



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

By Susan D. Indest

State and School Activities

Georgia

Emory Student Nurses Association (ESNA) at Emory University, has set an impressive example of how nursing students can positively impact their community, state and countries around the world.

ESNA members working with HealthSTAT (Health Students Taking Action Together), a statewide, student-run, nonprofit organization, are working to save lives by educating state legislators. This year, HealthSTAT will address issues like Georgia's need for a trauma network, the Emergency Medical Service systems serving them, the resources required by the hospital and EMS staff, and the communication between all those involved in acute trauma care. Last year, under the strong leadership of healthcare students from schools across the state, HealthSTAT worked to keep the doors of Grady Memorial Hospital open. This year the group hopes to convince state government to fund the Georgia Trauma Care Network.

Officers Carmen Oller, Ellen Kirby and Rozina Dhanani represented ESNA in the Partnership Walk held at the Centennial Olympic Park to raise awareness and money to help communities in Africa and Asia become self-reliant. Oller, Kirby and Dhanani created ESNA banners for the walk, and they also contributed \$500 to the walk's sponsors.

Emory student nurses have been volunteering their time serving Sunday brunch at an Atlanta restaurant that raises vital funds for the homeless. Café 458, located in the Historic Sweet District, is the city's only restaurant for homeless individuals. This unique "reservation-only" style dining creates a warm, caring environment that fosters a sense of dignity and respect among the women and men who eat there. All proceeds from Café 458, including tips, go directly to support Samaritan House of Atlanta, a non-profit agency whose mission is to help homeless men and women achieve self-sufficiency.

ESNA members also volunteer their time with the

annual Community Health and Men's Promotion Summit (CHAMPS) held at the Georgia World Congress Center. More than 500 men participate in health screenings and educational lectures at this successful event.

In a rare moment of relaxation, ESNA members joined approximately 150 other students in proclaiming their commitment to honor and integrity in academic and professional nursing during the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing third annual Affirmation of Professional Values Ceremony and Woodruff Tea in October. Dean Marsha Lewis, Mrs. Nell Hodgson Watt, Ms. Betty Daniels, and Captain Mary Lambert, offered encouragement and inspiration to the School of Nursing community during the ceremony and tea. Honor Council Chair Sarah Mitchell said, "The standards you have set remind us of our commitment to always promote honor and respect for the nursing profession." Mitchell encouraged senior students to participate in raising money during the Senior Class Gift Campaign, which provides scholarships for current and incoming students. The Class of 2008 raised more than \$10,000, which was matched for a total senior class gift of \$20,008.

We all should be proud to have ESNA members representing student nurses. Their service is an inspiration and an example to strive toward.

Louisiana

Southeastern Louisiana University SNA has a lot to be proud of again this year. The SLU nursing program has received a Nightingale Award as the "Nursing School of the Year" by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation. Barbara Moffett, head of the School of Nursing, said "Our graduates make us quite proud. The feedback we receive from area employers is that they are equipped with the skills they need to perform in the workforce and possess the work ethic needed to become excellent nurses. That's the best reward we can get for our work."

SLU's graduate program has received a full five-year accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Education. The graduate program is offered in an intercollegiate consortium with the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and McNeese State University in Lake Charles. The accreditation is a "stamp of approval" on the quality and integrity of the graduate program, said Interim President John L. Crain. Donnie Booth, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, said students successfully completing the graduate curriculum at Southeastern meet the educational requirements to take national certification examinations in a number of specialty areas.

SLU nursing students recently worked to save lives by staging a mock crash at Ponchatoula High School in preparation for prom season. Students from three area high schools were presented with a staged version of an automobile crash involving alcohol. The event encouraged students to make smart and healthy choices about drinking and driving, not just for prom, but for the rest of their lives. The Louisiana State Police joined local law enforcement, fire and rescue, ambulance and funeral home officials to offer a realistic version of the consequences of drinking and driving. Elected officials offered first-hand knowledge of the dangers of drinking and driving, including the coroner. SLU nursing instructor Terri Compton said this was the fifth year the nursing students have coordinated the program. This year's event was coordinated by senior nursing students Tracy Bickford, Dawn Smith, Jennifer Winner, Rachel Breath, Hayley Allen, Nadia Barthelemy, Hattie Dobson, and Heather Marcelle.

SNA is especially proud of Michaelyn Hernandez, who received the SLU College of Nursing and Health Sciences' highest honor, the Dean's Award. Other nursing students honored were Edith Durand and Kara Roussel. Durand received

the Graduate Scholar Award in Nursing and Roussel received the School of Nursing Leadership Award.

Maryland

Salisbury University's Student Nurse Association hosted 45 Girl Scouts from Maryland's Eastern Shore for their Second Annual

Passport to Nursing. Salisbury University's SNA teamed up with the Lambda Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society for this event to inspire and educate girls about nursing. Sigma Theta Tau presented a brief history of nursing and the many different nursing fields. The Girl Scouts separated into small



Left: Girl Scouts check the carotid pulse of Salisbury University student nurse Katie Gott at SU's Passport to Nursing program. Right: Salisbury University Student (in burgundy scrubs and tops). Back row, left to right: Lindsey Yates, Janine Ferari, Evan Minarik, Zach Hoover, Josh 'JEB' Gibson. Middle row, left to right: Nettie Hantske, Francesca DeFranco, Katie Tibbs, Amanda Trogler, Lauren Douthat, Lauren Walski, Trish Grey, Diana Woodard.



groups and went to the several interactive stations that were set up and performed by SU nursing students. The stations offered a wide variety of teaching, interaction, and education. At the hand washing station, the girls used glow-in-the-dark lotion on their hands to see how many germs they can miss without proper hand washing. The management station offered different ways to cope with stress by creating stress balls made of balloons and flour. Another favorite was the R.I.C.E. station, where the girls learned about common injuries and how to use rest, ice, compression, and elevation to improve healing time and lessen pain. At the end of the day, the girls received recognition for the participation by receiving badges or patches.

Columbia Union College SNA members recently attended the Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) bi-annual District 5 dinner meeting. Registered Nurses from all over the state gathered to discuss issues that are current in the nursing profession. The main focus of this meeting was "anatomy of a medication error" presented by Bob Feroli, PhrMD, FASHP. CUC students and nursing instructor Professor Netteburg represented the largest group of nursing students to attend their district's meeting. The students were impressed with the professionalism of the nurses

and the valuable information they learned. The presentation offered a unique opportunity to experience how and why medication errors occur between a pharmacist and a nurse from a nursing perspective, and provided many ways medication errors can be minimized.

Virginia

Dana Jones Pflieger, Public Relations Director of Virginia Nursing Students' Association (VNSA) and nursing student at Lynchburg General Hospital School of Nursing (LGHSon), was chosen as Student of the Year for the Virginia Nursing Association District 3. Along with her position in the VNSA, Pflieger has served as a Student Class Representative, Secretary of the student government and Treasurer and President of her SNA. She enjoys holding leadership roles in nursing school because she feels that she has a lot of knowledge and insight to share.

VNSA President Raeanne Tatem has been working hard to raise money to provide healthcare to homeless children in West Africa. She is a member of Healing Hearts Worldwide, a non-profit organization started in the summer of 2008 by a group of Virginia nursing students as an initiative to fund and open a clinic for homeless children in Mali, West

Africa, in partnership with a native nurse. By August, the organization raised \$2,500, which was enough to open the clinic by September 2008 and care for more than 1,300 patients by providing potentially life-saving care such as anti-malarial drugs, antibiotics, wound care and health screenings. One of the organization's activities to raise money for the clinic is by selling jewelry. If you would like more information about this life-saving service project, email Tatem at healingheartsworldwide@gmail.com.

The Student Nurses' Association of Virginia (SNAV) at the University of Virginia, raises money to fund its service projects social events through teaching CPR classes and by selling scrubs, CPR masks, flowers, AED's, sweatshirts, and clinical clipboards. The chapter's service projects include CPR training for the University and the Charlottesville/Albemarle community, food and clothing drives, gift drives for U.S. soldiers, educating elementary school children on the role of a nurse, and their Breakthrough to Nursing® program—promoting nursing to minorities, men, and children. The chapter also has an annual toy drive and operates a blood pressure drive to educate the public on the dangers of hypertension.

In Richmond, the Virginia Commonwealth University SNA chapter has been active in community service projects and fundraising events. Their Career Fair was a great success, and nursing students who attended learned about career opportunities open to them both before and after RN licensure. SNA fundraising projects include a Breast Cancer Walk, sweatshirt and raffle ticket sales, and car washes. A portion of SNA funds are used for charity projects, such as providing for a family during the holidays. All over Virginia, student nurses are making great things happen! ☺