

Kappa Psi News

President's Message

Hello all. Well, it's now 2010 and my term expires this May. What a challenging but rewarding experience it has been to serve as President. Thank you for your support throughout my tenure.

Induction Ceremony Plans

On Sunday April 25, 2010 the Annual Induction Ceremony will take place in Stokes Auditorium of Hardtner Hall.

We will be inducting Community Members, Undergraduate nursing students and Graduate nursing students. Please submit names for potential community members to Sue Fontenot at sfontenot@mcneese.edu.

New Officers to be Installed

Kappa Psi will be installing the following officers and committee members on April 25, 2010. Please consider submitting your name for one of the officer positions.

President

Secretary

Governance Committee

Leadership Committee

Continuing Kappa Psi Officers/appointments 2010-2011

Vice President Peggy LaGrange

Treasurer Kathleen Williams

First Counselor Sue Fontenot

Governance Committee Margaret Hebert

Leadership Com Veronica Woodard

Fall Kappa Psi Fall Educational Offering

Peggy LaGrange-Vice President

Kappa Psi welcomed Donna Hathorn RN, PhD at MSU on September 28, 2009. The title of her presentation "Nurses who work with student nurses in the acute care clinical environment" was very informative. Her study looked at answering why and how nurses show negative attitudes toward nursing students. Donna has been an Assistant Professor of

Nursing at Southeastern Louisiana University for 12 years, and has also taught at Louisiana College, Northwestern State University, and Shreveport/Bossier Vo Tech. She has presented this study at the STTI Biennial Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. The study has been published in the Qualitative Report in June, 2009. A total of thirty nurses from various agencies and MSU attended.

40th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis by Kathlene Williams and Lori Dougherty

There are many words that can describe our experiences at the 40th Biennial Convention for Sigma Theta Tau in Indianapolis—words like exciting, fun, awesome, and tiring for starters, but the one I think best describes our feelings about the entire experience is **INSPIRING!** Lori Dougherty and I were fortunate enough to make the trip to Indianapolis as delegates for Kappa Psi.

We left Lake Charles on Friday, October 30 and spent the weekend attending pre-conference activities and continuing education offerings. We stayed at the Hyatt Regency which was connected not only to the Convention Center by indoor walkways but also to a fantastic mall—we didn't have to spend much time out in the cool, crisp fall air and the shopping was close, too! We took in a few sites close to the hotel, which was located just across the street from the state capitol of Indiana and right down the street from Lucas Oil Stadium, the home of the Indianapolis Colts (NO, we didn't get to see Peyton Manning, unfortunately) and ate our way through at least 5 different cultures at great restaurants that were within walking distance of the hotel!

On Sunday, we heard Carol Huston, the outgoing president speak; I actually met her after her talk and she signed my Leadership and Management book we use in NUR420 that she is the co-author of! We met many fellow delegates and interacted with quite a few interesting STTI members and went "shopping" for goodies at the exhibit hall. We picked up some great information from many of the exhibitors there.....and the snacks weren't bad, either!

Monday morning came real quick! Greg Mortenson, who has spent quite a bit of time in Afghanistan building schools for children, truly inspired us with his stories from his book, Three Cups of Tea! After Greg Mortenson's talk, we attended the first delegate meeting where we were introduced to the various candidates running for all of the different offices. We had our regional meeting late that afternoon and got to meet STTI members from our region—it was at this meeting that Lori and I had our first taste of inspiration! We found out that the candidate for Regional Director of our Region,

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Gordon B. Natal, was running unopposed! He was, at least, from Louisiana—the New Orleans area! Lori and I talked later that night about McNeese becoming more involved and possibly someone from our area of the state (or even McNeese) running for a National office next time! The convention was that inspiring already and we had attended just one delegate meeting!

Tuesday was another day filled with continuing education and voting for the officers. Later that evening, we were briefed on changes to bylaws that we would need to vote on the following morning.

On Wednesday morning at 8:00 AM, the last day in Indianapolis, we attended the main session of the convention. The stage was dramatically decorated with 5-6 huge purple tapestries and the flags of all participating countries were marched in and lined up on the stage. We voted on the changes to the bylaws first, using “clickers”! Then, at last, we were introduced to the new officers that we had elected the night before. Karen Morin, RN, DSN, ANEF, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she serves as Director of the Graduate Programs, was elected President! There were emotional “changing of the guard” ceremonies on the stage, with Carol Huston placing the President necklace on Karen Morin and giving her the gavel, then Karen Morin bestowing the President-elect necklace on Suzanne Prevost, RN, PhD, COI. Earlier that morning at break, Lori and I had met and talked with two Region 7 members who were seated directly behind us....one of them, Scott Moore was a **nursing student** running for Regional Director. Imagine our surprise when all of the new Board of Director members were introduced as well as Regional Directors and Scott’s name was called!!

As soon as the ceremonies were finished, Lori and I headed back to the hotel, got our bags, and hopped a limo to the airport! It had been a tiring but very rewarding and inspiring trip to Indy, but we were both so ready to get home to family and McNeese! Thanks so much for the opportunity to be your delegates!

41st Biennial Convention

Save the date now for this event to be held in Dallas, Texas! We hope that Kappa Psi will be represented with presenters, poster presentations and attendance. It will be October 29, 2011 to November 2, 2011.

Visit STTI website often! It is

www.nursingsociety.org.

There is a wealth of information at the site.

Humanitarian Projects

Kappa Psi collected canned goods for Abraham’s Tent during December and delivered them before Christmas 2009.



Veronica Woodard, Peggy LaGrange and Dr. Peggy Wolfe collect food items for Abraham’s tent.

Kappa Psi once again donated \$250 to Medical Assistance Programs (MAP International) for their 2009 global humanitarian project.

Spring Educational Activity

Plans are being made for our spring educational activity. Watch your email for more information as it is available.

We need current email addresses for all active members. If you know of someone who is an active member and did not receive this, please have them send a current email address to ptrahan@mcneese.edu.

