

The Alumni Newsletter

Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

Volume 11 Issue 4

Fall 2008



The Newsletter is published to bring together members of the Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni

Nancy Vazac Jackson, President
Nvj1@nyu.edu

Suzanne Law Hawes,
Executive Director and Editor
sh631@columbia.edu

Denise Nelligan Ewing,
Administrator of Alumni Affairs

Address:
CUPHSONAA, Inc.
6 Xavier Drive, Room 314
Yonkers, NY 10704

Phone: (914) 966-3699
Fax: (914) 966-3693

E-Mail:
Alumni Association Office
info@cuphsonaa.org

Old Website Address:
www.cuphsonaa.com
As of December 1, 2008:
www.cuphsonaa.org

Use the Alumni home page to obtain information concerning:

- membership
- pensions
- sick benefits
- scholarships
- research awards
- news
- reunion

President's Message

Nancy VAZAC Jackson, '70, Ed.D, RN

I grew up in a small rural community in upstate New York before coming to Columbia University School of Nursing. Several times each year my family would drive to the Bronx to visit one set of grandparents. I recall riding along some streets with block after block of attached red brick houses that all looked alike to me, and thinking to myself, "How do people who live here find their way home? All these houses look alike!"

At the CUPHSONAA office we continue to receive letters from alumni asking which organization we are – the old or the new. It seems we look alike....

We are the original Alumni Association, started by our wise and foresighted predecessors to support the school and its alumni. We began in 1892 as indicated on our seal, and we are incorporated by the State of New York, hence the name CUPHSONAA, Inc.

For over 105 years this arrangement worked well, and our energetic, active alumni group was the envy of other Schools of Nursing. In the mid 1990's, shortly after our organization donated \$1,000,000 for an endowed Alumni chair and another \$250,000 toward the Pharmaceutical Chair, the current Dean decided to form another Alumni Association. She was unhappy with CUPHSONAA, Inc.'s unwillingness to allow her more control over this Association. The Board at the time feared that a change in the relationship would irreparably alter the work of

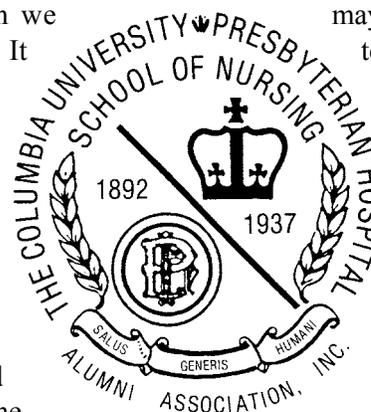
our association, with its unique mission to support the alumni and the School. Efforts at reconciliation have not been successful, in spite of numerous attempts over the last 10 years. However, we are willing to try again should the Dean and School take a more egalitarian posture in future discussions.

The Dean's new association has had multiple name changes, reunion revisions, publication and now website changes, all designed to look more like the original association. Imitation

may be the highest form of flattery, but it has its drawbacks.

It can make two organizations look alike and makes it harder for alumni know to whom they are contributing or which reunion to attend. We find this tactic unsettling as it continues to confuse all alumni and casts a shadow of doubt over us all.

Until the time comes when the two organizations can find a common understanding, please let us help you find your way home. When you see the word "original" and the "Inc." and the Seal with the date 1892 on it, you are home. Here at CUPHSONAA, Inc we continue the good work of giving scholarships and research grants to Columbia alumni, recognizing distinguished alumni, providing sick and pension benefits to members who qualify and are enjoying a growing membership. We are already planning our 2009 Reunion for **Friday April 24, 2009** and cannot wait to see you, Neighbors!



Since 1892

ANNA C. MAXWELL

Almost ninety years ago, Anna C. Maxwell marched herself up to Washington Heights to survey the twenty acres that was originally the American League Baseball Park that its owners, Mrs. Stephen V. and her son Edward S. Harkness were giving to Presbyterian Hospital for their new facility. She was scouting out a suitable home for her nursing students when the hospital moved north. She found the site she liked and Maxwell Hall was one of the first buildings to be completed.

An article in the *New York Times* in 1928 indicated that:



The Anna C. Maxwell Hall has two levels that of the entrance facing Fort Washington Avenue and that of the lower portions fronting upon Riverside Drive. From the crystal clear water of their swimming pool the student nurses may look directly into the murky stream of the Hudson.

This Maxwell Hall, by the way, is the last word in student housing. Architecturally it is beautiful. In its living quarters there is not only everything needed for health and comfort but every factor of the environment makes for the proper frame of mind in one whose profession will be to take not only skill but hope and cheerfulness and good taste into a sick room.

Each girl has a room to herself and its furniture would make almost any enthusiast for the antique admit that, after all, the reproduction may be just as beautiful as the original. Their dining room, with tables for small

congenial groups has similar distinction as to furniture and also an unbroken view of the river and the Palisades. So have their music and recreation rooms and lecture halls.

All of the book studying and some of the instruction will be in Maxwell hall, but the bulk of the work of the student nurses will be, of course, in the wards and laboratories of the hospital. Throughout the three years of her instruction each of these young women is as much a student in training for an art and profession, as she would be in a college of arts and sciences. The training of nurses is one of the newer phases of education, but it has

got far beyond that period in which the novitiate was looked upon as part maid service and part student. This new home at the Medical Centre for nurses of the future is recognition of her status.

When completed the building would house 300 students and sixty probationers, they added. There were also faculty apartments, where Anna Maxwell spent the remainder of her years.

We will shortly be celebrating the restoration of the full-length oil painting of our founder by Ellen Emmett Rand. Through a contribution made by CUPHSONAA, Inc. that restoration work has been accomplished and we are awaiting word from Presbyterian Hospital as to its hanging. Ellen Emmet Rand was quite famous, having painted portraits of other noted citizens, including Franklin Delano Roosevelt. ■

THESE ARE HARD TIMES FOR ALL OF US

With the economic downturn and decreased savings or retirement funds, it may be difficult to find extra money to help your "Neighbors."

But consider this – our new survey of pensioners include two individuals who have no Social Security at all. One added that if she didn't live with friends/relatives she would be in the "poor house." Another says that she depends upon her check to "meet her monthly obligations." Yet another has used up all of her savings and now relies on her daughter to support her. Several are receiving Medicaid assistance.

These are sad stories and, if you could view these applications to see the meager amounts of income our fellow alumni have available to try to survive, you would be amazed that they can do so. So few of our alums even ask for assistance as they are very independent and try to manage on their own. So, if you are having a tough time making ends meet, think of these graduates who now have less. Hopefully times will get better, but some do not have the luxury of longevity to wait for that to happen. ■

OUR NEW WEBSITE ...

...will be up and running as of **December 1, 2008!**

We have designed a new website where alumni can go to find out the latest alumni news, applications for benefits, membership, publications and much more. It will be interactive so that you can email us through the site, www.CUPHSONAA.org

If you would like to contribute news to the website, please forward your notes and photos to the Alumni Office at admin@cuphsonaa.org, call 914-966-3699, or fax 914-966-3693 or send print material to CUPHSONAA, Inc., 6 Xavier Drive, Yonkers NY 10704.

We hope you enjoy it.

Alumni News

**Alumni Notes deleted in online publications
to protect the privacy of the alumni.**

**Alumni Notes deleted in online publications
to protect the privacy of the alumni.**

OUR 116TH REUNION

APRIL 24, 2009

NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB

Plans are underway for the upcoming reunion on April 24, 2009 especially for classes with graduations in '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04. Alumni who just wish to have an enjoyable day with colleagues and friends in other years are also urged to attend.

This year the reunion will be held at the New York Athletic Club as the Columbia Club is undergoing extensive renovations. A bank of rooms at the NYAC will be reserved and the cost is \$200 for singles with full beds; \$345 for doubles with king beds and \$375 for doubles with two queens. The NYAC is located at 58th and Central Park South and convenient to subways, trains and parking although it is somewhat expensive.

For those coming from a distance, we have also reserved a bank of rooms at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Englewood NJ where the cost before tax is \$149 a night. The CU Medical Center uses this facility for housing out of town guests. The Hotel provides service to the City. If there are sufficient numbers, they will do door-to-door service to the NYAC with prior arrangements. They run two vans a day one in the AM and the other in the PM to both Medical Center and mid/downtown at the cost of \$20 round trip. A third alternative is the Jersey City Hyatt that is right across from the PATH. Their rates are \$225 for two; \$250 for three and \$275 for four.

If you are planning to stay in any of these facilities we would urge you to make your reservations early. NYC has become a tourist haven and rooms are booked far in advance.

We would also encourage those attending to bring whatever memorabilia you might have that would be interesting to reside in our archives. We will have a scanner there to digitalize your items to add to our holdings.

Over the years, we have found that if classmates contact other classmates it ensures more fun for those who plan to be there, as your friends will be attending as well. So why not take some time, round up those whom you would like to see and join us.

More news about the reunion will be found in the next Newsletter.

WE HAVE LOTS OF THEM

Distinguished Alumni, that is. If you just read class notes you will see the many outstanding graduates of our school in all different fields, locations and interests. Do you know someone who should be nominated for our annual Distinguished Alumni Awards?

If so, please forward the name of the alumnus to us. We need to have the application, three letters of reference and a resume to complete the process. Please submit nominee names to our office no later than February 1.

In Memoriam

1934	Madelen PATTERSON Avis	Unknown
1937	Gladys CARSON Wurst	January 11, 2002
1939	Jean FAUST Gremse	May 23, 2008.
1940	Virginia FRIEND Hennig	January 2008
1941	Dorothy HULL Cancellieri	March 7, 2008
1941	Josephine Nolan	April 22, 2008
1944	Jean FRENCH Clemens	Unknown
1946	Alice GRAHAM Berg	Unknown
1946	Joan BENTON Feeney	July 28, 2007
1947	Ruth NORTON Forsberg	Unknown
1947	Helen DAAS Sahadi	Unknown
1949	Lois BAKER Guy	February 3, 2008
1949	Olive BENN Powell	March 6, 2007
1950	Dorothy ROSS Bartholomew	December 25, 2006
1950	Ruth EAGLE Boyle	August 15, 2008
1950	R June HAGSTROM Spangler	August 31, 2007
1952	Ruth SHERWOOD Mitchell	July 1, 2008
1956	Nancy STROUSE Foster	Unknown
1962	Elizabeth LOEB	January 4, 2008
1968	Melanie BRIDGMAN Strong	May 3, 2008
1974	Dee FRICK Martinsdale	June 11, 2008
1976	Donna BOERSMEMA Jackson	July 2, 2008
1983	Janice CARTER	Unknown

1941

Sister Josephine NOLAN died April 22, 2008 at 87 years old. She grew up in the Bronx, graduated from Columbia-Presbyterian School of Nursing, and worked for years as a nurse before entering the Carmelite Monastery in 1954. She was prioress of the Carmel community in Bronx, New York for several years, but spent much of her life caring for the physical well-being of her sisters. Sister celebrated her golden jubilee of profession in Beacon on July 16, 2005.

1950

June HAGSTROM Spangler of Phoenix AZ passed away in August 2007 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in 1928 in Glen Cove NY. June and Harry were married in June 1956, in New York City. She is survived by her husband, a son, Harry Spangler, Jr. of Phoenix and daughter, Kim Spangler of San Francisco. June taught at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, earned her masters from Teachers College, and a Masters of Science in Hospital Administration, School of Public Health, Columbia University.

1968

Melanie BRIDGMAN Strong died at the Flagstaff Medical Center on May 3, 2008. Her daughter, Mary Sanchez, writes, "Most of her life was spent in New York and Connecticut being a loving mother and grandmother. She also worked very hard pursuing her career in nursing. In 2004 she retired to Williams, AZ, a place she had grown to love while visiting her daughter and grandchildren. She was a loving person. She will be missed by all who came to know and love her. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren."

1980

Sue POLZER Boote – Sue passed away November 17th, 2007 after a 12 year battle with breast cancer. She is survived by three daughters and other family members.

Save the Date
REUNION
 and
ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY
APRIL 24, 2009

DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

Over the years, many have written updates of their activities – family, professional activities and types of volunteering they have been and are doing. The Board has been impressed with the number of alumni who give significant time and energy for one cause or another, not necessarily within nursing.

The governmental push toward having more people volunteer has filtered as far down as the high school level recently. Indeed, the Columbia University School of Engineering now requires a certain number of volunteer hours for graduation.

We would like to document the contributions of our alumni to determine not only

the types of volunteerism and activities and but also the amount of time given. We suspect the total number of person hours would be enormous!

By compiling your activities we could demonstrate that volunteering can continue through one’s lifetime and in a wide variety of activities. Lets give younger people a good example by showing them that older generations are generous with their time and talents.

Of course, there are the incidental acts of volunteering that most of us do – caring for our own families, helping neighbors with figuring out health care issues, helping in neighborhood emergencies and

the like. To enumerate these would take volumes.

We would like you to respond to a survey, either by detailing your work in an email or by mailing it to the office.

It would be inspiring and fun to see the great contribution our CUPH grads have made for the betterment of society.

We would like to share the results with you in a future Newsletter.

Won’t you please take a few minutes, to complete the form below.

Thank you!

VOLUNTEERING SURVEY

Please complete this form and, while we ask that your name be attached to the form, the survey will exclude names. If you wish your volunteering activities to be listed in future publication, please check the appropriate box.

Name: _____ Class _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Location(s) and approximate hours per year of your volunteer work: (Please use additional pages if necessary)

The activity that gave you the greatest satisfaction and reason why:

The Event that you most remember while volunteering:

Thank you. (Tear off this page, fold with the large CUPHSONAA, Inc. return address showing, tape and mail back to us OR e-mail your responses to admin@cuphsonaa.org).

From _____

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

CUPHSONAA, Inc.
6 Xavier Drive, Room 314
Yonkers, NY 10704

*We look forward to your response to our Volunteer Survey on page 7.
Tear off this sheet, fold page with the above address showing, tape to keep closed, and mail your survey back to us
OR e-mail your responses to admin@cuphsonaa.org
THANK YOU!*

CUPHSONAA, Inc.
6 Xavier Drive, Room 314
Yonkers, NY 10704

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
NEW YORK, NY
Permit No. 4108



Since 1892