



Nursing

FOR HARTFORD HOSPITAL NURSES AND ALUMNAE OF THE HARTFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING SPRING 2013





On the cover:

Mary Kate Parker, RN-BC, MS, was one of the nurses instrumental in developing the Nursing Professional Practice Model.

This page:

Lindsay Campbell, RN, takes part in a discussion of the model at a meeting of the Nursing Professional Practice Council.

Photos by Lanny Nagler



Hartford Hospital Nursing

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

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Hartford Hospital

A Hartford HealthCare Partner

Nursing

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Enhancing the Patient Experience

One of the most meaningful events in our hospital community each year is the celebration of Nurses Week. It's wonderful to set aside that special time every year to pay tribute to these extraordinary professionals. In a sense, in our hearts, every week is Nurses Week. It may not be formal, but everyone in this hospital—physicians, administrators, staff and especially patients—is thankful every day for the knowledge, skill and compassion of the nurses of Hartford Hospital.

We often talk about the fact that we're on a journey to create the ultimate patient experience. That means focusing on the patient in everything we do and delivering the right, best, most compassionate and safest care at all times. Nurses are integral to this journey. Whether it's the way you care for patients, the education you provide to families, the innovative ideas you suggest or the way you collaborate with colleagues, you make a positive difference and move us ever closer to providing that ultimate patient experience.

So, as we observe Nurses Week 2013, please know that we appreciate all you do to exemplify the art, science, ethics and advocacy of nursing and to improve the lives and health of the patients who trust us with their care.

Jeffrey A. Flaks
President and Chief Executive Officer



A Model for Moving Forward

The nurses of Hartford Hospital have made a remarkable achievement by developing the Nursing Professional Practice Model you'll read about in this issue of *Nursing*. This model, created through consensus and based on our hospital's core values, positions nursing to achieve our ultimate goal: the very best outcomes possible for our patients.

I've been in nursing at Hartford Hospital for 21 years, and I know what a groundbreaking accomplishment this model is. While Hartford Hospital nurses always have been passionate about doing their best for their patients, we had not yet coalesced around a framework that explicitly defined what constituted our best. Now, with the leadership of the Nursing Professional Practice Council, countless staff nurses and dedicated nurse champions, we have a model that serves as a touchstone for every nurse at every level in every setting in our hospital. It's an exciting moment for all of us.

Many innovations that have taken place at Hartford Hospital in the last few years paved the way for the Nursing Professional Practice Model. Key was the initiation of H3W. With that structure and process for improvement in place, and with everyone involved, we learned what amazing things people can accomplish when they align themselves toward shared goals and move forward in the same direction.

The Nursing Professional Practice Model will play a similar role, aligning nurses throughout the hospital and ensuring that all of us are moving together, in one direction, toward the same goals and rooted in the same values.

I hope you'll enjoy reading about this watershed innovation, and I hope you'll join your colleagues in embracing it as your own.

Cheryl Ficara, RN, MS, NEA-BC
Vice President, Patient Care Services



Nightingale Awards

Congratulations to Hartford Hospital's 2013 Nightingale Award Recipients!

We salute these 15 nurses who were chosen by their colleagues as exemplars of nursing excellence. They and other award recipients will be honored at the Eleventh Annual Hartford Regional Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing Gala hosted by VNA HealthCare on May 9, 2013, at the Hartford Marriott Downtown.



Lynn Belanger, RN
Jefferson House



Jason Doonan, RN, CCRN,
CFRN, CEN
LIFE STAR



Ilona Sapiuha, RN
Surgery



Diane Braga, RNC
*Women's Ambulatory
Health Services*



Lanetta Gann, RN-BC, BSN, MSSW
Medicine



Linda Shapcott, RN
West Hartford Surgery Center



Izabela Burzynski, RN
GI Endoscopy



Ray Lilburn, RN, BSN
Institute of Living



Man-Ling Tang, RN, MSN
Orthopedics



Christine Calheno, RN, BSN
Oncology



Susan Mullin, RN, BSN
Cardiology



Judith Tartaglia, RN, MSN,
CCRN, CMC, TNCC
Surgery



Phyllis DeMaine, RN, BSN
Case Coordination



Linda Raye Olander, RN
Cardiac Surgery



Christine Werner, RN, BSN, ITS
Electronic Health Record Team

Nursing Professional Practice Model Unveiled

Created by nurses, for nurses, the new model is the first of its kind at Hartford Hospital.



PHOTOS BY LANNY NAGLER

Top: Kathleen Veas, RN.
Above: Claire Quaggin, RN,
and Lisa Carter, information
coordinator.

It's colorful. It's memorable. It's beautifully simple. Yet it embodies the insights of scores of nurses and stands as a visible symbol of the complex undertaking that is the practice of nursing. It's Hartford Hospital's new Nursing Professional Practice Model, and it's going to guide the practice of nurses at every level throughout Hartford Hospital—and possibly beyond—for years to come.

Developing a Nursing Professional Practice Model was one of Nursing's goals on last year's Balanced Scorecard. The goal was to create a framework for what nursing consists of at Hartford Hospital. In developing the model, the hospital would join the ranks of institutions across the country that are seen as exemplifying the very best in nursing.

Once the model was on the scorecard, nurses rose to the challenge of creating it. At the July 2012 combined Nursing Council meeting, approximately 100 Hartford Hospital RNs—some council members and some just interested in the initiative—began the development process.

"They were charged with developing a professional practice model to be a framework for how nursing would be practiced at Hartford Hospital," said Susanne Yeakel, RN, MSN, a co-chair of the Nursing Professional Practice Council. "They were basically asked to define what's important to them in their nursing practice."

The process was a collaborative, grassroots effort. It took place over several weeks, with numerous nurses from a range of specialties providing input and perspectives. Barbara Jacobs, PhD, MPH, RN, director of Hartford Hospital's Clinical Ethics Consultation Service, was an invaluable resource in providing the theoretical background. Nurses also benchmarked other systems' models. But the model they developed, said Ms. Yeakel, was "driven by what our nurses said was most important."

By September, a subgroup of nurses had completed a draft of the model, and in October a final version was approved by Vice President of Patient Care Services Cheryl Ficara, RN, MS, NEA-BC.

Elements of the Model

As the graphic shows, nurses saw caring for the patient as the overarching purpose of nursing, so they placed “Enhancing the Human Health Experience” at the center of the model. They chose for the foundation of the model Hartford Hospital’s four core values: Excellence, Safety, Caring and Integrity. Then they reached consensus on four areas that constitute the various aspects of nursing. The four aspects, with examples of each, are:

- **Science** – Evidence-based care, innovation, protocols, education, outcomes and research
- **Ethics** – Courtesy, trust, honesty, patient rights and confidentiality
- **Art** – Therapeutic use of self, fellow-feeling, empathetic expression and the “lived experience”
- **Advocacy** – Caring model, touch, being present, communication, listening, and advocating for patients’ needs and for nursing

“The model focuses on the knowledge nurses need to have to care for their patients,” said Dr. Jacobs. “The knowledge associated with the art and science of nursing, as well as ethics and advocacy—advocacy being the central phenomenon of the nurse-patient relationship—are adaptations of the patterns of knowing in nursing described by Carper in *Advances in Nursing Science* in 1978¹.”

The Model in Practice

The purpose of the model is to be a guide to nursing practice for all Hartford Hospital nurses. “By developing the model, we aim to ensure that our practice will be consistent across all specialties,” said council Co-chair Barbara Emery, RN, MSN. “Whether you’re in the O.R., the psychiatric unit or any other area, you would practice to the model in terms of giving patients the best care through the science, ethics, advocacy and art of nursing.”

It’s also applicable to nurses at every career stage and every level. It will be used in the interview process to explore how a candidate might contribute to nursing. A new nurse might look to the model for evidence-based protocols to ensure safety and good care. A nurse leader might look to the advocacy of nursing when considering how resources can be used to affect the health of the community. In the future, educational programs and training will be driven by the model. The newly formed Nursing Research Council is already using the model to guide its thinking.

The model also gives a tangible shape to nursing. “One of the challenges we as nurses have had is defining the scope of what we do,” said Ms. Emery. “This helps define that and helps nurses and others understand the scope of nursing practice.”

“We’re proud to look at this model, because it clearly shows the broad background, knowledge, talent and skill that nurses draw upon to deliver care,” Ms. Yeakel said.

Next Steps

This spring and summer, nursing leaders and champions will conduct a multifaceted effort to familiarize nurses throughout the hospital with the model and its implications for nursing practice. It will be discussed in nursing council meetings, H3W meetings and other gatherings. The Practice Points newsletter, currently being revamped, will feature real-life examples of the model in practice. The model will also be the focus of Nurses Week 2013.

Nurses at other Hartford HealthCare hospitals are very interested in the model, and discussions are under way to see how they might adapt it to their facilities.

That simple, but powerful, image may be new today, but it has a long and interesting life ahead.

From top: Kathleen Veas, RN; Heather Machado, RN, MS; Janice Montano, RN; Susanne Yeakel, RN, MSN; Barbara Emery, RN, MSN; Diane Baggioni, RN; Diane Wilson, RN, MSN; Janice Montano, RN.



¹Carper, Barbara A., *Advances in Nursing Science*. 1(1):13-24, October 1978

•• The SCIENCE of Nursing

Translating Data into Safety

Nurses of the Performance Improvement Nursing Council used research to learn how best to link data to practice at the bedside.

Evidence suggests that providing bedside nurses with data on performance indicators such as falls, pressure ulcers and infection is key to affecting their practice and improving patient safety. But what's the best way to communicate this data to nurses? That's what members of the Performance Improvement Nursing Council set out to learn when they conducted a research project titled "What Do Nurses Want? Making Patient Safety Data Meaningful." The project did, as hoped, reveal more effective ways to convey data to nurses. Just as important, it provided a valuable learning experience for the nurses who conducted the project and who went on to present a poster at the American Nurses Association Quality in Nursing Conference in Atlanta in February.

The research question the group posed was "What do staff nurses find important in patient outcome data?" With guidance from council Co-chairs Lisa Corbett, APRN, BC, CWOCN, and Valerie Neary, RN, MSN, about 20 nurses undertook the project. "As mentors," Ms. Corbett said, "We showed them the process of how you take a question, turn it into a researchable topic, look at the evidence, then do some type of intervention, analyze results and share your outcomes."

The group decided to develop a survey and distribute it to RNs throughout the hospital. "We wanted a baseline assessment of what nurses understand and what they like in terms of how the data is presented to them," said Ashley Woronoff, RN, BSN, one of the nurses who developed the survey.

The results showed that the majority of RNs were familiar with their unit-based outcome data and that these data were consistently discussed at staff meetings. Eighty-five percent of respondents said that their unit used the data to devise specific care-delivery improvements. An overwhelming 94 percent said they understand the connection between patient safety and the financial health of the hospital. Interestingly, 90 percent of respondents said they found dashboards confusing and preferred simple bar graphs. The team shared these findings through the Nursing Council newsletter.

Eager to share both their findings and the work of the Performance Improvement Nursing Council with their peers nationally, Ashley Woronoff, in collaboration with Sharon Clark, RN, BSN, and Darcie Shewokis, RN, BSN, OCN, prepared an abstract and submitted it to the American Nurses Association for possible presentation at the February conference. Their poster was selected, and Ms. Woronoff was able to travel to Atlanta to present it. "We got great feedback on the poster and the work we did on making data meaningful and using data to look at how to move forward as an institution," she said.

Ms. Woronoff encourages all nurses to get involved in the science aspect of nursing. "Evidence-based practice is where we want to be," she said. "Health care is constantly changing, and we want to be sure we're doing the best for our patients. Data is real and tangible, and we need to integrate it into our practice."



Ashley Woronoff, RN, BSN, presents the team's poster at the ANA Quality in Nursing Conference.

Compassion and Communication

Nurses of the Palliative Medicine Consult Service are advocates for patients and families dealing with serious illness.

Advocating on behalf of the patient is an important part of every nurse's role. But that aspect of nursing practice is especially vivid in the work of the nurses of the Palliative Medicine Consult Service. Patricia Frasier, RN, BSN, CHPN; Deidre Gaskin, RN, BS, CHPN; Maryann Steed, RN, MSN, CHPN; and Carol Strycharz, RN, BSN, MPH, are all seasoned nurses with long experience at Hartford Hospital. They are specially prepared to work with seriously ill patients, including those with complicated problems, those with chronic disease that has worsened and those who may have a terminal prognosis. The nurses help patients and their families understand their condition and treatment options and navigate the complexities of health care, and they communicate patients' needs and goals to the health care team.

Communication is at the heart of the Palliative Medicine nurses' role. They listen closely to patients and families to understand what their concerns are. "They may say they don't want treatment, for example," Ms. Gaskin said, "but their real concern may be pain management. We help patients understand what doctors are telling them, and we help their health care team understand what the patient and family are telling them."

Sometimes the patient and the health care team have different ideas of what would be best for the patient. "We try to help patients understand what the big picture is and what they want from the medical community," said Ms. Steed. "We try to make sure their voice is heard. What the patient or family wants is sometimes different from what the medical community is recommending."



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Maryann Steed, RN, MSN, CHPN, visits with a patient.

Ms. Strycharz recalls one very ill patient who wanted to be placed on dialysis. The medical team was reluctant, seeing dialysis as too great a burden for her body. But the patient insisted she would accept the risk, because she wasn't ready to give up. "I went back to the team and explained that this was something the patient and family wanted to try. And the patient went on dialysis." After several months, however, with other medical issues plaguing her, the patient decided the burdens of life-prolonging therapy were greater than any benefits provided. But it was her choice. "She passed away, comfortably, with no pain and with her family by her side," Ms. Strycharz said.

"Very often, it's just listening to patients and families that's needed," said Ms. Frasier. "They might just need help with small things, like asking the staff to close the door at night, so it's quieter. Or it might be bringing a patient a prayer shawl or arranging visits from Pastoral Care. It's often the details that make a difference in a patient's or family's experience." In one notable case, the nurses and others arranged for a seriously ill patient to use Skype to be present at his wife's funeral.

All four nurses stress that they are part of a collaborative team that includes a vitally important member: the bedside nurse. "Every bedside nurse is an extension of what I do," said Ms. Strycharz. "We can't do our job without them. They're the ones at the bedside 24/7. The information they share with us makes us better at what we do."

The Palliative Medicine nurses see themselves as advocates, not only for patients, but for bedside nurses. "Part of our job is to support the bedside nurse's message about their patient," Ms. Frasier said. "Many times, nurses have concerns about the plan of care, and we can support them in that."

Advocacy is a distinctive, but not the only, quality involved in the Palliative Medicine nurses' role. In fact, it touches on all elements of the Nursing Professional Practice Model. "It involves so many aspects of nursing," Ms. Frasier said. "It's important to understand the clinical data, to be able to communicate well and have a caring attitude. I get to use all the things that make nursing a great career."

•• The ETHICS of Nursing

Ethics in Action

Ethics can take many forms. One of the most tangible is fulfilling the basic commitment to be present for patients.

Jonathan Nyez, RN, one of many nurses who came through for patients.



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

A historic blizzard barreled into Connecticut on Friday, Feb. 8, dropping nearly three feet of snow and bringing the state to a halt. But nothing cancels a hospitalized patient's need for nursing care. That's why an untold number of Hartford Hospital nurses took extraordinary measures to be there for patients.

To Maria Tackett, RN, MSN, EdD, nurse director of Neuro-Trauma and Orthopedic Services, such efforts represent the ethics of nursing. "Usually, we talk about ethics in relation to theoretical concepts," Ms. Tackett said. "But in terms of how ethics relates to character, we saw examples during the blizzard that went beyond the daily evidence of our staff's character. Nurses throughout the hospital went to all kinds of extremes to meet their obligation for patient care."

Here are just a few examples. There are many more.

B6

Amy Saucier, RN, left her house at 4 a.m. on Saturday, got stuck on the Founders Bridge, dug her car out and got to work on time. And she was 35 weeks pregnant!

Nancy Guerrero, RN, hitched a ride to the hospital in a tow truck!

Penni Romano, RN, flagged down a small plow truck and got the driver to clear a path for her.

Laurie Bostiga, RN; Nancy Jaquith, RN; Betsy Carey, RN; and Katie Lombardo, RN, all worked Friday until 11 p.m., slept here, and then worked 12 hours on Saturday.

Mimoza Zoto, PAA, worked 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, stayed over, and worked again from 3 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Eileen Burr, RN, who was scheduled to work at 7 p.m. Friday, came in at 2 p.m. and slept. She worked from 7 p.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, slept here and worked from 8 p.m. Saturday until 7:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Debbie Butterfield, RN, worked from 7 p.m. on Friday until 11 a.m. on Saturday, slept here and worked from 11 p.m. Saturday until 7:30 a.m.

Melissa Edwards, RN; Sheri Powell, RN; and Pam Soucy, RN, worked from 7 p.m. Friday until 7:30 a.m. Saturday, slept and worked from 7 p.m. Saturday until 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

B7E

Tanisha Garris, RN, and her mother, **Elaine Barbera**, Central Sterile manager, got stuck on their way home after Tanisha's 12-hour shift. They walked back to the hospital, slept in Elaine's office, and Tanisha worked an unscheduled 12-hour shift the next day. **Angela McGovern, RN**, was scheduled for three 12-hour shifts over the weekend and Monday. She made childcare arrangements and packed a bag so she could stay over. Angela worked as Resource Nurse, orchestrating staffing, huddles and more.

Jonathan Nyez, RN, was the Resource Nurse on Friday night. He worked a double shift, rested briefly and returned early Saturday afternoon to watch telemetry monitors and keep his manager updated.

B9I

Laura Johnston, RN; Scarlette Grasseti, RN; Cheryl Mitchell, RN; Dianne Soderlund, RN; Renee Pavlovich, RN; and Lauren Maston, PAA, slept over to be sure the unit would be covered.

Christy Dickman, RN, and Jen Sakowski, RN, came in very early on Friday to make sure they'd be there for their 7 p.m. shift. Jen worked until 3 p.m. Saturday.

Jamie Machado, RN, stayed until 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Other nurses who arrived early on Friday to be ready for their shift were **Betsy Pearson, RN; Helen Perez, RN; Amy Costello, RN; and Maria Slajda, RN. Barbara Amato, RN, and Cassandra Patrick, RN**, made it to work on Saturday with help from Barb's husband, who plowed/drove them in.

B10I

Glenda Delgado, PCA, walked through the snow Saturday and arrived on time. **Lori Postemski, RN**, stayed at a local hotel Friday night and walked to work. **Joe Reale, RN**, got up at 4 a.m. Saturday to dig his car out and get to work on time, then floated to B9I.

C12

Lee Steere, RN, ferried nurses to and from the hospital.

CB5

Glenn Basile, RN, got stuck while trying to bring nurses to work. A state trooper came and helped shovel him out.

CB6

Lena Fotiadis, RN, walked to work from West Hartford on Saturday, arriving by 7:30 a.m.

Anthony Marrero, PCA, walked from Vine Street.

Janette Bracetty, PAA, walked from Franklin Avenue.

Surgery

Shelly Smeeton, RN, shoveled snow blocking a highway entrance ramp so she could get to work.

Melinda Guzman, PCA, made childcare arrangements, then walked more than three miles through the snow.

•• The ART of Nursing

Making a Difference

A physician's experience as a patient underscores the powerful impact of the art of nursing.

In more than 35 years as a cardiologist at Hartford Hospital, Steven Horowitz, MD, has treated thousands of patients. But earlier this year, he had cardiac surgery himself, and the experience was life-changing. It gave him not only a greater understanding of what his patients go through but an appreciation for what the art of nursing means to patients. He was so moved by his experience that he wrote to Karen Habig, RN, MS, nurse director of Cardiovascular Inpatient Services, in praise of the care he received (see note at right).

One of the nurses Dr. Horowitz remembers well is Barbara Cordts, RN, MSN, CCRN, who cared for him on B9I, the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit, following his surgery. As he recuperated in the ICU he was intensely miserable but couldn't put his finger on exactly what was wrong. Ms. Cordts, Dr. Horowitz said, "was good enough to actually take the time to listen to me and ask the right questions and figure out what was going on." Dr. Horowitz mentioned that his throat was parched and he felt uncomfortably warm. Ms. Cordts thought something cool and refreshing might help, so she brought him a Popsicle. The relief was immediate. "Small things like that make such a difference," Dr. Horowitz said. He went on to experience similar acts of listening and caring in B9E.

Even though she works in a high-technology ICU, Ms. Cordts keeps the art of nursing at the forefront. "You have to meet the patient where they are," she said. "If they're in pain, I have to figure out how to lessen it. If they're feeling anxious, I have to make it better. I use all of my senses to deal with the situation. My goal is always to leave my patient in a better place than when I stepped into the room—whether the problem is physiological or emotional."

Also a clinical instructor in nursing with the University of Connecticut, Ms. Cordts emphasizes to her students the need to be "hands-on" with patients. "I insist that the students go in and talk with the patients and put their hands on them. Then they can go on to the advanced technology. You have to have the basics down, and those basics never go away, no matter how much technology you have."

Dr. Horowitz's letter to Karen Habig, RN, MS:

Dear Karen:

Last month the B9I/E staffs were essential in saving my life. Saying "thank you" does not seem adequate to the occasion. My care givers were not only professional, highly skilled, empathetic, and compassionate, they were tender and caring beyond any professional standard. I could not have been in better hands!

My respect for what occurs cardiac postop is newly informed. Thankfully, most of the critical postop period is lost to my memory. Hopefully, I did nothing offensive. The ICU period I remember is not pleasant. But my overwhelming gestalt from this ordeal is of affection, concern, respect, and love from my Hospital family. This enveloping sensation has helped the nightmare regress.

For all our electronic records, protocols, doctor's visits, it was bedside care that really mattered. I will forever cherish those who cared for me and the infrastructure that made that care possible. Thank you all!!!

Steven Horowitz, MD

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Barbara Cordts, RN, MSN, CCRN, was one of several nurses whose care meant so much to Dr. Horowitz.

Nursing News & Notes

We congratulate these Hartford Hospital nurses on their recent achievements.



Medicine, Oncology, IV Therapy

The following nurses earned ANCC Certification Medical-Surgical Nursing (RN-BC):

- Apphia Harris, RN-BC (CB5)
- Kim Lacroix, RN-BC (CB5)
- Tina Serwah-Agyapong, RN-BC (CB5)
- Cindy Gozo, RN-BC (CB5)
- Anthonette Hudson, RN-BC (B11I)
- Cindy McGarvery, RN-BC (N11)
- Laurie Tolliver, RN-BC (N11)
- Jill Palma, RN-BC (C12)
- Monica Hill, RN-BC (B11E)

LuAnn Mahoney, RN, (B11I) earned Certified Nurse Executive designation

Amy Brooks, IVT, earned Certified Vascular Access designation



Neuro-Trauma Intensive Care Unit-C9I:

These nurses earned their CCRN (Certified Critical Care Registered Nurse):

- Ashley Didonna, RN, MPH, CCRN
- Jessica Gumula, RN, BSN, CCRN
- Susan Clark, RN, CCRN
- Michelle Stevens RN, BSN, CCRN

Carol Dodge, RN, BSN, was inducted into the inaugural class of the Co-Curricular Hall of Fame at American International College on Oct. 19, 2012.

Psychiatry

Co-authors Ellen Blair, APRN; Karen Larsen, RN; and Cynthia Belonick, APRN, who contributed three chapters to the textbook *Inpatient Psychiatric Nursing: Clinical Practices and Practical Interventions*, were recently informed that the book won the second place American Journal of Nursing's Book of the Year award in the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing category.



STAR Team

Mari Scalesse, RN, received her MSN in nursing management in May from University of Hartford. She was inducted into the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.



Surgery

B8
Susanne Yeakel, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, CMNL, was appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee for AONE (American Organization of Nurse Executives).

The following nurses earned ANCC Certification Medical-Surgical Nursing:
Ashley Hadden, RN-BC (B8)
Sarah Hickey, RN-BC (B8)

Women's Health N8

Daileann Hemmings, RN, BSN, MSN, graduated from the Health Leadership Fellows program at the Connecticut Health Foundation and became vice president of Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell Care (CQSCC) in New Britain. She was appointed ambassador of Sigma Theta Tau International Iota Upsilon Chapter at Large and is the chairperson of the chapter's induction committee. She is also on the board of the March of Dimes.



Deb Gingras, MSN, CNS, presented the Reduction in Fall for Postpartum Patients initiative at the December IHI Convention.

Congratulations to those who earned nursing degrees:

- Chelsea Johnson, Andrea Wheelock, Mona Chiurillo, Elizabeth Thompson, Lina Garcia-Pinzon and Allison Zimmer.



From the Alumnae Association President



Spring is here, and this time of the year reminds me of my graduation from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. What an exciting time it was to be starting my career! In this issue of *Nursing* magazine, the article about the original Jefferson House (the Old People's Home) brought back fond memories of my freshman year at HHSN and time spent with my adopted grandmother. Although at that time I did not relate that experience to the Nursing Professional Practice Model discussed in this issue, it certainly met the criteria of ethics (courtesy, respect, compassion), arts (therapeutic use of self, fellow-feeling, empathetic expression) and advocacy (caring, touch, presence, listening). Even though different terminology was used, the concept remains the same. It was difficult yet exciting watching Jefferson House be demolished for a new School of Nursing building in 1965. The new Continuing Care Unit Building, now Conklin Building, was a new concept in rehab and long-term medical care for the elderly. Jefferson House as we now know it opened in Newington in 1980.

Your Alumnae Association has been active in many different areas since my last letter. The Bed Fund is now the Alumnae Medical Fund and may be used by ALL Alumnae Association members. It may be used for co-pays, physical therapy, occupational therapy, medical equipment, dental procedures, eyeglasses, hearing aids and prescriptions, and can be used at any hospital worldwide, not just Hartford Hospital. We have donated money to many organizations, most recently \$1,000 to Foodbank of Connecticut and \$1,000 to AmeriCares for Hurricane Sandy relief. Donations have also been made to VNA HealthCare, Connecticut Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Diabetes Association and to support multiple myeloma research. In addition, we sponsored a nursing excellence conference at the Hospital for Special Care, and nursing scholarships are available yearly. At the Alumnae Banquet in June, we will update you on our new project: a fountain in the outside dining area at Hartford Hospital for employees and visitors to enjoy.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the banquet in June.

Betty Ann Fusco, RN (HHSN '66)
President, Alumnae Association of the
Hartford Hospital School of Nursing

Join Your Alumnae Association

Become one of the nearly 600 HHSN graduates who belong to the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. Membership dues are only \$10 per year and include membership in the Alumnae Medical Fund. Members are eligible to apply for scholarships.

To join, simply mail your \$10 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 Betty Ann Fusco, president, at bafusco@cox.net; Pat Ciarcia, executive director of alumnae affairs, at patciarcia@snet.net; or visit www.HHSNalumnae.org. You can also write to the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, 560 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106.



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Alumnae Spotlight

Her Song Goes on

If you've attended the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing's Annual Alumnae Banquets, you've probably heard June Perret Noble (HHSN '54) sing. June's rendition of a popular 1950s song "May You Always" has become a highlight of the annual event. "I sing it every year," June said. "It's a command performance. I always get a standing ovation, and by then everybody's crying."



June and therapy dog Lili

It's a perfect choice to be her signature song, especially the lyrics, "May you always be a dreamer/May your wildest dreams come true." That's because June is that rare person who never gives up pursuing cherished dreams, no matter what the odds.

June didn't set out to be a nurse. Born with a beautiful soprano voice and a passion for performance, her dream from

earliest childhood was to be a professional singer. But her father, who adored her, persuaded her to enter what he saw as a more reliable profession: nursing. After two years at Hartford College for Women and three at HHSN, June graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She worked first at Hartford Hospital, then at the Newington Home for Crippled Children (now Connecticut Children's Medical Center).

June held several nursing positions over the next few years, but found what was to be her favorite role back at Hartford Hospital. While working as the night nurse at the American School for the Deaf, she noticed an advertisement for an instructor in Hartford Hospital's Practical Nurse Education Program. The job required a BSN, which she had, and she responded to the ad immediately. "I was interviewed by June Long, director of the PNEP," June recalls. "She was an angel. She said, 'I need you' and hired me ... I worked at the PNEP until I was about 50."

Looking back, June said, "My most important job at Hartford Hospital was teaching." One of her greatest joys when she visits the hospital is running into former students who have gone on to earn advanced degrees in nursing or become physician assistants. "I'm proud when I see our former LPNs working in the hospital as supervisors and knowing I had a part in that person's education—the first step in nursing."

Still, June never gave up her dream of singing. So, at age 50, she enrolled in the Hartt School of Music. After three years of rigorous study and performance, she graduated from Hartt with an

Artist Diploma awarded to her with high honors. "It was the most glorious time in my life, singing those three years at Hartt," June said.



June Perret (Noble) in 1954

Subsequent health problems prevented her from singing professionally. However, she did use her talent to take part in the Ms. Senior Connecticut pageant, becoming first runner-up in 1994, and she continues to sing with church choirs—and at alumnae banquets. She also found a new passion: dogs. Her two German shepherds, 12-year-old Lili and 7-year-old Xcel, are her pride and joy. June and Lili volunteer in the Pet Therapy Program at Hartford Hospital, bringing comfort to patients and families. Because Lili is becoming frail, June is acquiring an all-black German shepherd puppy she plans to raise and train for therapy. Some tried to tell her that, at her age, adopting a puppy wasn't such a good idea. But, again, June refuses to give up on her dream of embracing yet another dog and continuing the pet therapy work she loves so much.

"I'm coasting along with God at my back," June said, "and I'm getting through life at age 80, still going strong, still looking forward to raising this puppy."

A Look Back

Remembering Jefferson House

Today, when people in the Hartford Hospital community talk about Jefferson House, they're usually referring to the hospital's modern long-term care and rehabilitation facility in Newington. But many alumnae of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing remember the original Jefferson House. It stood on the corner of Jefferson and Hudson Streets from 1884 until 1965, when it was demolished to build the new Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. Today the building houses the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation.

Originally named the Old People's Home, the facility was founded to care for elderly people who, while not indigent, were unable to live on their own. The residents, who were called "inmates" until 1953, paid a one-time admission fee and agreed to bequeath their personal property to the home. In return, they were cared for until they died.

In the 1960s, as the hospital was preparing to take down the original structure of the Old People's Home, residents were transferred to other spaces. Residents lived in the Brownstone Building until the Continuing Care Unit (today the Conklin Building) opened in 1966. In 1980, Hartford Hospital opened the new Jefferson House in Newington.

There were many connections between the School of Nursing and the Old People's Home. At one point, every freshman adopted a resident as a grandparent and made a point of visiting him or her regularly. Several alums provided memories of the Old People's Home:

Margaret Buckridge Bock '41: "How well I still remember OPH! I also remember visiting a couple of my former patients who lived there. One of them served an elegant tea with silver tea set, china cups and sterling silver spoons. ... Her room was small but beautifully furnished with antiques and an Oriental rug. She was such a sweetheart."

Jo-An Healey Boehm '56: "I don't remember having an assigned 'grandma,' but I do remember doing a Christmas show for all the residents."

Cynthia Johnson Pavano '57: "I remember putting on variety shows for the people at the old Jefferson House. Singing, dancing, and lots of fun. I played the piano for the glee club and for these shows. Had to be 1955-1956."

Jean Williams Hurst '65: "I do have very fond memories of meeting my assigned 'grandmother' at Jefferson House. It was both comforting and enlightening to spend time with people in their 80s, listening to their daily troubles and issues surprisingly not much different than our own."



THE HAMILTON ARCHIVES AT HARTFORD HOSPITAL

The Old People's Home circa 1900.

Even their issues with the men, of which there were very few. Our schedules were such that it was pretty hard to keep up a very long relationship but I am very glad to have had the experience."

Betty Ann Vose Fusco '66: "My adopted grandmother was Mrs. Helen DeMay. She was a delight to talk with, and I loved visiting her. I remember her room being small and having to sit on her bed because there was no other chair in her room. She was very frail but very sweet. I think she died before I graduated."



Student nurses Kitty Kirtland Phillips '66, left, and Alicia Plikaitis Yungmans '66 portray "Grandma" and "Grandpa" at the Jefferson House Christmas play.

Student nurse Alicia Plikaitis Yungmans '66, dressed as "Grandpa" for the Christmas skit, with residents of Jefferson House.



DEDICATION

The alumnae section of the spring 2013 issue of *Nursing* is dedicated to HHTS alumna **Marion Gledhill Farnsworth '27** 1906 – 2012

The 1927 class book inscription reads:
"No duty could o'er task her."
"Marion is one of the most industrious girls in our class. And does she get results? I'll say so"



1927 class photo



Alumnae Association president, 1933

Marion Gledhill Farnsworth '27 passed away on Dec. 10, 2012, at the age of 106. She was president of the Hartford Hospital Training School Alumnae Association in 1933 and a faithful member of the Alumnae Association for 85 years.

CLASS OF 1943

Johanna (Jennie) Worobel Irelan '43 saw the ceremonial start of the 2013 Iditarod Dog Sled Race in Anchorage, Alaska, and then the actual start of the race in Willow, Alaska. She then went on to Nome to see the mushers come in, finishing the race. While in Nome she planned to play in the Bering Sea Golf Classic.

CLASS OF 1946

Betty-May Bancroft Coburn '46 was omitted from the list of past presidents at the June Banquet. Between 1955 and 1956 Betty-May served as president of the Alumnae Association for two terms. We apologize for this omission.

CLASS OF 1950



Ann Wentink '50 had an early celebration of her 85th birthday at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in San Clemente, Calif., where she went skydiving! That may be a first! Ann said the hardest part of the jump was landing in a field full of uneven clumps of sod. She did the jump with a big, strong guy (6 feet, 4 inches) and was warned to keep her feet up at right angles when they landed, not down, or she would throw both of them off balance. She explained that for the jump they could wear no jewelry, hearing aids, dentures or glasses, since the 150 mph wind would rip them right off. She had to keep her mouth open and teeth clenched to equalize pressure as they descended, which is harder than it sounds.

CLASS OF 1953



Joanne Bauman Colli '53 submitted this photo of her graduating class at the Alumnae Banquet in 1953. Left to right: Vera Mae Cameron, Valerie Hatch Wetherell, Elaine Jordan Boyd, Irene Nesteruk, Gay Bradbury Mahder, Nancy Bowers, Mary Anderson Stone, Jean Miles, Evelyn Crockett and Joanne Bauman Colli.

CLASS OF 1957

Mary Lou Gardner Millar '57 volunteers two days a week in the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Conn., and is amazed how advanced replacements are these days! She also attended pension fund conferences in San Diego and Orlando. Mary Lou and her husband, Jim, joined their daughter Elizabeth and her husband on a fascinating two-week trip to Turkey. They enjoyed the beautiful country from deserts to mountains. Their daughter Audrey was married at Christmas to Dr. David Goldenberg at their home in Indianapolis with families and close friends in attendance. Their youngest grandchild, Alden Millar, graduated from Hobart College, where her father, Greg, had also graduated in 1982. Mary Lou sees her classmate Cindy Hamilton Courtemance '57 in Maine every summer.

CLASS OF 1960



Pat Tencza Reig '60 enjoys pastel paintings. Pictured above is one of her works.

CLASS OF 1961

Nancy Fitton Eckert '61 passed away on Feb 4, 2013, at a rehab center in the state of Washington. The class of 1961 mourns the loss of their beloved classmate and class president. Nancy was a favorite among the staff at the rehab center where they lovingly tended to her needs. Several classmates had been to visit her in that facility. She had only eight short years to practice nursing, but in that time she touched many lives for the better, including her classmates'.

June Werderlin Roncarti '61, Elaine Hennig Stebbins '61, Kathy Valiante Taylor '61, Barbara Hickey Wilcox '61 and Nancy Miller Bailey '61 have enjoyed the tradition of getting together every two years for a mini reunion. They began this tradition about 10 years ago and enjoy it so much they continue to do it. They meet and go away for fun and to reminisce. So far they have explored Martha's Vineyard; Stonington, Conn.; Ogunquit, Maine; and Franconia, N.H. This year they plan to visit at Cape Cod.

CLASS OF 1962



Class of 1962 in front of the student nurse statue in the Hartford Hospital lobby. Alums were celebrating their 50th Anniversary, June 2012, at a luncheon provided by nursing leadership at Hartford Hospital. Pictured left to right: Carol Drumm Ferik, Joan Beebe Specht, Pat Andrea Garcia, Pat Kaminski Robertson, Irene Hallgren Anderson, Carol Fafard Pagano, Linda Arle Duval, Linda Palmer Haberern, Sandy Agud Trifiro and Jean Barnes Rushen (passed away 12/7/12).

Jocelyn Goulet Jones '62 has accepted a nurse practitioner offer on Cape Cod, Mass., and will decrease her hours from 40 to 24. The commute is only 13 minutes from their Cape home so they plan to sell their big house in Glastonbury.

Pat Lepito Karwoski '62 and her husband, John, have been in Naples, Fla., since just before New Year's Day. They vacation there each winter to escape the long, cold Connecticut winters. Their daughter Karen and her family live in Naples so they are able to spend quality time with them. Their grandchildren are now in high school and are taller than their grandparents.

CLASS OF 1965



Left to right: **Linda Schmidt Kimmelman, Peg Crosbie Seneca, Sandy Nelson (Valade) Blessing, Andrea Nowicki Nardi, Barb Patrick DeFrance, and Dianne Cull Litchfield.** (Missing from the group was **Marge Cinciva Herr**, who was unable to attend.) This group has been getting together for several years, usually in Maine. The picture was taken in Portsmouth, N.H.

Dianne Cull Litchfield '65 has requested that members of the Class of 1965 contact her regarding their 50th Anniversary, which is right around the corner in 2015. Her email address: dianne.litchfield@snet.net.

CLASS OF 1969



Shelley Gordon Jones '69 with her Freedom Prayer Shawl. She is founder of Heal the Wounded Spirit and designer of the Faith & Freedom Prayer Shawl. Shelley lives in Indiana and enjoys portraying Mary Pickersgill, flagmaker of the 30-foot by 42-foot flag that flew above Fort McHenry—the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner” in 1814.

Jean Bajek '69 was recently blessed with a new grandchild. Jean visited her daughter in Kentucky for a week after the birth and to spend time with her 3-year-old grandson. Jean has two other grandchildren in Connecticut (ages 17 and 15) and visited them this summer. Jean still is working full time at CVS Pharmacy in Florida.

CLASS OF 1972

Patricia Crosen Montanaro '72 was recently honored for 40 years of service at Hartford Hospital. She works in Information Services.

CLASS OF 1973

Ann Dubiel Bonin '73 and **Catherine Drexler Chance '73** were recently honored for 40 years of service at Hartford Hospital. Ann works in Cardiology/ETT and Cathy works at the Institute of Living on Donnelly 2S.

CLASS OF 1975

Jan Bailey Bell '75 received her BSN from Western Governors University 37 years after graduating from HHSN. Congratulations! She is working as director of ICU/MS3 in Farmington, Maine.

CLASS OF 1976



Barbara Aronson, PhD, RN, CNE '76 is a professor in the Department of Nursing at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Conn. She received the Connecticut Nurses' Association's prestigious Diamond Jubilee “Virginia Henderson Award” at their annual ceremony in Cromwell on Oct. 18, 2012. This award is for outstanding contributions to nursing research and recognizes contributions and innovations in nursing research in areas such as: nursing theory, applied clinical research and public health. The Diamond Jubilee Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a nursing professional in Connecticut.



IN MEMORIAM

Marion Gledhill Farnsworth '24
Miriam "Mim" Hausman Nichols '37
Jean S. Murphy '38
Charlotte Upham Curtiss '41
Therese Messier French '47
Charlotte Carrington Jameson '48
Jacqueline Tierney Rubinwitch '50
Mary Sagnella Russell '51
Claire Simoneau Foster '60
Barbara Wood Wunsch '60
Nancy Fitton Eckert '61
Jean Barnes Rushen '62
Dolores Siembab Crist '67
Marion Grace Fitzin '67
Karen Beattie White '73

PHYSICIANS

Dr. Roger Beck
Dr. David Hull
Dr. Jean Wells (Hollinshead)



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Let Us Hear from You!

We would love to receive photos and news from HHSN alumnae. Please mail information to the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, 560 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106 or e-mail patciarcia@snet.net.

Request for HHSN Nursing Pins

We often receive requests for a replacement HHSN nursing pin. Since they are no longer made, the only way we can get a pin is if an alum is willing to donate one to the Alumnae Association. We would then give the pin to the alum who is requesting it. If you are interested in donating your pin for this purpose, please contact Pat Ciarcia at 860.563.2005 or patciarcia@snet.net.

Give a Lasting Gift

Your contribution today will make a difference to our nursing education program. Mail your gift to Hartford Hospital, Fund Development, 80 Seymour Street, Hartford, CT 06102. 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.

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THE HAMILTON ARCHIVES AT HARTFORD HOSPITAL

The 1884 Old People's Home—later called Jefferson House—was demolished in 1965 to construct the new Hartford Hospital School of Nursing.