

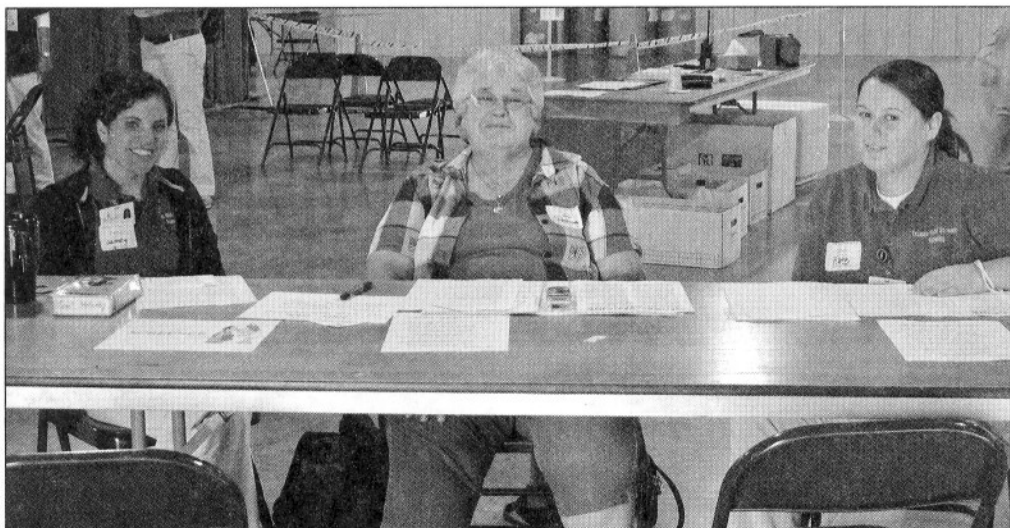
Nursing

at Truman State University

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Nursing Students Aid Flu Clinic Exercise



Seniors Jamey Johnston (left) and Kate Howser (right) work with a community volunteer to assist with the Flu Clinic in Adair County.

It could happen: an avian flu epidemic, a bioterrorism incident or other health disaster requiring the Adair County Health Department to coordinate the resources of other local agencies to provide mass vaccinations.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) requires health departments nationwide to test their emergency response plan and the ability to administer vaccines or medications to large numbers of people. Mass vaccinations could be needed in cases of biological or chemical warfare attack or an epidemic like smallpox, anthrax or the plague.

Using their annual Flu Clinic as an opportunity to practice, staff members and volunteers from the community worked together to set up a system and develop protocols for coping with such an incident.

Truman Senior Nursing students from NU485 joined with the Kirksville Police and Fire

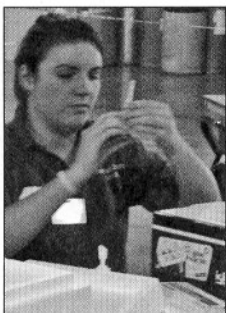
Department, Public Works, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and other community professionals and volunteers to process 800 people for flu shots.

The flu shots were administered at the Fairgrounds on September 27, 2005. Those with difficulty walking were given the option of drive-up vaccinations. The Truman Senior Nursing students functioned as greeters and assisted with triage and screening.

"One of my students told me it was the most fun day she'd had in nursing," said Stephanie Powelson, Nursing Director.

Senior students also assisted with flu clinics in several neighboring counties.

"They were wonderful help," said Carol White, Administrator of the Knox County Health Department. "We can't move clients through the clinic as efficiently without the extra 'staff' your students provide."



Senior Martha Erker works at the Flu Clinic.



Tribute to Grace Devitt

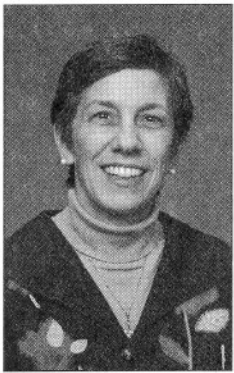
Dr. Grace Devitt, the nurse leader who re-established the baccalaureate nursing program at Truman in 1971, died July 19, 2004. She is credited for developing the Division of Nursing and bringing the program through the initial accreditation process with the National League for Nursing. Dr. Devitt provided much vision for nursing as a profession and for Truman's Nursing Program during her lifetime. She was especially committed to a strong liberal arts and sciences base for the nursing major. I'm sure many of you remember her. If you wish to contribute to a memorial nursing scholarship at the Truman Foundation it may be found at <http://secure.truman.edu/support-s>.



Congratulations to the Graduating Class of May 2005!

Row 1: Cassandra Scott, Natalie Balli, Laura Jenkins, Janel Townsend, Salena Mathurin, Karyl Winkler, Carissa Allen, Megan Azar, & Kristen Siebels. *Row 2:* Amanda Becker, Laura Edmiston, Meredyth Chavarria, Jennifer McDonnell, Cheri Smith, Gina Indelicato, Kari Steffen, Candice Murdock, & Jenna Gray. *Row 3:* Kelly Bauer, Ama Owusu, Myra Hansen, Gina Fettig, Anna Schulte, Tabitha Rohr, & Katie Johnson *Row 4:* Jean Kanan, Abbie Brown, Greg Nurrenbern, Jessica Crites, Merielle Hobson, Suzie Dusek, Alice Lasco, Mark Byram, & Kim Young

From the Director



Welcome to the first edition of the Truman State University Nursing Program Newsletter. We hope this newsletter will help to keep you updated on some of the exciting things that are happening.

The program currently has 10.25 positions, including Rebecca McClanahan, Sharon McGahan, and Sarah Delaware with 20-30 years of experience. Several alumni, including Corrie Platte Willis, Sheri Brinser Simmons, and Melissa Blagg Holcomb, have returned to

assist in educating Truman students. We currently serve approximately 170 nursing majors. Our students are highly qualified with an average ACT score of 25-26, grade point average of 3.75, and class rank in the top 10%.

The BSN program received accreditation from CCNE for a ten-year period beginning in 2003; the Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International inducted a third group of new members in October. We continue to collaborate with A.T. Still University (KCOM) with the interdisciplinary projects, House Calls and Elderlynk, and case studies for the human patient simulator. We are in the process of updating our Nursing Website, and I encourage you to visit the site at <http://nursing.truman.edu> for more information.

We are starting another cycle of scholarship awards to students, thanks to the many alumni who have contributed

funding. We continue to add enhancements to our student skills laboratory, the Nursing Center for Caring Arts (NCCA).

I would like to invite you to stay in touch with us. If you plan to be in the Kirksville area, please call us and we will arrange a tour of the Program area. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Stephanie Powelson
Nursing Program Director

Truman's Nursing Program Director Stephanie Powelson helps set up the Flu Clinic that was held out at the NEMO Fairgrounds this fall.



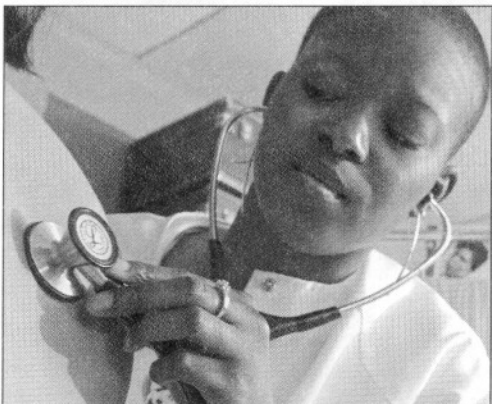
Student Life



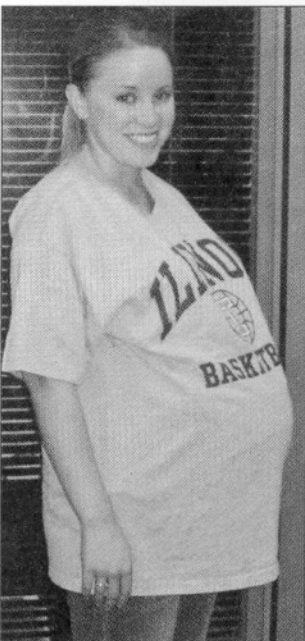
Seniors Alicia Embry and Meredith Williams talk with a recruiter at the Career Expo held October 26.



NU 375: Pam Gardner works with senior student, Ginny Pozzo as she performs venipuncture on classmate Matt Doellman.



Janel Townsend '05 practices auscultation in the Nursing Center for Caring Arts (NCCA.)



NU 375: Junior Kelly Gannon poses with the "Empathy Belly."



NU 355: Faculty Brenda Wheeler with Suzanne Mulcahy '06 who wears the Gerisuit which was donated by the Macon Health Care Center. The suit is designed to allow students to temporarily experience some of the difficulties geriatric patients live with each day (stiff joints, difficulty with mobility, etc.).

Rho Omega Chapter Of Sigma Theta Tau International

5th Annual Capstones of Nursing

The 5th Annual Capstones of Nursing Research Day was held May 5, 2005 at Truman. **Judith J. Warren, PhD, RN, BC, FAAN**, associate professor of nursing at the University of Kansas, presented the keynote address: "Nursing Education and Practice in the Information Age: The Role of Technology." There were six additional presentations from the professional community and 13 presentations from senior nursing students in Truman's NU410 Introduction to Nursing Research course.

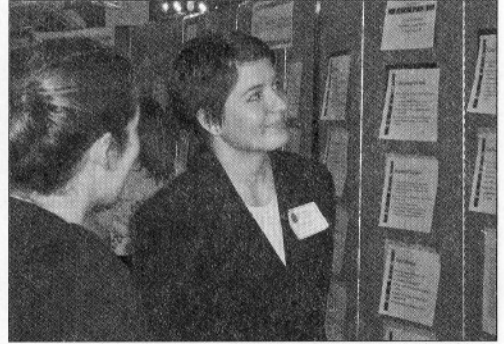


Sarah Delaware, Abbie Brown '05, Jeanie Johnson (Preceptor of the Year in a Community Care Setting), Carissa Allen '05, Karl Steffen '05, and Stephanie Powelson

Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International sponsors the yearly Capstones of Nursing in order to promote nursing scholarship. It is dedicated to improving the health of people worldwide by increasing the scientific base of nursing practice. **Mark your calendars and join us for the 6th annual Capstones of Nursing on May 6, 2006.**

During the luncheon the following awards were presented to community nurses:

- ▶ "Nominate a NEMO Nurse" Award: **Susie Chapman** (Preferred Family Healthcare).
- ▶ Preceptor of the Year in an Acute Care Setting: **Elizabeth Dewitt** (Northeast Regional Medical Center)
- ▶ Preceptor of the Year in a Community Care Setting: **Jeanie Johnson** (Putnam County Health Department)



Meredyth Chavarria '05 presents her NU 410 Nursing Research at Capstones 2005.

Advisory Council



The Truman State University Nursing Program Advisory Council met on April 7, 2005. Pictured, front row, left to right: Debi Boughton, Martha Gragg, Shirley Riley, Peg Ernst, Bonnie Collier, Carol Race, Lesa McCartney. Second row: Stephanie Keith, Myra Baiotto, Sue Magruder, Elsie Gaber, Bertha Thomas, Delores Lesseig, Harriet Beard. Third row: Lavah Lowe, Dennis Smith, Renee Brayton, James McGovern, Mark Gambaiana, Maria DiStefano, and Mark Laughlin. The purpose of the Council is to provide community input and support for the Nursing Program.

IN THE Spotlight...



New Faculty

Melissa Blagg Holcomb, RN, BSN, MSN, joined the Truman Faculty this fall. She graduated from Truman in 1996, obtaining degrees in both Nursing and Sociology/Anthropology. After working as a hospital

obstetrical nurse for six years, she resumed her academic studies at Sinclair School of Nursing in Columbia, MO. She completed her MSN and is now pursuing a PhD in Nursing.

"I am thrilled to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Nursing (Maternal/Neonatal) at Truman," said Holcomb. Holcomb and her husband, Jack, have relocated to Kirksville with their two sons, Will and Robin.

Teak Nelson, MSN, PhD(c), Receives 2005 Research Award

Teak Nelson PhD(c), MSN, RN received the 2005 Research Award (\$200) from Rho Omega for her proposal, "Breast-feeding in Low-Income Women: A Grounded Theory Exploration of the Breastfeeding Woman's Response to Perceived Persuasion." Nelson also recently achieved doctoral candidacy by passing her oral and written board exams at UMC Sinclair School of Nursing. Congratulations, Teak!



Quota International Donates to Truman Nursing Student

Quota International presented Mark Litwiler, senior nursing student, with a special stethoscope to accommodate his hearing loss. Lila Farr, Chair of the Service committee, also presented Mark with a \$500 scholarship to continue his studies.

(left to right): Mark Litwiler, Lila Farr, and Program Director, Stephanie Powelson.



The Outstanding Student in Nursing

The Outstanding Student in Nursing for 2004-2005 was awarded to Candice Murdock. Candice served as a student assistant in the Nursing Center for Caring Arts where she helped nursing students master their skills. She was an active member and the Rush Chair for Cardinal Key. Candice was inducted into the Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nurses. Following graduation Candice started her professional nursing career at University Hospital in Columbia in the Cardiology Unit.



Faculty member Kit Hadwiger with Candice Murdock '05, Outstanding Student in Nursing 2004-2005.

Elderlynk, an Interdisciplinary Project



Angela Suppasansathorn '04 (second from left) and other interdisciplinary learning students pose for a picture with an Elderlynk client.

Junior and senior nursing students are engaged in interdisciplinary seminars and home home visiting projects like House Calls, with other students from Truman and A. T. Still University. The interdisciplinary team includes students from Communications Disorders, Health Science, Medicine, and Nursing. The student teams visit senior citizens over four semesters. The nursing students joined this project one year ago, so the numbers will double as some students begin their second year. Students who participate work with faculty and student leaders from other health professions including osteopathic medicine, communication disorders, nursing, psychology and health education. In addition to helping plan and present the noon geriatrics seminar series, many students participated in the interdisciplinary geriatrics conference last February, and the ongoing house calls program.

Program Director Stephanie Powelson receives a \$990 grant from Macon Health Care Center in Macon, Missouri. The grant will be used to purchase the complete DVD series of "EKG Analysis and Intervention" and IV Practice Simulators for the Nursing Center for Caring Arts (NCCA).



Pictured with Dr. Powelson are Director of Nursing Jody Crawford and Administrator Rachel Richardson.

Alumni News And Note

Share with us your news, accomplishments, plans, travels, marriage, births, etc. Don't forget address changes so the newsletter can keep up with you.

Return to:
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Comments and News

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 Please send me the online newsletter, *News@Truman*.

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Thank you for your generous support—your help does make a difference!