



Round Rock Historical Landmark

TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY-SAN
MARCOS
ST. DAVID'S
SCHOOL OF
NURSING

Nursing Is...

"When you're a nurse you know that every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours." ~ Author Unknown

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Nursing on the Rock



Volume 1, Issue 3

September 1, 2012

From the Director's Suite

Welcome back to a new academic year in the St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University. In the last issue, we used the themes of "firsts". I am proud to announce that we achieved another first in terms of successful first time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN. Our spring 2012 graduates achieved a 99% pass rate and we are hopeful for similar results from the summer graduates. Spring graduates have primarily accepted positions in hospitals in the Central Texas region but about 15% have chosen to take positions in other areas of the state. Another first was the outstanding leadership exhibited by the senior nursing students during orientation sessions with the incoming juniors. They took the lead, organized activities, and made the students feel welcome and supported. Thank you seniors!

Our goals for the year are lofty as we work toward fulfilling our 2012-2017 five year strategic plan. First and foremost is our commitment to educating and preparing the next generation of nurses. Toward that end, we admitted 100 new nursing students to the school this fall and over 900 pre-nursing students to Texas State University. The

word is getting out, "Texas State has a nursing program and it is a quality program." We are attracting committed faculty and students who are the best and brightest. The typical incoming student is academically strong with an average cumulative GPA of 3.47 and science GPA of 3.48. Nursing remains an attractive profession with 28% of the class of 2014 holding a bachelor's degree in another major.

This fall, the Board of Regents will review our proposal for the Master of Science in Nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner specialty. The unique twist to this program will be an integrative nursing focus interwoven throughout the curriculum. The proposed program has received positive reviews on campus and we are hopeful for a quick approval by all regulatory bodies. We anticipate a fall 2013 start date for the program with applications accepted in mid spring 2013.

We will keep you posted on the outcome of the fall meetings and look forward to seeing all of you sometime this year. Please keep us in your thoughts as you update contacts.



"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." -Mark Twain

Marla Erbin-Roesemann PhD, RN
Director, St. David's School of Nursing
Associate Dean, College of Health Professions

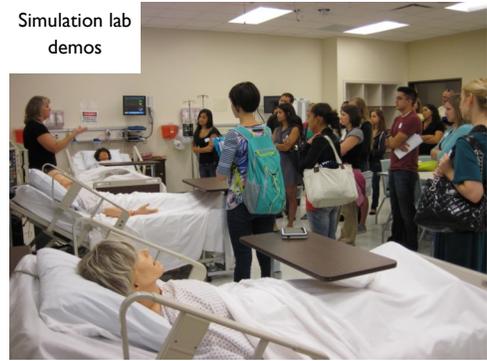
Welcome Class of 2014!

On August 23-24, the St. David's School of Nursing faculty and staff welcomed our third entering class of nursing students at New Student Orientation. Lynn Heimerl, Sheryl Gage and Maria Castillo, Nursing Admission and Retention Staff, did a wonderful job in organizing this event. Many thanks go to our senior class who played a big role in organizing and assisting with orientation.



Dr. Marla Erbin-Rosemann, Director, welcomes our new class of nursing students.

Simulation lab demos



Checking In



Making clinical ID badges



Cookout fundraiser for the next mission trip

Jason Yedias, BSN, RN, CMSRN and Tele-Med-Surg Educator at St. David's South Austin Medical Center, making a presentation on nursing skills and strategies and the workforce.



Student panel presentation and Q&A



How not to dress for clinicals—part of a dress code fashion show.

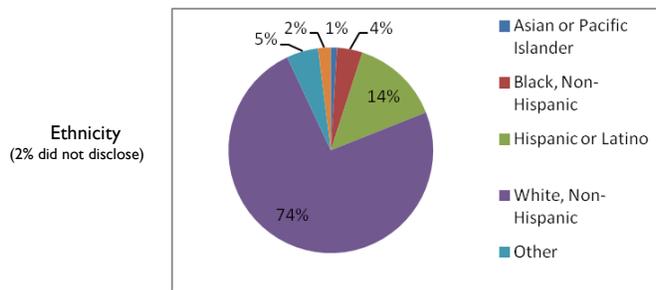
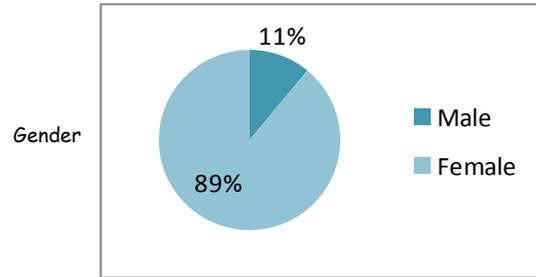
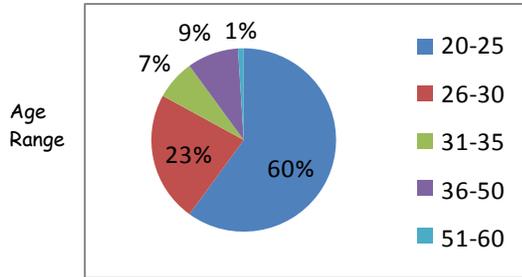


Thanks, Seniors, for all of your hard work!

See demographics of the Class of 2014 on the [next page](#)

Welcome Class of 2014! (continued)

New Student Demographics



New Equipment in the Simulation Labs



The St. David's School of Nursing has a new **MANikin** in the simulation lab. Harvey®, a full-size cardiopulmonary patient simulator, simulates nearly any cardiac disease at the touch of a button by varying blood pressure, pulses, heart sounds and murmurs. His features include 6 breath sound areas, 9 cardiac auscultation areas, 30 cardiac diseases, 12 digitally driven impulses and modifiable amplitudes and intensities. Harvey can be beneficial in all levels of education (undergraduate and graduate) within the Nursing Program. Harvey was created by Dr. Michael Gordon at the University of Miami in 1968 and has had many revisions in almost 40 years since its creation. Harvey is the longest continuous university-based simulation project in medical education.

(Information taken from Laerdal Medical's brochure)

Another new addition to simulation labs this fall is the introduction of the SimPad®. Previously, the VitalSim® capable manikins were controlled by a large remote and link box, but the St. David's School of Nursing was able to purchase the newest control unit from Laerdal Medical called SimPad. The SimPad features a large, intuitive touch screen design that allows the faculty to spend less time learning how to use the technology and more time teaching. In addition to the SimPad, new software has been installed to allow the touch monitors at the bedside to be interactive within the scenario. In past semesters, the monitor was just a video loop and did not change automatically with the interventions performed by the students. All VitalSim Manikins (Nursing Anne, Nursing Kelly, Nursing Kid, Nursing Baby) will be able to use the same SimPad controller and link box.



Nursing Faculty Explores Care of Patients with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) in Medical-Surgical Settings

Mrs. Cynthia Zolnierek, Assistant Professor in the St. David's School of Nursing, is investigating the experiences of patients with severe mental illness (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression) who are hospitalized in medical-surgical settings for nonpsychiatric conditions.

Why are you interested in this research?

Although my clinical specialty is psychiatric nursing, the second half of my nursing career was in nursing administration and my last hospital position was director of patient care services in which I was responsible for inpatient services, primarily medical-surgical. On the med-surg units, I saw nurses struggle with caring for the "difficult" patient—the patient with behaviors the nurse was uncomfortable with, and often the patient who had a comorbid psychiatric condition. The staff nurses I worked with desperately wanted to provide excellent care but were uncertain as to how to accomplish this and often felt frustrated. As I delved into the literature, I discovered that indeed, nurses tend to have a negative attitude toward patients with mental illness hospitalized in nonpsychiatric settings at least in part due to their own discomfort in caring for such patients. I also learned that patients with comorbid mental health conditions tend to have more adverse events, longer lengths of stay, and greater costs of care (even when controlling for other factors such as severity of illness). Since nurses are known to have a significant effect on clinical outcomes of hospitalized patients, I believe there is an opportunity to improve care and outcomes for this patient population through a better understanding of the patient's care experience. Some interventions, such as psychiatric consultant liaison nursing, have been implemented without measurable results (no change in patient outcomes, although nurse and patient satisfaction is positive). While the literature describes nurses' difficulties and poor patient outcomes, there is no mention of the patient's perspective. So that is what my research looks at. I

am using a qualitative approach, interpretive phenomenology, to investigate the lived experience of nonpsychiatric hospitalization for persons with severe mental illness. I am interviewing individuals who have a severe mental illness and who have been hospitalized on a medical-surgical unit for nonpsychiatric conditions.

What has your research shown thus far?

It is early in my data analysis process, as I will be analyzing each interview to look for themes and then look across interviews to see what themes emerge (of course, that is an ultra simplistic description of method). Thus far, listening to the patient, ensuring consistency and continuity of medications (medication reconciliation), and valuing the patient as a person, seem to be important themes.

What are some of the negative treatments experienced by patients in a medical setting?

Interestingly, the individuals I have interviewed sincerely want to cooperate and participate in their care—even during uncomfortable and difficult procedures and treatments. However, they feel unable to do this when things are not explained to them, when they are not listened to (e.g. "something is wrong"), when they perceive that healthcare professionals see the mental illness and not the person. I have been somewhat surprised that the patients I have spoken with generally speak very highly about the care they received, even though several of them experienced post-surgical delirium and required restraints—they believed that staff were responding to keep them safe.

Do you anticipate your research findings being applied by medical facilities?

I do hope that what I learn from individual patient experiences can help us (nurses) consider what we do and what we may need to do differently to better provide person-centered care for this patient population. The literature indi-



Cynthia Zolnierek, MSN, RN

cates that up to 50% of patients hospitalized in non-psychiatric settings may have a mental illness. Understanding special needs can inform how we personalize care.

Upon the anticipated completion of her research this fall, Ms. Zolnierek hopes to offer recommendations to medical facilities to help improve their interactions with these patients.

Faculty Spotlight on Regina Jillapalli, MSN, RN, FNP, Clinical Assistant Professor



"Ms. Jillapalli is an amazing teacher. She expects a lot from herself and so, in turn, she expects a lot out of her students. She has the utmost respect for humanity and provides encouraging

words around every corner to keep her students positive. She has an amazing talent in teaching by providing real life stories that literally take the breath away from all of us." This student perhaps unknowingly discovered the catalyst for why Regina Jillapalli, Clinical Assistant Professor in the St. David's School of Nursing, entered the nursing profession. Both of her parents were physicians in India, where they would share stories with their children about their hospital mission work. They captured Mrs. Jillapalli's interest in a way that led her to choose healthcare as a profession, temporarily sidelining her from her first love—teaching. Knowing that she did not want to become a physician because of the amount of time she saw her parents devote to the profession, she decided that nursing would be a nice balance for what she wanted to do. Mrs. Jillapalli earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from the College of Nursing, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India. Upon graduation, she discovered that she could combine teaching with nursing, and returned to college to earn her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from Texas Tech University, then later a post-master's degree in Family Nurse Practitioner from West Texas A & M University.

The intertwining of nursing and teaching began in Surat, India, where she both taught nursing and worked as a nurse in a hospital setting. When she moved to the US, she taught at the Covenant School of Nursing in Lubbock, Texas. Mrs. Jillapalli and her husband then moved to the Austin area because he was offered a teaching position in the Department of Marketing in the McCoy College of Business Administration at Texas State University-San Marcos. While attending a faculty get together, her husband had a chance meeting with Dr. Marla Erbin-Roesemann, Director of the St. David's School of Nursing. When he mentioned that his

wife taught nursing, Dr. Roesemann suggested that she apply for a faculty position that was open in the School. Mrs. Jillapalli was offered the position as Clinical Assistant Professor in 2009, and was instrumental in developing course curriculum for what was to become the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at the St. David's School of Nursing. Her focus is in medical-surgical with an emphasis on adult health.

The first Nursing graduating class voted Mrs. Jillapalli as the "2012 Outstanding Faculty Member in Teaching", with some of those graduates honoring her by asking that she pin them at the Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Mrs. Jillapalli's modesty prevents her from highlighting her accomplishments, so we asked some of her students to share their feelings about her as a teacher.



"I appreciate that she gives us real world examples based upon her clinical experiences to emphasize the nurse's role in patient care. She's a tough cookie to crack, but one can tell she genuinely cares about the quality of education and clinical experiences her students receive."



"I can tell Ms. Jillapalli truly cares for her patients from the stories she tells about them in class. If she didn't, she could never remember so many of them. That's not the only way I can tell, though. Shortly before the beginning of the semester last January, my mother became seriously ill. Two weeks later, in the middle of the second week of classes, she passed away. It was a very stressful time. When I came back the following week, the first thing Ms. Jillapalli did when she saw me was to give me a hug. My first degrees were in math and engineering. Not a lot of hugs in that environment and I'm not the most "huggy" person myself. But it was just the right thing for her to do that day. If we could find the patients she's cared for, I'll bet they'd have just as many stories like that as she has about them."

"Mrs. Jillapalli is enthusiastic about teaching students, optimistic, and she's always positive. She pushes us as students to reach our full potential, and she's motivating us to succeed as nurses upon graduation. Her encouraging demeanor, respectful nature, and genuine interest in nursing education help me to want to succeed now and in the future."

"I think Mrs. Jillapalli is an inspirational individual. She's an exceptional educator, and is able to motivate her students to want to be exceptional nurses. She balances integrity, humility, and empathy in everything that she does, making her one of the most respected and admired instructors in the school of nursing. We always know where we stand with her, and that she wants the best for us."



"I truly believe having her as my clinical instructor has benefited me in multiple ways throughout my life. She is a true role model and someone I aspire to be like."

"I have had the privilege to have Ms. Jillapalli as both a clinical instructor and a didactic teacher. I feel so lucky because she is an amazing teacher. She knows so much and has a great way of helping us understand the things that are important when becoming a nurse. She cares so much about her students. I had an obviously rough day and she sent me an email that evening because she could tell something was wrong with me during class and wanted to make sure everything was ok, and if I needed anything to let her know. That meant so much to me. The Texas State School of Nursing is so lucky to have Ms. Jillapalli. This program is great, and she has a lot to do with that!"

When Mrs. Jillapalli is not teaching in the St. David's School of Nursing or clinical sites, she and her husband stay busy raising their two young sons.

Mrs. Jillapalli's advice to nursing students:

"Don't stop at just this level of nursing. Pursue higher levels of nursing education because it will open many more doors."

Faculty Appointments



Kim Belcik, PhD, RN-BC

Kim Belcik joins the St. David's School of Nursing as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Belcik earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. She graduated with a PhD in Nursing from the University of Texas at Austin, School of Nursing. Her research focuses on information literacy in registered nurses. Dr. Belcik has 10 years of teaching and nursing experience with a focus on adult medical-surgical nursing. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Texas Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association. Dr. Belcik currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Texas Nurses Association. Her area of teaching at Texas State University is undergraduate health assessment and nursing essentials.

Shawn Boyd was changed from an emergency hire to a regular Clinical Associate Professor position. Ms. Boyd's background includes 18 years of critical care experience. She was a CCRN for 17 years and is currently a CCRN Alumnus. She served as a charge nurse and preceptor for nurses with varied backgrounds and experience. As a preceptor, she discovered her love to teach nursing students. This desire to teach eventually led her to the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio where she received her Master's of Science in Nursing, qualifying her to serve as a Clinical Instructor for the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. There, she developed and taught a summer elective critical care course. Ms. Boyd remained at the University of Texas for approximately 7 years wherein she became proficient as a clinical instructor in both the clinical setting and simulation lab across the curriculum. In addition to teaching at the University, she taught for an NCLEX® review company and contributed to their course content development. This experience enhanced her teaching by making her especially aware of core concepts tested on NCLEX® exams. In her current position at Texas State University, Ms. Boyd works closely with students in the clinical setting where she strives to improve concept retention, organizational, prioritization, assessment and critical thinking skills.



Shawn Boyd, MSN, RN



Cynthia D. Zolnierrek, MSN, RN

Cindy Zolnierrek had a change in position from Clinical Associate Professor to an Assistant Professor tenure-track position. Ms. Zolnierrek received a BSN from Mercy College of Detroit, a MSN in adult psychiatric/mental health nursing from Wayne State University, and is currently a doctoral candidate (ABD) at The University of Texas at Austin. In her 30 year nursing career, she has served as a clinical nurse specialist, chief nurse executive, and administrative director of patient care services in acute care hospital settings. She has taught at the graduate and undergraduate levels, directed nurse extern and new graduate programs, and coordinated academic affiliations for healthcare organizations. Most recently Ms. Zolnierrek participated in policy development in her role as director of practice with the Texas Nurses Association. She is a member of the American and Texas Nurses Associations, Southern Nursing Research Society, American Psychiatric Nurses Association, and Sigma Theta Tau. Ms. Zolnierrek's peer-reviewed publications focus on ethics, integrated healthcare, care of persons with severe mental illness (SMI), and nurse advocacy. Research interests combine Ms. Zolnierrek's clinical and administrative expertise to increase understanding of nonpsychiatric hospitalization of adults with SMI, highlighted on [page 4](#) of this newsletter. Additional research interests include hospital nurse staffing and patient outcomes, nurse advocacy, and integrated healthcare for persons with mental illness.

Students' Corner

A Letter from Ms. Erin McCracken, Nursing Senior and President of the Student Nursing Organization

The Student Nursing Organization (SNO) at Texas State was formed by the first nursing class in 2010 to offer service and community outreach opportunities to nursing students. During new student orientation last week, 98 new members joined making it the largest group in the organization's history! Additionally, our SNO chapter is now a national constituent in the National Student Nursing Student Association. I am confident this group will make a substantial impact on the community, as well as help students grow professionally. The first meeting will be held September 5th at noon, and free pizza will be served to all members. A flight nurse will be joining us as a guest speaker. This meeting is going to kick off a great year and I promise you won't be disappointed! I encourage those juniors and seniors who have not joined to sign up soon. SNO offers endless leadership opportunities and community service hours, all of which can help build a resume in a competitive job market. This year will be full of service activities, guest speakers and career building. Set yourself apart, join SNO!



Nursing Students Receive Nationally-Recognized Scholarships

Three of our Nursing seniors were selected to receive prestigious scholarship awards recently.



Cathryn "El" Burley was one of fifteen undergraduate students who received the 2012 American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA)

Janssen Student Scholarship, which pays for registration, travel, and lodging to attend their 26th Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, as well as a one-year membership to that organization. According to the APNA's 8/27/12 press release, this scholarship program "... recognizes outstanding graduate and undergraduate nursing students who have demonstrated a commitment to psychiatric mental health nursing [PMH], and seeks to foster their professional growth and development within the PMH nursing field." Ms. Burley stated that "winning the scholarship has been such an honor; this has renewed my excitement in finishing my BSN from Texas State University, and has affirmed

my desire for further graduate work in the FNP and psychiatric fields." She further states that she intends to share what she learns at the APNA conference with her classmates and faculty. "I hope to share my passion for providing access to psychiatric care with fellow students. Perhaps my passion will trickle down and someone else will find theirs as well."

Upon graduating, Ms. Burley plans to enroll in a graduate program. When asked what her career goals are, she stated that she would like "... to be able to perform outreach services for low-income and other areas that have limited access to psychiatric care in the Austin/Central Texas community, offering psychiatric services, including counseling, community resources, prescription management and hopefully, prescription assistance. There are so many areas that are unable to access psychiatric care, whether because of cost, cultural perceptions, or a general lack of psychiatric care. I want to become a link of communication and help increase

access and awareness of services."

Nursing seniors Whitney Milburn and Amanda Bazan both won scholarships through the National Student Nurses Association.



Whitney Milburn, one of seventeen winners of the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future Scholarships, sponsored by the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future:

How has winning this scholarship helped you?

This scholarship has helped me in a few different ways. First, I have gained confidence in myself and my ability to be successful in my endeavors. Applying for scholarships can be intimidating when competing against so many qualified applicants. I realized that I never would

Nursing Students Receive Nationally-Recognized Scholarships (continued)

have had this opportunity if it weren't for a little push, and you never know what you can achieve if you don't at least try. This scholarship has also allowed me to focus more on academics and my leadership role within the school. I have more time to devote to my studies and to my classmates/colleagues. I find I am not as stressed about finances and loans that are quickly adding up. I feel truly blessed to have been chosen as a recipient of this award.

What are your career plans after graduation?

I'm not exactly certain of my plans after graduation just yet, but I am excited to think about it (10 months)! I have always wanted to do pediatrics and have been leaning towards Pediatric Oncology nursing. I have also enjoyed working in the ICU where patient care is so complex and challenging. I am keeping an open mind and am faithful I will end up right where I should. I have truly been inspired by the professors and experiences I've had since beginning the program and have developed long term plans for my future: I plan to always be a patient advocate. I plan to continue to travel internationally and work with underserved populations. I want to further my education and eventually obtain a DNP or Phd in nursing. I want to always remember how I feel in school right now and maintain this passion for patient care and drive to lead. So, I guess you could say my career plans after graduation = change the world!



Amanda Bazan, one of two winners of the Mary Ann Tuft Scholarships sponsored by the Foundation of the National Student Nurses Association, Inc.:

How has winning this scholarship helped you?

Winning this scholarship helped me pay off some of the credit I had to take out for school books and reduced the amount of financial aid I needed to pay for school. Receiving this scholarship

has also made me feel more confident when applying for other, not as well known, scholarships.

What are your career plans after graduation?

After graduation, I hope to secure a job in the ICU of a hospital here in Austin. I am also in the process of applying for RN residency programs such as the Versant program at Seton. You can never have enough knowledge. After gaining a couple years of experience as a RN, I plan to apply to Grad school and pursue a MSN and become a general nurse practitioner.

For those students interested in learning about nursing student scholarship opportunities, visit our website: <http://www.nursing.txstate.edu/enteringclass/resources/>

What has been the most memorable experience you've had since enrolling in the St. David's School of Nursing?

El Burley: *My most memorable experience has been more of an amalgamation of ventures; clinical experiences throughout the semesters, working with faculty and students, being actively involved in extracurricular activities for the school, and traveling to Peru with Dr. Arevalo-Flechas and four other students.*

Amanda Bazan: *The most memorable moment of nursing school so far has been taking a trip to Peru and providing nursing care to the less fortunate. I hope to experience this many more times during my career as a nurse.*

Whitney Milburn: *I have had many memorable experiences since enrolling in the school of nursing; it is difficult to narrow it down to just one. I LOVED having the opportunity to serve others and learn about diversity in nursing while traveling to Peru. I would also have to say being part of many "firsts" has been especially memorable - the First Annual Paws for a Cause 5k and the first pinning ceremony specifically. It was really awesome to see so many of my classmates collaborate and support the school of nursing and the Class of 2012!*

Nursing Faculty/Staff Achievements

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Kathleen Menasche, Clinical Assistant Professor, successfully defended her dissertation in her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program on August 24, 2012. Her dissertation is entitled, "Collaborative Practice between Certified Nurse-Midwives and Obstetricians and the Factors Involved in Working Together to Normalize Childbirth: An Integrative Review". **Congratulations, Dr. Menasche!**

Ms. Rhonda Ward, Clinical Assistant Professor, was chosen to receive the Jacqueline M. Niedert award. This award is given by the Saint Louis University School of Nursing to one student enrolled in their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program who is in good academic standing.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Dr. Lyda Arevalo-Flechas, Assistant Professor, gave a presentation entitled, "Caregiving Through the Eyes of Hispanic Caregivers," during the Sigma Theta Tau International's 23rd International Nursing Research Congress on August 3, 2012. Brisbane, Australia.



Ms. Marylyn Kajs-Wyllie, Clinical Associate Professor, gave a one-hour presentation to the St. David's Cardiac Support Group on July 17th. Her presentation, "Identification of Risk Factors for Stroke Prevention", included a test on the hypertension IQ of the cardiac survivors in attendance as well as lifestyle changes and preventative measures.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Lyda Arevalo-Flechas, Assistant Professor, is a co-author of a manuscript accepted for publication in *Qualitative Health Research*. The manuscript focuses on the experience of caregivers of relatives with spinal cord injuries.

Ms. Cynthia Zolnierek, Assistant Professor:

Zolnierek, C. D. & Clingerman, E. M. (2012). A medical-surgical nurse's perceptions of caring for a person with severe mental illness. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, 18(4) 226-235.

SERVICE

Dr. Lyda Arevalo-Flechas, Assistant Professor, is a volunteer nurse and mentor for Youth in Action (YIA) 2012. YIA is a Texas Partners of The Americas leadership, community service learning, and cultural exchange program for outstanding youth. They are selected on the basis of academic achievement, demonstrated leadership and community involvement, or excellence in extracurricular activities. Six youth from Texas, six from Viña Vieja, Peru, and a group from Chiclayo, Peru were part of the program. Our 2012 crew of nursing students

provided CPR training to the Viña Vieja teenagers in late May during our trip. These trained youth had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and teach others during YIA 2012. In addition, the youth completed two projects initiated by the nursing students. The Viña Vieja clinic pediatric room has a new face thanks to the coordinated effort of nursing students and these outstanding teenagers.



Nursing Director and Faculty

See page 6 of this newsletter to read about recent faculty appointments.

Nursing Alumni Updates

MAY 2012 Class

Kay Bobbitt, BSN 2012 I successfully passed the NCLEX on my 1st attempt with 75 questions! I am proud to finally put RN, BSN behind my signature. Currently, I am employed on a medical unit at Good Shepherd Medical Center in east Texas. (7/3/12)

Matthew Frank, BSN 2012 Pleased to announce that, thanks to St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State and hard work, I am "Matthew Frank, RN, BSN". I am working at the St. David's Medical Center in the ICU as a staff nurse, and will be enrolling in the SNAP Fellowship later this year. Thank you for your investment into my future, Texas State. (7/12/12)

Emily Gallia, BSN 2012 Since graduation, I am very excited to say that I am now a very proud member of the Scott & White Healthcare team! I now have started my career at the Scott & White main hospital in Temple, Texas, and will be working in the Neonatal ICU for the next two years. I will be moving to Temple as well so I can get the full experience of living in the community and being a part of all of the hospital's social events. Scott and White has impressed me on so many levels and I'm only on week two of working! I am honored to

work with their amazing physicians, nurses, and staff, and I'm looking forward to growing as a nurse in their facility. I am very excited for my future and blessed to be in this wonderful profession! (7/7/12)

Samantha Gifford, BSN 2012 I just had my first day of orientation. I have been hired at a hospital called Maine General. It is located in Waterville, Maine and Augusta, Maine. I have been hired in this new graduate program called Shine. I will be doing a 3 and 1/2 month internship in the float pool at two different hospitals. I will be training in the OR, Telemetry, Med-Surg, ICU and other units that have not been listed yet. It is a smaller hospital, so great for learning. I can wear any scrubs I want, so I get to go crazy! Everyone here seems really welcoming and nice. I will be starting in the OR next week. I am so excited to finally get started, but it will be one stressful year. They are building a brand new hospital, so most of the staff, including me, will transfer over next fall. Since I was in the first [nursing] class, I might as well keep the trend and be part of the new hospital. Hope everyone's summer was great! When the snow starts to fall and when I am shoveling my driveway, I will be jealous of everyone in Texas. Have a great year! (8/21/12)

Maria Gomez, BSN 2012 I started working on June 18th at Scott and White Children's Hospital in Temple in the Pediatric ICU. I am an intern, and I will not be on my own as a staff nurse until October. I learn something new every-day! Being a new nurse is challenging, but so rewarding when I know that I've helped a child and their family. (8/24/12)

Sara Tallon Green, BSN 2012 Accepted a position in the OR at Scott & White Hospital in Llano. (7/18/12)

Sely Hartanti, BSN 2012 I am currently working at the St. David's Medical Center Rehabilitation Hospital. (7/20/12)

Calling on all St. David's School of Nursing grads! Please tell us about any exciting news that you'd like to share with your fellow alums, former faculty, and readers of this newsletter. Just click on the button below to fill out an online form, or visit our website at: www.nursing.txstate.edu/Alumni.html

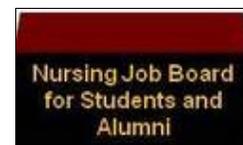


Are you a "Facebooker"?

If so, please join the 554 (and counting) people who "like" our "St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University" facebook page. It's another great way to stay in touch, see photos, and learn about the latest happenings at our school and with our students and alums.

Looking for a Job?

St. David's School of Nursing has created a job board for nursing students on its Web site to post job announcements received from prospective employers. Click on the button on the right to see what career opportunities may await you!



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

ROUND ROCK CAMPUS

The rising STAR of Texas

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Our Mission

The St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University educates and prepares graduates, using innovative teaching strategies and state-of-the-art technology. Graduates provide ethical, safe, and effective patient-centered care and contribute to present and emerging research and health management practices. Graduates demonstrate competence as critical thinkers who effectively collaborate as members of the interprofessional healthcare team and utilize scientifically-based interventions. As caring professional nurses, graduates manage illness; promote, maintain, and restore health; and provide end of life care for diverse individuals, families, populations, and communities across the lifespan.

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