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Headlines

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Hausman Nursing Fellowship: the future looks bright

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2008 Hausman fellows (l-r): Frew Fikru, Alexis Seggalye, and Christopher Uyiguosa Isibor
Hausman Nursing Fellowship: a unique learning opportunity

The Hausman Nursing Fellowship, one branch of the Hausman Fund to Advance Diversity in the Nursing Workforce, was created in 2007 to help promote recruitment of minority nurses to better meet the needs of our diverse patient population. Providing an opportunity for senior nursing students to work in a variety of settings under the mentorship of a minority nurse preceptor, the Hausman fellowship was intended to be a clinical, practical, and social learning experience for future nurses of color. Following are excerpts from the exit essays written by this year’s fellows, Frew Fikru, Alexis Seggalye, and Christopher Uyiguosa Isibor. They speak of an environment rich with possibilities and opportunities to learn.

My name is Alexis Seggalye. I am a senior nursing student at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. As a Hausman fellow, I had the opportunity to shadow nurses on different units from the Cardiac ICU to the Same Day Surgical Unit. You name the unit, and chances are I’ve been there. All the nurses I worked with had special qualities that made them ‘tick’ as a nurse — whether it was their good clinical skills, their time management abilities, or just their people skills. I observed these nurses, learned new things from them, and hopefully was able to take some of these skills with me as I begin my nursing career.

As a Hausman fellow, I had the privilege of meeting people in different leadership roles. Each one of these leaders shared at least two hours of their time with me. It’s not every day you...
My name is Christopher Uyiguosa Isibor. It is with great pride that I introduce myself as a Hausman fellow. I am a student at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and this was the best summer of my life. I felt like a kid in a candy store. When I’m asked what the Hausman fellowship is all about, I put on my ego cap and describe the impact the Hausman Fellowship has had on me from the mini-leadership conference with my mentor, Deb Washington, to shadowing various nursing leaders at MGH.

Every day I woke up looking forward to another great experience. From one department to another, MGH staff nurses were receptive and showed great interest in teaching. I was impressed with the teamwork and leadership skills of nurses in every department.

One of the best experiences I had was with a resource nurse where I got to view the unit from a different perspective, getting to know a little bit about every patient. The importance of delegating and prioritizing was one of many lessons I learned. I was able to see leadership and compassionate care in action.

The Hausman Fellowship helped energize my future prospects in nursing. The opportunity to see the hospital from a 360° angle was fascinating. I was able to participate in leadership and clinical rotations throughout the hospital and witness the unique contributions of each member of the team.

I started the Hausman Fellowship not knowing what direction my nursing career would take. I can now say that based on my experiences, I have come to a decision. I will pursue my interest in securing a position in nursing leadership. The Hausman Fellowship gave me the opportunity to participate in clinical situations in outpatient and inpatient settings. I was guided by mentors and had the change to shadow minority leaders and mentors.

My experience with the Hausman Fellowship has made me a better student nurse, both clinically and intellectually. It taught me to be diligent and proficient and gave me insight into leadership in nursing. I look forward to living up to that expectation and making an impact when I graduate. To the Hausman family and to my mentors, Deborah Washington and Bernice McField-Avila, thanks for giving me this opportunity to prepare for the future. I am ready for my senior year, and it is with great pride that I return to school as a Hausman fellow.

My name is Frew Fikru. I am a senior nursing student at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. This summer I participated in the Hausman Fellowship Program for Diversity in Nursing. The program was an eye-opener for me. Even though my school has its own clinical rotation program, opportunities to observe procedures are limited. The experiences I gained through the Hausman Fellowship were wide and diverse. It helped me decide on the direction I want my nursing career to take.

On day one of the program, Deb Washington explained the organizational structure of the hospital and talked to us about influence and leadership in nursing. In the days that followed, I observed practice in the Wound Care Clinic, Endoscopy, Oncology, the SICU, the Neuro ICU, and I spent time with the IV Nursing Team. The theoretical and conceptual knowledge I had gained through reading is now alive in my mind forever. And the welcoming faces of nurses on every unit was inspirational. All the nurses I met were so passionate and had a strong drive to teach. I could see that nurses at MGH are the best of the best.

My goal is to be a role model and collaborative leader in nursing. Mentoring my fellow students and establishing a diversity network in school is my number one priority. This program will help me be a critical thinker, a leader who builds by confidence and collaboration. I don’t have enough words to thank Deb Washington and Bernice McField-Avila for working with us and teaching us on a daily basis.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the MGH Board of Trustees for understanding the need for diversity in nursing. Many thanks to the entire MGH community for allowing us to be involved in this wonderful program.