



# Alumni News

Winter 2019

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

## From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

The end of the year - time for closure, and for new beginnings! At Charity, the semester has ended with the joyous celebration of Pinning and the solemn excitement of graduation. But in January, everyone will hit the ground running as students return, advancing to their next level in the nursing school adventure!

For the Alumni, the fall was a busy time. Things did not stop once the September Breakfast was over! In December, we served coffee and muffins to the seniors during their three-day NCLEX review, gave out their new membership cards, and welcomed them to the Alumni Association! Thanks to alums and faculty (current and retired) who helped serve: **Ursula Allain '65, Mary Troclair '73, Joan Hodge '75, Charlene Berger '79, Jenn Garnand '11, Angele Rains '18, and Susan Schaff.**

Next, there were scholarship interviews - a two-day marathon for our Scholarship Committee: **Ursula Allain '65, Joycelyn Jeansonne '78, and Charlene Berger '79.** We had 36 applicants and, as usual, they are amazing! There are some tough selections to be made. Thanks to all the faculty who write so many letters of recommendation - those letters are such an important part of the committee's decision-making.

### A Surprising Gift

Earlier this fall, we received a startling piece of news. **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58**, who passed away in 2018, had made the Alumni Association the beneficiary of her trust. The bequest included approximately \$100,000 plus her house in New Roads, Louisiana. To say we were surprised by this gift is an understatement. We were stunned! We were also humbled and honored that



*Left to right, Alumni President Patrick "Indiana" Brady '83 and Secretary Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 at the Alumni Breakfast in September.*

Rose Ella chose to dedicate her estate to provide for Charity's students and its legacy.

### A Plan of Action

In consultation with Rose Ella's executor and family, we decided to do two things: First, create an Endowed Scholarship in Rose Ella's name with \$30,000 (to be administered by the Delgado Foundation, and matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents, thus doubling the funds) to provide scholarships to Charity nursing students for generations to come. Second, provide funding for a state-of-the-art Skills Lab in the new building, to be named in Rose Ella's honor.

The remaining funds will be used to create a **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller Scholarship Fund**, administered by the Alumni Association, to provide scholarships for Charity students until the Endowment has grown sufficiently for its interest and dividends to fund scholarships each semester.

### A Special Legacy

We had the pleasure recently of having lunch with Rose Ella's sister Judy and brother-in-law Mitch, her executor and trustee, and they shared many memories. "Nursing was her life," said Judy. (You can read more about Rose Ella on page 17.) Now, Rose Ella's bequest will support nursing education while helping Charity students achieve their dreams.

We never really realize the impact that our Alumni Association has. The scholarships and awards we give to outstanding students (over \$19,000 in 2019), the Emergency Assistance grants, and other support - we usually think of these monetary contributions as helping students advance, continue, and complete the program. What we often do not think about is how our alumni's →

generosity benefits the public – the people of our state who seek quality healthcare. Think about the number of nurses that we assist to enter the workforce and provide direct patient care. Always devoted to nursing and her patients, I think that’s what Rose Ella was thinking about when she made this bequest. We know she loved Charity, but she had a goal bigger than her beloved nursing school.

Your donations, large and small, make a difference for our students, but also make a difference in our community. We appreciate all of you who make it possible for us to do what we do. YOU make the difference every day.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year! ❖

## Dean’s Report

By Cheryl E. Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

2020! Entering the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century! Simply amazing that time goes by so quickly and things change, yet stay the same. While we have seen many changes in our curriculum over the last decade, the faculty’s dedication, the students’ hard work and the success of our graduates remains the same.

Enrollment is strong with 744 RN and 96 LPN students this past semester. Our December 2018 and May 2019 classes had a 95% NCLEX-RN pass rate, and a 100% job placement rate!

Our graduating class of December 2019 is 106 students. We are proud to recognize the following recipients of graduation awards, which were presented at the Pinning on December 16:

Honor Pin and Highest GPA - **Allison Solino**

Award of Distinction - **Gina Galliano**

Sister Stanislaus Malone Award - **Roberta Ogborn**

Sister Blanche McDonnell Award - **Lisa Amos**

Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award - **Gary Pierce**

NODNA Leadership Award - **Laurie Siekkinen**

We are proud of their accomplishments and know they will continue to carry the torch of the Charity legacy.

### New Chancellor

In July of this year, **Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib** was appointed Chancellor of Delgado Community College. Dr. Steib previously served as Chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College, and prior to that appointment held various roles at Delgado, including Executive Dean of the West Bank Campus and Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development. She is from New Orleans, and we are glad to have her back home!

### New Building

Planning for our new building continues. As I have previously shared, the College will have \$35 million available from a bond issue to establish a new Nursing and Allied Health campus in the Biomedical District in downtown New Orleans.

The old LSU Medical School building at 1542 Tulane Avenue (next door to Big Charity) has been selected as the site, and it will be renovated into a state-of-the-art facility. We are hoping construction will begin sometime in 2020. Keep your fingers crossed!

The \$35 million should take care of the basics, but additional funding will be needed for specialized facilities and equipment. We are thrilled to know that the Charity Alumni are already making plans to help us provide the instructional opportunities and high-tech tools that have become the standard for nursing education. The dedication of the extraordinary gift from the estate of **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller ‘58** toward a Skills Lab will allow us to continue our leadership in nursing education.

The interaction and synergy that will be created by this new building will impact the way our program is delivered for the next generation of Charity nurses. We can’t wait to get started!

### Student Activities

Our CASN students continue to uphold the Charity reputation for leadership. Twelve students attended the recent LASN convention in Lafayette. The group received the Best Overall Scrapbook Award (Kudos to **Kokoro Schwartz**, Level 2!) and **Dereck Williams**, a Level 1 student, was elected to the LASN Board in the fundraising position. They are already looking forward to the National Student Nurses Association Convention this spring.

CASN and Spectrum continue their involvement in the New Orleans community, and SAC members continue to tutor their schoolmates - each group giving a helping hand to others - in the Charity tradition!

### Scholarships

Your support of the current students through your generous scholarship donations is an integral component of their success and we appreciate the opportunities you are providing every day for our students to achieve their dream of becoming Charity graduates.

Along with the Skills Lab, Rose Ella Miller bequeathed funding for an Endowed Scholarship. In addition, this summer, the late **Patricia Horn ‘50** bequeathed funds for her own Endowed Scholarship, and **Kay Kenney ‘76** made a gift to establish an Endowed Scholarship in memory of her mother **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu ‘46**. A HUGE thank you to each of them! That makes seven Endowed Scholarships created by Charity Alumni since 2016!

All these endowment gifts are matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents to double the funds, creating scholarships that will continue to assist Charity Nursing students indefinitely! It is this continuing commitment from our graduates that reaffirms that the spirit of Charity will live on!

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season and a new decade full of promise! ❖

# In Search of Ancient Artifacts

By Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

Over 160 intrepid alumni gathered to solve the Mystery of the Lost Nurse's Cap at the Annual Breakfast Meeting on September 28. There were plenty of those old nursing artifacts to be found at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie, including a Charity Cap raffle and centerpieces of miniature nurse's caps on leafy jungle pedestals. We were festive in camouflage and animal prints, as well as caps and safari hats!

President **Patrick "Indiana" Brady '83**, looking particularly raffish in fedora and entwined with a large rubber snake, welcomed the alumni, guests and students in attendance. The blessing was given by **Jenn Garnand '11** (read it on page 12), and the hungry adventure-seekers nipped into Eggs Benedict and pastries.

## Homecoming on Horizon

Patrick announced that Homecoming will be held October 17 and 18, 2020. For those of you who have never experienced Homecoming, it's pretty awesome! For 2020, there will be an event at the school on Saturday morning we're calling



*Top to bottom, left to right: Charlene Berger '79 and Vivian Manes '70; Betty Carter '81 and Sharon Burel '80; the Class of 1969 celebrates their fifty-year anniversary.*

"Ain't Dere No More." On Saturday night we're remembering the old dorm with a Pajama Party! And on Sunday morning there will be a brunch at the Audubon Tea Room.

We are hoping to arrange for tours of the new building, and the old dorm – and lots more exciting stuff! All the details will be in the *White Cap* in the spring. So start thinking about getting your class together!

## Endowments

Patrick announced that we have received three new endowed scholarships this summer! He tipped his hat to **Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76**, who was in attendance, and shared that she had

established an endowed scholarship in memory of her mother **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46**, who passed away in August 2018.

The other two recently endowed funds were created by bequests from **Patricia Horn '50** and **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58**.

Patrick also recognized endowment donors **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49**, who was at the Breakfast, and

**Jim and Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57** who had planned to attend but, sadly, were unable to make it. →





*Left to right, top to bottom: Bridget Taylor '74, Cynthia Sartin '77 and Joyce Pierre '75; Kay Kenney '76, Gerry Daigle '64 and Charlotte Guinn '64; Janette Forsythe '64, Marilee Phillips '64 and Margaret Cutrer '64; Jordan Fontenelle '16*

*and his mother Mary Fontenelle '86; Dale Epling '68, Elren Waddell '73 and Sandra Marino '68; Rose Jeanne Buccola '49 and Mary Singletary '49; 1974 classmates Olander Holloway, Mary Jean Southerland, Mary Jo Johnson, Charlene Persich, Gretchen Broome-Moten and Christina Higdon.*



**School News**

**Dr. Cheryl Myers**, Dean of the School of Nursing, was in Puerto Rico to do an accreditation site visit, but you can read her report on page 2.

**Class Reunions**

The Roll Call of Classes ran the gamut from the Class of 1942 (we are always so delighted to see **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42**) right up to graduates of Spring 2019!

Twenty-five members of the **Class of 1969** celebrated their 50-Year Anniversary in rousing fashion! They made a class donation of over \$200 to the Student



Emergency Fund. Silver Anniversary Certificates were presented to the class members in attendance. **Patricia Carreras Pankey '69** brought some very special artifacts to donate to the Alumni Association archives: a framed **1917 Class** photo - which was her grandmother **Elizabeth Pickett Hooper's** class - as well as her grandmother's framed 1917 diploma!

The **Class of 1964** was celebrating 55 years with 18 in attendance! **Judith Wellman Quigley '64** did an amazing job of getting her classmates together, and made a very generous donation of \$1,000 for the Class of '64 Scholarship in memory of all their deceased classmates.

The **Class of 1968** still had enthusiasm to spare from their reunion last year and had eleven in attendance. There were also students, faculty, friends and family - including Alumni mothers and children, Alumni siblings (and twins!) and Alumni spouses.

### Raffles & Drawings

A vintage Charity nurse's cap was the star of the raffle table. **Patricia Pankey '69** was the happy winner! **Kathy Hug '65** donated another framed and beautifully cross-stitched Charity Pin piece. It was won by a thrilled **Dianne Simms Hughes '95**. Kathy has already whipped up a special new design to raffle at Homecoming, so we have a lot to look forward to!!

The 50/50 drawing collected \$568 with \$284 going to the winner, Shelby Gai, the guest of **Michelle Bauer '01**. A Massage Envy gift card and goody basket was won by **Mary Smith Singletary '49**.

**Peggy Begnaud Johns '63** once again donated her unique hand-knitted items, adding real excitement to the door prize drawings as winners pulled scarves and hoods of all colors and designs from their gift bags! Souvenirs included mugs featuring the Charity Cap - they sold out so quickly we are ordering many more for Homecoming!

### Special Thanks

Patrick announced that he wanted to recognize two ladies who do so much to run the Alumni Association. He asked **Lista Hank '97**, our Executive Director, and **Ursula Allain '65**, our Treasurer, to come forward so he could present them with flowers. They received a standing ovation with applause from the assembled alumni!! The flowers were provided by an anonymous donor (but we know it was **Beverly Poche Chapoton '67**. Thank you, Bev!).

Patrick concluded by thanking all alumni for dues and donations, "You allow us to do everything we do!!" He gave us all a round of →



*Top to bottom, left to right: Patricia Pankey '69 holds her grandmother's class photo from 1917; Patrick, Lista Hank '97 and Ursula Allain '65; (back row) Brittany Hale '17, Peggy Johns '63, Maureen McDonald '62, (front row) Kelly Guidry '99, Trenese Ennis '00 and Dionne Hughes '95.*



applause, and we all joined in with **Cindy Beniger '68** and **Sandra Hintz '68** to sing our beloved Alma Mater!

Since we will not be having a Spring Luncheon in 2020, Patrick also suggested that everyone get their hugs and kisses to hold until October 2020 - so hugs and kisses to all until we see you at Homecoming!!! ❖



*Left to right, top to bottom: Beverly Chapoton '67, Patty Finan '67 and Evelyn McNeil '67; Rosalie Gonzales '78, Ellarea Farwell '69 and Carol Gonzales '80; Gail Kelley '69 and Rae Ann Deroche '84; Carolyn Reich '55 and Gloria Levi '55; Suzy Andry '59 and Charlotte Arras '71; Ross Cunningham '84 and his wife Aline; Malinda Schulz-Ferrell '89 and Doris Burvant '60; Carol Saltz '68 and Betty Hebert '68; students Kokoro Schwartz, Level 3 , and Laurie Siekkinen, Level 4.*



# When I Grow Up

By Laurie J. Siekkinen, December 2019



What's the big question every child gets asked? ...“What do you want to be when you grow up?” The answers vary from lawyer, dancer, singer, teacher, pilot, doctor, and even nurse.

My answer was always the same, I wanted to be a teacher. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect to be what I am today.

As a young girl, I was afraid of doctors and nurses. Needles were my biggest fear. I remember sitting in the doctor's office with my mom. The doctor would wear a dress shirt with a tie, a starched white lab coat, and dress shoes. His shoes would make the clickity clack sound with each step so you could tell where he was at any given moment in the office. While waiting for the doctor and having my mom try to distract me from what was about to happen, I would sweat, my heart would race and feel like it was beating out of my chest. I experienced intense fear. I trembled.

I was easy-going, strong, independent, and overall a happy child. That is until someone came at me with a needle. *Clickity clack, clickity clack, whoosh.* The doctor would swing the door open just like Kraemer from Seinfeld. Where can I run? Where can I hide? There's no where to go. Fight or flight kicks in and I kick out. Mind you, I was not a violent child. *But don't come at me with that needle, man!!*

My mom tries to hold me down. I kick, hit, scream, cry. I sound like a possessed person with an exorcist trying to get my demons out. Here he comes with that needle, *oh my God!!!* I'm the Tasmanian devil from Looney Toons. You're not going to get me! And then *wham....* Everything and everyone goes still and quiet.

What just happened? He shakes his head and says, “Sorry about that. I have to go get another one.” The doctor gave my mom the shot that was intended for me.

*Oh no!!* I'm a goner. He leaves the room, *clickity clack, clickity clack* and then he's back with a new needle. He even brought in reinforcements to help. Great!!! Here we go again! It takes a few moments but I was overpowered. Mom and the staff held me down while the evil doctor stuck me with that darn needle. *I died!!* ..... not really, but I was sure mad as hell.

That experience was repeated over and over again throughout the years (with the exception of my mom taking the hit for me). I was never ok with seeing the doctor or getting shots. I never outgrew that fear. To this

day, I am afraid of needles. I could never give shots or work with doctors. I could never be a nurse.

Have you ever heard the saying, “Never say never”? There's so much more to nursing than giving injections or doing things that make the patient uncomfortable. Healing comes in many ways.

My family and I were present when my brother died. He went to the ER with complaints of wheezing, coughing and weakness. He was diagnosed with bronchitis and admitted. We thought for sure that he would be treated and discharged. After all, he was a young and healthy twenty-two-year-old.

He progressively got worse and was then diagnosed with pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. He was allergic to many antibiotics and his treatment was limited. I remember how he was upgraded to critical care one day and then downgraded to a regular room the next. We really thought he was out of the woods and would be ok. His lung collapsed and a chest tube was placed. He was upgraded back to critical care.

My brother told my mom that he saw himself in a coffin and, of course, no mother wants to think of their child dying. His health status kept switching back and forth and we practically lived at the hospital for two weeks. Mom was an emotional mess, full of worry and stress. This can't be the end for her baby boy. He progressively got worse and had to be intubated. A machine was now breathing for him. *So, what next?*

Visiting hours were limited and strictly enforced in ICU so we had to make the most of it. We even celebrated my son's 4th birthday in the hospital waiting room.

When walking into my brother's hospital room to visit, it was difficult to ignore all the machines that were constantly beeping. Seeing a tube taped to his mouth and knowing it was keeping him alive was scary. Multiple IV's with fluids and medications were infusing. A foley was in place as well. He couldn't speak but he showed expression with his big beautiful blue eyes and holding our hands. He sometimes looked afraid with tears running out of the corners of his eyes. Yet other times he looked at peace.

His lung collapsed again with the chest tube in place. Not long after, his other lung collapsed. His body couldn't take anymore so he left this world peacefully.

We all handle grief in our own way just as healing takes place differently in each individual. My healing began when the nurse came in the room to disconnect him from all his lines and she allowed me to stay in there with him and even assist. All I knew was that I wanted him to be free from the things tying him to the hospital bed. I wanted the peace of knowing he was completely free. Healing comes in many ways.

My husband's grandmother came to live with us the last months of her life. She was so full of love and such a joy. I had a 10-month old at the time and looking back, I don't know how I managed. But you do what needs →

to be done when it needs to be done and you survive.

She was wheelchair bound and I got her up and dressed in the mornings, assisted her in the bathroom anytime she needed to go. I bathed her, prepared her food, and put her to bed at night. She was so appreciative of everything we did for her and she adored my little one and called him her walking doll.

Some of my fondest memories were during our potty times. You know that's a very personal thing to have someone bathe you or wipe your bottom so we made the most of it. You know how people say, "Sometimes you gotta laugh to keep from crying?" Well, we laughed a lot. Every time she would sit on the potty, she would toot before peeing. She would giggle and tell me, *You can't pee unless you put in the passcode first.* When I had to bend over to pull her pants up, I would tell her to be sure not to whisper any passcodes in my ear. She would get to laughing so hard that she would pass even more gas and then have to sit back down to keep from falling.

My husband could hear us laughing and wondered what we could possibly be laughing at. He said he never knew his grandma was such a comedian.

Grandma and I had a routine that included brushing her teeth, getting a bath and fixing her hair daily. I couldn't forget her Oil of Olay lotion on her face. She wanted her face lotion to be rubbed in with an extra layer of it sitting there so you could see the white goop all over. Have you ever buttered rolls? You know how some butter melts into the bread when it's warm and some butter sits caked on top of the bread? Grandma's face looked like that. Some was absorbed while the rest sat caked on top. There must be something to it since she had the most beautiful skin.

One day, Grandma told me to take her to the hospital. She said she wasn't feeling well. She had no fever, cough, or anything that indicated she was not well but we took her to the ER. She was admitted with pneumonia.

I remember the ER doctor asking me where she lived and who took care of her. He couldn't believe how well taken care of she looked. I asked what he meant and he answered by saying that Grandma was clean and smelled good. He said many of the elderly are brought in soaked in urine and feces, dirty, no bath, disheveled, with bed sores and neglected. I was shocked by that and couldn't imagine ever being so thoughtless with Grandma.

Nursing is more than giving injections and completing tasks. It is also showing love and respect in various ways.

Grandma was discharged home and soon after she had a stroke. I cried with my husband thinking she was just giving up because she wouldn't eat. I didn't understand the dying process at the time.

Grandma was 93-years-old and she was tired.

Hospice became involved with her care. The last days of her life were filled with family visits and lots of reminiscing. My home was a constant revolving door and everyone was welcome to come and go at any time. It was so pleasant and peaceful. One evening while everyone was outside preparing to boil crawfish, I sat with Grandma. She hadn't responded to any of us in days but I knew she could hear me. I told her that if she could ever do anything for me that I wanted her to help the guardian angels and watch over my son. She squeezed my hand and I cried. While holding her hand, I began singing *Amazing Grace* and that's when she took her last breath. She was finally at peace. The family was also at peace with her sweet and loving departure. Healing comes in many ways.

Even though I am afraid of needles, I learned that nursing is more than that. Nursing is showing love, respect, and compassion. Nursing isn't for the weak. Nursing is doing what is right and fighting for your patient. Nursing is more than taking care of your patient's basic needs. Nursing is holding the hand of the dying. It's crying with the family and recognizing their loss and grief.

Nursing is jumping for joy and celebrating every milestone of someone's progress and recovery. Nursing is bearing your heart and soul and being strong enough to handle each outcome. Nursing is knowing you did everything you could for your patients and their families from start to finish.

So, what do I want to be when I grow up? I want to be someone that makes a difference in someone else's life. I want to be a lawyer that fights and advocates for my patient. I want to be a dancer that celebrates life and dances for joy when my patient is doing well. I want to be a singer that calms, soothes and relaxes my patient when they are anxious. I want to be a teacher that teaches the patient and their caregivers how to manage their care. I want to be a pilot that navigates around obstacles and aims

for the best possible outcomes. I want to be a doctor that collaborates with the nurse to provide the best care we can give. I want to be a healer.

I can admit when I am wrong. I have learned it's ok to have fear because fear motivates me to take action when needed, and to cry does not mean I am weak. Could I ever be a nurse?? As Stan Lee wrote, "With great power comes great responsibility." Well Stan, I accept that responsibility.

I will not be just a nurse, I will be a DAMN GOOD NURSE!! I don't want to be known only as a great nurse. I want to be remembered as a nurse that does great things. ❖



Laurie Siekkinen, Class of December 2019



# Alumni Notes

Nineteen Charity alumni and faculty members were among the Great 100 Nurses honorees for 2019:

Denise Abadie '93  
 Arie Anderson '11  
 Brandy Barbarin '04, faculty  
 Miguel Behrhorst '06  
 Margo Birdlow '03  
 Laura Braud '14  
 Sharon Bural '80  
 Kimberly Dunn '14  
 Beatrice Eweni, faculty  
 Jeanne Feltey '98  
 Carolyn Gaude '10  
 Dania Hernandez-Flores, faculty  
 Pandora Joseph '10  
 Bridgette Johnson-Medley '95, faculty  
 Judith Montello '78  
 Laura Tassin '07  
 Henrietta Walton-Nunez, faculty  
 Norris Warner '81  
 Nikeisha Moore Washington '06



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

**Angela Paige Jackson '95** (*Spring, TX*): "I'm a proud Charity School of Nursing 1995 grad. I was born at 'Big C.' Mom worked there for 35+ years, my son was born there, and my career began there. I finally gathered the strength to watch the *Big Charity* film (I tried several times after Katrina and couldn't). Through many tears, my heart swelled, and it bursts with pride knowing that I could relate to the discussions about those hallowed halls... the energy, the miracles, the sense of family. I'm SO HAPPY I found the Charity Alumni website!!!"

**Veronica O'Donnell Els '75** (*Lafayette, LA*): "Our group of 1975 CHSN graduates started having gatherings in the late nineties. In the last three years we have met regularly either in Baton Rouge or Lafayette, and enjoy a yearly beach trip in September. Our group is expanding as people hear about it. We started with the small town girls from South Louisiana who naturally migrated toward each other in school. We are all loyal friends who laugh, play and pray

together and support each other through the tough times in life. We call ourselves *The Charity Cases!*"

The "Charity Cases" pictured (*in photo below, left to right*) are: **Jan Breaux Samson, Shonna Granger Gott, Genie LeBlanc Woodring, Claudia Launey Ortego, Julie Munster Joyce, Anita Barras Landry, Maureen Gray Guevara, Donna Blanchard Landry, Roxanne Fuselier Cali, Kathy Ibert Imel, and Ronnie O'Donnell Els.** Missing from the photo is **Donna Due Bordelon, Carolyn "Tutti" Chauvin Hubbell and Kay Landry '77.**

**Maxine Brower '54** (*Napoleonville, LA*) shipped her 1952, 1953 and 1954 yearbooks to us for the archives.

**Anne Blinn Faist '54** (*Belleville, IL*) sent us generous donations to our Student Emergency Assistance Fund and the CASN Convention Travel Fund, and wrote to say, "I love the newsletters and I plan to attend the 2020 Homecoming!"

**Anne Langston Lind '51** (*Irving, TX*) sent us several yearbooks from the time she was on the faculty at the School of Nursing in the 1960s. "These are some yearbooks that were asked for in *The White Cap*. I hope they are helpful."

Joy Clark emailed us to ask about her grandmother: "My grandmother was a student nurse on the 1930 Census. Are there any pictures or records of her time there? Her name was Nell Mary Hargus. Her birthday is May 3, 1910. →

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*The Class of 1975 "Charity Cases" gather in 2019*





Nell passed away January 2, 1998. I do genealogy for our family and Nell's eldest and youngest daughters are still alive. If there is any information or advice on how I could obtain records, etc? It would be greatly appreciated."

We were able to find the records of **Mary Nelle Hargis MacDonald '30** and a beautiful photo of Nell in her nurse's cap. She started at the

School of Nursing in 1927. There was even a letter from Nell requesting a replacement nursing pin and the school replying that the cost would be \$14.02 including tax and shipping!

We emailed everything to Joy, and she replied, "THANK YOU SO MUCH. I want to tell you that this is so so so WONDERFUL. I am literally crying tears of happiness. We have one picture of Nell and her husband because the rest were lost in a fire. I will be giving this to my mom and she will put it in a frame. THANK YOU. You have Blessed us so much." Joy also sent us their one photo. "Nell was 75 when this picture was taken in 1983. I also have a snapshot of her holding her namesake but it is too



blurry to see her face. This is the only other picture we have. I thought I would share it with you. I know Nell is smiling in heaven."

## Charity Yearbooks

Now it is as simple as going online when you want to see your yearbook! All of the Charity School of Nursing yearbooks are now available on **Internet Archive**, a non-profit online collection of books and historical material from libraries and other institutions all over the country. You can use it for free!

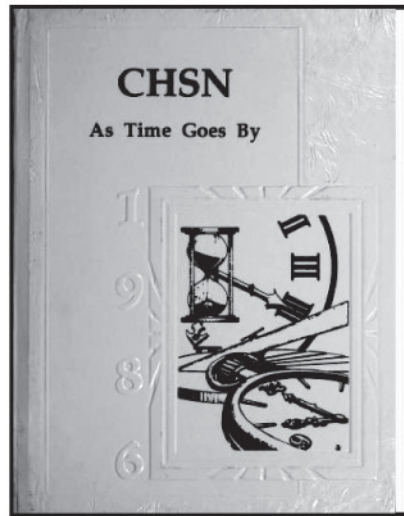
It's easy to find your yearbook. There is a link to the Internet Archive site on our website, **CharityAlumni.org** on the **FAQs and Links** page.

Or, on your web search engine, type in: **Internet Archive** (No "s" on the end!)

When that comes up, on the SEARCH ARCHIVES bar type in: **Charity Hospital**

**School of Nursing Alumni Association** (Type the whole thing to avoid getting a bunch of other stuff.)

Our yearbooks will pop up! (Put it in your Bookmarks so you can get back easily.) There is a "SORT BY" bar, and just click on "TITLE" to get them in order by year.



Then click on the year you want.

You can flip through your yearbook page by page, zoom in, even download!

We have completed scanning all the yearbooks through 2004. We hope to add the Memory Books from 2005 to the present in early Spring 2020. Ultimately we hope to add all back issues of *The White*

*Cap* and the *Alumni News*, as well as other historical School of Nursing documents.

It's really fun to look through all the old books. Have a history adventure - the clothes, the activities! And the wonderful photos of Charity students in the hospital.

### More than Yearbooks

Another neat thing to do in the Internet Archive is to search for "Charity Hospital Report." These are the Big Charity Hospital's annual reports to the State of Louisiana going back to 1842! Some are even in French! Very cool!

### Good Home for Your Old Yearbooks

Downsizing or just trying to decrease the clutter? We will take your old yearbooks! We want to have several complete collections of old yearbooks in good condition for the archives and the school library.

We are particularly interested in any books from 1938 to 1961, 1965, 1968, 1978 and 1986. But we will take any Charity yearbook and, if we don't need it, we can pass it along to an alumni who wants it.

So if those yearbooks no longer "spark joy" sitting on your bookshelf, send them along to a happy place - knowing you can stroll down memory lane anytime online! ❖



## The Great Hair-Bobbing Scandal of 1924

Cherie Barras emailed to ask about her grandmother **Pauline Hyver Yacich '25**. "We attended a reunion together during the early to mid-1990's. My grandmother was the oldest graduate at the reunion. I would love to know if there were any photos taken of her at the reunion. Are there yearbooks back from 1924 and 1925? We had several pictures of her taking care of 'her children' in Charity's TB ward during the 1950s and 1960s, but those photos were lost to Hurricane Betsy. Any suggestions or guidance is appreciated."

We don't have any yearbooks earlier than 1938, and we could not locate the other photos Cherie was looking for, but we suggested she check the *Times-Picayune* Historical Collection online.

Cherie replied, "I was able to access the *Times-Picayune* website using my N.O. library card. It was a bit tedious, but once I got in, it was fascinating. I actually found an article with a photo of my grandmother's graduating class. The photo is terrible quality, but the article was legible. Thank you again!"

We were able to find Pauline's school file, and discovered that Pauline must have been quite the pistol - she was kicked out of Charity for bobbing her hair!

Cherie responded to that news, "I'm laughing. My grandmother told us next to nothing about her nursing school times. One of the few things she did tell us was that she cut her hair, got suspended, and her mother had to beg to get her back in. Can you imagine being put out of school for cutting your hair?"

The *Times-Picayune* apparently found it amazing - and humorous - enough that in 1960 they published an article in their *Dixie Magazine* about the notorious 1924 scandal:

The fuss it caused, you'd think it was the worst crisis Charity hospital had ever faced. It started on a Sunday afternoon. The date was March 23, 1924. Twelve student nurses were hauled into the office of Sister Kostka, nurses' superior. The charge was serious. All twelve girls, it seems, had bobbed their hair. Penalty: indefinite suspension.

On Monday, newspapers got hold of the story and then the fur began to fly as fast as hair had. Statement followed statement as the battle raged. Other hospitals, unidentified doctors, department stores, Newcomb College and, yes, barbers joined in the chorus. Samples:

"Bobbed hair, flapperism and frivolity."

"Hair that is obviously bobbed does not go well with the dignity of the uniform."

"Patients cannot put faith in a short-haired girl. They think she looks too frivolous."



*The Dixie Magazine of June 1960 published this photo of modern Charity students who had no apparent educational ill effects from their haircuts. Pictured left to right: Linda Megehee Benson '60, Judy Pettit '61 and Janet Weeks.*

"It's her hair to do as she pleases. Bobbed hair's more sanitary, too."

The New Orleans Federation of Women's Clubs passed a resolution in favor of clemency for the bobbed dozen, but Charity Hospital officials were unmoved. Citing with dismay the fact that "bobbing parties were held in dormitories," they announced the girls would stay suspended and the rule forbidding student nurses to bob their hair would stand unchanged. (Girls whose hair was already bobbed could enter nurses' training, however.) - *Times-Picayune Dixie Magazine, June 19, 1960*

Apparently, at least some of the "bobbed dozen" were quietly reinstated because we are happy to say that the feisty - and fashionable - Pauline did indeed graduate in December 1925. ❖

## Taking Note

By John R. Batty, RN, MSN

*John is not an alum, but regularly attends our functions because he has so many friends among the Charity nurses. He worked in the Charity Hospital OR and psychiatric ward, and earned a master of science in nursing and healthcare system management from Loyola University in New Orleans. John is the author of Voices of Angels: Disaster Lessons from Katrina Nurses. The book examines the care provided to patients in the storm and evacuation. This article is about his experience of writing the book.*

"I would never leave a patient alone. I would stay with them to the bitter end - for either of us," said the Charity nurse. Looking deeply into her eyes, I could feel the emotion and the power of her words and thoughts. I knew she was speaking straight from the heart. She kept talking and I kept writing. She was not trying to impress me, but was trying to tell the truth of her experience. At the end of

the day I had several pages of scribbled notes from another nurse who had stayed at their post during Hurricane Katrina.

The outpouring of honest, profound emotion from the survivor of a great disaster came to be a common experience in my research. The raw, emotional delivery shook me to my soul. Later that night, as I typed up my notes, I asked myself, *How did I get into this?*

A deep breath followed by a momentary reflection, and then the sound of Gail's voice came back to me. My faculty advisor, Dr. Gail Tumulty, and I had been following the same path. She had been interviewing her students who were nurses in New Orleans hospitals during Katrina. She had seen the same raw nerves and shattered souls. She had heard the words with the unusual power behind them. She was touched by their courage and strength. She was moved by their belief and the actions that distinguished them as angels on earth.

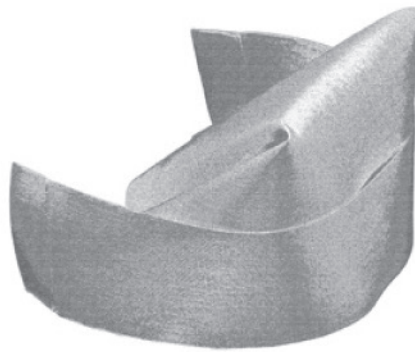
Gail used that same voice that I recognized from my Charity interview subjects. "We have to write a book about this - while the memory, the pain, and the actions are still fresh in the minds of the nurses who did not run away. I don't care about being remembered by history," she said. "What I care about is that the actions of brave nurses are not lost in the fog of history or, worse yet, rewritten by those who seek to twist reality."

We both understood that the power of the hurricane overcame the courage of the media. Although the flyovers and the small army of media people camped out on Canal Street tried to tell the story, we were both afraid they would be fundamentally flawed and insufficient. We both wanted the truth to be recorded.

After hearing nurse after nurse bear the same witness of the terrible events, I could not have agreed more. It seemed to me then, as it does today, that the sacrifices of brave nurses should not be tarnished by a writer who did not understand their passion. These brave souls sought no place in history. Their motivation was to care for patients under incredibly bad circumstances and bring them through alive. And that was their reward.

After six months of interviewing, researching and writing draft after draft, my capstone project was accepted, and I earned my master's degree. With another five years of interviewing more nurses, rewriting, enduring edit after edit, the book was finished. At least I thought the process was finished. The person who said that writing a book and getting it published is like making sausage certainly knew what they were talking about.

Of course, now it is easy to say that I'm glad I did it. But somehow those words seem hollow and lame compared to the nurses who saw the water rise and their hopes of returning home shattered. But I was there when the memories came pouring out. I listened. I wrote the words they said, and saw the truth through to the end. ❖



## September 2019 Alumni Breakfast Blessing

# What is the Search?

By Jenn Garnand '11

We bless this food that we are about to share and the company in which we share it.

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

**"You must go on adventures to find out where you truly belong." – Sue Fitzmaurice**

What IS the search for the elusive nurse's cap?

So many nurses who have gone before us have worked to break ground on the 'why' and 'how' of this call to service.

This search is full of adventure. And isn't life the same way?

The journey is endless, full of obstacles, trials and questions surrounding meaning and purpose. We all hope for things to go smoothly and for smooth to feel easy, but it seems that easy doesn't teach us anything. It's truly not about the destination, but about the things we learn about ourselves and overcome along the way.

**"Nursing is not one thing, that's why it's hard to get at. It is everything." - Christie Watson**

So, the nurse's cap? The treasure we seek?

You see, we've already found it.

This treasure is present in the journey. It's here today. It's in difficult yesterday. And it's in overwhelming tomorrow. It's the amazing gift we are presented with each and every time we interact with a patient, family member or simply another human being. The experience they have with us in that very moment could be the pivotal experience that causes them to see the world differently moving forward.

So continue on your adventure. Live it, love it and learn from it. But remember, you're right where you belong. This journey is yours.

**"Wherever your heart is, there you will find your treasure." – Paulo Coelho**

Amen. ❖

# Scholarships & Awards

In September, the Alumni Association presented \$10,500 in scholarships and awards to twenty-two Charity nursing students. All were made possible by the generous gifts from Charity alumni, friends, family and faculty - and one local hospital! Thank you to everyone who made donations, and congratulations to these outstanding student recipients (*left to right, top to bottom*):



## Level 2

### **Carla Alexander,**

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C., Scholarship;  
**Kiesha Brown**, Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship;  
**Nina Schexnider**, Sydney Wood Womack '57 Scholarship;  
**Kokoro Schwartz**, Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship;  
**Doreall Jupiter**, Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship;  
**Kenyatta Trim**, River Oaks Hospital Scholarship.



## Level 3

**John Spooner**, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship;  
**Lindsay Allen-Ortega**, Leona Krubbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship;  
**Tara Brown**, Mary Ann Signorelli  
 Whynot '46 Scholarship.

## Level 4

### **Ashley Davidson,**

Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 Scholarship;  
**Allison Solino,**  
 Nancy Carol Rodgers '83 Scholarship;  
**Gary Pierce**, Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship;  
**Roberta Ogborn,**  
 Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 Scholarship;  
**Maggie LeBlanc**, James and Joyce  
 Bonaventure Leissner '57 Scholarship;  
**Laurie Siekkinen,**  
 J. Stephen Hank Scholarship.



## Level 4 Pin Awards

**Jordon Delatte**, Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award;  
**Paige Moore**, Kirk LeVasseur '79 Pin Award;  
**Sarah Desimone**, Julia Spratt '61 Pin Award;  
**Brianna Sims**, Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award;  
 and (*not pictured*) **Lindsey McDaniel**,  
 Elva Elena Aleman Salas Pin Award.

The Federation of Professional Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards were presented to **Brinley Newburn** in the RN Program and **Myisha Hill** in the PN Program. ❖



# Goodbyes

**Irma Schwartz Solomon '41:** Irma was born in 1920. After graduating from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1941, she worked at Charity Hospital and in the surgery department at the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in New Orleans. She went on to spend the next 41 years of her career with the local OB/GYN group of Drs. Beacham, Beacham, Webster, Lawson, Jeanfreau and Waters. Irma passed away in November 2019.



**Shirley Meaut Muhleisen '46:** Shirley graduated from Charity in 1946. Following WWII, she served as a civilian nurse with the Occupational Armies in Japan. Upon returning to New Orleans, she worked at the VA Hospital. Later she taught biology at St. Joseph's Academy and served as a Eucharistic Minister on the chaplain's staff at Methodist Hospital. She passed away in October 2019 at the age of 95. Shirley's daughter Elizabeth wrote to say, "My mother treasured her time at Charity Hospital School of Nursing."

**Marie Claire Holden Moore '47:** Marie's daughter Anna Moore Granen sent us Marie's yearbooks and this note: "My mother died in 2008. She spoke warmly of her days at Charity and always said that a Charity nurse stood head and shoulders above any other nurse. In cleaning out several boxes I received when the estate was settled, I found her yearbooks from 1945, 1946 and her senior year 1947. I would like to donate these to the Alumni Association, so that this part of Charity Hospital School of Nursing is not lost."



**Barbara Louise Iverson Berry '48:** Barbara was born in Gretna in 1927. She received her nursing diploma from the Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1948 and began her career as a staff nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Alexandria. She later transferred to the VA Hospital in New Orleans to assume duties as an EENT Ward staff nurse, then as a charge nurse on the Tuberculosis Unit. In January of 1950 she left full-time nursing to start her family.

In 1960, Barbara returned to active practice as a pediatric charge nurse at St. Francis Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria where she later became Director of Nursing

Services in 1975. Huey P. Long Regional Medical Center in Pineville named Barbara as their Director of Nursing Services in 1981 where she administered all nursing department functions as well as Ambulance Service, Central Supply, Infection Control and Quality Assurance until her retirement from state service in 1991.

Barbara's nursing expertise was sought by others throughout her career. She served as a member of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing 1983-88. She served on the Louisiana College Department of Nursing Advisory Committee 1984-88, the LSU-A Advisory Group for Nursing 1987-91, and the advisory board for Better Care Home Health 1992-2003. Barbara lectured nursing classes each semester at LSU-A on Joint Commission Accreditation 1981-91, and guest lectured nursing classes at Alcorn State University, and at the Alexandria campus of Northwestern State University. Additionally, she served on numerous occasions as a panel member at nursing symposiums, participated in community health fairs, and served as an observer for community disaster drills. In 2015 she moved to New Roads to be close to family. Barbara passed away on Saturday, October 12, 2019, at the age of 92.



**Dorothy Irvine Cardell '48:** Dorothy's daughter Kathy Kopta wrote to tell us, "My mother Dorothy Cardell passed away on June 8, 2019. I found her picture in your online yearbook archives in the 1948 yearbook as a graduating senior. Mom loved her time at Charity and enjoyed reminiscing about the wonderful experiences she had while she was there. She loved showing us all her pictures of herself and her many Charity friends in uniform."

**Bernadine Blalock Toups '49:** As a NICU nurse, Bernadine was a pioneer in her field caring for babies across New Orleans. She worked at Charity Hospital, Mercy Hospital, and Southern Baptist Hospital, from which she retired in 1999. She passed away in June 2019.

**Mary Drake Rolling '51:** Mary was born in Little Rock but, after graduating from Charity in 1951, she lived in Louisiana for over 75 years. Mary's nursing career spanned over 50 years: twenty years with the State of Louisiana and thirty years in nursing home care as a nurse, DON, and administrator.

**Ruby Pinell Taylor '56:** After graduating from Charity in 1956, Ruby worked at Shell Oil Company. She met her husband, an engineer, there in 1960. After retiring, they moved to Poncha Springs, Colorado, where Ruby served

as a town trustee and mayor for six years, and spent summers as a volunteer maintaining the Colorado Trail.

**Marylou Charlotte Medlin '59:** Marylou was a native of New Orleans and graduated in 1959 from Charity Hospital School of Nursing. She received her BSN from Northwestern State University in 1965 and later her MSN from the University of Florida. Marylou worked as a Psychiatric Nurse at the VA Hospital in Little Rock, AK at St. Elizabeth's in Washington, DC before beginning her career at Charity Hospital in 1961.



She began teaching at Charity School of Nursing in 1966 and retired in 1997. Marylou

served as an assistant instructor and educational director at CHSN, teaching basics in nursing, medical-surgical nursing, and pharmacology.

For many years Marylou volunteered for the Charity Alumni Association, the WYES auction, the SPCA, and ARNO. Marylou loved animals, adopting many strays and often had a house full of dogs and cats. Marylou died peacefully in her home on October 28, 2019. She was 81 years old.

**Genevieve Rousse Byerly '62:** Jeni was born in Galliano, Louisiana, and graduated from Charity in 1962. She worked in health care for 33 years, first as a public health nurse and then as a psychiatric nurse. Jeni passed away in November 2019 at the age of 79.

**Leslie Bourgeois Ecuyer '87:** Leslie's sister Lynn Hebert wrote to tell us, "My sister Leslie lived her lifelong dream of bringing babies into the world by working as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Charity Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital, and many hospitals around the country. She worked as a travel nurse for the last 20 years of her life, and remarked time and again how her training at Charity School of Nursing and years of working at Charity Hospital prepared her for any and every circumstance she encountered throughout the country. She was so proud to be an alumni of Charity." ❖



## In Memoriam

Nora Helen Jarveaux '34 (4/23/97)  
 Helen Marie Arnoult Roy '36 (8/22/15)  
 Irma Schwartz Solomon '41 (11/3/19)  
 Shirley Meaut Muhleisen '46 (10/3/19)  
 Barbara Louise Iverson Berry '48 (10/12/19)  
 Dorothy Irvine Cardell '48 (6/8/19)  
 Bernadine Blalock Toups '49 (6/19/19)  
 Maudie Ellen Bates '50 (9/12/19)  
 Mary Drake Rolling '51 (7/24/19)  
 Jacobine Houlberg Hanewinckel '56 (6/16/19)  
 Ruby Pinell Taylor '56 (8/20/19)  
 Marylou Medlin '59 (10/28/19)  
 Genevieve Rousse Byerly '62 (11/2/19)  
 Sylvia Obregon Moffitt '64 (5/15/19)  
 Patricia Hebert Arceneaux '65 (7/11/19)  
 Madeline Ledet Giroir '70 (11/22/19)  
 Evarn Tobias Johnson '72 (11/1/18)  
 Leslie Ann Bourgeois Ecuyer '87 (10/15/18)  
 Mary "Tootsie" Arnold Monnerjahn '92 (8/20/19)  
 Wendy Elgiar Clesi '94 (6/1/19)  
 Jennifer DeBlonde Jacob '05 (10/7/19)  
 Sister Mary Paule Vardigan (11/13/19)

## Endowed Scholarships

Our Endowed Scholarship Funds will provide financial assistance to Charity nursing students for generations to come. A minimum gift of \$10,000 is matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The funds are invested and administered by the Delgado Foundation.

These seven Endowed Funds have been established by our alumni and their families:

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 Scholarship

Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46  
 and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship

Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Scholarship in memory of  
 Victor and Rose Jeanne Buccola '49

Patricia Haggerty Horn '50 Scholarship

Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57 and  
 Jim Leissner Scholarship  
 in memory of their children Nathan and Laura

Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 Scholarship ❖

# A Gift from Granny, and Puzzling over the Caduceus

**Yvonne McGaha '63** included us in an email to her classmates: "My granddaughter Paige was accepted into the LSU Nursing program. She began in the fall semester. I decided to pass on the legacy by gifting her with the Caduceus charm I received when I became a Charity RN.

"I took her to lunch and presented her with my charm. She was thrilled! She very much appreciated the sentiment and wears it on her charm bracelet.

"I showed her pictures of us in the dorm, and she loved seeing us in our slips, hair in rollers, drinking bottled cokes and smoking cigarettes. *Didn't you all know how bad it was for your health?* Ha, ha!! I also told her stories about the hospital that she was very surprised about. Separate wings for 'colored and white' and by sexes, the big glass IV bottles, etc. A lesson in Granny lore.

"I looked up the history of the Caduceus, and I was shocked to find out that it is not really the symbol of medicine. A rod with a single serpent is the correct symbol. It made my gift a little less sentimental to me, but not to her. I am pleased that she is happy."

We were intrigued by Yvonne's findings and did a little online research on the symbol ourselves. Here are a few fun things we gathered:



In ancient Greek mythology, Asclepius was the god of medicine and healing. (Among his daughters are Hygieia, the goddess of cleanliness, Iaso, the goddess of recuperation from illness, Aceso, goddess of the healing process, and Panacea, the goddess of universal remedy.) Asclepius was frequently represented dressed in a long cloak and carrying a simple staff with a single serpent coiled around it. This Staff of Asclepius (*left*) was the ancient Greek symbol associated with medicine. (There is a lot of speculation as to why snakes are associated with medicine, but that's another story).

The Caduceus, on the other hand, was traditionally associated with the Greek god Hermes, patron of travelers, trade, and negotiation.



*Top, Yvonne McGaha '63, right, and her granddaughter Paige; below, Yvonne's Charity RN Caduceus charm.*



One source said the original Caduceus was an olive branch (representing peaceful negotiations, important for establishing trade relationships and traveling unaccosted). Topped with two leafy shoots and decorated with garlands and ribbons, it was later interpreted to be two snakes entwining a wing-topped staff. But other sources site stories of Hermes negotiating a peaceful resolution between two fighting snakes. In this scenerio, the pair of wings at the top of the staff represented Hermes' speed.

Starting in the 16th century, the Caduceus of Hermes was widely used as a printers' mark, possibly because Hermes' Roman counterpart Mercury is associated with writing and eloquence, or perhaps because of his role as a messenger.

Roman messengers would wear the symbol like a white flag of truce to safely cross battlefields, whether because Hermes was a messenger or because he was associated with negotiation and peace.

The Caduceus was also used as a symbol of neutrality in war, and stretcher-bearers

would display it to indicate their non-combatant status. This may partly explain why the U.S. Army Medical Corps adopted the symbol as their logo at the turn of the century.

The Caduceus became the more popular symbol of medicine in the United States, probably due to simple confusion between two symbols by American printers. The Caduceus was widely adopted by medical publishers in the U.S, and it became commonly connected with medicine and health care. Today, both symbols are used, but the Staff of Asclepius seems to be gaining popularity. The American Medical Association has adopted the Staff of Asclepius for its logo (*right*), as has the New England Journal of Medicine, and the World Health Organization.



So what of the Charity RN Caduceus, and the perplexing history of its symbolism?

We like the response from Yvonne's classmate **Leona Lee '63**: "Love the memories you shared with your granddaughter. I also googled Caduceus and was surprised to learn the origin. Doesn't matter to me. Still love it! To me it will always be a symbol of healing and represent our years at Charity." ❖



# She Loved Nursing

After **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58** graduated from Charity, she worked for years in the premature baby intensive care unit. At that time it was a cutting-edge area of medicine, but not a surprising choice for Rose Ella.



Rose Ella grew up in Morganza, Louisiana, during World War II and the post-war years. She was the oldest daughter in a family of fourteen children. Her sister Judy, the twelfth sibling, says the family essentially spanned three generations. "Rose Ella

graduated from Charity the same year I was born," she notes. As is often the case with eldest girls in large, busy families, Rose Ella took on the role of mothering the younger kids. Nuturing was natural for her. She always stayed close to the younger members of the extended family, regularly having nieces and nephews over to her house for slumber parties even as she grew much older.

Marriage took Rose Ella to Ohio, and the couple adopted a baby boy. After her divorce, she returned to Louisiana, settling in New Roads where her parents had moved the family after Judy graduated from high school. She would remain there the rest of her life, raising her son as a single mother and becoming an active member of the community. (Her son tragically passed away within a year of Rose Ella's death.)

She joined the staff of the Pointe Coupee Parish General Hospital. She founded and edited the hospital's newsletter. She taught nursing at the local trade school, training many of those now working in the nursing profession in Pointe Coupee. After 50 years of nursing, Rose Ella was forced into retirement by Parkinson's disease in 2000.

Rose found solace and direction in her religion throughout her life, and wrote a devotional column for *The Pointe Coupee Banner* called "Sharing a Thought." The columns were short essays about everyday life, expressing her faith and citing the bible. In 2011, she collected the short essays into a book *Sharing a Thought with Lagniappe*.

Her essay, "Charity" mentions her nursing school experience and ponders the concept: "The word charity has been mistaken and rejected by proud persons...One of my patients told me he had refused help from his neighbors because he did not need hand-outs. I replied,

*There would be no thanks for goodness if we refuse it. He then allowed the nurses and neighbors to care for him... He learned to love and give back to others."*

Rose Ella attended the September 2012 Alumni Breakfast and then-president **Marilyn Hammett Gentry '78** wrote this in the Alumni News that fall: "Rose Ella surprised us all by attending the Breakfast in full uniform including cap and cape. She also donated several items of Charity memorabilia to the Association, including her school pin, and spoke for a few moments about how she hasn't let Parkinson's disease slow her down. I just love



her... it was such a delight and an honor to have her there with us."

Rose Ella passed away in June 2018 and was buried in her nursing scrubs. "Nursing was her life," says her sister Judy. "That was everything to her." ❖

*Left, Rose Ella as a senior at Charity; right, at the 2012 Alumni Breakfast.*

## From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

After the 2012 Luncheon, Rose Ella donated her cape to us to be used to raise money for the students. We would love to have her cape to include in a display of her belongings outside the new Skills Lab which will bear her name. If you got a cape from the Alumni Association by auction or raffle or purchase, please look for the name "Chenevert" embroidered inside. We will trade you for another cape, or if you prefer to loan it, put a notice with your name on the display to say you loaned it.

Ursula and I made a few car trips to New Roads to take ownership of Rose Ella's house and to arrange to sell it. Ursula suggested we bury a St. Joseph statue in the front yard, and it definitely worked! We think Rose Ella put a word in for us, too!

There will be no Spring Luncheon to give us more time to prepare for Homecoming - and you can save your pennies so you can attend in October! All the details on Homecoming will be in the 2020 *White Cap*, but mark your calendar now for October 17 and 18.

Have a great New Year - and see you in October! ❖

## 2020 Election Candidate Biographies

### SECRETARY CANDIDATE - Unopposed



**Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78:** Active in the Alumni Association since the 1980s, Joycelyn has served on the Board, as President, and currently as Secretary, a position she has held since 2012. She is on the Scholarship Committee, and she and her husband Kevin sponsor the Jeansonne Scholarship every semester. She has a BSN from Northwestern, a MN from LSUMC, and a post-graduate NNP certification from LSUMC. She was Supervisor of PICU at Big Charity before moving to Alexandria where she taught Pediatric Nursing at LSU Alexandria. Joycelyn guest lectures at Louisiana College, volunteers at the Alexandria Museum of Art, and has been Secretary, President and Captain of the Krewe of Medea, an Alexandria Mardi Gras krewe.

### BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Two positions - Unopposed



**Vivian Larkin Manes '70:** Vivian is a board certified nurse case manager with twenty-plus years of experience, currently working for a private rehab company. She has been a board member of the Case Management Society of America and a member of the American Society of Pain Management Nursing. She has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years, serving on the Nominating Committee, Advisory Committee, and currently as a Board Member. "I remain committed to a strong and dynamic alumni, focusing on support and encouragement of Charity students." Vivian lives in Metairie, LA.



**Judy LaFleur Ross '68:** Judy worked full time for thirty-four years at Charity Hospital in the Medical ICU, Infectious Disease unit, and in Nursing Education and Staff Development. After retiring she worked as a pool nurse two to three days a week for thirteen years in Charity's various outpatient clinics. Judy has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years and served for the past several years on the Alumni Association's Advisory Committee. Judy lives in Harahan, LA. ❖

## Renew Your Membership!



Your membership dues help us to support the current students of Charity with scholarships and emergency assistance grants, help with archival preservation of our historical documents and photos, fund our Alumni office so we can continue to publish newsletters twice a year, keep up our database, and maintain our website. All of this allows us to keep in touch with you and thousands of other Charity graduates throughout the country, and keeps the spirit of Charity alive through the many generations of alumni. All that for only \$15 in annual dues!

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

Renew your Alumni Association membership at the \$25 level or above and you will be listed in the 2020 *White Cap* as a "Member of Note," plus you'll receive your choice of gifts: a 2020-21 personalized pocket planner, a handy 3" x 5" notepad, or a vintage postcard of the dorm. Use the form on page 19, or pay securely online at our website:

**[www.CharityAlumni.org](http://www.CharityAlumni.org)**



Left, top to bottom: 2020-21 pocket planner and 3" x 5" flip-top notepad; right: vintage postcard of old dorm.



## CHSNAA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

First name                      Maiden/graduating name                      Last name

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

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Home \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### I Want to Contribute to:

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

Annual Membership Dues:

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

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

- Personalized 2020-21 Alumni pocket calendar
- Alumni notepad
- Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm
- No gift, please.

Mail to: **CHSN Alumni Association**

Delgado Charity School of Nursing  
450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.

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

**[www.CharityAlumni.org](http://www.CharityAlumni.org)**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 18. Circle your selections on the Ballot at right, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope and mail to the CHSN Alumni Association.

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

Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than January 31, 2020, to be counted.

### CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Only current members are eligible to vote. Check your mailing label for your membership status. The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. If you see "2019" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2019. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2020.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2019, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2019 or greater, or if it is 9999, 8888 or 7777 (special membership categories like Lifetime or Sustaining), then you do NOT need to renew your membership and you can go ahead and vote. ❖

## 2020

## ELECTION BALLOT

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

SECRETARY CANDIDATE

**JOYCELYN JEANSONNE '78**

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES  
Two Positions

**VIVIAN MANES '70**

**JUDY ROSS '68**

Check one:

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

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

## **Charity Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Delgado Charity School of Nursing  
450 South Claiborne Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **What is that number by my name?**

The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "2019" next to your name means your membership expires at the end of 2019. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2020.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2019 (such as "2015"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

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

To renew your membership, use the form on page 19, or go online to:

**[www.CharityAlumni.org](http://www.CharityAlumni.org)**

Mark your calendar for  
**HOMECOMING 2020**  
**October 17 & 18, 2020**

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



### **Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association**

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

Email: **[chsnaaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chsnaaoffice@gmail.com)**

Website: **[www.CharityAlumni.org](http://www.CharityAlumni.org)**

Facebook: **Charity Alumni NOLA**

Photo Share Site:  
**<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>**