

Kim Hall Interview:**How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?**

I would describe my area of study to my grandmother as learning about the comprehensive care that is specially focused on the elderly. I also study the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist and care of patients as a whole into my practice. As a Clinical Nurse Specialist, the focus of the role is to be a clinical expert, teaching, research, consulting, and management.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

I have been in school so long, my mother calls me a professional student. But because with nursing practice comes clinical experience, each degree I advance through, I gain valuable experiences that I wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to learn from. Through these experiences I have also gained the ability to expand my potential career tracks.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

I believe there is some value of socializing with students in other fields, because it encourages individuals to expand their interests and extracurricular activities. I have found social networking a great way to make contacts with other nurses in my specialty focus of wound care and geriatrics as well as other Clinical Nurse Specialists. While attending an international wound care conference this summer, I was able to meet some of the other nurses I had previously only met via social networking sites, so this became a great way to make professional contacts.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

I like to read a good fictional paperback or a girly beach read that is totally indulgent! A quiet trip down the river in my kayak usually does the trick, too.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

The book I'm currently reading for pleasure is "The Millionaire Next Door" by Dr. Thomas Stanley. I've recently become interested in personal finance and this book has been a great motivator to help me remain disciplined and to develop the ability to remain in control of my finances and life by being able to make educated long-term decisions.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

I have been blessed with some great teachers over the years, but I would have to say that my most meaningful academic relationship was with a high school teacher. While in my senior year of high school, my aspiration was to become an art teacher. Because I needed to take an elective class, a friend convinced me to take a nursing assistant class with her. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I've made because my teacher encouraged and motivated me throughout the program so much that I decided to pursue nursing as a career instead.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

I think the most surprising thing about graduate school for me was excellent outcomes I got out of my required clinical experiences. I am very grateful to have an advisor who is flexible with the options for clinical experiences because she is able to recognize that a variety of different projects offers the student with the ability to be more well-rounded. By participating in varied projects and job-shadowing, it has increased my skill level as well as open up the options for my future employment.

What is your favorite comfort food and why?

Nearly anything that my grandmother makes is my favorite comfort food. I grew up in a very close relationship with my grandparents and spent lots of time after school and during the summer with them. My favorite things that she made me as a child were grilled cheese sandwiches (with Velveeta) or homemade sausage biscuits. Her stuff is the best...although I may be a little biased!

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I think I would probably be re-applying for graduate school and working on ways to improve my chances of getting in. By being a Registered Nurse before beginning graduate school, I have many opportunities for employment, so I would most likely be continuing to gain experience in the hospital setting.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

I am anticipating completing my doctorate degree in December 2011.