



GHSN Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2023

UPDATES from the Graham Health System

Graham is doing well. Graham Health System continues to expand their market in Galesburg. They will close in early February on a building that will be utilized as a five day a week outpatient clinic. Work is progressing on the new Galesburg GMG/Outpatient Center on Seminary Street (close to shopping center where super Walmart, Menards, Kohls, and other smaller shops are located). Anticipated opening is August 1, 2024.

Graham Health System is financially strong and continues to experience high volumes. All clinics are busy and the system continues to grow.

The Board is interviewing candidates for the COO position (Chief Operating Officer). This person will move up to the CEO position when the current President, Bob Senneff, retires next year.

News from the School

Graduation for the Class of 2024 will be held on Saturday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m. at Canton High School. Should not have the conflict with scheduled high schools' graduations that we have had in the past. This year, all scholarships will be presented at Graduation so donors and families have the opportunity to be there. Previously, we have given out some at the Senior Recognition Banquet to avoid lengthening the graduation ceremony. The school has been so lucky to have so many scholarships available to students from organizations, past graduates or relatives, and other people that have a relationship or supported the School of Nursing.

The SON continues to progress on the proposal to start a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program at Graham Hospital. The first step is to submit the curriculum plan to the Illinois Board of Nursing for approval in March of this year. Graham Hospital Association (Charter date 1909), already has the ability to grant a degree because the school is older than the Illinois Department of Higher Education. The State refers to this situation as being "grandfathered in". The SON does need to get Board of Nursing approval of their BSN curriculum plans and hours. They will probably start with a 2+2 type plan where the general education courses are taken before the nursing courses. A lot of current students have already completed most or all of the support general education classes.

The next step would be getting accreditation from the ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing). Our diploma program is currently accredited by the ACEN. The BSN is a new program, and is not technically just changing the current diploma program so a lot of work to be done. The SON has discussed this idea many times in the past, but our admissions remained stable. Admissions have declined the past few years and it is hard to recruit students that do not understand the benefits of a three-year education with additional clinical experiences, but receiving a diploma instead of a degree. The school is trying some new ways to recruit students. Shelby Boster, Coordinator of Student Affairs, reported that the School of Nursing hosted 26 junior and senior students from Canton Senior High School this past October. That is a great turnout. This is a lot of information to understand, but I am sure that a lot of thought and consideration has occurred.

News and Happenings!

The Class of 1975 had a reunion on Friday, September 29. They had a great time touring the school. A lot of changes since 1975!

Rita Potter, (Class of 1984), had a nice article about her son in the Fulton Democrat. Army Col. Dr. Benjamin Potter received the Army Hero of Military Medicine Award for his work in the field of limb loss due to casualties of war or service.

Since I retired from the school and just work in the hospital gift shop, I don't hear as much news.

We want to hear from you! Please send news, celebrations, continuing education, class reunions, etc. to alumni@grahamhospital.org or sderenzy@grahamhospital.org. Also, please notify us of address changes.

I did start a Facebook page for the Alumni Association in August with some help from Shelby Boster, Coordinator of Student Affairs, who has much more experience than me setting up pages. The group is called Graham SON Alumni on Facebook. I am still trying to post more pictures and notes.

This page does not replace the Alumni section of the school website. People have "liked" the page, but still no communication between graduates as we thought there could be.

ALUMNI NEWS:

The next Alumni meeting is the first Thursday in April. We decided to not meet in February as weather is sometimes an issue and some alumni members do go south for all or part of the winter.

The officers for 2024 remain the same:

Sue Livingston, President

Regina Cox, Vice President

Cindy Brown, Treasurer

Brenda Gregory, Recording Secretary

I have received quite a few historical items from previous graduates as well as their families. Our display cabinets are very full and I think that the Alumni Association should consider purchasing a larger display case for the third floor living room. Our main expense every year is the \$500 Alumni Scholarship awarded at graduation.

A lot of the old historical records have been moved into the Alumni Office on third floor, but there are still historical items that could be moved so everything together for future projects or reference. We surely miss Michelle Quinones, retired Director of Library Services, who cataloged, developed our information on the Illinois Archives site, and numerous other accomplishments. It is a time-consuming job to do as a volunteer.

IN SYMPATHY

June 25, 2023

Flossie Doyle Carroll
Class of 1952

November 30, 2023

Hazel Fulscher Weaver
Class of 1953

December 28, 2023

Melba Schisler Collins
Class of 1948

2017 Spring

Susan Sullivan
Class of 1974

A few years ago

Vicki Stambaugh Reedy
Class of 1974



Please let Sue Livingston or Sember DeRenzy (School Office) know of any of our graduates that have passed away.

Transcript Requests....

We get many calls asking "What do I have to do to request a transcript?". There are a few ways to go about requesting a transcript:

1. Print the transcript request form found on the school's website. The form can be found under the Quick Links tab on the top bar menu or the Alumni tab at the bottom of the home page. Fill out the form and mail to us with the \$5.00 fee.
2. Email Shelby Boster (sboster@grahamhospital.org) with your request. Be sure to include the year you graduated and where you need the transcript sent. You may mail your \$5.00 or pay by phone with the hospital cashier (309-647-5240 ext. 2221).
3. Stop by the school office to fill out the request form and pay the fee. Transcripts typically are mailed out within 1 or 2 days of the request.

ALUMNI NEWS :

We still have sweatshirts left to sell. Of course, the price has increased as well as postage. The shirts are navy blue with white lettering. We have included a picture.

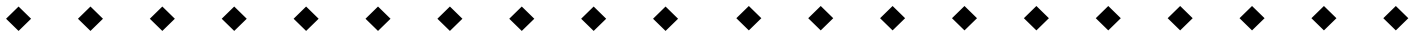
Sizes currently run medium through 3X. Our company has been having difficulty getting smalls in all types of shirts so we are not listing small as an option at this time. Shirt price is \$26 for sizes medium through XL. XXL is \$27 and XXXL is \$29.



Difficult to determine exact shipping prices as done by zip code.

Shipping for most states would be \$10. Exceptions are coastal states like California, Florida, and Alaska.

If you live close to Canton, you are welcome to come in and try on our sample sizes.



ALUMNI DUES

Dues for the Alumni Association are \$15 per year paid annually in February. The dues go toward scholarships, memorials and other projects for the school if funds are available. Please send your dues made payable to GHSON Alumni to:

**GHSON Alumni
Attn: Cindy Brown
210 W. Walnut
Canton, IL 61520**

Refer a student to GHSON

Alumni who refer a prospective student that is then admitted to GHSON will receive a **\$25 gift card**. Tell them to mention you when they request information about the school so we know who referred them.

Prospective students can request information by phone (309) 647-4086 or through our website

www.grahamschoolofnursing.org

Upcoming Dates to Note for 2024

April 4 – Alumni Meeting – 6 pm

September 5 – Alumni Meeting – 6 pm

November 7– Alumni Meeting – 6 pm

Meetings are being held in the SON 3rd floor living room. Call (309) 647-4086 for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!