

THE



WHITE CAP

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Charity Hospital School of Nursing and Delgado Charity School of Nursing

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From the President

By Patricia Dufrene '85

The Class of May 2025 has graduated! That marks 130 years since the first Charity graduates pinned gold pelicans framed by laurel leaves to their uniforms and embarked on their nursing careers.

The pin has changed over the decades. The school has changed, the students have changed. Nursing has changed.

Change... how often do we find the hairs on our necks rise up when we hear that word...

But why? Because we don't know what to expect? Because we doubt it will be for the better? Because we fear that those fuzzy golden memories we cling to will no longer have meaning?

Celebrate Resilience

Fear is natural enough. When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans 20 years ago, we were all afraid. What will it mean for our city? Will it change? But we were resilient. Have things changed? Sure... but we're still here.

When Charity School of Nursing joined Delgado Community College, I remember the resistance among some alumni. "Things will change!"

Of course they changed. But 32 years in, no one can say it wasn't the right decision for the school! Charity continues to lead nursing education, and continues to prepare outstanding new nurses to enter our profession. Have things changed? Sure... but we're still here.

Celebrate Mystery

At our Spring Brunch, we saluted the fictional Cherry Ames, but when **Jenn Garnand '11** gave her blessing (*page 11*), she talked about more than a nurse detective. She pondered *mystery* – and how it "shapes the trajectory of who we are and where we want to be."

What is our resistance to change except our fear of the mystery? Of leaving our comfort zone and shifting our point of view? Of seeing new doors open, other paths forward?



Many of us learned how to give injections on each other. But the high-tech mannequins used now are fantastic – and give students learning experiences we could never have had in school.

I love that the Capping Ceremony *evolved* into the Honors and Promotion Ceremony. And I love that there's a "new" (two decades old) tradition that most of us alumni knew nothing about until **Ann Dieck '80** shared it with us! (*See page 10.*)

Celebrate Forward

Our memories are precious, but we don't value them less if we embrace change. Coming back to them from a new perspective can make them

even more meaningful... to see where we came from and the amazing possibilities that opened up to us as we took each scary step along the path that brought us here.

The Charity School of Nursing of today is a product of all that has gone before – and of each one of us who walked the halls of those other buildings.

The Charity of today is also the product of the heartfelt support our alumni have given to the school and her students at every step *they* have taken along their path. We're still here... and we are still proud! And we are committed to seeing Charity provide the best nursing education – and the best *new* memories!

Celebrate Homecoming

I hope you can join us for Homecoming 2025 in October. I want you to see the new building and meet the current students – and gather with the alumni from so many other generations!

We all have different experiences of Charity. And yes, things have changed. But the Spirit of Charity is alive and well, and it soars in the heart of every proud graduate! And that is truly something to celebrate! ❖

Above: the Class of May 2025 at the Ochsner Center

Charity School of Nursing Heart, Mind & Soul Homecoming 2025



Saturday Morning, October 11 Fill Your Heart at Charity School of Nursing

Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health,
City Park Ave at Orleans Ave

Registration and Continental Breakfast at 9:00am

Welcome at 10:00am, Tours begin at 10:30am

A modern gem of educational architectural, ringed by windows and embraced by ancient oak trees, the Ochsner Center provides a learning environment for Charity students that incorporates interaction with other healthcare programs as well as state-of-the-art technology. Students and faculty will guide us through Skills Labs, the Virtual Hospital and more. Join us in exploring this brilliant new chapter in Charity's history – and fall in in love with nursing school all over again!



Free Your Mind at the Patricia Pankey Memorial Labyrinth

Delgado Quad, City Park campus
1:00pm

Join us for the very special, official dedication of our beautiful Patricia Carreras Pankey '69 Memorial Meditation Labyrinth. Nestled between the tree-lined pond and green lawn of the Student Center, the Labyrinth is a place of respite



and relaxation, providing a gracious focal point for Charity students and alumni.

Walk the Charity Pin-inspired octagonal track to find calm and center yourself, ponder ideas, or just enjoy a beautiful day. And adjacent to the walking path is the new site for our Commemorative Brick columns. Reset and reminisce surrounded by nature – and the Spirit of Charity!



Sunday Morning, October 12

Fuel Your Soul at the Lakefront Airport Terminal Grand Atrium

6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd



Registration and cash bar open at 9:30am, Breakfast by Messina's begins at 10:00am

In 1930s New Orleans, two architectural masterpieces by the WPA marked the beginning of the modern era in New Orleans – the new Charity Hospital and the new Lakefront Airport Terminal. One of the most unique and sought-after event venues in New Orleans, the Grand Atrium of the Lakefront Airport is an Art Deco wonderland – murals by Xavier Gonzalez, extraordinary bas-relief sculptures by

Enrique Alferez and a dazzling array of decorative work on floors, walls and ceilings. Breathtaking, and hauntingly evocative of the beauty and majesty of Big Charity in its prime. Your soul will sing!

I'm Ready!

Use the form on page 27 to order your tickets, or order online at **CharityAlumni.org**. Once we receive your order, we will send you a Homecoming packet with maps to all the sites, parking locations, t-shirt ordering info, and much more! Please order your tickets by October 1!

Questions? Email us at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com.

Need a Hotel? See page 26 for info on a special rate!

Dean's Report

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

Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends:

As summer shines upon us, I find myself reflecting on a year of incredible momentum – and I am overwhelmed with gratitude. At the Delgado Charity School of Nursing, we are not just educating nurses; we are shaping the future of healthcare with heart, integrity, and unwavering resolve. What we've accomplished together is nothing short of extraordinary!

Excellence Redefined:

ACEN Re-Accreditation Success

This February, we opened our doors to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) with pride – and the results were a resounding affirmation of our mission. The site visit team found our program fully compliant across *all five accreditation standards*, with **no areas cited for improvement**. Even more impressive, we were *commended for our documented strength in Standard 1*, which speaks volumes about our leadership, institutional support, and student success.

This momentous achievement belongs to all of us – faculty, staff, students, alumni and clinical partners. It is your dedication, your late nights, your mentorship, and your commitment to excellence that led to this outcome. This is what happens when a community believes deeply in its purpose.

A heartfelt thank you to our Accreditation Team – you led with vision and excellence, and we are deeply proud.

Empowering Nurses, Transforming Lives: The HERO Grant

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking step forward: a **\$1.4 million H.E.R.O. Fund Grant** from LDH and Ochsner Health to launch our *LPN-to-RN Evening and Weekend Track*. This pilot program will open the doors for working LPNs – starting with Ochsner employees – to become RNs through a supportive, flexible, and fully funded educational journey.

This initiative embodies our values:

- Equity in access and second chances,
- Flexibility for working professionals,
- Holistic student support – financial, academic, and emotional.

We are honored to walk hand-in-hand with Ochsner Health in this effort. Their support –



adjunct faculty, tuition assistance, and student stipends – makes this a powerful example of what's possible when institutions come together to uplift lives and strengthen the workforce. Together, we are rewriting the story of nursing education in Louisiana.

Innovation in Action: Interprofessional Simulation and National Recognition

This semester, our commitment to high-impact, real-world learning came to life through a powerful **Interprofessional OB Simulation**, bringing together nursing students, respiratory therapy students, and clinical professionals for an unforgettable learning experience.

Led by faculty members **Dr. Quirk and Dr. Kemp**, and conducted in collaboration with **Respiratory Program Director Rene Randall**, the simulation featured a complex labor and delivery scenario, including a vaginal birth and emergency C-section. Participants included registered nurses, respiratory therapists, a physician, and a midwife—creating an authentic, interdisciplinary healthcare environment.

Nursing students practiced critical clinical skills such as:

- Recognizing signs of neonatal distress,
- Identifying maternal and delivery-related risk factors (such as suspected neonatal sepsis),
- Delivering SBAR reports to the neonatologist,
- Interpreting and acting on verbal orders,
- And communicating effectively as part of a collaborative care team.

The success and impact of the simulation didn't go unnoticed. Following the event, our faculty were invited to present their work during a **Gaumard national webinar** titled "*Lessons We Learned*," which drew over 150 healthcare educators and professionals from across the country. The presentation showcased Delgado's leadership in interprofessional education and simulation-based learning – highlighting our innovative approach to preparing students for complex, real-world care.

This is more than a teaching tool – it's a transformative experience that empowers our students

to lead with confidence, competence, and compassion.



LPNs training at Charity will be able to work while learning with the new evening and weekend track.

Welcoming New Leaders and Honoring Lifelong Service

Every new season brings fresh faces and heartfelt farewells – and this spring, we’ve been blessed with both. We are thrilled to welcome **April Amerson**, our new **Administrative Assistant**, whose energy, professionalism, and warmth have already made a positive impact on our daily operations. April’s enthusiasm and commitment to service are a perfect match for the heart of Delgado.

We’re equally excited to introduce **Andrew Davenport**, a new full-time faculty member teaching in Level IV. Andrew brings a powerful combination of clinical expertise and a deep passion for student-centered learning. His dedication to fostering critical thinking and confidence in future nurses makes him an incredible addition to our academic family.

We also extend our deepest respect and gratitude to five remarkable educators whose careers have left an indelible mark on our school. As they enter retirement, we celebrate:

- **Ann Burghardt-Dieck**
- **Jill Lambert**
- **Jonnie Mose**
- **Cindy Hoppe**
- **Vicki Berry**

Each of these women has shaped generations of nurses with compassion, wisdom, and unwavering dedication. Their legacy lives on in every student they mentored, every lesson they taught, and every life touched through their influence. They leave behind more than a career – they leave a living legacy of excellence and care.

Stepping into a new leadership role, **Shena Sanders** will serve as **Level 1 Coordinator**. Shena’s clinical insight, collaborative spirit, and devotion to student success make her uniquely equipped to lead and inspire in this essential position. Level I is preparing for a strong start this fall with Jump Start orientation, led by Ms. Sanders, Dr. Nettles and our amazing faculty mentors. We look forward to the clarity and innovation she will bring to our foundational level of nursing education.

At Delgado Charity School

Right, Delgado Chancellor Littleton-Steib, Wendy Garretson and Vice-Chancellor Stamm. Wendy was honored with the Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award at graduation.



Above, left to right: Asst Dean Tracy Harris and faculty members Alicia Quirk, Mia Woodruff and Nelcia Alexis at the May NODNA ceremony. Mia received the award for Academic Nurse Educator. The Alumni purchased tickets so faculty and students could attend.

of Nursing, our strength lies in the people who dedicate themselves to our mission. To those arriving and those moving forward – we honor your path, your purpose, and the future you help shape.

Faculty Achievements:

Leadership Beyond the Classroom

At Delgado Charity School of Nursing, our faculty are more than educators – they are visionaries, mentors, researchers, and champions of excellence. Their achievements this year reflect not only personal dedication but a deep commitment to the advancement of nursing education and student success.

Wendy Garretson was honored with the 2025 *Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award*, a distinguished recognition of her exceptional ability to inspire, challenge, and elevate her students. Wendy’s classroom is a space where curiosity flourishes, and futures are shaped with compassion and rigor.

Beth Prather, a nominee for the Weiss Award, continues to distinguish herself as a thought leader in nursing pedagogy. She recently published an article in ACEN’s *Bridges Journal* titled “A Driving Force for Continuous Improvement,” where she reflects on the transformative power of reflective teaching. This June, Beth will also present at the *Nurse Educator Conference in the Rockies*, sharing her innovative approach to developing critical thinking through metacognition and clinical reflection.

Mia Woodruff was honored as the recipient of the 2025 *New Orleans District Nurses Association (NODNA) Beyond the Bedside Award* for Academic Nurse Educator. This prestigious award recognizes Mia’s outstanding contributions to nursing education and her unwavering

dedication to preparing the next generation of nurses with excellence and compassion.

Elizabeth Serpas will co-present at the 2025 *International Conference on Forensic Nursing*, highlighting the role of expert TeleSANE partnerships in supporting survivors of violence. Her advocacy and clinical insight are shaping more responsive, trauma-informed models of care.

Dr. Beatrice Eweni brought powerful nursing perspectives to Tulane University's School of Public Health with her talk, "Perspectives in Healthcare Professions." Her presentation emphasized the critical role of nursing within interprofessional teams and the need for inclusive, collaborative care across disciplines.

Carol Leefe hosted a dynamic workshop on *Motivational Wellness* in February that integrated essential oils, metacognitive strategies, and wellness practices. Her innovative approach reminded us that caring for the mind and spirit is as important as clinical skill in the journey of both teaching and learning.

These faculty achievements exemplify what it means to lead beyond the classroom. Through research, collaboration, and a relentless commitment to growth, our educators are not only transforming nursing education – they are lighting the way for the next generation of healthcare leaders.

Student Leadership: Voices with Vision

At Delgado Charity School of Nursing, our students are not only learning to care for patients – they are already making a meaningful difference in their communities.

This spring, our Level 4 students demonstrated the true spirit of servant leadership by partnering with the New Orleans Police Department's Social Services Division during *National Crime Victims' Rights Week*.

With professionalism, compassion, and purpose, our students offered blood pressure screenings, shared wellness resources, and engaged in meaningful conversations with community members – bringing health education directly to those who need it most.

Their efforts are a powerful reminder that leadership doesn't wait until graduation. These students are already stepping into roles as advocates, educators, and changemakers – showing us all what it means to lead with vision, empathy, and courage.



Above: senior Chanika Brashears checks blood pressure of a police officer at the Crime Victims' Rights event

Final Word: Gratitude and Hope

To our alumni, students, faculty, and cherished partners – **Thank you!** You are the heart and soul of Delgado Charity School of Nursing. Every achievement we celebrate – every grant awarded, lesson taught, or milestone reached – is a direct reflection of your dedication, your passion, and your belief in the power of nursing to change lives.

Together, we are doing more than preparing future nurses. **We are cultivating compassionate leaders, fearless advocates, and healers who will transform healthcare – one patient, one family, one community at a time.** The strength of our mission lives in each of you, and your impact extends far beyond our classrooms and clinics.

As we look ahead, let us do so with pride in how far we've come and with hope in the extraordinary future we are building – **together**. The future of nursing is not only bright – it is bold, inclusive, resilient, and rising from the very roots of our Delgado family. ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

What an exciting time this is at Charity! And I'm especially looking forward to **Homecoming** when you will all get a chance to be here and see it!

Saturday morning, we will have students and faculty on hand to give us tours and tell us about the program. I'm working on getting the class photos hung – that will really make it feel like home!

I am sooo thrilled that we will be dedicating the **Patricia Carreras Pankey '69 Memorial Meditation Labyrinth** on Saturday. If all goes according to plan, we will have the new columns of Charity Commemorative Bricks in place at the Labyrinth! See your brick in its new home!

On Sunday, we will be at the beautiful **Lakefront Airport Terminal** with brunch by Messina's in the glorious atrium. I know it's a bit pricey, but that is our cost, no markup. It's a truly incredible venue – and it's gonna be a great event! So treat yourself!!

If you want to get in touch with your classmates to get a reunion together, just email chsnaaoffice@gmail.com and I'll send you a class list with the contact info we have. How fun would that be to have the old gang together again!!

Finally, your membership dues and donations are what make fat newsletters like this – and ALL we do – possible. Renew on page 27. Thank You!!! ❖

Mystery Brunch recalls Nurse Hero of Youth

By Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

The last Saturday in March was shrouded in mystery... Just kidding! It was a bright day full of laughter and old friends! The Alumni gathered at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie for the Spring 2025 "Cherry Ames Mystery Brunch"!

President **Patty Dufrene '85** welcomed the members and guests, and **Jenn Garnand '11** provided her always on-point and inspiring blessing! (*Read it on page 11.*)

Then we tucked into the luxurious buffet featuring our usual, but always popular, Eggs Benedict and Shrimp and Grits, accompanied by a cornucopia of fruit, veggies and pastries.

Congratulations

Patricia reported on the number of scholarships we presented this semester and introduced the student recipients in attendance at the brunch: **Chanika Brashears, Tamu Jack and Lacy Ritch.**

Patty congratulated **Mary Trosclair '73** on her retirement from teaching at Charity after 42 years! Mary pioneered using patient simulation technology for teaching at CSN, and it's largely because of her that Charity now has an amazing Virtual Hospital where the mannequins talk and breathe, have symptoms and babies!

Homecoming 2025

Patty announced that *Homecoming 2025* has been scheduled for this fall, **October 11 and 12**. Saturday will feature tours of the Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health on Delgado's City Park Campus, and Sunday will be brunch in the beautiful and classic atrium of the Lakefront Airport Terminal! (*See page 2-3.*)

School News

Jennifer Fernandez, Dean of Nursing (wearing a Pink Panther costume in keeping with our mystery theme!) and **Tracy Harris**, Assistant Dean of Nursing, were on hand – and are always delighted to bring us up to date on the school. They encouraged everyone to come to Homecoming this fall to see the new building, and announced the new virtual reality lab! They reported that CSN is the largest producer of nurses in the state (48% !), with a 92% pass rate on the NCLEX. The school has accepted 217 students for the fall semester. Wow! And we have a 75% retention rate! The LPN program is also growing, and Delgado is a recognized CNA credentialing site. Jennifer and Tracy thanked the Alumni for everything they do for the school and the students. "This is your legacy and our future!"



Left to right, top to bottom: alum/faculty Ann Dieck '80, Mary Trosclair '73 and Joan Hodge '75; Hercule Poirot (aka Gerard Oncale '93); The Pink Panther (aka Dean Fernandez) and Asst. Dean Tracy Harris; Christina Trosclair '00 and Jenn Garnand '11; Susan Beloit '68 and Amanda Babin '68.



Who is Penny?

If you read **Melissa Buffinet '24**'s Salutation speech in the *Alumni News*, you may have wondered about a phrase she used, "Find your Penny." That's a term that has become part of the Charity vernacular for a number of years. It was coined by **Ann Dieck '80** who gave us the origin story, and introduced her classmate who inspired the phrase, **Penny Zeigler '80**. (See page 10.)

An Inspiration

Our *Cherry Ames* theme celebrated a character in a series of Young Adult books published from the 1940s to the 60s. Starting in World War II as an anxious student nurse, Cherry grew to a confident, adaptable nurse who traveled the world, and was devoted to her glamorous career.

There were other nurse detectives in literature, but few captured our imagination like Cherry! She was the hero of our youths, and inspired many of us to become nurses!

The theme was galvanized by the donation of a large number of *Cherry Ames* books from two alumni – **Cindy Scheyd Caron '76** and the late **Patricia Carreras Pankey '69**.

Amanda Babin '68 asked to speak about how the theme is close to her heart and inspired her to be a nurse. That led to a spirited and fascinating discussion as other alumni, including **Doris Burvant '60**, chimed in to share their own stories – even about Sister Blanche! So much fun – and sweet memories of nursing school!

In keeping with the mystery theme, the centerpieces were stacks of vintage *Cherry Ames* books along with mystery related items – magnifying glasses, lanterns – and puzzle sheets!

Alumni were invited to solve a Sudoku and a letter maze, and identify an item on their table that was a clue to the solution. **Jayne Aucoin Dominique '95** solved it first and collected a prize!



Left to right, top to bottom: Chris Dufrene '98, Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 and Emily Ovalle '13; Glenda Veal '89 and Mary Ellen Kothmann '88; centerpieces provided clues to solve puzzles; mom/daughter duo Cynthia Ory '14 and Ashley Ory Palmisano '18; Jayne Dominique '95, Maureen Spring '87 and Cindy Phillips.



Election and Roll Call

I got to administer the oath of office to the newly elected officers for 2025-26: President **Patricia Dufrene '85**; Treasurer **Charlene Berger '79**; Nomination Chair **Jenn Garnand '11**; and Board Members **Deborah Skevington '79** and **Sandy Spitale '83**.

We recognized **Ursula Allain '65** who has stepped down as Treasurer after over 30 years! That is true dedication to our mission! In honor of her service, we presented Ursula with a plaque of Big Charity marble engraved with the famous words, "Where the Unusual Occurs and Miracles Happen."

Patty and I conducted the Roll Call of Classes, and **1968** won the

day with six attendees, followed by **1993** with four, and **1965** and **1975** with three each.

Classes marking anniversary milestones received certificates: the **Class of 2000** for 25 years, the **Class of 1995** for 30 years, the **Class of 1985** for 40 years, the **Class of 1975** for 50 years (they're already planning the big reunion at Homecoming!), and the **Class of 1965** for 60 years.

We love seeing **Mary Singletary '49** – the oldest (but always young at heart) alumni in attendance, along with her niece **Peggy Rome**, who give us generous donations for the Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship (that Mary created with **Saundra Owens Robert '56**. Saundra can usually be counted on to attend our events, but she has moved to Arizona! She will be back for Homecoming!)

Drawings and Singing

The 50/50 Drawing bagged \$108 for **Cindy Phillips**. **Dede Bensimon '93** won the raffle for the CHSN Antique Cape. The *Friends* Clue Game raffle was won by **Renee Oncale**, who was on hand to sell jewelry made from Big Charity marble pieces. Renee's cousin **Gerard Oncale '93** went all out, dressing as Hercule Poirot!

CASN was on hand to sell Charity t-shirts, and Spectrum members pitched in to sell the Alumni souvenirs and raffle tickets.

It was a morning of lighthearted mystery and wonderful memories. We closed with the singing of the



Left to right, top to bottom: Peggy Johns '63 and Maureen McDonald '62; John and Cindy Caron '76; Karen Freitag Craig '83 and James Craig, Jr. '82; Gerard Oncale '93 and Estella Johnson '85; Class of '93 members Dede Bensimon, Ann Marie Pizzeck, and Trenee Maeckling; Lista Hank '97, Charlene Berger '79 and Doris Burvant '60; Spectrum members manning the souvenir table.

Alma Mater and, as the words *Never let our spirit die* filled our hearts, we pledged to see each other again in October! Not a single *Cherry Ames* volume remained behind as all found new homes to be treasured – and to inspire – for generations to come! ❖



Find Your Penny

By Ann Guillory Burghardt-Dieck '80

In 1977, two very anxious young women walked into Charity Hospital School of Nursing and, by chance, were thrust into a classroom together. It was a lucky day because **Penny Zeigler '80** and I became friends for life.

All through school, we studied together, we encouraged each other, we were there for each other, through thick and thin. I don't know how I would have gotten through nursing school without her, and I think she feels the same about me! Forty-five years later, Penny and I are still best friends, and we both gravitated towards academia in our nursing careers. More than that, Penny has become part of the lexicon of Charity students for generations!

The Best Gift

I have been on the faculty at Charity since 2012, and I have been speaking to students for years. I always tell the students, "Enrolling at Charity is the BEST gift you have given to yourself." I tell them that nursing school is the hardest thing they will ever do... but will have the greatest reward!

I also say, "Look at the person on your left, and look at the person on your right."

Students expect my next statement to be: "One of you will not be here at the end of two years." But that is *not* the Charity Way! What I say instead is, "The person on your left is *the one you are going to call* when you need help. The person on your right is the one *whose call you are going to answer*."

I tell them, "You CANNOT get through nursing alone. You need academic *and* emotional help. You need to FIND YOUR PENNY." Penny – the friend who creates synergy, who working together you both will become your best!

Better Together

As Level 1 Coordinator, I tell students at every New Student Orientation that they need to find their Penny. I share a photo of Penny and me taken at a reception in the gym of the School of Nursing on Claiborne Avenue – after the Pinning Ceremony at St. Joseph Church in 1980. We got through nursing school together!

Part of Charity Culture

A few years ago, two students came up to me at a final exam and were wearing



Left to right, top to bottom: Ann Guillory and Penny Zeigler in 1980; Ann and Penny in a snapshot from graduation; students in "Penny" t-shirts; Penny and Ann together at the March 2025 Alumni Brunch with a CASN sweatshirt that reads, "Penny: I'll be there for you."



matching t-shirts with arrows pointing to each other that read, "Penny"! I was so blown away! Finding your Penny was officially part of Charity culture!



Recently, CASN (the Charity Association of Student Nurses) designed sweatshirts honoring what has become a Charity tradition: Finding your Penny.

Penny lives in Georgia now, but we have a Charity commemorative brick in both our names. Penny visited New Orleans for the recent alumni brunch where we had the honor of sharing our story. Now that we are both retired, we are going to be spending a lot more time together, and we plan to attend Homecoming together this fall – maybe wearing Penny t-shirts!



Blessing: Embrace Mystery and Discover Yourself

By Jenn Garnand '11

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

Cherry Ames was a job-hopping nurse with a knack for solving mysteries. Many of us were inspired by her adventurous spirit and intrepid insistence on protecting her patients from all manner of threats. Did you know that "Cherry" was short for Charity? Our very namesake and guiding light!

Her 1943 debut in the book *Student Nurse* is a clear parallel to Charity School of Nursing and our mission to put students as our top priority. While Cherry trained she met classmates who became lifelong friends. We know so well what that foundation of fellowship feels like at Charity School of Nursing!

From her earliest adventures, Cherry demonstrated that intelligence and courage would lead to success. For us at Charity, we knew that we would be equipped to handle all facets of our profession through knowledge, service and leadership.

For Cherry, mystery was the name of the game. But, as she traveled the world, it was always about more than the puzzle at hand.

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious... for it is the source of all true art and science." – *Albert Einstein*

"The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience." – *Frank Hebert*

Cherry certainly lived that reality. Just as she went from one adventure to another, creating memories that molded the way she approached each new challenge, so do we call upon the memories of our time at Charity – of where we've come from – to shape the trajectory of who we are and who we want to be.

There was the point where we knew we must leave and spread our wings... but what is *meant to be* always comes back to us – and we always return back to what calls to us.

"Perhaps we only leave so we can once again arrive,
To get a bird's eye view of what it means to be alive.
For there is beauty in returning,

Oh how wonderful, how strange,
To see that everything is different,
But know it's only you who's changed."

– *Erin Hanson*

By leaving, we gain a new perspective on the world. This change within us makes it impossible to go back to who we were before we left – and when we return, we

can't see things the same way anymore.

"Coming back is not the same as having never left."

– *Terry Pratchett*

"A shift in perspective opens a completely new set of unlimited possibilities." – *Satsuki Shibuya*

Cherry was teaching us an appreciation of different perspectives. And opening a door of new, seemingly unimaginable possibilities.

"Sometimes a change of perspective is all it takes to see the light." – *Dan Brown*

"You have to find what sparks a light in you so that you, in your own way, can illuminate the world." – *Oprah Winfrey*

And while that light is a beacon of hope, strength, commitment, and a future of possibilities, make sure to leave some room for the mystery, too.

Amen. ❖

Pinning Ceremony Marks Achievements and Awards

Charity School of Nursing celebrated the advancement of 114 seniors into their nursing careers at the **Pinning Ceremony** on May 16.

Dr. Tracy Harris served as Mistress of Ceremonies and senior **Sara Loya** led the Pledge of Allegiance, Delgado **Chancellor Larissa Littleton-Steib** greeted the students and their families and lauded their achievements. **Shariel Bookhardt** gave the Salutation.

Honors

Faculty **Mia Woodruff** and **Shannon Perkins** placed gold cords on the necks of these seniors who are now Lifetime Members of Sigma Alpha Chi: **Rian Brown, Savannah Cheramie, Sarah Etienne, Christal Johnson, Naydja Larkins, Christen Magee, Richard Redman III, Samantha Reed, Charie Schoonover and Darchelle Smith.**

Special recognition goes to the recipients of these graduation awards:

Richard Redmann III, Honor Pin, Daughters of Charity Award, and Highest GPA

Laquandra Robinson, Award of Distinction



Above, Chancellor Littleton-Steib congratulates graduating seniors at the May Pinning Ceremony



Left: Dr. Harris and Honor Pin recipient Richard Redman III; below, Laquandra Robinson and Dean Fernandez.

Johnathan Dees, Sister Stanislaus Award
Natalie Rome, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award
Darchelle Smith, Margaret Palmisano Award
Avarie Hymel, NODNA Award
 The Theresa Bittenbring & John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Award, presented to the students with the five highest GPAs in fall and spring semesters:
Contessa Alexander – Fall 2024
Richard Redmann III – Spring 2025
Johnathan Dees – Spring 2025
Spencer Campo – Fall 2024
Quintin Burd – Spring 2025



Pins and a Pledge

Professor Wendy Garretson read each graduate's name, and faculty members pinned each student with their pelican pin, like so many generations before.

Naydja Larkins led her classmates in the Nightingale



Pledge, as the latest cadre of Charity graduates committed themselves, in front of family and peers, "to meet the challenges of the nursing profession." ❖

Left, Christen Magee, Lifetime SAC member, with her family after the May Pinning Ceremony.

Promotion Ceremony a Milestone for Level 3

In February, the School of Nursing celebrated its **Honors and Promotion Ceremony**, the modernized version of the Capping Ceremony.

Rather than nursing caps, Level 3 students receive a bar inscribed with CSN-DCC (for Charity School of Nursing-Delgado Community College) and it becomes part of their uniform.

The Ceremony is a significant milestone in their nursing training. It is also when eligible Level 3 students receive invitations to join **Sigma Alpha Chi**, Charity's Honor Society.

Other honors presented on this day included awards for outstanding performance in clinical settings, and the Charity Alumni Association scholarships. ❖



Top to bottom: Level 3 students in procession; Dean Fernandez presents flowers to special guest Susan

Salomone, Asst VP of Workforce Development and Career Solutions for Ochsner; eligible students are invited to join SAC.



Scholarship Presentations a Time for Joy... and Sometimes Tears

At the February Honors and Promotion Ceremony, the Alumni Association presented \$11,900 in scholarships and pin awards to twenty-two students.

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

Each award is presented in honor of a member of the Charity community. We believe the honorees should be more than a name to the students, so we share photos and information about each person that a scholarship is named for. We love to hear the students marvel at the adventures of our alumni, like a recent comment, "She was badass!" as we described the remarkable life of **Maria Garcia Roach '38** who was, among other things, a military pilot in World War II!

Occasionally, the joy of giving out these awards includes a few tears. We were honored to have the family of **Dr. Patrick Brady, Jr. '83** at the Promotion Ceremony. Patrick was our dear friend and the Alumni President, and he passed away suddenly one year ago. His mom and dad and brother have committed to providing a scholarship every semester in his memory.

While we described all Patrick has done for nursing students, and how much we feel his loss, there were very few dry eyes in the house. When we announced that his scholarship would go to Level 3 student **Patrick Hutchinson Jr.**, a cheer went up from the students!

We feel so proud of all the students, but we are thankful for the amazing generosity of our donors who enable us to recognize outstanding students for their achievements and passion for nursing.

The recipients of the scholarships and awards for the Spring 2025 semester are:



Level 2

Rebecca Boyett

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
Scholarship, \$500



Ritah Njambi

Peggy Begnaud Johns '63
Scholarship, \$500



Left, Patrick Brady, Sr. embraces scholarship recipient Patrick Hutchinson, Jr.

Below, all a bit teary-eyed, Patrick Brady's mom Vicky, dad Patrick Sr., and brother Darryl with Patrick Hutchinson, Jr.



Blythe Picard

Georga Helmer '79
Scholarship, \$500



A'Taus Rodriguez

Class of 9/11/64
Scholarship, \$500



Level 3

Rayvelis Bautista Cabrera

Christine Hurley Carbon '71
Scholarship,
\$1,000



Patrick B. Hutchinson, Jr.

Dr. Patrick Brady Jr. '83 Scholarship,
\$1,000



Lynda Om

Jeanne Colligan Juneau '74
Scholarship, \$500



Level 4
Chanika Brashears
Bernice Bonds
Scholarship, \$500



Diamond Edwards
Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship,
\$1,000



Maryellen Fazenbaker
Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38
Scholarship, \$1,000



Tamu Jack
Sister Camilla Gaudin
Scholarship, \$500



Sara Loya
Marcella Jacobs Wright '41
Scholarship, \$500



Christen Magee
Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46
Scholarship, \$500



Melanie Menendez
Brenda Crump Trosclair '68
Scholarship, \$500



Richard Redmann III
Sally Cooper '59
Scholarship,
\$1,000



Samantha Reed
Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78
Scholarship, \$500

Level 4 Pin Awards \$100 (not pictured)

Avarie Hymel - Gerald Camus Pin Award
Kayla Mathes - Elizabeth Drueding Ours '86 Pin Award
Sara Moran - Suzanne Riche Pin Award
Morgan Storey - Heber B. Dodson Pin Award

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

Amari Korieocha – RN Program
Sara Sixkiller – PN Program ❖

Alumni Notes

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52 (*Williamsburg, VA*) sent us \$1,000 for her scholarships, and remembered her classmate **Claire Preston Bergeron '52** who passed away in 2023. "Claire was *Miss Charity* one year."

Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54 (*Metairie, LA*): "I always love receiving the Charity newsletters. My three years of schooling at Charity were the very best! I'm so grateful for my Charity education!"

Sylvia Fulton Busey '56 (*Shreveport, LA*): "Enclosed are my membership dues and a contribution to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund. Though I have been retired for a number of years, my heart is still with Charity."

S. Joanne Philbrook Newton '56 (*Dayton NV*): "Last year I was living at a Senior Residence in California, but after my husband died I decided to move in with my daughter Karen and her family in Dayton, Nevada. I moved in November 2024 and am comfortably settled. Dayton is a small town outside of Carson City. Has a lot of wind – and snow in the winter! I enjoyed the *Alumni News* – especially the article by President Patricia Dufrene. A lot of changes since I graduated in 1956. I'm looking forward to the next newsletter!" Along with her membership dues, Joanne sent \$400 for a scholarship!

Margaret Fanning Thomas '67 (*Terrytown, LA*): "Please take care of my granddaughter, Victoria Fanning, Class of 2027. She will be a fabulous nurse!" Margaret sent her membership dues and a donation to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund.

Dennis Trosclair, husband of the late **Brenda Crump Trosclair '68** made a generous donation in 2024 of \$10,000 to create a scholarship and provide emergency assistance to students in Brenda's memory. This spring, when some of the funds were used to assist a student in need, we wrote to tell him a bit about the student, and he sent a card (decorated with the stickers that Brenda loved to use on her mail) with this note: "Thank you for your interesting letter about this student and her need for assistance. I cried because I knew that Brenda would have cried too. Since the need for emergency assistance can happen anytime, I will be sending a check each quarter in 2025 to help those in need. These funds can be awarded anytime. Enclosed is the first payment for 2025 of \$500. On Friday, February 7, Brenda would have been 80 years old."

Lynn Battaglia O’Niell ’75 (*Franklin, LA*): “I am still working full-time as a Director of Education and Special Projects. Charity has been one of my greatest blessings. I’m looking forward to Homecoming this October! It will be the 50th Anniversary for my class – a huge honor and milestone!”

Claudia Launey Ortego ’75 (*Baton Rouge, LA*): “I still sometimes dream I am living in the dorm. What a wonderful experience! I met so many wonderful ladies – my golden friends!”

Deborah Hebert Smith ’75: “I can’t believe it’s been 50 years... time flies! I absolutely loved being a nurse! I appreciate the excellent training I received at Charity, and I cherish the memories!”



Left,
Claudette
Boudreaux
’80 and
Warren
Hebert ’79

Warren Hebert ’79 (*Lafayette, LA*): “My friends **Claudette Boudreaux ’80** and Tammi Allen were in Louisiana to play music and enjoy Mardi Gras and for family time. They blessed my place by stopping by for a visit. Charity Hospital School of Nursing ties last a lifetime. Love you both. Safe travels back to the Pacific Northwest.”

Debbie Skevington ’79 (*Slidell, LA*): “I was raised as an Air Force brat and moved around the US and East Asia until I was in high school. When my dad was stationed in North Carolina, and I was in second grade, I was hospitalized. I suddenly knew I wanted to be a nurse. Nursing was my calling. Unfortunately, my parents wanted me to be a teacher. This battle continued until I graduated from high school and refused to report to college to get my teaching degree. I got a job and met my husband who was an electrical engineer at the company where I worked. When the firm lost a big government contract, my husband and I chose New Orleans as our new home. While driving down I-10 on my first trip to downtown New Orleans, I saw this beautiful building dominating the skyline along the interstate. I asked my

husband, *What is that building?* It was Charity Hospital. I immediately wanted to know if there was a school of nursing there. I started investigating and discovered the Charity Hospital School of Nursing. I enrolled and realized my dream when I graduated in May 1979. My work experience encompasses many hospitals in the Greater New Orleans area and in many clinical units and levels of management, including medical-surgical, PACU, MICU, SICU, and house supervisor. My last hospital position was at Methodist Hospital where I was the Director of Education during Hurricane Katrina. Being evacuated from Methodist by helicopter, I did not realize that my career would be going in a new direction. That direction led me back to Charity, but this time as an ICU instructor, Level 4 Coordinator, and my final position as the Assistant Dean of Nursing. I retired in April 2022. I lost my dear husband, a retired officer of the NOPD, in 2023. Now I am honored to be in a new phase of my service to Charity as a member of the Alumni Board.”

Reina Waguespack Steele ’86 (*Waynesville, NC*) sent us membership dues for five years. “I look forward to reading about the progress of Charity School of Nursing in each newsletter. Thank you!”

Kathleen Hyzy ’92 (*Lake Ann, MI*): “I’ve been a bedside nurse since I graduated in December 1992. I started out as an RN license-pending at Charity Hospital, 4th floor Men’s Ward, post-emergency surgery, night shift. Throughout the years I’ve worked Med/Surg, ICU, PACU, and I’m currently working as a Pre-Op/PACU nurse at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan. Pre-Op is my nursing happy place! I’ve taken three travel assignments and learned new computer systems and different processes. I’ve also volunteered with three medical mission trips to Panama, and recently volunteered with two surgical mission trips in the Dominican Republic! All of these experiences have helped me to grow personally and professionally. Charity School of Nursing has been my foundation, my solid base, and I am *forever* grateful for all the experiences that made me the nurse I am today. If asked, I am so proud to say that I graduated from Charity School of Nursing in New Orleans! Thank you!!”

Donna Pendergast ’04 (*Columbus, OH*): “After graduating in 2004, I worked as a cardiac nurse in St Tammany Parish for 15 years. I then moved to north Mississippi in 2020 to be closer to my daughter, son-in-law and now 3-year-old grandson. Now I’m in Ohio, and currently working in Out-Patient Surgery in a local hospital since moving here. I’m really enjoying it. I’m

Continued on page 23

Fall Freshmen Getting Jump Start

This summer, Level 1 Coordinator **Shena Sanders** is trying something new – a Jump Start to Level 1 workshop. Designed for students who will enter the RN program this fall, the three-day workshop, spread over several weeks, includes the topics: *Getting Organized*, *All About the Meds*, and *All About the Skills*.

On June 26, *All About the Meds* featured Pharmacology faculty **Dr. Bailey Nettles**. She gave a lecture presentation introducing a variety of concepts from abbreviations and medication rights to dosage calculations, all while making it fun. Tip: Do the Macarena to identify SQ sites!

Then the students were divided into smaller break-out groups to practice helpful math hacks and choosing correct syringe size for the dosage needed.

Faculty and Alumni Pitch In

Recent grads like **Stephanie Matthew '23** and **Chanika Brashears '25** were among the group leaders, sharing their experiences and offering encouragement. Several faculty from other Levels, also lent a hand to make the day a success, including **Dr. Michelle Delima**, **Mia Woodruff**, **Jamila Mathews**, and **Lakesha Favis-Spencer**.

Ms. Woodruff reported that her young son packed 100 bags of practice syringes and medication cups to distribute to the students!

Each student also received a packet of Jump Start printed materials, all emblazoned with the words, “eaRNed not given.”

Mitigating Culture Shock

While Charity’s overall retention rate is excellent, the highest number of drop-outs occur in Level 1. Even previously good students can struggle when they enter nursing school. While some incoming students are LPNs or techs, many have very little exposure to the medical world. This workshop could help reduce culture shock.



Slightly out-of-date textbooks were given out so students could look them over and do a little reading this summer. Students were also introduced to some helpful online tools, because everyone doesn’t learn the same way and a different approach can assist with understanding difficult concepts.

Prizes were given for students who were especially interactive in the groups. One student even got a prize for being brave enough to speak up and say, “I don’t understand” – a very important thing to

know you can do!

The third session is scheduled in July. The Jump Start workshop is completely voluntary, but is very well attended by enthusiastic incoming freshmen eager to meet their future classmates, and get introduced to skills, strategies and resources for nursing school success. ❖



Above and left; Dr. Bailey Nettles illustrates different syringe sizes; incoming students at the Jump Start; Below, left to right; Stephanie Matthew '23 assists students in a break out group; Shena Sanders leads a discussion.



SIMS Demos Provides Realistic Experiences

In March, Charity Level 3 nursing students participated in a SIMS scenario of a birth in the Virtual Hospital.

SIMS, or Simulation in Medical Science, refers to the use of realistic, simulated environments to train healthcare professionals. These simulations allow students to practice clinical skills, decision-making, and teamwork in a safe, controlled setting. Using high-tech mannequins, this training can provide a connection between theoretical knowledge and the real-world.

The scenario at CSN included pre-eclampsia in the mother and respiratory distress in the newborn. Charity alumni and Nurse Practitioner **Tiffany Lorrio Williams '10**, was on hand to lead the birth scenario along with two neonatologists from Ochsner Baptist, **Dr. Omotola Uwaifo** and **Dr. Krystina Gabriel**.

Some Level 3 students were active players in the scenario while some were in the active observer role, watching on live video. A few Level 1 students were also able to watch.

The mannequins in the virtual hospital have breath sounds and vital signs, and talk (with the help of faculty members). The baby mannequin in the scenario actually exhibited retractions and stridor. To add to the realism, **Respiratory students** were on hand to be called in when needed.

Simulation scenarios allow students to have hands-on experiences that they could never get in an actual hospital as a student, like assisting with intubation of the newborn. Afterwards, all the students participated in



a debriefing – an important element in SIMS training. Tiffany and the neonatalists answered questions and talked through different approaches to the clinical events. Level 3 Nursing Instructor and Simulation Coordinator **Dr. Alicia Quirk** also used the session as an opportunity to challenge the students to use critical-thinking skills. ❖



*Top to bottom, left to right: students participate in a simulation of a newborn in distress; the SIMS scenario was led by neonatalists **Dr. Krystina Gabriel**, **Dr. Omotola Uwaifo** and Nurse Practitioner **Tiffany Lorrio Williams '10**; students not actively participating in the scenario watch the birth on live video.*



An Opportunity to Serve: Level 4 Students Shine in Mass Casualty Exercise

By Theresia Dickerson MSN, RN, Wendy Garretson MN, RN, and Kim Uddo DNP, RN

When we were offered an opportunity to participate in a Mass Casualty Exercise at Ochsner-Baptist, Charity's Level 4 responded! Despite a snow day and date change, three clinical sections of Level 4 students (accompanied by their three instructors – us!) were able to participate in the January 29 event.

At Charity, Level 4 focuses on care of the patient with acute life-threatening conditions, so it was a true application of the concepts the students are learning in the classroom.

As New Orleans was preparing for the influx of people at the Super Bowl, the goal of this exercise was to facilitate Ochsner-Baptist's preparation in the event of a mass casualty. Interdepartmental representatives – including Emergency Preparedness Specialists, ED nurses and educators, Infection Preventionists, Registration Specialists, and Security and Safety Analysts – worked together to run the drill and to identify areas in need of improvement.

Briefing and Assignments

At the start of the day, the students were briefed by Rebekah Vinson, Supervisor of Emergency Preparedness System at Ochsner Health. They were then divided into groups representing the patients presenting to the hospital, and their family members searching for information. One student was selected to serve as a VIP patient who would undergo a different process for registration and treatment.

For the triage, student “patients” were given cards listing their symptoms and encouraged to actually act out chest pain, shortness of breath, abdominal pain, etc. Some could have won an Academy Award – they were that convincing! Student “family members” deserved accolades as well – depicting anxious and desperate loved ones.

“Patients” were taken to a Decon Tent where they were treated for suspected anthrax. Then they moved to the official registration area and were



Left to right, top to bottom: the Decon Tent for anthrax; drama was the rule of the day; a “family member” looking for a loved one; cards assigned each “patient’s” symptoms; occasional giggles at the students’ acting; the Mass Casualty Exercise participants.

placed in treatment areas.

At the end of the day, there was a debriefing called the Hot Wash. Rebekah led the discussion and gave each department an opportunity to share their thoughts about the day. It was wonderful for the students to witness such empowering conversation of real nurses and healthcare specialists identifying opportunities for positive change.

The students were praised for their participation – these Charity students were instrumental in making the Mass Casualty Exercise a great success! ❖



Professional Issues Day Prepares Seniors for Workplace Challenges

On April 22, Charity seniors met for Professional Issues Day to explore topics they will face in their new careers.

Speakers included a panel from Ochsner addressing “Workplace Professionalism” that included Kaitlyn Seller, Career Outreach Specialist, with Stephanie Matthew, Critical Care RN, and Renee DiGiovanni, CNO of Ochsner-Kenner.

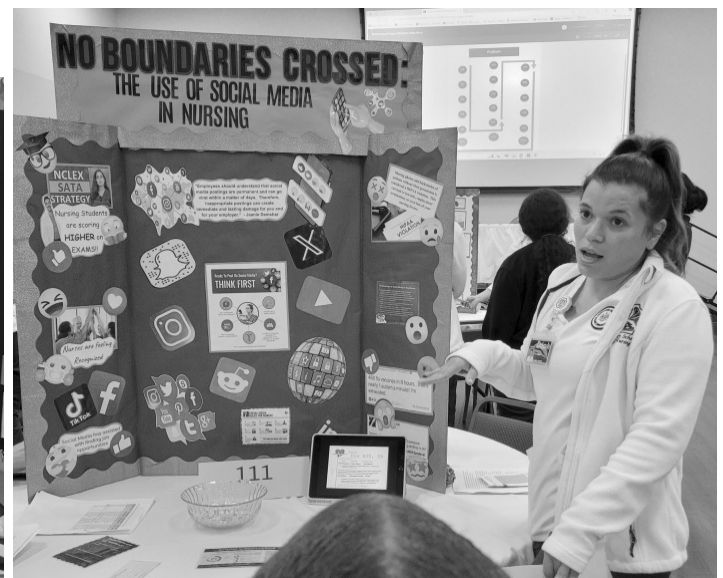
Other speakers included Nikola LaCroix, MA, LPN, on “The Nurse’s Role in the Research Process”, and C.J. Marbley, MBA, BSN, RN, CNO/COO of New Orleans East Hospital/LCMC and V-P of Nursing Operations at UMC.

Preparing for Workplace Challenges

The seniors themselves made impressive poster presentations (*pictured*) to their peers on a variety of workplace topics including Patient Abuse, Alarm Fatigue, Use of Social Media, Ageism, Bullying, Continuing Education, Workplace Stress and Burnout.

Welcoming Seniors

Charity alumni were on hand to welcome the soon-to-be-graduating seniors into the Alumni Association and give out membership cards for their free first year of membership. Each senior also got a tote bag with artwork by CSN faculty member **Vicky Berry**. The Alumni also provided door prizes and an afternoon cookie break. ❖



Spectrum Offers Service, Bonding and Fun!

By Lacy Ritch, Spectrum Treasurer

The Spectrum Student Organization strives to provide impactful leadership while actively engaging in community service.

This semester, Spectrum purchased blood pressure cuffs to use at health fairs throughout the semester. We hosted the Spring Career Fair and visualized “Life after Nursing School” by bringing recent Charity alumni to campus to encourage and advise current students throughout the spring semester.

Affirmation

On February 28, our *Mardi Gras Combo* was a hit with students, as we connected with fellow members and celebrated the season with Mardi Gras treats, including king cake, coconuts, and coffee.

On April 5, Spectrum members participated in the *Sista Strut 3K* walk to help increase awareness surrounding the issue of breast cancer in women of color. Also, in April, an “Egg-Stravagant” coffee talk was held in the lobby of the nursing building, where our peeps were invited to enjoy coffee, cocoa, and “affirmation eggs” – plastic eggs distributed throughout the building that held notes of encouragement.

Mentorship and Awareness

This semester’s mentorship program was something that the students rallied for, allowing the phrase “each one, teach one” to form truly lasting bonds.

We look forward to this upcoming fall semester, where



Top to bottom, left to right: students Tamu Jack, Lacy Ritch and Carrie Brown with affirmation eggs at the Egg-Stravagant coffee talk; Spectrum members at the Sista Strut in April; Students enjoy king cake at the Mardi Gras Combo in the lobby of the Ochsner Center.



we have a few events lined up, including the National

Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk to raise awareness for mental health issues, the Black Men’s Wellness event hosted by New Orleans East Hospital (NOEH) which will be in October as well as a blood drive. We are looking forward with excitement (beyond the moon!) to celebrate on October 11 with the Alumni at Homecoming!

Growth

Through these efforts, our students continue to positively influence the community while also growing as professionals and advocates. As nursing students, we embody the meaning of service, not only in clinical settings but in every act of compassion, advocacy, and service to our community. In choosing to serve, we become the healing hands of our profession before we transition from nursing students to nurses. ❖



CASN Lends a Hand at Community Baby Shower

By Cameron Picolo,
CASN President

In March, CASN had the privilege of assisting in *Love Your Neighbor NOLA*'s very first Community Baby Shower. The event was held for expectant parents to receive baby care items they might need, as well as tips and education on childcare, postpartum information, and health screenings.

CASN members did blood pressure checks for the pregnant mothers, which allowed our members to practice our nursing and education skills, and interact with awesome moms and dads.

The parents also received informational pamphlets answering common questions and possible concerns of new parents, covering topics of: self-care, breast- and bottle-feeding tips, and safe sleep for mom and baby. CASN's presence at the event also allowed the expectant parents to have a safe space to ask questions of our advisors, Ms. Shoemake and Ms. Serpas.

For the upcoming fall term, we have plans to continue our work with Love Your Neighbor Nola, Habitat for Humanity, and our community. We have some exciting plans for the fall! ❖



Above, CASN members provide expectant parents with information and supplies; left, blood pressure monitoring an essential part of pregnancy; below left, CSN faculty Angela Shoemake (center) speaks to prospective parents.

Goodbyes

Ethel Chachere Culotta '46 was a member of the Cadet Nurse Corps at Charity. She had six children, 18 grands, and 23 great-grandkids. She passed away in March.



You can read more about the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps at CharityAlumni.org.

Claire Garic Fradella '48: "My godmother Claire was the youngest of six children, the little sister of my beloved mom, the loving wife of my Uncle Paul, the mother of four devoted sons, with 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She passed away in February at the age of 97. A 1948 Charity graduate, her profession as a surgical nurse was marked by dedication and compassion, touching countless lives at Charity Hospital, St. Claude General, the St. Bernard Parish Health



Unit, Mason Orleans Nursing Home and the Jackson Barracks Correction Facility. Her commitment to serve her community during the aftermath of Hurricane Betsy will also be remembered. She found pleasure in the simple act of gathering with loved ones where her presence was a source of comfort and joy. I will always miss the endless conversations my Aunt Claire and I held in confidence, but, most of all, I will miss her dearly. I also wanted to follow in her footsteps to become a proud graduate of CHSN.” – *Susan Slutsky Beloit '68*



Mary Evelyn Tanner Burke '54: While in nursing school at Charity, Mary met Jack Burke from Kansas who was in the Navy and stationed in New Orleans. They married in 1955 and moved to Wichita. Mary worked as an RN at St. Joseph Hospital from 1957 until her first retirement in 1997. To continue her nursing mission – as she would lightheartedly put it, “to help save lives and stamp out disease” – Mary enjoyed working with doctors at a medical office. Mary valued continuing education and earned her master’s from Friends University. Mary was a volunteer at the Mayflower Clinic in Wichita, a healthcare center serving underinsured and low-income clients. and became such an integral part of the clinic’s success that she was known as the “Matriarch of the Mayflower Clinic.” Mary passed away in January at 90.



Wilmoth Austin Senentz '58: After graduating from Charity, Willie spent her 45-year nursing career at John Dibert Tuberculosis Hospital, Montelepre Memorial Hospital, and finally Ochsner Medical Center Foundation Hospital, where she served as head nurse in Peritoneal Dialysis and

Colon/Rectal Surgery departments before ending her career in pre-surgical admissions and teaching. She was known as a “rough, tough cream-puff” – strong when necessary, but also emotional and endlessly supportive to her patients and family. It was while working at Dibert Hospital that Willie met the love of her life, husband Marvin Edwin Senentz. Despite retiring in Florida, New Orleans was always home to her. Willie passed away in March at 87. “Charity was a foundational part of my mother’s life and she was always proud of her nursing education there.” – *Anita Senentz*

Sharon Miller Mumbleau '59: At just 17, Sharon left her home in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to attend Charity School of Nursing, where she met the love of her life, Larry. Their journey together took



them across the country before they settled in Tuscaloosa in 1971 to raise their family. Throughout their life together they shared a deep passion for travel, embracing adventures around the world with friends and family. After completing her nursing career, Sharon worked in the adult education department at the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education. Sharon always gave generously of her time and heart, volunteering with the American Red Cross, the state and local PTA, FOCUS, RSVP and Friends of Northport. Sharon passed away in May at the age of 86.



Mamie Leah Sargent Majoria '60 worked as an RN at West Jefferson Hospital and The Family Doctors in Marrero. She passed away in June at 86.

Bonnie Hebert Nolan '73 spent 42 years as an emergency room nurse at Thibodaux and Assumption General Hospitals. She passed away in 2024 from Parkinson’s disease.

“What a wonderful friend and nurse she was!” – *Catherine “Sue” Finley Miller '73*



Patricia Laster Facquet '81 started her nursing career at Charity Hospital where she fell in love with pediatrics and became the nurse manager of the new Neonatal intensive unit at Touro Infirmary. She was honored as a Great 100 Nurse by the New Orleans District Nurses Association in 1990. Patricia

received her Master’s in Education with specialization in Nursing Education from Cambridge College in Boston in 2005. That same year she was named a US Nursing Delegate to China in the People to People Ambassador Program Pediatric Palliative Care at the China International Nursing Conference. In 2008, she received a Master’s in Public Health from Walden University. A Public Health PhD candidate at Walden University in Minneapolis, Patricia was awaiting her dissertation on Parental/Caregiver Health Literacy and Knowledge on Lead Poisoning. Patricia became a school nurse with the Orleans Parish School System where she retired after 20 years and then moved to New York City. While in New York, she became an instructor at the Queensborough Community College nursing program. She went on to become Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing at Adelphi University, College of Nursing & Public Health, and finally, Chairperson, Department of Nursing at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, where she retired in July 2024. Patricia was an active member of the Imperial

Court of New York, an organization that supports LGBTQIA+ community, and she held multiple positions in the organization and helped raise thousands of dollars for the community. Patricia inspired her daughter, **Victoria Facquet Johnson '08** to pursue a nursing career. Patricia passed away in April at age 68.



Angelica Brown Brookshire '95 dedicated over 20 years of her life to serving her community in NOLA, Covington, and Stuttgart, AR. Angie was a member at First Baptist Church of Covington, a die-hard Saints fan, and a music lover. She was a safe place for family, friends, and strangers alike and set an amazing example to those who knew her. "You can make a difference. Nothing is too small." Angelica passed away at 51 in March 2025. Angelique's family plans to establish a scholarship in her honor to benefit Charity nursing students.

Karen Ann Mathes graduated from Touro School of Nursing and Charity School of Anesthesia. She started her career as a Registered Nurse at Hotel Dieu Hospital and went on to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist for Parish Anesthesia. Karen worked for many different hospitals throughout the New Orleans area including Charity Hospital, Omega Hospital, and West Jefferson Medical Center. She was a respected Nurse Anesthetist for over 40 years. Though not a Charity School of Nursing graduate, Karen loved attending Charity Alumni events as she had many friends from Big Charity in our ranks, and even paid membership dues to support the Alumni Association. Karen passed away in 2024 at 71. ❖

In Memoriam

Ethel Chachere Culotta '46 (3/26/25)
 Claire Garic Fradella '48 (2/10/25)
 Mary Evelyn Tanner Burke '54 (1/14/25)
 Wilmoth Austin Senentz '58 (3/26/25)
 Sharon Lee Miller Mumbleau '59 (5/18/25)
 Mamie Leah Sargent Majoria '60 (6/29/25)
 Bonnie Hebert Nolan '73 (7/28/24)
 Patricia Laster Facquet '81 (4/22/25)
 Deborah Ann Dunlap '89 (11/5/17)
 Angelica Marie Brown Brookshire '95 (3/18/25)

Friends:

Karen Ann Mathes (3/28/24)



Alumni Notes Continued from page 15

so grateful for having the opportunity of being a Charity School of Nursing graduate and I enjoy sharing my experiences and knowledge with newer graduates as they navigate their journey into nursing."

Charity alumni were among the nominees for the LSNA (Louisiana State Nurses Association) *Leading the Way* Awards at the Membership Assembly in March.

Yolanda Washington '09 was nominated in the "Heroes in Nursing" category. **Ecoee Rooney '99** was nominated as an LSNA Fellow. Retired CSN faculty **Dr. Nora Steele** was also nominated as an LSNA fellow as well as a "Golden Nugget."

Stephanie Matthew '23 (Harvey, LA): "I've been incredibly grateful for the strong foundation Charity gave me. I started in the Medical ICU at Ochsner Kenner Medical Center. It's been both challenging and rewarding. I also got married in October 2023 – an unforgettable year! In June 2023, I started a tutoring service for Charity nursing students – a true labor of love. Supporting students through such a tough season has been one of the most meaningful ways I've been able to give back. I completed the Ochsner Nursing Residency in September 2024, joined the Advisory Board, and graduated Magna Cum Laude with my BSN from Chamberlain in December 2024. I've also taken on new roles as a Preceptor and Proactive Rounding Nurse – with a focus on reducing Code Blue events outside of the ICU. Most recently, I was honored to be chosen as the new Level 1 Success Coach at Charity. I'm thrilled to walk alongside new students as they begin their own journeys. I'm also preparing for my CCRN and returning to Chamberlain for my MSN in Nursing Education. Thank you for all that you poured into me – your support helped shape the nurse I am today."

These Charity graduates were named the **Great 100 Nurses** Louisiana Honorees for 2025: **Nelcia Alexis '05, Jordan Anderson '17, Jada T. Boyd '08, Da'Monica Carter '11, Nadine Dupaquier '90, Lyzonda Crowder-Hall '99, Anitria King '05, Erica Love '11, Melissa Duhun Mollere '06, Ashley Richardson '00, Kim Sulony '14, Delia Delgado Tufaro '78, Yolanda Denise Washington '09.**

We love hearing from you and finding out what's going on in your life and career! Send us your updates, newsy bits, and photos! Email chsnaaoffice@gmail.com or include a note with your membership dues and mail to: CHSN Alumni Association, PO Box 19103, New Orleans, LA 70179. ❖

2024-2025 Outstanding Donors

*Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds
since The White Cap 2024*

SIMS Faculty Development Fund

Dr. George A. Pankey in memory
of Patricia Carreras Pankey '69

Individual Scholarships

Minimum gift of \$500

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
S. Joanne Philbrook Newton '56
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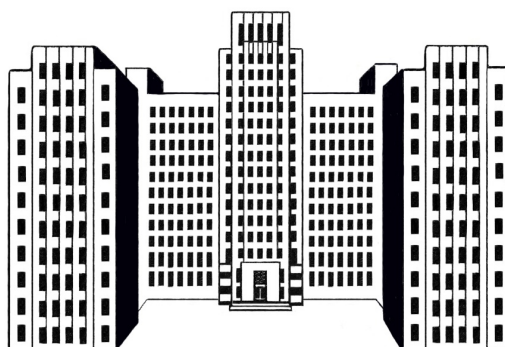
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2025

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Yvonne Gauthier McGaha '63
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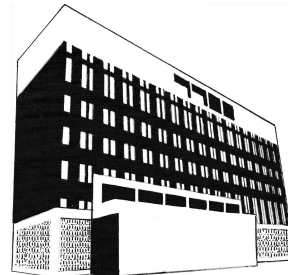
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Conchetta Uli Walters '67
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Francine Taaffe Dyer '70
Bonnie Hensley Mowe '70
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Cathryn Tereskerz Smith '78
Karen Howard Smith '78
Paula Kensler '79
Robert Martinez '79

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Cynthia Dailey Moran '85
Mary Sue Sargo '85
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Tiffany McCall Ashmore '06
Kemberly Johnson '08

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S. Joanne Philbrook Newton '56
Mary Bettie Unsworth Nolin '63
Carol Denson Walls Anz '66
Joan Musacchia Taylor '66
Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67
Paula Favre Brewington '69
Ginny Graves Clark '69
Carolyn 'Lynne' Bartsch '70
Gayle Guerin Fertitta '70
Wanda Mobley Pentes '70
Diane Craft Angelico '72
Valerie Zeringue Luker '75
Connie Bousquet '77
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Renee Guidry '87
Kathleen Hall '90
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2024

Since July 1, 2024

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M. Yvonne Hollingsworth '64
M. Eileen Perricone Weber '65
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Margaret Fanning Thomas '67
Diane Leger Cicero '70
Faye Leathem Flaherty '70
T. Roxanne Cali '75
Susan Robbins Kocke '78
Barbara Waller Kinder '81
Cheri Browning Oser '81
Deborah Fischer Soniat '85
Andrea Hutcherson Tanner '86
Stacey Werner Wisniewski '87
Leslie Eckert Ricalde '88
Jodi Fremin '90
Beverly Rainey '05
Keesha Rayel Berkhalter '08

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Betty Badon Youngberg '69
Barbara Bordelon Glover '73
Jacqueline Porth-Owen '73
Elaine Schexnayder Launey '76
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Looking for a Hotel for Homecoming weekend?

A limited number of hotel rooms have been put aside for the Charity Alumni Homecoming at the **Hampton Inn of Metairie** for a discounted price until **September 10**. Located on North Causeway Blvd, the Hampton Inn is conveniently located to the New Orleans International Airport, and offers easy access to I-10 going east/west, or the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge north/south. It's only a 15 minute drive to Charity School of Nursing on Delgado's City Park campus, and 20 minutes to the Lakefront Airport Terminal.

Rooms are available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights; check-in time 3pm, checkout is noon. Price is \$165 per night plus 12.5% tax, with a refundable incidentals charge of \$50. You can get a King standard bed or two Queen beds. A major credit card is required at booking to guarantee your reservation. Cancellations must be received by 6pm on the day prior to arrival to avoid charges. Complimentary self-parking available.

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You must identify yourself as being with "**Charity Hospital Homecoming**" when making your reservation to get the discount. Cut-off date is **September 10**. ❖

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I Want to Attend Homecoming in October!

☐ Saturday, Oct. 11 at the School

Reserve for me: How many? _____ Ticket(s) @ \$15 each.... \$ _____

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It's Here!
Homecoming 2025
See Page 2-3 for details!

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 2025" means your membership expires at the end of 2025. You are current, but you might want to consider renewing your membership now for 2026.

If your label has a year earlier than 2025 (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 ❖