

HAPPENINGS



The "Happenings" column highlights chapter activities and accomplishments. Submit your activities to nsna@nsna.org

By Jessica Robinson

From Belize to BTN

New York

Looking for Leaders: Actual, Potential, and Probable

The Nursing Student Association of New York State (NSANYS) held their annual Leadership Day (formerly known as Council of School Presidents) on October 13, 2007 at the College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, NY. This free event was chaired by William Gamba, First Vice President and sponsored by NSANYS and the College of New Rochelle. The event was geared toward pre and current nursing students interested in leadership and was open not only to NSANYS and NSNA members, but to any interested in learning more about leadership.

The College of New Rochelle provided breakfast and lunch and money was raised by selling "New York State Nurses" t-shirts and holding a raffle. When NSANYS first sponsored this event in 2005, it attracted 12 students; the next year, it attracted 40 students and this year, over 80 students and faculty came from all across New York. The Board of Directors for New York presented on topics ranging from "Starting a School Chapter" to "Membership Recruitment" and "Breakthrough to Nursing." This year, NSANYS invited NSNA Executive Director Diane Mancino to be the keynote speaker. Dr. Mancino brought informative issues to the session and interactively discussed leadership in the nursing profession with the attendees. Two members of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) were also in attendance and gave short presenta-



The Nursing Student Association of New York State (NSANYS) Board of Directors with Dr. Diane Mancino, NSNA Executive Director (fourth from right), at the Annual Leadership Day.

tions on opportunities within NYSNA and what involvement with NYSNA can do for a nurse. Good job New York on a topic well presented!

Arkansas

Help Wanted...Abroad

For the past three years, nursing students from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) have volunteered their time and knowledge for a nursing mission developed through the Medical Service Outreach Program in Roaring Creek, Belize. The Arkansas Student Nurse Association donated \$550 to their cause; the UAMS NSNA chapter donated \$200; the UAMS Senior Class of 2008 donated \$400; and student nurses also accepted personal donations. They raised over \$1,900 for the mission's children and families, as well as for their medical needs. Part of the money was also used to sponsor

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The NSNA Chapter at South Arkansas University at the Cystic Fibrosis Walk, which they sponsored along with Psi Psychology Club and Alpha Sigma Alpha and Alpha Phi Omega fraternities.

the education of four children for one school year (including school uniforms, books, and supplies).

After all the pre-planning, five nursing students and an advanced practice nurse were allowed to spend 10 days in the Good Samaritan clinic under the supervision of Natalie Capps, APN. Although over 50 pounds of over-the-counter medica-

tions were donated by Garden Oaks Pharmacy, it wasn't enough. With the community's high rate of anemia, the iron tablets went quickly. With the money they raised, the group was able to purchase additional prenatal vitamins, lice medications, iron supplements, and over 500 children's vitamins.

The nursing students performed

full head-to-toe assessments on patients and diagnose and treat anemia, otitis media, diabetes, fungal infections, skin rashes, etc. The students also had the chance to take the clinic on the road.

They filled up a van with medical supplies and food and drove it into surrounding communities. They cared for patients out of the back of a van, handing

out worm medications, vitamins, acetaminophen, antibiotics, and other necessities, under the supervision of an APN.

Amber Cyphers, UAMS nursing student, noted, "We have increased our ability to assess and treat patients with various medical problems and have enjoyed

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providing a service to the people of Belize.”

Cystic Fibrosis Awareness

To encourage greater community awareness of Cystic Fibrosis (CF), Southern Arkansas University NSNA chapter members, Psi Chi Psychology Club, Alpha Sigma

Alpha, and Alpha Phi Omega joined together to sponsor the third annual Cystic Fibrosis Walk. Seventy-two participants raised over \$3,000 in Magnolia, AR, for the event, which was started in 2004 to honor a nursing student's child suffering from the condition. According to the Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation, CF is a life-threatening, inherited genetic disease that affects breathing and digestion – approximately three infants a day are born with the condition. For more information, visit www.cff.org.

Connecticut

Breakthrough to Nursing... in High School!

On June 1, 2007, Warren Harding High School students got the opportunity to participate in Bridgeport Hospital's School of Nursing Breakthrough to Nursing Program. Approximately 60 high schoolers attended the event to learn what nursing school is all about (including the highs and lows), and how to apply to nursing school. They watched the NSNA video [Nursing: The Ultimate Adventure](#). Afterwards, students formed small break-out groups and discussed topics such as: the cost of a nursing education, types of jobs nurses can do, the evening/weekend vs. the accelerated RN program, and time management balancing work, school, and home life. Students were then able to take a tour of the Bridgeport Hospital's School of Nursing's laboratory where they observed nursing students (some only a few years older than them!) insert Foley catheters, change central line dressings, and flush an IV med lock.

The Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing's plans to continue to work with the Warren Harding High schoolers by inviting them to see an actual lab class during the semester and through a group e-mail communication. Individual mentors also will be assigned to the students as a way of keeping them in touch with a nursing student. Best wishes to the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing on a great Breakthrough to Nursing project!



The Piedmont Technical College senior nursing class in Greenwood, SC, at the October 27, 2007 event that raised over \$2500 for a "Place for Us."

Louisiana

A Semester of Firsts

The Association of Nursing Students at Our Lady of Holy Cross College, New Orleans, achieved two exciting "firsts" in fall 2007 when it sent six students to the NSNA MidYear Conference in Kansas City, MO. This year, the Holy Cross ASN also achieved full NSNA enrollment status with 174 members. In addition to these accomplishments, six members attended and assisted in the 100 Great Louisiana Nurses Dinner at the Ponchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana; four delegates represented Holy Cross College at the Louisiana Student Nurses' Convention, September 27-29, 2007; and six members attended the Susan E. Komen Breast Cancer Walk on October 7, 2007, in City Park, New Orleans. The SNA raised \$150 for the event. Congratulations on your success!

South Carolina

A Place for Us

The senior nursing class at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, South Carolina organized a 5K run, one-mile walk, fun-run for children, and health fair as part of a management class project.

The event took place on October 27, 2007 and raised \$2,500 for a "Place for Us," a non-profit ministry that counsels pregnant women and offers pregnancy classes, counseling, education, and adoption

services for both women and men. The project required that the nursing students start up their own company to manage the event, and have formed PTC Nurses of Tomorrow, Inc. ©