



Nursing News

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DEPARTMENT OF NURSING CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

Reflections from the chairpersons

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Twenty years of accredited nursing

Carolyn L. Kreamer, Ph.D., R.N.

Celebrate with us! This year marks the twentieth year of accredited nursing education at Messiah College. In May 1985, 22 graduates of the new baccalaureate nursing program launched their careers. They were pioneers on a new journey in nursing education at this campus. Even before this milestone event, however, nursing education had a long history at the College. From 1954 to 1984 nurses attended the College and received a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in what was known as a “two plus three” program. Students attended the College and took two years of general education and science courses, then attended a diploma school of nursing for three years. At the end of that time, they received their degree from Messiah College; however, this program was not recognized by the State Board of Nursing, nor accredited by any national nursing accrediting body, because the College did not have the responsibility for teaching the nursing component of the degree. Consequently, in the 1970s the administrators and faculty at Messiah College believed that it was appropriate to conduct a feasibility study to create a baccalaureate nursing program fully taught at the College. This new nursing program was viewed as consistent with the philosophy of the College, complementary to other programs of study, and as a means to prepare graduates for another mode of Christian service.¹



The early years: Left to right, (sitting) Ruth Stoll, Kay Huber, Carolyn Kreamer, Sandra Goodling; (standing) Jan Towers, Joan Rice, Martha (O'Donnell) Solomon, Arlene Miller, Eileen Gardner, Susan Gray, Elaine Hagenbuch

Then, as now, nursing education is strongly aligned with the mission and philosophy of the College. That is likely one of the underpinnings of its promising start and continued success. Despite a moratorium on new baccalaureate nursing programs in Pennsylvania in the mid-1970s, College officials acted on faith and prepared a feasibility study for their new program. In 1979, the statewide moratorium was lifted, in 1980 the first chairperson of the program was hired to prepare the proposal for the new program, and in May 1981 the State Board granted initial approval. There was virtually no time for recruiting students; nevertheless, the first nursing class was admitted in the fall 1981. These were very brave, bold students who stepped into an untested, new nursing program.

Today, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the graduates from that class and those of the last 20 years. There have been over 800 graduates since 1985, and survey data have shown that over 80 percent remain in practice ten years after graduation. Depending upon the class, approximately 10–30 percent have pursued advanced degrees in nursing, and many have assumed leadership positions in practice and education. Perhaps most rewarding, several have joined the Department of Nursing as clinical teaching faculty. We know that Messiah College nurses have practiced in many parts of the world including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, India, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and more. Frequently, we are told about the excellence of our graduates, and

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how they are “somehow different” in their nursing practice. Naturally, we believe that the unique perspective of the curriculum with its focus on the Christian worldview explains that “difference.” Those of us privileged to be a part of this two-decade adventure believe passionately in its importance and value to nursing now and in the future. We applaud that brave first class and its educators, and we thank them for beginning this wonderful journey.

This issue of *Nursing News* is dedicated to commemorating the past 20 years.

Additionally, at the Homecoming celebration in October 2005, there will be special events celebrating the 20 years of this nursing program at Messiah College. Many special people from the past, including previous chairpersons and faculty, will be present to celebrate with us. I extend my personal invitation to all of the nursing alumni of Messiah College to join us on that special day. Come and enjoy the party!

¹ *Messiah College, Department of Nursing, Self-study report for National League for Nursing, 1986. Author.*

Remembering the faithfulness of God

Elaine Hagenbuch, Ph.D., FNP

First Chair of the Department of Nursing

I would like to offer my “Congratulations” to Carolyn Kreamer, department chair; the faculty and staff (present and former); the graduates; and the students of the Department of Nursing, as well as Messiah College administration and educators on the 20th year celebration of the first graduating class from the Department of Nursing. It is truly hard to believe that it has been 20 years since the class of 1985 included those first brave, enthusiastic, well-prepared nursing graduates. I have had such a wonderful time remembering the joys and the challenges of those first years of the nursing program, and I want to share some of those with you so that you, too, can have a greater appreciation of from where and how far the department has come since those humble beginnings. But most of all, I want to share how God has remained faithful in His grace, love, and guidance throughout the development of the program and in the successfulness of its graduates.

In the late 1970s, a definite need was identified for qualified registered nurses prepared at the baccalaureate level to give compassionate, loving, professional nursing care. Under the leadership of President Ray Hostetter and Dean David Brandt, Messiah College realized that a nursing major would be an asset to its existing outstanding educational offerings. For 20 years, we have provided a comprehensive four-year, Christian-focused program to educate individuals to become nurses who meet the identified needs.

In early 1981, the proposed Messiah College nursing program, leading to a

Bachelor of Science in nursing, received initial approval from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing after a year of planning a nursing program based on Christian principles. The planning process included designing the program based on the required general education requirements of the College and the science prerequisites needed to prepare students for the nursing curriculum. The nursing program, including the description of the program with course objectives and course outlines, had to be planned in advance. A major hurdle was overcome when the State Board of Nursing granted the program initial approval, for it allowed Messiah College to officially market the program and seek applicants for the program to enter in the fall of 1981. Ron Long and his staff in admissions worked hard to facilitate the admission of the students into the program on fairly short notice.

At the same time, the first educators for the department were hired to plan the first section of the nursing program. Those first faculty members, Jan Towers, Sandra Goodling, and Karen Gonzol, also had faith in the College and were enthusiastic about the prospects of a new nursing program based on Christian principles. They eagerly agreed to participate in this historic event of planning the program. It was then through a truly collaborative endeavor of faculty members throughout the College, along with the nursing faculty, that the program became a reality.

The day that the first students began classes in fall 1981 as members of the first class in the department—the class of 1985—was an exciting one indeed and truly an answer to many prayers offered for the success of the program. These students were the pioneers, and the program as we know it today owes a lot to those first students who took the leap of faith by entering a program that was just beginning, with no history, and with no full state approval or National League of Nursing (NLN) accreditation, but whose faith was grounded in the reputation of Messiah College. The full state approval and NLN accreditation had to wait until the first class of students graduated and approval and accreditation visits from the Board of Nursing and the NLN were made. The parents of those first students also showed the faith they had in Messiah College in allowing their young people to enter the program.



Going away party for Karen Gonzol in 1997. Do you remember these nursing faculty?

Soon after the first students entered the nursing program, the second round of enthusiastic and faithful faculty members became part of the Messiah College family—Ruth Stoll, Martha (O'Donnell) Solomon, and Donna Havens. Their responsibility was establishing and building the second phase of the nursing program. Through their capable hands, the nursing students progressed to the second phase of the program. Soon after that, the third set of enthusiastic and faithful faculty members were added to the Messiah College family—Kay Huber, Arlene Miller, and Janet Hunter Shields. They had the major responsibility of establishing and building the third phase of the program and the responsibility for getting the students ready for graduation. Under their leadership, the students completed the program and were prepared for graduation.

Graduation day was a great day for the class of 1985, for the nursing faculty members, and for faculty members throughout the College that helped make that day possible for the excited graduates. After graduation came State Board examinations for the 22 graduates in their respective states.

The program had been a success, and many prayers had been answered with 22 new graduates fully prepared to execute their new duties in the professional world of nursing. The difference that these new graduates brought to the profession was their Christian-based educational process giving them the extra power of Christian love and service to aid them in their professional practice. Many of these graduates have gone on for advanced degrees and have continued to serve their profession well. Those first graduates deserve our thanks and our praise for their accomplishments.

Since that time, many people have graduated from the nursing program at Messiah College, and continue to uphold the high standards set by the class of 1985. There have been many faculty members, full- and part-time, who have played major roles in the educational process of the students of the program. To all of these graduates and to all of the faculty members who have helped them, we owe our thanks.

This is just a brief story of the beginnings of the nursing program. It has been exciting to be able to be kept informed of the success of the program, faculty, graduates, and students throughout the years via the *Nursing News*. I am exceedingly proud



Department of Nursing faculty and staff—Senior brunch 2000

to have been chosen to participate in the beginning of the nursing program, and I am indebted to all faculty, graduates, and students who have participated in the process.

I would like to close with a personal remark. Since the death of my husband in June 2000, the Lord has led me on a very different professional path. In May 2005, I will graduate from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., with a Master of Divinity degree. I plan, Lord willing, to become a pastor in the United Methodist Church. So, when I see you at the 20th year celebration in fall 2005, I hope to have a new title. Even though I will be leaving nursing behind, my heart is still with the Messiah College Department of Nursing and it always will be.

May God continue to bless all of you as you continue to serve Him. God has truly been faithful to the Messiah College Department of Nursing, its graduates, students, and educators and I am confident that He will continue in His faithfulness. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Twenty years—from birth to adulthood—A history of the Messiah College Department of Nursing

Sandra L. Jamison, DNS, RN

It is my privilege to contribute to this historical review of the Department of Nursing at Messiah College with a focus on highlights during the time when I was privileged to serve as “chair,” 1992–1999.

As I began to reflect on the history of nursing at Messiah from 1992–1999, mental tapes from undergraduate lectures on growth and development replayed in

my head. I realized that the transition and rapid growth distinctive of adolescence typified my tenure as chair of the nursing department. Yes, the developmental framework fit: Elaine Hagenbuch presided during the birth and early development of the program. Ruth Stoll assumed leadership during the middle years. I steered the program through the storms of adolescence and Carolyn Kreamer assumed leadership for the current time of productivity, health, and increasing maturity.

Between 1992 and 1999, many transitions in the life of the College impacted the Department of Nursing. After 30 productive years as president, Ray Hostetter retired and Rodney Sawatsky was installed. The new leadership also included a new registrar, academic dean, and dean of curriculum. Additionally the academic structure changed to include a provost.

Along with new leadership, there were new articulations of the mission and identity and strategic plans for Messiah College. At the beginning of my tenure as the Department of Nursing chair, the College was envisioning the development of a non-traditional program and graduate education for several departments, including nursing. By 1995, the decision had been made that the focus of Messiah College would continue to be undergraduate residential education. As a result, two new nursing programs, both of which required a tremendous expenditure of energy and human resources and held much promise for the future, were established and then terminated. Though neither the Adult Degree Program nor the Certificate Program in Health Ministries (precursor for a graduate degree) moved forward, they had a profound effect on

the department. Educators were added, policies were clarified, library resources enriched, and the department became stronger for surviving the turmoil.

These were also years of great growth in many areas. A considerable increase in enrollment led to the addition of faculty. What a delight it was to have Louann Zinsmeister, Pam Linstedt, Deborah Loop, Marti Byers, and many adjunct faculty come aboard! (Please forgive any omissions and attribute them to advancing age.) The addition of Terry Middlekauff, and for a while Kerri Leedy, transformed the heart of the nursing program, affectionately known as “the Office.” New clinical sites, including the Wellness Center—a nationally recognized facility—were added. The option of a semester in Belize became a reality. A three-year building project transformed what had been two lab rooms with minimal equipment to state-of-the-art facilities and a student lounge occupying all but one classroom in the ground floor of Kline Hall of Science. There was growth on the first floor too with a major renovation of the nursing department office and the addition of a conference room.

The growth and strength of Messiah's nursing program were illustrated by other milestones as well. Our accredited program was given the stamp of approval by the State Board of Nursing annually. Through it all, the greatest achievement was the entry of several hundred wonderful and skilled graduates into the nursing workforce to make a difference, to extend Jesus' ministry of health and compassion to countless patients and their families. Lives of students were changed by interaction with caring, dedicated, and expert faculty, who brought competence and deep commitment to the work.

In closing, I want to say what a tremendous and humbling privilege it was for me to chair the Department of Nursing for those eight years. When I was recruited to come to Messiah, I had no idea of the challenges and joys ahead. Now, in retrospect, I can say that I was wonderfully blessed by the experience. God enriched my life through wonderful relationships with faculty and students, the opportunities for professional growth, and most of all, through countless experiences of His love, faithfulness and adequacy for every need. Thanks to God

and to each of you who have blessed my life through Messiah College's nursing program!

My year as interim chairperson

*Ruth I. Stoll, DNSc, RN
Interim Chairperson 1991–1992*

My year, 1991–1992 as interim chairperson was a time of transition—a time between the first chairperson and a next unknown one. Transitions are often times of keeping things going, but not getting too involved in change or in “disturbing the peace.” It would be so easy to sit quiet and keep the status quo until another chairperson showed and the Department could “re-engage” in the process of growing the exceptional program in nursing that the department had become. As I recall, that was not the case! Instead of just keeping the status quo, the department was quite busy in a productive and encouraging way.

As we began that year, we were immediately faced with responsibilities that called for unity and collaboration among educators—a state evaluation report and visit; potential students to be interviewed; sessions with interested parents and students; new and diverse administrative responsibilities, and last (but not least) a new chairperson to find, to interview on campus, and to bring about a selection process. Each of these challenges was either completely new to me or some “vague” thing that a chairperson did, but I certainly wasn't clear on what the position would entail, nor did I feel prepared to be “in charge.”

Just about that time, one of the faculty members gave me a small plaque



Maggie Hanson

that really said it all: “Do not feel totally, personally, irrevocably, responsible for everything—that is my job . . . Love, God.” That was it! God was in charge of this year, not me! God had put us together as a caring, supportively interactive faculty—handed us the challenges—but was in charge to bring about His work among us! And in His wonderful loving, gracious, and faithful way, He did!

It was a rich year in the wonder of meeting challenges, seeing answers to needs and prayers and finding His choice for the next chairperson. It's amazing, too, as I realize His goodness in allowing me that year without the added responsibilities of caring for terminally ill parents which began the following fall. A hymn that has become my favorite because of experiences like this one as interim chairperson is “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Let me share part of it with you.

“Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see: All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.”



Wanda Thuma-McDermond, Kay Huber, and Martha Solomon enjoy the Evidence Based Practice Research Conference, co-sponsored by Messiah College and PinnacleHealth, in December 2004.

Alumni reflections

Nancy Peterman Payne '85

To be truthful, I didn't start college with the goal of becoming a nurse. Messiah's first-ever BSN program was being launched the year I enrolled, and it had been recommended to me; so I passively declared nursing as my major, still expecting to explore a few other options. I soon learned that the other nursing majors seemed unswervingly dedicated to the profession, so I kept my reservations to myself and let the current sweep me along for a while.

Our first "real" course within the nursing curriculum was a nursing theory class, which provided us with the historical background and philosophical bases of nursing. For some of my classmates, eager to get into the more concrete, "relevant" classes, the material was boring. But for me, it was a crucial time of being introduced to topics such as the role of professional nurses and to a holistic understanding of wellness. In the first small ways I was beginning to affirm this new identity as a "fit" for me.

I also remember our first workshops on interviewing skills. Such simple concepts, like asking open-ended questions and building rapport are so important to every personal intervention I've carried out since, and the skills still had to be learned. Soon we had been supplied with massive client assessment forms (based on Martha Roger's nursing model), and were sent out to somehow discreetly question our interview candidate about his or her "rhythms" and "magnetic fields" and sexual activity?!

Then came the learning of physical assessment skills (quite challenging for a student like me, who preferred to just read a textbook), and the endless process of writing up patient assessments and nursing care plans. Although partially blocked from my memory, I can still recall some traumatic, late, late nights filled with tedious write-ups, accompanied by a ticking alarm clock ready to send me off to an early morning clinical experience. Was it worth it? I know that I sabotaged my own learning more than once by adapting my writing skills to impress the instructor, rather than admitting undone gaps in my assessment work. But the process of critical thinking and goal setting did eventually work itself into my mind and practice, just as I had been promised.

As the curriculum grew more intense, I revisited my fears and frustrations about the rigid course of study laid out for nursing students. Very few of our courses enabled us to interact with students outside our major; very little space was left in any semester for electives. It even seemed that the program's high expectations discouraged us from participation in college sports or extracurricular activities. Was I sacrificing some of the opportunities afforded at a liberal arts college by taking such a narrow program of study that I could be getting just at nursing school? It seemed like some of my classmates had no interests or ambitions beyond becoming nurses, but I knew I did.

I eventually took my concerns to the office of a wise academic dean who gave me some exceptional advice. He told me that nursing studies might start out seeming narrow and technical, but that the applications of nursing would ultimately be as broad as my interests could ever be. I stayed.

Along the way, I devised ways to get outside of the "box" that I felt stuck in as a nursing major. I intentionally found ways to take courses that allowed me to get beyond the same familiar faces of the nursing students. Also, I determined to be involved in sports (cross-country and track), not because of my athletic abilities, but because I wanted the experience and wanted to assert my right to be a "normal" college student. (Unfortunately, the combination of early morning runs and late night assignments along with the fact that I had not yet discovered coffee, created some embarrassing moments for me. Predictably, right after lunch, my eyes would uncontrollably close and my head would nod, regardless of being in a lecture, a nursing lab, or even a hospital tour!)

One other frustrating but life-changing experience is worth mentioning: During my junior year, our entire class scored miserably on an exam that largely determined our final grade of the eight-credit nursing course. The test was, in my estimation, poorly written and mercilessly full of trick questions. But to "hold standards high," scores were not adjusted and as a result, our GPAs plunged. As I resigned myself to the fact that it was now impossible for me to graduate with high honors, I concluded that it was no longer

worthwhile to study with the shortsighted goal of a good test score. Instead, I would have to focus on learning the information for the sake of applying it to real life nursing practice—a novel idea! I'm convinced that this "crisis," although painful, was a significant turning point for me.

I'm truly grateful for the instructors and fellow students who journeyed with me my four years at Messiah. Despite my immaturities, somehow I acquired a remarkable toolbox that has served me well, and most of all, an identity that has sustained and guided me. Since graduation, my roles have included ICU/CCU nurse; missionary/church planner in Colombia, South America; visiting nurse; agency nurse; homeless shelter nurse; and "mom" nurse. Even when applied my efforts to non-medical settings, it seems I never stop being a nurse. Advocating, teaching, listening, assessing, comforting, empowering, problem solving, making referrals . . . it's just what I do and who I am.

I've found that nursing doesn't have to be a box. All those interests that seemed out of place have enriched me as a nurse and at the same time, my nursing perspective has enhanced diverse aspects of my life. I am thrilled to be a marketable professional, yet most of all, I know that what I do every day makes a positive difference in the world, in big and small ways. Wow!

Kim Marie Walsh Falk '90

Memories of Messiah nursing . . . well, the first one I recall is of me and several other "nursing girls" (there were no male nursing students in my class year) down in "the pit" parking lot, scraping off my snowed-in car at 5:30 a.m., just so we could get to clinical! It was freezing cold and pitch dark—the sun had yet to get up, but my alarm had awoken me at 4:30! Speaking of clinical, I have a lot of memories of the sheer terror I felt the night before and the morning of every new clinical situation—then the relief I felt on the way home; I had survived!

But certainly not all of my memories are about the difficult things. I can recall how uniquely positive I felt after spending a day among patients, fellow nursing students, instructors, and other healthcare personnel. Perhaps God had used me that

day for a specific purpose in the life of my patient, one of the nurses or another hospital worker. I remember getting the bi-polar patient in the mania stage to stop running the track and sit and talk awhile. I would never have thought then that my first job after Messiah would be psychiatric nursing, but it was; my own life was being shaped while I tried to shape others! I also remember rubbing the back of a pregnant woman during her contractions, then getting her tissues for the tears she shed after being told she would have to have a C-section. Little did I know then that 12 years later, I myself would be having a C-section after 36 hours of labor.

Extracurricular activities bring back lots of good memories, too. The SNAP was a great opportunity to get away, meet other nursing students, and learn about the political side of the nursing profession. My three roommates and I tackled it like a vacation and, after entering the hotel room, proceeded to bounce on the beds! I fondly remember commiserating together about upcoming finals while preparing fruit baskets for a nursing student association fundraiser. Did we eat more than we packed? Another fundraiser was not as successful; since no one seemed to know what “scrubs” were, they weren’t interested in buying them!

But the first time I truly realized what a wonderful experience I had at Messiah was when I started my master’s degree studies at a large ivy-league university within commuting distance of my home. While I learned a lot there and made a few friends, it was nothing like my time at Messiah College. I really missed the camaraderie and unity in purpose that I had known at Messiah. I learned then, and now know for certain, that there is nothing like the unity of Jesus Christ amidst a group of prospective nurses. Congratulations, Messiah College, on 20 years of successfully bringing together, educating, and then releasing nursing students to fulfill their roles in society.

Kathy Bolden '95

I am a privileged nursing graduate of the class of 1995. My non-traditional nursing education began as a wife and a mother of two grade school-aged children, as a certified secondary science teacher who still had a month of teaching to complete the year, and as someone who, for many years

knew she would also like to be a nurse. My professors and fellow students provided witness that I too could learn and develop as a Christian nurse. It was not easy to go from being the “young teacher” to the “older student” who also had to function as the adult at home. However, supported by faith in the mission, we managed to learn, grow, and enjoy the challenging experience.

Today, those two grade school-aged children are well into studying for careers of their own: one in physics, the other as a graduate student in international development supporting the elderly and children in their need for healthcare. I like to think the many hours that they spent at Messiah as their mother studied and did research in the library helped develop what they, too, plan to do as Christian global citizens. As for myself, I am a certified gerontological nurse who is currently working toward a nursing home administrator license. I serve as an administrator in a continuing care community, drawing upon my experience as a home health nurse, personal care home administrator, and yes, I still use my teaching skills daily. Most of all, I try to remember those words we sang at the nursing pinning ceremony, “Make me a servant . . .” Thank you, Messiah, for the privileges you have given to me, to my family, and hopefully to those I am honored to serve as a nurse. Happy 20th!

Lani Yeh '00

I was a member of the nursing class of 2000. We were an incredibly fun and diverse group, and while I may not have been the best at keeping in touch with everyone since graduation, the fellowship that existed between us has always stayed with me. Our camaraderie extended beyond our fellow classmates, for as I recall, our professors were often somewhere to be found in the midst of our laughter. I’m sure we all know, this isn’t always the norm in nursing school! As a class, we had the singular honor of pioneering the opening of the Wellness Center with Kay Huber — an experience that I’m sure most of us will never forget. I must admit, I’m grateful for all the practice it gave me in taking manual blood pressures, and I certainly learned a lot about the importance of proper foot care!

While we certainly knew how to have a good time, one of the standing characteristics of most nurses (and those who want to be nurses), is empathy. I feel that trait was encouraged and cultivated in us by the faculty and staff in the nursing department. Our professors not only taught us to care for our patients on a clinical level, but on an emotional and spiritual level. As a student, I know I often zoned in on the “checklists” of nursing, but with time, I came to develop a holistic approach with my patients. Granted, this only came after the requisite first year of nursing experience was under my belt. My patients are grateful it eventually sank in.

One of the most important things that I took away from my time in the nursing department is the value of supporting one another. My advisor at the time, Dawn Blanchard, knew that it was my desire to study abroad during my sophomore year. At the time, sophomores were not yet allowed to leave the Grantham campus. She stood by me and fought endlessly for an exception to be made. Thanks to her and others in the nursing department, I was able to spend a semester in Barcelona, Spain, and graduate with a double major in nursing and Spanish. These events changed my life, and I am grateful to those involved for believing in me. With my degrees and my experience, I was able to live and work in Spain while pursuing a post-graduate nursing diploma from the University of Barcelona. Since my return to the U.S., I have been able to use my language skills on a regular basis, both as a staff nurse at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and now as a travel nurse in California. I love what I do (pediatric oncology), and know that Messiah helped to prepare me to serve others in this capacity today.

One faculty member's memories of the old days!

By Sandra Goodling

I was hired in the summer of 1982, along with Jan Towers and Karen Gonzol, to develop the first two clinical nursing courses: 202 and 301. We had a bare framework for the course content from the curriculum developed by Elaine Hagenbuch, chairperson. Thanks to the great support from the College, we had the fall semester to plan for the students who would be admitted to the nursing major in the spring of 1983. Those first students would never recognize the current program today except for the names of courses and some of the clinical experiences! And current faculty would never recognize that fledgling department!

For our planning, we three, with desks and a work table, were all in one room located on the first floor of Kline, down the hall from the department office. (That room was incorporated later into a classroom.) We kept that office for a couple of years until each faculty member moved into her own office. Anyone from the early days would remember that the department office was a small room with a wall added to separate the secretary in the outer room from the department chairperson. Today, the suite of rooms and storage that comprise the nursing office is very impressive. Today, there is also a faculty conference room; before that we had to search for space in which to hold meetings. Downstairs in the basement of Kline, the nursing department originally had two small rooms! One was the classroom meeting room/physical assessment room. Today that room is the student lounge with a refrigerator, lockers and comfort-

able furniture. Next to that, in what is now the resource room, we did all our physical assessment demonstrations. It contained three hospital beds, over-bed tables, privacy screens, plus much more! Now the department has four large rooms for the activities that we used to do in one small room! Even though we were crowded during our beginning years, I must say that Messiah College has always been supportive of the nursing department permitting us to purchase expensive equipment and audiovisual materials for teaching.

Dr. Towers was our faculty team leader because she had more teaching experience than either Karen or I had. I can remember many conversations about Martha Rogers, whose theory was the basis for the early curriculum because Elaine Hagenbuch had earned her Ph.D. at NYU, the home of Rogers. We had a variety of textbooks that we used to determine content. Because this was an integrated curriculum—based on the family and the levels of health and illness—no one text book would suffice for the care of the well family. In an effort to assist the students to pull the information together, we developed the infamous modules. These were study guides (some very thick!) to direct the students to the various texts to prepare for class. The modules instructed the students to fill in the blanks, make lists, and summarize content. There was one set of modules for the class content regarding the well family and another set for each of the physical assessment labs. Students complained bitterly about having to complete the mod-

ules, so in order to survive, they began to work in groups with each person completing a small portion of the module and then sharing each part with the whole group. This helped to complete the module; however, each student had only done a fraction of the assigned readings. Many years later, when we faculty succumbed to the wishes of the students and eliminated the modules, the next students complained because they no longer had study guides!

Next, we had to design the student uniform! They looked pretty much as they do today except the original students wore a nursing cap. Designed to somewhat resemble the head covering that women in many of the conservative churches wore, the cap was made from a starched gauze-like fabric with a blue velvet ribbon around it and a small gold cross. The caps did not last very long—several years—they were eliminated to conform to the workplace, where caps were no longer worn. The nursing cap, which used to symbolize the professional nurse, was ultimately recognized as having no purpose.

The nursing bags were adopted to symbolize the additional responsibilities that nurses were assuming; the nurse practitioner movement was about 10 years old. We filled them with expensive otoscopes/ophthalmoscopes and other diagnostic tools. Each student received her own stethoscope and penlight. Ultimately, these bags became a source of contention for future faculty who felt that the bags were more emblematic of the physician

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The nursing lounge before renovations took place in 1998–1999



Nursing lab in the 1980s

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than the beginning nurse. That emphasis on physical assessment, although very important (in fact, I think that Messiah's physical assessment focus has always been one of the program's strengths) has somewhat lessened in intensity over the years.

As the time approached to admit students to the major, the faculty had to provide the framework to accommodate the students. We developed a set of bylaws to govern the running of the department. This included an outline of faculty committees, and of course, all four of us were on every committee. I can remember asking Elaine Hagenbuch when I interviewed for the teaching position if there were going to be a lot of committees and meetings. To appease me, I think, she indicated that we would have only the necessary committees. Well, it seems that many were necessary! We began working on the Student Handbook, which included an ever-expanding list of rules and regula-

tions to inform student actions.

Finally, after months of preparation and organization, the first clinical course began. Those first students had so much paperwork! I think that almost every year after the first, educators decreased the amount of paperwork assigned. Those first students had to be super-women! For instance, if the clinical patient had six identified nursing diagnoses, the student had to write six nursing care plans—for 12 diagnoses, she wrote 12 care plans! Volumes of paperwork were written and then read and graded. Currently it is assumed that if the student can write a few correct nursing care plans he or she can write 12, but the instructor does not need to see all 12! In addition, the physical assessment laboratory practice was very detailed. For example, students did breast exams on each other, and some even did pelvic exams (not required). Eventually the physical assessment was

streamlined to include those aspects that were more common to the entry-level nurse.

As each year came and went, the curriculum grew and improved. Faculty came and went; but over all, most faculty stay at Messiah for a long time indicating satisfaction with the job. The quality of students remained high. They were caring and motivated to be excellent nurses and committed to the foundation of Christian values as a basis for their nursing care. Much has changed, yet much remains the same. Most importantly, the students have remained the first priority, and the faculty are of the highest caliber. It is rewarding to look back over more than 20 years to remember all the nurses who faithfully represent Messiah College. The faculty and students of 20 years ago certainly paved the way for today's Messiah nursing program.

Faculty news

After much diligent effort, faculty member **Louann Zinsmeister** earned her doctorate in nursing science from Widener University in December 2004. Her dissertation was entitled, "Liberal Education and Nursing Education: A Cross-Case Analysis of Curricular Connections and Student Involvement." The ideas for this study originated from her work with Messiah College undergraduate nursing students. As a result of her study, she was asked to participate in teaching a pilot core course called "Created and Called for Community." The intent of this course is to help first-year students apply skills learned in First-Year Seminar to content directly related to Messiah College's mission and identity. Starting with the 2005–2006 academic year, all Messiah College students will take this common learning course during the second semester of their first undergraduate year. In addition to her participation in this new college course, she remains enthusiastic in her responsibilities as a nurse educator. Congratulations, Louann Zinsmeister, on your significant accomplishment.

Marti Byers completed her master's degree in nursing at the University of Maryland in December. Congratulations, Marti!

Christy Stark Smith joined the Department of Nursing as a full-time faculty member in August of 2004. Some of you may remember Christy because she taught in the Degree Path program from 1995–1996. Christy's area of expertise is obstetrics and women's health. She has a very rich background of clinical experience in these areas and her skills as a nurse practitioner will be greatly appreciated by the students. Another area of interest for Christy is parish nursing. She served as a parish nurse for two years at Colonial Park United Methodist Church. A grant from Roanridge Foundation allowed Christy to develop a faith-based initiative to

mentor pregnant and parenting teens to address spiritual disconnection. Teaching responsibilities include classroom and clinical instruction in NSG 301, clinical instruction in NSG 402, and classroom instruction in NSG 202 and NSG 401. We are very happy to have Christy as part of the Department of Nursing.



Kay Huber was honored at a chapel in November as the Messiah College employee who received the Barnabas Servant Leadership Award. This award is named for Barnabas who was a servant leader; the name Barnabas means "son of encouragement." Awardees are selected based on their

"level of spiritual maturity and commitment to ministry and community service," how well they integrate ministry and community service into all aspects of their lives, how their ministry and community service impacts those they serve, and their ability to respect other persons and to effectively work with other persons. Kay runs the Wellness Center, a nurse-managed center, at Hoy Towers in Steelton, Pa., year round. Nursing students are able to participate in this community service experience in NSG 301 and NSG 402. Direct interaction with residents occurs in the Wellness Center or in the resident's apartment. This service that Kay is able to provide is an integral part of her life. The residents are not only persons to whom she provides physical care, spiritual care, emotional support, transportation for medical reasons, and education—they have become friends. This type of community service is invaluable. Kay is richly deserving of the Barnabas Servant Leadership Award. Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following alums, who graduated in May 2004:

Summa cum laude GPA 3.90 or above

Kelly (Sensenig) Janke

Magna cum laude GPA 3.60–3.89

Cynthia Brewer

Kara Derstine

Jennifer Johnson

Cum laude GPA 3.30–3.59

Hillary Ader

Tara Grace

Katherine Myers

Grace Nehiley

Kathy Rau

Kristen Weaver

Department of Nursing college honors program participants

14 nursing students are participants in the College Honors Program:

Laura Badaracco '08

Lydia Bryant '06

James Cagliostro '07

Joseph Cagliostro '07

Susanna Damgaard '07

Linda Deddo '08

Merrylee Grosso '06

Meredith MacKenzie '07

Allison Pra '07

Katherine Schiraldi '08

Ashleigh Smith '06

Erin Weaner '06

Alison Wilks '05

Ashley Worden '07

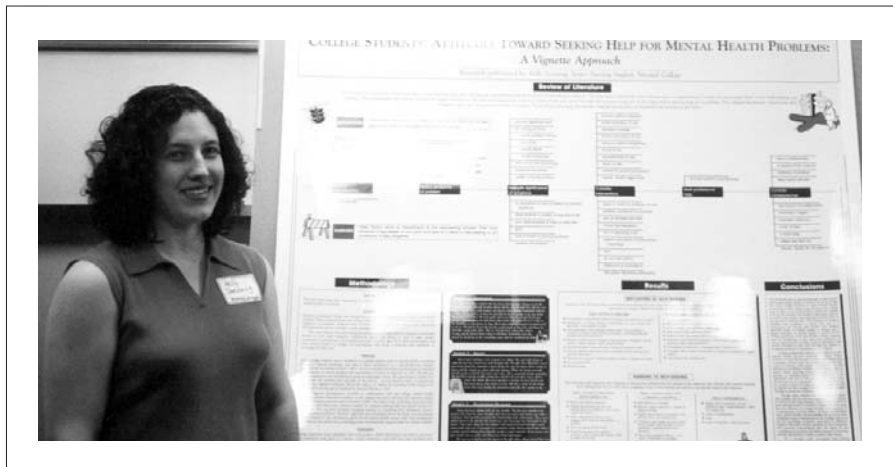
Student accomplishments

Heidi Cooper '05 was chosen to serve as a Boyer Scholar for her senior year. This is an honorary award in memory of Ernest Boyer, a nationally known educator and graduate of Messiah College.

Sarah Horvath '05, Joseph Campbell '05, Cassandra Pace '06, and **Ashleigh Smith '06** were nominated by the nursing department for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Megan Bennicoff '07, Jessica Martin '07, and **Katie Martin '07** were honored in November for being in the Emerging Leaders program at Messiah College

Graduating seniors earn top awards



Kelly Sensenig Janke '04 at Pinnacle Health Research Day. The poster represented Kelly's research project she completed as part of the Messiah College Honors program.

Kelly (Sensenig) Janke '04 was selected to receive the Academic Excellence in Nursing Award. She maintained a GPA of 4.0 for four years at Messiah College.

Annie Stephens was chosen by the nursing faculty to receive the Faculty Award for Excellence in Nursing, based on her outstanding care of patients in the hospital and in the community.

Nurses honored

In celebration of National Nurses Week, the junior and senior Messiah College nursing students chose three nurses from local hospitals who contributed in a significant way to students' clinical experiences. The students made the selection based upon the individual's expert nursing knowledge, professionalism, compassion, and caring. Selected were Katie Salinas '01, a nurse at the Medical Outreach Clinic (a branch of Holy Spirit Hospital), Corey Barnes, R.N., a staff nurse in the ED at York Hospital, and Sarah Quick '03, a staff nurse in the MIMCU at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Carolyn Kreamer, chair of the Department of Nursing, Wanda Thuma-McDermond, assistant professor of nursing, and Peter Sunden '05 presented a certificate of recognition to Salinas; Louann Zinsmeister, instructor in nursing, presented a certificate of recognition to Quick; and Debbie Loop, assistant professor of nursing, presented a certificate of recognition to Barnes. These nurses were honored during Nurses Week in May 2004.



Katie Salinas '01 (second from the left) with Peter Sunden '05, Carolyn Kreamer, chair of the Department of Nursing, and Wanda Thuma-McDermond, assistant professor of nursing.

Pinning Ceremonies over the years



Class of 1993



Class of 1994



Class of 1995

The wellness center

The Wellness Center continues to operate two days a week throughout the year with a steady slate of long-time residents and an influx of new residents. Funding for human services continues to decline, and finding support and resources for residents who are aging continues to be very challenging.

The Wellness Center, as one of seven reporting sites, has provided data for nearly two years for an internet-based tool collecting data about nurse-managed wellness centers. Kay Huber was one of the presenters of an interim data report from the project during the National Nursing Centers Consortium Convention in Nashville, Tenn. in fall of 2004. The funding for this project has been expended, but the seven centers have agreed to continue providing data in order to build a more significant base of critical information about the services offered by the centers.

The Independence Foundation is also funding a Walking for Wellness Program that will involve six wellness centers. The senior nursing students are busy recruiting residents over the age of 60 to participate in this eight-week walking program which is done at the resident's leisure. Each participating center receives funding, pedometers, and parameters for conducting the research project. The Wellness Center has already done multiple month-long walking programs, so this endeavor replicates, to some extent, a program already in place. The centers will all be doing pre- and post-tests and working within the same variables to collect data for this project.

Beginning in summer of 2005, Dr. Huber will be participating in a qualitative research study about perceptions of residents who use the services of this and two other wellness centers. In June, she will be attending a Hermeneutics Institute at George Mason University, with travel funded by the Independence Foundation, with persons from the two other sites.

In fall 2005, additional information about the various research projects will be presented at the National Nursing Centers Consortium Convention in Albuquerque, N.M. Kay Huber is on the program planning committee for this convention.

Development of a newsletter

The first *Nursing News* was published in fall 1990. Until that time, there was no formal way, other than through letters or class announcements, in which the Department of Nursing could communicate with its constituents: current students, graduates, parents, and community professionals. Developing some method of communication was crucial to the department's growth. Sandra Goodling, assistant professor of nursing, accepted the challenge of developing a newsletter for the department.

It was decided to publish a newsletter once each semester. This was a new challenge for students and faculty who were asked to write articles and for the editor who was expected to pull this together. These assignments always arrived at a hectic time—at the beginning of the semester—when students and faculty were adjusting to a new workload. In addition, at that time, there was only one other departmental newsletter at Messiah College, so this was a relatively new endeavor for the Office of Communications as well, all leading to a sometimes bumpy process. Sandra Goodling recalls working very closely with the Office of Communications to develop a format, to design a header for the first page, and to choose colors.

At the beginning, all the articles were handwritten and given to the editor, who then forwarded the articles to the department secretary for typing. In more recent years, the authors type their own articles and attach them to e-mails or give them to the secretary on disks. After several reviews by the editor, the newsletter was taken to the Office of Communications for formatting and editing—it was important to be certain that the articles were arranged in an order that made sense to the reader. Yet, while the *Nursing News* editor and the Office of Communications (now Office of Publications) gained experience and grew in their skills

over the years, and while the technology has improved to streamline the process of publishing a newsletter, the newsletter remains a time-intensive labor of love.

A departmental newsletter is vitally important. Students learn about nursing courses and opportunities for service through reading articles written by their more senior peers. The first and second year students who are not in clinical courses feel more a part of the Department of Nursing as a result of the newsletter. Departmental sponsored groups, such as Nurses' Christian Fellowship, the Nursing Student Association, and Lambda Kappa, use the *Nursing News* to disseminate their information. Parents gain a clearer understanding of what their children are experiencing. All the community agencies—hospitals, clinics, home health agencies, school, etc., that are used for the students' clinical experiences—feel more in touch with Messiah College. Alumni have a means to retain ties to their academic program. The more people feel connected to Messiah's Department of Nursing, the more likely parents and alumni are to contribute to nursing scholarships.

Since 1990, the *Nursing News* has matured and become more sophisticated. The appearance has changed to bring it into conformity with other College newsletters. It is likely that those involved in developing this newsletter did not anticipate the amount of work that would be involved or the many benefits it would provide for the Department of Nursing. As a matter of fact, a few skeptics did not believe the publication would even last due to the dedication required to write, edit, and publish a newsletter. They underestimated the determination of nursing faculty and students to proclaim the good news of the Department of Nursing!



The new nursing department office



Nursing students administering flu injections—this looks like too much fun!

The foundation of a nursing student organization



NSA fruit basket fundraiser



Health Activities Fair



Health Activities Fair

When a college begins a nursing program, one of the important foundations to establish is a student organization. To spearhead that organization, Elaine Hagenbuch, Messiah's first nursing department chairperson, recruited assistant professor Sandra Goodling, who contacted the Pennsylvania Nurses Association (PNA) for guidance in establishing an official student organization under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Student Nurses Association (PSNA).

In the spring of 1983, Messiah admitted its first class of 22 pre-nursing students into the nursing major. These young women clearly understood the importance of being pioneers and many were eager to participate in any nursing student activities. At the beginning, this nursing student association, called the Nursing Student Association of Messiah College NSAMC) was organized as an informal college club, but eventually this club became more formally organized and was recognized by the Messiah College Student Association in order to receive a portion of student association funds. Students eventually developed bylaws to be consistent with the PSNA.

At the beginning, students had two options: either to join just this Messiah club or to also join the PSNA. It was a challenge to convince students of the importance of belonging to a preprofessional nursing organization. (That challenge persists today!) But faculty continually stressed the value of supporting nursing's professional organization — participation that hopefully would carry over to the graduates' professional memberships in PNA.

Of course, not all members of the first class participated in this fledgling nursing club, and not all who joined the Messiah club joined the state organization (PSNA). The cost of joining NSAMC was about \$10, while the cost of joining PSNA was considerably higher. Understandably, for some students, joining the state organization was a matter of money, but to encourage membership in PSNA, students were informed that the membership included the cost of attending the state convention.

That pioneer group of NSA members enjoyed some special activities as Messiah's first junior and senior nursing students. Those students who joined the state organization attended their first PSNA convention in the Philadelphia area. Everyone was so excited about all the free samples and health-related handouts they collected in the exhibit hall. There was even an overnight party at their faculty advisor's house. In the initial years students had an annual fundraiser consisting of baskets of goodies ordered by parents for students to enjoy during semester exam week. This fundraiser still continues today.

Today that foundation established by these first Messiah nursing students has grown into the mature organization that students experience today. NSAMC, the preprofessional organization, continues to serve an important role in the professional development of current Messiah nursing students.

Donor gifts

On behalf of Messiah students, the Department of Nursing wishes to recognize the following contributors for July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 to the various funds and scholarships which benefit programming and enable future nurses to pursue their education. Many thanks to alumni, families of students, community friends, and corporations for their continued support.

Chatlos Nursing Scholarship Awards

The Chatlos Foundation Inc.

J & J Nursing Development

Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies

Lynda Gochnauer Nursing Endowed Scholarship

Lynda J. Snyder '92

Janelle Joy Nisly Memorial Scholarship

Sandra J. Wenger '94

Nursing Department — Annual Fund

Randolph & Jo-Ellen Bassett

Andrea Y. Bean '99

Emily Bender

Doris Jean Blessing

Alyce F. Bradbury

Brian & Valerie Diane '99 Coakley

Christopher W. & Mandy

D. Cook '01

John & Kay S. '97 Cramer

James J. & Robin L. '96 Crowley

Steven F. & Laurie A. '85 Donaldson

Susan G. Edris

Melissa D. Efst '02

Bethany L. Fassler '02

Christopher T. &

Jennifer L. '01 Felker

James W. & Amanda L. '97 Fredette

General Electric Foundation

John H. & Lauren J. '96 Gibbel

James B. & Karen Glass

Ruth H. Haas '34

Nelson & Janet Habecker

Frederick S. & Debra Ann Hager

Gary J. & Robin A. '88 Heinrich

Alan & Susan B. '96 Hench

Martha C. Kieffer '96

Timothy & Mary Lou Landis

David W. & Linda Loomis

Scott D. & Carey R. McNair '85

Troy & Julie J. '97 McNair

Barry L. '81 &

Elizabeth A. '82 Mellinger

Linda A. Miller '98

Glenn & Lynette Newkirk

Paul & Karen M. '81 Nyirjesy

Ann E. Perkins '92

Scott R. & Cynthia Lou '86 Raboci

William H. & Carol A. Risley

Ivan J. & Martha J. '50 Rohrer

Robert & Joanne Scott

Jamie E. Skaar '00

Richard L. & Fonda M. '70 Stewart

Donald R. & Susan D. Stine

Robert L. & Bette C. Troike

Todd & Deborah A. '91 Warner

Richard J. & Kathryn A. Young

Kelly J. Zimmerman '94

Nursing Education Scholarship — (In Memory of Peggy S. Walters)

Gordon S. & Carolyn Cochrane

Kay L. Huber

Carolyn L. Kreamer

Carol A. & Wilford L. Walters

Franklin H. & Ruth L. Wells Scholarship for Nursing Students

The Wells Foundation

Franklin H. & Ruth L. Wells Endowed Scholarships for Nursing Students

Michael E. & Karen L. '92 Adams

William K. & Linda S. Curtis '86

Johnson & Johnson Family of

Companies

Pauline M. Shafer

Ruth I. Stoll

The Wells Foundation



Nursing Honor Society induction ceremony 2004

Sigma Theta Tau — Lambda Kappa Chapter

The Lambda Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau continues to be active in the promotion and recognition of leadership and scholarship in nursing practice, education, and research. On April 17, 2004, three nurse leaders and 12 undergraduate nurses from the senior class of 2004 were inducted into the Lambda Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. The undergraduate inductees were Hillary Ader, Cynthia Brewer, Kara Derstine, Tara Grace, Jennifer Johnson, Katherine

Myers, Grace Nehiley, Kathy Rau, Kelly Sensenig, Annie Stephens, Kristen Weaver, and Jessica Zwickel. The nurse leader inductees were Marian Lefever, Nina Schneider, and Wanda Thuma-McDermond.

In October of 2004, a general meeting and program were held featuring a panel discussion on Magnet Status Health Care Systems. Events for the Spring of 2005 included the 2005 Lambda Kappa Induction Ceremony on April 9 when

Janet Shields, a former Messiah College faculty member, was the speaker. Also, the chapter co-sponsored a Research Day with PinnacleHealth System on April 28, 2005.

The 2004–2005 Lambda Kappa Officers include: Kim Fowler, President; Michele Campbell, Vice-President; Cathy Druckenmiller, Corresponding Secretary; Leisa McAlicher, Recording Secretary; Martha Solomon, Treasurer; and Louann Zinsmeister, Faculty Advisor.

Research Roundtable 2004–2005

During fall 2004 semester, students in both sections of the senior level nursing research course participated with nurses from the PinnacleHealth System in a Research Roundtable. Research Roundtable is a collaboration of Messiah College senior nursing students and faculty with nurses from the PinnacleHealth System for the development of nursing research proposals that promote evidence-based nursing practice. Each nursing research class was paired up with approximately 20 PinnacleHealth nurses to develop a research proposal. Louann Zinsmeister's class developed a proposal to study the experience of graduate nurses during the first year of employment. Carolyn Kreamer's class developed a proposal to study hand hygiene compliance in the clinical area. Both proposed studies were approved for implementation by the PinnacleHealth Institutional Review Board. Actual data collection occurred during spring 2005. When the results of these studies are available, they will provide new knowledge for the development of evidenced based practice and nursing science. Also, the process involved during research roundtable sessions to develop research proposals is a valuable exercise in itself for Messiah nursing students. Not only do they have the opportunity to work with professional nurses, but they also are able to put into action what they are learning about in their research classes. During the fall 2004 semester, both classes presented posters of their proposed studies at a research symposium sponsored by the School of Health and Natural Sciences of Messiah College. The results of both studies should be available by early summer 2005.

The first graduating classes



Class of 1985



Cohort I—Degree Path, class of 1995

Nursing alumni news

Let your classmates and friends hear about your activities. Clip this form and mail to *Nursing News*, Messiah College, P.O. Box 3031 One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 17027, or e-mail: nursing@messiah.edu.

LAST NAME	ATTEND NAME	
FIRST NAME	CLASS YEAR	
HOME PHONE		
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
SPOUSE	CLASS YEAR	
NEWS		



Right to left: Kerri Leary, Sarah Kuc, Louann Zinsmeister, and David Want discuss nursing student research, at the School of Health and Natural Sciences research symposium

Partners in nursing: A husband and wife reflect on their nursing journey

Jeanne D’Arcangelo Logan ’91

After graduating in 1991, I began a staff nurse position at The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in pediatrics, along with four classmates. I loved this job, not only because I love children, but also because I made several lifelong friendships along the way. It was challenging, frustrating at times, stimulating, and most of all, rewarding. I was finally doing what I had dreamed of since I was six years old, and it was fantastic!

However, after a few years of working four weeks of 12-hour day shifts and then four weeks of 12-hour night shifts, my sleep pattern became indistinguishable and I felt tired all the time. I decided to go to graduate school to make my life even more complicated and even more sleep deprived. What was I thinking? Seriously, the hope was still to work with sick children in a hospital setting, but be able to do so during regular daytime work hours.

I began taking the train from Harrisburg to Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania 1–2 times per week and working weekends. (This did wonders for my social life). I did this for two years, then graduated in 1995, married Paul the same year, who was in my nursing class at Messiah, took the certification exam, and began the long journey of finding a job in the Philadelphia area where I lived. This proved to be very difficult and very disappointing. I found myself taking other jobs just to pay the bills. Some of these jobs included being a nanny (way overqualified) demonstrating needle-less IV tubing to hospitals (boring), speaking to community college nursing programs (they were less interested than I was), supervising nursing students in clinical (Penn students are definitely *not* Messiah caliber), and coordinating undergraduate nursing student curriculum and schedules (yuck!).

After nearly a year of searching, a contact helped me to secure an interview with a pediatric behavioral clinic in New Jersey. I did not even want this job, but beggars cannot be choosers. To make a long story short, I joined a practice with two other pediatric nurse practitioners

and a neurodevelopmental pediatrician. I thought I would hate it. I saw it as a way to gain more experience and that it would make it easier to find a job in a hospital. This area of nursing held absolutely no interest for me. Soon, however, I grew to love my job. I met independently with families struggling with real problems in their homes and felt as if I had a lot to contribute. In New Jersey, I can prescribe medication, diagnose, treat and educate families in parenting, behavior modification, and counseling. I now work with a child psychiatrist, along with 14 other nurse practitioners and have again made some truly wonderful friendships. The best part is that I can work part-time and be home with my family when necessary.

Paul Logan ’91

“Oh, the places you’ll go.” Somebody read that—or recited it—at our graduation in 1991. Or, maybe not. I don’t really remember. At the time, I was too preoccupied with what lie ahead. I was leaving for my first job at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

That job was something special, at least for awhile. I couldn’t have asked for better preparation at Messiah. I was probably better prepared than most of the other new grads who started with me. But, at the same time, I wasn’t as enamored with the role of the staff nurse as I had expected I would be. Like “Goose” in *Top Gun*, I confess that I, too, considered enrolling in classes at Truck Masters truck driving school.

But I had an intriguing discussion with one of my mentors that made me reconsider. As it turned out, The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing had begun enrolling students in a new program. The tertiary (acute care) nurse practitioner role was being developed. These nurse practitioners (NPs) were to work in the hospital or a given specialty. And I wanted to be part of developing that new role in nursing.

So, I left the U.S. Public Health Service, moved to Philadelphia, got a job in a heart surgical ICU, and enrolled in

the master’s program at the University of Pennsylvania. When I graduated, I was the first nurse practitioner in the Division of Cardiology at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. When I left (two years later), there were six.

To help meet the educational and organizational needs of acute care NPs, I got involved in some projects. One of them was writing/editing *Principles of Practice for the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*, a textbook that is still used in schools throughout the country. The last time I checked, it was the 270,646th best seller on Amazon.com. The only book less popular among Amazonians is *Siddhartha*. (Of all the books I was supposed to read in college, why is this the one that I did read?)

Since 1997, I’ve worked with a group of terrific cardiologists in Norristown, Pa. They have always allowed me to practice to my fullest capacity. Unlike the NP role at a teaching hospital where NPs often (necessarily) defer to the house staff, there is no such luxury in a private practice. When somebody is sick in the hospital (or elsewhere) and the physicians are unavailable, patients, and staff nurses rely on you to make decisions and act on them. Thankfully, I’ve enjoyed broad support from administration, nurses, patients, and the medical staff.

All throughout my life, I’ve entertained knuckleheaded entrepreneurial ideas. Finally, I’ve acted on one of them. In 2003 I launched Logan Solutions (www.LoganSolutions.com), a technology company that provides physicians with electronic medical records, voice dictation software, and technology services. And I continue to work as a consultant, of course—I have an opinion about everything.

Nursing has been a great career for me. It’s provided me with the opportunity to learn, to teach, and to touch people’s lives. And, it’s laid the foundation for a promising new business.

Serving in Quito, Ecuador

Suzanne (Vroon) Parra '02

I still remember Quito, Ecuador as it was in the fall of 2002, particularly my clinic in the dusty town of Carapungo. I remember the Latin music that would play on the crowded bus during my commute, replaced by the ringing of church bells as I leaped off the bus and made my way to the clinic. I recall the stray animals, small shops, and vendors on the street to the clinic. The security guard outside the clinic with his gun slung over his shoulder. I'll never forget the eager patients outside the clinic in the morning, or my own nervousness at the chance to serve in such a foreign setting.

My position in Carapungo was with the missionary organization HCJB, best known for its international radio ministry. HCJB in Spanish stands for "Hoy Cristo Jesus Bendice," which, roughly translated, means "Jesus Christ is blessing us today." My title was "working visitor" for the HCJB outpatient clinic, "Clinica VozAndes de Carapungo." My goal was to use my nursing background to contribute to the work of the clinic, delivering healthcare and the Gospel to the struggling blue-collar population of Carapungo.

As far as my duties were concerned, I was surprised by the simplicity of the nursing needs at the clinic. With only two full-time nurses on staff, and a high volume of patients seen per day, my primary task was taking vital signs and histories to prepare the patients for the doctors. The native nurses needed relief from this routine. They were then able to concentrate on the meticulous tasks of supply inventory and preparation, and the crucial response to emergency cases and special requests.

The longer I worked at the clinic, more and more tasks were delegated to me, leaving the native nurses free to attend to more complex issues and situations. I vaccinated children, and worked the front desk making appointments, directing patients to the appropriate areas, and referring complex cases to the native nurses. They taught me to make supplies like gauze packets for dressings, to wash and re-package the Latex gloves and dressing equipment for sterilization in the autoclave and eventual reuse, and to disinfect the durable equipment.

My work and that of the volunteer nurses was irreplaceable. The clinic ran on a tight budget and could not afford to pay more workers. A high volume of patients came in for treatment of everything from upper respiratory and gastrointestinal infections to workplace injuries and other emergencies. We did routine wound care, prenatal care, and physicals. The demand for health care was more than the local government clinics could meet.

Our charitable clinic filled the gap, and did so in a way that promoted Christian principles like respect, dignity, preservation of life, and empowerment of individuals. As a nurse who practices with those ethical assumptions, I was invaluable to the cause of the clinic. As a human being who believes in the need for salvation through Jesus Christ, my belief in the greater evangelical cause of the clinic was essential.

The clinic in Carapungo, like many mission-oriented clinics around the world, needs supplemental workers who buy into their evangelical Christian worldview in order to succeed. In part because I was this kind of worker, and in part because the native staff are gracious and humble people, I felt loved and accepted from the very beginning. To this day, I have never been so well-received in any workplace.

My acceptance at the clinic made it possible for me to fulfill my mission of carrying out God's work in Quito, Ecuador. I urge all Messiah nursing graduates and student nurses who are serving God to consider the possibility of doing so abroad. Missionary nurse work is an essential component to the successful delivery of both healthcare and the Gospel all over the world.

Support nursing through scholarships

YES! I want to support nursing education at Messiah College through an endowed scholarship.

- The Nursing Education Endowed Scholarship is given to nursing students who demonstrate financial need.
- The Janelle Joy Nisly Memorial Scholarship is available to students in nursing or pre-med who are affiliated with either the Mennonite Church, Church of the Brethren, or Brethren in Christ Church.

My tax-exempt donation is enclosed for:

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

Name _____

Address _____

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Please make check payable to:
MESSIAH COLLEGE.

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



Alumni news

'88

Amy (Eldeen) Elliot and her husband Tim are living in Louisville, Ky. They have a daughter, Kathryn Victoria, who was born in December 2003. Tim is finishing his M.Div. at Southern Seminary, and Amy is working part-time as a home health nurse.

'90

Kim Marie (Walsh) Falk is currently working per diem on a med-surg/telemetry floor at an acute care hospital and per diem for a test prep company that instructs nursing students on how to successfully pass the NCLEX. She has her MSN in oncology nursing. Kim and her husband have one son.

'91

Paul Logan has started his own company—Logan Solutions. The company is a technology company serving the needs of medical practices in Greater Philadelphia, Central Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Services offered include electronic medical records application, voice recognition software for the medical industry, networking services, System maintenance, and technology consulting. He and **Jeanne (D'Arcangelo '91)** have two children, Noah and Katie, and are expecting their third child. Jeanne works as a psychiatric PNP in an intensive outpatient partial care program, in private practice, and in a rural partial care program.

'95

Marti (Land) and Keith **Franchais** welcomed their second child, Jeremy Stephen, on September 11, 2004. He joins his big sister, Hannah, age 2. Marti and Keith are working at a rural clinic in the country of Jordan.

Alison (Brett) and Barry **Resch** welcomed their second son, Matthew Cole, to the family on January 30, 2004. Big brother Luke is thrilled! Alison works part-time at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

Lavonne (Stutzman) Miller and husband Ron celebrated the birth of their first child, Ryan Jay, on March 1, 2004. They live in Landisville, Pa.

'97

Chrystelle (Hamlett) Anderson and family moved back to the East Coast during the summer of 2004. Mark will be working at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. They are living in Frederick, Md.

Terri (Filicchia) married Lloyd **Wentzell** on November 16, 2002. They live in Billerica, Mass., and Terri works full-time at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston in the cardiac surgery ICU.

'98

Robin (Muller) married Kale **Stone** on September 11, 2004. She works in Labor and Delivery at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, Pa.

'99

Sara (Hunsberger) Osgood and husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Jonathan Michael, on April 21, 2004.

'00

Dawn (Niner) and Jon **Hubler** were married on December 27, 2003. They are building a house in Elizabethtown, Pa. Dawn works as a dialysis nurse at Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa.

Lani Yeh worked for a year in Spain doing post-graduate work and nursing clinicals. She then returned to the U.S. and worked at Georgetown University Hospital in peds oncology and med/surg before changing to travel nursing. While in Calif., she reconnected with fellow alum, Jose Menjivar

'99, who is working in an adult ICU. Lani is currently working in peds oncology at Children's Hospital of Orange County in Calif.

'02

Gina (Muth) married Steve **Maurelli** in August, 2003. They are living in Point Pleasant, N.J. Gina is working at Ocean Medical Center on a telemetry unit and is pursuing her school nurse certificate at Rutgers University, N.J.

'03

Heidi (Furst) Thompson is working in the NICU at Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa. She cared for one of the Gosselin septuplets. Heidi is currently pursuing a master's degree in nursing.

Kristine (McGuire '03) married Stephen **Koslowsky** on December 27, 2003. He is a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, who was deployed to Iraq for one year. Krissie will be working at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the PICU while Stephen is in Iraq.

Amy Albrecht is working at Rush Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. She plans to transfer to Labor and Delivery and to pursue a degree in midwifery.

'04

Cyndi Brewer is working in the ED at UCLA Medical Center. She lives with **Grace Nehiley ('04)** and **Emily Hornish ('04)**.



Left to right: Corinne Raub, Christen Bucci, Autumn Negley, Melissa Hanson, Stephanie Bicksler, Liza Schrauger

Happy Anniversary!

20 years for the Department of Nursing

There will be a celebration for alumni, students, and friends during Homecoming weekend, October 14–15, 2005. We are planning a brunch, special speakers and festivities. Look for more information from the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.



Seniors gather in the morning at the home health agency in Carlisle before starting out to their visits



Who is this with patient Paul?



Which alumni are helping patient Paul?



Senior brunch 2000



Do you know these alumni?



Hard at work in the old nursing lab



Who ever thought an injection could be fun?



Pinning ceremony 1996



Hard at work in the new advanced simulation lab

20TH ANNIVERSARY!



Kay Huber and Sandra Goodling prepare students for the “reality of home care”—a clinical experience in NSG402.



First day of clinical, 1984, at Cumberland County Home.



DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

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