



## Letter from the Director . . .

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### Hi Everyone,

What a year this has been!!! So many milestones for the Genetic Counseling Program.... our twentieth anniversary, ABGC re-accreditation 'til 2014, and a reconfigured curriculum. We have especially appreciated the help of our alum who continue to support the Program through their feedback, advice, rotation supervision, thesis advising, etc., etc, etc! The Class of 2007 has had fun connecting with you all as they put together their video project. Ask me about it if you aren't able to attend the Nashville reception )

The Program also can tout hosting the first ever international genetic counseling conference in Manchester last May.....the global interactions have been energizing and have such great potential for strengthening the profession throughout the world. Did you know that we created a new organization, the Transnational Alliance for Genetic Counseling? The USC Genetic Counseling Program will web-host this group as they begin to collaborate.....watch our new website develop at: tagc.med.sc.edu.



We have much to celebrate this year. It seems to me that the Program, its faculty, students and alumni are alive and well, positioned for our next twenty years!! Best wishes to each of you as 2006 comes to a close. Stay in touch, we love to hear from you!

*Janice*

### **Karen Brooks Key Speaker at State House Cancer Rally**

On September 27 on the steps of the South Carolina State House, Karen Brooks, M.S. was a key speaker in a women's health awareness event, "Whispering Wishes by Wind and Wings" The rally raised awareness for ovarian cancer and "passed the torch" to breast cancer awareness month in October. South Carolina First Lady Jenny Sanford, who also addressed the rally, passed the symbolic torch. She is pictured here next to Karen and other conference organizers.

### **The Genetic Counseling Program Welcomed Six New Students this Fall**

Kathy Bet  
Rebecca Eells  
Sarah Hash  
Kristen Rohrer  
Elizabeth Wiley  
Peggy Walker

The College of New Jersey, 2006  
Duke University, 2006  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 2004  
The College of William and Mary, 2005  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2003  
University of Minnesota, 1987

# Alumni News. . .

Lorraine Mehlretter, class of 1989:

I have some big news for our family; I've resigned from my position after thirteen years at Duke. I'm planning on doing some contract work from home, while enjoying the middle school years with my two terrific daughters.

Jennifer Sullivan Saarela, class of 1996:

I'm married now :) I'm also mentoring my second UNC-G student through her capstone project.

Jill M. Fischer, class of 1996:

I want to state my sincerest thanks for everyone's support in the sudden death of my father last year. Thank you. Married life is good. I am currently the Director of Clinical Genetic Services for Reprogenetics, LLC, THE PGD lab :)

Jen Boner, class of 1997:

I am still at home with my children and my brood is growing. I now have three boys -- Zachery, 5, Brian, 2, and Nathan, 4 months. He was born on June 1, 2006. The older boys love him so much and we are all enjoying his smiles and coos. We have also recently moved. We are still in VA but have gone further west to Purcellville, to get out of the DC hub-bub. I miss the science and thinking involved with genetic counseling, but I love being home with my boys.

Kristine Jarrett, class of 1998:

Jeff and I recently made a local move within the Cincinnati area and are still working on the never ending task of getting moved in. I'm still working two days/week in a prenatal center and enjoying being a mom to 5-year old Alyssa (who started Kindergarten this year!) and 3-year old Lindsey.

Karen Nicely, class of 1998

My husband, Nate and I had our first child, a boy named Nolan, on June 14, 2006. He is a joy! He is healthy and doing great. Nate just landed a great job in Chapel Hill, beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving, so we're currently trying to find/buy our first home, pack, and move from Winston, NC...all with a 4-month old!

Amy Giordano Shealy, class of 1999:

I am still at the Cleveland Clinic Genomic Medicine Institute which has (in the past year) gone from 2.5 GCs to 8.5 GCs. Because of increase in staff, I am able to begin specializing in pediatric and prenatal genetic counseling. Also, my son, Anthony, just turned 1 year old!

Kathleen Hays Devary, class of 2000:

Chris and I had our first child this summer! Thomas Earl Devary was born on June 23, 2006. He was 7lbs 8 oz and 22 inches long. He is a very happy baby and we are enjoying being parents!

Aubrey Turner, Class of 2000

Jenna and I are in the process of adopting a daughter from China. We expect to travel to China adopt her some time around the Summer of 2007. Also, here at Wake Forest, I am the study manager for two newly funded studies. First is a case control study of Prostate Cancer among African American men, and we are examining diet/gene interactions. The second is a comprehensive study of genes involved in inflammation :pathways in Colon, Breast, and Lung cancers.

Marla Jurek, class of 2001:

No professional news on my end. I am still a full-time stay-at-home mom. The girls turned 2 in August and do keep me quite busy. David and I are expecting again. This time, it is a singleton, and it is a boy! I am due on February 6. Thus, my plans to rejoin the professional world have been delayed a few more years! We now reside in Owasso, a suburb north of Tulsa, Oklahoma. I really love it here, and look forward to enjoying the larger academic environment, as there are 3-4 major universities here. David is now working for Baker Petrolite, a division of Baker Hughes.

## Alumni News. . .Continued

Stephanie Nix, class of 2002:

My husband Stewart and I are proud to announce the arrival of identical twin girls Aubrey Elizabeth and Avery Belle, on April 11, 2006. I am continuing to work part-time at Carolinas Medical Center as a prenatal counselor.

Jennifer M. Isaacs, class of 2004:

I got married in April, along with a few others from the class of 2004. It was a busy summer for us!! I am now in training to become a Medical Transcriptionist so that I can work from home and start a family soon. Very busy here in Cardiology, as always.

Christina Laning Alamillo, class of 2004:

I am now board certified, and actually got engaged the day after boards were over! That was a nice surprise! I have been working at the University of Illinois at Chicago doing full time prenatal counseling since last December. I just got married on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006!

Anne Baughman Bandholz, class of 2004:

I was married on May 27, 2006 to Eric Bandholz in my home town of Des Moines, IA, and Eric and I moved into our new home in Fort Mill, SC. I have just completed my second year at the Carolinas Medical Center as a pediatric genetic counselor and, I am now board certified.

Deborah Lane Brugman, class of 2004:

For personal news, I married Chris Brugman on July 29, 2006. He's a Michigander, from Farmington Hills, and we're living here in Indianapolis.

Shelley Dills, class of 2004:

I am doing great here in Atlanta. I am no longer doing prenatal. I now spend 50% of my time in pediatric general genetics clinic and the remaining 50% of my time coordinating the Down syndrome & Fragile X clinics. Last year I took on the role of the Georgia state representative for the NSGC.

Leah Robison, class of 2005:

As of October 2006 I am no longer working in pediatrics with the University of Louisville. I am still in Louisville, and hoping to start prenatal genetic counseling services with MFMs in Louisville.

Christina Barger, class of 2006:

Birmingham is treating me well, and I love the variety of clinics here at UAB.

Jeanie Schaller, class of 2006:

I have moved to Salt Lake City, UT, and am working as a cancer genetic counselor at Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc. I am enjoying the "real world" and am definitely looking forward to ski season!

Christina Rybak, class of 2006

I am currently working as a cancer counselor outside of Philly, and I'm really happy to be near my family.

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