

**BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION I, Inc.**

**Dear Member:**

**December, 2015**

**Our Annual Dinner/Alumnae Meeting** will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of April, 2016. We had a great time at our last Dinner/Meeting in April, 2015 with our speaker, Dottie Bengoian, an inspirational humorist. Her light hearted humor livened up the night and was a pleasant treat!

**Graduation of the BHSN took place on May 4, 2015.** There were 51 graduates. The December 2014 Accelerated Class of 32 members, were invited to attend the May, 2015 graduation ceremonies at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at Fairfield University. All 51 graduates of the class of 5/15 completed AAI applications. AAI honored our new graduate nurses with a social in April. Congratulations to all the graduates!

**AAI honors the top scholastic BHSN graduates upon graduation for their outstanding academic achievements,** The Suma Cum Laude gold pins were awarded to Erin Carey, cl 12/14 and Lisa Stein, cl 5/15. The Magna Cum Laude gold pins were awarded to Michelle Banks, cl 12/14, and Brenden Martin, cl 5/15. Congratulations to the top scholastic graduates from the classes of 12/14 and 5/15.

**The AAI Board has reviewed and updated the AAI Continuing Education Scholarship** for nurses whom wish to pursue advances in their nursing education. The Scholarship will be increased up to \$4000. We will be updating our AAI Web Site soon with the Guidelines for the Scholarship prerequisites and the Applications. 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, @ [Silhavey@att.net](mailto:Silhavey@att.net) or 203-375-4553, or Debi Petrushonis, AAI Treasurer, @ [debptreas@juno.com](mailto:debptreas@juno.com) or 203-924-9175 for a application and a copy of the guidelines. Applications will be taken starting January, 2016 and will be under review. Scholarship recipients will be announced at our April dinner/meeting.

To join AAI face book email **Jamie @ [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 Bridgeport Ave, Shelton, has replicas of BHSN nursing pins** for order if you would like a charm, necklace/pendant or replacement of your lost original pin. The vintage original pin for graduating classes before 2003, colors are maroon, gold and white and the newer pin, slightly larger, is for graduating classes 2003 to the present, and is maroon and gold. The price list for gold filled, 10K, and 14 K will vary on the pins. You would contact AJ Klein Jewelers directly to order pins at 203-929-3300. With gold prices fluctuating, 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:** A few of our AAI members have passed on: Mary London, cl 51, Joyce Galbraith, cl 55, Ann Marie Shuselknycky, cl 85, Margaret Hagggar, cl 51, Isabel Vince, cl50, Elmon Raiford, cl 54, Joyce Shea, cl 49. All will be sadly missed! AAI contributes a donation to our Continuing Education Scholarship Fund in memory of our deceased member if we are unable to attend their service. If you hear of any out of State members whom have passed on, 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 or have a class get-together or reunion at our annual meeting, or know of a member in a hospital or convalescent, please send emails to [debptreas@juno.com](mailto:debptreas@juno.com)

**If anyone knows of a restaurant,** with a banquet room and handicap access, that you would like to try or recommend for our annual dinner/meeting, please email or call Debi @ [debptreas@juno.com](mailto:debptreas@juno.com) or 203-924-9175.

## **News on the upcoming changes at the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing:**

### **BHSN: Past, Present & Future report from Linda Podolak, BHSN Director of Nursing**

Almost 3 years ago, Bridgeport Hospital and the University of Bridgeport (UB) signed a collaborative agreement to work jointly in transitioning Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing (BHSN) Diploma Program to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). In January 2013, BHSN conducted a needs assessment in which 233 BHSN alumni responded along with other Connecticut constituents (total n = 466). Survey questions “I would support a BHSN diploma to BSN transition” yielded an overall average of 1.4 (1-5 ratings, strongly agree being 1) and “I believe that a BSN is now needed to meet patient care needs / I believe all nurses should be prepared at least at the BSN level” yielded an overall average 1.9.

An Asset Transition Agreement between Bridgeport Hospital and the University of Bridgeport was finalized in June, 2015. Pre-planning strategic activities were identified for a generic BSN program as well as a RN-BSN. Regulatory requirements were followed simultaneously for each program. Implementation began and as of today the following were completed for the BSN program:

- Feasibility Study submitted to CT Board of Examiners for Nursing (BOEN) in fall of 2014 and approved in January 2015
- Identification of full-time & part-time faculty need
- Development of a BSN curriculum
- Self-Study Report submitted to BOEN in October 2015
- Licensure and Circulation documents submitted to Office of Higher Education (OHE) in October 2015
- Application for “Candidate Status” submitted to Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in October 2015

Additionally, the CT OHE gave full approval for the RN to BSN completion program in May 2015. In fall 2015, the program began its first class. CCNE application for the program has also been approved.

CT OHE and BOEN nurse consultant site visit at UB is scheduled for November 10, 2015 and the presentation of the Self-Study Report to the BOEN is scheduled for November 18, 2015 for BSN program approval. All strategic plans are on target. The traditional BSN program is projected for fall 2016 if approval obtained. Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing has admitted its last class this fall 2015 and will graduate this last class in May 2017; a projected date of BHSN diploma school closing.

### **More News on RN to BSN Hybrid Completion Program**

The RN to BSN Program is a career/educational mobility model for the registered nurse who desires to earn the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The hybrid curriculum provides 8 courses online and one hybrid course. Courses are offered in an 8 week format that can be completed in one calendar year (not including general education or pre-requisite courses that may be transferred in). The streamlined progression is designed for both diploma and associate degree nursing graduates who can earn advanced placement based on a transfer of credits previously earned at a nationally accredited institution. The RN students will complete general education requirements including core curriculum required by the University of Bridgeport, the upper level nursing course requirements, and elective courses that will complete the required 120 credits (up to 64 credits may be transferred from a two year or diploma program and up to a total of 90 credits may be transferred) for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree to be awarded.

For more information go to [www.bridgeport.edu/academics/undergraduate/rn-bsn/](http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/undergraduate/rn-bsn/)

Or email Linda Wagner, Associate Dean RN to BSN at [lwagner@bridgeport.edu](mailto:lwagner@bridgeport.edu)

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

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**Officers of AAI: President: Mary Toohey-Repko-203-378-9783**

**Secretary: Joyce Bruno- 203-373-0843**

**AAI Webpage: [www.BHSNAA1.org](http://www.BHSNAA1.org)**

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

**Treasurer: Debi Petrushonis-203-924-9175**

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