

UP CLOSE



The "Up Close" column highlights an outstanding nursing student. Send nominee ideas to squalls@aol.com.

By Sarah Qualls

Coral Crandall

The earth is shrinking as globalization continually impacts our daily lives. As we all learn to be culturally sensitive competent nurses, some of us are reaching beyond typical boundaries to gain a broader perspective on nursing care and needs on a global level. Coral Crandall, a senior nursing student at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, embarked on just such a journey this year.

Ms. Crandall, a native of Seattle, WA, came to Emory University last fall to earn her bachelor's in nursing. Little did she know that moving to Atlanta was just the beginning of a very enlightening year. Ms. Crandall served as her class secretary, planned class activities, facilitated a sweat-shirt sale and acted as liaison between the students and faculty.

In January, Emory hosted three students from Yonsei, South Korea. Ms. Crandall was privileged to be one of the students to escort them to activities throughout campus and she was interested to find about the differences between the two cultures.

"The Korean students thought it was strange that we all carried around water bottles," she notes, "and that our food portions sizes were huge and that so many of us own cars."

"I really enjoyed showing them around," she says. "I visited some tourist sites I had not yet seen in Atlanta. Many of the students from Yonsei aspire to become nurses in the United States."

Each year Emory's School of Nursing offers two trips, one to the Bahamas and the other to Jamaica, both funded by the Hubert Fellowship. After filling out an extensive application and answering several essay questions, Ms. Crandall earned an assignment to Kingston, Jamaica over spring break. She attended several classes to learn



Coral Crandall standing in front of Gyeongbokgung palace, South Korea., wearing a traditional Korean *hanbok* customarily worn by queens.

about the Jamaican culture, the effects of globalization, and what to expect while on the trip.

Once in Jamaica Ms. Crandall worked with the Missionaries of the Poor, a group of Catholic brothers. The emphasis of the trip was to watch how faith was incorporated into health care in one of the poorest areas in the world. While in Kingston, she attended Sunday mass filled with a congregation of community members, volunteers, and residents of the different centers. During the service, the priest emphasized how appreciative of the students the community was. Ms. Crandall says that "it was a good motivator for the week."

She worked at five different centers located around Kingston. "There were two men's centers, one women's center, one center for children and one for people with AIDS and other disabilities." Each center was protected by high cement walls and locked gates for protection. While at the centers, she washed faces and hands, applied

(continued on p.36)

lotion and scabies cream, folded laundry, changed beds, served food, fed people, and swept.

In her spare time, the brothers encouraged her to sit and talk to the residents. “They seemed to really enjoy our presence,” she says.

“Every morning we would get very exuberant welcomes and sad goodbyes in the afternoon. Every day we would participate in meals and prayer with the brothers. I found it renewing to have a midday break for reflection and lunch. One evening we were invited to join the brothers for dinner. It was interesting to hear their stories since they are from all over the world.” Ms. Crandall describes the trip as a “transforming experience.”

“It made me evaluate our health care,” she says. “The brothers provided for such basic needs for these very sick people, but they did it in such a loving way it seemed more dignified than the health care we dispense in the United States. I came back and really struggled ethically with the medical treatment we provide our dying.”

The instructors of the Korean nursing school were all wearing *hanboks*, a traditional Korean costume, characterized by simple lines and no pockets.

“[In Korea] religion was incorporated into health care. More of an emphasis was placed on holistic nursing.”

Late in spring, Ms. Crandall and two other Emory students were chosen to visit Seoul, South Korea, for three weeks as part of a student exchange program. The Korean students who came to Emory in the spring were the hosts for the Emory students in Seoul. The purpose of the exchange was to observe Korean health care, culture, and to attend the Nursing History and Leadership Conference.

In Korea, Ms. Crandall and her group visited a community health center for the handicapped and the Naeil Women’s Center. They participated in a prenatal exercise class and visited a sex education center, a community health center, the Severance Hospital, the Yullin Gajok birthing center, a hand acupuncture club, the Korean Nurses Association, the Severance Mental Health Hospital, and the Kyung Hee University Chinese Medicine Hospital. They accompanied a nurse on home health care visits and shadowed a pediatric hospice nurse for a day. In addition, they also attended special lectures on nursing education in Korea, the home health care system, and hospice in the nation. There was a great contrast between the Chinese Medicine Hospital and the kind of care we offer in the United States. Patients can choose between Eastern medicine and Western medicine, or a combination of the two.

One evening while at the conference, Ms. Crandall attended a dinner with representatives from over twenty countries. The instructors of the

Korean nursing school were all wearing *hanboks*, a traditional Korean costume, characterized by simple lines and no pockets. Ms. Crandall remarked that her perspective on health care changed because

of the slightly different way in which health care is administered there. “I observed that religion was incorporated more into health care. More of an emphasis was placed on holistic nursing. Korean patients wear pants and tops in the hospital which encourage ambulation a little more than the hospital gowns worn in the United States.”

Ms. Crandall’s experiences are a reminder for each of us about the diversity of health care needs among our patients. As we practice, let us hope that we can heal the body as well as the mind and seek understanding and appreciation of other cultures as Ms. Crandall has done. ©

