



## Presidents Message

David S Hodson Ed.D. MS. APRN.BC.

Well hello everyone, my, my, the year has flown by, is it just me or is time moving faster. The Chapter has had an exciting year and has participated in a number of worthy endeavors. Going back over the calendar and starting in the fall, the chapter took part in the First Ladies Walk for Life, in Finley Park in October and the Viana McCowan Lectureship in November. In the fall of 2010, we established the Past Presidents Counsel whose participants have helped the chapter in establishing our strategic plan. This plan is designed to help the chapter with it's mission for the next three years. The spring of 2011 brought forth the Mary Ann Parsons' Lectureship and we were blessed to have Dr Parsons herself, in attendance this year. February saw us have an extremely well attended induction ceremony of young and vibrant scholars.

A personal favorite Alpha Xi activity of mine is the annual visit of graduate students and faculty members from the Netherlands which occurred in March. The election of new officers to the Alpha Xi Chapter Board took place in the late spring and we were blessed with a wonderful slate of extremely well qualified candidates. The new officers elected included Eileen Leaphart as president elect, Lisa Williams as vice president, Sabra Smith as secretary, Ellen Synovec as treasurer, Joan Creed as governance chair and Gloria Fowler as counselor. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the new officers for their willingness to serve the chapter and its' membership. For those members who were not elected, please accept our thanks for your willingness to do so. We still have a number of committees that could avail your services and we welcome you to become involved. We recently held our transition meeting in July and we will hold our annual meeting this August.

I am sure everyone is aware that Sigma Theta Tau International will be hosting the 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention 10/29-11/1 in Grapevine, Texas. The chapter has decided to send a contingent of 5 of our membership for this wonderful experience. We hope to represent our chapter and region well in this learned experience.

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On a final note, I wish to take this opportunity to offer my personal condolences on behalf of the chapter. We lost Trina Vecchiolla in the prime of her life recently and I am sure for all of us that knew her are saddened by her death. In an effort to keep her candle burning brightly however, if approved by the board, the chapter would like to establish an annual scholarship in her name to a worthy nursing student. We hope in some small way this will provide Trina's family with a degree of comfort that her legacy will carry on through the hands of others.

Until we meet again, all the very best,

David

## Dean's Message

Peggy O. Hewlett, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor



Greetings from the Dean's Office:

As the summer of 2011 comes to a close, another exciting academic year is about to launch. Our more than 1,000 undergraduate students start classes on August 18<sup>th</sup> as they begin or continue their journey toward becoming our future colleagues. Their “coming of age” will occur in one of the most exciting times in the profession’s history. I shared with you in the last newsletter an update on the newly released IOM Report on the Future of Nursing – and I can now convey that over 120 nurses responded to the One Voice One Plan Consortium’s call to action – and have assisted in creating a state-wide plan for implementation of the eight IOM recommendations. The SC Center for Nursing Leadership, located here in the USC College of Nursing and led by director Dr. Eileene Shake, will serve as the “home office” for the One Voice One Plan Consortium and the four task forces charged with coordinating the implementation plan. If you have not volunteered for one of these work groups, be sure to visit the Center’s web site at <http://www.sc.edu/nursing/cnl/cnlindex.html>

As the future of nursing unfolds, leaders will be essential in:

- A. Developing new models of care delivery
- B. Practicing within the full scope of practice as educated
- C. Representing our colleagues at the policy table
- D. Creating leadership development programs and opportunities, and
- E. Expanding the nursing workforce to include much higher numbers of baccalaureate, advanced practice, and doctoral prepared nurses

Alpha Xi members need to actively seek opportunities to mentor these professionally young people as they move through education programs and enter the first years of their careers. It is during these first critical years of development when the beginnings of leadership skills need to be instilled. This is a subtle, but essential, component of leadership succession planning; and certainly compatible with the core mission of Sigma Theta Tau International. Furthermore, when you read the Future of Nursing report – and contemplate *your role* in making it happen – effective mentoring is perhaps your most important assignment.

# Third Annual SCNF Nurses Care Walk



*Are You Walking?*

Third Annual SCNF  
Nurses Care Walk

*Why Walk?*

*To honor past, present, & future Nurses*

*To support nursing Awards, Grants Scholarships, & Research*

When:

November 5, 2011

Registration: 9:00am

Walk: 9:30am

Where?

Riverfront Park \* Columbia

Wannamaker Park \* Charleston

Pre-Register or Register On-site

For More Information visit [www.scnursesfoundation.org](http://www.scnursesfoundation.org)

Or Call 803-434-7488

## News from the Center for Nursing Leadership

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**SC Center for Nursing Leadership: “Leading Change to Advance Health Care”**  
**Eileene Shake, DNP, RN, NEA-BC,**  
**Director SC Center for Nursing Leadership**



The South Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership is going through a major transformation. The Center is currently aligning its activities with the Institute of Medicine Recommendations (IOM) for the Future of Nursing. Over the summer, the Center for Nursing Leadership (CNL) team along with the Office of Healthcare Workforce Research for Nursing (OHWRN) team have been very busy working with the SC One Voice One Plan Consortium (OVOP) to develop a plan for SC that addresses the Institute of Medicine’s Recommendations for the Future of Nursing. On July 18, 2011 a meeting was held in the Center with the executive committee of the OVOP Consortium, and the consortium members voted to house the consortium in the SC Center for Nursing Leadership. Now the Center houses both the OHWRN and the OVOP Consortium. These groups are strategically aligned to become the innovative hub for all interested nurse leaders in the state. The Center will provide a place where interested parties can participate in developing and implementing a plan for the future of nursing in South Carolina.

The Center location has moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor in the Williams Brice Building, and the OHWRN office and OVOP Consortium office are also located on this floor. We have transformed this floor so that when you step off the elevator, you know you are in the SC Center for Nursing Leadership. Please drop by and visit us as the Center belongs to all the nurses in South Carolina. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you so you can share your ideas. We encourage and accept thoughts on anything, ranging from how to implement the IOM recommendations for the future of nursing or regarding other changes you see are needed to improve access to health care services and advance health.

Other activities the Center team has engaged in include redesigning and expanding the nationally recognized Cockcroft Program; developing innovative online leadership learning modules; and partnering with the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) to submit a grant application to become the South Carolina Future of Nursing Action Coalition sponsored by AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. AARP will notify us on September 6<sup>th</sup> as to whether we have been accepted.

The new vision for the Center of Nursing Leadership is to establish a virtual, open, and innovative research learning environment which will empower nurse leaders to engage in transforming the culture of nursing and advancing health care for citizens in the state, region, and nation. The Center has three major goals: 1) to provide a venue for nurse leaders from across the state and nation to come together and collaborate, 2) to develop leadership skills, and 3) to participate in conducting evidence-based practice projects and then develop implementation plans for change based on the project’s findings; these findings will lead to advancing health for citizens in the state, region, and nation. The Center will become a catalyst for leading change and advancing health for all citizens. We invite all nurse leaders from across the state to come and join us at the virtual table or the table in the Director’s office. Please come and share your ideas for the future on how to empower nurses to advance health.

You can learn more about the Center, the online learning leadership modules, our special events, and the Amy V. Cockcroft Fellowship Program by visiting our website at: <http://www.sc.edu/nursing/cnl/cnlindex.html>.

## Executive Board 2010-2012

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<b>President</b>	David Hodson (10-12) <a href="mailto:duffyfore@aol.com">duffyfore@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:dshodso@mailbox.sc.edu">dshodso@mailbox.sc.edu</a>	<b>Counselor</b>	Gloria Fowler (10-11)  <a href="mailto:gfowlern@aol.com">gfowlern@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:gloria.fowler@sc.edu">gloria.fowler@sc.edu</a>
<b>President-Elect</b>	Lisa Williams (11-12)	<b>Past President</b>	Nydia Harter  <a href="mailto:nrharter@lexhealth.org">nrharter@lexhealth.org</a> <a href="mailto:murraynydia@bellsouth.net">murraynydia@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Vice-President</b>	Eileen Leaphart (11-12)	<b>Governance</b>	Joan Creed
<b>Secretary</b>	Sabra Smith (10-12)		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ellen Synovec (11-12)		

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## Committee Chairs 2010-2011

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<u>Committee Chairs/Members:</u>		<u>Committee Chairs/Members:</u>	
<b>Archivist</b>	Tabitha Soderstrom <a href="mailto:Tabitha.Soderstrom@providencehospitals.com">Tabitha.Soderstrom@providencehospitals.com</a>	<b>Membership</b>	Open
<b>Awards</b>	Erin McKinney <a href="mailto:EMcKinne@mailbox.sc.edu">EMcKinne@mailbox.sc.edu</a>	<b>Program</b>	DeAnna Cox <a href="mailto:dlcox@mailbox.sc.edu">dlcox@mailbox.sc.edu</a>  Eileen Shake <a href="mailto:shake@mailbox.sc.edu">shake@mailbox.sc.edu</a>
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<b>Newsletter</b>	Pat Hickey <a href="mailto:patrick.hickey@sc.edu">patrick.hickey@sc.edu</a>		

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## Tribute to Trina Vecchiola



COLUMBIA - Trina Marie Vecchiola, 56, of Columbia and Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina passed away on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. The relatives and friends of Trina Vecchiola are invited to attend her Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, May 20, 2011 in Christ Our King Catholic Church at 10:30 a.m. Prayers of Final Commendation and Farewell will be conducted at a later date in Gastonia, NC. The family will receive friends at J. HENRY STUHR MOUNT PLEASANT CHAPEL on Thursday, May 19, 2011 from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Trina was born on March 8, 1955 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, daughter of Norma Wilson Vecchiola and the late Arthur J. Vecchiola. Trina served as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Department of Nursing Research Practice and Clinical Education at Providence Hospitals in Columbia, South Carolina. In this position her responsibilities include staff education, consultation, entry level leadership development, change process, committee leadership, and clinical newsletter editor. She was a contributor to a 2007-2011 HRSA Nurse Practice Education and Retention grant award to Providence Hospitals. Ms. Vecchiola has over 30 years of combined experience in acute Medical Surgical, Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Nursing. She has served as a Director of Patient Care Services, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Clinician and Educator. She has been an active member of both Sigma Theta Tau and the National Association of Orthopaedic Nursing and has served as a chapter officer in both organizations. Trina was honored in 2005 as a South Carolina Palmetto Gold Recipient.

Ms. Vecchiola earned both her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science Degrees from the University of Virginia School of Nursing in Charlottesville, Virginia. She is Board Certified in Nursing Professional Development and an Orthopaedic Nurse Certified. In 2009 she returned to Richland-Palmetto Hospital until she became ill; while there she was a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

She is survived by her mother, Norma Vecchiola of Mt. Pleasant, SC; one sister, Debbie Vecchiola Seldon and her husband, Stephen, of Richmond, VA; two brothers, Michael Vecchiola and his wife, Heather, of Mt. Pleasant, SC and Jimmy Vecchiola, of Mt. Pleasant, SC; six nieces, and nephews, Brad Seldon, Timmy Seldon, Ashley Seldon, Alex Vecchiola, Jacob Vecchiola and Nicholas Vecchiola. She was preceded in death by her father, Arthur J. Vecchiola.

The family extends its heartfelt thanks to Dr. Babcock, Susan Gossett, Dr. Dial, Dr. Toussaint, Dr. Dan Westerkam, and the entire Health South of Columbia Rehab team.

Flowers will be accepted or donations may be made to the University of Virginia School of Nursing, P.O. Box 800782, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0782, or St. Peter's Catholic Church and School, P.O. Box 1896, Columbia, SC 29202 or Christ Our King Catholic Church, 1122 Russell Drive, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 or Hospice of Charleston Foundation, 676 Wando Park Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jhenrystuhr.com](http://www.jhenrystuhr.com).

**Published in The State on May 18, 2011**

# 2011 Calendar

Date	Subject of Meeting
January 20	Speaker Meeting * Restaurant TBD
January 31	Cockcroft Scholarship deadline
February 5	Geriatric Symposium
February 11	Mary Ann Parson Lecture
February 17	Board Meeting
February 20	Induction Ceremony/Reception
March 18	Board Meeting
March 19-26	InHolland Student visit
March 25	Annual Nursing Summit, Columbia Conference Center
March 31	SC Nursing Excellence Conference
April 1	Election - Ballot Mailing / Leadership Intern Applications due
April 21	Speaker Meeting * Restaurant TBD
April 23	Palmetto Gold - 10th Anniversary
May 13-14	Carolina Alumni Weekend
May 19	Annual Business Meeting
June 16	Transition Board Meeting

\*Please refer to the calendar for location of **Alpha Xi Board meetings**.

They will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM at

Palmetto Health Richland in Classroom 1B of the main hospital

Reminders will be sent 1 week prior to the meeting.

## Clinical Simulation Laboratory at USC Erin M. McKinney MN, RNC



There is a national as well as international movement toward the use of high fidelity simulation in healthcare education. The University of South Carolina (USC) College of Nursing in Columbia, SC has worked hard to keep on top of this wave by providing a facility where simulated, curriculum driven scenarios are offered. Participation in these scenarios provides the students with a “dress rehearsal” designed to prepare them to be the best healthcare providers they can be.

The Clinical Simulation Laboratory (CSL) was opened in the College of Nursing during the spring of 2009 and is part of a state wide consortium of labs. The consortium (Healthcare Simulation South Carolina HCSSC) is led by an Endowed Chair, Dr. John Schaefer, and includes Clemson University, the Greenville Hospital System, Greenville Technical College, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, USC College of Nursing- Columbia, USC College of Nursing- Beaufort, Trident Technical College and Medical University of South Carolina. The consortium benefits the students of these institutions through the sharing of scenarios and data, as well as strengthening research efforts by increasing sample size and the quality of conducted research. We are one of the few states in the nation using this concept and possibly the only one connected by a statewide data storage system.

The CSL utilizes a significant portion of the first floor of the College of Nursing. This facility features an open classroom area to allow instructors to interact with many students and individual rooms to simulate the hospital/clinical environment. There is also a small, private meeting/debriefing room that will accommodate a group of 5-6 people. The lab contains a variety of equipment such as beds with head wall units, exam tables, a delivery bed, newborn admission beds, task trainers and low, moderate and high fidelity mannequins. The latest audiovisual equipment is also available for use in this area.

The lab has four simulation suites set up like actual hospital rooms as well as an open area where mannequins can be grouped as if in a centralized care area. There are eleven high fidelity mannequins and three moderate fidelity mannequins. The high fidelity mannequins are programmable to mimic myriad disease processes and medical problems. These mannequins have chest rise with breathing, breath sounds, heart sounds, bowel sounds and measurable vital signs. Also, two of these mannequins have working eyes and can cry, four have the ability to simulate seizure activity, and three turn slightly blue if their oxygenation is compromised.

Computer-generated illness scenarios and medical emergencies for the mannequins challenge students to assess problems, critically think about the problem and provide care in a timely fashion. When students train with the mannequins, faculty often videotape the sessions and replay student responses. Students can see whether a particular response helped or harmed the patient. An in-depth discussion,

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known as a “debrief,” follows the 10-20 minute scenario and allows the students the opportunity to discuss and evaluate all aspects of the care provided. This includes which aspects went well, which aspects could have gone better and how to apply what they have learned to the care of human patients they will be caring for in the future.

Students’ response to the simulation experience has been enthusiastic. Many indicate that they feel better prepared for clinical when the topics/skills/medications/critical thinking aspects of patient care have been covered in the CSL beforehand. Many express increased confidence in their abilities.

Last fall the USC-Columbia College of Nursing CSL was chosen to participate in a nationwide, landmark study sponsored by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). Ten programs (5 BSN and 5 ADN) are participating in the study for the next three years to question the percent of overall clinical experience time that can be provided through simulation lab experiences. This is particularly important in environments where clinical opportunities are limited. While all agree that simulation will never completely replace the “real patient experience”, most agree that simulation is an excellent complement to a student’s transition into the healthcare profession. At the end of the study, the NCSBN hopes to have a clearer understanding of what simulation/clinical ratio works best for the student nurse learner.

This summer there are plans to add a new control room and a large simulation suite that can be converted from one large room to three smaller simulation suites. This versatility will provide space for emergency room scenario; as well as providing additional private hospital suites and will further support the demand for increased lab activities. The numbers of students who have benefitted from the CSL increases every year as individual faculty members add simulation to their courses. Peggy Hewlett, Dean of the College of Nursing, has supported the CSL from the beginning and has set a goal that all nursing classes at the College of Nursing place course specific simulation into their curriculum.

The expansion of simulation at USC Columbia has amazed parents and potential students who frequently tour the lab. Nursing alumni have also stated that they wish there had been a mannequin on which to practice their skills before they were placed with real patients. We are thrilled that we can offer this opportunity to future nursing graduates of the University of South Carolina.