Take the College of Nursing to Lunch

When I watched "I Believe in BYU" for the first time, I was touched by the charity of Ira and Mary Lou Fulton. What amazed me most was the fact that neither he, his wife, nor any of his children are BYU alumni. They choose to give to BYU because they believe in what this university stands for, what it tries to achieve, and most importantly, in the potential of students like us. I can understand the Fultons' fear of passing on and not having another generous person take their place. Whether or not there will be another millionaire to donate even half of what he has, Ira Fulton envisions many donors making smaller contributions that will equal the contribution he and his wife make alone.

Knowing this, I had a change of heart. I thought about the generosity of those who have helped fund me throughout my time at BYU. I thought about the selfless hearts and ongoing faith scholarship donors have towards students. I decided to not only be more charitable, but to become charity, to become the pure love of Christ.

My old stake president, Thomas Griffith said, "We should love Christ because he loved us first, not because we receive blessings from him." I have also read somewhere that, "It is not receiving that enriches our lives, but rather giving." I have felt enriched by the charity of others, and have felt that love of Christ, the true example of charity.

On behalf of the SNA board, I encourage you to sacrifice one lunch this month because someone believes in you!

~Sue Vongsikeo, SNA president

Have you worked with an amazing nurse? Has one of them really influenced you? Well then, let them know by nominating them for Mentor of the Month. Fill out the Mentor of the Month form and turn it into the brown box so that we can recognize them!

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Global Experiences: An At-Risk Population

Our Global Health & Diversity course during Spring Term was spent approximately 30 minutes “across the globe.” However, the diversity we experienced at the Utah State Prison was unparalleled to anything we had ever done before.

Most of what we did while at the prison was in the Infirmary, where simple procedures were performed (like a doctor’s office), inmates were held for observation (like a hospital), and inmates could come in for emergencies (like an Urgent Care center—for cuts, chest pain, asthma attacks, as well as attempted suicides). We also aided the nurses who ran the “pill line” (similar to “morning meds”). The nurses also let us do the new “intakes,” the recently convicted individuals who were being admitted to the prison each day (usually between 10-15 people). The nurse would ask their history and we performed blood draws (for HIV testing) and TB tests, which were great skills practice. We were also able to teach at various Enrichment and Sacrament meetings in coordination with the prison branch.

Some unique experiences of the prison included getting to do things that most of the general public would never be able to do or see. First, I have to mention the prison food. Yes, we ate it. One of the students even liked it! Other unique, crazy things we participated in included taking a tour of the maximum security units where the death row inmates are kept, as well as taking an exclusive tour of the execution chamber. Ask around to see which of your classmates were brave enough to lie down on the lethal injection table or sit in the execution chair. For everyone involved, it was an unforgettable experience.

These “unforgettable opportunities” were challenging and I have to admit that it was hard at times, to be compassionate when I knew what horrendous crimes these inmates had committed. But, as we talked about the Savior’s life and who He spent His time with: those who had committed sin or other crimes, those who were outcast from society, and many people with communicable diseases, I realized that Jesus Christ ministered to the “prisoners” of His day. Truly, if we are learning the “Healer’s Art,” we should exemplify the same mercy and compassion that the Healer himself has for each of us.

Who am I to judge another, when I walk imperfectly?
In the quiet heart is hidden, sorrow that the eye can’t see.
Who am I to judge another? Lord, I would follow thee. (Hymn 220)

The prison was an incredible experience, one that pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to draw upon the Savior’s example to guide my actions as a nurse. I loved it. (And the prison nurses love BYU students, by the way.) I would highly recommend doing clinical work at the prison if you truly want to understand more about the Healer and His Art.

—Leslie Soelberg, 4th Semester

Global Experiences: Hawaiian Immersion

Traveling to Hawaii and working with the people there was an amazing experience. It was not only extremely fun as we immersed ourselves in the culture, but this experience made an impact on how I view the world and the people in it. Now I not only know more about Polynesian culture, but more importantly, I have gained an appreciation for diversity.

One experience that was especially meaningful was our visit to the historic Leper Colony on Molokai. Much suffering and inhumanity occurred in this beautiful place. I was able to see in a memorable way how victims of leprosy were exiled and stripped of things most important to them including family and life. This experience gave me perspective on how tragic this event was and what it may have been like to be an exiled victim of leprosy. Such a perspective will help me be sure to care for others as I would like to be treated.

I was amazed at the genuine love and graciousness that was expressed by the people of Hawaii. They truly accepted us. Even the little children at the Punana Leo understood this concept of valuing each other. They learn, at an early age, Hawaiian protocol that is very welcoming to guests. We were indeed different, being “haoles,” but they still loved us the same. I was touched by their behavior as they gave us leis and hugged each of us. They loved us so we loved them.

We had the unique experience of observing and learning from a Hawaiian healer. He was chosen by his elder to learn the art of Hawaiian healing that has been passed down for many generations. He essentially signed his life away to serve others. He became a tool in the Higher Power’s hands from whom his gift came and who ultimately does the healing. We were able to see the great benefits of alternative therapy, especially in a young cerebral palsy patient who received Lomi Lomi massage from the healer on a regular basis. This massage brought great comfort to this child who suffered from extreme muscle spasms.

This global health and diversity experience in Hawaii allowed us to really get involved in the community as we lived among the people. We learned a great deal from the people as we served and cared for them.

 Brigham Young University Nursing Students at a Hawaiian language Immersion Preschool.
National Student Nurses’ Association Conference in Utah

Last April, the National Student Nurses’ Association gathered at our home for the annual NSNA conference in Salt Lake City. While some conferences seem dry and boring, this conference blew us away! Dancing and fun was a common theme, while the greatest exhibit “The Colossal Colon” was just a block away. The experience brought great food and a lot of new friends together.

Vendors from across the nation were present to recruit student nurses. These vendors ranged from NCLEX preparation to graduate education including various nursing organizations and hospitals across the nation.

A common theme of the conference was the inclusion of diversity in nursing practice. Nursing leaders feel that diversity is important to further nursing service to the diverse population of patients nurses serve in this nation. Including diversity is an important step in the profession.

The experience was invaluable as BYU’s SNA representatives learned more about nursing as a profession and the importance of leaders to further its progress.

--SNA Reps

Job Opportunity at EFY

When applying to nursing school, I was told that it was impossible to have a job while in the nursing program. While I commend those that have somehow made it through working full/part-time, during my first 3 semesters a job was completely out of the question. However, when summer came around, I was able to have the great opportunity of working as a health counselor for EFY. Many student nurses from BYU have had the opportunity to work with EFY and have left a great reputation for those that follow. The EFY program is looking for nursing students who have completed at least one semester of nursing to come and be a part of EFY. If hired, you have the chance to travel across the US to work at various sessions. However, interviews began Sept. 15, so if you are interested, go to http://ce.byu.edu/yp/efy/.

--Sarah Evans

Opening Social at Dean Marshall’s

This year’s opening social was one to remember. Food, fun, friends, and service was the emphasis of the get-together with quite a few surprises!!! Dean Marshall won everyone’s praise by dishing out a mean pulled turkey that was hit of the party. Her fabulous dish was accompanied by 6-foot long subs, amazing homemade salsa, and everything else a poor, starving nursing student’s heart could desire. The fish pond showed increasing popularity as everyone realized that they were winners of cool new nursing trinkets from different nursing recruiters across the nation. Nursing students were thrilled to serve, preparing hygiene kits for the Humanitarian Aide Center. Students and faculty were also given the opportunity to talk over quilting, as many baby quilts were made in the process. It was a hit, and many agreed...probably the best opening so-

--Sarah Evans
Brigham Young University Student Nurses Association

The Brigham Young University Student Nurses' Association (BYU-SNA) is a pre-professional organization and a constituent of the Utah Student Nurses' Association (USNA). The USNA is composed of the college chapters of student nurse associations throughout the state of Utah. The National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) is composed of the fifty state organizations in the United States. These organizations unite to promote professionalism in the student nurse and help him/her to prepare for entry into nursing practice.

Involvement is not only professionally-oriented, but service driven to the school and community.

Nursing students have the opportunity to join BYU-SNA to network with other nursing students locally and across the nation to create friendships and associations that can guide their future careers.