Hallmark Health System Receives Magnet Status

Hallmark Health System has received Magnet Recognition®, the highest honor for excellence in nursing, from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Only eight hospitals in the state have Magnet Recognition. Hallmark Health System is the only system to receive this recognition.

The Magnet appraisers and commission reported that it was clear from the “board room to the bedside” that Hallmark Health System has set a vision and focus on quality and safety. They applauded Hallmark Health System for being a role model for other Magnet hospitals in the following areas:

- Our programs dedicated to helping newly licensed nurses successfully transition to specialty areas of practice.
- Our commitment to serving the health care needs of our communities.
- The extensive use of research by nurses at all levels, noting that a culture of clinical inquiry is “hardwired” throughout the system.

Magnet Recognition® is an amazing achievement. Less than 10 percent of health care organizations in the United States earn this honor, placing Hallmark Health System among the country’s elite. This is a true testament to HHS continued commitment to excellence in patient care. ANCC appraisers visited in March and were very impressed with the facilities, people and attitude of HHS personnel. They were impressed by the innovative practices and professionalism evident throughout the system. Everywhere the survey team visited, they reported seeing excellence in care and a commitment to patient safety and quality.

The Magnet Recognition Program was developed to recognize health care organizations that provide the very best in nursing care. Magnet Recognition is awarded for a four-year period.

New LM/RC Nursing Program for BSN Graduates its First Class

Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program (LM/RC), in partnership with Regis College, has initiated a BSN Completion Program for graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing Program. This seamless transition from one degree (AS) to the next degree (BS) in nursing is in keeping with the recent recommendation of the Institute of Medicine and industry trends.

In May 2014 there were 13 LM/RC alumni who completed their BS degree through this new initiative. Dr. William Doherty, Executive VP and COO of Hallmark Health System congratulated these recent graduates of the Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program stating, “the school is under the able leadership of Nancy Bittner and is one of the jewels of Hallmark Health (System).”

There are two “pathways” established to achieve the BSN after completion of the ASN. **Pathway I** is for those graduates who hold a baccalaureate degree in another field upon entrance into LM/RC. Those graduates can earn the BSN upon completion of 3-4 courses on the Medford campus.

**Pathway II** is for graduates who do not hold a baccalaureate degree in another field. In addition to the 3-4 courses required for Pathway I, additional core courses in the sciences and humanities are required.

If you are interested in earning your baccalaureate degree in nursing, you may contact Laurie Hillson, Coordinator, Continuing Studies at 781-306-6684 or at lhillson@lmh.edu. or visit our website at www.lmregis.org.
Faculty/Staff News

Many changes in faculty and staff assignments and retirements have taken place at Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program. Here is an update of them. Best wishes are extended to all those leaving to enjoy their retirement.

Retirements
Janet Jones, Director of Student and Alumni Services. After 36 years of service to the Program, Janet is retiring to enjoy more time with her family, traveling and gardening.

Kathleen Ericson, Assistant Director and Course Coordinator, NU 202 Day Division.

Congratulations to the following faculty who are taking on new roles within the Program.

New Assignments
Barbara Moloney, Assistant Director and Course Coordinator, NU 202 Day Division.

Welcome to Colleen Walsh, Director of Student and Alumni Services. Colleen joins LM/RC from Northern Essex Community College and as a consultant with her own company. Colleen comes to us with a rich history of professional experience in management, strategic planning and leadership development in a variety of student service roles. We are excited to have Colleen bring her experience and skills to work with us as Janet Jones transitions out of her role. She will be working with Janet, along with the Student Services staff to transition through the summer.

Graduate Surveys

One of the most important sources of feedback on the quality of our nursing program is our graduates. An important way that we gather this information is from responses to two questionnaires that are sent to recent graduates.

The first survey, “Competency for Practice,” allows us to measure our graduates’ satisfaction with the curriculum in terms of how well it prepared them for professional practice. The second questionnaire, “Graduate Employment/Education Survey,” informs us of the health care settings and nursing positions of our recent graduates as well as further nursing degrees.

We are now using Survey Monkey to gather results of these surveys. Alumni who have received an email allowing them to access the website to complete the surveys are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for completing the surveys. In addition to assisting LM/RC to improve, data collected is required by the Department of Education.

Lisa Kelly Merriam Memorial Scholarship

The Lisa Kelly Merriam Memorial Scholarship provides financial assistance to a graduate of Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program who is continuing their education in the field of oncology or school nursing either through classroom or educational seminars to earn CEU’s. Lisa was a 1984 graduate of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital School of Nursing program.

The scholarship is awarded once per year in the amount of $500. The deadline for applying is September 1st. The Scholarship recipient will be presented the award on October 1st at the Annual Turn the City Pink event on Woburn Common in Woburn, Massachusetts. To be eligible, candidates must be a graduate of Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program, hold a current Nursing License and be a nurse in good standing.

Applications must also include a completed application form (available through the Student and Alumni Affairs Office at LM/RC, 781-306-6651), a typed personal statement of 500 words or less including career goals, philosophy of nursing and how this course or seminar will aid in your contribution to the nursing community. The application must also describe current activities and achievements, and any other information that will support the application.

For further information, to receive an application form and to submit your application, contact: Tanner Ta Ta Foundation, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 400 W Cummings Park, Suite 1725-320, Woburn, MA 01801.
Class Notes

Class notes are an excellent way to keep in touch with friends and former classmates. Information about what is happening in your life is always welcomed. You can forward your news to the Student and Alumni Affairs Coordinator at LM/RC Nursing Program or by emailing strong@lmh.edu.

Class of 1953

Rita (Tourigney) Flaherty and her husband John are enjoying their retirement and nine grandchildren scattered in Florida, Texas and Arizona. They are expecting another two, twins who will make 11 grandchildren. Rita is involved in Hospital Ministry through her Church and a charitable ministry, St. Vincent De Paul.

Class of 1963

The class had a wonderful time in Ogunquit Maine at the Meadowmere Resort where they celebrated their 50th Reunion. They exchanged many memories of LMH and watched videos of their Capping. They had great fun and classmates came from as far away as California, Texas and Florida.

Class of 1995

Kathya Gavazzi worked as an RN at MGH since graduation, first in the Burn ICU, then in Labor and Delivery. She completed her BSN and then MSN at the University of Massachusetts Boston in 2006 and worked as a Nurse Practitioner in both the Wound Care Center at MGH and the Postpartum unit. She was also clinical faculty for both MGH IHP and Boston College, in their Master’s Program. Kathya then became the CNS for Labor and Delivery in 2009, and then became the Assistant Nursing Director for Labor and Delivery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Clare Pappagallo currently works as a Clinical Manager and Certified Geriatric Care Manager at ABC Home Healthcare Professionals in Wakefield. She lives in Malden, and her oldest son JD recently married. Clare would love to hear from her classmates either on Facebook or at clare@abchhp.com.

Class of 1996

Correction: Dale Griffen was incorrectly identified as a female graduate in our last issue of Update. Dale has corrected us and let us know that he is male. Our apologies are extended to him. Dale has also let us know that he rebranded his company to TheGoAgencyUSA.com, as they opened a U.K. office in London, and are now providing social media marketing to all types of businesses. Dale says, “but as an RN, my company’s healthcare marketing division is still near and dear to my heart!”

Class of 1999

Cynthia Well-Ejiogu is currently working at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, CA. She moved to the area from Boston in 2004 and lives in Folsom, CA with her three sons; Edward, 20 is at Folsom Lake College, Matthew, 12, is in 7th grade and Joseph, 15 continues at his school for children with Autism. Cynthia has been a labor and delivery nurse at UCDMC for eight years. She says that her LMH SON education gave her the tools that have made her the nurse that she is today.

Class of 2002

Junior Senat is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and works at the University of Miami Hospital. He recently participated in a surgical humanitarian mission in Haiti with Project Medishare.

Class of 2005

Kelly Murphy Honiker has been home with her two children, Liam and Norah who she says are the best gifts ever! She really misses being a nurse so she is returning to the field per diem with the VNA as a home care RN. She is hoping to join their hospice team. Kelly extends her thanks for giving her the gift of being a nurse! She will forever be grateful!!

Class of 2008

Anne Alessandrini was awarded Nurse of the Year by the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation.

Class of 2010

Marianne Staska worked with Reproductive Science Center of NE and Campion Center on a per diem basis as an OR and PACU nurse. She recently found a position (through a friend and graduate, Kristen Schraft) working as a Home Care Nurse Case Manager and says that she loves the autonomy that comes with Home Care. Marianne and her husband have a 3 year old son, Paul. Nursing has been very good to Marianne and she feels that she is where she should be. She is hoping to someday further her education in nursing.

Class of 2014

Lisa Tansey accepted a position at a hospital in Manchester, NH and will be moving there soon.

Jeff Moccia was selected as Employee of the Month at Melrose Wakefield Hospital. He received this honor after only a few months of employment with HHS, a distinction few ever achieve.

In Memorium

Condolences are extended to the friends and family of the following Graduates who recently passed away.

Patricia (Murphy) Baril, 1964
Shirley (Bray) Brown, 1936
Beth (Forsberg) Graves, 1964
Marilyn (Beyer) Grose, 1957
Barbara (Bond) Nawrocki, 1948
Paul Reynolds, 2011
Anne (Donovan) Solari, 1948
Patricia (Wilson) Walsh, 1949
We Want to Hear from You

If you have news to share, or if you want to reach out to other nurses, please write to let us know. Also let us know if you move or change your name so that we can update our records and let you know of all the things happening at your alma mater.

Check with your classmates to make sure that they are receiving information from us as well. If not, have them contact us so we can send them our most recent publications.

Send information and/or changes to Sandra Strong, Student and Alumni Affairs Coordinator at sstrong@lmh.edu or call 781-306-6651.

NCLEX Pass Rate

From October 2013 to March 2014 the Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program had a first time sitting pass rate of 93% on the NCLEX-RN Exam.

The National and state averages were well below this and our program continues to be well above these percentages.

We are very proud of our recent graduates for this outstanding result. Congratulations to our 2013 graduates!

Update

Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program
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RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED