

Alumni Board Members

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Dean of Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing

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www.sphp.com/samaritan-hospital-school-of-nursing-alumni-association

Samaritan Hospital
School of Nursing

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From the Desk of the Vice President

Here we are in 2025! Let us think back on our nursing careers and marvel at the changes that we have seen. Whether you have been out one year, five years, twenty or forty years, changes continue to evolve the nursing profession. Adapting to change as well as continually developing our knowledge is one of the primary focuses of our chosen profession.

Where has your career path brought you? Are you still bedside? Do you specialize? Did you further your education? Do you keep in touch with class mates? These are all questions that the Alumni association would love to hear the answers to. The Alumni association wants to be an active part of all the graduates as well as the current students. Classmates and study groups form connections that can last a life time. Become an active member of our Alumni association and maintain those ties to your comrades.

I challenge each one of you to join and to encourage your classmates to join. Enjoy the dinners twice a year. Share your work experience with us. Share your life current events. Utilize the resources that our association has to advance your career pathway. Let's start a friendly competition by seeing which class has the highest number of active members.

Let us know how we can encourage and improve active participation. As I have said before, membership to our alumni association is networking and friendship. We welcome new ideas. We want to be there for our current alumni as well as our students. Please reach out to us and let us know what we can do to meet your needs.

I hope this inspires everyone to reach out to their classmates and persuade them to become active dues paying members.

Respectfully,

Ellen Nicpon '08

Bits and Pieces

Spring/Summer 2025

Name '55 wri

Condolences

As of now there are no condolences to report. If anyone knows of an Alumnus who has passed recently or a family member of an alumnus please let someone on the Board so that this can be passed on. Thank you.

Welsh Fund

Please consider applying for the Welsh Fund if you have experienced an illness or injury. Applications can be found online through the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing website.

Eight Annual applications were sent out, and two applications were received.

No other applications were received.

Disbursement = 2 Gift Checks \$150.00 each

– Valerie Falzo RN '71, Chairperson

Sheldon Fund

2024 Award: 1 applicant \$175 award given

The Sheldon Fund was established in 1986 through a gift from Doris Sheldon Collins and her husband, Robert Collins to the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Charitable Foundation. The fund was created to provide financial assistance based on need to graduates of and others associated with the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing in their retired or mature years. The intent is to help those with limited resources to enjoy a fuller life, particularly when they are no longer gainfully employed.

Awards from the fund for medical reasons are based on need and are not restricted in duration or amount, and must be accompanied with a physician's statement attached to the Sheldon Fund Application form. If an award is made for specific purchases (ie. medical devices, prostheses, medication etc.), copies of receipts must also accompany an application. The Alumni's Sheldon Committee meets bi-annually to review applications, maintain confidence over the information received, and make awards.

From the Deans Desk



Happy New Year Alumni!
We ended the 2024 academic year on a very good note at the school of nursing. We graduated 48 associate degree nursing students and 12 practical nurse certificate students. I am pleased to share that our 2024 first-time NCLEX pass rates for both programs are strong and remain well above the state and national averages. This is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our faculty. I am thankful for them.

	Practical Nurse Graduates		Registered Nurse Graduates	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing	87.5%*	100%	83.9%	97%
NYS Average	83.8%	85.22%	83.6%	87.5%
National Average	86.6%	88.38%	87.7%	91%

*The first-time pass rate for the practical nurse graduates of 2023 is 100%. The 2023 rate reflects both these students and students from prior cohorts who tested in 2023.

Fall student activities included administering flu vaccines with the Flu Buggy, volunteering at the community Trunk or Treat at Samaritan hospital and hosting a visit from the Nurse's Middle College charter school students. There has been renewed interest in our Student Government Association (SGA) and we look forward to more student community activities.

As we entered the new year and moved into the spring semester, we welcomed 25 new associate degree students. They are settling in and participated in their first clinical practice experience last week. Our graduating cohort is excited, and we are beginning to make plans to celebrate them. In March we are planning a recruitment luncheon in the hopes of retaining them as colleagues within St. Peter's Health Partners.

We continue to focus on increasing enrollment at the school. In the last newsletter I shared that with grant funding we will be expanding enrollment in our practical nurse certificate program. This includes both increasing enrollment on the Samaritan campus and beginning a satellite cohort in Schenectady. We have added a recruiter to our student services staff to help us achieve this goal.

In addition to the many grants and scholarships that we offer students, we are excited to participate in the Iroquois Caring Gene Grant. This grant will cover 100% of tuition and textbooks for qualifying students. We are hopeful that this grant will provide an opportunity for students who could not otherwise afford a nursing education.

Prior to Covid our Library staff had been working on the process of digitalizing alumni class photos. I am happy to share that we will be resuming this process and hope to have a link to the photos on our web page in the future.

Even though the ground hog saw his shadow, spring is coming, and I look forward to seeing you all at the annual alumni banquet this spring!

Kindly,

Vicki Callagan EdD RN '82



Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Spring Dinner Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 13th, 2025

Where: Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante,
104 West Sand Lake Road, (Rt 150),
Wynantskill, NY

Time: 5:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Anne Lamora,
Nurse Chairperson of the
Capitol Region Nurses Honor Guard

Topic: The purpose of the Nurse Honor Guard

Program: 5:00 PM gathering (Cash Bar)

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Alumni/Foundation Meeting

Dinner Choices: Fried Breaded Breast of Chicken (with
broccoli in a lemon butter sauce)
Tender Cubes of Veal (simmered in marina
sauce with red and green peppers)
Eggplant Rollatini (with ricotta and
spinach baked in a marina sauce)

Leora E. Belknap Scholarship Fund:

There is still time to apply for the Belknap Scholarship while pursuing your Baccalaureate or Masters degree.

Currently there are no applicants.

The **Leona E. Belknap Scholarship Fund** was created in 1991 as scholarship assistance for a Samaritan Graduate of the RN program of Samaritan Hospital SON who is matriculating into a Master's Level program in nursing. If you are presently an active member of the Samaritan Hospital SON Alumni Association and matriculated into a graduate level nursing program you may be eligible.

This is annually disbursed in December of each year.

Annual Alumni dues must be paid by February to be considered for the scholarship.

Scholarship rules and Applications can be found on the Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing website.

<https://www.sphp.com>careers>School of Nursing>Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing>Alumni Association>.

Donations to the Belknap Fund are always welcome.

– Felisha Rogers, Belknap Chair

Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please return reservation with \$20.00 (member) or \$25.00 (non-member) with the fee payable to Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc by Thursday, May 4, 2025.

If you are a student and have an interest in attending, there is a fee of \$10 per person.

Mail to:

Claudia Graham, 1 Bridge Rd., Menands, NY 12204

All reservations must be honored. If a cancellation is required, please contact Claudia Graham at Claudia.Graham@sphp.com. If anyone has a topic they would like to see presented at an Alumni meeting, please contact Claudia Graham or a Board Member.

Print Name: _____ Class: _____

Student's Name: _____

_____ Chicken _____ Veal _____ Eggplant

 Samaritan Hospital
School of Nursing
Alumni Association, Inc.

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Albany, NY 12208-1771

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Caption

The William F. and Josephine H. Seber Scholarship Fund

Fall 2024: 3 applicants, \$325.00 awards given.
Spring 2025: 5 applicants, \$250 awards given.

Members must be matriculated into a nursing program.

Applications must be received by the Seber Fund Committee at least one month prior to the beginning of the semester. You must reapply every semester.

Awards will be given out at the end of the semester. Lifetime total award is \$2,500.

Applications may be obtained from the financial aid officer at the School of Nursing or downloaded from the Alumni/school website.

Please see our website rules and application form:

[https://www.sphp.com>careers>School of Nursing> Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing> Alumni Association.](https://www.sphp.com/careers/School%20of%20Nursing/Samaritan%20Hospital%20School%20of%20Nursing/Alumni%20Association)

Donations to the Seber Fund are always welcome.

– Claudia Graham, Treasurer and Seber Chair