



# NURSING NEWS

SPRING 2012 | DEPARTMENT OF NURSING NEWSLETTER

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR: ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

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

**THERE IS A RIGHT TIME FOR EVERYTHING: A TIME TO BE BORN, A TIME TO DIE; A TIME TO PLANT; A TIME TO HARVEST. . .**

—Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, *the Living Bible*

As I write this, the spring renewal is beginning with bulbs arising from the ground in yellow daffodils and pink tulips. Tree leaves are budding, and ornamental pear, cherry and magnolia trees are in full bloom. It is a beautiful time of the season that reminds those of us in the northern hemispheres that sunshine and mild days are just ahead, and the cycle of life and renewal promises continuity and restoration. Just as the vigor of biology bursts before us, the cycle of renewed nursing program evaluation is upon us. It is hard to imagine that it has been a full decade since our

nursing program underwent its initial, on-site evaluation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). But, it is true! In November 2002, we hosted three on-site evaluators who examined our program against the accreditation standards of the CCNE. Long before their arrival, the faculty worked exceptionally hard to analyze and document our self-analysis of the quality of our program. Quality programming requires continuous review, data collection, analysis and implementation of change for improvement. Much has changed in these last 10 years, and we have engaged in ongoing improvement based on our data throughout this decade.

Now, we are working diligently to document in our current self-study all of the elements that demonstrate our achieve-



ment of the CCNE accreditation standards and our compliance with all of the important key elements that are expected for each of those standards. There are four accreditation standards that CCNE examines, and each standard has several key elements that must be addressed in the self-study. The standards require nursing programs to

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## FAREWELL TO TERRY MIDDLEKAUFF AFTER 26 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Heidi Lutz, Ph.D., R.N.



**THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING** said farewell to a trusted colleague July 2011. Terry Middlekauff retired after 26 years of service. Some interesting facts about Terry's experiences at Messiah College are:

- Terry started a part-time position at Messiah College in May 1985 to help type the Dept. of Nursing's National League for Nursing (NLN) Self-Study Accreditation report, working under

the direction of the first Dept. of Nursing Chairperson, Dr. Elaine Hagenbuch

- After the NLN self-study report was completed, Terry transferred to the Faculty Services Dept., still working part-time
- In July 1988, Terry's position became full-time—half-time in Faculty Services and half-time in Reprographic Services (what is now College Press); one year later, Terry began full-time in Faculty Services, working her final year in this department as office supervisor.
- August 1994, Terry transferred to the Dept. of Nursing, working as secretary

to Dr. Sandra Jamison and then Dr. Carolyn Kreamer, along with various full and part-time nursing faculty

- Retiring at the end of July 2011, Terry completed 26 years at the College.

What is Terry doing these days?

*"Some of the things I am enjoying in my retirement are spending more time with my family, biking, walking, gardening, yard work, Bible studies, visiting our family cabin, sleeping past 5:30 a.m. on a weekday(!) and having spontaneous breakfasts/lunches with friends, but, mostly, I enjoy the freedom and time to be available to help others with their needs."*

We will all miss her, but wish her well!

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demonstrate—through evidence, consistency in mission and governance—institutional commitment; sufficient resources; sound curriculum; high quality teaching and learning practices; and high levels of student and faculty outcomes. But, most importantly, nursing program faculty and administrators are expected to engage in analysis of their entire program; to identify strengths and areas for improvement; and to develop action plans for continuous quality improvement. All of these accredi-

tation expectations must consider a nursing program's communities of interests: students, faculty, employers, alumni and others.

If you are reading this brief message from me, you are a very important member of the community of interest of the Messiah College undergraduate nursing program. Your perceptions are very important to the process of quality improvement. I invite you to submit your comments directly to CCNE for their consideration. You will find

their address listed in this issue of Nursing News. As we approach our on-site evaluation in November, I invite you to reflect on the importance of nursing education and encourage you to support all of our nursing faculty and staff as we prepare ourselves for our next accreditation review. We are excited to showcase our accomplishments and welcome this new cycle of learning more about ourselves and how we can continue to improve and renew our program.

## WELCOME KRISTY HOUCK '09, ADJUNCT FACULTY



**KRISTY HOUCK** (formally known as Kristy Brakebill '09), recently became an adjunct professor for the nursing department. Kristy said

she is so excited to be working for Messiah “because I love this College so much!” She enjoyed her experience here as a student, making life-long friendships, growing as a person and a student and learning to connect with God and follow his plan for her.

Kristy shares her passion for nursing and her future plans:

*Messiah prepared me very well for my career in nursing. The summer between my junior and senior year, I took an externship*

*at Hershey Medical Center on the 5th floor (where I'm currently teaching clinicals). After graduating, I accepted a job there in June of 2009 and absolutely fell in love with working as a nurse. I gained so much experience working on a medical-surgical floor because I was exposed to a wide range of patients with different diagnoses.*

*After a year of working on 5th floor, Hershey decided to open up a trauma and emergency surgery acute-care unit. I couldn't pass up this opportunity, so I took the job starting February of 2011. I've fallen in love with the trauma population, because I never know what kind of patient I'm going to get. They also always have such interesting stories!*

*Currently, I'm working on a master's degree in nursing at Penn State Hershey. When I graduate in spring of 2013, I will be an adult/*

*gerontology nurse practitioner. Along with teaching clinical for Messiah, I'm also attending clinical myself, which is a very interesting endeavor. My dream is to open up my own clinic some day and work with underserved populations.*

*I love being an adjunct faculty member. When the job was presented to me by an old friend, I never knew how much I would love the teaching aspect of nursing. I care about my students and enjoy watching them learn and grow. As a student myself, and as someone who just a couple years ago was trying to survive clinical, I understand the importance of having good leaders and educators to help you make it through and be successful in your career. I enjoy every minute of my job and hope to continue helping Messiah students through their journey of nursing.*

## WELCOME, NATASHA MILLER '07, ADJUNCT FACULTY



**NATASHA MILLER,** ('07 Messiah College) is very excited to be back this semester in the clinical adjunct role! Following graduation, she became employed by Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in the Surgical ICU where she worked as a staff nurse for several years. Since that time, Natasha became certified as a wound, ostomy and continence nurse. Currently, she works at Hershey Medical Center in this role. Natasha is pursuing a master's degree in

nursing from Penn State University at this time. Additionally, she enjoys the variety of opportunities available to serve through nursing such as volunteering at a local free clinic and providing medical care following the earthquake in Haiti in 2010. In her free time, Natasha often found running, spending time with friends and family and being outdoors. Natasha currently lives in Hershey with her husband Andrew and their pet rabbit, Richard.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO WANDA THUMA-MCDERMOND, PH.D., R.N.



Congratulations to Wanda Thuma-McDermond, associate professor of nursing. She completed her Ph.D. in nursing from Widener University in May 2011. The title for her dissertation was “A Focused Ethnography: Nursing Students' Perceptions of Cultural Competence and Social Justice.” In addition, Wanda received the Dean's Award for Excellence!

## FACULTY NEWS: ADJUNCT NURSING FACULTY

Amanda Cresswell, M.S.N., R.N.,  
C.M.S.R.N.

Maureen Asper, R.N., M.S., A.C.N.S.-B.C.

Kristy Houck, B.S.N., R.N.

Sarah Curtis, B.S.N., R.N.

Leah Ortiz, B.S.N., R.N.

Martha Solomon, M.S.N., R.N., C.

Kay Huber, B.S.N.E., M.P.A., M.S.N.,  
C.R.N.P., D.Ed.

Jeff Stroup, B.S., R.N.

Jenny Rex, B.S.N., R.N.

Linda Tanis, B.S.N., R.N.

M'Liss Halsey, M.S., R.N.

Natasha Miller, R.N. B.S.N. C.C.R.N.  
C.W.O.C.N.

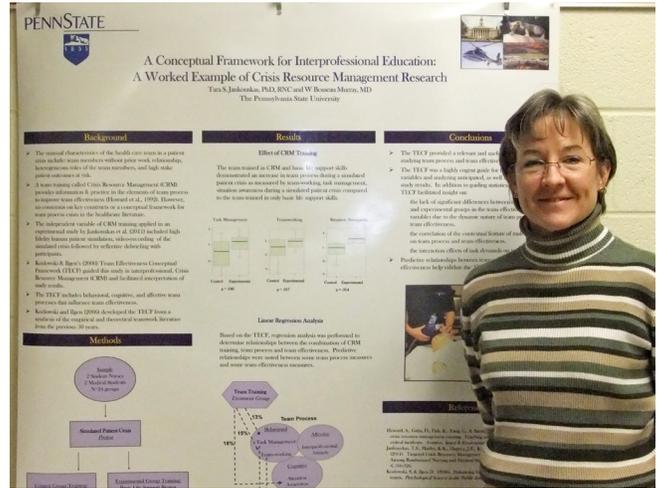
Leisa McAlicher, R.N., C.S.N., M.S.N.,  
F.N.P.

## TARA JANKOUSKAS PRESENTS AT CONFERENCE

**TARA JANKOUSKAS, Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant

professor, presented at the 12th Annual International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in San Diego, Calif., in January 2012. Tara collaborated with a Penn State Hershey Medical Center colleague, W. Bosseur Murray, M.D., on two scientific abstracts which were selected

by peer review for presentation at the conference. One abstract was selected as a podium presentation: "Interprofessional Crisis Resource Management: Experiences and Outcomes." The second was selected as a poster presentation: "A Conceptual Framework for Interprofessional Education: A Worked Example of Crisis Resource Management Research."



## THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING WELCOMES BETH AUMEN



**MY NAME IS BETH AUMEN**, and I am the new administrative assistant in the Department of Nursing. I replaced Terry Middlekauff, who retired at the end of July after 26 years of service. Even though

I am new to nursing, I have been with the College for eight years. I started at Messiah in 2004 as a part-time administrative assistant in the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Nutrition and Dietetics. The transition to nursing has been challenging, but I love my new home in Kline.

I live close by in Dillsburg with my husband Don and two sons, Luke and

Andrew, ages 16 and 14. I enjoy being involved with all of their activities, including Boy Scouts, band and high school track and field. I enjoy reading, hiking, riding bikes, camping, gardening, handbell choir and tagging along on Boy Scout camp-outs and hikes.

I look forward to meeting many of you. If I can help you in any way, please contact me at 717-691-6029.

## INTRODUCING JEFFREY STROUP, ADJUNCT FACULTY



**GREETINGS! MY NAME IS JEFFREY STROUP**, and I've been an adjunct faculty at Messiah for almost two years. I have been married to my wonderful wife Amanda for 12 years; we have two beautiful children Rebecca, 9 and Nicholas, 5. I've worked as a nurse for more than 15 years at Pinnacle Health System in the Float Pool. I specialize in emergency/critical care. I also enjoy teaching BLS, ACLS, PALS, TNCC and ENPC to staff nurses. I'm currently

attending Mansfield University where I focus my studies in nursing education. I hope to complete my Master of Science in nursing in the near future. Teaching for Messiah has opened up an opportunity for me to share my knowledge and experience with a fantastic group of nursing students and professors. It has also allowed me to grow in my practice as a nurse and to grow in my faith. Thank you for allowing me to share this brief moment!

## HEIDI LUTZ, PH.D., R.N., PUBLISHES DISSERTATION

Heidi Lutz, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of nursing recently had her dissertation

work published in the June 2012 issue of the Journal of Pediatric Nursing. Her

article is titled "Coping with Autism: A Journey towards Adaptation."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROLYN KREAMER, PH.D., R.N., C.N.E.



Congratulations to Carolyn L. Kreamer, professor of nursing and chairperson of the department of nursing. She has been elected to the Nominating Committee of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for 2011. The CCNE is the autonomous accrediting body of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and accredits baccalaureate, masters and post-master's nursing education programs in the United States. The department of nursing holds accreditation from the CCNE. Carolyn is a trained site-evaluator and team leader for accreditation teams for the CCNE. Additionally, she became a certified nurse educator by passing the National League for Nursing, Certified Nurse Educator Exam in 2011. Certification as a nurse educator is a mark of distinction for nurse educators who demonstrate expertise in the specialty role of nursing education. Specifically, the mission of the Academic Nurse Educator Certification Program is to recognize excellence in the advanced specialty role of the academic nurse educator.

## STUDENTS RUN FOR THE KING'S BIRTHDAY



*Emily Dincher and Emily Wenger received trophies/medals for their placement for the women's division.*

### JANUARY 2012 WAS AN EXCITING TIME

for seven Messiah College senior nursing students who participated in the NURS 495 Senior Practicum in Thailand. Debbie and Greg Loop accompanied the students on their trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand. This year, students participated in many cultural activities. One of the special events for this year was the Chiang Mai's 10K run in celebration of the king's 84th birthday. All of the students completed the 10K, but two of our students received special recognition for their placement in the race. Other activities included Thai massages, Thai dance, elephant rides, Thai cooking and festive northern style dinner/dances. In addition to visiting Chiang Mai, students traveled to Chiang Rai, the current capital of Bangkok, and Ayutthaya, which was the second capital of Thailand.

Not only do students learn about the Thai culture, they also have learning opportunities within the Thai healthcare delivery system. They had various experiences at the Nakornping Hospital. Students cared for patients on the female surgical unit, the trauma unit, the operating theatre and the labor and delivery room. Students also participated in a four-day/three-night homestay in the village of Maegumpong. It is here that the students conducted a community assessment using the Seven Tool Community Assessment, taught an English class to the village community and

learned some of the trades of the village. In collaboration with the students of Boromarajonani College of Nursing, students participated in a professional development activity as they spoke on the chronic illnesses of their respective nations.

These experiences were enriching, not only professionally but personally. Life-long friendships were made and continue to be fostered through Facebook, Skype and email. I believe everyone would agree, the Thailand cross-cultural experience was life-changing and one that will never be forgotten.



*Students dressed in traditional northern Thai attire for the Kohn Toke Dinner*

## SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS: KAYLA BECHTEL & HANNAH DOTTS

### A dream becomes a reality

*Kayla Bechtel '12*

#### WHEN I BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT

colleges and what type of degree I wanted to obtain, I instantly went to nursing. I have always wanted to be a nurse since I was little. I grew up watching my mother who was a nurse, and I saw how her love for helping others was able to be fulfilled in her job. When looking at schools, I knew I wanted to go to Messiah. I looked at a few other schools but none of them compared to Messiah. When my acceptance letter came, I knew this was a start to a wonderful new chapter in my life.

My experiences have been wonderful! I have enjoyed everything from living the college life and making new friends, to enjoying listening to the nursing department professors drill hours upon hours of information into our brains. Being a nursing major is not easy, especially having to leave behind any kind of a social life. I have spent many hours working on homework or studying material while others are off having fun. Turning down opportunities to have fun was often hard but something that was necessary. The nursing faculty are constantly there to help you if you assistance. All you need to do is ask. They want us to succeed and use a variety of teaching methods to help us to get there. The professors are caring and some share their motherly instinct. This sometimes comes across to the students and surprises them.

Through clinical experiences, I have been able to narrow down my areas of interests. Recently, I was able to discover where my passion truly lies. Over J-term, I had the pleasure of working in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). I enjoyed every moment of it and made the most of this opportunity to learn as much as I could. Working closely beside my preceptor allowed me the support and freedom that I needed to care for one to three neonates, depending on the level of care. This experience proved to me that I was capable of handling a full nursing assignment and was fully prepared to do so. The nursing program gradually introduces new things to us over the years to help us prepare

for our senior practicum and ultimately professional nursing. I was able to learn how to balance and do certain nursing skills such as neonatal assessments; inserting IVs; giving IV medications and oral medications; inserting nasogastric (NG) and orogastric (OG) tubes; and adjusting ventilator settings. I was able to admit and discharge babies, and I even got to go to a few deliveries to assist the doctor prior to bringing the neonate to the NICU. This was a wonderful experience and hopefully I will be able to work in the NICU as a nurse.

The nursing program at Messiah prepares you to take the NCLEX and enter into the nursing field with a feeling of comfort. Having been a patient care assistant in a hospital since I was 18 has been a great boost to helping me feel more comfortable in the hospital setting and to feel more comfortable with taking care of patients. Gaining experience in the hospital or other setting is something that I would highly recommend for any current nursing student. I feel like it has given me a little bit of an advantage over other students during these past four years, and my experiences will hopefully assist me as I pursue a position as a registered nurse (R.N.). This spring, I look forward to graduating from Messiah and obtaining a job where I can practice holistic nursing care.

### A nurse evolves

*Hannah Dotts '12*

**I VIVIDLY REMEMBER THE DAY** I received the dreaded question from my parents, "Hannah, what do you want to be when you grow up?" I hate to admit it, but I was lazy when it came to career choices. I never sat down and thought about what I wanted to be. I figured I would cross that bridge when I came to it. It crept up a lot more quickly than I had expected, and by the beginning of my senior year, I had looked at only two colleges. Compared to my friends, I was a late bloomer, as many of them had already applied to more than five colleges. I think I was scared of growing up, or maybe it was not wanting to leaving home. Either way, I had to get my act together and make a decision, very soon.

When I was young, I always said I wanted to be a nurse. My mom loves to tell me how I used to set my stuffed animals in a "waiting area" in our living room. Next, I would take every animal, one by one, back to my room, perform my nursing assessment, bandage their wounds or give them a shot, hand them a prescription and send them on their way. She also constantly tells me I had an obsession with Band-Aids. I stuck them on everything, including my own body, and I had to know every single detail about gross body functions. Needless to say, it came as no surprise to my parents when I said, "I think I want to be a nurse."

After I made my decision, mom and I started searching for colleges with well-known nursing programs. I figured I would go to Penn State, because it was close to home and well known; but, after I visited Messiah, checked out the nursing facility and stayed overnight, something in me just felt this was the place to be. It is an understatement to say I am satisfied with the decision I made. I could not have asked for a better college experience.

Freshman year started out rough. Being away from home was tough, and it was difficult adjusting to college life. Anatomy, I was convinced, would be the death of me, and chemistry only added to the torture. However, I learned so much about myself in that first semester; I discovered study habits, organizational skills and, above all, that I can do anything if I put my mind to it! The professors I had were amazing and offered as much help as I needed. Spring semester was much better. I felt confident and more comfortable calling myself a nursing major. I even realized that I (big shock!) kind of liked anatomy! I finished out my first year feeling college was not going to be so bad after all.

Sophomore year I was excited, because this year we would start "real" nursing classes! The first semester we finished our prerequisites, and after we came back from Christmas break, it felt like Christmas all over again. Our eyes lit up as we opened our assessment bags and started to play with all of the "goodies." We eagerly hung our stethoscopes around our necks. That first day of classes was overwhelming,

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Spotlight, continued on page 5

and as I tried to figure out my nursing class schedule, I felt cross-eyed. That semester was tough, but it helped us gain the foundation of knowledge we would need for the rest of our nursing education. By the time we started clinical, everyone felt ready—that is, until we stepped foot into the nursing homes and found out most of us were terrified to walk into a patient's room. Our clinical instructors did a good job easing us into patient care by starting in groups. Eventually, we all felt comfortable enough to do it individually. Looking back, it is amazing how far I have come.

Junior year was truly the year everything came together. The information we learned in health assessment and foundations for nursing practice started to make sense. It helped me improve my compre-

hension of what we were learning in our classes. The paperwork was more difficult, the tests were not easy, and I had to study a lot...but I loved every minute! This year, we started to get into the deeper nursing information, and I was challenged in many different ways. Clinical experiences were awesome, and caring for patients helped me relate the information we were learning in the classroom. I also got the “hands-on” experience I needed. I gained a lot of critical thinking skills this year and boosted my confidence about performing physical assessments, thanks to my clinical professors who pushed me to do the best I could.

And now here I am a senior, writing this reflection. I cannot help but feel terrified, yet excited about what the future holds. It has been a bumpy ride the past

four years, but I would not trade it for anything. While at Messiah, I had the opportunity to care for many different types of patients and gained experience in a variety of patient care settings. All of the nursing professors have offered their wonderful help and support. Senior year has been the icing on the cake, but it has in no way been easy. I think I have worked the hardest this year, but all that hard work has paid off. The senior practicum helped me to truly find my niche in nursing. I absolutely loved the emergency department and I cannot imagine working anywhere else. I am eternally grateful to the Messiah nursing program. Thank you for allowing me to spend four wonderful years of my life with you!

## ADVENTURES IN ZAMBIA

By Erica Heisey '12



Macha Mission Hospital

### A new perspective on complementary/alternative medicine

**OVER J-TERM, I JOINED** Wanda Thuma-McDermond and nine other adventurous students for a combination practicum and cross-cultural in the rural village of Macha, Zambia. The whole trip was eye-opening on many levels, but a particularly unique experience was our visit to the local traditional healer, Dr. Luumuno. His “diagnostic tests” consist of a carved stick and warthog tail, along with the guidance of the spirits. His “drugs” are herbs he finds and prepares himself, sometimes walking many miles to replenish his supply. Dr. Luumuno also casts out evil spirits and

puts spells of protection on clients. Perhaps most surprisingly, he has been trained by medical professionals to recognize signs of anemia and dehydration and will send clients with those symptoms to the hospital (of course, with directions to come back to him after discharge). He also refers clients he believes to be human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) positive. It was a very enlightening experience to learn firsthand from a traditional healer and to witness the collaboration between traditional and Western medicine.

### Welcome home

Just over 22 years ago, a missionary nurse delivered premature twins by cesarean-section in a tiny mission hospital in the rural town of Macha, Zambia. The first-born weighed a little under two pounds, the second just over three. Miraculously, both babies survived—thousands of miles from anything like a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Oxygen by nasal cannula, NG-tube feedings of breast milk, TLC and lots of prayers were the definitive interventions. This event, so ingrained in my mind, came rushing back to me in January as I stood in scrubs in the Operating Theatre of Macha Mission Hospital, waiting to receive the baby delivered via cesarean-

section. Looking around, I noticed that there probably wasn't much more resuscitation equipment available now than there was 20 years ago!

The baby that was given to me needed some respiratory help, so I handed him off to the Zambian nurses, saying a quick prayer. With a couple of breaths from the ambu-bag and some vigorous slaps on the back, he was soon breathing adequately. “C-section babies always have a rough start. He will be all right,” one of the nurses assured me, as another nurse and student whisked him away to the heat lamp in the maternity ward. My mind slipped back to the stories and pictures I'd grown up with. It was the same operating room. Twenty-two years later, the doctors and nurses were different—but one participant was the same. My twin wasn't with me this time, but I had finally come home.



Left, Erica and her twin sister, Andrea. Right, baby being bundled.

## NCF FALL KICK-OFF PARTY



A group of students from the fall kick-off picnic: Ashley Conwell, Sarah Pedersen, Joanna Fredrick, Jenna Raup, Alyse Weaver, & Beki Chilcote

## NCF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Students volunteering at the local pregnancy center: Sarah Pedersen, Sarah Pratt, & Ashley Arnold.

## NSA MEMBERS AT THE SNAP CONVENTION IN LANCASTER, PA THIS PAST NOVEMBER



Pictured from left to right: Erin Horst, Chelsey Kauffman, Hannah Kurtz, Rachel Coyle, Shannon Sensi, Kayla Bechtel, Kathyn Lisa and Jordan Trout

## MEGAN CLAPP



**MEGAN CLAPP IS A SENIOR** in the nursing program at Messiah. Along with nursing, Meg is minoring in sociology and anthropology as well as cross-cultural

ministries. She hopes to use both of these fields of study to eventually bring her nursing skills to communities outside the U.S. in a culturally competent manner.

This is Meg's second year as a resident assistant (R.A.) in a first-year residence hall. Meg is a participant in Messiah's Honors College Program and will soon be inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing. She was recently awarded the Dr. Dorothy J. Gish Women in Leadership Award, which allowed her to travel to Bethel University in Minnesota to study their residence life program and to meet with women in leadership roles.

During her sophomore year, Meg studied abroad in Uganda and Rwanda where she discovered her passion for traveling and learning about cultures. She was able to return to Northern Uganda the next summer through a Messiah scholarship to continue working with women and children who had previously been abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army. It was during this trip that Meg learned that God was leading her to work with pediatric and vulnerable patients in the future. After graduation, Meg hopes to begin life as an R.N. on the Transplant Unit at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh where she currently works part time.

## UPDATE: THE NURSING STUDENT ASSOCIATION

By Emily Y. Dincher '12

**THE MESSIAH COLLEGE NURSING STUDENT ASSOCIATION (NSA)** is proud to offer nursing majors a forum to increase their depth of knowledge regarding the nursing profession. As students, it is sometimes easy to focus on the next exam and forget about the much larger world of nursing into which we will soon be entering. The Messiah College NSA chapter addresses the topic of this new world through monthly meetings, professional conferences and other opportunities to enable students to grow their faith, student accountability and passion as future nursing professionals.

During our monthly meetings, guest speakers share their experience and knowledge about specific areas of nursing and facilitate discussions about important topics such as the recent Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree, the future of nursing educators, interviewing and resume advice. Attendance at these meetings has ranged from 25–40 students from all class levels. This year, we gained a lot of new interest through our kick-off pizza

party at the beginning of the fall semester. During this event, current NSA members explained the purpose and mission statement of NSA, as well as previewed the exciting upcoming events throughout the year, including professional conferences and Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

As a local chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA), we emphasized the importance of taking responsibility not only for one's individual nursing career, but also for the future of the nursing profession at large. Through membership in a pre-professional organization such as the NSNA, students are able to network with nursing leaders, lobby for important issues in government and vote as delegates on national nursing student issues. We are pleased to announce that the number of Messiah College dues-paying members in the NSNA has increased from four during the 2010–2011 academic year, to 52 in the 2011–2012 school year, making us one of the fastest growing chapters!

Another exciting new direction we

took this year was the NCLEX Review Course. Partnering with our NSA faculty advisor, Dr. Louann Zinsmeister, we are offering a focused NCLEX review course for students preparing to take the exam after graduation. We have had a great response (from primarily senior nursing majors) with attendance averaging about 35 students per meeting.

In November, NSA represented the Messiah College Nursing Department at the annual Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) Convention in Lancaster, Pa. We are also planning on taking several students to the NSNA Convention in Pittsburgh from April 11–15. At both of these conventions, students have opportunities to network with many nursing leaders and employers, learn more about the recent developments in the nursing world and fuel their passion for the nursing profession. It is our prayer that the Messiah College NSA will continue to engage students to develop their faith, passion, advocacy and knowledge of our esteemed profession.

## THE NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

By Ashley Arnold '12



NCF officers: Erin Feidt (Devotions Coordinator), Jordan Trout (Secretary), Natasha Webster (Activities Coordinator), Leah Compton (Treasurer) and Ashley Arnold (President). Not pictured: Pam Linstedt (Faculty Advisor)

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) is an organization for nurses to come together, study the word of God and to help shape students into the Christ-like nurses they strive to become. We meet every Wednesday from 4–5 p.m. in the Larsen Student Union. The year started off with the annual kick-off picnic held in the Jordan Atrium. We then had a delicious ice cream social where we gathered in the Nursing House for some delightful sundaes and some

quality bonding time with the senior nursing students. To finish off October, we ended with a fall fest festivity.

NCF then journeyed into the community and volunteered at the pregnancy center in Camp Hill. We fixed baby bottles for the company's fundraiser to hand out to the local churches. We also had upperclassmen come in and give presentations on the places they studied abroad as sophomores. Our Christmas packages made out for a

great fundraiser. Money was donated from parents to give their children care packages during finals week. We had a great turnout for our Christmas party where we played games, ate scrumptious baked goods and strengthened our bonds with Christ and with each other. To end the semester, we threw a "Stress Relief" night where we made face masks, ate popcorn and tried some yoga positions to relax ourselves for our finals. So far this semester, we have gone ice skating at the local Twin Ponds. The seniors who did a cross-cultural trip for their senior practicum enlightened us about their excursions. Students shared their journeys with Christ, the different cultures' customs and how the trips affected their nursing care. Upcoming NCF events include a service trip, a tie-dye fundraiser, an Easter egg hunt and a spring bash for the end of this 2011–2012 year.

## MESSIAH COLLEGE NURSING CLASS OF 2011 AWARD WINNERS AND HONOR GRADUATES



**Christin Hitz Shenk**  
Academic Excellence Award  
Boyer Scholar  
*(exemplary scholarship, leadership, service and demonstrated potential to make a distinctive contribution to society)*



**L. Ashley Rittenhouse**  
Clinical Excellence Award &  
Pennsylvania Nurses Association  
*District 15 Award for Leadership*



**Sara Mueller**  
Christy Stark Smith — Excellence in  
Maternity Nursing Award

### College Honors Program

*(demonstrate high scholarly ability in their academic career; intellectually rigorous Christian worldview, equipping for lives of leadership and service)*

**Anne Elizabeth McClary**  
**Christin Hitz Shenk**  
**Bridgette Erin Todd**  
**Kristen Lynne Todd**  
**Kristine Nicole Williams**

## SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

The Messiah College undergraduate nursing program is undergoing an on-site evaluation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) on Nov. 12, 13 & 14, 2012. You are invited to submit letters to CCNE with your comments on the nursing program. All comments are confidential and must be in writing, signed and received by CCNE no later than Oct. 13, 2012, at the following address:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  
Atten: Christina Walcott  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20036-1120

## NURSING STUDENT GRADUATES

### Summa Cum Laude Graduates

*(grade point average of 3.90 or above)*

Hannah M. Reed  
Christin Hitz Shenk  
Kristine Nicole Williams

### Magna Cum Laude Graduates

*(grade point average of 3.60 to 3.89)*

Hilary Ashton Artz  
Elyse Marie Dailey  
Sarah Jane Garraty  
Abigail Jean Groves  
Anne Elizabeth McClary  
Rebecca A. Miller  
Sara Emilie Mueller  
Brittany Ann Petry  
Ashley Jean Praetsch  
Hillary Alberta Snyder  
Beth Anne Sterling  
Lauren Elizabeth Tennis  
Bridgette Erin Todd  
Kristen Lynne Todd

### Cum Laude Graduates

*(grade point average of 3.30 to 3.59)*

Rachel E. Ashworth  
Jana Lee Balmer  
Gretchen Christine Brandt  
Tiffany Marie Brighton  
Rachel Christine Delmar  
Abigail Joann Glenzel  
Kara Ann Griffiths  
Amanda Carolyn Hammaker  
Brittney Loren Hostetter  
Angie Marie Rapchinski  
Lauren Ashley Rittenhouse  
Bethanie Lynn Yoder

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Mary (Thiessen) Polson '85**

Mary was recently appointed as the Director of Student Health, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.

**Karen (Miller) Hertzler '90**

Karen and her husband Joseph joyfully announce the birth of their son, Jonathon Robert, Jan. 10, 2011.

**Hillary (Ader) Shackelford '04**

Hillary and her husband John announce the birth of Tyler John, born Dec. 27, 2010. Hillary also recently graduated from a family nurse practitioner program and is employed in Philadelphia as a nurse practitioner.

**Leanna (Kuperus) Bast '08**

Leanna married Dr. John Bast Nov. 5, 2011. She also recently started a new position at NYU Langone Medical Center in the Congenital Cardiovascular Care Unit.

**Kara (Derstine) Detweiler '04** and her husband Anthony Detweiler '04 had a son, Chase Bryan Detweiler, born 7/10/10. Kara works as a pediatric surgical/trauma nurse at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

## SUPPORT NURSING THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

My tax-exempt donation is enclosed for:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: MESSIAH COLLEGE.

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

## Giving to Nursing during July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

**Chatlos Nursing****Scholarship Awards**

The Chatlos Foundation Inc.

**Margaret McCormick****Endowed Scholarship**

McCormick Family Foundation

**Nursing Department –****Annual Fund**

Winifred L. Kaebnick

Mary L. Magulick '73

**Nursing Education Scholarship –****In Memory of Peggy S. Walters**

Gordon S. & Carolyn Cochrane

Marti G. (Groff) Derr '80

Deborah E. (Helsel) Herr '88

Kay L. Huber

Stefanie L. (Rowe) Moore '08

Cheryl L. (Hertzler) Pardoe '89

†Harry W. Preis

Ruth I. Stoll

**Christy Stark Smith****Memorial Scholarship**

Carolyn L. Kreamer

Stephen R. Smith

**Donald & Dorothy Stabler Nursing****Scholarship Endowment**

Kay S. Cramer '97

Cheryl L. (Hertzler) Pardoe '89

Karis H. (MacGregor) Schumacher '98

The Stabler Foundation

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

Karen L. (Robinson) Adams '92

Marilyn L. (Pyke) Adams '63

Beth A. (Rohrbaugh) Bernhardt '85

Carol E. Church '00

Lisa K. Clark '89

Valerie Diane (Lucas) Coakley '99

Heidi R. (Cooper) Gaddess '05

Kimberlee A. (Behnke) Guevin '95

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of

New Jersey

Nancy A. (Bomgardner) Huber '69

Kathleen (Thuma) Kipe '59

Kristine R. (McGuire) Koslowsky '02

Crista D. Krivoniak '10

Karen A. (Krause) Mast '90

Dennis C. & Kim M. Morey

Cheryl L. (Hertzler) Pardoe '89

Emily N. Pedersen '00

Steven S. & Jeanne E. Praetsch

Hillary E. (Ader) Shackelford '04

Elizabeth J. Updegraff '87

Nicole A. Viglietta '10