Fall Newsletter December 2021 Edition

IOTA SIGMA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

President's Message from Dr. Lydia Garcia-Usry

I would like to welcome you to either your first newsletter or to a recurring time you are reading this newsletter. In either case, I hope this newsletter will give you some useful information. I started my presidency July of 2021 and I have been a member of Sigma since June 28, 2008. My hope is that you will be a member of Sigma for years to come.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Iota Sigma board since 2015, so I consider myself fairly new to the activities that a Sigma president must conduct to ensure a smooth running organization. However, I work with Iota Sigma board members who have several decades of experience, and I am well guided during my transition period.

This year marked the 46th Biennial Convention which was an opportunity for Sigma members and board members to meet and share ideas and plan out course of action for the next two years. This year we inducted Kenneth Dion PhD, MSN,MBA, RN, FAAN as our 34th Sigma president. His call to action is for our members and each chapter to *Be Bold*.

President Dion has further charged us to all focus our advocacy for the future by taking stock of our past, present and potential futures. President Dion has asked us to raise our collective voices of nursing to influence and inspire our populations who trust us, our leaders will be challenged to embrace a future different from the one we are headed toward. As nurses we are called to lead in three areas of education, research and models of care. Another message from President Kenneth Dion was the need to listen to our members as to how we can serve you. What I ask is that you allow us that privilege and tell us how we can serve you? How can you better serve your communities?

We have upcoming elections to our current board which include: **Vice President, Secretary, and Governance Chair.** If you are a student and would like to serve as an intern please let us know. I would like members (new and current) to help us serve you in capacities such as, mentoring in board leadership positions, fundraising, building an escape room, ideas for continuing education units, writing workshops, mentoring new graduates and building a forum for our military vets.

Let's **Be Bold** together, help me build a Sigma chapter that will serve you the best. Here is our Facebook information and our email address.

Check us out on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/IotaSigmaChapter/



Iota Sigma Chapter

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Your Prof	ile			

Websites iotasigma.sigmanursing.org (Company Website) sigmanursing.org (Personal Website)

thecircle.sigmanursing.org (Personal Website)

Email iotasigma@apu.edu

Sterma



Report of Sigma Theta Tau Biennium November 2021 By: Lydia Garcia-Usry, Iota Sigma Chapter President

The 46th Biennial was held virtually and in person in Indianapolis, Indiana, from November 6-10, 2021. This was an excellent opportunity for all Sigma members to enjoy and learn new ideas and research information as presented during the biennial.

Iota Sigma was honored with its 9th consecutive Chapter Key Award. This award recognizes your local chapter activities during a two year period of time. The award is announced at each biennial convention. The activities are based on membership recruitment and retention, chapter leadership and operations, communication and engagement and chapter service, awards and philanthropy.

During the Biennial convention plenary sessions are provided and each are inspiring and timely. The first

During the Biennial convention plenary sessions are provided and each are inspiring and timely. The first plenary session, President Richard Ricciardi gave us a look back by hosting a panel of 14 past Sigma presidents and 2 CEOs. The panelists looked back at their successes and accomplishments during their term in office. One question given to the panelists was what gave them joy. Finding time for oneself and mentoring our new nurses. This was very informative and gave me a sense of a

"can do" attitude and provided encouragement to not be afraid to at least try.

The second plenary session discussed the effectiveness of nutrition interventions across the continuum of care. I enjoyed listening to the research and how this may assist in the need for healthy food in a community. The last plenary session was focused on the fact that change is now the way of the world. The change that nurses in the 21st century need to be aware of to future-proof their careers with the use of technology. President Ric Richardi's call to action to Infuse Joy was throughout the Biennial. At the close of the Biennial. newly elected President Kenneth Dion's call to action Sigma members to Be Bold in all you do. President Dion has called us to be bold, to step outside our comfort zone and be prepared to take on challenges that we will encounter in our nursing journeys. President Dion reminds us that it remains our duty as professionals to advocate to abolish inequities within societies, healthcare systems, and even within our profession. Let's Be Bold!

Member Spot Light

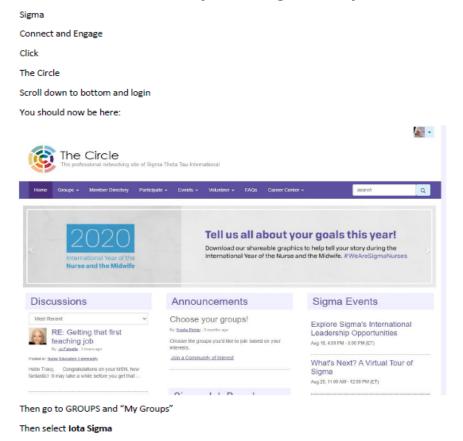




Dr. Pamela Cone recently (2019) co-authored a book in Norwegian and the book is selling very well across nursing schools in Scandinavia. It is based on "Open Journey Theory," which is a theory Dr. Cone and co-author Tove Giske developed through their Grounded Theory research among students and teachers. Both structured the book on their theory and chose the content, scenarios, reflections, theories, philosophies, and other elements together while in Norway.

The English version of the book is "The Nurse's Handbook of Spiritual Care." It is a little different because, while it is structured the same way, the audience is primarily American with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses and American nurse theories, etc. The book just got accepted by Wiley, as a 2021 publication. Congratulations to both Dr. Cone and Tove Giske on their accomplishments.

Instructions for Getting on to My Circle



The 2021 Sigma SoCal Odyssey Conference By: Jael Reiss RN, BSN High Desert Regional Campus Graduate



I had the privilege and honor to assist in the Sigma SoCal Odyssey this past December 2nd. As I recently graduated from nursing school, I have been an RN for three months working at the bedside. Furthermore, as a new grad I have been under a lot of pressure because I feel a lot of responsibility caring for others in a vulnerable condition while I learn how to be a nurse.

I am very thankful for this conference because it allowed me to connect with so many other wonderful nurses with a lot of experiences.

This conference allowed me to see the many opportunities that nursing as a career has to offer; one of them is the field of education and research. I was inspired by the different researchers presenting their findings while I was volunteering in this conference as a moderator for the research sections. This event opened my eyes about what it is to be a part of Iota Sigma members; as a member I have many opportunities to continue my education and use research as a tool to further global health. Likewise, I have the support of many wonderful nurses such as President Dr. Lydia Garcia who is now my mentor and thank you Kathleen Taylor for supporting new members such as me. I am looking forward for more opportunities to advance my career and as well as global health.

Publications By Our

Members

Bowden, V., & Schmus, C. (2021, January). Predictable consequences – How do we avert a pediatric nurse shortage? *Pediatric Nursing*, *47(1)*, *5-6*, *10*. http://www.pediatricnursing.net/issues/21janfeb/

Heinlein, C., & Westlake, C. (2021, April). Assessing knowledge and self-efficacy among nursing students to operate a diabetes behavior-change program in Kolkata, India. International Journal of Nursing Education and Research, 9(2), 167-174. https://www.doi.org/10.5958/2454-2660.2021.00041.7

Woods, D. L. (2021, July). Dementia & behavioral symptoms of dementia: Risk for the Latinx population. *Open Access Government, 96-98. https://*



Research Grants

Iota Sigma chapter provides financial assistance to members who are conducting investigations on phenomena relevant to nursing. Visit our <u>Iota Sigma</u> <u>website</u> for more details and for the application form. We will accept Spring applications through February 28th.

The 2021 Sigma SoCal Odyssey Conference

By: Alice Song RN, BSN High Desert Regional Campus Cohort

I had the pleasure of attending both days (12/02 & 12/03) of the 2021 Sigma SoCal Odyssey Research Conference as a student volunteer from the Iota Sigma Chapter. There were presentations about current research and poster exhibits that showcase new knowledge to influence positive health care changes. As a session moderator, I facilitated discussions by timing the presentations and providing a swift and efficient flow throughout the sessions.

Listening to the speakers helped me better understand how research is conducted in nursing. A group of presenters shared their research on "Point of care testing, Rescue Insulin, and Meals in 30 minutes" (PRIMe 30). They identified that poor coordination of blood glucose testing, insulin administration, and meal times could increase the risk of hypo/ hyperglycemia. Therefore, they created PRIMe 30 in their facility to ensure proper timing of care to prevent hypo and hyperglycemic. I learned from this presentation that nurses constantly identify problems, research, modify, and apply evidence-based interventions into clinical practice to ultimately improve patient outcomes. After every session, I have walked away with new knowledge that I could use in my nursing practice. It was exciting to speak with many researchers, nurses, and presenters passionate about their research topic and findings.

Towards the end of the conference, Dr. Garon shared a powerful imagery of Redwood trees. In her presentation of "Infusing Joy into Nursing in Difficult Times," she used the redwood tree to describe the support system of nurses. Redwood trees are known to be resilient yet have shallow root systems. These trees remain resilient by creating a vast network of intertwining root systems, making a solid foundation to hold each other up. I thought how fitting it was to hear this reference during a stressful pandemic in which healthcare professionals rely on each other's support. I hope this imagery resonated with you as much as it does to me.



Sigma membership is global and it is essential to think about one's impact in the community and international level. On the final day of the Odyssey conference, I was able to speak with Dania Itani Mousa from the Sigma Iota Eta Chapter out of Long Beach. She is with the Sigma Nursing Youth Representative to the United Nations. She stated that she wanted nurses to be a part of the table where people discuss health care decisions to address global health and share nurses' stories to address global health issues. It is fascinating how diverse the nursing profession is!!







2021 Odyssey

By: Dr. Marilyn Klakovich & Kathleen Taylor





After a year off due to COVID-19, on December 2 & 3, 2021 Iota Sigma Chapter of Sigma joined with 16 other chapters to present the 25th annual Odyssey conference for nursing at the Doubletree Inn in Ontario, CA. Over 200 nurses and students attended this valuable and educational conference one or both days to learn from the presentations and network with colleagues. The theme of the event was **"Year of the Nurse: Honoring Nursing Excellence."**

The first day keynote speaker was Susan Opas, PhD, RN. Susan was re-elected as the Region 2 Regional Coordinator for Sigma. She spoke about infusing joy in our research, practice and personal life. The closing speaker for day one was Kathy Falco, MSN, RN. She is a nurse entrepreneur who started her own business "Care Coordination by Kathy". Her talk focused on advocacy.

Day two started with a presentation by Renee Fininis, RN, PHN, MSN, NE-BC. Renee is the Chief Nurse Executive at Kaiser Permanente, Moreno Valley. In addition, Renee is President of the Executive Board for the non-profit community based organization, Michelle's Place Cancer Resource Center, Temecula. She spoke about leadership and the challenges of providing care to COVID-19 patients in an acute care setting and clients in a community based organization.

Dr. Lina Kawar and her team from Kaiser Permanente and Dr. Charlene Niemi did podium presentations. Poster presenters from Iota Sigma included Dr. Joy Smith who was awarded 3rd place in the Research category, and Dr. Cheryl Westlake who was part of two winning posters including 1rd place in the Research category and 2rd place in the Innovative category as well as Dr. Charlene Niemi, Dr. Lina Kawar, Dr. Ghada Dunbar, Dr. June Rondinelli, Dr. Dayna Holt, Dr. Anne Lama, & Dr. Teresa Dodd-Butera. Iota Sigma members Dr. Marie Fongwa, Dr. Cherry Indonto, Dr. Charlene Niemi, Christine Lee, MSN, Dr. Patricia Esslin, Dr. Lina Kawar, Dr. Ghada Dunbar, Jennifer Tran, Alice Song, and Jael Reiss served as abstract reviewers, poster judges, and volunteers at the event. In addition, there were various exhibitors who attended and their booths were popular with the attendees. Kathie Taylor hosted an exhibit table for Michelle's Place Breast Cancer Resource Center.

Kathie Taylor and Marilyn Klakovich represented Iota Sigma on the Planning Committee and coordinated the sponsors and exhibits. It is a tribute to the wonderful Odyssey Planning Committee for the outstanding conferences they hold each year and very fine coordination that makes it a valuable experience for nurses and the many students who attend.

Collaborating Chapters:

Gamma Gamma	Upsilon Beta
Iota Sigma	Zeta Mu at Large
Omicron Delta	Phi Alpha
Rho Beta	Phi Theta
Nu Mu	Phi Lambda
Gamma Tau at-Large	Psi Theta
Xi Theta	Chi Beta
Gamma Alpha	Chi Mu
Phi Pi	

Iota Sigma President, Dr. Lydia Garcia-Usry receives an honor from Azusa Pacific University

Dr. <u>Lydia Garcia-Usry</u> DNP, RN, PHN was recently honored by the office of the Provost with the Community Engagement Faculty Award for the community work in the High Desert

This award recognizes a full-time faculty member who has clearly integrated APU's Four Cornerstones—Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service—in ways that significantly contribute to the reciprocal partnership between APU and the public and private sectors. Candidates may be selected on the basis of community-engaged scholarship, community-based research, academic service-learning, work that addresses issues of social justice, advancement of the university's engagement in civic and democratic values, and efforts that inspire greater involvement in community engagement and service to others.



Sur Sur Sur Sur



Irene Christine Lee successfully defends her dissertation!

Doctor of Philosophy degree from APU

Her dissertation title was "Maternal Adaptation Strategies During Covid-19 Using Roy's Adaptation Model: A Comparative Secondary Analysis".



Introducing Dr. Teresa Dodd-Butera



SON Associate Dean of Research

My name is Teresa Dodd-Butera. I am a registered nurse and a board-certified toxicologist (Diplomate, American Board of Applied Toxicology/ DABAT). I serve at APU SON as a Professor of Public Health and Doctoral Programs. I am also serving in a new role this year: Associate Dean for Research. I hope faculty and

students will reach out to me for research opportunities and interests through our many academic and community partnerships. I serve in other leadership roles, currently and previously. I serve as the Director for the Randall Lewis Health and Policy Fellowship at APU SON. I also served in that position at my previous institution, CSU San Bernardino Department of Nursing. My other leadership roles there included serving as the Assistant Director of Nursing, the Coordinator of the Graduate Program, and the University Co-Director for the Center for Health Equity.

My educational background is varied, and a bit unique. My PhD is in Arts and Sciences, with a specialization in Molecular Toxicology and International Health. As an undergraduate, I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I hold two Master's degrees: my MSN is in Nursing Education; and I hold an MS in Public Health, with a concentration in Toxicology. I have worked in academia for 25 years, but held previous positions in the neonatal ICU, as a member of an Adult Code Team, and worked as a specialist in Poison Information (my introduction to toxicology) at poison centers in both Atlanta and San Diego.

My research focus includes acute and chronic exposures, with a special interest in maternal-child health and placental toxicology. My research investigations have examined the in utero and surrounding environments. For my graduate and doctoral work, I investigated biomarkers, placental glutathione-S-transferase (GST) genotypes, and birth outcomes from exposures to lead, cadmium, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons in obstetric populations in Baja California, Mexico. My proximity to the binational US-Mexico border affords me both opportunity and responsibility for promoting conditions for healthy mothers and babies, and a healthy environment. In my view, nurturing and sustaining an environment for healthy offspring is essential for survival of the human species. I am also passionate about conditions that may impact global and national maternal-child and family health issues. I work with and advocate for families with children with special healthcare needs, focusing on environmental threats, emergency preparedness, and prenatal substance exposure. I have served as a CDC Nurse Champion for the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – a condition with a prevalence rivaling Autism Spectrum Disorders in our society. I believe in a compassionate approach to support maternal mental health and a non-judgmental approach to recovery services for all families.

I am blessed by my faith, my family, and wonderful colleagues and friends; and the fact that I live in beautiful San Diego. Before the pandemic, though, I really enjoyed traveling beyond San Diego for both personal and professional endeavors. I have been to Guam, St. Martin, Mexico, Canada, Italy, Ireland, Bermuda, South Africa, and Vietnam for educational and research interests - and just for fun. I hope to resume that travel in the future when we get a break from COVID-19.

Please make sure to reach out if I can be of service to you in your research interests. Also, introduce yourself to me if we haven't met yet. I enjoy meeting new colleagues. I will be praying for many blessings for you, your family, and our world during this holiday season and the upcoming new year.







Cookies for Finals

To support our students (both Sigma and non-Sigma) cookies

were provided to students along with inspirational scripture readings to show support during their academic studies. Cookies and inspirational scripture readings were provided to APU campuses (Azusa, Monrovia, San Diego, Inland Empire and High Desert)





FOUNDERS DAY

2021

In honor of the founding of Sigma by six nursing students at what is known today at the Indiana University School of Nursing. To commemorate our founding sisters in nursing, Iota Sigma members donated over 1,200 hours to our communities. Community service hours included donations to feed those in need in the community, reaching out to the elderly, creating a tee shirt to sell for our scholarship fund, collecting baby clothes and donating a gift bag for a baby shower to support mothers, and supporting a cancer resource center event to contribute cancer services in a local community.











Meet the 2021-22 Iota Sigma Student Interns



Lily Montoya was inducted into Iota Sigma chapter in 2019 and began to be a student leader at the beginning of her membership. She will be graduating in May of 2022 from the Traditional Undergraduate Program located on the campus in Azusa. Currently she is in her OB/Peds rotation and enjoying it very much. Now her time is taken up with studying in school and playing at the beach, amusement parks and working out. She is also the president of SNAP (Student Nurses of Azusa Pacific) which is the governance arm of the nursing students and the School of Nursing.

During the interview Lily explained that she wanted to be a nurse because she desired "to serve others and help people in their time of need and healing." She finds meaning in establishing connections with patients and wants to impact their care for their betterment. She sees her role as being an advocate for the patients and providing them with education in their circumstance. She is interested in pursuing either Oncology nursing or Labor and Delivery. She is hoping to be a nurse leader and eventually return to school to be a nurse practitioner.

As a student intern Lily has made connections in the academic community with the faculty in the organizations, made friendships with the scholars in the organizations, used her gifts of leadership and added to the discussions bringing the student perspective to the discussion. She stated she enjoyed making connections with nurses interested in the same specialties that she is interested in. As a chapter we have enjoyed having Lily Montoya as one of the student interns and look forward to her working with us one more semester.



The second intern is Alice Song. We are very proud to say that Alice has been our intern from the High Desert Regional Campus since she was inducted into Iota Sigma December 2020. She graduated from APU in the summer 2021 and has successfully passed NCLEX this November. Some of the things Alice enjoys doing are reading and spending time with family and friends. She also learns a lot by listening to a variety of podcasts. She is passionate about nursing and her faith in Christ.

She is beginning to look for work in the nursing field and would like to work in ICU/CCU or oncology. She decided to become a nurse because it is rewarding and motivating to deliver holistic care to

the patients for whom she cares. She intends to continuing growing personally and professionally. She was a volunteer at the Odyssey Conference and shared her enthusiasm for the research process that was presented by several speakers.

As an intern she expressed interest in learning about the various leadership roles and the way leaders collaborate. She has been able to build her leadership skills and work with both the board members and fellow interns. One of the main resources she has found in Sigma has been "The Circle" – a networking platform for healthcare professionals to engaged in meaningful discussions and expand their professional network. Alice is on her way to a meaningful career. We are so glad to have her as an intern this fall.



The third intern is Dharmesh Ramaiya and he is graduating from the SON at Azusa Pacific in December of this year. He has been attending nursing school in the High Desert Campus in what is called the 2+2 BSN transfer program. He was inducted into Iota Sigma in Spring 2021. Dharmesh was born and grew up in the beautiful islands of Fiji. He is married and has interests in other activities besides Iota Sigma. He joined SNAP (Student Nurses of Azusa Pacific) as his nursing cohort's representative his very first semester. He then served as a member of the board of directors at the California Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) during the 2020-2021 term where he served as chair of the Populations and Global Health Committee. Part of this assignment included running webinars with his team and panelists to raise awareness of food insecurity and encourage student

nurse leaders to consider the creation of action plans within their local CNSA chapters. Dharmesh is one of the first APU nursing students to serve on the board of CNAS and we are proud of him.

Some of the activities Dharmesh enjoys include playing soccer, rugby (GO FLYING FIJIANS!), and being in nature. He is planning on taking his NCLEX exam in late January and will look for a new grad residency program at a local community hospital to begin his nursing career. He plans on returning to school to obtain a nurse practitioner credential in Adult-Gerontology Care in the near future and then would like to become an educator.

Dharmesh has enjoyed the involvement of being a nurse intern on the Iota Sigma board. He has had the opportunity to interact with other board members, faculty in different settings, and encourage the development of peer nurse leaders. He reports that Iota Sigma has given him the opportunity to see the importance of keeping up to date with nursing advancements, finding credible information through Sigma's website, and the importance of delegation. Wherever Dharmesh lands as a new grad nurse the facility will have a strong, intelligent, passionate leader on their staff. We are delighted to have Dharmesh as a student intern this fall.

NEW INDUCTEES

IOTA SIGMA INDUCTION CEREMONY 12/2/2021



Dr. Maria Charito Laarni S. Indonto. Dr. Indonto is an assistant professor at the College of Nursing at the University of Ha'il, Saudi Arabia. She was inducted as an International member of Iota Sigma.

She is a member of the Community Health Nursing Department Council, Quality Assurance, Female Campus. Iota Sigma played a significant role in influencing her nursing practice in the field of academics. It keeps Maria updated with society's health care needs through the continuing nursing education courses online. The organization identifies and addresses nursing practice issues and leads the nursing community with respect to improved, expanded, and advanced practice by providing free journals and member publications. Maria states "my Iota Sigma membership further provides me with access to a wealth of information and resources to pursue my nursing research advocacy to encourage my students to engage in research".

Iota Sigma Chapter welcomes Dr. Maria Charito Laarni S. Indonto.

Beth Colangelo MSN/ED RNC was inducted during our Fall 2021 live induction ceremony as a Community Leader. Beth Colangelo is currently the program director of the High Desert Upper Division Transfer since Jan 2020.

She started as an adjunct clinical instructor in 2011, then became full time faculty in 2016 teaching maternal health.

Ms. Colangelo believes in sharing God's love with each student as to what it means to give compassionate care to each patient, as according to Matthew 25:40 "one of the least of these" is doing what Christ did during his ministry here on earth.

Iota Sigma Chapter welcomes Beth Colangelo as a Community Leader.



Fall 2021 Scholarship and Grant News

By: Dr. Bonnie Huiskes and Dr. Patricia Esslin

The **Phyllis Esslinger Scholarship** was awarded to one inductee at our Fall Induction on Dec 4th, 2021. This \$1,500 scholarship is awarded annually in the Fall. This year's scholarship recipient is Kathryn Franklin, an ELM student from the Inland Empire Campus.

Two **Research Grants** in the amount of \$700 each were announced at our Fall Induction on Dec 4^{th} , 2021. The two recipients are

- Dr. I. Christine Lee (successfully defended her doctoral dissertation this past week) for her research entitled "Alleviating Postpartum Depression in a NICU Follow-up Clinic", in support of her dissertation research.
- Dr. Ana-Maria Gallo (SDRC site director, Assistant Professor) for her research entitled "Effect of Auricular Acupressure on Stress, Anxiety, Sleep and QOL" in support of her research.

Fall 2021 Induction Pictures



Scholarship Fundraiser Winners



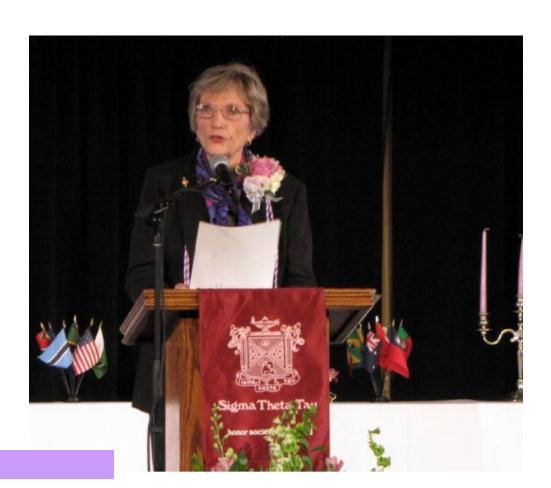
Tribute to Alison Riggs

Alison Riggs, Past President for Iota Sigma (2011-2013), was a wonderful lady and will be missed by many. She passed away on October 3, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Volunteerism was always integral in Alison's life. She volunteered numerous hours at the Walnut Library, Children's Home Society, March of Dimes, Holy Name of Mary Church, APU Homeless Outreach Services Clinic, and as a student nurse mentor for the Azusa Pacific University ELM Program.

Active membership in professional organizations had frequently delivered Alison into leadership roles within the organization. As a member of the National Association of Orthopedic Nurses (NAON), she became a People-to-People Ambassador Delegate of NAON Nurses to Australia in 2003. She was a member of the Voice of Nursing Leadership and Professional Practice Committees of the Association of California Nurse Leaders. She was also a member of the California Action Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Future of Nursing Project. A member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing since 1991, Alison demonstrated her commitment and dedication to the society's mission and vision. Alison continued to participate in numerous chapter activities and events through the years of her membership. She became a member of our chapter board and later the secretary in 2008. She held the role of president-elect in 2009-2011, and the role of president in 2011-2013.

Although she moved to the Bay area, Alison continued to come back to support the chapter and membership at our Spring events.



The Iota Sigma Calendar

2-3 Odyssey Conference
Ontario, CA
4 Fall Induction
8 Board Meeting
19-31 Winter Break
25 Christmas

DECEMBER '21									
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Board Meeting
 President's Day

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MARCH '22

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JANUARY '22

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F S TBD Board Meeting
7-13 Mid-Semester Break
24-26 Creating Healthy Work
Environments
Conference
Washington DC

13 Board Meeting 14 Research Symposium 17 Easter

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TBD Transition Meeting

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4 Independence Day 21-25 33rd INRC Edinburgh, Scotland