Hello everyone! As I sit and contemplate over the past few weeks, I am drawn to my most favorite poem by Rudyard Kipling called IF.

“If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breath a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run -
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man my son!”

This poem may not resonate with you as much as it does for me, but I wanted to share it with all of you as a poem of inspiration. I also wanted to express my gratitude to the new chapter board members and the old guard who have sacrificed their time and energy to help maintain Alpha Xi as one of the premier chapters in the region. Thanks to the strong economic foundation of the Chapter we were able to send
a large contingent of officers to the 41st Biennial Convention. This is one the most rewarding and spectacular conferences I have ever attended. The pageantry, the presentations, the international exchange and the volunteerism was wonderful to see.

The chapter also participated in “The Promise of Nursing for South Carolina” fund; raising gale and celebration of nursing sponsored by Johnson and Johnson to help foster scholarship opportunities through the state and at various levels of nursing education. Up and coming this month is the annual visit from In-Holland University and the Graduate students who attend clinical activities and the Mary Ann Parsons lectureship while they are here. Invitations have been sent out to our next cohort of potential inductees and the Induction Ceremony will take place on March 18th at 2pm in Room 231 of the Williams Brice CON building.

The election of new officers for various board positions and committees will be forth coming. We all look forward to the presidential rein of Eileen Leaphart, who will do a marvelous job, with the support of the membership. Please get involved and help your chapter in any way you can. Be assertive and let us know what we can do to help you get involved.

So until we meet again, as they say in St Thomas, “have a nice day”.

David.

Mary Ann Parson Lectureship

This year’s presentation of the Mary Ann Parson’s Lectureship was brought together conjointly with Alpha Xi and with the CON Center for Nursing Excellence. The theme of the day was; The charge to move forward: Empowering nursing through innovative education, research and increased scope of practice. Keynote speakers Dr. Sandra Radar and Dr Melanie Shatzer from the University of Pittsburg Medical Center (UPMC) Health System’s and the University of Pittsburg Scholl of Nursing (UPSN) spoke on the importance of academic and service provider partnerships in the education of nurses and our future health care work force.

Additional podium speakers took on an international flare and included speakers from the Netherlands, other podium speakers included graduate faculty from the college of nursing. The community was very well represented with partners from the VA and notably one of the college’s baccalaureate students took to the podium and did a wonderful presentation. Poster presentations came from graduate students from here and the Netherlands. We were also fortunate to have undergraduate students participate in the poster presentations.

Alpha Xi was honored to have Dr Mary Ann Parsons in attendance and we as a chapter will continue to strive for excellence in the delivery of this lectureship. We hope that this effort will help maintain the legacy of Dr Parsons.
In October 2010, the Institute of Medicine issued the landmark report -- "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health." This seminal work calls upon nurses at the individual, agency, local, state, regional and national levels to participate in the most sweeping and dramatic leadership roles we have ever been charged to assume, as the direction of health and healthcare delivery in this country is fundamentally reconfigured. The University of South Carolina's College of Nursing in Columbia -- home to the Alpha Xi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International -- serves as our state's flagship nursing program. It is here that our faculty, staff, students and alumni are already engaged in creating the profession's exciting future.

The IOM Report recommends a nursing workforce with minimum of 80% prepared at the baccalaureate level and a doubling of the current numbers of doctoral prepared graduates. These increases are required in order to address the state and national need for a shift toward preventive care, higher demands for primary care providers and the continued demands for acute care nurses and nurse faculty members. The USC College of Nursing has doubled the undergraduate enrollments over the past seven years -- successfully graduating over 220 new pre-licensure nurses annually. The graduate programs include advanced nurse practice education at the master's level and the Doctorate in Nursing Practice, with robust enrollments in both and superb certification exam pass rates.

The Future of Nursing report forecasts the need for continued and expanded nursing research, which is supported at this College of Nursing through the research faculty and PhD program. Three core areas of research are identified at the USC CON - The Center for Breast Cancer Research, Dr. Sue Heiney, Director; The Center for Health Systems Safety and Effectiveness Research, Dr. Rita Snyder, Director; and The Center for Vulnerable Populations Research, (national recruitment for director underway). Faculty and doctoral students work together in intra-disciplinary teams across these foci to expand the knowledge base for practice and an aggressive tenure track faculty recruitment campaign into each of these research core areas is underway.

States having designated nursing workforce offices are recognized nationally by the IOM Report team -- represented by the Center to Champion Nursing at AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. South Carolina has the Center for Nursing Workforce Research, led by Dr. Peggy O. Hewlett, Director. This Center coordinates requests for information on the status of the nursing workforce around the state and is primarily funded by the College of Nursing and through a sub-contract with MUSC by the Duke Foundation. Expansion of the Center is a College priority.

The need for continual leadership development throughout ones nursing career is a primary thread in the IOM Future of Nursing report -- as well as a tenet of Sigma Theta Tau membership qualifications. The Center for Nursing Leadership provides opportunities for individuals, groups, and organizations to become actively involved in shaping the health and healthcare of the future.
Dr. Eileene Shake is the Director of the Center and oversees the SC One Voice One Plan AARP Action Coalition’s Future of Nursing Implementation Plan. The Amy V. Cockcroft Fellowship is one of the only individually-designed leadership development programs in the Southeast with a success story of sending forth nurse leaders for almost two decades. A sophisticated online continuing education program is in the development phase where every nurse can gain personalized leadership skills at his/her own pace.

Since its inception in the 1940’s and national accreditation in 1957, more than 6,500 nurses have graduated from this College of Nursing. In 1966, under the dedicated leadership of Dean Amy V. Cockcroft, our College founded Alpha Xi as the 36th Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, and to date, Alpha Xi has inducted over 1700 nurses. From the classrooms in the McCutchen House to the halls of the Williams Brice Building, USC nurses -- many of who are Alpha Xi members -- continue to be a powerful leadership influence across our state, our nation, and our world.

10th Annual SC Nursing Excellence Conference

Program Overview

Come join us on March 29, 2012 for the South Carolina Nursing Excellence Conference – Growing and Sustaining Excellence – at the South Carolina Hospital Association in Columbia.

This year’s conference will explore the Institute of Medicine’s report “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” which provides recommendations addressing how nurses can take a leadership role in improving the healthcare system and the delivery of care in the United States. Attendees will learn about the South Carolina One Voice One Plan Future of Nursing Action Coalition, which is leading the development of an implementation plan for the IOM’s future of nursing recommendations for South Carolina. During the reception an outstanding South Carolina nursing leader will be recognized and poster winners will be announced.

Conference Information

Conference Early Bird cost is $60 which includes all materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and the awards reception. You must register by March 2, 2012 to receive this Early Bird special. After March 2, 2012, the cost will be $70.

If you are a planning committee member or poster presenter, the cost for registration will be $45. Please register and select this reduced rate.

Registration can be completed online through two options: 1) register online and pay with credit card or bank account; and 2) register online and mail in check separately. Visit www.scahec.net to register.
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Mary Ann Parson Lectureship
Sigma Theta Tau International
Alpha Xi Chapter
University of South Carolina

2012 Calendar (Spring/Summer)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject of Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Speaker Meeting* - Restaurant TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>Mary Ann Parsons Lecture, Columbia Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2-11</td>
<td>InHolland Student Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Induction Ceremony &amp; Reception Rm. 231 CON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>SC Nursing Excellence Conference – SCHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Election - Ballot Mailing (e-mailing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Leadership Intern Applications Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Speaker Meeting* - Restaurant TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Palmetto Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Annual Business Meeting * - Location TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Transition Board Meeting* - Location TBD</td>
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Board meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month
at 5:30 PM – Room 508 College of Nursing
Mary Ann Parson Lectureship
Mary Ann Parson Lectureship
The Center for Nursing Leadership in the College of Nursing at the University of South Carolina is continuing to go through metamorphosis as it transforms to meet the needs of future nurse leaders in the state of South Carolina (SC), regionally, and nationally. Some very exciting events have occurred in the Center since last year. In July 2011 the Center for Nursing Leadership hosted the SC One Voice One Plan (OVOP) Executive Committee meeting with members from across the state attending. At that time the OVOP Consortium voted to house the consortium in the SC Center for Nursing Leadership. At this meeting the OVOP Executive Committee was asked if they would support the SC Center for Nursing Leadership and the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) to apply to become the SC OVOP Future of Nursing Action Coalition. The committee agreed to support this initiative.

The Center and SCHA submitted a request for application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to become the SC OVOP Future of Nursing Action Coalition. In September 2011 the Center and SCHA was selected by RWJF to be the Future of Nursing Action Coalition for the state. The Action Coalition is now composed of four taskforces who are developing implementation plans for specific Institute of Medicine Recommendations for the future of nursing. The coordination of activities for the action coalition is being handled by the SC Center for Nursing Leadership and SCHA. In the fall the SC OVOP Future of Nursing Action Coalition plans to host a leadership summit which will be the Action Coalition kick-off. Continue to visit the SC Center for Nursing Leadership website to watch for information on this exciting event.

Additional activities in the Center include the 2011 Viana McCown event which had a new format catering to alumni and faculty. It was a big success and we plan to continue with this format in 2012. A meeting with the national faculty for the Amy V. Cockcroft Fellowship was held to plan the redesign of the fellowship program in order to meet the changing needs of nurse leaders. The program redesign will elevate and expand the leadership learning experience to attract a regional and national audience. Stay tuned to our website for updates on the redesigned Amy V. Cockcroft Fellowship Program.

We have some personnel changes in the Center. Dr. Maggie Johnson has come onboard as the new Office of Healthcare Workforce in Nursing Research (OHWRN) coordinator. Dr. Johnson has been working on developing a survey that will go out to the hospitals in
South Carolina to collect nursing workforce data. The OHWNR is getting busier each day as nurse leaders from across the state look for nursing data. Dr. Eileene Shake is now the Director for the Center. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Shake are currently seeking grant funding to support growing the Center to add additional personnel.

A new four tier leadership model is currently under development in the Center. Our first module is ready and is titled, *Enhancing Leadership Skills Through Self-Awareness*. Leaders can learn about both their emotional intelligence and their leadership style. We encourage you to take some time to visit our website and explore completing this module. You will be provided with CE’s after completing the module. We also have another module that is currently being beta tested and the title of this is *Reclaiming Your Voice and Influence Through Writing: Developing Grant Writing Skills*. This module will be available in the near future after the beta testing is complete.

In summary as a nation and in the profession of nursing we are being asked to re-think how we provide health care, where we provide care, and how we educate providers. Nurse leaders will play a key role in facilitating these changes and one of the goals for the Center is to serve as a catalyst for change. The center staff will accomplish this by working with nurse leaders across South Carolina and the country to establish taskforces to address the future demand for highly qualified nurse leaders. The Center for Nursing Leadership will also offer cutting edge educational classes to develop our future leaders so they have the knowledge necessary to lead the way. As you can see the SC Center for Nursing Leadership is going through a metamorphosis in order to accomplish the above goals and will transform into the future SC Leadership Center of Excellence.