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PHILLIPS BETH ISRAEL SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATION HONORS A BELOVED GRADUATE AND FORMER DEAN

June 3, 2010 -- As the faculty of Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing led the Class of 2010 into the auditorium of the Fashion Institute of Technology on Wednesday, June 2nd, there was something different ...

Instead of full academic garb, each professor carried their mortarboards and white roses in honor of late Dean Emeritus Rose Muscatine Hauer. Students acknowledged their regard for the graduate of Class of 1937 with a poster that included Mrs. Hauer's familiar phrase, "You Can Do It!"

Thus began the annual rite of passage for students, proud to become standard bearers for the nursing profession.

Phillips Beth Israel Co-Chairs Janet Green and Ruth Nerken presided over the ceremonies and Lawrence S. Huntington, Chairman, Continuum Health Partners, conveyed congratulations from the Board of Trustees.

Graduating at the top of the class is Raluca Lavinia Moldovan, summa cum laude, who received the Seymour J. Phillips Award for highest scholastic achievement presented by honorary trustee Carol P. Green, daughter of the late Beth Israel trustee and philanthropist for whom the school was named.

Commencement speaker Carol A. Etherington, MSN, RN, FAAN, Associate Director of Vanderbilt University's Institute for Global Health in Nashville and former president of US Board of Medicins Sans Frontieres, encouraged the graduates "to embrace technology but not to be dependent on it, and to speak up because 'silence can.'"

Also offering congratulations to the class were Beth Israel Medical Center's Mary Walsh, RN, MSN, VP for Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, and Louise Klebanoff, MD, President of the Medical Board, who remarked that nurses "are the glue that hold our healthcare system together."

Erin Scott Rogerson, the salutatorian, received the David L. Podell Award for consideration of patient's welfare, and the Sherman and Paula Raskin Award for academic and clinical excellence in obstetrical nursing. The Rita Hillman Award for academic excellence coupled with compassionate patient care went to Leticia S. Klaiber.

The Rose M. Hauer Award of the PBISN Alumni Association was presented to Noel Emde and Stephen Matthew Heffner. Mr. Emde, with classmate Jennifer Wiler, also received the Dr. Eileen Melnick Award for team spirit. Another Dr. Eileen Melnick Award for compassion in mental health nursing was presented to Ardes Quinn Feit.

The Fanny and Charles Karpas Award for excellence in nursing care and compassion in the Beth Israel tradition went to Grace Cohen. Lauren Shea, magna cum laude, received the Libby P. Marcus Ward for academic and clinical excellence in nursing. For clinical excellence in pediatrics, the Barry Brazeau Award was presented to Catherine Conway, and the Gerald Bokow Award went to Heidi Kaplan. Candace Garramone received the Dr. Chaim and Pearl Weiss Award for success in the face of challenges.

At the program's conclusion, the graduating class presented a framed poster of Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing, in whose honor 2010 was named International Year of the Nurse. Associate Dean Marilyn Parker, RN, EdD, led the International Pledge for Nurses, followed by a candle-lighting ceremony presided by Program Chair, Associate Professor Lynn Rubenstein, MA, RN-BC.

With lights dimmed and as vocalist Cynthia Hall sang "One Little Candle," the new nurses, clutching a diploma in one hand and an electric candle in the other, one by one solemnly filed out to the rousing cheers of family and friends.