

Lisa Vance Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?

I am getting my Master's degree to be a Nurse Midwife. This means that I will deliver babies and bring miracles into the world. All the while, I will build relationships with women and educate them during their pregnancies to optimize their birthing experience and help them make healthy choices for their babies.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

I consider myself a life-long learner and enjoy being in the classroom and learning. I have only taken one year off between degrees, so it's almost a part of my lifestyle. Through my education journey, I have gotten married, had a precious little girl and held a full-time (most recently part-time) job. It only made sense for me to push through and complete my masters while I'm in "learning mode".

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

Honestly, since I am married and have a busy lifestyle as is, I value relationships and social networking with other moms and wives over graduate students in non-related fields. I appreciate the relationships of those in my nursing program and have met some great people through my program; however, time does not allow for me to mingle and meet with other non-nursing graduate students.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

I really enjoy sewing. After my daughter has gone to bed and my husband is studying, it's my "me" time and I enjoy the gratification of completed projects. I also try to run when I can.

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

Well, I'm currently reading Breaking Dawn, the 4th of the Twilight series. Usually I read more non-fiction, but I love an easy read just the same.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

My most meaningful academic relationship would have to be with Kris Conrad, CNM (Certified Nurse Midwife), on faculty with the School of Nursing. She has been very accessible and a great mentor ever since the first day that I was contemplating pursuing my CNM. Her enthusiasm for her profession and for teaching is contagious and has given me the energy and excitement for Midwifery.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

I guess what has surprised me about graduate school is the smooth transition from undergrad. I appreciate the expectation of being an "adult learner," but at the same time it's refreshing to pick right up where I left off with my Bachelor's degree.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

I'll leave that event to the aerospace enthusiasts.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

I really don't have a comfort food, but do appreciate a good cup of coffee (consumed daily) and sweet tea!

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

I would be working as a RN in the birthing center; luckily there is great job security in the nursing profession, even without a master's degree.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

I hope to complete my degree May 2011.