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Winter 2008

A Letter from our **NEW** Executive Director



Alexander's Fine Portrait Design

I am honored to have been chosen to lead the Good Samaritan Foundation's work to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce in Texas. For many years I have been aware of nurses' role in our healthcare system and of concerns regarding nursing school enrollment. Now I have learned just how acute the current nursing shortage is and how dramatically it will worsen without determined and concerted action.

The Foundation's Executive Committee has charged us with making the Foundation more visible in the healthcare and philanthropic communities, more relevant to the work of building our nursing workforce, and more effective in stewardship of the resources of this prestigious organization. We have already begun forging closer relationships with the schools whose students we serve. We are also working to create new partnerships with the corporate community, whose employees and families benefit from a high quality healthcare system.

In the coming months, you will be hearing much more from us. We will work to educate, inspire, and provide opportunities to each person who supports the Foundation. We also will become more efficient and effective in our scholarship process so the students we assist will continue to be our best references.

Having been raised in Houston at a time when ambulances were dispatched from funeral homes, I've seen tremendous progress in our healthcare system. Texas healthcare facilities have become world renowned. In 2006, US hospitals spent \$30 billion on construction – a 30% increase in just one year – and in the next six years more than \$7 billion in construction will be completed in the Texas Medical Center alone. Working together, we will ensure that the most critical component to quality in clinical care – skilled nurses – is given at least as much priority as are bricks and mortar.



Award Recipients: (L-R) Stella Dike, large hospital, Alta Mae Graves, community, Susan Tarantino, small hospital, (Back) Dr. Peggy Landrum, academic, and Ruth Kainer, hospice.

The Annual Awards luncheon honoring nurses who demonstrate a passion for and desire to excel beyond other's expectations was held September 12, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency. The 2007 event was presented by Wells Fargo and was co-chaired by Dr. David C. Pate, J.D., CEO of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and Margot Cater, Trustee of Good Samaritan Foundation.

"Since it began three years ago," said Janice Burns, development director, "the event has grown to more than 300 attendees and grossed almost \$100,000 for scholarships and operations."

The Foundation's desire through the luncheon is to honor those nurses whose commitment to the sick outweighs any need to seek publicity. The luncheon pays tribute to nurses in four categories: academic/instruction, home healthcare/hospice, small hospital (up to 399 licensed beds), and large hospital (more than 400 licensed beds). The honorees are chosen by a committee of their peers; this year chaired by Dr. Ann Scanlon McGinity, Senior Vice President and Chief Nurse

Executive at The Methodist Hospital.



(L-R) Rev. Rick Smith, Steve Lindley, GSF Chairman, and Dr. David C. Pate, J.D.

Excellence in Nursing Awards Luncheon

Presenting Sponsor

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"Truly the task of selecting the final honorees was quite difficult," said Dr. Scanlon McGinity. "All the applications reflected individuals of compassion, knowledge and wisdom. All were leaders in their own right. In the end, several of the candidates stood above the rest. They alone were the ones who showed us of their unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care, and who through their leadership lead us, their colleagues, in changing the face of healthcare."



KTRK Channel 13 news anchor Melanie Lawson served as emcee

The Foundation also honors an individual or family in the community that has shown an abundance of support for the nursing community. This year's recipient (honored posthumously) was Guy D. Graves, former Good Samaritan chairman of the board and lifetime trustee.



Salvation Army Harbor Light Choir

Chip Carlisle, Wells Fargo president, participated in the program, KTRK Channel 13 news anchor Melanie Lawson served as emcee and Rev. Rick Smith, Director of Chaplaincy Services at Memorial Hermann in the Texas Medical Center, delivered the invocation. The Salvation Army Harbor Light Choir performed prior to and during the luncheon.

The 2008 luncheon will be held on Wednesday, September 17 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown, and Wells Fargo has graciously agreed to again be the presenting sponsor.

Photos Courtesy Alexander's Fine Portrait Design



Chinese Dragon Dancers created a festive beginning.

Happy New Year or *Gung Hay Fat Chow* was the general cry as the 20th Annual Pearl Ball kicked off with a troupe of fire-breathing Chinese Dragon Dancers to help celebrate this year's themed evening Thursday, February 7 at River Oaks Country Club.

The night's festivities and decorations were the cumulative results of co-chairs Heather Kearney and Linda Ledbetter. The mother/daughter team helped the Good Samaritan Foundation's nursing scholarship program net more than \$200,000.



2008 Pearl Ball Chairmen Heather Kearney and Linda Ledbetter

The grand ballroom became a moonlit Chinese evening complete with lanterns and the sweet scent of orchids for the 200 plus black-tie clad participants to sway to the sounds of Eclipse. Next year's Pearl Ball will be held Thursday, February 5, 2009. See you then!



Patty Kallmeyer, Mollie Castaneda, Stephanie Shanks, Meredith Barineau, Joan Cox and Kara Howes



Shelli and Steve Lindley



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Joella and Steve Mach, Debra Hovnatanian and Heather Kearney



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Table decor!



Jeff and Susan Bell

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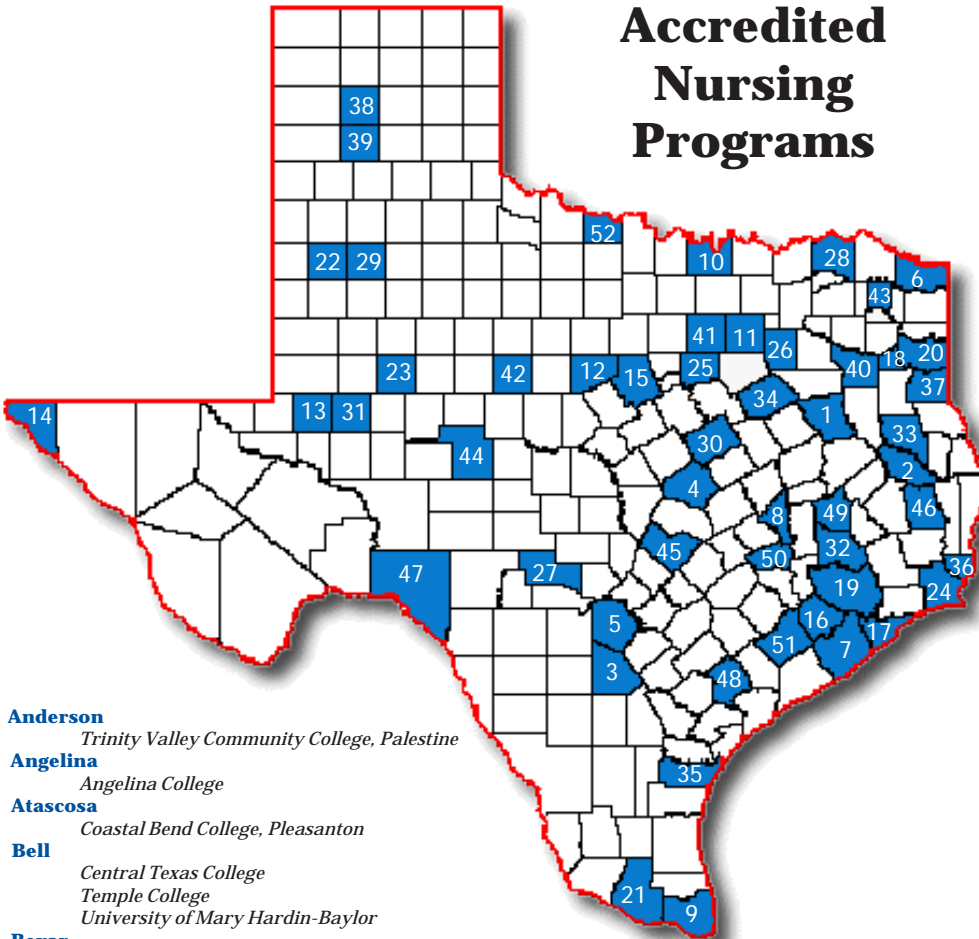
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- 10. Cooke**
North Central Texas College
- 11. Dallas**
*Dallas Baptist University
Dallas Community College, Brookhaven
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Texas Woman's University, Denton*
- 12. Eastland**
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- 13. Ector**
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- 14. El Paso**
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- 15. Erath**
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- 16. Fort Bend**
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- 17. Galveston**
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- 18. Gregg**
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- 19. Harris**
*Cy-Fair College
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North Harris College
Prairie View A&M University, Houston
San Jacinto College, Central
San Jacinto College, North
San Jacinto College, South
Texas Woman's University, Houston
Tomball College
University of Texas, Houston*
- 20. Harrison**
East Texas Baptist University

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*South Texas College
University of Texas Pan-American*
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- 23. Howard**
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- 24. Jefferson**
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Lamar University*
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- 26. Kaufman**
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- 27. Kerr**
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- 28. Lamar**
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- 29. Lubbock**
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- 40. Smith**
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University of Texas, Arlington*
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Abilene Intercollegiate
- 43. Titus**
Northeast Texas Community College
- 44. Tom Green**
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University of Texas, Austin*
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Tyler County Hospital
- 47. Val Verde**
Southwest Texas Junior College
- 48. Victoria**
Victoria College
- 49. Walker**
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- 50. Washington**
Blinn Junior College, Brenham
- 51. Wharton**
Wharton County Junior College, Wharton
- 52. Wichita**
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Congrats 2007 continued on page 6

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Gene Lewis and Arlene Rawitcher Oncology Nursing Scholarship

The Good Samaritan Foundation is pleased to announce the Gene Lewis and Arlene Rawitcher Oncology Nursing Scholarship that supports a graduate-level nursing candidate focused on clinical care for cancer patients in the Houston area.

The annual scholarship is made possible through the generosity of Larry and Pam Lewis. Larry has been associated with Good Samaritan since he was a small child and currently is a member of the board of trustees.

“We do this to honor our parents in their battle with cancer,” said Larry, “and for the importance of outstanding oncology nursing care to a patient struggling with the disease.”

Gene Lewis, who served as Good Samaritan Foundation’s chairman of the board from 1989 to 1990, lost his fight with cancer in 2007.

Funmelayo Aina received the 2008 scholarship award. She is enrolled in the master degree program specializing in Adult Oncology at Texas Woman’s University and is currently working at DeBakey VA Medical Center and plans to continue working there following graduation.

To apply for the 2009 scholarship, please go to the website at www.gsftx.org. To donate to this scholarship, please contact Janice Burns at jburns@gsftx.org or 713.529.4646.

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Do you know?

- ❖ Someone who has been accepted to a nursing school in Texas?
- ❖ Someone who is in a nursing school in Texas?
- ❖ Someone who wishes to go back to nursing school?

If so, we can help!

www.gsftx.org ❖ 713.529.4647

Ask for Kay or Jean!





Beth Fuller and Leslie Wilkins

One Day in the Life of Current Scholarship Recipient Beth Fuller

By Molly K. Painter – WTAMU office of Communication and Marketing Services

Good Samaritan Foundation BSN scholarship recipient Beth Fuller and fellow West Texas A&M University student Leslie Wilkins have had many long days as nursing students, but they could never predict the long day that awaited them last June.

Wilkins received an email alerting her that a local nursing home was shutting down and the nurses had gone on strike. Only one nurse stayed to brave the situation and she needed help. Wilkins called her friend Beth Fuller and the two decided they would help the residents, some without a bath for over a month.

“We had no idea what we were about to get into,” Wilkins said. “It was like going into a war zone.”

“There was no orientation to the facility or the patients,” Fuller added. “Usually you know something about a person’s medical history from their charts, but no one had kept those up either.”

The two students, who had just finished their first year of nursing school, were basically thrust into a sink-or-swim situation.

“Going in wearing scrubs, we looked like real nurses; we just didn’t feel like nurses yet,” Wilkins said. “The good thing was they had basic needs and we had basic skills.”

After being on their feet 16 hours straight with little or no direction, the two certainly didn’t feel like amateurs after the experience.

“We’re more confident this semester in clinicals,” Fuller said. “We always have a nurse there beside us, but the experience gave us a tremendous amount of confidence in our abilities. It was as beneficial to us as it was to the patients.”

Members from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), a few other volunteers and the students worked to help more than 30 patients that had been virtually abandoned. They cleaned the facility, which was covered in food and bugs, and answered call lights as fast as they could. Ultimately, families were contacted with the option to pick up their family members.

“The work and the hours involved in nursing can make the profession extremely exhausting, but tremendously rewarding at the same time,” Fuller said. “I’ve learned that in every situation, we must be faithful, available and teachable. This can be applied to every aspect of life, whether in school, at a job, or in a spiritual relationship. The patients needed our help and we needed the experience. The precious hours spent together benefited us all.”



Beth and Leslie help a patient.

Scholarship Program

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for a Good Samaritan Scholarship and meets the qualifications, please go to the GSF web page, www.gsftx.org/scholarships and download the application and instructions. Please send all the required information to the office.

Once we have a completed application, each potential scholarship nursing student is interviewed at the Good Samaritan Foundation offices. Applications are taken all during the year, but interviews are conducted three times a year for a three week period before the fall, spring and summer semesters.

Good Samaritan only awards scholarships for clinical nursing semesters, not prerequisites. However, a student may start the application process before entering clinicals.

TO QUALIFY THE APPLICANT MUST:

- ◆ Currently be enrolled in an accredited nursing program at a Texas school
- ◆ Be a Texas resident
- ◆ Plan to work as a nurse in Texas after graduation
- ◆ Be eligible to work in the United States
- ◆ Be able to demonstrate financial need

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Your Calendar!**

September 17, 2008

2008 Excellence in Nursing Awards Luncheon - Hyatt Downtown
Chairman Juanita Romans
CEO Memorial Hermann
The Medical Center
Melanie Lawson - ABC13 - Emcee

October 27, 2008

42nd Annual Golf Tournament
River Oaks Country Club
Jason Fertitta - Lehman Brothers and
Charles A. Williams - ChasWil Ltd.,
Chairmen

February 5, 2009

22nd Annual Pearl Ball
River Oaks Country Club

Celebrating 30!

Kay Crawford, scholarship director and bookkeeper, celebrated 30 years with the Foundation in October 2007. Hired in 1977 by Good Samaritan's founder Clyde Verheyden, Kay said much has changed over the years (like doing the bookkeeping with columnar paper), but much has stayed the same.

"My greatest joy still remains the same," Kay said, "meeting and interviewing every one of our applicants and knowing that we are helping to solve the nursing shortage."

The Foundation honored Kay with a dinner in her honor and also presented her with a crystal biscuit barrel at its annual trustee meeting.



GSF Chairman Steve Lindley presents Kay with a 30th Anniversary crystal memento.

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Donating to the Good Samaritan Foundation has never been easier!

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Foundation

The GSF Advocate

The mission of the Good Samaritan Foundation is to promote nursing as a career by providing scholarship funds directly to student nurses for their clinical nursing courses. The foundation's goal is to alleviate the current severe shortage of nurses not only in Houston but in Texas.