

Alumni Newsgram

September 2016 | Volume 30 Issue 1

Letter from the President

Greetings Alumni,

Thanks to the hard work of our faculty and staff, the College continues to thrive, and we continue to provide opportunities for men and women to fulfill their dreams in nursing.

I am pleased to announce that Helene Fuld College was named 2016's top community college in the country by the national finance website, WalletHub. Based in part upon our graduates' career outcomes, our educational outcomes, and our strong financial management, we earned the highest ranking over 821 colleges (including all of the other community colleges in New York State)! We are honored to receive this recognition and intend to keep building upon our success.

Whether you see our new subway or bus shelter ads or meet other HFCN nurses, we hope you remain proud of your alma mater. There are so many ways that you can be a part of our activities. Consider volunteering to mentor a student or joining faculty and students when we take blood pressures or glucose screenings at local health fairs. And of course, we always appreciate financial contributions to the College. As you can well imagine, our students have many needs for which you can provide support.

Do you know of a worthy graduate to nominate for the Distinguished Alumni Award? We have extended the deadline until Friday, November 11, 2016. So there is still time to submit a name.

We will be hosting a recognition reception on Friday, December 2, 2016, to commemorate our top community college ranking and hope that you will be able to join us for this event.

Regards, Dr. Wendy Robinson



Helene Fuld College Named 2016's Top Community College!



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND!

Recognition Reception
Commemorating
College's National
No. 1 Community
College Status

December 2, 2016, at 6 p.m. at Helene Fuld College of Nursing

This is a catered event. Awards will be presented throughout the evening.

To RSVP, please send an email to recognitionreception@helenefuld.edu by Friday, November 25, 2016. For more information, please call Michelle Hernandez, Director of External Affairs at 212-616-7278.



National Nurses Week



National Nurses Week recognizes the millions of nurses who make up the backbone of the American healthcare system. It begins each year on May 6 and commences on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

One day is selected annually to celebrate the event at the College. In 2016, the event was held on Thursday, May 12th from 12:00 - 6:00 pm. Students, faculty, and staff were treated to celebration cake and provided with a variety of free nursing-themed and inspired giveaways. Michelle Hernandez, director of external affairs, coordinated the affair. Lunch was sponsored by the HFCN Alumni Association.



May 2016 Graduation

The May 2016 commencement exercises were held at First Corinthian Baptist Church on Friday, May 6, 2016. There were a total of 108 students in the graduating class; 86 of whom were LPN to RN students and 22 were RN to BS students.

It is always a proud moment when graduates of the College inspire their children to follow in their footsteps. Opal Fisher graduated from Helene Fuld in November 2012. She enrolled in the RN to BS program in September 2014 and graduated in May 2016 along with her daughter Shalana Nicole Fisher, who graduated from the LPN to RN program. Omar Durand graduated in 2016 as his mom, Myriam Durand, a November 2011 alumnus, proudly looked on and posed for pictures with her son.



Several awards were presented during the ceremony. From the RN to BS program, the Bachelor's Degree Award for Academic Excellence was bestowed upon Carol A. Aarons. Adrian Marie DeMartini and Stephanie Nicole Gabriel were recipients of the Bachelor's Degree Award for Academic Honors. Carol A. Aarons, Mariana Gutiérrez, Isaiah Kwasi Nti, Joyce N. Okorodudu, and Ideen Sue Zarkin all received Bachelor's Degree Capstone Awards.

Stacey M. Bey received the Associate Degree
Award for Academic Excellence. Tiffany P.
Lewis and Meril Mathew were recipients of
the Associate Degree Award for Academic Honors.
Senator Charles Schumer addressed the graduates and
filmmaker Spike Lee provided the commencement address.



May 2016 Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony

The Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony was held on Monday, May 2nd, at the Alhambra Ballroom in Harlem. HFCN began hosting this traditional event in April 2014.

College President Dr. Wendy Robinson provided opening remarks and the welcome address. Several awards were presented throughout the evening. Carol A. Thompson Perseverance Awards were presented to BS student, Ideen Sue Zarkin, and AAS student, Christine-Mae Pasion. Dibenise Sanchez was the recipient of the Marguerite Haggerty Memorial Award for excellence in medical —surgical nursing.



Dr. Cynthia Hughes, Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Director of the BS program, pinned
the BS students and Prof. Heather Buccello
pinned the AD students. BS students, Mervin
Hurylington and Antoinette Deberry, shared their
experiences about the upper division program.
The recitation of the nursing pledge and candle
lighting were led by Prof. Emily Edwards. Closing
remarks were provided by Prof. Bernice Banschick.

Dinner was served following the ceremony. The happy soon-to-be graduates danced the rest of the evening away. This was definitely a party crowd anxious to celebrate!



November 2015 Graduation



The November 2015 commencement exercises were held on Thursday, November 19, 2015. The first lady of NYC, Chirlane McCray, prerecorded a message for the graduates that was shown at the beginning of the present the statement of the present that was shown at the beginning of the present that was shown at the beginning of the present that the statement of the statement of the statement of the statement of the stat

was shown at the beginning of the program.

During the ceremony, Shannon L. Rodorigo was presented with the Associate Degree Award for Academic Excellence and Tina Lau received the Associate Degree Award for Academic Honors.

Cheryl Wills, the nationally recognized award-winning journalist for NY1 News and author of the acclaimed book *Die Free: A Heroic Family Tale*, provided the commencement address. Ms. Wills mentioned that she first learned of nurse bullying at a union event that she attended. In a very poignant speech, she imparted upon graduates the importance of knowing their ancestry. She shared her own personal story of discovering in 2009 that she is the great-great-great granddaughter of Sandy Wills, a runaway slave who fought for freedom in the American Civil War. She told the graduating class that when you know who you are, the world and your colleagues will respect you and advised them to walk into their work places with confidence, and not to let anyone call them out of their name. Ms. Wills left graduates with

what she referred to as the 3Bs – Be Bold, Be Bright, and Be Brave and advised them to tie their ancestors' struggle into their work every day.

November 2015 Associate Degree Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony



The fall 2015 Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony was held on Monday, November 16th. The soon-to-be graduates donned the College's new navy blue uniforms that have the College's HFCN logo on the left arm.

Highlights of the event included the awards presentation. Randy Delandro and Carla Purvis received Ruth Brown Academic Awards, which are given to incoming students who show academic potential. November 2015 graduates Jennifer Contreras, Nathalie Danielle Pierre, and Geneva Savage were recipients of Marguerite Haggerty







May 2015 Graduation



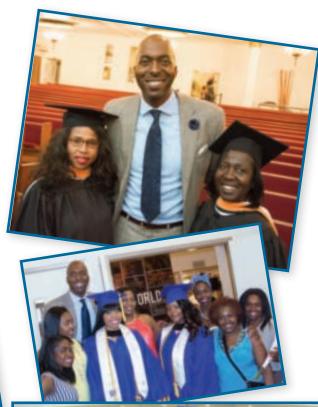
Commencement exercises for spring 2015 were held on Friday, May 8th. Dr. Wendy Robinson provided the welcome address. Congressman Charles Rangel and Councilwoman Inez Dickens provided remarks at the top of the program.

The graduation classes consisted of students who completed the RN to BS and LPN to RN programs. Aracelis

Burgos-Arroyo was the recipient of the Bachelor's Degree Award for Academic Excellence. Valerie Nicole Guidone and Nicole Kirchhoffer received the Bachelor's Degree Awards for Academic Honors and the Bachelor's Degree Capstone Awards were bestowed upon Michelle de Chavez Gamboa, Rosher C. George, and









The May 2015 Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony



The graduating students returned to wearing traditional white uniforms at the pinning and candle lighting ceremony held on Monday, May 4th.

The Pat Sumner Perseverance Award was presented to Barbara Guevarra-Francis of the RN to BS graduating class. Incoming students Akinjide Akinfemi and Adelle Brock of the LPN to RN Associate Degree program received

Ruth Brown Academic Incentive Awards. All other awards

presented that evening were given to students from the LPN to RN graduating class. Emmeline Fourcand proudly accepted the Helene Fuld College of Nursing Leadership Award. Tenzin



Yangzom received the Callender Witherspoon Memorial Award for Perseverance, Bolanle Kudiratu Adegoke was the recipient of the Carol A. Thompson Perseverance Award, and Lidia M. Duarte received the Marguerite Haggerty Memorial Award for excellence in medical-surgical nursing.



RN to BS Students Spring into Action to Help Civilian in Distress

The RN to BS American History class, taught by Dr. P.J. Coxx attended the off-Broadway musical play Alive! 55+ and Kickin', in Harlem, on June 25th, 2016. What started off as a field trip ended with selfless acts by some quick thinking HFCN students who leaped into action to help a civilian. In an email to the president and the students who attended the event, Dr. Coxx wrote, "I was so proud of all of you when a theatre patron collapsed on the sidewalk and so many of you spontaneously assisted him and his wife, in particular Ann Gray, Deborah Wright, and Maria Vazquez. As a resident living in Harlem, the EMS response time continues to be appalling. All of you were shocked not only by how many times EMS had to be called but the fact that when they arrived, the responders had to literally be coaxed to get out of the ambulance and medically assist. Several spectators commented, thank God the nurses attended today's show!"



Faculty & Staff Notes

Moving in...

2015

Kadia Darby, Administrative Assistant to the President Terry Fordham, Instructor, Nursing Cynthia Hughes, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of the BS Program

Catherine Mbewe, Assistant Professor, Nursing

2016

Alysha Willis, Human Resources Generalist

Moving on...

2015

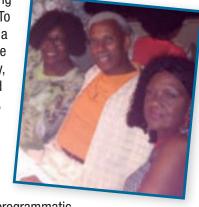
Heather Lashley, Assistant Professor,
Director of the Associate Degree Program
Cecilia Lavides-Lim, Instructor, Nursing
Barbara Paxton, Director of Development

2016

Deborah Coleman, Nursing Arts Lab instructor

HELENE FULD TURNS 70!!!

Helene Fuld College of Nursing turned 70 years old in 2015! To commemorate the milestone, a boat ride was held aboard the Harbor Lights yacht on Saturday, August 29th. Supporters included faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends, members of the HFCN Board of Trustees, and community partners. Capital One Bank graciously served as a sponsor once again. Proceeds from



the event were used toward programmatic development at the College.

A carnival-themed luncheon for the students was later held at the College on October 20th to further celebrate the momentous occasion and lighten the mood during final examinations.



HFCN Announces Distinguished Alumni Award



Beginning in 2016, the Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor that Helene Fuld College of Nursing bestows upon an outstanding alumna or alumnus. It will be presented annually to persons who have distinguished themselves and have brought credit to Helene Fuld College of Nursing by their personal accomplishment, professional achievement, or humanitarian and civic service. The award is commemorated by the presentation of both an inscribed certificate and an engraved medallion bearing the College's logo. For perpetual recognition, honorees' names will displayed on the College website.



All living graduates of the College who have received a degree from the College are eligible for consideration.

Current members of the Board of Trustees, current employees of the College, and current officers of the Alumni Association are not eligible for the award. They become eligible two years after separation from the College.

The award recipients and nominators will be notified upon selection, and the recipients will be recognized at the Recognition Reception on December 2, 2016. The record of all nominees shall be maintained in a carry-over file and considered for three years. Nominations must be received by Friday, November 11, 2016, so don't delay! For further information and to access the nomination form, go to: https://www.helenefuld.edu/distinguished-alumni-award or contact Michelle.Hernandez@helenefuld.edu.

Bus Wine Tour



On June 8, 2015, alumni and members of the College took a luxury bus tour to the Woodbury Common Premium Outlet and visited various wineries including Brotherhood and Baldwin Wineries. Attendees had the opportunity to shop and participate in wine tastings during the tour.

Prior to boarding at 8 am, breakfast was provided. While on the bus ride, attendees sipped on mimosas, and enjoyed a fabulous lunch.

As you might imagine, the day was certainly entertaining. The combination of mimosas and wine helped lighten the mood.

What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday.

HFCN in the Community

Helene Fuld College of Nursing stresses the importance of community service and volunteerism. In keeping with these values, the College continues to partner with various community organizations and participates in health events throughout the tri-state area to promote health and wellness in the community.



In 2016, faculty and students provided free screenings at Greenhope Services for Women's health fair on August 26th. The College also participated in the Juneteenth Celebration in Harlem on Saturday, June 18th, a Ladies Tea Party in Long Island to support SHARE, a leading breast cancer organization, on June 4th, and The Life Changers Church and Ministries of Manhattan, Inc's Free Mammogram Day on April 23rd.

During these events, blood pressure and blood glucose screenings were conducted and health information regarding various topics including breast cancer and nutrition were shared with attendees.

Voter Registration Drive

With Election Day quickly approaching on November 8, 2016, Helene Fuld College of Nursing held a voter registration drive on Monday, August 29th from 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. The purpose of the event was to educate our students and encourage those who are eligible to vote, but have not registered, to get involved in the electoral process this year. A total of 23 students registered to vote.

In New York State, residents must be 18 years old by December 31st of the year in which they apply and live at their present address for at least 30 days before an election. Applications must be postmarked no later than October 10th and received by a Board of Elections no later than October 15 to be eligible to vote in the General Election.

Please visit the Board of Elections site to learn more about your options for registering: http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.html. For those of you who live outside of NY State, please contact your state election office for specific information: http://www.eac.gov/voter resources/contact your state.aspx.

We hope to see you at the polls. Your vote can help make a difference.



T&T Nurses Association

Does It Again

For the second year in a row, The Trinidad and Tobago Nurses Association of America Inc., bestowed a scholarship award to a HFCN student. At their 48th Anniversary Luncheon and 27th Annual Scholarship Grant Award held at Antun's in



Queens on Sunday, September 18, 2016,

Yana Atherton Elvin, received their Cynthia Moseley Award. The award is named in honor of an executive board member of the organization who recently passed away. Barbara Gueverra-Francis, a 2015 RN to BS graduate of HFCN, who serves as the T&T Nurses Association of America's Inc.'s chaplin and secretary, presented the award to Yana at the event.



Yana, who is enrolled in the LPN to RN program, began attending HFCN in April 2016. She is a native of Trinidad. She is a graduate of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES LPN program and holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Brooklyn College.

Several members of the HFCN community including faculty, staff, and alumni attended the luncheon and were on

hand to lend their support. We congratulate Yana on her fine achievement and wish her continued success.

Pay it Forward



Support Helene Fuld College of Nursing. Providing Opportunity and Education to Nurses

When you make a gift to Helene Fuld, you know you're making a gift with long-term benefits. Your donation supports all of the elements that reinforce HFCN's status as a premiere nursing college—from our faculty and uniquely empowering academic environment, to our amazing students. And you are investing in the future of a talented group of students who will enrich the nursing profession for years to come.

Support Helene Fuld. Invest in nurses. They will thank you.

Helene Fuld College is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. THANK YOU!!

To donate, visit us at:

https://www.helenefuld.edu/donate.php

Or mail your check or credit card information to:

Development Office Helene Fuld College of Nursing 24 E. 120th Street New York, New York 10035

For questions, contact Michelle Hernandez, Director of External Affairs, 212.616.7278, michelle.hernandez@helenefuld.edu.

Call for Mentors: You Can Make a Difference

Dana Golin, college counselor, is reaching out to all of you to solicit your involvement in the Helene Fuld College of Nursing Mentoring Program. A special appeal is being made to recent graduates, whose student experience is still fresh in their minds.

Students in the LPN to RN program can greatly benefit from your guidance and support. The program strives to balance the two parts of the equation, assuring a truly meaningful interaction that occurs in a well-matched mentor-protégée pair.

The mission of the mentoring program is to foster productive relationships between current students and alumni mentors. These relationships have been proven to benefit both mentors and protégées alike by providing the latter with an opportunity to "give back", to have their experiences and gained insight validated and applied to helping the next generation of HFCN students travel a similar path, and the former with an opportunity to get direction and "inside information" from someone who has been through the process and succeeded! The mentors see in their protégées their former selves, while the protégées find in their mentors a positive role model and a promise of what they can become. This mutually rewarding relationship provides opportunity for emotional growth, reflection and mirroring, critical self-assessment, and professional networking. Often, lifelong friendships and/or professional affiliations develop that shape the course of one's career and enrich the lives of those involved.

Please send an email to mentorship.program@helenefuld.edu with your interest, inquiries, or questions about the enrollment criteria.

MSI AHEC Partnership



RN to BS students participated in the Manhattan Staten Island Area Health Education Center's Didactic Sessions for Community Health Experience Program in July-August 2015. This unique opportunity came as result of the partnership that Helene Fuld College of Nursing forged with the



organization earlier that year. The students who participated spoke favorably about the enriching learning experience.

For a total of six weeks, the nurses engaged in an interdisciplinary learning environment, with medical students. They participated in workshops and engaged in dynamic discussions with guest speakers on an array of topics that affect the health care industry. The closing session and luncheon were held on August 7, 2015. Each student did a presentation and were given a certificate of participation in the program.

HFCN Student Receives a Scholarship from the T&T Nurses Association

The Trinidad and Tobago Nurses' Association of America, Inc. held their 47th Anniversary Luncheon and 26th Annual Scholarship Grant Award at Glen Terrace in Brooklyn on Sunday, September 20, 2015. The organization presented Jenille Frank of HFCN with a scholarship award at the event. To qualify for a scholarship award, an undergraduate student must be enrolled in an accredited College, be in the



final year of completion of nursing program, maintain a G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater, and provide evidence of community service/extracurricular activities. They must also undergo an interview.

Jenille Frank graduated from HFCN's LPN to RN program in May 2016.



Class Notes

Nagib Malik (AKA Janeth Moore),

HFSN, October 1976

On a very sad note, Najib Malik passed away in October 2015.

Lucile Thelusmond, HFCN, November 1998 Lucile obtained her BSN and MSN from the University of Phoenix. She received her MSN in 2007, and Post Master FNP from Drexel University in 2015.

Akia Blandon, HFCN, November 2003

Akia, who currently serves as President of the HFCN Alumni Association, was promoted to the position of Vice President, Clinical Integration and Quality at ArchCare in January 2016.

Jackie Cassagnol, HFCN, November 2003 Jacqueline MSN, RN, PMC, is the founder and president of Worldwide Community First Responder, Inc. In April 2015, she won the Safe Community Award from Volunteer New York. In September 2015, she was selected a Nurse of the Year Finalist by March of Dimes and received the Haitian American Nurses Association (HANA) Nurse of the Year Award and President's Choice Award. In November 2015, she was elected as Leadership Succession Committee Member of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI).

Mary Posy, HFCN, May 2004

Mary graduated with a MSN from Walden University on May 27, 2015. She received her certification from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and is now a certified FNP.

Dian Marie Martinez, HFCN, April 2006 Dian earned her bachelor's degree and dual master degrees in nursing and healthcare administration.

Fadya Casseus, HFCN, April 2007

Fadya Casseus graduated from St. Francis College in Brooklyn with her BSN in 2011 and currently works for Brooklyn Hospital Center as a wound care manager.

Judith Jean-Paul, November 2007 Judith passed the NCC Inpatient Obstetrical Nursing Examination and is now RNC certified.

Mitch Benoit, HFCN, November 2010 Mitch currently works at South Nassau Communities Hospital. He received his BSN from the College of New Rochelle in May 2015

Lovelace Pat Dartey, HFCN, May 2011 Lovelace received her bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle and her Master of Public Health from New York Medical College. Currently she serves as an adjunct clinical instructor with the College of New Rochelle and works at Bronx Lebanon Hospital as a registered nurse.

Sherri Lynch, HFCN, May 2011

Sherri obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Long Island University and most recently a Master of Science in Nursing from Capella University. She is currently employed as an Assistant Director of Nursing.

Jarreen Arzu, HFCN, November 2011 Jarreen received a Master of Science in Nursing from Excelsior College in June 2015 and works in home health as a visiting nurse RN.

Sophia Nop, HFCN, May 2014

Sophia currently works at Citicare Family Health Center in Harlem as a nurse manager.

Ashley Harris, (maiden name James), HFCN May 2015

Eight days after graduating from HFCN she got married in the Dominican Republic and is hoping to expand her family soon. Ashley currently works as an RN on a medical surgical telemetry floor in Brookhaven Memorial Hospital in Patchogue, New York, and also works in a pediatrician's office. She will graduate with her BSN in October from Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Wendy Jules, HFCN, May 2015 Wendy is currently an RN manager in the rehab portion of a 36 bed facility in Brooklyn.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Tuesday, November 8 Election Day

Friday, November 11 • 6 p.m. Alumni Association Meeting

Monday, November 14 ● 5 p.m. Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony

Thursday, November 17 • 4:30 p.m. Graduation

Commencement Speaker, Honorable Tanya Kennedy

*Friday, December 2 • 6 p.m. Recognition Reception

What Are the Chances?

May 2015 HFCN LPN to RN graduates, Emmeline Fourcand and Cheray Small, met in 2004 while attending York College. The two guickly became best friends. After working in low paying jobs that they were dissatisfied with, Emmeline suggested to Cheray that they both attend LPN school. Emmeline worked as a home health aide and a CNA, so LPN school would appear to be a clear path for her, but Cheray had never worked in healthcare. However, she guickly came

onboard and decided to take the LPN entrance exam for Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center along with Emmeline. They both passed the entrance exam and graduated from LPN school together. They later took their LPN-NCLEX board exams one month apart and passed on their first attempts. After passing their boards, they both worked for one year at Mt. Sinai for one year. The two besties then decided to apply to Helene Fuld together and were admitted. They started the LPN to RN program in April 2014 and graduated in May 2015. Here's where it gets really interesting to say the least. They both graduated with the same GPA average, 3.89, and were the valedictorians of their class. In case, you're wondering, they both received different grades in their classes, however their grade

tries and worked at Woodmere Rehabilitation Center together. It doesn't end there. The two are currently working on bachelor degrees in nursing. Emmeline is enrolled in the RN to BS program at Helene Fuld and Cheray is working on her degree online. At this point, you may be wondering why the two are not attending the same college. It turns out, that Cheray got married. She met her husband at Helene Fuld. His name is Adelaja Adeagun. He also graduated in May 2015!!! Of course, Emmeline was at their wedding. I'm sure you knew that was a given and she wouldn't be any place else

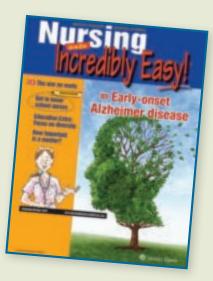
on her gal pal's big day.



Suggested Readings



Prof. Catherine Mbewe of HFCN recently wrote the article entitled, Cultural Competency Isn't Just For Patients. The article can be found in the journal, Nursing Made Incredibly Easy! : It appears in the September/October 2016 edition of the publication, Volume 14 - Issue 5 - p 12-14 doi: 10.1097/01.NME.0000489902.08585.55, and is available online at:



http://journals.lww.com/nursingmadeincrediblyeasy/Fulltext/2016/09000/Cultural competency isn t just for patients.3.aspx



Alumni Newsgram

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Dr. Oz Show

Attending the Dr. Oz Show has officially become a HFCN tradition. To date, the College has made three visits to ABC Studios to watch America's favorite doctor cover a host of health-related topics including Ebola, detoxifying teas, and healthy eating.

Most recently, the College went to a taping of the Dr. Oz Show on February 10th, 2016. Over 50 members of the HFCN family including students, faculty, alumni, and nurses on the board of trustees were in attendance. During the commercial segment, November 2001 alumnus, Flandersia Jones, won the dance contest and received an autographed copy of Dr. Oz The Good Life Magazine.

The show aired on February 26th at 2 pm on Channel 5 in NYC.



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To view pictures from these and other events and to learn about the latest news at HFCN, please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Helene-Fuld-College-of-Nursing/205237532850062. You can also link to our Facebook page from the homepage of the website. Go to

Helene Fuld College Named 2016's Top Community College!



We want to know about your career progress, family news, and other significant events. Please send submissions and changes of address/updated email addresses to: michelle,hernandez@helenefuld.edu

We welcome updates for the Alumni Newsgram.





24 East 120th Street New York, NY 10035 Tel: 212-616-7200 Fax: 212-616-7299 www.helenefuld.edu A College Committed to Providing Quality Nursing Education

Helene Fuld College of Nursing

