

*We are pleased to share with you the following item, which was written by Associate Professor Suzanne Riche in recognition of the first post-Katrina Delgado Charity School of Nursing program completers... congratulations to our Nursing students, faculty and staff!*

### **Out of the Water... a first class act!**

Using the words from Aaron Neville's tune, Louisiana, 1927, "The winds have changed... and tried to wash us away." But Delgado Charity School of Nursing survived, returned and excelled. We know "what it means to miss New Orleans."

Students from the day and evening division came out of the water and went home. 160 candidates graduated from the Division of Nursing at Delgado Community College, Jan 24, 2006. They will join the rest of their college colleagues during Delgado's May graduation.

This group of post Katrina nursing candidates was a class of firsts... the first nursing school to light the metro New Orleans area...the first to combine evening and day nurses...the first to provide displaced colleagues with the hospitality of homes that survived...and some were the first to establish out-of-state partnerships with other colleges while they met their last semester of nursing credits.

We recall historically how Florence Nightingale carried her lamp through the devastated war fields with victims taking hope as they saw the flicker of her lamp light. This became a reality for the nursing candidates at 450 S. Claiborne Charity campus, who turned on the lights of a building...the only lights in a devastated area... a light you could see for miles...a light that gave the hope of recovery.

These students have made a mark in the history of nursing as a city struggled to return and recover.

We send accolades to these students who united and seized the moment. You do us proud.

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