable insight into the relationship between healthcare policy and patient outcomes.

A particularly noteworthy discussion during this session was the proposed legislation *SB32 Angel's Law*. The

policy mandates that hospitals with maternity or neonatal intensive care (NICU) units provide access to standardized perinatal bereavement support services, specialized staff training, and cooling devices for families who suffer pregnancy or infant loss. The goal is to provide grieving families with unhurried time and dignity to be with their baby following a miscarriage, stillbirth, or neonatal death.

For students, hearing these discussions in a real legislative setting transformed policy from an abstract concept into a tangible and meaningful part of their nursing practice.

## Standing with Leaders

Nurses Day also fosters identity, unity and pride within the profession. Students stand alongside practicing nurses, nurse leaders, educators, and healthcare advocates who are shaping the future of healthcare.

Many enter the nursing profession with a strong desire to help others but not realizing the influence nurses can have on healthcare systems and public policy. Participating in advocacy helps students develop confidence in speaking about healthcare issues, engaging in professional organizations, and contributing to meaningful change within their communities. Nurses Day encourages students to recognize the power of their voices. Students return from Baton Rouge understanding the importance of remaining involved.

Nurses Day also provides a real-world application of



*Above, Charity group at Nurses Day at the Capitol; below, first row, far left: faculty Dr. Stephanie Wright and Sharon Celestine with CSN students in the gallery.*



concepts discussed in nursing curricula and allows students to observe how healthcare decisions are made at the state level.

As healthcare continues to evolve, the nursing profession must continue to produce leaders who are informed, engaged, and prepared to advocate for patients and communities. Opportunities such as Nurses Day at the State Capitol help cultivate professionals who can effectively navigate both clinical and organizational aspects of healthcare.

Bringing nursing students to this event is an investment in the future of nursing. It equips students with knowledge, inspires professional growth, and empowers them to become active participants in improving healthcare systems. Most of all, it reminds students that nurses are not only caregivers at the bedside but also influential leaders capable of shaping the future of healthcare for generations to come. ❖

## Alumni Notes

Continued from page 16

day, two petite French girls with similar backgrounds, from small towns in Louisiana (New Roads and Marksville, both on Hwy 1), and became friends. Little did we know, we were embarking on an adventure of a lifetime."

**Conchetta Uli Walters '67 (Knoxville, TN):** "I cannot tell you how much I enjoy reading every issue of the newsletters! I appreciated my nursing education from Charity all the years I worked – over 40 years in the Operating Room! I loved it! Not only do I enjoy the current news about Charity and the continuing education of new nurses, I also enjoy hearing about classmates and other nurses' experiences. We are like one big happy family! Keep up the good work!"

**D. Paxson 'Patti' Barker '72 (Denver, CO):** "I am a Sustaining Member of CHSNAA and wanted to provide my change of address. I so enjoy reading the updates of my classmates. All of you do a great job compiling the newsletter and your efforts are greatly appreciated."

**Veronica 'Ronnie' O'Donnell Els '75 (Lafayette, LA):** "The Class of 1975 are grateful for our CHSN education and for our lifelong Charity friendships. Our class gets together two to three times a year as a group (12-14 grads). We jokingly refer to ourselves as the 'Charity Cases.' In 2026, we started in Baton Rouge at **Claudia Launey Ortego's** house. We rotate among three houses, two in BR and one in Lafayette. **Maureen Gray**



*Left, the Class of 1975 meet in Spring 2026*

**Guevera** also plans an annual trip to Navarre Beach in May. We work hard at staying connected as a group. We have a group text that is very active. We form a prayer chain when one of the group asks for prayers. We always have yearbooks at hand and share old pictures and stories and marvel at what a great education we received and how lifelong friendships were developed. Our group talks A-LOT and laughs even more. We recognize how special our connections are and treasure our time together. We ARE Charity Nurses!"

**Dionne Simms Hughes '95 (Gretna, LA)** sent us a photo of her 'Proud Charity Grad Wall' at home. She displays a framed needlepoint of the Charity pin ("It was donated by another Charity grad and I won it in a raffle at one of the Alumni breakfasts"), the certificate for her commemorative brick, and her 25-year anniversary certificate from the Alumni Association. She also has a centerpiece from the 2019 Alumni Breakfast that became part of her décor. "Ever since I can remember, I've always dreamed of becoming a nurse," says Dionne. "I actually



started aiming towards that goal in my junior year of high school at O. Perry Walker High School. I remember their nursing program included two class hours in our junior year and three in our senior year. I am a Proud Charity Nurse, and I yell it to the roof tops for all to hear!!! Thanks to the Alumni Association for ALL you all do to keep my dream, as well as the spirit of Charity, alive." ❖



# Live She Did: Lacey Sanders '06

*She was the brightest light... We could all take a lesson from her kindness... A selfless servant to all her patients... A fun, loveable soul.* These are just a few of the hundreds of tributes written about Lacey Sanders, a 2006 graduate of Charity.

Lacey passed away this March at the age of 43.

She was a talented nurse and mentor. She spent eighteen years of her nursing career at Touro Infirmary as an ICU RN and Clinical Supervisor. In 2025, she transferred to the PACU at University Medical Center.

One ICU patient's daughter shared this powerful memory: "They say angels are among us, and Lacey was truly one. Lacey was a random nurse caring for my dad in the ICU. I never knew how much this person would impact my life. My dad fought a long battle, and Lacey was there every night to care for him. She was absolutely amazing. Years later, Lacey still kept in touch. I loved to watch her live... and living she did. I have never met someone who built people up as much as she did. Everyone is here for a reason, and Lacey fulfilled hers. She may not have been here a long time, but her impact will be felt forever. I will carry her spark in my heart."

## First on the Dance Floor

Lacey was a proud member of one of New Orleans' most well-known all-female marching clubs, the **Pussyfooters**. She had just celebrated her 10th year with the Pussyfooters and was an essential dance leader for the group. Her infectious smile and magnetic personality were given an outlet to bring joy to the community through dance and service, while adorned in pink and orange.

Lacey was also known for her exceptional make-up skills. She loved Jazz Fest, never missing a year.

Her obituary reads, "Lacey loved New Orleans, and the city loved her back. She thrived in this city that appreciates big personalities, loud laughs, late celebrations, and lots



*Top to bottom, Lacey heading to Jazz Fest; Liz Hopkins and Lacey (on the right); Lacey marching at the center of the Pussyfooters Club.*

of love. She had the ability to see the silver lining in everything and helped others see it, too. Lacey was a savant with an eyeshadow palette, the first on the dance floor, and a devoted friend."

**Liz Hopkins**, a member of the Charity faculty, and also a Pussyfooter, says, "Her absence is palpable; everyone is hurting because we all knew we were so much better for having her in our lives. She knew just how to gently push when someone needed that push. She was a force and a presence that couldn't be denied. This next season with Pussyfooters is gonna be really hard for a lot of us."

## Scholarships for Nursing Students

The Pussyfooters have established a scholarship in Lacey's memory to assist current Charity students, and friends and family have joined in with donations so that the scholarship can continue on for years.

Lacey had ADHD, so school was not easy for her, but she was determined to become a nurse, even after

Hurricane Katrina disrupted her nursing school years. Remembering her struggles, her family has asked that recipients of her scholarship be outstanding nursing students who face challenges in their own lives, but still reach out to help others.

## Here for a Reason

The Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard released Lacey from service at her funeral, with this tribute: "Lacey's legacy is one of compassion, resilience, joy, and love. She did

more than care for patients... she built relationships, lifted spirits, and created moments that will never be forgotten. She truly embodied what it means to be a nurse."

*You can help support Lacey's scholarship on page 27, or on our website: [CharityAlumni.org](http://CharityAlumni.org)*



# Goodbyes

## **Annita Mae Verzal McReynolds '49**

served as the Head Nurse of the OR and set up the OB unit at Memorial Hospital in Palestine, TX. She then spent 20 years with the Palestine school district, implementing the Palestine ISD Nursing Program for the elementary, intermediate, and high schools. In retirement, she and her husband managed their pecan orchard in Neches, TX. Annita loved to travel with the high school students and friends exploring Europe and the Mediterranean. She passed away in February at the age of 98½. Her son Charles wrote to say, "Mom would have me read the Alumni newsletters to her front to back. I am sorry the last edition didn't come a week earlier, before her passing, because several of her classmates were listed in the Goodbyes and she would have loved reminiscing."



**Rheba 'Bebe' Holladay Falgout '50:** Born in Valdosta, GA, Bebe met her husband Mel while in nursing school, and they lived in the New Orleans area until 1971, then moving to Lafayette, LA. Bebe modeled and taught modeling, while pursuing her nursing career and raising a family. She

sang with the Chorale Acadienne and her church choir in Lafayette for many years. After Mel's death, Bebe moved to Ohio, passing away in 2025 at 96.



**Sherrie Essner Cogdill Cheney '52** spent her life caring for others, but she had an adventurous spirit and a great passion for travel, both international and domestic, going on cruises and trips throughout her life, and exploring the world. She played tennis well into her 90s, and was a

dedicated volunteer, working the information desk at several hospitals and ushering for local and Broadway productions at San Diego theaters. She passed away in Tucson, AZ, after a brief stay in hospice care, at 94. Her classmate **Madeline Tolson Markwood '52** writes: "Sherrie and I went to high school together in the small town of Alice, Texas, and we went through Charity together. I remember she lost her father while we were in nursing school. Sherrie moved to the West Coast after graduation, but we stayed friends for 78 years, meeting to vacation together and staying in touch. She lost her first husband in a plane crash, then her son when he was in his early 60s. Sherrie was a very close and dear friend. I am honored to be able to provide a scholarship in her name." Madeline donated \$5,000 to create an ongoing scholarship for Charity students in Sherrie's memory.

**Mary Katherine 'Kitty' Brune Mollere '52:** While at Charity, Kitty met her husband Ollo, a WWII vet and dental student, and she worked in Industrial Nursing and



private duty nursing while Ollo served in the US Army at Camp Polk, LA, and Germany. They later settled on the Gulf Coast, surviving Hurricane Camille in 1969. Kitty was a founder of the Nereids Mardi Gras Krewe, worked as a real estate broker and started her own travel agency.

She volunteered with the Boy Scouts and was a certified scuba diver. She retired in 1996, they moved to Pensacola, and she volunteered at the VA Clinic. Kitty passed away in April at 94.



**Lillian Avera Lescale '54** earned an associate degree in business and worked at Charity Hospital in Social Services with Sister Stanislaus. Inspired to pursue nursing, Lillian graduated from Charity School of Nursing, married her husband that same year, and balanced work with raising a

family. She became an instructor at the Touro School of Nursing and went on to complete a BS and MA in Education. She then taught at William Carey School of Nursing and became the Assistant Dean of Students. Later, she headed up the education department at Lakeside Hospital. At Touro Infirmary, she became a counselor for women diagnosed with breast cancer, encouraging early screening, becoming a survivor herself in 2004. She founded the Touro 'Mardi Gras Mambo' festivities for employees and their families. She passed away at 93 in June.



**Glenda Veca Kromer '57:** Glenda worked most of her career in nursing homes and rehab centers, including serving as Director of Nurses. She continued her studies all her life, receiving a BA at age 53, and certification in Case Management in her 60s. Her husband's government job

took them to Maryland, where she raised her children, and eventually to Austin, TX, for 25 years. Glenda studied at Trinity College for certification to serve as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector, and received the Order of St Louis Medallion for service to the church, the highest honor bestowed on a layperson. Even after she moved to an assisted living facility, she continued to serve as contact person between Catholic residents and the local church. She passed away in November at 89.

**Jean Ray Altice Blake '58:** Originally from Virginia, Jean met her husband Tom while she was at Charity, and they settled in his hometown of Muncie, IN. Jean's

daughter Megan writes, “Mom’s nursing school experience was her favorite time in her life. This was both because of the friends she made and the fun she had, and the independence, and because she loved nursing. Charity is also where she met my dad. He was there doing his final training in oral surgery at the same time she was in school there. My husband Chad and I took Mom back to New Orleans in 2014 and she loved revisiting the nursing school and looking at the photos on the wall. She took us to some of her favorite places in New Orleans that were still open from way back when. She was proud to be a Sustaining Member of the Alumni Association. She passed away in December 2025 at 88. Below is a poem that Mom wrote that was published while she was in nursing school. We shared it with her care team at the end of her life, and they loved it. We also read it to Mom a few times on her last day when she was on hospice. (I was too choked up so my husband had to do it.) She would be thrilled for it to be in the alumni newsletter.”



### My God and I

*By Jean Altice, age 19*

When all your world seems thorns and snares,  
When no one offers love or prayers,  
Or when you think that no one cares –  
We do, my God and I.

When you are sick and in great pain,  
When life becomes a cruel strain,  
Take courage and have faith again,  
We’re there, my God and I.

For I’m to nurse and God’s to heal.  
We follow you through each ordeal,  
And for your soul we often kneel –  
And pray, my God and I.

If after all the fight is gone,  
God calls you to His heavenly home  
Of health, and love, and want for none,  
Then clasp my hand and we’ll go on –  
Just you, my God and I.



**Alice Simon Girouard ’61:** Alice placed her career on hold to raise her children, but once they were all in high school, she returned to nursing, enjoying a career that spanned 54 years. At Abbeville General Hospital, Alice was Head Nurse of the Medical-Surgical and Pediatric Units and later oversaw Infection Control. She also served as Chairman of the Vermilion Parish Farm

Bureau Women’s Committee and Louisiana Farm Bureau Women’s District Director. She was president of the Kaplan Garden Club Federation and a queen of Krewe Chic à la Pie. Alice passed away in February. Her daughter Yvette writes, “My mother was a very proud graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing.”



**Brenda Kay Chetta ’62:** After graduating from Charity, Brenda earned a diploma in Nurse Anesthesia from the Charity Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia. She started as a CRNA at Montelepre Hospital in New Orleans, and enjoyed a more than 30-year career. She earned a BSN from Holy Cross College, and retired from

Lakeside Hospital in Metairie. Brenda volunteered with the Visiting Pets program in Kenner alongside her therapy dog, Andy, visiting convalescent homes and working with the TSA program at the airport. She was an active member of the Ladies Altar Society at her church and volunteered with the Leading Ladies Guild and the Red Hat Society. Brenda loved to travel and her adventures took her across Europe, South America, Asia, and the United States. Brenda also loved Mardi Gras and served as Queen of the Krewe of Aquila twice. Brenda passed away in March at 84.

**Meralee Marquet Clement ’62** was born at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans. In high school, she was a



member of the Future Nurses club. While attending Charity School of Nursing, Meralee married the love of her life, Lynn Clement, in 1961. Meralee was first in her class at Charity, and earned a scholarship to continue her education in a collegiate nursing program. While Lynn was serving in the US Army, they moved to Anchorage

AK, and began their family. One son was born in the wake of the Great Alaska Earthquake! Once Lynn left the Army, the family moved back to the West Bank of New Orleans where they started a small business and Meralee returned to nursing, working in the NICU at Meadowcrest Hospital until she retired in 2008. She passed away in April at 84 years old.

**Linda Harson Bass ’63** grew up in a large Cajun family in Houma. She began her nursing career at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans working with an OB/Gyn surgeon. Linda herself went into labor with her first child as Hurricane Betsy came ashore in 1965, making it to a hospital the following morning just in time to deliver her son. She moved to Arkansas in 1970,



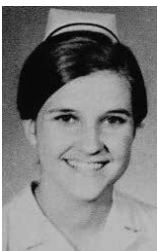
divorced, and worked at Arkansas State Hospital. She remarried in 1986, happily creating a large blended family. After retiring, Linda was active in her church with the Ladies of Charity organization, making rosaries and volunteering as a 'Heavenly Duster.' Linda passed away in 2025 at 82.



**Virginia Elise McNeely McCall '72** was a critical care nurse manager for many years at Tulane University Hospital, then Methodist Hospital in New Orleans East through Katrina. (She was one of the last of the medical staff evacuated the Friday after Katrina.) She moved to work at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid, OK, then to

San Antonio's Heart Hospital, then back to St. Mary's where she stayed until she retired in 2018. Virginia was diagnosed with AML in 2024 and passed in February at the age of 74. Her sister wrote to say, "Charity Hospital School of Nursing prepared Virginia well for decades of dedicated and selfless patient care as well as caring for her nursing staff in the many units she managed."

**Ellen Margret Grass Stoltz '73:** "It is with heavy heart that I let you know of the death of Ellen Stoltz, my wife



of 47 years. She passed away in August 2025. Ellen was born in Alexandria, LA. After nursing school, she joined the Louisiana Army National Guard and was assigned to the 159<sup>th</sup> Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) and attached to the Louisiana Military Academy Officer Candidate School as a staff nurse and

instructor. (This is where we met.) Ellen was attached to the 199<sup>th</sup> CBT SPT Battalion in Alexandria as a nurse advisor and instructor.

"Later in life, Ellen volunteered with Soldier's Angels as part of the baking and letter writing teams. She loved it when a service member responded to one of her letters. She was also part of the special forces support team sending snacks and personal items in short supply. Having had two sons serve in Iraq and Afghanistan, she knew what that support meant to the troops.

"One of the passions of Ellen's life was ballroom dancing. We traveled extensively attending dance conferences and competitions, and were members of Tammany Twirlers Square and Round Dance Club for many years. During the pandemic, Ellen organized a group of friends to make masks for hospital personnel at The Villages Hospital in Florida. She loved our afternoon golf cart rides, playing Mahjong and cards with her friends, and she especially loved going out with her friends for two martini lunches. She will be missed by all." – David Stoltz



**Patricia Danielle Eaton '94** was born in Kentucky, moving to New Orleans with her family at the age of 4. In 1964, right out of high school, Patty joined the Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament Convent in Lafayette, LA. She lived in the Mother House under her religious name, Sister

Marie Danielle and, for over 25 years, taught grammar school in Lafayette and surrounding parishes. She earned a BA in elementary education, graduating cum laude from the University Louisiana at Lafayette. Says her sister Cathryn, "After many years of devoted religious service, Patty made the courageous decision to serve in a different way. She came home to New Orleans to study nursing, which was a long-cherished dream." As an RN, Patty worked at Charity Hospital and University Hospital in the ICU, Medical-Surgical, and Telemetry units. In the final years of her career, she moved to home health, often saying that caring for the elderly was the most rewarding part of her life. She retired when her own health declined after a long battle with Parkinson's disease, and passed away in March at 79. At her funeral service, the Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard gave this tribute: "Patty's identity as a nurse never faded. At Chateau De Notre Dame, long after she could no longer work, she continued 'making her rounds,' wheeling through the halls at night, checking on other residents. When she spoke of her busy shifts, she wasn't reminiscing... she was still living her calling."



**Toni Maze Wright '94:** Toni began in healthcare as a CNA, then she became an LPN, working for many years in the ED at St. Claude General Hospital in New Orleans. In 1994, Toni graduated from Charity and worked as an RN in the

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Charity Hospital. Later, she transitioned into home health nursing, where she found her true passion, providing skilled nursing care as well as comfort and dignity. She served as Director of Nursing for several home health organizations and built lasting bonds with many of the patients and families she cared for. Following Hurricane Katrina, Toni relocated to Dallas, TX. She earned her BSN from Chamberlain University and continued her career with the Visiting Nurses Association until her retirement. Toni passed away in May at the age of 70. The Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard released Toni from service at her funeral.

**Vantrelle Coleman '15** earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology before deciding to pursue nursing. At Charity, she was President of the Student Government Association. An outstanding student, she was selected to receive scholarships from the Alumni Association three

times: the Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship, the Leone Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship, and the Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship. At graduation, she received the Award of Distinction. She earned a BSN from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2018. Much of her nursing career was spent in Med-Surg and Telemetry. She worked at West Jefferson Hospital, and did several travel nursing assignments. She later



worked at Tulane Medical Center, and then as an agency nurse with Gifted Healthcare. She passed away in February at the age of 41. At her funeral service, the Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard released Vantrelle from her lifetime of service. CSN faculty **Liz Hopkins** writes, "Vantrelle was one of my students at Charity. She was a great student. I'm heartbroken knowing our community has lost one of the great ones. RIP, sweet girl!" ❖

## In Memoriam

Marie Elizabeth Blankenship Bernd '42 (7/17/18)  
 Annita Mae Verzal McReynolds '49 (2/8/26)  
 Rheba 'Bebe' Holladay Falgout '50 (5/12/25)  
 Sherrie Essner Cogdill Cheney '52 (8/15/25)  
 Mary Katherine 'Kitty' Brune Mollere '52 (4/2/26)  
 Shirley Allemand Olivier '53 (1/5/25)  
 Lillian Avera Lescale '54 (6/19/26)  
 Glenda Veca Kromer '57 (11/20/25)  
 Jean Ray Altice Blake '58 (12/21/25)  
 Marguerite Breaux Bryan '58 (7/30/19)  
 Alice Simon Girouard '61 (2/11/26)  
 Brenda Kay Chetta '62 (3/23/26)  
 Meralee Marquet Clement '62 (4/5/26)  
 Linda Harson Bass '63 (1/18/25)  
 Elaine Moraus Wiltz '65 (4/9/26)  
 Maryann Lamberson Piroli '66 (2025)  
 Virginia McNeely McCall '72 (2/5/26)  
 Ellen Grass Stoltz '73 (8/8/25)  
 Patricia Eaton '94 (3/17/26)  
 Toni Maze Wright '94 (5/23/26)  
 Lacey Sanders '06 (3/17/26)  
 Vantrelle Coleman '15 (2/28/26)



*Left, a new walkway added to the Pankey Labyrinth.*

## Farewell to a Cherished Friend

The Charity community mourns the loss of **Dr. George A. Pankey**, who passed away in March at 92.

After the death of his beloved wife Patricia, Dr.

Pankey embraced Charity School of Nursing, funding the **Patricia Carreras Pankey '69 Skills Lab** in the new building as well as the **Patricia Pankey Memorial Meditation Labyrinth** on the Delgado campus.

Affectionately known as 'Kin,' Dr. Pankey leaves behind a profound legacy. An expert diagnostician, Kin was revered for his relentless dedication to solving difficult medical dilemmas and treating his patients.



Kin earned his Doctor of Medicine in 1957 from Tulane University, and completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota Hospitals, followed by a Master of Science in Internal Medicine, Microbiology, and Immunology.

In 1961, he started as a full-time instructor in Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease at Tulane University School of Medicine. In 1963, he moved to Ochsner where he would remain for the duration of his career, founding Ochsner's Department of Infectious Diseases, and serving as Department Chair and Program Director.

Kin held appointments at Tulane University School of Medicine and LSU School of Dentistry, was Senior Visiting Physician at Charity Hospital, and served as a Consultant Physician with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Biloxi, MS. He received the Ochsner Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022.

Kin and Patricia shared the adventures of their lifetimes together on two world cruises. He was a dedicated Saints fan, and loved being with his family.

Kin joined us for Homecoming 2025 and the dedication of the Patricia Pankey Labyrinth along with his son, **Dr. Edward Pankey**, daughters **Susan Pankey Ives** and **Laura Pankey Nel** and their spouses. Edward has subsequently funded the installation of additional walkway from the Student Center to facilitate access to the Pankey Labyrinth. ❖

# 2025-26 Outstanding Donors

*Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds  
since The White Cap 2025:*

## ART AND ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND

Jan Carrio '76

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND

Beverly Poche' Chapoton '67

## STUDENT CONVENTION TRAVEL FUND

Ursula Allain '65  
Joanne White Springer '68

## STUDENT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60  
Beverly Poche' Chapoton '67  
Bonnie Glover Williams '67  
Barbara "Bobbi" Bonner Folse '68  
Dennis Trosclair *in memory of  
Brenda Crump Trosclair* '68  
Lorraine Babin Fearheiley '69  
Patti Rouchon Burcham '70  
Mary Ann Barone '90



## WHITE CAP AND ALUMNI NEWS FUND

Annetta Stanton Kraus '60  
Jean Hageney Houin '67

## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54  
Lucille Capo Castine '57  
Joan Zimorski Buckner '65  
*in memory of Carol Knittle Ross '66  
and Barbara Ellis Parker '66*  
Kaye Fears Gussman '73

## INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

*Minimum gift of \$500:*

### Eponymous Scholarships

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52  
Peggy Begnaud Johns '63  
Jan Carrio '76

### Sister Camilla Gaudin DC Scholarship

Mary Smith Singletary '49  
Peggy Rome

Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot '46  
Scholarship  
Kathleen Jamison

Sherrie Essner Cheney '52 Scholarship  
Madeline Tolson Markwood '52

Dorothy Aull Nugent Barkley '57  
Scholarship  
Loyd and Kathy Nugent-Arnold

James and Joyce Bonaventure  
Leissner '57 Scholarship in memory of  
their children Nathan and Laura  
Jeanine Makara  
Jerilyn Kenney  
Walter and Beverly Seidenschwarz  
Henry Golden

Rita Bares Raphael '65 Scholarship  
Vivian Larkin Manes '70

Christine Hurley Carbon '71 Scholarship  
Robert E. Carbon

Dr. Patrick Brady, Jr. '83 Scholarship  
Vicky and Patrick Brady, Sr.

Angelica Brookshire '95 Scholarship  
Manda Brooksire Brown  
Taston Brookshire

Lacey Sanders '06 Scholarship  
The Pussyfooters Marching Club  
Lacey's Friends and Family

# Members of Note

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Betty Ogea Moore '51  
Martha Phillips Gentry '53  
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth '55  
Nancy Mynihan Comish '57  
G. Maurice Weber Curtis '57  
Betty Cloud Fowler '57  
Jean Altice Blake '58  
Anne Matthiesen Daigle '58  
Lovely Ann Naquin Holbrook '58  
Anna Martino Meinert '59  
Esther Ogea Doucet '60  
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60  
Diane McMinn Scott '60  
Frances Petho Aponte '61  
Evelyn Boudreaux Hollier '62

Joan Bero '63  
Barbara Johnson Roger '63  
Dorothy Russell Stagg '63  
Penny Kistler Tolchin '63  
Ethel Marie Vidrine '63  
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle '64  
Janette Foy Forsythe '64  
Charlotte Voinche Guinn '64  
Judith Wellman Quigley '64  
Frances Ainsworth Robichaux '64  
Estelle LeBlanc Rome '64  
Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot '65  
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66  
Rita Fay Borne Broussard '66  
Sara Lynne Jackson Casto '66  
Beverly Poche Chapoton '67  
Paulette Gallant Gravois '67  
Jean Hageney Houin '67  
Karen Moulliet '67  
Peggy Portie Parigi '67  
Betty Schweitzer Touns '67  
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon '67  
Mary Wood '67

Dr. Marelle Yongue '67  
Barbara "Bobbi" Bonner Folse '68  
Dennis and  
Brenda Trump Trosclair '68  
Patricia Laleux Bulliard '69  
Janis Blauert Herve '69  
Patti Rouchon Burcham '70  
Diane Leger Cicero '70  
Gayle Guerin Fertitta '70  
Janie "Trudy" Carrier Lefort '70  
Lucille LeBlanc O'Regan '70  
Charlotte Coatney Arras '71  
Sarah Percy LeBlanc '71  
Marian Foret Offner '71  
Janice Gates Redlich '71  
Jo Ann Rizzutto '71  
Kathy Garrard Rolston '71  
Loretto Anne Jenne Sitton '71  
D. Paxson "Patti" Barker '72  
Peggy Ditta '72  
Chelsa Duhon Kuhnell '72  
Sharon Megahee Lowrey '72  
Joanne Moulton '72

Rosalie Parenton Vincent '72  
Bonnie Arton '73  
Myra Diaz Cheramie '73  
Stephanie Laws '73  
Dennis Pinkozie '73  
Sherry Smith Simmons '73  
Wilda Taylor '73  
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair '73  
Deborah Benoit Blytt '74  
Charlene Breaux Broussard '74  
Karen Leitz Clayton '74  
Susan Duhon '74  
Nancy O'Pry Gentry '74  
Jeanne Colligan Juneau '74  
Charlene White Persich '74  
Janis Joly Weber '74  
Mary Susan Le Compte Farrar '75  
Joan M. Hodge '75  
Jamie Walker Jensen '75  
Julie M. Joyce '75  
Vicky P. Kent '75  
Donna Blanchard Landry '75  
Maureen Connelly Mayeux '75



Barbara McClees '75  
 Graciela Pinto-Leyva '75  
 Jeannette Milligan Saal '75  
 Janice Breau Samson '75  
 Brenda Colon Vogel '75  
 Jan Carrio '76  
 Bryanne Murray Hamill '76  
 Hazel Ashby Johnson '76  
 Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76  
 Lane E. McAlister '76  
 Beth Winger Pesses '76  
 Helen Roubion '76  
 Myra Lee DiGange '77  
 Debra Dumas-Hicks '77  
 Vanessa Elias '77  
 Suzanne Delhomme LeMoine '77  
 Ellen Williams Manieri '77  
 Catherine Calmette Parker '77  
 Sheila Perrault Dahlgren '78  
 Marilyn Nola Hammett Gentry '78  
 Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78  
 Kimberley Hoppe Keim '78  
 Rebecca Mayo '78  
 Elaine Schulz Navaille '78  
 Sandra Tracy Bailey '79  
 Nancy Grass-Ferguson '79  
 Carol Porer Giardina '79  
 Vickie Morrow Gibert '79  
 Georga Helmer '79  
 Patricia Lane '79  
 Cindy Tschrin Nuesslein '79  
 Deborah Skevington '79  
 Karen Del Valle Tampira '79  
 Claudette Boudreaux '80  
 Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80  
 Belinda Hutchinson Janeski '80  
 Gerald Pedersen '80  
 Marcella "Penny" Young  
 Ziegler '80  
 Cydney Trahans Begnaud '81  
 Gloria Hallal Jarreau '81  
 Debra Ann Watson '81  
 Elizabeth Kelly Carlini '82  
 Sharon Lynn Mabry '82  
 Gregory Jacob '83  
 Renee Rago Schuller '83  
 Patricia Dufrene '85  
 Elaine Riecke Bergeron '86  
 Gretchen Delo '86  
 Patti Taylor Lapeyre '86  
 Gina West Ragland '86  
 Gwendolyn Traina '86  
 Cynthia Wild-Mendoza D'Elia '88  
 Lisa Palmer Strain '89  
 Milagros Esguerra Yap '89  
 Catherine Delaune '90  
 Wendy Taylor Martinez '90  
 Kevin Besse '91  
 Margaret Yochum Caruso '92  
 Michael Harrison '92  
 Betty Trosclair Loumiet '92  
 Mary Audrey Lupiba '92  
 April Lyn Willis Scaffidi '92  
 Michelle Aucoin Stieffel '92

Andrea Thibodeaux '92  
 Mitzi Ridgdell Arnold '93  
 Craig A. Cedotal '94  
 Penny Authement Schuler '94  
 Angela Paige Jackson '95  
 Margaret Johnson '96  
 Brenda Shields Simmons '96  
 Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen '97  
 Lista Hank '97  
 Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97  
 Carmen Smith '97  
 Lucretia Moore-Peters '99  
 Ecoee Rooney '99  
 Christina Diaz Trosclair '00  
 Eva Crosby '01  
 Winifred Davillier Hernandez '02  
 Rebecca Madere '04  
 Rebecca Sudduth '04  
 Cynthia Fernandez '10  
 Susan Wentz '11  
 Bryan Camus '12  
 Elaine Lauga '12  
 Danielle Chambers '14  
 Alisha Amaya '23

## 2026

### BLUE RIBBON 2026

Rita Gail Rills Gaudet '54  
 Lorraine Wise '54  
 Diane Ducote Rachal '57  
 Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57  
 Lorre Lei Lanng Jackson '58  
 Millie Nash Worner '58  
 Pamela Maycock Coulter '62  
 Judith Guion Barousse '63  
 Lynne Gordon Cook '63  
 Linda Bernard Cucullu '64  
 Dixie Berlage Fabre '64  
 Linda Aucoin Hutchinson '65  
 Barbara Mahoney Helm '66  
 Mary Lynn Aymami Hymel '66  
 Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66  
 Susan T. Gosnell '67  
 Cassondra Stokes Hite '67  
 Iris LeBlanc LaBruyere '67  
 Anne Gaubert LaRose '67  
 Susan Slutsky Beloit '68  
 Lana Collins Craigo '68  
 Cynthia Hebert Liebel '68  
 Earline Chauvin Watson '68  
 Jane Bentel Duggan '69  
 Cheryl Vicknair Phillips '69  
 Myra Basclé Porche '69  
 Linda Boudreaux Guedry '70  
 Dianne Theriot Clavin '71  
 Joyce Derouen '72  
 Lynn May Griggs '72  
 Patricia McNeal '72  
 Susan Pye Stone '72  
 Kaye Fears Gussman '73  
 Kathy Granier Herman '74  
 Olander Belfield Holloway '74  
 Diana Fontenot Roy '74  
 Darlene Olivier Antee '75

Donna Bordelon '75  
 Gail Zeringue Bourg '75  
 Sandra Sabrio Getz '75  
 Anita Barras Landry '75  
 Lynn Battaglia O'Niell '75  
 Marion Sams Johnson '76  
 Perry Meche '77  
 Corinne Rousseau Duplessis '78  
 Jacqueline Jenkins Gamble '79  
 Cris Boughton '80  
 Karen Jameson Rush '80  
 John Bertucci '81  
 Nancy Allebone Capponi '81  
 Dawn Schroder McDonald '81  
 Michelle R. Scott '81  
 Denise Samson Brown '83  
 Karen Freitag Craig '83  
 Cynthia Larmeu Edwards '83  
 Ellen Gautreaux '83  
 Sharon Talbot Henning '83  
 Sandy Brett Spitale '83  
 Joell Ackermann '84  
 Cynthia Armstrong Bush '84  
 Alison Gilbert '84  
 Patricia Abadie Ashton '85  
 Estella Baldwin Johnson '85  
 Mary Sue Sargo '85  
 Paula Raspino Hux '87  
 Glenda Marie Veal '89  
 Kathleen Hall '90  
 William Kuhn '90  
 Kim Keith Chatman '92  
 Susan Chartier '95  
 Regina Danner '97  
 Margaret Schorr '98  
 Karen Cook Rice '01  
 Beverly Rainey '05  
 Tiffany Mitchell '09  
 Melissa Bergeron '23  
 Alexsey McQueen '26

### SILVER STAR 2026

Dolores Marsh Alford '51  
 Sylvia Fulton Busey '56  
 Claire Sonnier Robichaux '57  
 Rosalie Nicolosi Collura '59  
 Catherine Lafleur St. Cyr '59  
 Ethel Faciane Friend '60  
 Beryl Forgey Olhasso '60  
 Lynne Gordon Cook '63  
 Madeleine Moreau Crawford '63  
 Simone Castille Flair '63  
 Judy Pourciau Mestayer '63  
 Kay Kinking Schmuellen '64  
 Susan Thibodeaux Grace '65  
 Diane Blumberg Howell '65  
 Constance Kennedy Proctor '65  
 Jo Ann Pierce Ligon '66  
 Elaine Ledoux Phares '66  
 Sandra Cazenave Graugnard '67  
 Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67  
 Margaret Fanning Thomas '67  
 Conchetta Uli Walters '67  
 Patricia Murphy Solomon '68

Susan Balser Edwards Berry '69  
 Mary Holleman Beaulieu '70  
 Bonnie Hensley Mowe '70  
 Wanda Mobley Pentes '70  
 Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70  
 Katherine Manuel Landreneau '71  
 Maria Compagno Roth '71  
 Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler '71  
 Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72  
 Barbara Bordelon Glover '73  
 Jacqueline Porth-Owen '73  
 Evelyn Badinger Schiro '76  
 Connie Bousquet '77  
 Karen Howard Smith '78  
 Cathryn Tereskerz Smith '78  
 Paula Kensler '79  
 Robert Martinez '79  
 James Craig, Jr. '82  
 Nancy Coleman Coffey '85  
 Estelle Collins Vincent '85

### SISTER STANISLAUS 2026

Marion Thibodeaux Gatti '54  
 Shirley Joanne Newton '56  
 Lynda Dixon Abney '59  
 Joan Musacchia Taylor '66  
 Sandra Cazenave Graugnard '67  
 Conchetta Uli Walters '67  
 Bonnie Glover Williams '67  
 Ginny Graves Clark '69  
 Carolyn 'Lynne' Bartsch '70  
 Wanda Mobley Pentes '70  
 Stevie Reese McLaughlin '71  
 Diane Tingle Cormack '74  
 Connie Bousquet '78  
 Veronica Gautreaux Theriot '85  
 Renee' Guidry '87  
 Mary Ann Barone '90  
 Valencia Jones '92  
 Frances Gagliano Loeske '92  
 Mary Elaine Ponce-Gaudin '16

## 2025

*Since White Cap 2025*

### BLUE RIBBON 2025

Virginia Faris Angle '67  
 Karin Bartsch Read '70  
 Kathy Roth Jones '76  
 Cheri Browning Oser '81  
 A'Drain Edney Bocage '83  
 Deborah Fischer Soniat '85  
 Jodi Fremin '90  
 Margaret "Peg" Kane '98  
 Ashley Bickham-Flowers '14

### SILVER STAR 2025

Cynthia Castagnetta Burke '70  
 Theresa Juneau '21

### SISTER STANISLAUS 2025

Jane Ellerbusch Parrish '71  
 John Becklehimer '96  
 Catherine Berns '14 ❖

**You are invited to a Murder... of Crows!**  
**Join us for the Charity Alumni**



# Crow Party

**Dress in Black.  
Wear Feathers.  
Bring Trinkets to trade!**

# Saturday, October 24

**At the Ridgeway of Old Metairie,  
2431 Metairie Road**

Dress in black (or wear just a bit of black) – spooky or elegant is up to you!  
Weave a few feathers in your hair, or show off your favorite fascinator. Or come as you are!!

**Crows love to collect things, so bring something small and fun to share – anything to bring a smile – and you might find a treasure in the crow’s nest, too!**

Trinkets can be any fun stuff you have lying around the house: a piece of costume jewelry, that brooch you don't wear anymore, a skeleton key or a funny keychain, a lego figure or other tiny toy, a pretty seashell or a string of glass beads! Keep it small – and intriguing, silly or just plain cute!

*Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet of Eggs Benedict, Shrimp and Grits, Grilled Veggies, Fruit Salad, Pastries, Coffee and Tea*

**Registration and Cash Bar open at 9:30am, Buffet opens at 10am,  
Program starts at 10:30am. \$55 per person.**

*Friends and Family welcome!*

**Order tickets on page 27, or on our website: [CharityAlumni.org](http://CharityAlumni.org)**

# You can use this form...

Or visit our website: [www.charityalumni.org](http://www.charityalumni.org)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
First name Graduation last name if different from current name Last name

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Home

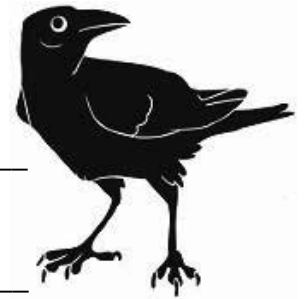
## I Want to Attend the Crow Party brunch!

- ☐ Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie  
 Reserve for me: How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) @ \$55 each.... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bringing a guest? Please give us their name for their nametag:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your reservation by October 10 to guarantee you'll have a place to perch!



## ☐ I Want to pay my Annual Membership Dues:

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

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

## ☐ I Want to make a Donation to the:

Alumni Scholarship Fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Convention Travel Fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 White Cap and Alumni News Fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lacey Sanders '06 Scholarship Fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## ☐ I Want a Gift! Dues or donations of \$25 or more, please select your choice of:

- ☐ No gift, please
- ☐ 2026-27 CHSNAA pocket calendar
- ☐ Pelican Coaster
- ☐ Vintage Postcard of the old Dorm
- ☐ Alumni Pocket Notepad

Mail this form with your check to:  
 CHSN Alumni Association, PO Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179



Charity Hospital School of Nursing  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 19103  
New Orleans, LA 70179

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

If you received this newsletter in error, or you need to change your address,  
please let us know at [chsnaaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chsnaaoffice@gmail.com)

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[www.CharityAlumni.org](http://www.CharityAlumni.org)   [chsnaaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chsnaaoffice@gmail.com)   Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

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*A Murder is  
Announced...*



*October 24*

*(Details on page 26)*

### **What's that number after your name on the mailing label?**

**Hint: It's NOT the year you graduated.**

The number after your last name on the mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example: "Jane Jones 2026" means your membership expires at the end of 2026. You are current, but you might want to consider renewing your membership now for 2027.

If your label has a year earlier than 2026 (such as "2025" or "1998"), or a "0", you are overdue! Please renew your membership now!

If the number on your label is 9999, you are a Lifetime Member. If 8888, you are a Sustaining Member. If 7777, you are a Friend. You do NOT need to renew your membership, but we appreciate any donations!

If you have questions about your membership status, email the Alumni Office: [chsnaaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chsnaaoffice@gmail.com) ❖