



Wiseman Named Assistant Dean at USG

REBECCA WISEMAN, PhD, RN, an assistant professor at the School of Nursing and former director of the Governor's Wellmobile program, was recently named assistant dean for the nursing program at USG.

Wiseman, who joined the faculty in 2002, is a 1993 graduate of the School's PhD program, where her studies focused on education policy and administration.

Prior to joining the School, Wiseman worked as a senior staff specialist for workplace advocacy at the American

Nurses Association in Washington, D.C. The remainder of her career has been spent as a nurse educator, administrator, and staff nurse.

The School expanded its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at USG in fall 2008 to meet the increasing demand for highly skilled nurses in the region. BSN enrollment at USG now stands at 176, and is slated to nearly double within the next five years.

"I am looking forward to working with the faculty and staff at USG," says Wiseman. "The facility's new clinical simulation labs and excellent instructors will help our students gain the skills they need to work in complex health care environments. In addition, the interdisciplinary opportunities at USG prepare our students to work in more collegial and equitable patient-focused teams." —**Patricia Adams**



Montgomery County's Diversity Reflected in Student Body



Setondji Magonou and Catriona Mowbray

THE UNIVERSITIES at Shady Grove (USG) offer more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs from nine of University of Maryland's 11 schools.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), primarily a full-time program, was one of the first programs available at USG. The program offers junior and senior year studies to students who have completed the first two years elsewhere. Currently there are about 176 students enrolled in the BSN program. (About 30 master's students also take courses at USG over the course of a year but cannot complete the degree at that site.)

"Because Montgomery County is very diverse, the pool of students from which USG draws is representative of that population," says Patricia Morton, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAAN, associate dean for academic affairs, who oversees all of the School of Nursing's academic programs. "It's that diversity of gender, age, previous careers, backgrounds, and ethnicities, that brings a unique richness to all of our programs." Shady Grove provides a wide variety of schedules, including part- and full-time, daytime, evening, and weekend programs, to meet the different needs of its student body, which is 19 percent African-American, 15 percent Asian, 12 percent Hispanic, 38 percent White, and 6 percent foreign.

As in Montgomery County itself, the international students at USG hail from far

and wide. BSN student Setondji Magonou immigrated to the United States in 2003 from Togo, West Africa. "I like Shady Grove a lot better than anywhere else I've studied," says Magonou, who cites class size (around 50 students per class), the beautiful campus, and the convenient location as the prime reasons for his preference.

Magonou knew early that he wanted to be a nurse. "My aunt in Togo was a nurse, and she used to pick me up from school and take me to the hospital while she worked. I loved it there, and knew that is what I wanted to do later on." His subsequent experience working with autistic children, as well as Africa's lack of psychiatric resources influenced Magonou's decision to go into psychiatric nursing. "I would love to go back to Africa after I get my master's degree in nursing and change people's perspectives on psychiatric disorders," he says.

Catriona Mowbray, a BSN student from Scotland, came to Los Angeles to do post-doctoral research in basic developmental biology after completing her PhD in biology at the University of Sheffield in England.

"While the research I was doing was interesting, I wanted to get involved with patients, to have a more direct impact," she says. "It's okay to be in an ivory tower for a while, but it's so far [removed] from people." Mowbray moved to the East Coast when her husband got a job at the National Institutes of Health. "I realized that getting a nursing degree provides a lot of career options as well as the opportunity to work directly with people," she says.

Like Magonou, Mowbray loves the small class size at USG, as well as the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum. "I had already had the big college experience and was looking for a smaller environment where I could have closer contact with the lecturers," Mowbray explains. "The lecturers at USG are wonderfully approachable."

—**Jennifer Wilkinson**