

# HARTFORD HOSPITAL Nursing

AUTUMN 2006



FOR HARTFORD HOSPITAL NURSES AND  
ALUMNAE OF HARTFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING



# Hartford Hospital Nursing

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*Hartford Hospital Nursing is a twice-  
yearly publication of the Hartford Hospital  
Department of Nursing and the  
Alumnae Association of the Hartford  
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*Hyperbaric nurse Daniel Lantos, RN, BS.  
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### ***Hartford Hospital Nursing***

For Hartford Hospital Nurses and Alumnae  
of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing

Volume II, Issue 2, Autumn 2006

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## To Our Readers

### The Ongoing Evolution of Nursing

In this issue's "A Look Back" section, you'll read about Julia Perdrizet Michaels, who graduated from the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing in 1918. Nursing's role has changed dramatically since Mrs. Michaels received her cap and pin, of course, but the pace of change has accelerated in recent years.

Today's nurses have an unprecedented range of career opportunities, including roles in clinical care, management, teaching and research. Emerging medical specialties such as hyperbaric medicine offer a host of innovative roles. Even in longstanding specialties such as operating-room nursing, the nurse's role has evolved and grown into one even more complex than it was only a few years ago.



*John Meehan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hartford Hospital*

At Hartford Hospital, nurses are key decision-makers. As such, they are important members of the health care team, collaborating with physicians, pharmacists, social workers and others in a range of disciplines to ensure that every patient receives the finest care and every family receives the information and support they need.

Some aspects of nursing, however, have not changed. Nurses are still the linchpin of health care—skilled, compassionate professionals who, for most patients and families, are the primary face of Hartford Hospital. Every day, on every shift, in every interaction with a patient, family member or coworker, nurses make a tremendous, positive difference in the lives they touch.

*John Meehan*

### Responding to Changing Needs

While the core values of nursing—caring and knowledge—remain constant, the actual work of the registered nurse has changed. In this issue, you'll see how nurses are redefining nursing practice and contributing to patient care in a new clinical specialty, hyperbaric nursing, and in a more familiar one, perioperative nursing. In both clinical environments, nurses are expanding their critical thinking skills to critical synthesis skills, ensuring patient advocacy, safety and improved clinical outcomes. As they apply evidenced-based nursing in these highly complex environments, nurses continue to bridge high tech and high touch. The role of the registered nurse, as a member of a multidisciplinary team, is to assure patient safety, as well as to identify and respond to the needs of patients as they undergo treatment.

In her theory on nursing, well-respected Connecticut nurse theorist Dr. Virginia Henderson (1897-1996) noted that partnership among the patient, nurse and health care team is vital to the patient's well-being. In every situation, she said, nurses must



*Laura Caramanica, RN, PhD  
Vice President, Nursing,  
Hartford Hospital (HHSN '72)*

know the physiological and psychological reactions of their patients and be able to respond appropriately. As the patient's needs change, so may the definition of nursing. She believed that nursing is constantly being modified and that it depends to a great extent on what other health workers do. So, as the clinical settings in which the registered nurse practices continue to change, nursing itself will change.

Dr. Henderson defines the unique function of the nurse "as one whereby she/he assists the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to a peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge. And to do this in such a way as to help the individual gain independence as rapidly as possible." She also was instrumental in "instructing nurses to work

interdependent with other health care professionals and that all of these professionals must grow and learn to meet the new health needs of the public as they encounter them." Dr. Henderson's work continues to guide our practice today.

*Laura Caramanica*



### Summer Internship

Twenty-six students from 11 different nursing programs took part in Hartford Hospital's Summer Internship Program this year. The program, which ran from June 5 to July 28, is designed for nursing students who have completed junior year requirements and will enter their senior year in the fall. Each intern partners with a registered nurse preceptor in a work/study environment in order to experience real-world nursing, hone their skills, and learn about nursing practice at Hartford Hospital.

### Hartford Hospital Nurses Honored

*Two Hartford Hospital nurses recently received prestigious professional awards.*



Kim Alleman, RN, MS, APRN, FNP-C, CNN, nurse practitioner in Hartford Hospital's Transplant Program, was chosen as the New England Division winner of the Nurse Spectrum/Nurse Week Excellence Awards. The award recognizes the "extraordinary contributions nurses make to their patients, each other and the profession." Ms. Alleman won in the "advancing and leading the profession" category. Her manager and colleagues nominated her because of her exceptional contributions to nursing, which include co-chairing the hospital's Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee, taking leadership roles in her unit and in nursing organizations, and serving as mentor and preceptor for student nurses.

Patricia Veronneau, RN, MSN, was honored as part of the Connecticut Hospital Association's Healthcare Heroes essay contest. The aim of this year's contest was to highlight health care professionals whose caring extends beyond the walls of the hospital and into the community. Ms. Veronneau, night and weekend manager/ nurse coordinator at Hartford Hospital, was praised for both her professional excellence and her wide range of community activities. These include including organizing blood drives; working with a stitching group to provide hand-knitted caps and blankets for newborns; spearheading food drives, coat collections and other activities to benefit needy people; and looking after friends, relatives and neighbors.



### Unit Achieves Second Beacon Award

For the second consecutive year, Hartford Hospital's Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (Bliss 10-I) has received the American Association of Critical Care Nurses' Beacon Award for excellence in critical care. The application process requires units to provide information on 42 criteria, including leadership, recruitment/retention, performance on patient care excellence standards such as infection control, unplanned extubation and more.

Receiving a Beacon award demonstrates that a unit is outstanding in terms of doing all it should to help patients recover quickly and create an environment that nurses want to continue to be part of.

Michele Kolios, RN, BSN, MS, unit manager of B10-I, notes that "Beacon is a special award that acknowledges and celebrates the hard work the staff on the unit do on a daily basis."

Demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement is central to meriting the award.

## Pioneering New Ways to Heal Problem Wounds

At Hartford Hospital's Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine, nurses are engaged in leading-edge approaches to tackling the age-old problem of chronic wounds—and more.



*Bettina Magliato, RN, MS, clinical administrative manager,  
and Daniel Lantos, RN, BS, hyperbaric nurse*

The very first patient who came for treatment at Hartford Hospital's new Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine in 2003 was facing a grim prospect. His diabetic foot ulcer hadn't healed despite modern medical treatment that included blood-sugar control, surgical debridement and antibiotic therapy. He had already had two arterial bypasses in the lower extremity and was now facing the very real prospect of a below-knee amputation. Wound center staff performed tests that revealed very low oxygen tensions in the tissue of the foot. To increase the tissue oxygen levels, the patient was treated in the center's hyperbaric chamber. The results were impressive. After 40 daily hyperbaric oxygen treatments, the patient's oxygen tensions normalized. His wound healed. It remains healed to this day.

Hyperbaric medicine is a promising new field that offers new hope for patients and new career opportunities for nurses. Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO<sub>2</sub>) therapy is one of an array of leading-edge treatments provided at Hartford Hospital's Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine.

Trauma surgeon George Perdrizet, MD, PhD, spearheaded the drive to create the center and is now its medical director. He started working on the project in 1998, with the goal of establishing a comprehensive center that would offer the very best evidence-based treatment for chronic wounds. Treatments would range from well-established ones to more emerging ones such as growth-factor therapy, bioengineered skin equivalents and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

“New information was becoming available from basic science and clinical studies that demonstrated the fact that wound healing is dependent on oxygen and that hyperbaric oxygen was able to increase delivery of oxygen into diseased tissues,” Dr. Perdrizet says.

Today, Hartford Hospital’s wound care center boasts the largest hyperbaric chamber in the Northeast. It is accredited by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society, an international society of scientists, physicians and other medical professionals. The hyperbaric program is the only one in the region available around the clock to provide critical and emergent care for conditions such as traumatic injury, carbon monoxide poisoning and air gas embolism.

“We operate 24/7 and accept patients from any location,” says Clinical and Administrative Manager Bettina Magliato, RN, MS, who is certified in infection control, wound care and hyperbarics. “We’re able to do this because of our affiliation with Hartford Hospital and because of the hospital administration’s commitment to providing physician support. Other chambers close at 5 o’clock. We’re always here.”

### *Chamber of Healing*

Patients receive HBO<sub>2</sub> therapy in a specially constructed chamber. As pure oxygen is administered through a hood the patient wears, pressure in the chamber is increased to two and one-half times above normal. This increases the oxygen level in the patient’s tissues, accelerates the body’s own healing process, and speeds healing at the wound site. Generally, patients receive 30, 90-minute treatments over a six-week period.

Unlike most chambers, which accommodate only one person at a time in a small, confined space, Hartford Hospital’s chamber can seat as many as 10 patients at a time. This spaciousness reduces claustrophobia and allows a technician to remain with the patient to monitor treatment and provide support. It also allows nurses and respiratory therapists to enter the chamber to check on the patient or, in the case of

the critically ill patient, accompany the patient for the entire treatment and provide continuous critical care monitoring.

Ten percent to 15 percent of patients who present to the wound center have wounds that will respond to hyperbaric therapy. The most common diagnoses treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy are diabetic foot ulcers, chronic osteomyelitis, and osteoradionecrosis. The center also uses HBO<sub>2</sub> therapy to treat patients with carbon monoxide poisoning and necrotizing fasciitis.

Research in HBO<sub>2</sub> therapy suggests that the technique may be useful for a number of other indications, as well.

### *Nursing’s Evolving Role*

Providing effective care for wounds is nothing new for nurses. “Nurses were actually the driving force in initiating modern wound care,” says Dr. Perdrizet. “In fact, I was instructed on modern moist wound care techniques by nurses at the Newington VA hospital’s surgical clinic when I was a surgical resident. Now the nursing profession has certified wound specialists.”

Nurses are vital to the wound care center today. Its three APRNs, five RNs and two LPNs work in a variety of roles, assessing, monitoring and educating patients; providing treatments such as compression wraps, silver dressings and debridement; conducting research; and performing key administrative functions.

Bettina Magliato, who has been a nurse for 30 years, did wound care in long-term-care and home settings for years. She earned her Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse (CWOCN) designation in 2000. When she joined the wound care center, she was “a novice in hyperbaric medicine.” While all of the physicians supporting the program were already certified in hyperbaric medicine, the program had to have a certified hyperbaric nurse in order to receive accreditation. She took the UHMS’s 40-hour course and received her CHRN (Certified Hyperbaric Nurse) in 2005. All of the APRNs at the center have the CWOCN designation. ▶



*George Perdrizet, MD, PhD, medical director, and Lisa Corbett, APRN, BC, DWOCN, certified wound care nurse.*

“Nursing’s role in the hyperbaric area is a very dynamic one—always changing and evolving,” says Ms. Magliato. “Just from a year ago, I can see a difference.”

Dan Lantos, RN, BS, is responsible for providing nursing care and assessment in the center’s hyperbaric unit.

“Every time we put a patient into the chamber, there has to be nursing oversight and physician oversight,” Mr. Lantos says. “I’m responsible for routine daily treatments. I assess patients beforehand and deal with any clinical issues that come up during treatment. If a patient needs any care within the nursing realm during treatment, I go into the chamber and perform those duties. I see every patient that comes in and take care of any emergent patients that come in while I’m on call.”

A number of the patients treated with HBO<sub>2</sub> are critically ill. Often, they are patients with necrotizing fasciitis who have just had or are about to have surgery and are very unstable. HBO<sub>2</sub> is beneficial because it slows the proliferation of the bacteria and the production of tissue-destroying toxins. It can also speed cells’ absorption of antibiotics. The skills of a nurse specially trained in hyperbaric medicine and critical care are required in order to provide such critically ill patients with the treatment they need. The nurse enters the chamber with the patient in order to protect the airway of intubated patients, adjust IV infusions, manage medication, and monitor vital signs and blood sugar levels.

Dan Lantos’ background is in surgical ICU, so he had had wound care experience when he joined the center in 2005, but he was not familiar with hyperbarics.

“This has turned out to be an incredible experience,” Mr. Lantos says. “It was an area of medicine I knew nothing about before, but I’ve fallen in love with it. It’s a very quickly developing area and it’s very effective, but it’s something not many people are familiar with.”

To help spread the word, Mr. Lantos gives in-services and lectures about hyperbaric medicine for floor nurses and nursing students. He also does a lot of teaching for patients and their families.

Kevin Sears, RN, is a per diem nurse who joined the team this spring. He has experience in wound care, psychiatry and pediatrics, and is also working at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. His skills in dealing with young patients are especially helpful when a child needs HBO<sub>2</sub> therapy. This may occur in cases when a family is overcome by carbon monoxide or when a child has had

particular surgical procedures. Recently, the hyperbarics team has treated several boys who have had hypospadias repair.

“The most important point,” Dan Lantos says, “is that hyperbarics doesn’t exist in a vacuum. It’s part of a continuum. For patients with difficult wounds, hyperbarics is an integral part of a long process of helping wounds heal.”

### Research Opportunities

Research is also an integral component of the wound care center’s work. The aging of the population and the increase in Type II diabetes is creating a huge need for wound care and, therefore, a large market for wound care products and therapies. The challenge is to determine which are cost-effective and most beneficial to patients.

“We have to have an evidence-based approach to therapy,” notes Dr. Perdrizet. “Fifteen percent of wounds don’t heal despite the best treatment, so we need to address why. We can only improve future care through sound, scientifically based research.”

Dr. Perdrizet says that the center is engaged in clinical research on the role of hyperbaric oxygen in diabetic foot ulcers and basic science research on the role of cell stress proteins in wound healing.

Lisa Corbett, APRN, BC, CWOCN, has been a certified wound care nurse for more than 10 years and worked in the field for 15. She has authored a textbook on wound care and is active in the national wound care organization. She

has conducted several research projects recently. One explored the link between wound hypothermia and resistance to healing. Another, which was published this fall in the journal *Ostomy Wound Management*, explored the evidence basis for venous ulcer care. Last spring, she presented results of another project—on evidence-based interventions for teaching patients to care for themselves—to a national symposium in San Antonio.

“This is a new specialty with an emerging scientific basis,” Ms. Corbett notes.

Dan Lantos, too, has been involved in research since coming to the center, and he expects to do more, especially in hyperbarics.

“This is an area where there is a lot to be explored,” Mr. Lantos says. “There are many opportunities to perform good, solid research, strengthen the knowledge base for hyperbarics, and have a significant impact on the field.” ■

The skills of a nurse specially trained in hyperbaric medicine and critical care are required in order to provide critically ill patients with the treatment they need.

# Evolution in the OR



No longer a purely technical role,

OR nursing today emphasizes patient safety, coordinated care and an effective, cohesive health care team.

*Surgeon Rocco Orlando, MD, and Director of Perioperative Services Cheryl Ficara, RN, MS, CNA, BC.*

Nursing's role has evolved dramatically in every aspect of health care in recent years, and one of the places where the evidence of change is most apparent is in the unique world of the operating room.

Years ago, the role of the operating room nurse was perceived as providing technical assistance to the surgeon during procedures. Today, that same nurse provides holistic patient care, advocates for the patient, coordinates the multidisciplinary OR team, serves as the liaison with families, ensures appropriate hand-offs, and more. ➤

“What goes on in the OR is unbelievably complex,” says Cheryl Ficara, RN, MS, CNA, BC, director of Perioperative Services at Hartford Hospital. “You have a variety of professionals—a doctor who wants to do a procedure, a surgical technician who knows all the instrumentation, an anesthesiologist who’s managing the airway—the nurse takes all these different pieces into consideration and coordinates everything to avoid fragmentation and ensure patient safety and quality care. The nurse runs the room.”

Andrea Hagstrom, RN, MSN, CNOR, the perioperative services nurse educator at Hartford Hospital, heads the hospital’s Perioperative Nursing Internship Program. Ms. Hagstrom says surgical nursing as a specialty has been unfairly characterized in the past. This has contributed to a shortage of nurses prepared to work in the intraoperative phase of perioperative care.

“Time and again, candidates tell me they were discouraged by their instructors from going into surgical nursing,” Ms. Hagstrom says. “Many people don’t view us as providing nursing care; they see only the technical side. But we utilize the nursing process, providing care for the patient and working with the surgical and anesthesiology teams—everything happening within the suite. You are the patient advocate and the patient care coordinator at the room level. Every single patient deserves a registered nurse to be providing that care.”

### *Focus on Patient Safety*

The OR nurse’s role in keeping the patient safe begins before the procedure, when he or she reviews the patient’s medical history and meets with the patient and family.

“Many patients come to surgery with medical problems and comorbidities that could affect the outcome of the surgery,” says Cheryl Ficara. “As an OR nurse, you have to get to know the patient from a holistic standpoint.”

The nurse meets with and assesses the patient and makes sure the patient and family members understand what’s going to happen. While the patient and family members have had many of their questions answered earlier, they often have additional questions immediately before surgery. The nurse educates the patient and family about the procedure and verifies critical elements such as patient identity and surgical site and side.

“We make sure we know everything about them, so we’re as safe as possible,” says Ms. Ficara. “It’s the one point in time when it all comes together from a patient safety standpoint. The operating room nurse is the patient’s last stop before going into the operating room.”

Patient safety is the top priority for the entire surgical team once the patient is in the operating room, and everyone—regardless of role or years of experience—is on equal footing.

“We have to have a culture of safety,” says Ms. Ficara. “At any time, any team member who doesn’t feel comfortable about something that’s being done can literally stop and raise a question such as, ‘Why are we doing this?’ or ‘Are we sure that’s the dose we want to give?’ As a team, we have to respect each other, so this can occur. Stopping the process may reduce efficiency, but it is absolutely key from a patient safety standpoint.”

### *Cultivating OR Nurses*

Hartford Hospital is eager to retain current OR nurses and attract new ones. Like hospitals everywhere, it faces the prospect of a shortage. The average age of OR nurses is in the high 40s; retirements are not far off. Yet college nursing programs don’t provide exposure to the field or encourage young nurses to enter it.

Cheryl Ficara says the hospital has taken a number of steps to retain surgical nurses. They include offering a variety of shifts, improving ergonomics to reduce physical strain, providing emotional support for nurses involved in difficult cases and fostering teamwork.

“It’s all about the team,” Ms. Ficara says. “We found that if people have a good team, they’re likely to stay longer. Your coworkers make or break your world.”

To bring new nurses into the field, the hospital last year formalized its existing orientation program to launch the Perioperative Nursing Internship Program (see the Education section, page 10). The program prepares new graduates and experienced nurses to be perioperative nurses. It’s working well. Of the 14 nurses that have completed the program, all but two are working in Perioperative Services at Hartford Hospital.

### *Transforming the OR*

This fall, as part of a national program lead by the Voluntary Hospital Association, Perioperative Services will launch an initiative called Transformation of the Operating Room. TOR uses a model similar to an earlier VHA initiative, Transformation of the Intensive Care Unit, which Cheryl Ficara helped lead in her previous role as director of the SICU. TICU was highly successful, significantly reducing, among other things, ventilator-associated pneumonia, bloodstream infection and mortality. TOR aims to improve the clinical and financial performance of operating rooms by enhancing teamwork, patient safety and efficiency. ▶

“We want to continue to work on team-building, with a focus on patient safety,” says Ms. Ficara. “We will benchmark evidence-based practices across the country for perioperative nursing and make sure we remain on the cutting edge. From a cost-efficiency perspective, we will be streamlining processes and networking with institutions that are more automated than we are. We’re preparing to roll out online charting in the OR. This will give us a network of people we can talk with to find out how it worked for them.”

As with TICU, the TOR process will involve making small changes, testing their effectiveness, and building on them to make additional changes.

Physicians are extremely supportive of this effort. Both Rocco Orlando, MD, a surgeon who is vice president of the Medical Staff, and Witold Waberski, MD, director of the Department of Anesthesiology, are committed to helping spearhead the TOR initiative.

### *Promoting Excellence*

Teamwork is truly the watchword in the culture of today’s operating room. Cooperation and respect for other team members are recognized as essential to providing excellent patient care. At Hartford Hospital, leadership is serious about cultivating a team-oriented, respectful environment in the OR. The Perioperative Services Committee, chaired by Dr. Orlando and made up of physicians, nurses and other professionals, meets regularly to explore opportunities for improvement. Every new surgeon and nurse is oriented to the department’s expectations for behavior, and everyone is held to those expectations.

“The seasoned nurses here will tell you there’s a much greater comfort level in the OR today,” says Cheryl Ficara. “There’s a high degree of respect for what each one of us brings to the table.”

In preparing new nurses, Andrea Hagstrom stresses that team-oriented, patient-centered approach.

“Our focus is getting the patient in and out of the OR safely and promoting positive patient outcomes,” she says. “It is an intimate relationship we have in the OR. There’s no time for your own agenda, only for taking care of that patient and helping the surgeon get the job done.” ■



*Susan MacArthur, RN, CIC, MPH,  
and Bruce Browner, MD.*

## **PRONTO for Patient Safety**

Evidence shows that administering an antibiotic within 60 minutes of surgery substantially decreases risk of surgical-site infection. But creating a process that ensures it actually happens every time is a challenge in a busy hospital. To address the issue, Hartford Hospital in late 2005 launched a project known as PRONTO (Professionals Responsible for On-time Operations).

Bruce Browner, MD, director of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, led the PRONTO team. Susan MacArthur, RN, CIC, MPH, infection control practitioner in the Department of Medicine’s Division of Infectious Diseases, was project manager. The team included representatives from every hospital area that could affect the process, including Surgery, Ambulatory Surgery, Pharmacy, Anesthesiology, OB/GYN, Center 8, the Assessment Center and IT.

The group met every two weeks at 6:30 a.m. They examined the entire process, from the moment the medication was ordered to the moment it was given and documented.

“We found we had to break down silos that had built up over years,” says Ms. MacArthur. “We had all been carrying out our own responsibilities, but we hadn’t done a great job of passing the baton. So we looked at every area, and everyone gave a little bit in order to achieve a common goal: better care for our patients.”

Today, the new process the PRONTO group developed is working extremely well.

“From not being able to administer antibiotic reliably within the 60-minute window, we’re now doing it almost without fail,” notes Ms. MacArthur. “Nationally, we’re one of the top performers, based on our data. And it all happened because a group of people recognized the system was broken and were willing to do something to fix it.”

Perioperative Services Director Cheryl Ficara says PRONTO is further evidence that, at Hartford Hospital, “There’s not much we can’t do when we put our minds to it.”

## Research

### 10th Annual Nursing Research Conference Held

The Institute for Health Care Education, the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance and the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff recently presented the 10th Annual Nursing Research Conference. The full-day event was held on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2006, at Hartford Hospital's Education and Resource Center. The theme for this year's event was "Evidence-Based Practice: Caring for Our Patients and Ourselves."

Laura Caramanica, RN, PhD, vice president of nursing for Hartford Hospital, and Michael Conway, MD, president of the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff, made opening remarks. The keynote address was delivered by Veda Andrus, EdD, MSN, RN, NH-BC, senior educator and consultant for the Birch Tree Center for Healthcare Transformation. She spoke on "Caring for Ourselves: Enhancing the Therapeutic Partnership within Nursing Practice." Maggie McKivergin, RN, MSN, CNS, HNC, internationally known holistic health consultant, provided the plenary address, "Caring for Patients and Ourselves: Complementary Modalities."

The event also featured several skill-building presentations, abstract presentation and poster sessions.

More than 270 people attended the conference.

### Study Examines Practicing Out Loud

This past year, Hartford Hospital's nursing staff participated in a study aimed at improving nursing practice. The study, funded by Hartford Hospital's Research Department and completed this past spring, was called *Practicing Out Loud (POL) and the Role of the Nurse* (Laura Caramanica, RN, PhD, and Sheryl Horowitz, PhD, co-investigators). It looked at whether the public's understanding of nursing was affected when nurses shifted the emphasis of nurse-patient care away from individually task-driven behaviors and activities toward more communicative assessments, actions and outcomes that included enhancement of involvement of patients, families and other health care professionals. POL calls for improved communication of nursing's contributions to patient care. The study utilized nurses from two matched units. Results showed that nurses who had practiced less than two years adopted the approach to a greater extent than more experienced nurses. Surveys of health care teams that worked with each group of nurses showed no appreciable differences. Plans are being made to consider teaching more Hartford Hospital nurses about *Practicing Out Loud*.

## Education

### Building a Cadre of OR Nurses

Hospitals nationwide are facing a shortage of perioperative nurses prepared to care for patients in the intraoperative setting. According to Andrea Hagstrom, RN, MSN, CNOR, perioperative services nurse educator at Hartford Hospital, a number of factors are contributing to this. The average age of the OR nurse is nearing 50, and many will soon be retiring. Nursing schools don't provide students with exposure to intraoperative nursing. Instructors discourage students from pursuing OR nursing, claiming it is too technical a field. In the meantime, the demand for OR nurses is rising, with the demographic bulge that is the Baby Boom generation heading into middle age and beyond.

Now Hartford Hospital is taking decisive action to develop its own OR nurses by offering a Perioperative Nursing Internship Program. The program, which began in summer 2005, was developed by Ms. Hagstrom, who researched materials and wrote the curriculum and syllabus for the course and is now the principal instructor.

"We felt it was important to create a program that would give nurses without experience in the OR the opportunity to become perioperative nurses," Ms. Hagstrom says. "Nursing education gives you the foundation on which to build. In this program, we incorporate that education and relate it to care of the patient in the OR setting."



Andrea Hagstrom,  
RN, MSN, CNOR

The six-month internship is offered once in the spring and once in the fall. Classes meet two to three times each week. Each class is a full day. Clinical labs and observations are also included. Students learn the foundations of the role, methods and practice for infection prevention, and OR safety. They become familiar with the various surgical modalities, including endoscopic surgery, GI, gynecologic, and more.

More than 20 nurses have taken part in the program so far. Out of the 14 that had completed the program as of this writing, 12 are working in perioperative nursing positions at Hartford Hospital.

Once the hospital has met its own staffing needs, says Ms. Hagstrom, the plan is to open the program up to other institutions so that Hartford Hospital will become a community-wide training center for nurses skilled in perioperative patient care.

### South Korean Nurses Return

For the second consecutive year, student nurses from South Korea's Sungkyunkwan University visited Hartford Hospital this spring to utilize the hospital's expert nursing resources. Nineteen APRN students and one instructor arrived on May 21, after a 14-hour journey from their home country. They spent the next 10 days working with APRNs on med/surg floors, ICUs and OPD and touring the ED and other facilities. Debbie Tetreault, BSN, MEd, CRNI, coordinator of student nurse placement, who coordinated the visit says that preceptors are hoping the nurses will return next year, too.

## Focus on Alumnae

### Let Us Leave a Legacy for Future Nurses



As my presidency of the Alumnae Association of HHSN draws to a close, I want to assure you that we remain a strong and active organization. Over the past four years we have been involved in various activities, one of which was being part of the nursing committee for the hospital's 150th anniversary celebration. We also began our Web site, which has increased membership, answered alumnae questions and reconnected classmates.

In response to your wishes, we changed our annual banquet from a Friday evening to a Sunday afternoon and moved it to a more central location with improved handicapped accessibility. We funded

speakers for Nurses' Week and made monetary contributions to, among others, VNA Healthcare Inc., CCMC and the American Red Cross.

Finally, we partnered with the Department of Nursing to produce this magazine, which focuses on the accomplishments of the hospital's nursing staff and on new hospital initiatives and their effect on nursing. The *Nursing* magazine also affords the Alumnae Association the opportunity to update class news and spotlight the contributions of past and present alumnae.

Hartford Hospital School of Nursing prepared its nurses well. My parting wish is that we, alumnae of a school that prided itself on excellence in nursing, join together to preserve our history and leave a legacy to future generations of nurses, both at Hartford and beyond, in order to strengthen our profession and enable it to move to the next level.

I want to thank the Alumnae Board for all of its support for the past four years. It has been a wonderful experience working with such dedicated individuals. I extend a warm welcome to Karen Stinson Mazzarella ('69) and wish her well as she assumes the duties of president.

Fondly,

Gail Pendleton Rapoza (HHSN '66)

### Meet the New President

Karen Stinson Mazzarella, RN, BA, (HHSN '69) is the new president of the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing.

Ms. Mazzarella is the clinical care coordinator in Pediatric Cardiology at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. She has been a member of the Alumnae Association since graduation and was active in the group that succeeded in erecting on the Hartford Hospital campus the statue of the student nurse that commemorates the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. Ms. Mazzarella succeeds Gail Rapoza, RN, (HHSN '66) who became president in 2002.

"The Alumnae Association has taken giant steps forward since Gail became president," says Ms. Mazzarella. "We have a Web site, we're gathering e-mail addresses—we're really entering the 21st century. And I think it's remarkable that, 20 years after the last class graduated, new people are still joining the Alumnae Association. I look forward to getting more people involved."



### *The Board of the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing*

#### *President*

Karen Stinson Mazzarella '69

#### *Vice President*

Betty Ann Vose Fusco '66

#### *Secretary*

Della Pappalardo Usher '69

#### *Program and Publicity*

Barbara Biel Nowak '73

#### *Nominating*

Gail Pendleton Rapoza '66

#### *Directors*

Alicia Plikaitis Junghans '66

Lesley Prentice McGrath '61

Mary Jane Pappalardo Densmore '69

Betsy Gaudian '74

#### *Executive Secretary*

Patricia Andreana Ciarcia '62

#### *Treasurer*

Jane Wallace Lasher '74

#### *Assistant Treasurer*

Theresa Gwozdz '76

#### Join Your Alumnae Association

Become one of the more than 600 HHSN graduates who belong to the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. Membership dues are only \$30.00 per year. Members are eligible to apply for the Alumnae Bed Fund and scholarships.

To join, simply complete the information on the enclosed envelope and mail it with your check.

For more information, please contact Karen Stinson Mazzarella, president, at [kmazzar@ccmckids.org](mailto:kmazzar@ccmckids.org); Pat Ciarcia, executive secretary, at [patciarcia@snet.net](mailto:patciarcia@snet.net); or visit our Web site at [www.HHSNalumnae.org](http://www.HHSNalumnae.org). You can also write to the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, 560 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106.



### *A Nurse for life*



**Mary Lou Condon, RN (HHSN '50)**, was born at Hartford Hospital in 1929, entered the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing in 1947, and had a long and varied career as a nurse at Hartford Hospital until her retirement in 1991. Her roles included being head nurse in Obstetrics, diabetes nurse educator, instructor at HHSN and assistant to then-Vice President of Nursing Doris Armstrong, RN.

"I was able to be involved in leadership projects, collaborative practice, research and more," Mary Lou says. "Every minute was enjoyable. If I had it to do over again, I'd be a nurse and work at Hartford Hospital."

But nursing isn't just a career for Mary Lou; it's part of who she is. So she has always brought to life the same passion she brought to nursing, and that pattern has continued into retirement.

"The nursing profession prepares one for life, and it prepares one for retirement," she notes. "There are so many opportunities out there for a person who has been in the caring profession. In retirement, you're still able to nurture in many ways. And people still talk with me about their maladies or ask for a recommendation."

In retirement, Mary Lou remains very involved with Hartford Hospital, serving as a corporator and a member of the Planned Giving Committee. She played a leading role in the creation of Cedar Mountain Commons, the hospital's independent- and assist-ed-living complex on the campus of Jefferson House, and has

served as chairman of the board. Her two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren are central to her life, but she also volunteers in her local elementary school, tutoring children in reading; takes part in community health care screenings;

works at her town historical society; and is active in her church. As if that weren't enough, she belongs to a book group and takes water aerobics classes.

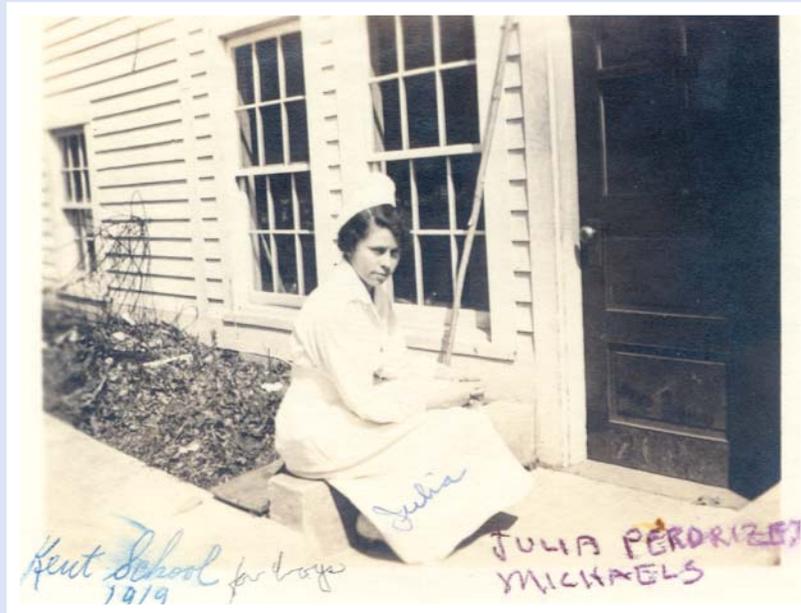
"You keep your life full," Mary Lou says. "I get up every day grateful to be active and keep my mind active. I believe in moderation in living and that exercising, eating right and helping others is so important."

Reflecting on her days at HHSN, she remembers the atmosphere of collegiality among the roughly 300 students. When she began working at the hospital, there was no air conditioning, but nurses nonetheless worked in long skirts, stockings and starched uniforms. The environment was different in other ways, too.

"I remember, as a young nurse, the quiet and darkness of the night as I made my rounds by flashlight," Mary Lou says. "Today, with the advancement of technology, the units are brightly lit. But, as in the past, the registered nurse remains the pinnacle of patient care. Today's professional nurses possess more advanced and specialized skills and knowledge. However the unchanging role of the nurse is to be the health care professional who is the coordinator of managing life's crises."

*If I had it to do over again,  
I'd be a nurse and work  
at Hartford Hospital.*

### A Memorable Nurse



By all reports, Julia Perdrizet Michaels was the sort of person people of her time might have described as “plucky.”

In the early 1900s Julia ventured from her rural home in East Canaan into Hartford to attend the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, which was then known as the Hartford Hospital Training School for Nurses. She graduated on March 12, 1918 (certificate number 1673, according to her handwritten notes).

Shortly after graduation, she bought her first automobile—a Model T Ford—so she could respond to a request from a Dr. Chaffee to travel to Sharon Hospital to work. The day after she bought the car, she decided to drive it to a dental appointment three miles away. The only problem was that she didn’t know how to put the car into reverse. A passerby backed it out of the shed for her, and she drove to within a mile of the dental office, walking the rest of the way, then making a large circle with the car in order to drive back home without having to back up. Julia learned well, though; she drove until she was 94 years old.

At the time of her graduation, the influenza pandemic was raging, and Julia worked as a private nurse, caring for people in their homes.

In the 1920s, Julia worked in the infirmary at the Kent School for Boys. She was the only registered nurse there, and there was only one physician in the area. When boys came in with minor cuts that required stitches, she would call Dr. Turrill, but he would usually tell her to do the work herself because, he would say, “you sew better than I do, anyway.”

One day a professor came in with a laceration on his chin. At his request and with the doctor’s permission, she closed it with about 10 stitches. “I will say,” she later wrote, “I really did a good job. In fact the boys didn’t have much faith in these Doctor’s [sic].”

Julia married Lyman Michaels of Bristol, Conn., on Oct. 26, 1922. They went on to raise two daughters and a son, and Julia continued to work as a nurse. At Bristol Hospital, she worked as a float nurse and later in labor and delivery. She retired from Bristol Hospital in 1960.

Julia maintained ties with Hartford Hospital over the years and attended her 73rd class reunion in 1991. She died peacefully in her sleep in 2003 at the age of 107. But her legacy lives on at Hartford Hospital: Her great-nephew is Hartford Hospital trauma surgeon George Perdrizet, MD, PhD, medical director of the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine.

The annual banquet of the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing was held on June 4, 2006, at the Rocky Hill Marriott. We have included several pictures of various classes that attended. Hope you enjoy them! Special thanks to Marilyn Miller '73 for taking most of these pictures.

## 1935



*Nellie Lund Hellijas '35 and Lucille More Hardman '35 celebrate their 71-year anniversary.*

## 1937



*Mim Nichols '37 celebrating her 69-year anniversary.*

## 1940



*Margaret Hall Carpenter '40 and Gertrude Stickney Lilliendahl '40 celebrate their 66-year anniversary.*

Louise Hitchcock Ost has recently moved to Lakewood, Wash., to be near her nephew and his wife, who are a blessing to her in many ways. She is still involved with her church ministry and loves her new surroundings.

## 1941



*Gladys Mab Art '41 and Justine Maber '41 celebrate their 65-year anniversary.*

Christine Palmer Whitlock passed her 87th birthday this year and is still going strong. In addition to graduating from HHSN, she attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. During that time she also worked in various hospitals and was called to duty the night of the fatal Coconut Grove Fire. She had also been in Hartford at the time of the circus fire and was in charge of many children who had been burned. As a singer she performed leading roles with several opera companies including the San Carlo Opera Company, New York Opera Guild, New York City Center. She also was a soloist with various symphonies. When she wasn't performing she worked in various hospitals and treated many celebrities, including Henry Fonda, Mae West and Lana Turner. She is also featured in *Who's Who in Entertainment*, *In the South and Southwest*, *Of American Women*, *Two Thousand American Women*, and *Who's Who in America*. Her memories of HHSN still linger, along with her memories of her wonderful classmates.

## 1943

Jennie Worobel Ireland moved to Harlingen, Tex., in 1985. Her husband passed away in 2005. She plays 18 holes of golf at least three times a week and is happy that the younger golf members accept her.

## 1944



*Avis Warren Butler '44 attended the June banquet and had a nice time talking and sharing memories with Harmony Ovirt Bolstridge '43.*

## 1946



*Class of 1946 celebrates 60-year anniversary.*

Dorothy Dwyer Cloughsey is enjoying her second great-grandson.

Betty Mae Coburn and her husband recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. She enjoys her grandchildren and is able to see them since her son and daughter live close to her.

Mavis French Davis and her husband live in their same house and are doing well. Her son lives a short distance from them.

Janet Prager Dunn enjoys her five grandchildren. Her father passed away at the age of 102.

Gerry Carini Garcia keeps busy with family and friends. She is still active in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Ruth Ruff Griswold volunteers at Hartford Hospital two to three days a week. She has two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lois Pinney Harmon and her husband recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

Irma Spenser Johnston lives in Cromwell but spends four months at the shore. She has three children and five grandchildren who live close by.

Luella Swanson Kramer enjoys her grandchildren, as well as traveling.

Gloria Bevan Larson and her husband are doing well. She enjoys seeing her classmates.

Ann Desimoni Mains is busy volunteering at the Avon Library and the Farmington Valley Association Thrift Shop. She has five children who live nearby and six grandchildren.

Marvis Maron lives in Wisconsin and plays golf and volunteers at a hospital as a "Pink Lady."

Jean Clark Nokes moved to Connecticut after spending 15 years in Florida to be closer to her family. She has eight grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

Beverly Phillips Robertson lives in Illinois and is doing well. She has five children and eight grandchildren.

Barbara Rogers lives in Newington where she cares for her estate and enjoys her sister's family. She has taken several vacations and cruises. She keeps busy with church activities and volunteering at the library.

Marion Brigham Ruff and her husband have been married more than 56 years and still live in the same house. She has five grandchildren.

Elizabeth Sage Trombley is enjoying her four grandchildren.

Dina Vandermark Waker "keeps" chickens and loves their eggs. She has five children and nine grandchildren.

## 1947



*Class of 1947*

## 1950

Irene Sakmar O'Day reminisces about how things were when she and her classmates graduated in 1950. This includes nurses being accepted into the Social Security Program (the last group of workers to be eligible). The federal minimum hourly wage was 25 cents and the median annual earnings for women was \$1,203.



*Sally Tuttle '50 skydiving.*

Sally Tuttle has a new residence in an apartment in a retirement home in Florida. She is very involved in various activities including skydiving, as pictured here. She is also a member of the Sarasota County Croquet Club, where she practices a lot, since this is essential to the game. Each week she receives instructions on shots and strategy from an instructor who is a National Champion. She spends lots of time with her Pekingese dog Sweetie Pai who rides with her on her scooter.

## 1951



*Patty Rinaldi '58 with Dottie Danner '51 who is celebrating her 55-year anniversary.*

**1952**



Class of 1952

**1955**



Class of 1955

**1956**



Class of 1956 celebrating its 50-year anniversary.



Class of 1956 continues the tradition of passing on the Golden Bedpan (with sweet pea flowers) to the Class of 1957.

**The Class of 1956 had a lot of information to share. In the interest of space, half will appear in this issue and the other half in the spring 2007 issue.**

*Joan Franckum Andrews* enjoys folk dancing, belly dancing, music and swimming. She takes classes at Portland State University in Oregon and sings in the chorus. She has also composed music.

*Carolyn Golet Armstrong* is working one or two nights a week in a health and rehab center. She also volunteers at a nursing home/senior center. She enjoys antique shopping, doggie day-care and long weekends in the Berkshires.

*Patricia Audet* is still busy with the Alumnae Association and enjoys golf, walking and playing with her cat, Chatsie.

*Carolyn Bielefeld Bauer* is still working three days a week at a long-term/subacute care rehab facility. She enjoys gardening, needlework and short day trips.

*Joan Antaya Becker* and Robert, her husband of 42 years, recently downsized and moved to a new patio home in West Mobile, Ala. She enjoys reading, crafts, playing on the computer and decorating her new home.

*Jo-An Healey Boehm* has traveled to South America, Canada, Europe, Hawaii and the Panama Canal. In addition to traveling, she enjoys bird watching, flying and soaring activities.

*Eleanor Grabam Claus* has retired as president of a large health care system in Omaha, Neb. She enjoys traveling, weaving, gardening, and participating in village activities, which include historic preservation, library and hospital volunteering.

*Anne Hurliman Corre* has retired from her full-time position with the Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College. She has traveled worldwide and enjoys daily reading of the New York Times.

*Dorothy Hartley Fazzina* travels extensively within the United States and to Nova Scotia and Barbados. She spends her winters in Florida. She enjoys quilting, stenciling, reading, and water aerobics.

*Elizabeth (Betty) Garey* is retired from Brooklyn VA Hospital, where she was the diabetic educator for 25 years. She enjoys exploring historical sites, especially in New York.

*Marilyn Botelle Hanson* enjoys genealogy and traveling. She and her husband Paul will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Paris.

*Betty Frazier Hewitt* celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary by taking a river cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna. She enjoys tennis and flower painting on glass or wood.

*Pat Cutler Joy* is a deacon in the Episcopal Church and is very active as a spiritual director for all faiths. She has traveled extensively in the United States and visits the Caribbean every year. She loves rubber-stamping, gardening and reading.

*Rene Cohn Kenyon* has been married to her husband for 50 years. She is busy enjoying kayaking, biking, photography, computer, boating, fishing and gardening.

*Vicki Carrazella Mangiafico* enjoys traveling and usually takes a couple of trips a year in both the U.S. and Europe.

*Barbara Carlson Miles* loves retirement but volunteers for hospice and political efforts. She loves keeping fit, hiking, reading, doing puzzles and gardening.

*Anne Carrow Mochau* enjoys retirement and travels within the United States. She also enjoys crossword puzzles, reading and bird-watching.

*Ruth Esada Plaisted* has a large family and enjoys traveling.

*Edith Carlson Zabel* travels a lot in her camper. She also has taken many cruises. She especially enjoys sewing, crafts, reading, biking and gardening.

**1957**



Class of 1957

*Sandra Stirrat Myers* has retired after a rewarding and diverse nursing career of 47 years. She recognizes and appreciates the solid educational foundation and nursing experience she received as a graduate of HHSN. She moved to California and held several nursing positions, including manager of a doctor's office, co-director of nursing for an alcohol rehabilitation center and field nurse for the VNA. She returned to school and received her BSN from the University of California in 1979. After obtaining a teaching credential she joined the staff of a community college. Eventually, in partnership with a pharmacist, she developed an innovative program to administer intravenous solutions in skilled nursing facilities. She advanced to the position of corporate director, overseeing IV programs in eight pharmacies, and later became executive director of a Medicare-certified hospice organization. For the last eight years of her career, she held the position of director of quality assurance and education for a multi-state pharmacy corporation. She was recognized in *Who's Who* and received a letter of recognition from the California Board of Registered Nurses for her dedicated service to the people of California. Now retired, she and her husband have chosen a lifestyle of traveling throughout the country in their 5th wheel travel trailer.

**1959**

*Jean Chapman Addy* is retired from nursing but is very busy with family, church and quilting activities. She is the outgoing president of the Heritage Quilters of Wallingford. When she was in nursing she spent 21 years at the Masonic Home and Hospital as a head nurse and supervisor. After retiring from there she worked part time in an allergy office doing skin testing, immunizations and patient teaching. She and her husband have six children (with each other's children from their previous marriages), 16 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Needless to say, family outings are busy and interesting.

**1960**



*Mary Clementino Moreau, Judy Welch Friend, Peggy Tucker Garrison, Joanna Laskus Hamby, Eleanor Palau Jacobs, Joanne Leonard Campominosi, Betty Epright Hammaker and Carolyn Calboun*, pictured above, met at the Columbia Lake cottage of Mary Clementino Moreau's cousin for a great afternoon of catching up. They plan to do it again next year.

*Peggy Tucker Garrison* retired from Hartford Hospital after 35 years of devoted service. She now can enjoy being on a perpetual vacation.

*Betty Luginbuhl* recently traveled to Switzerland with a couple of her nieces.

*Joanne Leonard Campomino* continues to work for Seabury in Bloomfield in their Alzheimer's facility.

*Judy Penney Fredericks* is getting ready to resettle in Florida.

*Pat Semper Sullivan* has moved to Atlanta to be near her family.

**1961**



Class of 1961 celebrates its 45-year anniversary

*Kathy Stockwell Martindale* has retired as executive director of Armsmead, the former home of Sam Colt, now a retirement home for women in Hartford. She is currently helping to care for her triplet grandbabies.

## 1962



*Class of 1962*

*Sandra Chamberlain* is working full time in Oregon with a program that serves seniors who maintain independent living. She spends time with her sister and family in Colorado, and also with her sister and family in Vermont. She is back-up mom to her family in Oregon. Volunteer opportunities keep her busy.

*Barbara Jabs Esperance* and her husband have retired to North Carolina. She is still active (though unpaid) doing diabetes management at a local free clinic for uninsured patients. Their four children have supplied them with seven grandchildren and opportunities to visit Michigan, New York, Maryland, Singapore (three years ago), Virginia and, recently, Texas. Her e-mail address is [blesperance1@nc.rr.com](mailto:blesperance1@nc.rr.com).

*Patricia Conforti Masucci* is very involved with the Highland Lake Watershed Association. She serves on the board of directors and heads up the membership services committee, welcoming new people to the lake, providing and planning events for lake residents, and selling Highland Lake items. She belongs to 2 book clubs as well as a swim club where she swims 3 times a week for about 40 minutes. Also, she baby-sits routinely for her daughter Beth's children. This fall, she and her husband plan to travel to Seattle to visit their daughter Judy and their one-year-old grandson.

Virginia Marth Wickersham and her husband Wick retired this year. Her husband practiced internal medicine for 36 years in Manchester, CT and Ginny ran his office for the past year. Retirement has been an adjustment. They are thrilled with their first grandchild, Lily, who was born last November. They spent the summer at their "camp" in the Adirondack Mountains and are looking forward to some serious travel in the future.

## 1966



*Class of 1966 celebrates its 40-year anniversary.*

The weekend of June 3 – 4, the Class of 1966 celebrated their 40-year anniversary with a luncheon at Hartford Hospital, followed by a tour. That evening they had a pizza party at the Bushnell Park Carousel and on Sunday attended the Alumnae Banquet. A total of 29 classmates participated in the various activities.

*Gail Pendleton Rapoza* recently celebrated 40 years of continuous nursing service at Hartford Hospital.

## 1967

*Penelope J. Benson* recently left Florida International University where she worked as an APRN. Presently she is working on retiring.

## 1968

*Martha Curtis Denton* received a BS from CCSU in 1980 and a master's in education from Boston University in 1993. Most of her career has been in education—at Bristol Hospital and Waterbury Hospital—and currently at Peace River Medical Center in Port Charlotte, Fla. She and her husband Bob married while she was a junior at HHSN and they have two daughters and two grandchildren. She can be reached at [mcdenton@aol.com](mailto:mcdenton@aol.com).

*Shirley A. Girourd* received a BA in sociology after graduating from HHSN. She then went on to receive her MA in medical sociology, MSN in medical-surgical nursing, and her PhD in health and social policy. She has worked in many capacities, including nurse consultant at Yeladim Childcare Center, associate professor at Southern Connecticut State University, temporary policy analyst for the Connecticut Commission on Children and director of Child Health Planning and Evaluation in Alexandria, Va. She also has held positions as executive director for the American Nurses Association and program officer for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She has been involved in several research activities and grants and has had several publications.

*Joyce Wroblewski Sweet* is a CCM and has worked for 11 years at Cigna, a managed care company. She also manages a team of nurse case managers in the Orlando, Fla., area. For the last few years she has had the opportunity to work from home and enjoys it very much. She and her husband Rick have moved to an adult community outside of Hilton Head, SC. Her son Shawn is in the Navy and currently studying in Groton to be an independent corpsman on a sub. She also has a 5-year-old grandson and another due in the fall.

## 1971



*Louise Wasilewski Honiss '71 and Elaine Dyson Pandolfe '71, celebrate their 35-year anniversary.*

*Mary-Ellen Metzner* just completed her MBA in 1996 and is working on the business side of medicine as the CEO of New England Orthopedic Surgeons. She also manages Baystate Health's New England Orthopedics Surgery Center. She and her husband will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary this year. They have twin daughters, one of whom recently gave birth to twin boys. Their other daughter is a well-established artist in Melbourne, Australia.

## 1972



*Class of 1972*

*Laura Caramanica, RN, PhD*, has been invited to become a member of the national advisory committee (NAC) for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative (INQRI) program. As a member of the NAC, she will play an important role in advising the foundation about the design, implementation and promotion of the INQRI program. She will participate in annual meetings with grantees and provide guidance related to the conduct of their studies and dissemination and translation of their findings. In

addition, she will review brief proposals and provide consultation on final award decisions. The goal of the program is to generate, translate and disseminate research that links nursing to the quality of care provided in hospitals. Also, Laura was recently appointed to the *Nursing Economics* Manuscript Review Board. *Nursing Economics* is a national peer review journal that publishes articles that focus on health care financing, management of resources and other leadership issues.

## 1976



*Elizabeth McDowell-Smith '76, Ann Sullivan '76, and Terry Gwozdz '76, celebrate their 30-year anniversary.*

*(Last class to graduate from HHSN)*

## Let Us Hear from You!

We're eager for updates from HHSN graduates. Share your news about your career, family leisure activities, educational pursuits, achievements and more with other alumnae by dropping a note to Pat Ciarcia, Executive Secretary, Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, at 560 Hudson St., Hartford, CT 06106 or via e-mail to [patciarcia@snet.net](mailto:patciarcia@snet.net).

# She Was There

## ***In Memoriam***

*We honor the memory of alumnae of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing who have passed away, and others who touched our lives.*

1936

Agnes Capellini Garbarino

1941

Elizabeth Scott Jensen  
Susan DeWolfe Nielsen  
Gertrude Stange Zurell

1942

Marie Bombaci Bonanno

1945

Hazel Taylor Marci

1949

Shirley Linn Emerick

1951

Aline Vegiard Kneeland

1953

Valerie Hatch Wetherell

1964

Judith Alling Cogswell

1976

Pamela Suchecki Sanders

### PHYSICIANS

Dr John Wetherbee  
Dr Howard Wetstone



*When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed,  
She was there  
In the excitement and miracle of birth or in the mystery and loss of life,  
She was there.*

*When a silent glance could uplift a patient, family member or friend,  
She was there.*

*At times when the unexplainable needed to be explained,  
She was there.*

*When the situation demanded a swift foot and sharp mind,  
She was there.*

*When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed,  
She was there.*

*In choosing the best one from a family's "thank you" box of chocolates,  
She was there.*

*To witness humanity —its beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment,  
She was there.*

*To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope,  
She was there.*

*And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One's side,  
She is there.*

NOTE: Change pronoun to suit

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### Give a Lasting Gift

Your contribution today using the enclosed gift envelope will make a difference to our nursing education program. You can act now and show your commitment to nursing education forever by including Hartford Hospital and/or the Alumnae Association of HHSN Inc. in your estate plans. For more information, please contact Carol S. Garlick, vice president, philanthropy, at (860) 545-2162 or cgarlic@harthosp.org.



*Hartford Hospital Training School for Nurses (HHTS) student nurses posing in the main operating room, ca. 1898.*



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