Elizabeth and Frances Trimble

At Johns Hopkins, “our first love is the School of Nursing,” says Elizabeth Trimble, a public sector lawyer whose family members include generations of doctors and nurses. Though the establishment of this scholarship fund in 1996 was in I. Ridgeway and Frances H. Trimble’s honor, in recent years their daughter, Elizabeth, has become an active supporter of the School as well.

The late I. Ridgeway Trimble was educated and trained at Johns Hopkins in the 1920s. He met Frances when she was training as a doctor in gynecology at Sydney’s Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and he was serving in the South Pacific in World War II. They married in 1945 and came back to Baltimore to start a family and continue their medical careers: he as a surgeon, she as the medical director of Planned Parenthood of Maryland for 27 years.

So, what is it about nursing education that the Trimble family of doctors and lawyers believes is so important? “The quality of the students, their backgrounds, and their vision are really impressive,” says Frances. She reminisces that her husband experienced first-hand the critical contributions of nurses in the field hospitals during the war and those doctors developed a real appreciation for and commitment to the nurses. I. Ridgeway Trimble later became a strong advocate of the re-establishment of a nursing school at Johns Hopkins.

“The idea that there is a fund for mom and dad at the School of Nursing is really wonderful, especially for dad because it was very important to him that nurses be awarded bachelor’s degrees,” says Elizabeth. “He really believed that his patients did well because of Hopkins nurses; he had a tremendous respect for them.”

I. Ridgeway and Frances Trimble Scholarship

Established in 1996 by an anonymous donor to recognize the role the Trimbles, both physicians, have played in the history of Johns Hopkins Nursing. Dr. I. Ridgeway Trimble was the leading proponent in the medical community for establishing nursing education as a degree-granting division of the University, and Dr. Frances Trimble was a founding member of the National Council for Johns Hopkins Nursing.
As a second generation Korean American born and raised in Southern California, it was not a mistake that I was one of millions of uninsured Americans for most of my life; that I had immigrant parents who did not realize the importance of regular checkups and preventative health care; that a number of my family members passed away from cancer caught too late; that my fear of doctors added to my avoidance of getting proper health care even as an adult with insurance; or, that I took a class in college that ignited a passion in me to improve patient-provider communication and ultimately led me to the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

None of these things were a mistake, because all of these experiences have molded who I am today and driven me to pursue nursing. I know firsthand the importance of basic and preventative health care and have a vested interest in bringing that message to everyone, from the uninsured to the fearful, infants to the elderly.

This spring, I began a pediatrics rotation on the oncology unit at the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center and unexpectedly fell in love with the field and its young patient population. The seven weeks I spent on that unit essentially changed the course of my nursing career—this summer, I accepted a position in pediatric oncology at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, near my home and family.

I am honored and thankful to have been chosen to receive the Drs. I. Ridgeway and Frances Trimble Scholarship. It is a gift of education that will undoubtedly go on to touch many people in need of care.
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Swan Song: Stay Connected

This is a very exciting time for the School of Nursing and the Alumni Association—Pinning ceremonies and graduation coupled with a stream of new faces starting for in the accelerated programs. When I look out at the sea of faces, I see excitement about opportunities that await them. I am overwhelmed with thoughts of all the people that will be affected by this positive "metastases"—smart, vibrant and compassionate individuals going out into the world to practice as a Hopkins nurse. They will add to our rich network of nurses pursuing clinical and scholarly goals that will benefit many. We are proud of each and every one of them. After three years as JHNAA President, I will be stepping down this fall—a very bittersweet time for me as the ride has been wonderful. Thanks to all of you who have supported me and the Board in our efforts to strengthen our relationships with the school, each other and the larger University. Every babystep brings us closer together.

In every column, I sing the same refrain—so it is appropriate and expected that it will be part of my Swan song. The alumni association has been working hard to connect with the students and the faculty but it is challenging for a few people to do alone. We appreciate those of you who continually offer to assist with reaching out to young alum by hosting receptions, making phone calls or just showing up. A few gestures on each of our parts go a long way—paying dues and offering to connect in some way with one or two alumni will expand and strengthen our organization. The Alumni office has worked hard partnering with the Development office to update our communications (the beautiful magazine, website and updated List serve) but they are limited in refining this information without your input. Please send your updated contact information so we can stay connected.

Make a vow today to update your contact information, attend a nursing alumni event (homecoming, networking receptions, etc.) and/or call a recent graduate and offer your assistance. Welcome them into our network of rich tradition, expert nursing and friendship. We need your support to grow. I can speak with confidence that networking with students and recent alumni have opened doors for me both personally and professionally in ways I would have never imagined if I hadn’t agreed years ago to take the first small but bold step to give back. I am proud to be a Hopkins nurse and vow to stay connected with the school and the association. Please get connected and help us stay strong. We each have something unique to give back to the profession of nursing and to our Hopkins nursing peers—ourselves. Do it today. I look forward to seeing many of you at Homecoming—have a safe and healthy summer.

CLASS News

‘46
Class Reporter—Laura Brautigam June, P.O. Box 655, Joshua Tree, CA 92252, (760) 366-8181, royjune655@cs.com.

During our training days we had a head nurse in GYN out-patient department who kept a list of unusual and interesting names of patients. Two that I remember were: Rolla Ball and Shirley Mae Pea. A classmate came down the hall one day with two urine specimens—one bright red and the other, bright green. We knew what the first one was but were surprised that the green one was from a patient who was taking Carter’s Little Liver Pills. Sorry to report the death of Mary Rogers Bradburn 10/2007.

Elizabeth Toombs Keckler wrote from her 27 acres in Woodford, VA that she keeps busy with swimming, mowing her lawn, keeping blueberry bushes, singing in her church choir, knitting sweaters for needy children, along with activities in her Women’s Forum. She recently gave an oral history which was published about Fredericksburg, VA where she was born and lived until her entry to the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing. She recalls that one day as a student nurse she was caring for a typhoid patient who was so disgruntled that he would not speak and threw everything including food. As she was cleaning up after him, she started singing “School Days” and to her amazement and that
of the staff, the patient sang too! Winnie Wyncoop Carter of Huntington Beach, CA emails that she’s in touch with Lynn Reed Jackson who has recently moved to be nearer family. As for your reporter, my husband and I have been honored several times this year by the Palm Springs Air Museum in CA where we have gone every Sunday for 11 1/2 years. We each received “Volunteer of the Month” and as a couple (for the first time in the history of the Museum) “Volunteers of the Year.” We also have been featured in a full-page picture in the Palm Springs magazine entitled “Season in the Sun.” Longevity does have some perks!

'48

Remember what it was like at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 1948? We have great memories, and we look forward to seeing many of you back at Hopkins for your 60th reunion. Come see how many of you back at Hopkins for Johns Hopkins School of Nursing '48 Winnie Wyncoop Carter in the Sun.” Longevity does have in a full-page picture in the Year.” We also have been featured the Museum) “Volunteers of the Month” and as a couple (for We each received “Volunteer of Museum in CA where we have this year by the Palm Springs Air moved to be nearer family. As for that she’s in touch with Huntington Beach, CA emails who has recently bad news of any classmate. Jane Shotts Pinkerton did have a hip replacement the end of March, has had a few complications but is slowly improving. I told Janey that I am really 100 percent recovered from my hip surgery now. No, I cannot keep up with my D.C. grandson in basketball, but that is because of age, not the surgery. Janey also reports the birth of her third great grandchild, with daughter Susan as the grandmother. Wow! Speaking of great grandchildren, I believe the class champ is Ruth Stiz Whitmore, who has six of them. Speaking of Ruth, Anna Clair Junkin and I (Betty Borenstein Scher) had lunch together the beginning of January at Ruth’s Catonsville “senior citizen” residence. We had a great time chewing both our food and “the fat,” and will do it again. Anna says she has slowed down a bit with this problem or that problem; Ruth is “not sure what” she does besides taking care ofubby Marv, but—as for time—“it just goes.” Ginger Groseclose David is delighted that her older daughter, with family, has moved back to the home area. Her younger daughter was expecting her second child (a boy) the end of May. Her vision problems, unfortunately, have not gone; the downhill is “slow, but steady.” However, according to Don, she still gets a lot done. Lolita Beidelman reported her trip to New Zealand was nice, but she is not settling there yet; all goes well with her in DC in the apartment in which she has lived for over 20 years. We also talked at length on philosophy and ethics in general, politics—of course—and essentially together we solved most of the problems of the universe. I got to spend a lunch time with Jo McDavid Hubbard during my short visit to KY in early March. Not much news there except all seems pretty well with few changes for Jo and her family. Charlie Royer contacted me at Passover sending me good wishes and writing a lot of family news, all of it good for the children and grandchildren. His leg injury is improving, but he was told to expect it to take at least a year for full recuperation. He also had heard from Ernie Del Signore who has stopped driving, but who will visit when Ernie’s son Bruce can drive him down. As for me (Betty), I am doing well and still do my volunteer Archives work one day a week, then Hospice one day a week. Also spend just about every weekend in DC visiting son Bob with his wife and son. If your name is not in this month’s news, maybe you can drop me a line (or e-mail)—or much later in the summer I actually may contact you.

'50

Class Reporter—Betty B. Scher 1190 W. Northern Parkway #225 Baltimore, MD 21210. Phone: 443-449-5934. E-mail: bscher@comcast.net. Not much news this time, but at least there is no bad news of any classmate. Jane Shotts Pinkerton did have a hip replacement the end of March, has had a few complications but is slowly improving. I told Janey that I am really 100 percent recovered from my hip surgery now. No, I cannot keep up with my D.C. grandson in basketball, but that is because of age, not the surgery. Janey also reports the birth of her third great grandchild, with daughter Susan as the grandmother. Wow! Speaking of great grandchildren, I believe the class champ is Ruth Stiz Whitmore, who has six of them. Speaking of Ruth, Anna Clair Junkin and I (Betty Borenstein Scher) had lunch together the beginning of January at Ruth’s Catonsville “senior citizen” residence. We had a great time chewing both our food and “the fat,” and will do it again. Anna says she has slowed down a bit with this problem or that problem; Ruth is “not sure what” she does besides taking care ofubby Marv, but—as for time—“it just goes.” Ginger Groseclose David is delighted that her older daughter, with family, has moved back to the home area. Her younger daughter was expecting her second child (a boy) the end of May. Her vision problems, unfortunately, have not gone; the downhill is “slow, but steady.” However, according to Don, she still gets a lot done. Lolita Beidelman reported her trip to New Zealand was nice, but she is not settling there yet; all goes well with her in DC in the apartment in which she has lived for over 20 years. We also talked at length on philosophy and ethics in general, politics—of course—and essentially together we solved most of the problems of the universe. I got to spend a lunch time with Jo McDavid Hubbard during my short visit to KY in early March. Not much news there except all seems pretty well with few changes for Jo and her family. Charlie Royer contacted me at Passover sending me good wishes and writing a lot of family news, all of it good for the children and grandchildren. His leg injury is improving, but he was told to expect it to take at least a year for full recuperation. He also had heard from Ernie Del Signore who has stopped driving, but who will visit when Ernie’s son Bruce can drive him down. As for me (Betty), I am doing well and still do my volunteer Archives work one day a week, then Hospice one day a week. Also spend just about every weekend in DC visiting son Bob with his wife and son. If your name is not in this month’s news, maybe you can drop me a line (or e-mail)—or much later in the summer I actually may contact you.

'51

Class Reporter—Catherine Morton Bork, 15039 Harrison Ave., Allen Park, MI 48101, (313)381-9396, or email or call Rosie Ghysels at rghysels@sbcglobal.net or (616) 475-4677. Adele Sparks Birx and Ron are both well with just the usual little inconveniences of our aging selves. Rosie Ghysels had a couple of two-week vacations this winter to FL and CA. Getting away from MI in January and February is a good move! Northern MI has its skiing, and my sons camp out and cross country ski in the Upper Peninsula some winters. Rosie and Jane Boice Turnbull were tentatively planning to visit a few days with Betsy Bogs in OH in May. Betsy is not able to travel here to see us anymore. Not feeling well enough to manage the inconveniences of air travel with a wheelchair. Jane is having severe back pain which is somewhat alleviated by cortisone injections. She is considering surgery. In early fall of 2007, Esther Moore Clement wrote me of a rather sudden onset of cancer in a much beloved sister. She passed away in late fall, and I learned of it too late to include that information in the last class notes. She said she and Tom do some mall walking a couple times a week. Nancy Brooks Lacy writes such a newsy letter. She had written earlier that she was slowly going through things: To keep? Throw away? Recycle? Donate? Bestow on others? She sounds happily busy, but she didn’t have anything exciting to pass along. Interesting events and pursuits can be as worthwhile as exciting ones. She still drives, works in the yard, travels, helps out friends in need. She wants to drive to MD to see good friend Anna Clair Junkin ’50. Nancy’s oldest son Brooks needs a new kidney. His wife works at Vanderbilt University and drops Brooks off at Nancy’s four mornings a week. We nurses are being computerized, and all of us are struggling! Most are too old to have learned computers in school, and only one associate is competent to teach us. I get as many hour-long sessions with her as I can get. I know I don’t have a good attitude about computers. They seem so prone to breakdowns, failure, not being enterable and how do I close out
temporarily when a patient down the hall needs me RIGHT NOW? Directing that darn mouse is akin to backing up with a trailer; it doesn’t go where I want it to go!

Rose Mary Burroughs Schulte and her husband are doing well. She does some volunteer work a couple days a week and stays busy with family and grandchildren.

Doris Perkinson Zimmerman and her husband Jack are residing at Roland Park Place in Baltimore, MD. They have a son, a daughter and five grandchildren. Doris reports that Dr. Jack is the bionic man with an aortic valve and two replaced knees. Doris says she enjoys bridge, some golf, reading, volunteer work at Paul’s Place soup kitchen and the women’s club at Roland Park Place. She remembers the wonderful times on the 8th floor corridor, trips to Rehoboth in Helen Burch’s convertible and the end of preclin! Join us for our 55th reunion and hear more about our classmates and more memories of our days at JH School of Nursing.

Arianne Regester has been named Professor Emeritus at the Community College of Baltimore School of Nursing.

Class Reporter—Margaret Barber Trever, 29504 Hauke Hill Rd., Easton, MD 21061-8646, (410) 822-0479, mbtrever@gmail.com. Kay Smith Burr writes that she will have to have a third surgery to repair the hole in her upper palate. She is one of the unfortunate ones whose Fosamax led to problems in the jaw and advises anyone prescribed Fosamax to avoid taking it until after dental surgery is completed.

If you haven’t sent your questionnaire back to the Alumni office, please do so. We want everyone included in our 50th reunion booklet. Hope everyone is planning to attend the reunion. It’s a special occasion that you won’t want to miss.

Ingrid Bortner has been named Professor Emeritus at the Community College of Baltimore School of Nursing.

We’re looking forward to seeing you at Hopkins in September for your 45th reunion. If you haven’t already done so, please get your questionnaires back to Jodell Johnson.

Susan Gormley Buchanan says life in a Bel Air condo is much quieter than she had anticipated. She and her husband travel a lot. They have three grandchildren 9, 7 and 3 and a granddaughter 1½ to keep them busy, too! Life is good.

Leslie Nesin is an Episcopalian priest serving a church in Houlton, ME. She says she “finds that once a nurse, always a nurse! The people skills that nurses bring to bear very much inform how I do my job now.”

It’s our 40th reunion! Invitations are in the mail, and we hope you’ve made arrangements to be in Baltimore for reunion weekend, September 26 and 27. Amy Gibson Davis, Eunice Searles King, Melinda Rhodes and Sandy Bollinger Zeiler are hoping for a great turnout.

Jeanie Aydelotte is working on our reunion booklet. Please send your questionnaire back to her asap. We’re looking forward to seeing you and celebrating our 35th reunion. Homecoming invitations are in the mail.

Cancer Survivor Celebrates Life

Last May, eight days after her graduation from nursing school at Johns Hopkins University, Kelly Carpenter ’07 was diagnosed with colon cancer.

She was 28, planning to move to California to pursue her career as an oncology nurse. Her diagnosis came the day before she was set to move. “I went home to an empty apartment and went, ‘Oh no,’” Carpenter said. She changed her plans and returned home to Essex, VT, to live with her parents. They helped her survive, Carpenter said.

She had surgery at Johns Hopkins before six months of outpatient chemotherapy at Fletcher Allen Health Care [Burlington, VT]. Carpenter resumed full-time work this May, having worked part-time during her treatment, as a nurse at Fletcher Allen Health Care’s in-patient cancer unit.

When her chemo treatments ended on December 31st, Carpenter told herself: “I’m going to start 2008 off right.” In May, she attended and volunteered at the Stowe Weekend of Hope, an annual retreat for cancer survivors, friends and families. She lived in a house with other young survivors — a group of people who face their own set of challenges after a cancer diagnosis.

“I think in planning for the future, it’s a lot different,” Carpenter said. ... “You have to think about, when you’re faced with cancer, you have to come to terms with death, basically. Which is not really something that you think about before this.” Carpenter is a graduate of Essex High School [Essex Junction, VT], who went to the University of New Hampshire, where she majored in social work. Later, she chose to earn her second degree, this one in nursing.

She thought her gastro-intestinal symptoms were due to the stress of ending nursing school, before her cancer diagnosis. “It’s kind of a shock,” Carpenter said. “You look at it definitely as an eye-opener on all the good things that are in life. I realized how lucky I am in a lot of ways and how many good people I have in my life. I think I was overwhelmed with the gratitude I felt for how many people came out of the woodwork and were so giving of themselves to make my life so much easier. But there are times when I obviously think, ‘What now?’”

Carpenter sometimes talks with her patients about her cancer and what her treatment entailed. She thinks it’s helpful for her, and hopes it is for her patients, too, to talk with somebody who has an understanding of what they’re going through.

“When you’re diagnosed, it’s very much an emotional diagnosis, too,” Carpenter said. “It’s nice to sympathize with one another and relate to somebody.”

—Sally Pollak, Burlington Free Press Staff Writer

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Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing is an equal opportunity employer—and a place where exceptional people discover possibilities that forever change lives and the world.
’78
What are you doing both personally and professionally? Come to our 30th reunion and catch up with what’s been happening. We all have busy lives but let’s take some time to remember how we became Hopkins nurses during the turbulent years of the School of Health Services. Contact Eileen Gallagher Leathy for more information.

’86
Barbara Schweizer was presented a 2008 Women’s Leadership Award by the JHU Women’s Network at their 21st Annual Spring Luncheon at Charles Commons May 9, 2008.

’88
Who’s coming to reunion? We’ve been nurses for 20 years! Join us to remember how we became Hopkins nurses during the beautiful SON building, and now they are planning an addition. We need to go back and see what’s happening not just with JHUSON but with each other. Hopefully everyone has received a letter regarding Homecoming and reunion. Please plan to attend. Go to JHU InCircle (www.alumni.jhu.edu) and click on Nursing Class of 1993 and let’s get a conversation going about reunion.

’93
Hayley Mark had a baby girl in May and she’s a faculty member at JHUSON. What is everyone else doing? Come to our 15th reunion and find out. Invitations to Homecoming weekend are in the mail.

’93 Accelerated
Daniela Terrizzi DeFino and Alison Paige Smith had a baby girl in May and she’s a faculty member at JHUSON. What is everyone else doing? Come to our 15th reunion and find out. Invitations to Homecoming weekend are in the mail.

’95
Jennifer Gregg Geise lives in Mystic, CT with her son 10 and daughter 6. In January 2007, her husband, John, who many of her classmates knew, was killed by a drunk teenage driver. It has been a very difficult year for them. Jennifer had been working in home health care but has been home with her children the past year. She has been accepted to UCONN for her NP and hopes to start this fall.

’98
We were the first class in the large 200-bed hospital. We were the first class in the beautiful SON building, and now they are planning an addition. We need to go back and see what’s happening not just with JHUSON but with each other. Hopefully everyone has received a letter regarding Homecoming and reunion. Please plan to attend. Go to JHU InCircle (www.alumni.jhu.edu) and click on Nursing Class of 1998 and let’s get a conversation going about reunion.

’98 Accelerated
Cynthia Henry Thurlow is working part time for a large cardiology group (35 MDs, 18 NPs) in the Northern VA/DC suburbs. She does a combo of inpatient and outpatient card management and really enjoys it. Her husband does a tremendous amount of traveling in his current job, and Cynthia is still balancing her part-time employment and two boys (2 yrs and 7 months). She keeps in touch with many alumni, including Sarah Jopling & Christina Boreale. Want to know more about who’s doing what? Log in to JHU InCircle and join the Accelerated Nursing Class of ’98 group. Let’s see if we can get a good turnout for our 10th reunion.

’98
Heart Hospital in Norfolk, VA. On a non-nursing note, you avid scrapbookers will be interested in knowing that Tracey was inducted into the Scrapbooking Hall of Fame! Her work has been featured in over 80 publications in various worldwide magazines! Congratulations are in order for Jenny Brady, who welcomed her third little bundle of joy! As for me, my family and I are still in the Baltimore area. I’m now working pm as a staff nurse at Patient First, an urgent care facility. I’ve been busy caring for my two sons, ages 1 and 4. I know that all of you are busy, too, but please take a few minutes to drop me an email. I would love to hear from more classmates!

Deadline for the next issue of Vigilando

’enrolled in the InCircle Accelerated Nursing Class of 1993. Let’s get some conversation going about our reunion. Reunions are the best when lots of people come back. Please make a special effort.

’99
Class Reporter—Kellye Scribner-Wright, 9116 Summer Park Drive, Parkville, MD 21234, kellyew@hotmail.com. Hi everyone! Long time, no see! I heard from Tracey Hearn-Odagowski, who is currently living in Newport News, VA, with her husband and two children 7 and 3. She recently accepted a position as critical care staff development educator at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital and Sentara Native Americans.

’99 MSN
Class Reporter—Eileen Cordoba Tongson, 1016 NW 86th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32606, (352)-332-9603, etongson@bellsouth.net. Hello! Kimberly Vaughn is still working at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center as a nurse practitioner. The division of geriatrics has recently opened a chronic medical unit with the support of psychiatry to address both medical and behavioral issues for the frail elderly. She is the NP program coordinator for this unit. Kimberly’s son is studying recording arts. After graduation in December, he would like to work or intern for Pixar so he will likely head for the west coast. Kimberly’s daughters are in high school. One will graduate in June and attend college in PA to study education. Her other daughter is a freshman. Kathy MacLeod has started a new business: Harmony with Reiki. Reiki is the gentle flow of healing energy from the Universe (or God) to us. Kathy was recently one of 12 Reiki practitioners to give Reiki to JHUSON students in Lori Edwards’ Complementary and Alternative Medicine class.

’00
Class reporter—Sarah Gauger, 1518 Redmond Drive, Durham, NC 27712, (sgauger@nc.rr.com). Megan Dills Gulotta has started teaching childbirth classes as well as working as a family health NP. She also reports that she is expecting their second child this summer. Meredith Anthony Strachan had a beautiful little
boy on September 12, 2007 and is doing great! Meredith continues to work part-time nights on a high risk antepartum unit at a hospital in FL. Brooke Schlosser Schwenk and her husband Brian are living in PA. Brooke is working as an NP in Employee/Occupational/Travel Health for Main Line Health, an affiliate of Jefferson Health System. She is pleased to announce the arrival of their first child, born March 9, 2008, four weeks early but everyone is home and healthy (but exhausted). Christen Hamilton Proffitt is now the mother of two girls —2 years old and 3 months old. She and her family are living in Richmond, VA. Christen is working four days a week as the FNP for the on-campus health center at Capital One. Eileen MacMurtrie has been working as a Senior Research Nurse for the Dept of Neurosurgery at The Hospital of the University of PA. She graduated from the ANP program at Villanova and hopes to transition to an NP role soon. Eileen would like to share exciting news that she is expecting their first baby in July. Marian Grant reports that she has left Bayview Medical Center to work as Marie Nolan’s senior research coordinator. This job change is to facilitate her returning to school to pursue her DNP degree. Marian also reports that Julie Spencer Cossamano is expecting her first child this summer. And I am pleased to report that I have passed the ANCC Advanced Diabetes Management board exams recently. I continue to work as an inpatient NP on the diabetes management service at Durham Regional Hospital (a sister hospital of Duke University Medical Center). I still have not heard from the rest of our classmates. Please send me any information that you would like to share with your classmates! You can send information at any time, and I will make sure it gets into the next edition of the magazine.

Accelerated Romance

Both Travis Devolt and Marta Lea had expectations when they arrived at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, ready to embark on a new career path. But neither could have foreseen the way that their time in Baltimore would end. This summer, just months before moving to the west coast, Travis and Marta were married in Jamaica. The festivities included beach barbecues, scuba diving forays, and sunset sails with friends and family. In hindsight, it seems safe to say that they made a very good choice in coming to Hopkins.

Travis and Marta met soon after starting the accelerated BSN program. Both attended a mixer for new students at a local pub. Once they had been introduced by a friend of Marta’s, they quickly developed a friendship. They sat next to one another in every class and saw each other often outside of school. Eventually, according to Travis, “we said, ‘hmm… we could be dating.’”

A few months after they began to date, Travis and Marta traveled to Venice together for a luxurious spring break, albeit on a student budget. They stayed in a room without a bathroom, ate adventurously (not always by choice), and endured a 24-hour travel fiasco on their return trip. And yet, against all odds, Travis and Marta each realized that they had had a great time together. “That really sealed the deal,” says Travis. Their personalities seemed to complement one another perfectly. Travis describes himself as mellow and laid-back, while Marta says that she is driven and “sometimes a little high-strung.” According to Travis, “I help her to relax and she motivates me.” On their next vacation, in the Dominican Republic, they decided to marry.

Two years after their 2006 graduation from the accelerated program, their lives have been full of surprises. Marta works as a labor and delivery nurse at Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, where she provides care and education to mothers and infants during and after birth. “I wouldn’t have guessed that this is what I’d be doing after school,” she said. “But now that I’m doing it, I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.” Travis works in the Emergency Department at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, where he enjoys the fast-paced atmosphere. “Every day has potential for variety,” he said. “As a nurse, I’m constantly evolving and learning. I learn something new each day I go to work.”

In the months after the wedding, Marta and Travis plan to move across the country to Seattle, where Marta will begin working on an advanced nursing degree and certification. Travis, who enjoys hiking, skiing, and kayaking, is looking forward to the outdoor opportunities that Seattle has to offer. He hopes to continue working in an Emergency Department after the move.

Asked about their thoughts on the future, Travis – the casual one – thinks for a minute. “I hope the rain doesn’t bug us too much,” he says. Considering how happy Marta and Travis are together, that seems doubtful.

—Robby MacBain