



NURSING NEWS

Noelle simulator

By Nancy Woods, Ph.D., M.P.H., C.N.M.

Providing care during labor, birth, and the post-partum period is one of the most exciting and happy times for nurses and families. But, with today's increase in high-risk pregnancies and accompanying high-tech atmosphere, it can be intimidating! The use of high fidelity simulators in nursing education provides the opportunity to learn and practice technical skills and critical thinking, which is transferable to real patient situations. In their junior year, nursing students are introduced to Noelle, a fully articulated obstetric simulator from Gaumard. In their first week of NURS 310:

Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family, students practice skills such as fundal height measurement, application of external electronic fetal monitors, post-partum fundal assessment, and management of a post-partum hemorrhage (complete with Jell-O clots!), as well as newborn assessment. This practical experience assists with the transition to the clinical area and allows students some "hands on" time to gain comfort with new skills.

Noelle OB simulator give students "hands-on" experience.



View from the chair A silver celebration: A moment of transformation

By Carolyn L. Kreamer, Ph.D., R.N., Chairperson and Professor of Nursing



We are approaching another celebration in the department of nursing: our silver anniversary! The very first class of the newly formed accredited nursing program graduated in 1985. That new program was launched on faith and lots of focused, committed work by College administrators,

nursing faculty, and students. From those first 22 graduates who completed the nursing program in May 1985, we are poised in May 2010 to meet an expected total of 1,027 graduates from Messiah College with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from this accredited program. Presently, nursing enjoys the distinction of having the largest number of majors on the College campus, representing nearly 9 percent of the total enrollment.

But, success cannot be measured in numbers of graduates alone. The quality of those graduates and the critical roles they play in the health care of thousands of persons each day is the real measure of our success. Moreover, our graduates' commitment to practicing the Christian ethos of care, compassion, and servant leadership are noticed and favorably commented upon by many who hire our graduates.

But nursing graduates from Messiah College not only have the heart and love for nursing, but also the intellect required to assume the complex role of today's practicing nurse.

Over the years, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has been undertaking systematic studies of the education for the professions. In 2010, our silver anniversary year, the profession studied was nursing. The results of that study were just recently published in the book "Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation." There are startling and controversial conclusions recommended to the nursing and educational community to consider for the current and future education of the nursing profession. One recommendation in particular calls for the expectation that students should learn research skills and how to access

Survivors' Inc. Training By Nancy Woods, Ph.D., M.P.H., C.N.M.

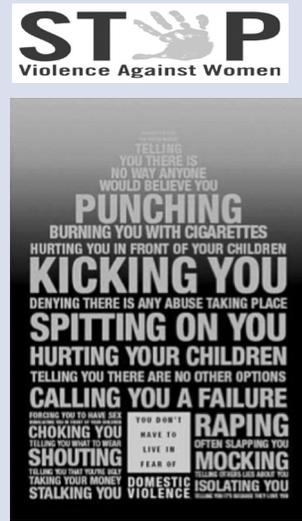
In America, a woman is battered by her partner every 15 seconds, and every 2 minutes a woman is sexually assaulted (RAINN; U.S. Bureau of Justice). Intimate partner violence is a national and international public health problem of epidemic proportion. A select group of 18 senior nursing students at Messiah College have taken on this social justice issue in a unique community health experience as part of the Community Health Nursing course. In a collaborative partnership with Survivors' Inc., based in Adams County, these nursing students will complete 64 hours of training and 10 hours of practical experience as sexual assault/domestic violence counselor advocates as per 23 PaCSA 6116 and 42 PaCSA 5945.1.

During their training, students learn about the cycle of abuse; effects on women, children, and families; ethics; legal and law enforcement issues; and specialized

communication and listening skills. Guest speakers include a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE), the Adams County director of NOVIS (Non-Violence Intervention Services for batterers), the AIDS Community Alliance, and first-hand accounts from families. Supplemental sessions with certified nurse midwife Nancy Woods expand the training to include screening in health-care settings, nursing responsibilities, and interventions. This in-depth experience brings a greater awareness about the prevalence of partner violence and the professional responsibility to assess and intervene. This is the second year that survivors' training was offered as part of the Community Health Nursing course. Feedback from previous students support the need for this type of training and the great impact it has on their current nursing practice.

Survivors' Inc.'s philosophy that "part-

ner abuse and sexual assault are acts of violence and forms of oppression that must be opposed" is consistent with our Christian ethic and speaks to the crucial role nurses play in working with the most vulnerable: women and children living with violence. If you are interested in learning more about Survivors' Inc., you can access their Web site at adamscountysurvivors.com.



Crisis resource management training

By Tara Jankouskas

Tara Jankouskas, Ph.D. successfully defended her dissertation research, *Crisis Resource Management: Impact on Team Process and Team Effectiveness*, in March for the Penn State University academic community. Jankouskas studied the effects of interdisciplinary team training on patient safety and care quality. The results of her experimental study showed a positive impact of simulated patient crisis team training on error and response time reduction. Two opportunities to apply her knowledge in simulation and in team training within the Messiah College nursing curriculum are described.

Nursing professors at Messiah College have applied the importance of team training in their senior-level critical care course last fall. Dr. Louann Zinsmeister, Debra Loop, and Jankouskas collaborated on a team training experience recognizing the association between teamwork and patient care quality. Senior students memorized,

practiced, and took tests on three advanced life support algorithms using one of three adult patient simulators in our simulation lab. The human simulator is a computer-driven mannequin that responds to therapeutic interventions like a real patient. For example, a human simulator breathes, has a heartbeat, pulses, and can show symptoms of different illnesses. These are just a few of the capabilities. Student practice of teamwork to manage an unstable patient using these human simulators provides a highly realistic patient experience for students in a safe learning environment.

This semester, Jankouskas will implement the Crisis Resource Management Training during the senior nursing student leadership course in April. Emphasis will be placed on leadership strategies from the perspective of a nurse leader during a patient crisis. Training will take place in the simulation lab using a human patient simulator for a hands-on leadership experi-

ence. Incorporation of these techniques will provide a unique and extremely beneficial opportunity to practice leadership under pressure. These leadership strategies are essential to effectively manage a team during a crisis or disaster situation.

The Messiah College Department of Nursing is fortunate to have Carolyn Kreamer, a chairperson who realizes the benefits of simulation learning. She has worked intensely to allocate funding to expand and renovate the simulation laboratory space and purchase health-care equipment. Simulation learning ensures that each student will gain certain foundational and advanced nursing experiences in a safe environment. With her continued support and leadership, nursing faculty plans to add an infant and child simulator later this year to maximize nursing student learning experiences in maternal-child care.

Health information technology scholars program

By Marti Derr and Tara Jankouskas

Like so much of nursing, psychiatric nursing is changing. Patient acuity is rising, clinical facilities are overwhelmed with students, and students are concerned about therapeutic interactions with patients. Tara Jankouskas and Marti Derr have partnered to develop new pedagogy for quality improvement of therapeutic interactions among nursing students based on evidence from integration of various technologies into psychiatric curriculum. Jankouskas and Derr applied for and received scholarships for the Health Information Technologies Scholarship program (HITS). The HITS program provides a free three-day conference in Denver as well as free online education for one year and mentoring from nurse experts across the U.S. Derr and Jankouskas will learn about technologies including simulation, telehealth, Second Life, and various types of e-learning and informatics. The ultimate goal of the program is to mentor faculty in the integration of technology into nursing curriculum, followed by evaluation of the impact of that integration.

The new pedagogy for therapeutic interactions includes the following objectives:

1. Develop three videotaped simulated scenarios of therapeutic interactions between a nurse and a manipulative, psychotic, and suicidal patient. These videos will be used to stimulate classroom discussion via a video-interactive method of teaching.
2. Train a standardized patient actor to epitomize three types of psychiatric patient conditions: manipulative, psychotic, and suicidal. The standardized patient will simulate an interaction with each student to allow realistic practice in therapeutic interactions. These interactions will be videotaped for student debriefing with the clinical faculty.
3. Develop and copyright a process recording rating tool for objective evaluation of therapeutic interactions.
4. Obtain software for electronic charting for psychiatric nursing care for use with therapeutic interaction simulations.

With mentoring and education provided through the HITS program, Derr and Jankouskas plan to refine, implement, and evaluate this new pedagogy over the next several months. Watch for an article from them on the outcomes of this project early next year!

NEW ADJUNCT FACULTY

KAREN MILLER—teaching clinical in the sophomore level NURS 211 course Foundations of Nursing Practice. Karen also taught for the College in 2003 under the old curriculum course NURS 202. She currently works as a family nurse practitioner in a local family practice.

ERIN MORRISON and **JENNY REX**—both teaching clinical in the junior level NURS 313 course Nursing Care of Infants, Children and Adolescents at Hershey Medical Center. Both are employees of HMC: Morrison works in pediatric oncology and Rex in PICU.

DONNA SCHULTZ—teaching both classroom and clinical for juniors in NURS 312—Nursing Care of Adults & Older Adults II—and currently is working on her master's degree.

NATALIE TROUP is another Messiah College faculty re-hire who taught here in 2000–2002. She is currently teaching in the new Leadership in Nursing (NURS 413) course with our seniors. She is a leadership and organization development specialist at PinnacleHealth Learning Institute.

JUDITH HAUCK and **RUTH ZOOK** both taught in the fall semester in our NURS 410: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing course for seniors. Both work at the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute in Harrisburg.

2009 awards

Faculty Service Awards:

Louann Zinsmeister—15 years

Wanda Thuma-McDermond—15 years

Christy Stark Smith Scholarship Award

Senior Nursing Student: **Brittney Wheeland**

Junior Nursing Student: **Nicole Viglietta**

Pennsylvania State Nurses Association District 15 Leadership Award

Karen Celenza

Department of Nursing College Honors Program

Elizabeth W. Caprio

Megan A. Clapp

Elyse M. Dailey

Victoria A. Fulford

Ellen R. Harpold

Morgan J. Hartz

Erica M. Heisey

Christin Hitz

Melissa J. Lewis

Anne E. McClary

Hillary A. Snyder

Bridgette E. Todd

Kristen L. Todd

Lindsey N. Westervelt

Kristine N. Williams

Boyer Scholars

Kristine Brakebill '09

Allison Heermance '09

Department of Nursing Senior Awards

Faculty Award for Excellence

in Nursing— **Jason Houghton**

Academic Excellence

in Nursing Award— **Kathleen Ellis**

2009 Graduates

Magna cum laude:

Kristina Brakebill

Karen Celenza

Kathleen Ellis

Allison Heermance

Mana Ichinowatari

Janet Loehwing

Bonnie Player

Sarah Scholten

Cum laude:

Donna Delp

Cheryl Drumm

Carrie Ent

Carolyn Harrington

Leslie Heffner

Jeffrey Knisely

Amy Mattie

Rachel Searles

Corrine Stolzenburg

Elizabeth Tyson

Leah Whallon

Ali's African adventures A.K.A. my life with Mercy Ships

By Alison (Wilks) Chandra '05



During my senior year of nursing school at Messiah, a group of us rented a van and drove to Kentucky to attend the Global Health Medical Missions Conference. I had spent the summer before at a mission station in the Zambian bush, 14 hours from the nearest paved road, and I knew that God had Africa in my future somewhere. Among the stacks of brochures I picked up that day was one from an organization called Mercy Ships. It sounded like a perfect fit: a hospital on board a ship that sailed to a different West African country every few months. What more could I really ask for?

We drove back to Grantham, and the Mercy Ships brochure took up residence in the middle of a pile of papers in my closet. It wasn't until I graduated and had started a job in the PICU near my home in New Jersey that I started to think seriously about pulling up my roots and heading out. I e-mailed the ship and found out that I would need two years of experience to join. Immediately, I started to plan when I would quit my current job to join Mercy Ships.

People told me I was crazy. They couldn't understand why I would give up a great job to head halfway around the world, live in cramped quarters, and pay to work harder than I'd ever worked before. It seemed obvious to me, but my answer made no sense to them: "God loves me, so I have to go. I have to pour out my soul on Africa."

And so, with little fanfare and much to the confusion of all those from outside my family and church, I went. I packed up my life in a big duffel bag and got on a plane

bound for Monrovia, Liberia. We landed on Feb. 9, 2008, in a country still torn apart by civil war. The doors of the plane opened, and the warm night air surrounded me like a prayer. I breathed deeply the scent of dirt, cookfires, and mango trees, and I knew that I was home.

As I started my shifts on the wards, I realized that nothing could have prepared me for the work I would be doing. The Africa Mercy isn't so much a hospital as it is a floating specialized surgical center. Surgeons and nurses from around the world volunteer their time to come and provide free operations for people who have no other hope. We focus on those people who have conditions that push them to the fringes of society, because here in West Africa, deformity is seen as a curse. Mamas routinely abandon babies who are born broken, and people with crooked legs and facial tumors are forced to live outside the villages, shunned by even their own families. We're working in a system where having more than one doctor for 5,000 people is unheard of, where clean water is virtually nonexistent, where the hospitals will throw you out on the street if your money runs short.

People told me I was crazy. They couldn't understand why I would give up a great job to head halfway around the world, live in cramped quarters, and pay to work harder than I'd ever worked before.

Into all this comes our big white ship, docked in the port and speaking a message of hope into lives that have lost just that, people with medical conditions unheard of in the developed world, where going to the doctor is as ordinary as eating dinner. "Come," we say. "Jesus loves you, and we do, too. We will not stare at you when you pass. We will look you in the eye when we speak to you, because you are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are worthy of love simply because you are."

My days are spent in the midst of all this, on wards with beds three feet apart, mamas sleeping tucked underneath when

their children are admitted for surgery. I get to witness firsthand the piecing back together of lives, the transformation from rejection to community. Our orthopedic surgeons straighten bowed legs, correct clubbed feet, and teach local doctors how to cast correctly. Our plastic surgeons release contracted burn scars and do skin grafts to increase mobility. Maxillofacial surgeons repair cleft lips and palates and remove massive jaw tumors along with a host of other operations. We have surgeons who repair vesico-vaginal fistulas, a condition caused by prolonged obstructed labor, in which women constantly leak urine or feces. Eye surgeons remove cataracts and dentists provide free dental care and throughout all of this, the message is the same: "We are here because God loved us. It's His love we are giving to you. He is the one who will transform you."

I started out as a ward nurse in Liberia and then came back as a charge nurse in Benin. Now I am in Togo, as one of two assistant ward supervisors. (If you'd asked me back at Messiah whether I'd ever go into management, the answer would have been a resounding "Never!") Every day brings new challenges as we seek to bring first-world healthcare in a third-world port, and I've grown as a nurse more than I ever thought possible.

I now know how to teach a patient to make salt water for cleaning wounds and can convey that message in French, English, and Liberian English. I know that I need to specify that the pot they use to boil that water cannot be the same pot they use to cook pepper soup. I can greet my patients in five languages and ask about



Adventures, continued on page 5

Adventures, continued from page 4

their pain in four. I am no longer surprised when I find worms in a box of rice cereal or in the patients' toilet. (I also know which medication needs to be prescribed for the latter.) I know that during raining season I need to send home several plastic garbage bags with every patient, or their dressings stand no chance of staying intact until they come back to be seen in the outpatient clinic.

I no longer hesitate to use one patient as an interpreter for another. In a culture founded on community, the idea of patient confidentiality is laughable. I can start IVs with up to eight patients and translators staring at me and offering their advice. I can overwrap casts, put in nasal packing and pull out staples. I know how to reopen a thyroidectomy incision on the way back to the OR when the woman starts to bleed after surgery. I can cobble together a CPAP setup using an old bottle of vinegar and an assortment of ransom tubings. I can teach an illiterate mama how to tell time.

I know that greeting my patients is more important than getting all my tasks done. I understand that my white skin can be scary and know how to compensate with stickers and balloons. I no longer see tumors and scars and deformities; I see people, desperate to be loved, desperate to know that their lives matter.

Our chief medical officer, Dr. Gary Parker, has been with the ship for more than 20 years. His words explain all this so much better than mine: "In order for hope to be credible in the future, it must be tangible in the present." Once we have met people where their need is the greatest, we can speak into their lives the love of Jesus that brought us all from our homes around the world, the love that told me to quit my job and go work with Mercy Ships.

For the rest of my life, I will be grateful that I listened to that love.

Please visit <http://alirae.net/blog> for more stories from Ali.

Nurses' Christian Fellowship (NCF)

By Jordan Trout '12

During the 2009–2010 school year, Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) has focused on deepening and strengthening the spiritual lives of members by the study of the Bible, prayer, and Christian fellowship. In the fall semester, NCF had its annual kick-off picnic, weekly meetings, and a movie night in South Side Café. During finals week, NCF assembled care packages and delivered them to nursing students as a fundraiser. The spring semester has much in store, as well. NCF has invited a few nursing students who studied abroad during the fall semester to speak about their experiences. We hope to plan other fun activities and a service project to promote fellowship among nursing students and to apply the Christian faith to our future careers as nurses!

SUPPORT NURSING THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

YES! I want to support nursing education at Messiah College through an endowed scholarship. Please direct my gift to:

- The Nursing Education Endowed Scholarship, given to nursing students who demonstrate financial need
- The Janelle Joy Nisly Memorial Scholarship, for students in nursing or pre-med who are affiliated with either the Mennonite Church, Church of the Brethren, or Brethren in Christ Church
- Christy Stark Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund, given to a nursing student who has demonstrated excellence in nursing care of the child-bearing family

My tax-exempt donation is enclosed for:

\$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Please make check payable to: MESSIAH COLLEGE.

Please clip this form and return it to the Messiah College Office of Development, Box 3013, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 17027.

Giving to nursing during July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Chatlos Nursing Scholarship Awards

The Chatlos Foundation Inc.

Margaret McCormick Endowed Scholarship

McCormick Family Foundation

Janelle Joy Nisly Memorial Scholarship

Vera Mae Nisly

Nursing Department—Annual Fund

Brian & Valerie Diane '99 Coakley

Patricia D. Kissell '64

Tzuo-Li & Wanda L.

(Schreffler) '86 Lee

Meredith A. MacKenzie '07

John J. & Laurin B. '86 Mooney

David W. & Kathleen S. Pra

William B. & Eloyce A. '77 Spong

Nursing Development

Southcentral Workforce

Investment Board

Nursing Education Scholarship—In Memory of Peggy S. Walters

Gordon S. & Carolyn Cochrane

A. Dane & Marti G. (Groff) '80 Derr

Jeffrey K. '89 & Deborah E.

(Hesel) '88 Herr

Kay L. Huber

Carolyn L. Kreamer

Ruth I. Stoll

Added to the Nursing Education Scholarship In Memory of

Emily K. Hayes '04

Phoenixville Hospital

Christy Stark Smith Memorial Scholarship

Cross Point United Methodist Church

Thomas H. † & M. Jean Jones

Messiah Nursing Class 2009

Nursing Christian Fellowship

Timothy C. & Kelley A. Roff

Stephen R. Smith

Donald and Dorothy Stabler Nursing Scholarship Endowment

The Stabler Foundation

Riding the bus

Students enrolled in the senior-level course, entitled Community Health Nursing: Learning and Service in the Community, were asked to ride the public transport system in Harrisburg city as part of a clinical experience focusing on vulnerable populations, health care disparities, cultural humility, and social justice. Various scenarios to simulate how it might feel to live in an urban, possibly socioeconomically depressed environment were available for the students' assignment. The students then wrote a reflective journal about their experience. One student's story follows.



By Rebekah Case

I was cold, confused, frustrated, and mostly pensive as I simulated the journey of a ninth grader in a crisis pregnancy. The day was cold and windy,

and much of the snow from this past week's storm had not been cleared from the roads and sidewalks yet. I had dressed warmly but was still cold while waiting for the buses and walking on the slushy streets of Harrisburg.

We began our morning in Steelton at the bus stop by Hoy Towers. We had planned to arrive by 6:50 a.m., but one of our group members woke up late and we had to wait for her, putting us at the bus station at 7, just seconds after the bus pulled away. (I can't even imagine having to get a child ready to go in the morning.) We did not think it would be long before another bus came, but we were mistaken. Thirty minutes later, we were still waiting, shivering, and huddled in the bus stop, wondering what to do. A girl who looked about 7 years of age joined us in waiting, smoking a skinny cigar and carrying a small purse. She told us that the bus should have come by now, and we all hoped there would be one soon. More time passed, and eventually our fellow traveler left and told us she was going to call a cab. She advised us to move to another bus stop on the main road, so we walked to this area in front of a laundromat where we waited even more.

A man joined us here, wearing his monthly bus pass on a lanyard around his neck. He told us that three buses should have passed in the hour we had been waiting, but they must have been delayed due to the snow still covering the roads from this week's storm. We were so relieved when a bus finally came (and so was the man waiting with us).

Once on the bus, I unthawed my frozen feet and fingers while making some observations. It was interesting to travel the route into Harrisburg, one so familiar to me, through a different set of eyes. I thought about being 14 and pregnant, waiting in the cold and relying on the buses for transportation. I thought about what it would be like if I had a doctor's appointment to make on time. I thought about what it would be like to do this route around Harrisburg alone: from school, to Planned Parenthood, to the hospital, without a parent or support. I would probably be afraid and uncertain of the future. I would wonder whether to keep the pregnancy, whether to tell my family, whether to tell the father of the baby. I thought about being in the first trimester of pregnancy, dealing with morning sickness and becoming nauseated by exhaust fumes. I imagined carrying a backpack full of textbooks instead of the light purse I was actually holding. Toward the end of the day, I had to go the bathroom but wanted to wait until being back at school in my own sanitary bathroom.

On the buses, there were different advertisements targeting those who typically use public transportation in the city. There were many ads about lead poisoning that gave a number to call for help. Another sign was advertising plasma donation, where you can make up \$200 per month. I thought about how many people might want to take this opportunity to gain some money quickly. Some signs told how to get free HIV testing. There was another promoting the H₁N₁ flu vaccine and how to get it. Another ad was for Hamilton Health Center WIC program, and I wrote down the number thinking about my scenario and how I would need to feed my new baby.

Planned Parenthood is a small building on the side of Market Street closest to the river, and I thought about being afraid to ask for a pregnancy test by myself. I was embarrassed enough when we had to ask the bus driver which bus to take if we wanted to get to Planned Parenthood. He looked at our small group of young women sympathetically, probably thinking that none of us looked ready to have a child. I work at Harrisburg Hospital as a nurse extern but looking at the outside of the building through the eyes of a teenager with a high-risk pregnancy made it seem different.

Riding the buses and trying to ask for directions in Harrisburg was confusing. We asked for help several times from people on the bus that seemed as though they knew the system well. Even when we knew where we were going, there was still the long wait for the right bus. We waited at another stop in Harrisburg for 45 minutes. The people riding the bus were of different ages and cultural backgrounds but seemed to be regulars. There was a young mom pulling her toddler and stroller off the bus at one stop, struggling to manage both of these things while exiting. A woman sitting next to me had corduroy pants worn so thin on the thighs and knees they no longer had ridges. One man was wearing a face mask for warmth, with only his eyes and a bushy mustache showing. Another woman had a faux-brand purse, lots of makeup on, and nails painted purple. Some people talked about the snow, but many simply rode in silence. Most people just looked tired and worn out.

I do not know if I would be able to rely on the bus system for transportation every day. The obstacles of the buses being late, having to wait in the cold (especially if I had children!) and transferring to different routes would be a daily frustration. I was not so uncomfortable that I wanted to go home the whole time. I knew this was just a school assignment for me, but it is a way of life for others.

Why I'm a nurse By Susanna Damgaard



Let me start by saying one thing: I love this field. Since graduating from the Messiah Nursing program in 2007, it's been a wild ride.

I mostly had no idea what I was getting into or how hard the work would be, and a lot of my opinions and beliefs about the world have been permanently altered. I would choose no other path.

I spent my first couple of years in nursing flying by the seat of my pants as an ER nurse in downtown Washington, D.C. I grew up quickly. In that place, nursing is pouring all of yourself—your compassion, your critical thinking, your forgiveness, your endurance—into a thousand

different lives and situations, each more urgent, each more broken. I learned that the emergency room is a very clear mirror of how well that city is caring for its underserved. Your eyes are opened to how deeply broken our world is and how unfair it all is. There are many equally clinically astute nursing programs to choose from for those pursuing a nursing education, but Messiah nursing taught me how to pay attention when, at age 22, I was thrust into a world of sharp divisions between wealth and poverty, of politics and a feeling of having no voice. Every day I think of my time at Messiah with thankfulness for that opportunity.

I left full-time ER nursing because it became obvious that in order to get to the root of the problems that I kept seeing in

the lives of the people I was caring for, I would need more education. Last fall, I packed up and moved to Connecticut to start a master's in public health at Yale University. There could not have been a more relevant preparation for this program than inner city ER nursing. At Yale, my clinical experience adds relevance and meaning to every class I take.

I committed my life and my career to this beautiful, messy, tragic, deeply needed profession at age 18 with the start of Messiah's nursing program. I've never looked back, not for a minute, because it has grown to be a part of who I am. I'll spend the rest of my career trying to break down health disparities and relieve the effects of poverty and unfair policy. I'll do this work, first and foremost, as a nurse.

Chair, continued from page 1

databases for the evidence for quality nursing care. I believe we have an innovative model in our curriculum that provides those critical skills for our own undergraduate students. There are recommendations to support faculty in developing their teaching skills by using the fertile sources of clinical cases and narrative pedagogies focusing on the patient's experience. There is much to review and digest in this report for the future of our own nursing program at this milestone in our history.¹

At this important juncture in nursing and nursing education, we celebrate all who have committed themselves to this profession and completed their studies for this remarkable profession at Messiah College these last 25 years. Many in society at large are beginning to realize the profound work you do—as practicing nurses and as educators of nurses. At our silver anniversary moment, I salute each one of you and say thank you for the privilege of sharing this profession with you.

¹Benner, P., Sutphen, M., Leonard, V., & Day, L. (2010). *Educating nurses: A call for radical transformation*. Jossey-Bass: San Francisco.

Sawasdee (Hello) from the "Land of Smiles"

Debbie Loop

For the second year, the Messiah College Department of Nursing participated in an exchange program with the Boromarajonani College of Nursing (BCNC) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Debra Loop, Pamela Linstedt, 16 senior nursing students, and three junior cross cultural students departed January 2010 for a 23-day experience in northern Thailand. Waraporn Wanchaitanawong, the director of BCNC, with the assistance of the BCNC faculty, integrated Thai culture as students participated in healthcare delivery. Students had a variety of nursing experiences. Nakomping Hospital became home to the students during their first week in Chiang Mai. The public hospital provided opportunities for students to work in the male surgical ward, female surgical ward and the trauma ward. Students spent time in the operating room, labor and delivery, emergency department, and the critical care units.

During the second week, students participated in a three-day, two-night home stay in Maegumpong Village. The villagers taught the students how to make baskets from bamboo straw as well as khaao laam (roasted sticky rice with coconut) over an



open fire. Highlights of the trip included the elephant camp, Thai cooking class, Khan Toke dinner, traditional Thai massage and the pork pan dinner. Several English camps were held so that the Messiah College students could aid the Thai students in their mastery of conversational English. These sessions were entertaining and fun for all who attended. As one student stated, "This has been a life changing experience. It has opened my eyes on so many matters. I will never be the same, and for that I am grateful." Students experienced firsthand the unfolding of our motto, "Two Nations with One Purpose." Despite cultural differences, nurses can be internationally united in the delivery of nursing care. We look forward to another exciting and life changing experience in January 2011.



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ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni news

Susan Renee Benner '79 lives in Gettysburg, Pa., with her spouse, Leonard R. Benner, and daughter, Heidi R. Benner (16 years of age). She graduated with an M.S.N. in May 2009 from York College of Pennsylvania. She works for DPW at South Mountain Restoration Center as an R.N. supervisor and adjunct faculty at Frederick Community College teaching surgical technologists.

Rachel (Close) '97 Cutts married Ross Cutts on Sept. 8, 2007 and gave birth to Josiah Daniel Cutts on Sept. 19, 2008.

Nicole (Bollinger) '99 Barca and husband, Michael Barca '98, celebrated the birth of their son Jacob Allen on Jan. 21, 2009.

Gina (Muth) '02 Maurelli welcomed daughter Grace Anna on Jan. 10, 2009. She graduated with an M.S.N./F.N.P. from Manmouth University and lives in Point Pleasant, N.J.

Tammy (Hurst) '03 Caswell welcomed son Jonathan Leo on March 2, 2009, with husband, Jim. They live in Watsontown, Pa.

Hillary (Ader) '04 Shackelford achieved certification in emergency nursing (C.E.N.) in August 2008. Currently, she works as a staff nurse in ED at Lankenau Hospital (outside of Philadelphia). She lives in Paoli, Pa. On Nov. 7, 2008, she welcomed daughter Hannah Lee Shackelford. She is currently enrolled in M.S.N./F.N.P. program at Widener University and plans to finish in August 2010. Also, she has taught clinical rotations for Widener.

Lisa (Jinks) '07 Teach married Joshua B. Teach on April 4, 2009, in Hershey, Pa. Lisa works at Hershey Medical Center in the pediatric intermediate care unit.

Sarah Jane (Anwyll) '09 Janjirala is currently living in Peoria, Ill., and working at St. Francis Medical Center.

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