



TEXAS ORGANIZATION FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is much news to impart, so take the opportunity to peruse this newsletter and share it with your colleagues! Communication is vital to achieve our mission/goals. We will be adding features to the newsletter and our website to enhance the

communication of our organization. One added section to the newsletter will include **news from various regions of Texas**. The regions are the same divisions made by the Texas Association of Community Colleges. A list of schools in each region will be included in this newsletter and also included is news from several of the regions.



Pictures of Program Directors are on TOADN website! At the bottom of TOADN's home page www.toadn.org you will see a link entitled "Visit our Agency Members", click on this link and you will find a list of schools with the picture of the dean or director of each school. If you are a director/dean and find your school but not your picture, send a picture or we will take a picture at the TOADN Deans and Director's Banquet in October. If you want your email placed on the website or deleted from the website let us know. Being able to refer to pictures should facilitate association and cohesiveness. If you do not find your school on the Agency Member page, it is because we do not have a record of your agency's membership. Please request that your agency join TOADN/NOADN.

We are happy to announce that **Kathy Emmite** from Cy-Fair College has agreed to complete the term of office as Newsletter Editor (Carmen Edwards resigned in June). We will be working with Kathy as she coordinates our future newsletters and website. Welcome Kathy Emmite to our TOADN Board of Directors!

As we know from our life experiences, after a "Sunset" it becomes dark for awhile and then the morning comes! We are eagerly anticipating the light of day! The BNE is now the Board of Nursing (BON) and the BON's staff is moving swiftly to meet the legislative requirements from the Sunset Commission. Several advisory committees have met and will meet frequently this year to counsel the BON on the required changes. TOADN will be represented by **Jean Flick**, from Grayson County, on the Licensure, Eligibility & Disciplinary Rules and Policies Task Force to the BON (LED Taskforce) **Helen Reid**, from Trinity Valley, and I represent TOADN on the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) to the BON. Texas Nurses Association has several standing committees/coalitions to monitor legislative changes. (*Message from the President* continues on page 2)

*Fall Deans and
Directors Banquet
October 4, 2007*

*TOADN & TCCTA
Convention
February 21-23, 2008
In Dallas*

*Jurisprudence testing
will be required for
all graduates apply
for license after
September 2008. The
test will probably be
on-line with web
based modules
through-out the state.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The TOADN president-elect (**Sally Durand**) and president are the representatives for TOADN on the Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition (NLAC). **Sarah Clark** from Wharton, **Marla Cottenoir** from South Plains and I represent TOADN on the Nursing Education Policy Coalition (NEPC). **Sally Durand** from Alvin is also on this committee but she formally represents TNA. **Phyllis Tipton** from Mclellan will represent TOADN on the Advisory Committee to the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). **Dianna Miller** from Laredo will be an alternate (for me) this month on the ACE committee.

NOTE: I can only appoint an individual member (not agency member) to serve as a representative for TOADN membership on the various state committees.

Jurisprudence testing will be required for all graduates apply for license after September 2008. The test will probably be on-line with web based modules through-out the state.

To follow-up on my last "message from the president," I attended the NOADN BOD meeting, and found there were no funds for a major research project. The report from our community college president liaison, Larry Philips (Angelina College), after asking the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) to fund research to support our AD position, was not-negative but the presidents were under the impression that NOADN was sponsoring a research project. However, if we come forth with a well thought out research strategy we might receive monetary

support from TACC. I am currently working with a hospital representative that has three years of findings indicating that AD graduates score higher on competency testing than BS graduates. If these findings are statistically significant, I will make every attempt to have the findings published.

We must accumulate data that is supportive of AD students/nurses. Soon we plan to add an index to our TOADN website that would include data/references that may be used to help support AD nursing. To facilitate this process of accumulation please forward any positive documented information you may possess.

As you know, I sent a letter on behalf of TOADN to the governor regarding his veto of funds to community colleges. A letter was also sent to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. I received a letter back from the governor's staff and senator Judith Zaffirini. Staff from Senator Royce West's office talked with me via phone. I received Zaffirini's letter in July at which time she was working with Lt Governor Dewhurst and colleagues to try to "remedy" the situation. We will not know the results until later this fall. The letter on behalf of TOADN turned up in more places than you can imagine. TOADN is still making a difference! My best to you as we continue the journey,

Bonnie Higgins
TOADN President

REGIONAL NEWS

West Texas (reported by Kim Bezinque)

Carmen Edwards (Odessa College) was promoted to Dean of Health Sciences and Gail Megher RN MSN was named as A.D.N. Director.

A consortium of West Texas community colleges and universities met in July to explore the possibility of working together, in some manner, to meet the BNE mandate regarding the Sunset Commission. This is still in the planning stage but seems to be focusing on remediation efforts.

South Texas (reported by Paula Olesen)

Mrs. Melba Trevino, MSN, RN is the new interim Dean of South Texas College replacing Wanda Spratt who left in July for Shasta, Ca. Dean Trevino has been with South Texas College since it incorporated as Program Director of the vocational nursing program.

The associate degree nursing program has had its HRSA Grant of \$250,000, South Texas Educational Professional Upward Project (Project STEP-UP), to increase enrollment and retention with transition students renewed for the second year.

Dr. Carolina Huerta, Nursing Department Chair, UT-PA, says "We are working with UTHSC-SA, UTB, and UTEP on an online LVN to BSN program as part of a Borderplex grant. The idea is that the degree will be from UTHSCSA but the students can take courses through each campus."

Central Region (reported by Jean Ward)

Austin Community College (ACC) admitted 50 additional students to their program this fall through support from area hospitals. ACC opened an extension campus in the new clinical education center created in the old children's hospital.

Southeast Region (reported by Gay Reeves)

Nursing programs across the Gulf Coast region have been very active in both individual and collaborative efforts to promote nursing education and graduate more qualified nurses. Regionally, schools in the greater Galveston-Houston area have participated in two major collaborative grants related to innovation in nursing education. The WINNER PROJECT which looked at the feasibility and impact of an innovative preceptor model is finalizing research analyses and reporting, with formal reports to be published and available to interested parties in the near future. Additionally, the NIGP-R: Regional Innovations in Nursing Education grant activities are underway.

(*Regional News* continued on page 4)

Central Texas Region

[Austin Community College](#)

[Blinn College](#)

[Central Texas College](#)
[Hill College](#)

[McLennan Community College](#)

[Navarro College](#)

[Temple College](#)

East Texas Region

[Angelina College](#)

[Kilgore College](#)

[Northeast Texas Community College](#)

[Panola College](#)

[Paris Junior College](#)

[Texarkana College](#)

[Trinity Valley Community College](#)

[Tyler Junior College](#)

**Southeast Texas
Region**[Alvin Community
College](#)[Brazosport College](#)[College of the
Mainland](#)[Galveston College](#)[Houston Community
College System](#)[Lamar University](#)[Lee College](#)[North Harris
Montgomery
Community College
District](#)[San Jacinto College](#)[Wharton County Junior
College](#)**West Texas Region**
[Amarillo College](#)[Clarendon College](#)[El Paso Community
College](#)[Frank Phillips College](#)[Howard College](#)[Midland College](#)[Odessa College](#)[South Plains College](#)[Western Texas College](#)**REGIONAL NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

To date, steps have been made toward the selection of a regional clinical placement system in which both hospitals and nursing programs collaborate to improve the clinical placement process, the criminal background check and drug screening registration process has been centralized, and an Academic Success Workshop series has begun telecasting across the two-way telecart systems that allows all programs in the region to benefit from the collective expertise of professional presenters in the area. Finally, the area schools have collaborated under the direction of Dr. Pat Stark, Chair of the Graduation Rates Task Force, to better track the retention and graduation rates of nursing students in the Gulf Coast Region. At this time, two rounds of data collection have been completed and regional methods of tracking and reporting have been implemented.

Individually, Lee College has participated in a NLNAC grant project focusing on innovation in education, namely the *Clinical presentation project: Clinical scenarios designed for High-Tech simulation equipment*. The Lee College ADN Program also participated in the WINNER Project 24 initiative, sent four faculty to the Laredel Sim Man training, and plan a RN Transitional project with their VN staff at a local hospital to promote upgrading credentials.

Alvin Community College has just moved into their new Allied Health Building, which is reported to be a state of the art facility. Congratulation ACC.

The College of the Mainland hosted on-site Laredel Sim Man training for all full-time ADN faculty as well as on-site simulation training with *Noelle* the OB-related simulation mannequin. College of the Mainland has implemented the use of a Simulation Clinical Lab as a clinical rotation site. Students at all levels of clinical (from Clinical I through Clinical VII) spend 1 to 2 clinical days per clinical course in the simulation lab in a case study environment. Faculty are able to control the scenarios and expose students to ideal teaching/learning opportunities that are not available to all students in their assigned time at their assigned hospital rotations. Preliminary evaluation has evidenced both faculty and student satisfaction with the simulation program.

UPDATE ON N-OADN BY HELEN REID

The N-OADN Board recently underwent a strategic planning exercise designed to keep the organization outcome focused and headed in the right direction. The revised mission is “N-OADN is in the business of promoting associate degree nursing education” which will be achieved through Networking, Education, Advocacy, Research, and Communications. The major goals are to:

- 1) Advance associate degree nursing education through networking;
- 2) Promote associate degree nursing education;
- 3) Advocate for issues and activities that support N-OADN’s mission;
- 4) Strengthen the role of N-OADN in research by 2010;
- 5) Promote associate degree nursing education through enhanced communication with a diversity of audiences;
- 6) Ensure that N-OADN remains fiscally fit: and
- 7) Guarantee the future of N-OADN.

The next step is to develop strategies with priorities, assign responsibilities, make sure the budget supports the action plans, and develop an accountability tracking mechanism, performance benchmarks and evaluation schedules. The board has many ideas to meet the goals such as refreshing the list serv and web site and other technology to promote discussions and networking, increasing marketing strategies, identifying research priorities, and using testimonials to get the word out about ADN education.

N-OADN will strengthen its partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges, a powerful ally in our mission. The Journal of Teaching and Learning will be a great vehicle for spreading the word about ADN education and share best practices and teaching tips. N-OADN will continue to seek representation at “tables” where policies affecting ADN education are constructed. Most recently, the N-OADN President attended the report of the Carnegie Nursing Research Project.

N-OADN continues to monitor legislation affecting ADN and has taken an active role in several states opposing legislation or policy changes designed to require a BSN within 10 years after graduation, including New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New Mexico. The annual convention will continue to function to keep faculty up to date on the issues affecting ADN education and provide an opportunity for a nurse educator certification review course. The rapidly changing external environment required the Board to address the shifting needs of members and the profession and continued work on implementing the plan will be essential for success of the organization.

North Texas Region
[Cisco Junior College](#)

[Collin County
Community College
District](#)

[Dallas County
Community Colleges](#)

[Grayson County
College](#)

[North Central Texas
College](#)

[Ranger College](#)

[Tarrant County College](#)

[Vernon College](#)

[Weatherford College](#)

South Texas Region
[Alamo Community
College](#)

[Coastal Bend College](#)

[Del Mar College](#)

[Laredo Community
College](#)

[South Texas College](#)

[Southwest Texas
Junior College](#)

[Texas Southmost
College](#)

[The Victoria College](#)

NURSE IN THE SPOTLIGHT – JULIE TALBOTT



Julie Talbott graduated from Tarrant County College (TCC) in May 1987. In August 2007 she administered TB tests to the TCC faculty. At the time of her graduation, Julie was one of the youngest graduates from the nursing program. Immediately after graduation, she started her career in Labor and Delivery at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. Initially, the job was recovery, a ward of labor beds, one OR and 4 delivery rooms. “After getting comfortable in my role as an RN, I started working in the department OR. There I would circulate (or scrub as needed) for emergent and elective surgical cases. I retired from hospital nursing for

a few short years, to work in Family Practice. There I performed every job duty imaginable, as all RN's multi-tasking with blood draws, x-rays, front desk, back office, you name... I did it.”

“I missed hospital nursing, so in 1999, when an incredible opportunity came to me, I could not resist. I started working for Harris Methodist Fort Worth (HMFV) in the Occupational Health Clinic. In the clinic, we are allowed a great amount of autonomy. At the clinic, I work on site and go off site occasionally, working with our companies to provide care where they need it.”

“I have learned so much about travel medicine, childhood and adult immunizations, infectious diseases/prophylaxis, the companies in our community--the scope of practice is open. With HMFV, I assisted in our department's involvement with Magnet, Continuing Improvement, Key Focus Areas, Quality Assurance, work with the ER for follow up care on work related injuries, and blood pathogen exposures. I am also involved in staff schedules, CI projects, patient satisfaction and work as a preceptor for nurses new to the department.”

Julie Talbott is an outstanding example of what an AD nurse can achieve. The opportunities are endless!

Julie is married to an ER doctor and has 1 son and 3 daughters, 2 in college, 2 at Southwest Christian School, Prep Campus.

I have learned so much about travel medicine, childhood and adult immunizations, infectious diseases/prophylaxis, the companies in our community--the scope of practice is open.

*N-OADN 2007
Annual Convention
November 9-11, 2007
in Las Vegas.
[More Information...](#)*

TEXAS PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR NURSES

[Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses](#) (TPAPN) was established for nurses to help nurses. It helps RNs and LVNs get through the difficulties of substance abuse and/or mental illness -- and get back to work.

Summary of August 10, 2007 - TPAPN Advisory Committee
Submitted by Phyllis Tipton, RN, PhD TOADN Representative

Introduction: I am honored to be representing TOADN on the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses Advisory Committee. I have actually been serving on the committee since 2001 as the Nursing Education Representative but without reporting to any specific organization. I have been a member of TOADN for over 10 years and have been involved with TPAPN in the role of Volunteer Advocate since 1993. I have been employed in the A.D.N. program at McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas since 1991. Please contact me at ptipton@mcclennan.edu or 254-299-8352 if you have any questions or concerns you would like me to share with the TPAPN Advisory Committee.

1. During 2007 3rd quarter, TPAPN average daily census was 669. This number included RNs and LVNs active cases and referrals who have not yet signed a participation agreement. Since the first quarter of 2007 this is a 6% in daily case volume.
2. Effective September 1, 2007 there will be changes to the referral process. In the past, nurses whose practice was impaired due to suspected substance use or mental illness could be directly reported to TPAPN. Now due to legislative changes, the Texas Board of Nurses (BON) must be notified of any referral of such nurses if there has been any type of practice violation (e.g., diverting narcotics, coming to work under the influence of substances, etc). TPAPN is working with the BON to develop the specific protocol for this change and it is anticipated that TPAPN will be able to continue working with the majority of these cases.
3. TPAPN is about to launch a tele-coaching pilot. This program will be required for any TPAPN nurse participant who has relapsed. The program will require such nurses to work via the telephone with a therapist on a regular basis with the goal of providing the nurse additional support and tools to help prevent future relapse. There will be a minimal fee for nurses in this pilot.

(Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses continued on Page 8)

*Please contact me
[Phyllis Tipton] at
ptipton@mcclennan.edu
or 254-299-8352 if you
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Committee.*

*Effective September 1,
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referral process.*

*TPAPN Celebrates Its
20th Year!*

**TEXAS
ORGANIZATION
FOR ASSOCIATE
DEGREE
NURSING**

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difference in
Texas and the
Nation**

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TOADN today!*
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TEXAS PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR NURSES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

4. TPAPN has developed a new category of participation, Extended Evaluation Participation. Eligible participants would be those involved in an isolated incident suggesting a potential for improper drug use or impairment but has no other history. Participation would involve one year screening with a minimum of 18 random drug screens and would have no work restrictions. If at the end of one year there are no concerns, the nurse will successfully complete the program. However, in the event of a positive drug screen or failure to comply with the random drug screen, the nurse will be referred to the BON.

5. November 2 and 3 is the next TPAPN Advocate Workshop in Austin. In conjunction with the workshop, TPAPN will be celebrating its 20th year of existence with a gala scheduled on November 2. If you would like to donate anything to the silent auction (e.g. gift basket, gift certificate, something handmade, etc) please contact me, at ptipton@mcclennan.edu. All proceeds will go toward the TPAPN foundation.

COMPETENCY SCENARIOS

Psychosis Scenarios created by Tarrant County College (Bonnie Higgins) to improve competency in student nurses was added to the TOADN website! Faculty/students can access the scenarios from home or work. Three of the scenarios are Med-Surg based.

TOADN WEBSITE:
[HTTP://WWW.TOADN.ORG](http://WWW.TOADN.ORG)

PSYCHOSIS SCENARIOS:
[HTTP://TCCNURSING.MULTIPLY.COM/VIDEO](http://TCCNURSING.MULTIPLY.COM/VIDEO)

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

The Texas Organization for Associate Degree Nursing was established to advance the status of the Associate Degree Nurse in education and in practice.

TOADN is affiliated with the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (NOADN).