A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

At our last Alumni Meeting, Eleanor Hill, Chair of the Historical Committee, joined us to give us an update on the Committee’s activities. After the group’s discussion, I began thinking about my own experiences as a Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing student and what it meant to me to be a part of this history.

It is remarkable that a group of women and men from different backgrounds with diverse interests, unique personalities and competitive natures sharing a common goal of becoming a nurse can bond together. The support, the friendships and camaraderie that developed over the school years resulted in a strong connection that continues to exist among many alumni regardless of the many years that have passed. As a Class of 1977 graduate, I get together with a group of classmates on a monthly basis. It’s a very casual arrangement - classmates come when they can and if there are family or work commitments they come the next time they can. It is wonderful that after all these years we can still enjoy each other’s company and share our professional successes, challenges, and personal accomplishments. We laugh and reminisce about our SON experiences - the fun times, the stressful clinical experiences and the touching patient care stories.

I am fortunate that my SON experience has given me an opportunity to have these long-time relationships with fellow classmates. I am sure most of you feel the same. So, invite your classmates to join you at our next SON Alumni dinner meeting which will be held in May (see details in the newsletter) and enjoy sharing memories and plans for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joy Aloan, Class of ’77

From the Director’s Desk:

The graduates of the school continue to do very well on the NCLEX exam, or what many of you know as “state boards”. For a number of years now, this exam has taken the form of computer adaptive testing (CAT) which is developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. It can be said that each candidate takes a unique test, which is presented by the computer program according to content distribution and difficulty algorithms. For more information about how computer adaptive testing works, go to https://www.ncsbn.org/How_CAT Works.ppt#1.

After graduates take the exam, they often report that the exam was very challenging, “harder than any test I took while I was in school!” And yet statistics show that our graduates have a very high ‘first time’ pass rate (see chart). How can this be?

From the get go, we promise the students that we will not lower the bar, but we also promise that we will do our part to show them the way and support them through the transformative journey which is nursing school. The workload is high and the program remains rigorous. Each course is intended to prepare students for the next
course, and as they move through the program they move from being novices to experts - no, not expert nurses, expert learners.

We also ensure that they are exposed to many NCLEX style questions. Some sources suggest that a graduate should have answered between five and ten thousand questions before sitting for the NCLEX exam. We also require them to purchase the Comprehensive Assessment and Review Program produced by Assessment Technologies, Incorporated. This is a set of review materials, questions, case studies, DVDs and practice tests which many nursing programs use to either help remediate students or enhance learning. Finally, we provide students with an on-site support person for skills practice, tutoring, remediation and all around moral support.

And of course, the students have to do their part! As always, nursing school must be their main focus for the time that they are with us. The results are worth it! They pass NCLEX and they are excellent nurses!

Susan Birkhead, MPH, RN

NCLEX-RN FIRST TIME PASS RATE

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<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
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<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Samaritan</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYS average</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>80.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>US average</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>85.3%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
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Retrieved as 01/29/10 from http://www.op.nysed.gov/nurseprogs-nclex-rn.htm

NCLEX-PN FIRST TIME PASS RATE

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
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<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Samaritan PN</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYS average</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<td>US average</td>
<td>89%</td>
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1. Based on internal statistics
2. 15/15 known to have taken NCLEX-PN. One of 16 graduates unknown.
3. 16/16 known to have taken NCLEX-PN. Two of 18 graduates unknown.
Condolences:
Alia Conley Cwyn, ’48, passed away October 2009 from a brief illness.
Susan Hannan Dushane ’67, passed away September 28, 2009.
Josephine Haspel passed away at the age of 85 September 13, 2009. A Samaritan, she served in the Army Nurse Corps and worked as a private duty nurse in addition to working in several nursing homes.

Alumni News:
Noral Arakelian Luftman, ’77, She and husband Jack live in Bridgeport, New Jersey and have been married for 30 years and have two daughters. She is a Nurse Case Manager at VNA of Central New Jersey.
Shirley Armitage Leer, ’47 Her “Class of ’47” was the first Cadet Nurse Corps in the United States. She states that “we received a wonderful training at Samaritan.” She is very appreciative of the newsletter but cannot make the dinner as her husband, Bob, is currently in a nursing home due to a stroke. Shirley has recovered from a fractured hip.
Tamara Auclaire Yankowski, ’82 She is working at SPH NICU. Her daughter, Kayla, just had her second son - Tyler Matthew on October 24th, 2009, and Jon is now 2 years old. She loves being a grandmother.
Linda Bartow VanKessel, ’72 Currently working part time in a surgical office. Two of her daughters were married in November and December of this past year.
Terry Bedard, ’91 Currently the Director of Ambulatory Surgery/Endoscopy at Saratoga Hospital and is enrolled in Excelsior College and pursuing an MS in Clinical Systems Management. She has been married for 13 years and has five grandchildren.
Debra Boissonneault Cubillos, ’79 She has been disabled since 2003 from late chronic neurologic Lyme Disease. For more information go to www.iadds.org.
Jacqueline Boyce Fitzpatrick, ’69 Is a classmate of Chris Gilhooley Amr, ’70, in the Doctor of Nursing Science program at Sage Colleges. Started a business, WH Boyce (named after her father), producing educational products to help nursing students learn. The current product is called the Maxi-Learn system assisting in the learning of pharmacology.
Elizabeth (Beth) Bromley Flatt, ’47 She has been retired for some time but enjoyed every minute of her working career. She has been married for 60 years to her husband (Earle) and has five children, 16 grandchildren and a “good full life”.
Cheri Bull Currently working as a nurse manager at Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington.
Susan Byer Oster, ’77 She and husband Russell live in Troy, have been married 33 years and have one daughter. She works as a Senior Clinical Instructor for St. Jude Medical.
Helen Canfield, ’61 Is wondering if a reunion for the Class of 1961 is being considered for 2011?
Barbara Carr, ’61 Happily retired and enjoying golfing in Myrtle Beach.
Linda Chine Gerteisen, ’68 Retired after 40 years. Still married, after 40 years, to Donald and has two grown boys and one grandson. She says, “Life has been good to us.”
Jean Cicchinelli, ’77 Jean lives in Waterford and works as an Office Nurse for Dr. John O’Bryan.
Victoria Cinelli Callagan, ’82 She is completing her Master’s Degree in Nursing Education and nearing her career goal of nursing instruction.
Rhea Cioffi Simpson, ’77 Currently lives in San Diego, California.
Karen Clement O’Brien, ’77 She and husband Tom live in Gansevoort and have been married 30 years. She is working at Albany Medical Center.
Paul Clements, ’77 He and wife Kathy live in Madison, Virginia, have been married 30 years and have two daughters. He is an administrator at Lynn Care Center at Warren Memorial Hospital in Front Royal, Virginia and is Director for Long Term Care for Valley Health.
Colleen Connell Smith, ’77 She and husband Larry live in Syracuse, have been married for 25 years and have two children. She is working for Camillus Home Care in Syracuse.
Maureen Crotty Kelsey, ’62 She is retired and enjoying it!
Denise Daley Powers, ’69 She has been married 39 years and has three children. Currently a Senior Nurse Case Manager II, Supervisor with the Connecticut State Worker’s Compensation Board.
Virginia Doring Heislein Enjoys retirement, traveling, and being a grandparent. The oldest of nine is a sophomore nursing student at Boston College and the youngest grandson is a week old.
Jayne Eddy Ortiz, ’77 She and husband Jon live in California and have a tax/financial advisement business. She is looking forward to her next visit to the east coast.
Nancy Ethier, ’58 Reports that retirement is “lovely.”
Lynn Fazziova Sweet Lynn lives in Schenectady and has two children. She works for a cardiac monitoring company, Nihon Kohden, and does staff education before and during installations. Her job requires travel to many different hospitals across the country.
Cathy Fryer Frank, ’73 Continues to work as a CWOCN for VNA Utica. She shares that her second grandchild, Lily Andee Marr (sister of Jackson who is 2 years old) was born on March 15th, 2009. Her father (Carl Fryer) passed away in June 2009 and her husband (John) had an MI in Aug 2009 with CABG x5 in October 2009.
Sue Gaudente Russell, ’77 She and husband Dale live in Cohoes, have been married 30 years and have two children. Sue works for Seton Health in Primary Care.
Margaret Gere Lane, ’57 Working as a consultant in the Quality Improvement field.
Cathy Gilhooley Hamel, ’77 She is currently working in Arkansas as VP/CNO of Baxter Regional Medical Center and working on her Doctorate of Nursing Science at Sage.
Michele Hankow, ’71 She is basically retired, but does seasonal work at flu and wellness clinics. She misses the hands on bedside nursing but due to back and neck surgeries is unable to do this. She belongs to the Lions Club and American Legion and remains active in her church community providing services to seniors.
Mary Hannan, ’75 Currently is the Assistant Vice President of Patient Care at Albany Memorial Hospital. Her son is a senior at LaSalle Institute in Troy, NY.
Dawn Hamel Lemire, ’95 Working as a Care Manager at GHI/Emblem Health.
Ann Marie Heroux Gedney, ’77 She and husband Jim live in Clifton Park, have been married 33 years and have two children. She is a staff nurse in WACUs at Albany Memorial Hospital.
Kathleen Hogan Meyers, ’77 She and husband Richard live in Saratoga Springs and have been married 20 years. She has three step children and five grandchildren. She works per-diem at the Albany VA Hospital in the Hem/Onc Infusion Area.
Irene Johnson Raiche, ’55 Is retired after 34 years of school nursing and is currently working as a per diem nurse in a Cardiac Rehab and Rehab Center. She serves as a board member for the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut.
Elaine Kinner Libruk, ’78 Working full time as the school nurse at St. Pius X School in Loudonville, NY.
Jean Kirkpatrick Puffett, ’58 Retired now and has worked for the past ten years as a tax preparer at HR Block.
Karen Leonard Houston, ’77 She and husband Jon Live in Melrose, have been married 30 years and have three children. She is the Director of Quality Continuum of Care at Albany Medical Center.
Sue Lochner Caesar, ’77 She and husband Dave live in Delmar, have been married 25 years and have four daughters. She is working for the Visiting Nurse Association of Albany.
Mary Rose McDonald DeMarco, ’77 She and husband Dave live in Waterford, have been married 31 years and have three children and one grandson. She is working at Samaritan Hospital as Unit Coordinator of Surgical Services, Pre-Admission Testing, Ambulatory Surgery and PACU.
Joanne Mook Schnell, ’67 Has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease and Lewy Body Dementia.
Ric Moreno, ’09 Ric is a retired firefighter and paramedic who is now a RN.

Bits and Pieces:
Continues on page 4
Committee Reports (Scholarships & Assistance)

Editor’s Note: The introductory paragraphs only in each committee report are repeated in each issue of the newsletter to provide scholarship and other important information to new graduates.

Fianance Committee

The committee held its first meeting for 2010 on March 2 at the S.O.N. All five of our Fund Portfolios have continued to increase in value over the past year. Holdings in four of the accounts were sold in December of 2009 and were replaced with securities which will pay out higher dividends. The Committee continues to plan to earn as much as possible in each Fund by following the strategies offered by our investment counselor Dennis Wintraub to Morgan Stanley-Smith Barney. The recovery from the recent downturn in the economy is expected to be slow. If anyone has questions or needs a more detailed report, please get in touch with the Committee via a message to the Alumni office.

Sheldon Fund

This year there were six recipients for the Sheldon Fund awarded in January 2010.

Kevin please add to regular info: The deadline for letters of need is June 6, 2010. You may find the application on the website. Please address letters to: Samaritan Hospital SON Alumni Association: attn. Sheldon Fund. All information forwarded to the Committee will be kept confidential.

Seber Committee

The Seber Scholarship Committee is available to women who desire to become Registered Nurses and to female and male Registered Nurses who desire to do graduate study in nursing. The award from this fund for people who wish to become an RN is restricted to women only based on stipulations in the donors Last Will and Testament. Applicants are required to document a need for financial assistance in order to receive an award. Awards are dispersed for Spring and Fall semesters.

Applicants must be Samaritan School of Nursing (SON) graduates who are members of the Alumni Inc. in good standing (dues paying members) or female students in the Registered Nurse program of the SON who receive a recommendation from the

District Liaison:

This committee acts as a liaison between the Samaritan Alumni Association and the Capital District #9 of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA). All bills proposed in the NYS Legislature and newly enacted laws and other pertinent information affecting the nursing profession are brought to the attention of the alumni membership.

Current issues that remain in committee are:

1. Safe Staffing Ratios:
   Establish minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in all health care facilities. This bill was agreed upon by labor unions in New York State that represent registered nurses. (referred to Assembly Ways & Means Committee & Senate Health Committee).

2. Educational Advancement for RNs:
   Would require registered professional nurses (RNs) to attain bachelor’s degree in nursing within one year of their initial licensure, while “grandfathering” nurses already in practice and nursing students already enrolled (referred to Assembly & Senate Higher Education Committees).

3. Preventing Workplace Violence:
   Increase penalties for an individual convicted of assaulting a nurse while he or she is at work (passed the Senate & in Assembly Codes Committee).

4. Safe Patient Handling:
   Requires all facilities implement a safe patient handling policy to reduce the manual lifting of patients by direct care staff (in Assembly Ways & Means Committee & Senate Rules Committee).

   For further information, you can visit NYSNA’s legislative advocacy website at NYSNA.org. The District Liaison Committee is seeking another member. If you are interested please contact me at 283-4967 or Khenchey@aol.com.

Karen Henchey, Chairperson

Courtesey Committee

The Courtesy Committee maintains a separate financial account within the Alumni. Monies to finance this account are derived from the annual dues. Therefore, the amount available to the committee depends on the Sustaining (dues paying) Membership or donations made by alumni or other interested persons.

In 2009, 13 condolence donations were made to the Leora Belknap Scholarship Fund and so far in 2010, 2 donations have been made in memory of deceased alumni or members of their immediate family.

The Infirmed List currently is comprised of 18 alumni. Cards are sent to these members at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Poinsettia plants are sent at Christmas dependent on available funds. This year plants were sent.

If anyone has knowledge of an alumni who should be placed on the Infirmed List or a grad who is recently deceased and should have a donation made to the Belknap Fund, please notify Karen Henchey at (518) 283-4967 or committee members: Kathy Davis 273-4503, Donna Reed 674-2569, Ellen Dunn 283-0431 and Diane Dare 783-8790.

Karen Henchey, Chair

Karen Henchey, Chairperson
Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

SAMARITAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI DINNER MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 11, 2010
Where: Moscatello’s in East Greenbush (past HVCC)
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Diana Llyod RN.BS, Director of Nursing Services at Eddy Village Green
Program:
5:30 Gathering (Complimentary Cheese/Bread)
5:45 Buffet Dinner (Hot & Italian Buffet)
7:30 Alumni/Foundation Meeting

DINNER MEETING RESERVATION
Please return reservation with $12.00 (member) or $20.00 (non-member) with fee payable to Colleen Quackenbusch, 70 Bellview Road, Troy, N.Y. 12180, by Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

All reservations must be honored. If a cancellation is required, please contact Colleen Quackenbusch at (518) 271-8075.

Print Name: ___________________________ Class: ____________________________