

“Faculty and Student Research: Driving Practice”
Darlene Finocchiaro, STTI Nu Mu Chapter President

The 10th Annual Evidence-Based Nursing Forum (EBPF), co-sponsored by the Cal State LA School of Nursing and the Nu Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, was held on February 12, 2016 in the University Eagle Ballrooms. With close to 400 in attendance, there was much anticipation for this event. It was the 10 year anniversary and it was the first time the theme was on faculty and student research, which would cover various topics and not just one idea or area of interest. We have had wonderful community and university speakers previously on such topics as “Men in Nursing,” “Health Concerns of the Aging Population,” “Prevalence of Obesity,” and last year “Exploring Forensic Nursing.” We hope to continue this trend in the future but for 2016 it was decided to have Cal State LA faculty and students present what they have been doing in research, especially since this was a common request on previous EBPF evaluations.

Our first speaker, Dr. Jon Christensen, spoke on his PhD Dissertation: “Experiences of Gay Persons of HIV-Positive Men: An Exploratory Study.” Following was Dr. Nnenna Weathers, who presented “Researching HIV-Negative post-Incarcerated, African American, Male to Female Transgender Persons: Lessons Learned.” Before the break, Dr. Ayman Tailakh, primary investigator, introduced the senior students: Diana Diokno, Haewon Macfarlane, and Shirley Jiang, who discussed their research study “Stress, Sleep and Caffeine: Determinates of Health and Lifestyle among College Students.”

Professor Benson Yeung and several students who participated in the Kaiser Student Nurse Summer Externship Program shared with the audience some of their unique and rewarding experiences; as well as how the experience has influenced their implementation of patient care.

Dr. Jean O’Neal passionately presented her research on the “Implementation of an Innovative Computerized Educational Program on Sexually Transmitted Infections for a High School Health Center,” while Dr. Phoebe Kim presented her DNP project on the “Development of a Post Burn Pruritus Relief Protocol.” The research and innovative projects were exciting to learn about. Based on the EBPF evaluations, the audience commented that the topics were interesting, relevant, and relateble.

Besides the presentations, there were 24 posters to view. Most of the posters were presented by students who were proud to share their work and receive a certificate of recognition. A few poster topics included "Evidence Based Practices for Patients with Obesity," "Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases among Hispanic Mothers of Low Socioeconomic Status," "Surgical Site Infections in Bowel Surgery," and "What Good are Gowns: A Review of the Need for Increased Contact Precautions and Isolation for MRSA Patients." To end the morning, the Nu Mu Chapter STTI, held its famous raffle, resulting in lots of winners receiving great prizes; as well as making \$515.00 for future student scholarships.

The EBPF has been a success for the last 10 years and it is now a yearly chapter with the School of Nursing tradition. It entails much organization and time from many student volunteers (30 this year) and Nu Mu Board participation. At this year's EBPF, special recognition was given to Dr. Lorie Judson, Director of the SON, who with her leadership started the event. She took the annual poster recognition event and turned it into something big, working with the Nu Mu Chapter. She planted a seed and it grew. As a annual chapter function, the tradition will continue next year and is scheduled for Friday February 10, 2017 with the topic to be determined. Hope to see you there!