

HARTFORD HOSPITAL Nursing

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



Hartford Hospital Nursing

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Cover Photograph:

Marcia Rothwell, LMT, of Hartford
Hospital's Integrative Medicine Program
performing therapeutic massage.

(Photo by Joy Miller.)



*Susan Malo-Schlegel, RN, MPH, CIC, instructs a group of new employees
in principles of infection control.*



Hartford Hospital Nursing

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

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To Our Readers

Meriting the Community's Trust

Patients and families who come to Hartford Hospital trust us to keep them safe while providing excellent medical care. As volunteers who represent the community, members of our Board of Directors understand that they are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the hospital honors this trust by providing the highest quality of care. The Board looks to the leadership of the clinical staff and the guidance of management to help it fulfill that responsibility.

The Board's involvement in quality and patient safety takes many forms. The subject is on the agenda of every Board meeting and receives just as much attention as finances. Board members receive reports on how the hospital is doing with regard to standards set by the state Department of Public Health. Members of the Board sit on the Quality and Patient Safety Council, which meets monthly to explore ways to continuously improve the hospital's performance and measure it against national standards. When a team from the Joint Commission visits, the board meets with them to discuss our strategies for achieving quality and patient safety.



John Meehan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hartford Hospital

The relationship between the Board and physicians also focuses on quality. The Board conducts a thorough assessment of a physician's qualifications and practice patterns before recommending him or her for appointment to our Medical Staff. Recently, the Board authorized the establishment of a new physician position, vice president for quality and patient safety, to provide centralized leadership for our entire quality program. The appointment of Jamie M. Roche, MD, MMM, CPE, to this position underscores the commitment the Board and management have made to quality and patient safety.

As the people who spend the most time with patients and families, nurses play a central role in the hospital's ability to provide excellent care and merit the community's trust. While the Board, management and Medical Staff are all committed to quality and patient safety, it is the nurse who truly personifies Hartford Hospital in the eyes of those we serve.

John Meehan

Champions of Quality and Patient Safety

Each issue of our *Hartford Hospital Nursing* magazine is special to me, and this issue is no exception! I am so proud of the staff who are spotlighted in these issues as they demonstrate what professional nursing brings to health care and why our patients often praise caregivers in this setting. Our publication also informs readers about how patient care and nursing practice have changed over time. Nurses are continuously expanding their knowledge and skills.

The Institute of Medicine's Quality Chasm Series on Keeping Patients Safe (2004) is a must-read. This report adds to our understanding of how to keep patients safe from the combined effects of the complexities of our technologically driven, compartmentalized health care system and the fallibility of human health care providers, managers, and



*Laura Caramanica, RN, PhD
Vice President, Nursing
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leadership within that system. Because nurses are with patients most of the time during their hospitalization, patients depend upon them for their safe recovery. Many things can affect how well nurses play a role in the safety of their patients. There is mounting evidence about the critical role of the nurse in the U.S. health care system.

Patient safety and quality are at the forefront of today's delivery of health care, and nurses champion those efforts in countless ways. In this issue of *Nursing*, you'll read about nurses' efforts to ensure safe, high-quality care by preventing infections and providing complementary therapeutic modalities. In these areas, as in all others, the nurses of Hartford Hospital demonstrate their commitment to bringing the very best nursing practice to everything they do.

Laura Caramanica

Baby-Friendly Award Renewed

Hartford Hospital once again has won the prestigious Baby-Friendly Award from Baby-Friendly USA. The award is valid for five years. Hartford Hospital first won the award in 2000, making it the first hospital in the state and only the 28th in the country to achieve the coveted designation. The redesignation is contingent on the hospital's completing certain quality-improvement initiatives.

Baby-Friendly USA is a nonprofit group that advocates for breast feeding. It originated with guidelines developed by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Those guidelines were aimed at encouraging breast feeding worldwide to promote child health and reduce infant mortality.

Winning the Baby-Friendly designation is challenging. Through a site visit and comprehensive documentation, hospitals and birthing centers must demonstrate that they follow WHO and UNICEF guidelines summarized in the "10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding." Those steps include having and communicating a written breast-feeding policy and training all staff in its implementation, educating pregnant women about the benefits of breast feeding, helping new mothers begin breast feeding within an hour of birth, not giving newborns any nourishment other than breast milk unless medically necessary, and establishing support groups for breast-feeding mothers. Within each step are more detailed requirements that a hospital must show it is meeting.

Sara Young, MSN, IBCLC, a clinical nurse specialist and lactation consultant who oversees Hartford Hospital's Lactation Services, notes, "We feel quite honored to have received this designation, which is difficult to get and to maintain, and we appreciate all of the hard work that's gone into attaining it."



Sara Young, MSN, IBCLC, left, with new mother Aimee Garbett, holding baby Lila, and Pam Gregg, RN.

Hartford Hospital Selected for NCI Pilot Program

The Cancer Program at Hartford Hospital is one of only 10 entities in the country—and the only one in New England—to be chosen to participate in the pilot phase of the new National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP). If fully implemented, the program will help bring state-of-the-art cancer care to patients in hospitals across the United States. The NCCCP is designed to encourage the collaboration of private-practice medical, surgical and radiation oncologists. It will research new and enhanced ways to assist, educate and better treat the needs of underserved populations, including elderly, rural, inner-city and low-income patients, as well as racial and ethnic groups with unusually high cancer rates. Evidence from a wide range of studies suggests that cancer patients diagnosed and treated in a setting of multispecialty care and clinical research may live longer and have a better quality of life.

The selection of Hartford Hospital's Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center for this extremely competitive program was based on several factors, including the hospital's leadership role in excellent care delivery, clinical research programs, outreach efforts, survivorship programs, pathology biospecimen expertise and cancer information systems.

Andrew Salner, MD, director of Hartford Hospital's Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center, notes, "This recognition reflects the expertise of all the many medical specialists and staff from all services at Hartford Hospital that contribute to the care of cancer patients. Participation in this program will further ensure our leadership role in cancer care in New England, and facilitate our meaningful contribution to advancing significant issues related to cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and research."

Hospital Wins VHA Award

Thanks to achievements in the Bliss 11-I and 7-I intensive care units, VHA recently presented Hartford Hospital with its award for tight glycemic control among ICU patients.

Evidence shows that critically ill patients in intensive care have better outcomes when their blood sugars are maintained at optimal levels. Translating that knowledge into everyday practice was one of the goals of the TICU (Transforming the Intensive Care Unit) initiative launched by VHA and the Institute for Health Care Improvement in 2001. Hartford Hospital was one of the first institutions to participate in the initiative. The 14 institutions nationwide that formed the initial group are now collectively known as Wave 1 or the Critical Care Innovation Network.

Hartford Hospital received the award because it performed far better than other Wave 1 institutions in controlling patients' glucose levels.

"A three-year, continuous linear progression showed that 52 percent to 60 percent of blood sugars were in the normal range in Bliss 11-I, and 63 percent were in the normal range in 7-I," says LuAnn Mahoney, RN, BSN, CNA-BC, unit manager of Bliss 11-I.

Ms. Mahoney says the units' success is largely due to continuous performance monitoring and feedback and a greater receptiveness to change.

Integrative Medicine: *More Ways to Help and Heal*

Hartford Hospital is a leader in offering complementary therapies that promote wellness in body, mind and spirit.



Alice Moore, RN, BS, RMT, right, demonstrates Reiki therapy.

Although she'd been a nurse for more than 20 years, Alice Moore, RN, BS, RMT, was extremely apprehensive when in the mid-1990s she was about to undergo surgery for the first time. She was nervous about the surgery itself, but also concerned about recovering quickly so she could get back to work as soon as possible. Alice turned for help to several practices she'd studied over the years, including yoga, Reiki, therapeutic touch and guided imagery. She used these techniques to prepare her mind and body prior to surgery and to enhance her recovery afterward. The results were impressive. She went home quickly, required very little pain medication and was up and walking in almost no time. "I had such a speedy recovery that my doctor was shocked," Ms. Moore recalls. "She said to me, 'You need to share this with other people, because you recovered much faster than most patients.'"

Today, Ms. Moore, along with her colleagues and volunteers in Hartford Hospital's Integrative Medicine program, is sharing these and many other healing techniques with patients and staff in every area of the hospital.

Hartford Hospital's Integrative Medicine Program was officially launched in 1999 by an interdisciplinary group that included Ms. Moore, who is now the Reiki coordinator and nurse educator, and Marcia Rothwell, LMT, who is now the program's director. Today, Integrative Medicine has a staff of 20 and a Reiki volunteer

force of 50. The program's services are very much in demand. Patients and families request services frequently, and physicians and nurses often order them for patients. In honor of Nurses Week this year, hospital administration arranged for all staff members who were interested to have chair massages. "We're very proud of all we're able to offer," says Marcia Rothwell.

A Constellation of Complementary Techniques

Research has shown that time-tested relaxation techniques help decrease anxiety, strengthen the immune system, diminish pain and accelerate healing. While traditional medicine focuses on the physical aspects of healing, health professionals now recognize that healing incorporates the mind, body and spirit. Patients who use these techniques feel a greater sense of involvement in their own health. The hospital's Integrative Medicine Program today offers a full range of complementary therapies, including acupuncture, art for healing, guided imagery, massage therapy, imagery preparation for surgery, Reiki therapy and therapeutic touch. In the hands of skilled and experienced people specially trained to work in a hospital setting, these techniques are providing measurable benefits to countless Hartford Hospital patients.

Women's Health Was Pioneer

Women's Health was among the first Hartford Hospital divisions to embrace complementary techniques, and the division's successful use of these therapies in the late 1990s was one of the factors that contributed to the program's creation.

"Women's Health has always been a big promoter," says Marcia Rothwell. "Even before we had a real Integrative Medicine program, we started a Reiki program on North 8 along with pre-surgery guided imagery and baby massage."

In Women's Health, acupuncture is used successfully to relieve nausea associated with pregnancy. Therapeutic massage helps relieve women's back pain, both during pregnancy and while in labor. Once a baby has been born, the Integrative Medicine staff is available to provide massage for mother, father and baby alike. Ms. Rothwell notes that several couples who had been having difficulty conceiving became pregnant after using acupuncture.

Making a Positive Difference

Hartford Hospital is nationally known for the size and quality of its Reiki program, which is co-directed by Alice Moore from Integrative Medicine and Eileen Pelletier from Volunteer Services. The program has previously received the American Society of Directors of Volunteer Services' Extraordinary Program Award. One of the places Reiki is used most often is in Oncology. The therapy helps patients relax, diminishing the stress of the illness as well as the fatigue typically associated with chemotherapy or radiation therapy. Acupuncture and massage have also been shown to lessen cancer pain and reduce the nausea that often accompanies cancer treatment. Thanks to Andrew Salner, MD, who directs Hartford Hospital's cancer program, Integrative Medicine has been able to produce informational packets that are given to all cancer patients. The material explains each complementary modality, give examples of how each one can help and offers comments from patients who experienced them. "We have a very thankful group of cancer patients who have used these therapies," says Ms. Rothwell.

In addition to the hands-on therapies, Integrative Medicine also helps patients prepare for surgery. The program offers Peggy Huddleston's "Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster" book and relaxation CD to use before, during and after surgery. Ms. Rothwell recalls a patient using the CD before having surgery for breast cancer. "Her family told me they saw

a huge change in her. She went into surgery no longer afraid," says Ms. Rothwell.

Darrin D'Agostino, DO, MPH, an internist specializing in neuromusculoskeletal medicine, is medical director of Integrative Medicine and frequently uses the therapies in his practice.

"I use these therapies to augment traditional treatments provided through internal medicine," Dr. D'Agostino says. "I have personally seen patients with GI problems obtain relief from nausea and vomiting after acupuncture. I've used massage therapy in asthmatic patients to improve lung compliance. We're not replacing traditional medicine, but rather offering complementary therapies in addition to medications and treatments that are known to work."

Karen Kramer, RN, BS, NHC, QTTT, is a nurse in one of Hartford Hospital's intensive care units and teaches therapeutic touch through the Integrative Medicine program. Like Ms. Moore, she learned the benefits of complementary therapies through personal experience. Following a car accident that left her with a whiplash injury and generalized pain not relieved by conventional therapies, she sought out a practitioner of therapeutic touch.

"I was skeptical, but that evening following the treatment I was moving better and was able to sit longer," Ms. Kramer recalls. "I took a course just so I could use it on myself to relieve pain, never expecting to have a practice or teach it." She chose to teach it because "it worked so well for me, and I wanted others to know about this therapy that can ease pain."

Working in the ICU, Ms. Kramer sees firsthand how therapeutic touch can benefit patients who are extremely ill. She often provides therapeutic touch for patients just before and just after they're taken off ventilators, and she says that patients who have it typically do better. It also benefits patients who are very restless and agitated.

They often become much calmer and need less medication. It helps at the end of life, too.

"When someone is dying, it sets a peaceful atmosphere," Ms. Kramer says. "It makes the transition of dying easier for both the patients and their families."

Integrative Medicine is everywhere. In the hospital's Brownstone Ambulatory Clinic, acupuncture, massage, Reiki and other therapies

are provided to patients who are referred by their primary care doctors. Artist-in-Residence Diana Boehmert provides expressive art therapy for patients undergoing dialysis, people in the hospital's Domestic Violence program and others in the



Integrative Medicine's Artist-in-Residence Diana Boehmert, second from left, engages Cancer Center staff in a creative project.

community. Sound healing with Tibetan singing bowls is offered in Dialysis. The program also offers a variety of workshops and classes that give patients the ability to participate more actively in their own healing. Topics include Reiki, Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, Art for Healing, Sound Healing and Therapeutic Touch.

Patients and staff surveyed indicate a strong positive response to complementary therapies. For example, after massage or Reiki, 97 percent of patients said their sleep improved either somewhat or a great deal, and 91 percent reported reduction in nausea. Employees surveyed before and after Reiki therapy noted dramatic reductions in tension, pain and fatigue. Eighty-five percent of patients stated they were likely to choose Hartford Hospital for future admissions because of the Integrative Medicine program

The Nurse's Perspective

Karen Kramer says that her involvement with therapeutic touch and the Integrative Medicine program is a "fantastic" complement to her work as a nurse. And she has written articles

encouraging nurses to use the technique to benefit both patients and themselves.

"Nurses need to know that this is wonderful, not just for their patients, but for themselves. It helps with a sense of grounding and peace," she says.

In helping to launch the program and in her role as coordinator of the Reiki volunteer program, Alice Moore says her nursing experience has been "priceless," because she understood how a hospital operates and how best to interact with staff and patients. Her work has been rewarding in her career, as well.

"Although the scientific part of nursing is so important, there was always a part of me that remembered the gentle touch and compassion that characterized my beginnings as a nurse," Ms. Moore says. "I never wanted to lose that compassionate touch when things became so high-tech. There's more to healing than just medicine or surgery or traditional ideas about what healing and caring are all about."

Through the Integrative Medicine program, that concept has become woven into the fabric of care at Hartford Hospital. ■

Comfort on Four Paws



Hartford Hospital's Pet Therapy Program in action.

Anyone who's ever loved a cat or dog knows that the human-animal bond is powerful and profound. And research shows that animal companionship is healthy, too—lowering blood pressure, relieving depression, reducing stress-related aches and pains and more. At Hartford Hospital, the benefits of canine company are brought right to the bedside by the Pet Therapy Program.

Now in its 14th year, the Pet Therapy Program's seeds were sown by oncologist Robert Martin, MD, who used to bring his dog, Abby, along with him on rounds. Patients and staff enjoyed the experience so much that Abby was nominated for Employee of the Year two years in a row, and a full-fledged Pet Therapy Program was born. In 2007, the program was honored with two awards from the Connecticut Veterinary Medicine Association.

Kelly Boothby, CAVS, manager of Volunteer Services, heads up the program and has seen its benefits firsthand.

"We've seen patients with Alzheimer's who have been unresponsive sit up and reach out to pet the visiting dogs," she says. "The volunteers who come in with their dogs never leave without someone saying, 'Thank you for sharing your dog,' or 'You made my day,' or 'This meant so much to my parent.' The visit breaks up patients' days and takes their minds off of what's wrong with them. And there's a connection between humans and animals we just can't explain."

Ms. Boothby recalls going into a dialysis unit with a team and finding patients quietly listening to music or reading. By the time the dog and its owner left, all the patients were talking happily to each other. The dog had brought them together.

Thirty-six dog owners volunteer in the program, and about half of them are hospital employees. Owners and dogs go through a special training program to become certified for pet therapy. Teams go to nearly every unit in the hospital, including the Institute of Living. Families or patients may request pet therapy or doctors or nurses can order it for their patients.

Ms. Boothby says nursing is very supportive of the program.

"Sometimes it's hard to get the dogs away from the nurses so we can get them to the patients!"

Battling Infection Hospital-wide



Pat Frasier, RN, BSN, unit manager of C12.

Hartford Hospital nurses are on the front lines in the effort to prevent nosocomial infections.

People check into hospitals to get better, not to get sick. Yet, according to the Centers for Disease Control, health care-related infections number more than 2 million annually and result in as many as 90,000 deaths and \$4.5 billion in excess health care costs. Hartford Hospital is taking the offense against infection rates through initiatives designed to make the hospital a safer, healthier place for patients and staff alike, and nurses play a critical role.

First Line of Defense

One of the simplest, yet most powerful measures in preventing the spread of infection is hand-washing. Yet caregivers nationwide typically wash their hands before and after patient contact only 30 percent of the time, according to Susan Malo-Schlegel, RN, MPH, CIC, an epidemiology clinician in the hospital's Division of Epidemiology. Finding ways to get patient care assistants and other caregivers to wash every single time is part of her job—and part of the job of every nurse on every unit.

“Nurses are responsible for washing their own hands before going near a patient, but also have the responsibility to monitor all the other people working under their

purview,” says Ms. Malo-Schlegel. “The nurse has to

be sure that all the people touching that patient are washing their hands and following precautions. Nursing is pivotal, and it's a really big job.”

To make hand cleansing faster and easier, the Division of Epidemiology, along with the hospital's interdisciplinary Infection Control Committee, in 2003 arranged for 2,000 Purell® Instant Hand Sanitizer dispensers to be installed strategically throughout the hospital. Ms. Malo-Schlegel says the move significantly increased hand-washing.

“The Purell® products are very fast. Ten seconds, and you're done. That's made it much more convenient, and that's made all the difference,” she says.

Part of the educational challenge faced by Ms. Malo-Schlegel and her colleague, epidemiology clinician Joyce Sauvé, RN, BSN, CIC, is making people aware that exam gloves are not a substitute for hand-washing.

“The intention behind exam gloves is to decrease the bacterial load a person is exposed to, but they're not perfect by any means. You still have to wash your hands when you take them off,” Ms. Malo-Schlegel notes.

At the Institute of Living, Hartford Hospital's Division of Psychiatry, Ann MacGillis, RN, MS, CIC, ACRN, serves as AIDS liaison nurse and infection control nurse. She's also a part-time infection control nurse at the main campus. Ms. MacGillis regularly talks about good hand hygiene with anyone who will spend time with a patient, and often educates patients themselves.

"We see many people who come here from shelters, and they often don't have the best hygiene, so we provide education for them, as well as making sure our colleagues use good practices," Ms. MacGillis says. She and IOL nurses educate patients on other matters, too, including how to cover coughs and sneezes during cold and flu season.

The "Ask Us" Campaign

This past spring, the infection control team launched a creative initiative to promote more consistent hand-washing. The "Ask Us" campaign enlists the help of patients and families in ensuring good hand hygiene. The campaign urges patients and their families to ask caregivers—before they touch the patient—whether they've washed their hands.

"Caregivers don't lack knowledge about hand-washing. In fact, they think they do it," says Ms. Malo-Schlegel. Yet observation studies tell a different story. "The thought behind this campaign was that health care consumers today are much more savvy and engaged. Why not let them be part of this effort?"

The team placed "Ask Us" posters in patient rooms, along with explanatory materials, and had "Ask Us" buttons made for staff members to wear. The campaign was rolled out unit-by-unit beginning in April, with Center 12, Bliss 11-I and 11-E, Center 9 WI and North 11 the first to have the program. The program is expected to be in all hospital and outpatient units by year-end. The team will be conducting studies to measure the program's effectiveness.

"One of the reasons for starting the 'Ask Us' program is so patients will ask the question of *all* of us," Ann MacGillis says. "It can be hard for a nurse to tell a doctor to 'put on these gloves' or 'wash your hands.'"

Staying Vigilant

Members of the Division of Epidemiology are constantly on the lookout for infection trouble-spots. Once they've identified areas needing improvement, they work with the Infection Control Committee to develop appropriate strategies to address them.

Brian Cooper, MD, chief of the hospital's Division of Infectious Diseases and Division of Epidemiology, says,

"We have ongoing surveillance efforts for nosocomial infections. We collect and analyze data to identify clusters of infections and use our findings to drive the hospital's policies and procedures."

One of the types of infections the hospital tracks is that caused by *Clostridium difficile*, an organism that is associated with antibiotic use and results in serious diarrhea. A spore-forming organism, it is contagious and difficult to eradicate. In 2005, Hartford Hospital, like hospitals nationwide, noted a dramatic increase in these types of infections. The team responded swiftly.

"We formed a task force and developed a comprehensive effort to prevent these infections," says Dr. Cooper. "We've instituted improvements in hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, contact isolation and barrier precautions. Indications are that infection rates have fallen on nursing floors that are in compliance with these practices, and we are continuing to monitor results."

Center 12, a medical floor specializing in infectious disease, was one of the pilot units for the rollout of the new guidelines. Patients admitted to this unit often have conditions such as meningitis, pneumonia, HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis, and they often come in with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) or *C. difficile*. Nursing staff on this unit already had special expertise in infection-control practices such as contact isolation. Through a series of in-services by Susan Malo-Schlegel and Joyce Sauvé, they gained even greater knowledge and became familiar with new environmental services practices.

"The goal is to have an extremely solid understanding of what each organism is, how it's spread and why you're doing what you're doing," says Pat Frasier, RN, BSN, unit manager of C12. "Once you fully understand the underlying concepts of infection and infection control, the precautions become very logical."

Once the new guidelines were in place, Ms. Frasier and the C12 staff initially spent much of their time discussing what to do and what not to do with staff from many departments in the hospital, such as Transport, Food and Nutrition, Environmental Services, Social Services, Patient Support and Pastoral Care.

"Everyone is involved in infection control," says Ms. Frasier, "As staff, you become the teachers and the gatekeepers to the rooms."

Because of their expertise and experience, staff members on C12 have become of an in-house resource for other hospital units.





PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGAN

The Infection Control staff use a special lotion, visible only in black light, to teach employees proper hand-washing. Participants apply the lotion and wash their hands, then hold them under black light to see whether they've removed all of the "contaminant."

Dr. Cooper notes that the role of nursing in infection control cannot be overstated.

"Nurses are the crux of this, because if they're not behind these programs, the programs are doomed to failure. We can do nothing unless we have smart nurses carrying out effective policies. This requires not just intelligence, but a sense of commitment and an active involvement in making sure that policies are carried out. We want nurses to be compulsive, and we want them to correct people who are not as compulsive. Nurses are the protectors of their patients, and they should not hesitate to correct a medical staff or house staff member when there's an issue over this."

On the Horizon

Two new initiatives are aimed at preventing the spread of contagious diseases in the hospital. The team is working with the hospital's Occupational Health Department to systematically offer vaccines to staff. One is the combination tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine. National vaccine authorities have recommended this for health care workers because of a nationwide spike in the number of cases of whooping cough. The other is the

combined mumps/measles/rubella vaccine. This is in response to recent mumps outbreaks in Canada and the American Midwest that suggest immunity from childhood vaccinations weakens over time. Plus, some individuals were never adequately immunized.

"These will protect staff members and their families, and will also prevent them from passing these diseases along to patients who can ill afford another illness," says Dr. Cooper. The vaccination program is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2008.

Connecticut, like several other states, has enacted legislation requiring hospitals to publicly report health care-associated infections. All Connecticut hospitals will be required to begin submitting

these reports to the state Department of Public Health beginning in October 2008.

"This will require much more intensive surveillance," says Dr. Cooper. "We're looking closely at what else we will need in terms of infection control resources in order to take this on. It's going to be significant." ■

"Nurses are the protectors of their patients, and they should not hesitate to correct a medical staff or house staff member when there's an issue over this."



JOY MILLER

Nurse educator Nancy Bafundo, MS, RN, BC, an award presenter at the Oct. 12 conference, is flanked by Wioletta Chrostowski, BSN, RN, left, and Susan Mullin, BSN, RN, winners of the Evidence Based Practice Awards.

Evidence-based Practice Highlighted at Research Conference

The 11th Annual Research Conference presented by the Institute for Health Care Education and the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance was held on Friday, Oct. 12, at Hartford Hospital's Education Resource Center. More than 300 people attended the full-day conference, which featured nationally known speakers, abstract presentations and skill-building and poster sessions.

The keynote speaker was John Nelson, RN, MS, president of Healthcare Environment Inc., an international data management and consultation company. Mr. Nelson's research focuses on evaluating care as perceived by the patient using Watson's Theory of Caring. The subject of his address was The Essentials and Impact of Relationship-based Care.

Cindy Connolly, PhD, RN, PNP, addressed the plenary session. A historian of nursing, Dr. Connolly's work draws on social history methodology to provide insight into the intellectual foundations of nursing practices and analyze the legacy of past politics in current health and social-welfare policies. She spoke on The DNA of Nursing: Knowing Nursing's History.

Hartford Hospital's Janice Cousino, RN, MSN, CNS-BC, and Amy Schroder, RNC, MSN, planning committee co-chairs, introduced the conference. Laura Caramanica, RN, PhD, the hospital's vice president of nursing, delivered the opening remarks.

Education

Preparing New Nurses for the ICU

By 2020, the United States is expected to have 1 million fewer nurses than it needs to meet society's demand. One of the areas that will be most affected by the shortage will be intensive care units. To address this anticipated shortfall, Hartford Hospital this summer launched an innovative program to prepare recent nursing graduates to work in the ICU.

The Graduate Nurse to Intensive Care Unit program builds on an earlier program designed to prepare experienced nurses for ICU roles. The new program is six months long and features a staged orientation designed to move participants gradually through very complex classes.

"The educational experience includes classroom work, precepted time and computer-based learning," says educator Liza Nowicki, RN, MSN, CCRN. "We make extensive use of simulation learning, using [high-tech mannequin] SimMan™ and [computer-based learning system] Microsim™, to help participants translate theory into practice in a safe learning environment."

The curriculum was tailored to meet the unique needs of new graduate nurses, says Cathy Yavinsky, RN, MS, CNAA-BC, nursing director, surgery and transplant, who spearheaded development of the program.

"The ICU is a highly complex, high-tech environment," she says. "It requires new graduates to assimilate rapidly changing patient assessments and anticipate outcomes of interventions on



JOY MILLER

Cathy Yavinsky, RN, MS, CNAA-BC, left, and Liza Nowicki, RN, MSN, CCRN.

unstable patients. Transitioning from nursing school to work is challenging enough. But it's even more challenging going from training into an ICU environment."

Topics covered in the course include arrhythmia recognition, cardiovascular assessment, managing emergency situations, hemodynamic monitoring and care of the ventilated patient. Dealing with life and death and with patients and families in crisis is also part of the training.

Ms. Yavinsky notes that nurse managers and staff in the ICUs have embraced the program and welcomed the first eight participants.

Promoting Nursing as a Career



As most of you know from recent news articles as well as your own experience, the nursing shortage is a reality. Over the last 10 years, this “problem” has grown until it is now recognized by hospital administrators and nurse advocates as a “crisis,” with an estimated 9 percent of nursing positions remaining unfilled. Some expect that number to triple by 2020 as the baby boomers retire.

The reasons for this are complex and multifaceted. One reason may be the pay scale, which has not kept up with inflation. Another is the training process. The attempt by nursing organizations to promote nursing

to the level of professionalism it deserves by focusing on advanced degrees has merit. The advances in medical care demand the quality that education can provide. Unfortunately, the ability of diploma graduates to achieve a BS degree or higher is hindered by the reality of finances (or lack thereof), time away from family and the workforce, and the unwillingness of some institutions to give credit for diploma courses and work experience. Many colleges and universities are unable to attract qualified professors of nursing, since they are simply not available. Many older, more experienced nurses are choosing to leave the profession due to the frustrations of inadequate pay, long hours and endless paperwork. And the multitude of career opportunities available to high school students too often leaves nursing far down on the list of choices.

So what can be done to solve this crisis? I feel that we nurses have a responsibility to promote nursing as a career. Most people have a genuine respect for nurses, but may have outdated and somewhat unrealistic ideas of what nursing is today. Just as the profession advanced from shoveling coal and being the handmaiden of physicians to the very complex and technological career of today, the future holds even more promise. The possibilities are boundless for the professional nurse in the ever-changing fields that are developing in medicine. As noted even in the article about the Integrative Medicine program at Hartford Hospital, the future is bright as we endeavor to provide more comprehensive care to our patients.

Talk it up! Be positive! Whenever the opportunity arises, enlighten young people about the great rewards that await in a career as a professional nurse. So often when I have done this, I have heard comments such as, “I guess I never thought about it,” or “I’m not sure I’m smart enough to be a nurse.” The focus should be on the rewards if we are to be able to recruit these future professionals. Most of us chose nursing because we cared about people and wanted to help. Now it is time to “help” the profession of nursing.

As our population ages, and the higher level of acuity of hospitalized patients places more demands on the clinical nurse, this crisis will worsen. Who will prepare these nurses to teach? Who will care for us when we need a nurse?

In that spirit, the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing has resolved to provide a nursing scholarship. The committee is now in the process of developing guidelines for deciding what qualifications will be required to apply for this financial aid. We hope that the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing Scholarship will assist a worthy student in pursuit of the professional education required to be a nurse.

Karen Stinson Mazzarella

Karen Stinson Mazzarella, RN, BA (HHSN '69)

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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 mail your \$30 non-tax-deductible check (payable to the Alumnae Association of HHSN Inc.) to the address below, along with your full name, class year, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address.

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



Determined to Succeed

Anne Crosby Peterson Jennings, RNC, SNP (HHSN '59), made history when she became the first African-American to be admitted to the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. It would not be the last time the determined lady would be a pioneer during her career as a nurse.

Born at Hartford Hospital, Anne grew up on Brown Street, only a few blocks from Hartford Hospital, and graduated from Bulkeley High School. At that time, her two older brothers were already in college, so the family finances were somewhat tight. Anne obtained a state scholarship to defray the cost of her training. She bravely blazed a new trail by applying to the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing and becoming the first African-American in its 79-year history to gain acceptance.

The next three years were filled with challenges. America was a different place in those pre-civil-rights-movement days, and Anne, like so many people of color, felt the undercurrents of racial prejudice. But she was determined to succeed regardless. She says that the support of others was invaluable. Hartford Hospital physician Donald B. Wells, MD, was a mentor to her and encouraged her to stay in school. Her four older brothers, all of whom earned undergraduate degrees and two of whom went on to advanced degrees, supported her. And the examples set by other women in her family were important. Her mother was salutatorian of her class at Hartford High School and attended Howard University. Her grandmother attended Hampton Institute (where she met George Washington Carver). Plus, Anne remembers clearly the important role her fellow students played in helping her achieve her goal.

"I thought they were great!" Anne says. "I had wonderful support from my friends. I don't think I would have been able to do what I did if it hadn't been for them. They were great friends, and they still are."



Anne Crosby Peterson Jennings, RNC, SNP (HHSN '59)

In Anne's junior year, a school administrator expressed concern about her passing her state board exams—no HHSN student had ever failed—and asked if she would consider resigning and becoming an LPN.

"That was a challenge to me," Anne recalls. "It gave me the impetus to stay in school and not give up . . . to be the best pioneer African-American nurse and to be a role model for other black nurses."

Looking back at her experience, Anne notes that the rigors of nurse's training are extremely demanding for a young woman just out of high school. But the result, for her, was, "You get the feeling you can go through anything—through any adversity—because of what you went through," and, on graduation day, "I felt very, very proud that I was able to accomplish what I set out to do."

For the next three decades, Anne pursued a varied and rewarding career as a nurse. At Hartford Hospital, she worked as assistant head nurse in labor and delivery and then as head of the specialty clinics for about 10 years. She worked in Blue Hills Hospital's alcohol and drug dependency unit, the VD and young-adult clinics at Burgdorf Health Center, and at Model

Cities, a day care program of the city of Hartford. For 19 years, she was a school nurse and, later, a certified school nurse practitioner with the Hartford Board of Education.

When the University of Connecticut offered a program to educate school nurse practitioners, Anne's pioneering spirit led her to seize the opportunity and enroll in the program. On completion, she became one of the first school nurse practitioners on the Eastern Seaboard. When the school nurse practitioner program closed at UConn, it became part of Yale's master's program. Anne and her fellow UConn graduates were awarded Yale master's degrees. Her nurse practitionership resulted in a consulting role on the Test Development Committee of the Washington, D.C.-based American Nurses Credentialing Center. Later, she worked at the Times Farm Camp and as a casework consultant at the Connecticut Peer Review.

Shortly after Anne's retirement in 1991, her father, who lived on Martha's Vineyard, became seriously ill, and she moved there to care for him. He died in 1993, but she still lives there today.

"I really love it," she says of the Vineyard. "It's a great healing place. It's a nice place to relax, and friends come to visit me."

She is proud to be a 66-year member of Hartford's Union Baptist Church and a member of the Martha's Vineyard NAACP. She would love to hear from former classmates.

Reflecting on her time at the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing and her career as a nurse, Anne says, "It was a wonderful experience. I'm very satisfied with my life. I did something I wanted to do, and it's been great."

Strict Rules, Good Friends Marked Student Days

As a teen, Stefanie Druzolowski Kaminski, RN (HHTS '38), spent summers working at the Old People's Home on Jefferson Street. She was eager to go into nurse's training, but her father was opposed to the idea. Fortunately, Helen Jones, who was the superintendent of the Old People's Home, intervened.

"She talked my father into it," says Mrs. Kaminski. "She had a good idea of what I was made of and what I could do. She told my father, 'You have to let her go. She loves nursing and will do well with it.'" Soon, Mrs. Kaminski was a student in the Hartford Hospital Training School. It was a strict environment in those days, Mrs. Kaminski recalls.

"Our superintendent of nurses was a very rigid person," she says. "Every morning, we went down to the meeting room, sang a hymn and heard a talk. As we were filing out to go on duty, we each had to show that we had our pin and our bandage scissors. If you didn't have your scissors, you lost your privileges. If you were sitting down writing your charts and a doctor came onto the unit, you stood up, no matter what."

Some of the girls had trouble with the regimen, but Mrs. Kaminski was up to the challenge. Her father, who had to raise eight children by himself, ran a very tight ship, as well. Structure was nothing new to her, and she thrived.

Hospital units, which usually had about 30 patients, were staffed by only a head nurse, an assistant head nurse and students.

"Students did everything, including cleaning bed pans and scrubbing the utility room," Mrs. Kaminski says. "It was grueling. But that didn't bother me at all. I loved every minute of it."

And, of course, the students had each other.



Stefanie Druzolowski, HHTS '38

"We made such lovely friendships," she says. "We banded together and tried to help one another. And we had loads of fun. There was a little drug store on the corner of Washington and Park. In the evening, a bunch of us would run over there and have a cherry Coke and a bun for 15 cents."

After graduation, Mrs. Kaminski did floor duty at Hartford Hospital for about eight years, then transferred to the hospital's Employee Health department, where she worked for 17 years. After years of covering all different shifts, it was a major change.

"Working 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and being off every weekend—it was as if I were in a different world!" she says. There were other major changes to get used to, as well, including suddenly being able to give out aspirin for headache or cramps without a doctor's special order.

When Mrs. Kaminski became the nurse in charge of Employee Health, the department had a half-time doctor and a half-time secretary. By the time she retired, 17 years later, she had two nurse practitioners, a full-time doctor and a full-time secretary, reflecting the hospital's growth in employment.

Mrs. Kaminski was thrilled that her love of nursing was inherited by her daughter, Patricia Kaminski Robertson, who graduated from HHSN in 1962.



Stefanie Druzolowski Kaminski '38, right, and her daughter Patricia Kaminski Robertson '62 at the June 2007 Alumnae Banquet.

Now 90, Mrs. Kaminski lives on her own and devotes her time to, among other things, decorative painting, church and club activities and mall-walking.

"I enjoy life," she says.

The Annual Alumnae Banquet of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing was held June 3, 2007, at the Rocky Hill Marriott in Rocky Hill, Conn. There were almost 200 alums present. Honorary alum Sam Pascoe and his band provided the music as usual—roaming from table to table, playing musical requests and class favorites. Our guest speaker was Linda Freeman Bosco, APRN, from Hartford Hospital, who talked about the Cardiac Ventricular Assist Device. The afternoon concluded with the entire group singing *God Bless America* and *Auld Lang Syne*. It was all very memorable. We have included pictures from the banquet for your enjoyment.



A huge thanks to *Marilyn Miller '73* who took all the pictures at the Alumnae Banquet!



Sam Pascoe (honorary alum) and his band serenading the Class of 1962.

Class of 1931

Helen Wilcox Penfield is 97 years old and, as she likes to say, “has all her buttons!” She is very bright and well read and is truly offended when someone says she “was” a nurse. Her response is “I am a nurse.” She is extremely proud to have graduated from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing.

Class of 1933

Mabel Cote Donald is alive and well at the ripe age of 98. She is totally lucid and amazing. She still remembers all her professors in nursing school. When hospitalized recently, she asked pertinent questions related to her condition. The doctor commented that it was almost like being quizzed on his boards!

Class of 1935



Edith Moré Hardman '35 celebrates her 72nd HHSN anniversary.

Class of 1936



Edith Tychsen Nilson '36 having fun at the Alumnae Banquet.

Class of 1937



Miriam Hausman Nichols '37 celebrating her 70th HHSN anniversary at the banquet.

Class of 1939

Sylvia Rubin Frank was head nurse in GYN and OR from 1942 to 1945. After that she was in the Army Nurse Corps and worked in various hospitals in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Springfield, Mass. She lives in Springfield and is retired from nursing. She is widowed and has two sons and four grandchildren. She is active as a docent at Art Museums in Springfield and also volunteers as a reader for the Valley Reading Service. Her sister, *Carrie Rubin Skerker*, is an HHSN alum from the Class of 1942.

Class of 1940



Members of the Class of 1940 who attended the banquet included:

Gertrude Stickney Lilliendahl, Margaret Hall Carpenter, Joan MacIntyre Gardella, Mim Sibvonen and Eleanor Nestor Vick.

Class of 1944



Esther Olsen Viets '44

Class of 1946



The Class of 1946 in attendance at the banquet included: *Dorothy Dwyer Claughsey, Irma Spencer Johnston, Ann Desimoni Mains, Annamay Jolie Potocki and Marion Brigham Ruff.*

Class of 1947



The Class of 1947 celebrated their 60th anniversary. Members present at the banquet included: *Audrey Carter Dunham, Jane Kearney Keena, Barbara Wilson Laitinen and Johanna Deutsch Meisterling.*

Class of 1948



Members of the Class of 1948 who attended the banquet included: *Eleanor Conaty Barnard, Betty-Lois Carlson Benson, Alma Carini Doak, Dolores Cazenello Martocchio, Janet Rushworth Rourke and Alice Draghi Sabo.*

Class of 1949



Mother and daughter Glenna Miller Frigon '49 and Linda Frigon '72 enjoying the banquet.

The Class of 1949 had their annual luncheon in Middletown where it was “catch-up” time for all. In March, *Roberta Roche Ford* and her husband took their three children, spouses, and granddaughter on a seven-day cruise to the eastern Caribbean where they had a wonderful time. It was the first time in several years that they had the pleasure of having their family all together.

Class of 1950

Euphemia (Phemie) Gardiner Serpliss was recently honored for volunteering 5,000 hours over the past 14 years at Hartford Hospital. In her volunteer role she supports families and trains new volunteers in the Surgical Family Lounge at the hospital. Over the years she has volunteered on the oncology nursing unit and the Trauma Aftercare and Pet Therapy programs, and has served as a pre-op PACU liaison. In addition to her nursing career, homemaking, and raising four sons, she considers volunteering a most rewarding endeavor.

Class of 1951



Irene Breton Leban '51 and Marilyn Warzocha Perkowski '51

Class of 1952



The Class of 1952 celebrated their 55th anniversary. Members at the banquet included: *Lois Schumann*

Barlow-Cox, Helen Riker Dyar, Janet Rowley, Fernie Frederickson MacDonald, Ruth Campbell Thayer, Ethel Mlynar Tomolonis and Thelma Peterson Youngs.

Class of 1956



Members at the Alumnae Banquet from the Class of 1956 included: *Caroline Golet Armstrong, Patricia Audet, Jo-An Healey Boehm, Gloria James Duff, Sylvia LaClair Flavell, Elizabeth Wallace Knight and Marion Kobler Miller.*

Class of 1957



In June of this year the Class of 1957 celebrated their 50th year HHSN anniversary reunion. Thirty-four members of the class attended the Hartford Hospital luncheon and tour as well as the Annual Alumnae Banquet. Because the class was celebrating 50 years they had a lot of information to share. In the interest of space, half will appear in this issue and the other half will be in the spring 2008 issue.



Jill Stackpole Gbi from the Class of 1957 transfers the "traditional 50-year golden bedpan" to Patty Rinaldi and Irene Skinner Barter of the Class of 1958. The golden bedpan had an arrangement of artificial "Sweet Peas," so Jill added a tiara to the arrangement with a card that read, "Here is a crown to go with your golden throne."

Carol MacIntyre Asbe resides in Ipswich and still maintains her RN license.

Carolyn Bascom Bilodeau works as a volunteer coordinator of Pastoral Visiting at her local hospital in Dover.

She teaches a yearly 20-hour course that includes supervised visits with patients, ongoing support and supervision of all pastoral visits and monthly information meetings. She is active in her local Catholic church and she and her husband enjoy retirement and traveling. They also share a large home in Dover with her daughter, son-in-law and four grandchildren.

Anne Carlson Bottger realized a lifetime dream by visiting Sweden where she saw relatives she had never met. She and her husband have three children and seven grandchildren who keep them busy. In May she and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by taking the entire family on a Caribbean cruise. In the fall, she will substitute as a school nurse.

Margie Mills Cablander retired from nursing in 1999 and since then has been volunteering and traveling. She volunteers for the Minneapolis Orchestra, helping with educational programs, and with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport as a travel assistant. She and her husband have traveled around the world and have been to many wonderful places, including Antarctica and Africa.

Elisabeth Misani Clinton is happy to be alive and healthy at the age of 70. Her husband passed away in 2005 and now she is busy "people sitting" so that other caregivers can have some time off. Her daughter lives next door so she gets to see her two grandsons who give her much enjoyment. She plans to spend Thanksgiving in California visiting her son, daughter-in-law and grandson.

Cynthia Hamilton Couetmarche spends every summer in Kennebunkport, Me. It is a great way to escape the unrelenting heat in Houston. She and her husband spend time with their six grandchildren—three who live locally and three who live in New Mexico. Last fall they went to Paris.

Mary Edson Crawford is still working full time as a quality assurance reviewer. In this role she is a federal contract surveyor for skilled nursing facilities across the country. She is currently enrolled in a Master's program. She has five beautiful children and 14 grandchildren.

Lois Kraszewski Dailey and her husband will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2008. They live in a town house and spend winters in Palm Desert, Calif. They have traveled to the Panama Canal, Budapest and Amsterdam and on the Danube and Rhine Rivers. They have three sons and eight grandchildren. They enjoy good

health and play golf and tennis.

Marjorie Stanton Day retired from College Health in 2002 and is busier now than when she worked. She has found there is no such thing as retirement as there is always someone needing help and plenty to do. She has three sons, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Carol Comely Donald retired from school nursing in 1994. She and her husband have been on the road with their RV ever since retiring and have been to almost all the states and Canada. She does the driving and her husband is the navigator. She belongs to a group that knits for kids and nursing homes. She has two grandchildren who live in Tennessee. She and her husband will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. She remembers having to meet with Miss Roser to get permission to marry during her senior year!

Betty Borjeson Fabian is working as HAA supervisor and duty coordinator at Community Nurse and Hospice Care. She plans to go per diem soon. Her daughter recently graduated with an RN degree in Colorado. Betty has traveled to London and Spain with her older son.

Jeanette Ferrari spent 20 years in the Air Force. She has traveled extensively to Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Alaska, Thule and Greenland and travels throughout the United States in her 31-foot Winnebago. She is retired and living in Texas, where golf is her passion.

Elizabeth Gardner Forro is planning to build her retirement home in Glastonbury, Conn., where she will be near her three grandchildren. She is working part time as a Commission on Accreditation Service Rehab Services Surveyor. She surveys one or two rehab hospitals a month in the U.S. or Canada.

Jill Stackpole Gbi has been a widow for 11 years. She has three children and six grandchildren. She vacations in Maine each summer from June through October and then in mid-February spends two weeks in San Jose, Calif., with her sister. She keeps herself busy and is always on the go.

Ruth Daigle Greaves has been a widow for 11 years. She has nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, with another on the way. She and her family try to make an annual get-together at Misquamicut each summer. She enjoys cross-stitching and is involved in a walking program.

Ann Ofiara Greiner has retired from nursing. She swims two miles and teaches water exercise at a local health

club. She has two children and two grandchildren and another due in the fall. She and her husband do a lot of traveling and are enjoying their retirement home in Westbrook.

Sue Oakes Hallett has moved from Maine back to Connecticut. She has ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Beverly Dickinson Hewett and her husband have been married for 46 years and have two daughters and five grandchildren. She is a church organist and a volunteer for Mission Medical Clinic, a free clinic for homeless and underinsured persons.

Janice Laskas Huston retired in 1999 but still works per diem in endoscopy. She has six grandchildren and enjoys babysitting. She has spent summers at Old Orchard Beach, Me., and has cruised in Florida and the Mediterranean, where she saw Spain, Italy, France, Monaco, Malta, Croatia and Greece.

Arlene Ferris Jackson retired from her psychotherapy private practice after 30 years. Prior to that she coordinated two programs at a child and family agency in Hartford. She has been married for 49 years and has ten grandchildren.

Gail Francis Jordan retired in 2001 as a nursing home administrator. She has two children and three grandchildren. She travels to visit her daughter once or twice a year in Tennessee. She enjoys spending time on her computer.

Claire Barsotelli LePage has spent her retirement traveling and has visited seven continents. She now lives in California but returns to Connecticut and Massachusetts several times a year to visit her daughter, grandchildren and friends.

Carol LeFleur Levy and her husband still do antique and collectible shows, and this summer they have expanded into doing craft shows.

Janice Hylwa Lyons is enjoying retirement and her new home.

Mary (Mal) Handfield Manion is a member of her Church Council and the Church Prayer Shawl Ministry. She enjoys visiting the Wadsworth Athenaeum and many other museums. She has four children and two grandchildren and enjoys being with her family and friends.

Patricia Blair Mesiterling is enjoying her retirement of eight years. She enjoys quilting and playing golf.

Class of 1958



Class of 1958 members at the banquet included: *Ida Johnson Anderson, Irene Skinner Barter, Dale King Chagnon, Patricia Rinaldi, Jean Mocarsky Russo and Janice Dusza Wilkie.*

Class of 1960



Members of the Class of 1960 who attended the banquet included: *Carolyn Bickford Calboun, Margaret Tucker Garrison, Frances Pappalardo Gorynski, Elizabeth Luginbuhl, Marion Brooks Muschell and Marjorie Ashman Page.*

Class of 1962



The Class of 1962 celebrated their 45th HHSN Anniversary. On Saturday, June 2, there was a luncheon and tour of Hartford Hospital and on Sunday, June 3, the group attended the annual Alumnae Banquet. There were 18 classmates for the festivities. They had a great time renewing old acquaintances and stories from their nursing student days!

Irene Hallgren Anderson is a case manager in Occupational Medicine at the New England Baptist Hospital in Boston.

Ellen Zabroski Borges has a PhD in sociology from Yale. She is currently teaching Society and Health, Sociology, and Writing at Simmons College. She has been married for 44 years and has three daughters and two grandchildren. All have been blessed with good health and happiness.

Patricia Andreana Ciarcia retired as nursing coordinator at Hartford Hospital where she worked in various management positions for 43 years. She is currently the executive secretary for the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing and on the Editorial Board for the Hartford Hospital Nursing Magazine. She is a member of the Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Professional Nurses Association and also the Wethersfield Historical Society. She has two daughters, and she and her husband of 40 years enjoy traveling now that they have both retired.

MaryAnn Bertini Comen is employed full time as director of the Birth Center at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn.. She also works as a consultant for Planetree. She has four daughters and three grandchildren. She loves to travel and spends time at the Cape with her close HHSN classmate *Pat Borden Silva*.

Rose Ann Dandurand is happily retired and lives in Rocky Hill. She has become a professional volunteer for the Connecticut Humane Society where she cares for furry four-legged friends. She is also involved in various church activities, including a ministry to a nearby nursing home.

Rosemary DeAngelis has worked in multiple areas of nursing including military and insurance. She retired from Aetna in 2003 after 18 years and also retired from the military after 23 years of service. She lives with her 89-year-old mother and keeps active with multiple activities. She is so busy she doesn't know how she had time to work!

Linda Arle Duval retired three years ago from college health nursing at Westfield State College. She volunteers as a patient/family advocate once a week in the Emergency Department at Noble Hospital in Westfield. She is also active in the Unitarian Universalist Church. She has three children and three grandchildren for whom she often provides childcare.

Carol Drumm Ferik retired in May '07 and hopes to adjust to this new change in her life. She has three children and two beautiful granddaughters. She especially enjoys walking for miles and miles.

Frances Bidorini Ganguli is chairwoman of the Board of Health in Middletown, Conn., and vice-chair for the Arts Commission. She is also a member of the Redevelopment Agency and Community Center Committee Feasibility Study. She has a son who lives in Denver and a daughter who lives in Seely Lake, Mo. Her physician

husband Probash now sees patients only 10 hours a week, so she is looking forward to having time to travel far and wide.

Christine Bergomi Gionta retired in 2000 after working 16 years in an OB/GYN office in Bristol, Conn. She has three children and five grandchildren and is enjoying life!

Judith Berkowitz Lissy retired from the American Red Cross in 2003. She lives in Bristol, Conn., and has three children and four grandsons.

Patricia Conforti Masucci has been married for 42 years to her husband Donald. They have three children and five grandchildren. She is a member of the Highland Lake Watershed Association, where she serves on the board. She also heads up the Membership Services Committee and Fund Raising. She belongs to two book clubs and a swim club and enjoys babysitting her grandchildren. She works per diem as schedule coordinator for the operating room at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington, Conn.

Patricia Kaminski Robertson has three married children and each has a boy and a girl. She retired in 2004 from human resources. Her husband Robbie died in 2000 and now she lives in Oxford, Penn. She spends her free time golfing, traveling, and knitting.

Patricia Borden Silva has been married for 43 years to her husband Dale. They live in Falmouth, Mass., and love it. She works very hard part-time as a home infusion nurse. She retired from infusion education to have two new knees! She has three daughters (twins and one) and four grandchildren—all beautiful and talented! She and Mary Ann Comen Bertini have remained best buddies for 48 years—since day #1 of HHSN!

Barbara Therrien is on the faculty at the University of Michigan and is still involved in neuroscience – primarily teaching PhDs and postdoctoral fellows.

Joan Beebe Specht is the mother of four, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of a 7-month-old. She recently retired from working as a school nurse at East Hartford Middle School. Her husband recently retired also. They have been married for 43 years and plan to travel.

Sandra Agud Trifiro works full time in clinical research at Hartford Hospital.

Charlotte Dzordzi White married her husband Robert in 1962. They have two sons and five grandchildren. She is retired and lives in The Villages, Fla., for six months and at Coventry Lake in Connecticut for six months. She

worked for 15 years at Manchester Memorial Hospital and 10 years for the state of Connecticut. She finished her career at Travelers Insurance in Hartford. She is currently very active in the Village Nurses Club.

Class of 1963

Joan Anderson Lambert has worked full time for 28 years as nurse manager of OB/GYN Services in Norwich, Conn. In this position she oversees two offices and a staff of 20 nurses. She was honored to receive the Nightingale Award – a nice tribute from the doctors and staff. She has two children, Eric and Kristen, who live in Connecticut, two grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and two grand-dogs. Despite hectic schedules, they are able to visit, have sleepovers and keep in close touch. They share a 30-year tradition of camping for two weeks in Maine where “Mama Joan” sleeps in a tent and the younger ones sleep in a camper. She loves to travel and recently visited Paris with her daughter and daughter-in-law. She and her partner of 16 years, Mark, hope to cruise northern Europe next spring.

Class of 1966



Members of the Class of '66 who attended the banquet included: *Dianne Pronovost Antos, Lila Curtis MacDonald, Sara Hale Frynsinger, Betty Ann Vose Fusco and Gail Pendleton Rapoza.*

Class of 1967



Class of 1967 celebrates their 40th anniversary. Those in attendance at the banquet included: *Penelope Benson, Estelle Cohen, Phyllis Riggs Curtis, Phyllis Weiner DeMaine, Judith Waldheim Grasso, Karen Pope, Sheila Rowell, Patricia Alexander Stasiewski and Doris Uzanis.*

Patricia Alexander Stasiewski has had a wonderfully diversified nursing career—starting out as a young nurse in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Meriden-Wallingford Hospital and spending 15 years in cardiac nursing. Since then she has been a risk manager, a patient representative, a pre-admission nurse and a recovery room (PACU) nurse. She went into long-term care in 1994 and has been a director of nurses twice, an infection control nurse, and a staff development coordinator. She is currently the assistant director of nurses at Meriden Center in Meriden, Conn. She is certified in gerontology through ANCC and has both bachelor's and master's

degrees in health services administration from Quinnipiac College (now Quinnipiac University) in New Haven. She has been blessed with a beautiful family—husband of 39 years, a son, daughter, and three beautiful grandchildren—a grandson and twin granddaughters. Life couldn't be better for her.

Class of 1971

Louise Wazilewski Honiss, who works in PACU, and *Nancy Golas Kelly*, who works on B10E, were recently named winners of the Nightingale Awards for excellence in nursing at Hartford Hospital.

Class of 1972



The class of 1972 celebrated their 35th anniversary by attending the Hartford Hospital luncheon and tour and the Alumnae Banquet. Alums present for the festivities included:

Althea Bean Bartlett, Diane Woods Bronkie, Lynn Deubert Caparaso,

Laura Caramanica, Linda Frigon, Patricia Rzasa Harlow, Judy Graves Henderson, Deborah Osborne, Alane Silver Strong and Patricia Sullivan.

Class of 1974

Jane Wallace Lasber recently celebrated 35 years with Hartford Hospital where she is a nurse in the Vascular Interventional Radiology Department. She is also the treasurer of the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing.

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.

1933

Carolyn Gott Liebow
Bernadine Potrepka

1934

Olga Reuber Haas

1935

Stella Furman Jablon

1939

Diana Cassola Kirby

1944

Doris Stratton Cannon

1945

Barbara Chadd Gardner

1946

Ruth Hargraves Holmes

1949

Dorothy Andross Van De Water

1961

Barbara Audet DeRosa

1967

Carol Beattie Howes

1969

Janice Wippert Williams

1976

Cheryl Stanulis Brown

PHYSICIANS

Dr. Edward Howe

Dr. Robert Langman

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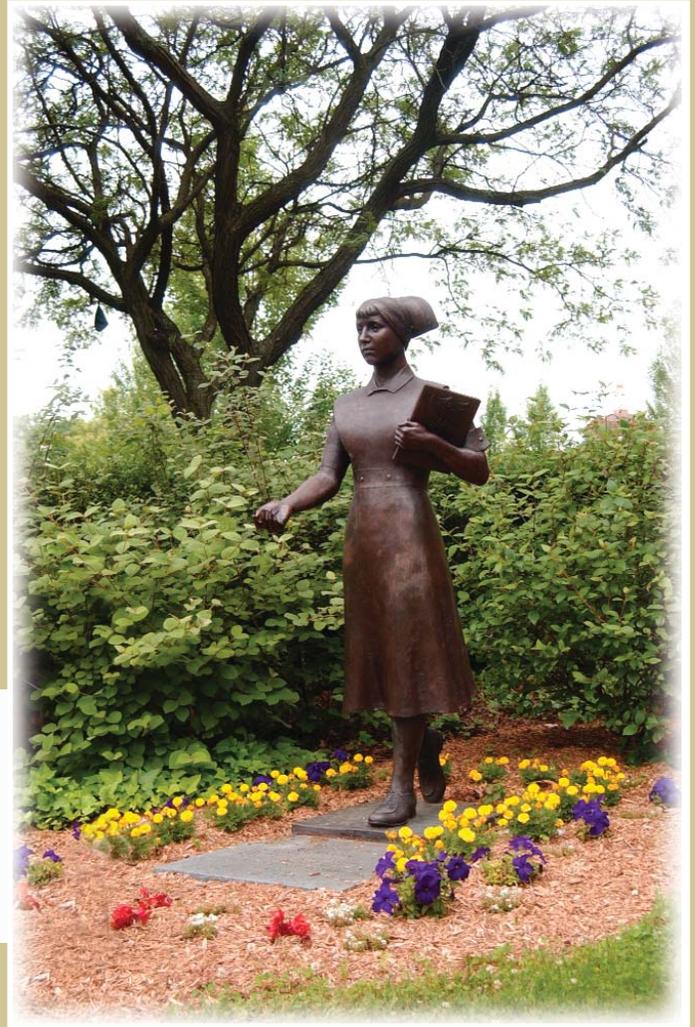
Graduation

On the threshold of life we proudly stand
In our white uniforms resplendently grand,
Ready to take our place in life,
Confident that we are armed for the strife.

We'll try to make it our earnest endeavor
From our noble profession never to sever
The hopes and ideas, and the will to succeed
To make other lives easier—by kindly deeds.

*Edna Boyle Beattie, RN (HHTS '38)
Published in the Class of 1938 yearbook.*

"The Caregiver," a bronze statue of a student nurse, stands in the Meditation Garden on the campus of Hartford Hospital. The statue honors the 99-year history (1877-1976) of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. University of Hartford professor Lloyd W. Glasson of New York City and Cromwell, Conn., sculpted the statue, which was made possible by the efforts of the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing.



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