Welcome to the PSON Alumni Newsletter

It was good to see so many alumni at the PSON Alumni Luncheon – Annual Meeting at the Water Club NYC on October 23, 2022. It was seeing old friends and making new friends that prompted the Board in restarting an Alumni Newsletter.

In this issue, you will meet our new President, Patricia McKenna (Class of 1989), say thank you to Rose Otero (Class of 1988) who served as president for six years, and learn about the evolution of the school over its 120 years from the lower Eastside to its new home in East Harlem.

Our goal is to help alumni keep in touch and stay connected to our alma mater,

Our plan is to publish your news, suggestions, articles and let others know what you’ve been up to, have updates about our school and fun surveys.

Editor ~ Miriam Fridman

President’s Greetings

Greetings to all our esteemed Alums!

Let me introduce myself, I am Patricia McKenna (nee Quinn), Class of 1989. I am honored to be the newest President of the PSON Alumni Association. I am joined by Alisa Gadon, Class of 1980, our new Vice-President. Our Board members have been dedicated to the Alumni Association and for many years have all served in various roles, and I thank them all. A special thank you to Rose Otero Class of 1988, who served as President for the past six years. I would like to express sincere gratitude for her dedication to our mission. As Immediate Past President, Rose remains an active member of the Board. We are also excited to welcome Danielle Brown, Class of 2021, our newest Board member.

Welcome and President’s Message

School Update and PSON Evolution

Phillips School of Nursing 120th Commencement

Alumni Highlight

Announcements

We have updated our email address. You can now reach us at: PSONAA@mountsinai.org

Or contact us by phone and leave a detailed phone message at 646.396.4498 and be sure to tell us the best way to reach you and what year you graduated.

Join us for our Annual Luncheon in October 2023 – Date TBD
President's Greetings

Another notable change is our name! We are now the Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing (PSON). Our name may have changed but our mission, vision and values remain the same. We continue to be fortunate to have the unwavering support of the Phillips Family who have insured that the school will forever be the Phillips School of Nursing. All that has changed is the Health System with whom we are affiliated. Mount Sinai was happy to offer positions to all our graduates.

The PSON Alumni Board is committed to connecting with our students both past and present. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this Newsletter and especially to Miriam Fridman who is committed to producing a newsletter that will help us stay connected and informed about events and reconnect with old friends. We encourage everyone to become active members of the Alumni Association. Membership has many benefits such as continuing education offerings, scholarship for advanced degrees, social networking events, and much more. Please visit our Alumni page on the PSON web site at https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/mount-sinai/pson/alumni

I was honored to attend the 120th Commencement Ceremony in person on December 15, 2022, and presented one student from each Cohort with the Rose M. Hauer award - Andy Charlorin and Julie Huang. The student body votes for the recipients of this award. I was so impressed to see the 150 graduates who persevered through one of the most challenging times in healthcare history. Their dedication to our profession is unwavering and I look forward to seeing the immense contributions they will bring to our profession and how they will advance healthcare in the future. I would like to remind the newest graduates that the first year of Alumni Association membership is free. All you need to do is complete the google docs Alumni Membership Application on the website.

Alisa and I met with Linda Fabrizio our school Liaison in November 2022 to find out how we can support our new graduates and current students. I was amazed by the new school facility at 126th Street and Lexington Avenue. It is completely state of the art with an amazing SIM lab that will ensure we produce highly skilled nurses. To be honest I am jealous I want to go back to school just to use the lab! We already have a collaboration established where we will be contributing to the SGO newsletter, The Pulse, and they will contribute to our newsletter as well. The students requested that we set up a panel discussion to provide current students with information on the many career paths open to nurses. The first one was held on February 15, 2023. I would like to ask all alumni who might be interested in participating in this series or would like to help mentor graduates or students to contact us via email at: PSONAA@mountsinai.org

With warm regards,

Patricia McKenna
PSON Alumni Association

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Always leave people better than you found them. Hug the hurt. Kiss the broken. Befriend the lost. Love the lonely.”

Unknown

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More News…

Update on our School…by Alisa Gadon, Adjunct Faculty

Phillips School of Nursing (PSON) relocated to 148 East 126 St in early 2020 featuring a state-of-the-art facility. We now have a simulation center with fully functioning manikins, adult and pediatric, & medical equipment that allows hands on clinical experience with actual scenarios. The curriculum includes Health Education Systems incorporated (HESI) exams to prepare students for the new NYCLEX Next Gen coming this Spring. “The NGN exam uses case studies like you would see in the real world to reflect the kinds of critical decisions nurses have to make in a variety of Healthcare settings.”

Celebrating Our New Graduates!

The 120th Commencement Ceremony of the Phillips School of Nursing was held at the Mount Sinai Stern Auditorium on December 15, 2022. One hundred fifty graduates from the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program completed studies in both August and December. Degrees were conferred in person with family, friends and guests present for the jubilant occasion after COVID restrictions were lifted after three years.

Dean Todd F. Ambrosia, DNP, MSN, FNAP, presided over the commencement and noted that this diverse group of students are the first to graduate from the school’s new facility located in East Harlem. Along with its talented faculty, the progressive new learning environment prepares nurses to deliver the highest quality patient-centered care.

Beth Oliver, DNP, RN, FAAN, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Executive, Mount Sinai Health System delivered a greeting that clearly elated the graduates when it was announced that they would receive offers for positions at the Mount Sinai Heath System.

Janet A. Green, Co-Chair of the Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing Board, and granddaughter of Seymour Phillips, who was a Beth Israel Hospital and School trustee for five decades gave an impassioned address, remembering her mother, Carol Green (1930-2021), Seymour’s daughter, whose vision and philanthropy for PSON will carry on.

Connection Corner

Annual Membership Dues remain at $50.00. Fill out the PSON Alumni Membership Application and either send dues via Zelle or PayPal to PSONAA@mountsinai.org You can also mail a check to PSON Alumni Association at the school Address.

Share Your News

Do you have a special memory, story, something you’d like to share? E-mail your story to: PSONAA@mountsinai.org Include your name and year of graduation. And we will include this in our newsletter.

Would You Like Mentor a student?

Make a difference in a student’s life. A mentor relationship is rewarding to the mentor and the student. It can provide guidance support, or simply a listening ear.

If yes, please send your name, specialty and contact info, including phone number to: PSONAA@mountsinai.org Now more than ever, our students need your advice, guidance, and expertise.
More News…continued

The keynote address was delivered by one of the most beloved faculty members, Lorraine McGrath, MA, RN-BC, Senior Director of Clinical Affairs and Associate Professor, who for 40 years has devoted her passion for nursing education to many generations of PSON graduates.

Patricia McKenna, RN, BS, Alumni President, delivered the Rose M. Hauer Graduation Award to one graduate from each class, nominated by their fellow students. Julie Huang (June ’22), Andy Charlorin (Dec ’22) were the recipients. Read more about the graduation at this link:


Meet our Oldest Graduate…by Ginny Klunder

Meet Belle Herman Weiss, RN, a 1936 graduate of the Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing.

I first learned of Belle in July 2022 when the Alumni Association received an email from her daughter, Debbie, also an RN and nurse practitioner. During the last six months, I was eager to contact Belle, who we believe to be, the oldest living Alumni from our school, only to find out she lives in our own backyard in Westchester County. Belle was born June 28, 1917, and raised in Sullivan County, within the Catskills region of New York, where she lived until heading to NYC for nursing school. Now 105 years old, she fondly recounts her time at the Beth Israel Hospital Nursing Program nearly 88 years ago.

PSON Alumni Association
More News…continued

During our phone conversation, she stated that she got very good nursing training and education at Beth Israel Hospital. She said the nursing program was very disciplined, and she acquired tremendous experience that took her forward in her nursing career.

After graduation, she attended NYU and got a public health degree which aided her as she worked in a communicable disease hospital where many patients had polio and were cared for in iron lungs.

Belle also worked on an ambulance where she transported patients with communicable diseases. In the 1930s and 1940s, luckily, they did have cloth masks, rubber gloves and gowns available to protect themselves from contracting infections. She states, “We were taught the best germicidal was soap and water. There was very little transmission between patient and staff because of this.” Belle recalled that in the years of war they did not have antibiotics and commented that, “in the days of yore, doctors, often ordered treatments that included bodily irrigations”. She said we irrigated everything, and the saying was, “when in doubt, wash it out”. That was the best way to keep people from dying from infections.

Nurses did not start intravenous (IV) therapy back then. It was rarely given, and when an IV was order STAT, it did not happen immediately as it is done today by nurses from preassembled packs. Back then, in the 1930’s, it took a very long time to prepare all the separate components for the doctor to administer – assembly included a glass bottle of saline, a separate rubber stopper and tubing, and a metal needle. STAT had a different meaning back then! Have times changed.