Doctor of Physical Therapy Students Keep At-Risk Teens Engaged and Thinking about College

Several Samuel Merritt College (SMC) students from the Doctoral Physical Therapy (DPT) program recently learned that giving up their rare time off to mentor young teens to consider careers in healthcare is not about sacrifice at all. Turns out, these students were the ones on the receiving end.

“Our students are looking for opportunities to give back and share their experiences,” said Kathie McWilliams, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services, who helped coordinate the meeting. “The mentors were able to relate stories of how they got into the College and connect one-on-one with the teens.”

“Physical Therapy (PT) is especially fun and interactive. There was no PowerPoint presentation or big lecture. Students got to use the equipment and experience it first hand, and best of all, they were all laughing,” said Heather MacDonald-Fine, Program Manager, Model Neighborhood Program at Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC).

The DPT students mentored nearly three dozen teens from the Model Neighborhood Program, an organization designed to meet the needs of local middle school age students from Oakland Unified School District. The goal of the project was to introduce the young adults to a possible health career in physical therapy.

“The purpose of the program is to inspire young people to pursue a health career and attend college—this is a very important link that allows them to see what is possible locally,” said MacDonald-Fine. “The age gap of 8th grade to college is relatively small, and the college students generally relate very well and meaningfully to our 13-14 year olds. Adolescents are more likely to listen to young people.”

Teens experience Physical Therapy first hand.

Learning Through Doing:

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Students Lend Support to New Orleans Lower Ninth Ward Health Clinic

During the second week of April when most Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) students took off for spring break, Peter Barbosa, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry and Immunology and Director of Research at Samuel Merritt College, and five DPM students flew to Louisiana to provide free podiatric care to New Orleans’ Lower Ninth Ward Health Clinic.

The Lower Ninth Ward, sometimes just referred to as the “Lower Nine,” came to national attention for its tragic devastation in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Few areas in New Orleans were as hard hit as the Lower Ninth Ward. This predominantly African-American, working-class neighborhood remains largely in ruins two and a half years later.

“When we first got to the Lower Nine, I expected to see a few houses in ruins, but what I saw was every other house in ruins,” said Jamie Bakal, DPM student. “Roofs were torn off, spray painted signs on every single house. It was a pretty scary sight because everything just looked so isolated.”
Samuel Merritt College Names New Dean of The California School of Podiatric Medicine

S M U E L M E R R I T T C O L L E G E (SMC) has selected John Venson, DPM, as the new Dean of the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM), effective June 23, 2008. His appointment follows a national search that produced a strong field of candidates. Dr. Venson will succeed Albert Burns, DPM, who announced last spring that he will return to a full-time faculty position at CSPM after serving as Dean since 2003. In his role as the new Dean, Dr. Venson will serve as the Chief Administrative and Academic Officer for CSPM, and will provide leadership and coordination for all aspects of curricular programming of the school. He will optimize the College’s alliances with hospitals for greater clinical clerkship and residency opportunities, promote the growth of clinical research, and serve as the liaison between the school and the podiatric community. The new Dean will be the primary advocate for the podiatric student.

“Samuel Merritt College is dedicated to excellence in podiatric medical education and is confident that Dr. Venson will provide the requisite leadership to achieve that vision,” says SMC Academic Vice President and Provost, Scot Foster, PhD.

Since receiving his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in 1976, Venson has served in a variety of leadership roles in podiatric medical education, accreditation, credentialing, and management. He currently serves as the Associate Director, Credentials, at the American Board of Podiatric Surgery located in San Francisco. His former professional experience includes Associate Professorship and Chair, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine; Chief Operations Officer at the Weil Foot and Ankle Institute, as well as Vice President, Compliance and Operations at Thomas White International. Dr. Venson served as President, American Board of Podiatric Surgery in 1990.

“Dr. Venson is a frequent spokesperson for podiatric issues on local and regional media outlets and brings a wealth of experience to the College in financial management and business best practices,” says Dr. Foster.

A graduate of the Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine, Dr. Venson completed a surgical residency at Thorek Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago. He has also served as a Faculty Scholar at the Harvard-Macy Institute and Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts.

PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT PROVIDING FREE ADVANCED BALANCE TESTING TO PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation awarded the Physical Therapy Department at Samuel Merritt College $20,000 to provide specialized balance testing to persons with multiple sclerosis (MS) in the greater East Bay. Physical Therapy faculty: Sharon Gorman, Cindy Gibson-Horn, Rolando Lazaro, and Gail Widener are the coordinators of this grant. Using the EquiTest®, participants will get a full computerized dynamic posturography (CDP) suite of tests can identify and differentiate the functional impairments associated with MS. To help provide other healthcare providers such as physicians and physical therapists with specialized balance assessment results and recommendations, CDP will be offered to persons with MS. Testing is free, and results and recommendations will be shared with clients and their healthcare providers. Free testing is available to persons with MS who have had a new diagnosis of MS, a change in their MS medication, recent fall or falls, and/or recent exacerbation of their MS.

Testing takes approximately one hour, and persons must be able to stand independently with their feet apart for about ten seconds to qualify for testing. If you or someone you know is interested in this FREE balance testing service, please call our Research Lab at 510.869.6511 extension 4411 to schedule an appointment. We are available for testing Tuesday afternoons and all day on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Through physical activities, the DPT students were able to retain the teen’s attention and inform them about health career training, health education and mentoring support. Program leaders say the mentorship helps reduce the rate of youth unemployment and offer positive job training alternatives.

“PT is not one of the units that the youth get to rotate through when they are in their internship here at ACMC, so this is an excellent way to expose them to even more professional health opportunities that they may not be aware of,” said MacDonald-Fine.

“Everyone was enjoying themselves, actively involved and interested in learning,” said McWilliams.

Since 1995, the Model Neighborhood Program, a county and city partnership with Highland Hospital, has been working to reduce crime and revitalize the community. For more information about the Model Neighborhood Program, log onto www.acchf.org/programs/model_neighborhood.html.

The Reporter is published three times a year for Samuel Merritt College, Providence College of Nursing and California College of Podiatric Medicine alumni, community, friends and supporters. The goal of this newsletter is to keep our readers informed about the College and to link alumni with one another. The Reporter wants to be your voice. Therefore, ideas or articles are always welcome!
I enjoyed treating the patients because it gave me a chance to "We were able to do a lot of diabetic foot education and provided "It's such an unselfish contribution for these young people to come and assist," said Alice Craft-Kerney, RN, BSN, Executive Director, Lower Ninth Ward Health Clinic. "Their services were needed because numerous residents are uninsured and many podiatrists will treat insured patients only, so having DPM students provided an opportunity for patients who have problems with their feet to be examined and given quality care."

For the students, it was an opportunity to hone their clinical skills. "We were able to do a lot of diabetic foot education and provided handouts and nail care," said Chatra Klaisri, DPM student. "They treated us as equals which was really nice."

"I’ve always wanted to do a medical mission and after going to New Orleans, it makes me want to help other communities in need or areas hit by devastation," said Bakal.

"As far as changing the way I’m going to practice down the line, it made me aware of people’s needs and what I’m going to see in my own practice someday," said Johnston. 

When Muhl enlisted in the Air Force in 1975, few women joined the military. "Women have had to prove themselves mentally, physically and emotionally to their male military peers and supervisors," she says. "It was and, at times, is still an uphill road." Perhaps the biggest change has been for women in war zones. "We now carry loaded weapons and know how to use them," Muhl says. On a recent takeoff from Kandahar Air Base in Afghanistan, Muhl’s C-130 aircraft was fired at and the cabin lights had to be turned off, so she donned night-vision goggles to tend to her seriously injured patients.

Muhl says it is difficult for women to maintain their femininity without appearing soft, particularly because it’s so dirty in the field. "I always brief new females going to war that they should bring something nice," says Muhl, who is writing a book titled, My Lipstick.

When the gravely injured ABC News anchorman, Bob Woodruff, was rushed into the emergency room of the Balad Air Base in Iraq, Debra Muhl was one of the first medical personnel to reach him. "I whispered in his ear, "Bob, we’re going to take very good care of you, please hang in there,"记得Muhl, who shaved Woodruff’s head and prepped him for surgery.

Woodruff suffered a traumatic brain injury when he was hit by a roadside bomb while accompanying a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol. Eleven months later, Woodruff called Muhl to thank her for helping save his life, and he included her in his book about his recovery, In An Instant.

As an Air Force Reserve operating room nurse and aero medical evacuation nurse, Lt. Col. Muhl has been all over the world: Somalia, Egypt, Bosnia, Germany, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq and, since October 2007, Afghanistan. She has transported seriously injured troops out of combat zones and accompanied flag-draped caskets of those killed.

"Each time, I would say to either the injured or, yes, even the dead, how very proud and thankful I am for their service to our country," Muhl says. When Muhl enlisted in the Air Force in 1975, few women joined the military. "Women have had to prove themselves mentally, physically and emotionally to their male military peers and supervisors," she says. "It was and, at times, is still an uphill road.

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BECHTEL HALL TO COME DOWN

Some months ago, the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center announced it would begin construction of a new patient tower in 2009 to meet state California seismic statutes by 2013. The planned tower will require the demolition of Bechtel Hall and Towne Court. The last planned semester of classes in current space as well as dormitory residency is Spring 2009.

There are several important issues that will impact students:

1. The Health Education Center (HEC) will be left intact. However, during construction, HEC classrooms along the breezeway will be vacated as construction noise will likely make them unusable for the period of construction.

2. Classrooms in Towne Court and the HEC breezeway will be placed either temporarily or permanently within the current campus perimeter, such that students will not be required to attend class off-campus.

3. The College is currently evaluating options for student housing off-campus, but within close proximity to the campus. Shuttle service will be provided from dorms to the campus. It is the clear intent of the College to continue student housing in apartment style living that will more easily accommodate families and single/private units.

4. The College plans new construction of over 100,000 square feet for instructional areas, faculty offices, student services and some laboratories, although most labs will reside in the Peralta Pavilion, (formerly known as Peralta Hospital), located at 430 30th Street. This space will provide state of the art amenities to facilitate learning of all types.

The College views these substantial physical changes in the campus a monumental step forward in achieving our mission of “becoming a nationally recognized multi-specialty health education institution.” We are also committed to achieving a more centralized “campus feel” for students and faculty. Above all, our focus during construction will be student-centered. To that end, construction crews will be required to follow clear rules in construction that minimize disturbances to students and faculty.

SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE NURSING STUDENTS GET A PERSONAL LESSON IN GLOBAL HEALTHCARE

Accompanied by four Samuel Merritt College (SMC) faculty, more than a dozen Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students traveled to Southeast Asia this past August, to provide free health care services to local Hmong villagers in Northern Laos. This is the third year the College has conducted the medical mission trip overseas, organized by Associate Professor, Valerie Dzubur, EdD, FNP-C.

“As a nursing educator, my job is to make a contribution to the development of a new generation of nurse practitioners,” said Dr. Dzubur.

Dr. Dzubur has been teaching in the FNP program at SMC since 2001. She focuses on health screening, preventative care, and advance health assessment. On August 11th, Dr. Dzubur led 25 people on a two-week excursion to local hospitals, orphanages and villages in and around Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

The trip was part of Dr. Dzubur’s new course, “Interpreting Healthcare in a Global World.” The one- unit elective is an opportunity for her FNP students to travel to places like Laos and Thailand to develop cultural understandings in international healthcare.

“I want the students to have an opportunity to experience what it means to be members of a global community, to develop cultural competence as a process of cultural humility,” said Dr. Dzubur.

Along with providing free medical checkups, the program also support the local community. In recent trips, Dr. Dzubur, through work with the Wind Horse Foundation, has helped build a preschool and sponsor a small orphanage. The Foundation has also bought land in Thailand to create farming projects. This year, the FNP group helped a local public hospital.

“We took a gurney, a simple metal one with padding. We visited this community hospital last year and when we asked what they needed, this was their request,” said Dr. Dzubur.

In conjunction with medical supplies for the clinical screenings, the group also took bags of clothing, books and vitamin supplements for the villagers.

“One key reason for so many deaths and a worsening health situation in rural areas is the lack of medicine and supplies,” said Dr. Dzubur, adding that many vil-

lagers can not afford medicine for many common diseases, such as worms, or other simple treatable infections. One common problem the group encountered in the villages was vitamin A deficiency.

“Night blindness is one of the first signs of vitamin A deficiency,” said Dr. Dzubur. “The deficiency also diminishes the ability to fight infections, decreases growth rate, and slows bone development. In countries where children are not immunized, infectious diseases like measles have relatively higher fatality rates.”

According to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) website, the health care access in Southeast Asia is so poor that in most villages people die from simple diseases that can be cured with ordinary pills.

“Sometimes we provide medicine that we buy from local pharmacies that the patient can’t afford to buy themselves. A lot of people live on $200 a year and some medicine can cost anywhere from $3 to $12.”

At SMC, the FNP program has an emphasis on meeting the needs of multicultural and underserved populations. The funding for the FNP trip was raised and provided by SMC students, faculty, and friends of the College.

Family Nurse Practitioners are licensed and fully qualified to diagnose minor illness and injury, perform health assessments and can order necessary tests. In addition, they can write many prescriptions and monitor chronic disease conditions. A large part of what nurse practitioners provide is preventive care and education. For more information about Samuel Merritt College and the FNP program, log onto the school’s website at www.samuelmerritt.edu.
The following students were selected for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges:

- Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Students
  - Rochelle Carter
  - Traci Isler
  - Cheree Peterson

- Entry-level Master of Science in Nursing Students
  - Monalisa LaFountain-Rivera (FNP)
  - Doctor of Physical Therapy Students

Over 130 alums attended the June 7, 2008 Samuel Merritt College and Providence College of Nursing Annual Alumni Reunion Luncheon held at the Health Education Center in Oakland, California. The day began with a social hour including campus tours, flipping through class yearbooks and reminiscing over black and white photos. Following the social hour, a delicious buffet lunch was served in the Bechtel Room which was decorated in teal and white with a historical display of antique medical instruments and equipment and four mannequins dressed in vintage nursing uniforms in honor of the College’s upcoming Centennial in 2009. For nine members of the Samuel Merritt College Class of 1958, the Luncheon was followed by a sleep over in the College’s dorms to celebrate their 50th Reunion.

To the left are candid photos from the 2008 Annual Alumni Reunion Luncheon:
1. Ruth Fike Butler, representing the Samuel Merritt Class of 1956 on their 50th reunion.
3. Also representing the Samuel Merritt Class of 1958 on their 50th Reunion, L to R: Carol Shelton Galietti and Judy Lindeman Wilkie.
5. Also representing the Providence College of Nursing Class of 1953 on their 55th reunion Patricia Manahan Gwin.
7. Representing the Samuel Merritt Class of 1958 on their 50th Reunion. Front row, L to R: Merilee Herbst Reynolds and Carolyn Stein Occupational Therapy Students

- Nilofar Faghnia
- Clint Larsen
- Michael McCourt
- Jason Neufeld
- Vu Nguyen
- Trenton Wallace

- Doctor of Occupational Therapy Students
  - Rochelle Connelly
  - Caroline Gutierrez
  - Crystal Viegelmann

- Master of Science in Nursing Students
  - Margaret Kirkham
Cabell Adams Receives
AMERICAN PODIATRIC STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION’S HIGHEST STUDENT HONOR

Student doctor W. Cabell Adams from the California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt College (CSPM), Class of 2009, was honored with the American Podiatric Medical Students’ Association’s (APMSA) 2008 Leadership Award at its June House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Rockville, Maryland.

The APMSA Leadership Award is presented to the member of the APMSA HOD who has made the most outstanding efforts and contributions to the APMSA on behalf of students. This annual award honors the APMSA delegate who has consistently worked to further the APMSA’s goals and has shown outstanding leadership both locally and nationally.

APMSA president Jason Woods praises Mr. Adams, “Cabell has served the APMSA and the students well both at his school and nationally with his hard work, dedication and perseverance. He embodies all the tremendous qualities of a strong leader and he is commended by the APMSA and his peers for his tenacity and remarkable efforts.”

Cabell Adams is the APMSA CSPM 2009 delegate and also holds an important position as the APMSA Director of Development and Corporate Relations which oversees the APMSA Corporate Advisory Board (CAB). Through his leadership the APMSA CAB has developed significant non-dues income and programs to benefit students. In this capacity, Mr. Adams also serves on the APMSA Executive Committee and Budget and Audit Committee.

Mr. Woods adds, “Time and time again Cabell has proven his abilities and leadership skills in every capacity he has served. We have benefited greatly from his involvement and know that he will be a strong and effective leader in this profession moving forward.”

APMA president Dr. Ross Taubman concurs, “Once a leader, always a leader. In addition to his noteworthy APMSA work, Cabell also helped the APMA Educational Foundation raise funds for student scholarships. Cabell has a very bright future in this profession.”

Mr. Adams accepted the award with his customary humility, “To be recognized among my peers is very rewarding. I am honored to receive this award and am pleased to have contributed to the goals of the APMSA. I plan to continue my commitment to service throughout my professional career and am excited about the direction of the APMSA and this great profession.”

PAST APMSA LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Year</th>
<th>Leadership Award</th>
<th>Recipient School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Donald Harrison</td>
<td>Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Audra Mintz</td>
<td>California School of Podiatric Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Sherunda Smith</td>
<td>Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>W. Cabell Adams</td>
<td>California School of Podiatric Medicine</td>
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In memoriam...

Regina M. Walker Hall ’30
Marie Hildebrand Lofholm ’31
Evelyn S. O’Brien Gordon ’33
Helen Louise Orr Downton P’35
June Johannsen Nicoler ’35
Dr. Carl B. Merrill ’37
Phyllis Marie Murphy Sheridan ’38
Jean Ferguson Aronson ’39
Elizabeth “Betty” Coffey Majors ’47
Vivian Mitchell Cutcher ’52
Dr. Saul Katz ’52
Jeanne McDonald Mitchell ’52
Rosia Lee Eggert Jones ’55
Monica Sevilli Duncan ’60
Glenda Koopsen Beadleman ’68
Janice Greenupas Feldman ’99
Margaret Clara Cook ’71
Dr. Nancy Thibault ’91

ERRORS & OMISSIONS

In the 2008 Samuel Merritt College & Providence College of Nursing Alumni Directory, Belen Cooper from the Samuel Merritt Class of 1957 was incorrectly listed as Helen Cooper. Belen states that “Many well intentioned people believe that my name is misspelled and change it to Helen.” In addition, two asterisks appeared after the name Helen Cooper indicating that Helen was deceased. YIKES! Please note: Belen Cooper, Samuel Merritt Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1957 alum, married in 1997, becoming Belen Kersten. Belen we are thrilled to report is alive and well and living in Visalia, California where she recently joined the nursing faculty of the College of Sequoias. Our apologies, Belen!
**Life Income Gift Plans**

WAYS TO GIVE AND RECEIVE

Life income gift plans have become a very popular way for donors to make major gifts. Typically, the donor makes the irrevocable gift and reserves the right to receive an income for his or her life (or the donor may direct that an income be paid to one or more designated individuals for as long as they may live). The gift property passes to the charity, or becomes available to the charity, but only after all the income rights have terminated. Life income gifts are made for many reasons. One major reason is personal satisfaction. Donors are able to support major causes in ways that otherwise would be impossible. But the other major reasons involve tax and financial rewards. In many cases, life income gift plans can enhance the investment, retirement, tax, and estate plans of the donor. Technically, the plans are known as:

- charitable remainder annuity trust,
- charitable remainder unitrust, and
- charitable gift annuity.

These plans are similar in that each provides income payments to the donor or other designated beneficiaries. But they differ in the amount or nature of the income payments, the allowable income tax charitable deduction, the type of property that can be given, and other tax and financial consequences that result from these kinds of planned gifts.

The deferred gift methods described above each provide at least three basic tax benefits:

1. **First**, the present value of the deferred gift to the charity can be deducted as a charitable contribution on the donor’s income tax return in the year the gift is established. **Second**, the gift generally does not give rise to an immediate capital gains tax even if the gift property has substantially appreciated in value. Also, the gift property can be sold by the charity or the trust without incurring a capital gains tax. **Third**, the income payments to the donor or other beneficiary may be favorably taxed.

Need more information? Life income gifts are important for our future, and can be richly rewarding to donors who make them. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss how a life income gift can work for both you and us.

For more information, contact Sue Sylvester, Executive Director of Development at 530.869.1507 or ssylvester@samuelmerritt.edu.

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**SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE’S Office of Alumni Affairs is excited to invite you to Sammy’s Circle, a secure online network exclusively for Samuel Merritt College alumni and students.**

Sammy’s Circle enables you to:

1. Connect/reconnect with other SMC alumni and students
2. Research career opportunities not available anywhere else on the web
3. Share information or seek advice by messaging your network
4. Join official chapter, regional, and specialty groups
5. Obtain information on upcoming alumni and student events

It also is a powerful network of ideas, member-blogs, photos and more!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ONLINE SOON!

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**ACREDITATION NEWS**

for the California School of Podiatric Medicine and the Department of Occupational Therapy at Samuel Merritt College

Provost and Academic Vice President, Scot Foster, is pleased to share good news with the College community that two excellent professional accreditation actions have been received for the Podiatric Medicine and Occupational Therapy Degree programs.

The Department of Occupational Therapy received a stellar review by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) granting an accreditation term of ten years, with no citations given. The next visit will occur in 2017-2018. The OT review demonstrated compliance with all ACOTE standards, and included a list of commendations regarding such attributes as overall program leadership, a three-year exam pass rate of 90 percent (higher than the national average), and an impressive faculty who are diverse, globally engaged and committed to providing an integrated “mind-body” program of study and practice. *Job exceptionally well done!*

The College community was informed earlier in the year that the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) had been placed on “administrative” probation by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME). In a recent communication to the CSPM faculty, students and staff, Dr. Foster stated that the California School of Podiatric Medicine is accredited through October 2010. This award of accreditation is for the same period of time for which the school was awarded its original accreditation in October of 2006...that the term of accreditation has not been shortened because of the interim notice of probation, which has now been lifted. Excellent news!

Samuel Merritt College continues to provide high quality health science education to students, and we will strive for other positive accreditation reviews in the future as we assess our educational effectiveness. Congratulations to both academic programs, with special acknowledgment to faculty for their dedication to student learning and success.
Samuel Merritt College GRADUATES NURSING

1931
Marie Hildebrand Lofholm’s family shares the following, “Mom died this past February after a brief illness. She was born on June 3, 1913 in Oakdale, California to Frederick J. Hildebrand and Ann Schimpf Hildebrand. Her parent

1946
Leona Bitchley North, writes, “I am in quite good health, except for some arthritis. I drive anywhere I want and love to do it. My darling husband, Pete North, died five years ago. However, I live near my one boy and two daugh-

1947
Carroll Magill Havig, writes, “I re-

1948
Shelia Styrson writes, “I am sad to report that my mother, Laura Ingebritsen Styrson, passed away on December 18, 2007. My mother was born in Patterson, California, came into this world as an Ingebritsen, and with her mother’s family name Lilleland, was Norwegian through and through. True to this culture, she loved sweets and was a most congenial soul, somehow always managing to put everyone at ease, neighbors, nursing associ-

1952
Wenonah Bakke Brichetto, writes, “My husband, Bill, and I have enjoyed our retirement with family and friends. We also enjoy gardening and have discov-

1953
Captain Dorothea Jean Dunn, writes, “I retired in 1983 from the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps and am enjoying retirement.”

1957
Gall Blankenship D’Arzy, writes, “All is well here except for the fire situa-

1960
Mary Colburn LeMieux, writes, “I will be in Montana and Wyoming seeing the national parks this summer.”

1962
Susan Herce Wood, writes, “2007 was another year of travel for my husband and me. The highlight was a 64-day cruise of Asia, Australia, and the Pacific. We will be moving to Sacramento in 2008. Hope to see all my classmates for our 50th year reunion.”

1967
Sharon Lofholm Johnson, writes, “Jeff and I are now completely retired from Los Medanos College faculty posi-

1970
Carolyn Magill Harding writes, “I re-

1972
Betty Lou (Conklin) Troutt, writes, “My mother Betty Lou Conklin Troutt, passed away peacefully in Danville, California with family by her side on December 21, 2007. She is survived by her daughter, Betty Jo (Manoli) Sgouros of Tolo, Greece; Bonnie Brown (Robert) Buite; Judith (Dale) Wagner of Danville; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Troutt. Joe and Betty were mar-

1975
Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Coffey Major passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at the age of 82 after a long and full life. She is sur-

1978
Betty Lou Conklin Troutt, writes, “I am in quite good health, except for some arthritis. I drive anywhere I want and love to do it. My darling husband, Pete North, died five years ago. However, I live near my one boy and two daugh-

1980
Laura Ritchey North, writes, “I am in quite good health, except for some arthritis. I drive anywhere I want and love to do it. My darling husband, Pete North, died five years ago. However, I live near my one boy and two daugh-

1997
Ellen Christiansen Burris writes, “I am quite good health, except for some arthritis. I drive anywhere I want and love to do it. My darling husband, Pete North, died five years ago. However, I live near my one boy and two daugh-

2003
Merritt Hospital. Our little town of Oroville was not threatened by the recent fires, but ar-

2007
Marjorie Snyder Rhinehart Way writes, “I still do volunteer work at Watsonville Community Hospital, Watsonville, California—even if I am bothered by backache.”
would have been 100 this past June. I would love to see anyone who is in the area. We are only five minutes off Highway 80.”

1968
Carolyn King Baten writes, “It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Glenda Kooman Beideman, Glenda died on March 15, 2008 at the age of 60 years. She fought a valiant fight against cancer for six years, but finally it just became too much for her. She leaves behind a husband, Chuck, her two sons and five grandchildren. She and her husband settled in Modesto after graduation and she worked at Doctor’s Medical Center as an RN for many years.”

Gerry Eubanks Borgeson writes, “The Class of 1968 had twelve attendees for their Reunion Celebration. Kristin McKenzie Williams, Cathy Verlin Turner, Lori Donovan Ladow, Donnette Harris Fillmore, Cara Darling Settlage, Cathy Vogtlowa Harris, Ellen McPherson, Julie Bush Castro, Pat McLellan McGuirk, Gerry Eubanks Borgesen, Rosie Eldred Carider, and Pat Rutherford. Regrets were received from Bonnie Chapman Williams, Debbie Hazzard Jennings, Ruth Wilson Stary, Ellen Michell Holley, Carolyn King Baten, Barbara Falconer Evert, and Dale Packer Brouwer. Forever missed will be Susie Konicl, Glenda Kooman Beideman and Fran Parnell Grant. Waterfront Plaza in Jack London Square was party central for attendees, June 4 to 8. Stories of our memories, lives and careers were told over wine, cheese, crackers, salsa and chips. Looking through yearbooks and scrapbooks created laughter and some tears. Dinner at Scott’s, Seafood Restaurant, Kincad’s and Il Pescatore were enjoyed by all. The Annual Alumni Reunion Luncheon was held on June 7th at the Samuel Merritt College campus in the Health Education Center—Bechtel Room. Dale Packer Brouwer had written a loving tribute to Glenda Kooman Beideman which was shared at our table along with flowers to honor her memory. A memory book was signed with condolences and photos of the group were included to send to Glenda’s family. The College had professional photographs taken of each class. A wonderful collection of vintage uniforms, pictures, memorabilia and yearbooks were on display. By special request we were able to go into Bechtel Hall and up to the 6th floor. Again stories were told causing laughter and tears. A photo album that honors expansion will mean Bechtel Hall will be torn down in the near future. We were very glad to have been able to reconnect in 2008 with our Samuel Merritt roots of the Class of 1972. I have missed all of our classmates and reunions. Our time together as students on the Rose Garden in Berkeley and was a wonderful experience,”

1972
Annette Neilsen Barter writes, “The Class of 1972 is having a reunion September 6th. For more information contact me at Barter3@aol.com.”

Brenda Troute Bruce writes, “I work and live in Ukiah, California and visit the Bay Area to work weekends at Kaiser Oakland and see my grandson and granddaughter.”

1977
Jan Harrington Alexander writes, “My husband and I moved to Texas one and half years ago and have both found work that is satisfying and challenging. I am working on an Intermediate Care Unit as a clinician, clinical resource nurse, and educator. A strong focus of this hospital is to remember and care for spiritual needs of our patients and families, so my training as a pastor and chaplain are coming in very useful and appreciated. We miss California, but are getting to know our new home and loving it. Our children are all moving out very soon!”

1986
Scott Weyland has been accepted into the Graduate (Master of Science, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner) Program in the School of Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco and will begin the program in September 2008. He states that he is looking forward to this educational opportunity and challenge!

1987
Elizabeth Ann Carlson writes, “In January, my husband, Lawrence Spann, and I relocated to Santa Barbara, California so that I can complete my Ph.D. in mythological studies with emphasis in depth psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. Living there gives me full access to my committee, classmates, and the Pacific library while I write my dissertation that focuses on the mythology and psychology of the nurse. Lawrence is leading writing workshops at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and Santa Barbara City College. He is also working as a Physician Assistant in the anticoagulation clinic at Sansum Clinic. We are getting to know our new home and loving it. Our children are all moving out very soon!”

1992
Jennifer Natsch-Jensen has joined Hope Hospice in Dallas, California as a Nurse Case Manager and as their Infection Control Officer. Jennifer is a mother of four children and over the past five years has worked as the Infection Control Manager for a local hospital in addition to working as a Home Health Nurse.

1994
Rebecca “Becky” Mack stands for “balance” on Stanford Hospital & Clinic’s website. “To me, balance means not letting negative stressors divert your attention away from what matters most. Despite a severe back injury in a car wreck many years ago and the constant battle of aches and pains that go along with it, I’ve been able to handle work, family (married 14 years), a long commute and obtain three certifications in the last two years (currently working on a fourth).” To learn more about Rebecca and her career at Stanford, visit www.westandforcare.com and click on the Profiles tab and choose “Rebecca”.

1999
Kate McNichols McGlaslan writes, “I am working as a Certified Nurse Midwife at the Berkeley Planned Parenthood Access Clinic. My son Nick is two and half and my daughter Eliza is one. My husband Scott started his own architectural firm, McGlaslan Architecture.”

2002
Alexandrine “Jon” Lola writes, “I’m busy as always... still working as a Clinical Educator for Adventist Health at Castle Medical Center in Kailua, Hawaii on Oahu.”

2003
Mylene Moran and Akar Mangalindan were married on June 7, 2007 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Pinole, California. Mylene and Akar’s wedding reception, attended by 250 of their closest friends and family, was held at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville, California. Mylene and Akar originally met during the spring of 1999. They got engaged on June 3, 2006. Immediately following the wedding, the couple honeymooned in Maui and Las Vegas. The newlyweds currently reside in the dynamic city of Hercules.

Erin Lease and Ben Homemadey have announced their engagement. Erin and Ben are planning a May 16, 2008 wedding and reception at Palm Event Center in Pleasanton, California. Ben and Erin met in 2006 through Ben’s sister while Erin was a student at Samuel Merritt College. Ben proposed to Erin in May 2008, shortly before Ben’s Care Access Clinic. My son Nick is two and half and my daughter Eliza is one. My husband Scott started his own architectural firm, McGlaslan Architecture.”

2006
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2007
Dr. Alimee Eaton Buetzow and Stephen Joseph Martel were married on June 30, 2007. The ceremony took place at The Rose Garden in Berkeley and was performed by Pastor Scott Buetzow, Alimee’s cousin. Dinner and dancing followed at The Bancroft Hotel in the Pyranean Room. Alimee’s maid of honor was Erica Decker, and bridesmaids were Ashley Buetzow, and Breck Schubb, Christy Weber and Maureen Martel. Alimee and Stephen honeymooned in Kauai and reside in San Diego where Alimee is a Physical Therapist with Comprehensive Therapy Services in San Diego and Stephen is the Director of Hand Services for Physical Therapy and Hand Centers Inc.

2008
Christine Zumbo began working in the cardiac telemetry unit at John Muir in Concord on July 28, 2008.

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PHYSICAL THERAPY
2006
Jodi Koller and Jeff Reynolds became engaged on July 7, 2007. Jeff proposed to Jodi at the top of the Sears Tower in Chicago and they were married on May 25, 2008 at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville, California. Jodi is currently employed as a PA at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland. Congratulations Jodi and Jeff!”

The RePORTer Fall 2008

19

The RePORTer Fall 2008

The RePORTer Fall 2008
2008 ALUMNI EVENTS :: MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Samuel Merritt College Student, Alumni, Faculty, and Staff
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT AND BBQ
Saturday, September 6, 2008
12:30PM–6:30PM
Heather Farms, Walnut Creek, California

SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE PHYSICAL THERAPY
ALUMNI RECEPTION
Friday, September 26, 2008
5:30PM–7:00PM
Pacific Coast Brewing Co., Oakland, California

California School of Podiatric Medicine Alumni and Associates
RADIOLOGY AND THE USE OF SONOGRAPHY
IN THE PODIATRIC PRACTICE SEMINAR
Saturday, September 27, 2008
8:00AM–5:00PM
Health Education Center, Oakland, California

Samuel Merritt College ALUMNI HOLIDAY DINNER
Thursday, December 4, 2008
6:00PM COCKTAILS/7:00PM DINNER
Lafayette Park Hotel, Lafayette, California

Providence College of Nursing ALUMNI HOLIDAY TEA
Saturday, December 13, 2008
1:30PM–3:30PM
Health Education Center, Oakland, California

For more information regarding any of these events, to RSVP, or to obtain a current class list to rally together your classmates, contact Carla Ross in the Office of Alumni Affairs at 510.869.6618 or alumniaffairs@samuelmerritt.edu.