

Gerri Ching's Reflection for Nursing Pinning Ceremony 2009

I feel truly honored that my classmates have nominated me to speak at our Pinning Ceremony. As I look back two years ago, we had a welcome dinner sponsored by Vanguard's School for Professional Studies. This took place prior to the beginning of our two-year journey to attain our Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing. We were all there for the same goal, with feelings of excitement, uncertainty and apprehension. As adult nurses going back to school, our world as we knew it, was changing. Not only were our own lives going to change, but our families lives as well.

The nurses in Vanguard's School for Professional Studies were from a variety of backgrounds in nursing. These backgrounds included but were not limited to emergency room nursing, cardiac care nursing, neonatal intensive care nursing, pediatric intensive care nursing, medical-surgical nursing, hemodialysis and transplantation nursing and nursing for the homeless and HIV positive patients.

Regardless of what background or specialty we were from, we, as nurses, share a common bond. Nurses are caretakers. Nurses are hard working and wise. Wisdom in nursing is a gift that money cannot buy. As stated in Proverbs 3:16-18, "Wisdom gives a long, good life. Wisdom gives riches, honor, pleasure and peace. Wisdom is the tree of life to those who eat her fruit and happy is the man who keeps on eating it." And we, as nurses, shared a common goal: to achieve a higher level of education. In achieving this higher level of education, we became stronger and gained knowledge. In this period of economic job instability, it is wise to have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, which ultimately provides more job security.

However, any task worth achieving may not be accomplished without difficulty. Writing papers and doing homework consumed much of our free time. Vanguard's School for Professional Studies helped to make it possible to work and go to school simultaneously. I would like to take this moment to thank all of our family and loved ones for their understanding when we had to stay home and study instead of doing something fun. I

would like to thank them for their support and patience when we needed help. I remember when taking the course called Informatics and Technology. Our instructions included locating an item on the desktop. With my hands on the keyboard, my mind froze, while staring at the computer screen. Dumbfounded, I asked my daughter, "What's a desk top?" I also welcomed any assistance from my son and my husband when enrolled in the dreaded statistics course. I think I bought three calculators while enrolled in that course.

I would like to take this moment to thank the professors at Vanguard University for their knowledge and expertise. They made it known to us that their door was always open and welcomed the students to come in for help and guidance if needed. They understood the workload we carried and were sensitive to our individual needs and circumstances.

And now, two years later, here we are. During the course of two years, we have experienced engagements, weddings, births, adult children coming home from Iraq, and many unexpected situations amongst various lives of the students in Vanguard's RN to BSN Program. Through it all, we still managed to have dinner together every Monday night! Anyone who has a nurse in their family knows we think that any occasion (even school) goes better and easier with food!

Finally, I would like to commend each nurse and offer my congratulations to each graduate on their perseverance and dedication in achieving their goal. Here we are, graduating with our Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. May God bless each and every one of us in our professional futures as Bachelareate Degree Nurses.

I would especially like to thank my mom who has been my biggest cheerleader. My whole life she has been there to support and encourage me. Because she has always cared so much for me and our family; I earn a living caring for others. Thank you Mom!

And finally, as Reese Witherspoon said in the ending of her movie, Legally Blonde, “WE DID IT!!”

Thank you!

