

Nursing

at Truman State University

Spring 2008
Nursing
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Gragg Named Vice President for Program with the Missouri Foundation for Health



Martha King Gragg '81 said she was always interested in “helping people meet their health care by making positive changes”. That is why she became a nurse. After 26 years of working in nursing and hospital administration she accepted the position of Vice President for Program for the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) which allows her to impact health care in big ways. MFH, the largest healthcare foundation in the state with 1.3 billion dollars in assets, helps develop and fund healthcare programs throughout the

state. Gragg has the responsibility of overseeing approximately 55 million dollars for grant making efforts in nine funding areas: Access to Primary Care, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, Healthy and Active Communities, Health Literacy, Chronic Care, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oral Health, Women's Health, and Health Interventions in Non-Traditional Settings. She works with 17 staff members to cover 84 counties in Missouri and the city of St. Louis.

As a high school student in Milan, Missouri working in laundry, central supply, and later as a nurse at Sullivan County Memorial Hospital (SCMH), Gragg worked her way to CEO and then to MFH. How did she do it? According to Gragg, “Hard work and a knack for recognizing areas that needed improvement, making changes and bringing out the best in people.”

Gragg received a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Truman State University in 1981 and returned to SCMH for 3 years to work as a registered nurse in medical-surgical and emergency room, and then she started a Critical Care Unit. The small hospital provided her with a vast array of nursing and leadership experience. In 1984, she took a position as an ICU nurse at Humana Hospital in Overland Park, Kansas and worked her way

to Unit Manager of ICU and Telemetry Units. Receiving her master's degree in nursing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1991 she worked as a nurse consultant for Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA) regional office in the Medical Review Branch of the Health Standards and Quality Division in Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. HCFA is now known as CMS-Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. Moving back to northeast Missouri in 1994, she accepted a position as Director of Quality Improvement, Employee Health, Infection Control, Utilization Review and Case Management at

— cont. on back

NCCA Fund Established



Rachel Tharp '10 demonstrates the Nursing Sim Vital Kid to Nursing Advisory Council Member, Myra Baiotto.

A fund has been established to improve the NCCA (Nursing Center for Caring Arts), the learning lab where students spend much time learning assessment techniques, nursing skills, and care of patients. It also serves as a learning hub for seminars, demonstrations, and clinical conferences. We have recently increased our lab space and have added many new things, including 3 new human patient simulators, 6 new beds, 3 console unit head wall systems, etc. There are many other items on our wish list.

Our goal is provide our students with a true, state of the art, simulation care center. Please consider making a donation, large or small, to this very important fund. (See back page of Newsletter for details.)



From the Chair

Last spring we were in the midst of Barnett Hall construction, and this spring we are planning for Pershing Building renovations. The faculty and staff from the Department of Nursing have met twice with the architects, and a third visit is planned. The Department will have a new location with an improved nursing lab, classrooms, and offices to accommodate the needs of the students. The move to Pershing Building will bring the faculty, staff, and students in greater contact with the students in health sciences, exercise sciences, and communication disorders. Dr. Sam Minner, Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Education, is co-chair of the Advisory Committee for Pershing Building.

In the last year, the nursing lab has seen considerable improvements with the arrival of six new critical care beds and two patient simulators. A third patient simulator is on order, and we hope to add a new critical care column. A fund was opened recently 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 students are busy with classes, service projects, internships, study abroad, and summer plans. Several of the seniors have already accepted positions or have made plans for graduate studies. Many students are actively pursuing research projects and internships. Kit Hadwiger is preparing a group of junior nursing students for study abroad in the Philippines. Our students have many opportunities for new challenges and growth.

We look forward to the Nursing Capstones on May 1, and visiting with Brie Cantrell, Class of 2001, who is providing the keynote address. Additionally, the Nursing Recognition Ceremony is May 9. We would welcome your attendance at these events.

Best wishes,

Dr. Stephanie Powelson
Chair, Department of Nursing

Advocacy Day



Truman State University Department of Nursing Faculty Steve Hadwiger, Stephanie Powelson, Pam Melvin and Corrie Willis accompanied senior nursing students to Jefferson City for Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day on Feb. 12, 2008. The students visited with Representative Rebecca McClanahan, Senator Wes Shoemyer, and other legislators and representatives regarding health care issues in Missouri.

Student Life



Brenda Wheeler (right) reviews a patient chart with Kristen Carter '09.



Brenda Wheeler with junior students (L-R) Kristen Carter, Bethany Allemang, Emily Greenwood, and Mandy Martin at Northeast Regional Medical Center.



Pam Gardner (right) instructs sophomore students Katie Hinrichs and Jamie Menown on the proper way to take a blood pressure.



Joanna Venneman '08 prepares to practice the technique for TB skin testing on Elena Williams '08 while Megan Merrigan '08 looks on.



Health Awareness Day: Lindsey Barkho '08 works at the alcohol abuse screening booth.



Career Day 2008: Seniors Beth Falkner and Molly Mudd look over career opportunities.



Homecoming 2007

Homecoming 2007 brought alumni back to Truman to visit and reminisce with classmates and faculty on October 27, 2007.

Alumni from the Class of 1987 (left) celebrated their 20 year reunion. Front, left to right: Peg Ernst (Kirksville) and Anita Hofman Koeller (Elmwood Park, IL). Back left to right: Jana Shelly Fluchel (Wentzville), Michelle Murphy Cadice, and Jana Buwalda Ogden (Bloomfield, IA).

We hope to see many alumni back in the fall for **Homecoming on October 4, 2008**. The Department of Nursing will hold their annual reception in the Student Union Building immediately following the parade. A special welcome goes to the classes of **1983** and **1998** for their 25 and 10 year class reunions. Gather your classmates and come visit us.

Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International



On Friday, October 12, 2007, 14 senior nursing students from Truman and 8 nursing community leaders were inducted into Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.



First Row: Jenny Dine, Megan Merrigan, Juli Hermanson, Anne Kresie, and Joanna Venneman. Second Row: Katie Adler, Lindsey Barkho, Amanda Becker, Shannon Weber, Nohemi Alvarez-Landa, Alison Richards, Story Sollars, and Katie Johnston. In absentia: Shannon Kelly-Salo, Kathleen Shaughnessy, Jamie Weninger, Nita Coale, Milagros Baello-Germino, Michelle Matteson, Gail McCurdy, Teresa Roth, and Corrie Willis.

Rho Omega Attends Biennial Convention

Rho Omega members joined over 2,000 nurses from around the world in Baltimore, MD to participate in the honor society's 39th biennial convention. **Jenny Dine '08** and Steve Hadwiger presented a poster session entitled "Breast Cancer Survivors' Insights Following Treatment." Stephen and Kit Hadwiger also gave two papers at the same meeting "Primary Healthcare for a Rural Baranggay in the Phillipines" and "Transcultural Nursing Experiences in the Phillipines: A Global Collaboration." Brenda Wheeler and Stephanie Powelson presented a paper titled "Interdisciplinary Clinical Education: Implementing a Gerontological Home Visiting Program." President Sharon McGahan and Secretary Martha Smith attended as Rho Omega delegates.

L-R: Stephanie Powelson, Steve Hadwiger, and Jenny Dine at the Sigma Theta Tau International Convention.



Whatever Happened to ... ?



Have you ever wondered what some of your former professors are doing now?

We thought you might be interested to know what Dr.

Gretchen Cornell (Professor of Nursing at Truman 1974-2002) is up to these days. We found her alive and well in Utah and this is what she had to say.

"I'm a Professor of Nursing at Utah Valley State University, soon to be Utah Valley University. We are starting the new ASN and BSN programs in the fall. Our new MSN program, with an emphasis in nurse education, will begin in the fall of 2009. I am in various stages of development on the courses I am writing. I moved to Utah in 2002 to be with my children who were all located here. Now, they are spreading out across the country again and I will have to decide whom to follow. Bob and his family are in Stillwater, Oklahoma where Bob teaches Accounting at Oklahoma State and his wife, Ashlee is in a nursing program. Becky and her family are in West Jordan, Utah where Becky has her own business in medical transcription. Her husband is with the Associated Press.

Bill is in the MBA program at the University of Virginia and his wife, Alisa is an RN at the hospital working in the Neuro ICU. David and his wife, Deanna, live in Salt Lake City. He is a Middle Eastern studies/Arabic major at the University of Utah and Deanna is a stylist.

So, I am very busy keeping up with them. I hope to be working for a few more years to support my quilting and travel addictions. David, Deanna and I went to Egypt last summer and had a great time---but I now know not to go to the Middle East in the summer! I love the weather in Utah (no humidity) but will move on if all of my kids are out of state."

You can contact Dr. Cornell at cornelgr@uvsc.edu

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Homecoming on Oct. 4, 2008!
<http://nursing.truman.edu>

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.

Melissa (Goldie) Gabriel '98 returned to the Philippines on a mission trip in February (nearly 10 years after going with the Kit Hadwiger's Truman nursing group) to work with children to repair cleft lip/palates.

Lori R. Moos-Clair '98 is administrator for the Knox County Health Department.. mootsl@lpha.dhss.mo.gov

Anna (Fochner) Watson '99 has worked several different positions since graduation, all on telemetry units. She and her husband Mike, a resident in pediatrics at St. Louis Children's Hospital, stay busy with twin boys, Alex and Marty who are approximately 15 months of age. She is currently working weekends as a staff nurse.

Brie Cantrell-Holman '01 will be the keynote speaker for Truman State University Nursing Capstones on May 1. She will speak on Nursing Informatics. Brie is employed by Cerner Corporation in Kansas City as the program manager for First Hand Foundation. brie.cantrell@Cerner.com

Amy Heidotten '02 continues to work at St. Louis Children's Hospital as Interim Bone Marrow Transplant Coordinator. "There are times I miss taking care of the kids as a staff nurse does, but I really enjoy what I am doing." Amy also stays busy volunteering her time working with the Girls Scouts and the St. Louis Chapter of the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT).

Hattie McDowell '04 is a civilian again. "I am enjoying civilian life and currently working with a travel agency in St Louis, MO. I am working in an ER and I love it...I am very thankful that I got to experience life as an army nurse." She plans to marry in June. hattalina@hotmail.com

Sally Carlisle '04 was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, International at the University of Missouri and is preparing papers for publication. She is considering returning to the Kirksville area. Sj_carlisle@yahoo.com

Tanya (Hentges) Harden '04 and her husband Wes are the proud parents of a new daughter, Clara Marie, who was born 6 weeks early on March 20, 2008. She weighed 4 lbs. 11 oz. tanyamarie11@hotmail.com

Mary Klein '06 joined the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecelia in Nashville, TN as a postulant and in July 2007 received her Dominican habit and new name, Sister Mary Gianna.

Amanda McKinley '06 has been accepted into the 2008 Nurse Anesthesia program at the University of Iowa. Elzbt72@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Sorenson '07 recently arrived in Abengourou, Ivory Coast, Africa to fulfill a year long mission. "I'm just beginning to get an idea of how wide the scope of the HIV crisis is. Today was a 100% day, meaning that 100% of the HIV tests we did came back positive." elizabethsorenson@gmail.com

Megan Otten '07 joined the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus in Kirkwood, MO as a postulant.

Thanks for your e-mails and notes.

IN THE Spotlight...



17 Time All-American Swimmer

Nursing Student and All-American Swimmer **Emily Greenwood '09** finished her last season on the Truman State University Women's Swim Team as a 17 Time All-American. She helped the Bulldogs become the 2008 National Champions at the NCAA Division II Swimming & Diving Championship at the Mizzou Aquatics Center March 15 in Columbia, Mo. This makes seven national championships in eight years for the

Truman women swimmers.



Dine Presents at NCUR

Jennifer Dine '08 was selected to present her research project *Breast Cancer/Lymphedema Survivorship and Meaning-Making of Illness* by NCUR (National Council on Undergraduate Research) at Salisbury University in Maryland on April 10-12, 2008. NCUR brings together over 2200 undergraduates involved in scholarly and artistic activities across the nation. Dine also presented at the Sigma Theta Tau International meeting in Baltimore, MD in November 2007.



Hadwiger TruTech Challenge Winner

Stephen Hadwiger, associate professor of nursing was one of the three grand prize winners in the 2008 TruTech Challenge, a juried competition of faculty, staff and student projects showcasing effective educational uses of technology. For his project, Hadwiger developed interactive web-based modules for his students to

complete in preparation for each class period. The TruTech Challenge prizes were awarded at Truman's Sixth Annual Technology Fair on the afternoon of University Conference, Feb. 20, 2008.

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Seven nursing students from the Class of 2008 were recognized at a luncheon on February 23, 2008. Left to Right: **Lindsey Barkho**, **Bethany Falkner**, **Jamie Weninger**, and **Jennifer Dine**. Not pictured:



Jennifer Jacobi, **Joanna Venneman**, and **Gregory Wisa**.

Outstanding Student in Nursing 2007-2008



The 2007-08 Outstanding Student in nursing is **Juli Hermanson '08**. Following graduation she plans to work in Neurosurgical ICU at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

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Office of Advancement
100 East Normal
Kirksville, MO 63501-4221

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Comments and News

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

Please direct my gift to:

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 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

2008 Calendar of Events

- April 3 Student Research Conference
April 3 Rho Omega Dinner and Dialogue
April 10 Advisory Council Meeting
May 1 Capstones
May 9 Class of 2008 Recognition Ceremony and Reception
May 10 Graduation
Oct. 4 Truman Homecoming/
Nursing Reception

Gragg, cont. from p. 1

Kirksville Osteopathic Medical Center. In 1997, Gragg accepted the position of CEO at SCMh, as the small hospital was struggling to remain open, due to financial problems. Under Gragg's leadership, the hospital became financially stable, increased the scope of health services offered, and improved the quality of health care to residents of Sullivan County. She was active on a variety of boards and committees with the goal of improving health care to the people in rural northeast Missouri. Her memberships have included American College of Healthcare Executives, Missouri Hospital Association Board of Directors, and Missouri Board of Respiratory Care. Gragg was a charter board member for MFH from 2000-2005. She was Chair of the Board, Program and Grants committee, and of the Strategic Planning Committee. When the position of Vice President for Program became available she was interested. "She has a long standing, intimate understanding of the Foundation's roots. She brings a perspective we've not had, the perspective of rural Missouri," said Dr. James Kimmey, MFH President and CEO.

Gragg remains involved with the Department of Nursing at Truman State University as a member of the Nursing Advisory Council and Rho Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. She is also a member of the Lambda Phi Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau at UMKC. Gragg is the mother of 23 year old son, Tanner, and enjoys traveling. Though she lives in St. Louis, she can be found many weekends at her home in northeast Missouri entertaining friends and riding horses. She can be contacted at mgragg@mffh.org