

# SMS Midwifery Education Program

# Alumnae News



Alumnae news is solicited by e-mail. If you graduated from the midwifery program and didn't receive our most recent call for submissions, please contact us with your e-mail address so we can add you to the list.

**Suzy Myers (1980)** I am still doing what I've been doing for many years: hard at work fundraising for SMS, teaching, and enjoying my midwifery practice. My newest venture is that I've joined the Board of Directors of the newly formed National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM), an exciting new organization that is committed to advancing the CPM credential, including participation in national health policy. (See Bulletin article, page 7, for more detail.)

**Lauren Jaye (1985)** I'm still working as a midwife at SeaMar with the lovely Spanish-speaking ladies. Have expanded to doing some trainings in working with that population which has been fun. My family is doing fine—girls growing up and Billie and I are well. We'd love to have visitors anytime from the midwifery community!

**Beth Coyote (1987) Darcy Dixon (2001)** and I have opened our practice, Rainy City Midwifery, located in a beautiful loft on Capitol Hill. We share space with acupuncturists who are willing and able to treat pregnant women. We are excited to be practicing in the heart of this diverse urban area. My grandson, Milo, is now 16+ pounds and a genius. He is close to sitting up and eating solids, all marvelous developments. As well as becoming a grandmother last year, I graduated from Evergreen. I actually miss being a student. Darcy and I are enjoying being preceptors to an SMS student (**Kristin Kali**) and hope to generate enough business to keep her busy.

**Debra Grant (1988)** I became a grandmother on August 25, 2002, when my daughter Elysia had her baby at my home in the birthing tub, after a 14-hour labor, which she handled with grace and confidence.

Her son, Rafael Dzombo Mbuja (the cutest baby in the whole world) weighed 7#10 oz, but now at 8 months, and the "miracle grow" of breast milk, weighs at least 22#. In attendance at the birth were myself, **Gretchen Jones LM (2002)**, and **Eve Verdon**, student midwife. Rafael's father is from Kenya, and is living here



Rafael

now in WA with his family and myself. Life is GRAND as a GRANDmother !!!!!

I have retired from active practice of midwifery (with no regrets), and am focussing now on Women's Health Care only (with my ARNP), and Loving It!! Gretchen Jones has taken over the midwifery component of my practice, so there is no "gap" in care in my rural area. What a blessing Gretchen is!

**Nan Reid (1990)** We moved last July (to Burlington VT). Other than that, same partner, no new kids. I'm teaching HypnoBirthing now. Women seem to get a lot out of it.

**Linda Marks (1995) Beth Morrill (1999)** and I have successfully started a birth center in Spokane. Now about 1/3 of our births are in the center. Spokane hasn't had a birth center in 18+ years. We are doing between 75 and 90 births a year now. That keeps us quite busy. We feel a little isolated over here on the east



Linda Marks & Beth Morrill  
side of the state but sometimes I think that is a good thing.

My son is almost 18 (I can hardly believe it!!!) He has one more year of high school and then I will really have an empty nest. In my brief free time I like to garden (as in the vegetable variety) and horseback ride.

Beth works only part time as she has 4 children, the youngest being 1-1/2. I am ever so grateful to have her spell me enough so I can do this midwifery thing for the long haul.

**Peggy Franklin (1997)** My husband got called to active duty after 9/11 (Navy Reserves) and we have moved to the Washington DC area until Jan. '04 for sure. Our future plans are up in the air at this point. I am still homeschooling 5 boys and we are enjoying the sights and getting lots of sun and exercise.... God bless all of you still out there in the rain forest.... Hope you are delivering lots of babies and figuring out how to deal with modern midwifery.

**Katie Gaines (1997)** Hello Beautiful Women! I am very well and busy with my practice, moving into a new house and planning my wedding. David Madison and I are tying our knot in August in Glacier National Park. We are settling into a home in Columbia Falls MT where we are building a fence, painting the walls, getting the clinic together and imagining how different the patter of little feet will sound when they are human instead of dog. No, no not yet, but we hope to start a family soon. Look me up ladies.

**Ann Gugat (1998)** We are pleased to announce the safe arrival of our son, Benton Peter Kellogg. Ben was born on April 21st and weighed 8lbs. 8 oz. He was born at home with the assistance of my wonderful midwifery partners, classmates, and friends (five wonderful women in all). Grace was there to witness the birth and fell instantly in love with her baby brother.



**Janine Walker (1998)** Living in St. Lucia...just bought a little house here. Not working yet, but working on the immigration paperwork....traveling home a few times a year. Hoping to continue working in the healthcare profession here.

**Suzanne Wastier (1998)** We have lived in our home in the Mt Baker neighborhood for just about a year now and are enjoying it very much. We are working on several house and yard projects as we prepare for the birth of our second child, due in July. Noah is 4 now and very much looking forward to the new baby. The only midwifery going on here is on the consumer end of things!

**Natasha Sara (2001)** I'm on the edge of registration. After practicing midwifery for a few months in WA following graduation & licensure, I took a few months off and did some traveling. And now I am back home in BC doing midwifery. I successfully submitted a portfolio, wrote exams and passed clinical exams (like many before me) and more recently completed the "supervision plan" created for me by the College of Midwives of BC. The next step is for the College to review the submitted documentation and, if all goes well, soon after that review I will be given the title of Registered Midwife "general" ...but for now I am "conditional."



**Ali Toperosky (2001)** Life in midwifery and personal has been exciting in the past year....**Heike Doyle (1993)** and I are busy working at The Puget Sound Birth Center, so much so that we have hired **Traci Palagi (2003)** to work with us. What a concept being on call every third week! It gives me time to catch up

with the rollercoaster that has been my life in the last year. I got married to a fabulous woman, moved her across the country, bought a house on 2.5 acres with a salmon run running through it, and we are hoping to have a baby sooner than later. Never a dull moment....

**Gretchen Jones Brooks (2002)** I am enjoying a small, viable, rural practice in the Southwest Mount Rainier area. I have a clinic in Eatonville, a clinic in Yelm, and work from my home in Morton as well. I was married last summer, and have 3 lovely black dogs.

**Valorie Kolovos (2002)** I'm currently attending New York University's nursing program. I am also in the process of applying for midwifery licensure here in New York. The "CM" credential is available here, and I'm hoping to find that I am eligible to sit for the midwifery boards as a result of my SMS education. I'm keeping my fingers crossed! I am supposed to hear from the midwifery board soon! Then I just have to pass the exam! I am also interested in pursuing a masters degree in advanced practice nursing here at NYU. They have a very interesting nurse practitioner program that integrates alternative therapies into the curriculum and practice. It's the only program like it in the world! This is very exciting. I'm loving life in the big apple! Hope everyone is doing well and staying true to their hearts! Peace!



**Catriona Munro (2002) Christine Gibbs (2002)** and I have a practice together in Bellingham. We just celebrated our 1st anniversary together and are doing well. We did 10 births since we started accepting clients last April and we have 10 or so in the queue, so to speak. We have put some energy into outreach in the form of press releases, brochure distribution, and advertising, and are planning several events for Midwifery Month this May. The midwives of Whatcom and Skagit counties have started meeting for case review every 2 months - this has been wonderful. We are happy and stay busy and are beginning to work on starting a birth center in Bellingham.

**Shannon Norberg (2002)** I will be joining the midwives at Pacific Midwifery Practice in Vancouver in August, having finally completed getting registered in BC!

**Elizabeth Randall (2003)** I'm now living in the Burlington area, looking forward to getting married in September. I passed the CPM exam in February and just got licensed in Vermont. I am assisting area midwives and providing coverage for their practices.

