

“Clown Resume”

**Jane A. Abendschein, and
Dana R. Abendschein, PhD**

Current Position: Jane – Clown Docs Supervisor
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Biographical Sketch:

Dana is a professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he does vascular research and teaches several classes — including the first credit course on humor therapy offered at any medical school in the country. He is also a Clown Doc known as **Professor Dude**. Dana has two other clown characters: a whiteface named **Liberty** and a tramp named **Hapless**.

Jane started the Clown Docs program at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in 1999. She is the supervisor for the program that supplies clowns in the clinics and at the bedside three days each week. Her Clown Doc name is **Dr. Tickles**. Jane has two other clown characters: a whiteface named **Belle** and a bag lady named **Forlorna**.

Professional Activities:

1991-present	Faculty/performers/planning task force: ‘Show Me Clowns for Jesus National Conference’ Windermere Conference Center, Roach, MO
1991-present	Performers/Day Camp Coordinators (1998-present): Ozarks Berry Festival, Missouri Baptist Children’s Home, Mt. Vernon, MO
1994-1999	Coordinators: ‘Growing Clown Workshop’, St. Louis, MO

1998-2000	Performers: Mark Twain Elementary School Picnic, Brentwood, MO
1998-present	Coordinators/performers: Harvest Party, Rock Hill Baptist Church, Brentwood, MO
1999	Faculty/performers: Central Region Drama Festival (LifeWay) Oklahoma City, OK
1999-present	Clown Docs, St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO
2000-present	Conference Coordinator (Dana); Program Coordinator (Jane)/planning task force: 'Show Me Clowns for Jesus National Conference' Windermere Conference Center, Roach, MO,
2001-present	Faculty/performers: TNT for Jesus National Conference, Toccoa, GA
2001	Faculty/performers: Touching Your World Creative Arts Festival, Raytown, MO,
2001	Coordinator (Dana - Clowning, Illusions, and Comedy)/performers: Creative Arts Festival (LifeWay), Nashville, TN
2002	Coordinator (Dana): "Laughter is Good Medicine...No Fooling". Campus-wide seminar co-sponsored by St. Louis Children's Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, March 29, 2002.
2003	Faculty: Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
2003	Faculty/performers: Kentucky Clown Derby, Louisville, KY
2003	Faculty/performers: National Creative Arts Festival, Ridgecrest, NC
2004-2005	Performers: Freedom Celebration, Windermere Conference Center, Roach, MO
2004	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Chicago, IL
2004	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Little Rock, AR

2004	Faculty: Grand Rounds, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
2004	Faculty: University of Iowa Health Centers, Caring Clown Training
2004	Faculty: Caring Clown Training, Vincennes, IN
2005	Faculty/performers: Circus Magic, Norfolk, VA
2005	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Albany, NY
2005	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Cincinnati, OH
2005	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Fort Worth, TX
2005	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Rockford, IL
2005	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Houston, TX
2005	Faculty: Washington University School of Occupational Health, St. Louis, MO
2005	Faculty: Grand Rounds, Department of Surgery, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO.
2005	Keynote Speakers: St. Louis Area Health Care Recruiters.
2005	Faculty: Maryville University Music Therapy Seminar.
2005-present	Faculty: Barnes-Jewish Hospital College of Nursing, St. Louis, MO.
2006	Faculty/performers: Joey to the World, Houston, TX.
2006	Faculty/performers: TNT on the Road, Omaha, NE.
2006	Faculty/performers: Clown Jam, Branson, MO.

Workshops Taught:

- Hospital Clowning
- Physical Comedy
- Clown Character Development

- Make-up Application Techniques – All Clown Types
- Balloon Sculpting
- Basic Puppetry
- Skits for Clown Duos
- Planning a Clown Program
- Getting Started in Clown Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Gospel Illusions
- Clown Roots – The Origin and History of the Various Clown Types
- Clown Skits With a Message
- Care and Feeding of a Clown Troupe – How to Start and Maintain a Clown Ministry Group
- How to Minister and Entertain at the Same Time

Honors:

- Parkway Prison Ministries Volunteers of the Year 2000
- Ozarks Berry Festival, Missouri Baptist Children's Home Volunteers of the Year 2000
- Missouri State Senate Resolution for Volunteer Service in the State of Missouri, September 18, 2000

Publications and Media Coverage:

1. "Clowning Around. Husband-wife team bring joy to the sorrowful". Record. Washington University St. Louis, MO. April 29, 1999.
2. Cover Story. Children's Magazine. Fall 1999.
3. KSDK-TV Channel 5 Cover Story. October 25, 1999.
4. "Clown Rounds Help Sick Kids Smile". BJC Today Vol. 2, No. 21, page 13.
5. "Clown Docs. St. Louis Health Professionals Bring Light to Children's Lives". Word & Way, February 3, 2000, page 1.
6. "Clown Docs Offer Course". BJC Today Vol. 3, No. 8, page 6, April 17, 2000.
7. "Clown Docs – St. Louis Children's Hospital". Hospital Clown Newsletter Vol.5, No. 3, pages 1-16, September 2000.
8. "Students Learn to Use Laughter as Medicine". Record. Washington University School of Medicine, Vol. 25, No. 5, page 3, September 29, 2000.
9. News Release. St. Louis Children's Hospital. September 6, 2000.
10. KTVI-TV Channel 2. Newscast. December 12, 2000.
11. KSDK-TV Channel 5 Cover Story. December 26, 2000
12. Blankenship, J.: "A Little Bit of Laughter Goes a Long Way. Clown Doctors Program at St. Louis Children's Hospital". Bulletin: Journal of the Child Life Council Vol. 2, No. 3, 2001.
13. KMOV-TV Channel 4. Newscast. March 15, 2002.

14. KPLR-TV Channel 11. Newscast on “Laughter is Good Medicine...No Fooling” Conference, March 29, 2002.
15. KPLR-TV Channel 11. Kids Corner, May 2003
16. MD Consult. “The Therapeutic Value of Laughter: Clowning Around in Hospitals”. www.mdconsult.com. Posted May 15, 2003
17. Theis,A., Piatte, K., Miller, T.: The Joyful Journey of Hospital Clowning: Making a Difference with Love and Laughter. Lighthearted Press, State College, PA. 2003. The St. Louis Children’s Hospital Program is highlighted on several pages.
18. Abendschein J, Abendschein D. “Humor in Medical School – From Classroom to Bedside”, March 1-2, 2003. Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Annual Conference.
19. KMOV-TV Channel 4. Newscast. May 27, 2004.
20. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, August 23, 2004. Researcher-turned-clown finds fulfillment in creating laughter.
21. WNEG-TV Channel 32, Toccoa, Georgia. Newscast, “People Learning How to Be Hospital Clowns”. August 1, 2005.
22. The Toccoa Record, August 5, 2005. “Clowning Around”.
23. KTVI-TV Channel 2. Newscast. October 6, 2005.
24. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, November 14, 2005. Under the Microscope: “Humor as Medicine”.
25. Suburban Journal, July, 2006.