



Summer 2021

# alumni*news*

St. Joseph's College of Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center



Rebekah Parsons ('97) is the nurse manager at a VA community clinic in Sanford, NC.

Due to COVID, Rebekah lived the adage, "all hands on deck" for many months — to keep all the veterans and staff safe. This included performing many daily tasks she didn't usually do pre-pandemic.

Rebekah received her MSN from UNC Wilmington, also during the past year.

## Frances (Kotowicz) Sojka '47

Lives in a catholic Senior Living Community, enjoy bridge, bowling and board games. Thankful for family and friends still that visit.

## Paula (Ryan) Fethco '61

Still in San Diego, CA – recently paid a visit to fellow classmate Mary Gallivan.

## Marjorie (Jacob) Miller '63

Our son Eric Miller DO FACS FACOS is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Liberty University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lynchburg, VA.

## Pat (Scofield) Talarico '66

Still working, almost 60 years since being dropped off at Francis Hall.

## Mary Anne (Hall) Johnson '66

3 Generations of St. Joseph's Nurses, Mother – Mary Anne Johnson '66, Melanie Bixby – daughter '92, Erica Weeks – granddaughter '20.

## Ruth (McClelland) McInerney '66

Celebrated 50th wedding anniversary in August 2019.

## Anita (Petrangelo) Rowe '66

Retiring as Elementary School Nurse in June 2020.

## Susan Denman '70

Retired from teaching, still PT FNP looking forward to 50th class reunion.

## Joan (Steinkirchner) Carpenter '70

Retired in 2016. 3 grandbabies that I help take care of as needed as well as caring for my 97 year old mother!

## Marlene Maloney '70

50th wedding anniversary.

## Mary (Ford) Rowand '70

Retired from SON after 17 years – 50th Anniversary – enjoying family!

## Susan Gugisberg '71

Retired living in MN.

## Mary Sherman '73

Still working at the VA clinic – veteran caring for veterans.

## Katherine (Losier) Williams '73

Retired and loving the grandkids.

## Gail (Bundy) Cerio '75

Retired from 5-1 postpartum, have 2 grandchildren.

## Donna (Reed) Hussar '75

Still full time at Highland Hospital for entire career of 45 years. I love it, the people are great. I love my patients, being "old school" and I love teaching the new kids the art of nursing.

## Frances (Maroney) Mahany '75

Retired in 2019 – traveling with husband in RV!

## Maureen (Hickey) Oeters '76

Enjoying retirement from OR nursing and from husband's tour boat as Bartender. Enjoying travel and grandkids.

## Suzanne (Patricia) Salvatore '76

Retired, loving the grandkids living in Atlanta.

## Susan (Hierholzer) Busco '79

Two granddaughters born at SJHHC during COVID Pandemic.

## Judith (Jones) Masters '79

First time grandparent.

## Kathy (Stopyro) Whitehead '79

Retired NP from Upstate – now living in the ADK.

## Mary (Buckley) Wickett '79

Retired from UCSD – walking the beach.

## Mary Ann (Roberts) Carr '80

Promoted to Clinical Manager of St. Joseph's Health, Cardiopulmonary Rehab.

## Betsy (Teelon) Palmer '82

Working as a Nurse Educator for infusion company. Enjoying grandkids.

## Cathy (Libera) Garwood '83

Fond memories of St. Joseph's SON and so proud to be an Alumni of such a fabulous school.

## Leah (Simmons) Frye '97

Teaching Intro to Nursing at West Potomac Academy in Alexandria, VA.

## Deborah (Prockup) Hall '97

Celebrated 25 years at St. Joseph's Hospital 12/2019.

## Jennifer (Austin) Cerio '07

Obtained CNE also was married, now Jennifer Cerio.

## Sarah Markowitz '10

Completed BSN at Keuka June 2020.



## Captain Tiffany LaMarca '10

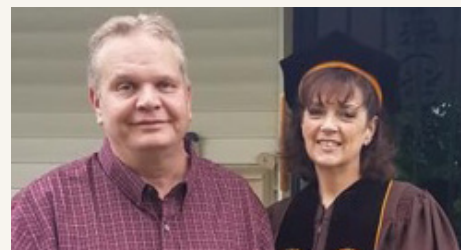
A US Army reservist, she has been with the military since 2012 and is a FNP and nursing educator. She indicates, "It has been my greatest honor to serve my country". Thank you for your service, Tiffany!

## Deborah (Silverman) Hurst '13

Proud to be Clinical Manager at Upstate and also hold the office of co-chair of Nursing Congress.

## Kim (Hayes) Mowers '15

Now working at the VA in new program "Hospital in Home" – fourth in nation to have program.



## Jacqueline (Compo) Johnston, Class of 1986 and her husband Michael.

Jacqueline defended her dissertation and earned her PhD November of 2018. She is an Assistant Professor in undergrad nursing and graduate Nurse Practitioner program at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York.

## Remembering Helen Kennedy Byron, Class of 1942

Helen Kennedy Byron died May 14, 2020, the last member of St. Joseph's class of 1942. A delightful person, with snow white hair and a contagious smile, Helen was all things St. Joseph's. She loved her family, her church, her community and her country.

Helen graduated during the early war years and, in 1944, enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps, serving in France. She was discharged in 1946, returned to Syracuse and worked at Syracuse General Hospital where she met, and later married, Francis Byron.

As is the case for most nurses, her life was a busy one. She worked part-time at St. Joseph's – first in ED, then with Kate Conroy on 2F. She was a mother to three, the neighborhood nurse and a prolific volunteer, continuing her volunteer services at Van Duyn and in the Diocesan Archives well into her retirement years.

But, of all the things Helen was, she was a St. Joseph's nurse. She was a thoughtful, caring, empathetic woman, a loyal friend who maintained her ties with her classmates and the school for the rest of her life. Helen attended the Alumni gatherings every year, including her 75th anniversary Alumni Brunch in 2017. For many, seeing Helen at these gatherings was a highlight of the day.



Helen (Kennedy) Byron (left) and Mary (Fiumano) Dobbins about 2012

Her friendship, her stories, her wonderful laughter were, and are, memories to be cherished.

Helen Byron was 99. In researching the archives for a picture of Helen, we found several from different alumni brunches over the years. It was noted the same person was always sitting next to her. It turns out her good friend and fellow World War II veteran Mary (Fiumano) Dobbins was the other alum who liked to attend the brunches with Helen. Two faithful and beloved alumni!



Regina McGraw, JD, RN,  
General Counsel, St. Joseph's Health  
Commencement Speaker, January 2020

**Alt, Marilyn J. (Roesser) '67**

In memory of Joanne Ros '67

**Austin, Mary C. (Dwyer) '47**

**Barry, Rosemary (Murphy) '71**

**Beecher, Patricia R. (Marmion) '65**

In memory of Cheryl Fauasuli O'Brien Class of '65

**Bono, Barbara J. (Fisher) '71**

**Brennan, Mary T. '57**

In memory of Sr. Mary Sheila Daly, '42

**Broad, Beverly A. (Dorschel) '63**

In memory of Laurie Dorschel

**Brown, Beth M. (Montalto) '03**

In memory of Kathleen Proulx

**Burkhardt, Theresa M. (Groth) '68**

In memory of Mary Elizabeth (Kelly) Trendell,  
Class of '68

**Carocci, Mary A. (Sauro) '69**

In memory of Chris and Gregorina Sauro

**Carr, Mary Ann (Roberts) '80**

In memory of Matthew W. Carr '81

**Cerio, Jennifer Anne (Austin) '07**

**Chapman, Robert T. '93**

In memory of his Mother, Mary Ellen Chapman

**Clancy, Kathryn A. '65**

**Clark, Dianne Susan '05**

**Connelly, Joan I. (Wooton) '63**

In memory of Catherine Smith

**Cronin, Courtney Rae (Sandle) '01**

**Cullen, Joan C. (Giordano) '56**

In memory of husband, Jerry Cullen

**Cusano, Kathy J. (Millberg) '70**

**Damico, Kathleen M. (Moher) '69**

In memory of Ellen Meyer (Schaub) '69

**Desimone, Shirley A. (Dingledein) '55**

In memory of Armand C. Desimone

**Dickinson, Natalie N. '51**

**Dixon, Katherine Lindsey (Palmer) '09**

**diGiovanna, Patricia J. (Moran) '82**

**Drea, Patricia E. '69**

**Dwyer, Carolyn M. (DeCoursey) '67**

In memory of John and Arlene DeCoursey

**Engelhardt, Joanne (Puderbaugh) '71**

**Fetcho, Paula M. (Ryan) '61**

In memory of Antoinette "Toni" Belmont '61,  
Date of Death 11/22/19

**Fitzgerald, Cecelia Elizabeth (Huzar) '62**

Class of '62

**Foster, Melody A. (Traino) '67**

Class of '67 Alumni sent nice note along with a  
donation to treat the nurses during the COVID  
pandemic

**Fuhr, Erika B. (Benz) '59**

**Fyles, Patricia A. (O'Connell) '69**

In honor of Class of '69

**Gaetano, Sandra E. (Novek) '75**

**Galek, Rose M. (Karpinski) '62**

Class of '62

**Garwood, Catherine A. (Libera) '83**

**Gelgisser, Ann F. (Hughes) '78**

In memory of Anne M. (Jackson) Haluska, '77

**Gibbons, Patricia A. (Martin) '69**

In honor of the Class of '69

**Glover, Patricia K. (Kamienski) '84**

**Gonza, Jacquelyn A. '71**

To my Mom, Dad and wonderful Family

**Gorman, Patricia M. (Babiarz) '67**

In honor of Class of '67

**Gorton, Ann (Byrne) '71**

In memory of Dorothy Byrne Class of '45, Barbara  
Bowden Class of '71, Mary Beth Zagata Class of '71,  
& Jean Augustus Class of '71

**Gross, Mary E. (Gonza) '83**

In honor of Class of '83

**Grundy, Susan T. (Loverock) '69**

In memory of Mary Jane Loverock (mother)

**Gualtieri, Maureen G. (Bowes) '55**

In memory of Rita Hanover Berdan  
and Anne Barry '55

**Guilfoyle, Mary M. '76**

In memory of Donald, Jane and Eleanor Guilfoyle

**Hammat, Dawn E. (Munsell) '69**

**Hatchell, Eileen H. (Scheibel) '55**

In memory of Mack Hatchell, Husband; Richard  
Keenan, Son

**Hayden, Catherine M. (Finelli) '79**

In honor of Mary Malay Class of '79

**Hopkins, Deborah J. '95**

In memory of Andy Luke '95 and Barb VanNoy

**Hudson, Nancy E. (Dullea) '64**

In memory of Regina Stack Smith Class of '64

**Hunter, Patricia A. (Tanner) '64**

In memory of Thomas A. Hunter - son of Mary Anne  
Humphrey Hunter, Class of '64

**Hurst, Deborah (Silverman) '13**

**Jensen, Kathleen M. (Donohoe) '81**

In memory of Lois and Thomas Donohoe

**Johnson, Joan W. (Wallace) '53**

**Johnson, Margaret M. (Sawmiller) '57**

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Sawmiller

**Johnson, Mary Anne (Hall) '66**

In memory of Gary Johnson

**Johnston, Patricia A. (Norcross) '94**

**Johnson, Patricia A. (O'Brien) '75**

**Jones, Judith A. (Wickins) '74**

**Keady, Mary Jacqueline (Pelín) '59**

In memory of Class of '59

**Kelly, Michelle A. (Carpenter) '70**

**Krafft, Carol A. (Higgins) '69**

**Kiggins, JoAnne G. (Kochman) '64**

In memory of Deceased Members Class of 1964

**King, Sylvia H. (Horstman) '58**

In memory of Deceased Class Members 1958

**Kline, Luanne (Finster) '90**

**Kohlbrener, Janis C. (Giarrusso) '72**

In honor of the Leadership and Faculty who support our future! Thank you!!

**Koopman, Elizabeth G. (Guerinot) '80**

**Kratz, Kim S. (Delaney) '79**

In honor of St. Joseph's Class of '79

**Lamanna, Susan J. '69**

In memory of Jeanne & Joseph Lamanna

**Leatherbarrow, Kathleen D. (Denny) '62**

**Lee, Susan A. (Henderson) '64**

In memory of her husband, Carl Lee

**Mahany, Frances E. (Maroney) '75**

In honor of Mary Rose Kott '67

**Malay, Mary C. (Whalen) '75**

**Markowitz, Sarah Elizabeth '10**

**Marvasti, Fatemeh '89**

**Mattison, Patricia Kelley (Burns) '96**

**Maurer, Robin H. (Struzzi) '72**

**McCarthy, Mary W. (Walier) '53**

In memory of all Deceased Members of Class of '53

**McEneary, Kathleen M. (Dujenski) '71**

In honor of her classmates in the Class of '71

**Meenaghan, Barbara A. (Stewart) '58**

In memory of Karl and Lucille Stewart

**Metzler, Linda M. (Schaaf) '78**

In memory of Richard Metzler

**Miller, Marjorie L. (Jacob) '63**

In memory of Barbara Bambara Class of 1963

**Moroney, Sarah C. (Carroll) '57**

**Moslow, Suzanne E. (Barber) '66**

In memory of Marjorie & Robert Barber

**Mowers, Kimberly A. (Hayes) '16**

In honor of Class of 2015

**Mulvey, Cecilia J. (Fitzmaurice) '55**

In honor of Class of '55 - 65th anniversary

**Murphy, Lois J. (Arnold) '56**

In memory of Anne H. Barry '55

**Nardelli, Nancy A. (Niemi) '71**

**Nardi, Kathy C. (Coughlin) '68**

In memory of Mary and Leonard Coughlin

**Neill, Amanda L. (Fuller) '95**

In honor of Class of '95

**Noonan, Dolores F. (Ostrowski) '55**

**O'Hara, Margaret (Peggy) M. '92**

In memory of Margaret Bresnahan O'Hara '47

**Olson, Deborah J. (Pesklak) '78**

In memory of John Pesklak

**Orr, Karen E. '64**

In honor of Class of '64

**Orzell, Jeanne S. (Gombola) '61**

In memory of Dru Gebo (Class of '61)

**Ozcebebi, Julie A. (Grabowski) '80**

In memory of Brett Michael Ensor

**Pacella, Carol A. (Cocuzzoli) '63**

In memory of Elaine L. Cocuzzoli

**Palmer, Betsy A. (Teelon) '82**

**Peck, Robin M. (Waldron) '77**

**Platania, Maryann E. (LaVelle) '65**

**Pollock, Elizabeth A. (Lynn) '68**

Class of '68

**Porter, Marianne W. (Smura) '68**

**Powers, Joan E. (Corbett) '52**

In memory of Deceased Members Class of '52

**Premo, Brenda J. (Doud) '73**

In memory of Robert, Lorraine and Jackie Doud

**Quinn, Linda K. (Pastella) '65**

**Reichel, Kathleen M. (Moran) '62**

**Rowe, Anita M. (Petrangelo) '66**

In memory of Ann (Tracy) Abess '66

**Ryan, Mary H. (Headd) '72**

In Memory of Anne (Burke) Headd, Class of '48. In honor of St. Joseph's School of Nursing Class of '72; Peter Clark, SJCON Class of '14; Matt Clark, SJCON Class of '16; Madeline Headd, SJCON Class of '19 (EWE)

**Ryan, Susan (Larkin) '65**

**Salerno, Sister Marie '62**

In honor of Class of '62

**Scandariato, Beverly A. (Lloyd) '79**

In memory of R. Michael Lloyd

**Scholl, Mary '65**

**Schrank, Christine (Bopp) '89**

**Semel, Constance A. (Spadafore) '74**

**Shepardson, Jacqueline M. (Pellenz) '64**

In honor of Sr. Geraldine DeLuca '64

**Sherman, Deborah A. (Williams) '72**

In honor of Class of '72

**Sherman, Mary P. '73**

**Shukla, Nagulinie '95**

**Simmons Frye, Leah (Simmons) '97**

**Skelly, Nancy A. (Mooney) '60**

In memory of Deceased Classmates

**Stone, Christine '86**

In memory of Kathleen Betar

**Talenti, Laureen E. (Wawrzaszek) '80**

In honor of her mother Rose Wawrzaszek going strong at 91

**Taylor, Carole R. (Lewis) '74**

**Troiani, Elizabeth H. (Hazard) '59**

In memory of Deceased Classmates Class of '59

**Viau, Janice N. '88**

In honor of Denise Corcoran '88

**Viscosi, Janet M. (Carey) '60**

In memory of Antoinette "Toni" Belmont '61

**Vogtle, Anne M. (Hutt) '81**

**Wallwork, Joan A. (Cardinal) '68**

**Williams, Katherine A. (Losier) '73**

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Losier

**Yankay, Ann E. (Gondeck) '81**

**Yeazel, Frances M. (Marsjanik) '65**

In memory of Cheryl (Favasuli) O'Brien '65

**Young, Maureen E. (O'Brien) '65**

## deceased alumni

APRIL 2020 – MAY 2021

**Class of '42**

Helen (Kennedy) Byron

**Class of '43**

Barbara 'Bobby' (Tremmel) Dexter  
(died in December 2019)

**Class of '45**

Gloria (Stuart) Joy (died in November 2018)

**Class of '46**

Constance (Shepard) Dudek

**Class of '49**

Elizabeth 'Liz' (Fenzel) Vertigan

**Class of '51**

Mary Frances (Leach) Callahan

**Class of '51**

Mary (Cafolla) Wallace

**Class of '52**

Rosemary Sorrentino

**Class of '53**

Maxine (King) Holland (died in November 2019)

**Class of '54**

Kathleen (Farrido) Agen

**Class of '55**

Anne (Haedecke) Barry

**Class of '56**

Elizabeth (Waltos) Foertch

**Class of '60**

Mary (McManus) Berthelot

**Class of '60**

Marla (Hicks) Quinn

**Class of '60**

Mary A. (Fiumara) Pappalardo

**Class of '62**

Cecelia "Beth" (Huzar) Fitzgerald

**Class of '64**

Mary Anne (Humphrey) Hunter

**Class of '64**

Donnalee (Waltz) Zender

**Class of '66**

Ann (Tague) Byrne

**Class of '68**

Eileen (McNaught) Ryan (died in May 2014)

**Class of '73**

Susan (Forney) Dockum (died in May 2018)

**Class of '74**

Donna (DiMartino) Anderson

**Class of '96**

Joseph Burdick





# ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF NURSING commencement ceremonies

## celebrating our graduates

St. Joseph's College of Nursing has graduated approximately 5,600 outstanding nurses since 1898. We are very proud that during a global pandemic, St. Joseph's College of Nursing graduated 222 students in 2020; 148 graduates from the evening/weekend option (67 from the Class of December 2019; 81 from the Class of December 2020) and 74 from the Class of May 2020 for the weekday option. The Associate Degree in Applied Science (A.A.S.) with a major in nursing was conferred on graduates in both options. Some graduates in the Accelerated Dual Degree Partnership in Nursing (A-DDPN) option also earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Le Moyne College. The Evening/Weekend Class of December 2019 commencement ceremony was held at the Landmark Theatre. Regina McGraw, JD, RN, General Counsel, St. Joseph's Health, delivered the commencement address for this class. Highlights of Ms. McGraw's visionary, *pre pandemic* commencement address on January 5, 2020 included a comparison of nurses to *superhero's* since 'nurses in the past wore capes.'

Due to the pandemic crisis and associated essential restrictions for safety put in place for large gatherings, two virtual commencement ceremonies were held for the Class of May 2020 and the Class of December 2020 on December 13, 2020. These virtual commencement ceremonies can be viewed via this link to the College's You Tube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeW3XJ52DBaqKuDY8dWactw>

We congratulate all our students on their graduation and commend their perseverance, resiliency, and commitment to nursing that was consistently demonstrated during times of uncertainty throughout 2020.



**The Class of December 2019 Commencement Ceremony  
at the Landmark Theatre on January 5, 2020.**

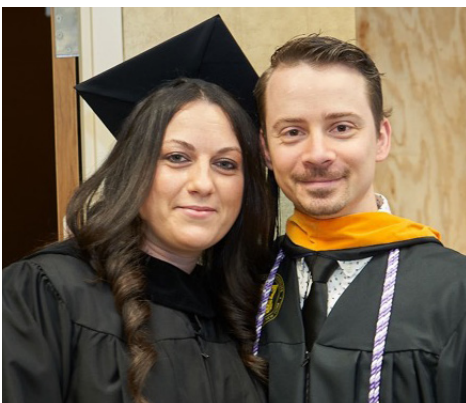




# DECEMBER | CLASS OF 2019 EVENING/WEEKEND commencement

Location: Landmark theatre | Commencement Speaker: Regina McGraw, JD, RN, General Counsel, St. Joseph's Health

JANUARY 5, 2020







# commitment to nursing

Two re-scheduled, socially distanced Commitment to Nursing ceremonies were held. Students received pins and recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge at both events.







## commitment to nursing







## Welcome New Interim Dean

**Dr. Susan Berger** has been designated as interim dean of St. Joseph's College of Nursing. Dr. Berger has served on the College of Nursing Governing

Board for seven years. Before assuming the role of interim dean, she served since January 2021 as chair of the governing board. Dr. Berger's history with St. Joseph's Hospital dates to when she began her nursing career forty years ago as a registered nurse working in the Intensive Care Unit.

Dr. Berger earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Nursing from Syracuse University as well as a Doctorate in Education, with a concentration in Higher Education leadership from Fielding Graduate University. She has worked as a Nurse Practitioner at Syracuse University. At Cazenovia College, she served as Director of Health Services and later, for 15 years as Chief Operating Officer.

In a recent press release regarding Dr. Berger's appointment as interim dean Leslie Paul Luke, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health is quoted to have said "Dr. Berger brings with her a wealth of management experience in higher education. We are confident that she will provide outstanding leadership and counsel to faculty, staff and students, while we continue the search for a permanent Dean."

The Alumni Association board would like to add their appreciation for her support, counsel and leadership to the Alumni Association board as interim dean and when in her role as the College of Nursing Governing Board Chair.

## Nursing Pin Donation Center Update



Since it is no longer possible to purchase St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center School of Nursing pins (due to the name change several years ago to St. Joseph's College of Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center), the Nursing Pin Donation Center was established in 2019. The pin donation center provides working graduates who

have lost their original School of Nursing pin and who have requested a replacement pin (when available) with one that has been generously donated by one of our Alumni. Since establishment of the Pin Donation Center, six alumnae have generously donated their nursing pins. Graduates receiving a donated nursing pin are encouraged to donate to St. Joseph's College of Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center.

**If an alumnus or alumna is interested in donating their nursing pin, receive a donated pin, or purchase the current College of Nursing pin, contact Mary Ann (Mahalick) Wafer, Class of 1983, Associate for Alumni and Development at (315) 448-3540 or via email at [maryann.wafer@sjhsyr.org](mailto:maryann.wafer@sjhsyr.org)**

## Diversity Scholarship

The Diversity Scholarship has been established by St. Joseph's College of Nursing's Alumni

Association to support the need for continued education of Registered Professional Nurses from diverse backgrounds. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial support for continued education in nursing

(and other specialties as applicable) for a graduate of St. Joseph's College of Nursing from a diverse background; diverse backgrounds include but are not limited to areas of race, ethnicity, gender, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, and religion. A graduate of St. Joseph's College of Nursing from a diverse background who is pursuing an advanced degree such as a baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, or doctoral degree in nursing or other specialty is eligible to apply. Additional eligibility requirements and criteria are specified on the Diversity Scholarship Application which will be posted soon on the St. Joseph's College of Nursing's website. The Diversity Scholarship is established from funds received from the late Hugh B. Hoeffler, M.D. who had established the Katherine Roach Hoeffler, Class of 1933 Memorial Award in memory of his wife. One Diversity Scholarship will be awarded on an annual basis. Completed applications and essays are to be submitted between October 1st and October 15th each year and must be sent via US mail (with a postmark no later than October 15th) to St. Joseph's College of Nursing's Alumni Association, 206 Prospect Ave, Syracuse, New York 13203.



**If you would like to request a copy of the Diversity Scholarship Application, please contact Mary Ann (Mahalick) Wafer, Class of 1983, Associate for Alumni and Development at 315-448-3540 or via email at [maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu](mailto:maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu)**

## First-Time Pass Rate and Employment at St. Joseph's Health Hospital

The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN®) is a nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses in the US and Canada. St. Joseph's College of Nursing graduates for December 2019 and May 2020 achieved a 91% overall year to date first-time pass rate, well above state and national means. Over 70% of the graduates from the Class of December 2019 and May 2020 had accepted positions at St. Joseph's Health Hospital.

## Scholarships and Awards

St. Joseph's College of Nursing presents scholarships and awards in recognition of students Commitment to Nursing celebration and Graduation. In 2020, over \$43,650.00 was presented to award recipients (please note this total includes scholarships and awards awarded for 2020 Commitment to Nursing and Graduation for the Class of December 2019, Class of May 2020, and the Class of December 2020). These scholarships and awards are made possible from generous alumni and donors of the college. If you are interested in information on establishing a scholarship, please contact Mary Ann (Mahalick) Wafer, Class of 1983, Associate for Alumni and Development at (315) 448-3540 or via email at [maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu](mailto:maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu).

## Winners of the Alumni Annual Raffle

**DRAWING HELD JUNE 6, 2021**

**First Prize** – Apple AirPods with Charging Case – **Brenda DelCostello**

**Second Prize** – Ring Wi-Fi Video Wired & Wireless Smart Doorbell Camera – **Kathleen Cohen**

**Third Prize** – \$100.00 VISA Gift Card – **Kathleen Bratt**

**Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who supported the raffle.**

A thank you as well to the first prize donor – **ATI Assessment Technologies Inc.**

# amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

## Amazon Smile as a fundraiser!

Sign up for AmazonSmile and select Alumni Association of St. Josephs College of Nursing as your preferred charity at [smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2912138](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2912138). Remember to shop for deals at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate to us at no cost to you.

## Alumni Association now accepts credit card payments!

As many of you requested, the Alumni Association now accepts credit card payment for dues and donations. Also, you can pay for your brunch reservation online. Please include your class year in the memo section of payment page. Please use this link: <https://chip-in.us/alumgiving>

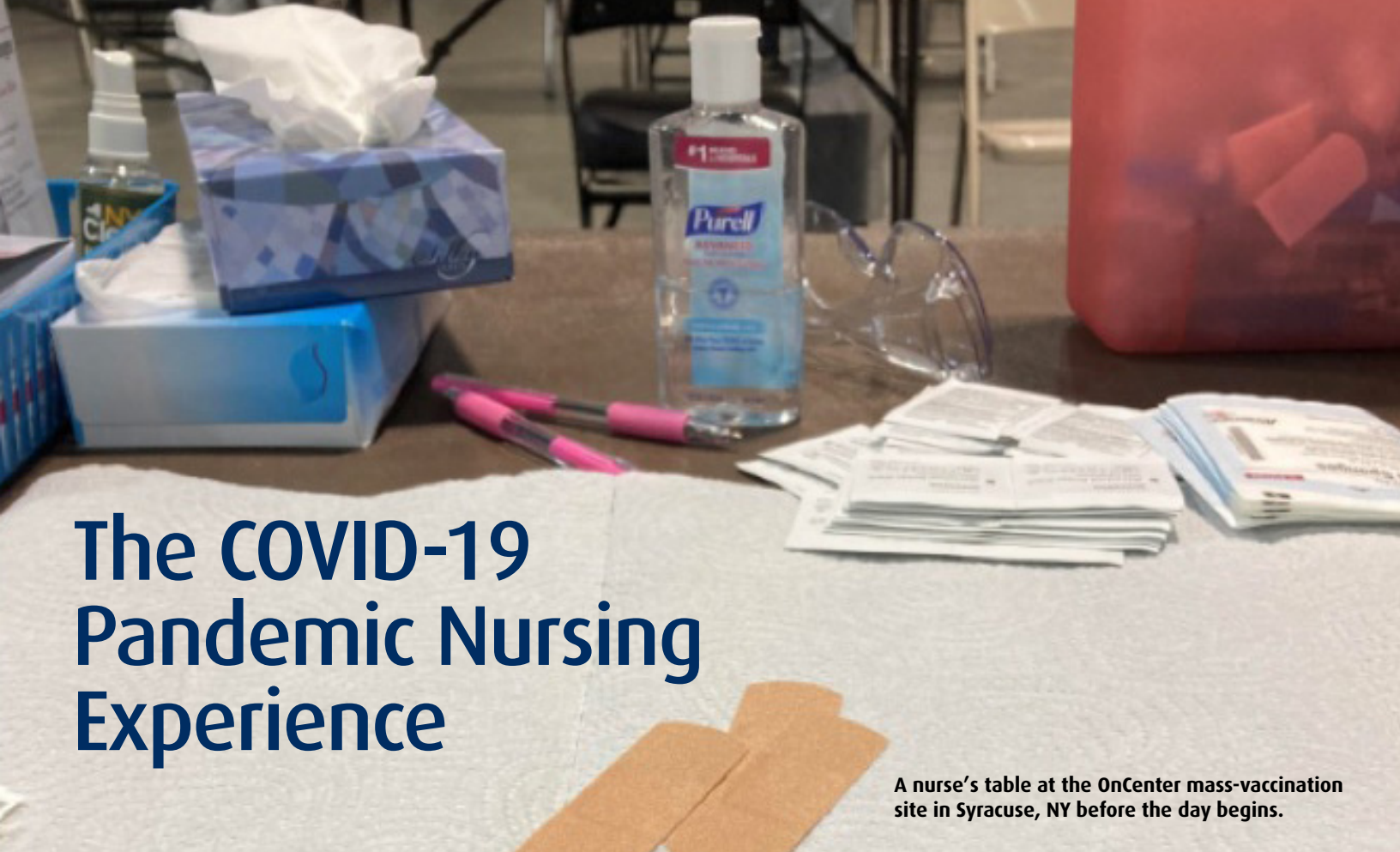


## Now you can shop for logo apparel online!

Now you can shop for logo apparel online! Many items to choose from, click on the link below items will be delivered to you directly. The Alumni Association receives a percentage of items sold! <https://qnet.e-quantum2k.com/~justright/Custom/2202/RETAIL/cgi-bin/qnet-main.cgi?ts=1607021024>

**You can also access the webpage to pay dues and donations online and the online apparel shop by going to [www.sjhcon.edu](http://www.sjhcon.edu) click Alumni and Giving then Ways of Giving then Donate and both links will appear.**





# The COVID-19 Pandemic Nursing Experience

A nurse's table at the OnCenter mass-vaccination site in Syracuse, NY before the day begins.

**The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented and impacted each of us differently. We asked our Alumni to share their nursing experiences during the pandemic:**

*"My role initially shifted from providing nursing care to students in person, to telephonic case management with parents/guardians, and delivery of meals to families who were in need. Once students returned to hybrid learning, students provided nursing care as needed. We have also assisted the OCHD in following up with parents/guardians regarding COVID-19 symptoms or exposure, and where they should go for COVID-19 testing. We follow up on test results and advise parents/guardians of isolation or quarantine time frame."*

*"Significant stress by students related to unknown regarding their education and clinical abilities due to hospitals preventing them from being onsite."*

*"The needs of our community continue to be great during this pandemic. It is a great opportunity to work with nursing colleagues, public health professionals, and community leaders to help meet their needs."*

*"I saw a shift from our mainstay cardiac/stroke/cath lab patients to more med-surge patients, heavy on the medical care, I watched and felt a decrease in staff with an increase in patient load."*

*"Despite being retired, I had been feeling like I needed to help somehow with the efforts to keep people in our community healthy. I knew I was no longer competent to keep pace with care in the hospital so delivering vaccines was a way to help. I was amazed at how grateful people were to receive the vaccine. I had numerous people thank me for "coming out of retirement". It was very comforting for me to know that I was able to help in such a small way."*

*"Nursing education has made dramatic shifts in learning since the pandemic began. Forcing face to face programs to go to distance learning has been challenging. Nursing skills and clinical experiences have been changed and in some cases, clinical all together unavailable. This pandemic has brought both good and uncertain changes to nursing education."*

*"Overworked and undervalued, destroyed my soul."*

*"I was thankful to be employed."*

*"With being a new nurse during a pandemic and a time of need it has been very difficult. I have seen things a new graduate would ever imagine. I couldn't have done it without my family, friends and coworkers. I am so thankful for this opportunity to help serve my community. I'm excited to be graduating with my BSN this May and continuing on with providing care to those in need. Please stay safe and healthy. God bless."*

*"Be flexible and embrace change!"*

*"I found that being on the front lines of testing and vaccination after being in an administrator position for many years was humbling. I truly appreciate the work that my fellow nurses do each and every day."*

*"Became skilled in telehealth and volunteered for county sponsored Covid vaccine clinics."*

*"I think this was very traumatic for many nurses and we need to be prepared for the loss of experience as many are choosing to leave based on what they experienced and went through."*

*"Significant increase in volume throughout the pandemic. Severe pandemic stress, several new patients in the healthcare field."*

*"The hardest part of screening ambulatory surgery patients is the restriction of a no visitor policy. Family members are at a loss not being able to support their loved one."*

*"People who never worked with Covid will never understand how us frontline nurses feel. I've never seen people who were so sick clinging to their life everyday. It feels like you are taking care of the same patient everyday. It's tiring and it makes you feel like there is no hope some days. It is hard seeing people suffer every day."*

*"Schools did not receive any guidance until 9/30/20 so it was very difficult to assure we were keeping everyone safe but we managed very well as a District."*

*"I felt my clinical experience at St. Joseph's was absolutely invaluable and I am extremely grateful for my class and instructors!"*

*"Being a new nurse during a pandemic was overwhelming to say the least. But it helped me learn to adjust quickly while providing the best patient care I knew how to. Working alongside coworkers both new and experienced was a blessing, we all leaned on each other for support and learned from one another every day. I would not have made it through without the help of my coworkers."*

*"As Nurse Team Leader for the Medical Suite at Helio Health Outpatient Services I am grateful to have served in role of education to both staff and patients of necessity of adhering consistently to best practices to minimize risks for all."*

*"Covid-19 is very real. The amount of patients I've seen struggling is so heartbreaking. What is even more devastating is that these patients and families are not able to be together. It really makes nursing that much more special to be able to provide love and care to those who desperately need it during such a very heart wrenching time for all."*

*"As a traveling RN, I was in a unique position to at first be involuntarily put on a covid floor mid assignment (as were most nurses regardless of role) but after that to be able to choose whether I wanted that type of assignment or not. I was fortunate to be able to take a break from the inpatient side of things and help in a different way - administering the vaccines. I said I wouldn't go back inpatient for a while, I was burnt out. But after administering vaccinations to healthcare professionals who's countless stories I heard of their experiences during COVID (both personal and professional) & how they were so grateful, finally feeling some sense of hope; this coupled with the continuing number of cases, I found myself taking another covid assignment, to hopefully lessen the burden on those who haven't had reprieve in almost a year."*

*"The Syracuse VA has been very diligent during the pandemic, we changed all outpatient primary care appointments to video or telephone and have only just recently just started seeing in-person visits, all go through a rigorous screening prior to entering the medical center."*

*"It has been a big change in practice for all, I remember thinking how long will we have to do this for, and thank goodness we are able to have family members at bedside unlike the adults. When I floated to adults I was humbled in the experience and was blown away at what the nurses have been doing for months. They were so grateful for the smallest thing I did to help. I was grateful for the experience and have volunteered multiple times after that. Now that kids are getting more sick because they are experiencing MIS-C, we are very busy and I value that job I have chosen everyday I walk into work. I am proud to be a nurse during this pandemic and more proud to be an alumni of St. Joseph's College of Nursing, I would not be here if it was not for the support and encouragement of the evening weekend educators and staff!"*

*"The pandemic put increased stress on the individual nurse. Often times we were taking care of more and sicker patients. The realities of the pandemic also highlighted the need of nurses, especially nurses at the bedside, to band together and advocate for the safety of themselves and their patients. The demands placed on hospitals directly affected nurses and, in many situations, led to nurses being stretched too thin."*

*"I hope to never see anything like Covid again in my lifetime."*

*"We will never be the same again- COVID has changed us. I'm worried we may not see the impact the unexpected pandemic had on us as healthcare providers for a couple years. I will never forget the way it felt in the early weeks: I didn't know if I was safe in my PPE or if I would be bringing home COVID to my family. The fear of bringing home COVID to my family was harder on me than wondering if I would get sick. I had a lot of trouble sleeping and the sounds of ambulances in my*



*neighborhood at night was difficult. It is so wonderful not to hear them as much anymore. The day I was vaccinated was a huge relief because I knew that if something happened and someone I loved got sick it wouldn't be all my fault and I was doing everything I could to protect them. It was one step closer to the light at the end of the tunnel and an end to this pandemic we felt like would be forever. I hope that everyone is doing self-care and asking for help if needed. I saw nurses step up and do everything they could during the crisis and the time following is very difficult. It is very hard to see nurses changing jobs with everything we have been through and leaving nursing all together. It is okay to prioritize your own mental health. We have done amazing work and the work we did the past year will change healthcare for the better forever. We saved lives and supported everyone we know in any way that we could!"*

*"I am proud to be a nurse and I am thankful to be a part of serving our community in this difficult time."*

*"Most trying and emotional time of my nursing career."*

*"Working all day in a mask took some getting used to. I would rather teach in person – online teaching is exhausting and students are trying to stay engaged but virtual school is hard on them."*

*"Very difficult to cut to core team of 10 personnel total due to low volume of cases for 60 days."*

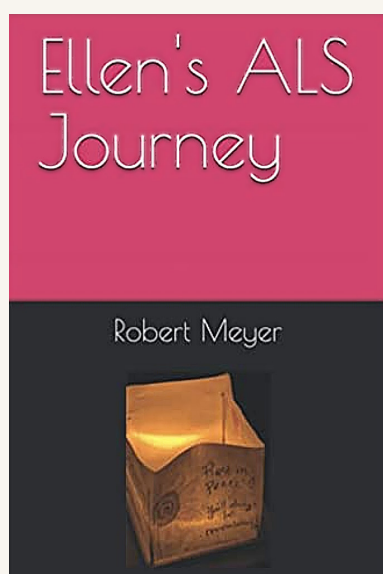
*"I truly appreciate my nursing colleagues during this pandemic!"*

*"The pandemic changed the way in which we provided care. Most of our patient visits were done by telephone or virtually. We had additional duties to support the pandemic such as swabbing and screening for Covid-19 and giving/offering the vaccine as soon as it was available. We had to work together and some days were harder than others especially when we were short staffed due to illness or nurses detailed for Covid operations. This certainly brought us together because there just was no way possible to do it alone."*

*"I have been busy at home making cloth masks designed by a sewing teacher in Arlington who has a group of seamstresses in the area who make masks and scrub caps since the pandemic started. She provides all the supplies (pre-cut material etc.) in a kit that we sew and return to her. She DONATES all the masks and scrub caps FREE to senior housing, hospitals, long-term care facilities or ANYONE who knocks on her door and needs a mask or two, she gives them free. I have a nurse friend who was Director of Nursing at a long-term care facility who was in need of 100 scrub caps for the employees; she filled a grocery bag (no questions asked) for FREE! Laura is an amazing person; always cheerful and smiling – Laura's tally is 9,500 to-date. My humble contribution is 750 masks plus 270 scrub caps and "counting". Needless to say I love to sew!"*

*"This has been the most challenging time in my career as an RN."*

*"Thanks to all who worked so hard and for such long hours under unimaginable conditions. You were true angels of mercy."*



## In Memory of Ellen Schaub Meyer

Ellen was a member of the Class of 1969, and the recipient of the Alumni Association award for excellence in Community Nursing in June of 2019. She passed away in September 2019 of Bulbar Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

This spring Ellen's husband, Bob Meyer, wrote and self published a book, "Ellen's ALS Journey". It is Ellen's story told in part by her from her own notes as well as notes, journals and memories from her family. It includes information learned along the way in the hope that it might help others dealing

with similar progressive illnesses.

It is available on Amazon for about \$12. Comments from those who have read the book include: "poignant, joyful, practical and honest" and "a beautiful gift to classmates, family and friends".

Classmates are sharing the book with one another, friends and colleagues in the health care professions as well. Ellen's was a life of care and giving. She continued to give throughout her long and difficult illness. Ellen's classmates are grateful to her and to her husband for sharing her story.

# Appreciating St. Joseph's College of Nursing Alumni for their efforts during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Our St. Joseph's College of Nursing Alumni practiced nursing in various roles to support each other, our patients, and our communities the past year during this unprecedented COVID-19 Pandemic. Thank you to all of our Alumni for everything you did and everything you are continuing to do including those listed below that provided information about the past year and an update on their roles and locations they practiced nursing during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**We appreciate you!!!**

**Courtney Ford, MSN, RN, CRNA**

**Class of 2015**

SMA at Albany Medical Center during the Pandemic

**Karen Casamento Reiley, RNC**

**Class of 1970**

Retired

**Victoria Ryder, RN**

**Class of 2012**

Nursing Care Manager at Foster Care at Hillside Children Center

Per Diem Nurse at Hillside Fingerlakes Campus (Residential Mental Health Facility for Children)

**Karen Foran, BA, RNC**

**Class of 1994**

School Nurse at Manlius Pebble Hill School  
Vaccinator for Onondaga County Health Department  
Care of the Elderly, Home Care

**Jacqueline (Compo) Johnston, Ph.D., RN, ANP-C**

**Class of 1986**

Graduate and Undergraduate Faculty member  
Nurse Practitioner in College Health Services

**Kayla Stock, BSN, RN**

**Class of 2020**

Medical Surgical Nurse caring for COVID inpatients at St. Joseph's Hospital  
Unit went back and forth to negative pressure to care for COVID

**Margaret Crook, BAN, MS**

**Class of 1963**

Retired

**Kelly (Burton) Dunn, BSN, RN**

**Class of 2012**

Supply Chain Management- Value Analysis Clinician  
Worked/continues to work to secure product and Personal Protective Equipment needed for front line workers

**Michele Vercillo Caliva, BSN, RN**

**Class of 1981**

Current Co-Director of the Upstate COVID hotline and Upstate Vaccine Hotline

**John Flanagan, BS, RN, C-NPT, CCRN, CEN, CFRN, CPEN, CPN**

**Class of 2015**

Flight Nurse for LifeNet of New York

**Diana Marley, RN**

**Class of 1980**

RN/Trauma Registrar-data entry for SUNY Upstate University Hospital

**Peter Clark, RN, CEN, TCRN, CPEN, CFRN, CTRN, C-NPT, CCRN, NREMT**

**Class of 2014**

Flight Nurse for LifeNet of New York/  
Guthrie Air/ Air Method

**Deborah Hall, BSN, RNBC**

**Class of 1997**

Nursing Clinical Coordinator for an Inpatient Unit (D5) at St. Joseph's Health

**Ashley, BSN**

**Class of 2012**

Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) Nurse at Upstate Hospital

**Mary Anne (Pisarek) Wall, MS, RN, CNS**

**Class of 1975**

Nurse Vaccinator for Onondaga County Health Department  
Provides Vaccines at the OnCenter and NYS Expo Center in Syracuse, NY

**Robert Thomas Dodge, PhD, RN, ANP, AACRN**

**Class of 1988**

Health Department Nurse Practitioner at Wake County Human Services  
Nurse Practitioner/Preceptor for University of North Carolina School of Medicine-Raleigh, NC

**Mary Flannery, RN**

**Class of 2018**

Pediatric Home Care RN at Nascentia Health seeing all COVID positive families and parents in the community

**Jennifer (Phelps) Mahnken, MSN, RN, CNE**

**Class of 2002**

Nurse Educator at Jefferson Lewis BOCES

**Anthony Cross, BSN, RN**

**Class of 2000**

Front line float Nurse in ICU, Medical Surgical, Rehab and Emergency Department Care Settings

**Christopher Sanders, MSN, RN, MSCJ**

**Class of 2015**

Emergency Travel Nurse- traveled to Washington D.C. and Western Massachusetts  
Transitioned to Nursing Supervisor for New Mexico Department of Health

**Selina Villanueva, MS, RN-BC, FNP-C**

**Class of 2015**

Family Nurse Practitioner at Urgent Care



**Jamie Jo Brancato Cooney, RN****Class of 1984**

School Nurse at a local school district

**Kristine Parker, RN****Class of 2010**

Dialysis Nurse of COVID positive and COVID negative patients in Phoenix, Arizona

**Deborah J Hopkins, MS, ACNS-BC, RN-BC, CNE****Class of 1995**

Clinical Educator supporting staff education at St. Joseph's Health

**Kevin O'Keefe, RN, OCN****Class of 2006**

Front line RN at Upstate Hospital

**Jenna Logan, BSN, RN****Class of 2019**

Labor and Delivery RN at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, NY

**Cathleen Mathews Donegan, BSN, RN****Class of 1967**

RN at Cardiopulmonary Rehab and RN for COVID Vaccine Clinic at St. Joseph's Health

**Jennifer Medina, BSN, RN, CCRN****Class of 2017**

ICU RN and Charge Nurse in Watertown, NY

**Lisa Morgan, RN****Class of 1984**

Public School Nurse for Liverpool Central School District

**Shelly Hill, RN CNOR****Class of 1991**

First Assist in Plastic Surgery and circulator in many Outpatient Surgical Services Fresno Surgical Hospital, North Point Surgical Center, Riolo Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

**Megan Foriero, RN****Class of 2020**

RN at St. Joseph's Health

**Kimberly Ross, BSN, RN****Class of 2004**

Treating and Caring for patients in Home Care

**Kathleen Saccone, RN****Class of 2002**

Triage Nurse at Family Practice and Home Care

**Elizabeth Hazard Troiani, RN****Class of 1959**

Retired

**Julie Aliu, MS, RN, CRNA****Class of 2004**

Covid Intubation team at St. Joseph's Health

**Donna Misener White, MS, RN, CPHQ****Class of 2004**

Member of COVID Strike team providing testing for staff and patients and vaccinator for staff and patients at Loretto PACE CNY

**Ann Miller Bode, DNP, RN****Class of 1977**

Nurse Practitioner in Reproductive Medicine/Woman's Health at Heartland Center for Reproductive Medicine Volunteered at COVID Vaccine Clinics for the County

**Shannon McCarthy-Leone, Ed.D., RN****Class of 1991**

Perinatal Safety Risk Manager and Director of Nursing for employee and occupational Health COVID employee hotline and Vaccine Clinics at Rochester Regional Health

**David Porter, NPP, RN****Class of 2009**

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at St. Joseph's Outpatient Behavioral Health

**Julie Byrne, MS, RN****Class of 1991**

RN at North East Surgery Center

**Sophi Williams, RN****Class of 2020**

RN at St. Joseph's Health/St. Joseph's Physicians

**Ashley Summers, BSN, RN****Class of 2010**

Patient Safety Manager and part of the COVID Vaccination team for Syracuse VA Medical Center

**Sharon Somerville Dillon, BSN, RN****Class of 1965**

Retired

**Nancy Medicis, RN****Class of 1981**

Head Nurse (1 of 2) at Liverpool Central School District helping Administration/staff navigate through COVID-19 rules and restrictions in schools to be able to safely bring students back to in-person learning.

**Melanie Roberts Reigrut, RN****Class of 1966**

Retired

**Karina Silyuk, BSN, RN****Class of 2019**

RN on a Cardiovascular Telemetry Unit (D5) at St. Joseph's Health

**Marisa Taro, BSN, RN****Class of 2020**

Transitioned from student to Operating Room Nurse at Rochester General Hospital

**Leala Burns, RN****Class of 2020**

Medical Surgical Nurse on a Unit (1-5) that became a negative pressure COVID unit at St. Joseph's Health

**Joan (Wooton) Connelly, RN****Class of 1963**

Cared for husband who is high risk for COVID/used caution to keep him safe

**Ashley Scofield, RN, BSN, FNP-C****Class of 2010**

Cardiology Nurse Practitioner at St. Joseph's Health

**Susan Henderson Lee, RN, CNOR****Class of 1964**

Retired-maintained social distance at home until second dose of the vaccine

**Brittany Husted, BSN, RN****Class of 2020**

Transitioned from student to RN at St. Joseph's Health

**Denise Donnelly, RN****Class of 1990**

Retired-volunteered at a local hospital to aid in the Vaccination process

**Christiana Marotti, BSN, RN****Class of 2019**

RN, Lead RN, Team Leader and RN Preceptor on a Negative Pressure COVID Unit at St. Joseph's Health and Crouse Hospital

**Nancy Welchons Conway, RN****Class of 1979**

Served as an RN Vaccinator for the County Vaccine Clinics

**Susan Badore, RN****Class of 1995**

RN Nurse Team Leader at Helio Health, formerly Syracuse Behavioral Health

**Joanne Richards Byrnes, MS, BSN, RN**  
**Class of 1966**

Educated family and friends on COVID/  
encourage compliance with precautions

**Lisa Soderberg, MSN, RN**

**Class of 1994**

RN in the PACU at St. Joseph's Health for  
emergent surgeries as an Admit/Recovery  
Nurse

**Emily Alfieri, BSN, RN**

**Class of 2018**

COVID Hotline at Upstate Hospital, RN at St.  
Joseph's Health

**Kerry, BSN, RN**

**Class of 2019**

Med Surge Nurse/COVID Nurse at  
St. Joseph's Health

**Patricia Drea, BSN, RN**

**Class of 1969**

Home Care Technology Solutions at AXCESS

**Susan Lane, MSN, RN**

**Class of 1969**

Contact Tracer and Nurse Vaccinator in  
Phoenix, AZ

**Emily Gillespie, BSN, RN, CCRN**

**Class of 2020**

RN in the Medical Surgical Intensive Care  
Unit at St. Joseph's Health

**Franci VanWie, BSN, RN**

**Class of 2014**

Went to NYC for 3 weeks to work in  
Harlem Hospital, Operating Room RN at  
Auburn Community Hospital, floated to  
COVID floor

**Shelley Fess, MS, RN, AOCN, CRNI, VA-  
BC, AMB-RN**

**Class of 1978**

Per Diem RN at an oncology infusion  
center/ recently giving vaccines at  
Rochester Regional Health Systems

**Pat Martin Gibbons, BSN, RN**

**Class of 1969**

Intake Nurse for PACE of the Triad

**Karen E Knopp, RN**

**Class of 1977**

Retired

**Mary Ellen Barrett, RN**

**Class of 1969**

Retired

**Jamla Rizek, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN**

**Class of 2010**

ED Coordinator, ED Manager, ED Travel  
Nurse in MI, MT, CA, GA, DC

**Lindsey, BSN**

**Class of 2009**

PACU/ICU Nurse at Crouse Hospital

**Shannon Holliday, RN**

**Class of 2012**

Traveler Nurse Inpatient RN on COVID  
unit, outpatient RN administering vaccines  
in Atlanta,GA. Fargo,ND. Boston,MA.  
Medford,OR

**Cathie Roth Whitney, RN**

**Class of 1970**

Assisted Neighbors by transporting folks  
to receive their vaccines and answer  
questions and concerns from a medical  
prospective. Volunteered to administer  
vaccines in the community

**Kim Mowers, RN**

**Class of 2015**

Syracuse VA- Daily COVID phone calls to  
symptomatic patients and more recently  
working every weekend in the Syracuse VA  
COVID vaccine clinic.

**Jacqueline Leiden Willson, RN, CEFM**

**Class of 1992**

Labor & Delivery RN at Kaleida Health,  
Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital

**Karen MacVittie, RN**

**Class of 2018**

Pediatric COVID RN at Upstate Golisano  
Children's Hospital  
Also floated to adult COVID units to help in  
times of dire need

**Catherine Gramiak, RN**

**Class of 2020**

RN on Unit 4-1 (Ortho) at St. Joseph's  
Hospital, RN at Crouse Hospital in their  
Kienzle Family Maternity Center

**Nicholas Mancini, RN**

**Class of 2020**

RN on the Emergency Department  
Observation Unit at St. Joseph's Health

**Helen Benedikter, MBA, BSN, RN**

**Class of 1960**

Retired

**Kathy Rudy, RN**

**Class of 1982**

Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)  
Nurse at St. Joseph's Health

**Suzanne McNiff, BSN, RN**

**Class of 2019**

COVID unit Nurse, St. Joseph's Health/  
Upstate University Hospital

**Jennifer Hinshaw, RN**

**Class of 2004**

COVID Unit Nurse in Gulf Breeze Hospital in  
Gulf Breeze, Florida

**Michelle Crawford, RN**

**Class of 1991**

Director of Clinical Services at a Licensed  
Home Care Agency

**Meghan Kelly, RN, C-EFM**

**Class of 2016**

Labor and Delivery RN at St. Joseph's  
Health

**Emily (Martin) Glisson, MSN, RN, FNP-C**

**Class of 2010**

Nurse Practitioner at St. Joseph's Health  
Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric  
Medicine

**Adriana Buniak, RN**

**Class of 2020**

COVID Testing RN at Gastroenterology and  
Hepatology of CNY

**Heather Caron, RN-BC, MSN**

**Class of 1987**

Mental Health Nurse Educator- Syracuse VA  
Acting Suicide Prevention Coordinator-  
Syracuse VA  
Adjunct- Mental Health EWE program St.  
Joseph's College of Nursing

**Christopher Hart, RN**

**Class of 2004**

School Nurse at Deerpark MS Round Rock  
ISD TX

**Joanne Whelan, BS, RN**

**Class of 1962**

Trying to keep myself, family and friends  
SANE

**Debra Palmieri Brockway, BSN, RN**

**Class of 1978**

Caring for LTC and rehab patients on a  
designated covid unit at Lurherancare

**Megan Grondin, RN**

**Class of 2019**

Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit RN

**Joan Steinkirchner Carpenter, BSN, RN**

**Class of 1970**

Retired



**Mary Rogers, RN****Class of 1980**

Administrator of Outpatient Surgery Center.  
Performing urgent/necessary outpatient  
surgeries.

Doctors Same Day Surgery Center -  
Sarasota, Florida

**Mary Ford Rowand, BSHS, RN,****Certified School Nurse****Class of 1970**

Retired and Vaccinated

**Dana Baker, MS, RN, FNP-C****Class of 2009**

Covid screener and tester, primary care and  
urgent care

Syracuse Community Health Center

**Rebekah Parsons, BSN, RN****Class of 1997**

Nurse Manager outpatient primary care  
Sanford, NC Community based outpatient  
clinic

**Mallory Tobia, RN****Class of 2019**

Registered Nurse in Endoscopy unit  
providing care to COVID patients who were  
in need of emergent procedures. Worked  
in Infection Prevention for 14 weeks and  
assisted with testing and tracking COVID

**Nancy Skelly, RN****Class of 1960**

Retired

**Tricia Masterpol, MS, RN, CMSRN****Class of 2011**

Clinical Educator in the COVID Education  
Team in acute care and RN COVID  
Vaccinator at the Fairgrounds  
St. Joseph's Health and the Onondaga  
County Health Department

**Linda (Stahrr) Parker, BS, RN, CCM****Class of 1986**

Case Manager at the Syracuse VA

**Leah (Simmons) Frye, RN****Class of 1997**

Recovery Nurse in the GI Endoscopy Center  
of Northern Virginia and as a teacher in  
the Public Schools as a Primary Instructor  
for Introduction to Nursing (a CNA program  
for high school students) at West Potomac  
High School Academy

**Pauline (Walker) Wadzinski, RN****Class of 1958**

Worked for the Little Sisters of the Poor  
Long Term Care in Somerville, MA / non-  
patient care by choice; then Retired in July  
2020 (age 83).

**Patricia Johnson, BS, RN****Class of 1975**

per diem staff nurse on an outpatient unit  
at St. Joseph's Health

**Mary LaBrake, BSN, RN, CPAN****Class of 2008**

Nurse Coordinator for PACU

**Jennifer Cerio, MS, RN, CNE, CMSRN****Class of 2007**

RN Faculty at St. Joseph's College of Nursing

**Theresa Husak, RN****Class of 1996**

Level 1 Trauma Center OR Nurse in Colorado

## ATTENTION ALUMNI!

Due to the recent increase in COVID infections we unfortunately **must cancel our September 26, 2021 in-person Annual Meeting and Brunch**. St. Joseph's Health and Trinity, in accordance with CDC guidelines, have asked that all meetings be held virtually until further notice. In order to elect officers and board members please join a brief **Zoom meeting** (invitation below) on **September 26, 2021 11:00 AM** to vote. We will celebrate Alumni Award recipients, and 50th Anniversary Classes (1970, 1971, and 1972) when we are able to hold an in-person meeting and brunch tentatively scheduled for June 4 & 5, 2022 weekend. If you already made a brunch reservation, you will be contacted regarding your payment refund.

This announcement is made with much disappointment however following the CDC guidelines will help us to eventually meet again in person. Please contact me if you have any questions. Email: [Connie.Semel@gmail.com](mailto:Connie.Semel@gmail.com) or 315.491.2588

**Connie Semel – President**

### Zoom meeting invitation:

Constance Semel is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Alumni Annual Meeting**

Time: Sep 26, 2021, 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84944912007?pwd=WFkzWmsyYm5qRWJlWkFjalhUOXRhZD09>

Meeting ID: 849 4491 2007 Passcode: 979931

**One tap mobile**

+13017158592 84944912007# \*979931# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799 84944912007# \*979931# US (Chicago)

**Dial by your location**

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 849 4491 2007

Passcode: 979931

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kpijKqjC2>

**2020 ALUMNI AWARDS****Sheila (Potter) Austin '76**

*Excellence in Community Nursing*

**John Munger '06**

*Excellence in Clinical Nursing*

**Jennifer (Austin) Cerio '07**

*Service Excellence to the College of Nursing*

**2021 ALUMNI AWARDS****Debra (Ryan) Johnson '74**

*Excellence in Clinical Nursing*

**Marianne Markowitz**

*Ed.D., RN, CNE, former Vice President/Dean,  
St. Joseph's College of Nursing, Service  
Excellence to the College of Nursing*

JUNE 2019

## Class of 1969 Reunion

*"50 years since we graduated...it was like it was yesterday... the memories made and bonds forged during the three years we spent together, are priceless."*

~ **Margaret (Zupan) Golden** Class of '69



## St. Joseph's Nursing – it can be a generational experience!

If you are part of a family with multiple generations of St. Joseph's nurses—we would love to hear about it and publish pictures in future newsletters.

Please send photos (with info about the relatives and their class year) to [maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu](mailto:maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu).

**Thank you!**



**Mary Anne (Hall) Johnson ('66)**, on the left, with her grand-daughter **Erica Weeks ('20)** — both holding their St. Joseph's pins.



**Melanie Bixby (Mary Anne Johnson's daughter) class of 1992** with her niece, **Erica Weeks (on the left) class of 2020**.





JANUARY 2021

## Marianne Markowitz Retirement

Marianne Markowitz, EdD, MS, RN, CNE retired as Vice President and Dean of St. Joseph's College

of Nursing on Jan 1, 2021. This marked the end of a 30-plus year career at the helm of the CON.

Marianne actually began her career at St. Joseph's while she was in high school. Her mom, Rita Cole, worked in St. Joseph's medical records, and Marianne worked in that department for a time before nursing school. Dr. Markowitz graduated from St. Joseph's nursing school in Elmira, NY and then attended SUNY College of Technology at Utica-Rome. While studying in the Mohawk Valley region, Marianne worked at Little Falls Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital. After earning her BS degree, Marianne found her way eventually to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica, first as a staff nurse and eventually in a faculty role at St. Elizabeth's College of Nursing. Marianne had a variety of roles over her time at St. Elizabeth's nursing school, and earned a master's in nursing from Syracuse University while living in Utica as well. By then Marianne had married George Markowitz and she had 2 children, Kevin and Sarah (College of Nursing grad, 2010).



**Marianne Markowitz around the time she joined St. Joseph's College of Nursing in 1990**

One day in 1990, Marianne's mom noticed St. Joseph's in Syracuse was looking to hire an assistant director for the nursing school, and Marianne applied. Sister Geraldine DeLuca, the director at the time, had the good sense to hire Marianne, and the rest is history. Over time, Sister Geraldine moved on to other assignments, and Marianne became Director, then Dean and Vice President of St. Joseph's College of Nursing.

Marianne guided the College of Nursing through the initial implementation and expansion of computerization, to and through virtual/on-line learning in the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Looking back, Marianne is very pleased to have been a trail-blazer with regard to overseeing the development of the weekend program, which morphed into the evening -weekend program in recent years. Not to be forgotten is the start of the dual degree program in nursing, in cooperation with Dr. Susan Bastable and LeMoyne College. This program eventually and successfully expanded to include dual-degree /second-degree students. Along the way, Marianne earned an EdD from St. John Fisher College.

Other changes and accomplishments at St. Joseph's during Dr Markowitz's tenure included accreditation by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), followed by accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and designation of the College of Nursing as a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing (NLN). The renovation of the 6th floor of the College of Nursing into modernized study and hang-out space for students was accomplished around 2016. Dr Markowitz received the Sr. Patricia Ann Lifetime Achievement Award from St. Joseph's Hospital in 2018.

Reflecting on her years with St. Joseph's, Marianne says she misses the faculty and students, she especially enjoyed seeing the students succeed.

As for current and future plans, Marianne and her husband George have a trip planned out west in Spring '21 to see son Kevin and visit some national parks. Professionally Marianne is doing some work for the Accreditation Commission in Nursing Education (ACEN) on-line, as well as doing some teaching and consulting in nursing education management.

Due to the pandemic, there was no formal celebration of Marianne's retirement. Instead, contributions are requested to a scholarship in her honor. Anyone interested in donating to the Dr. Marianne Markowitz Nursing Inspiration Scholarship can send it to the attention of MaryAnn Wafer at the College of Nursing. Or, they can go to the Foundations website and make their donation to this scholarship online. Here is the information on how to do that:

If you would like to donate toward this Scholarship, please go to St. Joseph's Health's Foundation website at <https://foundation.sjhsyr.org/>. Once at the website, please select the option 'Give Now!' in the right upper corner. Fill out the form accordingly and designate in the 'Comments' field that "your donation is for the Dr. Marianne Markowitz Nursing Inspiration Scholarship for St. Joseph's College of Nursing." For 'Designation' please select 'College of Nursing General Scholarship Fund.' Once you select the 'Donate Now' button at the bottom of this form, you will be taken to a page to enter your credit card information.

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We sincerely regret any unintentional omissions or errors that may have occurred with the preparation of this Newsletter.

#### CO-EDITORS:

Mary Headd Ryan '72  
Tricia Drum Masterpol '11

*Tricia Drum Masterpol '11 has completed her term as a board member — the Alumni Association Board thanks her for her service and dedication to the Alumni Association.*



#### Alumni Association Officers

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**Maintaining of an Up-to-Date Alumni Database** – To maintain an accurate listing of contact information (home addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses) for our Alumni, please notify Mary Ann (Mahalick) Wafer, Associate for Alumni and Development of any changes to your contact information. You can notify Mary Ann Wafer of changes to your contact information via phone at 315-448-3540; via US mail at St. Joseph's College of Nursing, 206 Prospect Ave, Syracuse, New York 13203, Attention: Mary Ann Wafer; or via email at [maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu](mailto:maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu)

## CLASS OF 1972 SAVE THE DATE!

St. Joseph's College of Nursing  
at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center  
&

The Alumni Association  
St. Joseph's College of Nursing

### INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

Lunch • Reminiscing • Tours  
In celebration of your  
50th Graduation Anniversary

**SATURDAY • JUNE 4, 2022**

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

**THE DE FURIA CONFERENCE ROOM – L 100A**

Off of the Hospital Main Lobby  
St. Joseph's Health Hospital

Invitations and more information will be sent to the class closer to the date.

Questions: Contact Mary Ann (Mahalick) Wafer at 315-448-3540  
or [maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu](mailto:maryann.wafer@sjhcon.edu)