



Read about FASTAFF's Traveler & Recruiter of the Year.



Learn how to avoid slips and falls and stay safe on the job.



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THE FASTAFF REVIEW

Message From The President

Welcome to this edition of The FASTAFF Review.

In this issue of the FASTAFF Review, you will meet FASTAFF's Traveler of the Year, Anthony Woodward, and Recruiter of the Year, Titus Thomas. Both received accolades in the December 2008 issue of Healthcare Traveler magazine. You will also read additional comments and compliments from FASTAFF nurses to FASTAFF recruiters - many kudos were received.

You will also read about the experiences of two FASTAFF nurses while on assignment. Kathy Teague once cared for a youth with severe brain trauma while she was on assignment in Pennsylvania and she still maintains close contact with his family, receiving frequent updates on her one-time patient/now friend's progress. Additionally, FASTAFF nurse Althea Hart shares her experience participating in the re-opening of an OB unit while she was on assignment in California.

You will also read about my own resignation as CEO and President of FASTAFF. I will be stepping down and into another role within the company participating in operations, strategy, business development and continue to serve on the Board.

Additionally, you will learn about one of the charities FASTAFF donated to during the 2008 holiday season. FASTAFF contributes to a number of charities throughout the year and BCFS was kind enough to share some photos of their annual Foster Care Christmas party.

Finally, you will learn more about slips and trips and how to stay safe while on the job. You will also read about our featured assignment in the Garden State of New Jersey!

Thank you for working with FASTAFF and we hope you enjoy this edition of the FASTAFF Review!

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Mikkelsen, President and CEO, FASTAFF

Contents

Message From The President

FASTAFF Traveler of the Year | Anthony Woodward

Althea Hart | Gifts for Babies

Kathryn Teague | Taking Care of Miracles

FASTAFF Recruiter of the Year | Titus Thomas

Recruiter Comments & Compliments

Reliant Healthcare Professionals Will Seek New CEO

Holiday Spirit at BCFS

Slips & Trips Everywhere | Staying Safe on the Job

Featured Assignment | New Jersey

Salute To Our Nurses

FASTAFF Traveler of the Year | Anthony Woodward

FASTAFF Travel Nursing recognized Anthony Woodward as Traveler of the Year in the December 2008 issue of Healthcare Traveler magazine. Anthony's work ethic, loyalty, adaptability and dedication contributed to his receiving this honor and award.

FASTAFF places hundreds of top-quality travel nurses on assignments across the U.S., however, Anthony stood out because he rarely turns down an assignment and rarely misses a shift. He's dedicated to the nursing profession and has practiced nursing in a variety of specialties, making him an ideal travel nurse.

Facilities seek out FASTAFF because of nurses like Anthony. He has been a traveler with FASTAFF for six years, and he's worked in some of the most demanding acute care settings. His specialties include Medical Surgical, Orthopedics, Psychology, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Oncology.

Anthony has also practiced nursing in Nephrology and even Industrial nursing. He discovered his interest in nursing during an early

stint as a medic in the navy, but according to Anthony, Pediatrics is where his current passion lies. He loves working with kids, he says.

Anthony works exclusively with FASTAFF because of his recruiter, Leah Braunschweig, and FASTAFF's complete compensation package. He's also enjoyed traveling to new cities and hospitals and honing skills he learned in nursing school but often didn't have a chance to use at the facility where he once was a permanent staff nurse.

"I have learned so much being exposed to new procedures and techniques and having the opportunity to master them...I enjoy the excitement both personally and professionally that travel nursing offers me... and I've been able to put my sons through school too," says Anthony.

Anthony is working to put his youngest son through college and hopes to retire in five to six years. With regular assignments from FASTAFF, he's well on his way to achieving his goals.



Althea Hart | Gifts for Babies

While on assignment in California, FASTAFF travel nurse Althea Hart (right in photo), worked with hospital staff to reopen the OB with a bang. Baskets were gathered and presented to the parents of the first babies born after the reopening. Among the first to be born in the reopened unit were a set of beautiful twin girls. Additionally, the OB department contacted Stitches from the Heart, a non-profit organization that sends handmade clothing and blankets to premature babies across the country. The items distributed included knitted, crocheted and quilted hats, blankets and booties. Each item is tagged with the name of the maker and where it was sent from.

Kathy Teague | Taking Care of Miracles

"I am somewhere everyday – somewhere different – there is no doubt in my mind that I was there in New Jersey to take care of Danny. I consider myself to be very blessed to be able to do what I do."

Travel nurse, Kathryn Teague, also known as KT, was on assignment in New Jersey in 2006 when she was assigned to care for a 17-year-old high school senior who had been in an auto accident. Danny was in the PICU following a wreck in which he was both t-boned and rear-ended while trying to go through an intersection. Luckily, Danny was restrained by his seat belt, however, his injuries were significant. He suffered from a diffuse axonal injury, which is similar to shaken baby syndrome as well as a shattered femur and acetabulum where his femur was driven into his hip socket. KT was assigned to Danny in the PICU primarily because of her Adult Trauma experience. Danny, being so close to adulthood, would need both her PICU and her Adult Trauma skills in his recovery.

When KT first saw Danny his diagnosis was dire. It was predicted that he would be in vegetative state and it would take a minimum of one year for recovery. However, Danny began to show signs of responsiveness during his first week by moving his arm and slightly opening his eyes. At one point KT remembers him opening his eye for slightly more than 30 seconds and she recalls realizing that he might actually recover even when they had been told his chances for full recovery were doubtful.

Danny left the hospital six weeks following his accident and continued treatment in rehab then returned home after only 7 months. Today he continues rehabilitation therapies including cognitive therapy, physical therapy and occupational



Danny and his goddaughter (on left); Danny and his sister Casey at her Sweet 16 Party (on right)

therapy. Once expected to never recover, Danny graduated from high school only one year later than expected, learns new skills in a day program for adults with brain injuries, recently began walking with a walker and plans to attend Community College very soon.

A truly special patient and a miracle by many standards, KT continues to stay in contact with Danny and his family through his mother Chris. A special bond was forged between the two while KT cared for Danny in those early days following his accident. For Chris, she was initially anxious knowing that KT was a travel nurse, however, she says, "Now I feel like KT is a member of our family, she knows how far Danny has come and she just really, really cares. She set the bar very high – I compare every other nurse to her since then. Some nurses just do their job but KT made me feel at home from the very beginning and helped me through it."

For KT that bond came naturally and she says that she often gets close to the family of the patients she cares for. "It's a natural thing in Critical Care (PICU). You have to take care of the families as much as you take care of the patients. I'm used to being the intermediary. The family takes care of nurses too. Both are pulling for the child."

News & Reminders

FASTAFF Recruiter of the Year | Titus Thomas

Recruiter, Titus Thomas, was awarded FASTAFF's Recruiter of the Year award in Healthcare Traveler magazine's December 2008 issue. Each year, FASTAFF nurses nominate their favorite recruiter, so the award is especially meaningful to the winner because the honor is given to them by the nurses they work with.

"Because this award comes from the nurses, it's a big compliment, and it means a lot," said Titus. "I enjoy my job and getting to know the nurses. They're a special group."



Titus is currently a recruiter with FASTAFF and has worked in a recruiter manager role during his time with the company. He started with FASTAFF in May 2000 and left at the end of 2004 to pursue another opportunity. Recognizing that nurse recruiting is really what he enjoys most, he rejoined FASTAFF in 2007 and remains one of FASTAFF's best recruiters.

For Titus, getting to know nurses and understanding their needs and the pressures of the job are what makes him and FASTAFF so successful. "I enjoy getting to know the nurses, and I am often more than just a recruiter. Sometimes I'm a career counselor, a therapist and even a friend. I have solid relationships with my nurses, and I get great satisfaction knowing that I can impact their lives," says Titus.

Prior to joining FASTAFF, Titus was a recruiter in the IT industry. He was born in India but has been in Colorado since 1980. He's a graduate from the University of Colorado with a degree in psychology and communication. When he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three-year-old son and playing volley ball.

Recruiter Comments and Compliments from our FASTAFF Nurses

All of our recruiters received many comments and compliments from the nurses they work with daily. Below are only a few of that were received.

Bella Genov - From my first travel assignment to the current one, Bella is right there with me. Always available to listen, always helpful, and always honest. Which is why I am nominating her, for her honesty. She has given me the opportunity of a lifetime and I thought she was kidding so I put off traveling for months! I am forever grateful for her encouragement and faith in me. Everything she said she would do, she did. Everything she said I would receive, I received. She is awesome.

Brigitte Jackson - Brigitte goes above and beyond the call of duty. She addresses concerns without being asked and is proactive and effective. She takes the time. Thank you, Brigitte.

John Cordova - He's not just a recruiter - he's a great guy. JJ has a wonderful reputation with travel nurses across the country. He always returns calls and emails in a timely manner and his fresh and courteous manner goes far. He's the best!

John Kingsley - The best most attentive recruiter ever, and I've had many over the years. He calls just to say hi and took all my concerns seriously.

Keith Aragon - I've worked with Keith almost 4 years. You can take Keith's word to the bank! He's always positive without painting a false impression. If needed, he'll fight for me, but will still maintain a balance between my goals and the company's goals. I respect Keith - "respect" is an awesome concept. I don't use the word lightly!

Rick Smith - Rick is the best. He always finds me great assignments and is always available if I need to ask a question.

Rosa Garcia - Rosa calls every week to see if I need anything while I'm on the road. I appreciate that and the fact that she is always truthful about jobs, accommodations, etc.

Suzanne Budde - Suzanne, goes above and beyond to get you the best assignments, and above all she cares about her travelers. She is the best!

Titus Thomas - I started my first assignment 7 months ago. Titus got me a position I was comfortable with, got me through the initial anxiety of starting a new career path. He took care of all the arrangements and made the transition very easy and organized. I consider him my personal agent in my career affairs. We have a mutual understanding of my needs and the company's needs. He is the "Arlis" of super agents.

Reliant Health Care Professionals Will Seek New CEO

Reliant Health Care Professionals, the parent company to FASTAFF and U.S. Nursing Corporation, announced in December 2008 that Gregory Mikkelsen will resign his current position as President and Chief Executive Officer and assume a new role within the organization as Executive Vice President and Vice Chair.

The company has initiated a search for the new CEO with Mikkelsen acting as interim CEO until a replacement is found. With more than 37 years of healthcare experience and a breadth of knowledge in field operations, marketing and human resources, Mikkelsen has served in senior management positions within healthcare staffing companies for the last two decades.

Ray Marcy, Chairman of the Board, commented, “Greg has served the company in an extraordinary manner over the last nine years, and he has contemplated a reduced role at this stage of his career for quite some time. Greg has agreed to remain with us for the next several years. He’ll be active in our operations, strategy, business development and continue to serve on our Board.”

Mikkelsen commented, “I am very proud to have been a part of this organization over almost a decade. FASTAFF and U.S. Nursing are wonderful brands and I look forward to continuing my involvement in the growth of the company in my new role. 2008 was a very successful year for FASTAFF in particular and we are projecting continued growth for the entire company into the upcoming year and beyond.”

Marcy added, “Reliant is one of the finest companies in the healthcare staffing industry and in the next several weeks we expect to identify and select a talented, experienced senior executive to lead and develop the organization in the years ahead.”

Holiday Spirit at BCFS

Over the holiday season FASTAFF makes a number of contributions to a variety of charitable organizations. The American Cancer Society, Susan Komen Race for the Cure and Toys for Tots are some of the larger charities who benefit from FASTAFF’s annual contributions. Additionally, FASTAFF provides donations to a number of local organizations. During the 2008 holiday season, one of the local organizations to receive a donation was Baptist Child & Family Services located in Texas. BCFS is a health and human services agency, serving displaced and needy children in Texas and many locales around the globe. A donation was made to contribute to entertainment and gifts for BCFS’ annual Foster Care Christmas party.

Slips & Trips Everywhere

We are confronted with slip, trip and fall hazards everyday. Whether it be walking in the hotel lobby, in the hospital parking lot or in a patient’s room, slip hazards abound. While we are in a unique situation and merely visitors, awareness and vigilance can be a powerful tool in preventing these types of accidents. Avoid slip and fall injuries by following these simple preventative steps.



- Ensure spills are reported and cleaned up immediately.
- Use caution in slippery areas such as toilet and shower areas.
- Choose non-slip shoes.
- Use ladders and step stools to reach items. Do not use stools, chairs, or boxes as substitutes.
- Beware of torn carpet, mats, electrical cords, etc.
- Watch for crowded corridors and hallways
- Pay careful attention on steps and stairs. use the handrail, go slow and watch your footing.
- Place medication carts and equipment out of the way.
- When walking outside at night, choose a well light path.
- When walking on snow and ice, take short steps. Don’t forget about black ice.
- Use caution on sidewalks and in parking lots—look for uneven concrete and potholes.

Remember, in winter choose routes that have been plowed and shoveled, don’t take short cuts between cars where there may be snow and ice.



Featured Assignment

New Jersey

Despite its relatively small size, New Jersey packs in an unmatched array of beautiful, interesting, fun and exciting destinations and activities. FASTAFF currently has many assignments throughout the state at some of the highest pay rates within the industry. While on assignment you can explore all that the Garden State has to offer from beaches and Boardwalks to casinos and camping. New Jersey has something for everyone.

Take a New Jersey assignment and spend a weekend in Atlantic City, which draws 30 million visitors annually to enjoy world class hotel casino resorts, renowned entertainers, premium beaches, the historic Boardwalk, museums, marinas, lighthouses, water sports, dining, golf, spas, shopping and more.

Or enjoy a day on a piece of the 127 miles of white sand beaches that draw thousands of visitors to the surf, sand, sun, fun and excitement of the famous Jersey Shore yearly. The Bays and Rivers of the Jersey Shore are also perfect for boating, fishing & swimming.

New Jersey also offers 21 lighthouses - withstanding the forces of nature some of these beacons have been standing for over a century. Additionally, there are thousands of acres of recreation areas for hiking, camping, horseback riding, kayaking and fishing. Or visit one of the state's 19 wineries. New Jersey is fifth in production among wine producing states in the country and offers over 40 varieties stemming from over 1,000 acres of vines.

When you take an assignment in New Jersey all of this and more awaits you so contact a recruiter today at 800-736-8773 for more information.

In order to qualify for a New Jersey travel assignment, or any travel assignment, there are a few things we are going to need from you. A complete application - call 800-736-8773 to have one sent to you or visit www.fastaff.com to apply online

- Valid Driver's License
- Social Security Card
- State Nursing License(s)
- Additional Certifications (BLS, ACLS, NRP, PALS, etc.) AHA only (copy of front and back)
- Doctor's physical Exam - current within one year
- TB Test - current within one year
- Positive Titers for Rubella, Rubeola, Varicella, Hep B, Tetanus
- Two Professional References - current within one year

Don't have a New Jersey license? Don't worry. Our Licensing Department can help. We can send you an application. Or you may also contact the New Jersey Board of Nursing for more information. Obtaining a license may take up to three months so get started today!

Call now at 800-736-8773 for more information on our New Jersey assignments and other exciting travel assignments with FASTAFF.

** Assignments change daily. Please call your recruiter for the most up-to-date information on New Jersey assignments.*

