



The Methodist Alumni Connection

Winter 2010

Alums in the Spotlight

Carly (Smollen) Hornig '08 was selected as the August Employee of the Month at Omaha's Lakeside Hospital. She is an RN on the Oncology floor.



Carly (Smollen) Hornig

Debra Schutte '82 received her PhD from the University of Iowa in 2001, where she was faculty until 2008. She is currently an Associate Professor at Michigan State University. Her areas of expertise are gerontology and genetics; specifically her research aims to examine the contribution of genetic and environmental factors to behavioral symptoms in persons with Alzheimer's disease in order to better tailor interventions. Deb recently collaborated with Deborah Conley, PhD, an assistant professor of nursing at NMC, in writing a chapter on Chronic Confusion for a gerontology textbook.

On October 5th, **Daniel Smith '06** was presented with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The DAISY Foundation sees nurses as "unsung heroes" and recognizes them for the caring and compassion they consistently demonstrate to patients and their families. Daniel is employed full-time at Children's Emergency Department and works supplemental at Methodist Women's Hospital Emergency Department.



Daniel Smith (front row)

Mary Meyer-Torres '79 was the recipient of the RN of the Year Award for Scripps Clinic. Mary is a 19 year employee of Scripps and currently works in Plastic Surgery at Torrey Pines in San Diego, California. The announcement of her award read, "Mary is noted for her patience, empathy and knowledge as well as good old fashioned Midwestern common sense and a keen sense of humor. She truly epitomizes the definition of advocate for both patients and her fellow nursing team. Mary enthusiastically promotes, protects and optimizes health, the prevention of illness and injury and the alleviation of suffering. She is kind and caring, a comfort to her patients and an inspiration to her fellow nurses."



Mary Meyer-Torres

The March of Dimes Excellence in Nursing Award recognizes nurses from across the state of Nebraska for their outstanding work - Nurses whose leadership and contributions have made an impact on their community and the profession of nursing. The reception and dinner was held on October 21st in Omaha at the Qwest Center. **Marky Weeks '99, Barb Petersen '90, Jan Wintle '77 and Kathy Morris '78** served as committee members. **Kim Hall '09, Sharon McArdle '91, Susan Needham '82, Michelle Schwedhelm '82, and Sue Weekly '75** received Excellence in Nursing Awards. **Amanda Berkland '06, Don Kusek '75, Jan Morgan '98 & '04, Alice Osborn '87, Sharon Smith '70 & '02, and Amy Waszgis '08** were also nominated for this prestigious recognition. Our future alum, Kim Pettegrew, was a Student Nurse Award Winner.

You can help support our new student scholarships by donating items to our 2011 Silent Auction!

Donation ideas include hand-crafted items, themed baskets, baked goods, and gift certificates. Be creative - every gift will make a difference in the lives of our scholarship recipients!

Your donation is tax deductible and a letter of receipt will be provided.

Please bring or mail your items to Denise Carlson at the College **by Friday, May 20th**. Contact her at 354-7256 or (800) 793-3964 or Denise.Carlson@methodistcollege.edu with any questions.



Class Notes

Go to www.methodistcollege.edu/alumniinfo to submit your news, change of address, etc. Or call Denise Carlson, Director of Alumni Relations, at 402-354-7256 or 800-793-3964 – she would love to hear from you!

Congratulations to Susan (Otte) Cantrell '04 - our winner of this issue's \$50 gift card! Send in your Class Note update and be entered in the next drawing! The lucky recipient will be announced in the spring newsletter!

1970s

Finnigan, Cec (Sercl) '70 – writes, “My husband James M. Kelley was escorted to the Gates of Paradise by Angels on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. He was diagnosed on June 11th, 2010 after complaining of a backache. One lesson I've learned from this experience is that even cancer can't snuff out the love and support of family and friends.”

Boyd, Marcele (Novotny Rexius) '79 – previously practiced in neurology and now is a cardiac clinical nurse. She writes, “I had three boys born in 1981, 1985, and 1986. My eldest son, Chad, died of complications due to diabetes in 2003. I married Randy Boyd in 1996 and moved to Wisconsin.”

Henry, Maria (Beraldi) '79 – lives in Omaha and writes, “I work at Immanuel Hospital in the pre-surgical assessment area. I have been here 24yrs, and have worked many areas - critical care, mental health, outreach and I also worked at St. Joes in their pediatric trauma area. I have three wonderful children: Ricky (23) is a starting offensive guard for the Huskers and will graduate this year; Tara (21) is in her 3rd year at Metro acquiring her prerequisites for Radiology; and Heather (17) is a senior at Burke who wants to be a teacher. I was recently at the NE/Washington game and ran into a Methodist Alum. I am amazed that wherever I am in the U.S. I always seem to run into a former student of Methodist School of Nursing. In my free time - there is none!! - I try to attend all Husker games and work on my house.”

1980s

Finnigan, Karla (Zink) '82 – and her husband, Mike, reside in Papillion, Nebraska. She is a poison control center nurse.

Dilbeck, Kolleen (Korinek) '82 – lives in Santa Barbara, California.

Atkins, Kimberly (Turner) '85 – was “lost” but recently sent in an update. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Pierce, Nebraska and their daughter, Hannah, is a current NMC student. Kimberly's area of practice is nursing informatics.

1990s

Johnson, Lisa (Anderson) '91 – and her husband, Don, have 5 children. She writes, “My oldest is going to graduate in 2011 and is looking at Methodist for school. My next daughter is in 8th grade, next daughter is in 6th, youngest daughter is in 4th and our son is in 2nd. I work for American Home Patient. We do an assortment of things for patients such as oxygen setups, vents, apnea monitor and CPAP machines. I also work for Craig Home Care and I take care of two boys that I have been with for 13 years. We live outside of Osmond, Nebraska. I'm busy with our church - I teach Sunday school and my husband and I are co-youth leaders for the older kids. Our kids keep us busy with softball, baseball and 4-H.”

Fischer, Beverly (Gow) '92 – and husband, James, live in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Beverly is a hospice RN.

Cairney, Keri (Suhr) '95 – is an RN currently working at West Lakes Surgery Center in West Des Moines, Iowa. She and husband, Doug, reside in West Des Moines.

Toomsen, Janet '99 – is a graduate of our Master's in Health Promotion program. She recently moved to Louisville, Kentucky from Texas.

Class Notes

2000s

Hultman, Shelley (Sirois) '02 – and her husband, Justin, reside in Omaha. Previously an RN on an IMC unit, Shelley is now an Administrative Coordinator at Methodist Women's Hospital.



Mike and Shelley Atwell

Atwell, Shelley (Claus) '03 – was married to Mike on October 9th in Connecticut. He is an officer in the US Navy stationed at STRATCOM, Offut Air Force Base. Shelley received her Master's degree from our Health Promotion program and is a Trauma/ED nurse at Creighton. The couple live in Papillion, Nebraska.



Jason Ernesti



Ernesti, Melissa (Richt) '03 – has worked at Lakeside Hospital in the ICU for 5½ years. She and Curt were married on 07/07/07 and they had a little boy, **Jason**, on October 3, 2009.



Cantrell, Susan (Otte) '04 – and her husband, Josh, welcomed their second daughter on August 5th. Avery (3) loves being a big sister to **Harper Jane**. Susan is an RN with Childrens Physicians in Omaha. She was the happy recipient of the \$50 gift card - just for sending in her update!



Smith, Daniel '06 – and his wife, Eugenia, welcomed a son on June 6th. **Wyatt** joins big sister, Siena. Residing in Blair, Nebraska, Daniel recently started a supplemental position in the Methodist Women's Hospital Emergency Department. See Alums in the Spotlight for more on Daniel.

Amos, Nicole (Lary) '09 – is a graduate of our Radiologic Technology program. She was recently married on October 2nd. Living in Griswold, Iowa, Nicole is a radiographer at Montgomery County Memorial Hospital in Red Oak, Iowa.



Craig and Megan Johnson

Johnson, Megan (Zittritsch) '09 – was married on June 5th to Craig. She is an RN at Omaha's Lakeside Hospital.

Krohn, Danielle (Salber) '09 – was married to Tom on September 11th. They live in Albion, Nebraska. Danielle practices as an RN in Grand Island, Nebraska on a med/surg/oncology floor.

LeMaster, John '09 – resides in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is an ortho/med-surg RN.

Nihsen, Ashley (Leinen) '09 – writes, "Tony and I were married on August 7th, 2010. Landon is now 2½ years old! We are at home in Panama, Iowa." Ashley is a Labor and Delivery nurse at the new Methodist Women's Hospital.



Ryba, Jennifer (Clausen) '09 – writes, "We welcomed our first baby, **Zoey Grace Ryba**, into our family on October 26, 2010. She weighed 6lb 3oz and was 19¾ inches long."



Zoey Grace Ryba

Ward, Andrea '09 – writes, "I started Clarkson College for my masters in nursing specializing in family health nurse practitioner. I have an expected graduation of spring 2013. It is hard to believe that I have been an RN a year now! It is going great. I am currently working on the heart team in the MOR."

Allou, Caroline '10 – writes, "I just started working as an RN full time at Methodist Hospital (8 South, Progressive Care) and I am learning so much. I am also working part time at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home as a charge nurse. Both jobs keep me busy and are very diverse."

Gaines, Kiley (Petersen) '10 – was married to Brandon on September 4. She writes, "I passed my boards in June and began working in Children's Emergency room. I absolutely love it!!!"

Hall, Karla '10 – and her husband, Timothy, reside in Des Moines, Iowa. She graduated with her Master's degree from our Nurse Educator program and has a new position as an Assistant Professor at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines.

Class Notes

Hines, Jennifer '10 – was one of our first Physical Therapist Assistants graduates. She resides in Lincoln, Nebraska and is working with brain injured patients at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Sokol, Kathleen '10 – and husband, Kevin, reside in North Port, Florida. A graduate of our MSN program for Nurse Educators, she has recently accepted a full-time teaching position at Keiser University in Sarasota, Florida.

Witt, Laura (Spaulding) '10 – was married to Cory on September 18th at Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue, Nebraska. Residing in Omaha, Laura is an R.N. working at Boys Town National Research Hospital in asthma and allergy clinical research.



Cory and Laura Witt



In Loving Memory



The Alumni Association makes a \$25 donation to the Methodist Hospital Foundation in memory of each deceased alum. Please notify Denise Carlson, Director of Alumni Relations, by phone at (800) 793-3964 or (402) 354-7256 or e-mail at Denise.Carlson@methodistcollege.edu. You may also send obituary notices to her at Nebraska Methodist College – The Josie Harper Campus, 720 North 87th Street, Omaha, NE 68114.

<i>Barbara (Penrod) Reeder '37</i>	<i>Fern (Tinkham) Kloeppep '39</i>	<i>Frances (McCormick) Schmidt '47</i>
<i>Amy (Jurgens) Watkins '52</i>	<i>Betty (Evans) Kelley '54</i>	<i>Florence (Lear) Ross '55</i>
<i>Beverly (Stalnakker) Shaw '59</i>	<i>Rochelle Nelson Heller '61</i>	<i>Diane Hard '75</i>
<i>Joy Welk '00</i>	<i>Angela (Anzures) Shirley '01</i>	

Calling all Methodist Hospital School of Nursing Cadet Nurses!

Your recognition as our “unsung heroes” is past due and we will celebrate your contributions at the 2011 Reunion Dinner on June 3!

Please send photos and other mementoes - they will be returned to you - to Denise Carlson, Director of Alumni Relations, Nebraska Methodist College, 720 North 87th Street, Omaha, NE 68114. We will compose a video to be shown at the dinner.

We do hope you can join us for your long-overdue tribute. Contact your fellow cadets and encourage them to attend! Do not hesitate to call Denise at (800) 793-3964 or 354-7256 if you need contact information.



The Nebraska Methodist Cadet Nurse Choir as pictured in the May, 1945 edition of The Probe newsletter



Patty Palmer Moon '45,
Veleta Sternberg Greenbaum '45,
Rowena Burgess Taylor '45

NMC Project Will Honor Charlotte Schultz



Dennis A. Joslin, Ph.D., RN
Honorary Alumnus '99
President and CEO
Nebraska Methodist College

Many of you have previously made donations as a tribute to **Mrs. Charlotte Schultz '77 Honorary**, and we are excited to announce our utilization of those funds for a very special project. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our Vice President for Student Affairs, **Dr. Kris Hess, '06 Honorary**, and her committee, construction will soon begin on an innovative approach to enhance our students' learning experience.

Known as a learning commons, the College will be renovating targeted areas on campus to better respond to the needs of today's students. The learning commons will combine the full resources of the John Moritz Library along with a range of academic support services, thus providing a continuum of services in a one-stop shop model. Additional quiet and collaborative study spaces will be infused along with an exciting new coffee bar. The project will create an inviting new hub for our students.

I am very pleased to announce that in recognition and honor of all she has done for the School of Nursing and the College, the area will be named *The Charlotte Schultz Learning Commons*.

As always, you are invited to visit NMC to see what is happening at your alma mater!

I look forward to seeing you around campus in 2011 and at alumni events as well. My best wishes to you and yours for a happy holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Be an "Angel of Care" to Students in Crisis



Cynthia S. Peacock
President & CEO
Methodist Hospital Foundation

Each year at the Alumni Association Christmas Celebration, there is a beautiful little Christmas tree decorated with crystal angels and hearts. The "Angel Tree" is present to receive financial gifts for The Student Crisis Fund.

The Student Crisis Fund provides financial support to current NMC students in desperate financial situations. Students are referred by faculty and staff for this assistance. Bills eligible for consideration are those that directly support a student's ability to continue his/her education, and checks are always made payable to the creditor.

Some examples of assistance provided by The Student Crisis Fund include helping a student who had a house fire and lost all her possessions. Another student suddenly became the custodial parent of her teenage sibling. The fund also assisted a student with a diabetic pump, who while trying to work out issues with her insurance, did not have the money to pay for diabetic supplies.

Without The Student Crisis Fund, these students might have dropped classes or even dropped out of school entirely. By making a gift to this fund, you become an "Angel of Care" to students in need.

If you would like to make a donation to The Student Crisis Fund, please call Methodist Hospital Foundation at 354-4825, and we will be happy to assist you.

Photo Gallery

3rd Annual NMC Alumni Volleyball Tournament



First Place Competitive:
Flunkies and Fluzies



First Place Recreational:
The Candie Ankersen Team



Many thanks to **Sheila Brown '04**, **Barb Butcher '01**, and **Rob Hughes '08** for chairing the event! Rob also designed the shirts that players received with their registration (seen on **Barb** above).



Second Place Competitive:
Notorius D.I.G., led by team captain,
Jami Novak '05 (front row, middle)



Second Place Recreational:
Last But Not Least, a student team



A student team joins us for their second year at the tourney.



Teammates soak up some sun in the sand while waiting to play.



Katie Herrick '10, second row



Sixteen teams of alums, students, and friends participated - playing recreational or competitive rules under sunny skies at The Digz in Omaha.



Sonography alumni team

Congratulations to August 2010 Graduates

Go to www.methodistcollege.edu/alumni/news to view photos of NMC's August 2010 graduates.

Photo Gallery

6th Annual Pumpkin Patch Family Event



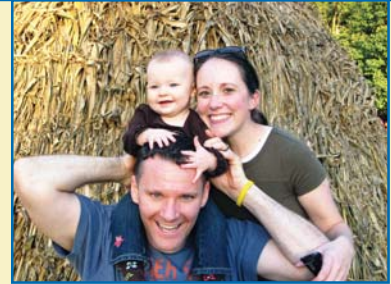
Where there's smoke; there's fire! Folks gather around the bonfire at Vala's Pumpkin Patch to roast hotdogs and make s'mores. Food and drinks were provided compliments of the Alumni Association.



Mari Alice Christensen '55, (Nursing) (center)



Josh '03 (BSN) and Robyn '99 (BSN) Hall



Michael Olsufka '09 (Rad Tech)



Many students and their families came to join in the fun on the beautiful day of October 5th.



Jamie Carmichael '05 (Resp Care)



Dr. Margie Dubes (right), General Education Professor



Dr. Deb Carlson, Director of Institutional Research and General Education Adjunct

Christmas Coffee & Connections held December 4th



Dr. Linda Foley '01 Honorary, Jennifer Ryba '09, Shanna Meegan '09, and Dr. Marilyn Valerio '02 Honorary



Lucille Freer '41 and Emiko Ward '58



Chris Hoebelheinrich '01 & '10, Annie Reilly '07 & '08, and Kyle Boysen '08



Sue Wulf '74 puts the finishing touches on the Angel Tree.



The CHS Singers from Omaha's Central High School provide delightful entertainment.



Members of the Class of '56 gather to connect with one another during the holiday season.



Michael from the Garden Cafe serves up delicious potato casserole, sweet rolls, and fresh fruit to alums at the brunch.

The Nebraska Methodist College online graduate programs have students enrolled from 21 different states and 2 military bases. The two military bases represented are in Atsugi, Japan and Okinawa, Japan. While many of the students are from communities across the state of Nebraska (36 total), an almost equal number of students (34 total) hail from states as far away as Texas, California, Florida, and New York. The students enrolled in the online graduate programs are currently registered in the following programs – Health Promotion Management (HPM), Medical Group Administration (MGA), Nurse Educator, and Nurse Executive.

Check out www.methodistcollege.edu/academicprograms to learn more.



SAVE THE DATE!
11th Annual Golf Tournament

Due to overwhelming positive feedback, we will return to Eagle Hills for the June 17th event. Save that Friday for a day of fun in the sun. Not a golfer? Friends and family are welcome! Pass the info on to them. All proceeds benefit our new student scholarships.
 More details in the spring issue of *The Methodist Alumni Connection*.

The Methodist Alumni Connection
 Managing Editor: Denise Carlson
 Design Layout: Tina Knauss

Best Wishes to You for the New Year!



*Jeans are welcome ~
 Boots and Hats are Optional!*

THE 2011 REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD
"BACK IN THE SADDLE"
 We are going with a more casual fare for this year's reunion...
 and a significantly reduced cost!
 2010 Reunion Dinner = \$30
 2011 Reunion Dinner = \$15!!
 The Alumni Association is "splitting the cost" with you!

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