



PUGET SOUND QUARTERLY

Oncology Nursing Society

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2006 McCorkle Lecture

by Susan M. Ford
McCorkle Lecturer

As the 2006 McCorkle lecturer and the nursing program chair of a local college, I thought about the symposium theme and what would correspond with this lecture. These came to mind: 1) Nursing Shortage, 2) Next Generation of Nurses, and 3) New methods of Teaching.

On sabbatical leave, feeling a bit lazy, and I can talk about anything I want, I decided to talk about guys instead! Reflecting upon the direction of both my life in general and my nursing career, I came to realize it was always a person of the opposite gender that made an impact on what direction I would take. I want to share these men with you and tell you how they have guided my nursing career.

Be a Nurse

Dad, I got more from him than just my nose!

Being born a Jones, need I say more about my behavior and personality? Mom (the woman he married) is the one who said become a nurse; you will always have a job. I didn't understand the meaning - I thought she meant if you get divorced and have to support yourself and children, you would have a job. I have come to realize she meant since you will work most of your adult life it is easier to have just one job - be a nurse.



Sue Ford

**Help Wanted:
Seeking same to
take my place!**

Attend an ADN Program

My husband, Jerry - we have been together for 29 years formally, 34 informally. When we married a coin was flipped for who got to go to grad school - I got the 'go to work' side of the coin. This meant attend a community college, become a nurse and go to work.

Nurses Listen

Early in my career I had a cancer patient code, we thumbed on his chest - the doc showed up asked us what we were doing - told us he was dying so that was stupid to have coded him. After it was over, Craig, the house supervisor, took me to a quiet area, sat silently, waited and I cried.

Education, Maybe

I never went to UW's nursing school without becoming pregnant. Steph was the BSN baby and Pete is my MN baby. Peter Ford traveled to Anaheim as a baby for the first OCN test. Renewing

this year, I realize I've been an OCN for 20 years. His birth began my direction toward education.

Who is the Nurse?

Working for Virginia Mason I had the opportunity to work with Ryan Iwamoto. I admire him for both his expertise and mentorship. When talking to patients, he always said "I am your Registered Nurse" - I thought, well duh? But I have come to learn it isn't always obvious who is the registered nurse - and it is our responsibility to identify that fact each and every time.

How Do We Educate?

Obtaining a full-time job at Tacoma Community College, John Miller was assigned to be my mentor. Despite my total lack of understanding of academia, he managed to keep me going in the right direction. John was into different teaching styles long before they were popular. I know where we will be as a department in 5 years based upon where he is now.

Nurses Can't Do It All

Dave Howard is the guy I would die for! We team teach one if not the only nursing/counseling classes on Death & Dying across the country. What started as one section a year has grown into teaching 5 sections together a year. As program chair and faculty, I can't do it all. Together we demonstrate how to work as an interdisciplinary team.

My new guy Stan, a human patient simulator! Why have I chosen this guy? ...because we have a nursing shortage, there is a new nurse (student) out there, and this is the technology of the future. So maybe I will talk about those things after all.

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