

SMS Bulletin

Fall 2005



SEATTLE
MIDWIFERY
SCHOOL
EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
EMPOWERMENT

Stories from Afghanistan Bring Perspective

—Karen Hays, CNM, SMS class of 1992

I am always fascinated to take note of the law of unintended consequences. Who would have thought that on September 11, 2001, 19 airline hijackers would initiate a chain of events that would result in the US government funding direct-entry midwifery education in Afghanistan? But that is indeed what has happened.

Recently, I spent three months in Afghanistan working as a Technical Midwifery Advisor for the Safe Motherhood Unit of the USAID/REACH program. As many of you know, I have participated in clinically-oriented midwifery in many foreign countries; but this time my focus was different. This was an opportunity to be involved with government agencies and educational institutions that are setting policy and standards of practice to help reduce the disastrous maternal mortality situation there.

Traveling and working in Afghanistan required special preparations. Not only did I need more education about participating in midwifery at a policy-making and administrative educational support level, but the country is not set up for foreigners, let alone women, to travel alone. I took a week-long course offered by JHPIEGO, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, for nurses and midwives interested in international consulting. I made contacts and submitted my resume, and soon I was hired by JHPIEGO to be a midwifery consultant in Afghanistan. I read up on Islam, Afghan traditions, and how I should behave in this culture. I spoke to other midwives who had worked there to learn from their experiences.

My assignments with JHPIEGO were varied, but one in particular was important to me. I worked on the preparations for the upcoming accreditation of the new direct-entry midwifery education programs. My years of being a student, teacher, and clinical preceptor for SMS were a great background. I sought help from SMS staff to send me SMS documents for reference when drafting school policies (thanks, Terri Turner-Carney!) and I recruited another SMS graduate, Marijke van Roojen, to come to Kabul to help with improving the quality of education at the largest midwifery school. *(continued on page 2)*

800.747.9433

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www.seattlemidwifery.org

New Executive Director

SMS is pleased to announce that we have hired an Executive Director! Cheryl Murfin Bond joins the SMS staff on October 24th. She is a midwifery consumer and a Certified Doula. For the past five years, she has been the Communications Director and a member of the Strategic Oversight Team for the Children's Home Society, a 450-employee, seven-region, \$16 million agency. Her expertise in media relations along with her background in journalism will certainly be put to good use!

Many thanks to the Board of Directors for their enormous efforts and patience throughout this process and to Nonprofit Recruitment Services for their professional guidance

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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Afghanistan Story

(continued from front)

The process of working towards accreditation is dynamic and collaborative and when it is complete, midwifery education in Afghanistan will enable Afghan midwives to be members of the first accredited profession ever in that country! We did pre-accreditation assessments at the schools and organized accreditation workshops. An independent accreditation board will visit the programs to assess if they are meeting the standards, help set goals for improvement, and award accreditation status. The goals are to promote international standards for midwifery education, quality of instruction, and accountability.

Additionally, I was proud to work on the creation of the first ever Afghan Midwives Association (AMA). Two consultants from ACNM and dozens of Afghan midwives put together the inaugural conference. Over 200 Afghan midwives and more than 25 foreign midwives attended, plus two students were sponsored from each of the schools. We drafted a constitution, ready for submission for ICM (International Confederation of Midwives) membership. The three-day conference ended on May 5, International Midwives' Day, which was especially meaningful because of Afghanistan's recent history of being closed off from the international community.

Just as in the US, midwives and student midwives in Afghanistan have many barriers to education and practice. Some of these are the same as ours: lack of respect for the profession, minimal support from physicians, financial stress, and family constraints. But students there have additional challenges. To attend school, many students have to travel long distances through

AMA Mission Statement

The Afghan Midwives Association aims to promote and strengthen the midwifery profession and the role of the midwife to insure the well-being of the women and families in Afghanistan through representation for and on behalf of midwives.

rugged conditions, and all must have written permission from either a father or a husband. Women are not supposed to be out after dark or travel alone, so clinical experiences are limited. Schools may be closed temporarily because of security threats. Some students struggle with marginal literacy skills; and, for the rural schools, they must live in dorms during the 18-month program. However, some of the schools have onsite childcare and the students bring their smaller children to live with them in the dorms! No one knows exactly what will happen to the students after graduation. Will their families give them permission to work? Will there be healthcare facilities to work in or transfer clients to? Will it be safe for them to attend women in their homes? Will their communities use their services?

Many people asked me about my own safety while I was in Afghanistan, which is considered a "post-conflict" country even though violent fighting is still occurring in many areas. Foreigners require a lot of protection and restriction of movement. Our guesthouses are guarded 24 hours/day. We were not allowed to use any public transportation, including taxis, or to walk anywhere. I had to carry a cell phone, and sometimes a two-way radio, for instant communication with our security teams. Several times our work days or travel plans were interrupted with security warnings, and we would be put in "lockdown" in our guesthouses. There were bombings and kidnappings while I was Kabul, many of these close to home (literally across and down the street). I was trapped in the hospital in Jalalabad where riots and gunfights took place (even outside the L&D ward where I was working) as a reaction to the report of American soldiers desecrating the Koran. I was later evacuated from that city with all the other foreigners. The vast majority of Afghans are peaceful people and gracious hosts, however; and they do their best to keep their foreign guests safe during insecure times.

Although much of the reality in Afghanistan is dire and desperate, it

is also extremely exciting to see midwifery education organized and functioning so quickly after 25 years of virtual non-existence during the Soviet war, civil war, and Taliban rule. We can attribute this to the dedicated Afghans and others who value midwifery care, and USAID, the European Union, and many NGOs who are providing grant money and technical advice. With on-going funding, vision, and dedication, Afghans will continue to work towards lowering the second highest maternal mortality ratio in the world by educating midwives.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT THE AFGHAN MIDWIVES IN THEIR EFFORTS?

Midwives may offer their support by joining the Afghan Midwives Association as a foreign midwife for \$25/year. (Contact Karen Hays or Mary Yglesia if you are interested in joining.)

NGOs supporting midwifery education:

JHPIEGO (affiliated with Johns Hopkins University) www.jhpiego.org
AgaKahn Development Network www.akdn.org
International Medical Corps www.imcworldwide.org
Save the Children - US www.savethechildren.org
Merlin (Great Britain) www.merlin.org.uk
Swedish Committee www.swedishcommittee.org
World Vision www.wvi.org

Afghanistan Vital Statistics

- Population - >29 million
- The maternal mortality ratio is 1,600 per 100,000 live births (the second worst ratio in the world). The primary cause of maternal death is postpartum hemorrhage. In Badakshan Province, the ratio is 6,500 per 100,000 (the highest ratio ever recorded). The primary cause there is obstructed labor.
- Every 30 minutes a woman dies of a pregnancy-related cause.
- The baby of a mother who dies in childbirth has only a 25% chance of survival.
- The total fertility rate is an average of 7 babies per woman.
- Life expectancy is mid-40's for women.



DOULA AND EXTENSION EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

University of Washington Medical Center Doula Care (UWDC) Project

SMS Doula and Extension Education Program is thrilled to support the training of UW students, many on a path to medical or nursing school. SMS partnered with the UWDC Project to train sixteen students as birth doulas (class pictured above). They completed a special intro to doula care with Penny Simkin at SMS in June. The proceeds funded the new UWDC Scholarship Fund at SMS. Students willing to commit to twelve 8-hour shifts as volunteer doulas with the program are eligible for scholarships to the Labor Support Course. For more information visit www.seattlemidwifery.org/doula_education_registration_policies.htm.

Upcoming Doula and Extension Education Classes

Austin TX (with Penny Simkin)

When Survivors Give Birth -
Jan 26, 2006

Special Topics in Maternity Care
(Advanced Doula Training) -
Jan 27, 2006

Seattle WA

Postpartum Doula Training -
Nov 18-19 and Dec 2-3

Labor Support Course -
Dec 6-7 and Dec 9-10

Breastfeeding Educator Course -
Jan 30-Feb 1 & Feb 3-5, 2006

Childbirth Educator Training -
Jan 20-22 and Feb 10-12, 2006

For more information, visit
www.seattlemidwifery.org/doula_education.htm. To register,
contact us at info@seattlemidwifery.org
or (800) 747-9433.

A Doula Story in Seattle

SMS was proud to be the lead media partner for the October 6th, Harvard Exit sneak preview of a powerful new documentary. *A Doula Story* follows the work of a community-based doula on Chicago's West Side, as she returns to the same neighborhood where she once struggled as a teen mom, to mentor and advocate for young mothers to be and their children.

We want to thank our co-sponsors, Active Voice, the Children & Family Commission, Children's Home Society of Washington,

Department of Public Health Seattle-King County, Open Arms Perinatal Services, Pacific Association for Labor Support and UW School of Nursing for their help in bringing this film to the community.

For more information about the film and the community engagement campaign by Active Voice, visit www.activevoice.net/doula.html. If you missed the sneak preview tune in to see the film on KCTS Channel 9 on October 13 at 10pm. SMS has discussion tool kits if you'd like to view it with your friends. Contact anniek@seattlemidwifery.org.

New Course: Advanced Practice in Breastfeeding

April 28-30, 2006

Join instructors Molly Pessl and Ginna Wall for this three-day course designed for those who have a foundation in breastfeeding practice,

are studying for the IBLCE exam, or need CERPS for recertification. Exam prep and the exam blueprint are covered, with practice exam questions provided throughout the course. Visit www.seattlemidwifery.org/doula_education_advancedbf.htm for more information.

2005 Giving Thanks Auction November 5th!

Last year's auction was a huge success—good food, good friends and great support for SMS! This year's 2005 Giving Thanks Auction is shaping up to be even better. Our venue is the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple on Capitol Hill which means

more space for more friends. Balabuste Catering has a scrumptious menu planned—"Great food and plenty of it!"

Our procurers are busy gathering the best and most interesting items. How does a stay at the Alexis Hotel sound? Or at the Wellspring at the base of Mt. Rainier? Or maybe you'd go for the wine tasting party for 10, or the original batik shawl created

by Sheila Kitzinger! Or perhaps you'd be enticed by a visit to the Mountain Music Lounge? Great items and adventures to fit all budgets. The catalog will be on our website www.seattlemidwifery.org prior to the event, where you can preview the amazing offerings and plan your strategy.

(continued on page 7)

MIDWIFERY PROGRAM NEWS

Staff and faculty updates in MEP & front desk!

There have been many changes since you last heard from us. Mary Yglesia, who has been serving as Interim Director, will be moving into the MEP Director position, overseeing academic and clinical programs. Lynn Hughes, who has been the MEP Director for over four years, will be turning her focus towards MEP and DEEP program development, as well as the marketing and publication work she has already been doing. Assisting Mary is our new Clinical Coordinator, Jasmine Bay, a member of our first New England MEP class, as we say good bye to Bridget Albright, who formerly oversaw the MEP clinical placement. We wish her well as she goes off to the UW PA Program. In addition, we welcome Aurilee Gamboa to our MEP staff. Auri is the new MEP Office Assistant.

Although the front desk doesn't fall under MEP, we will take the liberty of announcing our new Front Office Program Assistant--since she also happens to be another MEP grad! We are thrilled to add Marissa Ridgeway to our team. Marissa is taking a break from midwifery and brings wonderful library and customer service experience to the school.

We still get to see Terri Turner Carney, but we miss having her on our MEP staff. Terri has shifted entirely to the Doula and Extension Education Program.

On the faculty side, we were thrilled that spring quarter brought Ann Tive, 1989 grad and long-time preceptor from Bellingham to teach Midwifery Care: Synthesis and Application. This fall, we welcome Sarah Huntington, 1993 graduate, back to our faculty. Sarah taught at SMS prior to the start of our "low-residency" program. She has since completed her master's degree in public health and has graciously signed on to teach Perinatal Epidemiology. We are also pleased to welcome a more recent graduate, Traci Palagi (2002), who has joined us to fill in for Annie Moffat who is on maternity leave. Traci is teaching Midwifery Care 1 this fall.

Traveling far and wide

It is always exciting to see our students off to international clinical rotations. Recent grads, Kimberley Schmidt (Alberta) and Carolee Hall (WA) began the latest cycle of students through our site in Vanuatu, Fiji Islands back in the spring. Wendy Hughes (OR) and Kristin Kali (CA) completed a rotation there in July, and in October, Lara Wilcox (CA) and Geraldine Lee (WA) will be heading off to that lovely Pacific island.



Recent grad Carolee Hall with new mom and baby in Vanuatu.

In winter, Melanie Spencer (WA) will be going to Senegal, and Dzhan McCaslin (WA) is planning a Netherlands rotation thanks to a connection made through a Dutch client at Dzhan's clinical site. She is excited to be able to spend a month with four midwives in a primarily home birth practice.

Another exciting connection has been made by Kristin Rogers, currently a junior student. She plans to travel to Dublin, Ireland, next summer to work with midwives at the Rotunda Hospital, the world's first maternity hospital built in the 1700's.

Recent grads moving on . . .

This summer, three students finished their graduation requirements. Tracy Simpson will be completing the PLEA process in the spring to become licensed in BC, Kimberley Schmidt has joined an Alberta practice, and Carolee Hall just received her WA license and has joined the practice of Constance Frey in Olympia. Congratulations!

SMS Class of 2008!

Once again, we hope to inspire you by introducing our latest group of amazing and capable women on the path to midwifery! This class includes women who have moved here from Florida, Washington DC, and New York, as well as women commuting from Indiana, New Mexico, Colorado, California, Montana, and British Columbia.

Jenifer Arnosti

I'm extremely excited to be part of this group pursuing our dreams of midwifery. I think that we will learn, laugh, cry, share & celebrate together - I welcome this opportunity with open arms. I live in a small community in southern BC that is filled with people pursuing their health & using their gift of energy to play in the great outdoors. This is where I met my partner Brian. We have a Curry-dog and a Stella-cat. We do not have children, but we never really know which way the earth will turn. Right now, my heart, mind & body are open to the future.

Eloisa Cary

I grew up in Sedro-Woolley WA. I graduated from Smith College in 2002 with a BS in Neuroscience. On returning from the east coast I met my husband Alex. On Sep. 8, 2004, we had a life changing experience when our daughter, Sage, was born at home. I have always known bringing new life into the world would one day become my career; my daughter's birth has validated my life's calling. I will be attending SMS on the Washington State Health Professionals Scholarship Program and plan to work in my hometown upon completion of the program to give back to my community.

Linda Doering

I spent the first 34 years of my life in Michigan. Soon after my son was born, we moved to Brazil where I opened a Special Education Department for an international school. A few years later we returned to the states to live in New Mexico. I changed my profession and became a Doctor of Oriental Medicine specializing in gynecology and obstetrics. I also work as a doula a couple of days a week. Becoming a midwife will satisfy my life-long desire to support women and children. I am so grateful and excited to be a part of this outstanding program.

Nicole Donovan

I have longed to be with women through the birthing process since the birth of my children. I am 31 years old, a single mother to my son Bailey, almost 10, and my daughter Madison, who is 8. We have a 1-year-old lab named Abby, who keeps us on our toes. I am currently a part time nanny and independent travel agent. In addition to midwifery, I am passionate about natural health, staying active and spending time with my children. I am looking forward to the education and life lessons ahead of me, through SMS.

Karen Edland

I grew up in Southern Indiana, moved to Washington after high school, and raised my children in Deming. Rory, Keeley, and Ira are wonderful. I love seeing how they have developed with a bit of me, a bit of their Dad, and a whole lot of themselves! And each was born with the assistance of a midwife! My value of the mother/newborn bond inspires me to promote this love. My other loves are getting out for a daily walk and playing with my imagination in community theater. I am happy to become a midwife.

Kristin Effland

The young girl in me who wanted to be a primary care physician in a medically underserved area soon discovered her desire to be in the business of supporting women and began by working at women's shelters on the east coast. Prior to discovering my fascination with pregnancy and birth, my desire to end gender stereotypes brought me to work for a national non-profit organization for over 2 years. Internationally and domestically, I look forward to developing more skills that I can offer women and their families at the same time that I look forward to learning from them.

Rebecca Egbert

I was born and raised in Minnesota by a Cajun mother and an Iowan father, both of whom installed adventure, work ethic, following my heart and love into my veins. I am 29 and grateful to be closer to 30 each day. I can breathe deeper now! I live in Montana, currently. Outside my passion for midwifery, I have been known to teach and

Introducing the New Freshwomen!



Pictured left to right are (far back at center) Emily Streich, Damaris Valdez (back full row) Melissa Hughes, Rebecca Egbert, Cindy Lybolt, Kristin Eggleston, Jenifer Arnosti, and Mollie Sullivan (middle row) Linda Doering, Alise Robertson, Eloisa Cary, Nicole Donovan, Deborah Wright, and Sasha Harper (front row) Caren Ott, Ellie Larrison, Nadine Martinez, Kristin Effland, Terah Lara, Adriane Rozier, Karen Edland and Bev Schubert

practice yoga and reiki, doula, love, laugh, dance, surf, run ultra marathons, climb, canoe, create things, cook and work with herbs and plants. I am an auntie, but have no children of my own. All in good time!

Kristin Eggleston

My journey to midwifery started long ago, even though I didn't know it at the time, and was brought to my attention when my son was born three years ago. We had an amazing homebirth midwife who helped me through an emotionally difficult pregnancy and to have the wonderful birth experience that changed my life forever. Since then, I moved home to Clarkston WA, where I live surrounded by my supportive family, my dog and lots of outdoor space and fun. I enjoy sports and martial arts.

Sasha Harper

I live on Vancouver Island in Victoria BC. I am excited about this new path and feeling brave for listening to my heart. I am a proud mama of three young people. My oldest son, who is almost 12, was born in the hospital and my two younger ones, who are almost 6 and 4, were born at home. My birthing experiences have been empowering and pivotal in my life. Most recently I have worked as a social worker with homeless pregnant women. I enjoy spending time with my family, with myself,

running, yoga, knitting, creating, gardening, reading, loving and magic.

Melissa Hughes

Cheers! I am feeling blessed and absolutely looking forward to this journey. Local to Western Washington, I am 25. I have a beautiful inspiring 3-year-old daughter. I enjoy friends, family, gardening, cooking, eating, hiking, biking, camping, swimming, etc. I am excited to be part of such a beautiful and passionate bunch. I cannot begin to fathom the intensity and transformation we will witness in one another and ourselves. It is by intention, grace and mercy that we will succeed.

Terah Lara

At 4-years-old old, I proclaimed to my mother that I was going to become a baby doctor. This aspiration changed when I found myself 16 and pregnant. At barely 17, I had my daughter, with my midwife and doula present. I was extremely young and uncertain but determined to make a difference in women's health, particularly natural medicine. I found my way to SMS and somehow made it in! I have worked extremely hard and although I am only 23, I have a great compassion for the field. I will soon be able to guide young women through a life change. I can now prove to my daughter that dreams can always be accomplished merely with determination.

Midwifery Student Bios

(continued)

Eleanor Larison

My name is Ellie, and I live in Corvallis OR. I have always known I wanted to be a midwife, but I assumed the urge to actualize this need would develop in me later in life after having given birth myself. I was wrong – I couldn't wait that long. I have worked as a doula and am currently working as a student midwife in Eugene. Every experience I have had with birth has held onto my spirit and made me hungry for the knowledge and experience I hope to gain in the coming years as a student at SMS.

Cindy Lybolt

I am 51 and the grandmother of seven. I have been with my daughters during their births, first as a mom and later as a doula. The difference in the birth experiences they had and the technology involved in birth today inspired me to become a DONA-certified doula. Attending women during hospital birth inspired me to become a midwife. I've used various skills in different trades to earn money. I am a midwife. It has taken this long to understand who I am. I can finally say I know what I want to be when I grow up.

Nadine Martinez

I am an RN and have wanted to become a midwife. I am so glad to finally be pursuing it. I am married to a wonderful man and I am a mother to two beautiful children, a 5-year-old and 10-month-old. My youngest child was born at home and the experience was amazing. I am currently working on my doula certification so that I can have that wonderful experience as I pursue my midwifery education. A passion so fierce has been ignited within me to convince the world of the beauty of midwives and homebirths.

Caren Ott

Women's health has been a calling for me for many years. I have led Do It Yourself Women's Health Workshops, worked as a domestic violence advocate for a Lakota Sioux tribe in South Dakota, and read my little heart out to educate myself on all kinds of women's health issues. I am completely happy and thrilled to be moving towards my

ultimate goal of providing high quality, empowering healthcare to underserved women. Currently I live in Seattle with my partner Alex, work at a tea store, and spend a lot of time being excited about school!

Alise Robertson

I am 25 and live with my wonderful partner Amanda and our grouchy old cat Buffy on Capitol Hill in Seattle. I fill my days with playing in my little garden, learning to cook, sewing, and playing with my wonderful little nephews. I also volunteer in my community and work with women who are recovering from addiction. Mostly, I have been spending my time getting through my prerequisites for school. I can't believe I am finally here. This is my dream and, I believe, my calling. I am so excited to join so many women who are passionate about such a beautiful thing.

Adriane Rozier

I have been interested in birth and babies since the birth of my younger sister. This interest, calling really, was only strengthened through attending my first birth as a doula 4 1/2 years ago. My path hasn't been linear; I've worked as an elementary school teacher and in educational publishing. But watching a woman come in into her power during birth and motherhood is rewarding to me in a way nothing else is. I look forward to getting to know my fellow classmates, Washington State and its birthing women.

Bev Schubert

I have been a full time mom for 24 years, a massage therapist, a video production assistant, and a volunteer for passions ranging from community gardens and environmental protection to coaching peewee basketball. The past few years, I have focused primarily on getting settled in our new community and helping care for my father during the last year of his life. I am very excited that it is now the time in my life when I am able to pursue my dream of becoming a midwife.

Emily Streich

I am a 25-year-old LMP (Licensed Massage Practitioner), doula, and herbalist who is very excited about starting my midwifery journey. My husband Chris and I settled in Olympia WA last year after living and

traveling all over the world. This year has been the start of many new seeds of change to take root, and for us to take root ourselves, as we just bought our first house! I am greatly looking forward to joining the midwifery community and also to the exciting journey that lies ahead of me.

Mollie Sullivan

My home is the experientially diverse San Francisco Bay area. Midwifery has given me peace in this overwhelming world by incorporating my politics, my passions, and my love of all things woman. I am a doula, own and rent birth tubs, and am active in my birth community. My education is in human and wildlife biology. My jobs are those of caretaker and teacher, providing amazing opportunities to learn. My greatest pleasures are of the earth: warmth, food, and family. I strive to nourish wisdom in my own womb and enhance the lives of all the beautiful people I meet.

Damaris Valdez

I have been on this path since I was 11 and saw my first birth. A woman who was smoking crack in my building went into labor. I couldn't help my fascination. Although it was wonderful, I was sad that she was doing it by herself. She was alone but her body knew exactly what it was doing. Eight years ago I had Avery, who has taught me the important things in life—love, patience and communication. A year ago David and I got married after 5 years of dating. Now I am in Seattle finally on my way to midwifery. I look forward to what may come.

Deborah Wright

I am a 41-year-old Colorado mother of two grown boys. I have a dog Odie and a cat Tigger. My hobbies include making aromatherapy products and ceramics—anything crafty. I'm also interested in naturopathy and homeopathy. I believe God has a plan for everyone. We were sent on this journey of exploration, knowledge and learning to join the spiritual path of midwifery—to empower other women & take part in the most precious, spiritual gift—the birth process/miracle of life. I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to learn from mentors and join the sisterhood of midwifery.

Landmark Study Reports Planned Home Births Are Safe

- Jo Anne Myers Ciecko

Planned home birth for low risk women in North America using Certified Professional Midwives was associated with lower rates of medical intervention but similar intrapartum and neonatal mortality to that of low risk hospital births in the United States.

This is the conclusion drawn by researchers who conducted the largest prospective study of its kind ever published internationally, analyzing over 5,000 home births across the United States and Canada attended by Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs). CPMs are nationally-certified midwives who have met requirements established by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM). The study was published in the British Medical Journal in June 2005.

Rates of medical intervention, such as epidural, forceps and caesarean section, were lower for planned home births than for low risk hospital births. Planned home births also had a low mortality rate during labor and delivery, similar to that in most studies of low risk hospital births in North America. A high degree of safety and maternal satisfaction were reported, and over 87% of mothers and babies did not require transfer to hospital.

This study was an outgrowth of data collection efforts initiated by the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) nearly 20 years ago. Midwives who contributed to the earlier MANA database did so voluntarily and their data was collected retrospectively (after delivery). Any results reported from that database were therefore open to criticism that not all adverse outcomes were being reported. So, working with NARM, a plan was developed to require all CPMs to participate in the study by registering every client expecting to give birth in the year 2000. This study analyzed the resulting prospective data.

Citizens for Midwifery (www.cfmidwifery.org) provides more information about how this study might be used to promote increased access to midwifery care. For

example, they identify three key points to make when citing the study:

- The study demonstrates unequivocally that for “low risk” mothers, home birth attended by a CPM results in outcomes comparable to low risk births in the hospital – that is, CPM-attended planned home births are safe for mothers and babies.
- Although many of the midwives in the study were not well-integrated into the health care system, mothers and babies who did need medical attention were appropriately identified and transported to hospitals and got the care they needed; otherwise, we would not see such good outcomes.
- Substantially fewer interventions were performed on mothers planning home births than on comparable mothers giving birth in hospitals, which suggests that many of those interventions are unnecessary. Such unnecessary interventions are costly and are associated with increased complications for mothers and babies.

In 2004 MANA established a Division of Research to oversee ongoing data collection, sponsor research projects, and develop collaborations with other organizations and institutions. A new, state-of-the-art, web-based data collection system was launched last fall and more midwives than ever are now voluntarily participating. The new system will soon be able to produce reports for midwifery practices and

state associations, thereby strengthening quality improvement activities and supporting advocacy work.

Johnson, KC and BA Daviss. (2005) “Outcomes of planned home births with certified professional midwives: large prospective study in North America.” *BMJ* 330(7505):1416. The paper is available online: bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7505/1416?ehom

Other links:

Midwives Alliance of North America www.mana.org

North American Registry of Midwives www.narm.org

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives nacpm.net

Auction News

(continued from page 3)

It's not too late to **donate** an item for the auction. Contact Joanna Barger on at joannabarger on@hotmail.com to donate or help procure auction items. Anyone interested in **volunteering** should contact Silje Sodal at silje@peteclaar.com. The more the merrier!

Send in your reservation now to save a space. After the fun we had last year, we expect to have a full house! Share a good time with friends, sip a beverage while you do some holiday shopping, enjoy a great meal, be entertained and support women, babies and new families!

If you didn't receive an invite in the mail, please call the school at 206.322.8834, extension 100, and Marissa will be happy to help you. Don't miss it. See you there!

SMS Board News

We are sad to report that SMS Board Chair, Tera Schreiber, resigned from the Board of Directors in August. Tera joined the Board in 2003, and her energy, experience and commitment to the mission of the school have been greatly appreciated. She continues as the Executive Director at Great Starts but will be sorely missed at SMS. Thank you, Tera!

We are thankful for the ongoing efforts of long-standing board members, Joanna Barger on, Wendy Hughes, Suzy Myers, Kim Radtke, and Silje Sodal for their hard work on the Executive Director search, Auction planning, and recruiting new Board members. Thanks to these efforts, we are pleased to announce our newest Board members: Sarah Hainley, Bre Holt and Joyce Keene. Welcome!

Please Help Fund this Bulletin!

We hope you enjoy the news and information brought to you by the SMS Bulletin. Please help us offset the cost of this and future editions by making a donation now. Call Marissa at x100 to donate using your credit card, or go to www.seattlemidwifery.org, scroll down to the bottom of the home page, and under "Support SMS," click "Donate Now Through Network for Good"!

Join the Board of Directors!

Seattle Midwifery School is seeking interested individuals to join our Board of Directors and help us change the face of maternity care. We are interested in people with fiscal leadership but also welcome generalists. Board members are asked to contribute 6-8 hours per month of their time. For more information, contact Kimberly Radtke, at 206.417.3077, or Joanna Bargeron, at 206.784.8594 or joannabargeron@hotmail.com.

Global Midwifery Support

As you order supplies for your own practice, how about ordering a couple of extras for Global Midwifery Support? Can you share a few infant hats? A stethoscope? Suture? Scissors? We send packages with each student going to foreign sites. Let's reach out and show our support! To get involved, contact Jasmine Bay at x108 or jasmineb@seattlemidwifery.org.



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Our beautiful lady logo is now available as sterling silver earrings for only \$25! Visit www.seattlemidwifery.org/retail.htm for ordering information.

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The SMS Mission: Educating and inspiring leaders in childbirth professions