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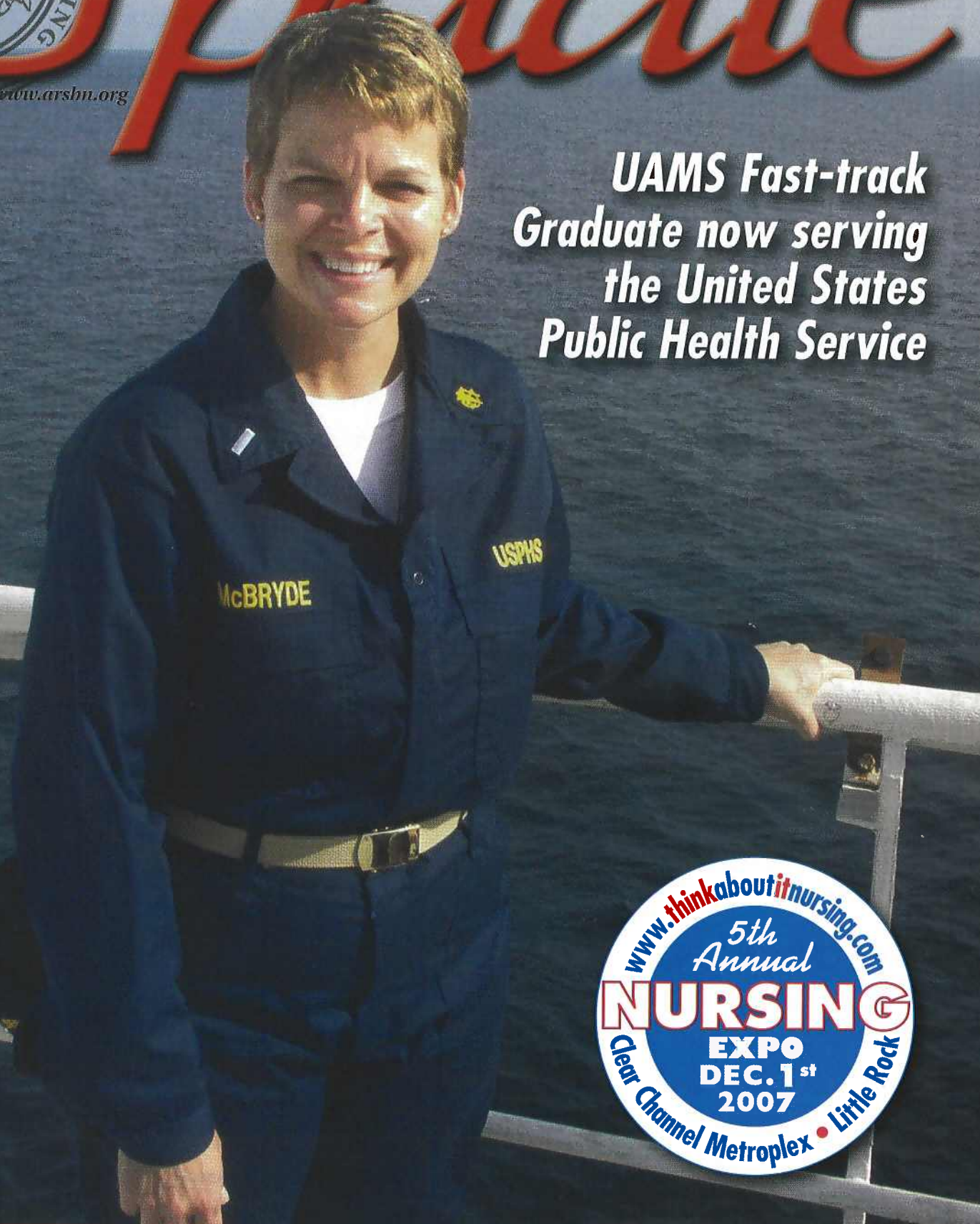
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# Update

[www.arshn.org](http://www.arshn.org)

**UAMS Fast-track  
Graduate now serving  
the United States  
Public Health Service**



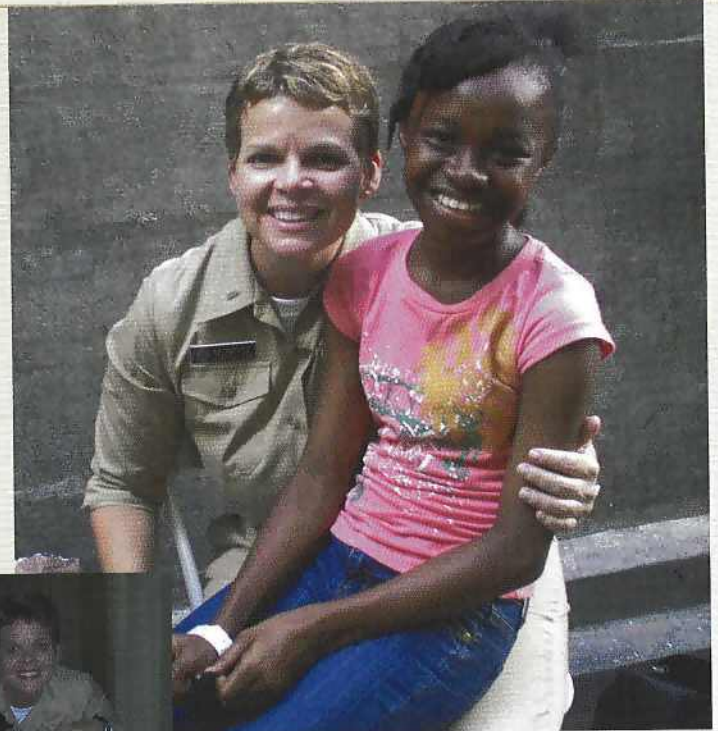
[www.thinkaboutitnursing.com](http://www.thinkaboutitnursing.com)  
5th Annual  
**NURSING**  
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## UAMS Fast-track Graduate now serving the United States Public Health Service

Lt. j.g. Stacey McBryde, a registered nurse with the U.S. Public Health Service in Rockville, Maryland, joined the *USNS Comfort* for a medical mission that started in mid-June. The *USNS Comfort* is a U.S. Navy hospital ship that departed Norfolk, Virginia on June 15, to begin a medical, public health and oral health mission in Latin America and the Caribbean. McBryde, a 2004 graduate of UAMS College of Nursing, is on the *USNS Comfort* until mid-October.

Lt. j.g. McBryde serves on a multi-disciplinary team of 19 officers of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. The Commissioned Corps protects, promotes and advances the health and safety of the nation. With more than 6,000 officers, the Commissioned Corps is one of the nation's seven uniformed services, and is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The four-month mission of the *USNS Comfort* is to provide oral and primary care health in communities near where the ship docks. The Commissioned Corps officers are working with the U.S. Navy, Army and Coast Guard, as well as with Project Hope, a non-profit organization working to make health care available around the globe with an emphasis on children's health, and with Operation Smile, a non-profit organization focused on repairing childhood facial deformities.



The Commissioned Corps team consists of two dentists, four dental hygienists, six physicians, two nurses, one environmental health officer, one engineer, one pharmacist, and one veterinarian. Commissioned Corps officers aboard the *USNS Comfort* are gaining valuable experience in treating indigenous patients in environments with

few resources—skills that will be useful as officers provide care to vulnerable populations back in the United States.

For more information on the United States Public Health Service, go to [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov).



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# Arkansas for Nursing Meets

**Vicky Morris,**  
Public Information Specialist



On September 5, 2007, the Arkansas for Nursing held their mid-year meeting to discuss NCLEX® pass rates and improvements made in Arkansas nursing schools. Nurse recruiters and nursing educators had a chance to lunch together and discuss topics such as actions taken to improve the nursing shortage and program improvements. The newly developed "Odyssey Program" from Arkansas Children's Hospital aimed at experienced nurses mentoring new nurses was a hot topic. This new program hopes to give new graduates the confidence and

knowledge necessary for making the transition from graduation to the workplace.

Arkansas Tech University has started Nursing Orientation 101 for all freshman that have declared nursing as their major. Dr. Rebecca Burris, Professor and Chair of ATU Department of Nursing, said "The aim will be to inform students so they have a thorough grasp on what is involved in the field of nursing. This teaches that nursing is great, but also not always as flexible as they may have expected." The students are required to write a paper explaining the reasons why they want to be a nurse.

UAMS is working toward MAGNET status which will provide a vehicle for disseminating successful nursing practice and strategies. UAMS is one of several health-care institutions in the state actively pursuing MAGNET status.

The new president of the group, Kim Porter, presented the outgoing president, Susan Erickson a plaque in recognition of her outstanding leadership and dedication for serving as president from 2001 through 2006.

To learn about getting involved with this organization, you can log onto [www.arkansasnursing.com](http://www.arkansasnursing.com)



## Lt.j.g. Stacey McBryde



Lt.j.g. Stacey McBryde, daughter of Bob and Barbara McBryde of North Little Rock, Arkansas, is a 2004 graduate of the College of Nursing at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She also holds a bachelor degree in communications from Arkansas State University. Stacey grew up in El Dorado, Arkansas, graduating from El Dorado High School in 1986. Prior to pursuing a career in nursing, Stacey worked in advertising and marketing for nine years.

"The fast-track program at UAMS allowed me to complete my BSN in a year – a real plus for someone like myself going through a career change. The small class size allowed for more interaction between the students and professors. Also, the collective life experiences of my classmates (since we were all "career-switchers") added to the class discussions.

Nursing offers many varied career opportunities, not to mention unparalleled job security. As a nurse officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, I have professional opportunities across the Nation with various federal agencies. Before my current assignment as Policy Advisor at headquarters for the U.S. Public Health Service, I worked as a staff nurse on the medical-surgical floor of an Indian Health Service hospital in Whiteriver, Arizona. Nursing is a wonderful and rewarding profession. You get to provide care to those who need our help the most."