



Courtney Rowell, Outstanding Alum for 2008!

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When Courtney Rowell was a prenatal and pediatric genetic counselor, she helped clients one by one to navigate through the emotional journey of information gathering and decision making. Now she's taken her genetic health communication skills on the road, meeting with OB/GYN physicians around the country to make them aware of genetic testing for breast and other types of cancer.

"I enjoyed my time at the University of Alabama-Birmingham (genetic counseling center), but I was also interested in the business side of genetic medicine," said Rowell, a 2000 graduate of the Genetic Counseling Program who went on to earn an MBA at the University of North Carolina.

Honoring Courtney at the
2008 Black Tie White Coat Gala



Rowell has been a product manager in the women's health division for Myriad Genetic Laboratories, which owns patents for screening BRCA1 and BRCA2 breast cancer genes. She received the School of Medicine's Distinguished Master's in Genetic Counseling Award earlier this year.

"Instead of giving information to just one person at a time, I'm now casting a much wider net, educating groups of physicians about genetic testing information that they can share with their patients," said Rowell. "I credit Carolina's Genetic Counseling Program with helping me to see career opportunities beyond the traditional role of genetic counseling."

Rowell foresees genetic diagnostics becoming even more sophisticated and providing more individualized treatment. "Medicine is very reactive, right? We wait for people to get sick and then we treat them all the same. I've got colon cancer, you've got it, and we both get the same protocol," she said.

"I think genetic testing will move us toward a more individualized risk assessment: Person A has a 20 percent chance of getting colon cancer, Person B does not. And that information will point the way toward individualized lifestyle choices. "It will also lead us toward more individualized chemotherapy choices. Breast cancer treatment is probably the most advanced in this regard."

Courtney's unique skill set combining genetic counseling expertise with her business background has landed her a new position, Marketing Manager with Sequenom, Inc. in San Diego, CA. The Genetic Counseling Program congratulates Courtney, our 2008 Outstanding Alum, on this new chapter in her career.

Article by Chris Horn, USC Publications

From the Director

Having just returned from the Los Angeles NSGC, I have to note how strong our alumni are on the national scene. USC Genetic Counselors were part of every facet of the national meeting: as conference planners, plenary speakers, platform and poster presenters. Congratulations to our two newly elected alum.....Holly Peay to the American Board of Genetic Counseling and Jennifer Sullivan Sareela to the National Society of Genetic Counselors. As our graduates now reach 150 (!!) it is with pride that we mark how far the USC reach extends within the genetic counseling profession. We are proud of all of our alum!!

Janice

Alumni News. . .

I am currently the Northeast Regional Manager for Genetic Counseling for Genzyme Genetics. I got married last year to Paul, and we are expecting our first baby in March!

Ellen Schlenker (1991)

My 3 kids are getting grown; my oldest is in 9th grade and the youngest in 2nd grade. I'm still being challenged working in public health genetics (I do some coverage for Lara Percenti in newborn screening) and really enjoy the education aspect of my job.

Ginny Vickery (1991)

We have added twin boys to our family- Johan and Paul were born almost a year ago on Oct 17th 2007. So now we have an almost 4 yr old and two one year olds, a little crazy but fun. Work wise not much new I am still part time at Emory in the Lysosomal Storage Disease Center doing mostly clinical research.

Eleanor Botha (1989)

After a five year break, I accepted a position at Wake Forest in the Department of Pediatrics. I started in September and am getting back in the groove of genetic counseling. How quickly things change! My colleagues are helping to bring me up to speed. I am glad to be back in the field and things are going well so far.

Tara Stamper (1995)

I am doing well, still in Pensacola, working part time (which keeps me sane). My kids are growing up too fast and keep me busy in the hours I am not at work. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in LA!

Beth Allen (1996)

Life has been busy. I've recently been selected to be a member of the NSGC Board of Directors starting in 2009 as a director at large. So this means I'll be handing off leadership of the Communications committee. In other big news, my husband and I are expecting our first child (well besides the furry dog kind of child) in early 2009. 2009 will be a busy year!

Jen Sullivan Sareela (1996)

Our only news to share is the birth of our second daughter, Mary Kate, born 12-9-2007. She joins her big sister, Ragan, who is 3 years old. We are still living in Southern California, where USC does not stand for the Gamecocks! I sure do miss the south.

Anne-Marie Sanders Angelhoff (1999)

Chris and I had our second child – a daughter named Caitlin Ava – on July 18, 2008. She is very healthy and we are all doing great. Our older daughter, Kiera, is 4 ½ now and she is such a proud and loving big sister.

Amie Stanley (1999)

I am currently in my second year of fellowship here at Duke doing REI. My wife, Christa, and I have two kiddos. Our daughter, Carter McLendon is 2yo, and our son, Creighton, IV is now 1. We are very busy but love every minute of it.

Creighton E. Likes, III, MD (1999)

The big announcement for my family this year is the birth of our second son. David Martin Devary was born on May 24th. We are all doing well and I have returned back to work full time. Thomas has become an enthusiastic big brother but frequently needs reminders to be gentle, a very tough thing for a two year old to remember!

Kathy Devary (2000)

Alumni News. . .Continued

This summer we moved (back home!) to Grand Rapids for my husband's job. We do miss Charleston but are really enjoying being with family and it has been a great move. I am not working at the moment, but am staying home with my son who will be 2 years old next month and we are expecting a baby girl in February.

Betsey (Cook) Dempsey (2001)

My husband, Chris, and I are expecting our second child in March 2009. Our three year old, Sarah, is already planning big things for the new baby. I am now employed with Greenwood Genetic Center and working full time out of Spartanburg, SC.

Erin Steed (2002)

My husband, Matthew and I had a baby boy born on February 24, 2008 named Asher. He weighed 8 lbs 12 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches. All of us are doing well and enjoying our new little family! I'm still working as a pediatric genetic counselor at Johns Hopkins and am co-founder of the Johns Hopkins Hypotonia Clinic. Matthew will graduate from U of MD Medical School in the Spring and will pursue a residency in Orthopedic Surgery.

Emily Lisi (2002)

This has been an eventful year. I was named Assistant Director of the Genetic Counseling Program and we welcomed our brand new baby boy, Ryland Michael Sellers, August 28th, 2008!

Andrea Sellers (2005)

Brian and I have moved to Greenville and I am working full-time as a cancer counselor in the Greenwood Genetic Center Greenville office.

Bridgette Aufmuth (2005)

I am currently living in Boston with my husband and working as a prenatal counselor at Massachusetts General Hospital. I will soon begin training to run the Boston marathon for the first time in April 2009 as part of a fundraising effort for my hospital's children's cancer center.

Michele Jacobs (2006)

We Welcomed Seven New Students This Fall!

Leigh Davidson

Stacy Hall

Alicia Gomes

Margaret Horton

Sara Rhode

Ravin Winfrey

Spencer Wood

Clemson University

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Furman University

Northeastern University

University of Central Florida

Texas A & M

Virginia Tech

See all of our students bios at <http://geneticcounseling.med.sc.edu/student%>

Genetic Counseling Fund...Strengthening the Future of Genetic Counseling

The University of South Carolina Educational Foundation has set aside a special fund for the Genetic Counseling Program. As the Fund grows, so does the strength and recognition of the Genetic Counseling Program. We invest your donations for the future, utilizing a small amount annually for special events that enhance the education of genetic counselors.

Please consider how you can give back today....to strengthen the Program for tomorrow.

We greatly appreciate our recent donors

Melissa Bennett (1997)

Amelia Craver (1988)

Rhonda Scanlon (2002)

Aubrey Turner (2000)

Victoria Vincent (1987)

Donor Information:

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Enclosed please find a donation in the amount of \$ _____

My check to the USC Educational Foundation is enclosed.

Please mail your completed form along with your donation.

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Please note the School of Medicine and the Genetic Counseling Fund in your online donation.

Thank you for Strengthening the Future of Genetic Counseling