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OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association
Newsletter of the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association
Summer 2015

SUSTAINING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE: NEW DEAN AT COLLEGE OF NURSING

Marquis Foreman, PhD, RN, began his career in health care with a challenging role. He was one of only three night aides at a psychiatric ward that housed 72 men — many of whom were bedridden.

“It was a frustrating and rewarding job,” said Foreman, who was appointed in 2014 as the fourth John L. and Helen Kellogg Dean of Rush University College of Nursing. “Every little thing we could do made a big difference for the men. But it was clear I could learn to provide better care, and that’s how I became a nurse.”

Foreman’s nursing education did more than make him a better caregiver; it instilled a passion for nursing education.

In the 1970s, Foreman was the only male in his program at the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo before coming to Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, where he earned a PhD and completed a two-year post-doctorate program. He then spent 25 years on faculty at UIC before coming to Rush in 2008.

Foreman earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from what was then the St. Vincent Medical Center School of Nursing. Foreman also received his PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he earned a PhD and completed a two-year post-doctorate program. He then spent 25 years on faculty at UIC before coming to Rush in 2008. He first served as chair of the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing and later as executive associate dean of academic affairs. Foreman has published more than 75 articles and dozens of book chapters, abstracts and reviews, and he has served in a leadership capacity in several professional organizations.

“Rush became the leading school that it is today because everybody really cares about students,” Foreman said. “Rush holds education excellence in as high a regard as research and health care practice.”

As part of his steadfast commitment to learning, both for students on campus and alumni across the country, Foreman plans to continue developing new mentoring programs and to continue building relationships with alumni to offer help to new graduates and fellow alumni at various stages of their careers.

“The are so many directions a nursing career can take, so it’s essential to have guidance from people with an array of experiences throughout the field,” Foreman said. “It’s also important to be able to connect with people when first moving to a new geographic area, or considering a move.”

Foreman also wants to continue the high level of mentorship and consideration Rush faculty take with students — a facet he found was especially significant at Rush compared to other academic health science centers.

“We have a really strong national reputation for taking care of our students and spending time with them,” Foreman said. “Everyone here knows students are our faculty members’ primary business, and it’s important that we help guide them into their careers.”

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RUSH-PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE’S NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2014-2016 BOARD ROSTER

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RUSH UNIVERSITY
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE ...

The Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s nursing tradition spans 130 years. It’s amazing to think about how much nursing has changed over those 13 decades. Technology is more advanced. Policy is more complicated. And, most important, nurses play a more integral role in interprofessional patient care. But one thing hasn’t changed, and that’s Rush’s ability to prepare today’s nursing students as future leaders in nursing practice, education and research.

The Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association remains committed to strengthening the college’s efforts, while serving the needs of alumni like you. In the last issue, our past president Angélique Richard, PhD, RN (BSN ’85, MSN ’88), described our new strategic plan, designed to strengthen alumni pride, increase student outreach and support the college. I’m proud to share with you some recent progress toward those goals.

In the past year, we formally welcomed more than 300 graduating students as members of the alumni association, engaging them early on in the alumni association activities and promoting alumni pride. And we continue to host our Nursing Networks events, designed to allow you to reconnect with fellow alumni, while learning about the topics that are most critical to our profession. At our May 12 event, which focused on interprofessional education and practice, I was inspired by the many connections — personal and professional — forged among our alumni. The dialogue, networking and energy at this event were stimulating, with old friends and classmates catching up and sharing details of interprofessional practice at their various institutions; we can’t wait to build on this momentum with our next Nursing Networks this fall.

What’s more, we have a number of exciting advances on the horizon, including new communication strategies and planned receptions at national Magnet and Sigma Theta Tau conferences. As always, we’re looking forward to another great Homecoming this fall.

As we move forward, the commitment of our alumni remains a constant source of strength for both the college and our alumni association. Thank you for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

Marcia Murphy, DNP, ANP, FAHA, FPCNA (MSN ’80, Cert. ’97, DNP ’07)
President
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association

P.S. I hope to see many of you at Rush for Homecoming on Nov. 6 and 7, when we will especially celebrate the Class of 1965 on their 50th reunion. Visit www.con.rushalumni.org/homecoming or call the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-7199 for details.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH EXPERT GIVES TO EDUCATION

Annette Haag has spent more than 34 years educating occupational health and safety professionals as one of the foremost authorities on occupational health, safety and nursing in the country. A 1964 graduate from one of Rush’s predecessor schools, Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing, Annette says the hands-on experience she received as a nursing student helped her build a career around instructing businesses on preventing employee injuries and illnesses, as well as assisting occupational health nurses in obtaining their necessary certifications. In gratitude, she decided to make a bequest to Rush to help motivated nursing students without the financial means receive the same career-guiding education she did.

“I was so impressed with the exceptional skills and experience that Presbyterian-St. Luke’s provided me as a student, and Rush has kept that reputation all the way to today,” Annette said. “It’s a privilege to support one of the premier nursing programs in the country.”

Bequests like Annette’s are important resources as nursing education at Rush continues to evolve. Planned gifts of all sizes and designations have enabled Rush University College of Nursing to offer hands-on learning opportunities like the new Rush Center for Clinical Skills and Simulation; scholarship assistance for promising students; support for emerging nursing research and community outreach; and investment in faculty excellence.

What’s more, a gift through your will, trust or life income arrangement will ensure that nursing education at Rush can continue to respond to evolving health care delivery models.

Annette, a member of the Rush Heritage Society, says that the impact of Rush’s efforts, including support from its donors, is visible throughout Rush’s patient care, research, education and community outreach.

“Every time I come back for reunions, I see the results,” Annette said about why she continues to give to Rush.

To learn more about gift planning at Rush or to request our free Estate-Planning Guide for Women 2015, contact Susan Sasvari at susan_sasvari@rush.edu or (312) 942-3691.

NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
STRATEGIC PLAN FY2014–2017

STRENGTHEN ALUMNI PRIDE
Build visibility and awareness, share alumni achievements and promote opportunities for involvement

INCREASE STUDENT OUTREACH
Connect alumni with students for networking and career guidance

SUPPORT THE COLLEGE
Build volunteering and philanthropy in support of key college efforts

THE COLLEGE
SUPPORT
Promote philanthropy in support of key college efforts

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE ...
Visit www.con.rushalumni.org/homecoming or call the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-7199 for details.
st. Luke’s ::

Marilyn m. kasbaum palmer, ’46, still keeps in touch with six other alumni from the Class of 1946. “we are all sneaking up to our 90s, but still young at heart,” she said. “i worked as a geriatric nurse — now i need one. But i’m still upright and walking,” she said.

Presbyterian ::

Joyce mulenburg boorer, ’46, has worked at Grossman Hospital, as well as in the tuberculosis ward at Ann arbor Hospital, at Hope College and at Genesee Memorial Hospital. She now lives with her daughter and husband and would love to get some mail from her old classmates. To get in touch with boorer, or any fellow alumni, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-7199 or Alumni@rush.edu.

Donna Mills koester, ’56, and her husband, Art, are both retired and living at a “fly-in” community called mount Royal Airpark located on the st. John’s River in Florida, south of st. Augustine. Art has a small plane that he enjoys flying locally. They do not miss the Chicago winters, but Donna does enjoy the many memories of happy times at “Pres,” she said.

Presbyterian-st. Luke’s ::

Phyllis schleef parker, ’60, works as an off-shift house supervisor in a suburban community hospital. She is looking forward to seeing her fellow class of 1960 classmates at the 55-year reunion this fall.

Sally Bellina linnenbrink, ’67, works as divisional vice president of care services for Enlivant, a large operator of assisted living facilities. Following her studies at Presbyterian-st. Luke’s, she earned a bachelor’s degree in art from Emmanuel College, a master’s degree in health care administration from Simmons College and a certificate in gerontology from the University of Colorado at Colorado springs.

Rush ::

victor P. senese, BSN ’82, became president of the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates in November 2014.

Marguerite littleton-kearney, PhD ’85, became director of the Division of Extramural Science Programs at the National Institute of Nursing Research in January 2015. There, she is responsible for leading, managing and actively coordinating the extramural scientific programs, grants management, the scientific merit review and council operations. For more than five years, Littleton-kearney has been the associate dean for research and director of the Fay e g. Abdelbash Center for Military and Federal Healthcare Research at the Dani el K. inouye Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a tenured professor. She is currently serving as the interim dean.

Angelique richard, BSN ’85, MSN ’88, accepted a new position at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance as chief nurse executive and vice president of clinical operations, bringing nearly 30 years of experience as a registered nurse. In her new role, she is leading patient care delivery, ensuring staff accountability for providing a patient-centered clinical practice environment, while overseeing general clinical quality and patient safety. richard also previously served as president of the Rush-presbyterian-st. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association.

Betty j. horton, PhD ’98, received the agatha hodgins award for outstanding accomplishment at the annual Congress of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in September. The award recognizes a certified registered nurse anesthetist who has furthered the art and science of nurse anesthesia, the highest accolade given by the AAAA. horton also received the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ lifetime Achievement Award in August.

Josh hilton, DNP ’06, started as the new dean of the Ralph and Betty engelstad School of Health Sciences at the College of Southern Nevada on July 1. He continues as the president and principal clinician at The Hamilton group Behavioral Healthcare in Las Vegas. hilton also was named the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus for Whitney School of Nursing at the University of Wyoming.

Jeffrey dodd, DNP ’13, became manager of RN quality and compliance at MidWest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter.

From NIH research grants to top rankings in U.S. news, so much is happening with our college, faculty and alumni! find the college news and more alumni news and achievements at www.con.rushalumni.org.

In Memoriam ::

Velda mYers, ’42, of spring, Texas; Sept. 24, 2010

shirley J. stansbury thompson, ’45, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Jan. 15, 2015


Ariyya waters, ’47, deOmo, Michigan; Oct. 13, 2013

L.t. Col. Sheila a. McCann, ’53, of San Antonio; March 6, 2015

audrey a. steHlk, ’54, of Fort myers, Florida; May 22, 2013

Dorothy lohr, ’57, of Tucson, Arizona; May 1, 2015

Elizabeth e. bromley, ’52, of fort Lauderdale, Florida; April 27, 2015

Thelma lorraine cleveland, ’55, of Clayton, Washington; Dec. 27, 2014

Elida gairland, ’59, of Manhattan Beach, California; Jan. 28, 2010

Presbyterian-st. Luke’s ::

marjorie Brenner HAZELBAKER, ’35, of Palm Bay, Florida; May 12, 2014

Dorothy e. vates, ’33, of Savannah, Georgia; May 22, 2015

Gwendolyn lorraine lormier, ’41, of Mission Viejo, California; March 26, 2013

Marguerite “peggy” smith, ’42, of Arlington Heights, Illinois; July 9, 2014

Donna Mae weytel, ’43, of Mahomet, Illinois; Nov. 18, 2014

Jeanette barloga ullman, ’45, of Earlysville, Virginia; Jan. 23, 2011

Sherrie benett Vangone, ’42, of Bandera, Texas; Jan. 29, 2014

Beverly jane Weymer, ’47, of Redmond, Washington; Sept. 14, 2014

Carol Jean stika, ’48, of Fallbrook, California; Dec. 11, 2011

Lois syrstad-watkins, ’49, of Alhambra, California; Aug. 14, 2014


Presbyterian ::

Gail e. thurkauf, MSN ’30, of laurel, Maryland; Oct. 13, 2013

Susan J. sQUIRES, MSN ’81, of Chicago; March 8, 2015

Ann m. Jones, MS ’84, DNP ’00, of St. Paul, Minnesota; Oct. 29, 2014

Wendy Keating buckland, BSN ’86, of Boulder, Colorado; April 7, 2015

HAILINA m. Craig, MSN ’90, of Charlotte, North Carolina; Dec. 5, 2014


Audrey c. Taylor, MSN ’07, of Chicago; March 28, 2015

Michael e. unger, DNP ’08, of Rochester, New York; June 18, 2013

Former Faculty ::

Mary dormady clark, PhD, RN, retired professor of nursing, of Chicago; Dec. 13, 2014. Clark served as a faculty member at presbyterian-st. Luke’s Hospital and was a Golden Lamp Society member, continuing to support nursing at Rush after she left education. She is remembered as an influential and inspirational educator and was described as being ahead of her time by those who knew her well.

Peggy J. lux, former College of Nursing counselor and longtime Golden Lamp Society member, of naperville, Illinois; April 27, 2015. She will be remembered as being always supportive and available to students, faculty and staff. She had a special love and concern for diploma and undergraduate nursing students.

In addition to the “Distinguished Alumni Award” honoring alumni who have had great distinction through their service, research or practice in the nursing profession, the Rush-presbyterian-st. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association Board will begin awarding the “Excellence in Practice Award.” this award will honor alumni who demonstrate clinical expertise and have made outstanding contributions in health care.
Rush Launches Online Financial Literacy Tool for Students and Alumni

For so many students and alumni, navigating payment for higher education or student loans while balancing living costs and other expenses is a fact of life. To aid in this, Rush University has debuted CashCourse, a free online financial literacy resource funded by the National Endowment for Financial Education. It provides students and alumni with helpful information on loans, budgeting and financial planning for life after graduation.

For more information, visit www.con.rushalumni.org/alumniresources.

WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY?

Chances are you took more away from your nursing education than just a cup of sugar. Marcia Lockwood (St. Luke’s ’54) certainly did.

At Homecoming last fall, Marcia returned to Rush bearing two gifts: the sugar shaker she borrowed 60 years ago from the hospital cafeteria and a check for $60: $1 for every year she kept it. The fudge she made with that sugar was no doubt delicious, but sweeter still is the experience and professional knowledge she gained as a nursing student.

Gifts from alumni like Marcia help prepare today’s nursing students to become tomorrow’s nursing leaders. To join Marcia by making your annual gift to Rush University College of Nursing, visit http://rush.convio.net/morethansugar or call (312) 942-7799.

A LOOK BACK: THE DIVECCHIO SISTERS

Twin sisters Judith V. Divecchio-Ramsay and Janet Divecchio did almost everything together, including attending Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1964.

Both sisters fondly recall the hands-on experience gained at Presbyterian-St. Luke’s and how well it prepared them for their nursing careers.

“Within the first few months of school we were already on the floors, and we were well-supported by instructors,” Judith said. “That was the most valuable part of the program.”

Janet found that experiential approach is still at the core of a Rush nursing education today.

“When I returned for our 50-year reunion, I was pleasantly surprised by the simulation center, where nurses can practice skills in an environment that is so much like what happens in a real health care setting,” Janet said.

The sisters are looking forward to reconnecting with fellow classmates and learning about new advances at Rush at this year’s Homecoming.

THREE GENERATIONS OF RUSH-TRAINED NURSES

Not only is nursing in Carissa Waters’ family, but so is education at Rush. In 2012, Carissa became the third generation to study nursing at Rush, following her grandmother, the late Arlys Waters, St. Luke’s ’47, and her aunt Linnea Schmid, BSN ’06. Carissa Waters serves as a critical care nurse at Rush while studying for her DNP.

“There’s a lot of respect and a high regard among nurses, physicians, PClPs, respiratory therapists and all the different disciplines here at Rush,” Carissa Waters said. “Those Rush values go back to when my grandma was a nurse. She said her voice always counted when it came to caring for the patients. When my aunt came to work here, she said the same thing.”