

# IOTA SIGMA CHAPTER

## Sigma Theta Tau International

### In Appreciation

As I move out of the San Gabriel Valley I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to belong to Iota Sigma Chapter of STTI and be associated with its members. In 1991 I was invited as a community member to join and that was one of the turning points in my career as it introduced me to the APU community and the marvelous network of professional nurses in the chapter and globally with STTI. As a nurse familiar with service it also gave me a better understanding of academia and how important it is for each to collaborate to improve care for patients.

About nine years ago I joined the Board of Iota Sigma at the invitation of Lourdes Casao and was able to function in several offices including president. It is hard to explain how much knowledge and growth this experience has made in my professional life and I am so grateful. (cont'd)



## Suicide Prevention Walk

My husband, Barney Tong, and I sat in the audience at Saddleback Church, and listened to Pastor Rick Warren talk about his son, Matthew, who suffered from a mental illness. He died by suicide in 2013. As I listened and started sobbing, I thought thank goodness our children are OK. Unfortunately, 6 months after we heard the devastating news about Pastor and Kay Warren's son, the unthinkable happened. Evan Tong, Barney's son, my stepson, died by suicide on December 28, 2013. Evan was only 17 when he died. Evan loved video games, reading, and swimming. Hundreds of family, friends, school faculty, and community members came to remember Evan at his memorial services in WA and CA. Barney and I received comfort, support, and love during this difficult time from God first, our families, friends, our Bible study group, and colleagues. However, we lost



Sigma Theta Tau International  
Honor Society of Nursing®



The Chapter continues to grow and inducts many new members every year while promoting professionalism, outreach, lifelong learning for nurses, mentoring of students and, notably, research. The Chapter's involvement in the consortium sponsoring the Odyssey Research Symposium every year in Southern California is another highlight for members.

It has always been my good fortune to be a nurse and I want to continue to belong to STTI and Iota Sigma as it is a strong organization and chapter that will continue to make a difference in the future of patients. If you are looking for a challenge and to improve your professional life please consider joining the Board.

My thanks to everyone for their help and support over the years and I hope to keep in touch.

Alison Riggs MSN RN OCN

friends because of the stigma associated with suicide. Others did not want to engage in discussion about Evan. Joining the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) has helped us immensely. **AFSP is the “leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide.”**

*May was Mental Illness Awareness Month*

AFSP mentions that “there is no single cause to suicide. It most often occurs when stressors exceed current coping abilities of someone suffering from a mental health condition. “Suicide can happen at any time and unfortunately, when one least expects it. It happens to the young, the old, a rich or poor person, immigrant or natural born citizen. Also Pastor Rick Warren mentioned, "There's no shame when any other organ in your body fails, so why do we feel shame if our brain is broken?"

Barney and I are joining hundreds of people to walk 18 miles through the night in the Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). This will be our third Overnight Walk and our sixth Out of the Darkness Walk. This year we will walk in San Francisco on May 21-22, 2016. We have walked in Seattle, Boston, Fountain Valley, CA and Pasadena, CA to raise funds for AFSP. We walk for countless others who died by suicide. Our friend, Chris Atencio, a veteran of the US Army, also died by suicide not long after Evan died. (cont'd)





At the Pasadena and Fountain Valley walks, APU nursing students, staff, and faculty joined us for this worthy cause. They provided nursing support to everyone and did a fantastic job! To be a part of this worthy cause, please visit AFSP at <http://afsp.org/> This website has a lot of great information regarding the warning signs of suicide, risk factors, treatment, etc. If you or someone you know is in an emergency,

call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

-Kathy Tong

## Thank you for your DONATIONS!!

" Iota Sigma would like to thank and acknowledge the following members for donating to your Iota Sigma Chapter and Sigma Theta Tau International's Foundation"

### Iota Sigma Chapter Donations:

- Anita Boling
- Tania Borja
- Constance Brehm
- Badrieh Caraway
- Patricia Esslin
- Javier Guerra
- Jennifer Matthews
- Madeline Tellefson Nefcy
- Geneva Gay Oaks
- Erlinda Palaganas
- Maria Dulce Posa
- Patricia Salazar
- Shakhshir
- Suzettee Talbott
- Kathleen Taylor
- Sheryl Tyson.



### Sigma Theta Tau International Foundation:

- Tania Borja
- Pamela Cone
- Margaret Johnson
- Marilyn Klakovich

### Help STTI fulfill its mission.

Your gifts to the Foundation help STTI fulfill its mission to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide. Most importantly, you can decide where you want to designate your support — **Research, Leadership, Future** or the **Unrestricted Fund**.

Donate or Volunteer Time <http://www.nursingsociety.org/why-stti/stti-foundation-for-nursing/make-a-gift>

## One of Our Own – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SON

*Dr. Julie Pusztai*

*Assistant Professor and Director of the Neighborhood Wellness Center*

We are pleased to highlight Dr. Julie Pusztai in this edition of the Iota Sigma newsletter. Dr. Pusztai was a member of the very first class of nursing students that completed their BSN from what was then Azusa Pacific College in 1977. The School of Nursing is celebrating 40 years of educating nursing students and Dr. Pusztai was willing to share some of her insights of change since the beginning.

In 1977 when Dr. Pusztai graduated the nursing program was a 2+2+1/2. The education program was approved by the California BRN but wasn't accredited until the results of that first class taking the state nursing board(s) NCLEX were known. The nursing school was accredited due to the first graduates' passing scores on the board exam. This began the long 40-year history of which Dr. Pusztai is a part. Since that time almost 100 students each year have attended APU and completed their nursing education. There are more than 1000 students enrolled in the APU SON this year including all the various programs. There have been many changes since Dr. Pusztai was a student.



Dr. Pusztai's first job was as a nurse in an acute care medical surgical unit. After a short term mission at a small hospital in Ecuador, she began her many years as a public health nurse. In the 1990's Dr. Pusztai decided to return to APU and study for her Master's of Science in Nursing. She focused on family mental health and did her clinical work at Aurora Charter Oaks in the late 1990's. She joined the faculty of the SON as an adjunct in 1999, became the Director of the Neighborhood Wellness Center in Azusa in 2007, and has been continuing in that position since that time. She completed her PhD from Loma Linda University in the summer of 2015.

One of Dr. Pusztai's interesting jobs was being a nurse-indexer for CINAHL the nursing database for nursing and medical literature and research that is now part of EBSCO. Dr. Pusztai would read the articles and assign

search words and research terms to the articles so other nurses could search for the information through the database using those search words. She said she was always reading really fast but enjoyed this job as a way to stay in touch with advances in nursing, as she was a working stay at home mom during those years. (cont'd)

Some of the changes that Dr. Pusztai has seen over the years at APU SON include the 2+2 curriculum changing to a 4 year curriculum, leaving behind white nursing caps and student pen-stripped uniforms with aprons, the requirement for a pathophysiology and a nursing research class, the change in the theory the APU SON uses on which to base care plans, the beginning of this chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International, and many of her teachers retiring from teaching. One of the most influential people in her nursing education was Dr. Barbara Artinian one of our well-known retired professors. Dr. Artinian saw her ability and encouraged her to pursue her terminal degree.

If you have a chance to speak to Dr. Pusztai be sure to ask about her dissertation. She did a qualitative study looking at the lived experiences of the aging population. Her title was *The Lived Experience of Aging: Listening to the Oldest-Old*. She would be delighted to tell you her findings.

-Viann Duncan, Counselor

## Faith Community Nursing

The Foundations of Faith Community Nursing course concluded March 10, 2016 with eleven nurses receiving their certificate of completion. The course is taught by Deborah Ringen MSN, RN-BC Faith Community Nurse, adjunct faculty and International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC) Faith Community nurse educator, under the direction of Marilyn Klakovich DNSc., RN, NEA-BC.

To meet the needs of adult learners in this busy world, the course was taught on-line for 7 weeks and concluded with a 2-day retreat. Students were enrolled from California and Connecticut requiring 2 retreat locations. Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre, California hosted the California students and Mercy By the Sea in Madison, Connecticut was the setting for the East coast students. Both settings offered beautiful, peaceful surroundings and delicious meals which enhanced the relaxation and revitalization of the attendees.

The Foundations of Faith Community Nursing curriculum developed by the IPNRC and the Church Health Center guides registered nurses on the development of health ministries in their congregations. As students explore church history and the roots of faith community nursing in the Christian tradition and other faith traditions, they also experience spiritual growth through self-reflection and exercises in prayer and self-care. Modules address topics of professionalism in faith community nursing practice such as legal issues and documentation requirements. Students learn about communication styles and how to improve collaboration skills and they discover proven methods of developing a new ministry. (cont'd)



The faith community nurses learn how to utilize their skills in the independent areas of nursing practice to assess the needs of their individual client, family or community and to develop a plan of care to meet the identified needs.

During the retreat time, modules that this instructor believes are best explored in person are

Deborah Ringen & Lyn Posner



presented. In California, Tami Levin and Emily Wu Troung from the National Alliance for Mental Illness presented “In Our Own Voice” which explores behavioral health issues from the perspective of presenters who have lived with mental illness. It was a powerful story of distress and recovery. Bernita Walker, Executive Director of Project: Peacemakers, Inc., LA County Domestic Violence, gave an in depth presentation on the issues surrounding domestic violence. Together the

students offered devotionals, learned about different prayer practices, spiritual care and how to work with those who are suffering grief and loss.



hard  
new

Patricia Beak, Sue Stanhope, Linda Carroll

The retreats concluded with a dedication ceremony in which all received their IPNRC Faith Community Nurse pins and certificates of completion for the 40-hour course.

Congratulations to all the students who worked to learn the Sakai website and many of whom were to on line learning. Their dedication and

perseverance was admirable. Several new health ministry programs will begin and others will be strengthened by the gifts and talents of this dedicated group of nurses.

<https://www.facebook.com/FaithcommunitynurseAPU2016/>



## Officer Reports

### 43rd Biennial Convention President's Report

I was extremely fortunate to attend the 43rd Biennial Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada with our President Elect Tiffany Montes. We were among over 2,000 nurses from around the world! During the Opening Plenary Keynote, I was amazed, proud, and inspired by such an incredible representation of our nursing profession. As a delegate, I represented our chapter's voice and acted on its behalf in the House of Delegates for items of Sigma Theta Tau business. I accepted our Chapter Key Award, attended daily delegate and professional informational sessions, networked with delegates and nursing professionals, performed voting responsibilities in the House of Delegates (officers, bylaws, amendments, and resolutions), and witness the installation of the our new Sigma Theta Tau International President Cathy Catrambone, PhD, RN, FAAN (her "Call to Action" can be viewed at [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org)).



-Nicole Ringo Chapter President

### 43rd Biennial Convention President Elect Report

During the week of November 7-11, 2015, Iota Sigma President Nicole Ringo and I traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada for the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International's (STTI's) 43rd Biennial Convention. At the event, we served as delegates at the House of Delegates sessions in which we voted on proposed bylaws. The convention's theme was "Serve Locally, Transform Regionally, Lead Globally," as an attendee, I learned different strategies to promote interprofessional initiatives, and developed knowledge and leadership skills to increase my collaboration with diverse communities.

As future chapter president, I feel the convention helped me to discover ways that our chapter can impact the nursing profession not only on a local level, but globally as well. It was such a special

moment to witness Cathy Catrambone being installed as president of the society. I feel her call to action: Influence to Advance Global Health and Nursing, should be what each nurse, no matter their level of expertise or education, should strive to be. President Catrambone's message awakened the fire within me to advocate for those I serve, influence and change health policy, and dedicate my nursing skills to those within our underserved communities. Lastly, the president's final theme within her call to action is what impacted me the most: Influence through Lifelong Learning. I realized that in order to truly assist in transforming health (cont'd)



Nicole Ringo Tiffany Montes

on a global level, I must first “develop professionally and personally,” (Catrambone, 2015). I walked away from the STTI 43<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention inspired, motivated, and most of all, humbled, to be among such powerful and dynamic nurse leaders. I look forward to future STTI events and supporting my chapter in fulfilling STTI’s mission to promote excellence in global nursing.



-Tiffany Montes, Chapter President Elect

**SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL  
HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING  
ODYSSEY 2016 RESEARCH CONFERENCE**



**Influence to Advance Global Health and Nursing**

- GAMMA  
GAMMA
- IOTA SIGMA
- OMICRON  
DELTA
- RHO BETA
- NU MU
- GAMMA TAU  
AT LARGE
- XI THETA



- GAMMA  
ALPHA
- IOTA ETA
- UPSILON  
BETA
- ZETA MU AT  
LARGE
- PHI ALPHA
- PHI THETA
- PHI LAMBDA
- CHI MU

**Save the Date  
October 13 & 14, 2016**

**<https://stti-odyssey2016.eventbrite.com>**

**DoubleTree by Hilton  
Ontario, CA**

**Call for Abstracts  
March 1 - May 15, 2016**

## Western Institute of Nursing Conference 2016

I had the great opportunity to present a poster abstract (Increasing Vaccination Rates in Perinatal Patient at Childbirth Education Class, see abstract below) at the 49th annual Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) Conference at the Disneyland Hotel (April 6-9, 2016). The conference theme was “Innovations in Engagement through Research, Practice, and Education.” George Demiris, PhD, FACMI, University of Washington provided the Keynote



presentation that focused on the use of technology in healthcare (specifically HEALTH-E, see link below for more information). I attended daily concurrent sessions, visited with colleagues, attended post-conference receptions, and spent time with my PhD cohort members from the University of Arizona. The conference helped to inspire new and creative ideas for research projects. I loved attending WIN because EVERYONE was extremely supportive and encouraging! Nursing leaders in research as well as novice researchers were approachable and provided an open invitation to support you and your research ideas. This was

my second time attending and presenting at WIN. I highly recommend anyone who is interested in research to investigate their website (see link below). <http://www.winursing.org/?query=Home> <http://www.health-e.info/index.php/projects>



Increasing Vaccination Rates in Perinatal Patients at Childbirth Education Class

Nicole Ringo, PhD student, MSN/ED, RN

**Purposes/Aims:** To increase perinatal influenza and pertussis vaccination (Tdap) rates by 50% at a Southern California Community Hospital.

**Rationale/Background:** Pregnant women and their babies are at an increased risk for influenza-related complications, including premature labor and preterm birth.

Additionally, pertussis outbreaks continue to occur in the United States with infants at highest risk of severe illness, including hospitalization and death. Low vaccination rates leave many pregnant women and their infants unprotected against these serious vaccine-preventable diseases. The influenza vaccination is recommended in any trimester for all women who are pregnant or who plan to become pregnant during the influenza season, and the pertussis vaccination (Tdap) is recommended between 27 and 36 weeks of each pregnancy.

Mothers who receive Tdap between 27 to 36 weeks develop antibodies and provide passive immunity to the baby. Infants less than 30 days of life represent the highest mortality rates from pertussis. Immunization rates for these vaccines were low at Southern California Community Hospital (influenza 22% and Tdap 23%). Literature reports that education and ease of obtaining vaccinations helps to improve perinatal vaccination rates. However, rates continue to remain low despite provider and educational campaigns. Childbirth class could provide timely accessibility for perinatal patients as they typically attend between 27 to 36 weeks gestation.

**Undertaking/best practice/approach/methods/process:** Two methods were used to obtain data. The number of influenza and Tdap vaccinations provided from the Southern California Community Hospital during 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 influenza seasons were obtained from pharmacy distribution logs. Perinatal patients were asked to complete a five-item pre-questionnaire at the time of childbirth education class sign-up. Influenza and Tdap injections were provided and administered by the hospital clinicians during childbirth education classes. Perinatal patients were given a vaccination card indicating that they received the influenza and Tdap injections. Perinatal patients were asked to complete a post-questionnaire. Data from pre and post-questionnaires were compared as well as perinatal vaccination rates from 2014-2015 and the 2015-2016 influenza season. **Outcomes achieved/documentated:** Data collection is in progress.

**Conclusions:** Preventable diseases such as influenza and pertussis represent high mortality rates for both the mothers and their babies. Improvements in perinatal vaccination rates can be made by providing education and increasing timely accessibility at childbirth education classes. Future projects should identify education and timely accessibility opportunities for household members living amongst perinatal patients and for perinatal patients who cannot attend childbirth class.

-Nicole Ringo Chapter President

## 12th Annual Nursing Research Symposium



In the conference program for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Nursing Research Symposium, *A Passion for Research: 40 Years of Nursing Excellence*, Dean Aja Lesh noted “the APU School of Nursing is committed to creating a dynamic learning environment that supports evidence-based practice. The Research Symposium was established twelve years ago as an ongoing commitment to integrating research into practice. It serves to prepare students and clinicians for the challenges they will face in their careers as nurses. It also creates a wonderful opportunity to encourage both students and clinicians

to develop new ways to improve their practice and to work together to share evidence to improve patient care.”

## 12th Annual Nursing Research Symposium cont'd

The Research Symposium stands as an important annual outreach event for the School of Nursing and is co-sponsored by Iota Sigma. Guests include preceptors, nurses in collaborating health care facilities, and APU students, faculty, and alumni. This year, over 850 students and nurses attended our symposium. In recognition of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year's featured presenters were all nurses who graduated from APU in the 80's, 90's, 2000's and 2010's: Ani John, PhD; Janice Haley, PhD; and June Rondinelli, PhD. A faculty research panel moderated by Dean Lesh included Felicitas dela Cruz, Aurelia Macabasco-O'Connell, Cheryl Westlake, Renee Pozza, and Lynn Woods. The day ended with a historic panel of nursing theorists moderated by Vivien Dee: Callista Roy, Jean Watson, and Dorothy Jones.

### *Poster Session Award Winners Included:*

Community	Sonja Vryhof Kerth, RN, BSN, FNP/ DNP student Arizona State University APU BSN Alumnus	Self-Management Education and Arthritis Disability in an Undeserved Latino Community
PhD/DNP	Ann Schloss DNP (c) RN-BC, ACNS-BC, MHA	Healing Touch as Self-care for Veterans with Hypertension
MSN	Laquincyia Key, RNC-MNN, BSN	Skin to Skin in the Operating Room: A CultureShift
ELM	Maritza Clawges, Krystina Daniels, Paris Merin	Innovative Educational Approach for Reducing Nosocomial Infections Focusing on the Use of Shared Blood Pressure Cuffs
BSN	Rita Fierro, Sarah Fierro, Hannah Watts	Importance Of Kangaroo Care After Cesarean

-Marilyn Klakovich, Research Symposium Planning Committee Chair, Iota Sigma Research



Research Panel

Ani John



June Rondinelli



Janice Haley



Marilyn Klakovich and Ann Schloss



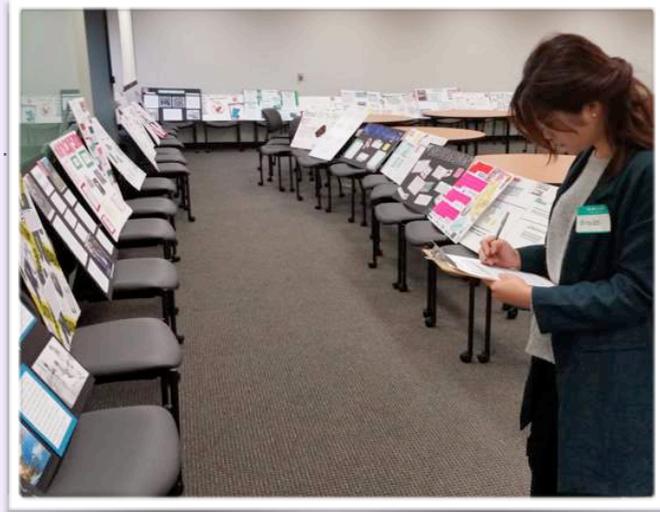
Theorist Panel



Poster Session

## Inland Empire "Health Care for ME in the IE" Poster Contest

APU School of Nursing (SON), the Inland Coalition (part of "Reach Out" a non-profit organization) and **Iota Sigma** co-sponsored the Inland Empire & High Desert Poster Contest, "Health Care for ME in the IE" on March 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. APU SON Director of Recruitment & Enrollment, Valerie Floyd-Davis coordinated the contest, aimed at motivating and encouraging students to pursue careers in health care in the Inland Empire and High Desert region. Participants were asked to submit an abstract and a



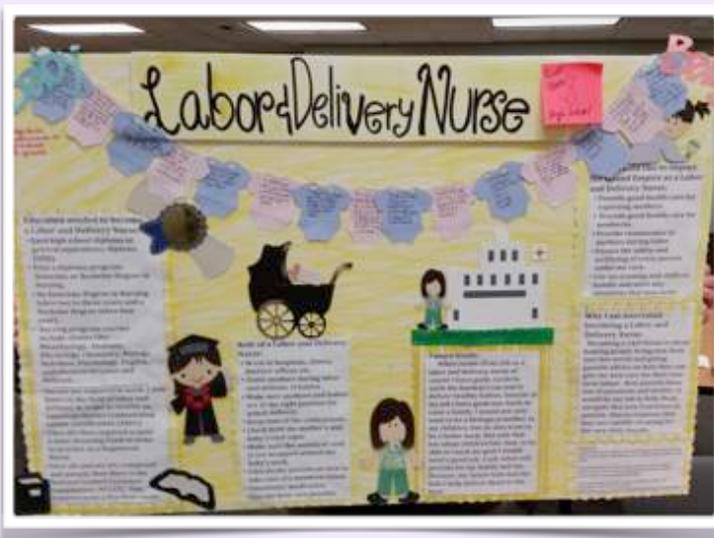
Grace Oh Judging Posters

poster on the theme of "Health Care for ME in the Inland Empire," incorporating their vision, as potential, future health care providers, for health care promotion in the Inland Empire region. Over 175 middle school and high school students from Victor Valley, the High Desert, and the Inland Empire region submitted abstracts and posters. Participants were from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, some being the only one in their family to pursue a higher education. Students showed interest in a variety of professions including nursing, medicine, and pharmaceuticals. The contest was judged by APU School of Nursing faculty and Iota Sigma members (Grace Oh, Brandon Woodruf, Kyoko Suzuki, and Marilyn Klakovich) who graded the posters based on criteria concerning presentation, organization, communication skills, and content. Since some students submitted posters for veterinary medicine, Marilyn recruited her niece, Alexis Rambaud, DVM, to judge those posters and Valerie asked her husband who specializes in physical training, judged the Sports Medicine posters.

The winners were announced at the 2016 Health Profession Conference on March 17, 2016 hosted by California Baptist University. The conference theme was "Plan now, Live well, Serve here".

A special reception to recognize all poster presenters and their families was held on Friday, April 8, 2016 at the Inland Empire APU campus. Posters were displayed as award winners were again recognized and presented with their prizes.

-Grace Oh, Iota Sigma Student Leadership



First Place High School Poster Winner

## Homeless Healthcare Outreach Report 2015-2016

Eighteen years ago APU School of Nursing faculty, Dr. Connie Brehm, was invited by some LA County public health nurses to join in an effort to bring healthcare to homeless of the Winter Shelter Program of East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Thus began APU School of Nursing's Homeless Healthcare Outreach. Our first effort consisted of weekly visits to the Winter Shelter Program by Dr. Brehm with three of her masters level FNP students. The County PHNs provide flu



vaccine and TB screening. Now in 2016 our healthcare outreach to the homeless operates year round with weekly visits on Tuesday mornings to the Emergency Assistance Center of ESGVCH in Hacienda Heights, and during winter season we hold Thursday evening clinics at the ESGVCH Winter Shelter Program. Our outreach clinics are staffed by APU nurse faculty and nursing students with up to 200 homeless clients receiving nursing services over the course of a year. Also, noteworthy is the total of 115 nursing students who participated this year, with their clinic hours counting toward practicum hours in their courses. A generous grant of \$2700 from Sigma Theta Tau, Iota Sigma Chapter this year helped assure that clinical faculty from School of Nursing were available to mentor students and oversee quality of care. The clinical faculty who participated in the outreach this year (in

addition to Dr. Brehm) included: Professors Virginia Hart-Kepler, Myrna Trippon, Rosemarie Santiago, and Dr. Leslie Van Dover. Other funding for the APU Homeless Outreach comes from annual grants from Kaiser Baldwin Park Medical Center Community Benefits Program (\$10,000 this year) and from generous donors who support our work. During a year's Outreach the APU students and faculty make a real difference in the health of the homeless. Below is a listing of some of the most dramatic and important outcomes of this year's healthcare outreach services:

- Numerous clients were referred and followed-up for primary care at a local community health center. Others were assisted to get in touch with their assigned primary care physicians;
- Several clients were admitted for substance abuse treatment and counseling with good results;
- Others were sent for specialty healthcare that included: vision exams with fitting and provision of glasses; dental care; wound care; and podiatry care;
- One acutely suicidal client was connected with emergency department, following up weeks later nurses observed that his depression improved and suicidal tendencies subsided;
- A young woman with psychiatric problems, who was in an abusive relationship, was connected to inpatient psychiatric care;
- 15 clients who were very ill were provided with motel nights (3-7 nights) for respite and recovery.
- In addition to the above many clients received care for various ailments of respiratory ailments (colds, asthma, COPD symptoms), strains and sprains, dermatologic conditions and GI problems.

-Connie Brehm

## Members in the News:

**Bowden, V., & Greenberg, C. (2016).** Pediatric nursing procedures (4th ed.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.

Abstract:

With a focus on inter-professional teamwork and family-centered care, this essential quick reference guide offers step-by-step directions to more than 120 nursing procedures. Based on current clinical evidence, this easy-to-follow resource will keep clinicians up to date on pediatric best practices, and prepare nursing students for real-world practice.

3-18-16

**Dr. Cheryl Westlake, School of Nursing, was recognized as an elected fellow.**

**Westlake, C. (2016, March).** [Selected member], Fellowship of the Heart Failure Society of America. Bethesda, MD.

**Haley, J. (2016).** Discovering the strength of parents whose children are at end of life. *Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing, 18(2)*, 139-148.

Abstract: Parents who provide care for their child receiving palliative/hospice care at home need an enormous amount of inner-strength to carry on with such care. The purpose of this study was: 1) to identify the strengths of primary parent caregivers of children receiving in-home hospice/palliative care, and 2) to assess if the Haley Transcultural Strengths Assessment Interview Guide increases parent's realization of the *importance* and *utilization* of their strengths. This descriptive study was conducted using a grounded theory design employing a qualitative framework and a quantitative component. Constant comparative analysis described was used to identify the attributes of strength. Participants of this study were parents caring for their child at home, who were recruited from TrinityKids Care in California. Eleven themes emerged from the data, with a sub-theme of "the child" who was dying. *Spirituality* emerged as the most important strength, with *positive attitude* and *finding meaning* rating second. Results revealed the key strengths of parent caregivers and the Strengths Guide was found to be an effective intervention for palliative/hospice care providers to assist parents to build on their strengths.

<p>24 Transition Meeting</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">JUNE '16</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	JUNE '16							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">JULY '16</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	JULY '16							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p>4 Independence Day TBD Transition Meeting 21-25 INRC Capetown South Africa</p>
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## 2016-2017 IOTA SIGMA CALENDAR

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**President: Nicole Ringo, PhD(c), MSN/ED, RN**

**President Elect: Tiffany Montes RN BSN**

**Vice President: Patricia Esslin, MSN, APRN-CNS, CNE, PhD(c)**

**Secretary: Lourdes Casao, PhD, RN-BC, FNP**

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**Counselor: Viann Duncan, MSN, RN and Rose Liegler, PhD, RN**

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**Research Chair: Marilyn Klakovich, DNSc., RN, NEA-BC**

**Fund Raising Chair: Kathleen Van Allen, MSN, RN, CPN**

**Immediate Past President: Jennifer Cooper, MSN, APRN, CNS**

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**Awards and Scholarships Chair: Catherine Wilde McPhee, MSN, FNP**

**Leadership Succession Chair: Anita Boling, RN, MSN, PhD**

**Newsletter: Jennifer Cooper**

**Student Leadership Interns: Grace Oh**