

Professor Jennifer Foster came to Oxford College on Monday March 4th at 7:30 pm in Williams Hall to give a presentation about her experience as a nurse, midwife and anthropologist- “My Nine Lives as a Nurse: A Story of Change and Transformation.” Foster joined Emory’s Woodruff School of Nursing in 2007 and has since then been recognized for many of her accomplishments. These include but are not limited to being a leader in health care in underserved populations in Latin America, leading a National Institutes of Health Study in the Dominican Republic about the quality of maternal health services, and establishing the first midwifery practice in Molokai, Hawaii (Source: Event Program Summary). She is a nationally recognized leader and growing expert in her profession.

In her presentation, Jennifer Foster describes her “Nine Lives” as working as an acute nurse in a hospital, working as a public health nurse in a primary care clinic, working as a public health nurse making home visits, working as a Nurse-Midwife for several countries, working as a Nurse-Midwife for an island, working as a Nurse-Midwife in private practice, being a Nurse-Midwife/ Anthropologist, being a Nurse-Midwife/ Anthropologist researcher, and being a teacher of nursing. While many people do not do much with the one life they lead, Jennifer has managed to flourish and excel with “nine”. I feel this presentation was fascinating because of all the experiences, changes and progressions that Jennifer Foster has made throughout her career. Even though my academic interests are not in nursing or midwifery, Jennifer Foster’s presentation was very inspirational to me because I just (maybe two months ago) decided what I am going to major in (psychology) and yet still am not sure how I am going to pursue that field of study in a career. This presentation was of high quality because Jennifer demonstrates that there are so many possibilities for the future and that we don’t have to have everything figured out right this second. This is especially valuable and significant to her audience members - college students, who are all at that crucial transitional stage in life deciding what type of career to pursue and how to pursue it.

I think what Jennifer does is very noble. She has brought so many lives into this world safely and educates others from place/countries with underserved populations how to do so as well, therefore improving an aspect of their healthcare. Every woman that Jennifer has been a midwife to has developed a special bond with her and probably has had a much less stressful pregnancy with her assistance. I know a couple close to my family that recently had a healthy baby girl for their first child. During the pregnancy, they had a midwife, whom they praise was crucial to the successful and smooth delivery of their daughter. Not only was the midwife helpful during the pregnancy and birth of their daughter, but they have also learned so much from her regarding the care of their newborn.

Overall, Jennifer Foster was an excellent speaker and her presentation gave good insight to her line of work. She is a good role model and it is clear that she is not only passionate about what she does, but excels at what she does. Her field of

work demands people with dedication like hers. I feel that other students share this opinion and that she should be invited to return as a speaker. I also feel speakers from other professions with a similar display of passion and success should be invited to speak, as it is very helpful to students who are planning to pursue those professions.