

THE



WHITE CAP

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

Volume 55 Summer 2023



From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

Change can be hard, scary and sad.

It is easy to think that what we know is the best of times, the best it can be! And that change inevitably will lead to 'going downhill.' How often have we heard, and said, *It will never be the same!*

And that's true. It won't be the same.

But change can also be energizing – and even transforming.

Charity School of Nursing has known – and had the benefit of – a lot of visionaries. Leaders who saw the 'way things are' and said, *Why not see if there's something to be gained?*

In the 1930s, **Sister Stanislaus** thought a hundred-year-old, 500 bed hospital on Tulane Ave should be replaced with a monumental, 3,000 bed, state-of-the-art healthcare facility – and she convinced President Franklin Roosevelt to build Big Charity for her.

In the 60s, **Sister Blanche McDonnell** decided that black, male and married individuals should be admitted to the school – and all have been an integral part of the student body ever since. In the 1970s, Sister Blanche spearheaded the construction of the Education Building to provide a modern new facility for the growing School of Nursing – with a media services department, skills labs and even a pool!

In the 80s, the administration of Charity Hospital made plans to close their nursing school. **Sally Cooper '59** decided that the school should live on – and convinced Delgado Community College to incorporate Charity

School of Nursing into their Associate Degree offerings.

It may surprise many ADN graduates to learn that this was not a universally popular development among the alumni or even students of the time.

In March 1990, Sally Cooper addressed the naysayers:

"Some may say that they have heard us claim that our diploma program is the best in the country, that we provide an education that produces the best possible nurse, and that we have been successful for the past 95 years. All of that is true. Our diploma program is second to none, and we are proud of every one of our graduates and all of our students."

"It is this very pride and success that compels us to

continue the Charity tradition of a program of excellence. We believe too strongly in our nursing program to allow it to 'die on the vine,' which is what would happen if we did not make plans to move into higher education. It does not mean that ADN education is better than diploma education; it is simply another, different, route to the RN.

"We will offer the ADN program... with the same goals for our students: to provide the best nursing program possible."

"We love our school, and we believe in our students. However, it is time to change, and although change may arouse anxiety, it is our intent to provide for a smooth transition... We will retain all that is excellent about our school, and continue into our second century."

"Remember, Charity is always there."

So here we are – alumni, students, faculty, family, and friends. We have moved. We are now physically part of a large college campus with all the advantages that affords. Our students will be introduced to skills in amazing new labs, and learn to collaborate with other healthcare disciplines in a simulated hospital experience.

The name *Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health* is written above the front door but, as you walk in that door, you see the words *Charity School of Nursing* emblazoned in large letters on the wall.



Soon the class photos from 1895 to the present will be hung in the hallway to inspire current students – and illustrate to all how our history reaches across so many generations of nurses.

The Charity Alumni Association represents those many generations of nurses and we are proud of our history. We are also proud to be part of this new chapter, on the City Park campus, in this new building.

Will future students have a different experience than ours? Of course! But Charity will continue to provide excellence in nursing education, as she has done through enormous changes for almost 130 years.

With your help, with your continuing support, we know that Charity will always be there.

Changed, yes, but the best of times continues... every day at Charity School of Nursing.

Patrick

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

What a year this has been – and it's only half over! We presented a record number of scholarships and awards at the Honors and Promotion Ceremony in March, and we had a really fun Alumni Breakfast in April! You can read about all that later in this newsletter!

We celebrated the opening of the new Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on April 5, with a huge assembly of state and local dignitaries, including **Governor John Bel Edwards** and **U.S. Representative Troy Carter**, and of course Delgado's own **Chancellor Larissa Littleton-Steib** and **Vice-Chancellor Cheryl Myers**.

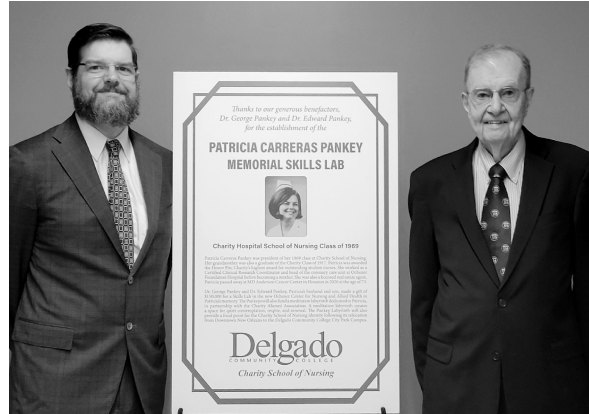
We were so delighted that **Dr. George Pankey** and **Dr. Edward Pankey**, the husband and son of **Patricia Pankey '69** were able to join us to see the remarkable new Pankey Skills Lab that they funded in Patricia's memory! Patricia was a firm believer in the importance of bedside nursing, so we know she would be pleased to see students learning the basic techniques that will serve them throughout their careers in her lab.



On another floor is the **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 Skills Lab** and it's thrilling to know how much our alumni and their families have made possible in this beautiful, new educational center.

Packing Up

After the construction and celebrating comes the packing and the big move! Boxes were everywhere as faculty and staff packed up their offices. Plaques and certificates came off walls. Closets were thrown open.



Photos, top to bottom: Ribbon cutting duties are handled



by US Rep. Troy Carter, Chancellor Littleton-Steib and Governor John Bel Edwards; Doctors Edward and George Pankey; one of the nursing skills labs; guests and students tour the sunlit lobby overlooking City Park Avenue



Who could imagine the amount of stuff that accumulates over 50-plus years?!

Lab coordinators **Mary Trosclair '73** and **Pam Kemp** had the unenviable task of packing up the old skills labs – and the Delgado movers were tireless! I got a laugh seeing them rolling stretchers with open-mouthed bodies (really simulation mannequins) into the building – the neighbors must have been wondering!

Class Photos

Joan Hodge '75 and I unscrewed over a hundred class photos from the hallway at 450 South Claiborne Avenue, and those are stacked in our new Alumni office, waiting to be rehung in their new home, a hallway in the Ochsner Center. Yes, they will be on display in the new building!

The portrait of **Sister Stanislaus** that watched, imperturbable, over the dorm and then the Education Building, now hangs in the reception area of the administrative offices. She seems right at home there! Sister always believed in looking to the future.

We can hardly wait to show you the new digs – but bear with us for now as everyone unpacks and finds our footing in the new offices, classrooms and labs. We are thinking that Homecoming 2025 will be the perfect time for alumni to come *en masse* to tour the building, see simulation demos, and walk the Pankey Meditation Labyrinth!

New Home for Bricks

Speaking of the Labyrinth, you may be wondering about the commemorative bricks. Rather than attempt to remove the bricks from the old wall, which would result in a lot of breakage, we decided that we will reproduce the existing bricks and mount them as part of the **Patricia Pankey Meditation Labyrinth** planned on the City Park campus.

It will be a wonderful focal point (and respite) for Charity students and alumni, and we will continue to add many more bricks in years to come!

We have no idea what is going to happen to the Education Building now that we are gone, but rather than leave a defaced wall, there is a possibility that the bricks will remain to mark the historic location of the Charity School of Nursing.



Top to bottom: Sister Stanislaus's portrait hangs in the administrative offices over the desk of Janice Bell; at Pinning, new grad Janae Frank is congratulated by her aunt who worked at Big Charity; happy graduates Mickelle Forbes and Bianca Rivera.

New Graduates and Pins

Along with all the excitement about the new building, there was other excitement as well! An unprecedented number of Charity seniors graduated in May! The Pinning Ceremony was joyous, and the Class of May 2023 was danced out of the Pontchartrain Center by the Mardi Gras Indians!

The Alumni Association provided over \$2,000 in grants to help 35 seniors who could not afford to purchase their nursing school pins. That enabled those students to participate in the Pinning Ceremony – an important Charity tradition as well as a personal milestone that we didn't want any student to miss out on!

Shannon Taplin-Albert, a member of the faculty at Charity, gave us a donation to help. "I remember how important and special it was for me to purchase my nursing pin," says Shannon. "I heard there were seniors who want a pin but can't afford one and may not have the family support that I did to purchase a pin. I want to help someone to receive one." Shannon has committed to helping a needy student get their pin every semester!

Nelcia Alexis '05 is also on the nursing faculty and purchased two pins for May 2023 seniors in need! The Charity faculty are the best!

More to Come

The Alumni did a few other things this spring, too! We bought some books for the library, gave several Emergency Assistance Grants to help students faced with crises, interviewed applicants for the Fall 2023 Scholarships... and of course we are

planning our next Alumni get-together! I hope to see all of you at the **Alumni Luncheon on September 30!** We're celebrating National Fall Hat Month, so be creative and decorate a fun hat to wear! Details are on page 26. Call your friends!

Until then, stay cool!

Lista



Dean's Report

By Joan A. Ellis, PhD, RN, CNE
Dean, Charity School of Nursing

We have moved!

After much anticipation, the time has finally arrived for new beginnings and infinite possibilities for Charity School of Nursing at our new City Park home in the Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health.

As we reflect back on this past academic year, there will be many historic, and deeply nostalgic moments to treasure. Our revered Charity School of Nursing building is now closed, and the Associate Degree Nursing Program, as well as many of the allied health programs that were once housed at the South Claiborne location, have now moved to the City Park campus. Our LPN Program from the Jefferson campus has also joined us at the new location to complete the team!

Learning Together

We are all excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively and learn together at our new state-of-the-art facility. This five-story, cutting-edge learning center is unlike any program in the state, in terms of equipment, learning opportunities, and innovation.

With over 120,000 square feet of labs, modern classrooms, and meeting spaces, there is a capacity for over 1,500 students from multiple programs. Located within this Center is also a 7,900 square foot, fully appointed Simulation Hospital that allows for collaboration opportunities between nursing and allied health on a greater scale than ever before.

Students from multiple allied health programs, as well as nursing, are afforded the opportunity to learn together in a safe, realistic patient care environment. To that end, student critical-thinking skills and teamwork can be greatly enhanced.

As the fall semester quickly approaches, I have no doubt that our outstanding nursing program will continue to thrive and flourish as we navigate through continued growth opportunities and change.

Spring Commencement

As always, this has been a very fast-paced and record-setting semester. Despite having to navigate through a myriad of challenges and address many unforeseen obstacles to reach the finish line, 191 of our ADN-RN students and 18 of our LPN students were able to

Right to left, Assistant Dean Jennifer Fernandez and Dean Dr. Joan Ellis point to the Charity name in the new Center for Nursing and Allied Health. Below, faculty Pam Kemp earned her PhD.



achieve their dream of being a Charity graduate. That was the largest Associate Degree Nursing graduating class in the history of CSN!

Without question, we are extremely proud of our graduates! Their dedication, commitment, and perseverance has been beyond compare. Congratulations to all of them for a job well done!

Faculty Recognition

Cheree Wiggins, EdD, RN, completed an EdD in Instructional Leadership for Nurse Educators from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa.



Pamela Kemp, Ph.D., RN, completed a Ph.D. in Educational Administration with a minor in Instructional Technology and Adult Education from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Patricia Smart, MN, RN, CNE, FAADN, has been recognized as a fellow of the Academy of Associate Degree Nursing (AADN) for her exemplary dedication to associate

degree nursing education and practice.

Kimberly Uddo, DNP, RN, and **Wendy Garretson, MSN, RN**, have been invited to serve as presenters at the upcoming Alexandria District Nurse's Association CE Conference in October, *Refresh and Renew: Learning to*

Prioritize You. Their presentation will include strategies for remaining a resilient nurse.

STARS Summer Institute

We were thrilled to have offered our very first **Strategies to Attract and Retain Scholars in Nursing** Summer Institute for high school students this summer at Charity School of Nursing.

The purpose of the 'S.T.A.R.S in Nursing' program is to provide high school students with the opportunity to explore facets of the 'real-life' experience of a healthcare professional through participation in a dynamic and interactive summer course.

During each three-week session, high school students participated in multi-disciplinary simulation activities, as well as lab-based scenarios and classroom presentations designed to stimulate critical-thinking and foster student engagement. All course content was presented by Delgado Community College nursing faculty and allied health program faculty, as well as area healthcare professionals.

Two sessions were held this summer; the first on June 12 - 29, and the second on July 10 - 27. A total of 30 students were selected for participation in the 2023 summer sessions. Funding for the program was provided by a very generous grant from the Carl Perkins Foundation.

Eligibility criteria for the program included current status as a high school junior with a GPA of 2.5 or higher, a letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or counselor attesting to the student's academic ability and character and, ideally, the completion of at least one dual enrollment course during the past academic year.

Looking Forward

We are very proud that the program has been a great success and was well-received by participants as well as program faculty. Program evaluation data has been consistently excellent, and we're looking forward to offering the program again next summer. Thanks to all who provided their time, talent, and effort toward making this tremendous effort a success!

I wish everyone a safe and restful summer!

Joan

Pin Award for a Charity Nurse and Faculty

Suzanne Riche served as a Registered Nurse in AmeriCorps, and then at Charity Hospital New Orleans. She earned a Masters and Doctorate in Nursing Practice. She joined the faculty of Charity School of Nursing in 1974, serving as a clinical instructor, course coordinator,

and Associate Dean. She also designed, coordinated and taught the LPN to RN Transitions program.

Suzanne was a military officer for 25 years, serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Nurse Corps, 159th MASH, Army National Guard. She coordinated and implemented Louisiana State-Wide Combat Support Courses, and was deployed to Desert Storm in 1990-91.

Suzanne retired from Charity in 2010. Her family created a Pin Award for a Charity student to honor Suzanne's contribution to nursing.

Her daughter sent us this photo of Suzanne receiving a certificate announcing the **Dr. Suzanne Riche Pin Award**. (See page 12-13 for all the scholarship and pin award recipients for Spring 2023.) ❖



Newest Endowed Scholarship to Honor Dot Barkley, Class of 1957

We are delighted to announce the creation of another endowed scholarship to benefit Charity students!

The **Dorothy "Dot" Aull Nugent Barkley '57 Endowed Scholarship** is being established by Dot's



daughter Kathy Nugent-Arnold and her husband Loyd Arnold with a gift to the Delgado Foundation of \$10,000.

Their donation will be matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents, creating an endowed fund whose interest and dividends will provide scholarships to Charity students for years to come.

Dot passed away in 2022, and it is a testament to her love of Charity that Dot's family

wants her memory to live on in the hearts of future Charity students!

Kathy and her husband have also made a generous gift to the Alumni Association to provide scholarships in Dot's honor until the endowed fund can do so.

This gift will bring the total number of Endowed Scholarship Funds created by Charity alumni and their families to eleven! ❖

April Fish make a Big Splash with Alumni

By Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

We were 'wise fools' on April 1st as we celebrated *Poisson d'Avril* – April Fish! – at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie!

It was a morning for goofiness and silly puns! Board members crept up behind folks to stick paper fish to alumni backs – a French tradition for the day! We were awash in pecatore-themed outfits as we sat down to a delicious brunch buffet of Eggs Benedict and Shrimp with Grits.

The blessing was given by the always eloquent **Jenn Garnand '11**. (Read her blessing on page 8.)

President **Patrick Brady '83** welcomed alumni and guests, and recognized the several students in attendance, including Spectrum students who were there to show off their remarkable poster that won first prize at the OADN Convention last fall.

School Report

Jennifer Fernandez, Charity's Assistant Dean of Nursing, was on hand to report news of the school. She invited us to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Ochsner Center scheduled for later that month and told us about the amazing new Simulation Hospital and the fabulous Skills Labs.

Roll Call

We conducted the roll call of classes, and the Class of 1973 had an amazing Fifty-Year reunion with twenty-three classmates in attendance! The Class of 1979 counted off eight in attendance, followed closely by 1974 with seven and 1968 with six.

Certificates were awarded to celebrate landmark anniversaries for several classes. Thirty-year Certificates to the Class of 1993, Forty-year Certificates to the Class of 1983, Fifty-year Certificates to the Class of 1973, and Sixty-year Certificates to the Class of 1963!



Left to right, top to bottom: Christine Higdon '74; Vivian Manes '70, Patrick Brady '83 and Ursula Allain '65; Marie McGregor '69; Jo Ann Toval and Sharon Burel, Class of '80; Lista Hank '97 and Joycelyn Jeansonne '78; Mary Trosclair and Myra Cheramie, Class of '73.



Swim Wear

The Costume Contest was very competitive, but in the end was won by **Christine Blanchard Higdon '74** for her blue sea creature outfit. Renee Oncale of Rennaize Creations donated a beautiful necklace with a Big Charity marble charm and fleur de lis for a prize. All the other (many!) contest participants received gifts too!

Raffles & Auctions

The 50/50 drawing netted \$193 for winner **Kathy Reaney '73**. The CHSN Cape raffle was won by **Gerard Oncale '93**. The Antique Charity Chair silent auction was tied by **Monica Johnson '93** and **Jenn Garnand '11** with bids of \$300, and

both took home antique wooden folding chairs from Charity Hospital. The Singing of the Alma Mater was led by **Cindy Beniger '68** and everyone gathered up centerpieces, door prizes and souvenirs to carry home and remember a wonderful day of friendship – and fishy fun! ❖



Left to right, top to bottom: Class of '57 members Patty Bourgeois, Betty Fowler and Lucille Castine; Elren Waddell and Laverne McCormick, Class of '73; Paula Kensler and Robert Martinez, Class of '79; Pam Engle '69, Emily Ovalle '13, Sylvia Aupied '69 and Myra Porche '69; Alison Gilbert '84, Catherine McMullen '84, Geri Abadie '84 and Vicki Millet '85; the Class of 1973 Fifty-Year Reunion.



When You Fish

Breakfast Blessing
by Jennifer Garnand '11

*"Many people go fishing
all of their lives without
knowing that it is not fish
that they are after."*

— Henry David Thoreau



Photo at left, Jenn Garnand '11 and Carol Leefe '92
at the Alumni Breakfast in April.

Sept. 30 Reunion Plans

The ticket order form for the Alumni Luncheon is on
page 27, or you can go to the Alumni website,
CharityAlumni.org and click on Order Online.

Class of 1963

Hi, 1963 Classmates! We want to get together at the
September 30 Alumni Luncheon! We hope enough of
you can come to make it a great day full of fun

memories (or not!) of our time at Charity! And we'd love
to find out what's happening in your current life! If there
is interest, we can also plan other events for the
weekend, so send us any suggestions!

Even if you can't attend, please let us know what
you're up to! Any updated contact info on yourself or
anyone else you can provide would be appreciated as we
have lost touch with a number of our classmates! See the
list of "lost" classmates below.

You can email or call us:

Peggy Johns Begnaud davepeg@bellsouth.net
Karen Krpata Bradley (239) 839-7365
kbrad56@gmail.com
Barbara Harmon Murray (423) 991-7713
bmurr423@gmail.com

Lynn Gordon Cook and **Peggy Kistler Tolchin** are
also on the committee. If you haven't heard from any of
us, please get in touch!

We hope you all are well – and we're looking forward
to seeing you in September!

*Below are the 1963 classmates we have no contact
information for. If you know how to reach them, please
contact one of the '63 committee or the Alumni Office at
chsnnaoffice@gmail.com.*

CATHERINE BOWEN ARNETTE	EDITH BODDEN KING
DIANE HENRY BLOSSMON	JOYCE JAMES KLASS
SUSAN CONLEY BOWERS	DIXIE URBAN KULLACK
MARY CURRY CANDLER	JUDITH LEIB
LINDA SIMMONS CHRISTENSEN	DIANE DAVIS
BARBARA QUEBODEAUX LEONPACHER	MARIE DOLAN
REBECCA FELPS SEYMOUR	JOYCE LEBLANC ERVIN
ANN SPRUCE	ALPHA GAY GARDNER
CAROL MASTERS STOLTZ	CAROLYN BERK HAYNES
KAREN BRADY THOMAS	JEANETTE DURAN HEIDER
DIANE WEGMAN	NATALIE VENABLE KELLER
MARIE CASCONI WILKINSON	

Class of 2013

The Class of 2013 is planning a ten-year reunion at the
September 30 Alumni Luncheon. Contact **Emily Ovalle**
at **emovalle@yahoo.com**. ❖

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

Charity Nurses, what is it that you seek? What's your
mission? What's your purpose? The things that ground
you... inspire you... fulfill you. Your life, your legacy,
has purpose.

Part of that purpose was fulfilled when you answered
the call to nursing. You pledged to honor, take care of,
and advocate for your fellow human beings. It's not been
an easy journey, but you knew it never would be.

While the fun theme of today provides an opportunity
to laugh and joke, we know that in nursing, amidst the
laughter also comes the underlying serious nature of the
profession we have chosen. Mark Twain said, "When
you fish for love, bait with your heart, not with your
brain." While it was our smarts that tied us to the
academic nature of our profession, it's our heart that
binds us to it for the long haul.

Hear the Fish Laughing

Our connections with the people and patients we
touch each and every day cultivate our meaning
and purpose and allow us to have greater perspective.
"Sometimes, when the water is quiet, you can almost
hear the fish laughing at you" (*Unknown*). Take a
moment, and appreciate the quiet of these vast waters....
But know that the quiet only begets that laughter we can
hear, reminding us of a life and career well-lived.

It can be hard to recognize that value of your life's
work when you're caught up in it. So, "to all the fish, big
or small: May a wave carry you to the top of a tree
someday. And from that summit, may you contemplate
the immensity of the ocean" (*Zidrou & Aimee de Jongh*).

We know without a doubt, that our years of history
and tradition carried forward into the future are
what make a Charity nurse a serious catch. Go forth in
the confidence of our legacy and hold onto this...

"The act of fishing – whether for fish, or dreams, or
whatever magic is available – is enough. It transports us
to a special world, and a state of mind, where we are
truly free" (*Fennel Hudson*). Amen. ❖

If these walls could talk...

By Renoteyell Banks '23

The Spring 2023 Class is the last class to graduate from 450 South Claiborne Avenue. This was the Salutation delivered by SGA President Renoteyell Banks (right) at their Pinning Ceremony on May 15.



If these walls could talk, they would tell stories of countless lives intertwined, of dreams pursued, of triumphs and trials that have unfolded within their sturdy embrace. They would tell the legacy of a nursing institution that began over 100 years ago filled with individuals who fearlessly answered the nation's call during World War II and continued to the present with this graduating class.

They would describe the scene of students who were not afraid to pursue their dreams of becoming nurses in the midst of a global pandemic. You would hear the sounds of Hurricane Ida ravaging our communities and temporarily closing our school's doors. It would show the determination of each student whose hotel rooms, closets and even bathrooms transformed into their new classrooms.

Sunshine and Rainbows

These walls would whisper tales of vulnerability, moments of doubt, struggles faced, and the strength that emerged in the face of adversity. It would hear **Tabitha Farmer** putting her feelings into words by reciting a quote from the movie *Rocky*, "You see, the world ain't always sunshine and rainbows, kid. It's a very mean and nasty place, and it will take you to your knees and keep you there if you let it. Nobody is going to hit as hard as life." But in life and in nursing, it is not about how hard you can hit. It's about how hard you can *get* hit, and keep moving forward, maintaining your integrity, veracity and ethics.

This is what we have learned at Charity School of Nursing – to be relentless and resilient, no matter what. This very lesson would play out for **Hannah Babin**, a student who entered Charity in 2019. She's a testament to keeping your goal at the forefront. Her journey was impacted when her son was diagnosed with a rare liver cancer.

Once her son was in remission, Hannah returned to school part-time, knowing that being a mother came first, but that giving up was not an option. It was within her

son's journey that Hannah's mindset shifted to: *This is a goal, not a timeline.* You see, Hannah understood that there would be a delay but, with tenacity and grace, she would succeed.

These walls would honor the tears shed in times of failure for they know that, from those tears, strength and determination are born!

Highs and Lows

These walls would mimic the sounds of the students' footsteps, echoing a sense of purpose. Each brick would testify to those who faced academic challenges head-on,

overcoming obstacles with unwavering perseverance. I could hear **Dwannta Kent** saying to our classmates, "I give new reverence to each and every one of you. This journey has been full of highs and lows, each of which I am equally appreciative of."

It's been said that all lifeforms need obstacles and challenges in order to evolve. Those dreaded nights of endless studying and last-minute cramming were all a part of the process. Had any of us not been so committed to succeed we wouldn't be here today to enjoy this very moment. Dwannta would encourage each of you to demonstrate that same fierceness and dedication to every aspect of your lives.

Struggles and Comradery

These walls would bear witness to the forming of lifelong connections. They would resonate with the sound of **Bianca Rivera's** voice saying, "The priority intervention of our nursing education may not actually be the knowledge and skills we've acquired, but the comradery that has grown among us throughout this experience." We have helped each other through the struggles, celebrated each other's successes, and encouraged each other to keep going even when it felt like there was nothing left to give.

We have formed deep connections, true friendships, and support networks that will last a lifetime. These walls would recall the prayers of **Dacha DeGruy's** mother before each test, the shared laughter and the unspoken support that bound us classmates together as we navigated this demanding journey.

Triumph and Celebration

If these walls could talk, they would also share the stories of triumph and celebration. They would vibrate with applause and cheers as my nursing bestie **Stephanie Matthew** says, "This class exemplifies being the change we want to see in the nursing world." The barriers that we have broken through and the resilience we have developed to be here, in this moment, can only continue



to guarantee success in our nursing futures.

Heart and Soul

These walls would bear witness to the emergence of future leaders, innovators, and healers, as individuals discovered their purpose and the impact they could make on the world. As **Ollie Rios** would say, "Remember that nursing is not just a job – it is a calling." It requires a special kind of person who is willing to put their heart and soul into caring for others. Every day, you have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, to bring healing and hope to those who are hurting. So keep pushing forward, stay passionate, and always remember why you chose this noble profession.

Nature and Nurture

Last but not least, these walls would tell the story of the Chinese bamboo tree. A farmer planted a seed and provided all the plant needed to grow: water, fertile soil and sunshine. For years, there were no signs of growth. You can imagine that the farmer's patience was wearing thin and doubts were creeping inside him, but he left the seed in place and continued to nurture it. Finally, the plant broke through the ground – and grew ninety feet tall within weeks!

Welcome to the story of who I am. My name is Renoteyell Banks. I am the proud mother to one son, Christopher Ross. He came into my world on this very day when I was a teen, a college student with a four-year scholarship at Xavier University. My interest in the medical field started as a toddler – according to my parents, I always wanted the toy doctor kits! As I aged, my passion for healthcare grew stronger. My mind was set on biology and the urge to always help people.

Above, the Class of May 2023

Fear and Promises

I started attending Delgado Community College in Fall 2009. I did two semesters and completed all the prerequisites required to apply for the nursing program. But I allowed the fear of competition to keep me from applying to the nursing program, and I settled for other jobs. My desire to be a nurse never died down, and after facing lay-offs and my mother passing in 2015, I decided to complete my goal. My mother was my biggest cheerleader, and I made a promise to her and myself that I would finish what I started.

Classmates and Community

As a nursing student, although studying consumed so many hours in a day, I wanted to be an asset to my classmates and the community. I joined committees and organizations like CASN and Spectrum, and was elected the President of Charity's Student Government Association. In these roles, I've collaborated with many of my classmates to bring positive energy to our stressful environment as students.

Sometimes friendships determine whether or not we will achieve the goals we set. Friends like **Latanya Parker** were willing to have tough conversations and to challenge me to be my best self. Someone once said, "Show me your friends, and I'll show you who you are!" This class is the perfect reflection of what a team should strive to always be. This class helped me to not linger in the shadows of what I could have been, but showed me what I would become. Each and every student you see sitting here has contributed to my personal and

Right, Stephanie Matthew and Renoteyell Banks celebrate with a Mardi Gras Indian at the Pinning Ceremony in May.

professional growth!

Sunshine and Precipices

I am the bamboo tree. I have been planted by my mother, father and grandmother. I have been fertilized by the amazing administration and instructors of Big Charity! I have been watered by my classmates, my family and my son, Christopher, who will be graduating tomorrow as the salutatorian of his class. This Pinning Ceremony has provided that last component to my growth, the sunshine.

Today, as we stand here on the precipice of our futures, I am filled with a mix of emotions – excitement, gratitude, and a touch of bittersweet nostalgia. It is an honor and a privilege to address this remarkable graduating class.

Sounds and Wisdom

One thing I've learned about this class is we're not going to wait for a seat at the table. Charity has given us the skills to build our own!

The next time you ask yourself, "Why me?" I want you to come back with, "Why not me??" There are people's lives tied to your dreams. Own your stuff, own your career, own your way!

The walls at 450 South Claiborne will vibrate with the echoes of our voices, the sounds of wisdom, and the inspiration that sparked many eager minds. These walls would bear witness to the pride of our families and friends, the tears of our joy, and the palpable sense of accomplishment that filled the air. We are the legacy of this school, the music of these walls, and we stand on the motto: *One Band, One Sound!* ❖

Left to right, middle page, Olivia Landry, Bianca Rivera; bottom page, Asst. Dean Jennifer Fernandez, Chelethea Thompson and Dean Dr. Joan Ellis at the Pinning Ceremony.



Spring 2023 Graduation Awards

Congratulations to the seniors who graduated in Spring 2023! The Pinning Ceremony for the RN program was held at the Pontchartrain Center in May.

Additional applause go to these students whose achievements were recognized with graduation awards:

RN Awards

Renoteyell Banks

– Sister Stanislaus Malone Award and NODNA Leadership Award

Bianca Rivera – Highest GPA

Olivia Landry

– Sister Blanche McDonnell Award

Stephanie Matthew – Margaret Palmisano Award

Chelethea Thompson – Award of Distinction

The Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Award (*top five graduates by GPA in the academic year*):

Fall 2022 Semester

Domonique Smith

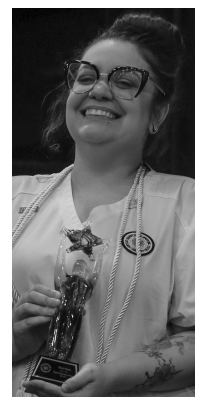
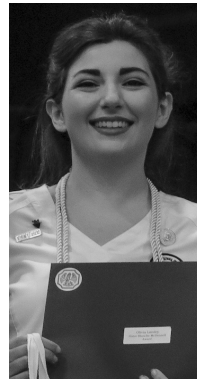
Spring 2023 Semester

Bianca Rivera

Roxanna LeBlanc

Olivia Landry

Chelsea O'Lansen



PN Awards

Jonathan Hart

– Florence Nightingale Award and Highest GPA

Richard Nguyen

– Award of Distinction

Jael Cayetano

– Award of Service

Alexa McClinton

– Clinical Excellence Award

Shirley Theriot

– Most Spirited Award

Lawren Fair

– National Federation of Licensed Practical Nursing Programs Award ❖



Scholarships and Awards

On March 20, 2023, the Alumni Association presented over \$16,000 in scholarships and awards to thirty-four outstanding students of Charity School of Nursing.

All scholarships and awards are made possible through generous donations from Charity alumni, their families, faculty and friends.

Congratulations to these recipients of the scholarships and awards for the Spring 2023 semester (*pictured left to right, top to bottom*):

Level 2

Jenna Cavallero, Larry Dale Cogdill Scholarship, \$500
Domonic Goodwin, Martha Phillips Gentry '53 Scholarship, \$500
Rachel Luttrell, Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship, \$500
Arianna Lujan-Pena, Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship, \$500
Lawrence McClure, Georga Helmer '79 Scholarship, \$500
Ashleigh McGrail, Christine Hurley Carbon '71 Scholarship, \$500
Yanina Valladares, Rita Bares Raphael '65 Scholarship, \$500
Rachel Ward, Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship, \$500
Johanna Wilcox, Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 Scholarship, \$500

Level 3

Darrien Degrusha, Marcelle Jacobs Wright '41 Scholarship, \$500
Abigail Ellis, Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship, \$1,000
Christian Johnson, Tabitha Hingle Duvernay '06 Scholarship, \$500
Monica Kyzar, Joanne Delaune '78 Scholarship, \$750
Dereyuan Pickens, Leah Valerie Boudreaux '93 Scholarship, \$500
Lindsey White, Elizabeth Matranga MacDonald '66 Scholarship, \$500
Tiffany White, Barbara Pitre Philipps '61 Scholarship, \$500

Level 4

Renoteyell Banks, Joycelyn G. Jeanson '78 Scholarship, \$500
Caitlin Brown, Sister Camilla Gaudin DC Scholarship, \$500
Orayon Butler, Bernice Bonds Scholarship, \$500
Shamira Coleman, Sydney Wood Womack '57 Scholarship, \$500
Kizzy Diaz, Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 Scholarship, \$1,000
Mickelle Forbes, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship, \$1,000
Stephanie Matthew, Sally Cooper '59 Alumni Scholarship, \$1,000
India Montgomery, Doris Tucker Burvant '60 Scholarship, \$500
Annalisa Morrison, Julia Bull Schomaker '52 Scholarship, \$500



Scholarships and Awards Continued

Level 4 PIN AWARDS (not pictured)

Estephania Alvarez, Dr. Suzanne Riche Pin Award

Jena Brupbacher, Sholatha George Hunter '09 Pin Award

Kali Crow-Liester, Lynel Pinkozie '73 Pin Award

Janae Frank, Emanuel Warren, Sr. Pin Award

Joy Gilman, Dr. Jenn Garnand '11 Pin Award

Tiffany Hunt, David Karl Pin Award

Elizabeth Scanlan, Gerald Camus Pin Award

Federation of Registered Professional & Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards \$500 each

Alexandra Medina – RN Program

Jael Cayetano – PN Program ❖

My Mother's Memory

By Danae Hunter

I was on my way to work one day earlier this year and I got a message from my aunt. She sent me a copy of the Charity newsletter, *Alumni News*, and there was a picture of my mom in it! I was so shocked and sooo surprised!

I am the daughter of **Sholatha George Hunter**, who graduated from Charity in 2009. I remember being a little girl and watching her study for hours and days on end while working and dealing with two kids. Watching her transition from LPN to RN is something I'll always remember. I know it took hard work, discipline, and focus. And when she finally made it in December 2009, I remember my dad taking her graduation pictures in our game room at home.

My mom was the most giving person I've ever seen. She was always thinking of others, putting her family before anything. That's why she was such a good nurse. Not only was my mom a nurse, she struggled with the terrible, and sometimes debilitating disease of lupus. It took her life too soon. My mom passed away in 2012. She was 42-years old, and I was only eleven.

I read the short article in the *Alumni News* which described my mom's smile and her positive personality, and said that one of her classmates had created a Pin Award for a Charity student in her honor. I knew I had to reach out to this person who remembered my mom so many years later! Through the Alumni Office I was able to contact **Ms. Tiffany Mitchell '09**. She told me how

much she remembered my mom and how she wanted to give inspiration to other nursing students like Mom had.

I'm also a nursing student – a sophomore at Chamberlain. As a nursing student, you have to have something to keep you motivated. Of course, my dream of helping others keeps me going, but it's really my mom that keeps me motivated. She is the blueprint to everything I endeavor to do. I now aspire to be someone still making a change from the grave, still remembered many years later, just like her.

Fight for your Dreams

I was able to attend the Promotion Ceremony in March with my dad, and present the **Sholatha George Hunter Pin Award** to **Jena Brupbacher**. Jena had a lot of challenges in her journey to nursing school, but she graduated from Charity in May and wore my mom's pin!

I know she is going to be just as great as my mom.

At the Promotion Ceremony I was able to say to the students at Charity, "Nursing school is hard but if you are here right now, you belong here. Continue fighting for your dreams and aspirations. If you want something with value, the road getting there won't be easy. Seeing my mom accomplish her goal to become a RN, lets me know that I can do it, the recipient of her Pin Award can do it,

and this graduating class can do it as well!"

Ms. Tiffany Mitchell, who created this award, wasn't able to attend the ceremony but I read a message from her to the students: "The experience of being a Charity School of Nursing graduate is one that will stay with you throughout your career. You will look back on relationships and recall even the most subtle memories of those that kept you going. For myself and the December 2009 graduating class, Sholatha George Hunter was one of those people. Her practical nursing knowledge, Big Sis 'you can do it' attitude, and her beautiful smile are why this award is being given in her honor. During a time when being a nurse has been challenging as ever, thank you for continuing your journey. Our profession needs you!"

Thank you, Ms. Tiffany, and the entire Charity community for allowing me to be a part of something so special to me and my family. Keeping my mom's memory alive means the utmost to me! I hope this award goes on for ages and my kids will be able to witness it!

Congratulations, nursing students, and I wish every one of you the best on your journey! ❖



Photo, left to right: Danae Hunter, Jena Brupbacher and Danae's dad

Students Take Reins at NSNA Convention

By Caitlin Brown
CASN Vice President
CSN Class of Spring 2023

Nine Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) students flew into Nashville, Tennessee in April to attend the National Student Nurse Association (NSNA) 2023 Annual Convention. We are all so grateful for this opportunity to learn, network, and

experience our profession in a new way, made possible by assistance from the Charity Alumni!

We attended the opening business meeting at the House of Delegates where several resolutions were adopted for debates later in the week. That evening we all had a blast dressing up for the opening night party and boot scootin' to the theme 'Giddy Up and Dance!'

One plenary session discussion that was particularly fascinating to me centered on nurses' role as healthcare change-makers. It included one moving story of a nurse who invented a screening system to identify potential victims of human trafficking.

More Education

In the exhibit hall I collected countless info sheets for BSN programs (including a PhD program in New Mexico that I am really interested in pursuing someday) and made several new friends and contacts (including one of my favorite *YouTube* nursing instructors Cathy from *Level Up RN*). The exhibit hall also included student activity boards and research posters.

As the team leader for this trip, I asked everyone to write something about their experience, and here are excerpts from some of their essays.

From **Sara Whitecotton**, our CASN Secretary who just finished Level 3: "My experience at the NSNA Convention is one that I will always remember. The convention was held at the Gaylord Opryland, which was huge! It would take me roughly about 10 minutes to reach my room from the main lobby. The positive about all the walking was that I didn't have to worry about exercising and got to indulge in all the food options the



Left to right: Caitlin Brown, Chelethea Thompson, Stephanie Matthew, Renoteyell Banks, Lawrence McClure, Sara Whitecotton, Cheyenne Henderson, Annalisa Morrison and (not pictured) Stephen Medina attended the NSNA Convention in April.

resort had to offer. In all seriousness though, the convention was such an eye-opening experience and so educational. One of the focus sessions I attended was on correctional nursing (in prisons and other correctional facilities) – something I would never have thought about, but the session made me realize that I might possibly be interested in that area! The speakers discussed everything from assessment to advocacy and gave really honest opinions about the field they work in. Overall, my personal experience at this convention was amazing and I would recommend anyone going if they have the chance."

More Confidence

Next up is our CASN President, **Annalisa Morrison**, a graduating senior: "Attending convention is one of the many great things about being an active member of Charity Association of Student Nurses. This year's convention focused on embracing the changing face of nursing through diversity, compassion, resiliency, leadership, and empowerment. Many organizations from around the country gathered together to present workshops and focus sessions to help nursing students with test taking skills, clinical judgement, and future career opportunities. The biggest presentation at convention was about the new Next-Gen NCLEX. With the style of NCLEX changing, many nursing students are

nervous to take the exam. I have to say, after attending the review at convention, I feel 100% positive that Charity School of Nursing has fully prepared us. I have the confidence to say I will pass the NCLEX and become the exceptional nurse that Charity has made me to be. I will be proud to be called a Charity Graduate. Thank you to Charity Association of Student Nurses and the Charity Alumni for this opportunity!"

More Voices

Stephanie Matthew is our CASN Breakthrough to Nursing coordinator, and a graduating senior: "I've attended other conventions and this had to be the best ever! I was in awe of how beautiful the Gaylord was but the convention was the true gem. Mini-classes like *Stop the Bleed* and *Pharmacology Made Easy* were eye-openers! I'm committed to implementing the knowledge in my role as a new nurse after graduation. The bonus was the House of Delegates where student nurses were allowed to submit resolutions to benefit healthcare. Resolutions such as *In Support of Implementing Trauma-Informed Care Education Into Undergraduate Nursing Curricula*, *In Support of Mental Health Urgent Care To Improve Patient Flow and Outcomes*, and *In Support of Increased Awareness and Reporting of Violence Against Nurses* are just a few of the 49 resolutions submitted this year. To hear fellow nursing students stand and let their voices be heard in agreement or opposition was amazing. Often we feel as though we do not have a voice, but at this convention, in this room, we were heard! I cannot wait to start helping CASN members work on resolutions for next year's convention. I wish I could go back with them, but I will settle for donating to the cause as an Alumni! Thank you all for your generous donations to help CASN students attend. It was a wonderful experience!"

More Purpose

Up next is **Renoteyell Banks**, our Public Relations director, who also graduates this semester: "One of the most memorable moments of the convention was the Opening Ceremony. The keynote speaker was Dr. Nelda Godfrey, Professor and Associate Dean for Innovative Partnerships and Practice at the University of Kansas School of Nursing. Dr. Godfrey writes on new care delivery models that can be influenced by a stronger emphasis on the nurse within – researching and developing strategies to create the whole person experience in nursing practice going forward. Her work with the International Society for Professional Identity in Nursing is transforming the way nurses, health care professionals and society understand what it means to *think, act and feel like a nurse*. This work offers new language and new knowledge for the journey – helping nurses heal, flourish and expertly care for others.

"As the convention came to a close, I left with a

renewed sense of purpose and motivation. I had gained new knowledge, made meaningful connections, and been inspired by the stories and experiences of fellow nursing students and veteran nurses. The convention has broadened my perspective on nursing and reinforced my passion. I am now more motivated than ever to pursue my nursing career with dedication and compassion, knowing that I am part of a supportive community of fellow nursing students and experienced nurses who share the same passion for caring and making a difference in the lives of others."

Lawrence McClure is one of our members who just finished Level 2 and is already a great leader: "Thank you so much! Nashville was an incredible experience! It was my first time attending a professional convention, and meeting nursing students from all over the country, hearing that we share the same struggles, feeling their excitement, and witnessing their desire to improve health care was truly inspiring. It was an excellent way to remember why I got into nursing and to renew my efforts to study harder to get better grades, primarily to serve my future patients' needs better. Coming away from my first NSNA convention, I am grateful for the preparation I am receiving at Charity and ready to take better advantage of all the learning opportunities! I can not stop sharing my experience with my fellow students; I'm hoping they will be motivated to join CASN and attend the NSNA convention next year in Orlando!"

More Preparation

Next is **Cheyenne Henderson**, a new but very dedicated member: "CASN was one of the best decisions that I made throughout my journey here at the Charity School of Nursing. The information that this association has provided has been significantly helpful in establishing my nursing career. I am so grateful for Charity Association of Student Nurses and the Charity Alumni for making it possible for me to share this experience with nursing students and different organizations from all around our country to learn, network, and create my professional identity in nursing. The NCLEX-RN review validated and put into perspective how much the Charity School of Nursing and all the amazing instructors have prepared us for our state boards and future nursing careers. I am confident that I will be an amazing nurse and provide my patients with the best care possible. I am very honored to be able to be a Charity Graduate of 2023."

As you can see, we wish to shower you with a mountain of gratitude for your aid and encouragement this year. This trip was phenomenal and an experience that we would never have had without your support. Thank you again and our graduating students look forward to joining you as colleagues and coworkers very soon! ❖

Students Learn from Community and Alumni Leaders on Professional Issues Day

Charity seniors met to learn about future opportunities and explore workplace issues on Professional Issues Day in March. Speakers included: **Dr. Joan Ellis**, Dean of CSN, on *Getting Ready for NCLEX*; alumni **Jamie D'Aquin '04**, Director of Behavioral Health at Ochsner St. Charles Parish Hospital, on *Trauma Informed Care*; alumni **Brandi Borden '19**, Secretary of LSNA and past-President of NSNA, who works in the UMC Trauma ICU, on *Workplace Bullying*; CSN Faculty **Monica Armstead** on *Nurse Residency Programs*; **C.J. Marbley**, CNO of New Orleans East Hospital, on *Incivility and Cultural Awareness*.

The Charity Alumni provided an afternoon coffee and cookie break for the almost 200 seniors. ❖

Top to bottom, left to right, Professional Issues Day; seniors listen to speakers; Monica Armstead; Brandi Borden '19; Jamie D'Aquin '04; C.J. Marbley.



Running the Stress Away

By Johanna Wilcox, Level 1

In 2021, my husband and I were volunteering with local healthcare providers to offer post-race stretching, nutrition, and general health information at the 5K Corporate Cup in New Orleans. We participated in the race, but we walked the whole way, because there was no way we could run that distance.

Starting at Go

Looking forward to the next year, my husband asked me to start running with him, to help keep him motivated. I did not like to run; it was on the bottom of my list of workouts that I would like to do, but I decided I would run with him. We began by running one mile, and for a while we kept it that way, because every time we tried to run a longer distance it seemed impossible. But we did finally increase the distance, half of a mile at the time, and gradually worked our way up to our longest distance, eight miles.

Going the Distance

In 2022 we came back and actually ran the 5K. We did it again in 2023 and, in April, we ran the 10K Crescent City Classic. We finished it and we broke our own record!

I realized the benefits of running a few months into our training. It has not only helped me to stay physically healthy, but mentally healthy as well.

I used to think that it was a waste of time, time when I could be studying for school and exams. However, running helps take school and work stress away, decreases my muscle tension, makes me feel more relaxed and gets me ready for study sessions.

One of my goals now is to run the next Crescent City Classic in April 2024, and graduate from nursing school the following month! ❖

Right, Johanna and hubby after the Crescent City Classic in April.



Alumni Notes

Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54 (*Metairie, LA*): "Just a note of my appreciation to all alumni who make the newsletters possible! I'm so grateful to get news of the new Charity building on Delgado's City Park campus. My memories of 450 South Claiborne Ave are still the happiest days! I received the list of my 1954 classmates and their addresses so I can get in touch. Thank you for providing the happy memories! May God bless Charity students always!"

Cecile Vining Even '62 (*Richland Center, WI*) wrote: "I am so proud of my Charity education! I cherish the memories of 450 S. Claiborne, the studying, the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every night, the night 'check up' assuring we were asleep in our beds. I went on to get my BSN, then MS in Health Services Administration – both here in Wisconsin, my home since 1971. I wish I'd hear more about what my classmates are doing – not just on the *In Memoriam* page!"



A correction to the photo on the bottom of page 6 in the *Alumni News 2022*: That was **Mary Ann Scheuermann Lish '69** (*Georgetown, TX*) in the photo at the Pajama Party, waving her very cool vintage cigarette holder!

Thank you to **Ellarea Kerley**

Farwell '69 (*Windermere, FL*) for catching that error!

Charlene White Persich '74 (*Metairie, LA*) sent us this photo (*right*) with Ryan Mast of CPM Construction Management, LLC. "We are holding a piece of marble from Charity Hospital of New Orleans. During the time that I was a Head Nurse in the Accident Room (sometime in the very late 70s) I was walking down the first floor main corridor of the hospital. I came upon a construction worker getting ready to load a piece of broken marble on a cart. I stopped to ask him where that would be going, he told me that because it was broken during removal, it would be discarded!! The rest is a 'piece of CHNO history.' For a small fee, I made arrangements with him to haul the piece of marble to the home of my parents



for safe-keeping. Fast forward, approximately forty-five years later, I contacted Ryan who has been coordinating the sale of those marble chunks of Big Charity through Charity Hospital NOLA Memorabilia. We made arrangements to meet at my parents' house and I gave him that old slab of marble wall so others could have their own marble chunks!" (*You can find the order form for pieces of marble at **CharityAlumni.org**.*)

Susan Vallee, a retired nurse and owner of Natchitoches Pecans, shared this photo of a visit to her shop by Charity alumni, **Jane Bentel Duggan '69** (*Jefferson, LA*) and her husband. Jane told Susan she had attended all the Homecoming 2022 events and enjoyed it very much! *Left to right, Susan, Jane and hubby.*



Catherine Fleming Wattigny '73 (*New Iberia, LA*): "Like all my other classmates, I can't believe where the years have gone! With the excellent education and experience we received at Charity, I was able to work in many areas of nursing before retiring after 24 years as a Special Education School Nurse Coordinator for Iberia Parish School System. Since retiring nine years ago, my husband Dean and I started a nonprofit community organization, the Iberia Mental Health Initiative, Inc., to advocate for mental health in our community. We have presented free programs for the public with professionals speaking on mental health issues, hold monthly family

support groups facilitated by counselors, as well as educating the public through television, radio, newspaper and social media. One very successful project, in its third year now, is the *Bayou Side Run* which puts a focus on the need for good mental health. Last year over 400 runners registered for the event! I feel very fortunate to have graduated from Charity and received such an excellent education, I want to continue to work to improve the health of all in our community!"

Cheryl McGinnis '73 (*Gretna, LA*): "After graduation, I pursued a career in the Emergency Department, working in Jackson, Mississippi, and Washington DC.

I returned to New Orleans, and continued in the ED, then management, OR and Recovery Room. After 20 years I decided to change gears and applied to Anesthesia School at Charity. I had a lot of work to do to get the prerequisites and a BSN, but finally I was accepted -- the oldest graduate in the Class of 1996! (We had our 25th reunion this year – a one year Covid delay!) After working in California and Colorado as a CRNA, I retired and returned home to spend time with my parents. They are alive and kicking at 94! Golf is my passion now, as well as entertaining and enjoying life. I miss my nursing days in some ways but am happy to be retired. Charity prepared me for whatever was thrown at me at work and made me a better clinician. We were all lucky to have been there!”

Connie O’Pry Hoover ’83 (*Ponchatoula, LA*) decided to join the Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard and contacted us to purchase a Charity cape to wear. The Nurse Honor Guard dress in traditional white uniforms with caps and capes, and participate in the funeral or memorial service of a nurse who has died. They perform a small ceremony, light the Nightingale Lamp, and ‘release the nurse from their earthly duties.’ Connie says, “When my dad went to heaven, we had the Navy Guard. It was the most beautiful moment. I feel like nursing has been such a big part of my life. I want to honor our profession and fellow nurses.”

A recent article in *The New Orleans Advocate* reported the Louisiana Nurses Honor Guard paying tribute – for the first time – to a living nurse who was celebrating her 93rd birthday after a long career in VA hospitals. We hope to be hearing more about Connie’s experiences in the Honor Guard and about Charity nurses volunteering and being honored. The Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard can be contacted at lanursehonorguard@outlook.com. They also have a Facebook page. (An article in the *White Cap 2021* by **Agatha Authement King ’72** described her experience in the Nurses Honor Guard in South Carolina. You can read it on our website at CharityAlumni.org and clicking on *Newsletters*.)

Linda Ackerman Goad ’87 (*Ormond Beach, FL*): “Really enjoyed the recent *Alumni News*. Unfortunately the Class of ‘87 isn’t mentioned very often. I have been trying to reach a classmate, **Barbara Daschner**, for a while now. Just wondering if anyone has her contact information. (*The Alumni Association does not have Barbara’s current address.*) I would like to say I am forever grateful for the great education I got at Charity. I was a grandmother when I enrolled and still did 20 years of cardiac nursing here in Florida. I would love to say ‘Hi’ to **Mary Trosclair ’73**, one of my favorite instructors. I learned so much from her.”



Joyce Picou Flynn ’49 waiting for a ride after work at Charity Hospital 1950.

Patricia Flynn Parr ’95 (*Covington, LA*): “The 1947, 1948 and 1949 yearbooks I requested arrived and I can’t thank you enough!!! My sister Diana is the oldest of seven and she had those yearbooks of Mom’s (**Joyce Picou Flynn ’49**) after Mom died but lost everything in Hurricane Ida. My sister will

be so surprised!! It doesn’t happen often that such things can be replaced after a hurricane!

“My children, Anthony and Kelly, now adults, were very close with their Grandmother Joyce. They used to go to the Maison Hospitaliere on Dauphine Street in the French Quarter, where Mom was the Administrator for 25 years. They would spend time with all the ladies who resided there and both celebrated their First Communion in the Maison’s Chapel. It was a beautiful, well-run, nonprofit Nursing Home that Charity School of Nursing would at times use as the first clinicals for the nursing students. Anthony and Kelly learned at a young age many life lessons from that experience including kindness, patience, understanding and acceptance.

“Today Anthony is a retired Special Education Teacher and is writing books – Westerns! We didn’t know he was even doing that until he was published! I am sending you *Blood Ties* by A.B. Parr – with a wonderful female hero! He used his grandmother’s maiden name for the main character! I am reading it to my daughter Kelly. She has autism and has been working at the Covington Goodwill Store for the last 22 years since she graduated high school! Goodwill is Kelly’s second home and her co-workers love her there! Anthony and his wife Shannon are awesome with Kelly, and their two daughters are learning how disabilities affect people and their families. My mom – the nurse – encouraged me to get my RN at Charity which I finally did, Class of 1995. She would be so proud of Anthony and Kelly’s accomplishments and the wonderful people they are!! She had so much to do with how successful all of us are today! Mom and Dad were the Best and so are our children, grandchildren and Charity School of Nursing!!”

Edith Berger ’97 (*San Tan Valley, AZ*): “After living in Houston for many years, my husband and I have moved to Arizona. I always enjoy seeing the newsletters from Charity. Such wonderful memories!”

Julie Cunningham Martinez '05 wrote to say, "Thank you for all that you do for Charity grads!"

The AONL Foundation for Nursing Leadership Research and Education selected **Tiffany Mitchell '09** to receive \$15,000 to participate in the 2023 AONL Nurse Manager Fellowship Program. Tiffany, who works at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford in Bedford, is "always looking at ways to improve our health care environments," said Amy McCarthy, DNP, RN, director of nursing, women, infants and oncology, at Texas Health HEB. "She is a natural leader and is respected throughout the organization for her dedication to her staff and patients alike." The fellowship program will aid Tiffany "in continuing to develop her leadership skills, as well as introduce her to viewpoints of nurse leaders across the nation." The American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) has more than 11,000 nurse leader members, with a mission to transform health care through expert and influential leadership.

We want to hear from you! Tell us about your life, career, news and memories! Mail a letter to: CHSN Alumni Association, PO Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179; or email us at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com ♦

Goodbyes

Ella Toups Miller '46: "My mother passed away in January 2023 at the age of 96. Ella became a RN at the age of 19, graduating from Charity as part of the Cadet Nurse program. She was extremely proud of the school and attended many alumni events. Ella worked in both hospital and office settings in a nursing career that spanned over 50 years." – *Skip Miller*



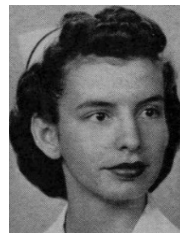
Edna Gannon Treuting '46: Edna passed away in 2017, and her daughter Madeline Treuting Cottrell recently sent us Edna's yearbooks from 1943 to 1945, and 1951. They were all in excellent condition, still in the original paper sleeves, and the 1951 book was like gold because we only had one good copy of it. Madeline wrote to

say, "I'm so glad you can use these yearbooks! My mom would be so pleased. She spoke so very highly of the education she received at Charity. She loved the Sisters and even used one of their names for my sister's middle name. After leaving Charity, Mom went on to teach at

Charity, LSU, Tulane, and Holy Cross College. Along the way she earned her doctorate and started the first Nurse Practitioner program in Louisiana. She *loved* nursing, loved premature babies and all babies, and loved her students. I hope Charity continues to live on through all the generations to come and in our hearts!"

Jeanne Chappuis Nolen '47 was born in 1923 in Crowley, LA. She graduated from Southwest Louisiana Institute (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette), before joining the U.S. Army Cadet Nurse Corps and completing the nursing program at Charity Hospital in New Orleans including an Internship at Veterans Administration Hospital in Memphis in 1946. One of her patients there was her future husband Claude Nolen. After World War II ended, Jeanne practiced nursing in Crowley, then at St. Joseph Hospital in Memphis. In 1948, she changed her career to full-time homemaker and accompanied her husband in his teaching in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri, and in 1956 to St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. Jeanne worked with regional and local civil rights groups to oppose racial discrimination. She passed away in Austin in 2017.

M. Lucia Ornelas Hale '48: Lucia's parents were forced to flee the Mexican Revolution and emigrated to El Paso. Lucia was the youngest of nine children, and christened María Magdalena Lucia Ornelas-Gaitan. She attended Texas Western College before enrolling at Charity and graduating in 1947. She dedicated most of her long nursing career to the care of newborns, notably as senior nurse of the newborn nursery at Naval Air Station Millington, Tennessee. Later she became a Nurse Practitioner and practiced at Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, founding an Emergency Services unit that operates to this day. Lucia passed away in June at the age of 96.



Sally Moore Phillips '49 was born in Clearwater, Florida. Her father died when she was young and her mother raised nine children in Clearwater during the Depression. Sally completed nursing training at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, returned to Clearwater, and married her husband Donald in 1949, when he returned from military service in Japan. Sally served as a nursing shift supervisor at Morton Plant Hospital and then worked for a local surgeon. She completed a bachelor's degree in education at the University of South Florida and taught vocational nursing at Countryside High School. Sally passed away in December 2022. Her son-in-law Bruce Bohnker wrote to say, "Sally was covered with her Charity afghan as she passed. We miss her but know she is in a better place."



Ramona Moorefield Updegraff '50 was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida and, after graduating from Charity in 1950, did specialized internships in ocular motility in Chicago, New York and Iowa. She returned to St. Petersburg and was the Chief Orthoptist at the Mound Park Hospital (now Bayfront Medical Center). Ramona was an avid sailor and loved the Gulf Coast. She served as Commissioner of Redington Beach in the early 1980s. She earned a BA in Human Resources in 1984 and was elected Mayor of Redington Beach in 1986. She is credited with stopping the mass construction of breakwaters along Gulf beaches. The governor appointed her to the Board of Southwest Florida Water Management District, and served on the Wildlife Advisory Board for the State of Florida. Ramona passed away in November 2022.



Janice May Brock '51: Janice was born in Chipley, Florida in 1930, and grew up during the Great Depression. Two weeks after graduating from high school in 1948, she started nurses training at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Over the years, Janice worked as a RN at Baptist Hospital and West Florida Hospital in Pensacola, at Chipley Hospital, and in private medical offices. She was instrumental in opening and managing the West Florida Pavilion adolescent psychiatry unit and worked in psychiatric nursing for the last 20 years of her career. Janice died in May at the age of 93. "My mom was a Charity graduate and religiously followed your newsletter." – *Carla Brock*

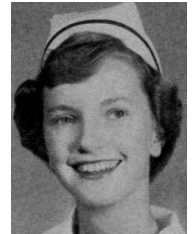


Claire Wallace Culver '51 was born in 1931 in New Orleans. She was a tomboy and loved sports, played on her high school basketball team and was offered a spot on a professional team. She declined, as it was her dream to be a nurse. In 1951, Claire graduated from Charity, the same nursing school as her grandmother, **Alexzenia Bethancourt Hesker**, Class of 1897! Claire worked as an emergency room nurse at Charity Hospital in New Orleans as well as at San Francisco General. She volunteered at City of Hope in Southern California while raising her young family. As her children began to leave the nest, Claire worked at Minney's Ship Chandlery in Newport Beach, California while she returned to school and earned her Nurse Practitioner License at UCLA. Driven to serve, she volunteered at Laguna Beach Free Clinic and finished her career as a Women's Health Specialist at University of California Irvine Student

Health. Claire was an avid reader and history buff. Driven to protect the environment for future generations, she was an early adopter of water conservation and recycling. She led a life of adventures with many hours spent on wooden sailboats, even sailing from Hawaii to Alaska. Claire slipped peacefully into the next dimension on the Winter Solstice in December 2022 in Santa Rosa, California. Claire's last act of service was to gift her body to the UCSF School of Medicine to advance the goals of Medical Education.

Nelda Howdeshell Nuffer Romig '54:

"Nelda passed away in October 2022 of Alzheimer's. She was buried with all her Charity pins, except for one which was given to her amazing caregiver who is studying to be a nurse."



Glynis "Lyn" Smith Chadwick '55: After graduating from Charity, Lyn lived and worked in her home state of Florida, then in San Francisco, and spent six months in Europe. In 1964, she joined the U.S. Air Force and served as a nurse for 18 months in Izmir, Turkey. She would earn her BSN at the University of Maryland in 1973. She married in 1979 and lived in New York state until her death in February.



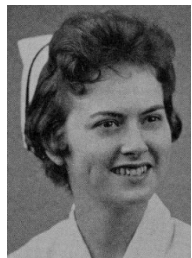
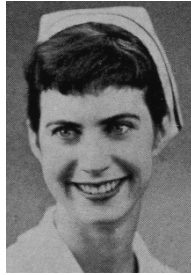
Patricia Ann Greenan '57 was born in Camden, NJ. After nursing school she earned her Anesthetist Degree, and spent her entire career as a nurse anesthetist, retiring from Virtua Voorhees Hospital in New Jersey. She passed away in 2021 at 84.



Patricia Kucera Ammon '58: Patricia was raised in Florida. She played oboe in her high school band, the Jacksonville Junior Symphony and the University of Florida symphony orchestra. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree from UF before enrolling at Charity. During her nursing career, Pat worked at the VA Hospital, Lakeside Hospital and St. Claude General. She also taught nursing at the Mather School of Nursing at Baptist Hospital. Pat was an avid photographer, particularly of pets, and her photos were published in *Louisiana Gardener Magazine* as well as winning awards and being exhibited around the world. Pat was a member of the Cotton Pickin' Quilting Guild and the Gulf States Quilting Association. In 2019, she won first place for hand quilting in the GSQA Annual Quilt show.

Patricia died in her Metairie home in March at 88. “I know my Mother had fond memories of Charity and loved sharing stories in *The White Cap*.” – *Jim Ammon*

Carol Lindgren Lyle Coggin '58: After graduating from Charity, Carol married Dr. Bill Lyle, and together they opened a Medical Family Practice office in Jacksonville, Florida, treating neighbors and friends and sometimes three-generational families in the community until their retirement. Carol was a concert pianist and performed with the Jacksonville Symphony. She loved painting landscapes, especially nature, orchids and sunflower scenes, and was a member of her local Artist Guild. She and Bill grew over 500 orchids of all varieties in their greenhouse. Carol was a member of the Red Hat Society, and sewed with several quilting groups. She handmade numerous Comfort Quilts for children at the Ronald McDonald House. Carol died in March at 85.

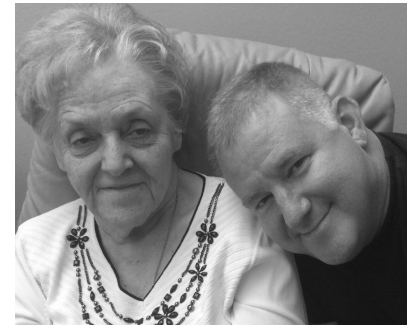


Glenda Cox Pitre '60: Glenda worked as a registered nurse for over thirty years. She was ‘Pink Lady’ at Opelousas General Health System for many years, and a member of the Red Hat Society, the Altar Society and Beta Sigma Phi. She passed away in April at 83.

Tommieu “Tommie” Lambeth Sparks '60 passed away in 2021 (see White Cap 2022). “Mom was born in 1939 in North Carolina, then her family moved to Gainesville, Florida, where Tommie graduated from high school in 1957. She earned her Registered Nursing credentials from the Charity Hospital School of Nursing in New Orleans, an alma mater of which she was eminently proud of for all of her adult life. She returned to Gainesville and married her high school sweetheart. She was a staff nurse for a number of years at Alachua General Hospital in Gainesville before ascending to other positions including Head Nurse for two different floors, then being the hospital's first Nurse Epidemiologist, then Emergency Room Supervisor, Assistant Director of Nursing, Director of Patient Services, and ultimately concluding her nursing career as Coordinator of Quality, Accreditation and Licensure at Shands Teaching Hospital, an affiliate of the University of Florida. She was named in the 1983-1984 Volume of *Who's Who in American Women*.

“This photo of Mom and me was taken in 2018, when the stars aligned and, even though Alachua General Hospital no longer physically existed, the former employees coordinated a reunion. There were hundreds of people in the auditorium that day, from administrators and

nurses, to housekeeping and maintenance folks, and seemingly every department in between. One of the proudest days of my life was simply sitting next to Mom as she faced a line of former coworkers that remained 10 to 15 people deep for much of the time she was there. Though her memory had deteriorated a good bit by then, Mom called most everyone by name, even recalling the department or floor upon which they worked last she knew. That event was literally the last time that Mom ever again went out into public prior to her passing, and what a perfect day it was. Mom passed away in October 2021, with both of her boys standing vigil.” – *Steven P. Sparks*



Judith LaMoe MacPherson '67 came to Charity from Oahu Island in Hawaii. “After graduating from Charity, Judy went on to Duke University School of Medicine and graduated as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. She worked in Denver for a time, moving on to the University of Minnesota Medical Center. She retired from John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. Judy loved her adopted children. She passed away in December 2022 after a difficult struggle with pancreatic cancer.” – *Gordon MacPherson*

Rose Ann “Rodie” Roussel Martin '68 began her nursing career at St. James Parish Hospital, then later moved to Industrial Occupational Nursing at Freeport Chemical, later working in Human Resources and as Administrative Manager. After retiring she continued her nursing and management skills by volunteering and working part-time for the local St. James Parish Hospital doing policy and procedure revisions, medical transcription, EMR conversions and hospital-physician office integrations. She was one of the founding members for St. James Parish Relay for Life, raising thousands of dollars each year for the American Cancer Society. She influenced two of her sisters to follow her to Charity School of Nursing: **Elizabeth Roussel Weber '77** and **Wendy Roussel Sauber '82**.

Rodie fought lymphoma for eighteen years, going through a stem cell transplant and later developing MDS-syndrome. “Rodie loved nursing,” writes her sister Liz. “She battled illness bravely, and even as she was getting tired she still wanted to help others. She had signed up for another clinical trial just two weeks prior to her death. She always felt that if she participated in clinical trials she

might be helping someone else in the future.”

“Rodie and I were both gifted CHSN capes: her husband gave her one during my years at Charity and I received mine at my graduation. This photo (*right*) shows how we displayed her cape and pin at her memorial service, and I wore my cape for the Nightingale Tribute by the Nurse Honor Guard during her service.” Rodie died at 75 in 2022.

Mary Margaret Cavallino '70 passed away in 2022 (*see Alumni News 2022*). Two of her classmates wrote to us with memories:

“Mary will be missed by many, and I will especially miss our phone calls, and hearing her soft raspy voice. We would always get together whenever I was back in New Orleans. She was a kind and sweet person. I know, for sure, that Mary’s smile is back on her face, and her heart is happy now that she is once again with the ‘Love of her Life’ Darryl.” – *Carolyn Bartsch '70*

“I had the pleasure of working with Mary in Baton Rouge at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in the OR. She was always so competent and smart. She worked at the main desk and ran a tight ship! Always kind, Mary made being a Charity graduate something to be very proud of.”

– *Pam Elias Welsh '70*



Pamela Hastings Blakesley '70 was born in Belize. Her classmate **Carolyn Bartsch** wrote to say, “Pam was my roommate freshman and half of junior year. She worked as a nurse for only a short time, then became a public school teacher in New Orleans.” Pamela was

retired and living in Hattiesburg, MS when she passed away in July 2020 at 70.

Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. '75 lived in Boise, ID with his husband of 29 years. He was a Sustaining Member of the Alumni Association, and quietly provided financial assistance to fellow graduates in need. He passed away in March 2022.

Jessie Ratliff Williams '78: “My mother-in-law, Jessie Williams, passed away in November 2022. She was 93. I was prompted to write because we received your newsletter in the mail. She had been living up here in Fort Worth since 2015 and suffered a stroke

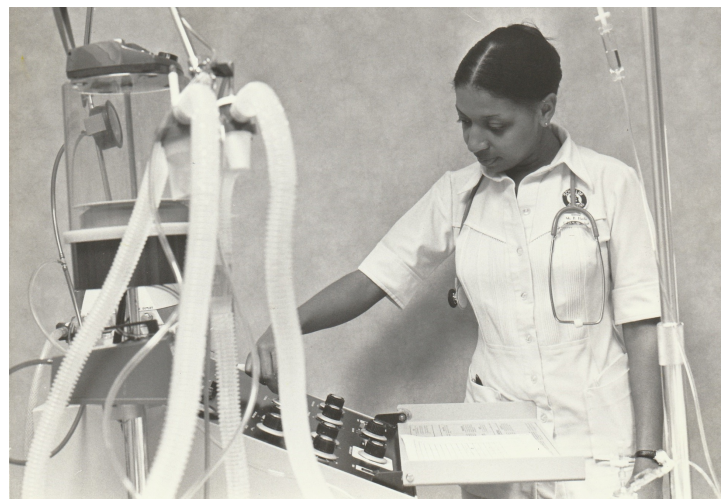


in summer 2016. Her health deteriorated over the years and that accelerated during COVID isolation. She loved being a nurse, spending 30 years at the VA, and was very proud to have been a Charity alum.”

– *Don Thompson*

Dr. Beverly Hardy-Decuir '80: After graduating from Charity, Beverly earned her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Nursing from the University of South Alabama and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. A recognized leader in quality improvement for health systems, Beverly dedicated much of her career to leading and directing healthcare quality and patient safety programs in Louisiana and Texas. Beverly was a Board-Certified

Fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives and held membership in numerous professional organizations including the American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International, National Association of Healthcare Quality Professionals, and the American Association of Healthcare Accreditation Professionals. She served as a mentor with the American College of Healthcare Executives, Texas Value Based Purchasing Advisory Board member, Women Healthcare Executive Network board member, and as a Quality Coach for the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She was a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter) and The Links, Incorporated (Crescent City Chapter). Beverly passed away in July 2023. *Below, Beverly as a student at Charity Hospital.*



Judith Glas Haller was a retired Financial Aid Officer at Charity School of Nursing. She passed away at 82. ❖

In Memoriam

La Verne Carter Stevenson '44 (4/16/19)
 Joyce Hale Burns '46 (1/5/23)
 Anna Belaire Hart '46 (11/23/18)
 Ella Toups Miller '46 (1/13/23)
 Dorothy Josephine Freeman Frichter '47 (3/27/23)
 Jeanne Chappuis Nolen '47 (8/16/17)
 M. Lucia Ornelas Hale '48 (6/12/23)
 Theresa Halphen Leon '48 (11/22/22)
 Flossie Mae Landry Purpera '48 (7/10/21)
 Sally Moore Phillips '49 (12/6/22)
 Ramona Moorefield Updegraff '50 (11/21/22)
 Janice May Brock '51 (5/15/23)
 Claire Wallace Culver '51 (12/21/22)
 Claire Preston Bergeron '52 (4/19/23)
 Jane Rita Boquet Champagne '53 (12/31/15)
 Helen Edwards Jaqua '54 (12/16/22)
 Burta Thompson Johnson '54 (6/28/15)
 Nelda Howdeshell Nuffer Romig '54 (10/26/22)
 Martha Boone Taft '54 (8/13/18)
 Glynis Marlene Smith Chadwick '55 (2/21/23)
 Kathleen Larriviere McDuffie '55 (2002)
 Patricia Ann Greenan '57 (1/27/21)
 Laurie Davis McCraney '57 (3/9/18)
 Patricia Kucera Ammon '58 (3/29/23)
 Carol Lindgren Lyle Coggin '58 (3/9/23)
 Glenda Cox Pitre '60 (4/3/23)
 Helen Grace Wasmer Taylor '62 (2/3/23)
 Judith LaMoe MacPherson '67 (12/17/22)
 Rose Ann Roussel Martin '68 (11/15/22)
 Pamela Hastings Blakesley '70 (7/25/20)
 Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. '75 (3/14/22)
 Jessie Ratliff Williams '78 (11/19/22)
 Dr. Beverly Hardy-Decuir '80 (7/17/23)

STAFF

Judith Haller (2/25/23)



This headstone was discovered by **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** in a cemetery in Paulina, Louisiana, on the River Road behind St. Joseph Church. **Katherine Guzman Robichaux '64** is memorialized with the Charity Pin and a nurse cap. Katherine died in 2021. ❖



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
 Estelle LeBlanc Rome '64
 Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot '65
 Roberta Purvis Bartee '66
 Rita Fay Borne Broussard '66
 Sara Lynne Jackson Casto '66
 Susan Nebel Nielsen '66
 Beverly Poche Chapoton '67
 Paulette Gallant Gravois '67
 Jean Hageney Houin '67
 Karen Moulliet '67
 Peggy Portie Parigi '67
 Betty Schweitzer Toups '67
 Louanna Cardinale Whiddon '67
 Mary Wood '67
 Dr. Marelle Yongue '67
 Barbara *Bobbi* Bonner Folse '68
 Patricia Laleux Bulliard '69
 Patti Rouchon Burcham '70
 Janie *Trudy* Carrier Lefort '70
 Lucille LeBlanc O'Regan '70
 Charlotte 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 Barker '72
 Peggy Ditta '72
 Chelsa Duhon Kuhnell '72
 Sharon Graffeo Lowrey '72
 Rosalie Parenton Vincent '72
 Stephanie Laws '73
 Dennis Pinkozie '73
 Wilda Taylor '73
 Mary Iannazzo Trosclair '73
 Deborah Benoit Blytt '74
 Charlene Breau Broussard '74
 Karen Leitz Clayton '74
 Susan Duhon '74
 Nancy O'Pry Gentry '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
 Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. '75
 Graciela Pinto-Leyva '75
 Jeannette Milligan Saal '75
 Jan Carrio '76
 Bryanne Murray Hamill '76
 Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76
 Lane E. McAlister '76
 Helen Roubion '76
 Myra Lee DiGange '77
 Debra Dumas-Hicks '77
 Vanessa Elias '77
 Ellen Williams Manieri '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
 Vickie Morrow Gibert '79
 Nancy Grass-Ferguson '79
 Georga Helmer '79
 Cindy Tschrin Nuesslein '79
 Deborah Skevington '79
 Karen DelValle Tampira '79
 Claudette Boudreaux '80
 Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80
 Vanessa Elias '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

Members of Note

Continued

Renee Rago Schuller '83
 Patricia Dufrene '85
 Elaine Riecke Bergeron '86
 Patti Taylor Lapeyre '86
 Gina West Ragland '86
 Cynthia Wild-Mendoza D'Elia '88
 Lisa Palmer Strain '89
 Milagros Esguerra Yap '89
 Wendy Taylor Martinez '90
 Kevin Besse '91
 Margaret Yochum Caruso '92
 Michael Harrison '92
 Betty Trosclair Loumiet '92
 April Lyn Willis Scaffidi '92
 Andrea Thibodeaux '92
 Mitzi Ridgell Arnold '93
 Craig A. Cedotal '94
 Penny Authement Schuler '94
 Margaret Johnson '96
 Brenda Shields Simmons '96
 Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen '97
 Lista Hank '97
 Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97
 Lucretia Moore-Peters '99
 Ecoee Rooney '99
 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

BLUE RIBBON 2023

Mary Katherine Brune Mollere '52
 Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53
 Agnes Larsen Hughes '54
 Lorraine Wise '54
 Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57
 Evelyn "Toni" Amis Thomas '57
 Wilmoth Austin Senentz '58
 Betty Stevens Bowers '60
 Ethel Faciane Friend '60
 Beryl Forgey Olhasso '60
 Virginia Cage Shemwell '60
 Mary Ann Ledet '61
 Antoinette Keating Sykes '61
 Judith Guion Barousse '63
 Lynne Gordon Cook '63
 Yvonne Gauthier McGaha '63
 Alice Fay Chambers Brady '64
 Vera Hoyt Copeland '64
 Marilee Keating Phillips '64
 Diane Blumberg Howell '65
 Margaret LeComte Smith '65
 Barbara Mahoney Helm '66
 Mary Lynn Aymami Hymel '66
 Cheryl Oubre Phillips '66
 Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66

Virginia Faris Angle '67
 Kathleen Donelon DeLaneville '67
 Susan Theriot Gosnell '67
 Mary Ellen Potier Hebert '67
 Cassandra Stokes Hite '67
 Judith Watson Lastrapes '67
 Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67
 Lana Collins Craigo '68
 Sandra Roselle Hintz '68
 Catherine Blackwell Holland '68
 Patricia Murphy Solomon '68
 Earline Chauvin Watson '68
 Susan Edwards Berry '69
 Ellarea Kerley Farwell '69
 Julia Chiquet George '69
 Marie LaChute McGregor '69
 Mary Holleman Beaulieu '70
 Linda Boudreaux Guedry '70
 Darwin Schaubhut Martin '70
 Karin Bartsch Read '70
 Dianne Theriot Clavin '71
 Patricia LaFleur Lewis '71
 Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler '71
 N. Joyce Broussard DeRouen '72
 Mary Doucet Hains '72
 Martha Jones Pachciarz '72
 Roslyn Johnny '73
 Jacqueline Porth-Owen '73
 Elren Davis Waddell '73
 Olander Belfield Holloway '74
 Diana Fontenot Roy '74
 Fay Boudreaux Stevenson '74
 Lynn Battaglia O'Niell '75
 Gail Zeringue Bourg '75
 Sandra Getz '75
 Anita Barras Landry '75
 Claudia Launey Ortego '75
 Janice Breaux Samson '75
 Cindy Scheyd Caron '76
 Marion Sams Johnson '76
 Beth Wininger Pesses '76
 Perry Meche '77
 Elizabeth Roussel Weber '77
 Karen Steib '78
 Charlene R. Berger '79
 Robert Martinez '79
 Anne Romig Tucker '79
 Sharon Burel '80
 Susan Hargis Earley '80
 John Bertucci '81
 Nancy Allebone Capponi '81
 Maria Gutierrez Lahey '81
 Bonnie Fontenelle McCarty '81
 Pamela Bryan Ridgeway '81
 James H. Craig, Jr. '82
 Karen Freitag Craig '83
 Karen Friley '83
 Ellen Gautreaux '83
 Sandy Hymel Spitala '83
 Alison Gilbert '84
 Patricia Abadie Ashton '85
 Linda G. Brown '85
 Victoria Poche' Millet '85
 Kathleen M. Hall '90

Bill Kuhn '90
 Kevin Adams '92
 Victoria Monte Hammond '92
 Kathleen Shaner Hyzy '92
 Carol Weed Leefe '92
 Frances Gagliano Loeske '92
 Adrienne Thomas Poret '92
 Audrey Randall Walker '92
 Roslyn Johnny '93
 Linda Gaddy Bryant '97
 Regina Danner '97
 Margaret "Peg" Kane '98
 Margaret M. Schorr '98
 Anne McCutchen Silverstein '98
 Rita Hammond Amedee '03
 Beverly Rainey '05
 Kimberlin Pittman '07
 Brandi Clakeley '16



SILVER STAR 2023

Dolores Marsh Alford '51
 Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54
 Sylvia Fulton Busey '56
 Marilyn Jacob Klein '58
 Catherine LaFleur St. Cyr '59
 Joyce Allen Urode '60
 Madeleine Moreau Crawford '63
 Kathryn Kirking Schmuellen '64
 Susan Thibodeaux Grace '65
 Constance Kennedy Proctor '65
 Jo Ann Pierce Ligon '66
 Joan Musacchia Taylor '66
 Ernestine Kotthoff Burrell '67
 Sandra Cazenave Graugnard '67
 F. Dianne Weber '67
 Cynthia Hebert Liebel '68
 Mary Katherine Landry Bocz '69
 Jane Bentel Duggan '69
 Myra Bascle Porche '69
 Francine Taaffee Dyer '70
 Bonnie Hensley-Mowe '70
 Pam Elias Welsh '70
 Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70
 Katherine Manuel Landreneau '71
 Maylia Pourciau Langlois '71
 Maria Compagno Roth '71
 Patrice Polito Bruno '72
 Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72
 Barbara Bordelon Glover '73
 LaVerne Birdsall McCormick '73
 Elaine Schexnayder Launey '76
 Connie Bousquet '77
 Cathryn Tereskerz Smith '78
 Jacqueline Jenkins Gamble '79
 Paula Kensler '79
 Patricia Lane '79
 Patricia Hampton Tillman '80

Nancy Allebone Capponi '81
 Robin Napoli Bowman '82
 Nancy Coleman Coffey '85
 Veronica Gautreaux Theriot '85
 April Bourg Evans '90
 Tanya Mayeux Solis '97
 Tracy Morgan Bynum '06

SISTER STANISLAUS 2023

S. Joanne Philbrook Newton '56
 Leona Lipari Lee '63
 Elaine Ledoux Phares '66
 Conchetta Uli Walters '67
 Brenda Crump Trosclair '68
 Patricia Darcy Weed '68
 Ginny Graves Clark '69
 Carolyn Bartsch '70
 Stevie Reese McLaughlin '71
 Diane Craft Angelico '72
 Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72
 Myra Diaz Cheramie '73
 Cheryl McGinnis '73
 Karen Howard Smith '78
 Renee Guidry '87
 Mary Ellen Zeringue Kothmann '88
 Catherine Konrick Berns '14
 Mary Elaine Ponce-Gaudin '16
 Stanley Bagbey, retired faculty

Received after White Cap 2022:

BLUE RIBBON 2022

Lorraine Wise '54
 Betty Hartsock Smith '58
 Anne Gaubert Larose '67
 Pat Murphy Solomon '68
 Ella Ramagos Knight '72
 Rita Steib Kennedy McCall '72
 Phyllis Landry Saucier '72
 Juanita Wescoat Graffagnini '73
 Jacqueline Porth Owen '73
 Donna Vidrine Brown '74
 Billie Arellano Zimmerman '78
 Heather Hastman Bopp '86
 Lori Livaudais Sheehy '91
 Dionne Simms Hughes '95
 Nana Delgado Davis '02
 Macel Buckland Tusa '09
 Robyn Burchfield '10
 Roberta "Bobbi" Carew '15
 Bradley W. Smith '21
 Nancy Roper

SILVER STAR 2022

Linda Boudreaux Guedry '70
 Mary Gordon Clark '76
 Elaine Schulz Navaille '78
 Jane LeBlanc Fandrich '80
 Erin Suchon Blaum '96
 Tabitha Rush Khidirov '16

SISTER STANISLAUS 2022

Gayle Guerin Fertitta '70
 Jeanne Colligan Juneau '74
 Collette and John Falgout '79



2022-23 Outstanding Donors

Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds since The White Cap 2022

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Minimum gift of \$500

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52

In memory of Larry Dale Gogdill, son
of Sherrie Essner Cogdill Cheney '52,
from Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
Julia Bull Schomaker '52
Martha Phillips Gentry '53

Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship

Roberta Purvis Bartee '68

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship

Mary Smith Singletary '49

Bernice Bonds Scholarship

Carol Weed Leefe '92

Leah Valerie Boudreaux Scholarship

Bradley Smith '21

Doris Tucker Burvant '60 Scholarship

In memory of George G. Martinez '82
Cynthia Martinez-Abadie '70
Robert Martinez '79

Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship

Stanley Bagbey, retired faculty
Lynda Dixon Abney '59
Roberta Purvis Bartee '68

Tabitha Duvernay '06 Scholarship

Rachel Giammolva '16
Cynthia Masters

Christine Hurley Carbon '71 Scholarship

Robert E. Carbon

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49

Scholarship

Claire Sonnier Robichaux '57

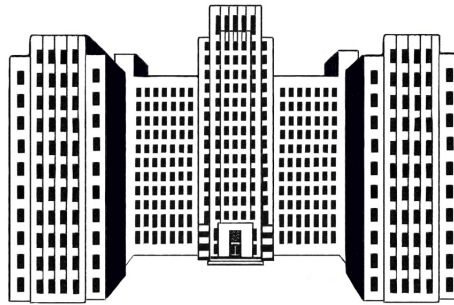
Leona Krubbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship

Karl and Kristin Hilbert Sirotkin

Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78

Scholarship

Kevin J. Jeansonne, MD



Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship

Charlotte Voinche Guinn '64
in memory of Charlene Coco '64
Marilee Keating Phillips '64

Rita Bares Raphael '65 Scholarship

Kathleen Hynes Hug '65

Alumni Scholarship Fund

Sylvia Fulton Busey '56

Marie-Lynn Conque Martin '60

in memory of

Elizabeth Thibodeaux Sibley '62
and Glenda Cox Pitre '60

Beverly Lind Cazayoux '61

in memory of Bobby Torbert '60,

Barbara Philipps '61

and Julia Spratt '61

Peggy Begnaud Johns '63

Barbara "Bobbi" Bonner Folse '68

Renee Oncale, Rennaize Creations

Pins-for-Need Fund

Nancy Mynihan Comish '57

Nelcia Alexis '05

Shannon Taplin-Albert, faculty

Pin Awards

In memory of Thomas Ray Bush, brother
of Catherine Strength, faculty,
from CSN faculty and Level 1 faculty

In memory of Emanuel Warren, Sr.,
spouse of Jacqueline Warren '98,
faculty, from CSN Administration

In memory of

Sholatha George Hunter '09

from Tiffany Mitchell '09

In honor of Jenn Garnand '11

in celebration of her doctorate,
from a friend

In memory of David Karl

from David and Beth Pesses '76

In honor of Suzanne Riche,

from her children

CASN Convention Fund

Rebecca Rodrique Bennink '68

Student Activities Fund

Beverly Poche Chapoton '67

Student Emergency Assistance Fund

Lorraine Landry Shaheen '50

Patricia Rody Nepveux '54

Nancy Mynihan Comish '57

Doris Tucker Burvant '60

Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60

Alice Fay Chambers Brady '64

Bethany Simon Arnau '67

Beverly Poche Chapoton '67

Rebecca Rodrique Bennink '68

Barbara "Bobbi" Bonner Folse '68

Brenda Crump Trosclair '68

Vivian Larkin Manes '70

Jan M. Carrio '76

Nancy Grass Ferguson '79

Karen Six Rabalais '80

Susan Schaff, retired faculty

White Cap/Alumni News Fund

Mary Ann Scheuermann '69 ❖

2023 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT - Patrick Brady '83

patrickbrady@wmcarey.edu

SECRETARY - Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

jjeansonnn@aol.com

TREASURER - Ursula Allain '65

ursthennurse@cox.net

NOMINATIONS - Charlene Berger '79

bergerc46@gmail.com

Patricia Dufrene '85

padufrene@ymail.com

Vivian Manes '70

ronclif@cox.net

Judy Ross '68

rossjl@cox.net

Sandy Spitale '83

sbspitale@aol.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Lista Hank '97

chsnnaoffice@gmail.com

504.237.5161 (c)





"Some hats can only be worn if you're willing to be jaunty, to set them at an angle and to walk beneath them with a spring in your stride as if you're only a step away from dancing. They demand a lot of you."

- Neil Gaiman, Anansi Boys

Fall 2023 Charity Alumni

Hat-Tastic Luncheon!

September is National Fall Hat Month!

We're not making this up!

And we Alumni love our hats!!!

Join us on September 30th and wear your finest - or funniest - millinery! Don your favorite facinator, sombrero, tam o'shanter, or panama - or even nurse cap!

And enjoy a delicious buffet lunch with your friends and classmates!

Prizes for most creative headgear - so put on your thinking caps and use your imagination and decorate an amazing chapeau!

Plus raffles, auctions, souvenirs & door prizes!

Saturday, Sept. 30

At Chateau Golf & Country Club

3600 Chateau Blvd, Kenner

Plenty of free parking!

Registration and cash bar open at 10:30am,
Buffet opens at 11am, Program starts at 11:30am

Order your tickets on page 27,
or on our website: CharityAlumni.org



You can use this form...

Or visit our website: 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 Luncheon on September 30!

Reserve for me: How many? _____ Luncheon Ticket(s) @ \$48 each.... \$ _____

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

Please make your reservation by September 22 to guarantee seating!
 We must give the venue the exact number of attendees by that date and pay for everyone in advance.

☐ 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..... \$ _____
 Art & Archives Preservation Fund..... \$ _____
 Student Convention Travel Fund..... \$ _____
 Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ _____
 White Cap and Alumni News Fund..... \$ _____
 Other: _____ \$ _____

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

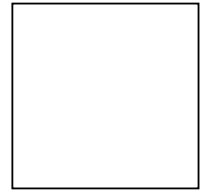
- ☐ No gift, please
- ☐ 2022-23 CHSNAA pocket calendar ☐ Pelican Coaster
- ☐ Vintage Postcard of the old Dorm ☐ Alumni Pocket Notepad

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, Louisiana 70179



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

IF YOU RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER IN ERROR, OR NEED TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS,
PLEASE LET US KNOW AT [CHSNAAOFFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:chsnaaoffice@gmail.com)

www.CharityAlumni.org chsnaaoffice@gmail.com Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA



A host of local and state dignitaries, prepare to cut the ribbon for the Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health in April. The new home of Charity School of Nursing is on the Delgado City Park campus, at the corner of City Park Avenue and Orleans Avenue. The building is now open, and classes were held there this summer. The building includes a simulation hospital to allow collaborative training between nursing and other healthcare programs. ❖

What's that number after my name on the mailing label?

The number after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires (not your graduation year). For example, "Jane Jones 2023" means your membership expires at the end of 2023. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2024.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2023 (such as "2022"), 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 specialized membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining or Friend) and you do NOT need to renew your membership, but we very much appreciate your donations!

If you have any questions about your membership, email the Alumni office at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com ❖