Spencerian is one big family

Jennifer Avis and Britney Gettings
Jennifer Avis and Britney Gettings are both Phlebotomy students who hope to go on to become nurses. Four years apart, they enrolled within weeks of each other, so they are in the same quarter. Jennifer says it’s great to be in the same program with her sister because they study together and that makes the work much easier. They both love it here and look forward to going into the nursing program when they finish their Phlebotomy Certificate program.

Mark and Matthew Moses
Mark and Matthew Moses are twin brothers in their third quarter in the Invasive Cardiovascular Technology program. Matthew holds a bachelor’s in political science, and he had hoped to be a teacher. However, he found that teaching jobs are few and far between in this economy. His twin brother Mark had thought about being an EMT or a paramedic, and far between in this economy. Mark and Matthew have all their classes together. What’s that like? “Well, we sometimes bicker,” Mark admitted. Instructor Vicki Lemaster, the program director said, “They are both excellent, articulate students.”

Jessica and Myra Williams
Daughter, Jessica’s story: “I was going to UofL for three years and had just signed up and attended a couple of fall classes when my mother was like ‘I want you to go to this meeting with me at Spencerian.’ I got there and was blown away by the speed of the Nursing program and decided to quit wasting my time (and money) at UofL and just take the big leap.

I’ve always wanted to help people, and to me, nurses are amazing people. So why wouldn’t I want to be one? Perfect job! I like the realness of Spencerian. You don’t have to worry about taking all those classes that will have nothing to do with your career. You get in, and learn what you need to apply to your career from the beginning.

Being in school with my mother was . . . different.

We are two totally different kinds of students. I always got good grades in school but I never really took time out for myself. My mother, on the other hand, will study her life away. She motivated me to buckle down and take care of business. She would always come home and complain about how she thought she did so poorly on an exam and then call me after she got her grades back and she got A! I think a major advantage is to have someone who knows directly what you’re going through and all the stress that comes with nursing school! A disadvantage would be when I would call her and say ‘Oh, I’m going out tonight’ knowing I had a test the next day and having her lecture me on whether or not I should be going out! I’m really proud of her because I know how hard it was to work full-time and go to school part-time and still have a husband and kids at home. To me, she’s the perfect example that no matter what age and what obstacles you may have in life, you can always follow your dreams.”

Mother, Myra choose Spencerian “[B]ecause it allowed me to attend school in the evenings. . . . I’ve always been interested in nursing and was briefly enrolled in a nursing program in 1982; however, I married and raised our children. . . . When I could finally focus on what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, I discovered the night program at Spencerian. Jessica accompanied me as an act of support while I enrolled. Then Spencerian’s admissions counselor asked my daughter ‘now young lady, what is it that we can do for you?’ It was like a light switch went on in my head, and I asked my daughter ‘if you’re serious, then decide to further your education and get started right away!’ Between the two of us, we managed to get her to see the logic and I think the thought that we’d both be doing it together, made it easier for both of us.

My daughter is able to know me as a person, rather than just her “mom.”

While I have been supportive of my daughter and her goals all her life, it was most surprising to me that she turned out to be my greatest inspiration and supporter! It’s not many mothers that actually get the chance to truly understand what their daughters are going through day in and day out. While we were close before, this experience has brought us so much closer with a deeper understanding of each other’s strengths and weaknesses. Of course, we both enjoyed Nursing Instructor Mrs. Susan Livingston. She is able to break down large amounts of information in a manner that reinforced learning through listening skills, visual stimulation, and by acting out (sometimes in extremely funny ways).

Jessica attended Spencerian’s day program and learned twice as fast as I did. I found that it didn’t present just the right amount of information for someone of my advanced age!”

Student, and new graduate, enjoyed her online classes.

Allison Gardner loves caring for patients. She began her allied health career as a nursing assistant, became a Licensed Practical Nurse and then decided to further her education at Spencerian to become a registered nurse. “I heard excellent things about Spencerian College; the admission staff were great,” Allison said, adding, “I live in Lexington and since there is currently no nursing program like this, I chose to drive to Louisville.”

Allison enjoyed her student experience, in particular the convenience of her online classes, so she could continue to work fulltime. “I loved the online classes. They have a little leeway as to when to complete tasks but still keep you on a pace to get finished. You have to be self-motivated in order to complete work and learn the material without the classroom setting.”

Obviously, Allison was good at self-motivation! She completed the program and received her Associate Degree in Nursing at Spencerian’s 2009 Fall Commencement.