Welcome to ALH-1002-300, Human Growth and Development. In my class you will learn about the biosocial, cognitive, and psychosocial development of people throughout their lifespan. We study conception, the first nine months of life, childhood, adolescents, geriatrics, and finish the course studying death and dying. We discuss the various issues and problems revolving around all of those stages of development.

The author of the text, Kathleen Stassen Berger, is an authority on human growth and development. I am not an expert, but I make every effort possible to find answers to students’ questions. The more effort students put into the class, the more they receive back and learn. Participation is an expectation. I welcome questions and discussions from all of my students. We bring into the classroom our own unique life experiences, and I believe we learn from one another.

I am currently a hospice nurse with Illinois Valley Hospice (IVCH) Peru, IL. I owe much to many great people and educators who over the years molded me into the person I am today. Without their assistance, I would not be teaching future health care workers. My personal goal is to pass on to you what I have learned from them.

My goal is to humbly serve you to the best of my ability. I want you to leave my class and realize we are constantly being influenced by those we encounter daily. I have been influenced by many knowledgeable educators and friends. A pastor once told me long ago the following: “Tom, when life hands you a lemon, make lemonade out of it!” One of my professors in graduate school asked my class what education was all about. However, all of the students in the class told him what they thought he wanted to hear. Finally, he said “education is about change people…change!” My first department chairman at WIU once said, “evil triumphs when good men stand by and do nothing.” He quoted Sir Edmond Burke, a member of the British Parliament (1765). So, you see, I have been influenced by great men and great educators. My goal is to also influence you in a positive way. Hopefully, after the completion of my class, you will better understand how we grow and develop throughout life and how we are influenced by others.