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BY AMY JO MADDEN-FRAZIER

State and School Activities

ARIZONA

Northern Arizona University

The Northern Arizona University SNA recently held its first "Movie Night," with a showing of the Academy Award nominated film, "Passion Fish." Nursing students, prenursing students, and faculty alike enjoyed viewing the film about a paraplegic and a nurse united in an unlikely friendship in rural Louisiana. A meaningful discussion followed, led by faculty members who brought tremendous insights to the issues raised in the film. Thanks to the success of the evening, plans to show another film are in the works. Members recently attended the Student Nurses' Association of Arizona (SNAAz) Annual Convention in Phoenix, where three members were elected to the Board of Directors as Directors at Large: Crystal Watson, Shelley Weise, and Roberta Ellen Loufek. Meetings will be held via wireless video, bringing board members together from across the state.

Arizona State University-East

In March 2004, Arizona State University-East (ASUE) nursing students formed a new chapter, now 20-30 members strong and growing. Members have been serving as mentors to this group, providing them with uniforms and other essentials needed to begin their educational career at the campus. Since the chapter's start, members have participated in a food and clothing drive for the underprovided, and adopted families for the holiday season. The ASUE chapter often invites guest speakers to talk to students about different nursing fields and topics of interest. The group happily attended their state convention as well as NSNA's Midyear Conference in Daytona, and is looking forward to an exciting year developing new ideas and expanding their membership numbers.

CALIFORNIA

Last fall, nursing students from Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego State University, Grossmont Community College, Palomar

Community College, and Maric College, all joined together for the First Annual San Diego Student Nurses' BBQ and Bonfire at Mission Bay Park in San Diego. (See photo.) The goal of the gathering was to provide networking opportunities for area students. Burgers, hot dogs, chips, and sodas were provided, as well as smores for dessert! The event was organized by the Board of Directors of the Student Nurses' Association at Point Loma and the California Nursing Students' Association of San Diego State University.

INDIANA

Students from all the nursing programs at the University of Saint Francis Student Nurses Association joined together to show their dedication and support to the community in various ways. They joined with the American Red Cross to promote a blood drive to help the victims of the Florida hurricanes, and took donations of winter clothes for the underserved, in conjunction with "Healthy Cities," which provides for the uninsured and

underserved. Other activities included breast cancer and AIDS walks, and support for the Indiana Organ Procurement Organization. All the events had great turnouts and were successful fundraisers.

ILLINOIS

The Wabash Valley College Student Nurses' Association and the Lawrenceville High School health occupation class are joining forces to enlighten kindergarten through eighth-grade students about choosing nursing as a career. They are using materials from Johnson & Johnson's current "Dare to Care" campaign, such as coloring books and videos.

MARYLAND

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing members collaborated last fall with "Children's House," a part of the "Believe in Tomorrow National Children's Foundation." Children's House serves the families of children who live a distance from the hospital and are receiving both inpatient and outpatient care at Hopkins. Through the funding of the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association Community Service Grant, NSNA members volunteer to cook dinners and organize activities for the children. These students were able to brighten a couple of faces and fill some bellies! They are also working with other Maryland nursing schools to establish joint projects for "Habitat for Humanity," as well as "Relay for Life" in the spring.

MASSACHUSETTS

Last October, as the Red Sox were celebrating their World Series triumph over the Cardinals, the Massachusetts Student Nurses' Association (MSNA) was holding its annual convention just blocks away. The second convention in the state's recent history grew from 50 to 250 attendees last year, and featured over 30 exhibitors, from hospitals to



Bonfire Inspires Unity

Last fall, students from the California Nursing Students Association held the First Annual San Diego Student Nurses' Barbeque and Bonfire, a networking opportunity for area students.

professional organizations. Those attending also enjoyed a "Nursing Pathways" panel, an NCLEX mini review, and an introduction to nursing skills review. Breakout sessions focused on emergency nursing, pediatrics, intensive care, and disaster relief. The keynote address was delivered by Barbara Blakeney, president of the American Nurses' Association.

MISSISSIPPI

Holli Jordan, Mississippi State Nurses' Association (MSNA) president, led her state to a record-breaking convention last fall. The convention was held in conjunction with the Mississippi Nurses' Association, and held at the Gulf Coast Convention Center in beautiful Biloxi, with over 900 attendees. Amateurs became stars at the karaoke party, and a grand total of \$5,000 was raised by music lovers to benefit the "Make a Wish" foundation." Mississippi

Blood Services was on site conducting a blood drive, and there were focus sessions on topics ranging from flight nursing to labor and delivery. An NCLEX review and state officer elections were held, with three of Mississippi officers reelected. Schools, hospitals, and clinics from all over the south came together to enjoy this expo.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Student Nurses' Association (NHSNA) has been focusing on increasing membership and promoting their upcoming state convention in April. With the creation of a new web site and newsletter, the board hopes to increase communications to its members on a variety of topics, including the benefits of NSNA membership. To aid in achieving their goals, the NHSNA is visiting existing chapters as well as mentoring those interested in creating new ones.



RSPN Helps Children Get Ready for School

Nursing students at the Riverside School of Professional Nursing held a school supplies drive in conjunction with “Operation: School Supplies.” The nursing students are also affiliated with the Riverside Student Nurses Association and the Virginia Nursing Students Association. More than 800 items of paper, binders, notebooks, index cards, markers, pencils, pens, crayons, rulers, erasers, glue, scissors and pencil sharpeners, were collected and donated to needy children in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia.

NEW ORLEANS

The Louisiana Association of Nursing Students (LASN) held a “Children’s Teddy Bear Share” in December and brought smiles to the faces of many children in local hospitals. They volunteered for the AIDS Walk in the fall to help promote HIV/AIDS awareness, and participated in the March of Dimes Gala in November. Students volunteered at the local VA hospital and at a health fair for senior citizens by checking blood sugars and blood pressures. The LASN convention was held in Alexandria, October 28-31. By having the most SNA members in the state, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center was able to send five delegates and seven alternates to the convention! The LASN board members put on an excellent convention, which included many informative focus sessions on enhancing the image of nursing, as well as networking opportunities.

The following new officers were elected to the 2004-2005 LASN board: Meghan Scott: Secretary; Regan Grissom: Treasurer; Allison Vallee: Region IV Director; and Trishana Ducros: Breakthrough to Nursing/Membership Director. Dr. Susan Steele was also elected faculty advisor. Dr. Steele has a dynamic personality and brings incredible energy to the group.

TEXAS

The Texas Nursing Students’ Association (TNSA) held its annual convention in Austin on February 19 -21, 2004, and met the challenge presented to them that included providing guide dogs to an individual in need. On September 24-25 2004, despite the threat of hurricane conditions, TSNA hosted its annual “Council of Schools” in Galveston. Over 250 chapter members gathered at the beautiful Moody Garden

Hotel and enjoyed a banquet, focus sessions, a guide dog visit, and a keynote address by Dr. Lynn Wieck, the Texas Nurses Association president. A “Night in Paradise” with a luau theme and annual costume party are among the highlights of TNSA’s upcoming annual convention this February. This daring group is once again focusing its fundraising efforts on guide dogs.

VIRGINIA

Riverside School of Professional Nursing

A group of evening/weekend nursing students from the Riverside School of Professional Nursing collaborated with the Riverside Student Nurses’ Association to assist with “Operation School Supplies,” providing area children with much need paper, binders, writing tools, and art supplies. (See photo.)

Germanna Community College

Last summer, the Germanna Community College Student Nurses’ Association held its First Annual Children’s Communication and Health Fair. Local organizations joined forces to provide information on children’s health, safety, nutrition, and activities. The health fair offered blood pressure checks, lead testing, sight, hearing, and scoliosis screenings, and height and weight certificates. Children received identification cards, information about staying drug-free, bike and helmet safety updates, and fire safety instructions. The event was also an opportunity for the chapter to raise money for \$500 scholarships awarded each semester, and to help nursing students with expenses related to their NCLEX review. A dunking booth was manned by the Fredericksburg Users Group, and all proceeds were given to the SNA. The fundraising efforts raised \$4,000!

UPCOMING STATE CONVENTIONS

ARIZONA

October 2005

ARKANSAS

March 5, 2005

CALIFORNIA

February 25-27, 2005

CONNECTICUT

February 18, 2005

GEORGIA

October 2005

INDIANA

March 5, 2005

KANSAS

October 14-15, 2005

MARYLAND

January 29, 2005

MICHIGAN

February 4-6, 2005

MISSISSIPPI

October 22-24, 2005

NEBRASKA

February 19-20, 2005

NEW HAMPSHIRE

April 20, 2005

NEW JERSEY

February 23-25, 2005

NEW YORK

March 19, 2005

NORTH CAROLINA

March 2005

NORTH DAKOTA

January 20-22, 2005

OREGON

February 27-28, 2005

RHODE ISLAND

March 16, 2005

SOUTH CAROLINA

October 11-15, 2005

SOUTH DAKOTA

February 24-26, 2005

TEXAS

February 22-26, 2005

UTAH

April 2005

VIRGINIA

February 4-5, 2005

WISCONSIN

February 11-13, 2005

For more information, visit the state chapter web sites.

resources

School and State Web Sites

Virginia

www.riverside-online.com/rshc/professionalnursing.html
Riverside School of Professional Nursing

Texas

www.tnsa.org
Texas Nursing Students' Association

Massachusetts

www.mastudentnurses.org
Massachusetts Student Nurses' Association

Indiana

www.sf.edu
University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne

Organizations

Make a Wish Foundation

www.wish.org

Indiana Organ Procurement Organization

www.iopo.org

AIDS information

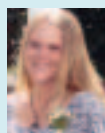
www.aidsinfo.nih.gov

Breast Cancer

www.thebreastcancersite.com

The Believe in Tomorrow National Children's Foundation

www.dreamsurfer.org/index.cfm



Amy Jo Madden Frazier is a nursing student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Champaign, IL, and is the 2004-2005 Happenings reporter.

moving?

Send your new address to:

**NSNA
Box 789
Wilmington, OH
45177**

Include your new address and membership number!

