

News

P R E S S R E L E A S E

“IMMEDIATE RELEASE”

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HOPFER SCHOOL OF NURSING CELEBRATES

NEW ROCHELLE, New York - May 31, 2007 – Sound Shore Health System’s Hopfer School of Nursing (Hopfer) held its 106th spring graduation ceremony Tuesday night. More than 200 gathered at the Sommer Center of Concordia College to celebrate the academic successes of the 28 members of the Class of 2007. The keynote speaker was Mary McGuinness, Ph.D. Director of Nursing programs at Mercy College.

The Hopfer exercises featured a unique and poignant lamp lighting ceremony that honors Florence Nightingale’s contributions as the founder of modern nursing. Karlene Gayle, the President of the winter Class of 2006 and recent graduate of Hopfer, lit the lamps for each of the graduates. Immediately following this symbolic event, for which graduates were in traditional white attire, they donned mortarboards and gowns for the presentation of their Associate in Science (Nursing) degrees.

This year’s Valedictorian is Fernando Madeira and the salutatorian is Joanne Perri, who reflected on her Hopfer experience, congratulated her class, and thanked faculty as well as her friends and family for their support. Maria Hehl and Geovanny Rodriquez were co-winners of The Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary’s

Award, which cited their commitment to Hopfer and extensive volunteer activities. An alumnus of the Class of 1957, Irene McCanty Thompson of White Plains, NY, was among the guests for the graduation ceremonies. During the evening's events, she was recognized on the occasion of her 50th anniversary of her graduation from the then Mount Vernon Hospital School of Nursing. Her many accomplishments and dual graduate degrees showcased her as a role model for this year's graduates.

Among the Class of 2007 were two current SSHS employees, Simon Pearson and Geovanny Rodriquez. And, one dependent of a Sound Shore employee, Jessica Coleman, also received her degree. These individuals will work in the Sound Shore Health System - not with the title of student nurses, but now in the rewarding profession of registered nurses.

To learn more about Hopfer School of Nursing, visit www.hopfer.org or contact Sandra Farrior at 914-664-8000 x3221 or at hopferadmissions@sshsw.org.

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About Sound Shore Health System

In 1997, Mount Vernon Hospital (MVH), Sound Shore Medical Center (SSMC), Hopfer School of Nursing and Schaffer Extended Care Center (SECC) affiliated to create one of the largest private healthcare systems between New York City and Albany – Sound Shore Health System. This association, with the addition of the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley in 2001, has provided the region with a broader scope of enhanced, quality programs and services. **Beds** – Mount Vernon Hospital (MVH), 228; Sound Shore Medical Center (SSMC), 321; Schaffer Extended Care Center (SECC), 150 (50 short- and 100 long-term rehabilitation). **MVH** – New York State Designated: Stroke Center and Transitional Care Unit Demonstration Hospital (one of only five statewide), home to the Assertive Community Treatment Program, The Family Health and Wellness Center and Intensive Case Management Program, the Chronic Wound and Hyperbaric Treatment Center and the Low Back Pain Center. **SSMC** – New York State Designated: Area Trauma Center, Perinatal Hospital and Stroke Center. Named a National Solucient 100 Performance Improvement Leader, a center of excellence for bariatric surgery, awarded Commission on Cancer, *with commendation*, status by the American College of Surgeons, received the 2005 and 2006 Hospital of Choice award and is home to the Center for Arthritis and Total Joint Surgery, the Chest Pain Center, Cancer Center, Sleep Center, Breast Center, Center for Sound Aging and the Adult Day Services Center. **MVH, SSMC and SECC** are accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. To learn more about SSHS, visit www.soundshore.org