Dr. Terrence Nordstrom Named Assistant Vice President of the Division of Academic Affairs

Samuel Merritt University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Terrence Nordstrom, Assistant Academic Vice President of the Division of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Nordstrom will primarily be involved in project management of issues related to achieving strategic goals of the academic division. His initial set of projects will include: 1) coordinating the Office of Academic Affairs’ efforts to formalize, in concert with faculty, a meaningful inter-professional effort that can be embedded within the curricula of all Samuel Merritt programs; and 2) working with select Sutter Health (SH) affiliates to gain broader access by all SMU students to Sutter Health clinical sites. He will also work with faculty to begin investigating the potential to establish an SMU outpatient clinic designed both for faculty practice and for student clinical experiences.

In addition to these responsibilities, Dr. Nordstrom, along with Dr. Penny Bamford, Assistant Academic Vice President, will assume responsibilities for representing the Academic Division in a variety of both internal and external events, projects, and report responsibilities.

Dr. Nordstrom has been the Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at SMU since 2003 and on the faculty since 1992. His professional experiences include: co-owner of Hayward Physical Therapy; Director of Rehabilitation Services at Stanford University Hospital; co-owner of Nordstrom Rehabilitation Services; and positions as a physical therapist at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, South Bay Home Health, and Easter Seals in Oakland.
Dr. Nordstrom received his bachelor’s degree from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1975, and his master’s degree in physical therapy from Stanford University in 1977. He earned his Doctor of Education degree from the School of Education at the University of San Francisco in 2008. He currently holds positions as the Vice President of the Academic Council of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), the physical therapy profession’s educational association, and as a member of the American Physical Therapy Association’s Ethics and Judicial Committee. His scholarly work is in the area of ethics and complexity science. He is an active member of a research team with a grant from the APTA to conduct a study of excellence in physical therapy education.
Dr. Nicole Christensen and Dr. Rolando Lazaro have been appointed co-chairs of the Department of Physical Therapy.

Nicole Christensen, PT, PhD, MAppSc and Rolando Lazaro, PT, PhD, DPT, GCS have been appointed co-chairs of the Department of Physical Therapy.

Dr. Nicole Christensen has taught Patient Client Management I, II and III and Case Studies I, II and III in the Doctor of Physical Therapy at SMU since 2006. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of California, San Francisco and her Master of Applied Science in Manipulative Physiotherapy and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of South Australia. She has practiced in the area of musculoskeletal physical therapy for over 20 years, and has served as part-time and full-time faculty at the entry-level since 1994. Her scholarly work is in the areas of clinical reasoning, mentoring, professional entry-level education for physical therapists, residency and fellowship education for physical therapists and qualitative research. She is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association, Orthopaedic and Education Section and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical.

Dr. Rolando Lazaro has been a physical therapist for over 25 years. He has worked in many practice settings throughout his career as a clinician; outpatient musculoskeletal, acute care, pediatrics, home care, geriatrics and acute rehab. He is a board-certified clinical specialist in geriatric physical therapy and has been involved in physical therapy education for over 20 years. Dr. Lazaro joined the Samuel Merritt faculty in 2004 and has taught Patient/Client Management Neuromuscular I and II, Pathology and Medical Management in Orthopedics I and II and Case Studies III. His research interests are in the areas of physical therapy management of persons with Parkinson’s disease, balance and falls in the older population, physical agents and electrotherapy in rehabilitation, use of medical imaging in physical therapy education and use of technology in the classroom. He is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and California Council of Gerontology and Geriatrics.

Dr. Nicole Christensen and Dr. Rolando Lazaro have been appointed co-chairs of the Department of Physical Therapy.
FACES SUMMER MEDICAL ACADEMY OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SMU

FACES for the Future Coalition’s Summer Medical Academy, designed to spark interest among young people in advanced education, will take place for the second year in a row at Samuel Merritt University (SMU) in July.

Dr. Tomás A. Magaña, Assistant Professor/Medical Director in the Master Physician Assistant Program at the University, is the co-founder and director of FACES, a program that provides healthcare internships, academic support and wellness training to underserved high school students.

“The program was created as an opportunity to expose students to different healthcare careers and encourage them to attend college after graduating from high school,” said Michael De Rosa, PhD, chair of the Master of Physician Assistant (MPA) Program.

“At Samuel Merritt University, the Summer Medical Academy program allows the young students to experience how simulation-based education, human anatomy, and clinical skills are integrated into academic programs.”

During last year’s Summer Medical Academy at SMU, more than 100 at-risk students spent 11 days participating in educational activities that exposed them to various aspects of medical training and clinical practice.

Begun at Children’s Hospital of Oakland by Dr. Magaña in 2000, and now a project of the Public Health Institute in Oakland, FACES for the Future has served several hundred youth, many of whom have gone on to college educations and careers in health-related fields.

The 2013 Summer Medical Academy takes place July 8-19, and is aimed at high school students 15 years or older who are interested in a career in medicine. The Academy offers clinical skills workshops, lectures, simulation lab activities, health career information, and field trips.

Last year, SMU Physician Assistant (PA) students hosted a talent show and silent auction that raised more than $3,000 for the FACES for the Future program.

Dr. Magaña and the FACES for the Future program were recently featured on NBC’s Nightly News which can be viewed at http://dailynightly.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/01/01/16219209-rising-above-the-violence-to-pursue-a-career-in-health-care.

Dr. Magaña also recently received Diablo Magazine’s 2012 Threads of hope award. The Threads of hope award recognizes outstanding East Bay volunteers of all ages who provide vital services in a variety of fields, including but not limited to, the arts, youth, children and families, education, health, the environment, and athletics.

“The program was created as an opportunity to expose students to different healthcare careers and encourage them to attend college after graduating from high school.”

MICHAEL DE ROSA, PHD

DR. TOMÁS A. MAGAÑA
SMU HOSTS JAPANESE DELEGATION FROM SEIREI CHRISTOPHER UNIVERSITY

Samuel Merritt University hosted a group of Japanese visitors from Seirei Christopher University (SCU), a private health science university, in early November 2012. The purpose of the visit was to explore the possibility of a future partnership between SMU and SCU, including student exchanges, continuing education opportunities for graduates, academic staff exchange, and collaboration in projects and research.

The SCU visitors observed classroom lectures, lab teaching, and clinical learning, toured the Health Sciences Simulation Center, and attended several meetings with SMU faculty members and senior administrators. They also attended social events, including a reception at Dr. Arlene Sargent’s home, sponsored by the School of Nursing.

“The visitors were very touched by our warm welcome and hospitality,” said SMU’s Fusae Kondo Abbott (RN, DNSc), who helped facilitate the visit. “They expressed that they learned a lot from the SMU faculty.”

SCU began in 1930 as the Bethel Home in Hamamatsu, Japan, to help homeless tuberculosis patients. A diploma nursing school was established in 1952, and Seirei Christopher College of Nursing was founded in 1992. Currently SCU includes a School of Nursing, School of Rehabilitation Sciences (PT, OT, and ST), and School of Social Work.

President Sharon Diaz, Provost and Academic VP Scot Foster, Dean of the School of Nursing Audrey Berman, Associate Dean of the School of Nursing Arlene Sargent, and Associate Professor and Director, Case Management Program, Fusae Abbott hosted the President of Seirei Christopher University, Dr. Misako Kojima, and her colleagues.

Drs. Terry Nordstrom and Kate Hayner, Program Chairs of the SMU Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy departments respectively, met with Dr. Shohei Ohgi, Professor of Physical Therapy, Dr. Naohito Shingu, Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department, and Chika Kawano, Director of the International Exchange Center. Dr. Elko Fujimoto, Dean of the School of Nursing at Seirei Christopher University, met with members from the SMU School of Nursing.
Many colleges and universities now use social media to showcase accomplishments of students and faculty, promote academic programs, communicate important information to current students, and reach out to prospective students.

Samuel Merritt University encourages use of social media networks as a method for communicating ideas and information, and as part of the educational mission of the University. These networks can be valuable tools for communicating with the public, fellow students, faculty and employees.

Facebook

Facebook currently has 845 million active users. In fact, Facebook accounts for one out of every five page views on the Internet worldwide, and more than 50 percent of the population in North America uses Facebook.

If you haven’t already, we invite you to “like” Samuel Merritt University’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/SamuelMerrittUniversity

We’ll be sharing event information and photos, news stories, alumni features, videos and other information that may be of interest to members of the SMU community. We invite you to join us by “liking” us, and sharing your comments and photos. Please note that “liking” a page creates a different connection than becoming a “friend,” and that the SMU Facebook administrator cannot view any content on your page unless it is designated as public in your privacy settings.

Twitter

Do you tweet? SMU has created a Twitter page.

Follow us there to catch the latest in news, events, and campus announcements: https://twitter.com/SamuelMerrittU

Social Media Policy

Samuel Merritt University is developing policies and guidelines for the use of online media to ensure that privacy laws are being followed and that the University is being accurately represented in communications. We will be sharing the policy in the next few months.

Feedback? We want to hear from you! Email jbaker@samuelmerritt.edu with your questions, comments and suggestions.
Co-chair of the DPT program and Assistant Professor, Dr. Rolando Lazaro and some third year DPT students are studying what space travel can teach us about how to increase balance, mobility and strength in elderly patients by using an anti-gravity treadmill.

Dr. Lazaro, who specializes in geriatrics, is conducting a series of research studies to determine if aging adults who suffer from medical conditions like osteoarthritis and multiple sclerosis (MS) that limit their mobility can benefit from walking with the aid of a device that partially supports their body weight.

“There are actually some benefits when you unweight the body,” he said. “Not putting stress on your bones can decrease pain with mobility by minimizing strain to the muscles and joints.”

“And the more they don’t move, the more they increase their risks for falls,” explains Lazaro. “That’s why you want to increase their confidence for walking.”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) developed the technology behind the treadmill for use in space flight training by simulating what happens to the body when gravity is no longer a factor.

AlterG, a Fremont company, brought the technology down to earth by building its Anti-Gravity Treadmill® for rehabilitation purposes in major medical centers, physical therapy clinics, and sports and fitness programs. Previous research focused on athletes and active young people recovering from injuries, and now the company is providing grants to Dr. Lazaro to study how the technology can work for older adults.

Walking speed is a predictor of survival for the elderly, according to Dr. Lazaro. Studies show that the slower the gait speed, the higher the risk for earlier death.

“And the more they don’t move, the more they increase their risks for falls,” explains Dr. Lazaro. “That’s why you want to increase their confidence for walking.”

Using an intervention called “lower body positive pressure,” patients in the studies put on a specially designed pair of shorts that zip into the treadmill and inflate with air, lifting the body up. The machine can reduce the body’s weight up to 80 percent.

Dr. Lazaro and his research assistants recently completed a pilot study, working with ten healthy adults aged 60 to 85 who did not regularly exercise during 16 sessions over an eight-week period. They discovered improvements in balance, mobility, leg strength and the ability to stand from a sitting position. “I’m really quite excited to find that it works for this population,” said Lazaro.

The research team is currently applying the same protocol to five people with medical issues that affect balance, including stroke and Parkinson’s disease. A third study in the spring will focus on patients with MS in conjunction with Professor Gail Widener, who is researching how best to treat people with the debilitating nervous system disorder under a grant from the National Institutes of Health.
In September 2012, Lazaro and his students presented the findings from their pilot study at the annual conference of the California Physical Therapy Association (CPTA). The students who worked on the project say their involvement in the research helped them develop their physical therapy skills.

“Dr. Lazaro allowed me to be involved with so many facets of the research process, such as data collection and performing various examination procedures. My favorite part was working directly with the subjects,” said DPT student Aaron Megazzi.

Student Erica Siegel said developing the research poster with her classmates for the CPTA conference was a wonderful opportunity to critically appraise the study and defend their work to others in the field.

“The entire process has given me a glimpse into physical therapy research,” said Siegel. “I have a different appreciation of the effort entailed to further our profession to encompass more research since we rely heavily on evidence-based practice.”

WANTED:

**PRESIDENT SHARON DIAZ STORIES!**

2013 marks President Diaz’ 40th anniversary at SMU. We are looking for touching, funny, interesting or life changing “Sharon” stories to publicly share as part of the yearlong celebration. Through the years, President Diaz has influenced the lives and careers of literally thousands of people. Are you one of them? If so, we want to hear from YOU!

Please submit your story to the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at alumniaffairs@samuelmerritt.edu, and indicate your name, your program of study, and the year you graduated. If you wish your submission to remain anonymous, please let us know. Otherwise, your story, along with your name may appear in one of our publications, on the SMU website or at a special event.

Thank you for honoring President Diaz’ commitment to Samuel Merritt University in this very meaningful way.
WHEN AND HOW TO INCLUDE YOUR CHARITABLE CAUSES IN YOUR LIVING TRUST

By James J. Phillips, J.D., LL.M

Many people are invested deeply in their charitable causes. Some give their money. Some donate their time. Some share their talent. To them, their charitable causes are an important part of who they are.

For such clients, I believe in discussing whether they want that legacy to continue in their estate plan after their death.

James Phillips is a certified specialist in estate planning, probate, and trust law with over 30 years of experience with offices in Hayward and Pleasanton, CA.

For more information on including Samuel Merritt University in your estate plans contact Sue Valencia, Chief Development Officer at 510.869.1507 or by email at svalencia@samuelmerritt.edu.
NEW CONTRIBUTION TO THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE WILL ENHANCE LABORATORY LEARNING

Samuel Merritt University has received a gift of $50,000 and a pledge of $75,000 more from Bako Pathology Services to benefit the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM).

The contribution will equip a new clinical skills laboratory, which will resemble a patient treatment room and be used for both teaching and testing of podiatric skills. A portion of the funds will be used to upgrade audio-visual equipment in the existing anatomy lab, enabling students to better view dissection demonstrations and capture digital images for future instruction.

“CSPM is grateful to Dr. Bradley Bakotic, CEO of Bako Pathology Services, for this generous contribution which will significantly enhance our students’ experiences in acquiring both knowledge and clinical skills,” said Dr. John Venson, DPM, dean of the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM).

Dr. Bakotic will also share his expertise in podiatric pathology with SMU students as an invited lecturer in the spring of 2013.

About California School of Podiatric Medicine
The California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) was founded in 1914 as the California School of Chiropody. The name was later changed to the California College of Podiatric Medicine (CCPM). In 2002, CCPM merged with Samuel Merritt University and the name was changed to the California School of Podiatric Medicine. CSPM is committed to providing excellent education and training of podiatric physicians, quality health care, meaningful community service, and innovative research.

About Bako Pathology Services
Bako Pathology Services is a physician-owned provider of a wide array of pathology services ranging from histopathologic examination of bone, soft tissue, and skin/nail units, to microbiology and epidermal nerve fiber density testing. The company is based in Alpharetta, GA.
NATALIE THANH HUA NAMED APMSA OUTSTANDING PODIATIC MEDICAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The American Podiatric Medical Students Association (APMSA) Presidents’ Committee, consisting of the student body presidents and president-elects from each of the nine podiatric medical schools throughout the United States, convened at the House of Delegates Meeting in Washington D.C. this past August to vote upon the winner of the distinguished APMSA Outstanding Podiatric Medical Student of the Year Award. There were nine nominees, each an ascending fourth year student representing each podiatric medical school. Each of the finalists were extraordinary students, but only one student was chosen, and it is an honor to announce this year’s recipient of the APMSA Student of the Year Award: Natalie Thanh Hua, a member of the Class of 2013 at the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) at SMU. Hua received a $1000 scholarship, sponsored by the APMSA. Upon notification of her award, Hua wrote, “It is a great honor to have represented CSPM and to be recognized with this award. The award solidifies my belief that our professionalism as aspiring podiatrists is judged both by how much knowledge and skill we gain at school and how much good we are willing to do with it.”

Hua immigrated to the United States with her family from Vietnam in 2002, while only a junior in high school, and she states that she has always been grateful for the medical care she received as a new immigrant. Clinica Tepati has allowed her to make that meaningful contribution to the community that so kindly gave her such care.

In addition to Clinica Tepati, Hua is heavily involved at CSPM, serving as the student body treasurer and workshop coordinator for the American Association for Women Podiatrists. She also intends to submit a poster for her work at Clinica Tepati at the upcoming American Public Health Association Annual Conference.

Mr. David Applegate, current President of the APMSA, states “Podiatric medical school is extremely demanding. The fact that Hua was able to make such an amazing difference in the community while enduring the rigors of a medical education is truly commendable.”

“IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE REPRESENTED CSPM AND TO BE RECOGNIZED WITH THIS AWARD. THE AWARD SOLIDIFIES MY BELIEF THAT OUR PROFESSIONALISM AS ASPIRING PODIATRISTS IS JUDGED BOTH BY HOW MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL WE GAIN AT SCHOOL AND HOW MUCH GOOD WE ARE WILLING TO DO WITH IT.”

Hua is one of those rare students respected for her honesty, integrity and genuine concern for her colleagues, school and community. She is not only responsible and committed, but has a unique understanding of people—an essential quality of a health care provider. It is a pleasure to congratulate Hua on her podiatric endeavors and to shine recognition on all of the finalists for their individual contributions to their schools and to the podiatric medical profession.

CONGRATULATIONS Natalie!
**CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**

**1954**  
Dr. Ted Deffinger writes, “At age 83, I am eternally grateful for the wonderful opportunity the college of podiatry provided where I was able to thoroughly enjoy my work of 40 years, and provide for my family comfort, but not wealth. It has been a wonderful experience.”

**2004**  
Dr. Michael Hattan was recently named Chief of Podiatric Surgery at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, CA.

**PROVIDENCE COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**1944**  
Marguerite Taylor Dahms Matala writes, “I’m enjoying watching birds, rabbits, coyotes, etc. from my picture window in my living room. Sunsets are awesome!”

**1946**  
June Fox Vandergriff writes, “I have 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren—four of whom are in medical school.”

**PCN CLASSMATES OF 1960 TRAVEL TO SRI LANKA**

Carol Matthews Milano writes, “What? Where? and Why? Questions often asked of PCN 1960’s classmates Tina Spratling Bonaccorsi, Lorrie Bua Vanderveen, Helen deGraf Weltz and Carol Matthews Milano. Well we have to go back to the PCN Class of 1960 Reunion held in June of 2011, when a seed was planted by Tina to visit Sri Lanka and experience a new and different culture. She has been a frequent visitor to this island off the tip of India supporting a non-profit enterprise joining the USA and the island nation. A friend of Tina’s also joined us.

So what is there to do in Sri Lanka, you may ask? I’m sure we only touched the tip of the culture, but for 17 days we were non-stop traveling, learning, eating, drinking, sweating and laughing. Tina worked very hard to give us the

**ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE CCPM CLASS OF 1993**  
Dr. Jane Anderson and Dr. Alona Kashanian are making plans for the class’s 20th reunion to be held on Friday, June 21, 2013 during the Western Foot and Ankle Conference in Anaheim, CA. Be sure that the Alumni Affairs Office has your current email and mailing address by calling 510.869.6618 or emailing cross@samuelmerritt.edu so that we can keep you informed of all the festivities planned and confirm any last minute details.

**CLASS OF 1960.** (TOP L to R): Tina Spratling Bonaccorsi, Carol Matthews Milano, Lorrie Bua Vanderveen, Edith Pietkiewicz, friend of Tina’s, and Helen deGraf Weltz. (RIGHT): Helen deGraf Weltz holding a spider monkey. (BOTTOM): The ladies enjoy a breakfast at the hotel.
best experience possible and she succeeded. We all had a wonderful and memorable time. Some phrases or words like: ‘Muti, banana,’ ‘Shortcut,’ ‘Is it too early for cocktails?’, ‘Let sleeping dogs lie,’ ‘I can’t be out of memory!’, ‘Internet Cafe,’ ‘Does my ankle look red?’, ‘Can we get some cool air back here?’, ‘Dung Stationery,’ ‘For sure wrap your ankle and a wheelchair can’t hurt,’ ‘There’s a spider in my room,’ will now have special meaning for all of us. Thank you so much Tina!”

1958
Ron and Pat Gallagher Gerard celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary January 11, 2013. Pat writes, “We became grandparents November 24, 2012 and the first baby of the class of 1958 is now a grandfather. In September we spent a week camping on the Columbia River and a week at Diamond Lake with Bruno and Loretta Smythe Edinger. Actually, we don’t camp, we relocated as we both have RVs.”

1970
Pamela Lampson McPherson writes, “My husband and I are retiring and are relocating to the Central coast—Santa Margarita probably mid-year. We are building a new home which should be complete in June 2013. We are excited to come ‘back home’ especially since our families are in California.”

1945
Gloria Garrison Ohlson writes, “I am still living in Danville, CA. I volunteer my time at Danville Presbyterian Church taking blood pressures, etc. My husband, Tom, passed away in 2011. I’m so glad for my nurses training... I cared for him for many years before he passed away.”

1948
Marjorie Snyder Way writes, “Margaret Turgeon Johnson and I both 1948 SMH grads are doing volunteer work at hospitals... well, Marjorie only; Margaret travels.”

1950
Ruth Tomlinson Thrasar writes, “I am retired and am living in Cameron Park, CA.”

1952
Jacqueline Hughes Bates writes, “The class of February, 1952 gathered at the hilltop home of Joyce Retzlaff Nielsen. Not only did she treat us to a delicious lunch, but we had the pleasure of meeting her charming son and very beautiful granddaughter. Arlene Humphries Rezents won the prize for coming the farthest—all the way from Maui. Her daughter joined us and was nice enough to take photos of all of us. Aloha! Carol Burman Dodge won the independence award. She drove herself to and from Turlock—what a brave one! Shirley Brickell Goodall arrived with husband Paul. We all remember Paul from their dating days at Farrelly Hall. June Blodgett Lee was accompanied by her daughter Sharon. Sharon is also a Samuel Merritt graduate and a super daughter. Lena Ong Lem and Jackie Hughes Bates traveled via train from Sacramento. They were met at the station by Beverly Allen Rigley and her willing husband Frank, who drove in from Pleasant Hill. And then on to the reunion. Many thanks Frank. We also picked up Dee McCurrie-Curry in Richmond. The long drive up the hill gave us a chance for a good visit. Enes Tonda Lonsway drove over from Novato. We all thank Enes for getting
us organized and together for these reunions. We need her perpetual energy. The reunions are very special to all of us. We love every minute of being together and plan to continue as often as possible.”

1955

Joan Lombardo Duran writes, “The Class of 1955 met for a reunion on September 11, 2012 at Mollie Milligan Oliver’s house in Millbrae, California. Three of our classmates weren’t able to make the reunion this year. They were Jacqueline Malley Bozzini, Virginia Cook Stanton and Marilyn Fontz White. We have been unable to locate the whereabouts of Ruth Moore Chockers, Valerie Hallmark Hower, Roberta Ladyman Swanson and Marjorie Winterton Copsey. Those of our class who are deceased are Joyce Johnson Aigrer, Karen Pruitt, Roila Jones Egger, Sandra Hudson DeGiovanni Neuman, and Norma Scipionie Schneiders.”

1960

Darlene Jones Wike writes, “It is with a sad heart that I pass on this information. Beverly Bean Ramsey passed away on August 8, 2012 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Beverly, also known as Toni, moved to Modesto after completing her training at Samuel Merritt. She met her husband, Clyde, while working at a local hospital. In 1967, they moved to Porterville and she completed her degree program. Bev then worked for 27 years as an instructor in the nursing program at a local college. Beverly and Clyde celebrate their 50th anniversary on May 1, 2012. Their son Brian, and his wife Holly as well as two grandsons will also miss her. She was a dear friend and we have shared many good times and memories.”

1964

Misayo “Kay” Imoto Hoover writes, “After 37 years on a boat we are enjoying apartment life. We now have three lovely granddaughters.” Wendy McGuire Ureca writes, “Naomi Kor Eleccion passed away on December 20, 2012 from cancer. Naomi and I were roommates when we were in nurses training and remained best friends until her death. I married an Ear, Nose and Throat doctor in 1976 and we have three daughters between us. We are happily retired and are currently residing in Napa, CA.”

1967

Linda Wenell Horn writes, “I retired this year after working in hospice for nine years. We moved my mom in with us and now she says that she is reaping the benefits of putting me through nursing!”

1972


1974

Terri Warnock Donaldson writes, “I’ve been living in Alaska since 1995 and loving it. Most of my career has been spent in critical care, the last six years in post anesthesia recovery.”

1975

Sharry Ball writes, “I am currently working as a visit nurse in the field for Vitas Hospice. I have decided to NOT work as a manager any longer and prefer to be back to my ‘roots’ as a bedside nurse, traveling to my client’s home and working with them during this final journey. I also have started my own business and website, www.divinegourdcreations.com.”

1978

Scott R. Petersen writes, “Elizabeth (Libby) Umphred Petersen passed away May 13, 2012 after a three year battle with esophageal cancer. She was 56 years old. Throughout her career as a critical care and burn nurse, she always was inquisitive and looking for new knowledge: obviously, something she learned while at Samuel Merritt. She had a zest for life and an
Libby loved her boys, her family, her animals, and the San Francisco Giants. Her caring spirit, her honest look at reality and her mental toughness will be missed. Her husband (Scott), her sons (Breck and Lee), stepchildren (Scott Ben Petersen and Lisa Nielsen), sisters (Susan Jones, Christine Umphred, and Cynthia Davis) and three step grandchildren survive her. A celebration of her life was held in the Lake Tahoe area on May 27, 2012.”

Elizabeth “Liz” Horowitz writes, “Last fall, I retired! I came to nursing late, graduating from nursing school at age 40, and then worked for 26 years as a staff nurse at Children’s Hospital Oakland. For some of that time I was also a pediatric clinical instructor for Samuel Merritt and other nursing schools. Hospital nursing was a challenging, crazy-making, and satisfying career for me. In addition, teaching nursing students was great. I got a good solid nursing education at Samuel Merritt, for which I have always been grateful. Now I am enjoying an active retirement, keeping busy with family and friends, gardening, hiking, reading, being a docent at a botanical garden, and more.”

Elizabeth Ann Robinson has announced that her book The Soul of the Nurse has been published and is available at CreateSpace (www.createspace.com/4051900) and on Amazon (www.amazon.com/The-Soul-Nurse-Elizabeth-Robinson/dp/1480284246). Elizabeth and her husband, Lawrence Spann, moved to Santa Barbara in 2007 to support her doctoral studies in mythology and depth psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. After completing her doctorate she wanted to write a more personal book that addressed her research more directly and in a practical way for nurses, which meant moving from scholarly and academic writing to personal narrative. The Soul of the Nurse is a love letter to nurses infused with Elizabeth’s pure, audacious, and original voice. It blends her personal story and uncanny love of profession with information every nurse should know about her roots. The Soul of the Nurse also probes the plight of women who feel frustrated in roles that fall short of fully embodied womanhood.

Dr. Rondalyn Varney Whitney has been named Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. Previously, Rondalyn served as the senior research coordinator at Kennedy Krieger Institute. At Kennedy, Rondalyn’s work focused on social skills intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and she innovated projects related to the use of artificial intelligence and scenario-based education to optimize learning for students with social deficits. She also served as the founder and clinical director of the Lighthouse Project in San Jose and initiated pioneering work to embed social skills curriculum in schools throughout the Bay Area. She previously taught at Towson University and is the author of several books, including: Bridging the Gap and A Writer’s Tool Kit. Throughout her career, the focus of her research has largely been related to family quality of life when raising a child with a disability.

Alameda County Medical Center has been named a Baby-Friendly Hospital, making it the third hospital in San Francisco Bay Area with the distinction.”

Michele Bunker-Alberts writes, “Alameda County Medical Center has been named a Baby-Friendly Hospital, making it the third hospital in San Francisco Bay Area with the distinction.”

Kimberly Starkweather has announced her engagement to Luke Detar. A wedding in Carmel Valley, CA is planned for next summer. Kimberly is working as a neonatal nurse at Kaiser Hospital in Roseville, CA. Congratulations Kimberly and Luke!
UPCOMING EVENTS

CSPM Alumni and Associates
2013 WOUND CARE UPDATE AND HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS
Eight (8) Total Contact Hours including 2.5 Units of Radiology
Saturday, April 27, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Health Education Center
Oakland, CA

Occupational Therapy Alumni, Student, Faculty and Staff
REUNION RECEPTION
During the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. Annual Conference & Expo
Friday, April 26, 2013
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Hilton San Diego Bayfront, Cobalt 501
San Diego, CA

Samuel Merritt University/
Providence College of Nursing
ALUMNI REUNION LUNCHEON
Saturday, June 1, 2013
11:00 a.m. Social Hour/Tours
12:00 p.m. Luncheon/Program
Health Education Center
Oakland, CA

Sixth Annual “Samuel Merritt University Day at the Ball Park”
Oakland Athletics vs. Saint Louis Cardinals
Saturday, June 29, 2013
11:30 a.m. All You Can Eat Barbecue
1:05 p.m. First Pitch
O.Co Coliseum, Oakland, CA

Visit the CSPM Booth at the
American Podiatric Medical Association
(APMA) Annual Scientific Meeting
Sunday, July 21 through
Wednesday, July 24, 2013
The Venetian/The Palazzo and Congress Center, Las Vegas, NV

Samuel Merritt University
SCHOLARSHIP DONOR LUNCHEON
(Invitation Only Event)
Thursday, September 26, 2013
10:30 a.m. Planned Giving Seminar
12:00 Noon Luncheon/Program
Health Education Center, Oakland, CA

TRIBUTE DINNER
Honoring President Sharon C. Diaz
Saturday, October 12, 2013
6:00 p.m. Cocktails
7:00 p.m. Dinner
The Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate, Oakland, CA

Physical Therapy Alumni and Clinical Instructor Appreciation Day
Saturday, November 2, 2013
8:00 a.m. to noon Continuing Education Course
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Reunion Luncheon
Health Education Center, Oakland, CA

Samuel Merritt University
ALUMNI HOLIDAY DINNER
Thursday, December 5, 2013
6:00 p.m. Cocktails
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Lafayette Park Hotel, Lafayette, CA

Providence College of Nursing
ALUMNI HOLIDAY TEA
Friday, December 13, 2013
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Health Education Center, Oakland, CA

For more information regarding any of these events or to obtain a current class roster to rally together your classmates to attend, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 510.869.8628.