

White Pillars

Albany Medical Center Schools of Nursing • Alumni Association News 2017



ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER
SCHOOLS OF NURSING

- Alumni Association -
2017-2018 Officers

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Shirley Beckley Myers '70
Carol Taylor Carman '66

GENERAL INFORMATION
Please send dues, name changes, updates to address, telephone number or email to:

Shirley Myers
72 West Shore Drive, Valatie, N.Y. 12184
ShrlyMyers@aol.com

Class lists are available to graduates of a school – contact one of the alumni officers.

Caps are available from:
Albany Medical College Bookstore
New Scotland Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12208
Telephone: 262-5444

Union University caps are \$4.50 + 4% tax
AMC caps are \$6.75 + 4% tax.
Shipping and handling for all caps is \$2.00

All pins are available from Herff-Jones at
1-800-837-3489 ext. 3273.



AMCSNAA President's Message 2017

Again this past year has passed so quickly and it is now time to share some news. We asked our graduates to tell us about life after graduation and you responded. We believe our members want more information about our former graduates and we are committed to sharing what you tell us. You can share your information via email, regular mail, phone calls or post them on Facebook and we will be delighted to incorporate the information into our newsletter. This will help all of us reconnect with old friends.

Nursing Alumni Association for another term. Our officers have agreed to continue as well which supports our mission and helps manage the work. We continue to seek new members to consider becoming officers and/or to assist with activities like the newsletter, the Nurses' Garden, etc. Attending our meetings, reunions and Christmas parties helps us keep the legacy of our school alive. We are committed to making sure that every class has a 50th reunion celebration. If you are interested please contact me or any of the other officers. You may be surprised at the enjoyment and (*continues on page 3*)

It is a privilege to continue my tenure as President of the Albany Medical Center School of

ABOVE: Memories of the "Big Sister" welcome. We then realized that this is our new home for the next three years!

NEWS/UPDATES:



Albany Medical Center Hospital continues to grow and change. Past years have seen M4 and M5 renovated and converted into patient care units again and there is consideration of doing the same to M2 and M3. You'll be happy to know the Baker Units with the folding bathroom walls are long gone as are the community showers!

Miss Treutler celebrated her 90th birthday this year. Congratulations!

We are considering moving the Nurses Garden that was established many years ago in downtown Albany somewhere

closer to the hospital so that planning and maintenance of it will be easier. If you live near Albany and are interested in helping with this project please contact one of our officers.

Albany Medical Center is in the process of building a designated Pediatric Emergency Department on the site of the P Building (the laundry many years ago). It will be the only one in the area that cares exclusively for children and will have access to all the services required to deliver the highest level of care. Valet parking will also be available for parents.

DID YOU KNOW that when the alumni association learns of the death of one of our alumni that a representative tries to attend either the calling hours or the funeral? Right now this is limited to the area around Albany. We bring a red rose along with a note from the alumni association noting that the rose, given to us at graduation, represents fulfillment of their role as a nurse upon their death.

If you live outside the Albany area and have an alumna friend who passes away, we will be happy to send you the verbiage for the note and welcome your bringing a rose to the family from the alumni association. Families seem to be very touched that their loved one is remembered by their nursing school family.



long time goal was to go back to school. So at 48 years old, married and having three daughters that's exactly what she did. She went back to school at the Albany Occupational Center Practical Nurse Program** and graduated in 1979. After graduation she spent a brief time working at Samaritan Hospital but then went onto a Community Health Care Agency where she remained until retirement.

In May Marybeth thought she would give recognition to Marion during Nurses recognition week. Marion was more than comfortable with her uniform attire for the day and enjoyed the pictures and well wishes from family, friends and staff.

This tribute seemed to reinforce my thoughts that we as nurses go out into various community settings each day and provide the best care we can. To patients from all walks of life and status. We do it because we share a common goal to give the best nursing care we can and continue the AMC legacy.

**After the closing of the AMC LPN Program in 1974, the Albany Occupational Center offered the course for practical nursing.



ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CONTINUING TRADITION

Pictured in the photo above are Marybeth Dedrick Kazukenus, RN (Class of 1976) and resident, Marion Gillespie, at The Eddy Heritage House Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Troy. Since graduation Marybeth has spent most of her career specializing in geriatric nursing and at this time is Nurse Manager on one of the units here. Marian has resided here on Marybeth's unit since 2015.

Before retiring at the age of 83 and coming to The Heritage House, Marian made her career as a LPN. It started when her

It's a Small World

We were contacted this spring by the daughter in law of Catherine Zeitler (Union University '53) to tell us that she passed away. Her granddaughter was to graduate from nursing school this year and her parents would love to give her her grandmother's pin. Unfortunately it had been stolen from her home a few years prior. The question was how to get a copy? After several phone calls and emails Herff-Jones agreed to make a pin if we provided them with one to copy. We sent a pin from our archives on loan to Catherine's daughter in law and in July her granddaughter posted this on Facebook:

"Accepting my first job as a labor and delivery nurse and graduating was hard knowing that my grams wouldn't be there to share the excitement... Tonight I opened up a late graduation gift and the pin was in the box. Hands down it was the most thoughtful and amazing gift I have ever received. It makes me so happy to know that we share the same career and passion.

Her grandmother, also a labor and delivery nurse would be proud!

President's Message continued from page 1 reward in being more involved.

As always we are looking for opportunities to improve our newsletter. We believe that more pictures and personal updates will keep our readers interested and more engaged. We will always have these memories and we hope that you will share.

Albany Medical Center continues to grow and prosper. There have been many changes in Nursing. We have a New Chief Nursing Officer and our advancement program has been implemented, including a strong compensation package for clinical advancement and involvement. The number of admissions, Emergency Department visits and transfers from other hospitals rises annually. Construction of a new pediatric Emergency Department is underway and off site emergent care and practice sites have opened.

Nursing's "grow your own" program, supported by KeyBank, continues to support AMC employees in pursuing a nursing degree. Conferences and educational offerings abound, some of them made possible by the Marjorie Mellor Fund. Nursing Pillar awards are granted annually to nurses who exemplify the best in nursing. Many Albany Medical Center School of Nursing alumni have received this honor. We hope to highlight some of the recipients in future newsletters.

We thank you for allowing us to share our news and hope that you will consider sharing some of your memories and life events with us. Your continued membership and involvement is important to the success of our organization.

*Sharon Granito Habiniak
Fall '74*

Sharon Granito Habiniak

Do these pictures bring back memories?



ANSWERS (top row, left to right): Macdonald Lounge – no slacks ladies!; Those wonderful pink sleeves – and studs to do every night!; Lobby mailboxes – letters from home! (second row) Ralph's Tavern – now closed sad to say; AMCSN class ring; Floor phone booths – no cell phones or private lines in those days.

In our archives we have records related to the closing of the school. In 1989, with the graduation of the last class, it was noted that a total of 3,712 nurses had graduated since the Albany Training School for Nurses opened in 1897.

Check out our website to view a video that was made when the school was closing. Click on the History tab to see the video re: the school, interviews with staff and students and a quick glimpse at the old residence.



ABOVE: The AMCSN beanie – our new fashion accessory.

Do you remember:

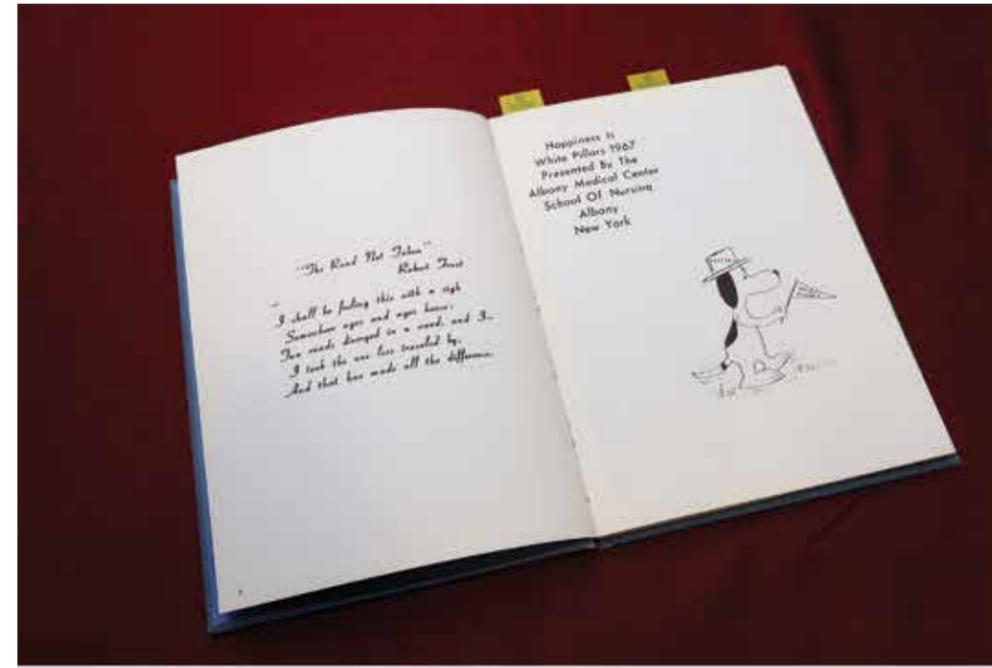
- "Studding" uniforms for upper classmen
- Mixing your own IV medications in IV burettes
- Bottles of narcotics and accounting for "shrinkage"? And the panic when it didn't add up to 10cc?
- Kangaroo pumps
- Making out medication and treatment tickets (white and green ones)
- Going to see Mrs. Rolf when you were sick
- Honor Court
- Procedure checklists for every year
- Giving AM report to the Head Nurse after working nights
- Concurrent care
- Meal tickets

Celebrating the Class of 1967



This year our 50 year graduates returned from Michigan, Florida and North Carolina as well as New York to celebrate their day. For some their revisit started at dinner Friday evening then continued the next day where they joined their Classmates and other Alumni. After registration, tours and photos, the Celebration Ceremony proceeded with the presentation of the symbolic rose, pin (50 year) and candle. This was followed by an outstanding luncheon held in Choices Café. Kudos to Sandy Montague Smith and Sandra Moody Chuhta for their help communicating with and locating their 1967 Classmates. All in all it was a remarkably successful reunion day.

ROW 1: Karin (Best) Fein, Kitty (Cheyne) Bessette, Kathleen (Ciskanow) Wells, Diana J. (Dagenkolb) Brockelbank, Karen (Donnellan) Kline and Mary (Grzanowicz) Murphy.
ROW 2: Suzanne (Kelleher) Kirchhausen, Joanne (Koscielniak) Fountain, Helen (Kulzer) Murphy, Lynne (LaFountain) VanWormer, Sandra (Montague) Smith and Sandra (Moody) Chuhta. **ROW 3:** Donna (Poccia) Mandell, Kathleen (Putman) Turnes, Dorothy (Sanford) Johnson and Pamela (Santagata) Fialkoff. **ROW 4:** Pamela (Sasenbery) Wilkes, Nancy (Sauer) Linger, Nancy C. (Sheil) Popp, Anala (Shultis) Rodgers, Jane (Tavernier) Gomez and Kathleen (Van Slyke) Jones.



Join us in 2018!

Please remember that, in addition to honoring the 50th year alumni, we also encourage you to come no matter what your year of graduation. We will give special recognition to graduates having their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 55th, etc. We'll be happy to reserve a table for you and your fellow classmates at lunch that day so that you can all catch up with each other's news and life stories.

The reunions are a great deal of fun. There is much laughter, many hugs and reunions and lots of conversation as we all compare where life has taken us. Tours of the hospital are available; you will be surprised at the changes if you have not seen AMCH in a while. Lunch is served in our cafeteria, Choices Café and is always delicious.

NOTES FROM ALUMNI

Clara Scaglione Cipollari ('48) let us know that after resigning as an AMCSN instructor in 1967 she worked at Van Rensselaer Manor nursing home until 2016. She has a daughter, son in law and three grandchildren in Illinois who she often visits. She is enjoying her retirement, gardening and crafts.

One of her daughters (Mary Didio) wrote to let us know that **Anna Felter** ('49) passed away in March 2016. She sent us a lovely letter telling how much her mother loved her education at AMC and that it afforded her a 42 year career which she loved. She spent the majority of her time at The Hospital in Sidney, NY in a supervisory capacity. She wanted us all to know of her mother's pride in her education and career and that an AMC colleague (Barbara Fairchild) was a wonderful friend and care giver to her mother in her last days.

Eris Perese ('51) remembered her days at Union University and then worked in pediatric nursing, neurosurgical nursing and as a psych nurse educator. During her career she wrote novels about nurses and the problems they encounter. Her fourth novel was released in March 2017 by Soul Mate Publishing; among other things it deals with green card fraud, an honor killing and female circumcision. She lives in Orchard Park, NY.

Barbara Danforth Meyer ('52) updated us on her life after graduating from Union University. She married in 1952 (65 years this December) after he returned from Korea and they raised four daughters. They moved to Englewood, Florida in 1991. She has worked as a supervisor at a nursing rehab center and then as a nurse to a concierge doctor. She has finally retired at the age of 80! Her husband has also retired from the real estate business and they are enjoying retirement. They are happy to be

healthy, able to go to the YMCA and do their own gardening. They have 15 great grandchildren and 10 grandchildren. They drive to visit in Clifton Park twice a year. Her daughter is an RN who works with patients who have been discharged from the hospital. She plans to come to the 2018 reunion.

Joan McGraw Bender ('62) wrote to let us all know that she is living in The Villages in Florida. She included her card that indicates she is an R.N., M.A., C.D.P.

Barbara White ('63) wrote to tell us that she and her husband Larry have been retired for 14 years and have been traveling. She does lots of volunteer work, loves to sew and quilt and make special occasion quilts for family. Her husband plays in a swing band. They have two daughters and 4 grandchildren. In June they celebrated their 54th anniversary.

Lt. Col. John Danner ('64) has moved permanently to Green Valley, Arizona after twelve years of being a "snowbird" there. The Danner family reunion in Albany last year was wonderful and attended by over 100 family members. He continues to volunteer with Hospice, driving for seniors and at the VA Hospital in Tucson. He and his wife both had a total knee replacement two years ago. They are enjoying retirement!

Carol Wilson Muller ('68) updated us on her life since graduation. She worked at Albany Medical Center in the CCU eventu-

ally as Head Nurse. After her daughter was born in 11974 she worked there part time and then left to work for a local cardiology group in 1991. She went back to school and became an Adult Nurse Practitioner in 1995 and obtained national certification that year. In 2008 she left the physicians' group to work as a Hospitalist at St. Peter's Hospice. She retired in 2013. She has 3 grandchildren (all under four years old) who live very near her. Her new passion is quilting and she is planning a trip to Houston in the fall for the International Quilt Festival.

Cherie Colton Binns ('73) wrote to say that she is co-chair of the Research Committee for the Accelerated Cure Project (www.iConquerMS.org) The group recruits healthy volunteers and MS patients to share data with researchers so as to lower the cost of research and improve the time to complete projects. She is also involved in working with health professionals to determine the best way to engage patients, researchers and clinical staff in research. She works for Clinical Systems Consulting in Warwick, RI and has no plans to retire!

Margaret Finn Jenny ('73) posted on Facebook. She retired two years ago after working in Critical Care and OB and, for the last eight years she worked, in Quality Support.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Please send to Shirley Myers at ShrlyMyers@aol.com or Carol Carman at ohmacarlo@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Infection Control Class. Contact Betty Lou Wessell at 518-399-5386 for information.

Annual Board/Member Meeting: Wednesday, September 20th 2017 at Albany Medical Center at 4:00 PM.

Christmas Party: December 7th 2017 at Normanside Country in Delmar at 5:30 PM. Cost is \$25 per person. Details to come in fall mailing.

2018 Reunion: Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Albany Medical Center honoring Classes of 1968 on their 50th anniversary, Classes of 1973 on their 45th anniversary, Classes of 1978 on their 40th anniversary, Classes of 1983 on their 35th anniversary, Classes of 1988 on their 30th anniversary. Save the date and join us!

Introducing Some of Your Alumni Association Officers

SHARON HABINIAK, PRESIDENT

As the current President of our Alumni Association I thought I would share my history at Albany Medical Center. I graduated with a great class in Fall 1974. We started with about 120 people and graduated less than 70. At the time I worked as a Nurse's Aide and I am sure that you remember how that was. We floated all over and did 8 hours of work in 4!

My first RN position was in Pediatrics and at the time we floated to one of the three units each day. I became an Assistant Nurse Manager in 1977 and became Nurse Manager in the PICU in 1978. It was a great position and I loved the people that I worked with. I was still caring for patients as well and when the two managers were told that we would be one we made some very hard decisions.

I knew that continuing my education was important and finally attained my B.S.N. from SUNYIT after many years. I graduated from AMCSN with 6 credits! By the way my goal was to finish prior to one of my children but that didn't happen!

In 1996 I decided that a change might be good. I had the great honor of moving to the Neurosciences where I worked with a very talented and dedicated group. We expanded the skill set of the RNs to manage invasive monitoring and drip medications in addition to the excellent skills that they had already mastered. I also had the honor of working with Dr. A. John Popp who was a great mentor and had high expectations. I succeeded in having the opportunity to be published while working on one of his text books and papers.

I left D5E to open another Neuro Unit on M5 (remember that was OB/NICU in our day). This happened when one of our former visitors became a PCA on our unit. I asked her where she saw herself in the future and she said that she wanted my job. Well she finished her RN, became ANM and then the Nurse Manager when I made the choice to open a new Neuro Unit. We have worked closely and partnered for the last 16 years!

It is now time to take some time for myself so I recently made the decision to leave my current position and become a part time Administrative Nursing Supervisor. This will give me the ability to circulate throughout the hospital and continue to assist with the development of our staff.

I feel fortunate to have been given so many opportunities; so many great memories and to live the legacy of our training. Each one of us has contributed to the care of the sick or to prevent illness and I am sure that it has been as important to you as it has been to me.

LESLIE MATTHEWS, VICE PRESIDENT

My name is Leslie Matthews and I have the honor of being the Vice-President of the AMCSN Alumni Association since 2015 under the leadership of our awesome President, Sharon Habiniak!

I started my journey at AMC in August 1969, when this 17 year-old freshman first walked under the White Pillars as an AMC Student Nurse. My first job was as a Nurse's Aide in 1970 when I worked to make a little extra money.

I have been here ever since and had opportunity to wear many "hats" over these 47 years. My first "interview" was with Mrs. Middleworth where she told me "we need nurses in Pediatrics" so I started as a bedside RN in Pediatrics!

I went on to become an Assistant Head Nurse in Peds, part-time House Supervisor after I started my family, full-time Supervisor, Interim Nurse Manager of OB for 1 year, obtained my BSN from Excelsior College and from 2000-2016, I was the Nurse Manager of the Float Pool. Last October, I transferred to Nursing Recruitment where I am doing what I enjoy: bringing in New Graduate RNs to keep our patients safe and cared for.

Staying true to the spirit of Recruiting, let me borrow a phrase from Uncle Sam in the 1940s...We Need YOU! We have small but dedicated contingent of Alumni who keep the AMCSN Alumni Association alive. But we cannot keep doing it alone. Please consider joining, even if you live far

away and cannot participate in person. And if you live locally, please consider attending our Annual Meeting every September, our Christmas party every December and our Annual Reunion every May to celebrate our Graduates of 50 years!

SHIRLEY MYERS, SECRETARY

I'm Shirley Myers (you may recognize my name from all these mailings) and like Sharon and Leslie my whole career has been at Albany Med. That certainly was not my intent after I started AMCSN in 1966. The work was hard, the hours were long (work after class taking all the vital signs on a unit was not my favorite) and my plan was to graduate and leave Albany. I took a job on EN3 because of the wonderful Head Nurse, Mrs. Grace Turnbull. She remains my ideal of a compassionate caring nurse.

When Mrs. Turnbull retired I became Head Nurse. After marrying in 1971 and having my daughter in 1974, I was a float nurse, part time supervisor, Evening Supervisor, Day Supervisor and then Nursing Project Manager. One of my projects was helping plan, equip and occupy the D Building in the early 90's. That was a wonderful learning experience. Over the years I went back to school twice at Empire State College to obtain a B.S. and M.A. degree. Over time I was also manager of Registration/Reservations, worked in Risk Management and finally in Infection Control where I was thrilled to be back on the clinical units. In May 2015 I decided to join my husband of 45 years in retirement.

Every one of these positions taught me a great deal and my work at each of them was enhanced by my nursing background, the foundations learned in nursing school and my knowledge of the medical center. In addition I learned to appreciate every job at the hospital and how important it is. Reunions or writing these mailings brings back so many memories of old times and old friends.

Like Leslie I encourage all of you, in some capacity, to participate, in our organization. You can do this as a member, by attending one of our functions or by contributing to our newsletter. We love updates from all of you and so do the rest of our readers!



The Albany Medical Center
 Schools of Nursing
 Alumni Association, Inc.
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 Guilderland Center, NY 12085

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OBITUARIES

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

DECEASED	CLASS	DATE OF DEATH
Helen Rivett	1947	04/14/2017
Anna Felter	1949	03/12/2016
Lola Spalding	1951	03/21/2017
Catherine Zeitler	1953	09/2016
Virginia "Ginny" Grogan	1947	11/17/2016
Nancy Dunn	1960	10/21/2016
Karla Flegel	1962	02/13/2017
Lydia Smulsky Skiba	1962	02/15/2017
Sheryle Hosking	1965	02/04/2015
Marjorie McCabe	1968	08/15/2017
Kathryne Mays-Raymond	1972	03/28/2017

PHYSICIANS

Dr. Clifford Casey	10/8/2016
Dr. James Dougherty	11/2/2016
Dr. James Puleo	12/04/2016

Dr. Ian Porter	12/12/2016
Dr. John Balint	12/16/2016
Dr. Stanley Ball	03/19/2017

OUR SYMPATHY TO ALUMNI WHO LOST FAMILY MEMBERS THIS YEAR:

Jo Flanigan (69) husband Vince
 Mary Carey (78) mother Mary

Mary Ann Murphy (74) mother 1/18/17
 Linda Dombroski (76) father 1/6/16
 Marilyn Andrews (62) husband

We also note with sadness the passing of these longtime AMC employees

Dale Riegel 2/21/17
 Sally Weiss 11/22/16