



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

By Susan D. Indest

State and School Activities

Alabama

The Alabama Association of Nursing Students is raising money and awareness for the National Children's Advocacy Center. NCAC offers many services, including counseling abused children and educating families and children to prevent abuse. The center provides victimized children a cheerful, safe place where they are treated by specially trained nurses and counselors to help with the healing process.

The AANS recently held its first Council of School Leaders (COSL) to assist in networking among its state chapters. Each nursing school in Alabama appoints three delegates who are responsible for passing on information to their chapter members. The delegates provide leadership and guidance in planning community, legislative, and Breakthrough to Nursing® projects, and they also work to increase membership and participation in NSNA and AANS.

More than 100 AANS members from across the state participated in Legislative Day in Montgomery to encourage nurses of all specialties and student nurses to learn about the state legislative process, and to become aware of current legislative issues that have an impact on nurses now and in the future. This was a great way to meet lawmakers, become informed on important issues, and make their voices heard!

Laquanda Price has been honored as Outstanding AANS Member for her dedication, determination and strength. While a nursing student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she remarried and had two children. During her last semester, she was diagnosed with a very aggressive breast cancer. Despite surgery and six months of chemotherapy, Price was determined to realize her dream of becoming a nurse. She persevered and continued with nursing school until she graduated. "Never give up and you won't be defeated," she said.

AANS sadly said goodbye to its longtime advisor Jackie Williams of Shelton State Community College, who announced the end of her long service as a State Consultant to the AANS

Executive Board. Williams has assisted Board Members throughout this decade and she will be sorely missed.

Georgia

The Emory Student Nurses Association (ESNA) at Emory University in Atlanta has participated in many community service projects, including a Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk, the annual Georgia Mothers Against Drunk Driving walk, and an American Red Cross blood drive. They also assisted with the Community Health and Men's Promotion Summit, an annual public service provided by the Midtown Urology Health and Education Foundation.

ESNA members also are very involved in serving the community as birth doulas. Birth doulas assist women in their prenatal, birthing and postpartum experience. The Atlanta Doula Cooperative was founded by Emory nursing students, and it has grown to support mothers in many area hospitals. ESNA member and doula Amanda Christian stated that mothers with doulas tend to give birth normally, need less pain medication and other interventions, and have more satisfying birth experiences.

The Emory International Student Nurses Association (EISNA) offers opportunities unique to the Emory nursing community by focusing on international nursing issues. The EISNA board raises student awareness of international nursing, provides opportunities for hands on service locally and abroad, and offers travel scholarships for pursuits related to international nursing.

For years EISNA has sponsored students to take part in the Alternative Spring Break trips abroad, where nursing students spend the break in service to international communities. The school of nursing has long-standing sustainable commitments to international communities in Canada, Korea, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. This year EISNA is committed to finding even more ways for the whole student body to become involved in helping these communities.

Louisiana

As Hurricane Gustav bore down on Baton Rouge, nursing students and faculty of Our Lady of the Lake College (OLOL) volunteered for service at the state-run shelter for evacuees with medical needs. OLOL volunteers helped give comfort and care to those still sheltered after severe winds and rain moved out of the state. Francine Thomas, Director of the School of Nursing Undergraduate Programs, said the school's nursing faculty all registered with the state's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals, and are available to help in emergency situations.

Heat and rain didn't stop approximately 30 OLOL students and faculty from joining Habitat for Humanity staff for a day of hard work building a house for a family who lost their home during Hurricane Katrina. Dean of Student Services Dr. Phyllis Simpson, OLOL President Dr. Sandra Harper, Office Manager D. Elaine Crowe, and Professor Kim Hurst joined students and the future homeowner in hammering, measuring, and hauling.

In other volunteer news, nursing students lead by professors Tanya Romanowsky and Ila Williamson participated in "Health! The Spice of Louisiana Health Fair." This community health fair was a great success due in part to these dedicated nursing students and instructors, who also participate in the Life After 50 Expo each year.



Photos were taken by Karen Goodridge, OLOL College Student Services Specialist

HAPPENINGS *State and School Activities*

The SNA held a Breast Cancer Awareness Drive that raised \$1,000, which was donated to the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. Members raised the money by selling t-shirts, badge holders, pink ribbons, and jambalaya lunches. The SNA also held a donation drive for the Baton Rouge Food Bank, and hosted a graduation dinner for nursing students.

SNA officers and faculty advisor Keeley Harmon-Dupuy attended the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses conference, and were very proud of Vice President Shameka Lewis, who was appointed Region 3 Director for the LASN. She is now working with the other officers and faculty advisors on a plan to coordinate more involvement with nursing students at the OLOL New Orleans campus.

Maryland

Maryland Association of Nursing Students (MANS) has been very busy with community events, fund-raisers and conferences. MANS members participated in the American Nurses Association annual Lobby Day in Washington, DC, where they were able to meet with MD representatives and senators to discuss safe staffing issues. The ANA advocates the “Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act” (H.R. 4138/S. 73) and this was the primary goal of ANA lobby day.

Closer to home, “Imagine the Possibilities: Nursing and the Future” was the theme of MANS’ 29th Annual State Convention, held at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore. Conference attendees were inspired and educated by the speakers and enjoyed the social events and networking opportunities. MANS members helped to raise awareness about cancer and to raise money to fight cancer with various activities throughout the state. The Columbia Union College MANS members participated in the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk, one of their annual community service activities.

Michigan

The Michigan Nursing Student Association (MNSA) also recently hosted a birth doula training program, and 11 nursing students completed the training. Additionally, MNSA hosted a discussion with Hilda Alcindor, Dean of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti in Leogane, Haiti. Students were able to ask questions and gain perspective on international nursing.

MNSA is planning its annual nursing career fair and its annual School of Nursing ball, which will raise money for the School of Nursing in Haiti. Last year the chapter raised almost \$8,000.

This year, MNSA has added the position of Community Outreach Coordinator to their board. Janis Bosley, who served 8 years in the U.S. Air Force, is a junior in the Baccalaureate Nursing Program at University of Michigan–Flint, is looking forward to working with state chapters in coordinating local and international community service projects. Bosley already has started planning chapter activities, such as the Hope for Nursing Haiti program, March of Dimes for Babies, and the Susan G. Komen Cure for Cancer Walk.

Texas

The Student Nurses Association at the University of Texas at Tyler hosted a Health Fair and Garage Sale at the Evangelistic Temple in Palestine, TX. The event had a great turnout, drawing 400 people (double the number expected); the garage sale raised \$1,050. The fair’s blood drive resulted in 19 units of blood being collected for area hospitals.

A variety of health care professionals gave presentations on hospice care, home health, Alzheimer’s disease, lower back pain, physical therapy, advance directives and dental health. There also were more than 30 booths staffed with healthcare professionals who provided information and free health screenings for all ages and stages of life.

(Left): Texas students at the snack booth.
(Right): Health Fair students at the Garage Sale Table. The Health Fair and Garage Sale had 400 people turnout and raised \$1,050.



HAPPENINGS

Students staffed their own booths where they educated participants on issues such as women's health, family planning, and nutrition. Students from the Licensed Vocational Nurses Trinity Valley Community College came out and volunteered their services at various booths.

Child car seat safety was demonstrated by Eddie Carmon of the Texas Department of Safety's Education Services, and Palestine EMS provided information on basic first aid.

Women's Health Clinic provided information regarding the Texas Women's Health Program and other services for low-income women, and state health workers presented information about the WIC program. Fire safety was the Palestine Fire Department's focus, and Willow Creek Chiropractic and Wellness provided valuable education about chiropractic care.

Information about STAR, a program to help at-risk teens, was provided by the Anderson Cherokee Community Enrichment Services. The American Cancer Society provided information on cancer prevention and resources, and the Palestine Resource Center provided information regarding resources for independent living.

Palestine Regional Medical Center provided hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, and drinks for everyone who attended the event, and Palestine Masonic Lodge members donated their time and cooked all of the food. Lucky winners were given door prizes donated by area businesses. This truly was a community event! "This was the first time our SNA had ever attempted an event this big. It was a lot of work but well worth it!" said SNA President Tammy Corson. ☺



NSNA: *website*

NSNA Member Services

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