

**Saint Cloud State University**  
Department of Nursing Sciences  
Nursing Alumni Newsletter  
Fall 2007

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Welcome to the second SCSU Nursing Alumni Newsletter. There is now an alumni link on the SCSU Nursing Webpage where alumni news will be stored. Go to <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/nursing/alumni.asp>

**ALUMNI NEEDED TO CHAIR AND COORDINATE THE NURSING ALUMNI ORGANIZATION**

The nursing alumni is in need of alumni to form a board and direct activities for the nursing alumni. Organization of activities and the newsletter would be done by alumni who know what is needed for a successful and useful group. We have assistance in posting information to the website.

**Current faculty** include:

Jane Bagley  
Jenny Bishop now Bauerly  
Patty Bresser  
Darlene Copley  
Sue Herm  
Mary Hoenig  
Georgia Dinndorf Hogenson  
Brenda Lenz (Chair)  
Leslie Morrison-Sandberg  
Joyce Simones  
Susan Johnson Warner  
Joan Wilcox

**SOUTH AFRICA - STUDY ABROAD**

Joan Wilcox is developing the first study abroad nursing program from SCSU to South Africa in May 2008 as a Capstone Site.

**ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAM**



The Charter class of the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program is nearing completion of the 16 month course of study with plans for December graduation. Capstone presentations will be followed by the traditional pinning ceremony on December 13, 2007 in Atwood Center on campus. The six members of the class all hold at least a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing and bring diverse backgrounds from Biology, Kinesiology, Communications, Psychology, Music and Community Health to the study of nursing science. They bring education and experience from SCSU as well as diverse institutions and states. The class plans employment in the area or metropolitan cities of MN. They are Justin Anderson, Deidra Burgoyne, Lynn Lampi, Abigail Rossing, Courtney Taufen, Candace Winscher.

**Capstone Presentations**

- Thursday, Dec 13th beginning at 5:00 pm in the Atwood Student Center – Voyageur's. All are welcome to attend.

The students were placed in a variety of clinical sites including Coronary Critical Care at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, the Family Birthing Center at Woodwinds, Woodbury, and four sites at St. Cloud.

## **NURSING OFFICE NEWS**

Carrie Barth – our student service coordinator has a beautiful baby girl – Ellie. Sam Schendzielos has been taking over this position while Carrie is on maternity leave and is great working with both faculty and students.

Our new office manager is Karen “LaRae” Ross, who comes to us with excellent organization abilities and wonderful people skills. Elizabeth Krauss is the Nursing Science Lab coordinator who is very experienced with juggling faculty and student requests.

There are 3 student workers who assist with clerical tasks  
1 Nursing students continue to be employed at the Nursing Science Lab

## **NURSING SCIENCE LAB**

The nursing lab continues to be a very busy place. With more simulation each semester, scheduling becomes quite a challenge. The Lab coordinator – Elizabeth Krauss is excellent at orchestrating all the happening with expertise.

## **NURSING CLUB**

Each month we do blood pressure screenings at Benet Place. For Our October meeting, Samantha (student service coordinator) came to speak to the group about the nursing major and the process of applying since many of the students were pre-nursing. Several juniors and a few seniors were there to answer questions from the pre-nursing students and it was a nice way to meet each other!

The Navy recruiter came about 2 weeks ago to talk about navy nursing and give their yearly presentation. Other suggestions for the year include volunteering at St. Bens, and maybe the children's home, and working on the Wick science nursing display. Last year we were able to participate in much more, but the process of combining organizations has been difficult!

## **BROWN HALL RENOVATION**

Plans are continuing for the Brown Hall renovation. We are still in the planning stages and do not have a definite date for ground breaking

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

'04 - Amanda Hitching (Weber)  
Working as a charge nurse in the Medical Progressive Care Unit at the St. Cloud Hospital

Married to Joe, have 17-month old son, Jackson, and expecting 2nd baby any day now, due date is December 19th  
That's really about it!

'04 - Kristin Brandt (Payne)  
Well some info that can be shared about me is... I am still employed at St could hospital, have been there going on 6 years. I am still in the float pool and currently going to 12 different units. I received my clinical ladder level 3 at St Cloud hospital this November. November 25th we were blessed with the birth of our daughter Bella Marie Brandt!!!! She is so wonderful I have started to look into getting my masters. I would like to look into teaching in nursing. (Having a child may slow that up just a bit...) I will be trying to organize another "first class" get together this summer. Anyone interested in helping can contact me.  
I hope all is well with you and your family. Hope you have a great holiday!

'04 - Nicole Bloch  
I am currently employed at St. Cloud Hospital in the CCU, I have been there since graduation. I was married November 17th, 2007 to my husband Lucas and we are currently trying to start

a family!!! I am very excited to see the alumni newsletter.

'04 - Lisa Bahr

I'm glad the program is going well, I know a few of the students who have gone and are currently in the program. Although we were the first graduating group and it was tough at times, I am so glad I attended and made it through!

Not too much is very new with me. I am currently working as a Director of Nursing at Annandale Care Center, have been in this position for over a year. It definitely has its challenges but I love it! I am still considering returning for my Nurse Practitioner, no exact plans at this time. Other than that, I reside in Cold Spring. Hope things are going well for you; thank-you for doing a newsletter, it will be great to hear from the alumni!

'04 - Karen Webb

Does anyone from the Charter class keep in touch? I would love the chance to tell everyone hi. As you know I've moved to Colorado-Boulder area. I'm teaching full time, work part time on a Telemetry unit, and plan to be done with my master's in education in August. Send everyone my best! Thanks, Karen Webb

'04 - Bridget Huber

Hi all!

I continue to work at the St. Cloud VAMC in the Sub Acute/Rehab/Ventilator unit. I have also been the Women Veteran's Program Manager for the past 3 plus years and now will be passing the torch to our new WVPM --an NP, as we open our first ever true Women's Clinic. I will then serve on a committee for the program and continue to work with outreach opportunities.

TJ and I have a daughter, Taryn Rae who is now 23 months! She is truly the light of our

life, a very happy and independent toddler. I absolutely love being a mom.

We built a new home in Clear Lake and just moved in about 2wks ago. We love living out in "the country" and Taryn enjoys the ATV rides! Would also love to get together with everyone.

'04 - Jared Crotteau

I am doing great. I continue to work at Mercy Hospital in the ICU. I have been there for over 3 years now, boy it time flying by. I live in Coon Rapids and I am engaged to be married this Spring. No children at this time, thankfully, because we have no time the way it is. Future plans are to go to school for adult nurse clinician at the University of Minnesota or at Metro State. My goal is to become a part of the internal medicine group. Hope everything is well, tell everybody I said hello.

'04 - Jen Gieser

I am currently working as a childbirth educator at women and children Centra care Plaza. I teach early pregnancy classes, labor classes and I host the breastfeeding support group. My husband and I are currently living in Sauk Rapids yet. Hoping to move soon. We have also welcomed 2 more children into our family besides Avery who was born before senior year. Our daughter Calla arrived in November 2005 and our son Elliott arrived July 2007 both arrived about 6 wks early like their big brother.

'05 - James Campbell:

I am currently working at Methodist Hospital in the ICU. I have been there since graduation in 05. Will be getting married to my long time girlfriend also a SCSU alumni in Oct 08. I am working towards a masters degree in Informatics

at Walden university. Almost though my first semester and it is going well. Planning to graduate in two or three years. I see some opportunities with my current employer once I get my degree so I will most likely be working for Methodist for a while.

'05 - Melissa Erdadl

I did a three week nursing volunteer trip in Kenya, participating in a medical mission in remote villages and helping to set up a dialysis clinic.

I took a new job at the Minneapolis VA as the permanent charge nurse opening a brand new Traumatic Brain Injury/Polytrauma unit (Iraq and Afghanistan soldiers). It is a Transitional Unit – one of only 4 in the US. We took our first 'participant' in October.

'05 - Suzie Clement-Lal RN

Occupational Health Nurse Specialist  
Banner Corporate Occupational Health on site at

Honeywell – Sky Harbor – Phoenix AZ

M-F No weekend and no holidays

1 ½ weeks off at Christmas time.

Frequent trips to San Francisco

Kelvin and Alisica love to boogie board in San Diego

Home to Minnesota to visit x 2

Jamaica trip

Plans in the works to move to San Francisco Bay area next year

My brother (Danny) who is 39 years old is battling Stage 3 Melanoma.

He has had a couple of surgeries on his head and neck, several lymph nodes have been removed already. He is being treated in St. Cloud at the hospital and the cancer center. After radiation, he will be starting on interferon treatments.

'05 - Angie Gebhardt

Currently working at Monticello-Big Lake Hospital in L&D, postpartum, newborn not

yet planning on future grad school endeavors.

We have 1 child, Hunter, 1 year old between the two of us working, and saving, no vacations yet!

Thanks!

Hope all is well!

'05 - Melissa Massmann

I am currently employed at St Cloud Hospital on the Surgical Care Unit. I was also trained to work in the Surgical Progressive Care Unit.

I am still married to my wonderful husband John and we welcomed our first baby into the world on September 27th. Ryan came a month early, but was very healthy. He weighed 7 pounds 5 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. He is such a joy!

Since graduating my husband and I have been to Hawaii twice and can't wait to return for a third time. We also spend a lot of time camping.

'05 - Rochelle Franklin

Jobs : I work at the Bentonville Northwest Health Hospital in Bentonville Arkansas. I work in Labor and Delivery

Families: I am recently divorced and now single. Bergen is 5 now and in Kindergarten.

Vacations: Most of my vac time is spent coming home to MN to see family and friends. However I just took a girls trip to Memphis and had a great time. It is a good city for a short fun trip.

'05 - Jill Hauge

Married to Alan Hauge, we lived in Arizona for 1 1/2 years, have a 16 month

old son Ashton, now back in Minnesota. I currently work at Woodwinds Hospital in Woodbury as a labor and delivery nurse. And we live in Farmington.

'05 - Cathy Keller

I have been working at CentraCare River Campus Clinic for 18 mos now in the neurosurgery department. I do telephone triage, chart and imaging prep for clinic visits, patient pre-op education and development of interdepartmental teaching tool that the nurses use to educate the patients. I love my job. It doesn't pay as well as the hospital but I work 4 ten hours days with no weekends, nights, or holidays. My husband and I are planning our first trip to Las Vegas in February.

'05 - Shalei (Vereen) Valentine (I took my maiden name back)

I am working at the University of Utah Hospital on a med/surg floor as a charge nurse. I still only have my two little girls ages 5 and 3. My family and I are taking a trip to Singapore in March 2008 to visit my sister who lives there. We will be visiting Vietnam, Bangkok and Thailand. We are all healthy and happy and doing well. Oh yeah, I found love. Online. 😊

'06 - Justin Wirth

Graduate school: not yet.

- Jobs: VA psych.
- Families: just one. Wife, myself and our new son Salvador.
- Vacations: 18 years from now. Jk - this spring we are going to a wedding in Texas.
- Etc. Busy Busy Busy.

'06 - Katy Neff

I am currently working at the U of M in the medical ICU and LOVE it! I have been involved with some crazy situations and continue to learn everyday. Will be

applying to anesthesia school in the fall! Cross your fingers!

'06 - Kris Kok

I am working at Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar and recently took a job in the float pool. I had a summer intern for the summer and will soon be precepting a senior nursing student from Bethel College. I am on the hand-off communication task group. I will likely be doing some clinical teaching in the Spring for Ridgewater College nursing students. Jeston and I are still in Kandiyohi and enjoy spending time with our dog, Brody. We spend a lot of time fishing and being at the lake in the summer. Other than that, not much is new here. I look forward to the newsletter! Hope the semester is going well!

'06 - Denise Kohout

Recently engaged- wedding date of 10/4/08 Addition to family- baby boy- Owen Jerome Massmann- born 12/1/07.

'06 - Kari Euteneur

Graduate school = no plans at this time. I like being done with school!!!

- Jobs = still working at my first job - Albany Area Hospital. I work M-Th straight nights as charge nurse taking care of patients, obs, surgicals, and ER.
- Families = still waiting on that engagement! Same boyfriend.
- Vacations = went to the Florida Keys for 5 days this November with friends.
- Etc = certification in ACLS, trauma nursing (TNCC)

'06 - Nicole Ouke

Hmm.. information about me: Since graduation I became a certified deep sea scuba diver and spent 2 weeks diving in Mexico and spent the summer diving in MN lakes. I just spent some time in D.C. visiting my brother and assisted taking care of his 3 children. I plan to go to Belize in January for 2 weeks to dive the second best diving reef in the world. And, I applied for grad school, but am not sure if I am ready to leave OB L&D yet. It's been an exciting year!

'06 - Jen Jessen Olson

I don't know what exactly you want to include in the news letter, but I just got married Nov 1, and I'm expecting a baby in May. I look forward to getting the news letter and seeing what's new!

'06 - Lisa Hasbargen

I can't believe it is already Christmas, how time flies. I have recently made a switch in my nursing career, I have gone from being a cardiac nurse to a Labor and Delivery nurse. I started on the Family Birthing Unit, here at Meritcare in Fargo, in the middle of October.

First, I was orientated to Mom/Baby and now I am actually learning how to be a labor and delivery nurse. It is all very exciting and I really love it so far. My son is now 2 years old and busier than ever, we are still located in Fargo, ND. It is really nice being so close to family. Hope everything is going well at SCSU. Have a good holiday,

'06 - Kristi Mulliner

Graduate school - NO  
Jobs - Children's Hospital Mpls Hem/Onc  
Ect - Bought townhome in Burnsville

'06 - Kari Quernemoen

Graduate school - NO  
Jobs - Children's Hospital Mpls Float Team  
Family - Married in Oct '06 - 1st baby due Jan 10th (gender unknown)

Ect - Bought townhome in Otsego

'06 - Dana Ratike

My husband and I had a baby girl on August 19, 2006, three months after graduation, and she is now 16 months old. I have been working in the med/surg department at Hutchinson Community Hospital and have recently taken on the roles of Resource Nurse (similar to charge nurse) and Orientation Specialist.

'07 - Corinne Renn McCalla

I married Eric McCalla on November 17th, 2007 at the St. Paul Conservatory Gardens. It was a beautiful wedding and married life is great! We live in our home in Watertown, MN. I have been working at North Memorial Medical Center on the Mother/Baby Unit since July 2007 and enjoy it very much! We are looking forward to taking our honeymoon trip to Hawaii in March. Best regards to the class of 2007.

'07 - Kelly Tomczik

I got engaged! I am getting married on Oct. 4th, 2008 in St. Cloud. Working in SCH ICU. That's about it! Still coaching the Sartell Sabre Dance Team

'07 - Kris Nord

I worked at Mercy Hospital ER for 5 months, and am currently employed at Buffalo Hospital ER.

I just gave birth to a little girl on 12-7-07. She was 8 pounds 14.6 ounces and 21 inches long. Her name is Kalah Lynn Nord. Big sister Hannah is so excited.

Those are the big things in my life now. Take care. Kristin Nord

'07 - Chelsea (Greninger) Wheeler

After graduation I started at the Mayo Clinic's Methodist Hospital in the OR. I

got married in August, had my honeymoon in Kauai where I hope to someday retire:) Beautiful!! My husband and I bought a house in Northfield, MN.

'07 - Amy Cruser

-Going to Graduate school at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN for Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist

- Working at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, MN in the ER as an RN and at Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby, MN as an EMT on the ambulance

-Hobbies: trying to spend as much time with family and friends when not working or doing homework

'07 Sarah Heilig

Sarah Heilig, Rn Class of 2007

I am working for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN at St Mary's Hospital in their Medical Intensive Care Unit. I am blessed to be working with a terrific team of interdisciplinary staff. It is challenging and rewarding each day. I live in Rochester along the Zumbro River and the world's largest population of geese!

'07 Deb Burch

Info: I have been working at the Children's Center of SCH since graduation. Primarily I have been in the NICU, but am now cross training to pediatrics. On a personal note, I now only have 4 kids at home, the nest is getting smaller!