

LORI LUEBBEHUSEN

Called upon by God to Care for Others: Lori Follows Her Heart to Become a Registered Nurse

Graduate: Class of 1990 Occupation: Registered Nurse By Kaci Seger, Spring 2010

As an adolescent Lori Luebbehusen wanted to pursue a flight attendant career. After she graduated from high school and attended college at Vincennes University Jasper Center, she still debated what field she wanted to pursue. She ended up taking general studies for a while and worked odd jobs until she landed a job at Memorial Hospital in the medical records department. After working there for six months, she decided she needed something more. Upon returning to VUJC, Lori grudgingly applied for admission into the nursing program to become a registered nurse.

“I am a true believer that everything happens for a reason,” says Lori. “I just let God lead me into nursing.” Two weeks after she applied, she received an acceptance letter in the mail. Even though the admissions person had told her they had a two-year waiting list for the nursing program, within six weeks Lori began her classes. She believes that the great educational standards she earned at Forest Park High School may have played a role in her being accepted into the nursing program at VUJC.

She has fond memories of her high school years at Forest Park and of her favorite English teacher, Mr. Emmert. Two memories she remembers he taught her in particular: that “ain't ain't a word” which she still does not use in her vocabulary to this day, and that he gave her responsibility that no other teacher had up until then-he made her take ownership as a young adult.

“In nursing, I think you have to have a good balance of book smarts and experience,” states Lori. “Every day you hold someone's life in your hands. The experience helps calm my fear. To be able to know that I would make the right decisions in a life or death situation is a great feeling.” Currently, Lori works two twelve-hour days and two eight-hour days every week. Saving lives each day, Lori believes she helps make a difference in the world.

To succeed in the nursing field, Lori believes you must have the ability to give medicines, change dressings, start IVs, give enemas, and assist doctors. Although the nursing field requires more tasks, these are just a few.

When asked what the “best tip” she has for current students, Lori replied, “Enjoy it while you can. The years fly by. People move in and out of your life. Keep making new friends and hold onto the ones you can.”