

# Nursing

at Truman State University

Fall 2007  
Nursing  
Truman State  
University  
100 East Normal  
Kirksville, MO  
63501-4221  
(660) 785-4557  
nursing@truman.edu

## Gardner Named 2007 Educator of the Year

**P**amela Gardner, assistant professor of nursing, was announced as the 2007 Educator of the Year at the 18th annual banquet on April 10.

Gardner began her career at Truman in 2000. She received her B.S.N. from Fitchburg State College and her M.S.N. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her primary areas of expertise are child-family and maternal-neonatal nursing. "This is an award given to one person but earned by many between my students, my colleagues and my family...I am still smiling."

**"I am proud that nursing has been recognized for the quality of education that we provide. Pam's students pick up on the enthusiasm and pride that she has for nursing."**

*Sharon McGahan,  
Faculty Emeritus*

This year more than 120 students nominated a record-breaking 82 faculty members for the Educator of the Year award. The eight-member student committee first narrowed the group down to 12 semi-finalists and then to six finalists. Finally, after reviewing the written responses by the nominated faculty members, getting

input from the students in their classes and observing the faculty members in their classrooms, the committee selected this year's honoree.

Students from Student Senate, the Pershing Society and Phi Kappa Phi serve on the Educator of the Year committee.

**"Pam is more than just a teacher. She is a friend, a confidant, a second mom. She cares more about you than just your grades. She has a down-to-earth teaching style and is dedicated to making the student a part of the learning experiences that she shares with us."**

*Jenny Dine '08*



Gardner's students are there to cheer her on. Front (L-R): Amanda Bull '07, Gardner, Dr. Stephanie Powelson. Back (L-R): Michelle Labit '07, Greg Wisa '08, Elizabeth Sorenson '07, and Kelly Gannon '07.



Truman President Barbara Dixon takes time to congratulate Gardner.

## McGahan Retires

**S**haron McGahan retired from the nursing program but continues to teach a JINS class, Death and Dying at Truman. You may make a contribution in honor of her retirement to the McGahan Family Fund by contacting the Office of Advancement (800-452-6678 or 660-785-4133).



Sharon McGahan, Faculty Emeritus: surrounded by her students (L-R) Monica Plane, Kim Church, Angie Prost, McGahan, Becky Cross, Melanie Schutz, Bethany Falkner, and Story Sollars.

# News in Nursing

**M**uch has changed since the last newsletter. The Nursing Program is now called the Department of Nursing. The Human Potential and Performance Division became the School of Health Sciences and Education, including Nursing, Communication Disorders, Health Science/Exercise Science, and Education, with Dr. Sam Minner as the Dean. If you visit the nursing office, you will see a new face, Lisa Fulkerson, the Department's Secretary.

In late August, we welcomed the class of 2011 which included 35 incoming freshman and 15 change of major students. We continue to turn away qualified applicants. Initiatives are in progress to increase state funding for health professions across the state.

Following several months of noise and construction, Barnett Hall has a new look. The Department of Nursing expanded the nursing lab (NCCA), added six new beds and two new manikins, and gained a new classroom. With anticipated MOHELA funds, we are planning to move to a newly renovated Pershing Building in the next few years. Funding would provide specialty labs and additional classroom space. This project will support a better learning environment and the space to expand enrollment.

We are fortunate to have filled all faculty positions. Teak Nelson is full-time, filling the spot vacated by Sharon McGahan's retirement. Dee



Lesseig and Cindy Mayberry are providing clinical instruction in community mental health nursing during the fall semester to assist Corrie Willis, who is in the process of adopting three-year-old twins.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Best wishes,

Dr. Stephanie Powelson  
Chair, Department of Nursing

---

## Nursing Advisory Council



*(Seated) Martha Gragg, Shirley Riley, Myra Baiotto, Harriet Beard, Dee Lesseig, Elsie Gaber, Dianthe Cable, Brenda Higgins, Teri Haman, Bonnie Collier, Carol Race. (Standing) Dennis Smith, Jill McCord, Tim Tucker, Robert Elsea, Jack Magruder, Mark Gambaiana, Mark Laughlin, Charles Baldwin, Garry Gordon, Mary Laird, Jerry Smith, and Rene McGovern.*



# Student Life



*Pam Melvin (center) oversees practice with Sara Lloyd '08 (left) and Rosana Lebron '08 (right).*



*Bethany Falkner '08 checks an IV during a clinical rotation at Northeast Regional Medical Center.*



*Sarah Delaware (left) stops for a picture in the NCCA with seniors: Katie Adler, Greg Wisa, Sara Lloyd, and Rosana Lebron*



*Kit Hadwiger (faculty) with Alison Richards '08, and Jaime Weninger '08 at Northeast Regional Medical Center.*

## Congratulations to the 2007 Graduating Nursing Class!

*1st Row: Kelly Gannon, Amanda Peacock, Amanda Bull, Allison McCue, Sarah Carter, Michelle Labit, Megan Otten. 2nd Row: Elizabeth Sorenson, Christine Williamson, Twink Pham, Jesse Corwin, Casey Hunstein, Melody Turner, Rachael Smith, Sara Mayer. 3rd Row: Christine Sigmund, Jessica Searing, Ashley Carter, Melissa Maloney, Julie Bahr, Diana Agboada, Katie Blevins. 4th Row: Joseph Hassler, Hannah Wyatt, Natalie Schupbach, Julie Wohldmann, Jessica Corrick, Michelle Kwart, Christine Motte, Amy Schilling. 5th Row: Ashley Walker, Jaime O'Sullivan, Lauren Mikko, Nicole Epema, Doug Mayo.*







# Katrina Thoughts

Written by **Saundra Parke '70** after evacuating from Hurricane Katrina

**T**hree months after the storm, my husband and I decided to stay in Missouri. Making the choice proved to be more difficult than we had anticipated. Where do two nurses go when the options are limitless?

Atlanta, Memphis and Richmond received scrutiny. Daily, we pored over maps.

Keith pushed for ski country. I nudged toward travel nursing. In the end, the incredibly warm welcomes we enjoyed upon our arrivals in Missouri swayed us; the caress of the Heartland convinced us we were home and safe.

Following the terrifying trek from the Deep South, signs of Divine intervention and human compassion provided succor during the most difficult days of our lives. Keith returned to Louisiana, packing, clearing debris and repairing the damage inflicted on our home. Offered before the insurance companies gained their footings and they began denying coverage on sales, our house sold within four hours, contract in hand.

I, ensconced in the basement apartment of my sister's home, paced and cried, temporarily bereft. Finally, in an effort to regain some semblance of normalcy, I petitioned for Missouri nursing licensure. Three days later, my license arrived, accompanied by my uncanceled check. A nearby hospital hired me, sans references, without hesitation. A local Honda agency handed me keys to a new Hybrid Civic without down payment or trade-in pending insurance reimbursement for my vehicle resting under 16 feet of water in New Orleans.

After I began working at the hospital, television spots featuring gruesome reminders of Katrina and its aftermath would choke me to tears. Patients and visitors unashamedly wept with me and hugged me tightly.

Memories of those moments fade but will always remain. We have regained our balance, our peace of mind. Our new home in Lone Jack, cozy and fresh, provides not only shelter but is a tangible symbol of our transitions.

Treasure your roots. Love this land and its people for the Heartland embraces its own.



**Saundra Parke '70 RN, BSN, MBA and her husband Keith RN were living and working in Chalmette, Louisiana when Hurricane Katrina hit. To read more about their experiences you may go to [RNWeb.com](http://RNWeb.com) and search for *Nursing in the Eye of the Storm* from October 2005. It is a day by day account from two different perspectives during that difficult time. Sandy can be reached by e-mail: [sandybparke@hotmail.com](mailto:sandybparke@hotmail.com)**

## New Faces:



**L**isa Fulkerson started in July as the new secretary for the Department. She and her husband, Sam, relocated to Kirksville with their three children, Alex 12, Colin 5, and Christina, 2.



**C**indy Mayberry APRN (above) and Dee Lesseig APRN (below), are filling in as part-time faculty this fall, assisting **Corrie Willis '87** with clinical rotations for Community Mental Health Nursing. **Mayberry '85** and **Lesseig '72** are currently working in private practices as clinical nurse specialist/psychotherapists.





# Alumni News And Notes

**S**hare with us your news, accomplishments, plans, travels, marriage, births, etc. Don't forget address changes so the newsletter can keep up with you. Please send updates and notes to **Shirley Riley**, ([sriley@truman.edu](mailto:sriley@truman.edu)), or to **nursing@truman.edu**, or by postal mail.

**Michelle Matteson '94** has been accepted into the PhD program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She will be working with Dr. Russell and on medication adherence and kidney transplant patients. [[mattesonml@health.missouri.edu](mailto:mattesonml@health.missouri.edu)]

**Melissa Gabriel '97** who went to the Philippines with Kit Hadwiger during school will return on a mission trip in February 2008 to repair cleft lips/palates. She lives in Denver and works in a MICU. She has a 20 month old son, Carson. [[melissa\\_gabriel@hotmail.com](mailto:melissa_gabriel@hotmail.com)]

**Heidi (Chepurnov) Johnson '98** has been working as a legal nurse consultant for a law firm based out of Kansas City for 8 years (she transferred to the San Francisco office in 2001). Heidi and her husband Chris have 18 month old twins (Samya and Levi) and a 4 month old daughter (Kalia). She is currently working part-time, reviewing medical evidence, traveling to meet with experts and preparing attorneys for trial. [[HJOHNSON@shb.com](mailto:HJOHNSON@shb.com)]

**Jacqueline Morgan '98** completed a masters in Nurse Anesthesia in 2005 and has been working and teaching at the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics. She will soon be moving to Wisconsin.

**Jamie Neal '98** completed the PNP program at Columbia University in New York City. She worked several years as a traveling pediatric nurse before settling in NYC to do her MSN. ! "I am moving home to Kansas City over Memorial Day". [[jamien13@hotmail.com](mailto:jamien13@hotmail.com)]

**Miriam (Block) Crandall '03** My husband, Corey Crandall (2004 Truman Grad), and I, after serving in an orphanage in Romania for 6 months moved to Blue Springs, MO where he is a software engineer for General Electric and I am a full time mom of two wonderful kids—Abby 2 years old, and Luke 3 weeks old. I also work PRN for Children's Mercy Hospital in the Emergency/Trauma Department, which I love! Life is going very well, keeping me blessed and busy! [[miriamgrandall@gmail.com](mailto:miriamgrandall@gmail.com)]

**Sally Carlisle '04** and her husband, Patron, welcome a new baby boy named Adrian to their family. She works for Hospice and is taking courses for the Nurse Educator Program at Mizzou. They also have a daughter Dionne who is in second grade.

**Tanya Hentges Harden '04** continues to work at Boone in L&D and postpartum on the day shift. She is considering taking the inpatient OB test for her RNC. Her husband Wes will graduate from med school in May 2008. She is unsure where residency will take them. [[tanyamarie11@hotmail.com](mailto:tanyamarie11@hotmail.com)]

**Hattie McDowell '04** Hattie has returned to the states after serving in Iraq. "I want to thank everyone for their support and prayers during my deployment". She also made national news with Katie Couric while caring for a young girl in Iraq found in a dumpster. [[hattalina@hotmail.com](mailto:hattalina@hotmail.com)]

**Carissa Allen '05** continues to work at Wayne County Hospital in a wide spectrum practice (ER, OB, etc.). She recently became engaged to another RN at the hospital and is planning a June wedding. [[allen\\_carissa@hotmail.com](mailto:allen_carissa@hotmail.com)]

**Alice Lasco '05** I bought a house. I am still at TMC in the MICU. It seems I learn more everyday there. I am still on nights and Sara Schlomann ('06) has joined our team so work is really great. [[scroodles28@yahoo.com](mailto:scroodles28@yahoo.com)]

**Amanda Bull '07** Passed boards and loves work. [[aandjbull@aim.com](mailto:aandjbull@aim.com)]

**Michelle Kwart '07** started her job at Cardinal Glennon and loves it so far. [[mmkwarta@gmail.com](mailto:mmkwarta@gmail.com)]

**Elizabeth Sorensen '07** "I am preparing to go to Ivory Coast, Africa for a year to work in a clinic there. I am very excited about this opportunity." [[elizabethsorensen@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethsorensen@gmail.com)]

*Thanks for your e-mails and notes.*

## 2007-08 Faculty & Staff



*Sharon McGahan (retired), Teak Nelson, Stephanie Powelson, Pam Melvin, Steve Hadwiger, Shirley Riley, Pam Gardner, Kit Hadwiger, Sarah Delaware, and Melissa Holcomb. Not pictured: Brenda Wheeler, Corrie Willis, Dee Lesseig, Cindy Mayberry and Lisa Fulkerson.*

## IN THE Spotlight...

### Melvin receives MHA Scholarship



**P**am Melvin R.N., B.S.N., a 1984 graduate of Truman and part-time clinical faculty member, received a \$10,000 Missouri Hospital Association scholarship to complete a Master of Science in Nursing degree

from the University of Central Missouri. She is among 31 nursing students who will receive funding to pursue graduate education requirements for faculty positions at Missouri's nursing schools. "The faculty shortage in Missouri's nursing schools has limited students' opportunity to pursue nursing careers," said Marc D. Smith, MHA president. "The Graduate Nursing Faculty Financial Assistance Grant Program is designed to ease the financial burden for aspiring nurse educators while increasing student capacity in nursing schools."

### Byrum appointed Director of Hospice



**S**tephanie Byrum '04 was recently appointed Director of Hospice of Northeast Missouri after serving as the organization's interim director. Hospice of Northeast Missouri, a not-for-profit health care service, provides palliative care for patients in a nine-county area. She continues to live in Kirksville with husband Dusty and two year old daughter Faith. [[stephaniebyrum@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniebyrum@hotmail.com)]

# Gift/Change of Address

Send this form to **Truman State University**  
**Office of Advancement**  
**100 East Normal**  
**Kirksville, MO 63501-4221**

☐ New Address ☐ Name Change

Name (First, Last, Grad Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

## Comments and News

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please include this information in the *Truman Review*  
☐ Please send me the online newsletter, *News@Truman*.  
I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Truman State University Nursing Department:  
☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Check ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Truman State University Nursing Program**

Please direct my gift to:  
☐ McGahan Family Nursing Fund  
☐ Development  
☐ Scholarship  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ My employee will match my gift. The appropriate form is enclosed.

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

**Drive Code 74**

# 7th Annual Capstones of Nursing

**T**he 7th Annual Capstones of Nursing was held April 26, 2007. The Capstones Day is co-sponsored by Truman's Nursing Dept. and Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing in order to promote nursing scholarship. Dr. Lynn Rossy, Director of Mindfulness Practice Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia, presented the keynote address. The following awards were presented to nurses during the luncheon:

- "NEMO Nurse" Award: Sharon McGahan (Truman State University)
- Preceptor of the Year in an Acute Care Setting: Lynnette White RN (Outpatient Surgery, Northeast Regional Medical Center)
- Preceptors of the Year in a Community Setting: Denise Harris RN and Amy Creason RN (Linn County Health Department)

Please mark your calendar for the next Capstones of Nursing to be held on May 1, 2008 from 10 am-4 pm at Truman.



L-R: Sarah Delaware, Pam Melvin, Denise Harris, Lynnette White, Vanessa Lincoln '04 (accepting for Amy Creason), and Stephanie Powelson.



Sharon McGahan (center) surrounded by nominees, clockwise front to back: Teresa Kirchner, Julie Ruggles, Lori Drennan, Peg Ernst and Marilyn Mihalovich.