The catchy title for this essay is not my own, but one that I’ve been hearing on television and radio lately in an effort to encourage more nurses to choose nursing education as a career. National and state organizations are funding media efforts to help raise the awareness among nurses and others of the extreme need for more nurse educators. Legislators and other political and healthcare leaders have become more aware of the educator shortage in recent years, and many are trying to provide scholarship funds to encourage nurses to become educators.

**We need the next generation of nurses who recognize the merits of their own Christian education to step forward and commit to become nurse educators.**

How serious is this educator shortage problem? According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, nearly 49,000 qualified applicants to baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs were denied admission in 2006 due, in part, to faculty shortages. Ironically, the demand for nursing education is very high with a 55 percent increase in enrollments in baccalaureate programs and nearly a 60 percent increase in masters programs in the last five years, but all those who wish to pursue nursing education cannot do so because of the critical shortage of educators to teach them. National nurse faculty vacancy rates are nearly 8 percent nationwide with a majority of these positions requiring a doctoral degree. Unfilled faculty positions, resignations, projected retirements, and a shortage of students being prepared for the faculty role are a serious threat to the supply of nurses to the general nursing workforce. Currently, the average age of doctorally prepared faculty is 53.5 years, and the projected wave of retirements in the next ten years could diminish the current, qualified faculty by nearly half.¹

What has contributed to this shortage of nurse educators? A variety of factors have converged to create the “perfect storm”: aging baby boomer faculty, increased rates of retirement, noncompetitive salaries in academia compared to practice settings, insufficient numbers of graduate students choosing nursing education as a career, fewer faculty willing to teach clinical courses, fewer faculty willing to conduct research required for a career in academia, increasing workloads for faculty, and finally the nursing shortage itself, reducing the pool from which educators are drawn.²

Is this situation hopeless? NO! Now that the problem has been identified and legislators, public administrators, foundations, and private industries have been informed, there is a flurry of activity happening every day to resolve this critical shortage. There is legislation in federal and various state governments to assist qualified applicants to pursue the needed credentials to become educators. Many graduate programs have information and assistance for interested prospective nurse educators. Private industries associated with health care, such as insurance payers and hospitals, are supporting graduate nursing education. Partnerships between nursing programs and health systems are emerging to share qualified, advanced practice nurses as nurse educators. For those who have considered becoming a nurse educator, there is opportunity and support.

What is happening in Christian nursing education during this educator shortage? A few years ago, a colleague from a Christian nursing program in the northwest United States said to me, “We are all chasing after and trying to recruit the same three people!” He was exaggerating, of course, but his comments underscore the enormous challenge we in Christian nursing education face. We not only need highly qualified, well credentialed, expert nurse educators (like all nursing programs), we ALSO need committed Christian men and women who are passionate about integrating and infusing their values and beliefs about care, compassion, and Christian ethos into their teaching and their nursing practice. We need the next generation of nurses who recognize the merits of their own Christian education to step forward and commit to become nurse educators. To recognize nursing education as a powerful Christian ministry that influences countless lives of clients, families, and practicing nurses is to know the true value of a career as a teacher of nurses. We have all been called to “use our personal circle of...”

“Nurse educator” continued on page 6
Why should I care about global health issues? What does the life and health of the people of Macha, Zambia, have to do with me?

If we claim to practice nursing from a Christian worldview, then we must view all people as being of great worth, created in the image of God.

Jesus told his disciples, “whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother” (Matthew 12:50). “This theme of love and relatedness resonates within the Christian community throughout the New Testament. Jesus said, ‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’ (John 13:34–35)” (Shelly and Miller, 2006, p.81). How can we love and care about God’s people without knowing who they are and what is happening with them and for them?

Our adventure to learn more about the people of Zambia began with 10 of us meeting at Dulles Airport: two faculty, Wanda Thuma McDermond and Christy Stark Smith, and eight senior nursing students, including Maria Bonanni, Gillian Laughlin, Lindsay DeVries, Ashley Worden, Stephanie Whitney, Lauren Brooks, Lisa Tremonte, and Martha Sipe.

We arrived in Paris at 6:00 a.m.; by 7:30–8:00 we had purchased passes for the Metro and were off to see the sights. It was still dark when we left the airport.

We started at Notre Dame, then saw the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower.

Most then went on to the Arc di Triumph, while some of the older and tired ones headed back to the airport. Soon we were all back at the airport and heading out of Paris towards Johannes-burg, South Africa. We all slept better this leg of the journey, even though there was a Haagen-Dazs ice cream self-serve on the plane.

Lessons Learned:

• Eat the fish with the heads on — don’t embarrass Wanda.
• Don’t irritate the crocodiles or the hippos on the safari: they have dangerous attitudes.
• Don’t sit in the white plastic chairs; they are not strong or safe. We lost three people in one night from these very chairs.
• A live chicken is a gift of honor; it is to be killed and eaten for dinner.
• How to kill a live chicken (If you don’t watch, then you will never make it on Survivor.)
• Health care in the United States is not perfect and often not practical.
• Wisdom is a doctor who recognizes that extra money is better spent on medications and immunizations than painting the buildings.
• Persons with HIV/AIDS have names, jobs, and lives, like Mary the nursing student that spent time with us talking about her life.
• Everyone has a role to play in the HIV/AIDS crisis and everyone does their part, including school children singing and writing poems and CHAZ, the Church’s Health Association of Zambia, doing prevention and care outreaches.
• On the way to the rural health clinics, if the red Toyota truck stops, you get out and push.
• You can do things that you never believed you could — like forming a choir and singing in church.
• Victoria Falls shows the beauty of God’s creation. Some of us got a better look than others. The Boiling Pot is not an adventure ride.

We spent 3 weeks living with the people of Macha, Zambia. Some attended a wedding, played with the children, traded and bartered our belongings for curios, some doing better than others. There are people there that we know by name and care for deeply. There is Mary, Mrs. Kumbango and the nurses and staff at the hospital, Mr. and Mrs. Satali and the nursing students. Macha, Zambia will never be a far away place on a map. We’ll always remember the names and faces of the people we met there.


Student reflection by Gillian Laughlin ’07

The people of rural Zambia were what affected me most. The hospitality and grace with which they received us made an impact on me that I will never forget. In the beginning of the trip, Maria and I made the trip motto to “Embrace Africa”; however, what made the difference for me was how Africa embraced us. It was really amazing—even with the bugs 10 times bigger than any I had ever seen at home!
My equine ‘therapy’
Carolyn L. Kreamer, Ph.D., RN

Twelve years ago, I did a wild and crazy thing—or so I thought for a woman in her middle years. I started taking English Hunt Seat riding lessons. I’m not sure what motivated me at the time, except I had been reading a lot of historical novels about figures who were equestrians, and I was intrigued by the romantic idea of riding. I never rode as a child, but I thought that was no reason to be discouraged. I’ve come to discover that women in their “middle years” often make this curious decision to ride for the first time in their lives. I’m constantly meeting them in one “horsey venue,” or another. Just this week the mother of a prospective nursing student who saw the picture of my horse in the office told me she just started riding recently.

I never imagined I would become a horse owner, but in 1995 I decided I wanted my own animal. That’s when “Fine and Dandy” came into my life—alias Dandy, or Dan for his barn name. It was love at first sight after shopping for months for just the right one. I saw that face and those big brown eyes and watched him jump over 2-foot fences, and I was in love. He was a seven year-old Quarterhorse/Welsh cross and just the right size for me—15.1 hands—and made. “Made” means he was trained to do just what I wanted to do in my riding. For the uninformed, a hand is four inches in width, and a horse’s height is measured at the withers—the bump at the base of the neck just above the front legs. Although it was never my intent to ride competitively at high levels—an impossibility for someone like me whose time does not allow a lot of practice time in the saddle—Dandy and I did ride in local schooling shows and did very well together. The photo shows us in our last show together in the summer of 2004 when he and I got Reserved Champion in the Liaison Summer Show Series in one series of classes. It was a great moment for both of us. Since that time, Dandy’s osteoarthritis in his front pastern joints (ankles) has become too painful for him to be ridden. He’s now retired at a lovely, private farm in Carlisle where he can “hang out” with another horse and pony and be loved and gently cared for by the farm owner and me. Dandy is still my “therpay.” Every weekend I spend time caring for him, grooming him, and bonding with him. It gives me down-time to think about him and our time together. He knows my voice; his ears pick up and he comes to me when I call out to him in the pasture. He looks forward to his carrots and horse cookies. And he gives back so much affection and affirmation. There is something magical about a 1,200-pound animal acknowledging your presence and care. I can’t say it better than President Ronald Reagan who said, “I’ve often said there’s nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse.” That’s true for a woman, too, Mr. President.

With appreciation

The Department of Nursing expresses deep appreciation for the years of service given by Kay Huber. Kay has been with the Department of Nursing for 23 years and served as the course coordinator of NURS 402 for 22 years. She taught in NURS 301, NURS 400, NURS 441, NURS 496, and NURS 441 in the degree path program. Kay developed and continues to operate the Wellness Center two days a week, a nurse-managed center, in conjunction with the Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin in Steelton, Pa. She received the Messiah College Barnabas Servant Leadership Award in fall 2004 for her work at the Wellness Center. In addition, she co-taught GER 251 (Health, Nutrition, and Biology of Aging) every other spring, A School of Health and Natural Sciences farewell reception was held for Kay in the Hollinger Atrium on May 7. Faculty and staff stopped by to wish her well. She will also be honored by the nursing faculty with a dinner at the end of the semester. Kay will continue to operate the Wellness Center as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Nursing. Congratulations on your semi-retirement!
The Joy of Ballroom Dancing

Marti Derr

In October of 2003 I signed up for a beginner class in ballroom dancing. I've always loved the idea of twirling on a dance floor, and finally the opportunity came. I also pursued dancing because my two children were leaving the house more often on their own adventures, and I didn't want them to feel like they should stay home with Mom. And dancing is supposed to be good exercise, so that was my last justification—since I believed I had to justify anything that might be fun!

I never could have been prepared for the ways in which ballroom dancing would change my life. In the beginning, learning basic steps (and learning to follow a lead) took so much concentration that my stress was temporarily obliterated. Over the coming months, in the spring of 2003, I could enjoy dancing more as I conquered the basics. I was often told, “You light up when you hit the dance floor.”

I feel different when I am “on the hardwood.” I feel free, like some invisible chains have dropped off of me. I am somehow renewed and reconnected with a former part of me, when life was less complicated, and joy came more easily, as in childhood. I had been puzzled by this inner change as a result of something external and temporary. A mentor of mine suggested, “Marti, what you are describing sounds like the way we describe the work of the Holy Spirit.” Freedom, joy, release . . . “Maybe this is God’s invitation to you to worship Him with your whole being, rather than just through your intellect.”

Then I felt like my new love of dancing was sanctioned and possibly even something good for me. I was also learning trust. Two people cannot lead in ballroom dancing, and contrary to my natural inclinations, I had to learn to trust and follow — more spiritual analogies! My mentor prayed for me — that I would learn to let my spirit be free so that I could flow with the spirit of God. I learned to welcome my dancing as a spiritual experience, and as an opportunity to exercise balance in my life.

Martha Graham said that “Dance is the hidden language of the soul.” I am so glad that my soul has found this new expression that more closely portrays all of me, rather than a limited part of who I am. And I am also glad that through dancing I met someone who participates in the journey with me — in July of 2006 my dance instructor from that first ballroom dancing class became my husband. God works in mysterious ways!

Marti is the president of the Harrisburg Chapter of USA Dance, Inc.

Wellness center update

The Wellness Center continues to be a busy place with Dr. Kay Huber usually seeing 12–15 persons every day the Center is open. The length of the visits ranges from very brief to 45 minutes, depending on the circumstances. The complexity of health problems is also increasing with residents aging in place and more complicated social and insurance issues confronting both residents and health care providers. Dr. Huber also continues to staff the Center every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year. The nursing students from NURS 301 and 402 provide invaluable services to the residents both come to the Center and who live in the apartments operated by Dauphin County Housing. Students are actively engaged with the residents through group educational programs, bulletin board displays, screening, and ongoing monitoring and assessment of health problems.

Dr. Huber and nursing students were participants in a research study — Effective Interventions for Older Adults in NNCC Wellness Nursing Centers — with the goals to (1) describe best practices for health promotion/disease prevention services for the purpose of identifying interventions that maintain functional ability and independence, (2) describing the perceived value of services of Wellness Nursing Centers to older adults, and (3) providing, documenting, and reporting on health promotion/disease prevention services to vulnerable populations. The locations where the study took place were the wellness centers affiliated with Messiah College, the Community College of Philadelphia, and Fairfield University in Connecticut. Students in NURS 301 administered four questionnaires during fall 2005 and then the questionnaires were administered again in late spring by students from NURS 402. Ten participants over the age of 60 were chosen in each location to be individually interviewed regarding their perceptions of the value of the Wellness Center services. The interviews for the Messiah College site were conducted and transcribed by Ashley Smith, a 2006 nursing graduate. The data have not yet been reported in a professional publication.

Dr. Huber attended the National Nursing Centers Consortium Annual Conference in Del Ray Beach, Fla., in October 2006. She presented a three-hour workshop designed to provide information about developing a wellness center. She also presented information in one of the sessions about the results of the research project.
The Department of Nursing is in the second year of requiring students to purchase a Pocket PC and the related accessories. Students are encouraged to use the Pocket PC in both the classroom and clinical settings. Our software vendor, Skyscape, has facilitated student purchases by creating a Messiah College Department of Nursing website and by offering student discounts. Students purchase software as a replacement for handbook-sized textbooks. Required software for NURS 202 included Taber’s Medical Dictionary, Ackley & Ladwig Nursing Diagnosis Handbook, and a handbook on abbreviations and acronyms. Software required for NURS 301 included Davis’ Drug Manual, Diseases and Disorders, and a laboratory manual. Students are finding that the Pocket PC not only helps them to organize and manage their personal lives but also is an invaluable tool as they begin to use it to access accurate information in the clinical setting.

The journey to incorporate handheld technology into the nursing curriculum has been one of trial and error. In order to assist other educators in this journey, Pamela Linstedt, MSN, RN, and Debra Loop, MSN, RN, presented a “how to” education session at the AACN Baccalaureate Conference in Orlando, Fla., on November 15–19. The podium presentation, entitled “Handheld Technology in Classroom and Clinical: Opportunities, Barriers and Strategies to Move Forward,” was well received and opened the door to assist other colleagues in this integration process.

In addition to the Pocket PC initiative, the Department of Nursing is beginning to explore the integration of electronic portfolios, computerized testing, and interactive classroom technology. Traditional classroom pedagogy has been challenged as the student in today’s learning environment is accustomed to rapid communication, advanced technology, immediate feedback, and unlimited access to information. We, as a department, are committed to meeting student learning needs in a variety of ways and are excited as we embark on integrating additional technology in the classroom and clinical settings.

Faculty news

Pamela Linstedt celebrated 10 years of service and Carolyn Kreamer celebrated 20 years of service at Messiah College. Pam and Carolyn were recognized in May at the Messiah College 2006 Service Awards Reception. Congratulations and thanks for all of your hard work!

Kim Behnke Guevin ’95 is a graduate student at Drexel University and is doing a practicum with Pam Linstedt. Kim is observing a variety of teaching experiences in order to obtain a better idea of the faculty role.

Marti Byers married Dane Derr on July 8, 2006. Most of the nursing faculty was able to join in the celebration. Marti and Dane live near Messiah College.

Martha Solomon competed in doubles racquetball in the Pennsylvania Senior Games in June 2006. She and her partner, Marianne Milianta, won the gold medal for women’s doubles in their age category.

Carolyn Kreamer and Louann Zinsmeister, in collaboration with colleagues from the Pinnacle Health System, presented at the 17th International Nursing Research Congress Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International in Montreal, Quebec, in July 2006.

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.

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 Office of Development, Box 3013, Messiah College, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 17027.
Reflections on Hurricane Katrina
Jennifer Oehme Knepper ’02

I had the privilege of traveling to Biloxi, Miss., on January 2 with Lancaster County Bible Church in conjunction with Samaritan’s Purse. This adventure involved learning how to measure, cut, and hang drywall; how to operate a screw gun; and how to hammer nails without smashing a finger. But by far, the most important thing I learned was that I have so much for which to be thankful.

Desolation and destruction still exist—sixteen months after Hurricane Katrina hit. The aftermath is still a vast spread of wrecked homes, hotels, and churches, with no apparent relief in sight. I drove along the road that looks out into the Gulf of Mexico, seemingly peaceful and calm, and according to one local fisherman, rarely prone to turbulent, rough waters. I can only imagine how this water appeared as I stare at the 12-foot slab of granite dedicated to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Twelve feet was the height of the tidal wave that stole lives, homes, hopes, and dreams for the future. It left uncertainty, doubt, reluctance, and abject despair. It was told to me that in this past holiday season, suicide rates in Biloxi increased.

As I continue the drive down the road, the Gulf of Mexico and the beach is at my right and the destroyed buildings are to my left. Suddenly I look up and to my right is an enormous beachfront high-rise standing in its perfection. The walls are made out of spotless stucco, windows are squeaky clean, and not one thing looks disheveled. I look back to my left where a gas station once stood—I can recognize the frame of what would have been the pumping station and the remains of the building.

I am overcome by the irony of the entire situation. The difference and disparity between those who came out of this hurricane “on top” and those still fighting to regain some sense of normalcy is gaping wide. The difference cannot even be described in terms of ‘night’ and ‘day’ because even then there is dusk and dawn which more or less bridges the gap between the two opposites. The current situation in Biloxi is an indescribable and definite division between the “haves” and “have-nots.”

I have heard it said that God rained down his wrath on this unsuspecting part of America, historically known to many as being full of sin, promiscuity, and despicable behavior. The group with which I was working all week discussed this over lunch one day, and I have concluded that as Christians, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In the words of Matthew: “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. . . . I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:35–40). One could describe “the least” as those who have fallen from the truth and seek those things of this world. What is our reaction supposed to be to them? Treat them as we who have fallen from the truth and seek those things of this world.

I cringe every time I hear someone imply that the people of Louisiana and Mississippi deserved this devastation—to wipe out the sin and filth. If that is truly the case, then we honestly all deserve this because we are all sinners and in need of a savior. What message does it send to the people of these two respective states who were indeed Christians and have walked in faith with Jesus before, during, and after the storm? What message does it send when it is implied that God finally got sick of the sin and just let loose his wrath? Our God is a God of love, repentance, and forgiveness. Truly, the opportunity we have had to come and rebuild could be described as a revival of sorts, as I have heard it said; but I prefer to leave the reasoning and judgment in the hands of God. I never plan to assume or understand God’s reasoning for the things that happen on this earth—we all know the story of the fall—and the introduction of sin in all forms: lying, cheating, sexual immorality, and the like.

I had completed a Bible study series on the “Sermon on the Mount” prior to my travel to Biloxi, and I am confronted every time I read the passage of Matthew 7:1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.” So this is my encouragement to look at the situation as an opportunity to show love and compassion to people who have been living in trailers for the past 16 months, who have been rejected by the insurance companies because of a clause that provides for flood insurance and not necessarily hurricane coverage, who feel abandoned by their government and see the quick rush to elaborately finish hotels and casinos at the same time a family of 6 lives in a FEMA trailer. I urge everyone to look at the victims of this natural disaster as Jesus would—with love. Despite their “sins” Jesus would pull them close and wrap his arms around them. Would you do the same?

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you . . . If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that . . . And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to ‘sinners’ expecting to be paid in full . . . But love your enemies, do good to them . . . Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” — Luke 6:27–36

“Nurse educator” continued from cover

influence to affect changes1 in this important issue. Each of you knows a Christian nurse who might be an excellent role model and teacher of future nurses. Perhaps you are that person. I know many of our graduates would be superb teachers of nurses. I urge everyone to pray for and about this issue, and, if possible, make a commitment to become or to recruit a new Christian nurse educator. Become a Christian nurse educator . . . pass it on!

Reflections on the Past
Sara (Cosey) Milliken ’05

As I hear about finals, graduation, and portfolio reviews from my Messiah nursing friends, it quickly prompts memories of nursing school. The anxiety associated with finding a job, wondering how I would ever manage all my patients and get my work done on time, and the fear of inserting an NG tube since I never got to do one during nursing school floods back, and I chuckle. During my externship the summer of 2004, I initially realized how blessed I was to have a Messiah education. It was not long after returning to the Adolescent Unit at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children that I once again was thankful for my Messiah education. I began working with nurses on this pediatric unit who never had hands-on pediatric experience in nursing school. Some even said that they never had hands-on experience with an IV pump! Those are the basics, but it is nearly universal in the area that there are not critical care clinical experiences. The idea of having a truly sick patient is a very scary thought for many of my co-workers, simply because they have never taken care of such patients before. I am continually thankful for the long classes on EKGs and cardiac function as well as the understanding of the kidney’s effect on the body. (Yes, Louann, we did pay attention!) This information is applied every day and has helped me to provide more effective patient care as well as assist colleagues to provide safe care.

This month was our Magnet visit for recertification. I was amazed to hear how many people had no clue what Magnet status meant or why it mattered while working at a Magnet facility. I was once again thankful for my Messiah education, not because I knew what Magnet status was, but because it had been instilled in me that there is more to “having a good job” than getting a nice paycheck. The knowledge and experience was more than important, but it is the holistic care that really makes a difference. When good nursing care involves using a poker tournament in the lounge as encouragement for ambulation and staying out of bed or getting a patient a PlayStation 2 for a diversion activity so that they do not need quite as much Dilaudid, I am proud to say that I learned how to be a nurse at Messiah College.

It is educating parents and scared teens about their new chronic diagnosis that makes going to work worthwhile. It is having a surgeon call saying that the patient having surgery requested you to be his/her nurse that makes me want to work to the best of my ability. It is the letters that we get that say “you helped me get through the darkest part of my life” that remind me that it is Jesus that makes the difference. And it is the hug from the patient who can barely move her arms that ensures that I would do it all over again if I had the chance. Thank you all for the large part you played in my nursing education; I will always be grateful for my Messiah nursing education.

This was an e-mail sent from Sara to Carolyn Kreamer and the nursing faculty.

Alumni news

‘88
Linda (Loffer) Kramer and her husband Larry have three daughters whom they are home schooling. Miriam is 12, Sarah is 9, and Ruth is 3 years old. Linda is currently working part-time as a staff nurse on the oncology unit at St. Peter’s University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J. In September 2004 she received her Chemo-therapy Provider Certification from the Oncology Nursing Society and in May 2006 she received her Medical-Surgical Nurse Certification from the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center.

‘95
Melissa (Allard) Lee and her husband Jeff had baby no. 5, Noah Curtis, April 2, 2006. He joins siblings Amelia Grace, 6, Meredith Joy, 5, Samuel Perry, 4, and Madeline Faith, 2.

‘96
Bethany Connor is a captain in the United States Army Nurse Corps and is assigned to William F. Connell School of Nursing, Boston College. She wrote an article, “Ethical Issues in a Combat Support Hospital in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” for the July-September 2005 issue of the U.S. Army Medical Department Journal.

‘97
Chrystelle (Hamlett) Anderson and her husband, Mark, have three children and are living in Frederick, Md.

‘98
Tanya (Ward) and John O’Brien welcomed their first child, Joshua Arthur Connor, on April 6, 2005. As of November 2005 the O’Briens were moving to Florida. Tanya is no longer on active duty, but is serving as a reservist in the U.S. Navy.
Robyn (Muller) and Kale Stone had their first baby, Ryan Anthony, on May 2, 2006.

‘99
Nicole (Bollinger) Barca became a level 3 RN through the Career Development Pathway at Harrisburg Hospital.
Natalie (Martin) Trout and husband Andrew announced the birth of their second child, Acacia Jane, on May 12, 2006.
Jason and Stephanie (Bicksler) ‘01 Carzola announced the birth of daughter Hollyann Marie on March 16, 2006. Jason works in the Intermediate Care Unit at Ephrata Community Hospital and Stephanie works at the same hospital in the Intensive Care Unit.

‘00
Suzanne Mulvey welcomed Abigail Grace into her family on November 15, 2006. She works in the Heart and Vascular Institute at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center as an advanced practice nurse.

News continued on page 8
News continued from page 7

‘01
Tricha (Pierce) Plourde and Autumn (Negley) Tyson both had their first babies in April and May of 2006. Stephanie Carzola ’01, Autumn, and Tricha got together in July 2006 to meet each other’s babies. Each of the babies was born one month apart — great planning for future nursing majors!

‘03
Jessica Heagy leaves on February 27, 2007 for Monterrey, Mexico. Jess is working for TIME Ministries and will be living in Monterrey for the coming year.

‘05
Peter Sunden is an ensign in the U.S. Navy and recently left for Kuwait. According to his last e-mail he is doing well, but this deployment is a major life transition. Prayers are with you, Pete.

‘06
Rachel (Barton) Prue got married on July 8, 2007. She and her husband are living in Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Nancy Schaeffer and her husband are living in North Carolina for the next few months. She is working in the ICU and really enjoys the area despite working the nightshift. Tim will be attending recruiting school, so a move is in the near future.

The mission of the Nursing Student Association of Messiah College (NSAMC) for the 2006–2007 academic year has been to foster professional, personal, and spiritual growth for the nursing students. This has been accomplished through educational programs, mentorship, community service, and partnership with the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) and the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA).

The officers for this year were Allison Heermance, president; Laura Badaracco and Bonnie Player, co-vice presidents; Jamie Madson, secretary; Adele Bonfanti, treasurer; Kim Eikenberg, chaplain; Allison Pra, senior class representative; Lindsay Tennis, junior class representative; Corrie Stolzenberg and Kirstyn Adams, sophomore class representatives; and Stephanie Kelly and Rachel Hendrie, first-year class representatives. The faculty advisor was Martha Solomon.

Our goal for the fall semester was to get the upperclass NSAMC members involved with teaching and guiding the underclass members and also to utilize the talents, abilities, and experiences of students and faculty within our organization to build NSAMC and shape the programming. One way that we put our vision of mentorship into practice was a basic skills workshop led by the junior and senior members and officers. The workshop was extremely beneficial to the first-year and sophomore members who not only learned some basic skills, but also had the opportunity to ask questions and allay some fears or apprehensions about the nursing program at Messiah. Also, we kept the energy level high at the general meetings when student speakers Susanna Damgaard and David Ben-Avraham discussed their nursing experiences from an international perspective.

In November, some of the members attended SNAP’s 54th Annual Convention at the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center in Harrisburg. At the convention Allison Heermance ran for state office and was elected by the House of Delegates to the Nominations and Elections Committee. Allison was then elected chair of this committee. Since the convention, Allison has been working hard for SNAP and hopes to run for a position at the national level on the NSNA board of directors.

NSAMC’s spring semester started out with a spring kick-off meeting that drew more than 45 members for a pizza party and an excellent presentation by a 2006 Messiah alum, Lydia Bryant Ganoung, about life after Messiah and transitioning into the real world of nursing. The membership also got involved in SNAP’s Step-by-Step Capitol Hill Program. The first-year students got the opportunity to participate in an interactive program set up in partnership with Pinnacle Health to familiarize students with a hospital setting and to provide them with a chance to interact with staff nurses and nurse managers from many different departments. In February five of our officers attended SNAP’s LEAD workshop to develop leadership skills, to network with other SNAP members, and to gain some effective tools to strengthen NSAMC.

Overall, it has been an extremely successful year for NSAMC. We have more than tripled our membership in comparison to the last few years and look forward to more growth and development in the upcoming semesters.
Nurses Christian Fellowship
Kelly Mummau ’07

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) exists to provide a place for nursing students to seek Christ together and to find support among fellow nursing students. On a weekly basis throughout the year, students met together to explore God’s word and to pray for one another. Student-led Bible studies during fall and spring semesters were focused on the idea of shalom and how that concept is connected to faith and nursing.

NCF enabled nursing students to engage God and each other by organizing several different events throughout the academic year. During the first week of school, 55 nursing students gathered on a sunny afternoon along the Breeches for the annual NCF kick-off picnic. Newly acclimated first-year students, along with sophomore, junior, and senior nursing students, played games and informally socialized, making connections for the upcoming year.

At the weekly NCF Bible study on November 8 four senior nursing students, Sarah Ackley, Melissa Grove, Liz Spangler, and Kelly Mummau, presented their experiences from their time at Macha Hospital in Macha, Zambia. They shared the joys and challenges they faced experiencing life in another culture for three weeks in May. The students also informed the group about the healthcare practices in developing countries that they studied while in Zambia.

During the 2006–2007 academic year, NCF made it possible for many nursing students to attend student-oriented conferences. Five students traveled to Louisville, Ky., to attend the Global Missions Health Conference in November. Students broadened their views of healthcare opportunities in the world and networked with others pursuing careers in healthcare with an interest in missions. Between Christmas and New Year’s, senior students Sue Damgaard, Megan Bennicoff, Natasha Miller, and Kelly Mummau attended URBANA 2006 held in St. Louis, Mo. These individuals had the unique opportunity to fellowship with other nursing students at a gathering organized by Nurses Christian Fellowship on Saturday afternoon of the conference. NCF is a student organization supported by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. The conference proved to be both challenging and encouraging for students as they heard inspiring speakers, participated in culturally diverse worship services, and enriched their faith alongside thousands of other believers. In February, another group of senior students traveled to Trinity Christian College in Chicago where they participated in an Acting on AIDS Student Leadership Summit.

Nursing students took a break from the routine of classes and work at several times during the semester thanks to NCF. Students baked cookies at the harvest party, exchanged gifts at the Christmas brunch, and enjoyed the sunshine at the yearly spring picnic at Professor Linstedt’s house. These festive occasions provided students with the opportunity to relate and connect outside of nursing classes.

NCF enabled students to participate in serving members of the community at the Wellness Center on Service Day in April. Students worked together to thoroughly clean and organize numerous apartments of older adults who live in the housing apartments where junior and senior nursing students complete their community nursing rotation in Steelton, Pa. Students learned the benefits and enjoyment of serving others in need through their experience on Service Day.

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 1, 2006, 12 undergraduate nurses from the senior class of 2006 and one nurse leader were inducted into the Lambda Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. The undergraduate inductees were Lydia Bryant, Rachel Barton, Merrylee Gross, Sarah Leibensperger, Patricia Loomis, Cassandra Pace, Alexandra Palma, Katherine Pennay, Ashleigh Smith, Jennifer Smith, Jennifer Tawa, and Erin Weare. The nurse leader inducted was Noog Godshall.

In October 2006, a general meeting and program were held featuring a panel discussion on The Challenges Facing Advanced Practice Nurses in Pa., and the Nation. Members of the panel included Melanie Duffy RN, MSN, CCRN, CCNS; Richard Haas, PhD, CRNA; Felicia Rohrbaugh, RN, BSN, CNM, MSN; and Andrea Wolf, DNP, CRNP.

Events for spring 2007 included the 2007 Lambda Kappa Induction Ceremony on April 14 when Kim Fenstermacher was the speaker. In addition, the Chapter co-sponsored a Research Day with Pinnacle-Health System in April and performed service projects at the Ronald McDonald House in both the fall and spring.

The 2006–2007 Lambda Kappa officers include: Nina Schneider, president; Michele Campbell, vice-president; Cathy Druckenmiller, corresponding secretary; Kim Heisey, recording secretary; Martha Solomon, treasurer; and Louann Zinsmeister, faculty advisor.

Sigma Theta Tau—Lambda Kappa Chapter

Nursing Honor Society induction ceremony 2006
Student accomplishments

Ashley Worden ’07 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.

Department of Nursing College Honors Program participants

Twelve nursing students are participants in the College Honors Program:

- Laura Badaracco ’08
- James Cagliostro ’07
- Joseph Cagliostro ’07
- Susanna Damgaard ’07
- Linda Deddo ’08
- Melissa Lewis ’10
- Meredith Mackenzie ’07
- Emily McMillen ’07
- Allison Pra ’07
- Lindsey Westervelt ’10
- Ashley Worden ’07

Congratulations to the following alumni, who graduated in May 2006:

**Magna cum laude, 3.60–3.89 GPA:**
- Rachel Barton
- Lydia Bryant
- Merrylee Grosso
- Sarah Leibensperger
- Cassandra Pace
- Alexandra Palma
- Katherine Pennay
- Ashleigh Smith
- Jennifer Smith
- Jennifer Tawa
- Erin Weaner

**Cum laude, 3.30–3.59 GPA:**
- Tanya Comstock
- Monica Habecker
- Erica Kissell
- Patricia Loomis
- Erin Martin
- Nancy Schaeffer
- Rachel Scott
- Lynette Sollenberger
- Kristal Streit
- Kayla Vincent
- Joshua Wethli

Graduating seniors earn top awards

Tanya Comstock 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.

Lydia Bryant was selected to receive the Academic Excellence in Nursing Award. She graduated with a GPA of 3.907.

Nancy Schaeffer received the Leadership Award from District 15 of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

Honduras: more than destitution

Susanna Damgaard ’07

“I know,” the nurse told me, “it’s sad. But, you know, we see it all the time. Almost every day.” I looked down at the beautiful little boy in the crib, 18 months old and much too small for anyone to correctly guess his age. Big brown sparkly eyes made Abel the unit “sweetheart” among the nurses and hospital volunteers in the Nutricion unit at Hospital Escuela, the Honduran government teaching hospital where I spent several weeks of my summer internship. Abel was born with cerebral palsy to a woman who was unable to provide for his basic needs. When his conditions worsened with the development of marasmus and a bowel disorder, she abandoned him in one of the streets of the town where she lived. As I held this little body in my arms and felt him sigh and relax, I hurt for this little boy who had already struck out in life and in luck. Abel was a drop in the bucket of Honduran poverty.

Honduras has a list of morbid statistics that makes one shiver. Fifty-three percent of the population falls under the national poverty line, with forty percent living on a dollar a day. There are 63,000 people in this small country living with HIV or AIDS. The child mortality rate is six times higher than the United States, and the biggest offenders are preventable, communicable diseases, such as pneumonia and diarrhea. Although there are national health services such as public health insurance and social security, it is largely only the members of the small upper class that are able to access these resources. Forty percent of the population does not have health coverage of any kind, needing to pay cash for whatever health services they manage to acquire. Health supplies and personnel are lacking even in the cities and healthcare is all but absent in many rural areas.

Despite all of these facts, many of which I learned intuitively in the healthcare settings in which I worked for eight weeks, I found myself hard-pressed to profile the people of this country as “poor.” I met and talked to many people — old people and beautiful people, angry people and gentle people, innovative and arrogant people, victims and villains. Each person’s story spins around my head, preventing me from rising one more time onto my high horse and making myself into the Great White Savior, the Nurse with All the Answers, come to “fix poverty.” I think of Lenin sitting on the street corner in his dirty jean shorts and long hair, Lenin who grew up on the streets of Tegucigalpa and now teaches the street boys his trade of jewelry-making in his spare time. I think of gentle Sister Christina, the Franciscan nun who taught me more than I ever knew before about spiritual formation. I entered that country, confident in my ability to bring new ideas and new skills to the impoverished masses and then leave again, my heart and my pride intact. In two months, the only thing of any substance that I think I gave Honduras, for all my ideas, were the occasional moments when I slowed down and offered people my “nursing presence” (as Marti Derr calls it), sitting down, for instance, next to the somber mother of a mentally challenged 4-year-old who has just learned that she will need to wait three more days at the hospital before her son receives testing.

While at Messiah College, I have been taught many skills that I will use in the clinical setting, but in a place with monstrous economic, social, and health problems, the skill I utilized most was that of affirming another’s humanity through presence and active listening. And it changed me. Each brown face with wide-set dark eyes with little creases at the corners from all the laughing and crying that living in a communal society brings, imprinted itself on my heart — and, rather than fixing Honduras, I instead found myself softened, and the cynicism of an American college education melted away a bit. Honduras healed me.

“Honduras” continued on page 11
Abel was not forgotten. He was discovered by an Old Order Mennonite missionary family living in his town, which oversaw his case and are now pursuing adoption. They have adopted seven other Honduran children. I think of them almost every day and thank the Almighty for this model of commitment, action, and advocacy: action initiated from a basis of knowledge and wisdom about the people being aided, commitment formed by a sense of calling and a willingness to live in the background that continues to humble me. I want to be this—to find forgotten little babies and old women and angry teenagers, one at a time, specks and pieces of the Almighty’s creation that He loves so much, bringing them into restoration and learning from them, being changed by them and being restored. It is this inter-change, I believe, that saves us from patronizing behavior. I pray that I will continue to decrease, as He increases.

At the age of eighteen, every Israeli citizen must do three years of mandatory service in the Israeli military. Many are summoned to bear weapons; others are called to serve in positions of authority. My calling was to the world of medicine. Seven months of intense training in Advanced Trauma Life Support prepared me and my fellow soldiers for the latest form of bloodshed: suicide bombing.

One particular instance remains engraved in my memory. Toward the end of my training, we were broken into small groups discussing the question of medicine and morality. My chief commander approached us with a scenario: “In a suicide bombing where there are multiple victims and the most critically wounded person is the terrorist, whom do you treat first?”

I was sure that he would tell us to treat our own people first. We all answered, “Of course we would treat our own first.” Our commander, in a quiet but firm voice, said, “You will treat the person who is most wounded first, even if it happens to be the terrorist.” I could not believe it, and in my heart I almost rebelled against it. But on the day we pledged ourselves to be medics, we swore an oath to treat all human beings without prejudice.

As medics in the midst of war, though we were called “Israelis,” and our “enemy” was called the “Palestinians,” our mission was to care for the wounded. Our orders were to heal the faceless, not differentiating between nation, religion, or geographic location, but only the face of humanity. It is this moral side of the conflict that I fear is rarely told. And it is this side that first drew me toward healthcare as a lifelong vocation.
CHANGES for Nursing News!

Be ready for a change in the delivery mode for Nursing News. We plan to move to online access next spring. Alumni please make sure that the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations (P.O. Box 3023, Grantham, PA 17027; Phone (717) 796-5252; E-mail alumni@messiah.edu) has a current e-mail address. Contact the Department of Nursing, address on this page, with any questions.