News Briefs

Read all about it!

Discover touching stories from present-day clinicians, nurses' experiences during World War II, and the critical experiences during World War II. Read about present-day care in one of our new Nurse Stories, Nursing Difference: Stories from the Point of Care, available by calling 1.888.634.7575.

An online discussion featuring Making a Difference: Stories from the Point of Care is scheduled for January 19 at 1 p.m. EST. Log on to share your stories and discuss the book with author Sharon Haddock.

Context to feature evidence-based practice

Nursing evidence-based practice not only leverages better outcomes for patients but also saves themselves time and stress. Sigma Theta Tau International and Nursing Spectrum are sponsoring Innovations in Clinical Excellence, a contest designed to recognize successful evidence-based projects. Details will be posted at www.nursingsociety.org.

“Nurses” premiere

On Monday, Dec. 8, 2003, the Discovery Channel premiers its documentary titled “Nurses.” Filmed at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, this documentary is divided into five one-hour segments. Different types of nursing will be featured, including oncology, pediatric, neonatal, psychiatric and ED/ICU.

International awards deadline approaches

April 15 is the deadline for nurses to submit applications for the 12 international awards to be presented during the biennial convention in November. For details, visit www.nursingsociety.org.

STAFF
Nancy Dickens-Ihazard, RN
Publisher
Kathy Berntsen
Managing Editor
Amy Wicks
Editor
Marlene Ruiz
Editorial Advisor
Linda Carter
Editorial Assistant
Rachael McLaughlin
Advertising

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS
Cynda Hylton Rushton
Kathleen Hartman Sabatier

Connecting nurses worldwide

Nurse experts answer career questions

Kansas City Best Practices
projects advance nursing education

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

EXCELLENCE in Clinical Practice

nursingsociety.org

First Quarter 2001 Volume 2, Number 1

Nursing’s untapped source

By Marlene Ruiz

Certainly, they are in the minority. The Department of Health and Human Services and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing report the percent of males in the nursing profession ranges from 5.4 to 7.4 according to 1996-1997 data. With the nursing shortage continuing to grow, discovering why so many choose to pursue a nursing career could help uncover how to reach this untapped source of new professionals.

Why nursing?

Despite being so outnumbered by women, male nursing students often cite a positive role model who significantly impacted their decision to choose nursing. James Manz, a senior at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California, has a mother who is a nurse and a father who is a physician. “I chose to follow in my mother’s footsteps because nursing is more hands-on and closer to the patient,” Jordan Lee, also at Azusa Pacific, commented that he originally considered medical school, but chose nursing instead. Soon to graduate with a BSN, Lee indicated advanced education is probably in his future. Today, however, he enjoys the hands-on experience with patients that he would have missed had he gone to medical school.

Men are often drawn to nursing as a second career. Bill Latimer, RN, from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, having been outsourced from the previous job said, “I needed something more than a paycheck. The nursing field has given me just that, many times over.”

What do people think?

In the media, there is often a negative stereotype, which can be counterproductive in the recruitment of more men into nursing. How do men in nursing feel about the stereotypes? Luther Bogardt, RN, a staff nurse at Loma Linda VAMC, stated that stereotypes don’t bother him. He points to his good job and the ability to find another one where the salary is also good. “Others should think seriously about that!” Just like many women in the profession, men in nursing often report receiving tremendous encouragement from friends, family and colleagues and sincerely feel that their choice to pursue nursing is a positive one.

Palliative care: One vision, one voice

By Cynda Hylton Rushton and Kathleen Hartman Sabatier

As members of the nursing profession, we seek ways to improve the quality of life for our patients throughout their life spans, whether that life is just beginning or entering its last phase. One of the ways that nursing can accomplish this end is by taking the lead in advocating for quality palliative care.

Traditionally, palliative care has been associated with the alleviation of suffering in patients in the phases of terminal illness, death and with the anticipatory care associated with the end-of-life phase. In December 1997, the Last Acts Palliative Care Task Force, made up of nurses, doctors, social workers, ethicists and others, published this definition of palliative care:

Palliative care refers to the comprehensive management of the physical, psychological, social, spiritual and existential needs of patients. It is especially suited to the care of people with incurable, progressive illnesses... The goal of palliative care is to achieve the best possible quality of life through relief of suffering, control of symptoms and restoration of functional capacity while remaining sensitive to personal, cultural and religious values, beliefs and practices.

If this seems like a tall order, nurses need only recall the essence of their profession, a commitment to provide comprehensive, humane, compassionate care and support to patients and their families across the life span. If we, as nurses, become diligent in emphasizing the need for quality palliative care, we can change the culture of health care. First, however, we must educate ourselves, unite, organize and help build an infrastructure that will focus on patient- and family-centered care, pain and symptom management, and the art of humane caring.

Palliative care seeks to improve the quality of life for patients.

To that end, the Institute for Johns Hopkins Nursing created the Nursing Leadership Academy in End-of-Life Care to carry forward the nursing agenda set out by the Nursing Leadership Consortium on End-of-Life Care. Last September, leaders from 22 organizations, including Sigma Theta Tau International, immersed themselves in a five-day effort to develop plans to advance the field of palliative care. Together, these organizations represent more than 463,000 nurses. By the end of the five days, participants saw clearly that if nurses spoke with one voice on this critical issue, palliative care could be transformed.

Academy participants took these plans back to their organizations, which responded by committing time, money and expertise to galvanizing their memberships and informing the public about the options for minimizing the symptoms that accompany chronic illness and maximizing opportunities to live the last phase of life with greater peace and independence.

Nurses are powerful messengers—if we embody one vision and speak with one voice, we can bring palliative care out of the shadows and into the light. And when the public receives, as it will for all of us, the care we give—and will eventually receive—will affirm life through to its completion.

The Task Force on Palliative Care, Last Acts Projects of Palliative Care, Chicago: Stewart Communications, December 1997 (www.lastacts.org).

Cynda Hylton Rushton, RN, DNSc, FAAN, is Assistant Professor of Nursing, Clinical Nurse Specialist in Ethics and Coordinator of the Pediatric Palliative Care Program at Johns Hopkins University and Children’s Center.

Kathleen Hartman Sabatier, RN, MS, is Director of the Institute for Johns Hopkins Nursing.
In connecting information on careers, education and research. Recently, Nursing Spectrum sponsored a survey of 3,000 RNs and discovered that 78 percent have Internet access—a nine percent increase from the previous year.

Sigma Theta Tau International has also seen Internet use on the rise through its Web site. Record numbers of nurses are logging on to www.nursingsociety.org for information vital to their careers and practices. In an online survey conducted between September 1999 and October 2000, a majority of members recorded their desire to have a membership directory, online journals and research, and a career center available on the Web site.

In response to the burgeoning demand for convenient, useful online information, Sigma Theta Tau International has developed these new offerings on its Web site. The member community of nurses

In January 2001, Sigma Theta Tau International premiers the Member Community—a group of services designed to promote interaction among members. Included in the community is the Directory of Nurse Leaders, a listing of all active members. It allows members to search password-protected contact information by name and state and network with colleagues. The Directory of Nurse Experts, a catalog of distinguished lecturers, writers and health care experts, is also available to all Web site visitors. Other services available through the Member Community include e-forum, which enables members to establish private news and discussion groups, and a chat service that provides a convenient opportunity for members to exchange ideas and research knowledge. A calendar is also included in the Member Community, featuring future Sigma Theta Tau International events.

Research a click away

In an effort to support nursing knowledge worldwide, Sigma Theta Tau International now provides the Registry of Nursing Research as a complimentary resource to both members and nonmembers, thanks to a generous grant from Indianapolis philanthropist Ruth Lilly. Located on the library page of Sigma Theta Tau International’s Web site, the Registry of Nursing Research is an electronic, searchable database containing more than 13,000 studies. All nurse researchers, including both members and nonmembers, are encouraged to register their research with the Registry. The process has recently been updated making it easier to use.

Beginning in March, members will also be able to access the Journal of Nursing Scholarship online. Members may opt to discontinue the printed version and review the online version exclusively, which will be available on the Web site two weeks earlier than the printed version’s delivery. E-mail member services at memserv@stti.iupui.edu if you would like to take advantage of this new service.

Want to use the library to research a topic but don’t know where to start? To help visitors discover all of the online information available through the library, the Library Search has been created. New members and nonmembers are able to use one search function to pull information from several different library resources, including the Registry of Nursing Research, the Literature Indexes and the Online Journal of Knowledge Synthesis for Nursing.

Mapping out your career

Sigma Theta Tau International has expanded CareerMap, its nursing career resource, in response to member requests for career information and job searches. A unique job search program will be added in early 2001, providing a candidate-focused and easy-to-use format at no charge to its users. Candidates will be able to search for jobs in a particular setting, such as a hospital or office, and by location with information as specific as a ZIP code or as broad as an entire state. E-mails will be sent to candidates when a new job is posted, and useful links, such as salary and moving calculators, are included on the site.

CareerMap continues to feature information helpful to nurses at any stage in their career. Whether it’s learning how to become a nurse, discovering how to change career paths within nursing, deciding on advanced education or planning a rewarding, active retirement, the CareerMap section of the Web site offers offers easy access to information vital to their careers.

Members profiled on the CareerMap Web page are also available to address specific career questions or concerns. Questions and responses may be published on the site or in a future issue of Excellence.

Education online

Continuing education credit for the busy professional is easy to earn with one of the peer-reviewed case studies found on the Sigma Theta Tau International Web site. Created to advance the clinical reasoning, decision-making and judgment of practicing nurses around the world, each case study is based on real-life situations, the latest practice information and current research. Authors and reviewers are members of Sigma Theta Tau International. Topics in development include breastfeeding, case management, delegation, infection control, legal issues, women’s health, genetics and more.

For the learner, the case study format provides an interactive learning experience with the opportunity to link to relevant Web sites. By participating in scheduled online chats or forums, authors and learners are brought together. These tools are available to both members and nonmembers.

For more information about the online continuing education program, contact Ruth Soper at 1.888.634.7575 or visit ContinuingEducation on the Web site, www.nursingsociety.org.

For more information about any of these new online services, contact Sandy Helderbrooks at 1.888.634.7575.

Nurse experts answer career questions

In response to member requests for career advice, five Sigma Theta Tau International staff members have stepped forward to share their experiences and knowledge. Linda Finke, Jeanne Floyd, Marge Pike, Barbara Robinette and Sue Wheeler, are available to answer your career questions by calling 1.888.634.7575 or via e-mail.

Linda Finke, RN, PhD

Member since 1979

Current position: Director of Professional Development Services.

Previous positions include professor and associate dean for graduate programs, clinical nurse specialist in child psychiatric nursing, editor and president of national organizations.

E-mail: lindaf@stti.iupui.edu

Jeanne Floyd, RN, PhD, CNE

Member since 1987

Current position: Director of Constituent Services.

Previous positions include clinical nurse specialist, head nurse, staff nurse and office nurse.

E-mail: floyd@stti.iupui.edu

Marge Pike, RN, EdD, CPNP

Member since 1973

Current position: Director of Organizational Services.

Previous positions include president of Grief Limited, Inc., associate dean for administration, hospice director, professor and nurse practitioner.

E-mail: pike@stti.iupui.edu

Barbara Robinette, RN, MSN

Member since 1997

Current position: Director of Constituent Services.

Previous positions include nurse educator, head nurse, staff nurse and office nurse.

E-mail: barbara@stti.iupui.edu

Sue Wheeler, RN, MSN

Member since 1981

Current position: Education and Research Coordinator.

Previous positions include clinical nurse specialist, associate director of medical/surgical department, nurse educator and staff nurse.

E-mail: wheeler@stti.iupui.edu

Recognition opportunities online

Looking for a way to build name recognition? Help support the future of nursing? Sigma Theta Tau offers exclusive Web page sponsorships that feature sponsors’ corporate name, logo and link in an uncluttered environment. This opportunity is being extended to organizations that help fulfill the society’s mission and vision.

The society’s Web site, www.nursingsociety.org, averages more than 110,000 views per month. It has become a focal point for our 125,000 active members, as well as for chapters and other health care professionals seeking excellence in nursing practice, education, administration and research.

Exclusive Web page sponsorships are available in monthly blocks beginning January 1, 2001. Sponsors can choose a specific page to feature their information, including the highly visible catalog of products & services, careers, education, chapters and what’s new of the Web site.

If your organization is interested in sponsoring a Web page, please contact Kathy Bemmiso via marketing@stti.iupui.edu, 1.888.634.7575 (U.S. and Canada) or +800.634.7575 (International) for more information.
Discover the new opportunities at www.nursingsociety.org

In the high-speed world of health care, connecting nurses with valuable, timely information is critical. That's why Sigma Theta Tau International is offering its members expanded online opportunities in 2001. Beginning with the premiere of the online Member Community in January, www.nursingsociety.org allows members to uncover a directory for networking; chat and forum features to share ideas with experts; and a calendar to view upcoming events.

New online features also make research more accessible to nurses through the Web site. The Registry of Nursing Research is now available to all nurses worldwide, and the Journal of Nursing Scholarship can be delivered to a member's inbox.

Members will also enjoy expanded career-building information that includes job search capabilities, resource materials and articles, and answers to specific career questions by nurse leaders.

To learn more about these new opportunities, visit us online at www.nursingsociety.org.
Kansas City Best Practices projects advance nursing education

In the fast-paced world of health care, nursing schools are faced with the challenge of preparing graduates for rapidly changing roles. To help meet the needs of nurse educators, four projects were launched in the spring of 1999 to develop national nursing teaching models.

The Kansas City Best Practices initiative was funded by Health Midwest, hoechst Marion Roussel (now aventis Pharmaceutical Foundation) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City. Awarded a total of $125,000, the projects are led by three education institutions. Sigma Theta Tau serves as the project coordinator.

Case Manager Course Demonstration Project

"Case management is going to be part of our systems; there's no doubt about that," said Kathy Fletcher, RN, PhD, of the University of Kansas Medical Center School of Nursing. "Our educational tool will help nurses practice the case manager role in a safe situation. It will also introduce them to resources that can help them—and their patients—in the future."

Led by Fletcher, the Case Manager Course Demonstration Project is an online, interactive tool designed to instruct nurses new to the case manager role. The practical, real-life case scenarios and resource management allow clinicians to learn valuable information and administrators to provide new staff the flexibility to learn at a convenient time.

The Med ID Demonstration Project

The Med ID Demonstration Project, led by Kim Tanka, RN, MSN, ARNP, partnered TMC-Behavioral Health Network with Central Missouri State University School of Nursing. Working closely with clients and many other sources, students recorded health information about clients. The information obtained was recorded in a database and used to create a Med ID card that displayed a personal photo, demographic information, health care contacts, medications, and mental and physical disorders.

"The process of creating the Med ID card enables clients to gain understanding about medications and mental illness," said Tanka. "It also develops staff, faculty and students' abilities to utilize computerized teaching tools for client education."

The Med ID project emphasizes the necessity of client education at the level of client understanding for clinicians and demonstrates how administrators can efficiently store and retrieve important information to improve collaboration and coordination of services.

Clinical Outcomes Demonstration Project

The University of Kansas School of Nursing and four clinical agencies partnered to educate nursing students in clinical outcomes research.

Led by Ann Kuckelman Cobb, RN, PhD, and Kristine Williams, RN, MS, students investigated information about the quality of health care services.

"Our project helps nurses evaluate the care they provide. It is instrumental in helping them identify strengths, weaknesses and areas to improve in achieving healthier clients," said Williams.

"Clinicians were excited about participating with the students and many were granted to find that the outcomes of the services they provide to at-risk populations resulted in positive client outcomes," Williams continued.

Collaborative Orientation

Now in the evaluation phase, the Collaborative Orientation Demonstration Project is led by Susan Fensch, RN, PhD, of Avila College. After regulatory standards from JCAHO, OSHA and Medicare were analyzed, an orientation curriculum model was developed for use by students, faculty and staff in a variety of health care settings.

"After the comparative review, issues that had not previously been addressed were consolidated into two new sections of the orientation manual: Patient's Rights and Professional Ethics section as well as a Policies and Procedures section," said Fench. The purpose was to provide guidance to nursing students in a clinical setting and encourage them to explore their institution's policies on these issues. This project equips students to be better prepared as employees, spend less time in agency orientation and use more time learning bedside nursing skills.

For more information about these projects, please contact Sue Wheeler at 1.888.634.7575.

Monthly Automatic Checking/ Credit Deductions Now Available!

Support nurses and nursing through monthly automatic checking or credit card deductions of $25 or more. You may apply your contributions to research grants, leadership activities, the electronic library, membership subsidies, annual operating expenses or our endowment for the future.

For more information, please see the pamphlet accompanying your 2001 renewal or contact External Resource Services at: 1.888.634.7575 or lbirmer@stti.iupui.edu.

NURSING'S UNTAPPED SOURCE

was a great one, totally supported by the people in their lives.

"Nursing is a good career that offers diverse professional opportunities and a way to give back to society," said Richard Smith, RN, MN, an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas College of Nursing. "As we are more successful at breaking down barriers, men will naturally enter nursing as a profession."

How do we recruit more men?

With the current nursing shortage and the increasing need for nurses, we need to be resourceful and not limit our recruitment. Just as women have a variety of careers to choose from, men now have the opportunity to consider professions that had not previously been addressed for women. Targeting students while still in elementary and middle school is one opportunity to attract young students to the profession. Because career counselors often don't have a solid understanding of the diverse and challenging opportunities for nurses, they aren't able to encourage nursing as a viable career choice for their students. Having registered nurses visit schools or present at career fairs in their uniforms with props is an excellent way to share the profession with students firsthand. Other strategies include proposing nursing as a second career option to adults and working closely with the media to include coverage of all nurses.

"It's healthy for a profession to have as many ideas and approaches as possible," says Smith. "Patients and student benefits from all nurses—both men and women—who are committed to excellence in their profession."

Marlene Rutz, RN, BSN, MA, is director of education and consulting services at Kaiser Permanente, San Diego, Calif.