

Publicist Learns Much at the 2014 STTI Leadership Connection

Leadership development is one of the missions of STTI and of our Nu Mu Chapter. Recently our chapter nominated and sponsored our Publicity Chair, **Mario Barandiaran, BSN, RN** a member to attend the 2014 STTI Leadership Connection in Indianapolis, Indiana. Whether a nurse was serving as a chapter leader, managing an inpatient unit or looking to develop better skills when communicating with healthcare colleagues, the event had something for everyone. I asked Mario about his experience.

KH - *What specifically might appeal to our chapter's members about this type of nursing conference as opposed to other conferences?*

MB - This was my first time attending a conference. For being new board member, I have enjoyed this conference. It compared to what I have read about the other conferences due to the fact that this conference focuses on tools and skills available to the board to help them with their position. It provides leaders with the opportunity to network with other members and share ideas.

KH - *Are there 1 or 2 leadership ideas or tips might be beneficial for our members or the average nursing professional?*

MB - I would have to say that my experience with joining Sigma Theta Tau became more enjoyable when I became more involved such as attending conferences. It does not mean I had to do more work. The enjoyable aspect came from meeting other members from different backgrounds and learning from them. Sometimes, it gives you another perspective on how to do things better. So I have to give one tip, it would have to be attend at least one conference, and that can be with any organization.

KH - *Is there anything that you learned that you'd like to share with Nu Mu that might improve our chapter operations; and if so, what would that be?*

MB - One thing that I have learned that might improve our chapter operations is that successful recruitment is not issuing an invitation as a first form of contact and that you have to develop relationships.

KH - *Any other 'pearls' to share from Indianapolis?*

MB - One 'pearl of wisdom' shared to me was that sometimes students see membership to an organization as a *one-time thing*, rather it should be seen as growth and development of their practice.

Keith Hoshal, MSN, RN-BC, OCN, CHTC is currently President of the Nu Mu Chapter
Mario Barandiaran, BSN, RN is currently Publicity Chair of the Nu Mu Chapter

Research Shared at Recent Odyssey Conference

Congratulations to our very own, **Beth Winokur, PhD, RN, CEN** who presented 3 abstracts at the recent STTI Region 2 Odyssey Research Conference in Ontario, California!

- "Blood Culture Accuracy: Central Venous Catheter Discards"
- "Exploring Factors that Motivate Nurses to Obtain a BSN", &
- "Patients' Attitude/Perceptions to RN Use of In-Room Computers"

All of these topics personally resonated with me and my nursing career. As an oncology nurse, I have often experienced first-hand the variation in practice among facilities whether the initial blood sample is discarded or not before drawing blood cultures from febrile hematology/oncology patients. In addition, in my current role as an Education Program Coordinator, I communicate with dozens of employees every week as an academic counselor helping to advise and guide them with their continuing education needs. Our profession is challenged to have 80% of our RNs have a minimum of a BSN degree by 2020! Lastly and like other centers throughout the country, about 6 years ago our facility started embracing an Electronic Medical Record system to document patient care. Although a vast majority of the health system is 'live' in the inpatient areas, enhancements to the system occur continually. As an Educator, I help RNs learn and adjust to these enhancements and incorporate them within their daily workflows. I've often wondered how 'caring' patients might perceive their nurse now that we are 'glued' to a computer for much of the day when we are caring for them. Thanks again to **Beth** for enhancing the breadth of nursing knowledge in 3 very diverse areas.

Congratulations also to our CSULA colleagues and members **Sarah Chavez, Heather Love** and **Christine Musich** who also presented at this fantastic educational event. I encourage you to speak with **Beth** and our other members about their research as you explore what nursing topics might interest you.

Keith Hoshal, MSN, RN-BC, OCN, CHTC is currently President of the Nu Mu Chapter