

CUPHSONAA



Alumni News

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A Message From The President**Joan A. McCormick**

Welcome to the Winter 2025 Newsletter of the Columbia University-Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association.

I want to welcome and recognize all new members to CUPHSONAA! Your support, and the continued support of our long-standing members, make possible all of the wonderful things that CUPHSONAA does. We provide our members with the opportunity to apply for:

- a.) monthly sick benefits, which provide financial assistance for medical expenses not reimbursed by another source;
- b.) monthly stipends for qualifying members with limited income; and
- c.) CUPHSONAA scholarships for qualifying members who are pursuing advanced nursing degrees.

In 2024, the association accomplished quite a lot in support of our mission to broaden and deepen our outreach in this community.

- The Board of Directors voted to increase the monthly stipend to \$750 from \$600 per month.
- The Board of Directors approved 7 alumni for the stipend, an increase over the last several years.
- The Board of Directors voted to increase the scholarship funding to \$80,000 from \$60,000.
- In the current fiscal year, the Board of Directors voted to increase the scholarship funding to an amazing \$130,000, effective with the next fiscal year.

- The Board of Directors voted to fund a scholarship to Nurses Educational Fund, named in honor of Penny West who generously made a donation to CUPHSONAA in her final will and testament. Our thanks to her and her family for making this happen.
- The Board of Directors voted to increase the Palliative Care grant to \$35,000 from \$27,000 to support the palliative care program at the school.

As you can see, the Board of Directors is very generous in its donations and fulfills its mission by providing aid to nurses in need, whether elderly or students in the early career stage.

Committees

The Membership Committee is exploring ways that we can attract new, younger members and also retain our current members.

The Distinguished Alumni Committee is chaired by Dr. Maureen Murphy-Ruocco, formerly CUPHSONAA's secretary. She also serves on the Early Career Award Committee, which is a new award category. These committees have members from both our organization and the School's Alumni Association and oversee the process of selecting the Distinguished Alumni Awardees.

The Research Committee is chaired by Dr. Jill Kilanowski. The Board voted to increase the amount of the Research Grant Award from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in recognition of increased costs of conducting research projects. We hope this will result in more applications for these funds.

The Finance Committee is chaired as per our by-laws by the Treasurer, currently Louise Malarkey.

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Stay In Touch!

Keep your contact information current with CUPHSONAA:

1 Online
Login to cuphsonaa.org
and update your profile

2 Email
Send your changes to
admin@cuphsonaa.org

3 Mail
CUPHSONAA, Inc.
4 Lan Drive, Suite 100
Westford, MA 01886

President's Message Continued

The Nominating Committee is chaired by Linda Johnston Habif, '68. Members interested in serving on committees or in board positions should let Linda know of their interest.

Conclusion

I look forward to serving as your president for the upcoming term. Thanks to the board, officers and committee members who do the work of our organization and to the staff at Barcami Lane, who work diligently for us. You, the members, are the life-

blood of our organization, and I thank you for your continued support. I welcome your comments and suggestions and invite you to reach out to me at any time!

My contact information is:

Joan A. McCormick

401-741-3383

Joanamccormick1+CUPH@gmail.com

CUPHSONAA Welcomes Lane Turzan to The Board of Directors



A 1968 graduate of Columbia university School of Nursing, Lane's nursing practice included patient care, leadership management and supervision of staff, facilities management as well patient and staff education within specialties at UCLA, USC and the Greater LA VA. As a leader at the VA, she managed a large stand-alone clinic and led a Continuous Readiness interdisciplinary team on site visits to VA facilities to review staff adherence to OIG

and JC standards. While on staff at the national nursing association of AACN, Lane provided staff support to national committees; contributed to the development of standards and management policies; as well as research opportunities and awards in critical care nursing. Additionally at AACN, she reviewed and approved critical care continuing education for CEUs and coordinated continuing education requirements with state boards of nursing.

Alumni In Memoriam

Elizabeth Miller Greene '43

Ann Winston Clark '46

Eleanor Straub Stough '47

Joan Kramer Kney '50

Abigail Smith Reed '51

Anna Pethick Gallic '58

Mathilde Demisay Huckins '62

Ann Parshley Heaney '64

Geraldine Meyer Brodnitzki '67

Patricia Kane Hurzeler '69

Diane Jones Petrouskie '84

Melvina Johnson Lohmann '98

Seeking Volunteers!

Members are needed to serve on many of the association's standing committees as well as leadership roles on the Board of Directors. A list of CUPHSONAA's Standing Committees can be found on our website - www.cuphsonaa.org/page/

Committees: If you have an interest in learning more about each committee's responsibilities and/or would like to give back to CUPHSONAA, please contact Linda Johnston Habif at lrjohnston528@hotmail.com.

Modern Medicine Was Not Appreciated

The patient was a Russian sailor who spoke no English. I spoke no Russian and a translator was not available on the night shift. The patient had a large, ulcerated crater-like wound on his lower leg. The dressing was on the floor and there was a lot of black ash sprinkled in the wound. At the start of our second year, I was assigned to the night shift rotation, with little experience or orientation to guide me. I had not yet learned very much, and this included a last of experience regarding irrigation of a wound and change of a sterile dressing. It was time to call the Supervisor.

The Supervisor came at once, and to my delight, she was happy to show me how to perform these skills. She was a former military nurse who knew what to do and was able to do it very well. In examining the man's wound, it was determined that the black powder was cigar ash. At that time, patients were allowed to smoke in bed and the cigar butt was in the ashtray, but the residual ash was in the wound. Speaking English, the supervisor explained to the patient what she was going to do. He just glared at her.

The wound was irrigated until it was cleaned of the ash deposit. The sterile dressing was expertly applied, with military precision. I watched and learned. The supervisor then left the unit. Soon thereafter, as I made rounds, I saw that the sailor was smoking his cigar butt again, and the bandage was on the floor. Further examination revealed the obvious; there was cigar ash in the wound again. I notified the supervisor. She controlled her frustration and her bit of annoyance regarding the patient's behavior.

She returned and redressed the wound and applied a new dressing. In English, she scolded him gently. She again told him why the wound should be clean, and the dressing applied. He responded with a flood of abrupt Russian words and some angry gestures. There was no agreement between them.

I made rounds about an hour later, and there was no surprise that the dressing was on the floor and the open wound was coated with black ash. What should I do now? Notify the supervisor and maybe see the start of World War III? Instead, I decided to explain the situation in the morning report to the day staff who were soon to arrive. Maybe a translator could explain the treatment in Russian, but I doubted that would change the patient's beliefs or behaviors.

It would take another 5-6 decades before nursing programs included a few health care beliefs and practices of people from other lands. In the meantime, I learned really well how to clean and dress a wound using sterile technique.

The supervisor in this story was very responsive and liked to teach, but not all supervisors were like her. I learned that evening and night rotations often resulted in learning and performance based on "by gosh and by golly" technique. That means we sometimes had to figure it all out with no help at all. I believe we grew more experienced and confident after these rotations, but it was a risky way to teach.

Louise Malarkey, Class of 1962

Sigma Travel Grant



CUPHSONAA provides research grants to Columbia University School of Nursing (CUSON) alumni.

The deadline for submission is **June 1, 2025**. Please refer to the website for more information including eligibility and the application.

www.cuphsonaa.org/page/ResearchGrants

About Sigma CUPHSONAA Research Grants

More than 100,000 nurse leaders from around the world are proud to call themselves a Sigma nurse.

Founded in 1922 by six nursing students, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma) has more than 100,000 active members and 600 chapters at institutions of higher education and healthcare partners from Armenia, Australia, and Botswana to Thailand, the United States, and Wales. Sigma members include clinical nurses and administrators, academic nurse educators and researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and others working to fulfill the organization's vision of connected, empowered nurse leaders transforming global healthcare.

Nurses Educational Funds, Inc.



Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. (NEF) is a 112-year-old nonprofit organization that provides scholarships to graduate level master's and doctoral students across the United States. NEF's only purpose is to provide nursing scholarship assistance to make graduate level

nursing education possible. NEF is the largest, single, private, professionally endorsed source of funds for advanced nursing study with over one hundred years of service to and for professional nursing. NEF has a 19-year collaborative relationship with the Columbia

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Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. Continued

University - Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.

In 2005 NEF, in conjunction with the Columbia University - Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc., established the NEF/Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. /J. Margaret Ada Mutch Scholarship. We are proud to announce that the most recent recipient in 2024 of the scholarship is Keisha S.

Paul, who is pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in Midwifery at Columbia University School of Nursing.

In 2024 NEF, in conjunction with the Columbia University - Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc., established the NEF/Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc. / Penny Hund West Scholarship.

Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. (NEF) Awards 3 Scholarships to Columbia University School of Nursing Graduate Students

Nurses Educational Funds, (NEF) a nonprofit organization established in 1912 by nurses for nurses promotes leadership and health equity through scholarship support for professional nurses seeking master's and doctoral degrees in nursing education, practice, service and research.

The three (3) Columbia University School of Nursing Graduate students who received the 2024 Nurses Educational Funds Scholarships are Kelsey Baffour-Addo, Danica Dorlette, and Keisha S. Paul.



Keisha S. Paul is the recipient of the NEF Columbia University - Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Inc./J. Margaret Ada Mutch Scholarship. Receiving this scholarship plays a significant role in providing Keisha the financial support to continue her educational journey pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in Midwifery at Columbia University School of

Nursing. Keisha chose nurse-midwifery because she wants to empower, advocate, and provide care to vulnerable populations in a holistic approach.

Keisha is currently a school nurse at C2 Staffing Solutions providing clinical care to students in NYC private schools. She is a Co-Communications Board Member for the Columbia Nurses for Sexual & Reproductive Health and a member of the ANA and ACNM. She envisions herself both as a contributing member and leader in advocating for reproductive rights which has been inspired by her clinical experiences both locally and globally.

Her educational and professional experiences inspired her to pursue a career as a nurse-midwife and become more knowledgeable about conflicts in healthcare, improve her own cultural competencies, and improve health outcomes for individuals in her New York Community. Currently volunteering for God's Love We Deliver and being an E-board Member for Columbia's Chapter of Nursing Reproductive and Sexual Health Chapter, not only allows her to give back

to her community but also encourages her to continue to work closely with marginalized and vulnerable communities to promote better care.

The complete academic and professional biographies of Kelsey, Danica, Keisha, and all of the 2024 NEF scholars are posted on the NEF website at: <https://www.n-e-f.org/scholars/winners.html>.

The next NEF scholarship online application process opens October 1, 2024 and closes on February 3, 2025. To apply for an NEF Scholarship, go to: <https://www.n-e-f.org/apply.html> on the NEF Website: [n-e-f.org](https://www.n-e-f.org).

About the Scholarships:

- Scholarships are based on academic performance, a personal essay, reference letters, and validated study already in progress in graduate programs throughout the United States.
- Scholarships are provided directly to students for their use in supporting their studies.

About the Criteria:

- GREs are not required as part of the application process.
- Student applicants must be licensed registered nurses with a bachelor of science in nursing degree (or the equivalent requirement if attending an entry level master's, doctoral, or BSN to DNP or BSN to PhD program).
- A GPA of 3.6 or higher, an essay, three references are required, one related to the applicant's current academic performance, one from a current or recent employer, and one from a professional colleague.
- Scholarship awards are given to students studying nursing advanced clinical practice, education, research, administration, and health policy.

Nurses Educational Funds, (NEF), a nonprofit organization, accepts tax-exempt donations at: <https://www.n-e-f.org/donate.html>

Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. website is: www.n-e-f.org

Columbia University School of Nursing

Annual Fund-Scholarship Fund

CUPHSONAA is pleased to have again funded the school's scholarship fund with a \$60,000 donation.

This year's recipient is Kash Calderon in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Kash plans to serve as a family nurse practitioner in an outpatient setting in New York City. He started this journey to combine his passion for science and healthcare.

He chose Columbia Nursing because of its leadership in diversity and inclusion. Columbia offered the opportunity for students to have more clinical hours than any other program.

"The CUPHSONAA Nursing Scholarship award helped make my dream of attending the school possible. I am so grateful!"

Sick Benefits

Active Members may apply to receive financial assistance for medical expenses not reimbursed by another source. Members may apply twice per calendar year for assistance with a maxi-

mum benefit amount of \$1,000 per application. The sick benefit rates are reviewed annually and adjusted according to current economic indicators.

Dominick Fund for Needy Nurses

CUPHSONAA's Dominick Fund for Needy Nurses is awarded to individuals in financial need who do not qualify for the monthly stipend.

Palliative Care Recipient

We are pleased to announce that Pierce DiMauro, the 2024 recipient of the Palliative Care Nursing Fellowship has been invited to join the Inpatient Palliative Care team at NYP CUI-MC as a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner. He will graduate from the DNP Adult Geriatric Acute Care program in February and join the NYP team at that time.

CUPHSONAA Research Grants

CUPHSONAA provides research grants to Columbia University School of Nursing (CUSON) alumni.

The deadline for submission is **June 1, 2025**. Please refer to the website for more information including eligibility and the application.

www.cuphsonaa.org/page/ResearchGrants

Palliative Care Nursing Fellowship at CUSON

Two distinguished faculty members in the Columbia University School of Nursing, Drs. Penelope Buschman and Marlene McHugh (also both Columbia graduates), recently contacted us seeking continued funding for their Doctoral/Post Doctoral Clinical Nursing Fellowship in Palliative Care. The program was developed in 2013 and was the first of its kind to be based in a School of Nursing and overseen by expert Palliative Care faculty. The program is only open to CUSON graduates. The training is conducted over a three-semester period and includes clinical experiences in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Guided study is provided in pain and symptom management, ethical issues, therapeutic communication, and grief, loss and bereavement. Fellows complete the program with the necessary knowledge and requisite practice hours to become certified in palliative care.

CUPHSONAA is pleased to lend its financial support to this Clinical Nursing Fellowship in Palliative Care, developed by two outstanding graduates of our school who are educating nurses in this most important area of nursing practice. In 2024, the Board of Directors approved another 3 years of funding for the Palliative Care program. Marlene McHugh and Penelope Buschman, co-directors of the Clinical Nursing Fellowship in Palliative Care, stated, "We are grateful to you for your generous funding over the past three years which has provided three outstanding nursing fellows the opportunity to focus on adult palliative care- gaining fellowship level knowledge and accruing more than 500 supervised clinical hours toward specialty certification."

Monthly Stipend

Active Members may apply to receive monthly stipends from CUPHSONAA. The current stipend rate is \$750 per month with an annual holiday gift of an additional \$750. The stipend rates are reviewed annually and adjusted according to current economic indicators.

Background

CUPHSONAA was originally established to assist School of Nursing graduates in a variety of manners. At the time of inception, Social Security and unions did not exist, modern employee benefits were not offered, and nurses were working six and a half days per week. Wages were low and should a graduate lose their job or become ill, they were placed in a precarious position. CUPHSONAA stepped into the void and created financial resources for its members through monthly stipends and sick benefits. To this day, CUPHSONAA continues to provide monthly stipends and sick benefits to its members in need.

Eligibility

Members who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Classified as an Active Member for the past five consecutive years
- Over the age of 65
- Limited income:
 - ◊ Single person with an annual income of \$30,000 or less
 - ◊ Couple with an annual income of \$35,000 or less

Application

To apply to receive the monthly stipend, a completed application must be submitted with one of the following supporting documents:

- Form 1040 U.S. Individual Tax Return
- Social security benefits annual statement
- Monthly bank statement
- A notarized statement declaring total income, including dividends, trust income, gifts, etc.

The stipend is classified as a gift and is not subject to income tax.

First time applicants are not subject to a deadline, applications may be received throughout the year.

The information contained therein is strictly confidential and known only to the Finance Committee and the Executive Director.

Stipend Recipients

Those approved to receive monthly stipends must submit a new application on or before June 1st each year. The application should list all appropriate changes to income, status, etc.

Should the recipient's situation change and they no longer require the stipend prior to the annual application deadline, please contact our office immediately at (978) 577-5079.

By completing the application you agree to CUPHSONAA's Privacy Policy