



The "Happenings" column highlights chapter activities and accomplishments. Submit your activities to Carrie Mortensen at carriemortensen@cox.net

By Carrie Mortensen

State and School Activities

Ohio

At Owens Community College, Toledo, OH, nursing student Andrea Cropcho, RN, recognized that many of her fellow students faced a financial struggle when trying to purchase both textbooks and uniforms. She was inspired to make a difference and created a uniform and book recycling program to benefit the nursing students at her school. This nonprofit program is designed to sell donated school nursing uniforms, nursing texts, and reference materials at a set price of \$10 each. Students who wish to buy the recycled uniforms and textbooks do so with "no questions asked," and all nursing students are eligible to buy the recycled items on a first-come, first-served basis. Items have been donated from both students and faculty, and the program continues to have strong support from the nursing school.

The funds generated from the recycling program are used to obtain nursing pins for the pinning ceremony for individuals who may have difficulty purchasing one. Those who wish to be considered for a pin are required to submit an essay titled, "What This Pin Means to Me." The essays are judged by faculty, then the authors of the chosen essays are awarded with a nursing pin. Many of the students who have benefited from the recycling program have reciprocated by donating items to the program upon graduation.

Michigan

University of Michigan nursing student Kirsten Thulin spent a month last summer with the university's student-led World Service Team in Huancayo, Peru. The students volunteered at several locations throughout the community while staying with Peruvian families. Kirsten's group volunteered at a government run orphanage working with infants and toddlers. The orphanage typically has fewer than five employees for about 15 infants and 10 toddlers.

Consequently, the employees are able to meet only the children's basic needs, and rarely their secondary needs. The Michigan students focused on direct contact and interaction with the children, giving them some needed extra affection. According to Kirsten, "it was so rewarding to see them light up everyday when we would return each morning for another day of fun." After her amazing experience in Peru, Kirsten plans to continue to donate her time throughout her career by volunteering abroad. (Read more about Kirsten in this month's Up Close column.)

Florida

The Florida Nursing Students Association (FNSA) holds one of the largest state conventions in the nation. In October 2006, over 1,500 students gathered for the meeting in Daytona, FL. The theme "Use Your Voice, The Power of Nursing," was chosen to emphasize the importance of advocating for the profession as a nurse and to encourage the students of Florida to play an active role in the nursing profession.

The FNSA Convention included many exciting activities for students, faculty, and consultants. Nursing students had the opportunity to serve as delegates, attend focus sessions and special presentations, play "Nursing Jeopardy," display their talent at "Nursing Idol" during the opening night party, participate in a silent auction, explore employment and educational opportunities, network at an afternoon tea, and attend a banquet.

Several focus sessions on professional development and empowerment, and legislative issues were also offered during the convention. Titles of sessions included "Nurses Save Lives," "Nurses United: The Power of Legislation," "Empowering Yourself for a Successful Job Interview," "Political Nurses... Changing the Future of Healthcare," and "The Professional Portfolio: Documenting Life Long Learning The Key to Your Future Success in Nursing."



Pictured at the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing Centennial Kick-Off are Masters Degree candidates (left to right): Lynn Taylor; Liana Hain; Pamela Minarik; Jeff Kilmer, Director of the UCSF School of Nursing Office of Student Affairs; Prangthip Tasanao; Monica McLemore; and Christina Baggott.

Special sessions for faculty and consultants included a professional portfolio session, a workshop, and a luncheon. The FNSA Executive Board was pleased to offer a wide variety of sessions and activities.

Pennsylvania

The Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) will head to the State Capitol building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, during the 2006-2007 academic year for the special legislative program Capitol Hill Step by Step. Nursing students will experience on-the-job training about the political process on location at the State Capitol. Capital Hill Step by Step is a wonderful opportunity for nursing students to witness how every nurse can affect their practice through legislation, and appreciate the importance of nurses' understanding of the legislative process and regulatory system. The program is free of charge and is open to all Pennsylvania nursing students. SNAP provides this program for nursing students to facilitate their appreciation of the significance of politics and encourage them to become involved in the political process.

California

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Nursing is celebrating its centennial year with a year-long series of events honoring the accomplishments of alumni, faculty, and the leadership of nurses throughout the university. In April 1907, 51 weeks after the 1906 earthquake, the UCSF campus began courses in nursing care and education. The University of California had converted its still-standing College of Medicine to include a 42-bed hospital that provided care for San Franciscans, clinical experience for medical students, and initiated the university's first diploma program for nurses. In 1917, a bachelor's degree program for nurses, one of the first in the nation, was authorized by the University of California Regents. In 1939, the nurse education program was reorganized to establish the UCSF School of Nursing, the first such autonomous school in any public university.

The UCSF Centennial Kick-Off was held on campus September 13, to coincide with new student orientation and welcome students not only to the school, but to the history of

the nursing profession at UCSF. The celebration continues throughout the 2006-07 academic year. The Community of Scholars event will take place on April 27. According to Jeff Kilmer, Director of the UCSF School of Nursing Office of Student Affairs, "this is an annual event almost totally run by students. The event provides a forum for students to present original research, both in oral and poster formats. Students are involved in terms of planning, presenting, and attending."

Another spring event is the UCSF School of Nursing Alumni Association's unveiling of a Nursing Wall of Fame that honors the achievements of 100 leaders from every era and discipline that has been associated with the school. On Alumni Day, April 28, the UCSF Nursing Press will host a book-launching event to celebrate the publication of the first complete history of the school, written by Associate Dean Emerita Marilyn Flood. The Centennial finale involves a week of events including the school of nursing commencement on June 8, and the Black Tie Gala on June 9, which will be open to students, alumni, and friends of the school. ©