

Nursing

at Truman State University

Fall 2008
Nursing
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Making a Difference

Nursing alumni **Elizabeth Sorensen '07**, **Gregg Nurrenbern '06**, and **Ju hyung Kim '06** have chosen to put the knowledge and skills they learned at Truman to good use through volunteerism. They are just three of our many alumni who are making a positive impact on their communities, the nation, and the world through volunteer service. We commend their dedication and thank them for sharing these experiences with us.

ELIZABETH SORENSEN '07

I have been in Abengourou, Ivory Coast since February, working in a pediatric clinic. Two years ago, the clinic began doing HIV testing, and this year has received accreditation from the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and was named the pediatric AIDS testing center for the entire region. Since then, we have been reorganizing the clinic to accommodate the growing need for HIV/AIDS care. We now have over 700 HIV positive patients at our clinic. We also see up to seventy non-HIV positive patients every day who have a wide range of tropical diseases, such as malaria, typhoid fever, pneumonia, diarrhea, and all sorts of skin conditions. It is such a blessing to be able to serve the people of Abengourou. The medical system here is all government-run, and very corrupt. If you go to the hospital, even to the emergency room, you have to pay for the services before anyone will begin treating you. Hospital workers have been known to steal medicine from one patient and sell it to another patient for ten times the actual cost. In the midst of such corruption and dishonesty, our clinic is able to offer quality medical care very cheaply. We offer a wide range of services, and are currently building a new lab that will expand our HIV work even further.



Elizabeth Sorensen '07 walks with African children from the village of Abengourou, Ivory Coast.

Another exciting project is called Community Health Evangelism (CHE). Through CHE, the community is encouraged to identify health problems and ways to fix them. In one of our villages, they were seeing a lot of diarrhea and digestive illnesses, and were able to identify that part of the problem was after they washed their dishes, they simply put them back on the ground to dry. The community campaigned to encourage everyone to build dish-drying racks, and almost the entire village did. They are now working on a malaria project and will soon begin giving out mosquito nets.

This experience has been more than I could have imagined. The things that I am seeing and experiencing are things that I would never be able to see and experience in America. I know that no matter where I end up in the future, whether it is back in Africa or at a hospital in America, this year will be something that will prepare me for anything.

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JU HYUNG KIM '06

This past July, Ju hyung traveled with a group from her church to New Orleans to assist the people whose lives were dramatically changed after Hurricane Katrina in 2006. The remnants of the storm continue to be very visible. There are many houses that remain untouched since the storm, with water marks on the sides showing how high the water had been, and red Xs on the front to record how many people and animals had perished.

“Our project was to work on a historic house that was going to be taken apart one piece at a time and rebuilt in another location. It was a white house that was built by hand with real hard woods and the details carved out by hand. This was the first government funded project to restore a house in this way. The process was being recorded for a documentary and the people from the historic society emphasized how meaningful this project is to the history. We worked diligently and carefully to remove and label each piece of the house, realizing how important it was to do it right

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From the Chair

Homecoming was well attended this year. Several recent graduates from the Class of 2008 were among the returning alumni.

Truman's homecoming fell on the same weekend as my high school homecoming reunion in Wichita, KS (I won't mention how many years ago). I believe it is important to reconnect with faculty and classmates, so I hope you will consider returning to Truman next fall. Homecoming is set for Oct. 10, 2009, and we will look for you. Sarah Delaware will offer a tour of the nursing lab for those

who return. We are always happy to show off our patient simulators; we presently have two adults and one child, with hopes of soon adding a baby to our manikin family.

Plans for moving nursing to Pershing Building are continuing. The Department will have a new and improved nursing lab, classrooms, and offices to accommodate the needs of the students, faculty and staff. In the last year, the current nursing lab has seen considerable improvements with the arrival of six new critical care beds. We hope to add a new critical care column. A fund was opened to support enhancements to the nursing lab. If you have been considering making a contribution to the Department, we would welcome your support of this fund.

The nursing faculty, staff, and students are welcoming Dr. Troy Paino as Provost and VPAA, as well as Interim President Darrell Krueger. Some of you may remember Dr. Krueger who was Vice-President from

1973-1987, and was responsible for hiring several of our nursing faculty. Working with Dr. Paino, Dr. Krueger, and Dr. Sam Minner, Dean, many changes are in progress, including university curricular enhancements, student initiated courses and activities, and new ways of connecting with prospective students.

The Department increased nursing student enrollment this fall from 50 to 60 in response to increased applications and the nursing shortage. Of course, increased student enrollment triggers the need for increased nursing faculty. As alumni often serve as our best recruiters, we would like for you to please keep us in mind for both faculty and student recruitment.

The induction for the Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International is October 25, followed by the Fall Dinner Series on November 11. Our keynote speaker for the fall dinner is Dr. Brenda Higgins '84 speaking about her dissertation research. We would welcome your attendance at these events and encourage you to remain in contact with us.

Best wishes,

Dr. Stephanie Powelson
Chair, Department of Nursing

and well. By the end of the week, we had each piece of the siding and roof removed and carefully labeled.

Two years have passed since I graduated. I had dreams and goals that I wanted to fulfill after graduation. But then I realized that life is not about those dreams but about living everyday, enjoying every moment, and cherishing the loved ones around us. One goes on a mission trip to help others in her little mind, but the beauty of loving others is that God works through those times to teach us a lesson and to show His love for us in return".
juhjungkim@gmail.com

GREGG NURRENBERN '06

Gregg, a varsity wrestler for Truman and B.S.N. graduate, realized a long term goal when he and his wife, Maggie Wolcott joined the Peace Corps. In June 2007, they moved to Ecuador to provide rural public health education for two years. He writes:

"We have now have been in Ecuador a little more then a year. Every day is very different and we are always finding new things to do. I have been helping with first-aid classes, English classes, basic health classes in grade schools, and self esteem classes in the high school. I also help out in the health center about one day a week, and there are medical brigades from the state that I help with the translation. I feel I'm making



Gregg Nurrenbern and his wife, Maggie, surrounded by children in Ecuador during their work with the Peace Corps.

the largest difference in just talking with the people and informing them about life in the states. I'm sure that I'm getting a lot more than I could give in my time in the Peace Corps, but I'll keep trying to help and in the mean time I feel like I'm having the time of my life".

nurrenbern@hotmail.com

Student Life



R-L: Sarah Delaware explains the pulse oximeter to Tina Rhoades '10 and Megan Laughter '10 in the Nursing Center for Caring Arts.



Pam Gardner takes first year nursing students (left to right) Ashley Shields, Jessica Wehner, and Tahamara Ibarra on a pontoon ride around Thousand Hills Lake during Truman Week.



Rebekah Weicken '11 prepares a poster for the "Here to Cheer" group.

(left) Katie Hinrichs '10 takes the blood pressure of Jennifer Jackson '10 at the 2008 Health Awareness Day while Megan Laughter '10 watches.

Congratulations Graduating Class of 2008



1st row: Becky Cross, Story Sollars, Rebecca Strychacz, Anna Ratcliff, Sara Lloyd, Juli Hermanson, Elena Williamson, Lindsey Barkho, Jenny Dine. 2nd row: Melanie Schutz, Amanda Skaggs, Kindra Rickman, Anne Kresie, Megan Merrigan, Sydney Moore, Monica Piane, Megan Galloway, Nohemi Alvarez-Landa. 3rd row: Jessica Holt, Kristen Bruce, Shannon Kelly-Salo, Jennifer Jacobi, Katie Wertz, Joanna Venneman, Rosana Lebron, Molly Mudd, Alison Richards, Sarah Pleiness. 4th row: Kathleen Shaughnessy, Katie Adler, Kim Church, Blake Meyer, Greg Wisar, Jamie Weninger, Bethany Falkner, Katie Johnston, Angie Prost.

8th Annual Capstones of Nursing

The 8th Annual Capstones of Nursing was held May 1, 2008. The Capstones Day is co-sponsored by Truman State University Nursing Department and Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing in order to promote nursing scholarship.

Brie A. Cantrell, RN, BSN, MSN, Program Manager, First Hand Foundation with Cerner Corporation presented the keynote address "Eliminating Paper Charts: Healthcare Informatics Closing the Loop".

The following awards were presented to nurses during the luncheon: "**NEMO Nurse**" Award: **Myra Baiotto**

Preceptors of the Year in an Acute Care Setting: Jo Dixon and Dee Cox (Northeast Regional Medical Center)

Preceptors of the Year in a Community Setting: Vanessa Lincoln (Linn County Health Department) and **Bridget Morton** (Preferred Family Health Care)

The Nursing Department at Truman selects highly qualified registered nurses to serve as role models, mentors, and supervisors for senior nursing students in selected clinical areas of interest. These RN preceptors assist the faculty and students in meeting course objectives in the selected clinical areas. Each year faculty and senior students select and honor acute care and community preceptors of the year.

Keynote speaker Brie Cantrell '01 with Stephanie Powelson.



L-R: Sarah Delaware, Dee Cox, Jo Dixon, and Jenny Dine.



L-R: Sarah Delaware, Corrie Willis, Bridget Morton and Katie Adler '08.



Alumni News & Notes

Share 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)**, or to **nursing@truman.edu**, or by postal mail.

Susan Lambert '93, long time NRMCOB staff member graduated with her masters in nursing. She is currently a clinical instructor for Indian Hills (IA).

Paige (Staes) Whitney '98 brought her family (husband and daughters) with her to visit Truman for her 10 year anniversary. She had a great time and especially enjoyed seeing the changes in the NCCA learning lab with the addition of the simulation manikins. She just completed her MSN in Education from the University of Phoenix and has been accepted for a doctoral program at ISU-Bloomington (IL) starting in January. pswhitney@email.phoenix.edu

Lori Moots-Clair '98 is the Health Department Administrator in Knox County. She is balancing work and home life with 7 month old son, Cooper. She recently hired Truman alum Jean Kanan '05. moots1@lpha.dhss.mo.gov

Lena Fairless '00 lives with her husband David in Neenah, Wisconsin on Lake Winnebago. They welcomed daughter Amelia to their family in April. Lena is a Clinical Nurse Specialist who focuses on projects and education. "Most recently I chaired the planning committee for a 4-state conference for the North Central Region of the Wound Ostomy & Continence Nurse's Society. I am currently trying to start a local chapter of AMSN (Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses)." lena_fairless@hotmail.com

Cheri Smith '01 "After graduation I entered the Navy and headed to Camp Pendleton, CA (near sunny San Diego)! I spent 3 years there, loved it, and left! I'm now in Hawaii, practicing as a Clinic Manager, and haven't looked back! I love Hawaii, and plan on being here for at least 2 years, and then back home after that." cherismith2001@hotmail.com

Hayley Henrikson Estrem '02 lives in Hillsborough, NC with her husband, Mike, and works at Durham Regional Hospital PACU. She is nearing completion of her MSN from Duke and has a two year old son named Alex. hstrem@hotmail.com

Katie Regnery Wallis '03 completed her MSN in 2006 while working part time in the ICU at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. She was married in April and is currently working in the Patient Safety and Quality department at BJH and loves it. ktregs@hotmail.com

Ndidi Okanu '04 has been working at Cook County Hospital in Chicago on the med-surg unit for the past 3 years and is planning to attend Loyola University's Graduate Nursing Program in the spring. Ndi12@hotmail.com

Candice Murdock Walker '05 lives in Mexico, MO and is a Nursing Instructor at Moberly Area Community College. She is working on her MSN and has two children, two year old Gage and 9 month old Grant. Candicew@macc.edu

Matt Doellman '06, 1st Lieutenant in the Army, is stationed at Fort Riley, KS and working in the Emergency Department. "I will be deploying with the 47th Combat Support Hospital overseas to

either Iraq or Afghanistan (they don't tell us until the deployment date gets closer) in August 2009. My plans are to hopefully do a tour in Germany and prepare for the Army anesthesia program". *matthew.doellman1@us.army.mil*

Mark Litwiller '06 has been working at Boone Hospital in Columbia, MO. "Things are well here. I have been considering approaching the master's program at MU. Right now I am going to look at nursing administration, but I will see where that takes me". *markaaronlitwiller@hotmail.com*

2LT Pham '07, known as "Twink", was commissioned into the Army in Dec. 2007. She is now working as a registered nurse at an Army clinic at Ft. Lewis, WA and has been participating in training courses in TX and WA. She and Cadet Caitlin Cummings, a current Truman senior nursing and ROTC student, were stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA this summer when Dr. Powelson attended an ROTC conference for nurse educators.

Anna Ratcliff Gall '08 married Micah Gall in August and they live in South St. Louis where Anna works at St. Johns Mercy Medical Center in the Trauma Intermediate Care Unit. While flying to San Francisco for her honeymoon, she put her training to good use assisting a fellow passenger who passed out from dehydration. After a surgeon made an unsuccessful attempt at starting an IV, Anna took over and was successful on her first try. "I was like a celebrity on the plane, people asking me if they could buy me something to eat or drink. It is an experience I won't forget." *ratcliff12@hotmail.com*

Katie Wertz '08 is living in Nashville and working at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. *kate.wertz@Vanderbilt.Edu*

Sara Lloyd '08, 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force, started officer training in Montgomery, Alabama on August 25 and will graduate September 25. She will then go to San Antonio (or Lackland AFB) to start the nurse transition program (1.5 weeks in orientation, 2 weeks on the medical surgical floor and then I will spend the rest of the time on the OB floor). On Dec. 17th she will be home for Christmas and on Jan. 2nd will start at Andrews AFB. *sjl904@truman.edu*

Thanks for your e-mails and notes.

IN THE Spotlight...

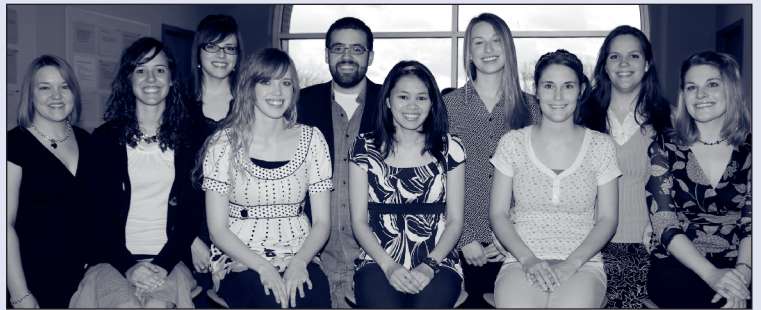
Baiotto Named Nurse of the Year



Myra Baiotto receives NEMO Nurse of the Year Award from Steve Hadwiger of Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, Inc.

Myra Baiotto R.N. was named "NEMO Nurse of the Year 2008" at the 8th annual Capstones Luncheon on May 1. Myra has served in a variety of professional nursing positions including Director of Nursing at Laughlin Hospital and as faculty for the Kirksville Area Vocational Technical School Program. She has also served the Northeast Missouri area improving health and promoting wellness through a variety of volunteer activities including American Red Cross Volunteer Coordinator, Truman State University Nursing Advisory Council.

2008-09 Nursing Student Scholarship Recipients



L-R: Alyssa Lewellen, Emily Reinart, Theresa Weinhold, Mary Allemang, Benjamin Hainline, Kristin Hinson, Megan Laughter, Danielle Brewster, Julie Finazzo, and Kelsey Mason. Not pictured: Erin Randall.

Nursing Advisory Council



The Truman State University Nursing Advisory Council met in April for the annual update from the Department and to provide input. First row L-R: Myra Baiotto, Charles Baldwin, Delores Lesseig, Brenda Higgins, Maria Di Stefano, Shirley Riley. 2nd Row: Carol Race, Bonnie Collier, Odessa Ofstad, Alice Allinson, Ranee Brayton, Judi Misale. 3rd Row: Mary Laird, Lesa McCartney, Jack Magruder, Mark Laughlin, Garry Gordon (VP for Academic Affairs), Becky Pike (Advancement), Dennis Smith.

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

Drive Code 74

Homecoming 2008

It was a perfect homecoming weekend in Kirksville...the weather was beautiful, the parade lively, and the football team victorious. We enjoyed visiting with alumni at our annual nursing homecoming reception, reminiscing about the past and catching up on the present. We hope to see even more of you next year. Contact your classmates and have them come along too.

Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2009 on October 10th!

Stay in Touch Using the Nursing Web site

We have made an addition to the nursing website to make it easy for alumni to stay in touch with us. Please visit <http://nursing.truman.edu/> and keep us up to date on your address, name, employment, and life changes. We enjoy keeping up with you and hearing about what is happening in your lives. It is simple and quick. Just visit the website, click the word alumni in the left column, click submit alumni information, fill in the blanks and submit the information. Be sure and give permission if you would like your news included in a future newsletter.