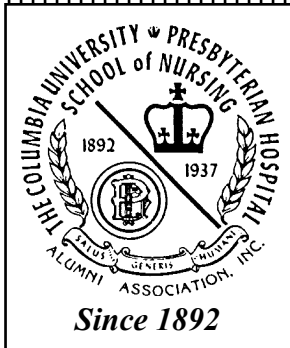


# The Alumni Newsletter

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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*Use the Alumni home page to  
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- profiles
- membership
- pensions
- sick benefits
- scholarships
- research awards
- news

## GREETINGS from your new Alumni Association

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



It is my pleasure to assume the presidency of our 110 year old Association. Like so many of you, I entered nursing school as a young person with vague ideas about what embarking on a career in nursing would mean for me. I wanted to “do good”, help people and be a part of something bigger than the world in which I had grown up. Well, I came to the right place.

The education and introduction to the world of nursing and health care that I experienced at Columbia has taken me on a fulfilling journey as I have worked in a variety of nursing positions since my 1970 graduation. Community health, maternal-child health, direct patient care and academia have been the focus of my career, all guided by the strong foundation in nursing that I learned in classrooms and clinical settings of what was then known as Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

When I was asked to join the Board of the Alumni Association about nine years ago, it was a given that I would agree. The opportunity to give back to an organization that has such a rich history of supporting our school, alumni and nursing was impossible to turn down. In addition, being on the Board has given me contact with many wonderful graduates who share their time and expertise serving for the benefit of our Association.

Clearly, the work of our Association resonates with so many of you, our graduates. While we have not yet been able to resolve conflicts with the “new” alumni group, our efforts to fulfill our Association’s mission to support our alumni and promote nursing continues unabated. Scholarship money is distributed to deserving alums, “pensions” and sick benefits are dispersed, and our annual reunions are a time to reminisce with old friends, make new ones and feel good about a well-chosen profession.

I encourage you to become a more active member in our Association – re-connect with your past, see its relevance to your present and future. Join us!

# NEIGHBORLINESS

*Suzanne LAW Hawes, '59, EdD, RN,*

*Just a few short months ago, the call went out to our loyal alumni to share in our work of helping our fellow alumni, be they student, pensioner or someone who has fallen on hard times, health-wise.*

*The response has been wonderful! So far, we have received thousands to augment our pension and scholarship funds! In addition, our membership is increasing, demonstrating to us that this Association is still important to you. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for caring.*

*To demonstrate how much this has helped, read what our alumni say about the help they have received:*

## **Hester BROWN Hill'40**

writes: After 20 years working at the Veterans Hospital, and working with Vietnam Veterans, I retired. My daughter, Marilyn, also an RN was ill with breast cancer and I wanted to take care of her. To my great sorrow, Marilyn died. My other daughter, Stephany also a nurse, now cares for me. During my life I did not spend my earnings on smoking or parties, but I did make several trips to my home in Nanchang, Xangst Province, China. Stephany arranged for the sale of my home and I now reside at Orchard Hills Manor, an assisted living facility where they take very good care of me. My present assets should see me all the way; right now I am not rich, but I am not poor either. It is a comfort to know that you (the Alumni Association) are interested in my situation and that my friends and classmates are too.



**Jane LINDSAY Gatling:** Just to let you know my mom died a few weeks ago at the age of 86. She loved her days at Columbia and in fact I think the last check she wrote was to the Alumni Association. Her acceptance letter from Columbia was also a hoot (“be prepared to be sent home”).

Suzi Godwin.

## **Marjorie NORCOM**

**Cron'42** writes: Dear Columbia Presbyterian Graduates – I am happy to have been so blessed by the wisdom and compassion of the “old school” nurses who lit our way to the art, science and compassion that marked that era. I have been given medical funds, receive pension checks and have been the guest at a Reunion recently. (A very fond remembrance.) I cannot

resist telling you how grateful I am that these benefits exist. They not only make life a little easier but remind us of our commitment and love for our School and those who are our kind of nurses. Again, thank you for your sacrifice and dedication to our cause. With deepest affection.

*The stock market has been good to us this year and we have continued to work toward reduction of our expenses so more money will be available in the future for those in need.*

*Despite the impasse between our Association and the School, one thing is guaranteed now and in the future – our Neighbors will continue to receive the assistance they need.*

*Please, if you have a classmate whom you believe would benefit from our help, have them get in touch with us or let us know and we will contact them for particulars. The money is there as is the need. We only need to get them connected.*





## Preparing for the Thirty-First Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards

All alumni are being asked to nominate eligible candidates for the Distinguished Alumni Awards. These awards will be presented at our Annual Spring Alumni Meeting and Reunion, which will be held on April 25, 2008, at the Princeton/Columbia Club located at 15 West 43rd Street (Between 5th and 6th Avenue), New York, NY 10036.

Alumni may nominate more than one candidate; self-nominations are also welcomed. Awards that are given to alumni include the following:

1. Award for a Distinguished Career in Nursing: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has had a distinguished career in nursing and meets all the criteria in at least two or more of the following categories: Nursing Education, Nursing Practice, Nursing Administration, Nursing Research, Health Policy:

- a. Award for Nursing Education: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing education and professional development.
- b. Award for Nursing Practice: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing practice.
- c. Award for Nursing Administration: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing administration.
- d. Award for Nursing Research: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in nursing research.
- e. Award for Health Policy: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited excellence in health policy.

2. Neighbor's Award: to recognize and honor a nurse alumnus who has exhibited outstanding humanitarian service.

3. Memoriam for Life-Time Achievement: to recognize and honor a deceased nurse alumnus for life-time achievement in nursing.

An Honorary Award for Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association is provided to recognize an individual or organization.

Nominations must be submitted by e-mail, phone call, or FAX to the Alumni Association office by February 1, 2008.

## A Few Choice Words . . . on Truthfulness

*Debra R. Hanna, '81, RN, PhD*

*It must be borne in mind that in nursing truthfulness takes on a very broad meaning. There, it means not only an unwillingness to tell a downright untruth, but also the possession of an honesty of purpose that will lead to the frank acknowledgement of an error and the prompt confession of anything that has been left undone. (Maxwell and Pope, 1907, p. 14*

Truthfulness was a quality that Anna Caroline Maxwell believed should be found in the character of every nurse. The words above have been excerpted from the textbook she wrote 100 years ago with her colleague, Amy Elizabeth Pope, entitled *Practical Nursing: A Textbook for Nurses*. Many of the nursing interventions they recommend in that book have since fallen out of favor. Some interventions such as poultices might even strike us as quaint approaches to care. Yet, Miss Maxwell's first chapter about the qualifications and integrity of nurses remains valid and useful. Her statement about truthfulness would help potential nurses understand the types of demands that are placed on nurses today.

In this era of evidence-based practice, it would seem that "truth" is a sure foundation of our knowledge and of our actions. Yet, statistics can be manipulated so that 'evidence-based' knowledge becomes eroded by erroneous readings of "truth."

In Miss Maxwell's view, truthfulness is a personal quality that nurses of integrity possess in order to carry out their work. Is it possible that the explosion of knowledge and 'evidence' has overshadowed personal virtues that were once so valued by our nursing leaders? Those of us who were imbued with truthfulness during our years at Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing do not bend very easily to equivocal versions of the truth. Rather, the health of all humanity demands and receives a higher standard of excellence when nursing is imbued with truthfulness.

### WANTED

We want your narratives about places you work, innovations you have observed or helped to develop, commentary on changes in nursing and health care and Op-Ed opinion pieces. The Alumni Magazine is replete with articles such as nursing in Japan in 1910, doing tenement work (public health nursing) in NYC in the 1920's, etc. We all like to continue to learn about health and nursing. Please contribute your articles

## CAN YOU PASS THIS TEST?

*Remember, you have only a thermometer to support your answers – no labs or MRI's to guide you in your decision!*

1. Give the constitutional symptoms of severe concealed or internal hemorrhage.
2. State the character of each of the following wounds: contused, incised, punctured.
3. Why is the newborn put to the breast soon after birth when milk is not secreted until the third day?
4. Describe the proper nursing care of a case of purulent ophthalmia (pediatrics)
5. What hygienic conditions of the sick room may cause headache and restlessness?
6. Give the names of six bones of the body and tell where each is situated.
7. Describe the course of blood through the heart.
8. Give a brief description of the brain.
9. State the food value of green vegetables.
10. What changes in diet should be made in advanced years? Why?

In a practical examination, you are asked to:

- a. Prepare the bed for a slush bath with a patient in it.
  - b. Make and apply flax-seed poultice to a calf of leg.
  - c. Prepare a bed for patient with heart disease and general dropsy.
- If you haven't guessed already, these were some of the questions for licensure in the State of New York in 1909. It was given over a five-day period, with written and oral questions in the morning and practical examination at other times. You would be asked to answer ten of the fifteen questions posed and each complete answer was given 10 credits; total acceptance was 75 per section: Materia medica; Surgery; Bacteriology; Obstetric Nursing; Nursing of Children; Medical Nursing; Anatomy and physiology; Diet cooking and the practical examinations.

*Much of the questioning had to do with infectious disease and care of patients in the home/private duty, namely TB, influenza, early childhood diseases and mother and baby care.*

*How far we have come in science and knowledge! Compare this now to our current board examinations!*

### Can You Donate Your Yearbook or School Pin?

The Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. is seeking a complete set of school yearbooks. Would you be willing to donate yours? At present, we are missing yearbooks before 1945 (if there were any), 1952, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1967, 1972, 1986, 1990 and thereafter.

A few graduates have had their nursing pins lost, stolen or damaged and can no longer replace them. If you no longer use your pin, would you be willing to donate yours to someone in need? Please call Denise Ewing at the alumni office: 1-914-966-3699 or email her at CUPHSONAA@aol.com.

## BOARD ACTIONS

Mary Ann Jonaitis '77, Ed.D, RN, Nurse Nutritionist and Diabetes Educator at the Columbia University Medical Center has joined the Board of Directors.

The Scholarship Committee is seeking applications for this year's cycle of awards. To be eligible you must be a graduate of the School of Nursing; you need not attend Columbia University's School of Nursing to receive an award, just as long as you are attending a degree-granting and accredited nursing program.

Denise Nelligan Ewing has joined our Association as the new Administrator. Denise has both bachelors and masters' degrees and has taught in several institutions of higher education. Welcome Denise.

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