

The Alumni Newsletter

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

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

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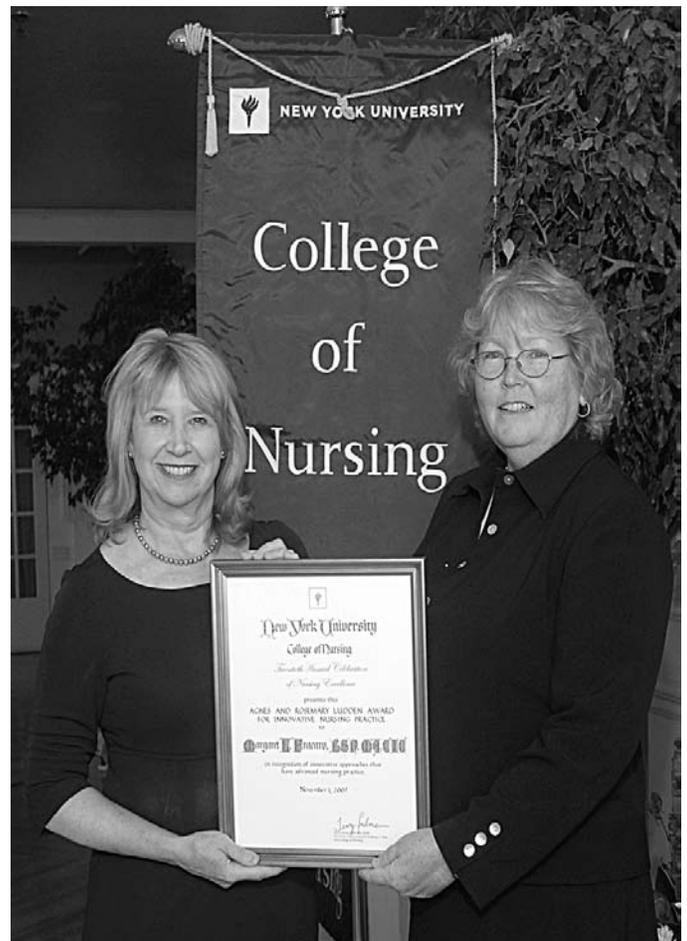
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www.cuphsonaa.com

Use the Alumni home page to
obtain information concerning:

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

Margaret L. Fracaro, '70 Receives Award for Innovative Practice

Margaret L. FRACARO, '70, was recognized for excellence in nursing at an awards ceremony held at the College of Nursing, New York University on November 1, 2007. Fracaro received the Agnes and Rosemary Ludden Award for Innovative Practice at the college's Twentieth Annual Celebration of Nursing Excellence. She was recognized for creating new approaches to quality patient care, for evolving professional standards for nurses, and for promoting practice through nursing science. Employed at the New York Presbyterian Hospital as the Patient Care Director for the Department of Epidemiology at both the Columbia and Cornell campuses, Fracaro's expertise in infection control makes her a valuable member of several hospital committees. She is a member of the Environment of Care Council, Clean Hospital Steering Committee and Water Safety Committee. Her expertise has been sought at the statewide level as well. She co-chairs the Infection Control Council of the New York – Presbyterian Healthcare System. Fracaro has developed creative ways to improve staff compliance with JCAHO infection control measures, which range from new policy on cleaning of instruments to a recent pilot project designed to improve hand-washing behavior in all levels of staff. Fracaro is a past president of the Alumni Association and remains an active member of our Board of Directors.



Margaret L. Fracaro, '70 receiving the Agnes and Rosemary Ludden Award for Innovative Practice from Nancy Vazac Jackson, '70 at the NYU Twentieth Annual Celebration of Nursing Excellence.

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

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

Whenever I speak with Columbia Nursing Alumni, I am struck by the pride they express in having been the beneficiaries of such an extraordinary education. This seems to hold true whether they are still actively engaged in the profession of nursing or have moved on to some seemingly unrelated area of interest. At our annual reunions we often informally poll those attending and ask the typical questions: who traveled the furthest, who has the most grandchildren, and in what kind of nursing positions are alumni working. Often alumni will volunteer that they "left" nursing and now work in real estate, or office management, or law, but they almost always add, "I still use my nursing communication skills, interviewing skills and time management skills that I learned in nursing school. They have helped me succeed in my new field." It seems that the Columbia nursing education maintains its value over time.

Our annual reunion is a wonderful time to reminisce about just what was so special about those years. We have made a few changes for this year's April 25th event – a new "look" for our invitation, a new venue, and a slightly different format to give more time for the sharing of old memories. We will retain our custom of having a dynamic keynote speaker – this year former Board member Peggy McEvoy '60 will share her work with Women and AIDS in the Caribbean. As usual, we will have a major focus on our 50th Reunion class – but other reunion classes are gathering too. If you want to find out who from your class will be attending, or you want to urge your classmates to attend, you can contact our administrator Denise Ewing at 914-966-3699 or cuphsonaa@aol.com.

We are asking that reunion attendees bring along old photos and memorabilia from their years at nursing school. Our office has received a few calls about the nursing uniforms and black stockings in the current film "Atonement", which evoke memories of our old "probie" uniforms. Any photos of those? Bring them to reunion! We welcome all alumni to gather at our annual "reminiscathon."

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

cordially invites you to join us

for our

115th ANNUAL MEETING & REUNION

on FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

at PRINCETON/COLUMBIA CLUB

15 West 43rd Street (Between 5th & 6th Avenues), New York, New York

Special Recognition to Classes ending in 3 and 8

Nursing Pins

Thank you to all the Alumni who sent us their nursing pins or let us know they would be willing to pass their pins along to nurses who have lost theirs. The recipients are so thankful. One alumnus wrote, "I cried when I received the package. I'm looking forward to writing to the donor to tell her about all the nursing adventures still in store for her pin."



Please contact the Alumni Office if you would be willing to "recycle" your pin. (914) 966-3699.

Call for a New Editor

By Debra R. Hanna, '81

In May, 2008 when my term of service on the Board of Directors ends, I will also step down from my duties as editor of the *Alumni Newsletter* and the *Alumni Magazine*. For someone who wants to assist the good work accomplished by our alumni association and who likes to write, being the next editor might be just the right thing to do. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Denise Ewing at the alumni association office by calling 914-966-3699 or by e-mailing Denise Ewing at cuphsonaa@aol.com

Alumni News

**Alumni Notes deleted in online publications
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In Memoriam

Roberta (Bobbi) WILLIAMSON Kennedy '34	February, 2007
Ruth EPHRAIMSON Nelson '40	October 7, 2007
Ethel RYAN Long '43	February, 2007
Jean MAHONEY Balassone '53	January 29, 2008
Elizabeth LOEB '62	January 4, 2008
Mary BARNETT Starr '68	November 7 2007

Ruth EPHRAIMSON Nelson '40 Elizabeth Nelson wrote, "I am sorry to inform you that Ruth Ephraimson Nelson died on October 7, 2007."

Ethel RYAN Long '43 -- Her daughter Judie Apicella Champie wrote: "mother, Ethel Long, was one of three Columbia Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing grads who lived at Terwilliger in Portland, Oregon. Sadly, mother and **Roberta (Bobbi) WILLIAMSON Kennedy '34**, one of the other grads who lived at Terwilliger, died within days of each other in February, 2007. Ethel was always proud of her education at Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital. She was amazed at the new advances in medicine. Some of her training allowed her to view 'new' techniques of treatment and diagnostics by outstanding physicians. Imagine her delight to see those physicians names used for techniques in use today! Congestive heart failure very quickly ended Ethel's life. She was 86 years young."

Jean MAHONEY Balassone '53 passed away January 29, 2008. She was a nursing instructor at CUPH, Vassar Brothers Hospital, and Dutchess Community Hospital in Poughkeepsie. She retired in 1985. She was married to Anthony Balassone in 1957. He predeceased her in 2000.

Elizabeth LOEB '62 died on January 4, 2008. "The Department of Medicine and the division of Endocrinology of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University deeply regret the passing of Betsy Loeb, beloved sister of our esteemed faculty member, Professor John N. Loeb and daughter of the late Chair of the Department, Professor Robert F. Loeb. Betsy Loeb was a consummate nurse clinician whose professional skills and human kindness surpassed all standards of excellence."

Mary BARNETT Starr '68 -- "Beloved wife, mother, sister, daughter, child of God, died Thursday, November 7, 2007, at her home in Devon, PA from pancreatic cancer. She was 60. Born in New York City, NY to Arthur and Elizabeth Barnett, she was raised in Kenya, Congo, and Tanzania. She attended Wheaton College in Illinois and Columbia University in New York. In 1969 she married Robert M. Starr. A gifted educator and compassionate and skilled nurse, she taught nursing students for over 20 years, most recently as a faculty member at West Chester University. She is survived by her husband, Robert, three children, Adam, Geoffrey, and Whitney, her father and her brother William Barnett. A memorial service was held Friday, November 16, 2007 at Wayne Presbyterian Church in Wayne, PA.

**Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital
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WE'D LIKE TO KNOW

We would appreciate information concerning your professional and/or personal life for our files and for publication in the Alumni Magazine. Please mail or e-mail a current photograph. Our e-mail address is: cuphsonaa@aol.com

Current Name _____

Name at Graduation _____ Class _____

Husband's/Wife's Name _____
(Indicate whether Dr./Mr./The Rev., etc.)

Home Address _____
(Number) (Street)

(City) (State) (Zip) Check here if new

Current Employer _____
(Position) (Institution) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail _____ Phone _____

We invite you to become a member of the Alumni Association: _____ \$25.00 Enclosed.

PERSONAL NEWS: Weddings, births, adoptions, community activities, news of your family

PROFESSIONAL NEWS: Promotions, appointments, papers published or delivered, new ideas implemented

A Few Choice Words: On Economy

By Debra R. Hanna, '81

Extravagance is, under all circumstances, to be deplored, but in the hospital where money is given with the expectation that it is to be utilized to the fullest extent for the benefit of the sick, and in homes where the necessary expenses of illness are sorely felt, it is a crime.

Excerpt quoted from: *Practical Nursing: A Textbook for Nurses*, p. 11, Written by Anna C. Maxwell and Amy E. Pope, Published in 1907, by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York

Anna C. Maxwell did not mince words. Given her view of judicious use of money contributed by benefactors, one wonders how to think about money contributed to hospitals and other health care organizations today. Contributions are made to advance health care in several ways. Some individuals contribute money to provide care for people who are unable to pay their own bills. These heroes are usually anonymous donors whose pooled contributions pay bills that some people can't manage given the high cost of care. Our alumni are in this category of pooled donors helping their neighbors pay bills that are beyond limited retirement incomes. It seems that this collective work of our Alumni Association would give Anna C. Maxwell a great deal of comfort.

Some contributions come from private foundations in the form of grants for research that will improve care. Grant money is not easy to obtain, and it is frequently given more generously to physicians than to nurse investigators. Yet, we have many illustrious nurse scholars among our alumni who have obtained federal and foundation funding for research that has helped to improve health care, particularly nursing care. Each year our Alumni Association allocates a portion of its funds for research studies to be conducted by CUPHSONAA graduates. The applications for research proposals are accepted each March and awards of funds are made at the annual reunion meeting.

Every now and then, grateful patients write a statement into their last will and testament to leave portions of their estates to the hospital or the people who provided care when they were ill. Our Association has also been a recipient of such generous funds. We put those gifts to good use by helping our alumni who are in need and by providing scholarships for nursing students.



Anna Maxwell - 1910

Our Association carefully weighs and considers all the requests it receives. When applicants do not meet requirements for funds, but the need is urgent, we seek ways to make funds available so that no alumnus in need would ever be turned away. In keeping with the spirit of common sense and charity that we were taught, we have been prudent, yet generous in giving the money we've received to those for whom 'the necessary expense of illness is sorely felt.' The spirit that animated Anna C. Maxwell to write her thoughts about how contributions of money should be used continues to guide the Alumni Association. We hope we will continue in perpetuity the work of Anna C. Maxwell's goodness imbued with her same spirit of joyful charity and ineffable wisdom.

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