First Named Occupational Therapy Scholarship Established at Samuel Merritt College

In October, 2007, Pradip and Rekha Choksi established the Pradip and Rekha Choksi Endowed Occupational Therapy Scholarship Fund—the first named endowed scholarship at Samuel Merritt College to benefit occupational therapy students.

There were many reasons for establishing this scholarship, states Mr. and Mrs. Choksi. “One, because we wanted to acknowledge the excellent education that our daughter received at Samuel Merritt College, and also we learned firsthand how important it is to have highly skilled and compassionate health care providers.” Mr. and Mrs. Choksi’s daughter, Shefali Parikh, is a 1999 graduate of Samuel Merritt’s Master of Occupational Therapy program.

On May 15, 2004, Pradip and Rekha Choksi were enjoying an afternoon bicycle ride to Simi Valley when, in an instant, their world went from carefree to chaos. Pradip had taken a fall from his bicycle and lay motionless. Even though Pradip was wearing a helmet, he suffered a tennis ball-sized blood clot in the right side of his brain and would spend the next three weeks in a coma. All of a sudden, Pradip, an athlete who climbed mountains, ran marathons and bicycled all over the world, could not even walk. Not only was he not able to walk, but Pradip, a brilliant mechanical engineer who had invented his own brand of fluid flow products and built a worldwide Chatsworth-based distributorship around it, couldn’t event count.

Today, nearly four years later, thanks to the wonderful care that Pradip received from Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center’s Acute Rehabilitation Department in Burbank, California, Pradip is walking, talking and back to enjoying life. “The biggest job was for me to stand up and walk. It was a shocking experience, being a grown man and needing so much help—but the staff and the therapists supported me and helped me keep my dignity. With those wonderful people helping me, I finally got it.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2…

There’s Nothing Basic About SMC Basic Science

Whether it’s nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, podiatric medicine or physician assistant studies, students at Samuel Merritt College (SMC) must go through the rigorous academic preparation of knowing the basic sciences. We are not talking about the biology and chemistry we learned in high school, or the undergraduate courses in physics.

The basic science program is all about graduate level human science courses like gross anatomy and functional neurosciences, physiology and pharmacology.

At SMC, graduate students are taught and mentored by one of these graduate faculty members:

- Fred Feuchter, PhD, Professor, Interim Chair
  Dr. Feuchter teaches gross anatomy and functional neuroscience courses.

- Richard Rocco, PhD, Associate Professor
  Dr. Rocco teaches the pharmacology courses in the DPM, MPA, and undergraduate ABSN programs.

- Kamla Ahuwalia, PhD, Assistant Professor
  Dr. Ahuwalia directs the gross anatomy courses in the DPT and MPA programs.

- Barbara Puder, PhD, Assistant Professor
  Dr. Puder teaches neurosciences in the MOT, DPT, and DPM programs.

- Zarir Marawala, DPM, Adjunct Assistant Professor
  (and a 1983 CCPM alum)
  Dr. Marawala teaches undergraduate anatomy and physiology courses.

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In Memoriam
Mary Robinson Honored by California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE’s longtime Director of Financial Aid, Mary Robinson, was honored by the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) with the 2007 Independent Segmental Leadership Award.

Very few current or former Samuel Merritt College students over the past twenty-seven years have completed their academic studies without knocking on Mary’s office door. Mary began her career on “Pill Hill” in 1972 at Peralta Hospital’s drug and rehabilitation program. After eight years, she left Peralta to work in the private sector, only to return one year later in 1981. At that time, all financial funding for students was managed through the Business Office at Samuel Merritt Hospital. Due to federal guidelines, Samuel Merritt College shortly thereafter organized its own Financial Aid Office and Mary became the first financial aid officer. With only 189 undergraduate students, 1981 was the first year in which the College offered a bachelor of science in nursing degree; previously the College offered only a nursing diploma program. Twenty-seven years later, the College now offers several different undergraduate and graduate degree programs in five disciplines and has over 1,200 students. Mary is most excited about how the Financial Aid Office has grown since she began working at the College. “There are many more financial aid options available, to students now than in 1981.” Mary is proud of the difference she has made in the lives of many of the College’s students by being able to assist them with financial aid to fund their education.

Mary is known throughout the financial aid community as an outstanding administrator and student advocate. All aspects of the College benefit from having a professional like Mary as part of the team.

Congratulations Mary! Keep up the good work.

For more information on named scholarship funds currently held at the College or to receive information on establishing a named scholarship, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 510.869.8628.

Arthur L. Klatsky, MD, will present, “Is Abstinence From Beer and Wine Hazardous to Your Health?” at the 18th Annual Picchi Lecture Series on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 starting at 5:30 p.m. This memorial lecture will be held at the Samuel Merritt College Health Education Center, 400 Hawthorne Avenue in Oakland.

Dr. Arthur Klatsky is an Adjunct Investigator at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland. He served as Chief of Cardiology at Kaiser Oakland from 1978–94, and directed the Coronary Care Unit from 1968–90. He has written and lectured extensively on alcohol consumption and its connection to health. Dr. Klatsky has also published over 100 peer review publications with the majority on alcohol and its effect on health. Other research interests include coffee, tea and health and cardiovascular risk in Asian-American ethnic groups. In 1992, Dr. Klatsky received the first Thomas B. Turner Award for Research Excellence. In 1995, the National Academies of Practice named him a Distinguished Practitioner. In 2004, Dr. Klatsky was awarded the Morris Collen Award for Lifetime Research Achievement.

The Picchi Memorial Lecture is sponsored by Samuel Merritt College (SMC) in memory of Dr. Joseph Picchi and his wife, Mary. Dr. Picchi was a beloved physician who prized health education. Mary was a licensed clinical social worker who dedicated her life to helping developmentally disabled adults. Proceeds from the Picchi Lecture are used to inform the community about a broad variety of medical topics and fund the Picchi Collection of health information in the John A. Graziano Memorial Library at SMC’s Oakland campus.

Space is limited and reservations are required. The suggested donation to attend is $25. To attend or donate, please call the SMC Office of Development and Alumni Affairs by March 5th at 510.869.8628.

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"We are trained to educate health care and science professionals, rather than to treat patients, and we have PhDs in specialty areas, such as human anatomy or neurosciences," says Dr. Fred Feuchter, Professor and Interim Chair, Basic Sciences. "In many schools of health sciences, basic science courses might be taught by someone with a clinical degree, rather than a specialist in the subject area as we have at SMC. One of the consistent reasons students choose to attend SMC is our strong basic science curriculum."

In the Physician Assistant program, the first fifteen months of the curriculum is devoted to basic medical and clinical sciences such as anatomy, microbiology and infectious disease and pharmacology. For the podiatric medicine program, the basic science courses are human anatomy, histology, and neuroscience, as well as biochemistry and microbiology. The basic science curriculum in the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) is extensive enough to have its own coordinator. Dr. Bruce Richardson, Chair of the Department of Basic Medical Sciences at CSPM, believes Samuel Merritt College has unique aspects when it comes to basic science in the podiatry program, such as early clinical exposure and disciplines in research. "In the doctoral programs, part of the accreditation process involves demonstrating research that is being conducted by faculty and students. Once students obtain their degree, they will know how to manage practice and research in their lives. This can help them further advance their career in podiatric medicine and for those studying physical therapy."

With a campus wide program, basic science also allows professors to 'team teach' across programs which allows faculty to do research. "One of the areas that is evaluated for faculty promotion is carrying out scholarly activities, of which one is research," says Dr. Richardson.

The Basic Science Department also offers undergraduate prerequisite courses in anatomy and physiology that are required for admission into graduate programs in the health sciences.

SECOND ANNUAL ROBERT L. RUTHERFORD, DPM
Memorial Golf Tournament Scheduled for June 2008

Robert L. Rutherford, DPM, FACFAS

The California School of Podiatric Medicine’s (CSPM) Student Body Association and the CSPM Alumni and Associates will host the Second Annual Robert L. Rutherford, DPM Memorial Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at Monarch Bay Golf Club, 13800 Monarch Bay Drive in San Leon. Registration and lunch begin at 12:30 p.m. followed by a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start with a scramble format.

For only $550 per person, golfers enjoy 18 holes on the beautiful Tony Lema Golf Course as well as lunch, dinner, goodie bags, prizes, awards and more! Cocktails are at 6 p.m. followed by an awards dinner. Register today by calling Carla Ross at 510.869.6688 or email her at cross@samuelmerritt.edu. The first 72 golfers to register will receive a tournament windbreaker jacket.

This annual fundraising event is held in honor of Dr. Robert L. Rutherford. Dr. Rutherford, an avid golfer, who graduated from the California College of Podiatric Medicine in 1940. When he started medical school, Dr. Rutherford only had a linen suit, straw hat and a set of golf clubs. He began his teaching career at CCPM in the Department of Surgery in 1943. For the next 27 years, Dr. Rutherford served as Chairman of the surgery department and Chief of Surgery of the Podiatry Hospital from 1960 until his retirement in 1970.

During that span of 27 years, Dr. Rutherford was responsible for advancing podiatric surgery in the west from simple digital procedures to the more advanced reconstructive procedures of the foot and ankle. He was always very proud of the fact that he had been involved in the surgical teaching of 986 students during his 27 years as a medical educator.

Dr. Rutherford was instrumental in developing plans for a teaching hospital which opened in San Francisco in April 1960 and became an outstanding program for learning foot and ankle surgery. As a result of his perseverance to develop a major surgical teaching center, many podiatrists obtained exceptional skills and went on to become leaders in their profession.

Tournament proceeds will be used to fund educational speakers, ceremonial gatherings and developmental workshops for current CSPM students.

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND START FORMING THOSE FOURSOMES!
If you know of anyone who might be interested in assisting with this event, by becoming a sponsor, please email Kevin Blue at kevin.blue@samuelmerritt.edu; or Ryan Muchowski at ryan.muchowski@samuelmerritt.edu; or contact Carla Ross in the Office of Alumni Affairs at 510.869.6688.

SAN MATEO LEARNING CENTER
Opens Doors for Nursing Students

In direct response to the growing shortage of nurses nationwide, Samuel Merritt College (SMC) has opened its newest nursing facility in San Mateo. On October 2, 2007, more than three-dozen students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSNI) program began classes at the newly renovated San Mateo Learning Center (SMLC). The twelve-month program is designed for someone who already has a baccalaureate in a non-nursing field.

The 12,000 square-foot facility, located at 1720 South Amphlett Boulevard, is the latest learning site that will provide vital educational opportunities to health care students living in the Bay Area. The new learning center has two spacious classrooms, a 12 patient bed skills lab, ten private faculty offices, a computer lab/library, a conference room and break/lounge room.

The ABSN program responds to SMC’s mission of educating students to become highly skilled and compassionate health care professionals who positively transform the experience of care in diverse communities. Students can enroll at one of the four SMC learning centers located in Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento, and now in San Mateo. The San Mateo cohort of students had been studying at the SMC San Francisco Learning Center while construction was under way at the San Mateo site.

“The new Center will provide much-needed nursing and health science facilities for the community,” said Dr. Sharon Diaz, Samuel Merritt College President. “We are excited about the new learning center and are looking forward to making this a model program.

The San Mateo Learning Center was made possible due to grants from Kaiser Permanente and the Betty Irene Moore Nursing Initiative through the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.
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), presented with a plaque and invited to give a talk in his/her area of expertise.

For 2008, the committee selected Anthony Poggio, DPM. In addition to being a 1984 graduate of the California College of Podiatric Medicine (CCPM) (now known as CSPM), over the past ten years, Dr. Poggio has generously given of his time and talents for 2007 holiday food drive a success

As part of the 2007 alumni holiday events—alums were invited to bring donations of non-perishable food items and/or small gift items to alumni events held in December. Thanks to the generosity of Samuel Merritt and Providence College of Nursing alumni—seven baskets were made containing everything needed to prepare a holiday meal for a family of four, including a $60 Safeway gift certificate to purchase a ham, turkey or roast beef of their choice and gift items for two adults and two children.

The baskets were assembled in laundry baskets, festively wrapped, and were given to the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Chaplaincy Services Department, in the name of Samuel Merritt College and Providence College of Nursing alums. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center then distributed the baskets to the Parks Chapel AME Church on 54th Street who, in turn, distributed them to those in need in the Oakland community.

Together with baskets prepared by other Alta Bates Summit departments and employees, over 200 holiday food baskets and 600 gift items were provided for less fortunate families in the Oakland community.

2008 Dr. Milton Wolfson Memorial Scholar of the Year Named

By Dr. Albert E. Burns, Dean and Professor, Department of Surgery

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Frequently Asked Questions

About Charitable Remainder Trusts

What Is a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)?

A charitable remainder trust (CRT) is a trust that provides an income for one or more named individual beneficiaries for a term of years or life, and eventually the remaining assets within the trust will be distributed to one or more charities. The grantor receives a tax deduction for the present value of the remainder interest to go to charity.

Are There Different Types of CRTs?

Yes, there are two types of CRTs:

- the charitable remainder annuity trust (CRAT) and
- the charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT).

The primary difference between a CRAT and a CRUT is in determining the payout to the non-charitable beneficiaries. The CRUT produces an annual fixed income that is determined by the donor at the time the gift is made. The CRUT produces an annual income that is a percentage of the trusts assets as valued every year.

What Type of CRT Should I Choose? A CRAT or a CRUT?

That depends. Some people choose a CRAT because they prefer a fixed income. However, others choose a CRUT because their annual payout can be a hedge against inflation if the appreciation of the trust assets equals or exceeds the rate of inflation.

How Much of an Income Can I Expect from a CRAT?

Within broad limits, you can select the payout rate you want to receive from the CRAT. For example, Geoffrey (age 72) creates a CRAT with $250,000 of stock holdings. He chooses an annual payout rate of 5 percent. Every year, Geoffrey will receive $12,500 (5 percent of $250,000) for the rest of his life. Any change in the financial markets will not affect the amount that Geoffrey should receive from the CRAT.

What Does It Mean That a CRT is an Irrevocable Trust?

A revocable trust can be modified or terminated pre-maturely. However, a donor may retains the right to change the charitable beneficiaries that will receive some or all of the trust remainder when the trust ends.

Why Should I Create a CRT?

A CRT is a great way to make a gift and retain an income. A CRT is an especially good way to convert appreciated, low-yielding securities or property into a sizeable income stream. A CRT is also an especially good way to avoid potential capital gains taxation on appreciated property (the transfer of assets to a CRT does not trigger capital gains). You can enjoy these benefits while fulfilling your philanthropic goals.

Provided for information purposes only. Always check with your tax and financial advisors before implementing any gift plan.

For more information on charitable trusts, please contact Sue Sylvester, Executive Director of Development at 510.869.1507.
FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, Captain Ellie Johnson, United States Army, has worked with patients dealing with anger, stress, depression, and fatigue. During her one-year deployment in Iraq, she aided soldiers who encountered homemade bombs, rocket-propelled grenades, and mortar fire during their deployment. Brain injuries caused by explosions have become some of the most common combat wounds suffered in Iraq.

During her deployment, Captain Johnson trekked to and from battlefield aid stations in desert storms, floods, heat and rain, looking for people who were too afraid or embarrassed to find help. She says she couldn’t have done any of this, if it weren’t for the Occupational Therapy (OT) courses she took at Samuel Merritt College.

“What I learned in OT from instructors like Kate Hayner and Gordon Giles, is that people aren’t one-dimensional. When you treat a person you have to look at the big picture: what does that person like to do? what is their family like? where do they live? You have to take all of that into account when you are working with an individual.”

Entering the military with a Master of Occupational Therapy degree, Captain Johnson admits she was not mentally prepared for the assignments the Army gave her. While in Iraq, most OT’s were deployed to ‘The Fitness Team,’ screening patients. Captain Johnson’s mission was with the “Prevention Team,” helping soldiers and their commanders find mental medical attention.

“There were times when the battalion aid station needed my help and without thinking I would stuff my bag with only my OT tools, a goniometer (used to measure range of motion in a joint), a measuring tape and a pen. It helps you chart so you can look at progress and see if the patient is getting better or worse. They are not normal supplies, but I carry them with me always. A habit I developed at SMC.”

Before heading to Fort Jackson, South Carolina this past September, where she now works as an outpatient clinic, Captain Johnson stopped by SMC and spoke to a large group of OT students about the different skills she learned in the military. The lecture peaked the interest of Rochelle Connelly, a second year OT student at SMC.

“Ten to twenty percent of occupational therapists work in mental health,” said Gordon Giles, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy. “At the College, we teach the use of functional activities to promote a sense of well being and redeveloping the capacity for functioning in a person’s life. In Ellie’s case, she was helping soldiers manage everyday military activities to keep them focused on anything but the stress of combat.”

“Gordon Giles taught me a lot about mental health, looking at medication, DSM4, (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) and mental health diagnosis, so I definitely had that background with me when I started this new line of work,” said Captain Johnson.

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“I had been talking about purchasing a Hybrid, but never did I think all the money I would have to pay to get one was the price of a drawing ticket, tax deductible.”

“A colleague selling them and to support current California School of Podiatric Medicine students”, stated Dr. Wisniew. “My wife and I had been talking about purchasing a Hybrid, but never did I think all the money I would have to pay to get one was the price of a drawing ticket, tax deductible.”

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Before heading to Fort Jackson, South Carolina this past September, where she now works as an outpatient clinic, Captain Johnson stopped by SMC and spoke to a large group of OT students about the different skills she learned in the military. The lecture peaked the interest of Rochelle Connelly, a second year OT student at SMC.

“I would have to pay to get one was the price of a drawing ticket, tax deductible.”

“A colleague selling them and to support current California School of Podiatric Medicine students”, stated Dr. Wisniew. “My wife and I had been talking about purchasing a Hybrid, but never did I think all the money I would have to pay to get one was the price of a drawing ticket, tax deductible.”

“How do? what is their family like? where do they live? You have to take all of that into account when you are working with an individual.”

Entering the military with a Master of Occupational Therapy degree, Captain Johnson admits she was not mentally prepared for the assignments the Army gave her. While in Iraq, most OT’s were deployed to ‘The Fitness Team,’ screening patients. Captain Johnson’s mission was with the “Prevention Team,” helping soldiers and their commanders find mental medical attention.

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“Gordon Giles taught me a lot about mental health, looking at medication, DSM4, (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) and mental health diagnosis, so I definitely had that background with me when I started this new line of work,” said Captain Johnson.

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From the Ranks

California College of Podiatric Medicine

GRADUATES

1978
Dr. Charles (Chuck) Kelman runs a fleet of fishing boats off the Los Angeles coastline.

ATTENTION 1978 CCPM ALUMS!
Are you interested in a 30th year reunion? Contact Dr. Andrew Schink at 541.683.3551 or the Office of Alumni Affairs at 510.866.6688.

1986
Dr. Philip McKinney has a nursery, growing all species of maple trees.

Providence College of Nursing

GRADUATES

1960
Sandy Moretti Siffman would love to hear from any of her 1960 PCN classmates. Her email address is dsiffem@pacbell.net.

1968
Susan Ilardi Williams became a grandmother in December 2007. Natalie Sheriden Williams was born to Susan’s son Aaron and daughter-in-law Moge on November 27, 2007. Natalie weighed 7 lbs 14 ounces and was 21 inches long.

1972
Teresa (Terri) Francis Hudson writes, “I am now living and working in Corvallis, Oregon after a four year residence in British Columbia.”

Samuel Merritt College

GRADUATES

NURSING

1926
Dorothy Noe Buhrer celebrated her 102nd birthday on September 10, 2007! Dorothy has macular degeneration but other than that states she is “fit as a fiddle.” She states that she has very fond memories of her nurses training at Samuel Merritt.

Dorothy Noe Buhrer pictured on her 102nd birthday!

1937
Sharon Marks (SMH 1937) writes, “My mother Gertrude Grieb Sluffer (SMH 1937) passed away in July 2003. She lived in Yucaipa, CA. She remained active in her nursing career until she died. She was the caregiver of her husband Donald from 1938 to 2003.”

1938
Ruth File Butler writes, “Well, I’m still hanging in and doing fine. I’m living at Skyline, an assisted living complex. It’s very nice and they give you good care. They have lots of activities for us like bowling, bingo, exercise classes. They keep us moving. I’ll soon be 92 and I feel fine.”

1948
Florence Cuddeback Bywater writes, “My nursing experience still comes in handy often in my neighborhood and in my work at St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store with shoppers! I also enjoy and appreciate my family, son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons (all teachers!). We are never at a loss for great conversation. I do so miss my nursing class friends at good ole Samuel Merritt.”

1952
Patricia McGee Kenworthy writes, “My husband, John, passed away in January 2007, and I’ve been coping with taking over what he did, such as paper work and doing what I’ve always done. Friends and family have been supportive and helpful.”

1958
Carol Coleman Wilson writes, “I moved to Del Webb’s Sun City in Lincoln, CA, after living in Orinda for 38 years. I am retired and have joined an antique and garden group.”

1960
Mary J. Colburn LaMieux writes, “These days I stick to home pretty much. My lovely custom home in Dayton, Nevada is up for sale and I’m the seller. I hold open houses nearly every weekend. December 2006 and June 2007, I traveled to the Bay Area to celebrate Christmas and my grandson’s fourth birthday, as well as visiting some friends. To see photos of the house, go to www.117hillcrest.com. My telephone number is 775.246.7246.

1963
Carol Ann DeStefano Aspland writes, “Currently, I am and have been, for the past three years, doing volunteer work in our local N.I.C.U. It is a very rewarding job and I enjoy our time travel- ing. This past fall, we spent three weeks in Italy. We go to Northern California to visit our eldest son, Michael, Margie and our grandchildren. We, also, visit our son, Kurt, Jackie and our other three grandchildren (Grant, Laurel, and Ryan), in Maryland. Our youngest son, Brent and his wife, Wendy, live closer in Santa Monica. We are always busy and enjoy- ing retirement.” Sharon Shaffer Marks writes, “I attended Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho and earned my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Management Tech in 1984 and 1986 respectively. I worked as a nurse from 1963 until 1994 when I retired from nursing—doing primar- ily home health and teaching at junior colleges wherever we lived. In 1995, I received my teaching credential and in 1997, my masters in Environmental Education. I taught elementary school until 2007. I am now retired and spent a month in China teaching English as a second language. Awesome experience! I also spent three months touring around the United States and Canada this past August, September and October.”

1965
Maggie McGraw (Lynne Cowan) writes, “I am sorry that I was not able to attend the Annual Alumni Holiday Dinner, but look forward to attending in 2008. I now live in Maryland, so it takes a little planning. I also want to let my class- mates know that I have changed my name from Lynne to Maggie and have married a man named McGraw so my last name has changed as well. I am now Maggie McGraw—a little weird.”

1967
Carol Swander Clark writes, “We re- tired and moved to our retirement dream home in a golf community in Windsor, CO across the highway from where we have lived since 1970.”

1982
Elena Luttrell-Teixeira writes, “I have been happily living in the valley for the last twenty years. I worked in PACU at Emanuel Medical Center for 20 years. I currently work for the Northern California Surgery Center and I absol- utely love it. I would like to say hello to all my classmates from 1982. Cindy Schumacher Niermeyer from my class used to work with me at Emanuel Medical Center.”

1989
Kira Dronfield Duro has been married to fellow SMC alum Dr. Travis Duro (MPT 2002) for 14 years and they have two children.

1994
Dana Rosales Clarkson writes, “Patrick Clarkson and I were married on March 27, 2007. We currently live in Murrieta, CA with a 12 year old son, Cody, 5 year old daugh- ter Isabella. I would love to hear from my classmates. My life is blessed!”

1995
Arlene Henderson Stavropoulos writes, “I would love to talk with my classmates from our graduating class of 1995. Our family has been in Lodi, CA for 12 years and now has moved back to San Ramon, CA. I am working at San Ramon Regional Medical Center in the Family Birthing Center. My specialty is neonatal intensive care and I am hoping to secure a job at Children’s or Kaiser in the near future. I have been a NICU nurse for the past 10 years. I am much as possible. I also try to balance my music. He enjoys hanging out with the kids and the kids are getting used to Dad being around. The children have improved their soccer skills since the family room and kitchen has been turned into a soccer field on a daily basis. Jeff continues to direct our contemporary band for church and is very good at it (Frau sings in the band as well). He continuously shines with his talent of playing, singing the piano and guitar and directing the band. Jeff is also doing contract work with a de- veloper for the City of Folsom to use his expertise in sound engineering in build- ing our new Amphitheater. He is very excited with this new opportunity and doing the things he loves—music and raising the children. Ilsa is now going to Jr. Kindergarten at Golden Hills School. She loves her new school and is learn- ing at a tremendous pace. She is reading now and loves to write her own notes to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7…
REMEMBERING JULIE ANNE CORTEZ

by Lisa “Lash” Himes-Short, BSN ’06

Julie Anne Cortez was the type of person you may meet only once or twice in a lifetime, if you are lucky. Not only was she extraordinarily bright, driven, and beautiful, but she was truly kind, compassionate, and, I believe, an old soul.

Julie had a love of literature and language. Before becoming a student at SMC, Julie attended Yale University with a full academic scholarship. In 1998, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa Magna Cum Laude with a degree in French Literature. One story goes that after reading one of her essays, her French Literature professors wrote to her, “When I have a pile of papers and essays that need to be graded, I always save yours for last. This is because I know I can take your paper home, put my feet up on my desk, and read pure perfection.”

After graduating from Yale, Julie moved back to the Sacramento area where she worked in the admissions department of UC Davis. She was unfulfilled, however, and after much consideration and research she decided to become a nurse. Julie saw nursing as an extremely rewarding profession where she could have a true impact on people’s lives.

I met Julie in 2005, on the first day of class for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing pilot program. I remember that we were standing outside Bechtel Hall by the grass, both looking quite confused, when our eyes caught. At that moment I did not know what drew me to her; all that I knew was that we were going to be friends.

Julie was a reserved person. At first, if you weren’t paying attention, you might not even notice her. But once you did, her uniqueness was undeniable. Not only did she have a genius IQ, but she was a warm, caring, loving person who did not judge people because they were different, or for any superficial reasons. In fact, the only people Julie did not like was people who thought only of themselves. Julie had so many passions; for learning, the environment, animals, art, music, fashion, going out and having fun, or just sitting in the sun having a talk with a friend.

Julie’s long-term goal was to become a CRNA. She knew that this meant she had to work in an ICU after graduation. During clinical rotations for SMC, she fell in love with the babies in the NICU. In 2006, following completion of her academic studies, she was hired to work at the Kaiser Oakland NICU, where she worked for a year. She had just transferred, in June of 2007, to the Kaiser Morse Hospital NICU in Sacramento, where she lived with her sister. It gives me peace to know that Julie was very excited with how her life was going.

As far as I could tell, Julie only had one major flaw…she was chronically late. I myself, being from the East Coast, used to joke that there was “California Time,” which is about five minutes late, and then there was “Julie Time,” which was anything later than that! Unfortunately, on Monday, August 20, 2007, Julie was, as usual, running late. At 2:45 p.m., she was driving to work, when she took a corner too fast, lost control of her car, hit a telephone pole, and was killed instantly. She was only 31 years old.

Julie was a star among stars. She sparkled with life and ideas, and most of all, love. I will miss her forever.

Lisa Marie Meikle

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Lisa Marie Meikle and Stephen Daniel Ingersoll were joined in marriage on the third day of November 2007. Vows were exchanged in an early evening service held in the Saint Mary’s College chapel followed by a reception held at Scott’s Garden in Walnut Creek.

Congratulations Lisa and Stephen!

2007

Rebecca L. McCormack Johnson of the May 2007 ABSN class was married to Brian Johnson on June 30, 2007 in Castro Valley, CA. Rebecca is currently working at Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek as a medical-surgical nurse.

Congratulations Rebecca and Brian!

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

1996

Nancy (Marc) Ann Sweeney Architects has published a pediatrics CD entitled “Handwriting HIGH FIVE” along with SMC Professor Fred Feuchter. The CD is designed to assist parents, elementary
2008 ALUMNI EVENTS :: MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

California School of Podiatric Medicine Alumni and Associates
CADAVER WORKSHOP
Saturday, April 5, 2008
Oakland, California

SECOND ANNUAL ROBERT L. RUTHERFORD, DPM MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Wednesday, June 4, 2008
San Leandro, California

Annual Samuel Merritt College and Providence College of Nursing
ALUMNI REUNION LUNCHEON
Saturday, June 7, 2008
Oakland, California

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
ALUMNI REUNION RECEPTION to be held during the
Western Podiatric Medical Congress
Saturday, June 21, 2008
Anaheim, California

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
ALUMNI SUNSET COCKTAIL CRUISE to be held during the
American Podiatric Medical Association Annual Scientific Meeting
Saturday, July 26, 2008
Honolulu, Hawaii

ANNUAL SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE ALUMNI HOLIDAY DINNER
Thursday, December 4, 2008
Lafayette, California

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE OF NURSING
ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA
Saturday, December 13, 2008
Oakland, California

For more information regarding any of these events or to obtain a current class list to rally together your classmates to attend, contact Carla Ross in the Office of Alumni Affairs at 510.869.6638 or by email at cross@samuelmerritt.edu.