Hartford Hospital’s Nursing Professional Practice Model

The Nursing Professional Practice Model was developed by nurses from Hartford Hospital to reflect our current values. It is a visual representation of the scope of nursing practice and nursing’s role in enhancing the human health experience.
Our interactions with patient families are vital to the well-being and healing of the individuals in our care. Evidence-based practice tells us that a happy, supported nurse contributes to better patient outcomes.

In the nursing profession, the word “family” can conjure up many images and relationships, regardless of biology. It can emerge in a special bond or common thread that draws us to one another. Having the support of colleagues and building professional trust is paramount to success at the bedside.

We might associate the word “family” with the loved ones of our patients. In many respects, we become part of their family during difficult times, actively communicating, empathizing and engaging loved ones who cannot always be at the hospital.

It’s also our circle at home, close to us and in support of the work we do. They offer us the sustenance and encouragement to come back every day and do exceptional work in the name of patient care. They are an integral part of our success as nurses.

As we celebrate Nurses Week and Nurses Month, we salute the professional and personal bonds that run strong and deep, getting us through some of the most difficult days.

Cheryl Ficara, MS, RN, NEA-BC
Senior Vice President, Operations
Hartford Region, Hartford HealthCare

In conversations with our health-care teams at Hartford Hospital, I often hear “we are a family” when describing the culture on their units. The word “family” certainly isn’t limited to those whose DNA we share.

Professionally, the concept of family transcends bloodlines, but in many cases here at Hartford Hospital it is both a genetic and professional bond. Relationships on the units and between departments provide stability in sometimes tenuous situations, allowing us to deliver the highest standard of patient care.

This magazine highlights the strong bonds of the teams and families that make Hartford Hospital such a special place. In this, the largest issue to date, I hope you’ll see yourself literally and figuratively as such an important part of our organization.

From our Nightingales, who are recognized as integral members of their professional families — to the nurse mothers and fathers whose children are following in their healthcare footsteps. The family ties run deep here and are to be celebrated, fostered and nurtured. You’ll learn more about our ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for mothers of color and their children. And we will introduce you to just a couple of the transformational leaders who are bringing out the best in others.

This month and beyond, let’s continue to celebrate the many iterations of family built on trust, respect and compassion, enhancing our professional success.

Laura J. Bailey, MSN, RNC-OB
Vice President, Patient Care Services
Hartford Region, Hartford HealthCare
The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut created the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing in 2001 as a gala program to celebrate and elevate the nursing profession. The Nightingale Awards pay tribute to Florence Nightingale for her dedication and service to her patients. She devoted her life to nursing and improving the quality of life for those she treated. Nightingale’s lasting contribution has been her role in founding the modern nursing profession by setting an example of compassion, commitment to patient care and thoughtful hospital administration.

Please join us in congratulating Hartford Hospital’s 2023 Nightingale Award Recipients!

Asamoah “Azzy” Anane, BSN, RN  
Transplant

Lori Arsenault, BSN, RN  
Critical Care

Gina DiGiovanni, MSN, RN  
Emergency Department

Tara Eshoo, MSN, RN  
General Surgery

Kimberly Ewankiewicz, MSN, RN  
Case Coordination

Gabriela Jablonski, BSN, RN  
Perioperative Services

Michelle Johnson, BSN, RN  
Women’s Health

Vennada Lour, BSN, RN  
Medicine

Lyz Meza-Villantoy, BSN, RN  
HH Community Health

Cheryl Mitchell, MSN, RN  
Nursing Coordinators

Barbara Norman, BSN, RN  
Bone & Joint Institute

Dominique Petrucci, BSN, RN  
Heart & Vascular Institute

Amie Redfield, BSN, RN  
STAR Team

Stefanie Sigmund, APRN  
Cancer Institute

Taryn Sokolik, BSN, RN  
Cardiovascular Services

Jason Wowk, ASN, RN  
Institute of Living

Sarah Zurek, BSN, RN  
Ayer Neuroscience Institute
For 20 years, the Hartford Hospital Nurses Week Basket Raffle was synonymous with Rosemary “Rose” Aiello. With all her heart and soul, the Perioperative Services nurse organized, recruited and raised money for the popular event. Colleague and friend Samantha Cote recalls Aiello's attention shifting during Nurses Week, saying, “Her main focus was the basket raffle. Each year the baskets got more and more extravagant. She loved seeing what crazy themes the units would come up with.”

Aiello's passing in early 2020 came right before the COVID pandemic and for the next three years the basket raffle was suspended as social distancing and safety measures took precedence.

Now, for the first time since 2019, the event is returning with a new name. The Rosemary “Rose” Aiello Nurses Week Basket Raffle kicks off this year, promising dozens of offerings that will raise needed funds for the Hartford Hospital Employee Disaster Fund and the Hartford Public High School Nursing Academy. Longtime coworker and friend Linda Pereira says Rose actually helped initiate the Disaster Fund after a colleague lost everything in the Massachusetts tornado that ripped through Springfield in June of 2011.

"Rose shined all the time, but shined the brightest when the going got tough and traumas arrived to the OR. Rose was right there."

Cote remembers that one tradition of the basket raffle held special significance to Rose. “She especially loved having the Hartford High School students here to present them with a check for their nursing program.”

So, how would Rose be reacting to the thought of the raffle now bearing her name? Gwen Richardson doesn’t hesitate. “When I heard the news, I cried. I see her smiling now from heaven. This was her baby. She really enjoyed doing these raffles.”

Rose, you are missed beyond measure and your spirit is alive and well in the Rosemary “Rose” Aiello Nurses Week Basket Raffle.
A Conversation with Transformational Leaders

To say that the last three years have been an “age of overwhelm” would be an understatement. Nurse managers have been challenged to lead and support colleagues through the most extraordinary of circumstances. Transformational leaders are those who can motivate and inspire both professionally and personally, bringing out the best in their teams. Nursing magazine sat down with three such leaders at Hartford Hospital in a conversation about the challenges, rewards and goals of being a transformational leader in transformative times.

NURSING: Thank you all for spending some time with us to talk about this very important topic. Since 2020, hospitals everywhere have been enduring the COVID crisis. As leaders, how did you process that and keep your teams grounded?

Laurie Dewey (LD): I think transparency and communication are essential. Between census surges and nationwide staffing crises, we’ve asked our teams to do a lot of hard things. I try to be an authentic leader who shares what I know and keeps people informed.

Jamie Houle (JH): As a leader going through the overwhelm, we need to process it ourselves. It was challenging to look at everything at once. Once we got good at something, another thing popped up. We lost sight of things that we did every day that made a positive difference. It’s been important for me to remind my team of what we did and can accomplish.

Audrey Silver (AS): I have always worked to keep nurses grounded in their “whys”. Through all the changes and challenges, we are forced out of our comfort zone, but that leads to growth. Being uncomfortable leads to new ideas and improvements.

NURSING: What are some of the challenges facing your team and how do you approach those challenges?

LD: Staffing shortages, census surges and the higher acuity of patients. I work hard to provide emotional support and listen to my team. I am always available to meet one-on-one with my staff. Their concerns are important to me, so I take their feedback and escalate those concerns, putting changes into place whenever possible.

JH: The landscape of healthcare has been permanently altered. Some people aren’t inclined to get into nursing since COVID. Graduates are prepared differently and our pool is diminished because the demand for nurses is much higher than the supply. To grow our staff, we have to find ways to develop and engage them and challenge them. And we need to slow the pace to develop their skills before they progress to advanced practice roles.

AS: One of the challenges is to give new nurses the tools they need to develop critical thinking skills and to be successful, all in the midst of higher acuity and higher volume than we’ve ever experienced before. We are challenging what we’ve always done and looking at how to do it better, balancing the priorities with quality and safety.
NURSING: How does your leadership style influence your team?

**LD:** When I came into this role, I knew I wanted to be even-keeled and reliable, a consistent and steady leader. It means having the emotional intelligence to know yourself and understanding how you’re coming across. I want to be that person who is available and approachable. When we support our teams, they support our patients and one another.

**JH:** I very much love being a nurse and so I try to nurse through my team by teaching and mentoring. Operating with integrity trickles down to them. We influence our teams through our actions — we role model by recognizing the right thing to do and doing it.

**AS:** I have always tried to lead with resilience. If staff sees your resilience, they are inspired. It’s important for me to have a good pulse on my team and not losing touch of their challenges and making sure they feel heard.

**LD:** I am full of gratitude for feedback and concerns my team brings to me. I am in awe of how hard our teams work every single day.

**JH:** When they see us jumping in and doing things, they know we are right there to help them, recognizing their reality.

**AS:** One barrier in a workflow may seem small in the grand scheme of the entire department, but that one barrier can impact someone’s entire shift and compound over time. It’s important to be aware of that.

NURSING: It’s not necessary to mention names, but who are the leaders who influenced your career?

**LD:** Managers who modeled coaching behavior helped me grow and taught me how to grow my team.

**JH:** I’ve picked up pieces from a lot of influential leaders here along the way. In my formative years as a leader, I was influenced by Mary Beth Scanlon and Gail Nelson whose sharp focus on quality and safety triggered that quality in me. Karen Habig has been a daily influence to me as well as others.

**AS:** As a new leader, I am influenced by so many colleagues around me. Patty Veronneau has helped me build bridges and collaborate. I’ve learned so much from Cheryl Ficara about transformational leadership and how to continually challenge yourself to grow.

NURSING: Give us one word to describe a transformational leader.

**LD:** Integrity. Knowing what you stand for and being open and honest with yourself and your team.

**JH:** Empathy. Being able to recognize in every situation where people are coming from.

**AS:** Authenticity. Connecting with staff in a way that creates a comfort level so they can come to me in the future with concerns knowing it will be met without judgment.
Bridge Programs Connect Nurses to New Opportunities

With dozens of specialties and departments, the sky is the limit for nurses at Hartford Hospital. But which path is right for you? Several departments have developed bridge programs designed to help nurses gain core competencies in one area with the goal of transitioning to more specialized work groups.

**Medicine to ED**

When applications to Hartford Hospital’s Emergency Department (ED) outnumbered available openings, Sandy Nguyen, BSN, RN; Audrey Silver, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CEN and Nicole Vogt BSN, RN saw an opportunity to place qualified applicants in other departments that faced a shortfall of applications. They developed a model wherein nurses start their journey in Medicine, building foundational skills and knowledge to best prepare them to work in the ED. The program mirrors Hartford HealthCare’s Nursing Professional Practice Model, and its objectives come directly from the model’s components of the Science of Nursing, the Advocacy of Nursing, the Ethics of Nursing and the Art of Nursing.

Candidates spend one year in Medicine, carefully monitored, evaluated quarterly and mentored along the way. An individualized development plan is created with measurable goals for each nurse in the program, with periodic coaching sessions scheduled. Every nurse in the program has the benefit of two personal nurse mentors from their home unit and the ED.

After 12 months, they begin a transition to the ED, training for an additional three months taking inpatient assignments and also floating to the ED in times of high inpatient census.

“It is a creative recruiting effort and a way to promote a new program that we didn’t have before,” says Silver. “It’s a developmental program, drawing applicants who are interested in pursuing Medical-Surgical unit experience first before going into the ED.”

The first cohort of the Medicine-to-ED program started in August and are stationed in North 12.

Several variations of this bridge model are centered around the ED. There is also a crossover program from Observation to ED. The program can also flow in the opposite direction, supporting nurses who would like to experience a job outside of the ED, as well. Vogt reports, “The appeal to nurses is the ability to see where patients go after their stay in the ED. They learn the ‘why’ behind what they are doing.”

If you are interested in learning more about the Medicine-to-ED Bridge Program, contact recruiter Sheryl Lemieux at Sheryl.Lemieux@hhchealth.org. Interested applicants can find the position on the HHC career site under “Registered Nurse (RN/CN) Medicine-to-ED Bridge Program.”
“It’s a great learning environment”

When Jimmy Starr, BSN, RN was younger, he helped take care of his aging grandmother, and witnessed the care she received at home and in convalescent homes. The healthcare field interested him and he graduated with his nursing degree from Southern Connecticut State University in May 2022.

In August he became part of the first cohort of the Medicine-to-ED program. Starr’s ultimate goal is to pursue a career and certification in the ED, but he sees great benefit in starting his journey in Hartford Hospital on a Medicine unit.

The bridge program has trained him for a variety of responsibilities, from administering medication to assisting with personal hygiene.

With several months on North 12 under his belt, he is very pleased with the experience. “All the skills I’m learning here will be applied in the ED,” he says. “I value the time on this unit and I’m learning the ropes in a slower pace than I know the ED would be. The care delivered here is so diverse that I’m able to see so much.”

Starr has high praise and respect for his colleagues on the unit, sharing, “I love the people and our relationships are strong. As a new grad, I have a lot of questions and I’m never afraid to go to my manager or charge nurse with questions. It’s a great learning environment.”

He also acknowledges that the pace on North 12 is slower than that of the ED, providing a less intense environment for learning.

Medicine to Critical Care

The Medicine-to-Critical Care bridge program at Hartford Hospital is designed to demystify roles in the ICU, creating a hands-on opportunity to learn more about life in the fast-paced unit. The program offers interested nurses an opportunity to build foundational nursing skills and knowledge while working within one of the Medicine units, ultimately transitioning to critical care.

“The program creates an individualized development plan,” says Director of Critical Care-Nursing Michele Kolios, RN, BSN, MS. “Managers of both Medicine and Critical Care track the goals and progress of nurses in the program.”

Nurses eligible to start as a new graduate must hold their current RN license as well as Basic Life Support skills. They also must have proof of arrhythmia certification prior to their start date.

Once in the program, nurses train and learn with the goal to progress to the ICU. Through collaborative coaching sessions, nurses can expect to make the transition to critical care in about a year.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medicine-to-Critical Care Bridge Program, contact recruiter Sheryl Lemieux at Sheryl.Lemieux@hhchealth.org. Interested applicants can find the position on the HHC career site under “Medicine-to-ICU Bridge Program.”

“Life in the ICU “expectedly unexpected”

For Aaron Mandell, BSN, RN, the path to nursing in the ICU was not a direct one. “I was interested in pursuing a career as a physician assistant,” recalls Mandell. “When I was putting in hours as a PCA in the ICU at Hartford Hospital, my eyes were opened to nursing.” He soon changed course and has not looked back.

For the past year and a half, Mandell has been working in the ICU and thoroughly enjoys the unpredictable nature of the position, calling it “expectedly unexpected.”

“I was drawn to critical care after watching nurses care for their patients. My interest in the fast pace and acuity of the unit was blended with the ability to care for patients on their worst days and help them imagine a life after recovery. I thrive on the stimulation of spending more time assessing and providing care to patients who require close monitoring and more
intensive intervention.”

In the ICU specifically, nurses are responsible for administering and managing life-sustaining and life-saving medications, powerful sedative and paralytic medications and taking care of patients who are on one or more forms of life support. Mandell says, “Sometimes the hardest part is having to have difficult conversations with patients and their families.” He encourages anyone curious in a career as an ICU nurse to spend a day on the unit, noting that being in the thick of it really exposed him to what life in the ICU is truly like.

“People know right away if it’s for them. Be ready to learn and work and if you like the science, medicine and pace, you will thrive and learn something every day.”

**New this spring: Women’s Health Services**

Identifying a need in Women’s Health, Nurse Manager Maria Segarra, MSN, BS, RN and Assistant Nurse Manager Mykela Orifice, BSN, RN developed a bridge program that will launch this spring. Segarra notes, “This program provides new graduates with direct medical, surgical and obstetrical experience prior to their planned transition to the specialty unit of their choice.”

Candidates will start on North 8 Women’s Health, learning post-surgical, medical and high-risk obstetrical care including fetal monitoring and postpartum assessment. After a 12-month residency program, nurses will become part of a cohort focused on education related to labor and delivery and postpartum.

Nurses will work closely with WHS leadership and are provided with a team of mentors and educators who will track and support their progress.

Segarra and Orifice are enthusiastic about the goals of the program, which are three-fold: to better prepare new graduates for their next career step, to improve retention within Women’s Health, and to encourage a positive and supportive culture across units.

If you are interested in learning more about the Women’s Health Services Bridge Program, contact Maria Segarra or Mykela Orifice at Maria.Segarra@hhchealth.org, Mykela.Orifice@hhchealth.org.
PCAs: Partners in Patient Care

In the delivery of patient care, it truly takes a village. One of the vital contributors is the Patient Care Associate (PCA).

Oftentimes the first and last person to see a patient over the course of a day, the PCA can communicate important information to nurses, providers and beyond, playing an integral part in healthcare delivery and patient safety.

Nurse Educator Marlene Harris, MS, RN has mentored countless PCAs during their orientation. She explains that the PCA connects across a variety of departments in the name of patient care. “They partner with Food and Nutrition to ensure that our patients are properly nourished, with Physical Therapy to ensure that the mobility needs of our patients are met and with our providers and nurses to ensure continuity of care.”

Many PCAs choose to train as a Patient Administrative Associate (PAA). PAA Educator Wendy Picano sees this transition as a logical stepping stone for individuals who would like to pursue other roles in healthcare. “Cross-training to the role of Patient Administrative Associate enables them to experience another perspective on the nursing unit.”

Central to the support and development of the PCAs is the Associate Council, led by Harris, Picano and Surgical Nursing Director Ifeoma Mogor, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC. The council provides PCAs and other associate roles with a forum to share concerns and practices that will benefit patient, colleagues and the organization.

With a warm smile, Harris affectionately refers to PCAs as “green beans.” She explains, “One, because they wear the color green. The second reason is rooted in African American culture. Green beans are considered soul food. PCAs are good for my heart and soul. They are a true blessing to me and our organization.”

In their own words

Denise Hewitt-Bell, PCA
Bliss 8 Surgical unit

“I have been a PCA at Hartford Hospital for six years. Before that I was a CNA in a nursing home for nearly 18 years. Some of my responsibilities include taking vitals, walking patients, assisting with baths, finger sticks and personal grooming.

Patients are sick when they come to the hospital and I am happy to help them in the little way I can. I feel good working alongside the nurses. We can be the eyes and ears of the patient. We can report changes to the nurses.

Our patient population varies and some are dealing with setbacks and disappointments. I try my best to help them cope.

I love caring for others and this job fulfills that part of me.”

Roberto Pinedo, PCA
Bliss 10E

“I started working per diem in the Hartford Hospital cafeteria in 2007, eventually working as a transport aide in Radiology/Oncology. I have been a PCA here since 2014. I try to make patients as comfortable as they can be. My vocation is to help and serve people. Patients are in a condition that they can’t help, but I can.

I admire the nurses I work with. They work so hard and I appreciate them and the confidence they have in me. We have continuous communications every moment of every day.

Patients may be in pain, frustrated, angry — behaviors that we communicate to the nurses. We have to pay attention to these things.”
Maternal Health Equity: Better Serving Birthing Persons of Color

When an expectant person of color enters a clinic or hospital, they may or may not be aware of a startling truth that follows them in the door. They are up to four times more likely to die while giving birth than their white counterparts. This shocking statistic is not unique to Hartford, it is true nationwide. For Daileann Hemmings, MSN, RN, CLC, CCM, turning the tide is long overdue. As program director of Maternal Health Equity at Hartford Hospital, she is leading the charge to improve health outcomes of Black and brown members of the underserved community.

Building trust and addressing disparities
Hemmings has a long history at Hartford Hospital, referring to it as her “professional clinical birthplace.” She first visited Hartford Hospital as a student at East Hartford High School while enrolled in the Allied Health Program. She returned as a CNA and then became a registered nurse while continuing her nursing career and academic journey. Today she is excited and ready to take on her current position, fortified by several years at Community Health Network of Connecticut, where she fully realized her passion for community and public health.

“This job allows me to be hyper-focused on addressing gaps in maternal care and the health disparities facing Black and brown patients,” she says, adding, “It is imperative that we ensure that people aren’t impacted by things like their zip code, and that we are providing equitable and respectful care, as this is the core of the work.”

The initiative is complex and multi-faceted, and while the crisis will not be solved overnight, progress is already being made. Prior to Hemmings’ return, implicit bias training was provided to Women’s Health staff throughout the system. Under Hemmings’ leadership, goals include building the trust of the community, educating colleagues and ensuring quality care for birthing people while examining the social influencers of health, implicit bias and maternal mortality and morbidity.

Two subcommittees within Women’s Health Services have been formed to help achieve these goals. An interprofessional colleague-focused committee is tasked with educating staff across all disciplines on behaviors and steps to actively support and understand patients’ needs. Hemmings reports, “We are working to improve staff’s ability to have difficult conversations while creating a psychologically safe environment. It is vital to hold each other accountable, recognizing that naturally we all have biases. Bias however, can be problematic if it is used in a way to impact an individual negatively.”

Additionally, a systemwide patient-focused committee known as the OB-Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC) works to engage patients and their families, determining what went well with their maternity experience and where opportunities exist to improve.

Families provide direct input that helps inform healthcare providers of opportunities for improvement. Jennifer Dowe, BSN, RN, Patient Education and Experience Manager of Women’s Health at Hartford Hospital is especially proud of PFAC, noting, “Out of feedback received from these sessions, we learned parents were concerned about the ‘fourth trimester,’ the first 12 weeks after delivery.” The hospital now offers educational sessions which are the first of its kind in the state, designed to help parents navigate issues like baby blues, warning signs and setting expectations with family in the fourth trimester.

“It is important to inform patients of maternal warning signs and reinforce to them that they are their body’s expert. Each individual patient must know that they are seen and heard.”

—Daileann Hemmings, MSN, RN, CLC, CCM
Additionally, the Women’s Health Department has developed a new postpartum nurse navigator position, which when implemented, will aid in addressing maternal health equity. The postpartum navigator works with discharged patients and their babies to find solutions and resources to support families once they are home.

One of the factors that influences the patient experience is interacting with providers and healthcare professionals who look like them. Hemmings says, “there are several benefits to patients being cared for by someone who shares the same race or ethnicity including medication adherence and shared decision-making. Culturally understood non-verbal communication aids in promoting patient-provider rapport and building trust.”

**Meeting birthing people where they are**
Hemmings, Dowe and their colleagues are committed to carrying out their mission beyond the Hartford Hospital campus. They are out in the community to educate and listen to birthing people. Hartford HealthCare hosted a Women’s Health Community Health Event on April 15 at Dunkin’ Donuts Park in Hartford’s north end. There, visitors viewed the documentary “Aftershock,” a film that showcases the maternal health crisis befalling Black women, followed by a discussion led by experts in the field. Various representatives with diverse expertise including pregnancy, lactation, early childhood and cardiovascular health were present to provide resources and information to attendees.

At Women’s Ambulatory Health Services (WAHS), colleagues in a variety of specialties are on hand to meet the needs of their patients. A nutritionist advises women about how dietary choices impact their health. A social worker is available to help patients cope with an array of issues and families in need can also pick up diapers for their babies.

Removing financial barriers, all patient education courses are provided free of charge. Childbirth and breastfeeding classes, as well as hospital tours are now offered in Spanish. It’s an exciting time for Jennifer Dowe, who says, “We want all of our patients to be prepared, regardless of their economic status or language spoken.”

An additional goal of the program is to gain a better return on Press Ganey feedback from the Black and brown population. It’s imperative that patients understand why the surveys are vital to improving health equity as it is another opportunity to hear their voice. All data received can directly influence positive change in the delivery of healthcare. Dowe is optimistic about the ongoing efforts, saying, “We are going in the right direction. We have a good recipe for it, checking Press Ganey, talking to patients, implementing new goals.”

For Hemmings, one thing that drew her back to Hartford Hospital is Hartford HealthCare’s fifth value – Equity, joining Integrity, Caring, Excellence and Safety, saying, “I am committed to addressing the needs of the maternal population using an equity lens. We still have a lot of work to do. We are just starting to identify benchmarks, metrics and establishing SMART goals,” she says. “We need to be intentional in the effort to restore trust. These disparities aren’t a byproduct of the pandemic, they were only magnified by COVID. We have a chance to change the trajectory of maternal health within Hartford Hospital and beyond.”

**Members of the Hartford HealthCare OB-Patient Family Advisory Council**
Putting Data Into Action

Understanding quality data is vital for nurses to advocate for their patients. Florence Nightingale was the first nurse who consistently gathered data and reported on why soldiers in the Crimean War (1853-1856) were dying. This visual, which is called a “Rose Diagram” related to its shape, displayed complex data in a simple format and showed that more soldiers died because of disease and infection than in battle. Nightingale tirelessly advocated for soldiers to have sheltered care areas that were clean, dry, and ventilated, as well as nutritious food to prevent mortality.

At Hartford Hospital, Visual Management Boards provide the same clarity and focus for our healthcare teams. Jenifer Ash, APRN, MPH, Director of Quality and Safety, Patient Care Services explains the process. “Laura Bailey has a visibility board that contains data that directors submit monthly,” she says. “That information is cascaded to the manager and unit level through the Visual Management Board. Staff is engaged and daily and monthly drivers are established so there is constant monitoring and alignment.”

Jennifer Martin Williams, BSN, MPH, RN, Quality & Safety Nurse, Department of Medicine says the Visual Management Board plays an important role in patient care. “It’s a way to hardwire best practices, keeping patients and staff safe. Reporting metrics will improve when the boards are used to their potential.”

The Visual Management Board is used several times a day during unit huddles. Data is collected on tailored interventions for nursing-sensitive indicators. Every inpatient unit has a different focus on falls, hospital-acquired pressure injury (HAPI), hospital-acquired infection (HAI), central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) and catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI), as well as cardiac monitoring standards, oxygen standards of care and auditing.

Just as data is ineffective without actionable steps to improvement, patient safety initiatives created from that data cannot succeed without the input and efforts of bedside nurses. Their knowledge of their specific patient population and unit processes offers valuable insight into keeping patients safe and free from harm during their hospitalization. The data from the healthcare team’s hard work is discussed as well as plotted on graphs and displayed on the Data Visual Boards to understand care trends.

Ash sums it up like this, saying, “It’s a dynamic board to help guide teams to make informed decisions, cascade information to the frontline and act. We already deliver high-quality care. Further engagement and alignment helps us to get better at getting better.” And Martin Williams adds, “We are linking the bedside to the larger mission and vision of the system.”
Walking the Walk in the Transplant Program

Every day, the team in the Hartford Hospital Transplant Program counsels patients who are on all sides of the spectrum of organ donation. So, it may not be surprising that several people in the department have made the decision to become living donors.

“A true, emotional understanding of the donor experience”

Living Donor Incompatibility Transplant Coordinator Kari Rancourt, BSN, RN, CCTC donated a kidney in January. She says the seed was planted early in her career. “It’s something that has been on my mind since helping my first donor as a new graduate nurse,” she says. While Rancourt’s kidney was transplanted in someone unknown to her, she is aware that a child in Minnesota was the recipient.

Donating her kidney gave Rancourt a new perspective on the process. “I couldn’t imagine doing this anywhere else. I have so much faith in the team,” she says. “It has given me a true, emotional understanding of the donor experience.”

Kari offers this advice to those considering living organ donation. “I would encourage the person to ask questions. Keep an open mind and please consider being an organ donor in the event of death.”

“Each of our patients is someone’s family”

Quality Improvement Manager for Transplant Services Pamela Cyr-Long, MSN-RN BFA CCTC had a very personal reason for donating her kidney. “My mother had polycystic kidney disease,” she says. “When her first transplant was failing, I made the decision to get worked up to be a living donor. I donated my kidney to her in December 2016.”

Donating a kidney has impacted her not only personally, but professionally. “Having been so close to someone who needed a transplant makes it easy to remember that each of our patients is someone’s family or loved one,” Cyr-Long shares. “It has also helped me understand what home life is like for those living with a kidney transplant.”

And while knowing it’s impossible to do it again, Cyr-Long says she wouldn’t think twice. “It’s no walk in the park, but after getting over the recovery phase, my life is essentially the same as it was before.”

“She’s living her best life!”

Administrative Associate Ana Guarino works every day in the midst of life-saving organ transplantation. Her worlds collided when she learned that a friend was in need of a kidney.

Without her friend’s knowledge, Ana initiated the process of becoming a donor and surprised her once it was determined that she was a match.

Ana qualified for Hartford HealthCare’s generous leave of absence policy for living donors who are employed by HHC. Colleagues who donate an organ and qualify for the Family Medical Leave Act are compensated 100% of their pay for up to six weeks.

Ana views the experience as a blessing in her life. As for her friend, Ana has good news to report. “I’m happy to say my recipient and I are both doing extremely well. She’s living her best life since having the transplant!”

If you are interested in learning more about the living donor process, scan the QR Code or visit Hartfordhospital.org/livingdonation or call 833.222.7770.
To celebrate and honor the outstanding work and dedication of our colleagues in patient care services roles, several recent donations will subsidize the purchase of scrubs for every nurse, PCA and PAA at Hartford Hospital. With more than 3,000 on staff, this generous donation is greatly appreciated. Gift cards for the scrubs will be distributed during Nurses Week.

Hartford Hospital Philanthropy and leadership wish to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous donations:
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- James Marzi
- Cassandra and Michael Matteo
- The Rosenberg Family
- Eric and Jessica Zachs
- Zachs Family Foundation

Messages from our donors:
“*I am honored and humbled to help our true amazing heroes in any way.*”
—James Marzi

“It’s been wonderful and soul fulfilling for me to have had the privilege to know and work with the wonderful people at Hartford HealthCare. It’s an honor to support your team always.”
—Beverly Buckner Baker

“It is our pleasure to help in a small way.”
—Mike Matteo

“We are always happy to support the incredible nurses, patient care associates and patient administrative associates. So grateful for all they do each and every day!”
—The Rosenberg Family

Messages to the donors from our leadership:

“*Your support of our teams helps further strengthen their commitment and dedication to provide care and service for our community. Thank you!*”
—Bimal Patel, HHC Hartford Region President

“We so appreciate your continual support in so many ways!”
—Cheryl Ficara, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Sr. Vice President, Operations, Hartford Region

“We thank all the donors for their steadfast support of the hard work our nurses, PCAs and PAAs do every day in the name of patient care.”
—Laura J. Bailey, MSN, RNC-OB, Vice President Patient Care Services, Hartford Region
Celebrating Our **Teams** Across the Organization

When we asked you to send team photos, we were happily overwhelmed with the result! This issue celebrates the collaborative spirit and professionalism in every department and on every unit.

Scan the QR code to view the slideshow or visit the Hartford Hospital Nursing/Patient Care Services intranet webpage.
All in the Family

The nursing apples don’t fall far from the tree, as indicated in these photos! Here’s just a sample of the mothers and children who work at Hartford Hospital. This May, we salute all our mothers who are caring and nurturing both at home and at work.

Scan the QR code to view the slideshow or visit the Hartford Hospital Nursing/Patient Care Services intranet webpage.

Lauren & Elizabeth Arnold

Denise Hewitt-Bell & Shameka Bell

Maura, Steve & Sue Donahue

Richard Waldron, Jr., Navelette & Allen Shields

Nyla Glover, Tachkia Bethune, Jaeané Glover

Mauro, Steve & Sue Donahue

Denise Hewitt-Bell & Shameka Bell
We congratulate these Hartford Hospital nurses on their recent achievements.

**Advancement to RN3**

- Ashley Bell - C8I
- Alyssa Gregory - JB4 OR
- Kellie Walker - Wound Team
- Marina Parlapiano - B10I
- Danielle Hollister - ED
- Sandy Nguyen - STAR Team
- Angela Keene - CB3

**The Bone & Joint Institute**

- **Certifications:** The following nurses received their Orthopedic Nurse Certification (ONC):
  - Barbara Norman, RN, BSN, ONC
  - Jenna McManus, RN, BSN, ONC
  - Angela Miquel, RN, BSN, ONC
- **Publications:**
- **Posters accepted at the National Association of Orthopedic Nurses Annual Conference in May ’23:**
  - Alcohol screening and intervention at a Level I Trauma Center for patients presenting following a traumatic event. **Authors:** Erica Lenk, BSN; Monika Nelson, MSN, RN; Bethany Ayotte, BSN, RN; Carmen Santos, MSN, RN; Melissa Gomes, MSN, RN
  - Staying Ahead of Post-operative Infections: Pre-incision Cefazolin Optimization in the Orthopaedic Operating Room. **Authors:** Tabitha Whetham, BSN, RN; Makaila Sinclair, BSN, RN; Lavanya Jitendranath, MD, FACP; Sherry Stohler, MSN, RN; Michael Summa, CRNA
  - Implementation of a nurse navigator in an underserved orthopedic trauma clinic improves patient compliance and perceived pain management. **Authors:** Carmen Santos, MSN, RN; Lauren Murphy, MSN, RN; Iva Brinley, MBA; Erica Lenk, BSN, RN, ONC; Matthew J. Solomito, PhD
- **Poster Presentations at Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) National Expo, April 2-4th, San Antonio, Texas:**
  - Wired for Change: Teamwork and Safety Leads to OR and SPD Relationship Building. **Authors:** Leah Goldberg, BSN, RN, CNOR & Sarah B. Cruz, CSPDT, CRCST, CHL

**Ambulatory**


**Cardiology**

- Deborah Bass, MSN, RN, PCCN received her certification as a Progressive Care Certified Nurse in December.

- Allison Osga, APRN, FNP–BC recently became a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

**Emergency Department**

- The ED hosted a Certified Emergency Nurse prep course for HHC on 11/14 & 11/15 and the following nurses received their Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) certification:
  - Kyle Beecher, BSN, RN, CEN
  - Rachael Emond, BSN, RN, CEN
  - Danielle Hollister, BSN, RN, CEN
  - Blake Smith, BSN, RN, CEN

Left to right: Rachael Emond, BSN, RN, CEN, Danielle Hollister, BSN, RN, CEN, Blake Smith, BSN, RN, CEN. Not pictured: Kyle Beecher, BSN, RN, CEN
**Department of Geriatrics**

- 2023 NICHE Conference April 2023:
  - Podium Presentation: Waszynski, C. Achieving Fall Prevention through SAFER mobilization.
  - Roundtable Presentation: Nai, M. Hartford Hospital NICHE 20-year Journey from Conception to Sustainability.

**Intensive Care Units**

- The following nurses received their Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) certification:
  - Sean Leauscher, BSN, RN, CCRN
  - Aaron Mandell, BSN, RN, CCRN
  - Melissa Smajevic, BSN, RN, CCRN
  - Martina Sprague, BSN, RN, CCRN

**Neurology**

- Poster Acceptance: Kirsten Fazzino, MSN, RN, NE-BC, SCRNR & Sarah Hong, MSN, RN, CNRN, MEDSURG-BC had their poster accepted for the AANN Stroke Care Conference in August, 2023.

**Oncology**

- The following nurses received their certification in Oncology nursing:
  - Cailynn Velleca, BSN, RN, OCN
  - Emily Hoang, BSN, RN, OCN
- The following nurses presented at The Oncology Nursing Society’s Signature Conference, April 26-30th, San Antonio, TX.:
  - Podium Session: Maura Kenny, RN & Nicole Marcelino, RN HH Radiation Oncology. Bridging Gaps & Standardizing Care Among Head & Neck Cancer Patients Receiving Radiation.
  - Poster Presentations: Hayley Dumnack Yackel, PhD, RN, CMSRN, OCN Cancer Clinical Research Nurse.
  1. A retrospective longitudinal analysis of phenotypic characteristics and oral health symptom patterning during chemoradiation treatment and survivorship for head and neck cancer
  2. Development and implementation of a nurse triage protocol for a system, community-based outpatient cancer institute

**PACU**

- Lauren Kasner, BSN, RN, CEN is now a Certified Emergency Nurse.
- Elizabeth Robinson, BSN, RN, TCAR received her Trauma Care After Resuscitation certification.

**STAR Team**

- Kristine Bartolaba, CCRN earned her Critical Care nurse certification.
- The following nurses became board certified:
  - Rubby Koomson, APRN, FNP-BC
  - Alyssa Mattison, APRN, FNP-BC

**Women’s Health**

- Jamie Briere, BSN, RNC-MNN became certified as a Maternal Newborn Nurse in March.
- Poster Accepted: Jennifer Dow, BSN, RN, c-EFM, Sarah Quadrato MSN, RN, NPD-BC, c-EFM, and Dana Muller, BSN, RN, IBCLC had their poster “Bridging the Gap in Postpartum Education Prior to Birth with class “Fourth Trimester & Postpartum Wellness” accepted by Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) for the AWHONN Convention in New Orleans, LA June 17-21st.

**Self-Care Favorites**

**Favorite comfort food**
- Mac and cheese
- Pasta

**Favorite app for winding down**
- Calm

**Best method for relieving stress**
- Running/jogging
- Time with friends
- Reading
International nurses play an important role at Hartford Hospital, bringing their skills and expertise across the globe, joining colleagues in various units. Please give them a warm welcome!

Collaborative Publications and Poster Presentations:

- Emily Nguyen, MSN, RN-BC, CNML and Susanne Yeakel, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CNML presented numerous quality improvement initiatives at regional and national conferences:
  - Three poster presentations at the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN), September 2022:
    - “We Are Safe: A Multidisciplinary Approach in Response to COVID-19”
    - “Getting to Zero: Reducing Device-Related Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries”
    - “Changing the Culture of Culturing: Standardizing Diagnostic Urinalysis”
  - “Getting to Zero: Reducing Device-Related Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries”
  - Poster presentation at the Annual Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Conference, Hartford Hospital, October 2022.
  - Poster presentation at the Organization of Nurse Leaders (ONL) Winter Quarterly Meeting, December 2022.
- Emily Nguyen, MSN, RN-BC, CNML and Susanne Yeakel, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CNML published an article in Clinical Consultation (a new feature) in March/April edition Rehabilitation Nursing on their work in reducing device-related pressure injuries on an Acute Inpatient Rehab Unit.
- Susanne Yeakel, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CNML presented ‘Professionalism in Nursing’ for the Spaulding Rehab Network Nightingale Fellowship in November 2022. She facilitated virtual breakout session topics pertinent to today’s nursing workforce.
- Emily Nguyen, MSN, RN-BC, CNML was an abstract reviewer that helped build the educational programming for the 2022 Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) Conference.

Welcome, International Nurses!

Cohorts of international nurses each spent a day at Hartford HealthCare’s Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) reviewing skills such as cardiopulmonary assessments, airway adjuncts, arrhythmia interpretations and defibrillators. The groups also participated in comprehensive simulations.
Looking back over the past century, it is amazingly clear that the history of nursing is the history of our world. It is difficult to name a social or political movement or event where nurses were not at the forefront…and our HH alumnae were no exception. Our archives hold the letters from hundreds of nurses or their family members, telling us the stories of our nursing sisters whose leadership made a lasting impact in the world at large. How did these young, inexperienced women become such strong leaders? Our nursing instructors taught us the nuts and bolts of team nursing, but more importantly, taught us to be confident and courageous. They taught us to identify complex problems, break them down into manageable pieces and prioritize the solutions together … isn’t this the foundation of leadership?

Many of my fellow classmates enlisted in the military, being deployed only days after classes were over, forfeiting their nursing graduation ceremony. They transferred their skills from the bedsides of HH to the MASH units of Southeast Asia. They were not alone. Other alums from years earlier had entered the battlefields of WWI, WWII and Korea. But leadership did not occur only on battlefields. Our nurses took the helm wherever they practiced, be it at the Hartford Circus Fire of 1944, the flood of 1955, the polio epidemic of the 1950s and most recently the COVID epidemic of 2020. HHSN nurses left their mark wherever they practiced.

In April 2000, a group of alums saw the dedication of our Hartford Hospital “The Caregiver” statue come to fruition. It was a project that was meant to recognize and pay tribute to the amazing nurses who for 99 years came through our acclaimed school. Helen Gallivan was a generous donor to this project and was a UConn graduate nurse who studied at HH and lived in the School of Nursing dormitory from 1957 through 1962. In her letter, she explained her request to make her donation be in honor of the three instructors who played such an important part of our training. She says in her letter, “Miss Ethel Brooks, Miss Sophie Kupchunos, and Miss Helen Roser, fortified us for life…frequently these lessons were taught at afternoon tea, where we would be transported from a society wearing hats and gloves and sublimating our intelligence to our knowing how to assert our ideas and feel comfortable within ourselves as each stage of life unfolded. They knew that we, armed with our concepts and ideals, would become the best documentation of their era.”

Although the numbers of HH nurses who are actively practicing nursing are dwindling, their impact on their communities continue. We hear from so many of them who are as busy as ever, working on humanitarian projects, leading vital social efforts in their communities, in other words, continuing to make our world a better place.

Mary Jane Densmore MS, BA, RN (HHSN ’69)
President, Alumnae Association
of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing

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.

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 Lynn Rossini, Vice President, Philanthropy, at 860.972.6282 or at lynn.rossini@hhchealth.org.
Many nursing alumnae can hark back to an early childhood memory that spawned an interest in the nursing profession, and Ethel “Corky” Carlson Lavieri is no exception. “When I was 10 years old, my grandmother was bedridden with shingles,” the Southington native remembers. “She lived next door and I would tend to her, pretending I was a nurse. I would hold her hand, offering comforting words and something to drink.”

At 90 years young, Corky recalls her time at the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing (HHSN) fondly and notes that the instructors were knowledgeable and passionate. “We had a wonderful professor of anatomy and physiology. She was very enthusiastic about teaching us and we thoroughly enjoyed each other's company.”

Upon her graduation in 1953, Corky worked in the delivery room at Hartford Hospital. About the experience, Corky glows, “I loved it. I loved the babies.” In 1955, she married Robert Lavieri and stopped working a few months later. The couple had five children until Robert's death of Hodgkin's disease in 1963.

After Robert’s passing, Corky returned to private duty nursing and worked per diem at Hartford Hospital. She also attended University of Hartford for a year. “It was not easy, but I had a lot of family help that made it easier for me.”

Widowed for nearly seven years, Corky remarried John Lavieri, a relative of Robert. The couple welcomed two more children, completing their family with four daughters and three sons.

In the decades that followed, Corky was busy professionally and personally, working per diem as a school nurse in Barkhamsted as well as in the operating room at Winsted Memorial hospital. She was an active volunteer with many organizations, among them the Susan B. Anthony Auxiliary board, the H3W committee and the Red Cross bloodmobile in Winsted.

At Hartford Hospital, Corky tallied 24 years of volunteer work at the front desk. For nearly a quarter of a century, Corky greeted visitors in the hospital where she earned her degree. She says her training as a nurse served her well in her volunteer position. “Visitors sometimes arrive upset during a stressful time and a nurse’s demeanor can help diffuse the situation.” All totaled, Corky devoted more than 500 hours of volunteering to Hartford Hospital.

While she misses her days of volunteering at Hartford Hospital, Corky remains active in her church as a deacon at Barkhamsted Congregational Church and is involved with her local DAR chapter. She and John enjoy traveling and spending time with their seven children, 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with one more on the way!

She also maintains a close friendship with her HHSN classmate and lab partner Georgia Erickson. Memories of her nursing school days keep her smiling. “I remember having tea every afternoon — hot tea in winter and iced tea in the summer months. It was a wonderful tradition.”

She recalls her years at HHSN with affection, saying, “It was a superior learning experience compared to others. I learned a lot of life skills and I am forever grateful.”
Donna Urso Kennedy, HHSN Class of 1968

“Ready for mischief, ready for fun.”

The yearbook entry, written in 1968, transcended time. Nearly 55 years later, friends and family remember Donna Urso Kennedy as quick to laugh and have a good time.

Donna always dreamt of being a nurse. Her husband of 49 years, Mike, shares there was never a time when she didn’t want to be a nurse. “Donna often spoke about her love for nursing and the fact that during her career she got to do what she loved and loved what she did.”

Classmates of Urso Kennedy remember her warmly. “What stood out most to me was her petite stature, the twinkle in her eyes and her infectious giggle," Dolores Cain Weld says with a smile, reminiscing about their 50th class reunion. “Mary Jane Malone hosted Donna, Ellen Porter Edwards and me that weekend,” she says. “We had so much fun, laughing, talking and reminiscing about our time as student nurses and some of the mischief we got into!”

Urso Kennedy graduated from the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing (HHSN) in 1968 and worked in various capacities within Hartford Hospital, but one place held her heart and passion. “She worked on different floors, different assignments and disciplines,” recalls Mike, “but she always found herself back in the Emergency Department.”

Donna’s long nursing career was spent at Hartford Hospital. After that, she worked with a team that treated AIDS patients in Hartford. She was also employed at ConnectiCare, working in healthcare effectiveness data and information set (HEDIS), visiting doctors’ offices around the state and performing audits of insurance company standards.

Before Alzheimer’s and Lewy body dementia overtook her mind and body, Donna enjoyed gardening, “transplanting” that hobby from their home in Connecticut to The Villages in Florida. There she reveled in tending to the garden, cooking, entertaining and fostering butterflies. Donna would bring larvae in their earliest stages into the lanai and nurture them away from predators until they became butterflies. Mike remembers, “One year, she released more than 50 black swallowtails!”

In a chance meeting years ago in The Villages, Donna reconnected with HHSN classmate Joanne Kells-Murphy, who remembers the mischief that made Donna famous in nursing school. “Once, Donna snuck into the bathroom where I was taking a shower. She grabbed my clothes and towel and locked me out of my room! It was winter and I had to go out onto the balcony wrapped in a shower curtain to get back inside!” adding that it was impossible to stay mad at her.

As her condition progressed, Donna knew she wanted to be cared for at home, which probably came from her nursing background. Mike was fortunate to find an exceptional, experienced caregiving team. “Nurses understand nurses and that was evident in Donna’s interactions with the nurses who cared for her,” he says.

Sadly, Donna’s light was extinguished with her passing in December of 2022 at the age of 75. But what is remembered is the laughter, mischief and twinkle in her eye that endeared her to everyone around her.
2022 Alumnae Banquet

The 2022 Alumnae Banquet was held at the Rocky Hill Sheraton on September 18, 2022. Since COVID-19, our numbers have been down but we had 170 members present this year. Eleven alumnae received gold HHSN charms for 50 years of membership and three members received silver HHSN charms for 25 years of membership. Music was provided by members of the Joe Giangrasso Band and alums sang to old favorites from the ’40s, ’50s, ’60s and ’70s. A fun time was had by all!

Six nurses were recipients of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association 2023 Scholarship Fund. Left to right: Elizabeth Stahl, (granddaughter of Mary Lou Powers, class of 1961), Kristen Bergman-Flores, (daughter of Edyth Monroe Bergman, class of 1961), and Julia An necchiarico. Those unable to attend and missing from photo: Laure Louis-Charles, and Kristin Ruggiero (daughter of Lynn Wentland Batchelder, class of 1974).

Marilyn Miller ’73 can be seen at the Alumnae Banquet with her photography equipment snapping pictures of the event. This year she took almost 150 pictures which can be seen on our website www.hhsnalumnae.org.

The 2023 Hartford Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Board. Left to right: Theresa Gwozdz, Mary Jane Densmore, Betty Ann Fusco, Lesley McGrath, Diane Leggio, Mary Jane Malone, Jane Lasher, Christine Johnson, Gail Rapoza, Patricia Ciarcia. Missing from photo: Phyllis DeMaine, Kathleen Didier, Alicia Junghans, Sheila Rowell and Jerrilyn Sicaris

Joe Giangrasso Band seen playing the “oldies but goodies” for the “oldies but goodies” alums.

CLASS OF 1950

Euphemia Gardiner Serpliss, Class of 1950, was the most senior alum at the Banquet having graduated 72 years ago.

CLASS OF 1952

Ethel Mlynar Tomolonis celebrated her 70th year milestone anniversary since graduating from HHSN.
CLASS OF 1953
Georgia Clark Erickson and Barbara Quilitch Gordon celebrate 69 years.

CLASS OF 1962
Eleven members from the Class of 1962 celebrated their 60-year HHSN anniversary. Left to right: Linda Arle Duval, Patricia Andreaa Ciarcia, Rosemary DeAngelis, Patricia Kaminski Robertson, Joan Bebee Specht, Carol Drumm Ferik, Roseann Dandurand, Ginny Marth Wickersham, Linda Palmer Haberern, Mary Ann Comen Bertini and Gail Mansolillo Twarkins.

CLASS OF 1963
Joan Anderson Lambert lives in Ledyard in her starter house. Her two children and five grandchildren live in Connecticut within visiting distance. She retired in 2014, after 35 years as nurse manager for a large OB/Gyn practice. She lives with her partner of 32 years and enjoys traveling, cruising, camping and spending time with great friends. She and her classmates met at the September HHSN Alumnae Banquet. There were ten of her classmates present and she describes them as “lookin’ as good as they always did back in the days, although it gets a little harder to convince ourselves of that, but we try.” Their 60th reunion will be this year and she hopes many of her classmates will be at the 2023 banquet.

CLASS OF 1967
Sheila Rowell Class of 1967 stands in front of pictures of her classmates as they appeared at graduation 55 years ago.

CLASS OF 1967
Phyllis Weiner DeMaine ’67 is the organizer of the Class of 1967 55-year celebration.

CLASS OF 1972

CLASS OF 1973
There were 17 members from the Class of 1973 celebrating 49 years. Next year will be their 50th and they hope to see even more classmates!
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 $10 per year and include membership in the Alumnae Medical Fund. Members are allowed 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. Include your full name, class year, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address.

For more information, please contact Pat Ciarcia, executive director for alumnae affairs, at patciarcia@snet.net or visit: www.hhsnalumnae.org. You may also write to the Alumnae Association of the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, 560 Hudson St., Hartford, CT 06106.

STAY CONNECTED! If your email address changes, please notify Pat Ciarcia.

In Memoriam

Josephine Young Gamble ‘46
Julia Griffiths Janes ‘51
Jane Meier Wood ‘58
Carol Fafard Pagano ‘62
Judith Waldheim Grasso ‘67
Donna Urso Kennedy ‘68
Suzanne Pepion Barnett ‘54
Linda DeGroff Greco ‘59
Florence “Dolly” Dederick Parisi ‘55
Ann Wilcox Wentink ‘50
Gertrude Maylott Conroy ‘55

Glorianna Hill Wholley ‘55

Physicians
Robert Dobrow, MD Cardiology
Lee Hayes Ellison, MD Pediatric Cardiac/Vascular Surgery
Future nurse leaders attend lecture in the Hartford Hospital Training School classroom, 1930's

Photo courtesy of the Hamilton Archives of Hartford Hospital