



## Letter from the Director . . .

Dear All,

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Genetic Counseling Program  
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Best wishes to each of you this holiday season. It was wonderful to see so many alumni at the Los Angeles NSGC and to note that USC graduates are active in the profession in so many ways. Did you know that we will graduate our twentieth class this year?.....over 125 graduates in the field! What a milestone for all of us!

With our twentieth anniversary in mind, we have set in motion a period of self-study in which we hope to refresh, update and prepare the Program for ABGC re-accreditation in 2006. Many of our graduates have provided input as we have sought ways to strengthen the didactic, clinical, and research offerings. As our profession evolves, so does our Program. We appreciate your feedback and support in the process.

The New Year promises much for Program faculty. Claire started her tenure as NSGC Region III representative. Karen is growing the cancer genetic counseling service, now with Vicki's help. Vicki will soon finish a March of Dimes grant integrating Spanish translation into the prenatal counseling service. Our newest counselors, Andrea Adams and Jessica Hooks, have added their bright and enthusiastic energy to our grant efforts and counselor education. Dr. Young has semi-retired, continuing his efforts in cancer genetics. Our newest cytogeneticist, Nicole Christacos, has become invaluable in the laboratory and in teaching medical genetics. The University recognized what we have known for years.... Dr. Best has been named a Master Teacher. Lastly, I am immersed in my second year of the Engelberg Fellowship, planning the first international conference on genetic counselor education for May 2006. Take a look at the website: [igce.med.sc.edu](http://igce.med.sc.edu).

Herein you'll find news from your fellow alum. You'll also find a short article highlighting 2005 international clinical rotations. Take a look at the Genetic Counseling Endowment, a growing financial vehicle that supports genetic counselor education. We also celebrate our twentieth year by recognizing our graduates; see how many of your fellow alum you know (. As always, we appreciate you and know that the Program thrives on your continued support.

Our best to each of you and to your families this holiday season, with warmest wishes for a wonderful new year.

**Janice**

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The Genetic Counseling Program  
Welcomed Six New Students this Fall

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Melissa Ciano     | Rutgers University                          |
| Anna Edens        | North Carolina State University             |
| Karen Echerd      | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| Holly Hardin      | University of Southern Mississippi          |
| Shobana Kubendran | University of Kerela, India                 |
| Kate Wilson       | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |

# Alumni News. . .

## New Jobs

Erin McIntosh Demo (05) is at Duke University as a genetic counselor on a Fragile X research study.

Christina Lanning (04) works in the Neurogenetics program at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Kristin Fraser (03) relocated to the Regional Obstetrical Consultants at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, TN in April of 2005.

Ellen Neese (03) moved to Knoxville in August and started law school at UT.

Andrea Adams Sellers (05) is working at USC as a prenatal counselor and on the ANGEL study.

Justine Coppinger (95) moved to a new laboratory genetic counselor position at Signature Genomics Laboratory, which performs microarray comparative genomic hybridization for diagnostic purposes, on October 17, 2005.

Jennifer McGregor (Matlock) (04) is now a Clinical Research Associate with a Cardiovascular Clinical Trial at University of Kentucky. Her new email is [jennifer.mcgregor@uky.edu](mailto:jennifer.mcgregor@uky.edu).

## Professional accomplishments

Jodie Asher (92) was elected chair of the ART SIG and was acting GA state representative for Region III.

Mary Ann Whalen (00), Director of Boston University program, accepted her first class of genetic counseling students in May, and students started this fall.

Jennifer Lee Rollins (93) is co-chairing the Texas Genetic Counselors Licensure Working Group and was appointed to the National Faculty for RTS.

Libby Hull Malphrus (01) is a member of the Audrey Heimler Special Projects fund committee (AEC03-AEC05).

Courtney Rowell (00) received her MBA from the Executive MBA program at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall of 2005. She is also currently the Treasurer for the NSGC Cancer-SIG for 2005-2007, the Communications Co-Chair for the NSGC AEC in 2006, and the Co-Chair for the NSGC AEC in 2007.

Rhonda Scanlon (02) is on the state's committee to create an organization for the genetic counselors in Michigan.

Heather Hansen (02) is a Board Member of the Florida Chapter of the Children's Tumor Foundation (previously the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation).

## **Alumni News. . .Continued**

Deb Lane (04) is on the 2005 AEC EBS Planning Committee, 2006 NSGC Region IV Meeting Logistics Committee, and the 2005-2006 Indiana Down Syndrome Foundation Family & Friends Committee Member, Outreach Committee Member.

Bridgette Aufmuth (05) and Cristi Radford (05) presented work from their Master of Science thesis work at the 2005 NSGC AEC in Los Angeles, while classmates Leah Robison (05), Erin Demo (05), Andrea Sellers (05), and Amy Fuller (05) had poster presentations.

### **Marriages/engagements**

Erin McIntosh (05) got married on August 6, 2005 and is now Erin Demo.

Christina Lanning (04) is engaged to Alex Alamillo and a wedding is planned for Sept 22, 2006.

Andrea Adams (05) married Joel Sellers on September 10, 2005 and is now Andrea Sellers.

Jennifer Sullivan (96) got engaged to Aaron Saarela over Labor Day weekend and plans an April 2006 wedding.

### **Births**

Kara Bui (03) had her second boy in November 2005. Theodore "Theo" Atance was born on 11/11/05.

Marla Jurek's (01) triplets are doing well - Marisa Susanne, Eliana Beatriz, and Kaleigh Ruth.

Jennifer Lee Rollins (93) had a daughter - Mallory Marie Rollins on December 8, 2004.

Libby Hull Malphrus (01) is currently expecting her first child on March 3, 2006. It's a girl- Grace Elizabeth Malphrus.

Allison Aitchison (93) added a new addition to her family, Michael Curtis Aitchison, on 3/30/05.

Anne-Marie (Sanders) Angeloff (98) had a daughter - Ragan Margarete on 9/26/05.

Amy Giordano Shealy ('97) had a son, Anthony, on October 11, 2005.

Erin Steed (02) had a daughter, Sarah Hunter Steed, on October 17, 2005.

**Congratulations to all those who sat for the 2005 ABGC boards!**

## Crossing Cultures

In the expanding intersection where compassion meets science, the Genetic Counseling Program is doing its part to improve the quality of genetic counseling education across the globe. This year two genetic counseling students from USC traveled abroad. Jeanie Schaller spent two months at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia and for two months, Christina Rybak worked at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

"Australia has socialized health care," Schaller said, "and one of the differences I observed was that particular approach affected the uptake in genetic testing, meaning more people got tested there." Schaller observed similarities in counseling, though she did notice a more laid back approach in Australia.

One of the most noteworthy aspects of the Melbourne program was its methodology for working with native aboriginals. "That is a significant portion of the population. All the counselors were well versed in that culture," she said.

In South Africa, Rybak noticed "The counselors there deal with some weighty cultural and social issues. Twenty-one percent of adults in South Africa have AIDS. TB and fetal alcohol syndrome are 40 times more pervasive in children than in the US." Given that, genetic testing and counseling are not high on the list for funding and must compete for scarce resources.

In addition to USC students traveling abroad, New Zealand native Alison Archibald, from the University of Melbourne, came to observe the program in Columbia. "The education here is different. To receive a graduate diploma in genetic counseling in Melbourne, we take a one-year course that mainly centers on theory. There's less practical training. You get that on the job." After her stay in Columbia, Archibald will receive her graduate diploma, but intends on completing another year to earn her masters in health science.

Archibald has observed a few cultural differences. "Melbourne is multi-cultural in different ways than Columbia. We have quite a lot of Asians and large Greek and Italian populations."

All three give high marks to their exchange experiences. As Rybak noted, "We got to see factors and circumstances we don't necessarily see here, and that was invaluable. Yet, the bottom line of the profession is the same: how to best interact with and help the people you see."

Article by Sam Morton, USC School of Medicine

## Genetic Counseling Endowment...Strengthening the Future of Genetic Counseling

The Genetic Counseling Endowment was created in 2002 as a financial vehicle to preserve and enrich the educational activities of the Program. Every gift goes directly toward the education of genetic

### Special Appreciation for our Recent Donors

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Aitchison  
The Zvejnieks Foundation  
Ms. Melissa Bennett  
Ms. Emily Hardisty  
Ms. Courtney Rowell  
Mr. Aubrey Turner  
Ms. Sheri Babb  
Ms. Lara Percenti  
Ms. Karen Powers  
Ms. Christina Lavin  
SCANA Corporation  
Mr. & Mrs. Myron Vincent

counselors. In 2005, endowment funds helped to support six seniors' attendance at the Los Angeles NSGC Conference. Alumni, faculty and friends who know the Program best, know they strengthen genetic counseling today and in the future with their support.



# Genetic Counseling Program

## Alumni

### 1985-2005

Allison Davis Aitchison, M.S.  
Elizabeth Egbert Allen, M.S.  
Anne Marie Sanders Angeloff, M.S., M.D.  
Jodie Meyer Asher, M.S.  
Bridgette Aufmuth, M.S.  
Sheri Holmes Babb, M.S.  
John F Bagnasco, M.S., M.D.  
Lori Lucas Bassett, M.S.  
Anne Meredith Baughman, M.S.  
Melissa K. Bennett, M.S.  
Teresa Monteith Berry, M.S.  
Jennifer Blob Boner, M.S.  
N. Campell Knutson Brasington, M.S.  
Elizabeth Foster Brown, M.S.  
Kara Bui, M.S.  
Tahnee N. Causey, M.S.  
Karen Decena Charles, M.S.  
Christina M. Chimera, M.S.  
Justine A. Coppinger, M.S.  
Kenneth J. Corning, M.S.  
Deborah Mehl Costakos, M.S., M.D.  
Julie A Coulter, M.S.  
Kerensa A. Crandall, M.S.  
Amelia Smith Craver, M.S.  
Elizabeth Cook Dempsey, M.S.  
Erin McIntosh Demo, M.S.  
Kathleen Hays Devary, M.S.  
Shelley Kaye Dills, M.S.  
Amy Toburen Dobson, M.S.  
Ashley Wyatt Donaldson, M.S.  
Leigh Ann Elston, M.S.  
Joan Conard Erhardt, M.S.  
Sonja R. Eubanks, M.S.  
Jill M. Fischer, M.S.  
Robin S. Fletcher, M.S.  
Kristin L. Frazer, M.S.  
Lorraine Fry-Melhtretter, M.S.  
Amy Fuller, M.S.  
Cynthia H. Gash, M.S.  
Eleanor Geller Gotha, M.S.  
Emily E. Hardisty, M.S.  
Barbara Harrington Gherman, M.S.  
Lyn S. Hammond, M.S.  
Heather L. Hansen, M.S.  
R. Lynn Baldwin Holt, M.S.  
Amy L Houser, M.S., M.P.H.  
Sharon F. Hoyle, M.S.  
Erica R. Humphrey, M.S.  
Joyce G. Hutchinson, M.S.  
Sheau-Wen Jan, M.S.  
Kristine Garrett Jarrett, M.S.  
Margriet M. Johansen, M.S.  
Kathleen O'Brien Johnson, M.S.  
Marla B. Jurek, M.S.  
Kathy Keenan, M.S.  
Aileen A. Kenneson, M.S, PhD.  
Peggy S. Kerper, M.S.  
Meghan Taylor Kofod, M.S.  
Cheryl Kubas, M.S.  
Deborah Lane, M.S.  
Christina Laning, M.S.  
Christina Masciangelo Lavin, M.S.  
Julia Lee, M.S. M.D  
Angie Ward Lichty, M.S  
Creighton E. Likes III, M.S., M.D.  
Emily Crocker Lisi, M.S.  
Katherine Gaupman Littrell, M.S.  
Kerri-Lynn Hopper Lockwood, M.S.  
Carol Kleeman Long, M.S  
Kennth M. Loud, M.S  
Carolyn Mills Lovell, M.S., M.A.T.  
Elizabeth A. Lutz, M.S.  
Elizabeth Hull Malphrus, M.S.  
Jennifer Matlock, M.S.  
Lindsay Allen Metcalf, M.S.  
Christine E. Miller, M.S.  
Lindsay Hall Montgomery, M.S.  
Sonya Barrineau Monts, M.S.  
Ellen Neese, M.S.  
Stephanie Nix, M.S.  
Holly Landrum Peay, M.S.  
Deborah Fry Pencarina, M.S.  
Lara Berg Percenti, M.S.  
Jill W. Pouncey, M.S.  
Cristi Radford, M.S.  
Jennifer Hunter Ramey, M.S.  
Kimberly K. Ranieri, M.S.  
Sarah A. Ravan, M.S.  
Leah Robison, M.S.  
Jennifer Lee Rollins, M.S.  
Courtney E. Rowell, M.S.  
Helen N. Rucker, M.S.  
Rhonda Heleski Scanlon, M.S.  
Andrea Adams Sellars, M.S.  
Ellen L. Schlenker, M.S.  
Amy Giordiano Shealy, M.S.  
Lin-Yi Shish, M.S.  
Tammy Pate Snell, M.S.  
Tara S. Horejsi Stamper, M.S.  
Christine L. Stanislaw, M.S.  
Amie Pannier Stanley, M.S.  
Gail Anderson Stapleton, M.S.  
Erin Hunter Steed, M.S.  
Ellen Pearson Stover, M.S.  
Jennifer A. Sullivan, M.S.  
Ann Winn Stahel Surka, M.S.  
Jeffrey L. Taska, M.S.  
Lori A. Terry, M.S.  
Denise Tilley Howard, M.S.  
Aubrey R. Turner, M.S.  
Virginia McRoy Vickery, M.S.  
Victoria A. Vincent, M.S.  
Alison Hayes Wall, M.S.  
Donna Wallerstein, M.S.  
MaryAnn Whalen, M.S.  
Karen Powers Wicely, M.S.  
Beth Drinkwater Wilkes, M.S.  
Debera Harris Zvejnieks, M.S.

## Twenty Years and Going Strong



# SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### **Celebrating Our Outstanding Alumnae Award Recipients!**

2001 Cam Brasington, M.S., C.G.C.  
2002-2003 Jill Fischer, M.S., C.G.C.  
2004 Christine Miller, M.S., C.G.C.  
2005 Vicki Vincent, M.S., C.G.C.  
2006 Sonja Eubanks, M.S., C.G.C.

### **...And Our S. Robert Young Outstanding Genetic Counselor Awardees!**

1992 Debra Harris Zvejnieks	1999 Amy Giordano Shealy
1993 Jill Fischer	2000 Mary Ann Whalen
1994 Lara Berg Percenti	2001 Elizabeth Cook Dempsey
1995 Sonja Eubanks	2002 Stephanie Nix
1996 Jennifer Sullivan	2003 Lindsay Allen Metcalf
1997 Melissa Bennett	2004 Anne Baughman
1998 Lori Terry	2005 Bridgette Aufmuth

### **All Eyes are on Our *TWENTIETH* Graduating Class of 2006**

Christina Barger	Molly Brooks
Megan Ferguson	Michelle Jacobs
Christina Rybak	Jeanie Schaller
Stephanie Sharples	Katie Sullivan