

PI THETA NEWS

SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

17th Annual Nursing Excellence in Research and Practice Day for Pi Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International

This year's Annual Pi Theta Research in Excellence featured Dr. Alyce Schultz, PhD, RN, FAAN as Keynote Speaker. Dr. Schultz is currently the Chair for Sigma Theta Tau International Research and Scholarship Task Force. She is a Professor in Clinical Nursing, Center for Advancement of EBP at Arizona State University, College of Nursing and Healthcare Innovation and holds a joint appointment at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Schultz is also the president of her own company which is called Alyce A. Schultz & Associates, LLC.

Dr. Schultz presented to an audience of over 250 professional nurses

and BSN nursing students who have interest in the area of research. Her presentation "Creating and Sustaining Evidence-based Practice at the Point of Care" gave a definition and history of research in the nursing profession and how nurses and nursing student can become engaged in using evidence based research in the practice setting.

Dr. Schultz shared the "Clinical Scholar Model" and how professional nurses from Phoenix area hospitals have engaged in research in practice. She demonstrated how findings have transformed standards of practice.

Dr. Schultz concluded her presentation by en-

couraging nurses to become more actively involved in their practice areas, how to encourage and influence others to do so also, and simply how to just "get started".



Keynote Speaker Dr. Alyce Schultz in attendance at Pi Theta 17th Annual Nursing Research

Chapter members present at the Annual Pi Theta Research Day:

Members who presented at annual Research Day, April 7 at the University of Arkansas Student Union were Bill Buron, Julie Thibodaux and Niki Northfell.

Well done!

Pi Theta Inductees from Fall 2007 and Spring 2008

We welcome the following new members into the organization:

Fall 2007:

Community leaders: Susan Franklin, Sandra Hainline, Brandi Jones, Sherry White

BSN Students: Elizabeth Baker, Rachel LeMaster, Mark Collier, Melissa

Maybury, Paige Dallas,, Amanda McClary, Tiffany Davis, Elizabeth McCord, Beth Farmer, Leslie McCormack, Marissa Hale, Charleen McNeill, Lisa Hammond, Amanda Milholen, Kimberly Hawthorne, Elizabeth Millsap, Greg Henson, Niki Northfell, Meagan Hubbard, Sherri Reed, Grace Kelley,

Lindsay Smith, Gabrielle Kline, Lindsey Smith, Alaina Knop, Tera Thompson, Anne Layman, Leslie Turpin, Natalie Wagner

Spring 2008:

Community leaders: Christina Williamson and Barbara Wesner

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Nursing with a Mental Illness by anonymous RN

I was born in a large mid-western city. When I was four, my father died and my mother and brother and I moved to a smaller city several miles away near my paternal grandparents. I went to Baylor nursing school and married in Houston, Texas. After several years practicing hospital and community health nursing in Houston, I obtained a master's in community health nursing from Texas Woman's University. I taught at Prairie View A and M University outside of Houston and began doctoral studies.

After eight years of marriage to an alcoholic husband, I realized I needed to get out of the marriage. It was the hardest thing I have ever done. I went to graduate school full-time, worked full-time and obtained a divorce. I taught nursing at Sacramento State University, Sacramento, California. I

was "all but dissertation" in a nursing doctoral program at Texas Woman's University.

In 1984 I had a nervous breakdown and was diagnosed as bipolar disorder with psychotic features. I was mortified! Schizophrenia was in my mother's family, but surely mental illness couldn't be happening to me!!! My self-esteem plunged downward. I no longer worked on my dissertation. I went to a psychiatrist, attended bipolar groups, stayed on my medication as ordered and tried to make some sense of my life. I continued with a temporary nursing agency and attended holistic health seminars. I hoped I would find some healing in these healing methods. I soon found some of the healing methods actually precipitated a "psychotic episode" I was very confused, depressed and

disillusioned.

The temporary agency I was employed with was aware of my disability and worked with the hospitals/agencies in placing me in less stressful areas. I discontinued work on my dissertation as I found, though, teaching was rewarding, it could also be stressful on a university level. I have worked with my disability in California, Texas, and now in Arkansas. I have found to be very careful whom I tell of my disorder. I am working to decrease the stigma of mental illness in the mentally ill nurse and the general public. I am active with the American Nurses Association, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Mental Health Association and Sigma Theta Tau. I am promoting education and research in order to help do this.

www.paho.org/Images/HPP/mentalMask.jpg

"In 1984 I had a nervous breakdown and was diagnosed as bipolar disorder with psychotic features."

STTI Biennial Experience by Rosie Harris and Shayla Burns

Rosie Harris and Shayla Burns represented the Pi Theta Chapter as delegates at the 39th Annual Biennial Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland in November 2007. The convention was themed "Vision to Action: Global Health through Collaboration".

As delegate representatives, they voted on

changes to the bylaws and elected officers for Sigma Theta Tau International. Officers were elected for both international and regional offices.

Many presenters worldwide presented research on topics relevant to nursing worldwide.

Drs. Kathleen Barta and

Marianne Neighbors, faculty members at the University of Arkansas, Eleanor Mann School of Nursing, received awards for posters they presented.

Chapter Member Highlights

Awards:

Dr. Joyce McConaughy received two awards last October. Her awards were: the Distinguished Alumni Award from Arkansas State University, College of Nursing and Health Professions, and the other was the Arkansas Nurses Association Hall of Fame Award for a distinguished career as a nurse educator, mentor, and leader. Congratulations Joyce!

Publications:

Congratulations to Dr. Cathy Irwin, AHEC-NW, who has been very busy with publications over that past year. They are:

Satisfaction with a Distance Continuing-Education Program

for Health Professionals," Abstract for a Poster Presentation at The American Telemedicine Association, Thirteenth Annual International Meeting, April 6-8, 2008, Seattle, Washington; published in the *Telemedicine and e-Health* journal, 2008, volume 14, supplement 1, p. 111.

"Health Workforce Needs in Arkansas," article published in *The National AHEC Bulletin*, Spring/Summer 2007, volume 23, number 2.

"Effect of Telemedicine on Diagnosis and Treatment by Teleconsultants' Characteristics," abstract published in *Telemedicine and e-Health*, 13 (2), April 2007, with Abstracts from the American Telemedicine Association, 12th Annual International Meeting

Education:

Diane Reed, MSN, RN is a December 2007 graduate from UCA in Conway. She received her degree as an Adult NP. She will take her

Adult NP. She will take her boards in the upcoming months. She has also renewed her CWON. Congratulations Diane!

Member professional organization accomplishments:

Marilou Shreve-Doffin, APN, CPNP is the current chair for the Arkansas Nurses Association Advanced Practice Council. Marilou is the current and founder of Rainbow Pediatrics in Rogers, Arkansas.

Julie Thibodaux, APN, CPNP is current secretary-treasurer of the Advanced Practice Council of ArNA. Julie currently works at the Community Clinic at St. Francis House in Springdale. Julie has also been elected as the 2008-2010 Pi Theta Chapter President. Julie was the first elected chapter president to Pi Theta at it's formation.

Student member Highlights

Meagan Hubbard, EMSON graduating senior of Spring 2008, was the 2008 Pi Theta Student of the Year award recipient for the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing at the University of Arkansas. Congratulations Meagan!

Ginger Holloway, BSN, RN is the 2008 Pi Theta Scholarship recipient. Ginger is

Meagan is pictured with Dr. Nan Smith-Blair, EMSON Faculty

currently attending Walden University to obtain an Mater's of Science in Nursing degree. Her focus is in education She will complete her degree in December 2009. She is employed at NWACC as a nursing instructor. Congratulations Ginger!

Congratulations to all graduating EMSON stu-

dents who were inducted into the Pi Theta organization over the past year. We are all proud of you for your accomplishments. Congratulations again!

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[HTTP://NURS.UARK.EDU](http://nurs.uark.edu)

SEARCH: PROFESSIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

Newsletter information, photos,
and stories compiled and ar-
ranged by Teri Malm, Newsletter
Editor.

Notables...

**Meetings
for 2008-
2009**

Tentative meetings
for Pi Theta will be
posted on the organi-
zation website. You
may also contact the
EMSON nursing
school for upcoming
meetings.

**2008-2010 Pi Theta Officers and Committee
Chairs:**

President: Julie Thibodaux

President-elect: Shayla Burns

Vice president: Rosie Harris

Secretary: Patty James

Treasurer: Laura Ferrier

Counselor: Alison Scott

Governance Chair: Allison Scott

Programs Chair: Rosie Harris

Awards Chair: Tom Kippenbrock

Membership Chair: Kellie Robertson

Finance Chair: Lissa Applewhite

Leadership Succession Chair: Ginger Holloway

Newsletter Editor and Publicity: Teri Malm

Thank you!!

The Pi Theta members
would like to extend a
huge thank-you to
Susan McWilliams for
her service as the out-
going Pi Theta Presi-
dent. We appreciate
your leadership and
enthusiasm.
Susan is pictured to
the right in her role.