THE WHITE WAR A Publication of the Alumni Association of

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

Volume 56 Summer 2024



From the President

By Patricia Dufrene '85

This year, we found ourselves saying goodbye to a friend, colleague and leader, **Patrick Brady '83**. Several

of us attended his celebration of life and were gifted with stories – from family, friends, colleagues, and the Nurse Honor Guard – of how he affected others both as the person, teacher and nurse.

Patrick was proud to be a nurse and particularly proud to be a Charity graduate. He served as a mentor throughout his career. For almost two decades, he shared his talents as a nurse educator for future registered nurses.

His long tenure in the Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association began right after he graduated. He became a Board Member in 2012 and served as the President since 2018.

Legacy and Scholarships

Patrick left a hole in our hearts and big shoes to fill. We will honor him with scholarships in his name, made possible by donations from many alumni and friends, including Patrick's own parents.

We will memorialize him by carrying out his legacy. We will carry his spirit

with us as we maintain the pride of being a Charity graduate and a part of this esteemed group of alumni.

Friend and Colleague

I had the joy of knowing Patrick since we were students at Charity School of Nursing. I am honored to call him a friend and a colleague. I have had the privilege to work in professional settings with him and be an eyewitness to his nursing and leadership skills.

I now have the honor of completing his term as President of the Alumni Association.



I graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1985 and, like many graduates of that time, worked at Big Charity. I was mentored by great instructors who encouraged continuing education and advancement. I subsequently earned a BSN at Loyola University, a MSN as a Pediatric Critical Care CNS at University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Nursing Education and Administration at William Carey University.

Nursing and Leadership

I have served in many capacities: from nurse, nursing faculty, simulation lab instructor, and department chair for faculty development, to my current role in regulation. I spent twelve years at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing as the Director of Education and Development. Since 2021, I have been with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners as the RN Practice Consultant.

As a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, I served on the Advisory Committee for several years before becoming a Board member in 2023.

I have lived all over the country. Regardless of how

far from home I ventured, when it became known that I went to Charity School of Nursing, I was met by an acknowledgment of what it means to be a "Charity Nurse."

Past and Future

In so many ways, Patrick embodied what we like to call the "Spirit of Charity." He believed in practicing excellence in our nursing careers, but he also believed in preparing future nurses to take our profession forward. That belief informed his career and his presidency. I believe that as well.

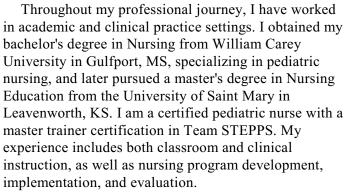
I look forward to serving as your new President and to continue working with, and for, the alumni of our school. Together we will continue to embrace the proud history, and the future promise, of Charity School of Nursing.

Photo above, Jennifer Fernandez and Patrick Brady at the 2023 Alumni Breakfast. When Jennifer started nursing school, she was one of Patrick's first students. Now she is the new Dean of Charity School of Nursing.

Dean's Report

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

I am deeply honored to have been chosen as the new Dean of Nursing at Charity School of Nursing. Being part of such a prestigious institution provides a wonderful opportunity to positively influence the lives of both current and potential students. I take great pride in continuing my career at Delgado, where I have served in various academic roles for the past ten years.



Currently, I am working towards a PhD in Nursing Education and Administration at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS. In terms of professional practice, I have fulfilled roles such as pediatric staff nurse, charge nurse, and clinical educator. I have delivered numerous continuing education programs at state, regional, and national levels. I am an active member of various professional nursing organizations and have recently finished my term as President of the Society of Pediatric Nurses Louisiana Chapter. Additionally, I serve as an Accreditation Commission of Nursing Education (ACEN) Peer Evaluator.

Vision for the Future

As the Nursing Dean, I envision integrating cuttingedge technology such as virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) into our curriculum to enhance student learning and prepare them for the future of nursing practice. By leveraging VR simulations, students will have access to realistic, interactive, and safe learning experiences that will help them develop critical thinking skills, clinical judgment, and confidence. Additionally, AI-powered platforms will enable personalized learning experiences tailored to each student's strengths and weaknesses.

These advancements will not only better prepare our students for clinical practice and the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) but also position our nursing school at the forefront of innovative and effective education. I have established a close collaboration with the Delgado College grant and IT divisions to acquire funding for faculty members to enroll in online certification programs. This strategic initiative aims to support the expansion of our program by optimizing the utilization of our existing faculty resources.

New Assistant Dean Named It is with great pleasure to announce the promotion of **Tracy Harris** to the position of

Assistant Dean. Ms. Harris has demonstrated exemplary service as a nursing instructor at Delgado Charity School of Nursing since 2019.

She has previously lent her expertise to the Practical Nursing program at Nunez, and the Nurse Practitioner programs at Loyola, Southern University, and LSU. Ms. Harris is in the final stages of completing her EdD in Higher Education Leadership at Maryville University, with an expected graduation date this fall.

Tracy's research on the impact of emotional intelligence on the academic achievement of nursing students, which holds promise for introducing innovative ideas to the structure of community college curriculums, is particularly noteworthy. Her research is not just a contribution to the field, but a source of inspiration for all of us.

With a distinguished career spanning over twenty-six years as a family nurse practitioner and a registered nurse, Tracy brings a wealth of expertise to her new role. Please join me in extending our sincere congratulations to Tracy as she embraces her new responsibilities and in wishing her continued success in her endeavors!

Faculty Accomplishments

It's truly a time of celebration for our nursing community! First and foremost, a big congratulations to **Dr. Beatrice Eweni** and **Tracy Harris** for achieving the prestigious position of a peer evaluator with ACEN.

Dr. Pam Kemp's article, *Are we there yet? A nationwide study for faculty-to-faculty bullying and incivility in nursing education*, was published in the April 2024 edition of the Teaching and Learning in Nursing Journal. This issue has a special focus on the persistent occurrence of incivility in nursing education.

Beth Prather was a 2024 nominee for the New Orleans District Nursing Association for Nursing Beyond the Beside Nursing Educator of the Year, and several faculty are in the process of obtaining the Certified Nurse Educator from the National League of Nursing.

Wendy Garretson and Gina Herrera were both nominated for the Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award for 2024 for Delgado College. Sharon Celestine was just nominated as a Great 100 for 2024.

Finally, we extend heartfelt congratulations to

Dr. Pam Kemp, Dr. Bailey Nettles, and Shannon

Albert for their respective new positions as Simulation Operations and Support Coordinator, Pharmacology Coordinator, and Skills Lab Coordinator. These new roles will undoubtedly contribute significantly to the ongoing success of our nursing program and we are excited to see the positive impact they will bring.

Farewells

On a more bittersweet note, we bid a fond farewell to our esteemed retirees, **Dr. Cheryl Myers**, **Dr. Joan Ellis, Mary Trosclair, Veronica Jean**, **Donita Qualey**, and **Cathy Strength** who have all contributed immensely to our nursing community. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and service, and congratulate them on their retirements!

Student Events

On March 21, both faculty and students had the opportunity to attend the New Orleans District Nursing Association's (NODNA) first Student Nurses Night since the pandemic. This event was particularly special as the Alumni generously purchased a table for faculty attendance, while NODNA covered the cost for students. This event serves as a platform for students to explore potential job opportunities and engage in discussions about the significance of post-graduation mentorship and continuing education. It is an invaluable networking experience.

In other exciting news, the school's Open House on March 23, organized by **Shena Sanders** and others, was a resounding success. Over seventy potential students attended to learn about the RN program and take tours.

Student Achievements

On May 13, we had the honor of celebrating and recognizing 138 outstanding students at the Pinning Ceremony. It was a wonderful event that highlighted these individuals' hard work and dedication. *(See story on page 8.)*

Rudesia Fletcher, a May 2024 graduate, was nominated for the New Orleans District Nursing Association's 2024 Rising Star award. **Gavin Pertuit**, another May 2024 graduate, was recognized in the 4th quarter 2023 DAISY nominations. A patient reported, "Student nurse Gavin was wonderful. His knowledge is impressive! He constantly checked on me and ensured I always had everything I needed." This patient was grateful for Gavin and his preceptor's care and took time to share her sentiments with the school.

Looking Ahead

I am proud of the remarkable accomplishments of our students and faculty, and excited to face the challenges ahead. I am so grateful for the support of the Charity community. It is my great honor to work with this amazing Alumni Association as we go forward, educating future Charity Nurses! �

From the Executive Director By Lista Hank '97

The CHSNAA Board of Directors met on February 27 to decide how to move forward as a board after the death of alumni president **Patrick Brady '83**.

Patrick's current term was set to run through the end of 2025. A President-Elect election is scheduled for the start of 2025, and that new President-Elect will ascend to the office of President at the start of 2026, as Patrick's term ends.

The Board chose current board member **Patricia Dufrene '85** as Interim President for the remainder of Patrick's term. This would fill the position until the new President-Elect will take office as President.

Naming Patty as president left an open board position, so the Board decided to add all three of the candidates running for board positions in the January 2024 election – Judy Ross '68 and Vivian Manes '70 and Jenn Garnand '11 – as board members.

Roberta Bartee '66 was selected to fill the voting position of President-Emeritus (a position that has been dormant because Patrick was reelected twice and the last three presidents live out of town). This brings us up to a full complement of nine board positions. *(See complete board list on page 19.)*

The next election will be at the beginning of 2025. The ballot will be in the *Alumni News* in January. If you are interested in running for the board, please contact me at **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com** for more information.

Dry-Erase Boards

Students have expressed a need for Dry-Erase Boards to be wall-mounted in the smaller class/meeting rooms in the new building. Dry-Erase boards are those white boards you can write on with markers that wipe off. They would be really helpful to students during clinical group meetings and when they gather to study together.

We would like to purchase really nice magnetic, porcelain boards that would last forever and won't stain, scratch or ghost. (Cheapo melamine boards get so ugly looking after awhile!) Large ones cost around \$500.

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of a Dry-Erase Board, use the form on page 23, or go on our website **charityalumni.org**. We will print the names of anyone who donates at least \$25 for Dry-Erase Boards in the next *Alumni News*. If you donate \$500 to purchase one, we will also put your name on a big brass plate on your board! Get your classmates together to purchase one in the name of your class!

Renew your Membership

Your dues make this engine run, so please renew your membership so we can do all the things we do! And THANK YOU for all YOU do to support the Alumni Association and the students of Charity! �

A Riot of the Weird & Wonderful (And Nurses, Too!)

By Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

The Alumni gathered on April 20th for our Spring Breakfast at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie. The theme of "Weird and Wonderful Nurse Figurines" was rampant, as alumni joined the fun with hilarious nurse tees!

Thank you, Alice!

Our bountiful gratitude goes to **Alice Brady '64** who donated a lifetime's collection of ceramic, wood and plastic figures, stuffed toys and dolls. There were bear nurses, cat nurses, mouse nurses, frog nurses, military nurses, little girl nurses in hoop skirts tending their dolls, and old lady nurses offering spoonfuls of medicine or pushing a wheelchair!! It was a riot of nurse imagery! The figures ran amuck on every table!

Our Executive Director Lista Hank '97 welcomed members and guests. It was a great turnout!! Lista also gave the blessing – a tribute to our late President Patrick Brady '83. (You can read it on page 7.)

New Board Members

After everyone had a chance to visit the sumptuous buffet, we dealt with the business end of things including installing our new President and Board members. (*Details on page 3.*)

We welcomed **Patricia Dufrene '85** as our new president. All three of the candidates in the January election (**Judy Ross '68, Vivian Manes '70** and **Jenn Garnand '11**) were added to the Board of Directors along with **Roberta Bartee '66**. I was honored to be reelected to the position of secretary. Nominations Chair **Charlene Berger '79** was on hand to administer the oaths of office.

Roll Call

I was delighted to join Patty in her first presidential act – calling the Roll Call of Classes! Classes at the Breakfast ranged from 1949 – which was represented by the

indomitable **Mary Singletary '49** – to 2019! So great to see those "young folks" – as well as us old folks!

The **Class of 1974** arrived in force to celebrate their 50-Year Reunion with a joyful eighteen classmates. They received their Golden Anniversary Certificates along with alumni notepads. They were the class with the most















Left to right, top to bottom: Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 and Carol Gonzales-

Smith '80; Marianne McCrory '68, Judy Ross '68 and Myra Porche '69; Diane Howell and Donna Cooper, Class of '65; Jeanne Juneau and Diana Roy, Class of '74; Sonya Rodriguez and Lillian Samardzija, Class of 1960; Dr. Nicholas Persich and Charlene Persich '74; alumni rock their funny nurse tees. members in attendance that day!

Several other classes celebrated milestones and received certificates from the Alumni Association. The **Class of 2004** celebrated their 20-Year Emerald Anniversary with five in attendance. The Pearl Anniversary Certificate for 30 years went to the **Class of 1994** with two in attendance.

Precious Memories The Class of 1983 celebrated their 40-Year Anniversary with Ruby Certificates. Sixty-year Diamond Anniversary Certificates went to the Class of 1964. A Sixty-five-year Sapphire Anniversary Certificate was presented to Suzy Andry '59. A

remarkable 70-Plus-year Platinum Certificate went to **June Schmalz dela Vasselais Rees '53**, who some of us will remember being on the faculty!

Mary Singletary '49 has received so many anniversary certificates that we were struggling to find a precious stone for her amazing Seventy-Five-Year landmark! We settled on an Alexandrite Anniversary! (You can google that!)

Also of note, the **Class of 1968** had eight in attendance, the **Class of 1960** had six, and the **Class of 1980** had five! Outstanding!

There were mother and daughter alumni and spouse alumni, sister alumni and even two sets of twins! We also asked who traveled the farthest to attend. The contenders were **Cynthia Farkas '67** from Ohio, and **Bryan Camus '12** and **Patrick Reed '90** from New Mexico, but **Rebecca Sudduth '04** from Oregon got the bragging rights for sure!!

Students and Scholarships

Several current students and faculty were also at the Breakfast! Senior **Chanika Brashears**, recipient of the Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship this semester, sat with **Mary Singletary** and **Saundra Owens Robert '56**, who are the primary patrons for that scholarship. I know Chanika heard some stories about Sister – and of all the adventures at Big Charity! Mary's niece **Peggy Rome** also gave a very nice donation to Sister Camilla's







scholarship that day! Peggy Johns '63 was recognized because she just sent us \$500 for a Peggy Johns Scholarship this fall! Jeanne Juneau '74 got so inspired, she wrote out a check for the Jeanne Colligan Juneau Scholarship right on the spot! That will be awarded this fall, too!

Left to right, top to bottom: Fifty years for the Class of '74; Mary Singletary '49, senior Chanika Brashears, Saundra Robert and Virgis Boudreaux, Class of 1956; Mary Jean Southerland '74 won Funniest Nurse T-shirt; Kimberly Blake '94 and daughter Ashley Lieux 2019; Rebecca Sudduth 2004.



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Then it was time for the Funniest Nurse T-Shirt Contest! Oh, the alums were VERY enthusiastic about this contest! We had an amazingly large – and hilarious – group to choose from! I think we settled on seven or eight winners, who got to select from the coolest figurines, with **Mary Jean Southerland '74** garnering first-place kudos for her elaborate 3-D creation!

Raffles & Drawings

Well, I just about fell over when Patty picked out the winning ticket for the 50/50 Drawing and it was mine! All these years of attending alumni events and buying tickets and I finally won! Four hundred and forty-two dollars were collected (Wow!) so \$221 went to Alumni Association and \$221 to this big winner. But I couldn't help it, I had to give the money right back to the Alumni for the Student Convention Travel Fund!

The raffle for the CHSN Antique Cape was won by **Brandi Borden '19**. Brandi is a member of the Louisiana Nurse Honor Guard and was so excited to win the cape!





Left to right, top to bottom: Cindy Beniger '68, Glenda Veal '89 and Cindy Caron '76 lead the Alma Mater; back row, Class of '74 sisters Diane Cormack and Denise Fortenberry with Graciela Pinto-Lebron and Valerie Luker, Class of '75, front row, Kay Kenney '76 with Robin Beaulieu; Monique Sorapuru-Cook '80, Celeste Keller '74 and Jo Ann Toval '80;

Karin Malmstrom and Kristy Montet, Class of 2004. Below, left to right: Wendy Bracewell, Olander Holloway and Nancy Gentry, Class of 1974.

She will wear it as part of her Honor Guard uniform for the funerals and memorials honoring nurses. Brandi was part of the Nurse Honor Guard at Patrick Brady's funeral.

Door prizes were more wild nurse tchotchkes and everyone was encouraged to adopt the ones on their tables – so all of Alice's babies went to new homes! Thanks to **Sandy Spitale** '83 for the pretty blue and yellow flower centerpieces!

Singing Our Song

The beautiful and talented trio of **Cindy Beniger '68**, **Cindy Caron '76**, and **Glenda Veal '89** led us in the singing of the Alma Mater. We raised "high our voices" in song, and the words, "Never let our spirit die," had special poignancy.

Patty adjourned the meeting, and urged everyone to attend the alumni event in September (see page 22).

So, we hope to see you this fall, and remember to always spread the Charity glory! �



The Journey Continues

Breakfast Blessing By Lista Hank '97

As I think most of you know, our alumni president Patrick Brady passed away suddenly this past February.

Patrick served as our president for six years. He led us through some really challenging times like the pandemic, and moving to the new building. He also led us through happy times like two Homecomings, and many alumni get-togethers. As president, he saw twelve new classes graduate from Charity School of Nursing, over 1,200 students.

When I heard the news of his death, a poem sprang into my mind: *Oh Captain! My Captain!* by Walt Whitman.

In the poem, Whitman uses the metaphor of a sailor holding the body of his ship's dying captain to express his grief at the death of President Lincoln. Hoping to comfort the captain, the sailor says:

> The ship has weathered every rack. The prize we sought is won... The ship is anchored safe and sound. It's voyage closed and done...

To that, I think Patrick would have said, "Hold up there, girl! The journey isn't over. The work is not done."

Patrick cherished Charity's history, and all our wonderful memories of the past. But he also cared passionately about what Charity will mean going forward. What Charity's name will mean to future students.

It's our work now, to keep the Spirit of Charity alive.

Patrick's legacy, and the legacy of every alumni we have lost, is held in the heart of each new graduate who is proud to be a Charity Nurse.

It's our work now... So rest in peace all of you up there... because we got this.

And to that, I think Patrick would say, "Amen." أ

Below, left to right: Lista Hank '97, Laurie Siekkinen and Brandi Borden, Class of 2019.









Above, left to right, top to bottom: Maureen

McDonald '62; Bryan Camus '12 and retired faculty Nora Steele; Doris Burvant '60; Amanda Babin and Gail Viator, Class of '68; Glenda Veal '89, Lisa Williams '88 and Tammy Croom '82.



Pinning Ceremony and Graduation Awards Spring 2024

On May 13, Charity School of Nursing held its Spring 2024 Pinning Ceremony at the Pontchartrain Center, honoring 138 new graduates.

Jennifer Fernandez served as Mistress of Ceremonies and she had the bittersweet task of saying farewell to two of our beloved leaders retiring in May: Dr. Joan Ellis, Dean of Charity School of Nursing, and Dr. Cheryl Myers, Delgado Vice-Chancellor and Provost and former Dean of the School of Nursing.

Senior Jennifer Searmiento led the Pledge of Allegiance. Rudesia Fletcher, President of Spectrum, gave the Salutation *(read it on page 9)*.

The names of each graduate were read as they were pinned by faculty members. Senior **Rachel Luttrell** led the students in reciting the Nightingale Pledge.

Dr. Ellis recognized these students who the faculty selected to receive RN graduation awards:

Jill Bailey - Highest GPA

- Michael Davidson Sr. Stanislaus Malone Award Rudesia Fletcher – Award of Distinction and Sr. Blanche McDonnell Award
- Lawrence McClure NODNA Award and Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

The Theresa Bitterbring and John Henry Fund Student Nurse Award was presented to the five graduates with the highest GPAs in the academic year. **Tiffany Roddy** and **Kailey Tavarez** were named for the Fall 2023 semester; for Spring 2024 it was **Jill Bailey, Laura Leon Rodriguez** and **Rachel Ward**.

The Sigma Alpha Chi Honor Society named twelve graduates to Lifetime Membership: Tricia Bonaldi, Jenna Cavalero, Michael Davidson, Domonic Goodwin, Gabrielle Maurin, Lawrence McClure, Janai McGill, Ashleigh McGrail, Ashley Morris, Allison Moss, Sasha Simmons and Rachel Ward. Jenna Cavalero received an award

as President of SAC. All SAC members received gold cords to wear at Commencement. *

Photos, left to right, top to bottom: Michael Davidson; Rudesia Fletcher; Jenna Cavalero; Rachel Luttrell; Lawrence McClure with NODNA's Mimi Gary; Jill Bailey; Laura Leon Rodriguez; Dr. Joan Ellis with Rachel Ward; Jennifer Fernandez with Dr. Cheryl Myers; SAC students receive their cords.













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What is for you, is for You! Class of May 2024 Salutation Speech By Rudesia Fletcher, Class of May 2024

Good morning, future RNs, faculty, family and friends. Graduates, let me begin by congratulating you on your outstanding achievements. I want to

thank you for the honor of delivering this class speech. I am both humbled and grateful. It is a great privilege to address you on this day, marking one of the most important accomplishments of our lives.

This was the Hardest Part

There is a saying that if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life. Well, whoever said that, CLEARLY was not a nurse. No matter how much we love it, we absolutely will work. The great thing is, making it through nursing school was the hardest part, and it shows we are passionate and dedicated. Some days you will work harder than you ever thought possible. Other days it may be a breeze. Whatever may come, in those moments, know that you have built a grounded foundation within you of the knowledge to think it

through, the discipline to get it done, and the willingness to succeed.

Preparation

I realized that everything we went through was preparing us – from the last minute changes and clinical switches, to the missing information for you to fill in the blanks – and let's not forget the registration Hunger Games. All of it was preparing you for nursing,

not just the curriculum. In your nursing career, your assignments may change at the last minute or that report you just received may not have all of the information. Yet this will make us great nurses because we *do*. It is our ability to adapt, our resilience, and the initiative we take that sets us apart from all the rest.

This is Personal

I stand here before you like a deeply rooted tree. Rooted, not just in Charity School of Nursing, but in this nursing journey. My journey started 17 years ago. Fresh



out of high school I knew I wanted to be a nurse. I was derailed for different reasons, but I never gave up. I knew at some point I would come back to it, but there was a time when I was discouraged.

At another nursing school, a professor told me, "You can keep aceing my quizzes, but we don't graduate black nurses." Well, two degrees later, here I am! This is personal for me. So my roots have grown with each challenge, sacrifice, loss, gain, hardship, learning experience and success throughout each and every level.

I have been hard on myself. We all have at some point in this journey. This journey to RN was a challenge like no other. Some of us had moments of difficulty and some of us lost it all.

Starting out we heard about all of the overwhelming and exciting beginnings of nursing and how we had to find ourselves a "Penny" to help us navigate and brave through this nursing journey. That was a starting challenge for me. Walking into a new atmosphere – in the midst of grieving a loss – I was not the most talkative person in the room. However, I ended up finding more than one "Penny" along the way and I am truly blessed.

A New World

The start of Level 1 was a whole new world for us. I like to say I'm bilingual – fluent in English and



Nursing. This was a whole new language and thought process for us to learn and it came with many challenges. For some of you those challenges may have been academics – hoping for that 76.5 to "C" your way out of here – and that's okay. I want you to know that those grades don't have to define you. Your grades

don't necessarily give a good indication of who you are and what your greatness may be, nor does your GPA have to define the nurse you are.

For others, the challenges may have been financial. Every semester you and family may have had to make sacrifice after sacrifice. Not working may not have been an option for you. Your only option may have been more

Top, Rudesia Fletcher gives Salutation at the Pinning Ceremony; below, the Pinning Ceremony recessional.

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than one job. Maybe your other full time job is being a parent and that has its own challenges, juggling school and family. Maybe you experienced all of the above. Some of us may have had many trials in every aspect of our lives, and at times it was overwhelming.

Pulling Together

LIFE definitely happened for us and it put a strain on us mentally on top of being successful in school... but guess what? I want you to take a look to the right and take a look to the left. See where you are sitting right now and take it in, because YOU did it.

What I love about our class lies not just in our success, but in the bonds we have formed. We pull together when it comes to being there for one another in a time of need or celebration or when life hits hard. We stood in and supported one another when we could. If you made those connections, keep them close. Our family and friends saw our struggles and hard work, but no one will understand you like your nursing school friends. We were in the trenches together.

Thanks to the Faculty

I would like to personally thank our instructors and staff and especially those instructors that believed in us, the ones that never gave up on us, the ones that showed us compassion and understanding when we needed it the most, and support in times we had no idea we needed it. You all are the true MVPs.

In closing, in this journey we know what is possible and what is impossible. You are here, at this very moment, so I would say you made what some said is impossible, possible. YOU made it happen. One of the most inspiring things that has kept me going in this journey was said by Kerry Washington. She said, "You and you alone are the only person who can live the life that writes the story you were meant to tell." The lesson is that you're here because you too learned how to answer the call.

The Journey Brought You Here

You don't earn a degree by doing and being and existing in the comfort zone of what you already know. Look back on the journey that brought you here. What moments challenged you most? When were you asked to step outside of your familiar territory in order to rise to the occasion of your potential? I hope you know your potential doesn't stop here. What is for you, is for YOU, and no one can take that away.

Future RNs, as you go out into this healthcare world, remember who you are, what you have accomplished, and what it took to get there. Know that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. Be the nurse that you want taking care of you or your family. Be great! Be excellent!

I am so proud of us all. Next stop, NCLEX – so we can slap that RN behind our name!

Congratulations, Charity School of Nursing Class of Spring 2024! ◆

Below, the Class of May 2024



Honors and Promotion Ceremony

On January 29, Charity School of Nursing held the Honors and Promotion Ceremony for Spring 2024. This ceremony is the updated version of the school's Capping Ceremony, where students are promoted to Level 3 of the RN program and receive the Promotion Bar inscribed with CSN-DCC, for Charity School of Nursing-Delgado Community College. The Promotion Bar pin becomes part of their clinical uniform.

In addition, this ceremony is where the Sigma Alpha Chi Honor Society invites eligible students to join the organization, and other awards are bestowed including the Charity Alumni Scholarships.

Scholarships

The Charity Nursing Alumni Association presented \$11,000 in scholarships and awards to eighteen outstanding students. All scholarships and awards are made possible through generous donations from Charity nursing alumni, their families and friends.

The recipients of the scholarships and awards for the Spring 2024 semester are:

Level 2

(top photo at right, left to right):

Richard Redmann – Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship, \$500 Maryellen Fazenbacher – Doris Tucker Burvant '60 Scholarship, \$500 Alexa Williams – Barbara Ann Pitre Philipps '61 Scholarship, \$500

D'Ara Russell – Barbara Ann Pitre Philipps '61 Scholarship, \$500 *Not pictured:*

Sara Moran – Barbara Ann Pitre Philipps '61 Scholarship, \$500

Level 3

(bottom photo at right, left to right): **Stacy King** – Dorothy Aull Nugent Barkley '57 Scholarship, \$500 **Chanika Brashears** – Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship, \$500 **Meche Manuel** – Georga Helmer '79 Scholarship, \$500 **Addison Benefield** – Leah Valerie Boudreaux '93 Scholarship, \$500



Above, Students receive their bar pins from faculty at the Promotion Ceremony. Right, outgoing Dean of Nursing Dr. Joan Ellis presiding at the ceremony. Below, the Promotion Bar pin.









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Level 4 (photo above, left to right): Lawrence McClure – Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship, \$1,000 Rachel Ward – Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship, \$1,000 Makhosazane Madonsela – Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 Scholarship, \$500 Domonic Goodwin – Joanne Delaune '78 Scholarship, \$750 Janai McGill – Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship, \$1,000 Michael Davidson – Christine Hurley Carbon '71 Scholarship, \$1,000 (*Right*) Jamila Nelson – Marcelle Jacobs Wright '41 Scholarship, \$500

Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards Heaven Haron, RN Program, and Zulma Pena, PN Program ❖

Patricia Pankey Labyrinth Progresses

The construction of the **Patricia Pankey Memorial Meditation**

Labyrinth is well under way! The concrete outline has been poured, filled with soil and seeded with ground cover. A plaque with Patricia's name needs to be added and the ground cover needs to grow! But we were delighted to see that it is already being used by the Delgado College community!

Patricia Carreras Pankey was a 1969 Charity graduate who passed away in 2020. Patricia's husband Dr. George Pankey, and their son, Dr. Edward Pankey, funded the meditation labyrinth in her memory (in addition to the Patricia Pankey Skills Lab in the new building). The Alumni Association will provide support for maintenance and landscaping.

The labyrinth is the iconic octagonal shape of the Charity pin, and it will be a place of respite for stressed students to walk, meditate, relax and renew their energy.



It will also serve as a focal point for Charity School of Nursing as we add columns of our commemorative bricks. We hope to have the commemorative brick columns in place by Homecoming 2025. �



THE WHITE CAP 2024 Page 13



Anne Lillard Williams: A Life in Nursing and Still Going Strong! By C. John Wilder

My mother-in-law, Anne Lillard Burford Williams, Class of 1951, had an incredible life and nursing career. *She is 93 and still going strong! Her Charity training* and experience was a very large part of her amazing life. Our family wanted to do something to honor her life and career. We have made a book with photos of her nursing career to present to her with some Charity mementos. *This article in the alumni newspaper would be the cherry* on top of the sundae!

Anne Lillard was born in 1931, in Shreveport, LA and raised in Tangipahoa. She had to wait a year after graduating from high school at sixteen to enroll in the Charity Hospital School of Nursing and follow her lifelong passion of becoming a nurse. Anne joined the Kappa Rho Pre-Medical Honor Society and enrolled in Southeastern College's pre-nursing program, making excellent use of her time before Charity.

Commitment to Excellence

She came to Charity in 1948, and her friendliness and endearing nature made her well-liked by everyone at Charity right away. Anne demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence throughout her nursing program, developing a deep comprehension of the art and science of nursing. She showed genuine empathy and a desire to improve the lives of others by establishing a connection with patients and their families. Pediatrics was her favorite area.

Devotion to Service

Anne took advantage of every chance she had as a student to grow and learn. She approached every situation with excitement and a drive to learn, whether she was taking part in clinical rotations or volunteering in the community. At Charity, Anne was active in the Glee Club, was Vice President of the Protestant Chapel Group, Secretary of the Student Body, and was nominated for Miss Charity during her first year.

She was elected as Student Body Vice-President in her second year. She played piano for the yearly

Capping ceremony, the Protestant Chapel, and the Parent-Senior Tea. In her final year, Anne was Secretary of the Caps and Capes, was elected Student Body President, nominated for Miss Charity again and finished second in the Charity Beauty Queen competition at the Fall Formal. She received a class pin and a black band to represent seniority and leadership. She received the "Best All-Around" award at the Spring Formal.

Anne's most noteworthy achievement was receiving the Honor Pin, awarded to the most outstanding student in the graduating class. The faculty selects the nurse for this honor based on nursing ability, scholarship, loyalty, leadership quality, participation in events, and influence over the student body. As a demonstration of her modesty and charm, Anne was interviewed by the White *Cap* in 1951 after being voted president of the student body, and she modestly stated, "But nothing interesting ever happened to me, really."

Career of Compassion

Following graduation, Anne began her professional career at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, where her steadfast commitment to patient care, ethics, and perseverance shined through. Throughout her nearly three-decade career in the pediatric unit, she stayed unwavering in her devotion to enhancing her patients' well-being and creating positive changes in the

The June 1951 White Cap reported on the Class of '51 graduation and Anne receiving the Honor Pin

by Charity Hospital School of Nursing

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New Orleans, Louisiana

JUNE, 1951

Sixty-three graduated from Charity on June 12 Charity Graduation Held at Dixon Hall Anne Lillard Awarded Honor Pin

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Sixty-one candidates were graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nurs-ing at exercises held June 12 at Dixon Hall.

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VOL. 14

Anne Lillard received Charity's most coveted award, the Honor Pin; while Teresita Nepomunceno merited the \$250 scholarship award for the highest aver-age of 94.7.

The nurses were reminded of their The nurses were reminded of their responsibilities in the commencement address by Dr. Rosco L. Pullen, Vice-Dean of the Tulane University School of Medicine. He urged them to keep abreast of social and economic trends in the country, for the last ten years nave demonstrated the important roles they play in the field of medical care.

Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Mal-Monroe, Chairman of the ory Committee of the School of Nurs-



Ann Lillard receives Honor Pin from Sister Zita. "Tessie" Has Double Joy At Graduation

Teresita Gomez Neponumceno, affec-tionately dubbed "Tessie" by Charity students, had two good reasons for hap-

Seniors Leave Sewing Machine To School

Jewing Machine To School The 0-28-48 Class left a Singer elec-tric sewing machine, table and stool to the School for the students' use. Thanks go to the seniors from the student body for their thoughtfulness and good choice of their parting Class Gift.

No. 5

Marion Black Appeared On TV Show

Appeared On TV Show Marion Black, president of the Louisiana Student Nurses' Association, appeared on Navy Recruitment Televi-sion Show held on May 22. Representatives from all the New Or-leans Schools of Nursing also appeared in a round-table discussion about the advantages of nursing as a career.

Charity's "Sweetheart" **Presented At Formal**

Presented At Formal Highlight of the evening at the Spring Formal, held at the New Orleans Coun-try Club on April 23, was the announce-ment of Charity's favorites. The covet-d title of Charity's "Sweetheart" went to Mary Correnti. Jo Dickinson was "Wittiest", Dorothy Green, "Friendli-est", Marion Black, "Cutest", Janice May, "Most Professional", 'Anne Lillard, "Bestallaround", Dalia Torres, "Most Talented", Annette Smith, "Best Ath-tete", Annet Langston, "Most Likely to Succeed", Sue Sparks, "Most Depend-able", Mickey Williams, "Typical P. C.", and Colleen Praser, "Best Dressed". Miss Camille Barnes chaperoned with the assistance of Dr. Malter Salatich.

Other guests and chaperones were Miss Agnes Blazek, Miss Mary E. Stuart, Mrs. Mares, Mrs. Sue Fabregas, Miss Beatrix Boyer, and Mrs. Maude Edler.

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healthcare system. Anne's fundamental approach was obvious in her relentless attempts to improve the health of countless newborns and assist couples as they transitioned to parenthood.

Anne has played a vital role in greeting thousands of newborns into the world, giving invaluable care as they begin their journey outside the womb. Despite heartbreaking periods when families faced unforeseen problems, Anne's compassion and perseverance prevailed. For every sad moment, she witnessed the extraordinary delight of seeing new families be born, infused with an overpowering love for their tiny bundles of joy. When Anne retired in 1989, her legacy at Woman's Hospital reflected her long-term impact on generations of families and her significant contributions to pediatric nursing.

Love of Family

With eight children, nineteen grandchildren, and thirty-three great-grandchildren, Anne's greatest love is her family, who adore her in return. She exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She enjoys playing bridge and possesses a wicked sense of humor, a competitive spirit, a charming smile, and a caring attitude. She is known as "Smiley" at St. James Place because she is constantly cheerful and greets everyone with a friendly smile.

Generations of healthcare professionals are still motivated by Anne's legacy as an exceptional nurse and kind person. Anne embodies the famous quote by Maya Angelou: "They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel." Anne is a ray of hope and healing in the nursing community. Cheers to Anne Lilliard Burford Williams, a living example of the transformational power of nursing education and the long-lasting influence of a single person's unselfish commitment to caring for others. \bigstar

The Right Path By Jeanne Colligan Juneau '74



Fifty years ago, the New Orleans Superdome was under construction, and I-10 was finally crossing the Atchafalaya basin. It was the year of my Charity graduation.

Three years prior, I had left the small Louisiana town of Beaux Bridge and drove the four-hour journey to New Orleans. I was a naïve seventeen-year-old who thought she was ready for the challenges

of a big city and a world-renowned hospital.

My fellow students and I learned quickly to rely on the support of our outstanding faculty, and our wonderful fellow students who became life-long friends and colleagues.

Foundation of Our Future

In 1971, most of us lived in the dorm (the Sister Stanislaus Memorial building). The nuns still wore habits, students wore white dresses and nursing caps and, yes, we had "house mothers." However the breadth of clinical experience we received was the foundation for the knowledge that set our careers on the right path.

After graduation, I worked in PACU (still called "Recovery Room" then) at Big Charity. I entered the CRNA program in 1975 and my first job as a nurse anesthetist was at Baptist Hospital. My husband and I raised three wonderful daughters. He and one of my daughters also did their training at Charity Hospital.

> There was probably way too much "hospital talk" around the dinner table, but that was our norm.

Forever Grateful

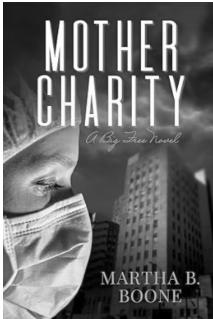
I retired three years ago from Parish Anesthesia and will be forever grateful for the training and support of my Alma Mater.

To the Charity students: Best of luck with your studies – and the wonderful career you have chosen!

Jeanne has made a donation of \$1,000 to create two Jeanne Juneau Scholarships for Charity students. *

The Big Free and Mother Charity Author to Speak

Martha Boone, author of *The Big Free* and its sequel *Mother Charity* will be speaking at the Louisiana Book Festival in Baton Rouge on Saturday, November 2. Martha is a physician who trained at Charity Hospital and the novels follow the journey of a young intern in surgery at Big Charity navigating the exhilarating and brutal world of trauma surgery, "and all the trials and tribulations that come with it, from devastating horror to ribald dark humor." ❖

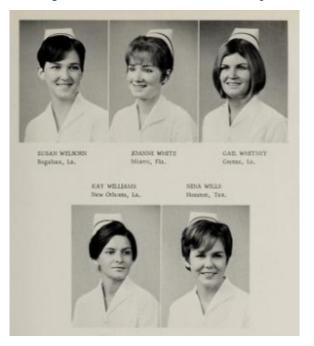


Alumni Notes

Maureen Babin Smith '53 (Springfield, MO): "I was a student in the early 50s and I still remember all the new experiences we lived through as we grew into adults with responsibilities! After graduation, I became a floor nurse for Sister Camilla Gaudin – I recognized her name in the last newsletter. Hurricane Katrina and time took away many memories, but not those of time spent meeting others from many states, and getting the best training a nurse could have! Experiences never to be forgotten, taking care of very ill - and not so ill patients! I saw a patient in an Iron Lung, worked with women with tuberculosis, had a very eventful tour in psychiatry. I saw babies and young children die. My hat is off to the people who worked during Covid – they met the challenges! At 91 years of age, with macular degeneration, I can barely read the newsletter - such a polished product. Congratulations on the new building modern and ready for what lies ahead!"

Betty Unsworth Nolin '63 (Bossier City, LA): "I retired from the VA in 2000 and then taught Weight Watchers classes from 2002-2020. I'm usually on pilgrimage to Europe in the fall. I am always so happy to receive my newsletter and catch up on all the news!"

Oops! In the January *Alumni News*, **Gail Whitney Viator '68** (*Theriot*, *LA*) wrote an article called *It's a Small World* about meeting her 'birthday twin' through Charity. We included a photo that we thought was Gail from the 1968 yearbook. Much to our surprise, Gail informed us that the 1968 yearbook had transposed her name along with two of her classmates! The picture we



published was of her classmate **Joanne White**. and the photo in the yearbook labeled with Joanne's name was **Kay Williams**, which was the name on Gail's photo. Got



that? Plus we misspelled her hometown – it was Loreauville, not Louisville. Oh well, we are quick to say we are not perfect! But here is the correct photo of Gail Whitney as a senior at Charity!

Left, Gail Whitney '68; below left, the very confusing 1968 yearbook page.

Vantrelle Coleman '15 (New Orleans, LA): "My recent nursing experiences include traveling to Platteville, WI for a Covid swabbing contract in late 2020, returning to the city to work at Tulane Medical Center, and now Agency Gifted Healthcare. I've also taken LPN students to clinicals at West Jefferson Medical Center. I always look forward to updates about the School of Nursing! So glad that the Alumni are still ROLLING!!" ❖

In Memoriam

Lois Theriot Laville '46 (5/3/24) Betty Moran '48 (6/16/22) Betty Wilson Guin '49 (6/11/23) Carmel Waggenspack Mask '49 (6/21/19) Mary Louise Townsend Jones '50 (8/11/23) Lorraine Landry Shaheen '50 (4/14/23) Phyllis Murphy Smith '52 (11/24/22) M. June Martin Becnel '54 (3/6/24) Barbara Tripp Kahn Henry '55 (3/5/24) M. Delores Woodcock Carter '56 (1/31/24) Soledad Pedreira Cheramie '57 (12/5/23) Janice Hayman Thomas '58 (12/28/22) Claudette Chatelain Clement '59 (3/3/24) Maureen Sheane Sexton '59 (2/6/24) Elva Keller Kimbrough '60 (1/18/24) Barbara Ellison Wasano '62 (7/20/23) Eleanor Barbatsuly Merrick '65 (1/29/23) Sandra Legendre Marino '68 (1/14/24) Jane Ferry Wurst '68 (2/15/22) Lola Inez Cuadrado '78 (3/1/24) Patrick Brady, Jr. '83 (2/8/24) Lisa Morgan Renfree '85 (1/2/24) Leila Tarji Jefferson '88 (6/9/24) Joseph Nicholas Restivo III '98 (3/21/24) Tracy Tully '98 (3/11/24) Kathi Resendez Martin '06 (2/13/23) David Michael Passman '15 (3/16/24)

Goodbyes

Molly Johnson Wilson wrote to say, "I am delighted to send you my mother's yearbooks dated 1938 to 1940. My mom,

Geraldine Evans Johnson '40, was a proud graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing and carried her training with her as an officer in World War II. After the war she did not officially work as



a nurse, but administered to her husband and three children with love and care." Geraldine passed in 2008.

Lois Theriot Laville '46: After graduation, Lois worked at Big Charity for several years, primarily in pediatrics.



She returned to Lafayette to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Southwestern Louisiana Institute of Liberal and Technical Learning (SLI), now University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in 1953. After getting her degree, Lois stayed in Lafayette for a year to start SLI's nursing program, and became an instructor at the College of Nursing. (An

SLI pamphlet created to promote the program had a photo of Lois in her starched white nursing uniform on the cover.) As an instructor, Lois was transferred to Touro Infirmary in New Orleans where she participated in their educational program in addition to the patientcentered program for SLI nursing students.

In 1955, Lois graduated from Charity Hospital's Nurse Anesthetist program. The director of the program was Dr. John Adriani, known as the "Father of Anesthesia," and Lois always felt honored to have trained under him. Lois became one of the first certified nurse anesthetists to serve the Acadiana region.

Lois loved the nursing profession. Many young women would seek career advice from her, and she was always proud when they entered nursing school.

Lois worked for 25 years, all while raising three children with her husband. They were both active for many years promoting the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival and talked fondly about putting on a crawfish race at Washington DC's Mardi Gras Ball. Lois passed away at 83. "My mother spoke so fondly of her Charity days. She always looked forward to receiving the alumni newsletters!" – *Mary Mitchell*

Betty Moran '48 was born in Texas and her early years were filled with tragedy. She lost her father to suicide when she was a toddler, and one year later her mother



died of cancer. As she used to say, Betty "was handed over the fence" to neighbors who ended up caring for her until she finally went to live with an aunt and uncle in Florida. After graduating from Charity in 1948, she earned her CRNA at Ohio State University in 1952. Betty took the "road less traveled" having realized

at an early age she was gay. Betty was a woman before her time, a trail blazer. She supported herself and lived life on her own terms. Betty lived in both Houston and New Orleans and led a full and exciting life traveling around the globe. In June 2014, Betty legally married her longtime companion Bonnie Langley. Betty was in hospice care when she passed away in June 2022 at 93.

Carmel Waggenspack Mask '49 was a retired nurse from Charity Hospital in New Orleans and was a Public Health Epidemiologist. She passed away in June 2019 in Baton Rouge.



Mary Louise Townsend Jones '50: "My mother had a great career beginning with being a nurse at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, MS until she retired as the Health Occupations Coordinator for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. She volunteered, served and

coordinated various ministries throughout her life. She stayed as active as she could in her later years. She died in August 2023." – *Debbie Eubanks*

Lorraine Landry Shaheen '50: "My mother Lorraine was a lifetime remember of the Alumni Association. She

really enjoyed the reunions but sadly passed away last April 2023, just two days after her 93rd birthday, due to complications from a fall she suffered. I received the *Alumni News* and remembered how she used to so enjoy reading it every time it came in the mail. Then she'd pick up the phone and call one of her nursing



classmates! Just thought I'd let you know. Another one from Big Charity is gone." – *Claude Shaheen*



Phyllis Murphy Smith '52 lived in Gulfport, MS, and was a retired nurse from the Harrison County Health Department. She passed away at the age of 90 in November 2022. **M. June Martin Becnel '54** served as a clinical nurse for a physician and as a public health nurse. She was a resident of Thibodaux and passed in March 2024 at the age of 90. "Mom cherished the education she received at Charity, and all the sisterhood friends she had!"



– Jane Becnel Durocher



Barbara Lynn Tripp Kahn Henry '55, of Baton Rouge, was head nurse at Charity Hospital. She spent many hours volunteering at Ollie Steele Burden Manor Nursing Facility and was a member of The Carmelites and The Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher. She passed away in March

2024, at the age of 90.

Marjorie Delores Woodcock Carter '56 began her



nursing career at Charity Hospital, then worked at Biloxi VA Hospital, New Orleans VA Hospital, Chicago Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital in Alabama. After moving to Mobile, AL, she served as Assistant Director of Nursing at Doctors' Hospital, and Director of Nursing then Director of

Quality Assurance at Knollwood Hospital until she retired in 2000. While in nursing school, Delores met her future husband and love of her life, who was attending seminary in New Orleans. She passed away in January 2024 at 89 years of age. "My mother talked about her Charity days often and was very proud of her Charity education. This photo was a favorite of hers and mine." – Maria Thompson



Janice Hayman Thomas '58: Janice's career included working as a RN in Dr. Louis Polizzi's office. Later, she became an OR Supervisor at Slidell Memorial Hospital and worked for 20 years at Southeast Louisiana Hospital in Mandeville, where she retired as the Director of Nurses. She passed away in December 2022 at the age of 85.

Claudette Chatelain Clement '59

dedicated over forty years of her life to nursing, working at Iberia Medical Center, New Iberia Senior High School, and Consolata Nursing Home. She was living in Hattiesburg, MS, and traveled across the country with her husband as



part of the Cruising Cajuns, a Family Motor Coach Association. Claudette passed away in March at 85.

Elva Keller Kimbrough '60 spent her career as a registered nurse at Palestine Regional Medical Center in Texas. She passed away in January 2024 at the age of 83.

"It is with a very heavy heart that I have to inform you that **Barbara Ellison Wasano '62** died in July 2023



after suffering for many years from senile dementia beginning in 2016. For all of my years growing up and into adulthood, Mom would regale me with stories of Charity Hospital and the French Quarter. I think I'm just as proud of her being a Charity grad as she was. After stints as a nurse with the VA and the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, she was a

housewife in Florida until 1972 when she returned to nursing. She specialized in long-term care and geriatrics. When she and Dad retired in 1993, they returned to Kentucky where she remained for the rest of her life. I just want to say that Charity grads were and are the best. I'm proud that Mom was among this amazing group of people." - Jack Wasano

Eleanor Barbatsuly Merrick '65 taught at the Englewood Hospital School of Nursing in New Jersey for many years. She passed away in January 2023 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 79.

Sandra Legendre Marino '68 graduated from Charity School of Nursing and worked at Charity Hospital her whole career. She passed away at the age of 76 in January 2024.



Jane Ferry Wurst '68 grew up in Florida and Alabama. While in New Orleans attending Charity School of Nursing, she met her future husband Jim. "The skills she gained in nursing school were used throughout her life in both her profession and her ministry." She passed away in 2022.

Patrick Brady, Jr. '83 worked at Methodist Pendleton Hospital in New Orleans for over 20 years until Hurricane Katrina relocated him to William Carey College in Hattiesburg, MS, where he taught until his death. He earned a BSN from Loyola University, a MSN from William Carey College, and a Doctorate in Nursing Education in 2010 from the University of South Alabama. Patrick was a Professor of Nursing at William Carey College, as well as director of the RN-BSN,

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RN-MSN, MSN and MSN/MBA programs and Quality and Compliance. As a Sigma Theta Tau member, he served as President of the Upsilon Theta Chapter from 2009 to 2011 and later served as the Faculty Counselor.



While at William Carey, he earned a second PhD in Philosophy. Patrick was named one of the Great 100 Nurses in 1985. He has been an active member of the Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association since graduating in 1983, was elected to the Alumni Board of Directors in 2012, became President

in 2018 and was re-elected twice, serving in that role until his death. Patrick had a tremendous heart, helping his students and friends tirelessly and never asking for anything in return. He was loved by everyone, and will be missed for his compassion, empathy, quick wit and his big laugh. He passed away suddenly in February 2024, of a massive brain aneurysm, in Slidell, LA.



Lisa Morgan Renfree '85 began her career as an ER nurse and met her future husband, a medical student at Tulane University. They moved across four different cities in support of her husband's additional medical training and military service. After becoming a mother, Lisa gave up her nursing career

to raise her three boys. She and her family eventually settled in Arizona. Lisa continued to serve her community by delivering food to the sick and elderly with Meals on Wheels. She volunteered as a school nurse and organized community service events for the students, which often involved yard work and home repairs for the disabled. Lisa passed away in January 2024 at the age of 64.

Leila Tarji Jefferson '88 was a native of New Orleans. She attended New Orleans Public Schools and the University of New Orleans. After graduating from Charity with her Diploma in Nursing, she went on to study at Southern University in New Orleans and received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of South Alabama. Leila also received a Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix and a Diploma in paralegal studies from Herzing College. She was inducted as a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, and the Abeneefoo Kuo African American Honor Society.

Leila was a dedicated and passionate worker, a Registered Nurse with 36 years of service most recently at Children's Hospital of New Orleans, with previous service in the Pediatric Emergency Room at Charity Hospital, having also served at University Hospital, and also serving as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Delgado-Charity School of Nursing, and as Nurse Faculty at El Centro College in Dallas post-Katrina.

Leila had the pleasure of working with thousands of children and students over the years. She wanted her legacy to be to give great compassion and concern when providing care and helping others. Leila said nursing was



her passion and believed it was her ministry that was given to her by God. She believed good nursing care is the standard, but excellence is what you should aim to deliver. Leila also said, "You should love what you do and give the best of yourself every single time." Leila worked in her community. She was a Certified Passenger Safety

Technician, participating in car seat safety events across the state of Louisiana. She was a huge supporter of her New Orleans East Community, participating with the Wimbledon Civic Association, serving as the Secretary for many years. Leila said, "Every neighborhood should be safe." She believed *No Vote, No Voice* – that the act of voting was the only way to ensure that one could have a voice in their community. Leila passed away in June 2024 at the age of 60, after a battle with Glioblastoma.

Joseph Nicholas Restivo III '98 worked for Egan Home Health where he excelled at helping his patients. He enjoyed being a youth soccer coach and being a DJ. He passed away in March 2024 at 49.





Tracy Tully '98: "My wife Tracy passed

in March 2024. We are both 1998 alumni. Tracy enjoyed her time as a nurse whether in hospice, SICU, Cath Lab, or opening clinics in Mississippi for the US Dept of Public Health after Katrina." – *Richard Schirn '98*

David Michael Passman '15: David loved helping patients and his fellow nurses as an Operations

Coordinator at Slidell Memorial Hospital. The staff at SMH, to him, was his other family. He always felt that by helping people, especially those who shared his diabetes issues, he was paying it forward and returning the love and care he received from the staff at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston where his struggles began. Although David's health concerns



were many, he found commitment and a purposeful life in his work. David died in March 2024. \diamondsuit

2023-2024 Outstanding Donors

Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds since The White Cap 2023

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Dorothy "Dot" Aull Nugent Barkley '57 Scholarship

Loyd Arnold and Kathy Nugent-Arnold Barbara Pitre Philipps '61 Scholarship Mr. and Mrs. Charles Philipps Joanne Delaune '78 Scholarship Catherine and Freddie Delaune Georga Helmer '79 Scholarship

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Minimum gift of \$500 Madeline Tolson Markwood '52 Peggy Begnaud Johns '63 Jeanne Colligan Juneau '74 Jan M. Carrio '76

Bernice Bonds Scholarship Bryan Camus '12

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship Mary Smith Singletary '49 Saundra Owens Robert '56 Katherine Norris Romero '69 Lynn and Dennis Duszynski Glenn J. Robert Peggy Rome

Leona Krubbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship Karl and Kristin Hilbert Sirotkin

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

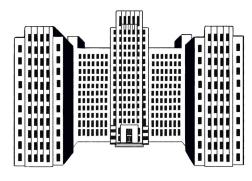
Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship Lynda Dixon Abney '59

Barbara Pitre Philipps '61 Scholarship James "Gym" Philipps '61

Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship Judith Wellman Quigley '64

Doris Tucker Burvant '60 Scholarship Dianne Perdue Weber '67 in memory of Judith Lamoe Macpherson '67

Christine Hurley Carbon '71 Scholarship Robert E. Carbon



Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 Scholarship Kevin Jeansonne, MD

Sheila Ann Sorrell '78 Scholarship From her sisters, Sue Galliano and Pat Hawkins, and her brother Joe Sorrell

Leah Valerie Boudreaux '93 Scholarship Bradley Smith '21

Dr. Patrick Anthony Brady, Jr. '83 Scholarship Saundra Owens Robert '56 Roberta Purvis Bartee '66 Sandy Brett Hymel Spitale '83 Bryan Camus '12 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Brady, Sr.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Evelyn A. Schroeder '58 Peggy Begnaud Johns '63 Martha Meaux Genin '65 Roberta Purvis Bartee '66 in honor of Nancy Rankin, RN Judith Monell Holbert '66 Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67 in memory of Judith Lamoe Macpherson '67 Brenda Crump Trosclair '68 Patti Rouchon Burcham '70 Bonnie Arton '73 Connie Bousquet '78

Pins-for-Need Fund

Anna Martinez Meinert '59 The Class of 1968 celebrating their 55th Anniversary: Amanda Antrim Babin, Susan Slutsky Beloat Cindy Cardella Beniger, Dale Weich Eppling Sandra Roselle Hintz Catherine Blackwell Holland Marianne Porche McCrory Judy Lefleur Ross, Gail Whitney Viator <u>Student Activities Fund</u> Beverly Poche' Chapoton '67

<u>Student Convention Fund</u> Joanne White Springer '68

Student Emergency Assistance Fund Dr. Maxine Blackmon Jones '59 In memory of Elizabeth "Betsy" Lauve Maxwell '59 Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60 Alice Fay Chambers Brady '64 Jean Barga Gordon '67 Brenda Crump Trosclair '68 Patti Rouchon Burcham '70 Jan Carrio '76 Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76 Connie Bousquet '78 Lista Hank '97 In memory of Patrick Brady '83

White Cap/Alumni News Fund Evelyn A. Schroeder '58 Suzy Hooks Andry '59 Jean Hageney Houin '67 Carolyn "Lynne" Bartsch '70 Vivian Larkin Manes '71

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Members of Note

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Betty Ogea Moore '51 Martha Phillips Gentry '53 Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth '55 Nancy Mynihan Comish '57 G. Maurice Weber Curtis '57 Betty Cloud Fowler '57 Jean Altice Blake '58 Anne Matthiesen Daigle '58 Lovely Ann Naquin Holbrook '58 Anna Martino Meinert '59 Esther Ogea Doucet '60 Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60 Diane McMinn Scott '60 Frances Petho Aponte '61 Evelyn Boudreaux Hollier '62 Joan Bero '63 Barbara Johnson Roger '63 Dorothy Russell Stagg '63 Penny Kistler Tolchin '63 Ethel Marie Vidrine '63 Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle '64 Janette Foy Forsythe '64 Charlotte Voinche Guinn '64 Judith Wellman Quigley '64 Frances Ainsworth Robichaux '64 Estelle LeBlanc Rome '64 Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot '65 Roberta Purvis Bartee '66 Rita Fay Borne Broussard '66 Sara Lynne Jackson Casto '66 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 Bonner Folse '68 Patricia Laleux Bulliard '69 Patti Rouchon Burcham '70 Janie "Trudy" Carrier Lefort '70 Lucille LeBlanc O'Regan '70 Charlotte Coatney Arras '71 Sarah Percy LeBlanc '71 Marian Foret Offner '71 Janice Gates Redlich '71 Jo Ann Rizzutto '71 Kathy Garrand 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 Sherry Smith Simmons '73 Wilda Taylor '73 Mary lannazzo Trosclair '73 Deborah Benoit Blytt '74 Charlene Breaux 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 Graciela Pinto-Leyva '75 Jeannette Milligan Saal '75 Jan Carrio '76 Bryanne Murray Hamill '76 Hazel Ashby Johnson '76 Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76 Lane E. McAlister '76 Helen Roubion '76 Myra Lee DiGange '77 Debra Dumas-Hicks '77 Vanessa Elias '77 Suzanne Delhomme LeMoine '77 Ellen Williams Manieri '77 Catherine Calmette Parker '77 Sheila Perrault Dahlgren '78 Marilyn Hammett Gentry '78 Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 Kimberley Hoppe Keim '78 Rebecca Mayo '78 Elaine Schulz Navaille '78 Sandra Tracy Bailey '79 Carol Porter Giardina '79 Vickie Morrow Gibert '79 Nancy Grass-Ferguson '79 Georga Helmer '79 Patricia Lane '79 Cindy Tschrin Nuesslein '79 Deborah Skevington '79 Karen DelValle Tampira '79 Claudette Boudreaux '80

Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80 Belinda Hutchinson Janeski '80 Gerald Pedersen '80 Marcella 'Penny' Young Ziegler '80 Cydney Trahans Begnaud '81 Gloria Hallal Jarreau '81 Debra Ann Watson '81 Elizabeth Kelly Carlini '82 Sharon Lynn Mabry '82 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 Ridgdell Arnold '93 Craig A. Cedotal '94 Penny Authement Schuler '94 Angela Paige Jackson '95 Margaret Johnson '96 Brenda Shields Simmons '96 Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen '97 Lista Hank '97 Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97 Lucretia Moore-Peters '99 Ecoee Rooney '99 Eva Crosby '01 Winifred Davillier Hernandez '02 Rebecca Madere '04 Rebecca Sudduth '04 Cvnthia Fernandez '10 Susan Wentz '11 Bryan Camus '12 Elaine Lauga '12 Danielle Chambers '14

BLUE RIBBON 2024

June Schmalz Rees '53 Gail Rita Rills Gaudet '54 Lorraine Wise '54 Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57 Evelyn 'Toni' Amis Thomas '57 Marie Boyle Segrave '58 Millicent Nash Worner '58 Rosalie Nicolosi Collura '59 Doris Cross Bennett '60 Judith Lohr Dauterive '60 Ethel Faciane Friend '60 Beryl Ann Forgey Olhasso '60 Antoinette Keating Sykes '61 Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62 Judith Guion Barousse '63 Lynne Gordon Cook '63 Elaine Gauthreaux Edens '63 Yvonne Gauthier McGaha '63

Marilee Keating Phillips '64 Diane Blumberg Howell '65 Kathleen Hynes Hug '65 Barbara Mahoney Helm '66 Elaine Ledoux Phares '66 Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66 Virginia Faris Angle '67 Kathleen Donelon Delaneuville '67 Susan Theriot Gosnell '67 Sandra Cazenave Graugnard '67 Mary Ellen Potier Hebert '67 Peggy Kozak Jackson '67 Cassondra Stokes Hite '67 Carolyn Desselle Righter '67 Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67 F. Dianne Perdue Weber '67 Amanda Antrim Babin '68 Susan Slutsky Beloat '68 Lana Collins Craigo '68 Cynthia Hebert Liebel '68 Earline Chauvin Watson '68 Susan Edwards Berry '69 Mary Katherine Landry Bocz '69 Jane Bentel Duggan '69 Julia Chiquet George '69 Myra Bascle Porche '69 Mary Holleman Beaullieu '70 Darwin Schaubhut Martin '70 Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70 Dianne Theriot Clavin '71 Katherine Manuel Landreneau '71 Patricia LaFleur Lewis '71 Nona Joyce Broussard DeRouen '72 Ella Ramagos Knight '72 Susan Pye Stone '72 Pamela Schulingkamp Boos '74 Lisa Rodriguez Brooks '74 Carolyn Daigle Cox '74 Kathy Granier Herman '74 Suzanne Perret Whittemore '74 Gail Zeringue Bourg '75 Anita Barras Landry '75 Lynn Battaglia O'Niell '75 Claudia Launey Ortego '75 Carol Palmisano '75 Cindy Schevd Caron '76 Rebecca Carter Fisher '76 Marion Sams Johnson '76 Kathy Roth Jones '76 Perry Meche '77 Donna Abadie Earles '78 Charlene R. Berger '79 Robert Martinez '79 Martha Cymes Wohltmann '79 Cris Boughton '80 Karen Jameson Rush '80 Patricia Hampton Tillman '80 John Bertucci '81 Maria Green Delahoussaye '81 Denise Becklehimer '82 James Craig, Jr. '82 Francine Landry Pittman '82 Ellen Gautreaux '83 Sharon Talbot Henning '83



BLUE RIBBON 2024 continued Patricia Carimi Poolson '83 Cynthia Bush '84 Karen Friley '84 Jeanne T. Messa '86 Shelley A. Nettles '86 Reina Waguespack Steele '86 Maureen McCabe Spring '87 Suzette Valladares '87 Kathleen M. Hall '90 Gina Herrera '90 William Kuhn '90 Elaine Major '90 Kim Keith Chatman '92 Frances Gagliano Loeske '92 Audrey Lupiba '92 Audrey Randall Walker '92 Monica LeBlanc Johnson '93 Laurie Jones '95 Regina Danner '97 Margaret "Peg" Kane '98 Anne McCutchen Silverstein '98 Janine Seghers Lemoine '03 Keesha Rayel Berkhalter '08 Tiffany Mitchell '09 Chrystal Beaujeaux '12 Catherine Berns '14 Nancy Roper

SILVER STAR 2024

Helen Tassin Cheramie '51 Mary Katherine Brune Mollere '52 Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54 Sylvia Fulton Busey '56 Pat Aulenbrock Crotwell '59 Catherine Lafleur St. Cyr '59 Madeleine Moreau Crawford '63 Judy Pourciau Mestayer '63 Betty Unsworth Nolin '63 Susan Thibodeaux Grace '65 **Constance Kennedy Proctor '65** Mary Lynn Aymami Hymel '66 JoAnn Pierce Ligon '66 Patricia Murphy Solomon '68 Brenda Crump Trosclair '68 Linda Boudreaux Guedry '70 Bonnie Hensley Mowe '70 Pamela Elias Welsh '70 Katherine Manuel Landreneau '71 Stevie Reese McLaughlin '71 Maria Compagno Roth '71 Christine Whiddon Saltzberg '71 Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler '71

Toni Tilton '72

Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72 Jacqueline Porth-Owen '73 Pamela Walsh '73 Donna Vidrine Brown '74 Olander Belfield Holloway '74 Connie Bousquet '78 Cathryn Tereskerz Smith '78 Paula Kensler '79 Nancy Allebone Capponi '81 Melissa Manuel Deshotels '81 Sandy Brett Hymel Spitale '83 Nancy Coleman Coffey '85 Mary Sue Sargo '85 Estelle Collins Vincent '85 Mary Ellen Zeringue Kothmann '88 Kimberly Davidson Blake '94 Tonya Mayeux Solis '97

SISTER STANISLAUS 2024

Dolores Marsh Alford '51 Anne Lillard Burford Williams '51 Leona Lipari Lee '63 Conchetta Uli Walters '67 Paula Favre Brewington '69 Ginny Graves Clark '69 Carolyn "Lynne" Bartsch '70 Gayle Guerin Fertitta '70 Diane Craft Angelico '72 Deborah Edwards Bolotte '72 Mary Doucet Hains '72 Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72 Christine Zeringue Carlomagno '74 Karen Howard Smith '78 Lisa Plaisance Lenfant Mahiger '79 Patricia Laster Facquet '81 Renee Bridget Guidry '87 Henrietta Walton-Nunez '91 Mary Elaine Ponce-Gaudin '16

Received after White Cap 2023 BLUE RIBBON 2023

Joan Burgess LeBlanc '57 Judith Lohr Dauterive '60 Judith Pourciau Mestayer '63 Ellen Inguaglato Olivier '67 Jennifer Fitch Fuselier '72 Pamela Schulingkamp Boos '74 Elizabeth Roussel Weber '77 Billie Arellano Zimmerman '78 Cheri Browning Oser '81 Cynthia Armstrong Bush '84 Annette Trahan '88 Nancy Harper Hernandez '94 Karen Cook Rice '01 Kemberly Johnson '08 Katherine O'Bryan Molligan '09 Chrishana Jenkins-Agee '13 Kim Dunn '14

SISTER STANISLAUS 2023

Katherine Norris Romero '69 Lt. Col. Louise Schwartzberg Harrell '73 ❖

Memories of Dot

Kathy Nugent-Arnold and her hubby Loyd visited the School this spring to deliver a very special gift: a beautiful shadowbox they created honoring Kathy's late mother **Dorothy "Dot" Barkley '57**. It holds Dot's cape, photo, nursing cap, nurse lamp, diploma, a *White Cap*, her student handbook, photos, and even a little Daughter of Charity figurine! It's amazing!

Kathy and Loyd have also funded scholarships in Dot's memory through the Alumni Association, awarded in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, and they created the **Dorothy Aull Nugent Barkley Endowment Fund** which will provide scholarships in Dot's name for generations of Charity students to come. Dot passed away in May 2022. ❖

Right, photos in the shadowbox of Dot as a senior

at Charity and in retirement. Below, Kathy Nugent-Arnold and her husband Loyd deliver Dot's shadowbox.







Get Your Motors Runnin'! Head Out on the Highway!

The Charity Fall 2024 Alumni Luncheon is going to be one Wild Ride!!





Charity School of Nursing is roaring towards the future... And we are riding high! Come cruisin' with your best Charity buds on

Saturday, Sept. 28

At the Ridgeway of Old Metairie 2431 Metairie Road at Ridgeway Drive



Join us for a terrific buffet lunch! Grilled Fish Amandine, Artichoke-stuffed Chicken, Vegetable Medley, Pasta Alfredo, Salad and White Chocolate Bread Pudding

Rock your most creative sunglasses for the "Cool Shades" Contest! Plus souvenirs, raffles, door prizes and more!!

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

So roll with your hooptie or ride along in your Calaboose! But hit the gas for some alumni fun! Plenty of free parking!

Order your tickets on page 23, or on our website: **CharityAlumni.org**



You can use this form Or visit our website: www.charityalumni.org		
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!		e.
Name: First name Graduat ion last name if different fm	om current name Last name	Class:
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	E-Mail:	
□ I Want to Attend the Luncheon on September 28!		
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 20 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		
 I Want a Gift! Dues or donations of No gift, please 2024-25 CHSNAA pocket calendar Vintage Postcard of the old Dorm 	Pelican Coaster	
Mail this form with your check to: CHSN Alumni Association, PO Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179		



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

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Born to be Wild...

Charity Alumni Luncheon



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

Hint: It's NOT the year you graduated.

The number after your last name on the mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example: "Jane Jones 2024" means your membership expires at the end of 2024. You are current, but you might want to consider renewing your membership now for 2025.

If your label has a year earlier than 2024 (such as "2023" or "1998"), or a "0", you are overdue! Please renew your membership now!

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

If you have questions about your membership status, email the Alumni Office: chsnaaoffice@gmail.com �