



"Up Close" is a regular feature in Imprint. This column profiles outstanding nursing students. Readers are invited to submit names for consideration to abrownnu@students.mcg.edu.

BY AMBER BROWN

Tony Fuhrmann

Among his many accomplishments, Tony Fuhrmann is class president of his local chapter at Indiana University School of Nursing. He was a high school biology teacher for eight years, and worked hard to obtain his BSN. "I started out premed in college," explains Fuhrmann, "but having children changed my perspective, and I went into teaching instead." Now the proud father of three grown children and married for thirty-six years, Fuhrmann has achieved many successes in his life.

When asked about how he became interested in nursing, Fuhrmann explains, "I wanted to do something that makes a difference in people's lives. I've always had an interest in health care, and nursing provides the perfect match for me." Nursing school has made a tremendous difference in Fuhrman's life. He states: "The nursing curriculum has helped me appreciate the individuality of those around me. I find myself reflecting about patients and my fellow students, and this is significant because most of my life I've been going full speed ahead with little time for inner reflection."

Fuhrmann actively collaborates with his chapter officers in incorporating new and exciting events into their activities, and feels that involvement in community and political issues is just as important as being a patient advocate.

Fuhrmann has greatly impacted NSNA and his local chapter. "Shortly after I began my nursing studies, one of the first items on my agenda was to help form a chapter on campus," says Fuhrmann, whose enthusiasm led to his election as class president. Working alongside fellow classmate Susan Abbott, the two developed the Indiana University Student Nurses' Association from the ground up, recruiting over fifty members in less than six months. With all this activity, Fuhrmann of course finds himself extremely busy.

"We held a voter registration drive this fall, where we provided special information on candidate views affecting health care," he notes. "Soon, we'll



have a financial planner to assist the graduating class as they prepare to enter the work force."

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Fuhrmann's goals in office have been to encourage students other than class officers to seek office within NSNA to maximize their involvement. "The energy that I have seen from many of my classmates and other NSNA members is encouraging. My challenge for my classmates is for them to become involved in their own education. I have completed over 200 hours of college course work, and always feel that I have more to learn," he states.

Fuhrmann works from 45 to 60 hours a week as a sales manager, so

he understands the challenges of juggling nursing school and work. “I’ve been in sales for the past twenty-seven years, but the real heroes in my nursing class are single mothers who spend hours in class, juggling studying and academics with family responsibilities and jobs.”

In his free time, Fuhrmann enjoys reading and a variety of sports. Friends describe him as a dependable, hard worker who cares about others. “I try to be positive and energetic, and I like to take the initiative,” he says. He values family and education most in life, and believes nursing will allow him to focus on the needs of others.

His future plans include becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner and teaching. Fuhrmann’s desire to shape the lives of others continues to create a lasting impression upon those he encounters. With a determined will and passionate drive, he is truly one of NSNA’s honorable role models. ©

Amber Brown is the 2004-2005 Up Close reporter, and a nursing student at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA.

graduating or otherwise leaving school.

For more information, see the resources listing at the end of this article, or contact your school’s financial aid office. ©

references

Nursing Workforce Development Subpart B of the Health Professions Education Partnership Act, 42 U.S.C. § 296 (1998).

resources

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/LegislativeStrategies/Workforcedevelopment.htm>

Fact sheet on AACN’s web site highlights all programs contained within Nursing Workforce Development

<http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Nurse Education and Practice Grant Programs and applications for 2005

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