

Nurses' Week Profile

Andrew NeSmith

By Catherine Dean

Although challenging and rigorous, nursing offered Andrew NeSmith precisely what he needed to find in a career. He wanted to be in a profession where he could work with people and help those in need.

"I enjoy being active, engaged, and having to think critically," said NeSmith. "It is cliché to say the most rewarding part is making a difference, but that is really what it's all about."

NeSmith knew that choosing nursing as a major would be very challenging and many daily sacrifices would be made. The late-night studying, long clinicals, and endless hours in the library filled his days while others spent carefree evenings socializing in college.

"It was especially hard when your friends were having fun, and you had a test to prepare for," he said. "But my nursing classmates and I formed strong bonds through all the difficult challenges. I also met my wife Rachel through nursing school, so that is definitely a plus!"

Originally from Zebulon, Georgia, NeSmith became a Milledgeville resident in 2009, when he began attending Georgia College (GC) as an undergraduate. He graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is currently enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner program at GC.

He has been nursing for five years and currently works at The Medical Center of Navicent Health in Macon in the Emergency Center. He also has experience working at the Navicent Heart Tower.

NeSmith explains that it takes far more than just a college degree to enter the nursing field. He added, "The interesting thing about nursing is you cannot just graduate to be a nurse, you also have to be licensed by the state."

He also stressed that no amount of school could prepare you for the physical, mental, and emotional toll that your body undergoes on a weekly basis.

"Bedside nursing can be exhausting, and it's the rewarding times that makes it worth doing," said NeSmith.

The rewards he speaks of can range from helping families through loss to celebrating bringing a new life into the world. He says it can also be something as simple as getting a patient comfortable in bed or as complicated as the management of a critically ill patient-all the while advocating for the needs of that specific person.

Although each day of nursing can bring with it significant trials, NeSmith credits his parents, wife, and coworkers for being supportive and uplifting in his time of need.

“There are few people who understand the challenges of nursing. So, we often rely on coworkers to help cope or chat with,” he said. “Nursing role models are also important. These are generally ordered nurses in the profession whom you can go to with questions, who teach you along the way, or guide you through new challenges.”

Outside of nursing and school, NeSmith does not have much time for hobbies or other interests. He attends New City Church and likes to golf on occasion to unwind.

“I enjoy the company of my wife, who is also a nurse, and watching Netflix,” he observed. “Many nurses spend their days off simply recuperating and resting for the next shift.

He is most grateful in his life for the constant prayers he receives from his wife and family in support of his passion for nursing and helping others through his chosen career.