

MTSA

AIRWAYS

Volume 8, Issue 10

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Inside this issue:

Adopting Macy (continued)	2
MTSA Bulletin Board	3
<i>Spotlight on ...</i>	4
Fast Food	5
Noteworthy Dates	5
Noteworthy Birthdays	5
Prayer List	6
<i>New York!</i> <i>New York!</i>	6
Employment Opportunities	7

Adopting Macy

The following is a condensed version of an e-mail that we received recently from Jimmy Latham's wife Donna. Jimmy is currently a senior at MTSA. We would love to share it with you, because it's such a touching story.

Hello, everyone!

We have been back one week now from Latvia. It was an experience, to say the least. Things are starting to settle back into a routine for us.

Upon arrival, Ilga and Martins met us at the Riga Airport and took us on the first of many 'excursions'. We traveled to the southern part of Latvia to Rundale Palace for some sight seeing. We were only maybe a mile or two from Lithuania. We returned to Riga to meet our new daughter. Macy was like a zombie when we first met her. Every muscle in her body was tense. She had no life in her eyes and was scared of us. She acted as if she didn't even know how to play and walking seemed a struggle. Of course, you can imagine our concern.

Here we were in a foreign country meeting a little girl we knew nothing about, and who was supposed to be our daughter! We only got to spend a short time with her that day. We were supposed to be staying at the orphanage with her, but to our dismay, they said they couldn't keep us. Ilga and Martins found us a hotel. When we got into our room, we were tired,

hungry, homesick, and miserable. We missed Griffin so much it was almost unbearable. We got brave enough to take a city bus further into the city where we hoped to find a restaurant. We got off the bus and searched and found nothing. We had no idea which bus to take to get back to our hotel, so we walked many miles that night getting back. We found a little store on the way home and bought some bread,

cheese, and butter. Needless to say, we wanted to come home. Our first meeting with Macy had left us numb and scared. We talked about it that night and decided to stay and give everything a second chance. All I can say now is that God had His hand in our decision because we are

so in love with our daughter now that we can barely stand her being 5,000 miles away.

We had to walk a mile every morning to catch the bus to take us to the orphanage, and then 1/4 mile to the orphanage from the bus. Of course all of that had to be repeated getting back to the hotel. The orphanage allowed us to have Macy from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm every day. We had to go to court to get 'custody' to be able to take her away from the orphanage. Every day that we spent with her, she came out of her shell more

"Macy was like a zombie when we first met her. Every muscle in her body was tense. She had no life in her eyes..."

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."

~Vincent van Gogh

Adopting Macy (continued)

and more. Everything was a new experience for her as she had probably never been away from the orphanage. After a few days, she would get excited when she saw us at the door. Those muscles that had been so tense on the first day were now relaxed and walking was much better. She began to smile more each time we saw her. We bought her toys to play with in the hotel. We bought her toys that required some critical thinking on her level and we were amazed at how smart she was! She loved it when we clapped our hands when she accomplished some feat. She began clapping her own hands with a lot of laughter and smiles. I cannot express how she bloomed while she was with us. She went literally from a zombie to a normal almost two year old little girl full of life. I feel like she was meant to be our daughter - she was just accidentally born on the other side of the world!

We took Macy to the zoo one day. Many of them we could touch. Macy loved the horses. I think she was amazed at how big they were. She wouldn't touch them at first, but when she saw Mommy doing it, she became brave and touched a nose with one finger. She liked to copy things that I did. We have beautiful pictures of all of this! We went to the park to feed the birds. This didn't work very well because Macy wanted to eat the bread herself! We had her for lunch every day and were very concerned about what to feed her. Her cleft palate is a huge one and we were nervous

about that. The orphanage social worker told us to make sure we mashed all of her food. We did this at first, but as we got to know her better, we figured out really quickly that she didn't need mashing! That child ate more than any I have ever seen! We had to buy her adult sized plates! At McDonald's, she could eat a Filet of Fish (called a Fish Mac over there), small fries, apple juice, and most of a hot fudge sundae!! She definitely doesn't have any trouble eating! She was pitiful though, because when she ate something soft like ice cream, it would come out her nose because of the cleft. Macy had actually been scheduled for surgery on Sept. 8 while we would be there. We asked them to cancel it so we could have it done here. The orphan's court people seemed very impressed that we wanted to take on such a financial responsibility ourselves when it would cost us nothing there. Their medical technology is way behind ours. She will have to have bone taken from her hip and placed in the cleft. Jimmy says it will take several surgeries to repair. Her top teeth are dislocated as well. We didn't want them messing up on her over there. Even with the severity of the cleft, the outside of her face is barely affected. Her lip has already been sown up. She does have a scar, but it isn't that prominent. I really dread having to put her through the surgeries.

On our last day with Macy, we requested a tour of the orphanage so we could see

where Macy plays and sleeps. Up until this point, we had seen very little of the inside of the orphanage. When we picked Macy up every morning, we had to go to a certain door and ring and wait. We felt like they were being secretive. Much to our amazement, our request was granted. We were very surprised to find how clean everything was. We saw Macy's group's playroom. It had many older toys and things for the children to do. Her bed was spotlessly clean. Her clothes had been very clean, although mismatched and not very cute. I am so glad I was able to see it because I don't have to worry about her well-being as much while we're gone.

Saying good-bye to Macy was hard. She didn't understand why I was crying. I know she must feel like we abandoned her. She was just getting used to having a Mommy and Daddy. As we left that day, Macy's caretakers hugged me as I cried. The message in their eyes overcame the language barrier and said more than words could. I know that she is in good hands, but I want her home with us so badly. We miss her and look at her pictures every day. We ask that all of you friends, please pray for our daughter. Pray that our next two trips are safe and that we can bring Macy home by Christmas. No one ever said adoption was easy. We never expected it to be. Your support makes it much easier for us.

Love,
Jimmy, Donna, Griffin and Macy!

"A well spent
day brings
happy sleep."
~Leonardo
da Vinci

MTSA BULLETIN BOARD

M TSA's On-line Store is still in the works. Our plans to have it up and running soon have come to a stand still for a little while, but we still have the merchandise to sell, so come by the school and do your shopping "in-house". Until then, we'll be featuring products in the newsletter itself. (All profits are going to the new school building fund)

O pportunity to serve in the Dominican Republic!! The week of October 18 - 26 this year, there is a need for one more anesthesia person, CRNA or MD. It's a wonderful experience both spiritually and professionally. It's a safe place and extremely autonomous. Expenses for airfare, lodging and meals for the week are around \$1000.00 - \$1200.00 and are tax deductible if paid through the church organizing the trip. If you are interested, please contact Kris Payne by calling 860-584-2778 or emailing to theetherbunni@comcast.net

"I hear and
I forget,
I see and
I remember,
I do and
I understand."
~Confucius



Mark your calendars for this exciting weekend! April 24 - 26, 2004 is going to be packed full of events! On Saturday night, April 24th, there will be an Alumni Banquet for alumni and family. Sunday, April 25th will be a day devoted to CEU's, and Monday April 26th will be the first ever annual Fundraising Golf Tournament! It will be in the afternoon at the Hermitage Golf Course. We will share more details with you as soon as we have them. If you're interested in helping in anyway, with your time or through sponsorship, please contact Karin Vilanova at 615-868-6503.

Spotlight On ...

...Dana Cowles

Dana was working as an RN at Vanderbilt University SICU before she came to MTSA. Focusing on one patient at a time really appealed to her and peaked her interest in anesthesia. She heard about us from Rachel Connor, a member of the class of 2004. Dana is originally from Tullahoma, TN. She has one older brother and she has a dog named Beamer that she says is German short haired pointer and part kangaroo. Is Beamer a bit on the hyper side?

For fun, she likes to snow and water ski, read, go see movies and just spend time with friends. In five years from now, she sees herself gainfully employed and maybe married!

Dream Car: BMW-Red 300 series convertible

Dream Vacation: New Zealand

Favorite Music: Patti Griffin

Favorite Movie: Gone with the Wind

Chocolate or Vanilla: Chocolate

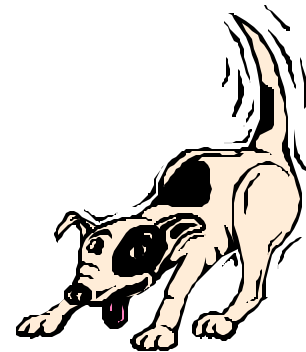
Coke or Pepsi: Coke

Beach or Mountains: Beach

Khakis or Blue Jeans: Blue jeans

Cat or Dog: DOG!

Advice for Classmates: "We are in it for the long haul!"



"As the character is, such is the speech."

~Aristides

... Jason Moran

Jason is originally from New York and was working as an RN at the cardiothoracic ICU in Stony Brook, NY. He heard about MTSA through the good ol' internet. He has 2 sisters and 1 brother.

For fun he likes to read, go to the mall and walk through the city. In five years he sees himself working and LOAN FREE!!

Dream Car: 2 seater- soft top BMW

Dream Vacation: Greece

Favorite Music: Contemporary Christian

Favorite Movie: I am Sam

Chocolate or Vanilla: Vanilla

Coke or Pepsi: Diet Coke

Beach or Mountains: Mountains

Khakis or Blue Jeans: Jeans

Cat or Dog: Neither

Advice for Classmates: "Students have been doing this program for years successfully - there's no reason why we can't too!"



Fast Food - A Quick and Easy Recipe for Busy People

Easy Cal Zone

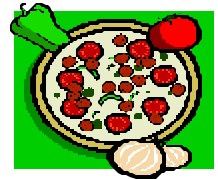
2 cans of Pillsbury pizza crust

1 jar of pizza sauce

1 large bag of mozzarella (or preferred cheese)

Any toppings you want (i.e.– green pepper, onions, mushrooms, meat)

1 egg



Lay pizza crust from one can on bottom of 8x8 or 9x9 dish. **Add** pizza sauce, toppings and cheese. **Top** with other pizza crust. **Beat** 1 egg– brush onto the top and sides of the cal zone. **Bake** at 375 for 30 minutes. Let it cool a bit and then slice into edible pieces. **Enjoy!**

“The shortest
answer is
doing.”
~English
Proverb

Noteworthy Dates

Dates in October

13 ~ Columbus Day

18 ~ Sweetest Day

26 ~ Daylight Savings Time Ends



Dates in November

11~ Veteran's Day

17~ World Peace Day

27~ Thanksgiving

Noteworthy Birthdays

Birthdays in October

2 ~ Rachel Savage

10 ~ Marc Lindley

11 ~ Dr. O.T. Smith(f)

13 ~ James Vashon

15 ~ Chris Lovelace

16 ~ Rick White(f)

17 ~ Lisa King

18 ~ Michelle Bigler

18 ~ Adrienne Kelley

25 ~ Eric Payne

25 ~ Troy Sasser

30 ~ Lisa Rabold



Birthdays in November

4~ Patsy Logue(s)

5~ Budonna Swafford

6~ Matthew Johnson

8~ Paul Smith

20~ Stephanie Creel

23~ Kevin Hopwood

26~ Ryan Jarnes





Prayer List



So far the requests I'm getting, are the ones that the newest class are putting on a board in the classroom. I would love to hear from alumni and faculty too. If you have a concern or praise that you would like your MTSA family to bring to God in prayer, please come see me, Karin Vilanova, in the library or e-mail me at: karin@mtsa.edu and type "Prayer List" in the subject line. Thanks and God bless!!

Following are the newest requests and praises since our first list in last month's newsletter.

REQUESTS

- Greg Burnham's brother-MRSA recovery
- Continue praying for D'Lynn West and her son
- Continue to remember Karin Vilanova's sister Lydia, who is still having a complicated recovery from surgery
- Lisa Clark's mom
- Tonya Young's illness (Richard's wife)
- MTSA Staff
- Holly's sister Katie has health issues
- Amy Scott from AMG in dealing with illness during her pregnancy
- Mark Anderson's uncle passed away
- Adrienne's husband-eye surgery
- Lynn's cousin Graydon

New York! New York! - By Jane Pennington

Most of you are not aware that in my other life I have been doing consulting with various schools and other student loan related entities across the country for just over six years now. That is actually how I came to MTSA in the first place. I just recently decided to stay here on a more permanent basis!

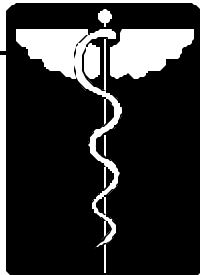
That work has taken me to many far away places—Washington, DC-Louisville, KY-Montgomery, AL-Scottsbluff, NE-San Francisco-Charleston, SC-Jacksonville, FL-and most recently to New York City. Over the month of September 2003, I spent an average of 3 days per week working with Teachers College/Columbia University. I am not sure why, but I expected "things" to be different at Teachers College. After all, this is an "ivy league" university in New York City. But the issues were still the same for students there - they are also just trying to fund their education. There is the same frustration over verification, entrance interviews and loan checks which had not yet arrived, and all that paperwork.

But that is not what I am writing about today. I am writing about New York City, and how the city seems to have changed dramatically since I was last there. Things have slowed down a bit. People seem to be nicer to each other - more considerate. I was there on September 11 this year. I had heard on the news of plans for various memorial services across the city, but had not thought that I would be a part of it in any way. That morning at exactly 8:36 a.m. - the time that the first plane hit the Trade Towers on September 11, 2001 - I came out of my hotel and turned to walk up Broadway to catch the 104M to Columbia University. Suddenly the bells of a Lutheran Church just behind me started to ring. At that moment I realized that church bells were ringing all over the city. The rush hour slowed and in many cases stopped, as people paused for a moment of silence in memory of September 11, 2001. Many bowed their heads and I saw tears in many eyes. We all seemed to smile at each other in understanding as the bells stopped ringing. We all went on our way, touched briefly by a memory that has forever changed not just NYC, but our whole nation. Later that morning, I took a break to run across the street to a street vendor for coffee and a bagel. I found myself surrounded by about 20 New York City firemen. They were also there for a cup of coffee.

I felt like I was among a crowd of heroes and have never felt safer in all my life.

"When love
and skill work
together,
expect a
masterpiece."
~John Ruskin

Employment Opportunities



Opening in Texas Corpus Christi area. For more info contact **Professional Anesthesia Services, David Allen Shultz, CRNA, Chief/CEO, 1316 Windcrest, Kingsville, TX 78363**

Chief CRNA (\$145-150K) and Staff CRNA (\$130-135K) are urgently needed in rural Kentucky. For more info contact Shelly Harris at **702-891-8478** or e-mail at **SHarris630@aol.com**

Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA has flexible CRNA shift opportunities. For more info, call Helen Danshire at **508-363-7710** or e-mail at **helen.danshire@tenethealth.com**

CRNA position available in Huntsville, AL. No weekends, No holidays, No call!! For more info call Dr. Frank Crisona or Dr. Ben Walker at the Surgery Center of Huntsville at **256-533-4888**

*Up to \$10,000 signing bonus! Great benefits! Contact Donna Smiley by phone: **703-698-3138** by fax: **703-698-2623** by e-mail: **careteam@fan.es.org** or by mail: **Fairfax Anesthesiology Assoc.**

3300 Gallows Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042

*Positions available in Central Florida and Florida's Panhandle. If interested, contact Juanita Eells at Hypnos Anesthesia **931-242-2488**

*The JSB Agency has 100s of openings. For example; 8 in North Carolina, 4 in South Carolina, 16 all over FL, 2 in Houston, TX, 4 in Denver, CO, 2 in Kansas, 3 in Michigan, 4 in New York and many more. Call **866-214-6170**, Fax **405-214-6175** or e-mail **jbarham@sbcglobal.net** for more info.

*CRNA needed in Helena, AR which is 1 hr south of Memphis. "Bread and Butter" cases and intrathecal. Compensation package is extremely competitive with a sign on bonus. If interested call Scott Gentry at **870-816-5852** or e-mail at **scgentry@cox-internet.com**

*Decatur General Hospital is seeking 3 CRNAs for permanent FT positions. Great benefits! Contact Tamela Seymour at **866-613-0136** or e-mail at **tseymour@crenshawclick.com**

*Staff Care, Inc. has Locum assignments in all 50 states. For further information check their website at **www.staffcare.com** and/or call Mike Hogan at **800-262-4194 ext.1785**

*Providence Healthcare Group is needing CRNA's in the following areas: Southeastern Lakefront City of 100,000, Heart of the Midwest, Southern Lakefront Community on Texas-Louisiana Border and Southern Illinois. For more info contact them at **800-576-9629**

*Staff CRNA position available with great benefits! Located 60 miles from Knoxville. For more info call **606-632-1832**.

*CRNA opportunity in Bryan, OH. For more information, please call Amy Remus at **800-528-8286** or e-mail at **amy.remus@stratummed.com**

*Opening in Winchester, TN at Southern TN Medical Center. For more information call Dr. Ronald Gordon at 931-962-4061.

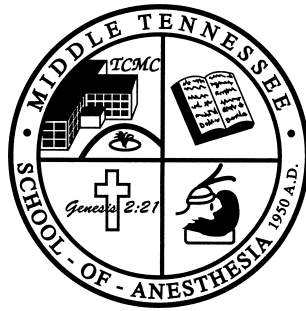
(THE ASTERISK * INDICATES THE NEW ADDITIONS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER)

"The work
praises
the man."
~Irish
Proverb

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**Reflecting Christ in
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