THE LEGEND OF THE TEAPOT

The teapot tradition began in the 1980s with the New York State Legislature’s Nurse of Distinction Program. The first recipient of the Long Island Nurse of Distinction nomination spoke of the challenges that nurses and all of health care face, and will face, in the decades to come.

In keeping with the message that day, it was recollected her comments included, “most of us nurses are like teabags, we don’t know our own strength until we get into hot water.”

The allegory resonated among those involved in the program and it eventually became a custom for a prior recipient of the Nurse of Excellence award to bestow a teapot upon the current honoree.

The teapots remind our honored colleagues of their achievement and of their strengths. Like each of us, the teapots are seldom exactly alike. They celebrate the unique value that each Nurse of Excellence brings to those they serve. And, the teapot symbolizes and reminds us that “hot water” often brings out the best in us and in our profession.
A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAY 2015

The New York State Legislature in 1989 created a Nurse of Distinction Program. The program, coordinated at the time by Senator Tarky Lombardi Jr., recognized individual excellence in the nursing profession. Hundreds of nurses were nominated from across the state, eight regional designees were selected by peer review, and one nurse from that group was awarded. The program was highly regarded by those within the health care industry and continued until 1995.

Since then, it has been the honor of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council to continue this tradition on a regional level through our annual “Nurse of Excellence” program. The Hospital Council opted to maintain this recognition program because the registered nurse is truly the core of any hospital. Each member hospital and nursing school selects a nominee based on specific selection criteria. The nomination in and of itself is an honor. Then a Council peer review committee selects “the best of the best.” More important than those individuals named and honored is the celebration of the entire nursing profession that pervades this program. We are proud of the nominees and congratulate this year’s top nurse. We are just as proud of all of the nurses who care for thousands of Long Islanders, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

On behalf of our board of directors, the council staff and the leadership staff at all of our hospitals, we express our sincere appreciation to all nurses and salute their commitment to compassionate quality patient care.

KEVIN W. DAHILL
PRESIDENT/CEO
ORDER OF PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS  KEVIN W. DAHILL
President/Chief Executive Officer  Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council

GREETINGS FROM THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL  ALAN D. GUERCI, MD
Chairman of the Board  Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council
President and CEO Catholic Health Services of Long Island

INTRODUCTION OF NURSE OF EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS  GARA EDELSTEIN, RN, MSN
Chairperson, Nurse Executive Committee  Sr. VP Clinical Services/Chief Nursing Officer  St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

VALERIE TERZANO, MSN, RN, NEA-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer & Sr. Vice President of Nursing  Winthrop-University Hospital

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ALL NURSE OF EXCELLENCE NOMINEES  VALERIE TERZANO, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Nurse of Excellence Sub-Committee  Chief Nursing Officer & Sr. Vice President of Nursing  Winthrop-University Hospital

REMARKS BY THE HONOREE  CHRISTINE GLASER, RN, MS, OCN, ANP
Farmingdale State College

PRESENTATION OF THE TEAPOT  RENEE GILCHRIST, RN, BSN
2014 Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse of Excellence

CLOSING REMARKS  VALERIE TERZANO, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Nurse of Excellence Sub-Committee  Chief Nursing Officer & Sr. Vice President of Nursing  Winthrop-University Hospital
2015 NURSE OF EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

Kathi Baker, RN
Principal - Health Careers
Western Suffolk BOCES

Jennifer Bryer, PhD, RN, CNE
Chairperson and Associate Professor
Farmingdale State College

Patricia Burke, RN, MSN, FNP, GNP, AD/PCS
Associate Director Patient Care Services
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Ann Cella, MA, MEd, RN, NEA-BC
Sr. VP Patient Care Services & CNO
St. Francis Hospital – The Heart Center

R. J. Civello, RN, BS-HCA, MSN
Associate Executive Director,
Patient Care Services
Franklin Hospital

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Dean & Professor
Adelphi University

Patricia Darcey, MS, RN, NE-BC
VP of Patient Care Services & CNO
Southampton Hospital

Susan Dewey-Hammer, MN, APRN
Professor of Nursing and Academic Chair
Suffolk County Community College

Margaret Duffy, MS, RN, NEA-BC
Interim Chief Nursing Officer
Stony Brook University Hospital

Jeanne Dzurenko, BSN, MPH, RN, NEA-BC
Sr. VP Nursing and CNO
Good Samaritan Hospital

Gara Edelstein, RN, MSN
Sr. VP Clinical Services/CNO
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

Patricia M. Farrell, RN, MSN, NEC
Associate Executive Director and CNO
Southside Hospital

Nicolette Fiore-Lopez, RN, MA, CNEP
Chief Nursing Officer
St. Charles Hospital

Barbara Gibbons, RN, MS, FNP
VP Patient Care Services & CNO
St. Joseph Hospital

Florence L. Jerdan, RN, PhD, ANP, CNE
Associate Professor, Coordinator, Graduate Nursing Program
St. Joseph’s College

Minna Kapp, EdD, MBA, RN
Associate Professor & Director,
Nursing Education Graduate Program
C. W. Post Campus/LIU

Susan Knoepfler, RN, MPA, NE-BC
VP Nursing & CNO
Huntington Hospital

Kim K. Mendez, EdD, ANP, RN
Vice President & CNO
Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center

Jeannine D. Muldoon, PhD, RN
Dean & Professor, Division of Nursing
Molloy College

Marie Mulligan, MSN, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC
Vice President for Nursing & CNO
J. T. Mather Memorial Hospital

Susan Neville, PhD, RN
Chairperson & Associate Professor,
Dept. of Nursing
New York Institute of Technology

Susan Penque, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, NE-BC
Sr. VP Patient Care Services & CNO
South Nassau Communities Hospital

Patricia Pispisa
VP of Patient Care Services
Eastern Long Island Hospital

Carol Powell, RN
Program Administrator
Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Thomas Rich, D.Min., MS, RN, NP
Professor & Chairperson
Dept. of Nursing
Nassau Community College

Kerri Anne Scanlon, RN, MSN
Chief Nursing Officer
North Shore University Hospital
Cathy Sheerin, RN, MS, NE-BC
Associate Executive Director and CNO
Glen Cove Hospital

Kathy Skarka, MSN, RN, CNA
Sr. VP & CNO
Nassau University Medical Center

Mary J. Stedman, EdD, RN ANP
Professor and Associate Chairperson
Farmingdale State College

Valerie T. Terzano, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
CNO/Sr. VP for Nursing
Winthrop-University Hospital

Marianna Vazquez, RN, MS, NE-BC
Associate Executive Director for Patient Care Services
Plainview and Syosset Hospitals

Beth Vlahavas, MSN, RN
VP of Patient Care Services & CNO
Mercy Medical Center

Maureen T. White, RN, MBA, NEA-BC, F.A.A.N.
Sr. Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive
No. Shore – LIJ Health System

Keisha Ann Wisdom, MBA, RN, BSN
Vice President & CNO
Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center

Lee Anne Xippolitos, PhD, RN
Dean, School of Nursing
Stony Brook University School of Nursing

Gerald Zunno, RN, MSN
COO and CNO
Peconic Bay Medical Center

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2015 NURSE OF EXCELLENCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Valerie Terzano, Chair
CNO & Sr. VP of Nursing
Winthrop University Hospital

Gara Edelstein
Sr. VP Clinical Services/CNO
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

Patricia Darcey
VP of Patient Care Services & CNO
Southampton Hospital

Nicolette Fiore-Lopez
CNO
St. Charles Hospital

Renee Gilchrist
Cardiothoracic Nursing/Critical Care
North Shore University Hospital

Catherine Videtto
Stroke Program Coordinator
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

Lee Xippolitos
Dean, School of Nursing
Stony Brook University School of Nursing

Amy Pakes
Nurse Manager
Nassau University Medical Center
NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL
2015 AWARD FOR
NURSING EXCELLENCE
IS PRESENTED TO

CHRISTINE GLASER, RN, MS, OCN, ANP

FOR ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
IN AN AREA OF PRACTICE, SERVING AS A MENTOR
AND INSPIRATION FOR STAFF, PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS AND FAMILIES, AND
FOSTERING A POSITIVE IMAGE OF NURSING.

NURSE EXECUTIVES SELECTION CRITERIA

Outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and to the field of health care must be demonstrated based on the following criteria:

• Significant achievement within a particular area of nursing, including clinical practice, education, research, or administration. The provision of direct nursing services to assist patients and their families in functioning at optimum levels of health is one example within clinical practice.

• Demonstrated leadership that provides a role model for the quality of their performance and assists other nurses in their development.

• Participation in activities that foster a positive public image of nursing as a profession.

Note: All registered professional nurses employed at a Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council membership organization, or affiliated school of nursing, at any employment level or scope of responsibility, are eligible to be nominated for the award. Prior nominees are not eligible. Each hospital or nursing school member of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council’s Nurse Executives Committee is eligible to nominate one individual for the award. Each nominating entity has an internal selection process to facilitate making an appropriate nomination.
Christine has specialized in oncology, critical care, management, home care, hospice and staff development during her 33 years in nursing, and for the past several years has been a full-time faculty member. She employs technology and innovative teaching strategies to create a student-centered learning environment that fosters creativity, clinical reasoning, and a deep understanding of the art and science of the nursing profession.

She has been recognized with Farmingdale’s “Cares Award” for her outstanding teaching ability, caring, and clinical knowledge and leadership skills. She also maintains her clinical skills as the coordinator of education and training at a local hospital. As a member of the Campus-wide International Committee and board member of the Campus-wide Committee Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, she assists in the development and implementation of faculty development programs for the entire campus community.

Christine also participates in the Nursing Student Outreach Program, providing flu immunization and health education to senior citizens, and has raised funds for the Multiple Myeloma Foundation and American Diabetes Foundation. She takes pride in the professional aspects of her career as well as her clinical and leadership roles.
2015 NURSE OF EXCELLENCE NOMINEES

BROOKHAVEN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER
CHRIS PAUL PETROSINO, RN

Chris has worked the night shift at Brookhaven for two years, where he is assigned to the float pool on the telemetry and stroke units. Chris willingly goes above and beyond his assignment and is the first to assist his team by taking on an extra patient. He also reaches out to his manager with ideas to make their unit better, and takes advantage of education and cross-training opportunities so he can better serve Brookhaven’s patients. He actively participates on his unit’s shared governance council as well as the performance improvement council for the department of nursing. He is an active member and supporter of the Nassau Suffolk Chapter of the Autism Society of America and worked with the Nassau County Police Department on a presentation about autism for first responders. Chris also has devoted his energies to enhancing the lives of those in other countries. He founded a non-profit organization that has sent more than $1 million to Buganda Hospital in Tanzania. Chris reaches out to share whatever he has with those in need, and strives to make a connection with every patient.

EASTERN LONG ISLAND HOSPITAL
MARIE T. CRONIN, RN

Marie joined Eastern Long Island Hospital’s ambulatory surgery unit three years ago after working there as a travel nurse; she was such an asset to the hospital that coworkers and management wanted to add her to the team permanently. She has been trained and worked in areas such as home healthcare, psychiatry, ICU/CCU, telemetry, OR/PACU, and emergency medicine, so she has the knowledge, skills, and ability to adapt to all areas of perioperative nursing. Marie goes the extra mile with her pain management patients due to her own lived experience. This gives her the empathy to understand patients’ struggles and determine appropriate care strategies. She already has established a following among the hospital’s patients, who greet her by name and treat her as a family member. She provides care with humor and laughter to her patients, their families, and friends. Marie’s leadership, accountability, and responsibility, along with her critical thinking skills and clinical excellence, have contributed to the hospital’s positive patient outcomes and patient satisfaction. She has inspired seasoned and new nurses, and has raised the bar with her level of expertise.

GLEN COVE HOSPITAL
MARY MUSCARELLO, BSN, RN, CDE
STAFF EDUCATOR, DIABETES EDUCATOR

Mary practices as a Certified Diabetes Educator at Glen Cove, providing both inpatient and outpatient diabetes education. She is the coordinator and sole educator for the hospital-based, AADE-accredited outpatient diabetes self-management program. In this role, Mary identifies, assesses, and implements improved standards of care for diabetic patients, but concurrently is educating the nursing staff about diabetes management. She has coached several clinical ladder RNs to be diabetes champions,
developing educational content, mentoring, and offering constructive criticism. Mary’s “superstars” are continually challenged, and she makes sure that they are leveraging their skills and continuing to build on their strengths. Among the innovations Mary has contributed to the hospital is a Diabetes Tool Kit, strategically located on each unit, which contains all of the tools that diabetes champions would need to teach their patients self-management skills. She also has developed creative educational content for the many community outreach programs in which she participates, with an emphasis on tools for patients with low literacy levels, and has utilized her past experience in home care to assist the hospital’s case management team in better preparing patients for safe discharges home. Mary’s key priority is to create a healthy community that leads more people to eat healthy foods, be physically active, and encourage healthy life choices. She demonstrates her commitment to these goals personally and professionally.

GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER
MELODY BUTLER, BSN, RN
PEDIATRIC NURSE
Melody practices as a clinical nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital, currently in the pediatric unit, but her passion is promoting vaccination. She is a strong advocate for immunization both in the hospital and the community. In 2011 she founded a not-for-profit organization called Nurses Who Vaccinate, a web-based forum for healthcare providers and community members to receive current, evidence-based information regarding healthcare news and vaccines. This website not only provides information through social media but reaches members nationally and internationally, and includes registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and physicians. Melody has presented locally, nationally and internationally and has received multiple honors and awards for her advocacy for immunizations. She also shares her expertise as a champion for the United Nations Foundation’s Shot@Life campaign to protect children worldwide by providing lifesaving vaccines where they are most needed, and serves as a member of Voices for Vaccines’ parent advisory board. She collaborates with other public health organizations to help educate the public. Melody recognizes and values the influence nurses have as the most trusted profession and has devoted her time to truly making a difference in the global healthcare community.

HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL
DENISE K. NAVAL, RN, MSN, CIC, ANP-C
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COORDINATOR
Denise has practiced at Huntington in a variety of roles during her long career, including as an ICU nurse, preceptor, on the post-anesthesia unit, and in infection control. She found her passion in infection control, leading her to become an Adult Nurse Practitioner in 2008 and accept a promotion to Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator. In her current position she is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all infection control and prevention activities throughout the hospital.
and at an off-site health center. Denise also is responsible for collecting and analyzing data, making conclusions and recommendations. She has demonstrated leadership in improving quality, she exerts a positive influence on her peers and turns problems into opportunities. Denise always tries to use positive reinforcement and leads by example. Her approach works; the hospital has achieved significant and sustained improvements in CAUTI, CLABS, and VAP rates. Denise is dedicated to ensuring all new hires meet her standards, working with the staff development team to ensure all clinical and non-clinical staff, physicians and volunteers are educated on infection prevention and control within their job responsibilities. She also serves as a consultant and educator outside of work, participating in career development days, teaching high school students about infection prevention and volunteering for community outreach programs. She also is active in the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). Denise’s intelligence, energy, enthusiasm, and hard work are inspiring.

JOHN T. MATHER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
JOANNE J. LAUTEN, BSN, RN, SCRN
DIRECTOR OF NURSING QUALITY/STROKE COORDINATOR

Joanne joined J. T. Mather’s staff in 2010 in the position of Stroke Coordinator, and since has been promoted to Nursing Quality Director. Under her leadership, Mather was awarded the Gold Plus Target Stroke Award by the American Heart Association for two consecutive years for the excellent care given to patients experiencing stroke or stroke-like symptoms. Her responsibilities as stroke coordinator include patient education, clinical management, discharge planning, marketing, outcomes, and patient-focused events. She is a transformational leader in quality improvement, continuously educating herself through quality-related research published in scientific journals and by attending local, regional, and national quality conferences. She initiated a hospital-wide “Quality Showcase” for each unit to show off the evidence-based approaches it had taken to clinical problems, and she currently is taking the lead in establishing a patient/family advisory board for the hospital. Joanne helps to grow and develop nurses into leaders by responding to their individual learning needs, empowering them and aligning their professional goals with the strategic goals of the healthcare organization. As a health and wellness advocate, Joanne represents Mather at meetings, community health fairs, and screenings held in various facilities. Joanne is greatly respected and trusted as a professional role model and passionate patient advocate.

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER
KATHERINE A. THOMPSON, RN, BC MSN
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST

Katherine is relatively new to Mercy’s nursing education department, but she is not new to nursing education; throughout her career she has been dedicated to educating patients and colleagues. At the same time, she has pursued her own educational achievements and learned from practice in a wide variety of settings. She brings all of the skills she developed in these roles to the education department as well as the
nursing staff. She encourages and inspires new and seasoned staff and has a positive work relationship with her peers and other members of the nursing department. In her role as educator, Katherine is able to teach and explain new concepts that are understood by the staff. She has worked to integrate evidence-based practice into daily routines of nursing to improve nursing outcomes. Katherine has collaborated and guided staff through projects such as the SAPPHIRE pump conversion and PYXIS upgrades. Katherine imparts knowledge and forms relationships in a manner that encourages any nurse to seek out her help. The staff knows it has an available, caring leader who is able to integrate the art and science of nursing.

**MOLLOY COLLEGE**

**MARGARET WHELAN, EdD, RN, FNP-BC**

**PROFESSOR OF NURSING**

As a full-time faculty member since 1987, Peggy has taught nursing at all levels in the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. For the past 15 years Peggy has been the coordinator of the Family Nurse Practitioner track, the largest graduate nursing track at Molloy. In addition to teaching in the FNP program, she has developed many of the courses in the clinical track. Margaret also presents her research locally and nationally. In the role of FNP coordinator she mentors new faculty members so they can assist with the program. She holds board certification as a family nurse practitioner and maintains her clinical skills by providing primary care to underserved adolescents in a school-based clinic in Brooklyn. Peggy also has led students on medical missions to Jamaica to treat the underserved. She is just as passionate about her role as researcher, focusing on topics such as the transition from RN to Advanced Practice Nurse and the late-life recollections for former ED nurses. Through her dual roles as educator and practitioner, Peggy transfers her knowledge to the next generation of nurse practitioners. She personifies all of the attributes of a nurse in the era of health care reform: scholar, educator, mentor, practitioner, researcher, and leader.

**NASSAU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**

**ELIZABETH SAMUEL, RN**

Elizabeth has served in a variety of staff and management positions at Nassau University Medical Center in her 15 years there. Currently she is a staff nurse in the endoscopy suite, where she interacts with a diverse population with multiple health and socio-economic needs. Elizabeth’s commitment to helping those less fortunate is rooted in the example set by her parents, who founded an orphanage in India. From a young age at the orphanage, she worked to channel at-risk youth into constructive activities. She established a successful youth choir that competed in regional tournaments, which improved the youths’ sense of confidence and self-worth. After following her husband, a pastor, to the United States, she bridged her new life as a pastor’s wife and her nursing career with community health volunteerism. Each year, Elizabeth hosts a community health fair for her husband’s congregants, has organized a food bank, and has developed programs to keep young people in school and on a career path. She
also participates in the Samaritan’s Purse program, which sends Christmas gifts to the Philippines, Jamaica, and South America. Elizabeth practices the values of compassion for those less fortunate and cross-cultural understanding of the needs of others.

NORTH SHORE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
JENNIFER MEYER, RN
FLIGHT NURSE

Jennifer’s health care journey began as an EMT and transitioned to nursing. She was accepted to North Shore’s Critical Care Nurse Fellowship Program five years ago and was placed in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (CICU). With her dual background as an EMT and CICU nurse, she was a natural fit for the health system’s flight team. She is meticulous in checking orders and questioning plans of care, as she confidently advocates for patients and their families. Among her achievements in the CICU are initiating a blood conservation initiative, in which staff from the unit donate blood specifically for their patients, and a “range-of-motion rounding” program designed to ensure that patients receive proper and timely range-of-motion therapy. In addition to her clinical excellence, Jennifer is a devoted educator. She is a model preceptor, and she was elected by her peers last year as chairperson of the Clinical Ladder Program. She runs the program outside of her daily responsibilities as a staff nurse, and has helped grow the program through mentorship and support to 375 nurses. She also makes time to give instruction on ACLS and BLS on a volunteer basis in the community, though that is not the end of her volunteerism. Jennifer also has organized food drives for the Ronald McDonald House, and volunteers for her local fire department and ambulance corps, where she has created preceptor programs for new EMTs. Jennifer is immensely skilled, develops other nurses by the hundreds, takes on cutting edge roles, serves her community, and does much more. She personifies what nursing leaders seek and admire in professional nurses.

PECONIC BAY MEDICAL CENTER
BARBARA BEDELL, MSN, RN, CWOCN
WOUND CARE CONSULTANT

Since joining Peconic Bay 11 years ago, Barbara’s focus has been on assisting hospital and field nurses in the treatment of complex wounds. She acts as a clinical resource for the staff, is able to evaluate patients’ progress towards their desired care goals, and makes revisions to their care plans as necessary. A dedicated mentor, Barbara teaches staff about the care of wounds, ostomies, and continence, and ensures that her patients have the best understanding of their diagnosis and treatment. In recognition of her leadership and clinical excellence, she received the 2014 Nurse of Distinction Award from the Northeast Region of the Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society; her peers nominated Barbara for her professional contributions and her community service, which includes volunteering for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Barbara is dedicated to education, publishing articles in nursing journals, and developing a care curriculum for nurses interested in pursuing wound certification. She works tirelessly to improve patient care, her own personal standards, and the professional standards of nursing.
PLAINVIEW HOSPITAL
JAYNE GALLAN GALGANO, RN, MSN
NURSE EDUCATOR

Jayne is a lifelong learner whose journey began as a diploma graduate 25 years ago; four years ago she completed her MSN in nursing education. One of her greatest strengths is assessing and coordinating the orientation needs of new staff members and developing individualized orientation plans. She acts as a resource and coach throughout the period of competency achievement, mentoring while providing feedback to orientees, preceptors and nurse managers. Jayne is an excellent mentor who often asks for advice related to evidence-based practice, acknowledging bedside nurses’ successes and encouraging them to pursue higher education. As an educator, she inspires nurses to improve the quality of their performance, assist compassionate and empathetic caregivers, and be strong patient advocates. She is committed to quality initiatives that support best practice and best patient outcomes, and has been one of the lead educators in CLAB reduction and hourly rounding. Jayne helps promote the profession of nursing by serving as a guest speaker for local high schools. She has a positive influence on nursing through all of her interactions.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA MEDICAL CENTER
TIMOTHY GIANCOLA BS, RN, ANCC
ASSISTANT NURSING CARE COORDINATOR, ONCOLOGY

Timothy didn’t start out at St. Catherine’s to become a nurse, but he found his calling there. Following three years of service in the U.S. Army, Timothy began working at St. Catherine’s in 1988 in the housekeeping department. Within seven months he became a patient care assistant, but his care for a 90-year-old patient inspired him to earn a bachelor of science in therapeutic recreation, later becoming a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. Patients flourished under his care in the psychiatric unit, and he devoted countless volunteer hours to fundraising to support activities for this patient population. By 2006, he was back in school to become an RN, and in 2008 took a staff position in the oncology department. Quickly thereafter he obtained his chemotherapy certification. His thirst for education benefits Timothy’s patients, as he employs best practices and evidence-based strategies, in combination with excellent technical skills, to treat this acutely ill population. He always delivers care with compassion and thoughtfulness, and he does not accept mediocrity. Timothy always takes the time to make sure that other team members know what they are doing, expertly. His unique success is being able to answer his calling and treat patients, talk to patients, and teach patients what they need to heal and live. Maintaining a high standard of care delivery with the utmost in kindness, compassion, and caring is also Timothy’s specialty.
ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL
SYLVIA ZEGELBACH, RN, BSN, ANCC
ASSISTANT NURSING CARE COORDINATOR

In 10 years, Sylvia has worked her way up from nursing assistant to staff nurse to her present management role as assistant nursing care coordinator on the hospital’s busiest unit. She has both clinical and administrative responsibilities on the 35-bed medical surgical unit, with a nursing staff of 39 FTEs. Sylvia has served as a positive role model to both new and seasoned staff, demonstrating compassion, sound critical thinking and a collaborative work ethic. She works closely with the hospital’s Nursing Education Department and serves as preceptor for nursing students enrolled in baccalaureate programs. Although Sylvia only has been in a leadership role for a short time, her achievements are numerous. She earned St. Charles’ “Champion of Quality 2014” award for her work reducing hospital readmissions by 7.29 percent, and also received the hospital’s “Nursing Excellence” award for leaders in 2014. She takes on any task with a smile, and is always engaged in the task at hand. Sylvia has grown exponentially in her role, and she continues on a very strong path to success. She has already had a tremendous impact on her unit.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL
ANTOINETTE JORDAN, MBA, BSN, RN, BC-NE
NURSE MANAGER OF MEDICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Antoinette has practiced as a clinical nurse since 1990 and is currently nurse manager of the Medical ICU (MICU) at St. Francis. She serves as a role model and team leader who engages in team-work to create a healthy work environment and contributes to shared decision making at St. Francis by participating in several interdisciplinary committees. These characteristics have earned her recognition for two prestigious leadership awards at St. Francis, the Nancy Kostel Managerial Spirit Award, and the Patrick Scollard Award. Under her guidance, the MICU achieved the AACN’s Gold Level Beacon Award in Critical Care, representing exemplary teamwork and excellent patient outcomes that exceed national benchmarks, and has earned the American Heart Association’s Stroke Gold Plus Award for five consecutive years for excellence in stroke treatment. In addition, her unit consistently has demonstrated clinical excellence in preventing patient falls and hospital-acquired pressure ulcers. Antoinette is engaged in the daily operations of her unit which creates visibility, coaching opportunities and staff development, and fosters an environment of innovation, inspiration, and integrity. Her creative approaches have led to two successful initiatives focused on improving the nutritional status of patients, which improved outcomes and reduced the risk of complications. Antoinette is committed to her community as well, volunteering at a local nursing home, visiting sick parishioners from her church, and making herself available to help with their household chores and errands. Antoinette embodies the hospital’s goals of advancing a healing mission, promoting excellence in care, and committing herself to those in need.
In her role as nurse manager for the Emergency Department for the past two years, Allison has been responsible for the overall daily operations of the ED, including problem-solving, planning, and fiscal management. Allison collaborates with hospital administration to coordinate and facilitate patient movement and throughput. She has fostered a positive impact of nursing through her emphasis on quality in her department. She establishes standards, engages her staff in the quality process, empowers them as contributors, and supports their successes. Among her signature projects was an effort to reduce the ED door-to-inpatient floor turnaround time; she achieved Six Sigma standards and has sustained these successes. Allison has paired her nursing excellence with involvement in her community. While working toward her master's degree in community health nursing, she developed a “Healthy Minds/Healthy Bodies” program for at-risk girls, helped them complete “safe sitter” training to become quality babysitters, and educated both the girls and their mothers about entering the field of nursing. She recently travelled to India to study the Jamkhed Model for community-based health in developing communities. Allison worked with village healthcare workers who act as organizers and change agents in rural communities by promoting new methods and technology from around the world. Allison exemplifies the positive image of nurses.

Jane began her work in the hospital’s palliative care program in 2011. Her leadership skills, tenacity, and ability to collaborate with others laid a strong foundation for this program, incorporating medical residents, a chaplain, a massage therapist, and social worker into the palliative care team. Jane mentors medical residents on palliative care while teaching them a set of invaluable skills, such as approaching a patient with chronic pain or someone at end-of-life, and how to be compassionate and have empathy for the families. She has also achieved board certification as an Integrative Nurse Coach, combining clinical skills with holistic and integrative nursing philosophy. In this role, she has mentored new graduate nurses as they begin the journey of applying theory to the practice of nursing. She worked diligently to get Palliative Care certification from the Joint Commission for Southampton, and has been instrumental in implementing the No Patient Dies Alone program, a pet therapy program, and support groups. Jane also is active in her community participating in fundraising events for local farmers, a domestic violence shelter, and the American Heart Association. She is involved in flu clinics, blood pressure screening, and teaching women about breast cancer and the role of preventive medicine. Her friendly attitude, sense of humor and positive thinking make her a valuable member of the nursing leadership team.
SOUTH NASSAU COMMUNITIES HOSPITAL
SHARON V. GRUPP, RN, BSN
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

From her background as a critical care nurse to her current role in performance management, Sharon transforms her passion for nursing into distinct actions. As an experienced RN, Sharon’s vision has been to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of delivering quality care to ensure exceptional patient outcomes. She is credited with taking the lead to achieve facility-wide excellence in Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) prevention, forming an interdisciplinary task force with unit-based champions. Her efforts resulted in sustained improvement of VTE prevention and treatment. Another mission of Sharon’s is promoting patient immunization for influenza and pneumococcus. She is as active in bolstering the positive image of nurses outside of the hospital as she does in the hospital; Mary annually volunteers at South Nassau’s health fair, educating the community on stroke, heart failure, pneumonia, and vaccination, and has participated in eight humanitarian missions to Guatemala sponsored by her church. Sharon fosters an environment of excellence in nursing practice by recognizing the importance of collaboration with nurse leaders, nursing staff, and the inclusion of interdisciplinary team members in performance management initiatives that enable best practices and outcomes.

SOUTHSIDE HOSPITAL
CAMILLE M. TIMMONS, RN, CCRN

Camille began working at Southside on a medical surgical unit 10 years ago, and transferred to the cardiothoracic ICU (CTICU) in 2011, where she won a spot in Southside’s fellowship program. She is highly skilled, knowledgeable, compassionate, and advocates for all her patients and families. In her current role she provides comprehensive care in a fast-paced and critical environment to patients with varying heart ailments. She is adept at the operation and utility of advanced medical equipment such as IABP, CVVHD, and ECMO machines. She is as selfless in her personal life as her professional one. Camille served on a medical mission in Nigeria in 2013, which also inspired her to film a short documentary about Nigeria to raise awareness and funding. Recently she continued her film projects, spotlighting a program called “Follow Your Heart,” which features nurse practitioners visiting patients at home after their open heart surgeries at no cost. She volunteered to be part of the Ebola Rapid Response Team, which required specialized training and a commitment to leave her family for multiple weeks if caring for an Ebola patient. Camille saw this as training for her future missions to Africa. Camille is a consummate professional, mentor, and preceptor, in addition to being an extraordinary person and clinician.
Adriann exhibits excellence in nursing practice, quality, research, and community service that serves the perinatal population. She currently is responsible for the oversight of the Regional Perinatal Center, maternal and neonatal transport, and outreach programs, but she began her career as a NICU staff RN in 1981. She moved on to become the charge RN, clinician, and unit educator. Eventually her pioneering ideas led her to develop the role of outreach coordinator, where she succeeded in reducing the neonatal transport time from community hospitals to the tertiary hospital by half. She achieved this success and others through a dedication to multidisciplinary education of staff from referring hospitals, developing programs that have been adopted across Suffolk County. Her passion for establishing best practices through evidence has had profound outcomes. For example, she participated in a March of Dimes-sponsored study that reduced early term deliveries by 75 percent. Throughout her career she has developed, coordinated, and participated in a range of multidisciplinary and multisite research projects, and serves as the co-chair of Stony Brook’s Nursing Research Committee. Adriann serves on many professional committees, gives public lectures, speaks at national conferences and academic settings, and has written many articles in professional publications. Her devotion to evidence-based practice and lifelong learning has had a positive impact on the advancement of the nursing profession. Adriann is an inspiration to the nursing profession and the community she serves.

Kathleen has a passion for nursing education, and has made significant contributions to her program, faculty, and students in her 16 years at the School of Nursing. She is fully dedicated to a state-of-the-art curriculum and the provision of clinical opportunities aimed at meeting the needs of the associate-to-bachelor’s students. She also believes that education must prepare individuals who are capable and willing to face the challenges of an ever-changing healthcare system. Kathleen has developed unique clinical experiences for students that were previously unavailable to them; these include rotations in local hospitals in areas such as the operating room, telemetry, emergency department, and intensive care units. Her goal is to ensure that new RNs have refined clinical skills, making them more marketable, and better serving the community. Kathleen also has worked to develop a distance learning education experience that meets the challenges of adult learners in the associate-to-bachelor’s program while maximizing learning. She is a leader, expert, master teacher, innovator, collaborator and much more. Her collegiality and mentorship is valued by all who come in contact with her.
2015 NURSE OF EXCELLENCE NOMINEES (CONTINUED)

SYOSSET HOSPITAL
GLEN RISKE, RN, BSN
STAFF RN IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Glen’s career in nursing has spanned nearly 30 years, working in Syosset’s emergency department for the past five years. From the beginning, he impressed senior staff with his compassion and clinical care. He is a consummate nursing professional who is routinely praised by patients and their families for his bedside skills. Glen listens, addresses the patient’s issues, and communicates them to the doctors and his coworkers. His professionalism, skills, knowledge, and teamwork are respected by the emergency department, as well as other professionals at the hospital. Glen’s manner with his patients is consistently one of respect and understanding. Patients’ ages, races or religions, chief complaints or smallest requests do not matter to him; his caring is consistent and he always puts the needs of patients and families first. Glen exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated caregiver.

VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
BRENDA MATTHEWS, MS, RN-BC, CPRP
MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Brenda has specialized in mental health nursing for more than 30 years, including the last three years at Northport, where she is the mental health inpatient coordinator. In her role, she has transformed the inpatient mental health program into a recovery-based program, and has effectively navigated changes in the culture of mental health care. Her accomplishments include developing and implementing a psycho-education training curriculum for nursing staff that 90 percent of all nursing staff now receives. Through her ongoing collaboration at the local and national levels, a number of mental health facilities have implemented cutting-edge psychiatric treatment modalities, and she jointly developed an inpatient handbook that incorporates the mental health recovery program, which is now used nationally. She has made increasing the psychiatric knowledge base of nursing staff on medical units a personal mission, and has initiated a mock crisis team that drills quarterly in units across the medical center. She is a highly effective team leader, mentor, and patient advocate. Brenda promotes a positive image of nursing and is truly an asset to the organization in delivering personalized, patient-driven, and proactive care. She is the consummate change agent and transformational leader.

WINTHROP- UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
NICOLE OLIVER, MSN, RN, OCN
DIRECTOR OF NURSING, MEDICINE, AND SURGERY

Nicole’s leadership qualities, contributions to the environment of care, performance of staff and improvement of outcomes mark her as an exceptional and compassionate leader. Much of her two decades of nursing experience has been dedicated to oncology nursing. By listening closely to her patients and staff, she implemented practices on the oncology unit that addressed patient
needs. For example, she developed a pilot study to address the need for noise reduction on the unit, which led to changes across the organization that has enhanced the environment of care. She also was a key contributor in an effort to design and implement chemotherapy order sets, to improve the safety of these high-risk medications. Nicole has matched her professional dedication with personal commitment, volunteering for the annual Lippert-Meglia Adult Oncology Fundraiser. The leadership skills that Nicole demonstrated as a nurse manager on the oncology unit only have grown in her current role as director of nursing. She always leads by example, empowers staff by providing the tools they need, and encourages professional development. She readily seeks to assume a multitude of responsibilities, and always with a positive manner. Nicole also gives back to her profession, serving actively on nursing councils, both on the unit and organizational level. Her exceptional devotion and caring to the profession of nursing is apparent and appreciated by those lives she affects, the staff, patients, and families.
PRIOR RECIPIENTS OF THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL NURSE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

2014  RENEÉ GILCHRIST, North Shore University Hospital
2013  CATHERINE VIDETTO, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center and LORI ESCALLIER, Stony Brook University School of Nursing
2012  ANULI A. ERIKE, Nassau University Medical Center
2011  LISA QUINONES, Suffolk County Community College
2010  DEBRA GIUGLIANO, Stony Brook University Medical Center
2009  EILEEN M. ROBERTO, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
2008  AMY B. PAKES, Nassau University Medical Center
2007  DONNA A. TANZI, Huntington Hospital
2006  MAY-LYNN ANDRESEN, North Shore – LIJ Health System
2005  KATHLEEN PERRO, St. Francis Hospital
2004  MADELINE COZZI-GOTTLEIB, South Nassau Communities Hospital
2003  VIRGINIA REICHERT, North Shore University Hospital
2002  DONNA M. JOHNSON, Nassau University Medical Center
2001  SUSAN HOVANI, J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital
2000  KATHLEEN SOUTHERTON, University Hospital at Stony Brook
1999  KATHLEEN MILLER, Long Beach Medical Center
1998  ELIZABETH DEVINE, J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital
1997  ALICE FRIEDRICH, North Shore University Hospital at Plainview
1996  PHYLLIS PARKER, J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital

LONG ISLAND NOMINATIONS TO THE NEW YORK STATE NURSE OF DISTINCTION AWARD PROGRAM 1989—1995

ELEANOR O’BOYLE
J. T. Mather Memorial
MILDRED O’CONNOR
Lutheran Center for the Aging
SR. RITA VANSON
Mercy Medical Center
NANCY MAEHL
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

RACHEL LIN (DECEASED)
Komanoff Center for Geriatric & Rehab Medicine (NYS recipient)
DARLENE PADUANO
University Hospital at Stony Brook
DOROTHY PESSOLI
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
CAROLYN VAN HELDEN
St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center