

## Alumni Association founders still inspire

In 1992, under the guidance of Dean **M. Janice Nelson, EdD, RN**, the College of

Nursing inaugurated an exceptional leader as Founding Alumni Board President,

**Kathy Harmand, MS '89, RN, CNS**.

Harmand not only led the alumni association through its first several years, she went on to become one of its most consistent and faithful donors. Harmand was excited to learn about the offer last fall from the Upstate Foundation to match gifts to create new scholarship endowments. This prompted her to move forward with her decision. In December, Harmand opened an endowment to provide scholarships for nursing students, with a preference to students who are working while attending the Upstate Medical University College of Nursing.

Dean Nelson's mission was to expand the services offered by the college and establish several Nursing programs including Post Master's Advanced Certificate Nursing programs to prepare Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners. Dean Nelson also recognized the need for endowment growth for scholarships. She started the first endowment fund for the alumni association which still provides scholarships two decades later. Today, her inspiration has led to a core of selfless donors.

"My goal for this endowment is that it will inspire others who have been involved from the beginning to help grow the endowment," Harmand said. "And to encourage anyone associated with the College of Nursing to give to this fund and know that their gift will go to a scholarship or multiple scholarships."

Harmand has followed the Nursing Alumni Association over the years, keeping a relationship with the board members

and nurses with whom she has worked.

"There has been a core of us who have

support the mission of the college, as well as the alumni association, in perpetuity.

**"This is a great opportunity to help ensure a quality nursing education for the next generation."**

**– Kathy Harmand**

always given to the college. I was glad that the Upstate Foundation offered this philanthropic opportunity and am pleased to be able to do this," Harmand said. Opening this fund represents her dedication to

non-profit educational organization that promotes healthy aging through lifelong learning, active lifestyles and volunteer engagement. She co-leads a course, Healthy Living with Chronic Disease.



*At the inaugural meeting. Seated: Virginia Byers, Rosemary Klein, Suzanne Roupas, Carolyn McAuliffe, Barbara Scruggs, Bess Buser. Standing: Carol Gavan, Kathleen Harmand, Sharon Osborn, Linda Rossi, M. Janice Nelson, John Bernard Henry, MD, Mimi Pfeiffer, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Carranti, Vera Wood, Janice Pitman, Jorge Grimes. Not pictured are Mary Davis and Nancy Evale.*

## Matching funds help light the lamp of knowledge

The Nursing Alumni Association and the Upstate Foundation recognize that endowment growth is needed for scholarships as tuition and other costs increase. Their generous matching offer helped several alumni

donors create new "forever funds" that will provide for the future.

The matching offer was an integral part to starting the

**J.S. Ferris Scholarship Endowment for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**, by Clinical Assistant Professor **Joyce Scarpinato, DNP, PCPNP-BC, FNP-C '09** which will provide scholarships for PNP nursing students.

**Christine A. Pappas, RN '64**, took advantage of the matching funds to establish the **Christine A. Pappas Endowed Nursing Scholarship**. Her goal is to encourage nursing students who exhibit the qualities of determination, tenacity and motivation to succeed, and who dare to be different.



*Joyce Scarpinato*

## Nursing *InTouch*

The Upstate Medical University Nursing Alumni Association publishes *Nursing InTouch*. Distribution is free to alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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### A note to our alumni in Florida:

Because of the large number of Upstate alumni and friends living in Florida either full- or part-time, the Upstate Foundation has registered as a charitable organization with the State of Florida. The Nursing Alumni Association is administered by the Upstate Foundation and is governed by the same rules. We hope this will facilitate charitable giving among our alumni. The Upstate Foundation's Florida registration # is CH57700.

## Nursing student from Cuba receives scholarship from KeyBank

KeyBank has been a strong supporter of Upstate's College of Nursing alumni and its students for many years. Stephen Fournier, KeyBank's Central NY market president, recognizes the importance of an educated workforce and the role it plays in the success of the community. He was proud to present **Elizabeth Gonzalez** with the 2018 KeyBank Community Trust Scholarship.

Gonzalez is a student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Upstate's College of Nursing. In her native Cuba, she studied medicine and became a doctor. Seeking a new life, she emigrated to the United States 10 years ago, knowing the medical credentials earned in the communist island nation would not be honored in her new country.

She landed in Miami and within days she and her 7-year-old daughter were relocated to Central New York where she quickly enrolled in a six-month Certified Nursing Assistant training program at the Syracuse City School District's Sidney L. Johnson Vocational Center. When she graduated, she went to work at an area nursing home.



*KeyBank Central NY Market President Stephen Fournier (left) presents scholarship to Elizabeth Gonzalez at the 2018 Nursing White Coat and Scholarship Awards Ceremony.*

Gonzalez is glad she and her daughter moved to America and to Syracuse. "You have more chances here," she says. And she is glad to have shifted into nursing. "A medicine career is focused on diagnosis and fixing medical conditions," she says. "In nursing, you see the patient as a whole."

*With excerpts from:*  
[Blogs.upstate.edu/withdistinction](http://Blogs.upstate.edu/withdistinction)

## Omicron Alpha merges with Omicron



*John Ringhisen (left) accepts the inaugural Omicron Alpha Nursing Scholarship from Nursing Alumni Vice President Michael Allain.*

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society (STTI) is the second largest nursing organization in the United States and the fifth largest in the world. Currently, there are 220,000 members employed in 73 countries around the world! Recently, Upstate's Omicron Alpha chapter merged with Syracuse's Omicron chapter. Past President and current Vice President of the Nursing Alumni Association **Michael Allain, RN, MS '09, ACNS-BC, CCRN, CEN**, said, "The combining of all the local Sigma Theta Tau chapters has been a long time coming. I believe this move will only serve to strengthen Sigma Theta Tau's presence in the Syracuse area. All the local chapters bring with them varying talents that when combined will ensure the legacy that the founding members deserve. I am excited to see what the combined resources can do to fortify Sigma Theta Tau's mission. This is truly a situation where *the whole is greater than the sum of its parts*."

To ensure the legacy and impact of the Omicron Alpha name on the Upstate campus, the chapter established an endowed scholarship for Upstate Medical University nursing students who are also members of Sigma.

The Nursing Scholarship Endowment for Advanced Practice has been renamed the **Carol Edwards Dawson, PNP, Scholarship Endowment for Advanced Practice Nursing**.



*Carol Dawson, PNP*

The original donors wished to recognize the exceptional accomplishments of **Carol Dawson, RN, BSN, MS, PNP**, and planned a surprise announcement at her retirement party. Dawson was selected to be honored because of her many accomplishments and her dedication to excellence as a pediatric nurse practitioner.



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# Thank You to our Donors!

We extend our gratitude to the alumni, faculty, students and friends who contributed to the Upstate College of Nursing Alumni Association 2018 annual campaign, including restricted funds and endowments. Donors are listed below according to gifts received between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

## Dean Elvira Szigeti, PhD, RN, Society\*

Named after the longtime former dean of the College of Nursing, the Szigeti Society recognizes donors who have given lifetime cumulative gifts of \$2,500 or more to the alumni association and/or have given annually for 10 or more consecutive years. Special thanks go to founding members who have given for 26 years – every year since the alumni association was formed.

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## ALUMNI NEWS

## DNP candidate one of the first board-certified Emergency Nurse Practitioner in New York State



*Valerie Reap presented her research at the Southeast Regional AAENP Conference.*

As a nursing alumna, member of Sigma Theta Tau and DNP candidate at Upstate's College of Nursing, **Valerie J. Reap, MSN '12, FNP-C, ENP-C, DNP**, is one of the first board-certified emergency nurse practitioners in the state of New York. In total, there are only 257 board-certified emergency nurse practitioners in the United States.

"As clinicians, it is important that we rise to meet the complex and dynamic healthcare challenges facing our patients, and we accomplish that by pursuing further education and staying current on best practices," Reap said.

Reap was chosen to present her research that was accepted for publication at the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners conference in February. Her research paper is also being published in the *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal*.

**Julie Dewey, MSN '18, FNP, SCRNP** is now a skin and wound advanced practice resource nurse (APRN) at Upstate University Hospital. Dewey will be working across both Upstate campuses facilitating Unit Based Skin Rounds, supporting and educating the bedside nursing care team in evidence-based practice for skin and wound care.

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# Nursing *InTouch*

Nursing Alumni Association News

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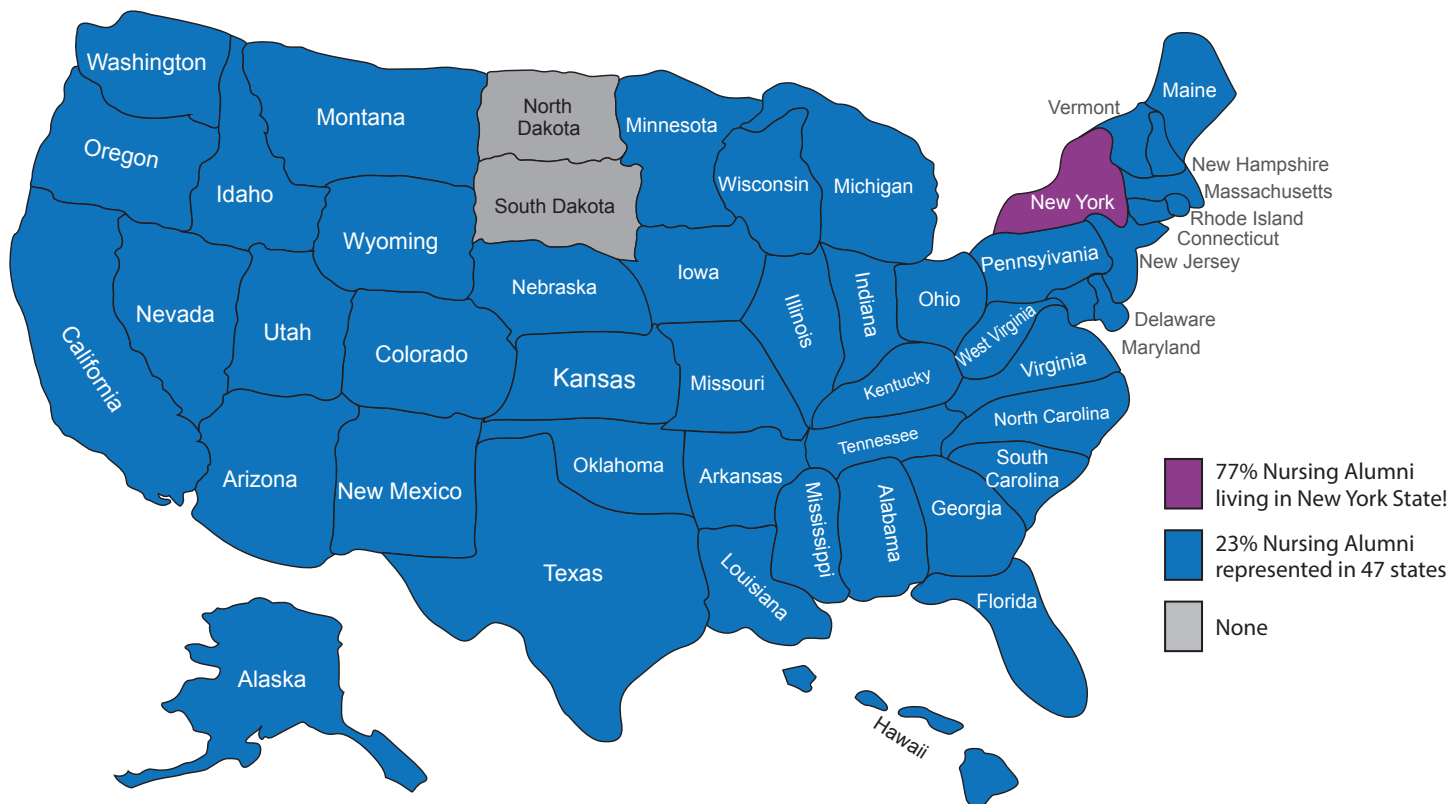
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*In the spirit of interprofessional collaboration, the Nursing and Health Professions alumni associations provided funding for artwork by local artists for permanent display in the new Academic Building. From left with one of the new paintings are CHP Dean Katherine Beissner, PhD, and CON Dean Tammy Austin-Ketch, PhD.*

## Where are our College of Nursing alumni?

Nearly 2,500 College of Nursing alumni in the USA—represented in almost every state!



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