

THE



# WHITE CAP

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## From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

Did we ever imagine that terminology we learned in Community Health Nursing would be part of our daily language? Quarantine, isolation, masks, social distancing, herd immunity, and on and on. It took a pandemic for the healthcare-seeking public to realize the fearless spirit of the nurse. Nothing new to us, right? We deeply appreciate all of you who are on the frontlines in fighting this virus. Charity Nurses are Heroes!

### Homecoming 2020 Cancelled

The Board of Directors has decided to cancel our Homecoming 2020 for the fall. We were all terribly sad to do this, but we feel it is best for the health of our membership when so much about this virus, and the future, is unknown. After all, a lot of us aren't exactly spring chickens! We will reschedule the Homecoming Celebration, and other alumni events, when we feel that our members will be safe and comfortable gathering together. Then it will really be a party!

I was suggesting by email to **Ursula Allain '65** that if things settle down, we could try to have a spring alumni event, maybe at an open-air restaurant. I joked that we could always go to Pat O'Brien's and get drunk on Hurricanes! Ursula said, no, everyone would want to get tipsy and there would be no one to drive home! She's always so practical - Ha, ha! "I remember walking back to the dorm after singing in the piano bar," wrote Ursula, "especially after we received our senior black bands. Good memories!"

If all goes well, we will be planning Homecoming 2021 in the spring. But, for now, we are in a holding pattern. We hope to be able to offer a clearer picture by the time the *Alumni News* comes out in December.

### Keep Calm and Carry On

Charity nursing classes continued online despite the pandemic. We can't say enough about the amazing Charity faculty and staff who made instruction work in spite of



*Dean Cheryl Myers and Delgado Chancellor Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib sort medical supplies. The School of Nursing and Allied Health divisions of Delgado donated PPEs and ventilators to desperate area hospitals.*

everything! And about the students who rose to the challenges and soldiered through a difficult semester. Their memories of this time will outlast ours of Pat O'Brien's! The seniors will graduate, though the ceremonies will be scheduled later in the year. Our warmest congratulations to the Charity Class of May 2020! Welcome to the Alumni Association!

We have continued the scholarship program and though we had fewer applicants this time, they are really good ones! We also gave several emergency assistance grants to students who were struggling due to the ever widening ripples of this crisis. The Year of the Pandemic has been very challenging for the students, but the Charity Spirit is strong in them. We are proud of their courage and perseverance!

### Caring for Us

We have seen numerous acts of caring by nurses, way beyond the responsibilities we are tasked with. The appreciation of the public has been overwhelming and very touching. This is a time for our profession to shine brighter than ever. This is also a time for us to have a seat at the table, the head of the table. It may be the dawn of a

new day for the value, knowledge, and dedication of the nursing profession to be recognized and appreciated for our contribution to society, and to life.

This is also a time, like no other, that we must support each other. Our colleagues are overworked, under undue stress, and risking their lives, and the lives of their families. Still, we forge on. We are heroes, and we are each other's heroes.

It is a time for us, as a profession, to advocate not only for our patients, but more importantly, for our profession. Our seat at the table must be one that contributes to control over our professional practice as well as patient care. We are not self-promoting by nature, so this is difficult for nurses, but if we focus on how it affects our patients, it may be easier, and we will benefit.

A recent example of our voice needing to be heard is Louisiana House Bill 320. This bill proposes membership on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) by an employer/special interest group seeking to influence the actions of the LSBN. This is unacceptable. The governance and management of nurses must be done by nurses, only. The consideration of this bill has been postponed, but we must be ready to continue our opposition.

Those of us that are in the twilight of our careers have a responsibility to safeguard younger and future nurses. This year, the Year of the Nurse, will be a turning point for us. I know we will exceed all expectations of our hero status.

*Patrick*

## From the Executive Director By Lista Hank '97

I hope you all are well and staying as safe as you can!

With no spring event photos and no Homecoming to plan for, I thought this issue of *The White Cap* would be pretty skinny, but so many people provided wonderful articles! Faculty member **Pat Smart**, student **Kokoro Schwartz**, and our alumni shared their stories of these unusual times, and we have updates in the *Alumni Notes* about graduates from 1948 to 2019.

Check out the article from **Mary Trosclair '73** on page 8 about a Standardized Patient training program. We want to find out if there are alumni interested in participating - because you all would make such good patients for this purpose! I love the idea of establishing a relationship between alumni and current students! Please email us if you are interested in volunteering.

Sadly, like the obituaries everywhere, the *Goodbye* pages are longer than usual, but they are full of dear memories of our friends and classmates. We noted the death of **Maudie Bates '50** in the *Alumni News* in

December. This March, we heard from her nephew that Maudie left a bequest of \$1,000 to the Alumni Association. We will use her gift for two \$500 scholarships in Maudie's honor.

**Ruby Pinell Taylor '56** also left a substantial bequest to the School of Nursing. You can read about that in the Dean's Report on page 3, and about her classmates' memories of Ruby on page 14.



*Maudie Bates '50*

### Internet Archives

We have completed the scanning of all our yearbooks and Memory Books to the Internet Archive. (Memory Books are the soft-cover booklets that have served as yearbooks since 2005.) We discovered that we were missing several, and Media Services doesn't have them either. If you have any of these Memory Books, please let us know: December 2007, May 2008, December 2008, May 2009. We would appreciate loans of the books so we can scan them. We will be happy to return them to you after scanning.

By the time you read this, the *White Caps* and *Alumni News* from 1970 through 2019 should be available online. There is a link to the Internet Archive site on our website, **CharityAlumni.org** on the **FAQs and Links** page. Or, on your web search engine, type in: **Internet Archive** (No 's' on the end!). On the SEARCH ARCHIVES bar, type in: **Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association** (Type the whole thing to avoid getting a bunch of other stuff.)

Our publications will pop up! There is a "SORT BY" bar, and just click on "TITLE" to get them in order by year. Then click on what you want. You can flip through the yearbooks and newsletters page by page, zoom in, even download!

### Send Us Your News

If you are on the frontlines of Covid-19, or having other adventures personally or professionally, please let us know so we can print your news in the *Alumni News* this fall. We love photos, too!

Just email us at: **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**.

We hope we will be able to see our way clear to reschedule Homecoming before too long. But if we have learned anything in the last few months, it's that life has a way of making other plans! We know many of you have been affected by the pandemic. You've given more than you ever thought you could at work, been sick, lost loved ones. You've sewn masks, been isolated, faced challenges you never imagined. The Spirit of Charity is with you, and you are in our thoughts always.

Please take care - and please keep in touch!

*Lista*

# Dean's Report

By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Director CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

It is a pleasure to bring you summer greetings! I hope this finds each of you safe and healthy as we navigate these uncharted times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The spring semester has certainly been one which we have never experienced! While we successfully navigated our way through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, this situation presented some different and unique challenges.

Back in early March, the college convened a Covid-19 taskforce to begin planning for a possible switch to remote instruction. As the days went by, it became more evident that instruction for our courses would not be able to continue in a face-to-face format in the classroom. By mid-March, we had received notification from our clinical partners that nursing student clinicals were suspended until further notice due to the overwhelming influx of patients in the hospitals. Beginning March 13, the college canceled all face-to-face instruction and moved to an online/remote learning environment.

## A Rapid Transition

What a challenge! As a result of the state and local Stay Home mandates, faculty, staff and students had to quickly transition to the use of online platforms to continue classes. Various modalities were employed to continue our classes, such as videoconferencing, online instruction, online testing and telephone conferences. Faculty and students were now not only juggling their classes through these new platforms, but also dealing with all the other stressors the mandates required: home schooling children, job losses, and shortages of groceries and toilet paper! Many students "attended" class using their cell phones or tablets to access the videoconferencing and testing applications.

Transitioning the classroom component to a remote environment went relatively smoothly, despite the technical issues many experienced. But, how were we going to continue clinical experiences and make sure our students had the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the course requirements?? This is where the creativity of our faculty, the support and resources of the college and the flexibility of our students came into play.

Our chancellor, Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib, was committed to ensuring that our students, especially those who were to graduate in May, were able to complete the semester. Faculty and students embarked on a journey of "remote clinical." Using virtual simulation software and an extensive database of clinical case studies purchased by

the college, faculty were able to guide students through the completion of their clinical hours. I received many emails from students stating that, while they were not in the hospital delivering direct patient care, the faculty provided them with intensive clinical days. One student said that at the conclusion of her first 12-hour remote clinical day, she felt like she had been in clinical for three 12-hour days, it was so intense.

## Carrying On

We recognize that nothing can replace the knowledge and skills gained through hands-on clinical experiences, however, through the hard work of our faculty and students, our May 2020 graduates were able to finish and graduate on time. Through an emergency rule passed by the LA State Board of Nursing, many of them received a pre-graduation temporary permit, which allowed them to work in hospitals prior to completing the program in order to assist with the staffing needs of hospitals. We are extremely proud of the students who were able to do this and who carried on the legacy of the Charity graduate responding in times of crisis.

Charity School of Nursing joined with other Delgado Allied Health programs to donate medical supplies and equipment that would have been used for student training to local hospitals this spring. Five hundred N95 respirators, surgical masks, sterile gloves, gowns and other items that were urgently needed by medical personnel were donated, along with four medical ventilators. Altogether, the Delgado Allied Health Division and Charity School of Nursing donated about 900 cartons filled with supplies to the hospitals.

We have received word from our clinical partners that we will be able to return to hospital clinicals for the fall semester. We will be planning some intensive clinical sessions to ensure that the students who missed the final six weeks or so of clinical in the spring get caught up on the appropriate hands-on technical skills needed.

In the midst of all the challenges, we got a very pleasant surprise. We received a gift of \$12,000 from the estate of **Ms. Ruby Pinell Taylor, Class of 1956**. We are so grateful that this Charity graduate chose to dedicate a portion of her estate to assist current Charity students. The funds will be put to good use to further the mission of the nursing program.

Like all of you, the faculty and students are disappointed that the Homecoming Celebration for Fall 2020 has had to be postponed, but we are looking forward to seeing everyone in a virus-free 2021!

Please stay safe and healthy!

*Cheryl*





## Pinning Ceremonies and Graduation Awards

Congratulations to all of the seniors from Fall 2019 and Spring 2020! It's been a difficult time to join the nursing profession and we applaud their courage and determination. We welcome them wholeheartedly into our alumni ranks!

The Pinning and Graduation ceremonies for this Spring have been tentatively scheduled for early August, and we will report those graduation awards in the *Alumni News* this winter.

In the meantime, we want to recognize the recipients of these graduation awards from December:

### Class of December 2019

*(Pictured top to bottom, left to right)*

**Allison Solino**, Honor Pin and Highest GPA  
*(left, pictured with Dr. Cheryl Myers)*

**Gina Galliano**, Award of Distinction

**Roberta Ogborn**, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award

**Laurie Siekkinen**,  
NODNA Leadership Award

**Gary Pierce**, Margaret Palmisano '49 Alumni Award

**Lisa Amos**, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award  
*(center, pictured with Dr. Deborah Skevington and Dr. Cheryl Myers)* ❖





# How does a seasoned nurse switch to a virtual clinical instructor? Or how I learned to teach online in one week

By Pat Smart, MN, RN-BC, CNE  
Professor of Nursing

I was asked to share with the alumni some of my challenges and struggles as a faculty member this semester. So here is my story...

I have been a nurse for forty years and an educator for thirty-four years. I was teaching at Delgado/Charity in 2005, when Katrina changed our lives. We struggled to contact students and resumed teaching the second course in the curriculum in January 2006. Those struggles were minimal compared to Covid-19 and the shut down of nursing education as we know it.

I was in the clinical area on March 13 this year. During morning report I heard of two patients - one in his twenties, another in his forties - in the ED. Both patients were considered positive for Covid-19 and had been moved to the ICU. Both were on ventilators and not doing well. The immense gravity of this pandemic started to feel real as I left the students and went home that day.

## Sudden Change

Classes and clinicals were suddenly completely cancelled the week of March 16. I was allowed to enter the building and obtain what I needed on March 18. We were all thinking we would be gone just a few weeks! I collected textbooks, folders, and advising information from my office.

I went to the classroom and used a program on the computer there to record my Acid-Base class. In person, I'm usually writing values on the board and have the students analyze them with me. It was very different talking to an empty classroom. How was it supposed to work when the students were going to view the recording independently?

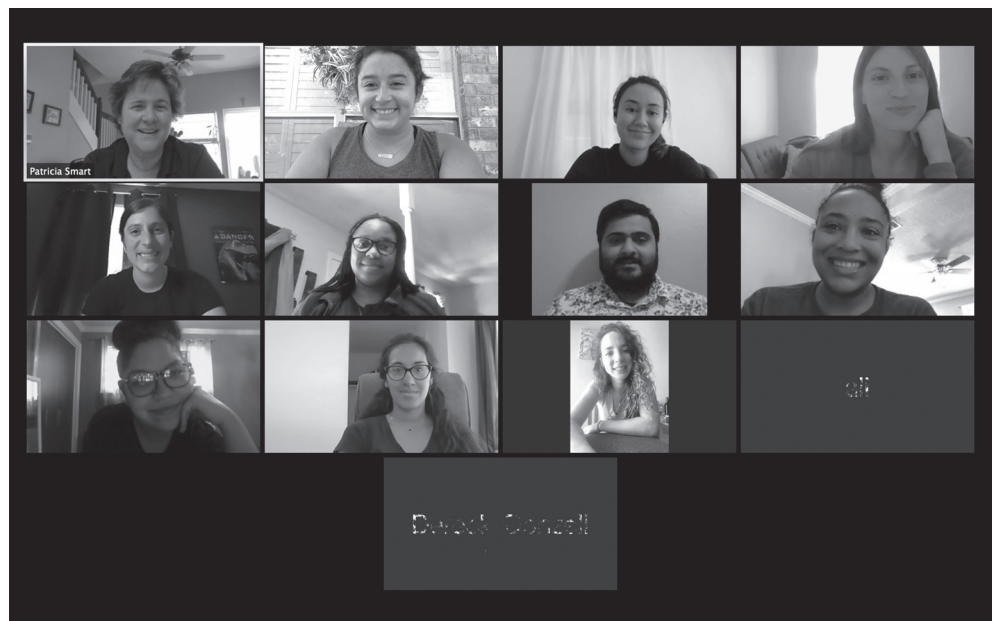
I opened an electronic discussion conference through our Canvas site. (Canvas is the intra-net program used for classes at Delgado.) I would have the 170 students

enrolled in Nursing II on this lecture-conference! I would be typing in questions and also asking them verbally. We had that one week to prepare ourselves to teach online. I would do my best.

I tried to reach out to my clinical students with phone calls and texting, but I was emotional when I saw my group for the first time through technology. It was only one week after we had left clinical together, but so much had changed. That first meeting, I spent time asking each student how he or she was doing. I suggested that they each tell me about their struggles.

## Sharing Experiences

I started off, disclosing my feelings of isolation and my fear of the unknown. From the students I heard many stories. They spoke of loved ones losing their jobs or being sick, having several children to home school, a spouse (one of our graduates) coming home and crying about the patients she watched die, a student working as a nurse tech not really having adequate PPE. These are just a few of the stories I heard. I was so impressed by the students' amazing strength - and their surprising knowledge of how to navigate these uncharted waters.



*Above, Pat and her class meeting online*

Delgado purchased virtual clinical simulation scenarios. Instead of hospital clinicals, the students would take care of a virtual patient, go through different scenarios, and we would hold debriefing sessions to discuss patient care.

I became familiar with four different platforms to use for teaching and having virtual meetings in a two-week period. I was in technology overload. I would rather have sick patients in the clinical area and guide the students through their care. That was an easy task compared to

learning so much technology and trying to reach students electronically! It seemed like every time I would get familiar with one product, another one would be chosen for conferences, meetings, etc. On several occasions, when I would have computer problems during virtual clinical, my students would be able to talk me through my technology roadblock!

I became a ZOOM fan quickly and purchased the premium Zoom packet by the end of March. One weekend, a friend, who is my on-call IT person, gave me instructions over the phone of how to record my other lectures on Zoom. I did this to deliver my lectures for cancer and palliative care/hospice from my home. I was able to use my Power Point slides and talk through the nursing care for these patients. My colleague **Bryan Camus '12** would then convert the recording to a You-Tube clip and post it on the Canvas site. Bryan is a May 2012 graduate from Delgado/Charity and has been on the faculty since January 2019. He is another IT expert and a true hero to me! I also have to recognize **Donna Bayard**, Coordinator of Media Services at Charity, for all her invaluable assistance in getting us all started in this world of video technology!

### Tough Going

As you all know, nursing school is tough enough. Our students have many roles in addition to being a student. I truly can't imagine what they were going through. I tried to be available and help, direct, guide them through these unprecedented times. Many times I worked nine to ten hour days and still had to catch up on the weekends. My faith in God, my family and my friends helped me get through the darkness, exhaustion and uncertainties. I do also have to commend the leadership in our program. **Dr. Cheryl Myers, Dr. Debbie Skevington**, and my immediate boss, **Mrs. Chiquilla Brown** were truly amazing and supportive. We as Level Two faculty worked together cohesively as a team for the benefit of the students and to help each other navigate all of the unknowns we faced.

On top of all this, two of the faculty from Level Two lost loved ones from Covid-19 - such unimaginable pain!

### Being Grateful

At one point this semester, I received an email from a grateful student. I asked **Nicole Anderson** for her permission to share this selection of her letter with you.

"I know for sure that many students realize how much their instructors have influenced and guided them towards their dreams but can sometimes fail to mention this to those along their journey. It can be so easy to get caught up in studying and life in general, that we fail to acknowledge those who helped pull us up along the way.

"I have seen many instructors throughout my last three years at Delgado that not only realize the difficulties and obstacles their students have faced to succeed in school, but who also truly care for their students' success. I

believe that it takes a very special and dedicated person to teach at a community college. You truly instruct people from all walks of life, often times people who have been told their entire life that they will never 'make it.' Or someone like myself, who grew up in a very poor family, which lived paycheck to paycheck, just to make ends meet. The word *college* was never even mentioned, much less assumed that it would even be an option."

Reading this email from Nicole really helped to validate my role as an educator. It made the added hours, exhaustion and stress worthwhile! Some of my students expressed their surprise (and appreciation) that we didn't simply cancel classes for the semester. I told them that closing Charity School of Nursing was just not an option!

I truly see being a nurse educator as an honor and privilege. I try my best to show students the best and most compassionate way to care for patients. I am always proud to see our graduates in the workforce. They are each proud to be a Charity graduate and carry on the tradition of being an excellent nurse. You can be proud of them too, as Charity Alumni!

Thank you for listening to my story.

*Pat*

*The Level Two faculty made generous donations to the Alumni Association to memorialize their colleagues' loved ones lost to Covid-19. Charity Graduation Pin Awards will be presented to outstanding Charity students in honor of **Erline Harris**, mother of **Tracy Harris**, and **Enola Schroeder Hoppe and John Louis Hoppe, Jr.**, parents of **Cynthia Hoppe**. ❖*

## Lessons in Silver Linings

By Kokoro Schwartz, CASN President  
Level 3 student

Spring Semester of 2020 started like any other semester at Charity School of Nursing. As the newly elected President of CASN, the Charity Association of Student Nurses, I got my Board of Directors together early. We prepared for the New Student Orientation, scheduled our meetings and guest speakers, planned school and community events, took inventory of apparel and items in the CASN store, and discussed new products to sell, all the while gearing up for the new lectures and clinical experiences we were about to launch into. We were busy with feelings of excitement and butterflies of nervousness, but ready to take on the semester! No one could have predicted that halfway through the semester, a pandemic would come upon us.

As the semester started, the CASN membership was active! We held three meetings where we discussed plans for the semester such as new t-shirt designs for our store,

attending the National Student Nurses' Association convention, volunteering for the Charity School of Nursing Open House, and other activities. For one meeting, we had guest speaker, Lindsey Hill, CNM, MSN, speaking about nurse midwifery. At another meeting, representatives from University Medical Center spoke on bloodless transfusions.

We participated in a fundraiser, selling parking spaces in the CSN garage for the College Championship game in January. Along with two other students, I volunteered at the Louisiana Healthy Homes & Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program event to raise awareness and educate the community on resources available to them. We helped set up, then we were asked by the organizer to take attendance of all the booths. We were honored to be given that responsibility. We were also awarded Certificates of Appreciation by Dr. Trina Evans Williams from the Louisiana Department of Health.

### **Abrupt End**

Unfortunately, most of our community events and meetings were cancelled as our time at school had come to an abrupt end due to the escalating spread of Covid-19. My clinical rotation in the hospital was also cut short after two weeks and I completed my clinical hours online via simulations and case studies. I'm extremely thankful for our faculty who worked overtime to make it possible for us to complete the semester and not be held back. Mostly though, I missed the patient interactions and hands-on experience that we usually get.

I always look for the silver lining in difficult situations and try to lead others to do the same. So, when school was shut down, I kept telling myself I was okay, everything was going to be alright. I stayed positive and encouraged the CASN members to do the same and to contact me if they needed help or a listening ear. I did my best to reach out to other members through text messages. As CASN, we connected with members through social media and emails. We encouraged members to send photos of how they were dealing with social distancing, homeschooling their children, and studying at home. Our aim was to cultivate a feeling of togetherness and community when many were feeling overwhelmed and isolated.

### **Okay... But Not Okay**

After much delay, Level 3 was able to take our first online proctored test. I felt prepared, but, for the first time in my student career, I failed a test. My world came crashing down. I dreaded the thought that I might have to repeat the semester. It took a few days to recover and sort out my emotions and thoughts. As a student leader, I feel I need to be strong for my community. Yet the uncertainty of the world, and the situation I was in,



*CASN members volunteer at the school's New Student Orientation in January (Kokoro in front row, far right).*

got to me. I didn't realize it for some time, as I had kept telling myself 'everything is fine.' In actuality, I was anxious about school and graduation; the online lectures and testing were challenging the way I had gotten used to absorbing the material and retrieving it from my memory. I was worried for the city and economy, concerned for my family and loved ones, and I hadn't acknowledged any of it.

A good friend taught me a little mantra that helped me when I got anxious – especially before a test. It goes, "I'm okay, even though *right now* this thing is happening." So I would put in, "I'm okay, even though *right now* I'm extremely nervous about this test." Or "*Right now*, I'm worried sick about my family in Japan," or "I'm distressed about the situation in hospitals that my fellow classmates (who are LPNs and nurse techs) and RNs (especially family and friends) have to deal with." It helped me to address my feelings and put those feelings into words, but at the same time verbalizing that it's *right now*... It's not going to last forever. My lesson from this experience: It's okay to not be okay. I don't have to be strong all the time.

Acknowledging weakness - then working on it - is part of being a strong leader. The good news is, I passed the next two tests with excellent scores allowing me to successfully complete Nursing Level 3. I'm looking forward to being back on campus and in hospital clinical rotations for Level 4 in the fall. I hope the lessons I've learned will help me to have greater strength and be more perceptive - as a leader for those I work with, and for those who come to be in my care.

Thank you, Alumni, for all your support!

*Kokoro*



# Interested in Volunteering as a Standardized Patient?

By Mary Trosclair, MN, RN  
Coordinator of the Simulator Lab

The School of Nursing is considering an educational idea that we would like to share with the alumni. We are exploring the use of Standardized Patients to train students in certain clinical simulations.

A Standardized Patient (SP) is a trained individual who participates in a clinical simulation in various roles – as the patient, as a family member of the patient, as a healthcare team member, or as any other role that might be instructive. The use of a SP adds realism to the experience. The SP remains in character throughout the simulation. After a simulated clinical experience is completed, the SP provides feedback to the student using a provided form or checklist.

Schools of Nursing and Medicine across the country are using SPs. Many SPs are trained actors but, to defray costs, many schools use volunteer alumni members who hold the same educational preparation that the learner is working to achieve. So their feedback is invaluable and more meaningful, especially in the affective domain of learning. Picking up on patient's non-verbal cues is vital to learning the caring aspect of nursing and to developing the technique of expressing empathy.

This idea is in its infancy at Charity. Dr. Myers introduced the idea to the level coordinators and they were very supportive, especially Level 1. Now we want to explore whether our alumni would be willing to volunteer to serve as SPs.

We asked a few alumni what they thought of the idea. **Patrick Brady '83** said, "I think many of our alumni would love to do this. What a concept: to be evaluated on your care, face-to-face with the patient. This can only produce better nurses!" **Marilyn Hammett Gentry '78** said, "This is great news for thinking outside the box to get the clinical experience and exposure needed to hone communication and patient interaction skills." **Charlene Berger '79** said, "I am fascinated by this idea. I would be more than happy to participate!"

We would like to start a list of alumni who would be interested in volunteering as SPs. Once we have a clear plan and can schedule simulation dates and times, I would send out a calendar and ask alumni to go through the training and sign up for simulation slots.

SP training would include an online video for all SP volunteers to view, and then to use a video-conference or Zoom meeting to answer any questions and provide clarification.

Prior to the simulation date, the SP would be emailed



*Circa 1940s, a Charity student acts as the patient for her classmates. Modern nurse education makes use of trained individuals to serve as Standardized Patients.*

the simulation objectives and learning outcomes, the questions and answers that would likely be posed by the learner, and the student evaluation checklist that is used to provide feedback directly to the student.

We will also do a dress rehearsal or 'run through' with the SP volunteers so they will feel comfortable in their roles.

Examples of expectations of the SP as a patient would include be a patient who is being admitted for a surgical procedure. The nurse (student) would admit the patient, obtain the health history, offer patient education, perform a physical assessment and vital signs, implement the prescribed pre-op orders, and communicate the findings through electronic documentation and providing a handoff report to the OR staff nurse. No invasive procedures nor medication administration would be performed on the SP. Privacy for the SP and the student learner would be ensured.

Simulations are often referred to as the link between nursing school and practice. Students state that simulations help them make connections, and deepen their understanding of nursing. Having SPs participate in simulations would further enrich the fidelity or realism of the simulation. Many students have expressed an interest in returning to Charity after graduation to participate in simulations.

I have been thinking of starting a SP program for a while, but I never seem to have the extra time to do it. This unexpected 'Work at Home' mandate has given me the time to explore simulation literature and has motivated me to go forward with the idea. We would still be using mannequins for a lot of skills lab training, but I think that having real participants in certain simulations would tremendously enrich student learning.

As far as the time frame, the summer semester will

continue to be held virtually - there will be no actual face-to-face clinical experiences, or classes. We are hoping that we will be able to resume on-campus classes in the Fall semester, and can restore in-person instruction. So during the Fall semester would be the target date; probably mid-semester to be more specific. But of course, everything will depend upon an evaluation of student and SP safety during the pandemic.

Once we can get back into the building, I am planning to ask **Donna Bayard**, Media Services Coordinator, to help me record the training video that can be viewed independently by the SPs. Then we'll schedule an online Zoom meeting with potential SPs to discuss any concerns and answer any questions. I'll be attending a webinar on SP programs this summer so I'll probably learn a lot about best practices and have more ideas to make this a reality.

There are lots of things that we need to consider to make this happen. But with the continued support of administration and the Alumni, it can be an exciting and valuable learning experience.

With great appreciation,

*Mary*

*If you are interested in volunteering as a SP, please email the Alumni Office at [chsnaaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chsnaaoffice@gmail.com) (please put "SP Volunteer" in the subject line). This doesn't commit you; we are just trying to assess interest at this time. Once SP simulations are confirmed to go forward, you will be contacted with instructions on training and scheduling, and additional details.*

*Even if you are hesitant about a fall time frame, please let us know that you would be interested in volunteering at some point. ❖*

## Alumni Notes

**Geneva Dufour Waters '48** (Houston, TX): Geneva's husband Peyton was kind enough to contact us. He is planning to send us Geneva's cape, and wanted to tell us how she's doing. Geneva has Alzheimer's disease. She still gets around and still knows her family, but sometimes gets confused. Geneva is 92 and Peyton is 94. They started dating when Geneva was in nursing school. They have lived in Houston since 1967, and have seven grandkids and ten greatgrands who, happily, all live in the Houston area.

**Mary Katherine "Kitty" Mollere '52** (Cantonment, FL): "Wonderful issue of the *Alumni News*! I enjoy every newsletter!"

**Julia Bull Schomaker '52** (Rayne, LA) called to say, "I loved the last newsletter!"

**Marilyn Gray Massey Carter '54** (San Antonio, TX): "I am glad **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** keeps working as Secretary. She has my cape and has kept in touch with me every Christmas. I love the pictures of her travels with her husband. I hope my health will let me travel back to New Orleans for the Homecoming. I will write to some classmates to encourage them. Thank you for all you do!"



**Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54** (Metairie, LA) sent us her senior portrait, right, with this note: "Just a note to thank you for the alumni newsletters. My three years spent in nursing school on South Claiborne Avenue were some of the happiest days of my life."

**Louise Josephine Stolf Wagner '57** (Hammond, LA): "I'm writing to give you my new address. I don't want to miss any of the newsletters! My husband passed away in December 2019 and I had a little house built in my son's yard and that's where I live now. I am enclosing a small token of my appreciation for all that the Alumni Association does. I will never forget my three years at Charity. Some of my best years!"

**Patricia Kucera Ammon '58** (Metairie, LA): Pat graciously donated three yearbooks (1957-1959) and her little ceramic nurse lamp. "I was thinking about all the other things I might have from those long ago days and thought of my pin. I'm still too attached to it to give it away, but there is a story there."

Once upon a time, in 1963, my erstwhile roommate called me to say that a new hospital was opening and how would I like to work one day a week, say, Thursdays 3-11? My old roomie, **Marilyn "Jody" Jacob Klein '58** and I were both married and had young children, and this was an opportunity for us to get out and do something interesting. Lakeside Hospital for Women and Children was started by a group of OB/Gyn doctors, had fourteen beds and was located on Veterans Memorial Highway near Bonnabel. It had 14 beds because the state would not let you be a hospital with less than ten. The hospital was so small that there was only one set of narcotic keys and if you were in the labor and delivery area, and the keys were needed by a nurse up front in the nursery or on the floor, you just had to toss the keys over a partition between the two areas! Well, one time, someone stole \$20 out of my purse. Only employees had access to that area and I was really upset that a fellow worker would stoop so low. Twenty dollars was no small sum back then. A RN in 1963 made \$2 per hour, comparable to a first-class welder. →

Around that same time, I lost my Charity pin. Heart-breaking! I had put it in the outer slot of my purse and it had fallen out somewhere. One day I got a call at work from a secretary at Charity to say my pin had been turned in to the office and I could drop by and get it anytime. I went right away and the secretary had it in her desk drawer. There were so many unanswered questions!!! Who found it and where? How did that person know it was a Charity pin? My maiden name was on the back, but how did Charity know that I was now Ammon and working at Lakeside? So the end of my story is that my faith in the goodness of people was restored and all was right with the world!"

**Rosemary Myers Breau '58** (*Clinton, LA*): "I have just read the beautiful tribute to **Rose Ella Miller '58** in the *Alumni News*. She was my classmate, friend and roommate too. She was one of the reasons I met my husband. I'll always be grateful to her! May she rest in peace! I had a stressful year healthwise in 2019. Hopefully 2020 will be better. God knows best and has the answers. I'm sending my dues, and a donation to the Student Emergency Fund. Also a gift in memory of **Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching '63**. She was my husband's first cousin. I will always be grateful for my time at Charity Hospital and Charity School of Nursing. They meant the world to me and always will! You are all in my prayers. My fondest memories are of Charity!"

**Maxine Blackmon Jones '59** (*Pelham, AL*): "As usual, when the *Alumni News* came I read it cover to cover. I loved the article about **Rose Chenevert Miller '58**. I knew Rose's sister who was closest in age to Rose. Rose was a year ahead of me in school. We went to the same church (Franklin Avenue) in New Orleans. In fact, Rose married the minister of music at our church, Jerry Miller. I knew Rose loved the school of nursing but coming from such a large family I would have expected her to leave her fortune to some of them. I am delighted at the magnitude of her gift. It seems like those of you in leadership of the Alumni Association have chosen wisely in how to use it. I did not know that Rose had adopted a child so I was glad to learn that in the article about her. Rose was such a loving person. I am glad she had a son to give that love. Congratulations on another great *Alumni News*."

**Ethel Faciane Friend '60** (*New Iberia, LA*): "Whoever said, 'It's who we are' must have been a Charity Grad. We had a motto for our class: *Faith, Hope, Charity - and the greatest of these is Charity*. I've had many doctors ask what year I graduated from Charity. They all said they could tell a Charity nurse from all the others. Guess it is our swagger?? I'm Class of 9/9/60. Actively practiced for 50 years."

**Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62** (*Zephyr, TX*): "I always enjoy the newsletters and I thank God every day for Big Charity, the State of Louisiana and the USAF! I'm sure the nurses are familiar with the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. My name is on the memorial, **Rosemary Hathorn Holmes, Lt Col USAFR NC Ret.** Any other nurses who were in the military can write for information on the memorial to: The Women's Memorial, Dept. 560, Washington, DC 20042-0560. So much has changed in nursing schools and in medical care! Enclosed is a small check in appreciation for the good work of the Alumni Association. Please use where it's most needed!"

**Donna Sue Bordelon '75** (*Lafayette, LA*): "A very special thank you for your service and dedication to our Alumni Association! We are all so blessed for the continuity. I apologize for not being more active. May God bless all of you!"

**Lynn Battaglia O'Niell '75** (*Franklin, LA*): "My thanks to all of you for keeping us united! I love to read the newsletters!"

**Ellen Williams Manieri '77** (*Slidell, LA*): "Our world has been turned upside down since our reunion for the Classes of '77, '78, and '79. But I do want to give some long overdue thanks to everyone who helped with the planning and organizing. It definitely takes team work to make such an event a success. It was so good to see everyone, and I am looking forward to the next one!! A special thanks to **Lista Hank '97**, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, for all her help and support. She definitely made the whole process much easier, she does awesome work for the Association! Thanks also to **Dr. Martha Boone** for donating two copies of her book, *The Big Free*, as door prizes. It's a great book and brought back many memories of my time at Charity Hospital. Again, thanks to everyone who helped make this reunion possible and I hope everyone remains safe."

**Jo Ann Rizzutto '77** (*North Fort Lauderdale, FL*): "Thank you for my two-year planner - now I'm set through 2021! The enclosed check is for whatever is most needed. I'm now retired. My education took me from New Orleans to Florida. Thank you, Charity!"

**Susan Flowers '85** (*Jacksonville, FL*): "I've been working at Progressive Care for about 15 years, ever since I moved to Jacksonville. I do a lot of precepting of new and experienced nurses. I think I've precepted over 400 nurses over the years. In 2018, I married an amazing



# Scholarships and Awards

At the Promotion and Awards Ceremony on February 10, the Alumni Association presented \$11,600 in scholarships and awards to twenty-four outstanding Charity students. This was another new record for us!

These awards are all made possible through generous donations from Charity alumni, family, faculty and friends. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Scholarship Fund and Pin Awards! Congratulations to the following recipients for the Spring 2020 semester (*pictured left to right, top to bottom*):

## LEVEL 4

**Kashanda Foley** – Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship \$1,000  
**Maegann Morrison** – Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 Scholarship \$500  
**John Spooner** – Marcelle Jacobs Wright '41 Scholarship \$500  
**Trevor Williams** – Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot '46 Scholarship \$500  
**Maria Zubareva** – Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 Scholarship \$1,000

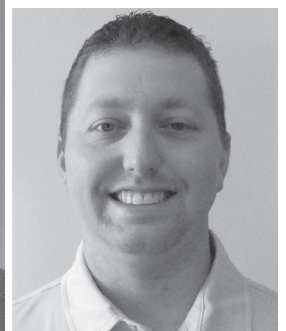
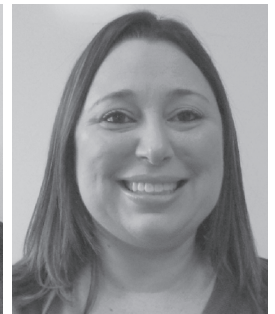
## LEVEL 3

**Amelia Ballast** – Janie "Trudy" Carrier Lefort '70 Scholarship \$500  
**Shelbey Evans** – Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship \$500  
**Jennifer Korach** – Louisiana Organization for Associate Degree of Nursing Scholarship \$500  
**Kaliah Powell** – Class of 9/1/64 Scholarship \$500  
**Kokoro Schwartz** – Hugh and Marie Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship \$1,000  
**Makayla Wright** – Linda Grant MacLachlan '78 Scholarship \$500

## LEVEL 2

**Selam Gavion** – Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship \$500  
**Melanie Burdwell** – Sydney Wood Womack '57 \$500  
**Jordan Metcalfe** – The River Oaks Hospital Scholarship \$1,000  
**Benjamin Carite** – Martha Phillips Gentry '53 \$500

(*Not pictured*): **Kathryn Boudoin** – Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship \$500 →





## Scholarships & Awards

Continued from page 11

### PIN AWARDS

\$100 towards purchase of graduation pin  
(Pictured above, left to right)

**Leila Aghakasiri** – Claire Scheyd Pin Award (mother of Cindy Scheyd Caron '76)

**Sherry Johnson** – Betty Swanson Pin Award (sister of Ann Dieck '80, faculty)

**Lindsay Allen-Ortega** – Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award (father of Evelyn Dodson, faculty)

**Hannah Bailey** – Wayne Frank Porter Pin Award (husband of Dr. Nora Steele, faculty)

**Amanda Dupuy** – Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award (mother of Dr. Cheryl Myers, Dean)

**Tara Brown** – Kirk LeVesseur '79 Pin Award

(Not pictured):

FEDERATION OF NURSES AWARD \$500

**Amy Vappie** – RN Program

**Lashawn Davis** – PN Program ❖



President of CASN, the Charity Association of Student Nurses. She was awarded the **Marcelle Jacobs Wright '41** Scholarship as a senior, and the **Margaret Palmisano '49** Alumni Award at her May 2019 graduation. Brandi is continuing her education at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. ❖

## Goodbyes

**Myrtis Brignac Walton '48** graduated from Charity in 1948, in the last class of the Cadet Nurse Corps in World War II. She was working as a psychiatric nurse in New Orleans when she met a third year medical student, Spencer Walton, and married him.



Spencer became an Army Orthopedic Surgeon and they lived and worked all over the country, and even in the Panama Canal Zone. They had seven children. After Spencer's death, Myrtis continued to travel, including to the Galapagos Islands, and to Africa twice. She passed away at

age 91 on February 25, 2020. Her daughter Annie Walton York, wrote to say, "My mother had an amazing life. She was always so proud to say that she was a nurse from Charity."

**Virginia Guarino Lorusso '50** passed away in December 2019. She graduated from Charity in 1950 and was proud of her work caring for patients in the polio wards, and performing genetic research at Tulane University.

After graduating from Charity, **Eleanor "Ellie" Danysh Lerro '52** joined the USAF Nurse Corps and served for three years. She earned a BSN from UT-Austin and later a Master's in Public Health Nursing and Education. She became an instructor



## Alumni Notes

Continued from page 10

man in Newtown Castle in Ballyvaughan, Ireland. We were so blessed to have ten friends to join us on our magical trip. We will be returning to Ireland this year to celebrate my 35<sup>th</sup> year nursing anniversary! I'm so excited! I would love to hear from my Charity friends. I'm so proud of being a Charity graduate and so blessed to touch so many lives over the years." While in nursing school, Susan was editor of *I&O*, the campus newsletter.

**Laura Clifton Woodson '88** (Aubrey, TX) wrote to say, "I very much miss my years at Charity."

**Brandi Borden '19** (Covington, LA): Brandi was elected the 2020-2021 President of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) in April, the first Charity graduate to hold that title. As a student at Charity, Brandi was



of Public Health Nursing in Galveston. Ellie passed away in March 2019 at the age of 89.



**Hazel MacKillican Wilson '52:**

As a senior in 1952, Hazel was profiled in *The White Cap* (which was then the school newspaper rather than the alumni newsletter). Reportedly, her biggest ambition was "to see the world!"

Gail W. Briggs, Hazel's daughter wrote to us this spring. "Our loving mother passed away in September 2018, after a brief

illness. Mom loved being a Registered Nurse. She began her career working in hospitals in Syracuse and Massena, New York. When the last of her four children started first grade, she returned to college, earning a Master's Degree in Education. She then taught history at Norwood Norfolk High School in New York. In the years she taught school, she also worked as a RN in the summer, working in nursing homes, Head Start and Salvation Army summer camp.

"Mom retired from teaching at 62, but continued to work as a RN in Hospice for a number of years. Later she volunteered for many organizations and she finally got her chance to travel the world. She said she wanted to visit all the countries she taught about in school and I think she hit them all.

"In 2007 she moved to Schenectady to be close to her daughters and grandchildren. She continued to volunteer for various organizations and made many new friends. She also continued to keep in touch with the Charity Alumni Association, and was a proud Sustaining Member.

"In the spring of 2018, at the age of 90, Mom taught a class in chair yoga to what she called 'old people.' We laughed and pointed out to her that *she* was the oldest person in the class! She was very active right up to the day she was admitted to the hospital. She was sharp-minded right up to the last 48 hours.

"Mom's eulogy was written by her youngest granddaughter, and was appropriately titled, *A Life Well Lived*. Mom died at the age of 90 years and 10 months from an extremely rare form of colon cancer. She had colon cancer in the mid-80s and beat it. At the time of her death she was on no medications except for thyroid pills and a daily vitamin.

"We loved her dearly and miss her every day." Gail sent us a check for \$1,000 for the Art and Archives Preservation Fund in honor of her mother.

**Vivian Cheramie DeFelice '53** had a long career as a nurse at Lady of the Sea General Hospital in Galliano. She

was the first Charity alumni we knew to be a victim of the pandemic, passing away from pneumonia and Covid-19 on April 2. We noted her death on our Facebook page and many alumni expressed their condolences. Vivian's family saw the posts and left their own comments.

Dane DeFelice wrote, "I'm Vivian's son. She was a very proud Charity grad. She always credited the training she received at Charity for her long and successful nursing career. My mother would really appreciate the kind thoughts and prayers from her fellow alumni."

Ramona DeFelice Long added, "This is my mother. Thank you so much for posting this. Mom was always 110% proud to be a Charity graduate and told us many stories about her time as a nursing student."

Annette DeFelice Gaviggan wrote, "I am Vivian's eldest child. To say she was a proud graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing would be an understatement.

She loved working as a RN. And we, her children, were proud to say our mother worked as a nurse. Our mom told us many wonderful stories of her life in NOLA while in school. She was a country girl who took advantage of everything the city had to offer, from opera, jazz and gospel concerts to dances, museums, plays and art galleries. Yes, our mother will be greatly missed, but she lived a full life, raised four successful children, and was happily married for 64 years. And deep down in her heart she was always a proud nurse, trained at Charity Hospital School of Nursing, Class of '53. Thank you so much for remembering our mother."

Among the many expressions of sympathy was this from **Danielle Louque Yenuganti '15**: "I am a Charity grad that had the honor and privilege to know and care for Mrs. DeFelice. She was an absolute gem!"



**Nellie Sortino Sclafani '53:** After graduating from Charity in 1953, Nellie spent seventeen years at the New Orleans Police Department as their only Registered Nurse.



After that, Nellie spent the next twenty-five years working for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Metairie. There she founded the *The Sharing Program*, the church's comprehensive program for seniors including a wide variety of classes, day trips, luncheons and social activities. Nellie passed in December 2019.



After graduating, **Marijean "Jeanie" Martin Pruett '54** worked in Labor and Delivery at Charity Hospital before marrying and moving to Springfield, Missouri. "I only knew Jeanie in passing in nursing school, but we met again by happenstance in Springfield as young mothers," writes **Maureen Babin Smith '53**. "She was very helpful to me as a newcomer in 1959. She was a 'proxy' grandparent for my second son! These past years we still saw each other at church or Scout outings." Jeanie loved canoeing, hiking and camping. She was a Sustaining Member of the Alumni Association. Jeanie passed four days after her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Clara Cannon DeShan '55:**

"I am writing on behalf of my grandmother, Clara DeShan. She was born in Enid, OK. After graduating from Charity in 1955, she worked as a nurse in an OB/GYN office in Oklahoma City, where she met her physician husband. They had one child and divorced in 1978. Nursing, fashion and cooking were her three greatest passions. She enjoyed modeling in fashion shows, and was always 'put together' with hair, makeup, clothes and shoes in the latest style. In 1972, she took a break from nursing to work as a furrier and buyer of women's clothing for department stores, which often took her to New York City. She returned to nursing as a Postpartum nurse at Parkland Hospital in Dallas in 1989. I will always admire her for her determination as she studied to reinstate her nursing license, which was no small feat after 17 years in a different field. She faced the task with grit, and even worked to become the charge nurse on her unit. She retired in 2000 and relished the things that brought her joy: cooking gourmet meals, reading, playing bridge. She played host to her three grandchildren while we were completing an internship or in between graduation and jobs. Her love of nursing and her stories from Charity Hospital were some of her favorite things to share with me as I attended nursing school. I was extremely glad for my own experience when she told me how things were 'back then'! She was always proud of her time at Charity School of Nursing, and she would often show us *The White Cap*. Clara moved to Midland, TX in 2018 to be closer to her family. She passed away in June 2019. She will be dearly missed."

- Catherine DeShan

**Ruby Pinell Taylor '56:** Ruby passed away in August 2019. We received some memories from her classmates: **Saundra Owens Robert '56** writes, "Recently some of our classmates from the Class of 1956 came together to remember Ruby. We all agreed that she must have had

quite a ride! She was born in South Louisiana at below sea level and passed away in Poncha Springs, Colorado at an elevation of over seven thousand feet! Everyone was delighted when we read in the *Alumni News* that the petite person we had known for so many years was elected Mayor of her town in Colorado. She had told us that some of her most special times in life were spent with her beloved husband and her three children skiing, hiking, camping and volunteering to maintain the Colorado Trail. Ruby was often present at our class reunions, most recently in New Orleans in September 2016 for our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. She was able to attend in spite of a cancer diagnosis. The most memorable traits that we recalled about Ruby were that she was upbeat, genuine and bubbly. Those traits were carried with her throughout her life. All of her classmates especially remembered that Ruby had such a sweet smile. I will make a donation in Ruby's name to the Sister Camilla Scholarship."

Another classmate, **Frances Dupre Weber '56**, writes, "Ruby was short in stature, but great in spirit. She always had a smile, loved being with everyone and was a dedicated friend. Above all, she was active - in her church, working diligently on committees to be a 'Voice of the Student Body,' as a liaison between Administration and the nursing students. This is evidenced by her excellent performance serving on the Student Council, a member of the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses, on the staff of *The White Cap*, and active with the Protestant Chapel group. All of these virtues no doubt led to her later life's self-actualization. In addition to being a Charity Hospital School of Nursing Registered Nurse, and a wife and mother, she would take care of her home town as the Mayor of Poncho Springs.

"Our Senior Class chose the following poem to speak for the meaning of what we are as nurses:

To be a nurse is to walk with God,  
along the path that Our Master trod.  
To sooth the aching of human pain,  
to faithfully serve for little gain.  
To lovingly do the kindly deed,  
a cup of water to one in need.  
A tender hand on a fevered brow,  
a word of cheer in the living now.  
To reach the soul through the body's woe,  
oh, this is the path that Jesus would go.  
Oh, white wrapped girls in service true,  
our Great Physician is working through you.

- Author Unknown



"I believe that Ruby was everything expressed in that poem. I just opened my 1956 annual to the sweet note that Ruby left me by her senior picture, wishing me luck and saying she would love me always."

This spring, the School of Nursing received a bequest of \$12,000 from Ruby's estate.



**Barbara Pitre Philipps '61:** After graduating from Charity, Barbara earned her BSN from Northwestern State University and went on to teach Med-Surg at Charity School of Nursing until 1974. She received a Masters degree from UNO in 1984. Barbara was a lifetime member of the American Nursing Association and was recognized as one of the 100 Best Nurses in

Louisiana by the American Health Council. In 2001 she became the Nursing Staff Development Specialist in Service Education at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette, LA, until she retired in 2010. She passed away in May 2020 at 79, of complications from a broken ankle.

We heard from a friend of Barbara's, Peggy Grace, who wrote this: "I was fortunate to meet Barbara Philipps through her lifelong friend, **Julia Spratt '61**, my aunt. My husband and I enjoyed Barbara's company for many years in New Orleans, Galveston and Carencro. I knew her as a dedicated nurse and very well respected health professional, but more importantly she was a wonderful friend. She shared her home in Carencro, LA - a warm welcome when traveling from Texas to Florida. We enjoyed her company and our last visit was filled with stories and laughs that still bring a smile to my face. My husband Tom and I will miss her dearly. I am sending a donation for a scholarship in her name."



**Linda Maund Twedt '64:** After graduating from Charity, Linda received her BS in Nursing cum laude, from Georgia Southwestern College, and a MSN summa cum laude from the Medical College of Georgia, where she was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau national nursing honor society. She was named to Who's Who of American Women for 1976-78.

Linda spent many years as a nurse in the hospital setting in patient education and as a surgical nurse, and she received training at Emory University to become an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse. She previously resided in New Orleans

and in Columbus, Savannah, and Midway, Georgia, before finally retiring to Columbus, GA. She passed away at age 76 in May 2020.

**Jane Jacobs Hebert '68** met her future husband while she was in nursing school and they married in 1969 after she graduated from Charity. Jane worked as a registered nurse at Charity Hospital from 1968 through 1971. She and her husband moved to Monroe, LA, in 1972, where they raised their two boys. Once their children left home, Jane and David maintained residences in both Monroe and their beloved New Orleans. Jane passed away in May 2020, after a protracted battle with illness.



**Patricia Carreras Pankey '69** attended the University of New Orleans and was president of her class at Charity School of Nursing. Graduating in 1969, she was awarded the Honor Pin, Charity's highest award for outstanding student nurses. She was a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator and head of the coronary care unit at Ochsner Foundation Hospital before becoming a mother. She

was also a licensed real estate agent. Pat attended last fall's Alumni Breakfast, celebrated her class's 50-year reunion, and gave us her grandmother's 1917 diploma and class photo - which is featured on our 2020-21 alumni calendars. Pat passed away at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston in March 2020 at the age of 73. We were honored that Pat's family asked that memorial donations be made to the Charity Alumni Association to benefit the nursing students.

**Madge Durand Larson '75** had served as Director of Nurses at St. Theresa Hospice and was employed by Concepts of Care Home Health at the time of her passing in January 2020. She was 69 years old.



**George Gerard Martinez '82** passed on December 29, 2019. He was the brother of Charity alumni **Robert Martinez '79** and **Cynthia Abadie '70**. George graduated from Charity in 1982, but also was a graduate of culinary school and cooked on riverboats and offshore rigs. He lived a life of adventure and was an avid sailor and motorcycle enthusiast. He died at

age 64 in a tragic fire at his home in Chackbay, Louisiana, a small town near Thibodaux.





**Rita Blouin Olivio '86** was a homemaker while her children were young, but after they left the nest she decided to complete her own education and graduated from Charity in 1986. After a short stint as a hospital nurse, Rita began a lengthy career as a Home Health Nurse where she felt she could benefit her patients the most. Upon retirement, she became a Eucharistic Minister so she could continue to help others. Rita passed away in December 2019, at 83.



**Susanne Knight Israel '87:** "My dear friend Susanne was born in Honolulu, HI, but we lived in the same small town of Boyce, LA, as kids. We were like sisters. Susanne attended Charity School of Nursing, graduating in 1987. She began her nursing career at Big Charity in New Orleans. Later she transferred to Tulane Hospital and worked in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. She retired after her boys, Dylan and Zachary arrived. Susanne loved life and traveling with the love of her life, her husband Robert. Some of our greatest times were our family vacations together in San Destin, FL. Through the years we never lost touch. She died in April at the age of 58." - *Susan Nichols Vallee*



**Elizabeth Morris Simeon '99:** "My mother passed away suddenly in December 2018. After she graduated from Charity in 1999, she began her nursing career in the NICU. At the time of her passing she was working as a Home Health Nurse for Pulse Home Health Care. Her passion for nursing was always prominent. It was clear that nursing wasn't just a job for her - it was her calling. She dedicated her life to helping others, and left her mark on the world in the people she helped. She always spoke warmly about her time at Charity, and her passion inspired others to follow in her footsteps and answer the call to nursing. The world lost a great healer on the day she died, but she had a light inside her that will always burn. Even today, her memory continues to inspire all who knew her." - *Rachel Morris*

**Sister Mary Paule Vardigan D.C.** entered the Daughters of Charity in April 1936 and was missioned to St. Joseph's Hospital in Chicago to receive her nursing training. In 1942, she was sent to Charity Hospital where she served

as a Med-Surg Nursing Supervisor and as Pediatrics Nursing Instructor for the School of Nursing until 1953. She went on to get her BSN from LSU, and was missioned as a Nursing Supervisor at hospitals in Illinois, Texas and Missouri, returning intermittently to New Orleans to serve as a Patient Visitor at Charity Hospital, and Chaplain at Hotel Dieu Hospital, University Hospital and Medical Center of Louisiana-Charity campus, at the Calhoun Residence, at Malta House and Chateau de Notre Dame. Sister Mary Paule joined the alumni (through the dedicated efforts of **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49**) at our 2018 Spring Luncheon to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She died in November 2019 at the age of 101. ❖

## In Memorium

*We publish the names of alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death. Farewell to these friends:*

Col. Mary Louise Regus, USAR Ret. '43 (7/11/16)  
 Edith "Millie" Rodgers Hackett '48 (9/26/19)  
 Beverly Louque Montz '48 (3/29/20)  
 Myrtis Brignac Walton '48 (2/25/20)  
 Virginia Guarino Lorusso '50 (12/25/19)  
 Anne Warren Montgomery '51 (4/7/20)  
 Eleanor Danysh Lerro '52 (3/1/19)  
 Doris Trahan Olson '52 (1/24/20)  
 Hazel MacKillican Wilson '52 (9/14/18)  
 Vivian Cheramie DeFelice '53 (4/2/20)  
 Nellie Rose Sortino Sclafani '53 (12/11/19)  
 Joyce Glenn Weber '53 (12/15/13)  
 Marijean "Jeanie" Martin Pruett '54 (3/25/20)  
 Clara Cannon DeShan '55 (6/19)  
 Jane Wilson Black '56 (9/14/19)  
 Barbara Pitre Philipps '61 (5/2/20)  
 Linda Maund Twedt '64 (5/13/20)  
 Elizabeth "Betty" Fried Olsen '66 (4/19/20)  
 Jane Jacobs Hebert '68 (5/10/20)  
 Patricia Carreras Pankey '69 (3/6/20)  
 Madge Durand Larson '75 (1/15/20)  
 George Gerard Martinez '82 (12/29/19)  
 Rita Lois Blouin Olivio '86 (12/10/19)  
 Susanne Knight Israel '87 (4/30/20)  
 Rhonda Rae Hamilton '93 (1/6/20)  
 Elizabeth Morris Simeon '99 (12/16/18)

### Faculty and Staff

Sister Mary Paule Vardigan (11/13/19)  
 Yvonne Labranche Lagasse (12/17/19)  
 Carol Levy Monahan (2/21/20)





## The Family of Rose Ella Miller Present Her First Scholarship

The family of **Rose Ella Miller '58** attended the Promotion and Awards Ceremony for the School of Nursing in February to present the first

### **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller Scholarship.**

Two of Rose Ella's sisters, **Judith Salmere** and **Anna Chenevert**, and her brother-in-law **Mitch Salmere** attended the ceremony and shared memories of Rose Ella and how proud she was to be a Charity nurse. They were joined by two members of the Scholarship Committee, **Ursula Allain '65** and **Charlene Berger '79**, to present a certificate and check. The first recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship was senior **Maria Zubareva**.

The Promotion and Awards Ceremony is the School of Nursing's celebration of the progression of students to Level 3 after their first year of nursing school. It is also where Clinical Excellence Awards, SAC honor society memberships and Alumni Association scholarships and pin awards are presented.

The ceremony is analogous to Capping, but Level 3 students receive a bar pin inscribed with 'CSN-DCC' for Charity School of Nursing-Delgado Community College. The ceremony is normally held in the School of Nursing gym, but this semester it was held on Delgado's City Park campus because the roof of the school building and the gym ceiling were undergoing major repairs.

Rose Ella left a bequest of almost \$190,000 to the Alumni Association. We established an endowed scholarship fund in her honor as well as a fund to create a Skills Lab in the new building planned for Charity School of Nursing. In addition, there is a fund to provide scholarships now, while allowing the endowment to grow so it can provide future scholarships indefinitely, from interest and dividends only.

A \$1,000 **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller Scholarship** will be awarded each semester to an outstanding Charity student. ❖



*Left to right, Charlene Berger '79, Mitch Salmere, Judith Salmere, Anna Chenevert and Ursula Allain '65 at the Promotion and Awards Ceremony in February. All scholarship recipients are listed on page 11 and 12.*

## Order Charity Face Masks

We will probably be wearing masks for some time now, so why not show your Charity spirit while protecting yourself and others while out and about?

We are now offering navy cotton face masks with a classy embroidered gold Charity logo. These non-medical 4-ply face masks are made of 100% ringspun cotton for added softness, reinforced with hemmed edges. Cotton straps are soft with natural give to adjust easily. The size is approximately 5 x 7 inches. They will be available at the end of June, so order yours now! Only \$12 including shipping!

Go to our website: **CharityAlumni.org** and click on *Order Online*. Or order on the form on page 23. Other souvenirs are also available to order on the website. And you can renew your membership at the same time! ❖



# Members of Note

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49  
Rowena Smith Christensen '51  
Betty Ogea Moore '51  
Martha Phillips Gentry '53  
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth '55  
Jean Altice Blake '58  
Anne Matthiesen Daigle '58  
Anna Martino Meinert '59  
Esther Ogea Doucet '60  
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60  
Frances Petho Aponte '61  
Joan Bero '63  
Barbara Johnson Roger '63  
Dorothy Russell Staggs '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  
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 Troups '67  
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon '67  
Mary Wood '67  
Dr. Marelle Yongue '67  
Barbara "Bobbie" Bonner Folse '68  
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  
Jo Ann Rizzutto '71  
Kathy Garrand Rolston '71  
D. Paxson Barker '72  
Chelsa Duhon Kuhnell '72  
Sharon Megahee Lowrey '72  
Rosalie Parenton Vincent '72  
Dennis Pinkozie '73  
Lynel Leonard Pinkozie '73  
Wilda Taylor '73  
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair '73  
Karen Leitz Clayton '74  
Susan Duhon '74  
Nancy O'Pry Gentry '74  
Charlene White Persich '74  
Mary Susan LeCompte Farrar '75  
Jamie Walker Jensen '75  
Julie Munster 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  
Lane E. McAlister '76  
Myra Lee DiGange '77  
Ellen Williams Manieri '77  
Sheila Perrault Dahlgren '78  
Marilyn Nola Hammett Gentry '78  
Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeanson '78  
Rebecca Mayo '78  
Sandra Tracy Bailey '79  
Vickie Morrow Gibert '79  
Cindy Tschrin Nuesslein '79  
Karen DelValle Tampira '79  
Claudette Boudreaux '80  
Belinda Hutchinson Janeski '80  
Cydney Trahans Begnaud '81  
Gloria Hallal Jarreau '81  
Elizabeth Kelly Carlini '82  
Renee Rago Schuller '83  
Patricia Dufrene '85  
Elaine Riecke Bergeron '86  
Gina West Ragland '86  
Lisa Palmer Strain '89  
Kevin Besse '91  
Michael Harrison '92  
Betty Trosclair Loumiet '92  
April Lyn Willis Scaffidi '92  
Mitzi Ridgell Arnold '93  
Craig A. Cedotal '94  
Penny Authement Schuler '94  
Margaret Johnson Jackson '96  
Brenda Shields Simmons '96  
Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen '97  
Lista Hank '97  
Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97  
Cynthia Fernandez '10  
Elaine Lauga '12  
Danielle Chambers '14

## SISTER STANISLAUS 2020

Gloria Garner Levi '55  
Betty Loving Braden '62  
Jannie Virginia Fountain '62  
Rita Fay Borne Broussard '66  
Brenda Crump Trosclair '68  
Patricia Darcy Weed '68  
Paula Favre Brewington '69  
Ginny Graves Clark '69  
Carolyn M. Bartsch '70  
Maylia Pourciau Langlois '71  
Stephanie Laws '73  
Connie Bousquet '77  
Renee Bridget Guidry '87

## SILVER STAR 2020

Janet Talbot Nuzum Green '50  
Dolores Marsh Alford '51  
Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54

Nancy Mynihan Comish '57  
Millie Nash Worner '58  
Kay Kirking Schmuellen '64  
JoAnn Pierce Ligon '66  
Elaine Ledoux Phares '66  
Conchetta Uli Walters '67  
Earline Chauvin Watson '68  
Mary Katherine Landry Bocz '69  
Francine Taaffe Dyer '70  
Linda Boudreaux Guedry '70  
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70  
Christine Hurley Carbon '71  
Stevie Reese McLaughlin '71  
Janice Gates Redlich '71  
Maria Compagno Roth '71  
Patrice Polito Bruno '72  
Rosemary Lamia Clayton Hemelt '72  
Susan Pye Stone '72  
Bonnie Arton '73  
Sherry Smith Simmons '73  
Diane Tingle Cormack '74  
Janice Breaux Samson '75  
Rebecca Carter Fisher '76  
Marion Sams Johnson '76  
Patricia Lane '79  
Melissa Manuel Deshotels '81  
Vonterris Hagan-Temple '85  
Deborah Fischer Soniat '85  
Veronica Gautreaux Theriot '85  
Laura Schlaudecker Hebert '94  
Catherine Konrick Berns '14  
Mary Elaine Ponce-Gaudin '16

## BLUE RIBBON 2020

Billie Hilton Robertson '48  
Jewell Poole Slade '50  
Mary Katherine Brune Mollere '52  
Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53  
Carole Rohli Lowe '53  
Rita Gail Rills Gaudet '54  
M. Delores Carter '56  
Tommye Crooks Halphen '56  
Rosemary Schnell '56  
Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57  
Louise "Jo" Stolf Wagner '57  
Rosemary Myers Breaux '58  
Betty Hartsock Smith '58  
Rosalie Nicolosi Collura '59  
Elizabeth Lafleur Giese '59  
T. Irene "Rennie" Kaczorowski '59  
Catherine LaFleur St. Cyr '59  
Joanne Bushey '60  
Judith Lohr Dauterive '60  
Ethel Faciane Friend '60  
Beryl Ann Forgey Olhasso '60  
Sandra Strauser Clement '61  
Antoinette Keating Sykes '61  
Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62  
Judith Guion Barousse '63  
Yvonne Gauthier McGaha '63  
Bettie Unsworth Nolin '63  
Brenda Rabren Putman '63  
Linda Bernard Cucullu '64  
Susan Regner Noll '64  
Marilee Keating Phillips '64

Elaine Moraus Wiltz '64  
Martha Meaux Genin '65  
Susan Thibodeaux Grace '65  
Constance Kennedy Proctor '65  
Margaret LeCompte Smith '65  
Ann Barry Carroll '66  
Mary Aymami Hymel '66  
Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66  
Joan Musacchia Taylor '66  
Virginia Faris Angle '67  
Susan Theriot Gosnell '67  
Mary Ellen Potier Hebert '67  
Cassandra Stokes Hite '67  
Peggy Kozak Jackson '67  
F. Dianne Weber '67  
Bonnie Glover Williams '67  
Lana Collins Craigo '68  
Joan Beauchea Gasper '68  
Patricia Murphy Solomon '68  
Lorraine Babin Fearheiley '69  
Julia Simoneaux Chiquet George '69  
Darwin Schaubhut Martin '70  
Katherine Manuel Landreneau '71  
Elaine Schiller Maguire '71  
Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler '71  
Cynthia Steinkamp Michel '72  
Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72  
Myra Diaz Cheramie '73  
Juanita Wescoat Graffagnini '73  
Elren Davis Waddell '73  
Kathy Granier Herman '74  
Christina Blanchard Higdon '74  
Anita Barras Landry '75  
Lynn Battaglia O'Niell '75  
Claudia Launey Ortego '75  
Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76  
Elaine Schexnayder Launey '76  
Daisy Thom '77  
Rosalie Croft Gonzales '78  
Mary K. Maher '78  
Karen Howard Smith '78  
Cathryn Tereskerz Smith '78  
Charlene Robbins Berger '79  
Robert Martinez '79  
Bonnie McDonald McGee '79  
Karen Jameson Rush '80  
John Bertucci '81  
Nancy Allebone Capponi '81  
James H. Craig, Jr. '82  
Karen Freitag Craig '83  
Cynthia Larmeu Edwards '83  
Karen Friley '83  
Ellen Gautreaux '83  
Connie O'Pry Martin Hoover '83  
Linda Brown '85  
Mary Sue Sargo '85  
Estelle Collins Vincent '85  
Yvette Chevalier Bertaut '87  
Karen Medina D'Antonio '89  
Jodi C. Fremin '90  
Kathleen Shaner Hyzy '92  
Shirley Strahan Lechner '92  
Frances Loeske '92  
Audrey Benson Walker '92  
Stephen DeSalvo '93



Trenee Mustaiche Maechling '93  
 Lauren Martello Terrio '96  
 Regina Foster Danner '97  
 Susan McWalters Rowell '98  
 Anne McCutchen Silverstein '98  
 Lisa Legeaux '05  
 Beverly Rainey '05  
 Susan Wentz '11  
 Keishia Williams '11  
 Ashley Bickham-Flowers '14

*The following were received  
 after The White Cap 2019:*

#### **SISTER STANISLAUS 2019**

Geneva Dufour Waters '48  
 Rita Fay Borne Broussard '66  
 Paulette Gallant Gravois '67  
 Bonnie Hensley Mowe '70

#### **SILVER STAR 2019**

Gloria Garner Levi '55  
 Virginia Cage Shemwell '60  
 Vera Hoyt Copeland '64  
 Kay Kirking Schmuellen '64  
 Susan Balser Edwards Berry '69  
 Mary Reaney Gates '69  
 Olander Belfield Holloway '74  
 Beth Wininger Pesses '76  
 Ecoee Rooney '99  
 Lisa Bultman '04

#### **BLUE RIBBON 2019**

Valerie Hinton Corkern '53  
 Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57  
 Rosetta Anzalone Tumminello '57  
 Elizabeth Lafleur Giese '59  
 Joanne Bushey '60  
 Elva Keller Kimbrough '60  
 Beryl Ann Forgey Olhasso '60  
 Judith Guion Barousse '63  
 Judith Pourciau Mestayer '63  
 Frances Ainsworth Robichaux '64  
 Penelope Munster Turberville '64  
 Mary Aymami Hymel '66  
 Judith Watson Lastrapes '67  
 Ellen Inguagiato Olivier '67  
 Sandra Turci Bergeron '69  
 Ellarea Kerley Farwell '69  
 Dianne Theriot Clavin '71  
 June Griffen Ellerbusch '71  
 Jennifer Fitch Fuselier '72  
 Myra Diaz Cheramie '73  
 LaVerne Birdsall McCormick '73  
 Mary K. Maher '78  
 Karen Howard Smith '78  
 Keesha Berkhalter '80  
 Tonia Chiasson Chauvin '92  
 Roslyn Johnny '93  
 Dionne Simms Hughes '95  
 Mary Kay Ford '99  
 Michelle Cannon Bauer '01  
 Karen Bulanowski Rice '01  
 Keesha Berkhalter '08  
 Kim Dunn '14



# 2019-20 Outstanding Donors

*Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds  
 since The White Cap 2019*

#### Alumni Scholarship Fund

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52  
 Sheila Mitchell Feigley '53  
 Gloria Garner Levi '55  
 Lynda Dixon Abney '58  
 Rosemary Myers Breau '58  
 In Memory of  
 Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching '58  
 and Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58  
 Tommielu L. Sparks '60  
 Peggy Begnaud Johns '63  
 Paulette Gallant Gravois '67  
 Jo Ann Rizzutto '71  
 Bonnie Arton '73  
 Peggy Nicaud Prosser '73  
 April Lyn Willis Scaffidi '92

#### Art & Archives

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52  
 Gail Briggs  
 In Memory of her mother  
 Hazel MacKillican Wilson '52

#### CASN Convention Travel Fund

Anne Blinn Faist '54  
 Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60  
 Rebecca Rodrigue Bennink '68  
 Jo Ann Rizzutto '71  
 Jan Carrio '76

#### Pin Awards

CSN Level 2 Faculty  
 In Memory of Wayne Frank Porter,  
 spouse of Dr. Nora Steele  
 In memory of Enola Schroeder Hoppe  
 and John Louis Hoppe, Jr.,  
 parents of Cynthia Hoppe  
 In memory of Erline Harris,  
 mother of Tracy Harris

Lee and Sharon Pankey  
 In Memory of  
 Patricia Carreras Pankey '69

Charlene Robbins Berger '79  
 In Memory of Kirk LeVesseur '79

Evelyn Dodson  
 In Memory of her father,  
 Heber B. Dodson, Jr.

Sister Stanislaus Gardening Fund  
 Betty Wilson Guin '49

#### Student Emergency Assistance Fund

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49  
 Betty Wilson Guin '49  
 Anne Blinn Faist '54  
 Rosemary Myers Breau '58  
 Rebecca Rodrigue Bennink '68  
 Barbara Bonner Folse '68

#### Individual Scholarship Funds (minimum \$500 donation)

The River Oaks Hospital Scholarship  
 Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship  
 Lt. Col. Maudie E. Bates '50,  
 Ret. Air Force, Scholarship  
 Martha Phillips Gentry '53 Scholarship  
 Sydney Wood Womack '57 Scholarship  
 Class of 9-11-64 Scholarship Fund  
 Marilee Keating Phillips '64  
 Judith Wellman Quigley '64  
 Estelle LeBlanc Rome '64

Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78  
 Scholarship - Dr. Kevin Jeansonne

Sister Camilla Gaudin, DC Scholarship  
 Mary Smith Singletary '49  
 Sandra Owens Robert '56  
 In memory of Ruby Pinell Taylor '56  
 and Frances Rhodes

Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship  
 Sally Cooper Scholarship  
 Roberta Purvis Bartee '66

Bequest of Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58  
 Rose Ella Chenevert Miller Scholarship  
 Fund - \$20,000  
 Rose Ella Chenevert Miller Endowed  
 Scholarship Fund - \$30,000  
 Rose Ella Chenevert Miller Skills Lab  
 Fund - \$130,000 ❖

# When Life Gives You a Pandemic, Make Lemonade

By Ursula Allain '65

As Covid-19 threatened the Greater New Orleans area, Stay-at-Home became the rule for non-essentials like old retired ladies! It certainly seemed a case of life giving me lemons. I never dreamed of all the positive things that have occurred with the lemonade that came my way.

On the phone with my classmate **Martha Meaux Genin '65**, we had a sober realization. We knew we were no longer young, but suddenly WE were the 'elderly' everyone was talking about! The ones that needed special protection!

A few days later, my across-the-street neighbor Linda (gray haired like me) and I were suddenly uplifted when a 3-year-old neighbor labeled us "the girls." We couldn't help but laugh in appreciation! No one has thought of us in that way in many, many years! What a joy to the heart.

Our neighbors have come to expect to see Linda and I pushing our walkers down the street on our daily strolls. In addition to the fresh air, we can enjoy their very pretty flower beds, and the neighbors wave when they are driving past or working outside in their yard.

I always knew that my niece Terry and great niece Shannon were a wonderful addition to my life in helping to keep me young. We were able to celebrate Shannon's 17th birthday and Terry's 54th birthday in different ways than 'normal' but still special. We also enjoyed several drive-by birthdays, graduations, and special events while keeping that ever-present social distance.

## Porch Sitting

Our neighborhood group has shared many unexpected experiences as we revived the old fashioned 'porch sitting' tradition. It often extends into a front-lawn garden party while keeping our respective distances. There is much talking and sharing experiences as we enjoy the antics of my neighbors Jill and Jeryl's (3, 7, 8 and 9-year-old) grandchildren. The energy they display in playing basketball, football, skateboarding, bike riding, skating and other things has kept us laughing and wondering where did our energy go?

Other adventures have included Jeryl's love of cooking and inviting us to share his family's Sunday crawfish boils. We would provide dessert, and at the end of each boil, we would sit and talk and peel any leftover crawfish



*Ursula Allain '65 and her neighbors enjoy lemonade at a socially-distanced lawn party. Left to right, neighbors Jeryl and Jill, Ursula and Linda.*

which Jill would put in the freezer. Yesterday our Sunday gathering took a different twist. Jill and Jeryl made a crawfish pastalaya and a salad which included tomatoes grown in their garden. Terry had driven past a Tastee Donuts (which has the old McKenzies recipes) and they were advertising Blackout Cake! I guess you know what we had for dessert! Another great shelter-in-place adventure.

Linda would host ice cream socials (she loves Baskin Robbins ice cream) after the kids were finished their home school days. Our version of a drive-in theater was viewing Jill and Jeryl's outdoor TV from my patio, enjoying Disney sing-a-long specials.

It took a pandemic to learn how great neighbors can be and how much you share in common when you spend more than five or ten minutes as you come and go in your daily activities.

Who knew how much we would enjoy televised mass while relaxing in our living rooms? And first, last, and always - we are praying and thanking God for helping us cope with all that is going on around the world and to enjoy the hope, peace, and comfort that allows us to get through this situation.

Hoping that your lemonade experiences are as sweet as mine as we continue to social distance, wear our masks, and wait to see what the future holds.

Take care. Stay safe. Stay happy!

*Ursula*

Class of 9-10-65



# Sister Stanislaus Honored by Mardi Gras Krewe

Shortly before Mardi Gras, we were contacted by Paula Kopp, a registered nurse from Gulfport, Mississippi. "I belong to a Mardi Gras marching krewe, the Dames de Perlage. This year our theme is *Fierce Women of Louisiana*. I had the opportunity to honor any notable Louisiana woman. My choice was Sister Stanislaus Malone."

Sister Stanislaus Malone was in the first graduating class at Charity School of Nursing in 1895, and went on to become the Director of Charity Hospital. Over 65 years she brought Charity Hospital into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and expanded the school of nursing, all while ministering to the sick and needy of the city through outbreaks of the flu, yellow fever and bubonic plague. Sister Stanislaus was known as 'the nun with a gun' for hiding the gun of a wounded man to prevent his arrest. A fierce woman indeed!

Paula went on to describe her krewe. "There are about 60 members for the 2020 parade season, all working to represent her fierce woman of choice. We have been working in secret on our costumes since May 2019 and revealed our theme on January 6, 2020. Each Dame portrays the subject matter with hand-sewn bead work. We produce three beaded objects for our individual costumes (a corset panel, a bustle piece and a headpiece object).

Our designs are drawn or printed on linen fabric which we usually affix to a hooped or wooden frame. We hand sew individual beads to the fabric; nothing is glued. Our beads are seed beads and small bugles. Some seed beads are as tiny as poppy seeds!

"This process takes hundreds of hours and thousands of beads to complete. This is my second year working in the krewe. In 2018-2019 my project took six months to complete; this time it took closer to eight months! Our beaded handwork and tradition is very similar to the Mardi Gras Indians - who also bead elaborate costume suits every year for the carnival season. You can follow our group on Facebook: Dames de Perlage. I know there will be many graduates of Charity and Delgado among the revelers on the parade route. I'd love for them to know their school is being lovingly represented."



Above, the beaded costume pieces. Below, Paula marches with the Dames de Perlage in February.

The Dames marched with the Krewes of Freret, King Arthur, and Tucks, and in our Dame Fine Second Line in the French Quarter on Lundi Gras.

Paula recently sent us an update. "Here are some happy photos of this past Mardi Gras season with my Sister Stanislaus costume with the Dames de Perlage. Our theme, *Fierce Women of Louisiana*, was a huge success! Many Charity graduates and even a few current students and Charity nuns shouted out to me along the parade routes. It was thrilling to hear them call out to me. Please tell them

how much it meant to me!

"I'm looking forward to joining you all (in my costume) at your Homecoming whenever it is rescheduled. I'd also love to share my Sister Stanislaus tribute as a display at the school.

"I am well and safe. I work as a registered nurse at my home hospital in Gulfport.

I've been sewing cloth surgical masks at home. All of my fabric hoarding has found a purpose! I also teach NCLEX review classes. I am very blessed to be able to work safely from home as a nurse educator these past few months.

"I pray for a solution to this virus and hope the public takes precautions as restrictions are lifted. We are not out of the woods yet. I am sure there is much more heartache, despair and death to come with new infections. Please keep in touch and be well, Charity Alumni!" ❖

## 2020-21 Board of Directors

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## 2020-21 Advisory Committee

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Kashanda Foley



## Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

450 South Claiborne Ave  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
504.571.1395

### Email:

chsnaaoffice@gmail.com

### Website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

### Facebook:

Charity Alumni NOLA

### Photos of Alumni events:

<http://charityalumni.shutterfly.com>

Shutterfly is a photo-sharing site where  
you can view photos from our events.

Use the above address to go  
directly to our site (a web search for  
Shutterfly won't get you there.)

## We want to hear from you!

What have you been doing since graduation? Please let us know so we can print your news in the *Alumni News* this fall. Send photos, too!

If you know an alumni who is not receiving our newsletters, please send us their mailing address and/or email.

Are you an internet whiz, or like to talk on the phone? We could use your help to update our mailing list and find lost alumni.

If you would like to organize a class reunion, or just get in touch with your classmates, we can send you a class list.

Would you like to volunteer as a Standardized Patient?

Would you like to help with cleaning up the landscaping around the school building? (It's gotten pretty overgrown while the school was closed.)

Please let us know! Call or email the Alumni office! ❖



# You can use this form...

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

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
First name Maiden (or Graduation name if different from current name) Last name

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

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

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

☐ 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 annual dues again).

\*Members at the \$25 level or above, please select your choice of:

- ☐ Personalized CHSNAA 2020-21 pocket calendar
- ☐ Vintage postcard of the old dorm
- ☐ Charity pocket notepad
- ☐ No gift, please.



☐ Please send me a  
Charity Face Mask.....\$12



☐ I want to make a donation to the:

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

Mail this form with your check to: CHSN Alumni Association,  
 Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

---

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

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Breaking News:  
**Homecoming  
2020  
CANCELLED**  
due to  
pandemic.

No Alumni Event in Fall 2020.

**What is that number  
after my name?**

The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "Jane Jones 2020" means your membership expires at the end of 2020. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2021.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2020 (such as "2018"), 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 do appreciate your donations!

If you have any questions about your membership, call or email the Alumni office.

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