

BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION I, Inc.

October, 2017

Dear Member:

**Our Annual Dinner/Alumnae Meeting** was held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of April, 2017 at Dante's Restaurant. The food and the company were great! Our speaker was Dr. Lobo, and he addressed Lyme's Disease, the Zyka virus, and other viruses and illnesses. It was a very informative evening.

**The last Graduation of the BHSN students** took place on May 1, 2017. There were 50 graduates from the class of 5/2017. The 30 members of the Accelerated Class of December, 2016, were invited to attend the May 1, 2017 graduation ceremonies at the University of Bridgeport. Of the 50 graduates of the 5/2017 class, 45 joined AAI. AAI honored our new graduate nurses with a social in April. Congratulations to all the graduates! Following the graduation, AAI held a reception at UB for the Alumnae, BHSN professors and staff, Hospital officials and any graduate who wished to attend. There were about 60 in attendance. This was a wonderful finale to commemorate the 133 years of the BHSN!

**The Memorabilia at BHSN**, A fabulous afternoon reception, April 27, was presented by the Bridgeport Hospital and BHSN at the school of nursing, under a huge tent in the school's parking lot with hor d'oeuvres and delectable sweets served continuously. There was also a power point and video being shown in the school's rec room on the many faces of the schools graduates and many historical views. This was such a special tribute to all nurses for their dedication and how important and special the BHSN education and training has been for its nurses.

**Historical room at BHSN:** Several AAI members assisted Linda Podolak in categorizing, boxing, and moving several of the many memorabilia items that had graced this room since the 1800's. This was a tremendous undertaking and we wish to thank everyone who assisted for their time and energy in this process especially Linda Podolak, who has spent countless hours and weeks on the phone, making arrangements, doing the leg work, and strategizing where the best places would be to display these items. Many items were sent to UB to be displayed in the medical wing and others are on display at the Bridgeport Hospital Library. See Linda Podolak's enclosed letter. Other items that were not to be put on display have been moved to a storage cube in Shelton that AAI is renting for the time being. There will be more discussion on what we are doing with these remaining items at our Spring banquet.

**The updated AAI Continuing Education scholarship information is on our website-** for nurses whom wish to pursue advances in their nursing education. The Scholarship is a distribution of up to \$4000 and distributed as a one-time award. The Guidelines for the Scholarship prerequisites and the applications are on our website and the contact information. For consideration for a scholarship of the baccalaureate or master's in nursing, please include your nursing program bursar contact information and include with your application. Applicants must be a current AAI member for at least one year. If you would wish to apply for a scholarship, you can contact Caren Silhavey, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, at [Silhavey@att.net](mailto:Silhavey@att.net) or 203-375-4553, or Debi Petrushonis, AAI Treasurer, at [debptreas@juno.com](mailto:debptreas@juno.com) or 203-924-9175 also for an application and a copy of the guidelines. Applications will be accepted starting January to March, 2018 only and will be under review by the scholarship committee. Scholarship recipients will be announced and awarded at our April dinner/meeting.

**To join AAI face book or to see AAI updates**, email Jamie at [jme02raz02@aol.com](mailto:jme02raz02@aol.com) or go directly to the Face Book page- **B.H.S.N. Alumnae Association.**

**AJ Klein Jewelers** at 866 Ave, Shelton, has sold a number of the replica pins/pendant of the BHSN nursing pins which are for order if you would like a charm, necklace/pendant or just a replacement of your lost original pin. Both, the vintage original pin for graduating classes before 2003 and current pin since 2003 are available; colors are maroon and gold. The price list for gold filled, 10K and 12K will vary on the pins. You would contact A.J.Klein Jewelers directly to order pins at 203-929-3300. With gold prices fluctuating at times, the estimate of the pins may vary. Pins will be made to order, a few are in stock, and will cost the price of the pin plus CT sales tax, shipping and handling. Pins are no longer available for purchase after graduation from BHSN. If you need more information, you can contact Caren Silhavey at 203-375-4553.

**Deceased Members: no current AAI deceased members.** AAI contributes a donation to our Continuing Education Scholarship Fund in memory of our deceased member if we are unable to send a delegation to their service. If you hear of any distant or out of State members whom have passed, please contact one of our Board members. If anyone has a nursing cap that you would like to donate for the funeral delegates to wear or if you would like to participate as a funeral delegate, please contact Cathy Nucera at 203-452-9618.

**If anyone is interested in posting news** in our annual newsletter, have a class get-together or reunion at our annual meeting, please send emails by February 15<sup>th</sup> to Debi @ [debptreas@juno.com](mailto:debptreas@juno.com) or 203-924-9175, if anyone knows of a member in a hospital or convalescent home, call one of our board members or email to Debi.

**If anyone knows of a restaurant**, with a banquet room and handicap access, that you would like to try or recommend for our annual April dinner/meeting, please call Cathy Nucera at 203-452-9618

**Please update your address** if you move or email address, or phone number and forward to Debi [@debptreas@juno.com](mailto:debptreas@juno.com) -please include your full name and class, if you send a note so that I know whom you are.

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**Officers of AAI:**

**President: Mary Toohey-Repko- 203-378-9783**

**V.President: Cathy Nucera- 203-452-9618**

**Secretary: Dottie Connolly- 203-922-8022**

**Treasurer: Debi Petrushonis- 203-924-9175 Email: [debptreas@juno.com](mailto:debptreas@juno.com)**

**AAI Webpage: [www.BHSNAA1.org](http://www.BHSNAA1.org) Facebook page: [B.H.S.N.Alumnae Association.](https://www.facebook.com/B.H.S.N.Alumnae.Association)**

## **BHSN: School Closure: Submitted by Linda Podolak**

Many alumni were able to attend Bridgeport Hospital's Commemorative Event on April 30, 2017 celebrating the School's history. A tent was constructed in the School parking lot embracing faculty/staff, alumni, employees, administration, and people from the community. Picture framed photos centered pieced the tables stimulating story telling of the days at BHSN. As people socialized and reminisced there was a continuous loop slideshow of school photos throughout the years. Also, one can enter the school where manikins dressed in the uniforms of the past including the cadets were seen. Nursing memorabilia was displayed in the formal living room and Allied Health artifacts in another room. In remembrance of the School of Nursing, the classroom and auditorium showed a video highlighting its history- narrated by the School's last Director, Linda Podolak. The video was created & filmed by cinematographer, Shane McLellan (Shane Films). The selected photos and script writing was done by Linda Podolak and Sally Maglione, BHSN faculty. To get access to the video and slideshow the links are provided below.

**Video- <https://vimeo.com/215503634>Slideshow- <https://vimeo.com/215500466>**

The last BHSN graduation was held on May 1, 2017 at the University of Bridgeport's Arnold Bernhard Arts & Humanities Center. The last entrance class walked the aisles, 30 accelerated students who graduated December 2016 and the traditional class of May 2017 had 50 graduates. At the ceremony, the School was grateful to have many past alumni as ushers and being part of the graduation. Although the BHSN era ends, the School's NCLEX-RN outcomes for this class continued to exceed state and national first time pass rates. The class of December 2016 achieved a 96.7% (29/30) pass rate and May 2017 a 94% (47/50) rate; overall class 95%.

BHSN closed as of June 2, 2017. Many faculty transitioned to the University of Bridgeport (UB) to start the first nursing year in the BSN program. All nursing and allied health records were transferred to UB. If a graduate needs a transcript they would contact the UB Registrar office. For more specific information refer to our **BHSN website:**

**<https://www.bridgeporthospital.org/medical-professionals/bhsn.aspx>**

This site has been revised & updated; you can also view the history of the school video on the site too. Take a look!

With the closure of the school, the memorabilia in the historical room found a place. All nursing ephemera, photos and items were transferred to UB to store the historical items. At this time UB purchased two 6ft wide display cases which were mounted on the wall in their Nursing laboratory classroom. One case displays some of the BHSN articles from the past and the other of UB's past nursing program prior to 1995. Also, all Bridgeport Hospital (BH) related materials were transferred to the BH Library. Additionally, BH Library accepted all historic nursing books. The School's grandfather clock was moved to BH Foundation where their chimes can be heard each hour from their entrance conference room.

After the distribution to UB & BH, there were extra items left such as nursing yearbooks, student handbooks, playbooks, etc. These items will be made available at the 2018 Spring Banquet. Furthermore, the Blue Danube tea cup / saucer used at our school teas will be available along with other items such as a framed photo of Linda Richards, first trained nurse in the US. As the banquet gets closer, there will be more details.

What remains at the school are 2 baby grand pianos. If interested, contact Linda Podolak (303-384-3695 or [linda.podolak@bpthosp.org](mailto:linda.podolak@bpthosp.org)).

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the closing of the School. Without each personal touch, whether it was a moment in time or hours of work, the closing of the school and its preservation of history would not have been so successful. Thank you all! Linda