



# The CCON Connection

## My Experience in Haiti this Spring

By Erica Norsetter, CCON Junior Student

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Editors:  
Dr. Carol Ott  
Keith A. Jackson



Thank you to everyone who has given me the opportunity, skills, and confidence to continue the trips I have made to Haiti. This trip was more challenging due to the volume of people we served --between 300 to 400 hundred patients per day. We (the Friends of Haiti medical staff, myself & the Haitian community of Grand Boulage) are extremely grateful to the CCON Student Development Committee, Student Nurse Association, and CCON students for their volunteer efforts to focus on Haitian disaster aid. I am so blessed to be a part of such a holistic and dedicated nursing program.

I flew into Port au Prince with three suitcases of medicine, hygiene kits, and first aid supplies. After the normal and chaotic immigration/baggage claim was finished, I hopped into a truck and headed towards the mountain village of Grand Boulage. Since I had been to Haiti several times before, I began to set up for what we would need; opening the suitcases and organizing the supplies by drug class. After this was done I was able to walk around and meet up with many of the families I have grown to know and look for in the area. With my broken Creole and physical gesturing, I was able to get an idea of what the people went through during the earthquake in January. For fear of aftershocks after the earthquake, as a whole the area was just starting to send their children back to school on April 12.

After the remainder of the medical team arrived, we started the health care clinic. The first two days I worked in the intake/triage area; I took vital signs and weighed patients. We had a protocol that read: "If someone has a fever, administer Tylenol (children would be dosed according to weight [10mg/kg]). If a patient had hypertension they would be prioritized and received priority care. After having taken vital signs for a few days, I ventured outside to look at all of the people waiting to receive care to see if there were any emergent cases needing immediate attention. During this assessment I would find the really sick children. After doing vital signs for two days, I was now a "float person" which meant that I

needed to retrieve medications from our make-shift pharmacy for health-care providers, doing wound care (ranging from burn care to machete accidents) and administering IVs. We had two deliveries while I was there. During one of the deliveries, I was instructed to massage the mother's fundus directly after she gave birth to her daughter.

After some logistical problems with transportation arose, I found myself



**Children in Haiti say "Thank you" for your generosity**

staying for an additional week with the opportunity to head to a new clinic site. This new clinic was a three hour hike up a separate mountain to Plaisance. Thankfully, we didn't have to carry our own luggage. Native people carried our luggage on their head or loaded it onto a donkey if one was available. It was by far the most physically challenging endeavor I have ever done.

Afterwards, I reflected that it was one of the most gratifying. The clinic I worked at was initially a cinderblock church. However, after the earthquake it was reduced to tarps. We had no running water, electricity, or toilets (i.e., we had to use a 10 gallon trash bag that lined a Fleet Farm bucket with a duct taped toilet seat). Needless to

say, I appreciate the comforts of home more so now than I ever did before.

The clinical situation at this site was similar to that of Grand Boulage, our previous site, only we were able to move at a faster pace since we had a Haitian physician with us. The goal of the health care providers was to see one patient every three minutes or to take care of a family in ten minutes. I worked directly with Fran, a family practice nurse practitioner, who had me take assessments on half of the family and then report back to her while she did her assessment on the other half of the family. The majority of our interventions included: (1) Adults: A prescription for a 6-month supply of multivitamins, tooth brush, tooth paste, and a small package of Tums & Tylenol, (2) Children: A prescription for liquid Vermox. One of the most frequent occurring problems for children was intestinal parasites from unclean drinking water and eating dirt. After the initial assessment we would ask how many children were at home (not coming to clinic) and we would send the additional de-worming medication home with them as well.

The clinic continued until we ran out of supplies to treat people (after only 3 days). We said our good-byes and hiked back down the mountain and waited to be picked up.

This experience further solidifies for me that I am in the right profession and that I can make a difference in the future. Again, I am so appreciative for everyone's support. I cannot express in words how much the support from CCON means to me.

## Letter from the Dean



**Jill M. Winters,  
PhD, RN**

Dear Students,

As the 2009-2010 academic year comes to an end, I would like to share a few reflections. It has been a busy but productive year at the College.

We have worked to increase communication between students, faculty, staff, and administration. Some of our efforts have included "Lunch with the Dean" meetings, publication of the

CCON Connection newsletter, greater involvement of students in major College committees, and student involvement in the Student Nurses Association. I am glad to report that more students are using the Academic Enrichment Center to supplement their learning. Thanks to the efforts of many students, we had two major volunteer activities. These activities included donations of food baskets to the needy at Thanksgiving and distribution of health and medical supplies to victims of the Haiti disaster in April. CCON was well represented at the Lamplight Walk for nurses at Wisconsin Lutheran College on Monday evening. Thank you to everyone

who attended. Participants couldn't help but notice our presence!

As we look forward to the summer, it will be a busy time. Professor Eichelberger and eight nursing students will be traveling to Peru to work on a health service project for the Community Health course. On June 23 and 24, CCON faculty, staff, and students will host the second annual health care camp with middle school children from the Bruce Guadalupe Community School. You can read more about the Peru trip and the CCON camp in this newsletter.

Work continues on the new College of Nursing. When you return in the fall, we will have an orientation to the facility and the new systems that will be in place. Please read about the dress code in this issue. We are looking forward to enjoying the benefits of a modern, state-of-the-art facility.

Finally, I am pleased to report that December graduates from CCON had a 93% pass rate on the NCLEX exam! That is one of the highest pass rates in the state! Congratulations to them and all the faculty for a job well done!

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing you all in August!

## News & Announcements

### Dress Code Policy (Effective June 1, 2010)

**"How you dress for class demonstrates pride, interest in a safe work environment, and respect."**

The Dress Code policy is intended to provide parameters for an atmosphere that is professional as well as student friendly. As a student at the Columbia College of Nursing your appearance is an important factor in the impression made on our patients, visitors, coworkers and the public. How you dress for

class demonstrates pride, interest in a safe work environment, and respect. Students must exercise good judgment and common sense for these guidelines to be effective. When choosing attire for any given day, students should be aware of their activities and not wear anything that detracts from the atmosphere of professionalism.



#### POLICY:

##### General Appearance

1. Name tags will be worn at all times; displayed at mid-chest or higher in clear site.
2. Students will be professional in appearance, attitude, and conduct.
3. All clothing and footwear will be neat, clean, in good condition and meet other standards described in this policy. No part of clothing will be patched, torn or faded.
4. Any facial jewelry, other than earrings, should be removed, if possible, during class hours. Tattoos that are offensive in any way should be covered.
5. Any clothing that has offensive language should not be worn
6. No low cut, halter, spaghetti straps, novelty or tube tops or shirts are permitted at any time.
7. No shorts or skirts that expose buttocks
8. Skirts must be of a modest length.

## Student Development & Student Nurse Association

By Judy Kopka, Assistant Professor

The Student Development Committee and Student Nurse Association remain an active and vital voice for students at CCON as well as a mechanism to connect with peers and make a difference both at CCON and in the local and global community.

Here are some of our recent activities and events:

### Student Development

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Student Development Committee assembled over 100 grooming kits with toothpaste, toothbrush, soap and washcloths that had been donated by staff and students (**See cover story, p. 1**). These were distributed as part of a medical mission sponsored by Friends of Haiti. The Student Development Committee also planned and hosted a second "Meet and Greet." on April 13<sup>th</sup> for students in the various levels of the curriculum to get to know each other and form mentoring relationships. Students were asked to share one tip that helped them be successful. These were quite varied and interesting! They are now posted on the CCON Facebook site to review-and use!



**CCON students volunteer to put together relief supplies for a mission to Haiti**

### Student Nurse Association

On April 7, the SNA participated in a service project serving supper to guests at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. In addition, the SNA donated \$75.00 for medicine to provide desperately needed children and infants Tylenol and ibuprofen, as well as adult over the counter pain medicines and topical antibiotics for the medical mission to Haiti.

We are happy to announce that the Student Nurse Association has elected a new board for fall to replace graduating seniors. This will help maintain continuity and momentum at the start of a busy new semester. The following students volunteered for the SNA Board:

- President                 Becky Schiller
- Vice-President         Samantha Ross
- Secretary                Lindsay Allington
- Treasurer                Andrea Johns

Congratulations to all of our new SNA officers. Also, on April 28th current SNA president Sarah Leatherman and Vice-President Amy Roherty were on hand at the New



Student Reception to greet new students and their families. Thank you Sarah and Amy!

If you are interested in joining the SNA, information is posted on the CCON website as well as a link to the National Student Nurse Association. Joining the National Association confers membership in the Wisconsin and CCON chapter. It is not necessary to be a member to attend meetings and join activities.

The Student Senate has also been active and elected a new board. The board members are as follows:

- President                 Kristin Baumhofer
- Vice President         Erin Finn
- Secretaries               Megan Wagner and Lauren DeChant
- Treasurers                Janelle Zahn and Mary Solorzano

The Student Senate is part of Student Development. Members participate in governance through membership in the Curriculum, Library, and other committees as well as planning recreational and scholarly activities. Additional information is available on the CCON website ([www.ccon.edu](http://www.ccon.edu), then click on Students).

Watch for the next meeting times in fall and join us!

## News & Announcements (continued)

### Brown Bag Presentation: "Spiritual Health and Well-Being"

The Faculty Development Committee would like to remind everyone that there will be a Brown Bag presentation by Colleen Chamberlain and Paul Schwan, Director of CSM Chaplain Services, entitled, "Spiritual Health and Well Being." The presentation will be held this **Friday, May 7** from **12:00pm - 1:00pm** in the **East Conference room**. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend.

### UCC Summer Camp—Volunteers needed!

CCON and MMC will sponsor the second annual health care camp on **June 23 and 24**. The goal of the camp is to motivate children for potential careers in health care. **We need your help**. If you would like to volunteer to help on **June 23 and/or June 24**, please sign up with Keith Jackson in the Computer lab. (See the March 2010 newsletter, available in the CCON Computer Lab, for more details.)

### Upcoming Events with Student Senate: Brewers Outing

Student Senate is planning for all who are interested to attend a Brewers game before the fall semester begins. Date is pending (Tentative: August 20 or August 27). Tailgating would be planned for everyone to enjoy before the game. We wanted to let everyone be aware of this before the conclusion of this semester. Everyone will be mailed information closer to the date with specific details/cost of the event.

### Peru Service Project—Summer 2010

*By Daniela Eichelberger, Assistant Professor*



*Arequipa, Peru*

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, eight students from CCON and their professor, Daniela Eichelberger, will be traveling to Peru to participate in a service project sponsored by Medical Ministries International (<http://www.mmint.org/>). We will be part of a health care team that will provide medical, surgical, and dental service to the poor and underserved in and around the city of Arequipa.

Health clinics will be set up in churches and schools with consultation rooms, triage, dental, pharmacy and health education areas. To staff these clinics, students will serve alongside physicians and other nurses and volunteers. Some students will be assigned to the hospital team and will be working in the oldest hospital in the city. This hospital is the only health care option for most poor people who live there.

The nursing honor society, Tau Sigma chapter, awarded \$100 scholarships for each of the students. They are also provided funds to purchase over-the-counter medications and new clothing to donate to the people who will be served. Students will also be able to bring small gifts for the patients they serve. If anyone would like to donate supplies such as: small school supplies, stickers, small toys, toothbrushes, soaps, lotions, sunglasses for adults and/or chapstick, please contact Daniela Eichelberger at [deichel1@ccon.edu](mailto:deichel1@ccon.edu).

### About ULifeline.org

*By Carol Ott, PhD, RN, Associate Dean*

ULifeline is an anonymous, confidential, online resource center, where CCON students can be comfortable searching for the information you need and want regarding mental health and well-being and suicide prevention. ULifeline is available at <http://ulifeline.org/schools/ccon>. ULifeline is a program of The Jed Foundation, the nation's leading organization working to prevent suicide and improve the mental health of college students, and is overseen by an expert board of mental health professionals. You can access the website now but it is not up and running in terms of connecting you with CCON resources. By the time schools resumes in fall, the website will be personalized to the Columbia College of Nursing. Please direct any comments to Dr. Carol Ott, Associate Dean.



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The CCON Connection is distributed to students and faculty as a resource for current events and other items of interest. It is released twice a semester, and is edited by Keith Jackson and Dr. Carol Ott. Please contact Keith Jackson, Learning Resources Coordinator to submit information.