2007 Picchi Memorial Lecture a Success

The 17th Annual Picchi Memorial Lecture took place on March 15th and was a success, raising $12,000 for the Picchi Education Fund. Dr. Bertram H. Lubin, President of Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI), was the guest lecturer, speaking to a full house in the Fontaine Auditorium. It was no surprise that so many people showed up to hear his presentation titled, “The Social Life of Stem Cells.”

After remarks by 1996 SMC Master of Science in Nursing alumna, Teresa Picchi, daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Picchi for whom the lecture is named, and Dr. Scot Foster, Provost and Chief Operating Officer of SMC, the evening began with a moving film presentation about the Picchis that included interviews with their friends, colleagues and children. The film highlighted the Picchi legacy: education is the most powerful form of preventive medicine.

Dr. Lubin spoke of California’s leadership in stem cell research and the work of CHORI in Oakland to fulfill its mission to “work locally, heal globally.” CHORI conducts research on how stem cells can help cure diseases such as cancer, metabolic issues, or blood and genetic diseases. All who attended the event left more educated about stem cell research and hopeful about its potential for saving lives.

Contributions to the Picchi Education Fund help purchase books, videos and other materials for the John A. Graziano Memorial Library at Samuel Merritt College. The Library is open to the community at large and maintains the latest information on many health-related topics. The Picchi Education Fund also helps provide a computer database offering information on diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis, nutrition, maternal/child care, back care, arthritis, hypertension, sexually transmitted diseases and more.

If you have a recommendation for a future lecture topic or speaker, please contact Sue Sylvester, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, at 510.869.1507 or email: ssylvester@samuelmerritt.edu

Samuel Merritt College’s San Francisco Learning Center Ramps Up

The San Francisco Local Learning Center (SFLLC), has been up and running for almost a year.

Oakland Athletics and Samuel Merritt College Team Up to Provide Dollars to Scholars

The first class of 46 Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) students is set to graduate at the end of May. The San Francisco Local Learning Center (SFLLC) has been up and running for almost a year. Spring is a busy time at the SFLLC, not only with the second ABSN class of 48 students, but with the implementation of the first class of San Mateo students at the SFLLC in early June. The San Mateo Learning Center student cohort will be taking classes at SFLLC until the new site in San Mateo opens.

Mary Anne Broker, Associate Managing Director at the SFLLC, explained that the SFLLC team is working to “define the culture” as a way to differentiate it from the other SMC campuses (Oakland, Sacramento, San Mateo.) Broker explained that students choose a campus based not only on location but also on the “culture” of the community in which it is located. Broker describes the strength of the SFLLC culture as one where student clinical training, also known as a preceptorship, engages students with diverse patient populations. For example, several SFLLC students have a preceptorship at Friendship House, a Native American substance abuse clinic.

The San Mateo Local Learning Center (SMLLC) will become SMC’s fourth campus. Only Oakland offers the full range of SMC’s degree programs (nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, podiatry, etc.).
On Saturday, August 18, 2007, Samuel Merritt College and the Oakland Athletics will host the Matthew Brandon Sooy Memorial Event. Matthew battled asthma from the time he was three, and developed Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) when he was twelve. At the very early age of 17, he succumbed to a severe asthma attack.

Matthew missed several years of school due to CFIDS, but still managed to get extremely high SAT scores, was listed in Who’s Who of American High School Students two years in a row, was nominated to be a student ambassador in the People to People program, and was asked to go to Washington, D.C. Matthew was a bright and vivacious teenager who loved life. To honor his memory, each year his family partners with the Oakland Athletics and a non-profit organization to host the Matthew Brandon Sooy Memorial Event.

This year, the Sooy Family and the Oakland Athletics have chosen to partner with Samuel Merritt College as the Oakland Athletics play the Kansas City Royals at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from this event will directly benefit undergraduate and graduate nursing students at Samuel Merritt College with an interest in pediatric nursing.

For more information or to purchase tickets to attend on August 18, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 510.869.8628 or visit the College’s website www.samuelmerritt.edu.

Samuel Merritt College Temporary Leadership Transition

2007 is a Year of Temporary Leadership transitions for Samuel Merritt College (SMC). President Sharon Diaz will begin a six month sabbatical effective July 1 through December 31, 2007, a leave approved by the Board of Regents some years ago. President Diaz described her plans to enjoy the Hawaiian island of Kauai with husband Luis for well deserved rest and relaxation, with plans to do research on transformative leadership.

Effective March 1, Dr. Scot Foster was appointed Provost and Chief Operating Officer (COO) through June. Beginning July 1, he will assume the position of Interim President of the College through the end of the year. The three months prior to the President’s sabbatical gives Provost Foster an opportunity to assume day-to-day institutional responsibilities with consultation with the President before assuming the Interim President role. Dr. Foster states, “I value the enthusiastic support provided to me in this transitional role from President Diaz and the Board of Regents. I am confident that our College community will continue its great work of student learning as we embark upon achieving our new vision as a nationally recognized health education institution. I am honored to be a part of that effort.” And to quote President Diaz, “I will be back!”

Samuel Merritt College’s geographical expansion.

The Board of Regents, I am confident that our College community will continue its great work of student learning as we embark upon achieving our new vision as a nationally recognized health education institution. I am honored to be a part of that effort.” And to quote President Diaz, “I will be back!”

Scot Foster, PhD, CRNA
Provost and Chief Operating Officer

Matthew Brandon Sooy
Jan. 3, 1980 – Apr. 21, 1997

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THE REPORTER is published three times a year for Samuel Merritt College, Providence College of Nursing and California College of Pediatric 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 hear your voice. Therefore, ideas or articles are always welcome!
Two Samuel Merritt College Nursing Alums Honored for Excellence in Nursing

On Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at Holy Names University, two Samuel Merritt College nursing alums where among eight individuals who were honored for excellence in nursing at the Biennial Awards Event sponsored by Nu Xi At Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau (STTI). Approximately 50 people celebrated the success of the honorees at a reception which followed the award ceremony.

Lara Stracke, BSN, RN, is a 1999 graduate of Samuel Merritt College’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. Lara is a case manager in Chronic Care for the Permanente Medical Group Diablo Region and Major (inactive) in the U.S. Air Force. Lara participated in mass casualty operations at the Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center, Germany, managing triage and admission of wounded Army Rangers from Somalia, as well as Bosnian civilian casualties. Following her tour in Afghanistan, Laura was deployed to various locations as a Flight Nurse in support of Operation Enduring Iraqi Freedom. She served as the coordinator of airlift removal of wounded U.S. soldiers from the theater of action to U.S. hospitals in Germany.

Scott Weyland, BSN, RN, is a 1986 graduate of Samuel Merritt College’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Scott is a Chief Flight Nurse at CALSTAR 2 and 5, where he uses critical care nursing skills to ensure the safe transport of critical patients to health care facilities. Scott has been a flight nurse since 1990 and a critical care nurse since early in his career. Identified as a positive role model by co-workers, Scott holds numerous professional certifications in emergency and critical care and has been an item writer for certification exams for the past several years.

Also honored were two Samuel Merritt College faculty members in the School of Nursing. Susan Cantrell, Assistant Professor, received the STTI Chapter Excellence Award for Education and Dr. Valerie Dzubur, Assistant Professor, Nursing received the STTI Chapter Excellence Award for Philanthropy.

Congratulations Laura, Scott, Susan and Valerie!

WIN A NEW 2007 HONDA CIVIC HYBRID

Imagine winning a new car, helping the environment and raising scholarship monies for current Doctor of Podiatric Medicine students—all for the cost of dinner for two and a movie! With a maximum of 500 tickets being sold, you’ll have a better chance to win than you would in Las Vegas or the lottery!

The California School of Podiatric Medicine Alumni and Associates will host a car raffle, for a 2007 Honda Civic Hybrid® (with a retail value of $24,945), to benefit current CSPM students through scholarship monies. A maximum of 500 tickets will be sold at $100 each or six tickets can be purchased for $500. An additional drawing will be held for the first 300 tickets sold with a cash prize of $1,000.

The drawing will be held at the 2007 Western Podiatric Medicine Congress, CSPM Alumni Reception on Saturday, June 23, 2007, in Anaheim, CA or during the 2nd Annual Golden State Podiatric Medicine Seminar, November 8–10, 2007 in Oakland, CA.

For more information or to purchase tickets contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 510.869.6618. Tickets may also be obtained from any of the following CSPM Alumni and Associates Executive Committee Members: Dr. Paul J. Califano ’80, Dr. Karl R. Coulter ’79, Dr. Daniel C. Fulmer ’76, Dr. Lawrence Greillli ’69, Dr. Eric R. Hubbard ’68, Dr. Carolyn McAloon ’97, Dr. Randy J. Sarte ’72, Dr. Thomas E. Sgarlato ’63, Dr. Timothy P. Shea ’73, Dr. Eric D. Stamps ’93, Dr. James W. Stavovsky ’83, Dr. Douglas M. Taylor ’83 or Dr. David D. Q. Tan ’98.

The California School of Podiatric Medicine, Samuel Merritt College and the CSPM Alumni and Associates would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to Hopkins Honda and Acura in Fairfield, California for partnering with Alumni and Associates in this venture.

*The raffle must have a minimum of 300 tickets sold to proceed. Only one car will be awarded. Prize includes color of choice. All taxes, title and transfer fees are the responsibility of the winner. Winner must be 18 years of age. Winner will be notified within 24 hours of the drawing. Raffle tickets are not tax deductible per IRS guidelines.

Steve Hopkins of Hopkins Honda and Acura pictured with a 2007 Honda Civic Hybrid.

A TIME SENSITIVE OPPORTUNITY

If you’re looking for the most tax-effective gift to make to a charitable organization, your individual retirement account (IRA) may be the best choice.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 presents a new giving opportunity. The law allows individuals aged 70 or older to make gifts now to qualified charitable organizations like Samuel Merritt College using funds transferred directly from their IRAs. Furthermore, these individuals will not have to pay taxes on the amounts transferred. You can transfer any amount you desire up to $100,000 on or before Dec. 31, 2007.

Your Benefits

- The transfer counts toward your minimum required distribution as long as you have not yet received your 2007 distribution.
- The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you will receive the benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- You can witness the difference your philanthropic dollars make.

How the New Law Works

People over the age of 70 can make a gift up to $100,000 from an IRA to a qualified charitable organization. While the donor does not have to pay taxes on the amount of money taken out of the IRA, they will not be able to use the gift as a charitable deduction either. It is considered a pure wash. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 gives donors an easy and convenient way to benefit their charity of choice without tax complications.

Another tax-smart strategy is to name Samuel Merritt College as beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA assets. By naming SMC as beneficiary of your IRA, you can leave the College a gift that is free of all income and estate taxes because we are a charitable organization.

If you would like assistance in completing a gift from your IRA or have questions about the Pension Protection Act, please contact Sue Sylvester, Executive Director of Development at 510.869.1507 or ssylvester@samuelmerritt.edu

1 to R: Scott Weyland and Laura Stracke, 2007 Excellence in Nursing Award Winners.
On Thursday, December 14, 2006, the Student Services Department hosted a holiday celebration for current students of the College’s Scholars in Service Program (SISP) and their families. The celebration began at the College’s Bechtel Hall on the Oakland campus and continued with dinner at the well-known organic soul food restaurant, Farmer Brown’s in San Francisco.

The College established the SISP in 1996 to increase the number of underrepresented minority students in nursing by providing scholarship assistance and a supportive academic environment to gifted African-American and Latino/Hispanic students. As part of the program, Scholars in Service students agree to practice in medically underserved communities. In 2006, a decision was made to expand the social and academic support aspect of SISP to include students of color from all SMC programs, even though only undergraduate nursing students are eligible for financial aid through SISP. As a result, SISP has gained a broad base of student support and has been able to positively impact SISP students’ lives and their academic standing.

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. SMC faculty members Sharon Gorman, MS, PT, CGS; Cindy Gibson-Hom, BS, PT; Rolando Lazaro, DPT, PT, CGS; and Gail Widener, PhD, PT are the coordinators of this grant. Using the EquiTest®, participants will get a full computerized dynamic posturography (CDP) suite of tests used to objectively quantify and differentiate among the wide variety of possible sensory, motor and central adaptive impairments to balance control. CDP 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. We are focusing this free testing 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.

If you or someone you know meets these qualifications, please contact the Department of Physical Therapy at 510.869.6241 to get a free specialized balance test using CDP and recommendations for follow-up.

This service is supported through a generous grant from the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. More information about MS can be obtained at their website www.msfocus.org.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges:

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING STUDENTS**
- Christine Angeles
- Laura Armstrong
- Cheryl Balaoing
- Rodelia Busalpa
- Joseph Janakes
- Miriam Tabayoyong

**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS**
- Michelle Harui
- LeeAnn Price
- Karen Quetano
- Breck Schubb

**DOCTOR OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE STUDENTS**
- Ernesto Hernandez
- Rachel Hoyal-Hargrove
- Audra Mintz
- Daniel Sunboliyan

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SCHOLARS IN SERVICE PROGRAM...**
Please contact Kira Allen, Student Services Coordinator at 510.869.6511 or visit the College’s website at www.samuelmerritt.edu.

**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT) STUDENTS ATTEND LEGISLATIVE DAY IN SACRAMENTO**

Six Samuel Merritt College Doctor of Physical Therapy students attended “Legislative Day,” sponsored by the California Physical Therapy Association, on March 27, 2007 at the State Capitol in Sacramento. Their morning consisted of education sessions reviewing current legislation impacting physical therapy practice and the importance of grassroots activities in the political process. During the afternoon, students met with their local legislators and staff persons to foster relationships and inform them of physical therapy positions on current bills.

Thanks to Jessica Garakian, Phil Gomez, Lindsey Henderson, Geraldine Lam, Amanda Streerton, and Mona Wong, all current SMC DPT students, for representing Samuel Merritt and the PT profession at this important event.
2007 Dr. Milton Wolfson Memorial Scholar of the Year Named

by Albert E. Burns, DPM, MS, FACFAS, Dean and Professor, Department of Podiatric Surgery

The Dr. Milton Wolfson Memorial Scholar is awarded annually to honor someone who has made significant contributions to primary care in podiatric medicine. The recipient is selected by a committee appointed by the Academic Dean of the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) and is presented with a plaque and is invited to give a speech on his/her area of expertise.

For 2007, the committee selected Carolyn McAloon, DPM. In addition to being a 1997 graduate of the California College of Podiatric Medicine (now known as the California School of Podiatric Medicine), Dr. McAloon is the past president of the Alameda/Contra Costa Podiatry Society and is Treasurer of the American Association of Women Podiatrists. Dr. McAloon was personally responsible for getting the Alameda/Contra Costa Podiatry Society to establish a scholarship fund for a CSPM student.

CCPM/CSPM Alums Gather in New York

ProLab and the California School of Podiatric Medicine held an alumni reception, for California College of Podiatric Medicine (CCPM) and California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) alumni, during the New York Podiatric Medical Conference on January 20, 2007. Our thanks to Dr. Paul Scherer, CCPM 1970 alumnus, Chair of the Department of Applied Biomechanics at CSPM and Chief Executive Officer of ProLab Orthotics/USA, for assisting with CCPM/CSPM alumni relations!

On Saturday, February 3, the California School of Podiatric Medicine Alumni and Associates hosted a surgical podiatry wet lab workshop on the Samuel Merritt College Oakland campus. The one-day workshop entitled, “How to Surgically Balance the Whole Foot and Ankle and How to Balance the Forefoot and Better Care for the Diabetic Type Wound,” included didactic presentations and hands-on demonstrations of new proven techniques by representatives from Arthrex, KCI, Sole Supports, Inc., Sgarlato Labs and Merz Pharmaceuticals. The workshop was limited to 20 attendees and 10 student volunteers who acted as surgical assistants to the podiatrists.

Not only did the evaluations from attendees come back with comments such as: “Terrific Workshop! I’d attend again,” and “Great workshop... when’s the next one?”—this event netted a profit of $5,400 of which 100 percent will benefit the CSPM Alumni and Associates Scholarship Fund. Our thanks to the wonderful sponsors of this event: Arthrex, KCI, Sole Supports, Inc., Sgarlato Labs and Merz Pharmaceuticals.

SPECIAL THANKS to members of the planning committee for this event: Roman Paulus, Carla Ross, Dr. Tom Sgarlato, and Dr. Douglas Taylor.

Participants practicing one of the surgical techniques presented.

Participants receive a hands on demonstration.

DPM student volunteers receive last minute instructions from workshop coordinator, Roman Paulus (seated).
From the Ranks

California College of Podiatric Medicine GRADUATES

1977
Dr. William Healey recently accepted a position in the Training Program Faculty at New Mexico VA Health Care System after spending nine years as the Director of Podiatric Medical Education for the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, NC.

1978
Dr. Frank Carauana is opening a dance school in Cypress, California. Dr. Brian Cornell is filming a documentary on bears of New England for the Newport, Rhode Island Zoo.

Providence College of Nursing GRADUATES

1944
June Hardy McFaul writes, “Sister Therese Kohles, S.P. now lives at St. Therese has been very ill and would love to hear from her friends. I am still volunteering with Providence Auxiliary and am active with St. Vincent de Paul. I had a marvelous trip earlier this year to South America, around Cape Horn, Buenos Aires, and Santiago, Chile. Spent three nights at the Monasterio Trapanse, Santa Maria de Miraflores in Rancagua, Chile and visited two other convents. The monks make chocolate candy and the nuns make religious ceramics and other groups make jams and jellies. All this is done in addition to chanting at 3 am and many, many prayers for all of us.”

1940
Mary Wooley Kullman writes, “Samuel Merritt College has a very special place in my life. I am a Fall 1940 graduate. I was active in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and continued through 1945. I believe most of my classmates have gone to their reward. I take pleasure in knowing my school has continued through the years and has been so progressive.”

1945
Gloria Garrison Oshb in writes, “Still so happy to be able to share volunteering as an RN. I am so proud to be a Samuel Merritt College grad!”

1947
Vicki Bitgood (Norma Marie Sovick) of Sioux, Oregon passed away on December 12, 2006. Norma was a proud American of Norwegian descent and lived in the Port Orford area for 30 years. Norma is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, five grown children (two R.N.’s and a Physical Therapist), and seven grandchildren.

1950
Marion Backus Faasbolz writes, “I have lived in Seward, NE for 12 years, since retirement from 35 years of hospital nursing. Gene and I have three children all employed as teachers. I have lost contact with classmates and love to scan the alumni news for any of the familiar faces and old friends.”

1951
Janice Nordlund Hoover writes, “It is with sadness that I tell you that Geraldine “Gen” Wilson Mills died March 4 of diabetes complications. She was blind. I attended her celebration of life on March 31 and met her sister, Wilma, who is three years older than Gen and her adopted daughter who cared for her in her last years. Gen worked for many years as a surgical nurse at Sutter General Hospital in Sacramento.”

1967
Ellen Christensen Burris writes, “Five classmates from the class of 1967 gathered in Grand Island, NE in October 2006 to reminisce, catch up, laugh and eat for three wonderful days. Charla Miller, Joan Combs Ortmann, Donna Barnes Nelson, Sharon Lodholm Johnson and Ellen Christensen Burris have kept in touch frequently over the years and make an attempt to gather at least yearly. All are still working but gearing down toward retirement. Joan lives in Coeurd’Alene, ID, Charla in NE, and Ellen, Donna and Sharon still reside in Northern California. We’re looking forward to our class’s 40th reunion in June 2007. Hope all members of the class of 1967 will come!”

Belen Cooper Kersten was awarded the degree Master of Science: Nursing; Nurse Administrator, on December 31, 2006, from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Samuel Merritt College GRADUATES

NURSING

1939
Virginia Mast DeVries writes, “I am writing to let you know that Bernice Heeren Hill passed away January 13, 2007, Bernice lived in Palo Alto until her death. She leaves two sons. The older is married and has two children, it’s been a long and wonderful friendship for Bernice and I.”

1964
Marcie Hunkins-Flores writes, “Hello alumni! Since graduation in 1984 I have been working for UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, primarily in the Emergency Department as an assistant manager. In 1999, I completed my MBA and accepted a management position in the Accelerated Access Unit. This year I also assumed the manager position of the Renal Services Program. I love my departments and staff! I have two wonderful children—Alex, age 12 and Elyse, age 11. We live in Folsom, California. Please email me at Marsha.HunkinsFlores@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu.”

1986
Lt. Col. Debra Price Mohl, USAF Reserve returned from Balad AB, Iraq, where she served as the Element Chief of Surgery, January—May, 2006. This was her seventh overseas deployment. Debra was on the surgical team that cared for ABC news anchor, Bob Woodruff. Debra has recently accepted a position as Associate Chief Nurse at San Francisco VA Hospital. Her husband, Mike, and daughters, Ericka, an attorney, and Emily, a 2006 graduate of Samuel Merritt and Saint Mary’s Intercollegiate Nursing Program, are all doing well, Debra reports.

1994
Shannon James-Bowden writes, “I have been married for eight years with two beautiful children (Hailey 5 years and Hanan 3 years). I work part-time at UC Davis in the OB/GYN Clinic doing telephone triage/antepartum testing.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7…
1995
Ben Roura has been elevated to Charge Nurse IV in the GI Department at Kaiser Permanente in Hayward, CA.

1998
Fraulein Silvestre Nelson writes, “2006 was yet another exciting year at the Nelson household. Two weeks before our little one was born, Jeff decided to get some attention of his own by having an open appendectomy and was in the hospital for three days. Thank goodness we were able to beg Jeff’s parents, Tom and Frankie, to come down and tend to the two disabled in the house. Three days prior to the scheduled C-section, Koen came in to our lives. He was born on August 4, 2006 and weighed in at 7lbs. 10.4 oz. and was 19 inches long. Ilsa is now 3 years old and like most girls her age is very much into princesses and pink. Jeff still works at Intel. His music recording studio business (mtm-studio.com) is doing well with a constant stream of clients… he still dreams of the day he can do it full time. I still enjoy photography, singing with the band, and have taken up knitting. I decided to stay home until the beginning of 2007 and just be mom. However, my work was not willing to accommodate the time off. Oh well, their loss. When a door closes, somehow God opens up a window.”

2000
Elizabeth Hickey Dickson writes, “I have been working with the Indian Health Service (IHS) on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in eastern Arizona since the spring of 2002. I started out as a staff generalist Public Health Nurse for three years and then served as the Director of the PHN Department for two years. Last year I stepped down as Director (after having my son in December 2005) and took a position with our Diabetes Department as a Lead Case Manager for a cardiovascular disease prevention grant project. In my current position, I work with a team of five others (MD, NP, two Pharmacists, clerk) to manage the “Healthy Heart Project”, one of 30 IHS sites across the country funded to show that intensive clinical case management of people with diabetes can help reduce cardiovascular disease risk. Our Native American population has a very high rate of diabetes, so we are working hard to provide disease management, self management education and general health education to our program participants to prevent CVD complications. We are in year two of five years and doing really well. My experience in the ELMSN Case Management track has been very helpful to me as we develop just what our case management services entail. This position provides a lot of close relationships with our participants and their families and also a fair amount of administrative/coordination responsibilities as the Lead, so it’s a nice balance. I’m excited to see how our participants and their families continue to progress through the next several years! Personally, my husband Jeff and I met here in Whiteriver where we both work at the IHS Service Unit. He is an Environmental Health Officer for the IHS. We’ve been married almost three years and our son, Thomas was born here last December.”

2004
Girl Escamilla Scott and her husband welcomed a baby girl (Devon Marie Scott) on January 2, 2007. Devon weighed in at 7 pounds 12 ounces and 20 inches.

1999
Mary Reen Wiener is working part-time for the ALS Association Evergreen Chapter and full-time as a new mother. Erich and Mary welcomed Marlies Eva on July 5, 2006 and continue to enjoy living in Seattle.

2000
...Continued from Page 6
Nearly 50 percent of California’s population is of Latino ethnicity and many are recent immigrants with limited English. With only 19 percent of medical students planning to go into primary care, nurse practitioners (NP) and physician assistants (PA) are most likely to be on the front lines of patient care, especially in underserved areas. Accurate communication is crucial to good patient care and since not all clinics have translators readily available, providers need to be able to understand their patients. This Spanish Language Fellowship will give the selected NP and PA graduates intensive Spanish language instruction as well as offer an experience in village health care in a rural area of El Salvador. Fellows will be given initial intensive instruction in Spanish both before leaving for El Salvador and for four weeks in the capital city of San Salvador. After that, the fellows will administer needed primary care to rural areas in the Suchitoto area of El Salvador. The fellowship will be five to six months in length which will allow enough of an immersion experience so that the fellow will be able to provide high-quality health care in Spanish to those living in California upon their return.

Lisa Scheffer, MD, a family practice physician and frequent guest lecturer for the FNP Program, has put together a proposal which is being developed by Samuel Merritt College faculty and administration with the intention of sending the first fellows in January, 2008. A fund has been established to help defray the cost of this program for fellows and we would greatly appreciate your help in making this a reality. Please contribute today! Gracias!