

*The Nurses' Association  
of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas*

*70th Anniversary Gala  
& 2nd Biennial  
Zenith Awards Presentation*



THEME: *"Nurses: Champions for Health  
and Sustainable Development"*

SATURDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

THE BAHAMAR CONVENTION ARTS  
& ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

CABLE BEACH, NASSAU, BAHAMAS





MESSAGE FROM

HER EXCELLENCY

**DAME MARGUERITE PINDLING**

GOVERNOR GENERAL

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

It is a great pleasure to extend salutations to the Honourees of the 2nd Biennial Zenith Awards by the Nurses Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. These professionals are products of the nursing and healthcare fields which, I believe to be a vocation rather than just a career.

Many people in our society depend upon the work which healthcare professionals perform, and indeed your professionalism is a positive contribution to the overall development of our Bahamas, where the health of our people must always be a priority as we continue to maintain our beautiful Country. The vital role which you play is therefore fundamental to the maintenance of a healthy society where the productivity of our people is enabled to enrich the lives of all Bahamians who are patently aware of the many sacrifices you make, and the endless hours of study and clinical practicums which you must undertake.

Your commitment is critical in the delivery of healthcare to the entire Bahamas and, I therefore encourage all of you to continue to provide the high levels of professional care for which you are well-known.

As recipients of this prestigious Zenith Award, you are deservedly reaping the reward which results from good service, and I am delighted to share in this expression of appreciation.

I am sure that I speak for all Bahamians and others who benefit from your services, and I wish you every success on this special occasion and congratulations on your achievement and recognition.

**Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling**  
**Governor General**  
**Commonwealth of The Bahamas**



MESSAGE FROM  
**THE HON. DR. DUANE E. SANDS**  
MINISTER OF HEALTH  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

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It is a pleasure for me to join in the celebration of the achievements of the nurses who will be honoured, as well as the celebration of the observance of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas at this 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Zenith Awards Presentation. This evening's honourees represent nurses from throughout the islands of The Bahamas. They have all displayed a high level of dedication, compassion and expertise in the performance of their duties.

In my capacity as the Minister of Health, it is with great pride and admiration that I commend these nurses for their distinguished service. Their provision of quality health care services to patients under sometimes difficult circumstances has set the standard along with a remarkable example to be followed by those who will enter the nursing profession in the future. On behalf of the Government of The Bahamas, I therefore thank our honourees for the many years of selfless service that they have rendered to a grateful nation.

The Nurses' Association has a rich history that (through its members) is inextricably linked to that of the Ministry of Health and the development of our healthcare system. Consequently, the Ministry of Health and the Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas enjoy a longstanding cordial relationship. I am committed to continue our cordial collaboration, and pledge my support for your efforts. It is my hope that this organization will remain vibrant, and that it will accomplish even greater feats in further advancing its goals and objectives to the benefit of its members and the people of The Bahamas.

**Dr. Duane E. L. Sands, M.P.**  
**Minister of Health**



MESSAGE FROM

**MRS. MARCEL JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR OF NURSING

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I deem it a privilege to have been invited to prepare a Message for this commemorative Booklet, on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Banquet and 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Zenith Awards Presentation of The Nurses Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

In harmony with the commitment to recognize its members, The Nurses Association is recognizing over one hundred nurses in various categories. Tonight, at this Gala Ball, nurses are being recognized for their contributions to nursing, health services and national development. Over the years, you have demonstrated that your commitment to continuously recognize the contributions of your membership throughout the archipelago is high on your agenda. Congratulations to you!

I have been advised that the honourees this year, include young nurses, experienced nurses, retired nurses, and individuals and organizations that support the mission of The Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. I salute you for that!

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you honourees here tonight. Collectively, you have all served our noble profession with distinction. You have left your footprints in the historic annals of nursing! Our noble, profession is richer and more extensive, as a result of your magnanimous contributions! When the history of nursing in The Bahamas is written, your names would be etched in its pages.

I wish to congratulate the past and present Presidents, officers and members of The Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas who have served the nursing profession, for having the vision to recognize outstanding nurses for their contributions to health and the profession of nursing. May God bless all of you!

Marcel P. Johnson (Mrs.)  
Director of Nursing



MESSAGE FROM

**MS. PAULETTE CASH**  
(PH.D.), NNP/CNS

PRESIDENT, NURSES ASSOCIATION  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

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“They may forget your name but they will never forget how you made them feel”. - Maya Angelou

It is a distinct pleasure and privilege to extend congratulation to you, on this our 70th Anniversary Celebrations and 2nd Biennial Zenith Awards. Our rich history and legacy of service is all because of your unwavering commitment to your noble profession and thirst for engagement in nation building.

Your contributions span over generations and will forever be etched in the sands of time and in the hearts of our people whom you serve with respect, compassion and a caring spirit. Your selection as an honoree validates that you are among the “creme of the crop” who have performed with excellence in your various spheres of practice, as clinicians, nurse managers and administrators, educators, entrepreneurs, researchers, advisors and consultants.

The Association stands proud of your contributions and achievements and salutes you, as you receive your prestigious Zenith Award. As you continue in your journey, as a practicing or retired nurse, I charge you to continue to be a voice for change that advances the health, social, economic and cultural agenda of our beautiful country.

Special thanks is extended to the immediate past president, Mrs. Kateca Graham, who was instrumental in the birthing of the Zenith Awards. The vision lives on...

**Ms. Paulette Cash**  
President, Nurses Association  
Of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas



MESSAGE FROM

## MRS. ROSEMARIE L. JOSEY

RN, MSN, CNS

ATLANTIC REGION BOARD MEMBER,  
COMMONWEALTH NURSES  
AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION (CNMF)

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I am pleased to congratulate you, the honorees of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Zenith Award, NACB 2017. Your affiliation and membership with the Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas (NACB) along with your outstanding contributions to the advancement of the nursing profession and national development has been extraordinary.

The NACB is the leading voice for nurses and nursing, nationally, regionally and Internationally. The Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is a non-governmental organization that is committed to upholding the integrity of nurses, the nurses' pledge and honors the International Code of Ethics. I am enormously proud and delighted to applaud each of you with your unique skills, talents and compassionate nature for providing care to all people irrespective of nationality, race, colour or social origin. Each of you have a deep understanding of life and its value. You are the backbone of our health care system and one of the greatest blessings to humanity. Inherent in your DNA, is caring. While "caring is the essence of nursing", nursing is the backbone of the healthcare system and as nurses, we are the heartbeat of the nation. Today we celebrate each of you as the *White Heart* of Nursing and no matter your location or setting, your voice, your good works and your passion, make healthcare accessible to all.

On behalf of the executives and members of the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF), I offer heartfelt congratulations and blessings to each of you, as you continue to carry your candle and let your light so shine before men. May you continue to achieve the goals and objectives of this great organization that has served the nurses of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for more than 70 years, providing stellar service, nationally and globally. Thank You.

***"Know them that labour among you and esteem them highly in love for their work".***  
***(1 Thessalonians 5:13)***



MESSAGE FROM

## MRS. REGINA INGRAHAM

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CARIBBEAN NURSES  
ORGANIZATION (CNO)

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"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure," Colin Powell.

Everyone hopes to be successful but only they who pursue it will be successful. Years of hard work and dedication were invested to receive this great achievement in your career.

Continue to give your best in all of your future endeavors and may you continue to achieve great accomplishments in your life.

On behalf of the Caribbean Nurses Organization (CNO) I congratulate you for your well deserved reward and may God continue to bless you in the future.



MESSAGE FROM

## MRS. PRESCOLA ROLLE & MRS. CHARLENE DAVIS

CO-CHAIRPERSONS, NACB 70TH ANNIVERSARY  
& 2ND BIENNIAL ZENITH AWARDS GALA

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Tonight, on behalf of our hard working committee, it is a distinct honour of ours as Committee Co-Chair, to congratulate these esteem-nursing honorees in recognition of their outstanding contributions made to the success of the nursing profession in the Bahamas.

President Kennedy once said, during a tribute to the poet Robert Frost, that a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women that it honors; the people that it remembers. We heartily agree. When you look at our honorees here tonight, it says something about who we are as a people.

Tonight the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas salutes each and every one of the honorees who have made it their duty to serve the nursing profession in the manner that has deemed them worthy and well deserving of these prestigious Zenith Awards.

As we pause to take time to celebrate their commitment and dedication to duty and nation building. We note that your labor of love over the many years has been the springboard that has made this profession what it is today.

We wish to proffer thanks to all of the hardworking committee members, sponsors, family members, friends and this awesome establishment for helping to make this event a smashing success.

American educator, author, orator, Booker T. Washington, penned "Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way." As we came to understand the accomplishments of our honorees, we realized that their actions were indeed, uncommon!

Congratulations again to each and every one of you our honorees, you took care of our young children when they were sick. You took care of the elderly in their time of need and more importantly, you give people hope that they will live to see a better day.

God bless you and thank you. We are forever in your debt.



THE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
**CELEBRATING 70 YEARS**  
**OUR HISTORY...OUR LEGACY**

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**Nurse' Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB): A brief history**

The NACB has a long and interesting history when viewed through the lens of Bahamian labour history and, more specifically, Bahamian women's history. Through its 70 years of existence, the NACB has evolved, championing the struggle for professional recognition of a predominantly female profession.

**The Origins - Private Duty Nurses' Registry**

Labour history in the Bahamas began in the 1930s with the establishment of the Bahamas Labour Union and the Bahamas Federation of Labour. The Burma Road riot of 1942 was the tipping point – when Bahamian workers were paid less than imported American labour to build the Oakes Field airport. The unrest that ensued may have ignited consciousness in all parts of society and all sectors of the economy, including nurses. In nursing, there was also a history of unfair differential in wages paid to Bahamian-trained nurses and the British Matron and nurses hired by the Bahamas government through the Colonial Nurses Association. A further schism was that the few Bahamians trained in hospitals in the United States and who then returned to the Bahamas were not able to work at the Bahamas General Hospital as their qualifications were not deemed to be equivalent to those of a British State Registered Nurse. As a result, these nurses had to find other employment, and as a result many worked as private duty nurses in people's homes. The mild climate of the Bahamas was favourable for rest and recuperation, hence tourism industry had long promoted the country as a place for invalids or tourists wishing to escape the winter. Many well-heeled tourists brought a nurse with them, thus, the private duty nurses had competition for the few available jobs. In the early 1940s, Yvonne North, a Bahamian nurse trained in New York at the Lincoln School for Nurses, established the Private Nurses Registry. By banding together in an association, the private duty nurses could demand better wages from their private employers, ensure that local nurses would be hired and make their presence known to local physicians who needed nurses in their practices.

**Bahamas Graduate Nurses Association**

A nurses association was founded on May 30, 1947 by Nurses Rose Morrison Weir, Yvonne North and Vivienne Longley, with Virginia Gibson becoming its first president. The new association did not have a name at first, but had the objectives of improving the nurse's conditions of work and protecting their interests. The famous Bahamian lawyer A.F. Adderley wrote the association's constitution and called it the Bahamas Graduate Nurses Association (BGNA). Some of the achievements of this early association included the introduction of an 8-hour shift, making linkages among other health care professions and purchasing a plot of land on Jerome Avenue in Pyfrom's Addition with the intention of building a nurse's residential home. Following in the steps of the first president were Naomi Walkes and Catherine Brown, each of whom served as president until Vivienne Longley, who became the association's longest-serving president, 1959-1968.

To further cement the status of the Bahamas Graduate Nurses Association among other nursing associations, they sought membership in regional and international nurses associations. The BGNA was admitted to membership of the Caribbean Nurses Organization in 1967. Longley travelled to Geneva to the International Council of Nurses (ICN) conference to initiate the process for nurses associations in the Bahamas to gain admittance to the ICN. Soon afterward Dame Sheila Quinn of the ICN came to the Bahamas to advise on the process for joining. Until there was a statutory body for nursing in the Bahamas, such as the Nursing Council, the Bahamas could not join. Members of the BGNS were involved in the formulation of the Nurses and Midwives Act of 1971 and were required to nominate three of the 10 members of the Nursing Council which was established under that act. Following the establishment of the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in 1971, Bahamas Graduate Nurses Association President Ironaca Morris (1970-1972) applied for membership in the ICN.

**The Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB)**

The Bahamas Graduate Nurses Association took on a new name, the Nurses Association of the Bahamas (NACB) and became a full member of the International Council of Nurses in May 1973 at the closing ceremony of the ICN conference. The president of the new Association was Brendel Cox, a private duty nurse. The new umbrella Association united all nurses – registered nurses and trained clinical nurses (at that time called enrolled nurses) whether publicly and privately employed. The mission of the Association was to advocate for nurses on four important issues: standards of professional practice, educational advancement, improving the socio-economic welfare of nurses (better salaries and work conditions) and provide support for retired nurses. The NACB would also coordinate the registry for Private Duty Nurses. The union was not welcomed by all the members, as they felt that the two groups did not have common objectives, but in retrospect, it was proved to be the best way forward for the nursing profession.

The new association published a journal in 1973, *The Nurses Review*, presenting a nice mixture of articles on professional issues, education, politics and the role of the professional association. A second volume was published in 1976-77 containing short articles the many regional and international nursing organizations to which the NACB was allied: the Caribbean Nurses Organization, the Regional Nursing Body, the Commonwealth Nursing Federation, and the International Council of Nurses.

#### **Great moments in the history of the NACB**

In 1982, the NACB hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Nurses Organization (CNO) where the assembled nurses considered the role of nursing in primary health care. No doubt planning for the conference was the work of members and presidents, Esmeralda Rutherford (1977-1980) and Celeste Lockhart (1980-1984). The NACB again welcomed CNO members to the Bahamas 25 years later in 2007, when they hosted the Silver Jubilee Conference of the CNO.

One of the greatest achievements of the NACB was under the presidency of Celeste Lockhart. The Association raised the funds to acquire the former Bahamas Red Cross building on Dowdeswell Street, not far from the Princess Margaret Hospital, thereby, creating a headquarters for their activities. President Andil B. LaRoda (1984-1987) oversaw the renovation and Longley House was officially opened in 1985. The NACB members worked hard raising funds and managed to pay off the mortgage on the property within five years. In November 1991 a Mortgage Burning Ceremony was celebrate the Association's final payment for the building. Attending the ceremony were President, Gloria D. Ferguson (1990-1992) were Past Presidents Lockhart, Rutherford and Ernestine Douglas (1987-1990). In recognition of her contribution to the NACB, the meeting hall was named the Celeste Lockhart Room.

In the years following, Presidents Ernestine J. Douglas, Gloria D. Ferguson, and Castella Bowleg (1992-1996), all nurse educators, and their teams oversaw the annual nurses conferences which usually followed the ICN theme, such as: Nursing Reaching out to Touch one Another (1986), Promoting Nursing's Heritage (1989), The Changing Trends and Approaches to Health Care (1993) and Health Care that Matters (1994). The annual conferences gave the membership a chance to present research, learn about trends and issues in health care, and strengthen the Association.

In addition, NACB President Castella Bowleg and Willamae Stuart represented the Bahamas at one of a series of ICN workshops held in 1990-1991, focusing on national regulations governing nursing and how the national association could influence legislative change.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s the Ministry of Health endeavored to strengthen nursing by establishing a Nursing Advisory Committee. Although the NACB was not officially represented on the committee, many of the members of the NACB were past presidents of the NACB or members. The Nurses Recognition Committee (a subcommittee of the NACB) had to mission to raise the morale among the Bahamian nursing profession by sponsoring Nurses Recognition Week. The event focused on acknowledging the work of long-serving nurses by presenting them with certificates and plaques at a luncheon.

The ICN launched its Leadership for Change (LFC) initiative in 1996 with funding from the Kellogg Foundation to encourage and increase nurse participation in national healthcare policy-making and develop the skills nurse leaders needed assume larger roles in the leadership and management of health care services. NCAB President Castella Bowleg was instrumental in bringing the Leadership for Change programme to the Bahamas and Sally Shaw, the ICN Leadership for Change Project coordinator visited the Bahamas. Nurse educators Maggie Turner, Willamae Hamilton-Stuart and Patricia Miller-Brown received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation to become the first LCF trainers for the Bahamas and under the auspices of the NACB held leadership workshops for nurses in The Bahamas.

Shortly thereafter, under the leadership of Joy Tucker (1996-1998) over the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1997. The NCAB held a gala banquet celebrating the theme "*Healthy Young People: A Brighter Tomorrow*".

#### **The New Century.**

NACB Presidents during this period were Bernadette Ellis (1998-2000), Nathalee Bonimy (2000-2002) and Ampusam Symonette (2002-2006). NACB President Bernadette Ellis negotiated for the month of May to be declared Nurses Month and the first Nurses Month inclusive of Nurses Day, was launched in May 1999. In the early 2000s, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, the Public Hospitals Authority and the Doctor's Hospital, the NACB was instrumental in establishing the National Nurses' Recognition Awards. The competition and awards held between 2002-2006 recognized excellence in the nursing profession and to honour to practicing nurses in both the public and private health sectors.

NACB President Bernadette Ellis and Secretary Pandora Hanna met with Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Lois Symonette, and lobbied for the President of the Association to sit as a member of the Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities Licensing Board that was established under statute in 1998 and was the first NACB President to sit on the Board. In addition, recognizing the amount of work required in order to accomplish the goals of the Association, President Bernadette Ellis negotiated with the Ministry of Health

and received approval for the President, Secretary and Treasurer to have a full day MONTHLY OR WEEKLY rather than the half day on Wednesday to carry out the Association's business.

During Ampusam Symonette's presidency, the NACB developed mission and vision statements and issued a newsletter. In October 2006 the NACB hosted the 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial conference of the Caribbean Nurses Organization. Over 450 members of the CNO and the Caribbean-American Nurses Association attended the silver anniversary CNO conference. A major achievement for the NACB was that 16 Bahamian nurses presented research papers.

After having been inactive for several years, in 2004 the NACB signed a new contract with the ICN to reactivate the Leadership for Change programme. Dr Stephanie Ferguson came to the Bahamas to deliver training for the facilitators of the programme.

Presidents Prescola Rolle (2006-2008), Rosemarie Josey (2008-2010), Persephone Munnings (2010-2012) along with Kateca Graham (2012-2014) and Paulette Cash (2014-2018) continued the tradition of Bahamian attending and presenting at regional and international nursing conferences, such as the ICN and the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation, as well as, sponsoring annual research conferences locally. The themes of these conferences were bringing the members of the NACB into the debate about national health care and the role of nurses in building a healthier nation. NACB speech competition was started during the presidency of Rosemarie Josey and has become an annual event.

During this period, the NACB moved to adopt new technology to communicate with its membership, as well as widen its membership beyond the island of New Providence. Association Secretary, Jennifer King (2006-2010) initiated email communication, the NACB website was launched under President Persephone Munnings, and the NACB Facebook page set up under Kateca Graham. And under Rosemary Josey's direction, the NCAB established a branch in Eleuthera.

Recognizing that its nurse leaders need a global perspective on laws and regulations, policies, decision-making, as well as understanding how to build and maintain networks, the NACB has sent nurses in senior and executive level positions to the ICN-sponsored annual Global Nursing Leadership Institute each year since its implementation. After a hiatus of several years, the NACB reinstated an event to honour nurses in the Bahamas. The Zenith Award was conceived as a prestigious award to recognize nurses for their achievements and contributions to nursing, healthcare, community service and national development. The Inaugural Zenith Award gala was held at Government House on November 15, 2014.

In an effort to further enhance bargaining and negotiation skills that Bahamian nurse leaders need in today's healthcare environment, the NACB offered the ICN's Leadership in Negotiation (LIN) programme over 12 months in 2014-2015, with nine nurses graduating in 2015. Mrs. Kateca Graham, Ms. Paulette Cash, Mrs. Willamae Stuart and Mrs. Rosemarie Josey served as facilitators for the Programme. As well, the NACB negotiated a new contract with the ICN in 2014 to offer the Leadership for Change (LFC) program, this time offering the programme to nurses working outside of New Providence and as well as, to smaller island nations of the Caribbean. Mrs. Rosemarie Josey became the new National Coordinator and Mrs. Willamae Stuart became the Lead Facilitator. They offered the program to nurses in Grand Bahama in 2014 and 15 nurses participated and graduated.

Other achievements in recent years have been to develop a conceptual Model of Nursing for the NACB, as well as, formulating position statements on aging and stem cell research. The NACB continues with its community-based initiatives, educational forums, including a Nursing Research Day and annual Educational Forum, as well as, promotional activities to market the image of Nursing. Under the leadership of its current President, Dr. Paulette Cash (Ph.D), the Association has reactivated its Nurses' Relief Fund to assist nurses in crisis and is currently pursuing efforts to establish a National Nursing Foundation and Training and Development Institute. Additionally, the NACB remains focused on strengthening its strategic partnerships and affiliations for the advancement of the profession and advancement of the national, regional and global health agenda.

As the Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, it does so knowing that the role it has played in promoting the profession, in mentoring and education, improving the socio-economic welfare of nurses and raising the standards of nursing care and nursing leadership in the Bahamas will be its hallmark for the future.

Note: Many documents produced by the Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas have been scanned and are available in an online repository called the Digital Library of the Caribbean: [www.dloc.com](http://www.dloc.com). If you have graduation, banquet or funeral programmes, newspaper clippings, or photographs that you would like to contribute to this online resource, you will contribute by enriching our knowledge and appreciation for the role of nurses in building The Bahamas. Please contact the Nurses Association at [nursesassociationofthebahamas@outlook.com](mailto:nursesassociationofthebahamas@outlook.com) or Virginia Ballance at [virginia.ballance@ub.edu.bs](mailto:virginia.ballance@ub.edu.bs)



## *Our Patron*

### MRS. CELESTE LOCKHART

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Celeste Lockhart, a former Principal Nursing Officer in the Department of Public Health from 1987-1996, completed her studies in General Nursing, Midwifery and Psychiatric Nursing Education at the Bahamas General Hospital. In addition to successfully completing the Health Visitors Course at the West Indies School of Public Health in 1972, she later earned her Diploma in Public Health at the University of the West Indies in 1979. Since 1958, she has served 39 years in Public Health Nursing.

In recognition of her contribution, commitment and dedication to Nursing in the Public Health, the church and the Bahamian community have bestowed numerous awards to Nurse Lockhart. From 1976-1982, she has served tirelessly on the Executive Board of the Caribbean Nurses Organization.

In 1980—1982, she served as the President of the Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB), and successfully hosted the 13th Biennial Caribbean Nurses Organization Conference in 1982.

In 1989, she became a member of Samaritan Ministry for HIV/AIDS persons. In 1995, she received The Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honor for her stellar contributions to her profession and community. In 1996, she was recognized for 40 years of dedication service in Public Health to the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

In 1997, she became the able Co-host of "Light in the Night" weekly radio program. In 1999, Mrs. Lockhart was honored as the Bahamas Mother of the Year, a prestigious award bestowed by the Mother's Club of the Bahamas. Since she became an active member of the Bahamas Mother's Club - Fox Hill Branch #2 and remains an active member of the organization today.

In 2000, she was awarded the "In Pursuit of Excellence Award" for ensuring that all patients received quality care at the Princess Margaret Hospital. In 2001-2010, Mrs. Lockhart served as Vice Chairman of Sandilands Primary School Board. She was awarded "Health Hero" for outstanding service in the field of Public Health and was given the award "Life Member" for dedicated and outstanding work done in the Organization. She was also awarded the Josiah Award for outstanding service in the Fox Hill Community.

Nurse Lockhart is one of the founding members of the Urban Renewal Fox Hill Senior Citizens Association and is still a vibrant member of the organization today. In 2007, she was granted the "Lifetime Achievement" award from the Salute to Greatness Committee in recognition of exceptional leadership and devoted services in the field of Health Care for 50 years of Nursing.

In 2008, she began serving as Yellow Bird Volunteer in the Intensive Care Unit of the Princess Margaret Hospital, which she is committed to, even to this day.

In 2009, Nurse Lockhart was recognized by the Nurses Association for outstanding and dedicated service to the Nurses Association and the development of the profession of Nursing in The Bahamas.

*Corporate Partner*

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*Although Bahamian music is the main ingredient on the musical menu of ISLAND FM, we also extend the island flavour to embrace the best music of this entire sun-blessed region, including great sounds from Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados. In addition, ISLAND FM features the most popular Bahamian classics (30's-80's), all within an easy listening format.*

***The Nurses' Association thanks you for your support of Nurses  
And promotion of the Nursing Profession.***

***We are eternally grateful for your hosting of  
Nurses' Appreciation Month, October 2015.***



*Individual Partner*  
AWARD RECIPIENT  
VIRGINIA BALLANCE

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Nursing and Health Sciences Librarian  
University of The Bahamas.

**Achievements**

I have been a member of the faculty at the University of The Bahamas since 1994 when I was appointed Nursing and Health Sciences Librarian at the Hilda Bowen Library. Since then Hilda Bowen Library has become a fine library with all the resources needed to support the teaching, learning and research needs of faculty and students. In addition, two unique collections have been developed to preserve the history of the nursing profession in the Bahamas: a collection of rare books and documents and a nursing history archive (many items have been scanned and included in the Digital Library of The Caribbean). And, in 2014 in conjunction with the University of The Bahamas's "From Dat Time" Oral and Public History Institute, we initiated the Nursing Oral History Project to record oral histories of Bahamian nurse leaders and educators.

**Contributions**

For over 10 years I was the managing editor of the University of The Bahamas's research publication, *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*. During my tenure the journal moved from print to online format and is available freely on the Internet. I have written several academic papers on the history of nursing in The Bahamas and contributed the chapter on the history of nursing in the book *Healthcare in The Bahamas* written by Dr Harold A. Munnings – which features the oil painting *Out Island Nurse* on its cover.

**Vision for Health Care for the Bahamas**

The Bahamian health care system will continue to rely on nurses and will be best served by well-educated nurses. In many places throughout the islands of the Bahamas – and elsewhere in the world – a nurse is in the front line of health care delivery.

I wish to acknowledge the support and encouragement I received from Mrs. Jennie Isaacs, Miss Hilda Bowen and Dr. Robin Roberts when I first began working at the Hilda Bowen Library.

Congratulations to all the nurses and nurse educators being honoured by the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas at the 2nd Biennial Zenith Awards.

*Zenith  
Awards*



**2017**

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## **Distinguished Service to the NACB**

*The Honourees in this category are from among members of the Executive Board of the Nurses' Association and Branch Association Leadership who have served within the past eight years. These Honourees have distinguished themselves as ambassadors for Nursing and the Nurses' Association.*

- Eloise Rolle
- Rebecca Johnson
- Sherry Pinder
- Bernadette Brennen
- Lauralee Kemp
- Lisa-Stovel Rolle
- Ella Anderson
- Joanne Wilson
- Donnel Rolle
- Calverna Small
- Latoya Wells
- Pamela Smith
- Lakerah Rolle
- Bernadette Bethel-Colebrook
- Glendina Minus
- Marsha Minns
- Yvonne Clarke
- Judy Bridgewater
- Doreen Butler

## **Advancement of the Nursing Profession and National Development**

*The Honorees in this category are Nurses who have a rich legacy of service in Nursing and the healthcare system. Many are trailblazers and nursing pioneers in their own right. Some of the Honourees are currently practicing in the healthcare system, however, many of them have since retired but continue to serve in their*

*various churches, community agencies, as well as, on national committees.*

- Marcel Johnson
- Lillian Charlton
- Rosa Mae Bain
- Dr. Ampusam Symonette
- Rose Thompson
- Annette Gloria Okpuno
- Constance Comery
- Theda Godet
- Dr. Emily Osadebay
- Rev. Jacquelyn Dean
- Julieth Minnis
- Charlene Bain
- Bernadette Ellis
- Laban Brown
- Philabertha Carter
- Jennifer King
- Anna Hall
- Post Humous Virginia Minnis-Mortimore

## **Organizational Leadership**

*This Award is being presented to Nurses who have demonstrated Excellence in Leadership within their respective institutions of deployment and various professional nursing bodies, at local, regional, or international level.*

- Kateca Graham
- Persephone Munnings
- Sandra Coleby
- Thelma McKenzie
- Dorcena Rolle
- CherylN Bain
- Valerie Miller
- Yvonne McKenzie
- Karol Mackey
- Julian Mullings



# ZENITH AWARDEES

- Sarah Turnquest
- Antoinette Cumberbatch
- Michelle Grey
- Quennie Ferguson
- Janet Hepburn
- Alicia Farquharson
- Sherria Stubbs
- Bridgette Cash
- Janey Missick
- Verdella Saunders
- Priscilla Scavella
- Helen Johnson
- Tandra Longley
- Kayla Stubbs-Coleby
- Paulette Carter-Dean
- Dorothea Francis

## **Rural Nursing Award**

*This Award is presented to Nurses who provide exemplary service in rural, or remote areas in the Bahamas.*

- Beulah Gibson-Carroll
- Bridgette Charlton
- Shantell Farrington-Ferguson
- Nadia Russell-Lewis
- Velma Dorsette

## **Research and Innovation Award**

*This Award is presented to Nurses who contribute to the advancement of nursing and health services through their engagement in research and innovations that enhances the quality of health services.*

- Margaret Daxon
- Jen Fernander Rolle
- Daphne Duncombe

## **Emerging Nurse Leader**

*These honourees are 21st century young nurses who demonstrate characteristics of strong leadership and exemplary service in their various spheres of practice.*

- Laurinelle Poitier
- Kimbley Josey-McPhee
- Sean Bullard
- Shanice Simmons
- Cherie Blackmore-Brown
- Terry J. Campbell

## **SPECIAL AWARDS**

### **INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP AWARDS**

*These awards are presented to individuals and corporate entities who support the mission of the Nurses' Association.*

#### **Individual Partnership Award**

Recipient: Virginia Ballance

#### **Corporate Partnership Award**

Recipient: Island FM Radio

#### **Outstanding Nursing Student Award**

Recipient: Tiajuana Been-McKenzie

#### **Outstanding Contribution to Prison Health Services**

Recipient: Edna Mae Tinubu

#### **Outstanding Contribution to The Royal Bahamas Police Force**

Recipient: Nurse Glenn Johnson

#### **Outstanding Contribution to The Royal Bahamas Defence Force**

Recipient: Lieutenant Derrick Ferguson

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## **Outstanding Contribution to Nursing Profession and Civic Service**

In this category, are Nurses who have not only *made outstanding contributions to Nursing in the Bahamas but are also very entrenched in community-based service organizations, whether it be in their churches' Health Ministries, Rotary, Kiwanis, oversight of major national sporting events, or other community events.*

- Patricia Newbold
- Marleen Martinborough
- Carolyn Seymour
- Patricia Brown
- Sherrin Cooper
- Prince Forbes

## **Distinguished Service in Nursing Education**

*This Award is being bestowed upon Nurses who have, or continue to contribute to the advancement of Nursing Education and Training in the Bahamas, and have distinguished themselves in the Academic setting, or clinical practice area.*

- Dr. Shirley Curtis
- Dr. Christine Higgs
- Dr. Theresa Adderley-Smith
- Shamel Sands
- Faye Johnson
- Arnetta Clarke
- Elizabeth Grant
- Sharon Morley
- Esther Sherman-Jolly

## **Outstanding Nursing Leadership Award**

The recipients of this Award are Nurses who exemplify the spirit of Nursing Excellence in Leadership within their respective places of employment.

- Patrice Solomon
- Eserina Rolle
- Eulie Lecky
- Naronna Miller
- Joanne Brooks
- Karen Woodside
- Bernadette Saunders
- Dr. Deborah Fox
- Sherry Armbrister
- Alice Neymour
- Cheryl Seymour
- Cherry Martin
- Kaytora Lightbourne-Saunders
- Eldora Beneby

## **Outstanding Contributions to the Nurses' Association**

*These are Nurses who unselfishly give of their time, talents, and skills and demonstrate unwavering commitment in helping to advance the mission and activities of the Nurses' Association and the Nursing profession.*

- Leah Rolle
- Rodreka Brown
- Marissa Tucker
- Valeria Ramirez
- Felicia Idegbesor
- Sheela Joy Vettickal
- Antonique Bullard

## **Excellence in Clinical Practice**

*This honour is being bestowed upon Nurses who have provided exemplary service in provision of quality nursing and health services to the people of the Bahamas through their various places of deployment.*

- Pamela McKenzie
- Shantell Poitier
- Jacquelyn Newbold

# ZENITH AWARDEES

- Sarah Turnquest
- Antoinette Cumberbatch
- Michelle Grey
- Quennie Ferguson
- Janet Hepburn
- Alicia Farquharson
- Sherria Stubbs
- Bridgette Cash
- Janey Missick
- Verdella Saunders
- Priscilla Scavella
- Helen Johnson
- Tandra Longley
- Kayla Stubbs-Coleby
- Paulette Carter-Dean
- Dorothea Francis

## Rural Nursing Award

*This Award is presented to Nurses who provide exemplary service in rural, or remote areas in the Bahamas.*

- Beulah Gibson-Carroll
- Bridgette Charlton
- Shantell Farrington-Ferguson
- Nadia Russell-Lewis
- Velma Dorsette

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Recipient: Edna Mae Tinubu

#### Outstanding Contribution to The Royal Bahamas Police Force

Recipient: Nurse Glenn Johnson

#### Outstanding Contribution to The Royal Bahamas Defence Force

Recipient: Lieutenant Derrick Ferguson

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## ESERINA ROLLE

A dedicated Nurse Manager with thirty-five years of nursing experience, Eserina Rolle began her nursing career in 1981, enrolling in the Diploma Nursing Program at the School of Nursing Education and graduating with a certificate in General

Nursing in 1984. Her passion as a nurse led her to pursue further education at the College of The Bahamas where she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (with Distinction) in 2003. Still in pursuit of advanced education and training, Nursing Officer Rolle obtained a Master of Science in Nursing Administration (with Distinction) from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica (Mona Campus) in 2012. In 2014, she completed the Public Hospitals Authority Master Mentorship Class becoming a Master Mentor, and shortly afterwards, she successfully completed the Public Hospitals Authority Advanced Medical Surgical Nursing Program in 2015, obtaining an Advanced Medical Surgical Nursing Certification and the Nursing Services Advisor's Award. In June 2016, she completed the Public Hospitals Authority Supervisory Management Course, obtaining a Certificate in Supervisory Management and was awarded First Place Winner of the Supervisory Management Course Project.

Presently, Nursing Officer Rolle holds the position of Nursing Officer 1, Administrative Track and Deputy Area Manager for Surgical Area One at the Princess Margaret Hospital. She has made significant contribution to the nursing profession and health care services in insurmountable ways during her thirty-five (35) years of service at the Princess Margaret Hospital. She is passionate about the organizational and strategic vision in promoting the delivery of quality healthcare service and is always pursuing new modalities to improve care and patient outcomes. Her passion and aspiration is to redefine healthcare delivery, implement ways of improving service and providing quality, innovative care to the patients we serve. In particular, her aim is to transform the attitudes, beliefs and practices of nurses and create work environments that are most conducive to accomplishing the changes required to improve the quality of

patient care and patient safety. Her major focus is improving customer service/patient satisfaction and decreasing hospital-acquired conditions such as decubitus ulcers and in-patient falls.

Research activities and quality improvement initiatives she has implemented include: The influence of patients' behaviour on Registered Nurses' choice of analgesic for relieving postoperative pain; Barriers and facilitators in the use of the pressure ulcer prevention policy in a Jamaican Hospital (2012); Poster presentation at The University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences Annual Research Conference (2013); "Barriers and facilitators in the use of the pressure ulcer Prevention policy" among nurses working in the Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau Bahamas (2013); Medical Area Nursing Policy Compliance Strategic Action Plan: Barriers and strategies for change (2013); Barriers and Facilitators in the use of the fall prevention policy among nurses working in the Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau Bahamas (2014); Co-Developer/Implementer of the Medical Area Quality Improvement Plan (2015). Her landmark achievement was the implementation of the Medical Area Customer Service Improvement plan in 2016, which targeted gaps in services and areas for improvement. Following successful implementation of the plan, the quality of service provided to the customers improved dramatically. The majority of in-patients and discharged patients were very satisfied with the level of service offered and the ward achieved its goal of improving customer service.

Nursing Officer Rolle has truly distinguished herself as a nurse extraordinaire. She is a gem, the epitome of a nurse, and a dedicated and diligent ambassador for nursing, the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Public Hospitals Authority. She believes in and carries the organization's vision and mission of promoting the delivery of quality healthcare service, not only in her performance, but it is ingrained into her spirit; near and dear to her heart, at the forefront of all that she does. She strongly believes that as a body of professionals, we have the power to design our tomorrow, and we're accountable for creating it. Hence, her ultimate goal is to effectively mentor and lead today's nurses in the delivery of quality nursing care, to re-claim our power as a profession and declare a new image for nurses and the nursing profession in The Bahamas and the world.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## DORCENA ROLLE

Born in Abraham's Bay, Mayaguana, Dorcena Rolle is a registered nurse and has held the position of vice-president of Patient Care Services at Doctors Hospital for the past 15 years and has completed 42 years in the nursing profession in both public

and private sectors. She is a visionary leader who brings passion into everything she's involved in and is a blessing to persons who know her.

Mrs. Rolle holds a Bachelor's degree in Nursing (UK), post-graduate certificates in midwifery (UK), Infectious Diseases (UK), a Master's degree in Business Administration (USA), and various Nursing certificates. She is a generalist counsellor with certification as a Grief Recovery Specialist and Tobacco Cessation Counsellor. She is one of two Bahamians with the title of Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality practicing in The Bahamas. Mrs. Rolle represents The American Heart Association as a regional faculty for the Bahamas and coordinator of its training center at Doctors Hospital.

She is actively involved in The Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and received the lifetime membership for her contributions and support of that organization. She has served as a member of the Bahamas Nursing Council, the statutory body which governs the education, training and practice of nursing in the country in the past and is again a member of that council serving on several of its committees. Her utmost pride is the fact that the distinguished pin given to nurses at registration with the Bahamas Nursing Council was based on her design while she was a third-year nursing student. Mrs. Rolle also serves as a member of the Executive Management Committee at Doctors Hospital, the National Nursing Advisory Committee of Ministry of Health as well as the Advisory Committee for Nursing Programs at The University of The Bahamas.

As a member of The Bahamas Healthy Coalition, Mrs. Rolle uses every opportunity to encourage and empower people to always strive for improvement in their health

and indeed in all aspects of their lives as she strives to be a role model.

She has won numerous leadership awards and accolades for her contributions to healthcare in The Bahamas. She has also been a presenter on the Nursing profession, as well as, health topics at various functions and events. Mrs. Rolle worships at Sanctuary of Praise Ministries where she holds the offices of Sunday School Teacher and Youth Activities Coordinator. Her hobbies include dancing, writing poetry and short stories, playing the guitar and gardening. She is happily married and the proud mother of two sons and one grandson.



## DR. AMPUSAM SYMONETTE (Ph.D)

SRN. SCM. Diploma in Nursing Admin, Lactation Manager Trainer of Trainers, BA in Management, Ph D in Public Health Admin.

Ampusam Symonette received a Diploma in Nursing Administration at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, 1989-1990. She also completed courses becoming qualified as a Lactation Manager, Trainer of Trainers in Barbados in 1993 and United Kingdom in 1998. Additional academic achievements include, a Bachelor's Degree in Management (USA 2000) and Ph. D in Public Health Administration (2012). In 1985, she had the privilege of serving as an Observer at Jefferson City Community College and Hospital in Missouri before IMF funding was availed for the college of the Bahamas, now University of the Bahamas, School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions.

In 1987 she was a participant as a spouse of an Executive in the PMD at Harvard University. In 1993 as a UWI Candidate she received a Carnie Pugh Award to travel with the class of 1990 to St. Lucia to participate as Healthcare Provider / Manager to assess the services and strengthen MCH services in the rural clinics.

A Sri Lankan by birth, bred in Malaysia, educated in UK, JA, and living in The Bahamas, Ampu as affectionately known is a global travelled lady, with a service of distinction, being a team player to leader from her early Convent Days she has achieved much. With diverse experiences from

## ZENITH AWARDEES

Teaching to Nursing to Supervision and Management and Volunteerism, she has been a policy changer, an advocate, a promoter of causes and publicity icon for Nursing and Healthcare from her 38 plus years in the service. She continues to impact lives like the lotus she was named after. The Lotus traits speak of a flora valued and revered in the East, emerging out of diversity and despite challenges of the elements it is still able to impact the sweet fragrances to its surroundings.

Those who know her and understand her know that she has made her mark in the Bahamian Archipelago. Her Esprit de Corp and her friendly disposition, her spiritual fortitude, has allowed her to negotiate, cooperate and coordinate in many diaspora to achieve the best outcomes for the community she has served in the last 43 years.

Her leadership skills over the years, has been directed towards the development of staff, to arm them and to bring the best traits and skills out of them. She serves as a mentor, advisor, counsellor, a prayer warrior, a volunteer and a friend. Nurse Symonette's love of people has been her strength and her advocacy. The underprivileged has always held a special place in her heart, bringing out core values that drove her to a gratifying career in Health. This lady of valour, excelled from being ordinary to extraordinary because she found joy like Khalil Gibran's philosophy of joy, in the work of being reciprocal.

With a multilinguistic, multicultural background and a rich Commonwealth knowledge, she has spent most of her life thirsting after knowledge, with a strong social conscience and has completed what she set out to do. Her academic achievements led her from Nursing to Management and Administration, from public to private, for salaried to non-salaried contributions.

Nurse Symonette transitioned from Staff Nurse to Area Supervisor for three significantly important areas of the main health care facility. She was also instrumental in changing traditional policies and practices like 'Midwives going on Ambulance Calls', not keeping patients for treatment alone in hospital and reducing patient overcrowding. Her other great quest is for nurses to be research-orientated, enabling them to articulate with evidence-based arguments to change practices for the achievement of best outcomes. Nurse Symonette has made an insurmountable effort to changing the breast feeding culture in The Bahamas. Her life, she says has been because so many people contributed to her development her loving family, her friends and oth-

ers. She believes in reaching out and touching lives wherever God places you.

Her vision for Nursing is to develop critical thinking nurses and providing a Nurse-Patient Friendly environment that is conducive to learning. Nurse Symonette believes that this can be achieved with a team that values their contribution. Additionally, the establishment of "magnet" teams can contribute to provision of holistic care, thus improving the health of the Nation. Cultivation of a culture that encourages engagement of nurses in decision making can positively impact the whole person, thus improve the voice of all in the Bahamas.



### ARNETA CLARKE

RN, RM, CHN, MHA, Dip Edu.

Arnetta was born in the beautiful and quaint Settlement of Staniard Creek, Andros where she completed her primary Education. She then transferred to Nassau for High school and tertiary Education. Upon graduation from St. John's College, she enrolled at the

College of the Bahamas and completed the Associate Degree in Business Administration.

Prompted by her mother, she began her nursing education and training at the Bahamas Nursing School in 1977. Over the past forty years, Mrs. Clarke has realized a primary goal in her life which is to help and assist her patients and colleagues to attain their optimum. Through dedication and hard work, she has achieved status as a Registered Nurse, Midwife and Community Health Nurse. She has gained nursing experiences at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Sandilands/Geriatric Hospitals and in the Department of Public Health, in various clinical settings in New Providence and Family Islands. She has served as a Senior Nursing Officer since 2004.

Being cognizant of the importance of continued education and training, Mrs. Clarke completed the Master's Degree in Health Administration in 2000 and she was the first graduate of Diploma in Adult Education and Training, from the College of the Bahamas in 2008.

She was then qualified to coordinate and lecture in the community Health Nursing Diploma Programme,

# ZENITH AWARDEES

offered by the School of Nursing and Allied Health Profession. She has worked with the programme since 2008, and lectures part-time at the University of the Bahamas.

Her passion for Community Health Nursing is evident as she encourages students to care for families, which will gradually improve health over all in our communities.

Mrs. Arnetta Clarke's personal philosophy is to mentor, affirm and motivate as many persons as she could, to provide quality, safe and competent health care to all without biases.

Mrs. Clarke is grateful to the many persons who have impacted her life through their mentorship, support and guidance. Special thanks to her husband Captain Philip Clarke, children Anya and Philip and her many nursing colleagues and friends.



## BERNADETTE ELLIS

Bernadette Ellis was born to Frank and Shirley Ellis, now both deceased. She has four siblings; three brothers and one sister.

Having completed her pre-school, primary, and high school education, Bernadette sought higher education at the College of The Bahamas, The Bahamas School of Nursing, University of The West Indies, Jamaica, and Nova Southeastern University, USA. Not one to rest on her laurels, she also pursued several personal development courses and has completed a Paralegal Course offered through Continuing Education Extension Services (CEES) of The College of The Bahamas and ILEX of London and a Certificate in Pastoral Counselling at the Assemblies of God Bible College.

Miss Ellis has had a stellar career in nursing and has had supervisory responsibility for the Private Medical Ward, Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), and, at times, Private Services (Private Medical and Private Surgical Wards). Her supervisory duties also extended to the operations of PMH on various shifts. She encouraged nursing and ancillary staff to pursue further education whenever she saw potential in them. Some entered the

R/N Programme or the TC/N Programme and successfully completed them.

While working at PMH, Bernadette served on numerous committees inclusive of Medical Area and Private Services Staff Awards Committees, In-Patient Public Relations Committee and the PMH Research Committee. She served as Assistant Coordinator for the Research Committee, was responsible for crafting the Committee's booklet logo and assisted in developing its philosophy, mission, goals and objectives.

While a nursing student, Bernadette became an associate member of The Nurses Association of The Bahamas. Having observed the dedication to and the love for the nursing profession that was displayed by the members and the Executive, she felt inspired to become immersed in the activities of that great organization. She attended meetings which were held during the evenings at the Physiotherapy Department, PMH before the Association acquired its own building. She was privileged to be a part of history when members of the Association through the hard work of successive Presidents (Mrs. Celeste Lockhart, Mr. Andil Laroda) saw the acquisition and renovation of its official and permanent headquarters on Dowdeswell St. The Association's name was officially changed from The Nurses Association of The Bahamas to The Nurses Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) to indicate inclusion of nurses throughout the length and breadth of The Bahamas.

After holding executive positions of Assistant Secretary, Secretary and First Vice-President, Bernadette was elected President of NACB in November 1998, and served until the year 2000. Her tenure proved to be an active one. The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference was held on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1998. Highlights in 1999 were: the successful negotiation with and approval by the Ministry of Health for the half working day to be increased to a full working day for the President, Secretary and Treasurer to carry out the Association's business on Wednesdays; for Bernadette to be the first President to sit as a member on The Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities Licensing Board; extension of the celebration of Nurses Week in the month of May to Nurses Month; the hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nursing Research Symposium (the first was held under the presidency of the late Mrs. Castella Bowleg); the participation in and the holding of the first Nurses Leadership for Change Graduation Ceremony coordinated by the late Mrs. Castella Bowleg; and making a courtesy call

## ZENITH AWARDEES

on Mr. Herbert Brown the then Chief Hospital Administrator, PMH, along with Ms Sally Shaw, Kellogg Foundation Nurses Leadership for Change Project Coordinator. Additionally, Bernadette, along with other members formed a delegation which attended the Caribbean Nurses Organization's (CNO's) Conferences held in Belize where she presented a paper and in Trinidad, where she led the delegation (NACB Dancers) in a Junkanoo presentation for the first time in the history of the Association; the late Miss Ernestine Douglas was so enthused that she took sole responsibility for procuring the drums, shoulder pieces, cowbells and banner that were taken with us. Further, she and Secretary, Pandora Hanna were the official nursing delegates representing The Bahamas at the Caribbean Nurses Federation (CNF) and at the Centennial International Congress of Nursing (ICN) Conference, both held in London, England. She has also served on The Bahamas Nursing Council. Whenever the opportunity arose, Bernadette always expressed her profound gratitude to the late Mrs. Castella Bowleg past president who was her mentor, Miss Pandora Hanna Secretary and the hardworking Executive Board Members and Standing Committee Chairpersons who helped to keep the Association vibrant and active.

Bernadette currently holds the position of Registrar at the Health Professions Council (HPC), Ministry of Health and has been instrumental in the formulation and development of many of the Council's processes which help its efficient operations. She hopes to see opportunities made available for Bahamians residing on the major Family of Islands to be trained and qualified in the Professions. They, in turn, will provide greatly needed services, to the residents in nutrition, physiotherapy, audiology, and speech language pathology. She has represented the Council at meetings, conferences and seminars and has presented at school careers fairs. She currently sits on the policy making body of the International Centre for Credentialing and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE) Commission as ICCE Commissioner (the only Bahamian and Caribbean person from the region) and has held the post of Technical Secretary for the technical group on Food Hygiene at the Bahamas Bureau of Standards and Quality (BBSQ).

Throughout her childhood Bernadette's parents ensured that she attended church and Sunday school. She had a personal encounter with the Lord at the age of sixteen and throughout adulthood has sought His presence, guidance and direction more and more.

While seeking to understand God's word and purpose in her life, she has had the opportunity to attend and participate in local and international conferences and seminars such as Evangelism Explosion, Discovery, Faith Alive, Cell Group, Creflo Dollar and Benny Hinn to name a few. She believes that consistent Bible study, prayer and fasting have prepared her to be a witness to others as well as to counsel others in need of spiritual counselling and help.

Bernadette has spoken and ministered at Women's Aglow East and at her church. She has been a member of various organizations in the church including: a Cell Group member, Lay Pastor, Prayer Counsellor, and Intercessor. She is also the co-coordinator for Faith Walk Ministries International.

Bernadette is an ordained Minister of Religion, having been ordained by the late Bishop William Johnson on the recommendation of the then Apostle, now Bishop Adline Jones.

Her favourite scripture is Psalm 91 and she believes that obstacles placed in her path can be overcome through patience. She says, ***"If one cannot get over the obstacle, then go under it; if one cannot go under it, then go around it in order to get to the other side, with GOD always at the forefront"***.



### BRIDGETTE CASH

Bridgette Cash began her journey in the Nursing profession in 1981, and has since been deployed at the Princess Margaret Hospital as a Trained Clinical Nurse. While there, she was assigned to several wards, and is presently working in the Medical Area.

She is actively involved in the social activities of the ward, and also makes contributions toward all ward activities.

Throughout her Nursing career, Nurse Bridgette Cash has received numerous awards from both Princess Margaret Hospital and the Public Hospitals Authority. Some of these include her promotion to Senior Trained Clinical Nurse and Nurse of the Year. In 2016 she was also awarded 1st runner up for the Clinical Excellence Award. She has al-



# ZENITH AWARDEES

ways been a role model to other nurses through her demonstration of her work ethics and professionalism, while providing quality care to her patients.

Sr. TCN Bridgette Cash is an active member of the St. Anselm's Roman Catholic Church, Fox Hill where she serves as both Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the choir. She finds joy in assisting the less fortunate. She has worked tirelessly in fundraising activities geared towards stimulating the outreach ministries of her church and the Kiwanis Club of Fox Hill, East Nassau. She assists in catering to the needs of persons in the community and country at large, through various service projects. Nurse Cash is also a former leader of the 12th Bahamas Scout Troop. She currently serves as a Director and Interclub Chairperson of the Kiwanis Club of Fox Hill, East Nassau. She is also a Protocol Officer for Kiwanis Clubs Division 22.

Sr. TCN Bridgette Cash is happily married to Mr. Paul Cash. She has assisted in rearing many children including numerous nieces and nephews. She devotes her time to meeting the needs of persons in the community through her church and Kiwanis Club. She also enjoys traveling



## DAPHNE DUNCOMBE

Daphne Duncombe currently serves as the coordinator for nursing research at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre. Presently, she is the chair of the Nursing Research Committee at her institution. She also serves as a member of the

Public Hospitals Authority's Nursing Research Committee. In 2016 she completed her Master's Degree with distinction at the University of the West Indies in Nursing Leadership/Management. During this period, her thesis entitled "The Perceived Barriers and Facilitators to Implementing Evidence-Based Practice" was also selected for oral presentation at the International Health Congress at King's College, England. The paper has since been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical Nursing.

Her professional interests center on nursing research and the promotion of evidence-based practice in nursing. She is the editor of Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre's quarterly Nursing Research Newsletter. On June

22nd, 2017 she spearheaded her institution's first Nursing Research Day, which is now planned to be an annual event. During this period, she also hosted the institution's first Research Poster Competition.

Since taking on the role as coordinator for nursing research in 2016, she completed another research study entitled "Factors contributing to absenteeism during weekends." She is presently in the process of conducting another research study entitled "Knowledge Attitudes and Practices Related to the Use of Restrictive Interventions." Ms. Duncombe was also recently awarded the Public Hospitals Authority Institutional Research Award for Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.

### Education & Credentials

Associate of Science Nursing: College of The Bahamas, 1997; Bachelor of Science Nursing: University of The West Indies, MSc. Nursing Leadership/Management, University of The West Indies, 2016



## DONNEL ROLLE

Donnel Rolle has served as a Registered nurse for 27 years; She received her initial training at the Bahamas School of Nursing. As a Nursing Officer 1, she presently works in the Continuing Nursing Education Department at the Princess Margaret Hospital as a Staff

Development Officer. She is an experienced critical care nurse, having worked in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for 11 years. Other areas of clinical experiences include, pediatrics, community health, and risk and quality management. Donnel also worked as a flight nurse at Air Ambulance Services, Nassau Bahamas, from 1999 – 2004. Donnel's interest in education is derived from her belief that "education is important and should be available to all to equip persons with the necessary knowledge and skills to become competent and productive individuals within the workplace and society".

Donnel has served in many capacities including; former facilitator for the Nursing Cadet Programme, the country's main recruitment programme for nurses (2008 – 2011), Clinical Instructor for local and international nurs-

# ZENITH AWARDEES

ing students at the Princess Margaret Hospital from 2008 – 2013, Examiner for the Critical Care Nursing Students (2014) and Patient Care Assistants (2015), Chairperson of the Examinations Committee for the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, September 2013 – June 2017 and a current member of the Transfusion Medicine Committee (PMH) and a lecturer for the Medical-Surgical Nursing Programme Public Hospitals Authority, 2014 – 2015.

Donnel has been a member of the NACB since 1988. She was appointed Chairperson of the Education & Research Committee, 2012 – 2014; concerned with all aspects of education relating to nursing and nursing research. As chairperson, Donnel and her committee led the successful launch of the electronic Continuing Nursing Education (eCNE), conducted 2 speech competitions, 2 nursing symposia, facilitated multiple face-to-face CNE sessions, and organized protocol training for executives and members of the NACB, and organized the 38th Annual NACB Conference. She served as an official delegate to the Commonwealth Nurses & Midwives Federation Conference, London 2014, participated in the NACB Leadership Summit and the Inaugural Research Workshop in collaboration with the Public Hospitals Authority and the University of the West Indies. As a visionary, she conducted a survey and made a proposal for the implementation of a mentorship programme for Student Nurses and basic computer classes for NACB members. Additionally, she served as the NACB's representative on the Nursing Council of Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Donnel holds an Associate Degree in Public Administration, Diploma in Adult Workforce Education and Training, Certificate in Clinical Teaching and Supervision with Practicum and a Master's Degree in Adult and Continuing Education. She is a Certified Mentorship Master, a programme certified by the Royal College of Nursing, London, and a provider and instructor for Basic ECG, Basic Life Support, and Advanced Cardiac Life Support certified by the American Heart Association.

She has received numerous awards and recognition including The Quality Award, Princess Margaret Hospital 2001, and Employee of the Quarter, ICU – PMH 2003 and the Service Recognition Award, Air Ambulance Services in 2004.

Donnel holds her faith and belief in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour and attends the Christian Tabernacle

Church where she serves as a teacher in the Children's Church Ministry and the Sunday school. She is the first of four daughters of Ms. Leanora Morris-Poitier and is married to Mr. George Rolle. This union is blessed with three children; Georgiann, George Jr. and Gabrielle.



## DOROTHEA FRANCIS

Ms. Dorothea M Francis began her nursing career in September, of 1993, at The College of The Bahamas.

- She completed an Associate of Science Degree Programme for Registered Nurses May 1997. She further continued her studies and in December 2002, graduated from The College of The Bahamas with a Bachelor's Degree in Education (With Credit) and with her Teaching Certification.
- In April 2005, she completed a Master's of Science Degree in Human Resource Management, from NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, Fort Lauderdale FL. H. WAYNE HUIZENGA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ENTRENEURSHIP.
- In December 2008 she completed the Registered Nurse – Perinatal Intensive Care Nursing Programme Toronto Canada at GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE, ONTARIO CANADA.
- She is a flight nurse for The NICU Transport Team.

As a Registered Nurse Ms. Francis has been deployed in The NICU/SCBU where she served as the Education Officer whose responsibilities included that of Organization of the Educational Division of NICU/SCBU. In 2016 Ms. Francis was promoted to Nursing Officer 11.

### Areas of Expertise and Training Programs

- Program Coordinator for Patient Care Assistant Program August 2017
- Program Coordinator for Core Competency Strengthening Certificate Program for Trained Clinical Nurses. 3rd October 2016
- Outstanding contribution to Nursing Development College of The Bahamas May 2016
- Examiner for Nursing Council Examinations April 2013, 2016

# ZENITH AWARDEES

- Training for Hearing Screening Testing April 2016
- Program Coordinator for Registered Nurses Orientation Program NICU/SCBU February 2015.
- Local Clinical Coordinator for George Brown College - Ontario Canada 2014- present
- Program Coordinator Trained Clinical Nurses Orientation Program NICU/SCBU April 2014
- Presenter Closing the Gap: The Millennium Development Goals. Nurses Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) 6th June 2013
- Excellence in Nursing Practice Award 2013
- Critical Care Nursing Conference
- Assist with formulation of Policies and Procedures NICU/SCBU. 2012, 2013, 2014
- Serves as a lecturer and resource personnel for In-service in The NICU/SCBU.
- Served as a guest lecturer, COB, School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions & The Rand Memorial Hospital, for Baxter Infusion Pump of Commonwealth Drugs.
- Serves on the Education & Discharge Committee for The NICU/SCBU.
- Participates as a presenter for PMH in-service education activities.
- Chairperson for the Annual Critical Care Symposium, NICU/SCBU.
- Served as a member of the Nurses calendar events.

These achievements are indicative of the quality and caliber of her entire professional career, whether challenged to support new ventures, support growth within existing operations or lead in the introduction of new ideas as it relates to health teaching. She is confident that the skills that she possessed would be an asset in helping to formulate change. Moreover, she believes that curriculum materials should be timely and relevant. Standards of excellence should be high, yet attainable and should be used to facilitate optimal student learning. In addition, she foresees teaching as a process, not an activity, her teaching philosophy offers an invaluable reflective view on "how to" strive for instructional improvement. Teaching is one of the most important services among other things that she can provide to such a great institution (The Public Hospitals Authority), because she is helping to educate a generation to function knowledgeably in a society where rapid technological advances constantly pose new questions and ethical challenges.

She's passionate about being a Nurse Educator and has found that one of her strongest assets is that of disseminating information to others.

This is a good practice and promotes a good rapport with others, and sets the trend for others to follow. She enjoys sharing what she knows. It is Ms. Francis hope that her teaching will allow her to "keep the flame alive" in some way and to inspire students to remain focused on the functional effects of interventions designed to improve their future outcomes.

On 27th June 2016, Ms. Dorothea M Francis was transferred to The Public Hospitals Authority, under The Nursing Service Advisor Department with the title of Program Coordinator with responsibility for Curriculum Development. She is a proud mother of four children. One daughter & three sons, & one beautiful grand-daughter.



## DR. CHRISTINE HIGGS (Ph.D)

*In the words of former interim Vice-President, University of The Bahamas – North, and prominent educator, Dr. Coralee Kelly, "Mrs. Higgs is well established in the health and teaching profession and had oversight of a very successful Trained Clinical Nurse Programme ...." (Kelly, 2007).*

Dr. Christine Higgs (nee Martin) truly believes in the concept of life-long learning and thus persevered with studies to obtain a terminal degree in health care education with a minor in curriculum and instruction. She is employed at the University of The Bahamas - North as part-time Nurse Counsellor and also serves as Coordinator for the Trained Clinical Nurse Programme 2017/18.

Her uninterrupted 34 plus years' employment within the Ministry of Health/Public Hospitals' Authority spanned clinical, administrative, and educational tracks. As a registered nurse, registered midwife, she utilized the nursing process to provide quality patient care throughout the Grand Bahama Health Services. Her nursing units received outstanding recognition for the upkeep of the nursing care plan. As a unit manager (Nursing Officer 11) and an area supervisor (Nursing Officer 1), she integrated Fayol's elements and principles of management to ensure organizational profit margin (Certo, 1994). As an educator (past Senior Nursing Officer), she embraced and diffused the philosophy that the hallmark of a professional is "continuing education" (Keir, 2003). In so doing she would

## ZENITH AWARDEES

have influenced her students to excel in their specified curricula and peers to attain stipulated continuing nursing education hours.

With divine help and personal means, independently, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Education from Hobe Sound Bible College, Florida (1978), a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Business Management from Nova Southeastern University, Florida (1997); a Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from The University of St. Thomas, Minnesota (2003), and a Doctorate Degree in Healthcare Education from Nova Southeastern University (2017). During her tenure within the Public Hospitals' Authority, the Grand Bahama Health Services become an accredited institution for the training of Registered Nurses at the Bachelors' Degree level. Such accomplishment has been the precursor for the institution attaining registration as a regional accredited health care organization.

As a health care coordinator, Nurse Higgs' responsibilities included providing educational opportunities for nurses and support staff within the local health care system, and advocacy support to allied health members. The geographical focus included nine community clinics and a community hospital separated by a large body of water. Despite the archipelagic challenges, the executive management team strategized resources to attain a greater than 90% attendance in training sessions. In addition to lecturing in community colleges, she also supervised nursing orientation, mentoring, and preceptor programmes.

Dr. Higgs' professional, management and educational qualifications strategically equipped her for academia and thus was seconded to oversight the first Trained Clinical (Enrolled) Nurse Programme at the then College of the Bahamas Northern Campus (2003 – 2004). The programme, coordinated by Dr. Higgs and Mrs. Veronica Poitier, with the assistance of other nurse educators, had a 100% pass rate. The enrolled nurses are rendering valuable service in varied health sectors and a number of them have advanced their training and practice.

With Acts 17:28 "For in him, we live, move, and have our being," as a guiding principle, Dr. Higgs venerates The Creator and Sustainer of life, as God and Saviour, and the One who imparts wisdom and health. She resides in Grand Bahama with her husband of 33 years, Mr. Glenn A Higgs of Nassau. They are the parents of three sons:

Gadareth, a PhD. scholar at Yale University, Dr. Gadryn Higgs, a graduate of Stanford University, Genymphas, a PhD. scholar at Drexel University; and one daughter, RN Chrisellyn Higgs, a graduate of Liberty University.

*"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" Col. 3:23*



**ELIZABETH E.  
GRANT  
(NEE DARLING)**

On October 23, 1967, Elizabeth Darling was among the group of Nursing Students to report, for training, at the Princess Margaret Hospital. They would later be named

the Introductory Course in Nursing I. This cohort was the first Bahamian home-grown nurses to stay at home and become State Registered Nurses with qualifications of England and Wales. This introduction to nursing sparked a long relationship with health care for Elizabeth.

In 1972, Elizabeth embarked upon further studies, which resulted in her attaining L.P.N. and R.N. Registration in Florida; a B.A in Psychology, a B. Sc in Social Work and a M.Sc. in Education. She values the long hours of study, and the cost of her education, as it prepared her to serve in the diverse jobs that she has held. She currently serves as a Training Officer at Doctors Hospital.

Elizabeth believes that education is not only formal learning, but also the many lessons absorbed from various fora. An educator (be it a parent, a teacher a health professional etc.) should plant seeds of knowledge that will serve for the present and the future, and those seeds must be nourished with love, joy and hope, so that they will thrive for a lifetime, with some left over for the generations that follow. This is reflected in her efforts to share the positive message about Healthy Living, in every sphere.

Elizabeth is married to Reginald Grant. They have five children, one daughter-in-law, and 6 grandchildren.

Elizabeth participates in the out-reach activities of the One Family Junkanoo Group and Community Organization, and is a saxophonist in the One Family brass section. She attends The Anglican Church of the Holy Spirit in Chippingham where she serves in various ministries.

## ZENITH AWARDEES



### GLENDINA MINUS

Glendina Minus, a Nursing Officer II is a helpful individual who came from humble beginnings. The acquisition of essential qualities commenced from within her home in the Carmichael Road Village Community, which Ms. Joan Newbold,

one of the older settlers along with her parents, Mr. Leroy and Mrs. Jones, This allowed destiny and drive to propel her in joining the healthcare team at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Center as a Nursing Auxiliary in 1982, where she serves for five (5) years. She then qualified herself for acceptance into the Bahamas School of Nursing Program, where she successfully graduated as a Registered Nurse. She received registration with the Nursing Council of the Bahamas and was subsequently employed with the Ministry of Health. Upon completion of her RN programme, she was redeployed to the Sandilands Rehabilitation Center, where she gained more experience working in the Adolescent, Acute and Chronic wards, the drug unit and the Geriatric Hospital.

Following this experience, she was transferred to the Princess Margaret Hospital, where she provided holistic care for her patients on various wards. With the guidance and mentoring of those with whom she worked closely, Sister Minus's knowledge of the medical/surgical field was expanded greatly. Later, she was transferred to the Ministry of Health, Department of Public Health. She was an Honoree of the National Nurses, Recognition Institutional Registered Nurse Runner Up of the Year (2008-2010) for the Department of Public Health. Nurse Minus currently works within the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Unit (S.C.A.N Unit). She provides hope and love to the children and families affected and effected. She is a firm believer that One Child Abused, is one too many. Nurse Minus can also be heard from time to time on various local Radio Talk Shows along with other members of the multi-disciplinary team. These forums provide meaningful dialogue on the importance and awareness of the prevention, treatment and care of the Abuse or Suspected Child Abuse.

Nurse Minus is a proud member of The Nurses' Associa-

tion of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas. She is actively involved in all aspects of the Association contributing time and resources as needed. Nurse Minus received a certificate of participation Award for the first (N.A.C.B) National Nurses' Debate in 2008, She has served as Assistant Treasurer. Nurse Minus was one of the recipient of the Leadership for Change (LFC) Program in 2010 and the Leadership in Negotiation (LIN) Program in 2015, These programs are offered by the International Council of Nursing (ICN). Nurse Minus is a member of the Item Writing and Viva Vocal Exam Team, and served as a clinical preceptor to the Mental Health Psychiatric Diploma Program 2016-2017. She is a Trained Psychiatric Nurse and certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Forensic Nurse trained at St. Mary's Hospital and Virginia Division of Forensic Science. Further, Ms. Minus has Caribbean Regional in Addiction Studies via the University of the West Indies, Bahamas.

Nurse Minus is a firm believer of Proverbs Chapter 17 verse 1, which states "Better is a dry morsel and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife". She is a member of St. Barnabas Anglican Church, where she serves as the Parish Nurse, a member of the Anglican Women Auxiliary, and an advisor to the Anglican Girls Auxiliary. One of her favourite events at her church is the Annual Whit Monday Church service and breakfast retreat for all the senior citizens within the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Nurse Minus is the proud mother of four wonderful children, namely, Duranda, Durant Jr., Durvano and Duranique Minus.



### JEN FERNANDER-ROLLE, RN, MSN, CNOR

I am honoured to receive this award from the Nurses Association of the Bahamas. Synonyms for the word "innovation" include words like alteration, modernization, metamorphosis and transformation. In today's world, new

ideas are introduced frequently and many of these directly impact the care we provide as nurses.

Working in the Operating Theatre, innovations are introduced frequently. In my career, transformations I have

# ZENITH AWARDEES

been a part of include orientation programs for new nurses coming into the department and cross-training for midwives in Perioperative techniques. Educational programs include submission of the first Perioperative Nursing Program curriculum to the Public Hospitals Authority and serving as assistant co-ordinator for the program; writing the curriculum for the Surgical Technician course for 52 week students and serving as assistant co-ordinator for the program; writing the curriculum for the Medical-Surgical Nursing program sponsored by the PHA and co-ordinating the program. The Operating Room of the Princess Margaret Hospital is the first Nursing Unit to experience electronic documentation. I served as Project Manager for this project to build and implement Surgical Information Systems in the Operating Theatre and Perianesthesia Care Unit (PACU). Innovations are seldom attained solely and thus I wish to thank those persons who have aided me in any way to attain these accomplishments.

The aim of the nurse is to provide quality, compassionate care to her clients. Being innovative is one way to achieve this. I aim to make a difference in the Nursing Profession; to improve standards of care provided in the Nursing Profession through education of nurses and to promote accountability among nurses for that care. It brings joy to me when care is provided at the highest level.



## KAREN WOODSIDE

Born Karen Andrea Demeritte – from a very early age I knew I wanted to become a nurse and see the world. Therefore, after graduating from St. Anne's High School in 1970, I pursued my goal and entered the School of Nursing where I graduated in 1973 as a State Registered Nurse.

In 1976, I completed the midwifery program as a State Registered Midwife from Creswell Maternity Hospital in Dumfries Scotland. I therefore, had the privilege to practice midwifery in both government owned hospitals in the Bahamas having been transferred to the Rand Memorial Hospital November 1, 1976.

Over the years, I have had the honour of supervising many clinical units in the hospital inclusive of Surgical Ward, Medical Ward, Operating Theatre, Outpatients Department, ICU, Paediatric Ward and Maternity Ward. As such I have been able to assist many novice nurses to

grow and develop to their fullest potential as professionals and leaders. It has brought me great joy to watch many of them grow and attain leadership positions within the Public Hospitals Authority.

My passion is to realize the continued professional growth of nurses and for nurses to own their profession. As such, I have coordinated the first Nurses' Appreciation Day in 1982, which eventually transformed into the Nurses' Recognition Committee, the first Nightingale Ball for the Nurses Recognition Committee in 2001 and the first Professional Women's Conference in 2003. All of the aforementioned initiatives along with many others too numerous to mention, were done in an effort to promote the nursing profession as the profession it truly is – noble with a group of hardworking, committed professionals who are committed to improving the quality of care that we are privileged to deliver to our patients.

I have had the honour of being recognized for my contributions to the profession that I so love. I was nominated for Supervisor of the Year in 1993, 1994 and 1995, received an appreciation award from the Public Hospitals Authority at Government House in 2001 and I was recognized by the Nurses Recognition Committee for my valuable contribution in 2005.

As I look back over the years, I thank God for his divine mercies and guidance on my life and career as a whole. I have seen the growth of nurses who I have mentored over the years. I can only pray that I would have done all that I could have done to empower them and encourage them to continue in their efforts to make our profession renowned throughout the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.



## KATECA GRAHAM

PRESIDENT NACB 2012-2014

### ACTIVITIES 2012-2014

Radio Talk Shows: Nurses' Month Activities; "Let's Talk Health"

Coordinator Health Screenings: Red Cross; Sojourner Douglass College Fun Run Walk; Sandal Staff Health Fair; Renaissance

Academy Sports Day; SRC Mall of Marathon Revision of NACB Screening Tool for CNDs

Joint Coordinator CNF/Jill Iliffe: Leadership Symposium in Freeport, Grand Bahama; 4 Safety Symposium in Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera

Partial Completion NACB Constitution

# ZENITH AWARDEES

Developments of NACB: Conceptual Model; Position Statements-Aging and Stem Cell Completion NACB E-CNE; Longley House Restoration; Renaming Mrs. Celeste Lockhart's Room  
Launches: Research principles; ICN Leadership For Change (LFC) Programme, Freeport, Grand Bahama; ICN Leadership In Negotiation (LIN) Programme, Middle & Senior Managers: Zenith Award honoring 100 nurses

## COMMITTEES' 2012-2014

Inter-Memberships: Council of National Representatives -International Council of Nurses; Commonwealth Nurses Federation; Caribbean Nurses Organization  
President-Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

National Memberships: Nursing Council of the Bahamas -Education Committee; Nursing Council of the Bahamas -Registration Committee; Medical Licensing Board: National Breast Cancer Initiative Committee; National Nursing Advisory Committee; College of the Bahamas Nursing Advisory Committee; National Women Affairs; Bureau of Women Affairs; National Task Force for Violence Against Women

Chair Constitution NACB Committee

Ex-officio Memberships: Canadian Nurses Informatics Association-IMIA; NACB Education and Research Committee; Standards and Practice Committee; Socio-economic Committee; Membership Committee; Public Relations Committee

Partnerships: Bahamas Red Cross Society; Renal Nurses' PHA; Nurses Practitioners Bahamas  
First Vice-President NACB, 2011-2012

Chair Public Relations, NACB 2010-2011

International Council of Nurses' Networks: Ethics; Education; Advanced Nurses

## NEWS PAPER PUBLICATIONS

Transformational Leader-Rosemarie Josey, The Tribune, Nassau, Bahamas, 2011

Global Ambassador-Rosemarie Josey, The Tribune, Nassau, Bahamas, 2011

Commonwealth Nurses Federation Newsletter, November, 2011

Congratulations-President of Nurses' Association-Persephone Munnings

International Ethics Committee Competition-What sustainability means to me, December 2011

Congratulations-Dr. Elizabeth Williams & Dr. Ingrid Mobley

The Nurse Lawyer-Calverna Small

Congratulations-Bahamas First Nurse Informatician-Lisa Stovel-Rolle

From Family Island to Friendly Inland-Regina Ingraham



## LAKERAH ROLLE

Lakerah Rolle RN, began her journey in healthcare as a nursing cadet. She then matriculated to The College of the Bahamas where she completed an Associate's Degree in 2003 and later a Bachelor's degree.

In her 14 years as an RN Lakerah has worked in the most interesting and rewarding areas: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Gerontology, Psychiatry and presently a Quality Manager within Quality & Patient Safety Department. Early in her career she worked in Neonatal Intensive Care unit (ICU) where she received a letter of commendation from the Principal Nursing Officer Osadabey. Within Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre Lakerah worked in Robert Smith Ward, Gerontology and Psychiatry.

Lakerah feels that Nursing is a ministry and provides the opportunity to serve and learn throughout the continuum of life from our clients and their families. Many find the profession hard with limited benefits however it has proven to be most rewarding to help clients learn, grow, and recover and most sobering as you help them heal and grieve.

She was afforded an opportunity to present her bachelor's research thesis "Psychosocial Effects of Gambling on the Bahamian Society" at the Biannual Nursing Conference of Nursing Association held in the Bahamas 2007.

Her most compelling experiences are too many to mention but what always melts her heart is to hear from, or see a client who remembers the gentle touch, smallest act of kindness that she might have rendered.

Lakerah is trained in Patient Safety, Wound Care certified, Part-time Faculty at the University of the Bahamas, and a BLS instructor. She was awarded best speaker during the NACB's first debate and Runner up Nurse of the year for Sandilands. She served as Public Relations Officer of the NACB and was instrumental in launching the Association's website and reviving the newsletter. She also implemented the NACB Zumba classes. Lakerah holds a Masters in Nursing Administration from The University of the West Indies.

## ZENITH AWARDEES



### LAURALEE JOHNSON KEMP

Purpose driven, dedicated and a loyal Nurse leader with thirty eight years of nursing experience, Mrs. Kemp obtained a certificate in General Nursing in 1979 and a Certificate in Midwifery in 1985 from the from the School of Nursing Education

(Nassau, Bahamas). Later, realizing her leadership/management potential, she pursued and obtained a Certificate in Advanced Nursing Administration from The university of the West Indies

(Mona Campus) in 2004, and Master of Science Degree, Nursing Administration from The University of the West Indies (Mona Campus) in 2005. Mrs. Kemp has achieved many accolades and awards, including 1st Runner up in the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) PEP Award 2013 Leadership Award; this is a testimony to her invaluable service to nursing and as a true ambassador for PHA's mission and vision. Mrs. Kemp is a member of the Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and has served as The Assistant Treasurer. She is an active member at her church Resurrection Ministries.

Mrs Kemp is presently working in the position of Senior Nursing Officer and Area Supervisor in the Medical Area. Additionally, she has worked in Private Services, Surgical Area one and Maternity ward. With her excellent knowledge, skills and wealth of experience in nursing practices and strong leadership skills, coupled with her great passion and unwavering commitment to service excellence, she has effectively and efficiently managed the delivery of nursing services. Her track record of working in both the private and public services reflects outstanding managerial and leadership skills and significant contributions to achieving the goals and objectives of nursing and the institution. With a heightened appreciation for fiscal stewardship, as a past manager for Private Services and current manager for the Medical Area, she has achieved significant cost saving gains, while still ensuring the delivery of high quality patient care and positive patient outcomes.

Utilizing effective managerial/leadership skills, excellent human relations skills and outstanding mentoring skills, as a transformational leader, Mrs. Kemp is continuously inspiring and empowering all grades of staff to achieve significant awards. Hence, she has achieved excellence in effectively leading a team of nursing staff, developing and implementing strategies which contribute to the growth of our employees and the institution and improve patient care. Her goal is to extend herself to the highest, to ensure that the quality of clinical nursing service is par excellence.



### PAMELA B. SMITH

Ms .Pamela B. Smith began her Nursing career in 1996 at The College of The Bahamas where she graduated with an Associates of Science degree in Nursing in 1999. After she graduated, she was deployed to Sandilands Rehabilitation

Centre (SRC) to begin her "Life's work." There, during the past seventeen, she has worked on various

wards and serve on numerous committees, namely: Cruickshank and Mc Clennen Wards in the Geriatrics hospital, Podlewski, Male and Kline Ward in the Psychiatric hospital and The Detoxification Unit and at present, she is on the Lignum Vitae Unit of the Substance Abuse Area where she is the Ward Manager. She has served on the Emergency Response team, The Nurse's Recognition Committee, Strategic Planning Committee for SRC and The Department of Corrections Drug Treatment Team. She has also had the privilege of serving as the Institutional Nurse of The Year for SRC from 2003-2004. In January, 2016 She continues to train, completing The International Certified Addiction professional I (ICAPI) for the practice of Alcoholism and drug abuse Counseling. In December, 2015 she received a certificate of achievement in Advanced Supervisory Management at (UWI Bahamas Campus). In September 2014, she received a certificate of completion In Training and Certification Program for Drug and Violence, prevention, treatment and Rehabilitation (PROCCER) from (UWI). She is also a trainer for the Colombo program and is a (AHA) Basic Life Support Trainer at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.

Nurse Smith's commitment to her professional nursing organization has been unwavering. She has been a member of the NACB since completing her training as a Registered Nurse. Over the years, she has served on several Standing Committees, as well as a member of the Executive Board, having served as Assistant Secretary (2011-2012) and as Secretary (2013-2014). She deems her experiences as quite rewarding, having attended International conferences and representing the Association. She has travelled to Curacao, Taipei Taiwan, Singapore Scotland and London with the Association. She has also completed (ICN) Leadership for Change (LFC) program and is a trainer. She loves Nursing and desires that all nurses develop a passion for serving people and becoming members of their National Association.



## ZENITH AWARDEES

Nurse Smith is a member of First Holiness Church of God. She has one biological and two adopted daughters whom she describes as the joy of her life.

She sees herself as a catalyst for change and continues to utilize her knowledge, skills and attitude to create a therapeutic environment that is meaningful, productive and satisfying to her clients, their families, the staff and the wider community of the Bahamas.



### REBECCA JOHNSON

Rebecca Johnson is an experienced Senior Nursing Officer, who strives to deliver comprehensive, competent, compassionate, and culturally sensitive nursing care to all of her pediatric patients and their families. In addition to performing her duties as the supervisor for the Children's Ward at the

Princess Margaret Hospital where her primary focus are the personal and professional development of the staff members, as well as, health education and promotion for children and their families, Ms. Johnson is also an Associate Lecturer with the School of Nursing and Allied Health at the College of The Bahamas.

Nurse Johnson earned her Bachelors of Science degrees in Nursing and Secondary Science Education from the College of The Bahamas and her Masters of Science degrees in Health and Nursing Administration Nursing from University of Pennsylvania in 2003 also graduating as the first Bahamian Acute/Chronic Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and is presently in the third year of a doctoral degree program in Leadership at Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica.

Nurse Johnson has received numerous local and international awards for excellence in nursing. Local awards for nursing excellence, including, receiving an Appreciation Award for outstanding contribution to the delivery of nursing at the Health Care First Nurses Recognition Ceremony held in May 1999; receiving the Dean Of Nursing Award for being one of the first four persons to graduate with a Bachelor's of Science degree from The College Of The Bahamas in June 1999; Being the recipient of Exemplary Service Award as the Registered Nurse of the year for the pediatric department in May 2002 and May 2006, and a 2013 recipient of the Salute to Greatness Award for nursing service in The Bahamas.

International awards include receiving the Honor Society of Nursing Award from Sigma Theta Tau International in May 2003, and the Dean's Award for the graduate who epitomized the philosophy of the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania in May 2004, as well as, the Mavis Harney Award for the Caribbean Nurse who demonstrates excellence in nursing care in October 2006, and in September 2013 she was also selected to participate in the International Council of Nurses' Global Nurses Leadership Institute in Geneva Switzerland.

An avid believer in community service, Nurse Johnson is a founding member of the Adolescent Health Desk at the Adolescent Health Center, a founding member of the annual summer camp for children with diabetes, founding member of the Bahamas diabetes youth club, supporting member of the Bahamas diabetes association and an active member of the suspected Child Abuse And Neglect (scan) Team.

Additionally, she is an active member in community health outreach activities of the Adventist Health Professionals Association, and has served for a number of years as the Health Ministries and Special Needs leader of the Centerville Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Over the years, Nurse Johnson has also demonstrated enthusiastic support for all issues related to the nursing profession, and is an active member of The Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, having served as the Public Relations Officer from 2004 to 2006 and as the 2nd Vice President from 2006 to 2010.

Nurse Johnson believes that the future of The Bahamas is intricately intertwined with the wellbeing of the children and families and her lifelong objective is therefore "To enhance the quality of life for children and adolescents in The Bahamas through nursing care, education, modeling and benevolence."



### REVEREND (NURSE) JACQUELYN G. DEAN

Reverend Jacquelyn Glendina Dean (nee Wells) was born in New Providence Island of The Bahamas, and is the 2nd daughter of the late Mr. George and Mrs. Florence Wells. She obtained her early education at the Southern

## ZENITH AWARDEES

Senior High School, further general education studies at the College of the Bahamas and her professional nurse education in the Bahamas, Jamaica, England and the United States and holds a Master's of Science Degree with major in Bachelor Sc. Degree Nursing Education and Advanced Public Health Administration. Rev. Dean's professional careers spanned across three areas of government public service, comprising her career in Nursing Service with the Ministry of Health (MOH); career as a Nursing Lecturer and Chairperson at The College of The Bahamas; and career as a Deputy Hospital Administrator at the Public Hospitals Authority. This profile highlights some of the significant contributions made by Rev. Jacquelyn Dean to national development, and her dedicated service to the wider community and civic groups.

### **Her Contribution to National Development in Nursing**

Rev. Dean began her nursing career as a student in the first historical, structured programme of Nursing Education in the Bahamas held at the Bahamas Board of Health Preliminary Training School (PTS) 1, 1958. After graduating as a Staff Nurse/Midwife, Rev. Dean 'Nurse Wells' was transferred to Sandy Point Abaco government clinic. It was during her 5 years of service as an Out Island Nurse she got married and changed her name to Jacquelyn Dean. She also began her contribution to national development in nursing, not only contributing to the reduction of infants and maternal deaths on the Out Islands by the supervision of untrained 'Granny midwives' and approved local midwives, but also helped to find nurse human resource for outlying remote areas of the Abaco district of which she served. She searched out and recommended suitable young women in the local communities who completed the Trained Clinical Nurse Programme and returned back to their community to provide basic nursing care services. On returning from the Out Island Nursing service in 1970, Rev. Dean worked as a District Nurse supervising Trained Clinical Nurses postnatal home visits, and contributed to the strengthening of the postnatal service in New Providence.

As a newly qualified Public Health Nurse, shortly after returning home from completing studies in Jamaica in 1972, Rev. Dean was transferred to the Ministry of Health Department of Nursing Education as an assistant specialty nurse clinical teacher. She contributed to the preparation of the first group of Bahamian educated Community Health Nurses for the Public Health Department, who completed the historical Ministry of Health first specialty Community Health Nurse Education Programme implemented in 1973. This marked the early beginnings of Rev. Dean's career in nursing education. She was committed to the advancement of Community Health Nurse Education

in the Bahamas and became the first qualified Community Health Specialty Nurse Educator (Tutor) in the Bahamas (1979). Funded by a scholarship from the World Health Organization, she completed studies in the United Kingdom as a Health Visitor Tutor (Community Health Nurse Educator). Rev. Dean's qualification contributed to the credibility of the Bahamas specialty nurse, Community Health Nursing (CHN) Education Programme's recognition by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for funding students from selected Caribbean nations to study in this programme. She became the Coordinator of the CHN Programme contributing to the education of Community Health Nurses (CHN) for the Bahamas and other participating PAHO sponsored Caribbean nations.

After completing her 2 years Masters of Sc. Degree studies in the United States of America with major in Bachelor of Sc. Degree Nursing Education in 1985 she continued to contribute to preparing and supplying CHN graduates for the Bahamas Ministry of Health (MOH) at the MOH Bahamas School of Nursing between 1985 and 1987. In 1998 her focus began to shift to coordination of the Registered Nurse (RN) Education Programme when she was appointed as Part Time Coordinator for the College (UB) of the Bahamas Associate of Arts Degree Nursing Programme housed in the College's Natural Science Division Oakes Field Campus. During this year she led a Special Project Curriculum Development Team in amalgamation of the MOH RN Diploma Nurse Programme curriculum and the College of The Bahamas Associate of Arts Degree Nursing Programme curriculum into an advanced Associate of Science Degree Nursing Programme curriculum, which was later approved by Nursing Council and the College of the Bahamas Academic Board. In 1991, Rev. Dean became the first Assistant Chairperson of the newly established Division of Nursing and Health Sciences Campus with the historical Bahamas government transfer of all of the Nursing Education Programmes from the Ministry of Health Administration to the College of the Bahamas Administration. Upon retirement of the Chairperson, a year later, Rev. Dean was elected Chairperson. Her trailblazing milestone national developments in advancing nursing education at the College (UB) of the Bahamas in her leadership role as Chairperson, with the assistance of the Assistant Chairperson and nursing faculty include working through the transition challenges which was a slow and difficult process: (1) of seeking out, interviewing, recommending and getting approval to employ nursing faculty to resolve the shortage, especially of Students Clinical Preceptors, (2) developing a ten year succession plan for faculty development and replacement attrition due to retirement, (3) forging new horizons in beginning to format the Ministry of Health Nursing programmes into the

# ZENITH AWARDEES

College (UB) of the Bahamas courses and credits semester based system offering: (a) reorganized the Midwifery Diploma Programme into the College format of courses and credits which was approved by all relevant persons and implemented in 1993, (b) completed an evidence based proposal for a BSN Programme, following a Site Visit (Chair and Assistant Chair), to the University of the West Indies Advanced Nursing Education Department, and a 100% support survey finding results of public and private Registered Nurses (RN) views on the implementation of this programme, (c) led the curriculum development and gained the relevant approval for the 1995 implementation of a Bachelor of Science Degree Nursing Programme for RN Diploma and Associate Degree RN graduates. This was a major national development as these RN's no longer had to go abroad to study to obtain a BSN Degree. This step also provided the foundation for the College Nursing Department's move towards the future development and implementation of a 4 year Generic Bachelor of Sc. Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Programme. Most importantly, Nurses now began to receive In-service Awards to pursue their BSN studies at the College (UB) of the Bahamas, (d) drafted Outlines for a Trained Clinical Nurse Programme which were left on file, and which formed the foundational structure for the future development and implementation of a Trained Clinical Nurse Programme at the College (UB) of the Bahamas. Rev. Dean also made the significant historical required changes to the Associate Degree Nursing students (1) Pregnancy policy, amendment based on the NIB Maternity Leave Regulation, students could no longer be dismissed from training as a result of pregnancy and (2) Uniform Dress Code, based on COB legal advice, this policy was amended to add specific uniform dress requirements for Muslim and other similar religious groups entering the College's (UB) generic Nursing programme. She also contributed to The Nursing Department's ground work in the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding Document between the College of the Bahamas and the Ministry of Health, which resulted with the initiation of meetings. She led the development of a Draft Contractual Agreement and participated in discussions with Doctors Hospital Ltd. Nursing Department Team, regarding the Hospital agreement to become a Clinical Learning Site for the College (UB) of the Bahamas Nursing students.

## **Her Contribution to Other National Developments**

(1) With respect to the prospective Health Sciences Programmes offerings, she led ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Health Team regarding the Drafting of Associate Degree level curriculae for Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Occupational Health and Medical Technology. (2) As Chairman of the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth

of The Bahamas, the legislative Body for the Regulation of Nurse education and Nursing practice in the Bahamas, Rev. Dean (a) led the completion work of the draft document, Revision of the Bahamas Nursing Council Nurses and Midwives Act and Regulations, following input from Town Meetings with Nurses at the Nurses Association, College of the Bahamas Nursing campus and at the Rand Hospital, Freeport Grand Bahama (b) She served on the Team Evaluating the first offering of the Community Health Nursing Programme within the College of the Bahamas, recommending strengths and weaknesses of the Programme to be corrected before the next offering. (3) Rev. Dean is an External Examiner for the Nursing Council Examinations of the College (UB) of the Bahamas CHN students' graduates. (4) As a retired Consultant Community Health Nurse (CHN) Educator she contributed to national development in the preparation of a newly qualified CHN Educator to become a Programme Coordinator during the 2008/2009 CHN Programme's offering at the College (UB) of the Bahamas, meeting a serious deficit in the ongoing education of Community Health Nurses.

## **Her Involvement and Commitment to Civic Service**

Rev. Dean's involvement in community work and civic service are numerous. They include: (1) A founding member and Trustee of the College of the Bahamas (UB) Union of Tertiary Educators (UTE), (2) past Chairperson of the Education Committee of the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, (3) past member of the Public Hospitals Board of Directors, (4) past member of the Board of Directors of Temple Christian Schools (5) Present Leader of her church Prayer Ministry, (5) past President of Aglow International Northern Caribbean Area Board, overseeing six nations local chapters, travelling conducting leadership training and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. (6) Chairperson of the New Providence Steventon Exuma Commonage Committee Group, (7) Board member of the Bahamas Global Impact Prayer Network. She has received many Awards and Recognitions for dedicated civic service.

Rev. Dean has four daughters, three sons -in - law and six grandchildren. She was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in 2013 and appointed as Pastor of Prayer. As a Christian woman of God she is passionate about mentoring the next generation and about prayer and has written a new book titled "Prayer Warrior: Called Trained and Commissioned to Battle". She has a legacy of excellent leadership in nursing, significant contributions to national development and continued dedicated commitment of service to her church and the wider community that younger nurses and the next generation of men and women to emulate.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## ROSA MAE BAIN (NEE GODET)

State Registered Nurse,  
State Certified Midwife,  
Public Health Nurse,  
Nurse Epidemiologist,  
Former Principle Nursing  
Officer for Public Health  
Department, Former  
Managing Director National  
HIV/AIDS Centre

Mrs. Rosa Mae Bain has enjoyed a career in nursing that has spanned five decades having served at every level of the profession before retiring in 2010. Highlights of her career include service in all areas of Princess Margaret Hospital and the Department of Public Health including many of the Family Islands.

Being part of the first graduating class from the Princess Margaret Hospital to study in the United Kingdom under Reciprocity, Rosa Mae returned to the Bahamas as a State Registered Nurse (SRN) and State Certified Midwife (SCM) in 1968 and was shortly promoted to Nursing Sister in 1969. She worked in all areas of Princess Margaret Hospital and was the first Hospital Pediatric Liaison Officer with the Department of Public Health. She subsequently became the first Department of Public Health Nurse to be trained in Epidemiology. She went on to set up the Department of Public Health Surveillance Unit.

In 1978 Rosa Mae began a new phase of her nursing career with the Department of Public Health as a Community Health Nurse. Willing to go to any length to ensure that her patients received the highest quality care available Nurse Bain has been credited for the success of projects such as: Control of Diarrheal Disease in Children Under Five Years of Age, The Anti-Malaria Campaign, The Anti Pollution Study (Grand Bahama), KAP HIV/AIDS Study, Sero-Prevalence HIV/AIDS Study, HIV/Vertical Transmission Study, the Prison Health Study as well as many other initiatives that were vital to the health of her fellow Bahamians.

Mrs. Bain, even in retirement, is known nationally as "the AIDS nurse," and it is a moniker she wears proudly. Her contributions to the cause of HIV/AIDS in the Bahamas have been documented in numerous national and international publications including: Mobilizing Nursing Leadership for Primary Healthcare (ICN), KAP Study HIV/AIDS Bahamas, Vertical Transmission; Nursing Manage-

ment of Persons With HIV/AIDS. She has been recognized for her part in the Bahamas best practice of HIV Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission. Mrs. Bain has received accolades and awards over the years for her many contributions to healthcare and community service and she continues to embody that spirit of selfless and generous service to others.

Mrs. Bain is married to retired Grand Bahama Businessman David Bain, they have three children: Candace, David and Jonathan, one son-in-law Julian Bostwick and three precious grandchildren Bailey, Meryl Wyatt and Bayne.



## SARAH J. DUVALIER- TURNQUEST

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Department Of Public Health

Sarah Turnquest has served in the nursing profession for forty years.

She obtained her Registered Nurse Diploma from the Ministry of Health, Bahamas School of Nursing in 1981, then received an in-service award and successfully completed the Midwifery Program at The College of The Bahamas (COB), School of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals. This was the first year that midwifery was offered at COB.

Mrs. Turnquest received a Bachelor of Business Degree from Omega College, St Thomas University. A Family Nurse Practitioner, The University of West Indies, Nurse Turnquest is currently deployed at The Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health .

Nurse Turnquest is a member of Bahamas Harvest Church where she is a participant in a group ministry.

Her hobbies include listening to inspirational music and reading.

She is the proud mother of four children and three grandchildren: Dario, Carlton, Karann, Crystal, Dario Jr, Christopher and Ulrick.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

### SHAMEL SANDS

On August 26, 1970 Shamel Yvonne Sands was born to a single, teen mom (who had received no antenatal care) in the family home. Statistics seemed to indicate that under such circumstances a bright future would be nothing short of a miracle. What statisticians could not account for,

was the indomitable spirit and influence of the maternal family matriarch in the person of her grandmother, with whom she would spend her formative years.

Fast forward 17 years (Seventeen years later) and statistics aside, the infant (Shamel) successfully completed high school. The initial journey into her passion, a career in the nursing profession commenced on October 19, 1987. Upon completion of her diploma in 1991, she returned to Grand Bahama, where she provided stellar clinical service throughout the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH). As she rotated throughout the hospital, individuals recognized her love of learning and ability for sharing knowledge. During her second rotation (2001-2002) to the Accident and Emergency Department she was asked to chair the department's Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) committee; thus, some would say, beginning her "formal" career as a nurse educator.

In February 2002, Shamel answered the call to open the new CNE Department, becoming the first CNE coordinator at RMH. This new position required additional management knowledge and skills, hence her completion of the Professional Managers Certification at the College of the Bahamas (University of the Bahamas) in conjunction with James Madison University in 2003. The certification only whetted her appetite however, as her hunger for new knowledge and skills grew. Consequently, in 2006 she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing – Post RN with First Class Honors, and in 2007 completed the Master of Science in Nursing Education with distinction, both from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica. The latter credential served as a qualifier for becoming the first trained Nurse Educator in Grand Bahama Health Services. Upon returning to the RMH she developed and implemented the first Graduate Nurse Preceptorship Program, where new registered nurses received one-on-one guidance and support during the first several months of their transition period. This program remains operational over a decade later!

The year 2009 was a year for new beginnings, and after 18 years at RMH, the desire to expand her horizons and contribute to nursing as a lecturer at the School of Nurs-

ing and Allied Health Professions, University of The Bahamas (UB), formerly College of The Bahamas was realized. For the past 8 years she has sought to facilitate learning by utilizing strategies such as the "flipped classroom," a type of blended learning that reverses the traditional learning environment by delivering instructional content, often online, outside of the classroom; use various interactive online learning /sharing platforms such as Blackboard and MOODLE where videos, power point presentations, other course resources and real time feedback are available to students "24/7" and transformation of the Management and Leadership in Nursing course into Shamel's Management and Leadership Institute. She has served as Nursing Department Head (2015-2016), and in this position led the most recent review of the generic BSN program contract of study. Shamel has written/co-written new courses and continues to review current courses in the generic BSN curriculum at UB, and has also provided international impact as contributor to the Study Guide for Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing by Hinkle and Cheever as well as the Health Assessment in Nursing textbook by Weber and Kelley in 2014.

In addition to her numerous contributions to nursing/nursing education in The Bahamas, Shamel has helped to both inform and advance national policy and subsequently national development through her contributions as Director, Public Hospitals Authority Board (2012-2017), the Qualitative Study on Barriers to Human Capital Accumulation and Beneficiary Assessment: Bahamas (2012), commissioned by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of The Bahamas; and October past was co-presenter of a paper on the health of inmates in the Bahamas Department of Corrections. Now as an Assistant Professor, reflection is given on her illustrious 30 plus years in nursing even as she is about to embark on yet another new beginning - doctoral studies.

She thanks God for her gifts and the privilege to serve; she thanks Him for each family member, friend, colleague and student who have all shaped her life and career in some way. She especially thanks Him for and dedicates this award to three outstanding women: Nurse Mavis R. Rolle, her grandmother ("mommy") for the value system that she draws from daily so many years after her death; her "teen mom" Angela Rolle-Sands for her courage and sacrifice required to ensure that the statisticians were wrong; and finally, but certainly not least, her daughter Shavonne Sherman who has been her source of strength and encouragement for the past 27 years. She encourages you to PUSH -Pray, Plan, Proceed, Persevere and Praise Until Something Happens!

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## SHARON R. MORLEY

RN with 30 years' experience. (Critical Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Pediatric, Psychiatric, Emergency Room and Nursing Education). She presently serves as the Coordinator for Continuing Nursing at Grand Bahama Health Services.

Statement of objectives is to be an efficient and effective Leader in Nurse Education and Health Care delivery; while maximizing her, intellectual, spiritual economical and interpersonal potentials.

Personal skills and Characteristics include; Principle centered leadership, she is an excellent team player, self-starter, possess excellent inter-personal skills and exceptional skills in critical care Nursing.

Professional highlights include; In-house Training of Junior Nurses in critical care nursing. Played a pivotal role in the first pulmonary artery cauterization in GBHS ICU; Coordinated 1st introduction to intensive care nursing program by GBHS; Formulated 1st preceptor ship program for nurses in the ICU GBHS; Clinical preceptorship for Nurses in the Intensive Care unit. Research in cocaine use in the Bahamas, the relationship to the home environment and marijuana use in teenagers; factors that contribute to strokes for the patients admitted to the ICU GBHS and The factors that influence the retention of Nurses in the Bahamas.

She is a Certified Critical Care Nurse; Certified Instructor and Committee member for The Emergency Room Tool belt (Health Resources Unlimited, USA); Certified Instructor for the World Health Organization's (WHO) Mental Health Gap Action Programs (MhGap). She is a Graduate of the "Leadership for Change" program by the International Council of Nursing (ICN) and the College (now University) of the Bahamas, a one year Leadership Development Programme and later became the first Certified Instructor for this prestigious program from the island of Grand Bahama.

She has served as the Training Site coordinator and Instructor for the American Heart Association (AHA) for over 10 years. As Site Director for Grand Bahama Island, responsible for the oversight of all AHA courses taught on the Island, She is a Certified Instructor for food safety. Certified in Addiction Studies, post graduate program offered by UWI in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Center for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) Canada. She completed her Certified Professional Manager designation through The James Madison University

in conjunction with the College, now University of the Bahamas. She attained Master Mentor certification offered by the Royal College of Nursing.

Part of her community involvement includes conducting Heart saver, First Aid, CPR to various schools, churches, social, religious and corporate organizations to include the Northern Branch of the Physically Disabled.

She is actively involved with The Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, having served as the Local Branch Chairman as well as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. She is a member of the Grand Bahama Health Services PHA, Disaster Preparedness, Emergency Room Triage, Research and Educational Committees. She has received numerous commendations related to organizational learning. Her number one hobby is traveling which has taken her throughout the Caribbean, Central South and North America, UK and Europe.



## SHEELA JOY VETTICKAL

Born in India on 31st May 1966 to Mathew and Annamma I am third of four children. I grew up in a Christian Catholic home which led me to join the Student Christian Movement during junior and high school. I was also named as we say in India a 'leader' which means a prefect during my grade five.

I attend primary, junior, senior school and DB College in Kerata India before going to Sri Padmavathi School of Nursing from 1986 to 1990. My hobbies include: cooking and entertainment, mainly watching television. My favorite programs are world news and TV shows. After my nursing training in November 1990; I married Joy Mathew. We have three children; two girls and one boy.

I worked in my home Town India for eight years before going to Africa; where I worked for two years: then Lybya where I worked for seven years. I applied to the Nursing Council of the Bahamas in 2002, received registration in 2004 and a contract in 2007. Set out on a journey far from home I travelled to the Bahamas very excited. I began work at Princess Margaret Hospital in September 2007 where I am still employed. During my rotation I worked throughout Princess Margaret Hospital which was a great experience for me. I am presently attached to Burns and Wound Care Unit. In 2013 I received employee of the year award. My experience was and still is great working at Princess Margaret Hospital and I do love living in the Bahamas.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## SHERRY ARMBRISTER

Born to the parentage of Bishop Norris and Matriarch Mother Irene Dawkins in Nassau Bahamas and the 5th of 6 children. A graduate of A.F. Adderley Class of 1977. Commenced a career in Nursing on the 17th October 1977. Completed a number of post basic training

including Midwifery and Community Health Nursing. Mrs. Armbrister completed a Nursing Leadership Course sponsored by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). She further obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration with concentration in Public Administration. Mrs. Armbrister ascended to the post of Senior Nursing Officer within the Department of Public Health.

Skill sets include Voluntary Counselling and Testing Trainer, Certified Caribbean Trainer of Trainers, excellent communication and interpersonal relations skills, as well as, entrepreneurial, public relations, customer service and mentorship skills.

Managerial positions held include, coordination of healthcare services in the long Island Health District, Abaco Health District Coconut Grove Clinic, Fleming Street Clinic, Postnatal Home Visiting Services, Hospital Liaison, Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic, The TB Programme, Prison Health Services and New Providence Clinics and Areas.

Mrs. Armbrister is married to Mr. Henry Armbrister Jr. and the proud mother of three children. Attend New Destiny Baptist Cathedral. She has served as part of the leadership team and Vice President of the Women's Ministry and member of the Health and Wellness Committee. A member of the Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and President of A.F. Adderley Class of 1977 Old Scholar's Association.

Mrs. Armbrister philosophy is, to treat others the way you would like to be treated. Her vision for healthcare in the Bahamas is, "For all persons, regardless of status, race, religion or political affiliation, to receive Timely and Comprehensive healthcare services with respect and dignity, within a professional environment."



## THEDA WALKINE GODET

Principal Nursing Officer  
PMH (Retired)  
A Career Built On Service  
& Excellence

Theda Godet was a quiet but determined graduate of Government High School when she began training as a student nurse in 1957.

With the support of peers and mentors she excelled, and in 1959 she was given the opportunity to train in England thanks to the late Ms. Hilda Bowen who was instrumental in making the necessary arrangements. Father Calnan and the St. Barnabas family also deserve recognition for their assistance to her parents with the finances.

After seven years in the United Kingdom, Theda returned home to New Providence in 1966 as a State Registered Nurse and State Registered Midwife. As Ward Sister (NOII), she managed nursing care on wards throughout Princess Margaret Hospital and Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.

She returned to England in 1971 completing a program in Hospital Administration at the Royal College of Nursing. Upon her return to Princess Margaret Hospital, she was promoted to Nursing Officer I and then Senior Nursing Officer for the Maternity Ward and subsequently for Maternal & Child Health.

1986 Theda Godet assumed the role of Principal Nursing Officer at the Princess Margaret Hospital, providing leadership to nurses at the nation's largest hospital. As PNO, Theda served on the Hospital's Executive Management Team, on the Nursing Advisory Committee with the Director of Nursing, and on The Nursing Council of the Bahamas. Having completed a career of distinguished service and skilled nursing administration, Theda retired in 1999 after thirteen (13) years.

Upon retirement, Theda continued to give back to the career that had given her so much. She was appointed Registrar of the Nursing Council of the Bahamas, with the responsibility of carrying out the instructions of the Council and performing other activities as mandated by the Nurses and Midwives Act. 1973. This she did with excellence for eleven years.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

While there are many nursing icons, peers and friends whose support and assistance allowed her to succeed, Theda's family has never been far from her thoughts throughout her career, most especially her late parents George and Mary Walkine, her husband John, her daughter Donna, her son-in-law Darcy and her granddaughter Dionne.

Theda is proud of the Nursing Profession specifically to its growth and development internationally and locally. Her vision focuses on the area of Research, Nurse Practitioners and Specialists functioning fully as team members in Health. As Health Care relies on team work; and Nurses are key members, she believes mutual support, cooperation and respect are important and vital to the final outcome of a healthy, happy and productive Bahamas.



### VALERIA R. RAMIREZ

Nurse Valeria R. Ramirez finished her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1981, as Cum Laude, from the University of Northern Philippines. Subsequently, that same year, she passed the Philippine Licensure Examination for Nurses.

Armed with passion to share her knowledge and eventually mold nursing students into becoming Professional Nurses, Nurse Ramirez started her Nursing Profession as Clinical Instructor in her Alma Mater.

In 1985, with the lure of overseas employment in the Middle East and in Libya, she joined the 5,000 Registered Nurses recruited by the Philippine government to work in those countries. Her experience in Libya as a young overseas worker, enhanced her personal and professional outlook as a Nurse. This opened her eyes that cultural diversity has a tremendous effect towards nursing practice in particular and the Nursing Profession in general. Her assertiveness and leadership potentials were highly appreciated by the Hospital Administration in Sabratha Teaching Hospital. She was given the position of Surgical Department Secretary and later on assigned as Hospital Secretary. As such, she handled all hospital Statistics, Reports, assisted in the weekly Con-

tinuing Medical Education Program, and was responsible for communications inside and outside the hospital.

With the demand for Nurses, there was a need to train local Nurses hence, Nurse Ramirez and the other foreign nurses were asked to train the locals in the nursing practice and with the English language. The result was very satisfying, as the number of qualified local Nurses increased every year.

After years of fruitful experience, she decided to settle back in the Philippines where she focused on clinical teaching. She taught Nursing Subjects and followed up the students in the Clinical Area with special follow-up at the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital.

As an Educator and recognizing her years of experience in the Nursing Profession, Nurse Ramirez has left a mark with her Alma Mater, such that she was honored as Commencement Speaker at the Graduation Ceremony of the College of Nursing, University of Northern Philippines, where she is now presently enrolled in Master of Arts in Nursing with the Open University Program of the same University.

The opportunity to work overseas was so strong that she decided to apply as a Registered Nurse at the prestigious Princess Margaret Hospital in 2004. She was fittingly assigned to her chosen field – Medical-Surgical Nursing at Male Surgical Ward 2, then to Male Surgical Ward 1 and presently at the Male Orthopedic Ward. She appreciated the warm acceptance and till now, she is still enjoying the camaraderie among the staff. With pride, she believes that Teamwork is the by-word in Surgical Area 1.

Nurse Ramirez strives to maintain a harmonious relationship with her colleagues and strives to keep her Ward involved in hospital events and represented in every Nursing Initiative. She accepts wholeheartedly any task that is asked of her outside of her nursing portfolio. She believes that doing anything beyond the call of duty is essential in giving back to your Institution and to any organization.

Nurse Ramirez appreciates the efforts of the Bahamas Nurses Association in uplifting the Nursing Profession. She is a member since her arrival in the Bahamas and is supportive and cooperative in every undertaking of the Association.

Inspired by the then President of the Bahamas Nurses Association, Mrs. Ampusam Symonette, Nurse Ramirez



## ZENITH AWARDEES

presented a Research Paper: "Retrospective Study of Traumatic Cases Admitted at PMH from 2001-2005, held in October 2006 at Atlantis, Nassau, during the 25th Silver Caribbean Nursing Organization Conference.

She keeps the Filipino Nurses in the Bahamas, updated of the events of the Association and encourages them to always be represented and involved in every function and event.

She is indeed very thankful and humbled for being nominated for Outstanding Services rendered to the Bahamas Nurses Association. She heartily hope that this will be an inspiration for other Foreign Nationals like herself to extend their participation, get involved and give back to the Association a little of what they can beyond the Call of Duty. Besides, she says: "Gratitude is the language of the heart."



### ANTONIQUE BULLARD

Ms. Antonique Bullard is a 2015 graduate of the University of The Bahamas, with a Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Nursing. She has served as the former President of the Student Nurses' Association 2014-2015 and

has continued to pursue involvement in other civic organization thereafter. In December 2015, she continued her endeavor as a Registered Nurse, gaining employment at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Center. She believes that the career part of nursing chose her and that it is not simply a profession but a calling. Currently, Nurse Bullard is an executive team member of the Research Committee for Sandilands and has assisted with hosting the first Research Day Symposium held in June 2017. She is an enthusiastic individual who is passionate about raising health awareness and spends her time at various events promoting mental health awareness to the community. She believes in making an impact where ever she goes regardless of the amount of time she is there. In addition, she has a passion for volunteering her time and talents in her work environment and as she has assisted at the Eloise Penn Tea Party for two consecutive years.

Additionally, Nurse Bullard is an active member at her

church, Life Changers Ministries International, where she currently serves in the Medical Ministry, the Media Ministry, the Dance Ministry and the Youth Ministry. Serving as a youth minister, she finds a joy in motivational speaking to troubles teenagers at schools, churches and has also used her experience to motivate teens with challenges while working on the Child and Adolescent Unit. Nurse Bullard finds true joy in uplifting others through liturgical dancing and has ministered in dance at various events at work such as, the 50th Anniversary Service, the Thanksgiving Service and the Mental Health Symposium.

She presently works on the Robert Smith Unit in the Day Room where she also incorporates dance therapy in the program to give stimulation to her clients. She truly believes in using her gifts where ever she goes and lives by the scripture (1 Peter 4:10) "each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (NIV). This vibrant and energetic individual also finds time for recreational activities such as writing poetry and reading. Nurse Bullard's motto is "always remember to have the heart of a servant but the spirit of a leader



### LILLIAN CHARLTON

Nursing Services Advisor  
Public Hospitals Authority

Mrs. Lillian Charlton was born in the quaint, beach front and picturesque settlement of Pirates Well, Mayaguana. During her formative years she received her educational foundation in Mayaguana thus providing the impetus for her future undertakings. Her educational prowess was accomplished when as a quiet student she worked assiduously to ensure that the learning experiences were maximized to achieve the absolute best results.

Mrs. Lillian Charlton began her Nursing training October 16th 1978 at the Bahamas School of Nursing graduating in 1982 with a diploma in Nursing. This achievement was the start of her journey into a rewarding and exceptional career. Mrs. Charlton was then assigned to the Rand Memorial Hospital, Grand Bahama where she settled in the Emergency Room. As she had discovered her niche in Emergency Nursing, Mrs. Charlton continued providing exceptional service in the Emergency Room upon reas-

## ZENITH AWARDEES

signment to the Princess Margaret Hospital in August 1983. It was here that as a result of hard work, dedication and overt commitment, Mrs. Charlton became the Unit Manager and in 2001 excelled to become the Area Manager for the Ambulatory Care Department. This movement was also accompanied and supported by the relevant promotions from Nursing Officer 11 to Senior Nursing Officer.

In July 2008, Mrs. Charlton was promoted to the Deputy Principal Nursing Officer for the Princess Margaret and in 2015 became the third Nursing Services Advisor to the Public Hospitals Authority. Mrs. Charlton is a strong proponent for the preparation of nurses and support staff for effective and efficient functioning. She demonstrates a commitment to empowering nurses through training and practice.

Mrs. Charlton successfully completed the Master of Health Administration in 2001 which culminated a very impressive journey in her educational pursuits. In 1994 she completed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a major in Nursing Administration and in 1993 completed the Certificate in Nursing Administration, both at the University of The West Indies, Jamaica. In 1989, Mrs. Charlton received a diploma in Midwifery and in 1986 completed the Trauma Nurse Specialist Certificate Course. She completed the Bahamas Ministry of Health First Line Management Certificate Course in 1984. Mrs. Charlton has served on the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for three years.

An avid Baptist, Mrs. Charlton worships at Zion Baptist Church East and Shirley Streets where she also serves as President of the Adult Sanctuary Choir. She is married to Rev. Reginald Charlton whom she acknowledges as playing an extremely important part in every aspect of her life.



### EULIE LECKY

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way" John C. Maxwell

Eulie Lecky a Senior Nursing Officer at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre began her nursing career in 1977 as a registered nurse after completing

nursing training from the Bahamas School of Nursing. Her nursing journey began at the Sandilands Hospital where she worked diligently as a quiet nurse committed

to clinical excellence. Her clinical experiences has been in the geriatrics, substance and addictions units and psychiatry where she worked diligently to perfect her nursing skills in providing exceptional care for clients. She later pursued clinical specialization in psychiatric in 1986. As a result she have been proficient in the delivery of care to client and families and continues to provide that clinical expertise guidance to novice nurses and managers to improve patient care delivery. Mrs. Lecky was promoted to SNO in 2013 and is deemed an exceptional leader with extraordinary delegation, interpersonal, organization and strategic planning skills in the areas of nursing that she over sees. Currently Mrs. Lecky has oversight of the Child and Adolescent, Robert Smith Unit, Podlewski, New Eloise Penn and the Renovated Eloise Penn Units.

Mrs Lecky has served with distinction for over 10 years in an administrative nursing role. Her nursing journey spans over service leadership in gerontology, acute and child and adolescent psychiatry nursing services. She has work on numerous nursing and institutional committees to assist in the development of directing nursing services and succession planning. Currently, she serves as a member of the Eloise Penn Tea Party Committee and the Public Hospitals Authority SAVE committee. Also served as a examiner for the Nursing Council of the Bahamas from 1994 -2009 and an Invigilator for the Council from 2010 -2013. Mrs. Lecky has received several honors and awards throughout her nursing career such as Outstanding Nurse manager 2010 from the Sandilands rehabilitation Executive management committee and a finalist for Star Award Competition in 2009.

Under her leadership two wards/units have received awards namely: Transforming care at the bedside, and Discharge planning poster competition. Of honorable mention another ward under her leadership was recognized for its exceptional performance for mediation compliance, safety programs initiatives and no incidence initiatives. Additionally this same ward won department of the year in 2014 under her leadership. Further under her leadership numerous institutional awards were awarded to her committed staff that she encourages to excel and to promote the standards of nursing in the care that they deliver. She has also assisted in the development of policies, standards of practice and staff competencies.

Mrs. Lecky has successfully completed the supervisory management course and master mentorship program

## ZENITH AWARDEES

and other personal and professional development courses to enhance self efficiency. She is a assertive leader , one who is admired by staff and admonishes those who work with her to give their best. She is an able analyzer who thinks through complex situations and is adept in evaluating the needs for those under her supervision. Additionally she demonstrates sincere interest for professional development, a good communicator with interpersonal skills, team player, reliable, thorough and ultimately professional.

Mrs. Lecky nursing career has been dedicated to creating high quality, reliable systems of care and developing the next generation of nurses and health care professionals to lead in these ever-changing times. She emanate qualities of an exceptional nurse leader.



### FAYE JOHNSON

SENIOR NURSING  
OFFICER , SRC

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of true education" Martin Luther King Jr.

Faye Johnson a native of Governors Harbour, Eleuthera, graduated from Windermere High School in 1989. She began her nursing career in 1990 at Bahamas School of Nursing where she obtained a Diploma in general nursing in 1993. After completion of nursing school she was deployed to the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre where she worked diligently in gerontology, acute and transitional psychiatric units. She later completed an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing in 1996 and Bachelors of Science in Nursing in 2001 from College of the Bahamas.

Ms. Johnson continues to strive for excellence in clinical practice and wanted to impact nursing practice through nursing education hence, she obtained a Nursing Teaching Certificate with distinction from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia in 2004. As a result of the nursing education interest she was appointed as Coordinator of the Trained Clinical Nursing Program at the College of the Bahamas from 2005-2007. In this role, she was diligent and committed to helping students realize their dream in becoming the best enrolled nurses that they can be to impact clinical outcomes. Ms. Johnson believes that nurs-

es should always strive to be the best that they can be, to improve themselves professionally to enhance clinical practice and patient satisfaction. Her zeal to improve professionally motivated her to enroll and to successfully graduate from the first Master Mentorship Program from the Royal College of Nursing. In her quest to impact psychiatric practice she attended the University of the West Indies and graduated from a Master of Science Degree in Mental Health-psychiatric nursing Practitioner programme in 2011.

Ms. Johnson is a dedicated nurse and seeks to assist in committee and program development to improve psychiatric practice. Such commitment and clinical excellence has lead to her being promoted in 2007 to Nursing Officer II and later Nursing Officer I in 2012. A dedicated nurse to patient care Nurse Johnson organized the First Annual Love Day and summer bus rides for the client of the Male Psychiatry unit to enhance holistic care to those clients. She is passionate and enthusiastic about provide quality care for clients and this is showed in her zeal to promote mental health. She coordinated the First Sandilands Staff Ball and was the Chairperson for the 100 Day Challenge for Nurses. Additionally, Nurse Johnson has served on various committees: Remodeling of Acute Psychiatric Strategic Services, Continuing Nursing Education, Nursing Process, Nursing Research, Eloise Penn Tea Party and Suicide Day Committees.

Ms. Johnson continues to provide continuing education sessions to staff and families. She has attended local, regional and international conferences and presented at the NACB conference on "Innovation in Mental Health" in 2013. A Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Trainer and Adjunct Faculty of the University of the Bahamas she continues to display her commitment to imparting knowledge to staff and students. Ms. Johnson was instrumental in development of the Public Hospitals Authority first psychiatric nursing program curriculum for registered nurses.

Currently she serves as a Senior Nursing Officer at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, Clinical Nurse Leaders Group chairperson, Assistant Coordinator of the Public Hospital Authority Diploma program for registered nurses and member of the mental health team for Family Islands that provide mental health services and education of clients, families and communities to the islands of Exuma and Long Island.

Ms. Johnson is an active member of St. Mathews Anglican Church and serves as Assistant Treasurer of the Church's Women Branch and member of the Senior Singing Choir and she has one daughter.

Ms. Johnson believes that "nursing is an art for all those who would embrace its unique abstract features".

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## HELEN JOHNSON

Helen Johnson is a Senior Trained Clinical Nurse with over thirty-four (34) years of nursing services, the majority of which have been spent in service to the clients of the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.

She has worked in all areas of mental health services, inclusive of three Geriatric Wards, clients with physical and mental challenges, children and adolescents, acutely ill female and male clients and clients with chronic mental health disorders.

Ms. Johnson is a psychiatric mental health nurse who is very compassionate about her work with clients in the mental health settings. She is a committed and dedicated nurse who goes above and beyond to make clients feel wanted and supported. This is very much evident in the many celebrations she plans for her clients inclusive of Easter, Christmas and birthday celebrations.

Ms. Johnson is also an advocate for rehabilitation as she ardently ensures that clients participate in various activities including the SRC Annual Junkanoo Parade, The Eloise Penn Annual Tea Party and Walkathon, The Annual Geriatric Push Athon and other activities.

In her clinical practice, she thoroughly plans care for her clients using the nursing process, she teaches them coping skills, conducts therapy sessions in group and on an individual basis.

Ms. Johnson is a pleasant, considerate nurse who is known for ensuring that the environment is therapeutic for the clients and has a special knack for developing therapeutic empathetic relationships, dealing with and educating families and use of deescalating techniques for dealing with difficult or aggressive clients. She has very good observational, documentation and reporting skills and uses them effectively in managing her clients while using the holistic approach to nursing practice.

Nurse Johnson uses every opportunity to learn hence she completed the Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing program in 2004. She has received numerous awards namely: certificates of appreciation and outstanding and dedicated services. She is a professional both in manner, demeanor and appearance and stands out as a role model for peers and clients. She takes every opportunity to mentor younger nurses regardless of their status.



## MARLEEN MARTINBOROUGH

Mrs. Marleen Martinborough began her nursing career in December 1989 where she begged to be deployed to Sandilands Rehabilitation Center. She told her supervisors at the time, "The mentally ill deserves a great nurse too". She is a

knowledgeable, enthusiastic and committed Mental Health Nurse with 28 years clinical experience working with children, adults and the elderly. She strongly believes that knowledge fuels change. Therefore she pursued a Masters degree and became the Bahamas first Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She is a member of the first cohort of Columbo plan a group of International Certified Addiction Professional, She also holds certifications as a Basic life Support Instructor, National Parenting Program Facilitator, Certified Wellness Coach and Moral Recreation Therapist.

She continually strives to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness in the community. Therefore provides assistant in the provision, guidance and direction in matters pertaining to the practice of mental health nursing in areas such as policy, program development and strategic planning. This passion drives her to provide much needed community outreach. lectures/ presentations to schools, churches and the media. She spends her time volunteering in Mental health promotions and outreach initiatives with agencies such as S.T.R.A.W Inc. for girls and L.E.A.D Institute for males. Also, she assisted in Family Island youth mental health outreach programs, Youth Violence prevention program and coordinated workshop and training for guidance counselors, Health and family life educators and Chaplains. She continues to be a sort after speaker national and internationally as an ambassador for education related to mental health illness

It is her dream to establish a Mental Health First Aid Bahamas Chapter which equip the community in the early identification of mental illness. Mrs. Martinborough presently serves as Senior Nursing Officer. She is happily married and the mother of two sons.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

### NARONA MILLER



Narona Miller began her nursing career in 1976 at Bahamas School of Nursing where she obtained a diploma in general nursing in 1979. After completion she was deployed at the Princess Margaret Hospital for three years and in 1982 was transferred to the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.

Ms. Miller is a committed, caring nurse who has worked diligently in the areas of gerontology and psychiatric areas. In her strive for excellence she completed the May Flower Management Course in 1985 and the MOH- Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Program in 1986 and was promoted to Nursing Officer 11 in 1998.

Ms. Miller despite her quiet demeanor, has excellent organizing, delegation and managerial skills. She has a special knack for knowing staff and their personalities for good staff mix and relations, all in the best interest of the clients. Her interpersonal relationship and communication skills have helped her to develop good working relationships with clients and staff.

Nurse Miller is very skillful in the area of strategic planning and played an active role in the implementation of the transitional and forensic nursing services initiative with the aim of improving patient care while being managed by competent and knowledgeable nursing managers.

A psychiatric mental health nurse, who believes strongly in giving quality patient care, Ms Miller does her utmost to ensure all staff under her leadership also believe and incorporates this philosophy. She is focused and makes the most valuable use of her time.

She is an advocate for education and uses every opportunity to teach and mentor staff members, at the same time encouraging them to attend educational sessions and acquire additional qualifications that would assist them in giving quality patient care. She too takes every occasion to learn and has successfully completed a course in Addiction Studies and the Public Hospitals Authority Master Mentorship and Supervisory Management, all of which she has implemented in her day to day interactions and supervision of staff. Ms. Miller's commitment and dedication earned her the title of Nursing Officer 1 in 2013.

Nurse Miller is an enthusiastic, inspiring nurse who is an excellent role model and the same is very obvious by her

professional behaviour and attire. Her optimistic outlook allows her to always see the good in others and she uses this positive quality in her interaction with staff and clients.

She has been recognized by the Public Hospitals Authority for 40 years of service and by the Sandilands Rehabilitation Center for outstanding and dedicated services.

Ms. Miller because of her experience and expertise is a member of the committee for the remodeling of Psychiatric Nursing Services, the Renovated Eloise Penn Ward Committee and the Forensic Committee.

She is also an active member of The Eloise Penn Tea Party and Walkathon committees. These are initiatives that are used to generate monies for the Eloise Penn Scholarship Fund for the educational advancement of nurses. Ms. Miller is responsible for overseeing the Scholarship fund and does an excellent job with ensuring that all monies are accounted for and the funds are used for the designated purpose. She is also a member of the senior nursing staff social club committee whose aim is to give gifts or monies to senior staff members who are ill and who may have experienced some loss as a result of death, personal or natural disasters.

Ms. Miller was promoted to Senior Nursing Officer in 2016 with responsibility for two transitional care wards.

She firmly believes "The character of the nurse is as important as the knowledge she possesses" Carolyn Jarvis



### PAMELA MCKENZIE

Nurse Pamela McKenzie is an excellent clinician, team player and independent thinker. She began her nursing career in 2000 after graduating from the College of the Bahamas with an Associate degree in Nursing.

She was deployed to the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre and have worked on numerous wards namely McClennen Ward, Female Ward, Kliene Ward, Male Ward and the Renovated Eloise Penn Ward. Nurse McKenzie is excited about providing nursing care to clients, assisting nursing students, colleagues and staff to improve patient care and satisfaction.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

She is a diligent worker who believes in patient engagement and family support this is evident in the committed efforts to educate client about their illness and encouraging family to offer support to client to improve patient outcomes and overall life improvement.

Pamela is diligent in the development of fostering avenues to enhance staff working relationships through the development of social engagement initiatives to enhance staff comrades and reduction of stress management.

She adheres and encourages adherence to institution policies and seeks to provide insight into current trends to improve the overall development of the staff and patient environment.

Nurse McKenzie is a clinician at heart with the overall goal to provide the best care and clinical excellence. This has been shown in her numerous certificates such as discharge planning, and M Gap.

Mrs. McKenzie was awarded clinical excellence on McClennen ward, Renovated Eloise Penn ward and Female ward. Her aspiration is to follow in the steps of her senior nursing officers Mrs. Alerine Miller and Ms. Faye Johnson who demonstrate clinical excellence consistently and is committed to the highest standards of quality nursing care.



## THELMA MCKENZIE

A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." Rosalynn Carter

Thelma McKenzie is a leader who is making a profound impact on nursing and nurses at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Center. She is a wife, mother of two sons and a member of Calvary Bible Church which she attends regularly. Her foundation and strength for her commitment to leading, mentoring and developing those she serves is her belief in an all powerful and

merciful God whom she puts first in her life.

She presently serves as the Principal Nursing Officer of the Nursing Services Department, Sandilands Rehabilitation Center. As a servant leader Ms. McKenzie has embraced the concepts of Quantum Leadership determined to take mental health nurses and nursing in the Bahamas to a level of excellence comparative to all levels of discipline where it ought to be.

A leader of innovation and change, Ms. McKenzie provides strategic direction and visionary aspirations as foundation for growth and development in practice and relational networks to enhance mental health care delivery.

Ms. McKenzie began her nursing career in 1981 at the Bahamas School of Nursing after receiving a Diploma in General Nursing. After completion of nursing school she was deployed to the Princess Margaret Hospital, Intensive Care Unit and in June 2005 she was transferred to the Sandilands Hospital where she worked diligently in the geriatric and psychiatric settings, placing great emphasis on meeting the psychological needs of the clients.

Ms. McKenzie has contributed significantly to the area of substance abuse, being one of the first nurses to serve in the new Detoxification Unit which opened in 1999. She has been the recipient of numerous awards for clinical excellence and leadership. Namely: The Eloise Penn Award for excellence in psychiatric nursing, Ministry of Health and Leadership of Excellence Award, First Line Management programme -Ministry of Health 1997.

The environment of mental health and relational further inspired her to understand people and inspire them to perform to their best. Her personal aspiration is to strengthened individual performance through engagement and autonomy.

The commitment to improve the foundation of nursing care propelled her to return to the halls of learning, determined to understand more about the profession, standards and achievement of excellence in care delivery. Ms. McKenzie believes that "no one goes left behind"

As an inspiring leader Mrs. McKenzie has served in various capacities. In 1997-1999 she performed as a lecturer for the MOH Trained Clinical Nurse Program, chairperson for the Ethics, Policy and Procedure Committee, The Nursing Process Committee and Continuing Nursing Education

## ZENITH AWARDEES

Committee. These committees lead to the development of substantive nursing initiatives. Additionally, Ms. McKenzie was also chairperson for the psychiatric nursing Advisory Board MOH Psychiatric Program in 2008 and Co-chair to the psychiatric Nursing Advisory Committee PHA 2016.

Ms. McKenzie completed many special projects in nursing not limited to providing oversight of the Quality Indicators (Incident and Accidents data), fiscal review and analysis of overtime requests and supported the Nursing Executive Team with research initiatives and practice. One of her goals to bring structure to nursing care was realized through her diligence in working on the Public Hospitals Authority Standards of Practice in 2008. This has governed the general Standards of Practice for general nursing.

Her eagerness to influence others through motivation was demonstrated by her love for promoting nurses and nursing support staff during the Nurses Month activities and assisted in formalizing the structure of the Care Givers Association. Under her leadership the Principal Nursing Officer Clinical Excellence Award was established and presented during the Nurses Month Activities 2009, for Registered Nurses and Trained Clinical Nurses. She also advocated for models of care in Mental health, strategic planning, establishing a Nursing Research Unit at SRC and the use of Clinical Advocacy Practice (CAP) in 2014.

As a Bahamian nurse executive Mrs. McKenzie determination to lead in a time of constant change excelled from her many achievements to include: Associate Degree in Psychology and Sociology College of the Bahamas 1993 and Associate Degree in Nursing, 1995. Mrs. McKenzie love for nursing led to her achievement of Bachelors Degree in Nursing 2000, College of the Bahamas, and Masters of Science Degree in Nursing Administration, University of the West Indies 2005. Other educational pursuits and achievements include completion of the Certificate in Post-Basic Program in Psychiatric Nursing 1992, successful completion of the First Line Management Program and numerous leadership programs: the National Substance Abuse Program, Certified Family Life Educator with the University of the West Indies, and The Royal College of Nursing Master Mentorship program.

Additionally, Program Development, Nova Southeastern University, 2014, Arizona State University Tran discipline Fellowship in Innovation Leadership 2013-2014. This fellowship allowed Ms. McKenzie to experience health care settings in North Carolina, Boston, Massachusetts, Phoenix, Arizona, Washington DC and San Francisco, California;

the PAHO and WHO Productive Management Methods in Health Services 2015; Nursing Leadership with PAHO in conjunction with the University of Miami-, Leadership for Change, Virtual Tutoring Online Environment 2016

Ms. McKenzie serves as member of the World Federation of Mental Health, American Psychiatric Nurses Association, National Association of Development Disability and Gerontological Society of Nursing..

In addition Mrs. McKenzie has attended numerous national, regional and international conferences in substance abuse, nursing leadership and management conferences and seminars. In 2015 she presented at the ICN nursing conference in Seoul.

Serving as a mentor to the Leadership for Change, Mrs. McKenzie continues her dedication to developing, engineering and promoting quality, reliable health care systems for the advancement of the next generation of psychiatric nurses to lead in these ever-changing times. She emanate qualities of a phenomenal global nurse leader, who believes in leading with others in mind, the value of diverse opinions and that everyone contributions are important. A humble leader, who is empathetic, listens and has very good decision making skills. Her focus is on developing leaders, teaching others to lead and providing opportunities for growth and development. She strongly believes that as nurses there should be a culture of evidence based practice based on nursing theory as a foundation for mental health practices.



### PRINCE FORBES

Prince Forbes began his nursing career from the Bahamas School of Nursing after completing the Trained Clinical Nurse program under the Ministry of Health in 1993.

Mr. Forbes nursing career spans over 25 years of experience in surgical, medical and psychiatric nursing. Currently, he works on the New Eloise Penn Unit and assists in the efficient running of nursing services to clients. He emulates professionalism, dedication and thoroughness that set the pace for nurses to be proud of. He is indeed an exceptional and committed nurse.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

Mr. Forbes is a Deacon in the Johnson Park Seventh Day Adventist Church, a certified Pathfinder and serves as the Health/Safety Leader and counselor. In his capacity as a Pathfinder he assists with changing the lives of young persons of the Simpson Penn School for Boys and Willimae Pratt School for Girls and enrolling them into the pathfinder organization and the community.

Additionally, Nurse Forbes assists with counseling of persons and meeting their needs particularly, those residents at Senior Citizens Centre such as Mary Ingraham and Persis Rogers homes. Further Nurse Forbes assists with the provision of food and clothing for families in the community and those in need.

He also assists with family Support groups at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre which educates families; provide counseling and referrals as needed. Nurse Forbes is indeed a hard working professional that encourages others to help those in need.

He is also a role model for up and coming young men who may be thinking of choosing nursing as a career as he is a professional in both manner and appearance. He exudes enthusiasm for the nursing career and thinks of it more like a ministry than an occupation.



## SEAN BULLARD

American pastor and author John Maxwell states that "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way" these are simple words that speaks volumes, but an expression that he has used for years to inspire not only his standards of leadership and man-

agement but also his attitude towards helping others outside of the work place well, it is his persona because the quality of a leader is first reflected in the qualities a leader first sets for himself.

His name is Sean Bullard and he is a graduate of the College of the Bahamas, presently the University of the Bahamas and he began his nursing career here in the Bahamas where he was born and raised under the strong guidance of his mother, who is also a Registered Nurse, Midwife and Certified Nephrology Nurse and

who from a very young age taught him among many things the importance of caring for others and to keep studying so that he can be a leader of worth!

Mr. Bullard is presently deployed at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre as a Staff Nurse and Training Manager on the Maximum Security Unit but he began his career on the female acute psychotic ward "Podlewski Ward" where he was only the second male nurse to work there since its opening in 1996 and he quickly proved himself to be one of the vital assets to the ward.

He quickly learned that he had a skill for calming disturbed clients through talk therapy and positive interactions that left some of his colleagues speechless! He proved himself to be an enthusiastic and confident young leader who is committed to excellence and uses every opportunity to increase or enhance his clinical skills and knowledge and encourages his staff members to do the same. He always place great emphasis on giving quality patient care and maintaining high standards.

Mr. Bullard is a focused, innovative individual, who concentrates on making the most valuable use of his time. Hence he is always searching for new initiatives to enhance patient care, staff performance and self development. He has completed numerous Continued Nursing Education hours as well as completing the Colombo International Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction professionals Echo Training. He also does his best to assist in his community where He is a member of International Free and Accepted Modern Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star a Lodge in which they hold charitable events to assist children and the elderly across the Bahamas and indeed across the globe!

Mr. Bullard's intentions were always to create a lasting positive impact on both patients and staff and as a young male nurse to become a positive role model for up and coming male nursing students so that any who would follow would be inspired to continue to uphold the institution's policies and provide and advocate for holistic nursing care with the pride and respect as he has done and will continue to give while continuing on his path to becoming a great leader.



## ZENITH AWARDEES

### SHANTELL POITIER



Mrs. Poitier is the wife of Mr. William Poitier Jr. and the mother of three beautiful children. She started her nursing career in 2006 after completing an Associate Degree from the College of the Bahamas. She is deployed to the Sandilands Rehabilitation center and currently works

on the Renovated Eloise Penn Ward as a Nursing Officer II. Shantell exuded her enthusiasm for nursing through the care that she delivers to her clients. Her career spans with a wealth of clinical excellence while stationed on acute, transitional and long term stay units in Sandilands.

This was translated in her development of the safety corner on Kliene ward and she also received first place recognition in the Transforming Care at the Bedside for the Renovated Eloise Penn Ward and The Public Hospital Authority Performance Pillars for the Kliene ward and third place in Transforming Care at the Bedside on Kliene ward. Nurse Poitier is a critical thinker that seeks to engage staff to excel in duties and has implemented initiatives to improve clinical practices in acute psychiatry.

She is an avid professional, that demonstrates effective communication, knowledge and clinical skills and is direct in providing guidance to students and peers to improve overall clinical outcomes and competence. She has been awarded nurse of the year in 2008 from McClennan ward and again in 2010 from Kliene award. Nurse Poitier believes in clinical excellence and it is exemplified in the nursing care she provides to her clients. She is passionate, committed and consistent in the delivery of care she provides to families and clients. She has various certificates such as rehabilitation nursing, master mentorship and supervisory management. She is known to participate in various institutional committees. In May 2017 she was awarded her bachelor degree in nursing and recognized for outstanding academic achievement award.

Her academic goal is to obtain a master's degree in nursing administration in the near future. She is also committed to assisting in the development of initiatives and programs to promote mental health and eradicate the stigma associated with mental illness. Nurse Poitier's motto is "To provide the care that you would want to receive and only excellence can be manifested".

### ELOISE ROLLE



"Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance." "That which ordinary men are fit for, I am qualified in and the best of me is diligence." "What we hope ever to do with ease, we must learn first to do with diligence." Samuel Johnson

These words aptly describe Ms. Eloise Curtis-Rolle who seeks diligently to perform at an extraordinary level with every task that she performs. Ms. Eloise Curtis-Rolle joined the Nursing Profession in 1999 after the completion of studies at the College of the Bahamas and qualifying through the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as a Registered Nurse (R.N). She joined the Nurses Association shortly after completing and being successful in her Nursing Council exams and remains a member to present.

She has served on various committees and has held several posts within the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas inclusive of: 2nd Vice President 2014-2016, Membership, Educational and Research and Public Relations Committees.

Ms. Rolle was the chairperson and committee member of the 1st Inaugural Zenith Award Presentation and Ceremony of the Nurses Association of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas where 100 nurses were honored in 2014 under the Leadership of Past President Ms. Kateca Graham.

Early in her career as a Registered Nurse, she worked a short time at Princess Margaret Hospital and then joined the team of the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre in 2001, where she has worked in all areas of the institution inclusive of: Geriatrics Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital, Substance Abuse and Child & Adolescent Units. She was responsible for the daily management of clinical areas addressing patient care needs.

A Registered Nurse by profession, Ms. Rolle presently works in the capacity of Safety Manager 1 within the Corporate Offices of the Public Hospitals Authority. In this role, Ms. Rolle has shared responsibilities of prevention, education, training and ensuring that all patients' staff and visitors are in a safe environment at all times.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

Ms. Rolle is governed by this saying by Carleen Noreus, 2015 which states; "Impossibilities are nothing -think infinity; leaders must be tough enough to fight, tender enough to cry, human enough to make mistakes, humble enough to admit them, strong enough to absorb the pain, and resilient enough to bounce back and keep on moving."



## SHANTELL FARRINGTON- FERGUSON

"It's a beautiful thing when a Career and a passion come together."

In 2005 I joined the Nursing Profession, and later worked under Nurse Margaret Datson in the Chronic Non Communicable Disease Program. Nurse Datson was an excellent mentor who inspired me to become a Diabetes Educator, and I was able to attend many Diabetes Educators Conferences abroad. That is when my passion for Diabetes Education began. I also had the privilege to work along with Podiatrist Dr. Monique Mitchell. This then broaden my scope of practice and aided me in helping clients to make lifestyle changes and improve their health outcomes.

I also assisted in many trainings, seminars and Diabetes education in the Department of Public Health and The Diabetic Research Institute. In time I became a Food Safety instructor, Clinical Trainer and a Certified Master Pedicurist.

In the local communities of Adelaide and Gambier where I served, I was able to organize a few programs along with the staff: Jump Start Your Heart 2017, Taking a Second Look, Foot Care Education and Glaucoma Education.

During the Jump Start Your Heart Program, it was so encouraging to see at the community walk one of our 70+ clients leading the pack every time, and never missed a day of the program. The clients' results were amazing. With the weight lost came favorable results: blood pressure medications decreased, blood glucose decreased and the good cholesterol followed.

The staff and clients alike were enthusiastic about the things they were learning, shared them with others, and were even more thrilled when they saw their results. The Community Programs inspire hope and ignite changes.

Giving the clients hope and helping them to manage their disease is among the best gift we can ever give them. So my hope for The Department of Public Health is that we will soon have a Podiatrist in the Public Health system to care for the feet of our many Diabetics, and a Self-Management Education Program in all clinics. This should further inspire hope and ignite change.

Research in medicine is continually advancing. Becoming ill and being treated are only part of the picture in health care today. More professionals and lay people are putting the emphasis on preventive medicine, doing everything possible to stay well and healthy. My goal is to be a part of that health care team.



## DOREEN BUTLER MSN, PMHNP Nurse Practitioner

Doreen is an Associate Professor at University of The Bahamas.

She began her career at The Bahamas School of Nursing; Sands Lane in October 1977.

She has worked in Psychiatric setting for 11 years before moving on to nursing education.

Born on Long Island and attended the Simms All Age School, obtained a scholarship and moved to New Providence. She attended Saint Andrews High School then began her career in Nursing.

- Daughter of Margaret Smith and Lawrence Butler.
- Mother of Marilyn, Melinda, Dorian and Dustin.
- Grandmother of Miguel, Mekayla and Milana.
- Personal Motto. *Pursue, persist and prevail.*

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## CHERRY MARTIN



Mrs. Cherry Martin Knowles, from Montreal, Canada, fluently bilingual in English and French, married with 2 lovely boys ages 21 and 15 yrs old. I love sports, played softball, was part of a swimming club in the summer months and figured skated and skied during

the winter months. Growing up as a little girl, I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. Both my parents were in the medical field, dad a perfusionist and mom a nurse. I love helping people in every way possible and I knew nursing would be a great career for me.

I graduated from nursing school in 1986 and worked as a paediatric nurse at the Montreal Children's Hospital for 8 yrs. In June of 1994, I was offered a managerial position as an outpatient nursing supervisor which I accepted and moved to Ontario, Canada where I spent 4 years. In May of 1998, I was offered a nursing opportunity at Doctors Hospital which I accepted and presently remain employed.

I started working at Doctors Hospital on June 2, 1998 as a registered nurse on the medical surgical unit. Shortly thereafter, I became a charge nurse and within my 2nd year, I was offered a position as Care Manager.

In 2004, I became the Nursing Project Manager and facilitated with the implementation of new medical programs and systems within the hospital. During that time, I implemented a surgical program which brought international physicians and patients to our facility for procedures on a monthly basis for 8 years.

Presently, I am the Patient Advocate for Doctors Hospital. I am responsible for ensuring all patients' medical and psychological needs are met during their stay in hospital. I work closely with all the physicians being the liaison between them and their patients. I facilitate all patient evacuations to other hospitals as deemed necessary.

I truly love and continue to have a passion for what I do to help people in any way I can.



## CHERYLN BAIN

Principal Nursing Officer –  
Grand Bahama Health Services

Ms. Cheryl N. Bain was born to the late Nathaniel and Lula Bain in the quiet settlement of Long Bay Cays Smith Andros Bahamas; she is the twelfth of fourteen siblings.

Ms. Bain completed her secondary education at the R. M. Bailey Senior High School in Nassau, and obtained a diploma in Registered Nursing from the Bahamas School of Nursing.

Ms Bain further pursued Midwifery practices in 1986, followed by Community Health Nursing in 1989, enabling her to practice on numerous clinical areas in Hospital as well as in the Department of Public Health.

Further studies were completed at Nova Southeastern University and at the University of the West Indies.

Ms Bain was appointed to her current position as Principal Nursing Officer in August 2002, and currently serves as a member of the Executive Management Committee of the Grand Bahama Health Services and other numerous National Health Committees.

In her spare time she enjoys reading, traveling and mentoring young people.

Ms. Bain serves as the director of Christian Education at Jubilee Cathedral, Freeport Bahamas under the divine tutelage of Bishop Godfrey and Minister Iris Williams.

Ms. Bain has a passion for Nursing and attributes her career successes firstly; to God and secondly to her parents and siblings who were always very supportive, through prayers and words of encouragement.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



**DR. DEBORAH FOX**  
**(Ph.D)**  
**(NEE BASTIAN)**

**MY MOTTO:**  
"Touch a Life to Make a  
Positive Difference"

Born to Mr. Hilton and Mrs. Florinda Bastian in Nassau Bahamas, she is the 2nd of 6 children. She is a graduate of Aquinas College class of 1974. Married to Paul Fox I and is the proud mother of three sons: Dr. Paul Fox II – Public Hospital's Authority (PMH), Dr. Jason Fox – Department of Public Health (FGC) and Mr. Angelino Fox – a Manager (Atlantis Hotel) and the grandmother of eleven (11) adorable grandchildren.

**NURSING CAREER** – Her Nursing and Academics courses included the following Courses: Registered Nurse Training (October 21st 1974 – October 1977) Bahamas School of Nursing; Midwifery (1980) Bahamas School of Nursing; Community Health Nursing (1981) Bahamas School of Nursing; Advance Nursing Administration 1994 at the University of the West Indies UWI (Jamaica); Leadership for Change – 1990's (Nurses Association); Basic Life Support Training (Emergency Response/CPR Certification) – New Providence (recent renewal May 2017; Leadership in Negotiation – September 2014 – (International Council of Nursing); Nursing Leadership for Caribbean Nurses (Self Learning Virtual Course) organized by Pan American Organization (PAHO) in collaboration with the Virtual Campus for Public Health (VCPH) and University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING** – Masters Business Administration (MBA) – Public Administration Degree – January 2006 (McHari Institute) in partial fulfillment of this degree: Research Topic: "The Expanded Programme on Immunization in The Bahamas" 1980 - 2003: It's Effectiveness and Health and Social Implications (Completed December 2003); Doctoral Degree of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership (PhD) – Organizational Leadership 4th December 2011 (McHari International College). Research Topic: "The Impact of Legal versus Illegal Gambling in The Bahamas"; Master Mentorship Workshop – School of Nursing (February 26th – 19th April 2013) sponsored by the Public Hospital's Authority in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing (United Kingdom); Computer Skills & Training; Introduction to Computers, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Ac-

cess, Publisher, Power, Point, SPSS, Epi Info 2000 & 2002 Integrated Public Health Information Systems (PHIS) and numerous other short courses.

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Clinic Assignments:- Bilney Lane Clinic (1978); District Nursing Services 1979; Postnatal Clinic (1982); Blue Hill Rd. Clinic & Matthew Town Clinic (1982); Spanish Wells in 1983; BHRC 1983 – 1990 (Harbour Island – 1988); Flamingo Gardens Clinic – Assistant Supervisor (1990 – 1992); Comprehensive Clinic – Supervisor (1993 – 1994); Chest Clinic (1994 – 1996); Coconut Grove Clinic – Supervisor (1996 – 1999); Program Assignments:- National Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) as the National EPI Coordinator/Manager – May 1999 to May 2006; Public Health Information Systems (PHIS) as the Project Manager April 2006 – 2012; New Providence Nursing Supervisor 2012 – February 2014; Office of the Director of Nursing February 2014 – September 2016; Family Island Nursing Supervisor – September 2016 to present.

**Family Island work Experience:** Bimini (1977); Rock Sound (1980); Grand Bahama (1981); Inagua (1982); Harbour Island (1989); Harbour Island (2000) and Exuma 2016. She also visited all major Family Island Clinics except Rum Cay in order to conduct the Expanded Programme on Immunization Training/Supervision and iPHIS Training.

**OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:** Lab Information Systems - Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) Liaison Officer for the Department of Public Health from 2009 – 3rd February 2014; Agency Communication Information Officer – (Department of Public Health) appointed by Department of Information Technology (Ministry of Finance) 2011 -2014.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Introduced the MMR Vaccine – Postnatal women on Maternity Ward (2000); Introduced the Pentavalent Vaccine - July (2001); Numerous Country Presentations at Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Manager's Meeting: "Implementation of the Integrated Measles/Rubella Surveillance System" at the 16th EPI Manager's Meeting in St Kitts/Nevis in 1999 (> 100 delegates were in attendance); "Social Awareness of Immunization Methods and Approaches" at the 17th EPI Manager's Meeting in 2000 (Martinique) Information faxed: "Vaccination of Children with Special Conditions: HIV Infection/Sickle Cell Disease" 18th EPI Manager's Meeting in 2001 in the British Virgin Islands (> 100 delegates); "Community Management of Hepatitis B Positive Cases – Role of Vaccination" and "Measles/Rubella -Update Bahamas" at the 19th EPI Manager's Meeting in 2002 in St. John's Antigua (> 100 delegates); "MMR/Rubella: Countries Experience" at the 20th EPI Manager's Meeting in 2003 in Curacao – Netherlands Antilles (> 100 delegates);

# ZENITH AWARDEES

"Influenza Vaccine: Country Experiences" at the 21st EPI Manager's Meeting in Belize City – Belize in 2004 (>100 delegates); "Vaccination Week in the Americas: An Overview" at the 22nd EPI Manager's Meeting in Bermuda 2005 (>100 delegates); Presented a paper at the CNO Conference – 23rd October 2006 at Atlantis Paradise Island, The Bahamas (> 500 delegates); Topic: "The Impact of the Expanded Programme on Immunization in The Bahamas 1980 – 2003"; Attended the 23rd EPI Manager's Meeting – Suriname 13th – 17th November 2006; Assisted with the revision of the forms for the Country's EPI Evaluation; EPI Awareness Week - 2nd – 7th Annual EPI Symposia (1999 -2005); MMR Follow Up Campaign - September 2003; Immunization Evaluation - Belize (2003) as an International Consultant Evaluator; Vaccination Week in the Americas 2003 – 2005; Coordinated EPI Evaluation along with the External Evaluators spare-headed by Dr. Beryl Irons (CAREC) – The Bahamas (February 2006); Conducted numerous radio and TV Immunization talks shows (Bahamas), EPI Training of staff members – New, Orientation and staff on Rotation: Medical Students, Interns, Nursing Students and other categories of staff; Assisted with the Immunization Programme Assessment – Belize 2011 an International Consultant; Attended an Alcohol Consumption Workshop – Mexico City (September 2012) – as The Bahamas' Representative and presented: "Unrecorded Alcohol Consumption) – Panel Discussion (> 200 participants)

Dr. Fox is also involved in many in many Religious and Civic groups.



**PHILABERTHA  
LOUISE CARTER**  
RN, SCM, CHN, MPH

Mrs. Philabertha Carter is a 1971 graduate of St. John's College; The Bahamas School of Nursing (1974); Cresswell Maternity Hospital of the South West Scotland College of Nursing and Midwifery

(Scotland) (1978), and the University of the West Indies (Mona 1994).

Mrs. Carter worked as Staff Nurse and Midwife at Princess Margaret Hospital; Nursing Officer II and Supervisor of Community Clinics on two Family Islands; Supervisor of Post-Natal Home Care Nursing Service; Lecturer for the Community Nursing Programme and the Associate Degree Nursing Programme at the College of The Bahamas.

She has also served as a member of the Health and Family Life Education Council, Co-Chairperson of the Family Planning/Reproductive Health and Maternal Health Technical Advisory Committees; Programme Coordinator for the National Family Planning Programme; Project Coordinator for Maternal Health and subsequently served as Maternal and Child Health Coordinator. She later served as the first Coordinator of Programmes for the Ministry of Health's National Health Programmes and Head of Special Projects in the Planning Unit of the Ministry of Health.

She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Public Hospitals Authority for two and a half years; and member of the Board of Examiners for the Nursing Council for many years. She also served on the Executive of the Nurses Association as Chairperson of the Education Committee for several terms. She was appointed to the Nursing Council in 2001 as Deputy Chairman and later appointed as the Chairman in 2003 to 2007.

In addition to conducting training sessions over the years for nurses, physicians and health support staff in the use of the Perinatal Information System (SIP) and for Reproductive Health and Family Planning, she was a short term PAHO Consultant for SIP in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She was a Trainer of Trainers for the Logical Framework Methodology (PAHO) and was the Project Manager for the Integrated Public Health Information System (i-PHIS) at the Department of Public Health. She is a Mentor and Counselor for numerous persons including staff members. She has attended many local, regional and international Conferences on Population and Development; Millennium Development Goals, Reproductive Health, Hospitals Accreditation and Information Systems. Countries visited in the line of duty include Scotland, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Chile, Uruguay, Panama, Canada, Puerto Rico, USA and Japan.

She was awarded the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Silver Jubilee Award for contribution to National Development (Nursing) in 1998 and the Pan American Health Organization Health Hero Award in 2002.

Mrs. Carter currently serves as Director of Projects at the Corporate Office of the Public Hospitals Authority. This Office has the oversight for numerous projects some of which included the introduction or upgrade of Automated Information Systems for lab, pharmacy, patient information systems (Keane), Cancer Registry, and Materials Management.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

The largest of the Projects which Mrs. Carter is currently overseeing is the integrated Health Information Management System (iHIMS) Programme. The iHIMS will allow the Government's Healthcare Sector to have, for the very first time, a One Patient : One Record Electronic Medical Record throughout the 3 Hospitals and the 118 community-based clinics spread across New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family of Islands. The iHIMS will also address Pharmacy, Radiology, Supply Chain Management and General Financials and will be integrated with the Laboratory and Surgery Information Systems. The rollout of the iHIMS is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2018.

Mrs. Carter is the daughter of the late Rev. Aubrey and Mrs. Maggie Carter of Meadow Street. She is married to Carlin Carter Sr. and is the biological mother of two sons and has two other sons and is also a very proud grandmother of 13 grandchildren.

Mrs. Carter attends Holy Cross Anglican Church where she has served on the Church's Vestry for several terms; the Pastoral Committee and the Prayer Group. She is also a Prayer Counselor and is blessed to be considered a woman of God. Hobbies are mentoring and counselling; reading; listening to gospel music, and cooking.



### ANNA M. HALL

In March of 1960, Anna Miller began her nursing program in England. She was afforded this great opportunity because of her demonstration of excellence in her academic pursuits up to that date. As no surprise, this same level of excellence

was carried into her nursing studies and in 1963 she came first in her class in England as a State Registered Nurse. Being the first Black non English woman to achieve this, it is recounted that there was no prize awarded that year, as had been the usual practice. Not discouraged, Miss Miller furthered her studies and in 1965 became a State Certified Midwife.

Having married a Bahamian who had not yet completed his studies in Law in England, Mrs. Anna Hall advanced

her career in England and served as a Nursing Sister in England before returning to The Bahamas with her husband. Additional studies in the field of nursing include, a Certificate in tropical Diseases from London University, and later on, a Certificate in Community Health, and a Certificate in Advanced Nursing Administration from the University of the West Indies.

"Nurse Hall" as she affectionately was called by the people of West End, Grand Bahama, The Bahamas, began her work for the Government of The Bahamas' Ministry of Health in 1972. For fourteen years, in the quaint fishing village of West End, she dutifully was on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, no vacations or weekends off. This no doubt led to her achieving the record of delivering or assisting in the deliveries of the most children in the Country, having delivered almost 2200 babies to date. There was a break from Midwifery in 1987, when she was transferred to the Island's main hospital to work in an Administrative capacity. She retired from the Rand Hospital in 2000 as Senior Nursing Officer. During her career she also served as Treasurer for the Grand Bahama branch of the Nurses' Association for many years.

Post retirement has given her the opportunity to return to her first love in nursing, midwifery. She is a private Midwife and midwifery consultant and the irony of time is now allowing her to in many instances, deliver the children of the children she delivered years before, particularly those from West End. Nurse Hall is also available for other private nursing duties. This mother of four, grandmother of 8, widow of 22 years, avid Church of God of Prophecy member, co-founder of the West End Conch Pearls Softball Team, marathon walker, graceful woman, has found fulfillment in her life's work. She has been the first touch to many newborn babies, she has cared for the sick and the dying, she has done her part as Jesus admonished for God's last and least.

Her most telling example of love and dedication however has been to her family. Anna was dutifully married to her husband, the late Moses Hall, former PLP Member of Parliament for West End, a relationship that lasted almost thirty years. And this relationship bore fruit with four children, Kevin (Blondie) and Peter (Natasha), born in England, and Damien and Faith born in an Independent Bahamas. A next generation also springs forth as she is grandmother to eight, Italia, Dahria, Perissa, Peter Jr., Kevin Jr., Cynthia, Moses & Clifton.

## ZENITH AWARDEES



### ANTOINETTE L. CUMBERBATCH

RN, RM, CHN, CHRM, NOI,  
BLS, CPR & SERVSAFE  
INSTRUCTOR,  
VCT COUNSELLOR,  
mh GAP T.O.T

Antoinette Beckford was born in Nassau, Bahamas. She is the last of nine (9) children born to the late Oscar Joel and Earma Irene

Beckford. She commenced her education at Uriah McPhee Primary School, C.I. Gibson Secondary School and completed her basic Education at R. M. Bailey Senior High in June of 1985.

She later begun her Nursing Career in October 17th 1985 at the Bahamas School of Nursing and after three (3) years of training graduated as a Registered Nurse. She was the recipient of the Hazel Darling-Wells Surgical Award which is afforded to the Most Outstanding Nursing Student in the Surgical, Emergency and Operating Theatre Areas. For Antoinette, this was the beginning of an outstanding Nursing Career which has spanned over thirty-two (32) years.

Being an ambitious High Achiever that she is, Antoinette pursued Post Graduate Training in Midwifery and Community Health Nursing at the College of the Bahamas now the University of the Bahamas and was on the Dean's Honour Roll. She also attended Colombia Southern University through the then College of the Bahamas qualifying herself as a Certified Human Resource Manager. Her quest to become a well-rounded Nurse led her to further pursue a vast variety of training and attend numerous workshops and seminars including but not limited to Department of Public Health & PAHO Child Health Symposium, 21st Century Leadership Seminar, 24th Caribbean E.P.I Manager's Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago, Department of Public Health & the Royal Bahamas Police Force family Life Education Training in S.T.I Management at the First Encounter, Management Skills for First line Managers, Performance Appraisal, Psychological First Aid Assessment (Bahamas Red Cross), Initial Damage Assessment Context Course (NEMA) and the Competency Based Education Workshop for Midwives.

Antoinette is Bahama Host Trained and was also a lecturer for this training. She is also a part time Lecturer at Bahamas School of Innovative Health Care Professionals, Training Concept Management Solutions Institute and Sojourner Douglas College (former). Nurse Cumberbatch is also a Bahamas Red Cross Volunteer and CPR Instructor, a former Toast Masters International Charter Member and Kiwanis Club Member. She is a Member of Cooper's Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Relief Team Member as well as the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) team member for NEMA and the Department of Public Health.

Nurse Cumberbatch accolades continued as she was the Recipient of the 'Rising Star Award' in the Health Care field from 'Salute to Greatness' in 2007 and has held numerous positions such as Immunization Co-ordinator for the Expanded Programme on Immunization, Nursing Administrator at Flamingo Garden's Clinic, District Nursing Supervisor for Abaco and It's Cays as well as Exuma and the Exuma Cays.

Nurse Cumberbatch has rotated throughout the Family Islands providing posting and relief Nursing coverage for numerous islands including Exuma's main land (Steventon and George Town Clinics), Marsh Harbour Clinic (Abaco), Upper and Lower Bouge Clinics, Tarpum Bay as well as Spanish Wells Clinic (Eleuthera), Simms and Deadman's Cay Clinics (Long Island), Alice Town Clinic (Bimini), San Salvador Clinic and last but not least Nicholl's Town and Fresh Creek Clinics (Andros).

Always willing to assist wherever necessary, Nurse Cumberbatch have provided Nursing coverage for events such as the IAAF World Relay Games, The Bahamas IDB annual meeting of the Board of Governors, The Best of the Best Sailing Games, The President of Guyana's visit to the Bahamas, The Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting and the Inaugural Judo Carifta Games.

Her favourite quote is, 'What is Worth Doing is Worth Doing Well The First Time'. Nurse Cumberbatch aspires to obtain a full In-Service Education Scholarship award in order to Pursue a Master's Degree in Nursing Administration or Public Health by the End of 2018.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## BERNADETTE BRENNEN

Nursing is my passion. I am living out my purpose as a nurse. Excellence is my watch word. After graduating from the College of the Bahamas in 1978, my dream became a reality.

I joined the nursing profession on October 16th, 1978 and graduated from the School of Nursing in November 1981, as a registered nurse. After graduation, I worked for five years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit, where I presently work as the Unit Manager.

I completed my Critical Care training in 1995, and as a critical care nurse, I am continually striving to make a difference in the lives of my patients, staff members and the general public. It has been a rewarding experience to have been working in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for the past thirty-one years. My advice to nurses has always been to treat the patients as if they were yourself, or your relatives, and if you do that, you will always give the best possible care.

Family is very important to me. My favourite hobbies are spending time with my family and travelling. I have represented the Nurses' Association at numerous forums internationally. I am a born again Christian and I worship at Evangelistic Centre Assemblies of God.

I am happily married to Benjamin Brennen for thirty-five years, and am the proud mother of three sons, and one daughter and three beautiful granddaughters.



## CHERYL SEYMOUR

Our honouree, Cheryl Seymour, daughter of Edith and Hugh Campbell is a dynamic and energetic woman. She has served in the nursing profession for forty years as a registered Nurse having entered the nursing profession in

1977. She received the well-sought-after and

renowned Hazel Darling Award as a nursing student for her stellar performance in the Operating Theatre. From that time onward, she knew that her niche in Nursing was Operating Room Nursing.

Mrs. Seymour completed Operating Room specialty training in Jamaica in 1981 and was very active in the operating theatres at PMH until 1986. She then went to Doctors Hospital formerly The Rassin Hospital from 1986 and has been the coordinator of the Operating Theatres at Doctors Hospital for the past 20 years.

She has added numerous post-basic courses in operating room nursing to her portfolio with studies and work programs in Florida. When Doctors Hospital sought to begin its open heart surgery program Cheryl underwent special training at Harper Hospital in Detroit, Michigan enabling that hospital to undertake the first open heart procedure in The Bahamas in 1995.

Mrs. Seymour has received numerous awards in both civic and professional arenas and says that her satisfaction comes from successfully completing any endeavour that brings joy and happiness to people. She is happily married, is the proud mother of one daughter and grand mother of four granddaughters.



## ELLA STUBBS- ANDERSON

Ella Stubbs-Anderson is a veteran Nurse /Midwife with a wealth of experience. She entered the nursing profession in October 1979. After qualifying as a Registered Nurse, she worked in various areas in the Princess Marg-

aret Hospital. In 1998 her dream to become a Registered Midwife was fulfilled. She has also obtained a BSC in Nursing and Masters Degree in Public Administration. In addition, she is a Neonatal Resuscitation instructor. To-date, she has received several promotions up to the level of Nursing Officer 1. She has also received several awards for excellent service, including Nurse of the Year for Princess Margaret Hospital 2008-2010.

Her personal philosophy in nursing is to demonstrate care by serving. As nurses are called not only to serve, but also to give quality service and expect nothing in return. Satisfaction comes from knowing that a difference was made



# ZENITH AWARDEES

in someone's life. Her desire has always been to become a nurse and she finds it very rewarding. She does not hide the fact that she loves her job. Professionally, she strives to represent the profession of nursing at all times, on and off the job, displaying competent skills.

Honesty and integrity are her hallmark. Nurse Anderson is a member of the Nurses' Association where she has served as Treasurer for three Presidents. She is one of the founding members of the Bahamas Midwives Association where she presently serves as President. Internationally, she is one of The Trustees of The Caribbean Midwives' Association. Her community involvement includes volunteer service with The Bahamas Red Cross and working as an Anti-doping Control officer with the Bahamas Anti-doping Commission.

Nurse Anderson is an active member of The Bethlehem Holiness Church where she serves as a member of the Outreach Team and Sunday School Leader.

Nurse Anderson believes that her goal as a Nurse is to make a difference by clearly articulating the vision of caring to others and making it so compelling that others feel passionately enough about it to direct their efforts toward achieving it.



## KAYLA STUBBS COLEBY

Kayla Stubbs Coleby, shortly after completion of high school from St. John's College, entered the nursing profession in October 18th, 1982 as a young energetic, intelligent and eager student.

She graduated from the School of Nursing in 1986 with a diploma in nursing. She worked at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) for three years post grad. She then moved to Sandilands Rehabilitation Center (SRC) in 1989.

At Sandilands, Kayla worked on all of the wards including the Maximum Security Unit. Due to her excellent, dedicated and outstanding service, she was promoted to Nursing Officer II (NOII) in 1999. Shortly after, her service and work ethics continued in distinction as she was then promoted to Nursing Officer I (NOI) in 2012.

Nursing Officer I, Kayla Stubbs-Coleby goes beyond the call of duty. She is very active on several committees and loves to participate in SRC functions such as the Governor General Annual Visit, SRC monthly activities, SRC Junkanoo, New Eloise Penn Walkathon and Tea Party.

In addition to participating in SRC activities she attends other host of activities held by other PHA Departments. Not only does Ms. Coleby participate at her work place she is also an active member of St. Barnabas Anglican Church. She is a Coordinator of the Usher Board for over 28 years. She also assists in with the youth in her community as she is a part of the Killarney Shores Association.

### Professional

- Diploma in Nursing (1986) Bahamas School of Nursing, Nassau Bahamas
- Psychiatric Nursing for Registered Nurse (1995 School of Nursing)
- First Line Manager (1996)
- Master Mentorship (2012)
- Aids and Drugs Education
- Introductory Microsoft Office Certification
- Supervisory Management Course
- Invigilator of Nursing Council Exam [Yearly]

### Recognition and Awards

- The Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for 35 Years
- Staff Nurse of The Year Detoxification Unit 1998
- Staff Nurse of The Year Podlewski Ward 2008
- Staff Nurse of the Year Area II 2008
- Star Employee of The Year SRC 2009-2010
- Nursing Officer II Choice Award 2011-2012
- Public Hospital Authority Clinical Excellence Award 2011
- 2nd Runner up In Public Hospital Authority Employee of the Year 2011
- Salute to Greatness Award 2011
- Perfect attendance for 16 years
- Merit Service Award 2016

"I believe that if I can help somebody, then my living will not be in vain" – Kayla Stubbs – Coleby

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## NURSE LABAN H. BROWN

Laban Henry Brown was born in Betsy's Bay, Mayaguana on June 17th, 1927 to Ms. Jane Murphy and Mr. James Brown.

They called his father Captain James Brown. He was the first son of the couple. Laban grew up with five siblings: Idell, Joanna, Mary, Arthur and Albert.

Laban received his early education at Pirate's Well All Age School. He remained at Pirate's Well All Age School for twelve years as a student; he then became an Assistant Teacher at the early age of twelve. He continued to be an Assistant Teacher from the age of twelve to fourteen years of age. He was proud to boast that he received twelve shillings a month for being an Assistant Teacher. He bought candies to sell to his fellow students. He sold his candies at the dance and in the community to save money to come to New Providence to continue his education.

He moved to New Providence in 1941 and attended night school at the University of West Indies to pursue his career in Nursing. Laban studied Nursing, Psychology and Advanced Psychiatric Nursing. He worked at the Bahamas General Hospital (now called Princess Margaret Hospital) in the day and studied at the University of the West Indies in the evening. The name of the University of the West Indies was later changed to the College of the Bahamas.

Later on Laban pursued Advanced Psychiatric Nursing at Waverley in Boston, Massachusetts. Waverley Place is a community-based support program which provides a therapeutic community for adults experiencing severe mental illness. It is attached to McClean Hospital (Harvard Medical School Affiliate). Mr. Brown stayed here for between three to six months to complete the course in Advanced Psychiatric Nursing.

After completion of the course, Nurse Brown returned to PMH to continue to provide services on the Male Mental Ward. The Male Mental Ward was situated on the back portion of The Bahamas General Hospital (east of the 66 steps). He also worked at the Mental Hospital at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre that was officially opened in October, 1956. Mr. Brown and his family lived

on the grounds at SRC for several years. Nurse Brown spent the majority of his time at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre caring for patients. He was in the group of the first male nurses to be employed at the Bahamas General Hospital. The first group of male nurses was: Thaddeus Darling, Henry Rodriguez followed by Laban H. Brown.

Nurse Laban Brown spent over fifty years in the Nursing profession. He retired from Nursing in 1992. His years were split between Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital but he enjoyed working at each institution. He is forever grateful for the opportunity to serve his country and holds a special place in his heart for health care and the patients he has served over these many years.

Mr. Laban H. Brown is a member of the British Empire (MBE). He has received numerous awards from Zion Baptist Church, Zion United Baptist Convention and the 14th Nassau Boys' Brigade Company. He serves as an Honorary Chaplain of the 14th Nassau Boys' Brigade Company.

He is the father of fifteen children, ten living: Barbara, Samuel, Allan, Marva, Greta, Eulogia, Norma, Timothy, Waltham and Theresa, five pre-deceased him: Cherisse, Sigmund, Huel, Sharon and Laban Martin. Retired Nurse Laban Brown has several grand-children and great grand-children. He is married to Carmetta Brown.

He continues to counsel family and friends and gives advice on caring for them. Mr. Brown is now a full-time Evangelist and continues to spread the word of God.

He enjoys going to the beach, reading his bible, gardening, spending time with his grand-children and quoting scripture verses. His favorite Psalms is Psalms 1.



## PRISCILLA SCAVELLA

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, and honest compliment or the smallest act of caring all of which have the potential to turn a life around...." The personification of Nurse Priscilla Louise Pinder- Scavella.

This rare gem was born to the parentage of the late Rev. Lewis and the late Remilda Pinder, whom they affectionately called 'Red', because her hair and skin were the same color, on December 30th, 1953 in Hatchet Bay, Eleu-

## ZENITH AWARDEES

thera. She is the second of thirteen children. From a very early age Priscilla's mom knew her life's journey would lead down the path of nursing, simply because she was so caring. Always the one to take the lead whenever one of her siblings would get injured. Her adventure in Nursing began in 1973. "Your profession is not what brings home your paycheck. Your profession is what you were put on this earth to do with such intensity and passion, that it becomes your spiritual calling". Nursing indeed is Nurse Scavella's calling! Throughout the years, she has served in so many areas of her career. Upon graduating nursing school she was stationed at the Princess Margaret Hospital where she served on many of the wards, from the Children's ward to Accident and emergency.

In the year of 1977, she transferred back to Eleuthera where she was stationed at the Lower Bogue Clinic for thirteen long years. During her tenure there, she still served her home community of Hatchet Bay and the other neighboring settlements of James Cistern and Gregory Town tirelessly. Hence, she was honoured by the communities of North Eleuthera and Hatchet Bay, for her 'Tireless Service' in 1989. She was then transferred to serve the communities of Gregory Town, Hatchet Bay and James Cistern in this same year, where she remained until her retirement. In the year 1997, she was promoted to Senior Trained Clinical Nurse, and have since received numerous awards for her unselfish service to humanity. In May of 2000, the Department of Health honoured her with a Special Service Award, in 2001 she was honoured by the Central Eleuthera District Townships, in 2003 during Public Officers week, she received accolades for 30 years of Service in Public Health. In the year 2010, the staff and students of the P.A. Gibson Primary school recognized her for outstanding leadership on National Heros Day and later that same year, the King Foundation which hosts the "Salute to Greatness" Awards, an award presented each year to individuals and organizations globally that have made numerous contributions to enhancing the quality of life for others, exemplifying excellence in leadership, demonstrating a commitment to the principles and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., honoured her for her outstanding service beyond the call of duty. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is great work. The only way to do great work is to love what you do! They say if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life.

This lady does not only have people who call her nurse, but a few beautiful people have the privilege of calling her mommy and grammy. She has four lovely ladies who call

her Mommy, Tessa, Twanna, Lavetta and Glenningue and blessed with eleven Grandkids, who consume her quiet "me" time, Tamera, Algernon, Tonnique, Dewonia, Warrae, Ciara, Saccario, Dexter Jr., Christoph, Warrano and Demica. Nurse Scavella values her faith in God, and serves as a member of St. Stephen's Baptist Church, where she has attended from her birth, her father being a former Reverend. At this very same church, she presently wears the hat of "Mother of the Year" 2017-2018. In her spare time, she loves to travel, never missing an opportunity for a new adventure, she loves cooking and always has a meal to offer someone who may have the pleasure of visiting her home, she is good with her hands and is always decorating or finding ways to delve into crafts, and her favorite pastime is reading.

"If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain", this must be the moto of the great lady we all call Nurse Scavella!



### **DR. THERESA ADDERLEY-SMITH (Ph.D)**

A graduate of Miami Dade College, Dr. Adderley-Smith's nursing experiences spans over two and a half decades, inclusive of years as a pediatric ICU, emergency, AIDS and transplant care nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Receiving her Master's in nursing education from Barry University, and Ph.D. from Florida International University (FIU), she currently holds the highest rank, Associate Professor, within the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions (SNAHP), University of The Bahamas (UOB). Highlights of her career since joining SNAHP in 2000, supports a track record for achievement, and a passion for professional growth. As immediate past Chairperson 2015, she was instrumental in tripling, the school's BSN intake and as a direct result increased graduate nurses from 25 to almost 100. She has presented in countries in Africa and Europe and in 2016 published in the West Indian Medical Journal. Her expertise in HIV/AIDS, sexual health, gender and masculinity are well recognized.

Nursing Education: A faculty that offers exceptional commitment to the advancement of nursing education, she held a key role in the implementation of the current

## ZENITH AWARDEES

BSN program at SNAHP/UOB. During the transition the department of Nursing phased out the 3-year associate of science degree, and as coordinator she was responsible for the framework development. In 2007, she along with Dr. Shane Neely-Smith led the school into the implementation of the present 4-year BSN degree. Today, she continues engagement in course revision, and teaches courses such as nursing research methodology and research design up to the master's level.

**Nursing Research:** Well rounded, Dr. Adderley has secured professional contacts. While at UWI, Cave Hill Barbados, she presented research findings on nursing online learning. Guided by the results of the study she implemented the first and only online RN-BSN program that made it possible to graduate 21 nurses out of Grand Bahama. An asset to the development of evidence based practice within nursing, she chaired several interdisciplinary development committees including, Environmental, Trained Clinical Nurse, Midwifery and Pharmacy programs.

**Nursing Development:** Dr. Adderley-Smith is a leader in the field of first aid, CPR and Patient Care Technician (PCT) training. In 1998 she introduced the first PCT program, here in The Bahamas while she was simultaneously and integrally involved in the establishment of the first Bahamas American Heart Association (BLS) training center. In 1999, she opened Early Access Training Center and now 20 years later, because of her vision, "PCT / PCA" has become a household name, more importantly it has been recognized by the Health Care Professional Council and several training institutions have adopted the PCT program. A key player in strengthening companies' health and safety programs, she works extensively with organizations offering consultancies in a professional capacity to structure safety guidelines and improve on OSHA regulations. She has trained many BLS instructors and with supportive teams within the MOH developed the BLS programs that we see today within those institutions. She has commented that "I taught thousands in emergency response from the Berry Islands to Inagua. My implementation of life saving programs is well documented".

**Nursing Service:** A member of the Zonta Club, she advocates advancing the status of women and girls. A co-chair for the "Say No" program, she has led strategic planning to projects and most rewarding, in 2017 received grant funding approval for her "AHEaD" project. Dr. Adderley-Smith was named as a member of the Nursing Council Board of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, is a member of two international advisory boards, The American Men's Study Association, Nurses

Association of The Bahamas, Miami Chapter – Black Nurses Association and served as a member of the editorial board of Journal of the Association of Aids Care (JNAC).



**SANDRA  
ADDERLEY-COLEBY**  
RN/RM, CHN, CNA, MBA

Is presently the Principal Nursing Officer in the Ministry of Health Department of Public Health.

She enrolled in the Nursing Profession in 1970 while still a student at the Saint John's College Nassau. Sandra commenced nurse training in 1971 and has had a rewarding fulfilling career. She is a Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, a certified Community Health Nurse, certified Nurse Administrator (UWI) and holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Miami, Florida. She has worked at the Princess Margaret Hospital most notably in the Medical Area, Accident and Emergency Department, and Maternity Ward.

She completed the Community Health Nursing Programme in 1979 and joined the then Community Nursing Service. She has served in New Providence and the Family Islands. One of the highlight of her career was when she served as the Nurse in Charge of the Steventon Clinic, Exuma.

Sandra has attended numerous workshops and training locally and abroad. She is trained in Sexually Transmitted Infections management including contact tracing (USA) and in Disaster Management (BVI) and has made tremendous contributions in these areas.

She has also served on the Nursing Council as Secretary, she has lectured in First Line Management at the School of Nursing and served on the nursing examination committee for several.

A member of the Nurses association she recently completed the leadership in Negotiation program put on by the Nurses Association.

Her moto in life is "If I can help somebody as I travel along then my living will not be in vain".

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## SHERRY PINDER



Even from a very young age, Nursing Officer Sherry Pinder knew she wanted to contribute to Health Care and, more specifically, to Nursing in The Bahamas. She dedicated herself to pursuing this childhood dream and completed an Associate's Degree in Nursing at the College of The Bahamas (now University of The

Bahamas) in 1988 and a Bachelor's Degree in 1996. Nursing Officer Pinder didn't stop there. In 2005, she went on to pursue her Master's Degree in Nursing Administration at the University of the West Indies and completed same with Distinction less than a year later. Nursing Officer Pinder also earned a Post-Med Surgical Nurse Speciality.

During her decades long career, Nursing Officer Pinder has rotated through various areas at the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), including the Dialysis Unit, Accidents and Emergencies, Paediatrics and the Medical/Surgical Unit. She is a demonstrated leader who is dedicated to serving her patients as well as serving other nurses and the overall profession. Nursing Officer Pinder served as the 2nd Vice President (2010-2012), and the 1st Vice President (2012-2014) of the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB).

During her tenure with NACB, she was involved with the planning and chairing of banquets, workshops and conferences, both locally and internationally. She has also served on the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas from 2014-2017 and was part of the Council's Education and Examination Committee. Since 2010, Nursing Officer Pinder has been committed to the education of other nurses by serving as a part-time lecturer with the School of Nursing at the University of The Bahamas.

Among her church family, Nursing Officer Pinder is known as "Sister Pinder." She is a member of St. Mark's Native Baptist Church where she serves as a Deacon, and in various other capacities, including the Church Choir and the "Women of Integrity" Ministry. Sister Pinder is an active member of The Bahamas Association of Minister's Wives and Widows. She is married to Minister Andrew Pinder and they have two (2) children, Andrew Jr. and Andia.



## VELMA DORSETTE

Velma Pearlene Dorsett was born in the Settlement of Tarpum Bay, on the Island of Eleuthera, to Oswald and Marie Ingraham. She is the fourth of six children. At an early age, she realized that her passion was caring for those in need.

In 1982, after attending Windermere High School, Velma moved to Nassau to study Nursing. Upon completion, she worked in various departments at the Princess Margaret Hospital and Sandilands before returning to Eleuthera.

By then, Velma was married and had 3 children. While working at Rock Sound Clinic, she saw the need for a mid-wife and decided to go back to Nassau and attend the College of the Bahamas where she studied Midwifery. She returned home in 1992 as a Mid-Wife, and took up the post of Nurse-In-Charge at Rock Sound Clinic, where she has remained as such for the past 20 years.

Velma is the proud grandmother of two, and spends her spare time reading and catching up with her grandchildren when she can. She has become an essential part of the entire South Eleuthera community. At any time, you can hear persons boast about "my nurse", in reference to the amount of love and care she shows to any and every one in need on or off the clock.



## SHERRIA STUBBS

In the warm month of July, Trained Clinical Nurse Sherria Stubbs entered this realm vibrant and determined. She was a helpful child, trailing behind her gran-aunt who was an outstanding midwife on the island of Eleuthera.

The nursing seed was planted in those years and would eventually blossom into a fulfilling career.

Working towards her dream day and night, Nurse Stubbs received her training at the Bahamas School of Nursing

# ZENITH AWARDEES

PTS 26 Trained Clinical Nursing Program. Her career commenced on the children's ward at the Princess Margaret Hospital. However, she moved abroad for several years, shortly thereafter. Upon her return to Nassau, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit became a second home. Accountable, dependable, diligent, punctual, team player, are just a few words to describe who she was during her time on the ward.

Within those years, Nurse Stubbs served on the discharge planning committee, spending countless hours educating parents on the do's and don'ts of caring for their preterm infants after leaving the NICU. Her role was not limited to teaching, but also counselling and comforting. The heart of gold which she possesses, prompted her to stay connected with parents after leaving hospital, doing follow-up calls to ensure a smooth transition from ward to home.

Along with her active role with her patients and families, Sherria remained on top of her studies, traveling internationally on several occasions to obtain new certifications as well as necessary continued education courses at home.

After medical issues in June of 2016, Nurse Stubbs was transferred to the eye clinic on soldier road, where she continues to serve each and every patient with excellence. "What if I was the one in need of care?", "May the work I've done, speak for me" and "Let me serve as if unto the Lord" are just a few of the quotes that keep this amazing nurse going each and every day.



## CALVERNA SMALL

LL.B (hons), RN

I joined the nursing profession May 25th, 1982 as a Trained Clinical Nurse (TCN). Although I was quite happy as a TCN, I felt that I was not giving enough of myself to my patients and made a decision to upgrade myself and become a Registered Nurse, (RN). I

entered the College of Bahamas as a part time student and on the 17th day of December, 1997 I graduated as a Registered Nurse.

I have worked in many departments within the hospital, namely Accident & Emergency, Medical Area, Surgical Area and Neonatal Intensive Care. I am one who is always prepared to do my duty. I was nominated and won Regis-

tered Nurse of the Year Medical Area in 2006. I have been awarded on many occasions for Perfect attendance.

On several occasions I had the opportunity to attend Nursing Conferences both locally and Internationally. medical Surgical Conference as well as Nursing Conferences that were put on by the Nurse's association of the Bahamas. In 2014 I was appointed Socio and Economic Chair of the Nurses Association, a position I held in high esteem.

With a quest and zeal to learn I decided to learn the law and how it applies to every facet of human life. I enrolled in the University of the West Indies in September 2003 and on the 1st of July 2006 graduated with a Bachelor of Law with Second Class Honours.

Later that same year I entered the Eugene Dupuch Law School, graduated on the 5th September 2008 with a Legal Education Certificate, and called to The Bahamas Bar 31st October 2008.

I am presently deployed in the Pediatrics Department as a Registered Nurse. I am a single mother of three, and proud grandmother of five. I am also associated with many non profitable organisations, and an active member of Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

My motto is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



## CAROLYN SEYMOUR

"Save one life, you're a hero. Save 100 lives, you're a nurse"

Carolyn Louise Seymour was born in Nassau, on the 8th December to Arthur Hubert Sr. and Dorothy Louise Duncomb (deceased).

### Academics:

Graduated from St. Anne's Primary and Senior Schools Fox-Hill, Nassau, Bahamas and St. Joseph's College in North Bay Ontario, Canada.

### Professional Achievements:

- Diploma in Nursing -Registered Nurse, Bahamas School of Nursing
- 1st Ward Management Course – Ministry of Health/UNESCO
- Diploma in Midwifery – Bahamas School of Nursing
- Certificate in Management – University of Jamaica (Recipient Award 2000)

# ZENITH AWARDEES

- Certificate in Paralegal Studies- College of The Bahamas
- Attended many Nursing and Medical Conferences locally and internationally
- Bachelors Degree in Law (LLB) - University of Buckingham UK

#### Most Memorable Accomplishment:

Baptism of Boarders on Children's Ward by Canon Sebastian Campbell and Rev'd Father James Moultrie

#### Family:

Married to Earl Seymour; 3 Daughters: Earla, Cara, Corrie; 1 Adopted son: Marchello Humes; Sons - in-law: Eugene and Carson; Grandchildren, London, Myan and Krish; Siblings: Cora Culmer, Arthur H. Duncombe jr., Patricia Roberts (deceased) Betty - Ann Kelly; many nieces and nephews and dear friends.

#### Church:

- Ardent Anglican- St Anne's Church, Fox-Hill, Nassau, Bahamas
- Member of Serving Choir
- Member of Singing Choir
- Member of Vestry
- Member of Prayer Group
- Member of Floral Committee
- Past President and currently Assistant Secretary of the Anglican Church Women's Association
- St. Anne's Parish Representative - Bahamas Anglican Cursillo Movement

#### Civic Duties:

- Past President of Valentine Communicators #3643
- Recipient - Winner of Speech Contest

#### Community :

- Visitation /Feeding the hungry
- Past Public Relations & Publicity Officer - The Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas 1996 - 1998
- Past Vice President-St. Anne's Parents /Teachers Association

**Goal:** To stay away from negativity

**Hobbies:** Gardening, Interior Decorating, Cooking

Her friends would describe her as a compassionate friend, a dedicated and loving mother, family oriented, organized, dignified, cook extraordinaire, etc.

My greatest passion is to serve my God, family, friends and the less fortunate.



#### CHARLENE BAIN

RN, RM, CHN, FNP, MHA, CIPM,  
ADMINISTRATOR, COMMUNITY  
HEALTH SERVICES.

Mrs. Charlene Bain commenced her Nursing Training at the Bahamas School of Nursing in 1977. From day one, she was quite clear that she wanted to become and practice as a Community Health Nurse. She completed her

basic training in 1980, and was posted to the Rand Memorial Hospital in the out-patient and emergency room, departments, where her knowledge and skills in emergency nursing were strengthened. During her short stay at the Rand Memorial Hospital, she observed the difficulty with some patients not being able to pay for healthcare services and as a result, she spearheaded the establishment of "We Care" committee to respond to the needs of the vulnerable population through the support of her colleagues and community partnership.

In 1981-1983 she worked in various clinics and programs in New Providence and was a part of the Malaria investigation and eradication team and mass Immunization Projects, and was blessed to be mentored by the legends of Community Health Nursing for whom she will forever be grateful. Mrs. Bain decided that she would prefer to work in and strengthen Family Island Services and in 1983, she was posted to the Deadmans Cay and Clarence Town Health Districts as the Nurse in Charge and in 1984 commenced training as a Registered Midwife. In 1986, she returned to Long Island as the Nurse in Charge of the South Long Island Districts and through the mentorship of Dr. Fiona Lincoln and staff of the South Long Island Districts, assisted in conducting a community health assessment, which later led to the establishment of a local health committee, specialists visits in the area of Optometry, Oral Health, Mental Health, Internal Medicine at the community level and the first Draft of the National Diabetes Protocol for the department was developed. During her posting to Long Island, Mrs. Bain noted the disparity of amenities for physicians and nurses, and demanded that the Estates Officer purchase a washing machine for the nurse. This led to the purchase of a washing machine where ever she went.

In 1989, Mrs. Bain commenced training in Community Health Nursing and on completion, was posted to the San

## ZENITH AWARDEES

Salvador and Rum Cay Health Districts from 1990 -1992. During this posting she was able to conduct a health assessment of the Rum Cay Community and relocated the clinic from a substandard multipurpose facility. In San Salvador through agitation she was able to expand the clinic space at the United States clinic allowing for greater privacy and confidentiality. Through negotiation with the Director General of the UNICEF, funding was later given for the construction of a Youth Centre in Cockburn Town. Known as a no-nonsense, focused and courageous individual, Mrs. Bain, teamed up with the President of the Christian Council and Political Directorate and lobbied for the construction of the Cockburn Town Community Health Center and a dedicated vehicle for the nurse in charge. Where ever she went health promotion, disease prevention and community participation were key strategies for the improvement of the population health.

In 1992-1995, Mrs. Bain was posted to Spanish Wells Community, and was responsible for the supervision of the Spanish Wells and North Eleuthera Health Districts. During her stay she established a local health committee following Hurricane Andrew to highlight the inadequate infrastructure for the provision of healthcare services and to facilitate the construction of a new Community Health Clinic using community resources. This community participation in Spanish Wells, also led to the construction of the Harbour Island Community Clinic. During her stay in Spanish Wells she met two young pilots, the late captain Nelson Hanna and captain Jason Sweeting and requested that they overnigh in north Eleuthera to assist in the quick transport of clients being referred to hospital. She also sold to them the business plan of "air ambulance" services. In 1992 Mrs. Bain assisted Dr. Dahl-Regis with the organization of the first Maternal and Child Health regional health workshop in Palmetto Point Eleuthera. This led to the strengthening of the Maternal and Child Health Program and the establishment of the Maternal and Child Health Technical Advisory Committee as well as inclusion of the HIB and Hepatitis vaccines into the National schedule.

In 1995 she returned to New Providence and in 1996, assisted Mrs. Philabertha Carter the project manager for the National Family Planning Programme with the implementation of the first Family Planning Clinic at the Flamingo Garden Clinic. In 1996, she persuaded her nursing dream and enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner Programme at the University of The West Indies in collaboration with the School of Nursing In Jamaica. Mrs. Bain completed studies with Honours in the areas of Academ-

ia and Technical/Practical competencies and was the only student who was able to achieve this goal for the first time in the Programme 21 year history.

In 1999, Mrs. Bain also assisted in the organization of the first regional health managers and leaders workshop for staff in the South-eastern and Central Bahamas. This four day workshop saw the participation of the Honourable Minister of Health, Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Officer, Directors of Public Health, Nursing and Oral Health Administrator and other key stake holders. The Expected Result saw the development of a Family Island Management protocol which provided standardization of service delivery, improved accommodations for nurses accommodating clients to hospital, an on-call driver to provide safe transport of nurses to the hotel or their homes and transport to the airport. Additionally an on call fund was established to ensure that nurses who arrive without funds would be facilitated for the return to their families and meals. In 1999, Mrs Bain also prepared and submitted to the Administrator of Public Health a proposal to provide for the review of hardship allowances based on complexities of the health districts rather than poor infrastructure only, compensation for nurses and physicians inclusive of on-call and utility allowance. The plan for the contract of Air Ambulance Services was borne.

In 1999, Mrs Bain enrolled in and completed her Master's Degree in 2000 In Health Services Administration facilitated by the Western Connecticut State University in collaboration with the College of The Bahamas. While in pursuit of her degree, Mrs. Bain was posted to the Maternity Ward. Here she again teamed up with Philabertha Carter and the Executives of PMH and Maternity Ward and was assigned the task of "auditor" of the SIP records for the monitoring of quality maternal and child health services to reduce the infant and maternal morbidity and mortality rates. This task and partnership with the various key stake holders resulted within 12 -15 months of an infant mortality rate of 21.0% to 12.9%. In 2000 Mrs Bain was deployed in General Administration and assisted with various projects including the visit to the Family Island by a Minister of Health, and training of Family Island doctors and nurses in the management of emergencies.

In 2001-2004, Mrs, Bain was again posted to the Deadman's Cay, Long Island, where she anchored the Regional Health Services Administration and management initiative in the South-eastern and Central Bahamas This pilot was designed to provide health managers and leaders in the



## ZENITH AWARDEES

region to better plan services to meet their need, improve the utilization of local resources and identify best practice through research. This pilot along with the Hospital and Health Care Facility Act resulted in the formal posting of Clinic Administrators. She returned to New Providence in early 2004, and was later reclassified as a Project Manager where she held positions as National Programmes Coordinator, Coordinator of Training and Development Planning and formal implementation of the mandatory Food Handlers Programme.

In 2008 to present due to the retirement of the Chief Estates Officer Mrs. Bain has had to spear head the oversight of major Capital Works undertaken by the National Insurance Board, Ministry of Works or in collaboration with the Public Hospitals Authority.. As a part of a small project team, Mrs Bain with the support of the Director of Public Health assisted with the oversight of the Abaco and Exuma Capital Projects, including furniture and equipment. Recognizing the need for improved Project Management skills, she enrolled in a Project Management Course. In 2009 she was appointed acting Administrator of Community Health Services and in April 2007 was confirmed in appointment. Between the periods 2007 to 2012, Mrs. Bain in Collaboration with Undersecretary Elizabeth Keju, was able to affect repairs to health facilities in New Providence and the Family Islands without interruption of access to services. Air Condition systems and generator services were improved due to an enhanced public private partnership. She lobbied and "fought" for increased funding for the operations of Primary and Public Health Care services, purchase of vehicles, equipment and furniture....at great personal cost.

Additionally malfunctioning generators in the Family Islands were repaired and sixteen new generators for the first time were installed in the Family Islands. Additionally, Mrs. Bain was given the opportunity to participate in numerous workshops and short courses in Epidemiology, Family Planning and Reproductive Health, Policy and Procedure in the Public Service, Public Sector Reform, HIV/AIDS. Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. She was also a part of the Fact Finding Team led by Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis to Spain to review best practice in Primary HealthCare Services. Mrs. Bain also participated in a workshop in Hospital Administration in Singapore, Sustainable Buildings and health public spaces in Boston, Strengthening Primary Health Care for the Universal Health Care in Washington and Innovation toward Universal Health recently in Barbados. Despite all of the numer-

ous Mrs. Bain has embarked with the support of colleagues to write a new Model of Care to assist in the strengthening of an Integrated, People- Centred Primay and Community Home Based Health Care Services.

Mrs. Bain indeed is grateful to the God, the Government Of The Bahamas, Leaders within the Ministry of Health and Department of Public Health, especially Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis, Permanent Secretaries, the late Dr. Baldwin Carey, Administrators, colleagues and staff in New Providence and the Family Islands, friends, the Pan American Health Organizations and other partners, Local Government Administrators and Chief Councillors and residents in every family islands she has worked in. Last but not least her daughter Alexis (Lexi) and her entire family, without whom none of her achievements could be realized.



### DERRICK GLENWILL FERGUSON

*Royal Bahamas Defence Force*

Lieutenant Commander Ferguson was born on 1st February 1971 in Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas. His parents are Labon E. Ferguson Sr and Edna L. Gardiner Ferguson. He has four (4) brothers and three (3) sisters. He is married and has three (3) children. Lieutenant Commander Ferguson enlisted into the Royal Bahamas Defence Force on 20 August 1990 and has served for more than twenty-seven (27) years. He received his commission in 2002 upon successful completion of Officer Candidate School (OCS) at the United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut, USA. Lieutenant Commander Ferguson has been awarded the Commander Defence Force Commendation Certificate & Ribbon (2014), Commandant Challenge Award (CJCSC, Jamaica [2011]), Long Service & Good Conduct Award, Security Operations (V-SOA , Trinidad & Tobago [2009]), Rifle Marksmanship (USCG [2002])

Lieutenant Commander Ferguson has served in several departments throughout the Defence Force and in various capacities. They include: Sick Bay (HMBS Coral Harbour), Sick Bay (Nassau Harbour), Detention Center Officer, Exec-

## ZENITH AWARDEES

utive Officer and Temporary Assigned Duties as Commanding Officer of the Military Police & Force Protection, Weapons & Dive Officer of Her Majesty Bahamian Ship (HMBS) Bahamas, Executive Officer of HMBS Yellow Elder, Navigating Officer of HMBS Bahamas, Commanding Officer of Patrol Boat P49, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of the Commando Squadron. At present, Lieutenant Commander Ferguson serves as a Staff Officer in Defence Force Headquarters.

Lieutenant Commander Ferguson received his nursing degree from the College of The Bahamas where he was awarded the Hilda Bowen Award for academic excellence and served as the President of the Student Nursing Club. He studied Leadership, Management, and Nautical Science at the United States Coast Guard Academy. He studied Business Administration and Professional Management at Nova Southeastern University, Business Administration at the University of Liverpool and Addiction Studies at University of West Indies. Some of his military educational courses he attended were HIV/AIDS Planning Policy Course (Texas [2006]), Battalion and Brigade Staff Operations Course at Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation [WHINSEC], (Fort Benning, Georgia, USA/Dominican Republic [2008]), Caribbean Junior Command & Staff Course at Caribbean Junior Command & Staff College (Jamaica) and Law of Armed Conflict Course at Canada Defence Academy (Jamaica [2011]), United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) Inter-Institutional Training Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition & Explosives, (Trinidad & Tobago [2012]), Countering Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC) Course (Bahamas [2012]), National Workshop on Immigration and Customs Control Course (Bahamas [2012]), International Maritime Officer's Course (IMOC), US Coast Guard Training Center, (York Town, Virginia [2013]), and Anti-Terrorism Command Course (Beijing, China [2014]).

During his tenure in the Medical Department of the Defence Force, Lieutenant Commander Ferguson would have contributed to advancing the delivery of healthcare within the Royal Bahamas Defence Force through numerous programmes and activities to include, but not limited to:

- Healthy Lifestyle Initiative which entailed the monitoring of RBDF personnel's health status (2007) and coordinating activities with the Healthy Lifestyle Secretariat (DPH),

- Health & Physical Readiness (HPR) Program. This program was designed to promote the Health & Physical Readiness (HPR) status of RBDF personnel to support the operational capability of specified RBDF Units via straddling medical evaluation with unit's physical fitness programs
- Revising and Implementation of an Improved Health Inspection of Food Services within the Royal Bahamas Defence Force
- Drafting & Implementing the duties & responsibilities for Ship's Medical Attendant of Her Majesty Bahamian Ships (60M Patrol Crafts) to include medical records, medical care, medical inventory onboard HMBS Patrol Vessels, Health Inspections, water testing, chronic non-communicable illnesses monitoring and reporting, standards & practices, and clinical reporting (2005)
- Drafting & Implementing RBDF Vaccination Program in collaboration with Department of Public Health (2005)
- Drafting & Implementing a RBDF Recruits Preventative Health Program (2007)
- Implementation of the Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT) for HIV/AIDS within the RBDF (2005/2006)
- Planning, Organizing, Coordinating & Implementing numerous training/ and awareness for RBDF First Responders to include emerging diseases, pre-hospital healthcare, and basic life support courses
- Assisting the Force Medical Officer – Surgeon Commander with the drafting of the RBDF Medical Orders and Standard Medical Operating Procedures (SMOP) to include health service division, outpatient care ward protocols, clinic code-blue emergencies, immunization clinic, preventative medicine program, medical duty log, shaving clinic, front desk protocols,

Working in the vast maritime domain and isolated areas where the delivery of healthcare could be challenged due to the austere nature of the environment, Lieutenant Commander Ferguson is of the opinion that the advancement of telemedicine is the way forward to mitigate challenges in the delivery of healthcare in the archipelago states such as the Bahamas.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## EDNA TINUBU

### *Prison Health*



"To everything there is season, a time to every purpose under the Heaven." Ecclesiastes 12:1

Mrs. Edna Tinubu was born in tranquil, quaint, but vibrant settlement of Rolle Town on the Island of Exuma. Nestled on a hill

range with a view of sea all round, this is among the most beautiful places on earth.

She was nurtured by some of the most caring family and people known. Her mother died when she just few months old. Understandably, she became a grandmother's baby. Mrs. Tinubu is third of nine children who echo the sentiments about their birthplace and family.

Mrs. Tinubu attended the Rolle Town All-Age School and completed the available grades. That was back in the day when there was school milk programme, and the headmaster would beat for tardiness, poorly done homework and anything else that did not please him, usually with the full support of parents. In her late teens she moved to Nassau where she enrolled in the Government High School Evening Institute. She obtained the academic qualifications for acceptance in the Nursing Programme.

In 1965, Mrs. Tinubu entered the Nursing Profession at the Princess Margaret Hospital and in 1966 she left the Bahamas for England and Bromsgrove General Hospital in Worcestershire. Following her studies Mrs. Tinubu became a Registered Nurse and Midwife. Mrs. Tinubu has fond memories of the caring environment among a group of exceptional international students which she treasures to this day.

After completing her training in England she worked as a Night Supervisor at Bromsgrove General Hospital. She also did a stint of Agency Nursing.

Mrs. Tinubu left England for Nigeria, Africa, where she worked at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Emergency Room-pediatric and adult. She also worked as an Industrial Nurse with the Nigerian Army.

Mrs. Tinubu resided in Nigeria for three years and in 1978 she returned to The Bahamas and worked for a short time as the Administrator of Gambier Day Care Centre. She joined the Ministry of Health in 1980.

Convinced that the Family Island was the best environment to rear her three lovely children she opted to work

at four Government Clinics on the Family Island, these included Fox Town, Abaco, Harbour Island & Wemyss Bight, Eleuthera and Exuma

Mrs. Tinubu was instrumental in re-opening the Fox Town Clinic which was closed for many years and she also conducted satellite clinics in Cedar Harbour.

After serving on the Family Island for several years she felt the need for more training so she returned to New Providence and pursued the Community Health Nursing Course.

In 1984 after completing the Community Health Nursing Course, Mrs. Tinubu resumed the Family Island track. Harbour Island (the land of pink sand) became her home for three years. The mainland South Eleuthera beckoned, and she embraced the opportunity and in 1987 Mrs. Tinubu served as the first resident nurse in Wemyss Bight, and was also responsible for the supervision of the South Eleuthera area from Tarpum Bay to Bannerman Town.

Edna soon felt a longing for home, Exuma the land of her birth—so in 1992 she requested a transfer to Exuma. Although she resided and worked in George Town, she was responsible for all the clinics on the main land and the Cays. After ten years of exemplary Family Island service Mrs. Tinubu requested to return to New Providence.

In New Providence she worked at the Blue Hill Road and Coconut Grove Clinics. She was later transferred to Ministry of Health Headquarters to work as Hospital Liaison Officer.

Edna was later transferred to the Princess Margaret Hospital to manage the National TB Programme. During this period the Direct Observation Therapy Shot Course Programme (DOTS) was introduced under the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO).

After serving with distinction in the National TB Programme, Mrs. Tinubu was posted as the Nursing Supervisor of the Prison Health Services where she served for eight years. Among some of her achievements were the initiation of the systematic logging of inmates to facilitate retrieval of information, routine TB screening, the setting up of the X-Ray Department, Supervisory visits of Pharmacists, and assistance with the formation of the Prison Executive Committee. She also re-opened the Staff Clinic. During her tenure for the first time in The Bahamas four Prison Officers were trained as Trained Clinical Nurses.

Mrs. Tinubu moved up the ranks in the Department of Public Health and was promoted to Nursing Officer II in 1996, Nursing Officer I in 1996 and Senior Nursing Officer in 2003.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

Edna met and Mr. Wahaab Tinubu, a Nigerian. She has credited her children's success to the education and nurturing they received in the Family Island Schools and communities. They are all well balanced, contributing members of the society.

Dr. Olu Tinubu, General Surgeon; his wife Walron Tinubu; Anesthetist a Princess Margaret Hospital. Dr. Jide Tinubu; Orthopedic Surgeon, his wife Sanya Radiologist in Texas.

Her last Child (a daughter); Ganiatu Tinubu; now employed as banker at City bank. Her grandchildren; Ayanah, Hiram, Elisha Emery and Elise are the joy of her life.

## The future of Nursing in The Bahamas

My hope and prayer for the future of Nursing in The Bahamas and the world, is that we continue to receive individuals into the profession; who love and care for the well-being of their patients and community spiritually, physically, and psychologically "Ministering Angles," who nurse with care and pass these skills on to their successors continually. So that nursing can continue to be a well disciplined and respectable profession. Remembering that the nurse is the competent qualified professional who puts the patient's best interest and safety first, who promotes health, prevents diseases and help patients cope with illness.



## MARISSA F. TUCKER

I am the fourth child of Renee and Frederic Tucker, born on May 14, 1991. As I was the first girl in the family, there was much joy and excitement! Finally, a little girl in the midst of three boys! I was followed by an additional four siblings; all girls.

As the eldest girl, I quickly learned responsibility and how to take initiative.

### Family Inspirations

Having come from a family where there has been a history of nurses on both sides of the family, my father encouraged me to pursue a career in nursing, as he believed it was my calling. It was often impressed upon me to put God first in everything. My loving grandmother, Mary Coakley a retired Auxiliary nurse spent forty two years providing health care services. As I aspired to be-

come a nurse, she shared many stories, words of wisdom and caution, that I am grateful for today. Family support sustained me especially during the most difficult times of my journey. It has truly inspired me to become the person I am today.

### Education/ Community Outreach

I completed my primary education at St. Francis and Joseph Primary school in 2002 and secondary education at Aquinas College in 2008. During my time at Aquinas College I developed an interest in sports such as track and field and volleyball. Being a part of a team was never a challenge for me as I seem to have a knack for getting people to work together.

I was accepted at College of The Bahamas into the Nursing Program and at this time my interest to serve grew. While pursuing my studies in nursing, I developed an interest in community work and participated in many voluntary events such as working along with Campus Life to facilitate the administration of New Student Orientation, Blood Drive, and Student Nurses Association. In addition I assisted with Red Cross, Yellow Birds, Persis Rodgers Home for the Aged, Soup Kitchens, Home visits, Health Screenings etc. These activities have all allowed me to improve my people and community service skills. I love to teach and always enjoy learning from others.

While volunteering at the Red Cross Fair performing health screenings in partnership with the Student Nurses Association and the Nurses Association, I met Mrs. K. Graham, Nurses Association president. Mrs. Graham saw potential in me and lovingly took me under her wings. She later became a mother and mentor to me throughout the years. I was invited into her household and introduced to many prominent members of the nursing profession thus widening my level of knowledge about the profession. When she invited me to work along with the team in initiating the first Zenith Awards Presentation, I was elated. Although at the time I was the youngest on the board, Mrs. Graham ensured I was respected and played a role in the program development. Working with such talented members increased my knowledge and fueled my desire to become a change agent within my profession.

### Aspirations

I aspire to complete my specialty in Emergency Nursing and to also become a Nurse Educator. I would like to assist in nation building by conducting research and improving policies and procedures that guide standard nursing practices in our country.

## ZENITH AWARDEES



### CONSTANCE COMERY

Constance's love for nursing and caring for others were evident very early in her life. She was always ready and willing to dress bleeding wounds and take care of her baby nieces and nephews. It was the result of these observations that her Mother and Aunt thought it best to send Constance to England to pursue her

career in Nursing.

Constance commenced training as a nurse in 1959 in Nottingham, England at the tender age of nineteen where she became a State Registered Nurse. This was followed by her registration as a Midwife, First and Second parts in London and Hertfordshire England, respectively.

She further pursued a post graduate course in caring for Premature babies and worked in that area as a Staff Nurse for one year. She continued her postgraduate studies by completing the Operating Theatre Technique Course and worked in that area as a Staff Nurse for two years. Constance returned to Midwifery, practiced as a Staff Midwife for two years, and then was promoted to a Midwifery Sister. This was a major accomplishment in those days in United Kingdom.

In January 1975, Constance returned to Nassau, where she was appointed as a Nursing Officer Grade II in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of the Princess Margaret Hospital. While working in this area she developed standards, policies and procedures not only to improve the quality of patient care, but also to improve staff morale and the overall ambience of the Wards. She provided on the job training for all levels of staff, which established a sense of self-worth and job satisfaction for staff. She encouraged and mentored staff to further their education by pursuing certificates in Nursing Administration and Nursing Education at the University of The West Indies. It was a pleasure for her to see her staff returning home with certificates in these disciplines. Mrs. Comery also assisted in organizing and carrying out Clinical teachings for Student Midwives and Medical Interns; prepared and marked final examination papers for Student Midwives and observed their final practical examinations.

Mrs. Comery was promoted to Nursing Officer Grade I and then to Senior Nursing Officer (SNO) at which time she became the Area Supervisor of Obstetrics and Gynecology (O&G) area; and for a short period, the Area Supervisor for the Paediatrics area while serving as SNO of O&G. She was awarded a Certificate in Nursing Administration from the University of the West Indies and par-

ticipated in numerous administrative leadership and managerial courses at the Public Service Training Center.

Mrs. Comery believes that primary, secondary and tertiary Health Care must be available for all citizens of The Bahamas and that early diagnosis of illness and injury is paramount to the provision of timely treatment. She also recommends preventative measures be taken to reduce the high and rising number of non-communicable diseases.

In 1999, Mrs. Comery retired from the Public Hospital's Authority; however, she continued to utilize her nursing skills in the private sector. She worked in the office of Doctors Cecil Bethel and the late Earle Farrington until 2013 and even today former patients still refer to her as "My Nurse".

Mrs. Comery is an active member of St. Agnes Anglican Parish, where she is a member of the Senior Choir and served as the first Chairperson of the Pastoral Care and Counselling Ministry and is now Chairperson Emerita.

Her love for God and people is evident, as she has catered to the needs of underprivileged children by presenting health and hygiene teaching sessions. She currently ministers to the sick and confined members of her Church at their homes and in hospital. It is obvious that nursing will always be in her blood.

Mrs. Comery is married to Alric (Bobby) and they are blessed with fifty-three (53) years of marriage, four children, and four grandchildren.



### FELICIA IDEGBESOR

Nurse Felicia Idegbesor began her Nursing Career in August 1985 as a Registered Nurse. Then she became a Registered Midwife in June 1988, and a Certified Nephrology Nurse in 2002. She worked as a RN/RM and Nursing officer back in Nigeria until she sought a higher sojourn to the

Bahamas in July 2007, working as RN till date. By the Special Grace of God she has given to humanity an accumulated service of 32 unbroken years.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS/SERVICE TO HUMANITY

Between 2010 and 2011 she took it upon herself to render care to a Nigerian young lady who was studying at that time here in the Bahamas but became mentally Challenged. She rallied for support and donations from Nigerians and African Bahamian Association until the lady was

# ZENITH AWARDEES

safely returned home and reunited to her family in Nigeria.

She informally united the Nigerian Nurses in the Bahamas and they donated six commodes to P.M.H. in 2012 and groceries to the victims of hurricane Joaquin in 2015. The Nigerian nurses also showcased Nigerian delicacies and dance during the Hospital Month and Commonwealth day. She is a member of African Bahamian Association hence she participated in Fund raising and delivery of hospital equipment to SRC, relief fund to Haiti, AIDS centre, Children's Home and the Great Commission Ministry. She is married to Mr. Julius Idegbesor and blessed with a son.

Her sincere thanks goes to her husband, son, Nigerian Nurses, Mac and Steve Auto and Tyre Shop, African Bahamian Association, Grace Auto, RCCG, Male Medical 2 Staffs and my Supervisors Medical Area. Thank You!



## TANDRA LONGLEY

Acknowledging that, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," Tandra Longley nee Clarke strives daily to go above and beyond the call of duty in providing quality mental health nursing care to the clients she encounters. A native of Tarpum Bay Eleuthera, this gem

of a lady embarked on her career in Nursing immediately upon completing her high school education in 1987 and to date has no regrets. Initially, she achieved an Associates of Arts degree in Nursing and over the years continues in her quest to learn, desiring to always be on the cutting edge so that her efforts can transform the lives of others.

Mrs. Longley has successfully achieved certificates in: Addiction Studies; Conversational Creole; Human Resource Management; Psychiatric Nursing; Diabetes Education; Introduction to Counselling; Supervisory Management; Nursing Leadership and Advanced Supervisory Management. She is a proud graduate of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) - Leadership for Change Programme, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Professional Counselling.

As a professional, Tandra maintains active membership in the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) - having served on the Education committee 2014- 2016; the Bahamas Nurses Union (BNU) and

the International Society of Psychiatric Nurses (ISPN psych). A versatile, driven and focused individual, Tandra successfully chaired the 4th Biennial Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses Symposium in May of this year; just completed the Business Writing course - PMH; volunteers weekly to the Crisis Centre with the Child Advocacy program; conducts monthly School visits to junior and senior high schools making presentations to both students and teachers on topics related to adolescents; while performing monthly Healthy lifestyle screening at Holy Family Catholic Church. She is currently a certified Crises Prevention and Intervention (CPI) trainer at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre where she is deployed at the community Counselling and Assessment Centre (CCAC).

Among her achievements Mrs. Longley attained second runner up in the Leader category for PHA PEP awards - 2017; 2011 - Nominee Principal Nursing Officer Award, 2010 Nurse of the Year Community Counselling and Assessment Centre; 2003 - 2004 Runner Up Registered Nurse of the Year SRC - Recognition Award and 2003 Nurse of the Year - Child and Adolescent Unit.

Tandra's personal goals include but are not limited to: attaining and sustaining core quality characteristics that defines a professional and successful nurse; committing to lifelong learning as well as, continuing to provide ongoing community mental health care/service to persons in need of mental health and wellbeing assistance. Driven by her personal quote, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today" Tandra aspires to be a catalyst of empowerment ensuring that those around her lives improve simultaneously with her own life. This Tandra views as the central core to who she is today; a dynamic woman of substance, exemplary in deportment, tenacious and inspiring!



## LATOYA WILLIAMS-WELLS

Latoya Wells nee Williams is married to Business owner, Craig Wells and the couple has one son, Craig Junior. Mrs. Wells was born and raised in Nassau, Bahamas. She graduated from R.M. Bailey Secondary School in 1996; that same year she was placed on the

waiting list for the Nursing school. In February 1997, she was employed by the Department of Immigration and a year and a half later (September 1998) transferred to Pri...

## ZENITH AWARDEES

cess Margaret Hospital (PMH) as she began her nursing training. Mrs. Wells completed the Associates Degree in Nursing and graduated with the second highest G.P.A. in her class. She was elected to serve as Vice-President of the Student Nurses Association from 2001 to 2003 when she completed internship. In November of that year she successfully passed the Nursing Council Examination. She was reclassified from Clerk to Registered Nurse at PMH and became members of both the Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and the Bahamas Nurses' Union in December 2003.

Mrs. Wells' ultimate passion and goal in nursing was to become a Midwife. In April 2009 she successfully obtained the Midwifery Diploma from the Cornwall School of Nursing and Midwifery in Montego Bay, Jamaica. She happily returned to PMH in May 2009 as a Registered Nurse Midwife and continues to practice in her most passionate post. She joined the Midwives Association of The Bahamas (MACB) in 2010 and has been actively involved ever since. Her love for midwifery is manifested in her constant pursuit of best practices in Midwifery. She became a PROMPT Instructor in 2010. This certification is the emergency obstetrical education for Obstetrical Professionals, Another of Mrs. Wells' accomplishments is her certification in Obstetric Ultrasound, which she received in March 2013 in San Francisco, California. She was the youngest among four Bahamian Midwives who were sent for this training.

Mrs. Wells is an active member of her professional organization. In 2010 - 2012 she served as Chair of the Education and Research Committee of the NACB. This position afforded her the opportunities to conduct two annual conferences, mid-year symposiums, Continuing Education for nurses, speech competitions and travel with the NACB delegation to the Caribbean Nurses' Organization (CNO) conference held in Suriname during that period. Though she has completed her tenure as an Executive of the NACB, she now serves on the executive board of the MACB where she was newly elected to the post of Secretary for 2017 to 2019.

Although Latoya is extremely busy being the best Nurse-Midwife, wife, and mother, she still finds time to do Community Service. She is among the Hands for Hunger Volunteers. This organization is involved in picking up and distributing food items to shelters, homes, and soup kitchens.

Mrs. Wells continues to ardently pursue her greatest love in nursing that is Midwifery. She is currently enrolled in Walden University's Masters in Nursing with Education Specialty Program, and her desire is to teach Midwifery and one day become a part of transforming the Diploma specialty into a degree specialty in The Bahamas. Her motto: "A soft answer turneth away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1).



### GLENN JOHNSON

Glenn was reared in by his grandparents in Old Bight, Cat Island. After graduating from high school he left for New Providence and enlisted with The Royal Bahamas Defence Force in 1989. After being selected to work in the Sick Bay Department as a Medic, it was there that he developed an affinity for caring for the sick, while

responding to national disasters and being assigned on various ships. During this time, he also worked on a part-time basis at the Emergency Department (Ambulance) of Doctors Hospital. He is certified in First-Aid, as a Combat Medic, National Registry Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support. After transferring to the Royal Bahamas Police Force in 2003, where he continued to serve in the Medical Center, this love for providing professional health care caused him to pursue a Nursing Degree at The College of the Bahamas' School of Nursing. In 2007, he graduated as the only male nurse in his class. He worked for a while in the Accident and Emergency Department of The Princess Margaret Hospital before returning to the Police Force full-time. A short time later, Glenn became a licensed Phlebotomist.

His daily duties at the Royal Bahamas Police Force Medical Center include health education, re-engagement and recruitment medicals, providing medical care and assistance to recruits and officers during fire-arm training and other special assigned duties and parades, scheduling patients and appointments for the doctor, dispensing medication, keeping medical records, hospital visits to officers locally and abroad and home follow-ups, office management and community outreach. He is driven by the motto of "Patient care and well-being above self" and always seeks to provide professional and courteous service. Glenn is also using his nursing skills as a trained Pest Management Professional and is the owner of The Pest Destructo Co. He has a passion for God and music and serves as the musician at his church. He thanks God for the many persons he was able to assist in nursing back to health. Nurse Johnson is married to Yasmin nee Francis and the couple has two children Leshea and Glenn Jr.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth (3 John 1:2).

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## DR. BERNADETTE HAMILTON- SAUNDERS (Ph.D)

Deputy Principal Nursing Officer (DPNO), Advanced Nursing Administration (ANA), Diploma in Youth and Development (DYD), Master of Public Health (MPH), Doctoral Degree Public Health (PhD. PUBH)

*"In the quest for quality, there is no finish line" Author: Unknown*

Dr. Bernadette Saunders has always distinguished herself as an esteem role-mode, academic scholar, self-starter and pace-setter. She was the 1st Public Health Nurse to pursue and complete Advanced Nursing Administration at the University of the West Indies, Mona and PhD. in Public Health. Very early in her nursing career Dr. Saunders applied for and was registered with the Nursing Council of England and Wales, pursued post graduate courses in the Midwifery, Community Health and Advanced Nursing Administration at UWI. In August 2000 Dr. Saunders returned to UWI and enrolled in and completed Masters in Public Health Degree with Honors and Specialization in Health Education and Community Health.

Between studies, increasing knowledge and skills Dr. Saunders worked in Princess Margaret Hospital, the Rand Memorial Hospital, and tirelessly on many family islands including Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, Abaco, Exuma, Crooked Island, Andros and Long Island. Dr. Saunders work, academic history, experiences and qualifications extends as far as being HIV/AIDS Research Nurse, 1st Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training (CHART) Coordinator for the Bahamas and Master Trainer, leading successful HIV/AIDS treatment efficacy trials and trainings of health care workers, persons living with HIV (PLWH) and volunteers. Dr. Saunders name is synonymous with HIV not only in the Bahamas but also in the Caribbean where she has conducted many consultancies in setting up National AIDS Programs and Training Centers, conducting Training of Trainers Trainings in Cuba, Surinam, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Turks and Caicos, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Grenada, Barbados, and Las Vegas.

Recent achievements include PhD. Degree in Public Health 2014, Walden University, specialty Epidemiology and Community Health. Dr. Saunders was recently promoted to Deputy Principal Nursing Officer, Department of Public

Health. Dr. Saunders is married to Mr. Nelson Saunders and is the proud mother of 2 sons, 1 daughter and 7 grandchildren. Future goals includes to continue to serve God, reach for the stars, be the role model that I am and do the best that I can. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13



## JOANNE STUBBS-BROOKS

Mrs. Brooks began her nursing career when she graduated in 1979 from the Bahamas School of Nursing with a diploma in general nursing.

She was then deployed at the Princess Margaret Hospital for two and a half years and in 1982 was transferred to the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.

In her pursuit of excellence she completed the Effective Administrative and Supervisory Management at the May Flower Management Institute in 1985, the Psychiatric Mental Nursing Program in 1986, First Line Management in 1993 and in 1998 obtained a certificate in Addiction Studies. She was promoted to Nursing Officer 11 in 1998. Nurse Brooks has a varied number of clinical experiences inclusive of Medical/Surgical Nursing, Pediatric Nursing, Geriatric and Substance Abuse Nursing.

She is a manager who leads by example and is very adept at listening to staff and resolving issues and complaints. She is also a visionary leader who is solution focused and always seeking to inspire others. Her characteristics have earned her the respect of others.

A quiet humble individual Mrs. Brooks willingly acts as a liaison between the staff on the units under her supervision and hospital management, this lends to good interpersonal relationships between her and staff.

She is an advocate for education and constantly encourages staff to seek higher learning. She herself obtained a certificate in Human Resource Management in 2001. In 2010 she obtained a Master's of Science in Nursing Administration (UWI).

Mrs. Brooks is a knowledgeable leader who is well versed in the field of mental health, and is not afraid to make



# ZENITH AWARDEES



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# ZENITH AWARDEES

evidence-based decisions. She is passionate about nursing and is an inspiration and role model for up and coming young leaders. She goes above and beyond to mentor staff members.

Her commitment and dedication to the nursing profession have garnered many awards. She has received certificates for outstanding and dedicated services, outstanding nurse and dedicated nurse.

Nurse Brooks is a team player and is adept at documentation and using varied communication styles to interact with peers, staff and clients.

She firmly believes in giving service to others hence she was the chairperson of the 60th Anniversary of Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, the committee for remodeling of Psychiatric Nursing Services and for many years also chaired the SRC annual Christmas Under the Stars.

She was promoted to Senior Nursing Officer in 2013 and presently has the responsibility for overseeing long term, transitional and substance use and abuse units/wards.

Her guiding principle is "Integrity is doing the right thing even if no one is watching" Albert Einstein



## VALERIE PRATT-MILLER

Mrs. Valerie G. Pratt Miller commenced her nursing career in 1975 and has a wide nursing experience spanning both the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre. She

previously managed the Private Services and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology prior to assuming the position of Principal Nursing Officer for the Princess Margaret Hospital; a position in which she currently serves. Mrs. Miller is a visionary leader who encourages participative management with her team. Amongst other responsibilities, she has the responsibility for ensuring the attainment of the organization's vision and mission, goals and objectives for the Nursing Department, the strategic direction for Nursing Services, recruitment, staff training and development, and ensuring the provision of quality nursing care. She envisions nursing at the pinnacle

of healthcare, providing service with excellence laced with competence and caring. Nurses must be recognized as a professional body for the value and contribution they bring to society.

Mrs. Miller is an active member of The Nurses Association of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas. She is a member of the Executive Management Committee of The Princess Margaret Hospital and a member of the Public Hospitals Authority Nursing Advisory, Public Sector and National Nursing Advisory Committees. Those persons that serve on committees with Mrs. Miller can attest to the fact that she lobbies fiercely for her staff and she believes in equity and fair play.

She played an integral role in the planning process for the Critical Care Wing Block of the Princess Margaret Hospital. She served as the chairperson for the Intensive Care Unit and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit working groups and was a member of the Steering Committee. She also played a significant role in what was deemed the largest recruitment exercise for nurses in the history of healthcare in the Bahamas.

It was under her leadership that the Core Competency Training program for Trained Clinical Nurses was introduced, a program that she hopes to see offered on a continuous basis. Additionally, a Deputy Principal Nursing Officer with responsibility for Clinical Services was introduced at the Princess Margaret Hospital on November 1st 2016.

Mrs. Miller previously served in the following roles:

- Clinical Examiner for the Nursing Council of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas for general nursing and midwifery students
- External Examiner for the Nursing Council of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas qualifying examination for Midwifery students
- Secretary for the Bahamas Midwifery Association
- Chairperson for the Standards of Practice Committee for the Public Hospitals Authority.
- Chairperson of the Policy and Procedure Committee for the Princess Margaret Hospital.
- Some of her educational pursuits include the following:
  - 2015 - Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Nursing Leadership on-line Course - "Empowering Nurse Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean"
  - 2013 - Advanced Staffing Process Course

# ZENITH AWARDEES

- 2011 - Graduate of the International Council of Nurses Global Nursing Leadership Institute – Geneva, Switzerland
- 2011 – Graduate of the Mentorship Master Class Program certified by The Royal College of Nursing, U.K
- 2009 - "Leadership Strategies for Evolving Healthcare Executives" - Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Ma
- 2009 – Optimizing Work Schedules and Shift Work Operations
- 1995 - University of The West Indies - Advanced Nursing Administration (distinction).

Mrs. Miller holds a BSc. in Management and a MS in Human Resource Management. She is married to retired Assistant Commissioner of Police Glenn A. Miller and together they worship at St. Agnes Anglican Church along with their three sons Kwivan, Ryan and Brandon Miller.



## YVONNE CLARKE

Nurse Yvonne Clarke is a Registered Nurse, Midwife with a Masters Degree in Public Health.

Her passion and dedication to population health has allowed her to serve in various capacities in hospital and at the community clinics such as:

- Relief Nurse on Grand Cay 2002
- Parent Craft Instructor at the Eight Mile Rock Clinic, 2001-2003
- Unit Manager and Resident Nurse for the western district of Grand Bahama from 2003-2009.
- Area Manager for West End Clinic, Eight Mile Rock Clinic; East End Clinics, inclusive of Sweeting's Cay, School Health Services, Disease Surveillance, Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI), Healthy Life Styles Initiative and Chronic Non Communicable Disease (CNCD) Clinic from 2009-2017. Grand Bahama Coordinator for Carleen's Health Home Care Students 2013-2015, Vice Chair for the Grand Bahama Nursing Research and Committee Chair for Grand Bahama Nurses Month activities 2012-2017.

After her recent promotion to Senior Nursing Officer she was redeployed to hospital in April, 2017 with oversight

and responsibility for Accident and Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Special Care Baby Unit and Operating Theater.

Other accomplishments include:

- Certificate in Mentorship Masterclass
- Certificate in Leadership and Management in Healthcare
- Leadership for Change Program.

As Branch Chair for Grand Bahama NACB, 2013-2017:

- Hosted Annual Leadership Conference for leaders and nurse's 2013-2016.
- Grand Bahama Branch Hosted the CNF/NACB Leadership workshop held in Freeport, Grand Bahama, facilitated by Jill ILIFFE, Executive Secretary Commonwealth Nurses Federation May 2013. Also, the branch hosted the first Island training program "Leadership for Change" on Grand Bahama.
- Nurse Clarke was privileged to represent the Bahamas as a voting delegate at the Caribbean Nurses Organization (CNO) Conference held in Antigua, October 2016

As Branch Chair, Nurse Clarke has been invited to do presentations on "The Role of the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas" to the New Graduates and the "Orientation Seminar and in addition, recently, to the Pupil Nurses at the University of the Bahamas, Freeport Campus. She attended the Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF) Biennial Conference in Gaborone, Botswana, participated in the ICN Congress in Durban, South Africa and the 25th Quadrennial Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

Nurse Clarke was instrumental in organizing the NACB Members Freeport Branch conducting Healthy lifestyle Screening and health initiatives for Staff and Students at COB, Now University of the Bahamas, Freeport Campus and other organization throughout Grand Bahama; she served to sensitized individuals to healthy lifestyle measures and identifying health risk indicators.

Nurse Clarke is a Licensed Minister with the Assemblies of God and has one daughter and two grand children.

As a transformational leader, she aspires to "Be the change you want to see in the world", Mahatma Gandhi

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## ESTHER SHERMAN-JOLLY



I began my nursing pathway in the Bahamas in 1979 and proceeded to the United States of America (USA) in 1980, living in several states for 22 years. There, I advanced my nursing profession in education and work experience.

Educated at St. Ann's High School; Nassau Community College (N.Y); Broward College; Maryland University; The University of Phoenix and Florida Atlantic University.

I hold the following Nursing Degrees: Associate of Science, Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science.

Additionally, I have completed post Registered Nurse Certification in the following: Emergency/Trauma Nursing; Advance Medical/Surgical Nursing; Diabetic Specialist and Management / Leadership.

My work experience include: PCCU /Telemetry, Surgical Trauma / SICU, Post Recovery (O.T.), Emergency Department, Pediatric, Home-Health and The Prison Health Care.

I have taught at various colleges/universities throughout the USA with Broward College as the final place of employment. Therefore, in relation to the latter geographical location, I decided to return home to teach at the University of the Bahamas. My goal is to facilitate student learning through motivation, enabling them to achieve their desired empowerment of learning.

My membership and affiliations include: member of Broward Continue Educating Nursing (networking buddy system); former Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing; Union representative (UTE) for the SNAHP; advocate for Woman in Distress (WID) Florida. Furthermore, I provide voluntary BGCSE /BJC Tutoring services.

I enjoy the pleasure of being a recipient of an award from Broward College Millennium Trends Class of 2001. I attend St. George's Anglican Church and I am the proud mother of one daughter Deborah and many adopted daughters and one son.

I'm truly blessed and honored to be chosen for my service as a nurse educator in this momentous occasion. I sincerely thank the Bahamas Nurses' Association.



## KAYTORA LIGHTBOURNE- SAUNDERS

Mrs. Kaytora Saunders nee Lightbourne is married to Mr. Yohanes Saunders who is a leading Marine Seaman and they are proud parents of three children Mya, Mia and Malik.

She was first introduced to the nursing profession when she was accepted into an eighteen months diploma program for Trained Clinical Nurses in April, 1997. Mrs. Saunders after completion of the program in 1998 was recommended to further pursue her studies at the College of the Bahamas. Mrs. Saunders was accepted to the College of the Bahamas Nursing Program in 1999 as a part-time student. She completed her college courses and after a nine months internship, she was added to the list of Registered Nurse after passing the council examinations in 2005. She has obtained certificates in Law for Human Resource Managers, Business Management and Customer Service Training. She served as a Registered Nurse from 2005-2008 in the public health sector rotating throughout medical and surgical wards in Princess Margaret Hospital and in December 2008 she transition into the private health sector.

She is presently employed at the Walk-In-Medical Clinic as Clinic Supervisor and Nurse Manager. She also serves as guest facilitator at the Training Center presenting on "Professional Image" at their customer service workshops for government employees. Mrs. Saunders has received numerous awards by her employers which includes Nurse of the year, Shining Star Award and Employee of the month. Mrs. Saunders is the founder of a new organization via social media called People helping People Organization which is a charitable organization that encourages Bahamian to assist each other in the midst of crisis.

It is said that "The health of a nation is the wealth of the nation". In her area of primary health care she mainly focuses on health education and promotion. She actively

# ZENITH AWARDEES

organizes and participates in health fairs throughout her community in banks, churches, schools and elderly care centers to continually promote health awareness and perform health screening. She along with her clinic staff participates yearly in the free flu-shot campaign for the elderly, children and individuals with chronic diseases. She particularly focuses on the youths. It is her future hope to partner with guidance counselors in the public schools system to encourage and motivate young boys and especially young girls in the areas of promotion self-respect, anti-bullying, sex education and health and hygiene.

Mrs. Saunders hobbies includes traveling, meeting people, public speaking, and fishing, reading mystery novels and swimming.

She looks forward to continued partnership with all public and private sector health professionals to for, not only a better, but healthier Bahamas.



## LAURINELL POITIER

It was on June 3rd, 1990, when the late Sgt. 274 George Poitier and retired teacher, Mazie Poitier gave birth to the gem which you know today as Laurinell A. Poitier.

At a young age, I was taught the importance of being hard working, mannerly, honest, humble and respectful to all, despite defining characteristics that make us different. These are just a few of the qualities taken with me into adulthood which helped to mold me into the young lady that I am today.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". My parents ensured that I had exposure and took advantage of every possible opportunity to learn, no matter how futile it seemed. I attended Carlton E. Francis Primary, S. C. McPherson Jr. High and C. V. Bethel Sr. High Schools respectively, where I excelled at each level. Despite challenges faced within the public educational system, I was able to maintain above average reports, remain an honor roll student and receive various subject awards, while functioning in my positions as deputy head girl and prefect respectively, with distinction. Furthermore, I participated in extracurricular activities inclusive of, but not limited to track and field events, the Kiwanis Club, Girls Brigade, Alpha Kappa

Alpha GEMS and the Technical Cadets Corp. Program. While I can genuinely say that life so far has been good to me, it has not been easy. In 2005, my father had his first of six strokes and became bedridden. After graduating from high school in 2007, I applied and was placed at the Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC) for summer employment. Not only was I commended on my work ethic and adaptability at such a young age, I was afforded the opportunity for extended employment.

For four years, I watched my mother, a full time teacher step into her honorary role as a nurse - caring for my dad with love and dignity as a nurse should, until his passing in 2009. Having witnessed the impact of nursing on my father's life, I was even more determined to become a nurse. During this period while at WSC, I blossomed professionally until I left to complete my BSC in Nursing full time at the College of the Bahamas, now UB.

Upon completing my nursing degree in December, 2015, I was first placed on Male Orthopedic Ward under the mentorship of RN A. Farquharson, who pushed me toward excellence as she, along with the staff, helped me to build confidence while transitioning from student to RN. It was here that I participated in my first Nurse Led Initiative which I co-captained with great success and acquired a newfound joy for nursing research, which I plan on pursuing further.

During my rotation through the medical and surgical areas, as I can honestly say that I obtained a higher level of respect for nurses that words cannot begin to explain; the principles and roles taught as a student, I am now practicing as a young professional. I take great pride in being a caregiver, communicator, educator, counsellor, researcher, leader and advocate for my patients and their families by extension, all under the cap of being a nurse. I believe that there is always room for improvement and as I grow professionally, my goal is to become better than I was yesterday, acknowledging each patient as a human being with feelings, serving with empathy.

Nursing is a noble profession that requires a special kind of love and commitment. Despite the challenges that I've faced thus far, if given the opportunity to do it over again I would still choose to become a nurse; this was one of the most selfless, yet rewarding, decisions of my life.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## QUEENIE FERGUSON



A native Filipino from Cebu City, Philippines; born on November 13th. Although Philippines is her origin, she has adopted the Bahamian culture through marriage on March 2003.

She is a daughter, sister and mother of two outstanding children.

A graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in the Class of April 1995, who has surpassed all possible obstacles set to hinder her from obtaining and achieving her goals of excellence that she is still pursuing to reach her fullest potential in all aspects of life.

Nursing as a profession was her passion to promote health services through an advance knowledge to the population. Her concern with taking care of ill or injured persons, providing preventive health care to well individuals as well as their respective families motivates her to pursue and continue her studies in the betterment of her service. Being a patient advocate was also her most sought after goal.

With her completion on Ambulatory Surgical Center Administrator Skills Management Course and Certification Surgical Services Manager (CSSM) Program, facilitated her in improving and validating her managerial knowledge and skills to advance the performance of her work place in surgical services department.

When the opportunity presents itself for advancement in her career she will willingly and wholeheartedly obtain all experience and knowledge in any educational advancement she can to heighten her service in Nursing. She believes that God has a very mysterious way of working and his divine plan for his children is to make all of us the best we can be. In light of this, no matter what happens next, she knows it is to prepare her for the greater success that is yet to come and with the support of her family she will be able to embellish the virtue of contentedness or gratification.

She is only one of so many other commendable nurses in the country but today we recognize this special gem and Thank her for her never ending contribution and dedication to her field of work.

## MICHELLE GREY



"Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from praise of men but from doing something worthwhile".

Michelle Townsend-Grey graduated from the Excelcer Community College with her nursing license in Jamaica and was employed to the University Hospital of The West Indies.

Her first assignment was female surgical ward. Her leadership quality was recognized and she was made a charge nurse within 3 months under the mentoring of Sister Janet Farr. After a year, she did training as a Critical Care Nurse. This remains her passion.

She engaged in many voluntary services as a nurse and member of the Newland Foursquare Gospel Church. Worked at Jamaica cardiac Society and help screening hundreds of adults and children for open heart surgeries and help to care for them pre and post op. Empowering young people especially females to be all they can be and more, she started a mentoring group as a young adult. She has been on missionary work thought Jamaica and Haiti.

In 2005, she joined the family at Doctors Hospital (Bahamas) Ltd where she is currently employed in the ICU as a charge nurse. She's a member of the Bernard Road Church of God where she serves on the culinary, choir, Protocol and special events committee. She is married to one husband Barrington Grey and proud parents of 2 girls and one boy Joshua (deceased). But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## PATRICE SOLOMON

*"Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another." John C. Maxwell*

Mrs. Patrice Solomon currently serves as the Nurse Manager for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at The Princess Margaret Hospital. In this role, Mrs. Solomon leads a team of dedicated nurses and support staff and is responsible for the day to day operations, implementation of policies and procedures, and management of resources. Her role also extends to liaising with the multidisciplinary healthcare team and non-governmental organizations. Her goal is to continue to be an intentional leader.

Mrs. Solomon graduated from Nursing School in 1984 and served throughout various wards during her tenure; including the Private Medical Ward, Female Medical Wards, Male Medical Ward, Neonatal Intensive Care/Special Care Baby Unit & Night Duty Officer. In 1999, she was promoted to Nursing Officer II and in 2008 Nursing Officer 1.

Upon completion of Nursing School, Mrs. Patrice Solomon continued her studies. She subsequently completed a Perinatal Neonatal Critical Care Nursing (Hons) from George Brown College (1999) where she was also a Guest Lecture and completed an internship at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, Canada. She has received awards and certifications in numerous management courses locally and internationally. These include the Professionalism Award, The Quality Care Award, The Beverley Dean's Excellence in Neonatal Service Award, Perfect Attendance and Innovation Awards. She is the STABLE Coordinator for The Bahamas and Lead Instructor and has served in various committees; the TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition) Committee, Infection Control, Audit, Social, and Bereavement Committees.

Mrs. Solomon was responsible for the creation of several initiatives throughout her career:

- Discharge Planning Program for the NICU
- Parents follow-up program
- Employees of the Quarter and Month Awards

- Recognition of employees for perfect and near perfect attendance

Mrs. Patrice Solomon is married to Mr. Hilton Solomon Sr. and the proud mother of two sons and one daughter.



## MARSHA LEONE MINNS

Business Owner, CEO President

Marsha L's career has intersected with both education and healthcare, with the latter being the major influence of her 20 years' experience. She is the owner and founder Nurse's Edge Training Institute, an organization that has positioned itself as the leader in Emergency Training in the Bahamas.

Her experience has been in both the public and private sectors, including being Nurse Coordinator for the Emergency Room and Specialty Clinics for six years. Her passion for ensuring patient access to quality healthcare has served as fuel to empower other healthcare providers to seek improvement in healthcare systems and community awareness.

Marsha L. is an alma mater of C I Gibson Secondary school, where she graduated Head Girl and Class valedictorian, during which time she head various leadership. She volunteered with the Bahamas Red Cross, excelled as an athlete and represented the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in CARIFTA games, and other international and regional sporting events. She obtained higher education at the College of The Bahamas and Nova Southeastern University. She is a Toastmaster of the 47th Division, reaching competent communicator status. She is a musician, soloist, public speaker, and an aspiring author.

Marsha L's future looks bright she say; expanding her businesses, releasing her album and publishing her first book are just a few of her short-term goals. She is grateful for the powerful influence of men and women who have made significant contributions to her growth and development. She credits both of her parents - Dorothy M Williams and James Minns - for cultivating her leadership drive and setting her trajectory towards serving humanity. Nurse's Edge Training Institute offers both a Dorothy M Williams scholarship award and James Minns Leadership award in honor of her parents.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

### JANET HEPBURN



Janet L. Hepburn NO11 career as a Registered Nurse commenced October 20, 1980 when she along with forty three students entered The Bahamas School of Nursing, known as Introductory Course (IC15), and successfully completed

the three year program, graduating in 1984.

Ms. Hepburn NO11, is a certified Ear, Nose and Throat Nurse successfully completing a program in Ear, Nose and Throat Nursing at Edge Hill School of Health Studies, Liverpool England in 1997. Ms Hepburn is the only certified Ear, Nose and Throat Nurse deployed at the Princess Margaret Hospital to date. She has been the manager of the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Specialty Clinic from 2002 where she is responsible for the planning, directing, coordinating and evaluating the nursing services provided in the clinic along with supervision of the Registered Nurses, Trained Clinical Nurses and ancillary staff deployed in the Clinic. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Counselling 2008, which aids in counselling of patients and relatives who require support as they cope with their medical condition. She provides an inpatient care continuum, liaises with Public Health Community Clinics to provide continuity of care as well as the coordination, preparation and follow up of patients being referred locally and abroad for further medical treatment.

Ms Hepburn participates in the overall management of the Specialty Clinics with the Unit Manager and deputizes as the supervisor in the absence of the Unit Manager for the Specialty Clinics, handling multiple responsibilities and issues related to the Specialty Clinics while conducting the operations of the ENT Clinic.

As the only public ENT Clinic in New Providence, the physicians and nursing management team has developed an excellent collaborative working relationship. She is well respected by her colleagues and the physicians hold her in high esteem, as they rely on her expertise in ENT nursing and all respect her input. As an ENT Nursing program is being sought, Ms Hepburn in collaboration with the ENT team is in the process of developing a training manual for this purpose so that the ongoing education, collaboration and hopefully research will continue.

Ms Hepburn has enhanced her management and leadership skills in completing courses in Supervisory and First Line Management Course as well as the Leadership for Change Courses. She was instrumental in the revision of the "Day Charts" and the Public Holiday Documents which chart the activities of the nursing, support and clerical staff in the Nursing Service, which is critical to staff management. Ms Hepburn has been recognized by the College of the Bahamas for the development of nursing students in the country where she assisted with the revision classes for the finalist Nursing Students in preparation for the Nursing Council of the Bahamas exams. She has submitted questions for the Council's final exams on conditions of the Ear, Nose and Throat and has been a member of the interview panel for prospective Nursing Students. Ms Hepburn maintains her skills and knowledge base by regularly attending the Society of OtoRhinolaryngology Head and Neck Nurses Conference in the United States, is a CNE presenter and has been a presenter at Savanna La Mar Public General Hospital, Westmoreland Jamaica. She has developed innovative ideas within the ENT Clinic that benefit the clients and to a greater extent, the Public Hospital Authority inclusive of the use Tele Otoscope, flexible and rigid scopes and the cleaning and sterilization of instrument protocol.

She has written a booklet for staff on the care of patients with Tracheostomy, also developed and distributed numerous informational leaflets on Post-Operative home care following the removal of Tonsils and/or Adenoids, as well as leaflets on Tracheostomy home care, ear cleaning and first aid management of nose bleed. She hosted the first ENT Awareness Day which was highly received by the staff and the community. She has been instrumental in the collection and maintenance of a Data base specifically for patients diagnosed with head and neck Cancer since 2002, inclusive of type, site, treatment, follow-up visits and demise.



### DR. SHIRLEY CURTIS (Ph.D)

The last of three children born to George & Vera Curtis (both deceased). She began her nursing career in October 1980 as a member of IC 15 at The Bahamas School of Nursing. After graduating in 1984 Shirley served as a Registered

Nurse for four (4) years in the medical and surgical areas of the Princess Margaret Hospital.



# ZENITH AWARDEES

Inspired by Nurse Debbie Sears and encouraged by Nursing Officer Irene Coakley and her mother; in 1987 nurse Curtis applied and was accepted to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Education at the Advanced Nursing Education Unit at the University of the West Indies, Mona. After She graduated from that programme with honours. She was accepted to the Midwifery diploma programme at the University Hospital of the West Indies School of Midwifery, where she was the only foreign student, and received the Barbara Patterson Award for Clinical Excellence at graduation.

Upon her return home she worked at Doctors Hospital as a Registered Nurse/Midwife for three years. With her eyes still set on midwifery education she enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania where she obtained a Masters of Science in Perinatal Nursing in 1994.

Shirley's nursing education career began in 1994 at the College of The Bahamas. In the last 23 years she served as a lecturer, assistant professor in the Associate of Science, Bachelor of Science, Advanced Medical Surgical and the Midwifery diploma programmes. Additionally, she served as coordinator for the midwifery programme and a Head of Department for the Allied Health programmes; which includes the Community Nursing, Midwifery, Trained Clinical Nursing and the Pharmacy programmes.

In 2008 Shirley recognized that if she was to remain in academia it was time pursue doctoral studies. Prompted by Dr. Brenda Cleare, then Dean of Pure & Applied Science, Shirley applied for study leave to attend the University of Miami where she graduated in 2011 with a PhD in Nursing.

Dr. Curtis is also giving serve to professional organizations locally and abroad. She is the founding Vice-president of Midwives Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Currently she serves as treasurer since May 2017. She now serves as president of the Caribbean Regional Midwives Association since June, 2017.

Dr. Curtis is a Certified Master Teacher of Competency Based Education. She has conducted workshops here at home as well as Dominica and Belize. She is also a certified Helping Babies Breathe- HBB instructor. The course has been incorporated into the midwifery programme at the University of The Bahamas. She has assisted in the introduction of the programme in Guyana.

Dr. Curtis is also a member of professional advisory committees for GOLD Learning Online Continuing Education (Perinatal & Midwifery). This programme provides online Continuing Education Conferences worldwide.

Dr. Curtis is an active member of the New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church where the members are making personal preparations for the return of God.

Dr. Curtis is a single, Christian who loves to travel.  
To God Be the Glory!



## CHERIE BLACKMORE-BROWN

Born on February 8th, 1993, Cherie demonstrated various leadership attributes at a very tender age whether at school, church or community outreach programs where she has never refused a call to aid those in need. When elected as United

Student Movement President in 2014-2015 at Bahamas Academy, she then realized her great potential as a leader. After participating in the Nursing Cadets Program, Cherie decided to pursue a Bachelors of Science in Nursing at the Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica.

She is currently employed at Doctors Hospital on the Medical-Surgical Unit since March 2016, where she consistently shows leadership qualities to peers and superiors. At a young age of 24, she strives for excellence as she continues to improve her knowledge and skills through various certifications in nursing.

She recently successfully participated in the Tobacco Cessation Training as a Counsellor in October 2017. Cherie never refuses opportunities to grow as a healthcare worker and holds true to the quote "Your dream is your potential reality only if you're determined to achieve it". Committed to serve and inspire with a warm empathetic attitude, Cherie aspires to become a nursing manager, with the sole purpose to continue alleviating illness and empower staff members wherever she goes.

Honest, thoughtful, objective and creative are just a few adjectives to further describe Cherie as she continues to be a servant leader.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## JULIAN H. MULLINGS

Mr. Mullings entered the nursing profession in 1981 as a Registered Nurse.

In 1986, he completed studies in Orthopaedic Nursing from the Princess Margaret Rose Orthopaedic Hospital in Edinburgh Scotland.

In 2002, he completed studies for the Bachelor of Arts – Public Administration (Valedictorian – Summa Cum Laude) from Sojourner-Douglas Collage.

In 2009, he completed studies for the Masters of Business Administration – Health Service Administration from McHari Institute.

In 2002, Mr. Mullings was promoted to Nursing Officer 1 – Clinical and served as the Unit Supervisor of the very busy, active Orthopaedic Department of the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Over the years, Mr. Mullings has contributed to the growth and development of Orthopaedic nursing and Orthopaedic Technology in the Bahamas. He was instrumental in developing several protocols and procedure for the Public Hospitals Authority and the Princess Margaret Hospital, and several administrative documents presently being utilized within the Princess Margaret Hospital such as: the Results Oriented Job Descriptions for Orthopaedic Nurses, Attendants and Technicians, Cast Care Instructions - a Patient Discharge Information Sheet, Care of the child in a Hip Spica Cast – a parent discharge information sheet, Sick leave form, and the Ortho. Tech instructions sheet.

Mr. Mullings was instrumental in developing the "On the Job training – Orthopaedic Attendants" a hospital base training curriculum for Orthopaedic Attendants and has successfully trained several persons now employed within the PHA system. Mr. Mullings has served on several committees throughout his career, notably as Chairman of Nursing Standards and Practices Committee of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas Nursing Association - 1990, Night duty survey committee – 2005, & Senior Nursing Officer Clinical Tract Committee – 2011 and lastly a proposal for Nursing students rotation to the Orthopae-

dic Department – as a catalyst to encourage and spark the interest for more nurses to become interested and trained as Orthopaedic Nurses.

Since May 2015 to present, as the Secretary General of the Bahamas Nurses Union, Mr. Mullings plays an integral part of the executive team seeking to ensure that the rights, working conditions and benefits of nurses are not infringed or violated.

Looking to the future development of nursing and by extension health care in the Bahamas, Mr. Mullings is of the opinion that the establishment of a Nurse Recruitment & Retention Unit is one avenue that would be a corrective measure to address the nursing shortage within the Bahamas. It must be empowered to address causative factors, and be at the table discussions when discussing means for a corrective solution. This Unit will then be empowered and responsible for the management and administration of the Nursing Cadet Program, thus causing the Nursing profession to be advertised and seen as a viable option for our male and female students seeking a career in healthcare.

In addition, Mr. Mullings is of the view that the amended Nurses Act must take into account the functioning ability of each nursing specialty thus paving the way for professional contribution and remunerations.



## SHANICE SIMMONS

My name is Shanice Simmons and I am 25 years old. I have been a nurse going on 2 years and it is indeed a pleasure to be an honoree for such a prestigious award. I was born and raised in Freeport, Grand Bahama and I

am the eldest of three siblings. My love for nurses began at an early age when I was diagnosed with Nephrotic Syndrome and had to be frequently admitted in the hospital.

It was during these moments I realized that it was nurses that provide the care and are the stronghold for patients. Due to the many nurses that have touched my life, this has birth a desire in me to touch the lives of every patient in my care through holistic care. In high school after joining the Nursing Cadets Program and graduating with the Florence Nightingale Award, my passion for nursing in-

# ZENITH AWARDEES

tensified thanks to the tutelage of Sis. P. Hanchell and Nurse K. Morris. Moving back to Grand Bahama in December 2015 after successfully completing my nursing council exam, I was allowed to rotate through the various areas of nursing that included Intensive Care Unit, Accident and Emergency, Pediatrics, Community, Medical, Surgical, Operating Theatre, Neonatal Intensive Care, Obstetrics, and Psychiatric.

am currently stationed in School Health Nursing and Disease Surveillance.

I also work as a Renal Nurse at the Kidney Centre in Freeport and a Palliative Care Nurse in my spare time. I have also served as Chairman of Physical and Mental health in the Grand Bahama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, developing programs to educate and provide awareness to the public of various communicable and non-communicable diseases.

My desire as a nurse is to have my patient function at optimal levels and definitely be that smile and caring heart during each encounter. It has certainly been a beautiful thing for me that a career and passion has come together.



## TERRY J. CAMPBELL

Mr. Terry Jerome Campbell entered the profession of Nursing eleven (11) years ago, having attained his Bachelor of Science degree from the Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica. Since then Mr. Campbell has been engaged in various activities in his never ending

pursuit for success. He holds a Master of Science in Nursing (Education) from The University of the West Indies in addition to certification in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing. He is a registered member of the Nurses' Association of Jamaica and has served at the executive level.

His previous experiences include, working as a Nursing Officer in the Department of Psychiatry, University Hospital of the West Indies with responsibility for professional development and training and as a Lecturer at the Caribbean School of Nursing, University of Technology, Jamaica. During his tenure, he was influential in leading curric-

ulum design and development, implementing the Biennial Nursing Research Conference, as well as revamping and restructuring the Student Nurses' Association. Additionally, he was also an external examiner to the Nursing Council of Jamaica and the University of the West Indies, School of Nursing, Mona.

Mr. Campbell is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, University of The Bahamas. While in The Bahamas, Mr. Campbell facilitates education and training for health workers; and encourages the use of knowledge, research evidence and best practice accessible to health workers. He continues to challenge the status quo by implementing innovative teaching and learning strategies for active student engagement; as well as thought leadership to the exploration of the professional experiences of male nurses; and public awareness on the role of men in nursing.

This charismatic advocate for change is pursuing doctoral studies at The University of the West Indies, where his research interests include the effects of school climate on student learning in nursing practice; social media in nursing education; and student nurses' retention. Mr. Campbell is passionate about mentorship, student motivation and inspiration and is dedicated to leading and managing change that creates and sustains professional educational environments that influence effective communication, critical thinking, use of evidence and student retention.



## JENNIFER KING

A heart for service and love of others, Jennifer C. King is a committed, compassionate, caring Nurse with a warm genuine smile that quickly dispels anxiety and fosters trust. She believes that "to whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:18).

Nurse King has always given distinguished service and is committed to excellence. Her achievements are a testament to this fact. She completed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) with Distinction in 2005 and was the recipient of the Award for Academic Excellence and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Award. She was the first

## ZENITH AWARDEES

and to date, the only Nurse to have received the coveted President's Award for a graduating class of The College (now University) of The Bahamas (COB). Among other awards, she received the Director of Nursing's Award for Excellence in the Ministry of Health's First Line Management Course. Nurse King became the Registered Nurse of the year for the Princess Margaret Hospital in the first National Nurse of the Year competition. Subsequently, she served as Secretary, then Chairperson of the National Nurses' Recognition Committee (NRC). She holds a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration with First Class Honours (2008). She keeps current with nursing trends through pursuing short courses, attending continuing nursing education (CNE) sessions, participation in the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and membership and participation in the Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) and the Midwives Association (MACB).

Nurse King's contributions to the profession are too numerous to mention here. As Secretary of the NACB (2006-2010) she introduced extensive email communication. She represented the Association twice at the Caribbean Nurses' Organization's (CNO), Commonwealth Nurses' Federation (CNF) and International Council of Nurses (ICN) biennial conferences. She encourages colleagues by her example, to become members, attend meetings and participate in various activities of her beloved NACB. She has served as clinical preceptor on the Maternity Ward for student midwives in the Diploma programme at COB as well as a group of midwifery students from the United Kingdom. She has given numerous presentations at orientation for new nurses, and CNE sessions on her wards where deployed. She served as Nursing Student Liaison Officer in the Office of the Director of Nursing, with responsibility for students on the nursing grant, Nursing Cadet and Future Nurses of The Bahamas Programmes. Now, as the School Nurse at St. John's College, she facilitates the Nursing Cadet Programme and continues to mentor students in the importance of maintaining high standards and pursuing excellence. Nurse King educates students and families through articles in the school's monthly newsletter, classroom presentations and education on various conditions during school assemblies and PTA meetings. She also volunteers her Nursing expertise and time in the community at various events.

Nurse King's vision for health includes the desire for a system in which providers would be more competent and

knowledgeable and committed to the clients they serve, while themselves modelling healthy lifestyle behaviours. She eagerly anticipates the full implementation of minimum annual CNE hours for practice as well as the replacement of lifetime registration with specific relicensure requirements and reactivation of nursing licences following prolonged absence from practice. These measures, she believes, would serve to improve the quality of care, ensuring competent and safe practice at the highest standard possible. Nurse King hopes for increased public health education so that individuals would be more knowledgeable about and empowered in self-care for the prevention and management of chronic non-communicable diseases.

Nurse King has been married to Clement King for the past thirty-one (31) years and together the couple has four (4) children and two sons-in-law. She is actively involved in St. Agnes church and is a member of the senior choir, the Anglican Church Women (Chaplain), Bible Study group, St. Agnes Players (performing arts group), Health and Wellness and Christian Formation Ministries. She is trained in Clinical Pastoral Education as a lay chaplain and is a Parish Nurse.



### MARCEL JOHNSON

Mrs. Johnson commenced training in the Registered Nurse Diploma at the Bahamas School of Nursing, Ministry of Health in October, 1972.

Following successful completion of her training in 1975, she was assigned to the Male Surgical

Ward of the Princess Margaret Hospital, after which she was transferred to the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama, following her appointment as a staff nurse in January 1976.

After serving at The Rand for six months, Mrs. Johnson was posted to the Accident and Emergency Department of the Princess Margaret Hospital. Following her posting to the Accident and Emergency Department, she matriculated into the One Year Post basic Midwifery Programme at The Bahamas School of Nursing in 1978.

Following successful completion, of the Midwifery Programme in 1979, Mrs. Johnson was assigned to the Pri-

## ZENITH AWARDEES

vate Surgical Ward of the Princess Margaret Hospital, where she served until 1981, when she matriculated into the One Year Post basic Community Health Nursing Programme. Following successful completion of that programme in 1982, Mrs. Johnson was posted to the Coopers Town, Clinic in Abaco in December, 1982.

She served at that clinic until 1984, when she received an In Service Education Training Award to participate in a Seven Month Diploma in Community Nutrition Programme at The Barbados Community College in collaboration with the University of The West Indies. She successfully completed that programme in November 1984 with distinction.

Upon her return to The Bahamas, Mrs. Johnson was assigned to the several areas in the Community Health Nursing Unit. She worked at the Nursing Administration Unit, Coconut Grove, Anne's Town, Fleming Street and Flamingo Gardens clinics. She also served as Administrator of the South Beach Health Centre for two years, prior to her assignment to the office of the Director of Nursing.

Mrs. Johnson successfully completed the Master of Public Health Programme at the University of The West Indies in 1991.

She coordinated the first Community Health Nursing Diploma Programme at The College of The Bahamas (now University of The Bahamas) in 2001 – 2002.

In addition to her extensive nursing and administration experience, this resourceful nurse also served as the Field Coordinator for the first National Health and Nutrition Survey in 1984 which was conducted in New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Exuma and Long Island.

Mrs. Johnson was appointed to serve as the second Deputy Director of Nursing in January, 2007 and as Director of Nursing in March 2009.

Mrs. Johnson's contributions to the national health agenda was also supplemented with contributions to the international health agenda. She has made presentations at the World Health Organization's Global Forum for Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers on Nursing and Midwifery as well as presentations at the Credentialing and Regulators Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mrs. Johnson was part of a technical working group for the World Health Organization that developed the Manual "Roles and Responsibilities of Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers: A Capacity Building Manual" in 2015.

Mrs. Johnson is married to Mr. Charles Johnson and they have two daughters; Chanelle and Chacelle and one grand-daughter, Payton.



### DR. EMILY M. OSADEBAY (Ph.D)

Wife, mother, grandmother and author, a multifaceted professional commenced training as a nurse in August, 1960. Following completion of her basic training, plus seven months of midwifery training, she proceeded to the United Kingdom in 1965 under a special reciprocal arrangement with the Nursing Council for England and Wales.

She was among the first five to do so and was accepted into Croydon General Hospital Surrey England. This was history for the nursing profession in the Bahamas. This period of training was for one year, resulting in her being first in the final exams obtaining honors. This then allowed for application to be registered as a State registered Nurse with the Nursing Council.

She then went on to successfully pursue midwifery training parts one and two, making her eligible in becoming a State Certified Midwife. Following a short period of work in the theatre she then pursued a course in theatre technique and management. Following several months in theatre leave was granted to return to England where she was engaged in midwifery practice at the famous St. Thomas' Hospital. Her professionalism and expertise in midwifery resulted in her being selected to demonstrate the delivery of a primipara for publication for the British Medical Association Magazine, A family Doctor publication "You and Your Baby". This was widely publicized, Atlantic Edition No. 6.

She returned home was reassigned to the operating theatre and promoted to Nursing Officer 11. Another milestone in her legendary life included the relocation to the Ambulatory Care Department during the construction phase where she became actively involved in the development and reorganization of the department which opened in July 1976. Mrs. Osaдебay became actively involved in the

## ZENITH AWARDEES

development and reorganization of the department having worked closely with members of the Kaiser Permanente group in organizing the specialty and general practice clinics, and extended to working with Dr. Richards in developing protocols for Accident and emergency. She remained in ACD, to give lectures and assisted Mr. Forbes and Sandra Bain with training, worked and reviewed function in the area and returned to the operating theatre in 1980.

This multitasker then pursued and successfully completed a course in secretarial science obtaining advanced passes from the British Society of Arts, London.

Her work with the association began in 1967 and for the period of involvement became secretary to three presidents. She was secretary when the association hosted the Caribbean Nurses Organization in 1982. While in the association; she assisted in the revision of the constitution and worked many long hours on the socio economic committee raising funds to meet varying needs.

This community spirited professional also served as secretary to the PTA of St. John's College for seven consecutive years. She worships at St. Agnes Anglican Church, sings in the senior choir and heads the Mental and Physical Wellness team at church. She is also an active member of the Nassau Chapter of Links where she is the chaplain, and heads the Health and Human Services facet providing health overviews for The Elizabeth Estate Home where she assists with the mentoring program, and lectures for the residents and members of the community.

Her spiritual growth and development continued at Templeton Theological Seminary where she read for and was successful in Philosophy of Religion and New Testament Greek Grammar designed to help in her pastoral work assigned by the late Bishop Michael Eldon.

As a nursing officer 11 and 1 she was very involved in policy making and chaired this committee for several years, in addition to serving on the Ministry of Health Board of examiners and Panel of examiners, pro bono for an extensive period.

She represented nursing as the PNO at meetings regarding nursing education at the Grosvenor Close building with members of the College of the Bahamas and other stake holders. Always present were the director of Nursing and the Nursing Service Advisor.

During her professional career she attended numerous seminars, workshops and conferences locally and internationally, designed for her growth and that of her subordinates. Her focus was on education and development of staff. She became a member of AORN, ANE, AHA, where quality improvement workshops, financial and strategic management issues were the focus, as well as public sector strengthening projects. Her appointment to NO1 came in 1984 following her return from England on successful completion of the Advanced Administration in Nursing from the Royal College of Nursing.

In 1982 the concept of perioperative nursing evolved, and once introduced, the goals and protocol were then established. This was designed to be in keeping with international progress in the operating theatre the focus being on patient care and to assist in allaying their fears when theatre visit was unavoidable. Theatre staff was encouraged to become members of the relevant professional bodies and to attend as many conferences as possible. They were advised to always remain one cut above their junior staff. In 1991 a transfer though most reluctantly out of theatre to Surgical Area 1 occurred. The culture was different and many changes were required. While in surgical Area 1, the topping up system was introduced as quality assurance was difficult to assess. With the help of Mrs. Maggie moss and Mr. Audley Bain, from supplies, the topping up system was piloted, caught on and greatly improved with the involvement of surgical stores, central supplies and proper equipment.

In time, many attempts were made to have staff undertake post basic specialty training, the goal to have at least three trained persons in each specialty. This was a difficult task as many overseas health care institutions had introduced an adaptation period, some as long as the training itself would take. Not to be deterred training took place in England Jamaica and later in Canada for the staff in NICU.

In 2000 a transfer was made to the office of the PNO but it was not until 2002 that promotion to PNO came about. While in office, and as a member of the executive management team, it was necessary to be present for many meetings, some contentious others not so, and I deemed it an honor to represent the PHA and nursing during negotiations with the Nurses Union. I was also privileged to represent the MOH in the absence of the Permanent secretary at an AHA meeting in California, and voted on their behalf.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

Educational pursuits continued throughout this period, and Mrs. Osadebay obtained a BA. Management, from the College of St. Benedicts, John's University, Minnesota, and a Master's Degree in Human Resource from Mc. Hari, a Ph.D. also from Mc. Hari, in conjunction with the Higher Institute of Technology in Cuba. Prior to retirement she was again privileged to serve her country in a different capacity by representing the substantive holder of the post of Director of Nursing, and to sit in for the acting Director of Nursing.

Post retirement work continued at the PHA as consultant, assisting with the compensation project.



### KAROL MACKEY

Ms. Karol Mackey's career began as a registered nurse, registered midwife working in a number of settings inclusive of community clinics, family islands and hospital. After receiving a Master's degree in nursing education she taught in the continuing education

department of the Princess Margaret Hospital, until being seconded to University of The Bahamas prev., College of The Bahamas. While at the College she worked with revising the trained clinical nurse curriculum, and then taught in the programme.

In 2005 she became a full time faculty at University of The Bahamas, School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions where she is presently employed as an Assistant Professor. In her role as educator she has been involved in a number of projects. As chair of the midwifery committee the midwifery curriculum was revised and upgraded to an eighteen months programme (previously one year), which aligned it with international standards. She was part of a work group organized by PAHO/WHO which looked at "Scaling up nurse educator competencies" where a document for standardization of nurse educator competencies was reviewed.

After becoming a Master Trainer for competency based education she assisted in organizing several workshops to train midwifery preceptors. The goal of the workshops were to promote standardization in midwifery preceptors for training of student midwives. She co-wrote a module for the Young Midwifery Leaders Programme, which seek to prepare young midwives in their countries as advocates and changes agents with a goal to promote maternal and child health policies to improve access to and

quality health care for women and children.

She was elected as a member of the Nurses Association, Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) and served as Chair of the Standards and Practice Committee, 2006-2008 and was appointed as a member of the Nursing Council, Commonwealth of The Bahamas, as a representative for NACB. She served as Chair of the examination committee, 2006 - 2012. During her tenure she took part in numerous regional examination workshops where she participated in writing test items and preparing examinations for the Regional Examination for Nurse Registration. After completing the trainer of trainer's course in item writing she facilitated examination workshops for the Nursing Council's registered nurse, midwifery and trained clinical nurse registration and enrolment examinations.

She served as Chair of the Nursing Council 2014 - 2017. During her tenure the revision of the Nurses and Midwives Act, 1972 was completed, producing the first draft of the Nurses and Midwives Bill, 2017. The process of transitioning to the Regional Examination for Nurse Registration was also started.

In the area of research her graduate thesis examined the views of Bahamian women toward breast cancer screening. Other research projects that she participated in are: investigating the views of nurses regarding the Associate Degree programme and re-introduction of the Diploma programme in nursing in The Bahamas, factors impacting the retention of nurses and implementation of the acutestaff system.

Her future goals are to continue contributing to improving policies that would positively impact the profession of nursing and prepare future nurses, midwives and nurse leaders through the provision of a high standard in nursing education.



### NADIA RUSSELL-LEWIS

Nadia Russell Lewis is a Grand Bahama native who relocated Abaco to around the age of 14 years. She graduated from the Sherlin C. Bogle High School Coopers Town Abaco in 1999. She went on to attend the College of the Bahamas (now

University of the Bahamas) after working as medical assistant for one year, to pursue an Associates of Science

## ZENITH AWARDEES

degree in Nursing. She Graduated in April of 2004 and successfully sat her council exam in November 2004.

Deployed to the Department of Public Health in January 2005 as a graduate nurse, Nadia has worked at the South Beach Clinic and the Coconut Grove clinic respectively, before being transferred to the Fox Town Clinic in Abaco September of 2005. Nurse Lewis has remained in Abaco since her deployment.

While in Abaco, Nurse Lewis has been in Charge of the Fox Town Clinic for five nonconsecutive years. She was chosen as the 2013 Nurse of the year for the Northern District of Abaco. She founded a girl's civic based community program "Girls Empowered" in 2008. She is a member of the St. Chad's Anglican Church where she currently serves as Member of the ACW (Anglican Church Women) and the praise team. Recently she was elected to the Little Abaco Township committee and Council member of the North Abaco District of Local Government.

In January of 2015, Nurse Lewis was accepted into the midwifery program, successfully completed and was registered by the Bahamas Nurses' council as registered Midwife in September 2016 and obtained a Diploma in Midwifery in May of this year from the University of the Bahamas.

An Artist in her spare time, she also enjoys music, fishing and creating crafts

Currently Nurse Lewis is the acting Nurse in charge of the North Abaco District and is currently stationed at the Coopers Town Clinic. Her vision for Health Care in the Bahamas is to provide cutting edge, Sustainable, affordable, and quality Health Care for all with emphasis on promotion and prevention through consistent education and consistent and intentional provision of both human and medical resources.



### ROSE THOMPSON

Upon graduation from High School a decision was made to commence nurse training at the Princess Margaret Hospital to test whether this was truly the career path to be followed. The program started in January 1961.

After being accepted into the School of Nursing at Croydon General Hospital, West Croydon, Surrey England classes commenced in January 1962. This was an experience that culminated in success graduating as The Silver Medalist in 1965.

Further training for midwifery commenced at Guy's Memorial Hospital in London this was followed at Wythenshaw Maternity Hospital in Manchester.

The final period of nursing studies was at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for Intensive Care Nursing and Dialysis Nursing obtaining the certificate for successful completion.

Returning to the Bahamas in 1967, was offered a post as a Nursing Sister in the Theatre Suite and shortly thereafter was transferred as one of the Nursing Sisters in the Medical Area.

After many years, the nomenclature was changed to Nursing Officer II. was promoted to NOI in I.C.U and Senior Nursing Officer in Paediatrics then Ambulatory Care Department. 1977, graduated from Florida International University.

The career ended with retirement in 2001 as the Principal Nursing Officer.



### PERSEPHONE MUNNINGS

Persephone Munnings realized her dream of becoming a nurse when she graduated from the College of The Bahamas with an Associate of Arts Degree in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 1989 and 1999

respectively. An educator at heart, she completed a Masters Degree in Nursing education in 2010, and is deployed as a Nurse Educator/Manager at The Princess Margaret Hospital and adjunct nursing faculty at The University of The Bahamas. She is a Certified Professional Manager, Master Mentor, graduate of the International Council of Nurses' (ICN) Leadership for Change and Global Nursing Leadership Institute programmes, and a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Munnings contributes to the strategic direction of nursing by serving on the nursing leadership team at Princess Margaret Hospital. She served 1 term on the Nursing Council of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas where she chaired the education committee and served as item-writer for the national licensure exams.

An active member of the Nurses' Association of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) for more than 20 years Nurse, Munnings served on the Executive Board for



# ZENITH AWARDEES

coordinator for nursing and medical services provided at national conferences as well as State Visits of visiting dignitaries, as well as national sporting events:

1. STATE VISITS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES- The State Visit of the Prince Harry, Ms. Condolisa Rice, former Secretary of State for the United States of America, His Excellency, Le Quan Wang, Member of the Political Bureau of China, His Excellency and Mr. Granger, President of Guyana.
2. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCES / MEETINGS; CARICOM CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS MEETING, CHOGAM, COMMONWEALTH LAW MINISTERS MEETING, THE 9TH ICAO AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS EVENT
3. NATIONAL CONFERENCES FACILITATED BY GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES: 19TH CCEM, 9TH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION MINISTERS.
4. NATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS HELD IN NASSAU, BAHAMAS: THE IAAF WORLD RELAYS, 2015, AND 2017, THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES (CYG), AND THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL RELAYS 2017, 2017 FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP

**She was appointed Chairman to the Nursing Council of the Bahamas in July 2017.**

She is a member of the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; Basic Life Support and First Aid Instructor with the American Heart Association; exercises her civic duty as she conducts training in CPR in Nassau as well as the Family Islands for public and private citizens. Chairperson of the Health and Wellness Committee at her church (Vision of Hope Cathedral) - conducts Health education sessions, health walks and coordinates health screening for the members.

Active member of the 'Fit Club' group, supports events which raises the awareness of Health and Wellness and Non Communicable Diseases; participates in national and international Walk/Run events, such as the Susan G. Kohman (Cancer), I.N.G. and Lou Gehrig (USA) and Parkinson's Disease and Autism.



## JACQUELYN NEWBOLD

Born on the island of New Providence. Attended P.A.Gibson Primary School in Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera and later graduated from Governor's Harbour High School Eleuthera.

Commenced nursing training at the Bahamas School of Nursing in October 1984. A member of the I.C.19 Nursing Group who were privileged to complete a four-year nursing program which included midwifery. Became a certified Registered Nurse (1987) and Registered Midwife in 1988 respectively.

As a post graduate worked in Princess Margaret Hospital in the following areas: Medical Ward, Accident and Emergency and Maternity Ward. Holds a vast and enriching nursing experience in working in various islands of the Bahamas such as Fresh Creek -Andros, Bimini, Black Point, Exuma, Hope Town -Abaco and Spanish Wells -Eleuthera.

Attended the University of West Indies in Jamaica in 2000 and became a certified Family Nurse Practitioner. Upon returning to Nassau in 2004, was assigned to the Pediatric Physician Team at South Beach clinic for three (3) years performing clinical skills as Family Nurse Practitioner. Also served as a clinical examiner for School Medical Services for one (1) year. Promoted in 2005 as a Nursing Officer II. Presently deployed to Gambier Clinic as Supervisor/ Nurse in charge of Clinic for the past seven (7) years. Served as member of Pharmacy Drug Committee for the two years.

Believes in knowledge sharing and development of other Staff Members in a tangible way. A strong believer - that it is always better to give than to receive.


Words of testimony penned by a fellow co-worker "I came to Spanish wells green, some procedures never seen. You my fair lady changed all that, you kept me motivated and encouraged me to always wear my thinking hat. All these words may seem trivial and foul-hardy, it is only my small way of saying thank you kindly. What you did for me, is more than you know. You have further prepared me to face, tackle and conquer challenges wherever I may go." E.M.S 1996

Hobbies are listening to music, dancing, and sports and baking.

Motto: Do your work as unto God for that is the true matter we serve.

# ZENITH AWARDEES

## JULIETH MINNIS



Nurse Julieth Minnis received her early education in Nassau, at St. Agnes Day School, and the Western Junior/Senior Schools. She later attended St. John's College, and in 1961, was honored as the Head Girl, and upon graduation, received the Senior Cambridge Certificate.

The following year, she entered the nursing profession, and began her training at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

In 1964, she travelled to the United Kingdom to pursue further studies in Nursing and obtained the RN Certificate from the Nursing Council of England and Wales, and State Board Certificates (Part I and II) in Midwifery from Scotland. Upon completion of the state boards, she completed further specialized training in Infectious Disease control for an additional year in England; which was followed by a certificate in Advanced Nursing with Honors from the University of West Indies, Kingston Jamaica.

Upon her return to the Bahamas, she was employed at the Princess Margaret Hospital where she moved through the ranks of Nursing Officer II, Nursing Officer I, Acting Principal Nursing Officer, and finally Deputy Principal Nursing Officer until her retirement in 2008.

One of her passions was to train the next generation of nurses to deliver not only excellent care to their patients but also to function as effective administrators, so that the highest standards of service could be realized across all sectors of public healthcare system. To achieve this goal, she played a leading role as a facilitator of the First Line Management certification course, which formed part of the professional development of all staff nurses seeking promotion to the rank of Nursing Officer II.

Nurse Minnis hopes that her exemplary and long-standing service will inspire many others to join this prestigious career path, so that the work of advancing quality healthcare may continue. Her advice to nursing staff, especially those working on the wards – "Do not forget why you are there. The patients need you to treat them humanely and with love."

Nurse Minnis is married to Randolph Minnis and has three (3) children and seven (7) grandchildren. She is an active member of St. Agnes Parish, where she participates in numerous ministries including Anglican Church Women (ACW), the Pastoral Care and Counselling Ministry, and the Soup Kitchen.



## TIAJUANA BEEN-MCKENZIE

My name is Tiajuana Been-McKenzie, I was born on September 4th, 1995 and I am presently twenty-two years old. My developmental educational process began at the Doris Robinson Primary School where I

graduated as valedictorian of my class in 2007. Thereafter I went to Saint Anne's School where I obtained seven BJC's, nine BGCSCCE's and three Pittman's and maintained a GPA where I was consecutively placed on the Dean's List.

My involvement in numerous extra-curricular activities led to my placement as Key Club District Board Secretary & Treasurer and Secretary for Saint Anne's School Class of 2013. In 2013 I graduated with honors in the top five of my class. In fall of 2013 I enrolled at the College of the Bahamas after achieving a Nursing Scholarship. During my time there I maintained a cumulative GPA average of 3.0 and above which resulted in me being placed on either the Dean's or President's List consecutively. In 2014-2015 I served as Senator of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals (College of The Bahamas Union of Students), I also served as President of Student Nurses Association 2016-2017.

I have participated in volunteered work for various institutions such as the Thompson Ward (Geriatrics), Bahamas Red Cross Association, Hands For Hunger, Bahamas International Film Festival, First Caribbean Bank Event, Marathon Bahamas and Peer Tutoring (Saint Anne's School). Ultimately, I intend to become a Nursing Educator. I would like to become a professor at a university aboard or in The Bahamas. Then establish a Geriatric Home and a Retirement Centre for the elderly in Turks and Caicos Islands.

I completed my Bachelors of Science in Nursing and officially became a graduate from the University of The Bahamas in Summer II 2017. Following, the completion of this degree I have decided to gather clinical experience working at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre found on New Providence, The Bahamas. Within the next two years I would like to pursue educational recognition for studies within Phlebotomy and the Gerontology or Psychiatric Nursing.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## BRIDGETTE CHARLTON

Bridgette Charlton entered the School of Nursing in 1980 at the tender age of eighteen (18). After completing her studies as a Registered Nurse, she embraced her profession with enthusiasm. In 1986 she was hired under the Department of Public Health. As a result of her passion for close knit communities, she was always willing to serve as a relief to nurses posted in our family islands.

She got the opportunity to serve shortly in Crooked Island, and also in Black Point, Exuma. However, in Mayaguana was where the magic took place! There, she met and married Mr. Franklyn Charlton and this union was blessed with two beautiful daughters.

Upon realizing the challenges of family island nursing and the need for further studies, Nurse Charlton reverted to the classroom. In 2003, after equipping herself with additional knowledge/skills, including that of management and midwifery, she returned to her post in Mayaguana where she continues to serve and contribute to all aspects of society.

She currently serves her community as:

- A Sunday school teacher and Treasurer of St. James Native Baptist Church, Mayaguana
- President of the Mayaguana Handicraft Association
- Founding member of The Coalition For A Better Mayaguana
- Founding member of The All Mayaguana Regatta
- Member of the Mayaguana Drug Council
- Member of the Mayaguana Advisory Board

Bridgette Charlton's desire is for Mayaguana to have a resident doctor, and available facilities that would prevent the residents having to travel to New Providence for blood investigations, etc. She strives to create a population that is educated on the prevention and treatment of chronic and communicable diseases. Thus, she practices one on one education with her patients and promote healthy lifestyles.



## ALICE NEYMOUR

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

Mrs. Alice Stewart-Neymour has devoted forty-four years of her life to the delivery of healthcare services in the public health sector. After completing nursing training and becoming a midwife, she began a twenty-three year deployment to several of our Family Islands where she served as the Nurse-in-charge at clinics in Eleuthera (5 years), Andros (5 years), and New Providence (12 years), inclusive of short term relief postings in Exuma, Long Island, Bimini, Berry Islands and San Salvador. During this time, she was promoted to Nursing Officer I.

A noteworthy achievement was the revamping of District Nursing Services in South Andros and galvanizing the community to establish a nursing home for its senior citizens. From 2001 onwards, Mrs. Stewart-Neymour was mandated responsibility for the Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance Unit and the National Tuberculosis program. Mrs. Stewart-Neymour envisions a TB free Bahamas in her lifetime.

Notwithstanding the resource constraints of that unit, the dynamic TB team has worked diligently to control the incidence of tuberculosis within The Bahamas, achieving a downward trend in new cases over the last decade. In 2004 Mrs. Stewart-Neymour was promoted to Senior Nursing Officer.

Mrs. Alice Stewart-Neymour has two daughters, a son and three granddaughters.



## KIMBLEY JOSEY-MCPHEE

Nurse Kimbley Josey is a proud registered nurse for over 18 years, currently working at the South Beach Health Center as a nursing team leader in the ambulatory section. She obtained her Associate of Science Degree in Nursing from the College of The Bahamas in 1998 and began her nursing career at the Princess Marg-

# ZENITH AWARDEES

ret Hospital obtaining clinical experience in Medical/Surgical and the Pediatric Units. In 2002 she transferred to the Department of Public Health. In 2008 she decided to further her education and clinical skills, obtaining certification as an Emergency Certified Nurse from the University Hospital of the West Indies. Throughout her career Nurse Josey-McPhee has always displayed a high standard of professionalism, good work ethics and a commitment to quality service. Because of these traits she has obtained numerous awards and recognition including being named Department of Public Health Nurse of the Year 2006-2008, National 1st runner up Nurse of the year 2006-2008, Employee of the year for Air Ambulance Services Ltd. 2010, and "Catch me at my best" award at Doctor's Hospital Health Systems.

Nurse Josey-McPhee has participated in a vast array of training programs most notably the Training of Trainers, Safe Food Servers and Basic Life Support Instructor training, which she utilizes to impart knowledge and training to other, as she has a special love for teaching, training and mentoring.

Because of her passion for her profession Nurse Josey-McPhee nominated and subsequently won the office 2nd Vice President of the Bahamas Nurses Union serving faithfully during her tenure 2013-2016.

She is the mother of one beautiful daughter who has chosen to follow in her mother's footsteps and is now pursuing a career in Nursing at the University of the Bahamas. Nurse Josey recently married Bishop Robert McPhee and continues to serve actively in her church.

Her life motto is "If I can help somebody as I travel along then my living shall not be in vain."



## ELDORA BENEBY

Caring, quiet, industrious, resourceful, and peace maker, yet firm are some adjectives that describe Nurse Eldora Hart-Beneby as an Outstanding Nurse Leader. She is the fourth child of the Late Mr. Neville and Mrs.

Henrietta Hart (both deceased), whose qualities made an indelible impression on her life.

It was December 1981 when Nurse Beneby successfully completed the General Nursing Certificate Programme as a Registered Nurse at the Bahamas School of Nursing

and gave the speech on behalf of the graduates. As an advocate for 'Life-Long Learning', she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Human Services (1996); Master of Science Degree in Professional Cognitive-Behavioural Counseling from the University of The West Indies (UWI) Mona, Jamaica (2005); 'Leadership and Management for Change Certification' (ICN & UB in 2010); 'Effectively Management of Non-Communicable Diseases' (PAHO in 2013); and 'The Clinical Management of HIV' Certificate from the University of Washington (2013). She completed many courses; certifications; and attended numerous conferences, seminars and workshops on aspects of nursing, health, and education.

As an Outstanding Nursing Leader, Eldora worked at the University of The Bahamas (U.B.), School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, Department of Public Health, St. John's College, Sandilands Rehabilitative Centre, and Princess Margaret Hospital. The vast knowledge and experience she gleaned enabled her to develop programs, therapies, and care plans for the staff members, patients/clients, and families.

Listed below are just few of Eldora's many interventions as Outstanding Nursing Leader:

Served at U.B. as a Clinical Preceptor for the Trained Clinical Program, and worked in other capacities as Facilitator, Counsellor, Mediator, and Mentor for the students.

In all areas that she worked, initiated interventions to raise the standard of professionalism and promoted excellent work ethics of among the nurses and other staff members. Increased patients' educational sessions about their health that ultimately modified lifestyles; prevented complications; reduced hospital admissions; and reduced health care cost.

While deployed to the Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCD) Unit, she assisted greatly with the organization of the REGISTRY (monthly CNCD reports) from clinics throughout the Bahamas. Thereby increasing systematic recording, reporting, and analysis of CNCDs data.

At the HIV/AIDS Secretariat, she implemented several initiatives:

- 1) Designed and organized the process that collaborated with other services (e.g. Department of Social Services, Obstetrician/Gynecologist at Bahamas Reproductive Association, etc.) for the long term contraception intervention (i.e. Jadelle for 5 years) for infected mothers that reduced pregnancy and fetus/infants' exposure to HIV.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

2) Provided Professional Cognitive-Behavioral Counseling for HIV positive adolescents; infected clients of alternative lifestyles, psychotherapy for terminally ill pediatric/adolescent patients until their demise and assisted their families in many aspects.

3) Piloted a small group of patients with a 'SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM' that resulted in improved coping skills; reduced hospital admissions; reduced cost; and longer life span.

At the Adolescent Health Centre (A.H.C.) as a supervisor of Psychosocial Unit, designed programs and coordinated activities. Collaborated with parents/guardians, schools, the judicial system, and the Department of Social Services for correctional behaviours of our youths.

Wrote numerous health articles and newsletters; gave many health presentations; and participated in numerous health screenings for churches, organizations, and community events. Eldora assisted with numerous career fairs and recruited many persons to the nursing profession.

Nurse Beneby is married to Deacon Felton D. Beneby Sr. and they have three wonderful children: Felton Jr., Felicia, and Felicity. She serves the Church of God of Prophecy in the Bahamas as National Family Ministry Co-Directors that minister to all types of families, races, and beliefs to the glory of GOD.

Other awards:

2017 Ministry of Tourism BahamaHost 'LIONEL ELLIOTT EXCELLENCE AWARD'; '2010 – 2010 National Runner-up Registered Nurse of the Year'; '2008 – 2010 Department of Public Health Registered Nurse of the Year'; '2008 – 2010 Adolescent Health Centre Registered Nurse of the Year'; and 1996 – 1997 'Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges'.



**JOANNE  
NEWBOLD-WILSON**

Germaine Greer once said "Yet if a woman never lets herself go, how will she ever know how far she might have got? If she never takes off her high-heeled shoes, how

will she ever know how far she could walk, or how fast she could run?" Without a doubt, nursing officer Joanne Newbold-Wilson has accepted Ms. Greer's challenge, and her life is a testament that a woman can effectively bal-

ance her personal and professional life. Mr. Dayne Wilson her husband of 28 years proudly proclaims that she is a devoted, desirous and supportive wife, and her four children hail her as a nurturing, loving mother, and their number one fan who constantly encourages and cheers them on. Her parents Mrs. Lenora King-Newbold and the Late Joshua Newbold, four sisters and one brother have always herald her as a dependable and respectful daughter and sibling. Indeed, Nursing Officer Wilson's first ministry 'family' exudes triumph and radiates magnificence. However, her successful professional life is undeniable.

In 1984, she completed her Diploma in Nursing at the school of Nursing and in 2001 she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. These two major accomplishments demonstrate that Nurse Wilson was 'called' to a life of service, so she enthusiastically exchanged her sexy high-heels for the unappealing but comfortable nursing shoes and has confidently trekked the nursing path and propelled to distances she had never intended or imagined. Nurse Wilson is eager to learn, so it's no surprise that in 2009 she completed her Masters in Public Administration, a certificate in Advance medical- surgical nursing in 2014, and a U.S. board certification in medical-surgical nursing in May 2014. Because she does not possess the "All For Me Baby Gene" she freely shares and imparts her knowledge as a PALS provider and instructor and she currently serves as an examiner for the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Additionally, she represented the Nursing Council on the PHA's Psychiatric curriculum development program committee. No one can deny the fact that leadership flows in Joanne Wilson's vena cava veins so it is unsurprising that her nursing shoes has trudged leadership positions such as: chairperson of the NACB membership committee 2002-04, chairperson of the NACB Socio-economic committee 2004-2006, and Chairperson of Transportation Committee for CNO biennial Conference 2006 held at the Atlantis Resort. Unselfishness sanctions her desire to support others; therefore she has served as the Assistant Secretary for NACB 2014-2016 and Assistant Treasurer for NACB 2016-present. Her experience, dedication, and competence resulted in her representing the NACB at outreach programs and co-ordinated health fairs. The scripture Philippians 4:13 says "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" is manifested in Nursing Officer Wilson's life. She acknowledges that her numerous accomplishments were possible through the Almighty God, with the spirit of gratitude she worships at Christ the King Anglican Church. Indeed, Joanne Wilson has done as Ms. Greer has commanded. She has let herself go and she has reached levels that are commendable and praiseworthy.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

### ANNETTE G. K. OKPUNO



"She knew nursing was her calling to serve others." Mrs. Annette Gloria Okpuno (nee White) began her nursing career in September 1958 at the Bahamas General Hospital (PMH) and

later traveled to England in December 1961. During her studies in England, she qualified as a State Registered Nurse from St. Peter's Hospital, State Registered Mid-Wife, Lewisham Hospital, Oncology Nurse, Royal Marsden Hospital, and subsequently returned home in 1967. She was then employed at Princess Margaret Hospital as a Nursing Sister. Later within the same year, she returned to England for further studies and experience in Critical Care Nursing at Kings College Hospital, London.

She furthered her studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica where she was certified in Advance Nursing Administration in 1983 and in 1990 obtained a Bachelor's of Science Nursing Degree (with Honors). In 1997 she acquired a Certificate in Health Services Administration from the Ministry of Health and Sojourner Douglas College.

During her tenure at Princess Margaret Hospital, Mrs. Okpuno served in various capacities over a period of thirty plus years and was promoted through the ranks of Nursing Officer Grade II to Senior and Acting Principal Officers. For twenty-one years, she served as Unit Manager for most wards. As Night Supervisor, Area Supervisor for Critical Care Units she was responsible for Intensive Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Special Baby Care, Burns/Dressing Units and Operating Theatres and Recovery Rooms.

Under her leadership, the six-month local Critical Nursing Certificate Course for Registered Nurses was established in 1985. Also, nurses from her Area were facilitated to develop their professional skills by training at institutions abroad. Additionally, in 1997, she was instrumental in establishing the Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) Department for nurses at PMH.

As a member of the Nurses' Association, she was appointed to the Nursing Council and served as a Clinical Assessor, Examiner, and a member of the Registration and In-

vestigation committees for a number of years. Her passion for nursing was for the development of nurses resulting in improvements in the delivery of health care in The Bahamas.

In January 2000, she was appointed the first Nursing Services Advisor to the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA). During the six and a half years she was employed at PHA, she chaired the Nursing Advisory Committee comprised of the Principal Nursing Officers. Mrs Okpuno co-authored a research project on the Immunization Programme in The Bahamas, a copy of which was submitted to the Ministry of Health and the library of the School of Nursing, College of The Bahamas, Grosvenor Close.

Among the many awards received over the years, Mrs. Okpuno was the recipient of the Distinguished Services Award of the Nurses Association of The Bahamas (May 1997) and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Award for Health (April 2002). On the 30th Anniversary of Independence, the Ministry of Health presented Mrs. Okpuno with the Health Heroes Award for outstanding service in the field of nursing (July 2003). She also received the Recognition and Appreciation Award from the Nurses Recognition Team (May 2006).

Mrs. Okpuno retired from the Public Hospitals Authority as the Nursing Services Advisor in July 2006. She is an active member of St Bedes Catholic Church.

Widow of the late D. Patrick Ngozi Okpuno, she is the proud mother of a daughter, Donelle Unoma Carey-Lopez, Son-in-Law, David, one son Obinna Okpuno and daughter-in-law, Diane, two grandsons, Ajani and Darius.



### PAULETTE CARTER-DEAN

Mrs. Carter-Dean serves as a Nursing Officer II at the Grand Bahama Health Services where She has been employed for the past twenty (20) years.

She obtained an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing from the College Of The Bahamas in July 1997, Renal Training accredited by The Royal College Of Nursing UK in 2009 and a Bachelors of Science

# ZENITH AWARDEES

Degree in Nursing from The University of The West Indies Jamaica in August 2015.

She is presently employed in the Continuing Nursing Education Department with the responsibility of precepting and mentoring newly graduate nurses. She is also the Supervisor for the Relief Pool, Nursing Cadet Coordinator and Clinical Care Coordinator in the hospital.

Mrs Dean now serves as the Assistant Treasurer with the NACB Grand Bahama. Her passion is to ensure that all patients receive safe quality care while under the care of the nursing staff at the GBHS.



## JUDY BRIDGEWATER

Judy Bridgewater is a registered nurse who began her career in 1983 in the beautiful Nassau. In 1986 she moved to Freeport, GBI and since then she has logged more than 34 years of experience in various

areas of patient care. She currently serves as the Deputy Principal Nursing Officer in the Grand Bahama Health Services.

In addition to her extensive clinical experience, Judy also has an outstanding academic background that includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Mental Health Nursing and a Master of Science in Education from the University of the West Indies. She also has certifications in Human Resources Management, Occupational Health and safety and Project Management.

A passionate educator, Judy enjoys teaching and imparting knowledge. She also enjoys conducting research and instructional program design and development.

She is a founding member of the Grand Bahama Crises Center and attends Jubilee Cathedral Church in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Her personal motto is 'Serve Others Honor God', which is something she strives to do each and every day.



## RODREKA BROWN

In 1992, I introduced myself to the novice profession of nursing and studies commenced at The Bahamas School of Nursing.

My compassion and admiration for the service, the uniform and

for what both represents has grown over the years. Through this profession, my nursing duties have touched lives and has taken me on a journey unimaginable. These duties were not limited to in hospital, but has taken me into the community, schools, homes, on work sites providing education, healthcare services and just a listening ear giving of my time unselfishly.

During my nursing journey, I enrolled as a member of a professional organization, namely the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (NACB) where I actively served on various committees such as, membership and socio-economics and volunteered and assisted with numerous health screenings, workshops and conferences both locally and nationally. Membership continues with the Bahamas Nurses Union serving in the capacity of Shop Steward 2013-2016 fighting for the rights and benefits of nurses throughout The Bahama Islands. I am a member of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses (AMSN), a member of the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses (NFLPN), where I am one of two nominated to chair chapter here in the Bahamas and Black Nurses Role (BNR). Through both of these organizations, I was afforded the opportunity to sit a certification exam in Mental Health First Aide and Gerontology nursing. I worked with the Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Neglect Team (SCAN).

I am a trained Phlebotomist. In 2005, I was the only Trained Clinical Nurse graduate of the Leadership For Change (LFC) Program which is registered with the International Council of Nursing (ICN). I also hold a personal development certification in Human Resources Management. Finally, I am a recent 2016-2017 successful graduate of the first Public Hospital Authority's Core Competency Strengthening Certificate Program for Trained Clinical Nurses.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

### BEULAH GIBSON-CARROLL



From the beautiful tranquil shores of Crooked Island which is located in the south eastern Bahamas, evolved a caring, compassionate, friendly individual, who aspired to be a nurse from

early childhood. Thus, it was no surprise when in 1982, she applied for entry into the nursing program in New Providence; and having successfully fulfilled the entrance requirements, was accepted into the Programme and so began her journey into one of the most satisfying professions anyone could ever hope to embark upon.

Her lifelong dream finally became reality as she commenced orientation throughout the Princess Margaret Hospital, at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre and various government clinics throughout New Providence as student nurse for three (3) years before graduating. Thus, the official call of duty began as attending nurse on all of the wards including, but not limited to both male and female surgical wards, the Gynae Ward, the Children's Ward, even Accident and Emergency and several others.

For nine (9) years, she worked tirelessly for the next level and transition of her life. Despite serving faithfully alongside other dedicated colleagues, some of whom she has grown to love and respect and call friends, her heart yearned the place she once called home. She desired to serve and pour back into the lives of those who had helped to shape her life, so she requested deployment back to Crooked Island.

In 1995, her feet safely and securely landed on the island where she was greeted by proud family and friends. Being on the island where you are expected to function as doctor, nurse, and even ambulance driver, she laboured hard throughout the length and breadth of Crooked Island as the only medical personnel in the district as there were no doctors and no telephones.

But, seeing the need for further self improvement, she decided to take the midwifery course from 1996 to 1997 and after completing same with honours among twenty (20) other students, she added another feather to her cap! So, in August of the same year she returned home once again as Nurse In Charge. It was also this same year

that put her midwifery skill to work by delivering her first antenatal mother, who gave birth to a nine pound (9lb) bouncing baby girl at the Landrail Point Clinic. This however, is not the usual protocol on the family island; however, Mother Nature has a way of taking its course, so one must always be ready for the challenge. Both were discharged and post natal and all other managements were implemented so the happy mother departed with her little bundle of joy. This is what nursing is all about!

Presently, Mrs. Beulah Carroll serves as Nurse-in-Charge of The District of Crooked Island and Long Cay and by extension Acklins Island. These islands are all separated by bodies of water and ocean, so ferry boats are the main course of travel, sometimes up to forty (40) minutes at a time; such is the case with Long Cay.

But all is not a bed of roses; for there are challenging-times on the island which can be quite interesting and at times very dramatic. Never a dull moment! Medical conditions can range from minor ailments to critical care and sometimes small surgery under local aesthetics in order to remove hooks from fingers, arms, and even the cheeks of local fisherman and tourist anglers alike.

In all, Nurse Carroll has gained a wealth of knowledge and experience during her tenure of twenty-two (22) plus years. She is proud to once again be honoured as was in early 2000 for outstanding performance in the nursing profession.

One of the secrets to her success is that she has surrounded herself with persons ever evolving in the nursing profession and also through various courses sponsored by The Department of Public Health, who often encourages her to always keep current in the medical field. Therefore, she now has under her belt certification in Emergency management services, Basic Life Support and Food Handlers Instructing, just to name a few.

She is a proud mother of three (3) children and one (1) grandchild-adult sons Miguel and Brandon Carroll, one (1) teenage daughter, Melena Carroll and granddaughter, Catlin Carroll. She is also married to a wonderful man and father, Mr. Michael Carroll who loves her home land. In her past time nurse Carroll enjoys gardening music and cooking. If she was to offer any advice to anyone, young or the young-at-heart, it would be this.... Hard work, compassion, and dedication truly pays off.



# ZENITH AWARDEES



## VIRGINIA MINNIS-MORTIMORE

Virginia Elizabeth Mortimer (nee Minnis) was born in the settlement of Calabash Bay, Andros on 5th June, 1925 to Austin and Louise Minnis (nee Thompson).

Virginia began her early education at the local Catholic pre-school and at the age of five, when she left to attend the public all-age school in the settlement, she was already able to read and write.

Shortly after completing her foundational education she met and married Maxwell Poitier and this union brought forth one son. However, their marriage was short-lived because Mr. Poitier died tragically in a boating accident a few weeks before the birth of their son – Maxwell Gary Poitier.

It was at this time that Virginia made the decision to leave North Andros and move to New Providence, with her young baby in tow. Virginia's mother-in-law – Mrs. Emma Poitier – invited her to stay at her home in Masons Addition and it was here where she received the encouragement to become a Nurse. It was uncommon during this period for wives and mothers to be trained in this profession, but with the guarantee of her mother-in-law providing care for her son while she was in Nursing school and because of her keen intellect, which was identified, she was given the opportunity. Virginia commenced training in 1945 and excelled in her discipline, graduating as a qualified registered Nurse in 1949.

Her tenure as a civil servant spanned over 40 years and began at the Princess Margaret Hospital. However, due to the demands of public service this new graduate was placed on rotation to a number of family islands which included Abaco, North Andros, and Cat Island.

In 1959 Nurse Virginia Minnis-Mortimer was relocated to Nassau where she administered quality health care in geriatric nursing, midwifery, and psychiatric nursing. In 1962 she assumed responsibility as Nursing Officer in Charge of the Chest Ward where she performed exemplarily for 22 years. As a result of her commitment to duty, she was recognized and promoted in 1975 to Nursing

Officer Grade 2. In 1991 she was the recipient of a certificate and a Badge of Honor by Her Majesty the Queen for her years of unwavering devotion and selfless sacrifice to the nursing profession. She also received numerous long service awards during her employment in the Ministry of Health including a distinguished retiree award on 6th October 1991.

Her labor in the dynamic field of Nursing is truly a testament to the saying 'there is no calling higher than giving service to others'. She dedicated her entire career in the Public Service to the delivery of quality healthcare.

In 2003 she was heralded as an Unsung Hero and an appreciation award was bestowed for outstanding services in Nursing. Nurse Virginia Mortimer was a devoted Anglican all of her life. She attended the local parish in Calabash Bay, and when she moved to Nassau she worshipped at Christ the King – where she was an engaged member visiting the sick and shut-ins. However, after her sister died she began attending St. Barnabas with her beloved brother Randolph.

She also volunteered at The Bahamas Red Cross Society, the Medical Clinic at the Princess Margaret Hospital, and was a member of the Retired Nurses Association. She was always in pursuit of helping those in need.

Virginia loved her family and friends – she was a confident and advisor to many and she always sought to listen, understand and love all who she came in contact with.



## ALICIA FARQUHARSON

"And now, my daughter, do not fear...for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman..." (Ruth 3:11 NKJV)

As I sat down to pen my autobiography I realized that for the first time ever, I was given the opportunity to look at my entire life in retrospect; to take a true look at all the obstacles that I overcame to get me where I am today. My name is Alicia Indira Farquharson, proud daughter of Arlington Jr. and Indianna. Both my parents and my grandparents played a major role in my rearing and molding.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

into the woman I am today. "Hard work" a word that's no stranger to me for it was the unwritten law by which I lived by. I can recall late night study sessions and adolescent jobs all paving the way for my professional nursing future. Through it all my mother has always been by side; my study partner, my confidante, my strength, my muse. She is the powerhouse for my determination and my drive to succeed.

My early education was at E.P. Roberts primary where I was head prefect and head girl respectively. I later attended Aquinas College high school where I was taught "Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge." I was well rounded in high school. I was academically inclined, played sports like softball, javelin, short put and discus throw and was a member of nursing cadets, junior achievement, debutantes, the school choir and the anchor club.

Following in the footsteps of my uncle Dr. Delton Farquharson MBBS FRCSC, I pursued a career in medicine. However, nursing was my love, nursing was my passion. I am a registered nurse and advanced medical-surgical nurse certified. I hold an Associate of Science Degree in nursing through the College of The Bahamas now UB; a post graduate Diploma in Advanced Medical-Surgical Nursing from the College of The Bahamas now UB; and certificate in Mentorship Masterclass through the Royal College of Nursing (London).

My love of service is what drives my nursing passion. I have been a clinical facilitator for Nursing Cadets Bahamas since 2012, where I continue to assist with the recruitment of nurses from senior high schools in The Bahamas. I too was a young and eager nursing cadet and I know the importance firsthand of early exposure to all the aspects of this wonderful and challenging nursing profession.

In 2013, I was recognized by The College of The Bahamas and the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions for outstanding contributions to the education and professional development of nursing students. I was also a Performance Excellence Program (PEP) nominee. I didn't do it all alone- I had God, my family and great friends supporting me and encouraging me to pursue my dreams.

Orthopedic nursing is my hearts' desire. The late RN Charmaine Johnson-Armbrister has been one of my nursing mentors since the beginning of my nursing career, and she has played a key role in my love of orthopedic nursing. This nursing specialty has been demanding yet so reward-

ing. I can only hope to motivate and inspire nursing students and my peers the way she has motivated and inspired me.

I am presently in the process of completing my certification in Orthopedic nursing where I hope to become orthopedic nurse certified, the third practicing ONC in Princess Margaret Hospital. My future aspirations are to obtain a Masters of Science Degree in nursing with dreams of becoming an Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner.

As I continue to grow personally and professionally, I pray the Lord continues to use me to do His will; to continue to love, educate, counsel, nurture, mentor, and advocate for those in need.



### MARGARET BURROWS-DAXON

Margaret Renee Burrows Daxon began her career as a Nursing Student at the School of Nursing in 1983 and graduated in 1986 as a Registered Nurse. She worked in several areas within Princess Margaret Hospital; Department of Public Health Clinics; and in various Family Islands as the Nurse-in-Charge. In 1995, Margaret completed her training as a Dialysis Nurse Technician and worked in the Dialysis Unit of the Princess Margaret Hospital, Doctor's Hospital and Renal House until 1997.

In 1997, Margaret completed training and was awarded a Diploma in Midwifery from the College of The Bahamas. She was posted to Deadmans' Cay Long Island where after training as a Diabetes Educator, she implemented a nurse-led Diabetes Clinic for residents in South Long Island.

In 2002, Margaret completed a Diploma in Community Health Nursing and was posted to various Public Health Clinics and Family Islands. Margaret passion for evidenced based quality care led to her undertaking additional training in various aspect of health and quality improvement programs.

Margaret was reassigned to the Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Program in Department of Public Health in 2006 where she coordinate the Department's Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Program and assisted

## ZENITH AWARDEES

the Deputy Chief Medical Officer in coordinating the National Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Program. With her passion for training and evidenced based care, Margaret compiled and participated in various research initiatives for the Department of Public Health and Ministry of Health.

While working in Programs Margaret sought and gain additional qualification in other areas of health and health planning including monitoring and evaluation Program of national programs both basic and advance; strategic planning, health policy and management and health program coordination.

Margaret, recognizing the gap in health services along with her mentor Dr. Sebastian Peter, developed and implemented a community based program for children with diabetes. This program provided free education; insulin; and diabetes testing supplies for children along with self-management training and support. As Program Coordinator, Margaret facilitated training for many health care professionals in the area of diabetes management and research. During this period Margaret established a local diabetes surveillance system.

In 2010, Margaret became the Coordinator of National Programs in the Department of Public Health where she worked with the Director of Public Health monitoring 10 national programs. During this period, Margaret felt that as a nurse entrepreneur she could do more, so she started her Diabetes Self-Management and Consultancy business and certified as a clinical skills trainer.

During her over 30 years in health care, Margaret has been the Clinical Coordinator for Diabetes Education Network, Liaison Office for Bahamas Nurses Union; Co-Chair of Nursing Standard Committee (Department of Public Health); Chairperson Nursing Standard Committee (Department of Public Health); Chairperson Education and Re-Licensure Committee of the Bahamas Nursing Council; member of Standards and Re-licensure Committee of the Nurses Association of The Bahamas; Member – National Chronic Disease Prevention & Control Technical Advisory Group; Member – Bureau of Standards Technical Committee and Facilities Inspector for the Hospital and Health Care Facilities Licensing Board.

She is currently Self-Management Education Consultant to the Bahamas Diabetic Association; Professor Southern College; Chair of Diabetes & Hypertension Awareness Sub

-Committee of the Healthy Bahamas Coalition; and owner of Diabetes Education on the Move.

Margaret vision is that the word 'healthy Bahamas' would be an adjective describing The Bahamas and is therefore determined to do her part in making her vision a reality.



### YVONNE MCKENZIE

"ALL THAT I AM OR EVER  
HOPE TO BE, I OWE IT ALL  
TO THEE, TO GOD BE  
THE GLORY"

Mrs. Yvonne Marie Mckenzie (nee Simmons) was born on September 9th, 1964 on the island of New Providence, Nassau, Bahamas.

She attended St. Agnes Day School, Wood Cock Primary School, T. G Glover Junior High School, C.C. Sweeting and Government High Schools.

In 1984, Mrs. Mckenzie graduated from The Bahamas School of Nursing, with a Diploma in Nursing. She was the recipient of the Hazel Darling Award for excellence in Theatre Nursing awarded by the Medical Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in 1985.

Inspired by teachers who encouraged and mentored her, Mrs. Mckenzie realized that her true calling was that of an educator. She obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in Social Studies from The College of The Bahamas in 1991 and a Teaching certificate in Junior Secondary Education (credit) from The Joint Board of Teacher Education in association with the University of The West Indies Faculty of Education in 1993.

Additionally, she attainment of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (Distinction) in 2000, from The College of The Bahamas; she was the recipient of The College of The Bahamas School of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals Bachelor of Science Degree award for Academic and Clinical Excellence in Nursing, in 2001; and she obtained a Master of Science degree in Nursing Education (Distinction) from The University of The West Indies Mona, Jamaica in 2006.

## ZENITH AWARDEES

Mrs. McKenzie was employed by The Ministry of Health in 1984. She worked in The Intensive Care Unit and Female Medical Ward of The Princess Margaret Hospital, and District Nursing in the Department of Public Health where she spearheaded the decentralization of District Nursing.

In 1994 Mrs. McKenzie was seconded to The College of The Bahamas School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions as a Lecturer and is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of The Bahamas. She has attended educational workshops and served as the Cross Moderator for The Nursing Council of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Licensure and Registration Examinations for many years.

She has held the positions of Coordinator and Head of Department at The College of The Bahamas School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions. Mrs. McKenzie currently serves as the Chairperson of the University of The Bahamas School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions.

She was christened, confirmed and married in St. Agnes Anglican Church and is a member of the Senior Choir. A devote Anglican, Mrs. McKenzie was inspired by the late Archdeacon William Thompson who always admonished individuals to maximize their potential.

Mrs. McKenzie enjoys gardening, signing and walking. She is married to Mr. Dwayne Rodger McKenzie and the couple has two children, Dwayne Jr and Dayne.



### VERDELLA SAUNDERS

Nurse Verdella Saunders has occupied the post of enrolled nurse in the A&E/RMH/GBHS for many years. Throughout this period, the outstanding quality of her work and consistency in her behavior and the way she presents herself is not only recognized and applauded by her A&E colleagues

but also by patients and colleagues from other departments.

This staff member embodies the essential criteria that one should have who provide the distinguish service of

medical management that we do. Nurse Saunders Incredible disposition - no matter the situation, she remains positive and pleasant aiming always for a positive outcome. She is also agreeable, responsible and conscientious always in all that she do. Nurse Saunders is respectful to patients and colleagues and is in turn highly respected by all who come in contact with her.

She is caring and earnestly concerned for patients and staff alike. Over the years, she has served as a strong advocate for her patients and also for her colleagues. She takes time to patiently explain matters to educate patients, making sure patients understand. Furthermore, she offers much more and regularly go beyond her job description, or even what is expected to ensure patients are properly seen to. She extends the same to her colleagues. Nurse Saunders is no nonsense, efficient and generous.

She is also proactive in furthering her own patient management and clinical skills (eg. Attending the ESI full course to gain management knowledge even though it is a course for RNs only). She seek not to remain blinded to processes that would further her knowledge in patient management. Nurse Saunders mixes humor and always has a smile to share with words of encouragement for patients and even more for her colleagues. She can always be called upon to lend a helping hand no matter the situation, as long as it will help the patient and improve morale.

Nurse Saunders demonstrates excellent maturity level that underpins the fairness she exhibits in all that she does. The exemplary actions and consistency in behavior of Nurse Saunders has gained much respect from her colleagues, which has resulted in the unanimous agreement in her being voted 'A&E Employee of the Year' for the last three consecutive years (2014-2016).

Thus, Nurse Saunders is most deserving of this most prestigious Zenith Award, in the category of Excellence in Clinical Practice.

## ZENITH AWARDEES



### LISA STOVEL-ROLLE

With a heart of compassion, and a yearning to assist others, Mrs. Lisa Stovel-Rolle began a very rigorous nursing program in the Ministry of Health's Department of Nursing program in Sands Lane, and graduated as a Registered Nurse just over 31 years ago. Her contribution to the nursing profession, the Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (NACB), and ultimately the Bahamas has been significant.

She has served as a longtime member of the Nurses' Association since 1987 where she held several positions as a member of the Executive Board including: 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Chairperson of the Educational & Research Committee. Mrs. Stovel-Rolle was the first Staff Nurse of the Public Hospitals Authority to serve as National Registered Nurse of the Year, 2006-2008.

She also served as the Caribbean Nurses Organization Nurse of the Year-Bahamas, 2008-2010. Among her many educational and professional achievements, Mrs. Stovel-Rolle completed a Masters Degree in Nursing with specialization in Nursing Informatics in 2012, making her the Bahamas' first Nurse Informatician. In 2013, she served as an international board member of the Canadian Nursing Informatics Association. Mrs. Stovel-Rolle also serves as a member of the Online Journal of Nursing Informatics, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.

As Chairperson of the Education & Research committee in 2009, Mrs. Stovel-Rolle designed the first NACB Health passport. With responsibility for the management of NACB's properties, Mrs. Stovel-Rolle was the project manager for the extensive renovations of the NACB headquarters in her position as 2nd Vice President of the NACB in 2013.

As a recently retired nurse of the Public Hospitals Authority, Mrs. Stovel-Rolle assists as the Clinical Supervisor at the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions at the University of the Bahamas. Additionally, she recently completed a Doctorate degree in Instructional Technology and Distance Education, and Curriculum Development.

She envisions that our healthcare system will be the leader in our region; providing safe, high quality, and competent care that exceed all expectations. Further, with a rise in non-communicable diseases, new complex health challenges among our patient population today, and increasing economic uncertainty, many Bahamians are experiencing challenges with the ability to afford quality healthcare. It is her vision that all Bahamians in every sector of our archipelago have access to quality healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay.



### PATRICIA BROWN

Nurse Brown is a 1979 graduate of The Bahamas School of Nursing, Sands Lane Nassau Bahamas.

Since graduation with a Diploma in Nursing, she has worked in various areas of health care

and has experienced tremendous joy and satisfaction in serving others and being the best nurse she could possibly be. Nurse Brown worked as a Staff Nurse then Nursing Officer II in clinical practice for approximately twenty years then as a Nurse Educator/Administrator for fifteen years prior to transitioning to her current position as Coordinator of the Maternity Unit at Doctors Hospital in 2014.

She has also been privileged to participate in a number of professional development/ educational opportunities. She has a Diploma in Midwifery; Diploma in Sick Children's Nursing and a Master's of Science Degree in Nursing Education.

Other professional development activities include; the Leadership for Change Program by the International Council of Nurses, The Intentional Difference Leadership workshop by Ken Tucker, American Nurses Association conference for Nurse Educators and various Nursing Association and Medical Association conferences amongst others.

In addition to her work in nursing, Nurse Brown also enjoys working with and helping others outside of the healthcare environment and as such, she is an active

## ZENITH AWARDEES

member of the Eastern Community Association (ECA), in the community in which she lives. She is the second Vice President of the association. The ECA's premise is based upon community building and outreach within the eastern community and the wider Bahamas. It is the desire of its members to give back and enrich the community. The association represents the voice of the community and raises concerns with relevant stakeholders on community issues that require their attention. Nurse Brown serves as Chairperson of the association's annual walkathon and health screening event and back to school youth extravaganza for young residents of eastern New Providence.

Additionally, Nurse Brown voluntarily serves with the Board for the Bilney Lane Children's Home. The Bilney Lane Children's Home operates under the auspices of The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, as a part of its Outreach Programme, and its partnership with the Department of Social Services. It is a small orphanage/foster home for children.

Nurse Brown is committed to making a positive impact in the lives of others and is blessed by the opportunity to do so through her involvement with the mentioned organizations and through the outreach ministry of her church



### BERNADETTE COLEBROOK

Bernadette is a Lady filled with wisdom and understanding, strong, resilient and compassionate. A Native of the Island called Freedom, Eleuthera; the fifth of eight children Born to

the parentage of Bernard and Sylvia Bethel.

Ms. Colebrook obtained her early education at the All Age James Cistern School. She obtained her high School diploma from the notorious Windermere High School, Eleuthera in 1983. In 1988 she obtained Associates of Arts Degree in Nursing from the College of the Bahamas. Mrs. Colebrook worked in many areas of the Princess

Margaret Hospital from 1988-1995. In 1995 was transferred to Community Nursing services, where she worked in many of the Clinics, and then worked on Crooked Island, Long Cay and Acklins. That really was a challenge, but she found out that it was a true learning experience that further sharpened her knowledge. In 1997 she returned to Nassau and worked in areas such as School Health. In 2000 she was given the opportunity to serve in both North and Central Eleuthera. In 2006 she obtained a Certification in Emergency Nursing / Disaster Management at the University of the West Indies, in Jamaica. On her return she was instrumental in organizing trainings for Nurses, Doctors and Volunteer Ambulance Drivers on the Island of Eleuthera. She was first to institute the EVOC (Emergency Operators Course) training to the Island of Eleuthera.

In 2008 Ms. Colebrook joined the Nursing Association, and was instrumental in forming the first Branch on the Family Island, serving as Co- Chair 2008-2012, then as Chairperson 2012-2017. She believes in her Profession and is an Advocate for the wellbeing of Nurses on the Family Island; and desires them to excel in their profession. Her passion is for all to enjoy the same privileges as other Nurses in Nassau or indeed the world. She has Organized many seminars, and workshops for the improvement of Nurses in the Island. Mrs. Colebrook presently serves as the Public Relation Officer for the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. She realizes that the Association has great potential; together they can accomplish much, and be change agents. She looks forward to working, assisting and getting the ball rolling, so to speak on the instigation and completion of the Nursing Complex on Jerome Avenue, Completing the revised Nursing Act, and a Nurses registry. Her desire is to see further collaboration of the Association and the Nurses Union.

Bernadette is a Born Again Believer in Jesus Christ and she loves her family and no matter what; family they take first priority. Mrs. Colebrook is the very proud mother of five children and the beloved Nana of three grandchildren whom she just adores so much. Her hobbies include Gardening, and walking the beach, collecting shells and artifacts. Her Civic duties include: Member of the Central Eleuthera Health Association, The New Developers in James Cistern, The James Cistern Heritage Affair and the Catch Jerry Chile Organization.

# ZENITH AWARDEES



## JANEY MISSICK

Nurse Janey Missick is a pioneer in the Accident and Emergency Department at the Rand Memorial Hospital, with sixteen (16) years of experience under her belt. She has demonstrated exemplary professional conduct while performing daily duties in a knowledgeable, efficient and caring manner.

She has many positive attributes, which include:

- Good Leadership Skills – she takes control of the unit with adherence to the specific needs of staff and patients.
- She is precise in actions and patient management. She strategically plots out her duties skillfully and in a timely and appropriate manner.
- She takes the lead in all clinically-related initiatives and assists with the orientation of novice nursing staff to the clinical environment.
- She is strict but fair. She deals with staff and patient conflicts competently and correctly.
- Nurse Missick promotes teamwork and cohesiveness. She aims to foster harmony between the various disciplines.
- Her performance in the workplace reflects an outstanding of sense of duty and responsibility. She takes her responsibilities seriously whether on duty, or on her personal time.
- Additionally, Nurse Missick is very resourceful. When certain necessary items are not available, she uses her creative skills to improvise.
- Further, she is a motivational leader. She encourages the staff to upgrade and improve their skills; she is known to host educational lectures for the staff in the department.
- Nurse Missick possesses a keen sense of discernment. She accurately assesses the risk for a potential disaster and acts on it to prevent and/or mitigate its occurrence or its impact.

- She serves as a confidant to many and is very dependable in words and action.
- Nurse Missick has moved up the ranks in Nursing from that of a Trained Clinical Nurse (TCN), to that of a Nursing Officer. Her many accolades include:
  - ◇ Bachelor of Science Degree with Distinction
  - ◇ Master Mentorship Certification from the Royal College of Nursing, UK
  - ◇ Certificate in Critical Care Nursing (CCRN)
  - ◇ Leadership for Change (LFC) Certification.

Nurse Missick is a most deserving candidate for the prestigious Zenith Award.



## BIOGRAPHY

### LEAH A. ROLLE

*Leah A. Rolle is an Assistant Professor in The School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions (SNAHP) at University of The Bahamas (UB). Born in Nassau, Bahamas, she is a graduate of A.F. Adderley High School, The College of The Bahamas and University of The West Indies. Before coming to the University of The Bahamas twenty years ago, she held the position as registered nurse in Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre for eighteen months; Princess Margaret Hospital, Pediatric unit for 12 months and Gynecological Unit for two years.*

*She has progressed through academia from an Assistant Lecturer of The College of the Bahamas in 1997, to Assistant Professor since 2010 in University of The Bahamas. She holds an Associate Degree in Nursing from The College of The Bahamas, Nassau Bahamas, a Diploma in Midwifery from The College of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas, a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing Education from the University of The West Indies, Mona Jamaica and her Master's Degree in Nursing Education was completed at The University of The West Indies, Mona Jamaica.*

*As an educator, she promotes a learning environment that has heightened student-wide awareness in nursing management in various disciplines of nursing; enhanced the integration of technology across the curriculum in the classroom; and has been integral in the streamlining of curriculum for the Bachelor and Midwifery programs.*

*She has been instrumental in the athletics program in the UB and served as the first athletic trainer/med-technician through the incorporation of her nursing knowledge and skills in assisting with the development of athletes.*

*Her achievements have been recognized through inclusion in The Honor's Society of Sigma Theta Tau, Youth Builder's Award by The King Foundation and as a Trustee of The Union of Tertiary Educators of The Bahamas, University of The Bahamas.*

*Leah A. Rolle is single, an avid member of Bahamas Road Masters Running Club and a conscientious parishioner of St Ambrose Parish. She boost always that her greatest asset in her life is her Family.*





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We wish to thank all of the persons who have worked long hours preparing for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and this 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Awards presentations. Our sincere gratitude is extended to ALL persons, members of the Executive teams, our Platinum Sponsor - The Ministry of Health, our Gold Sponsor - The Public Hospitals Authority, Corporate partners, healthcare institutions, organizations, individuals, families and friends of Nurses that have brought these events to a success.

70th Anniversary & 2nd Biennial Zenith Award Committees  
Nurses' Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas



*Be the*  
**NURSE**  
*a patient looks up to...*

**Congratulations to the honourees of this  
2nd Biennial Zenith Award**

**THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

**May God continue to strengthen you  
as you endeavor in this noble profession**