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The Central *line*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS NURSING STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

State Convention Keynote Speaker Announced



Not only is she the **STAR** of the hit series, **The Little Couple**, but she is also a medical director of a children's hospital with a state of the art pediatric simulation center.....
Introducing this year's keynote speaker, JENNIFER ARNOLD!!



Jennifer Arnold, MD, MSc is the medical director of Texas Children's Hospital's new, state of the art pediatric simulation center. Dr. Arnold has been involved in simulation education for the last 5 years. She trained in the field of resuscitative medicine and simulation education at the University of Pittsburgh's Safar Center for Resuscitative Medicine

sponsored by the National Institute of Health. She has been funded for her simulation educational research through the Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine. Among her achievements she has received the Ray E Helfer Award for Innovation in Medical Education from Academic Pediatric Association. She has spoken both nationally and internationally for her research in simulation. Clinically, she is an assistant professor of neonatal-perinatal medicine at Texas Children's Hospital. Jennifer Arnold, MD, MSc is the medical director of Texas Children's Hospital's pediatric simulation center and an assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, division of neonatology. Dr. Arnold has been involved in simulation education for the last 5 years. She was a NIH postdoctoral scholar at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's Safar Center for Resuscitative Medicine from July 2006-July 2007 (NIH Training Grant # T32 HD40686). She has been funded for her simulation educational research through the Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine. Prior to coming to Texas Children's Hospital, Dr. Arnold completed a randomized controlled trial evaluating the effects of a simulation-based training program on pediatric resident neonatal intubation success and competency. Among her achievements she has received the Ray E Helfer Award for Innovation in Medical Education from Academic Pediatric Association for her study, *A prospective randomized controlled trial of the effect of a high fidelity simulation curriculum on pediatric resident competency in clinical management of the neonatal airway.*

2011 TNSA 63rd Annual Convention

Moody Gardens Hotel
Seven Hope Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77554
210-691-8888

Date: February 24-26, 2011

Booking Rooms: \$139 for Single, Double, and Triple/Quad. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is Monday, January 31, 2011.

Registration: Fees are \$70 for early registration due by February 11, 2011; A fee of \$80 after February 11, 2011.



Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center, Galveston, Texas

PREP FOR STATE CONVENTION!!

Annie Dickerson
TNSA Western Regional Director



State convention is an exciting learning and networking experience. In order to be best prepared for the learning and networking opportunities follow the checklist below to make attending the convention a streamlined, fun-filled weekend.

- ◆ Ensure chapter constituency is current with TNSA.
- ◆ Fill out and send in registration form(s) and registration fee(s) for attendee(s); including faculty, advisors, delegates, and alternates. (<http://tnsa.org/events.html>)
- ◆ Make reservations at hotel for attendee(s).
- ◆ Make travel arrangements to get to Galveston, TX – Houston Hobby is the closest airport.
- ◆ Fill out any pertinent forms for chapter recognition awards– <http://tnsa.org/awards.html>
- ◆ Ensure individual TNSA membership is up-to-date.
- ◆ If considering running for a state office, become familiar with procedures for running. (<http://tnsa.org/elecinfo.html>)
- ◆ Notify your instructors and professors of missing any class or clinical; make arrangements to make up missed work.
- ◆ Most of the events of the weekend require professional business attire; pack accordingly.
- ◆ Update and bring copies of resume for networking with potential employers.
- ◆ Compile a team for “Brain Bowl” Competition.
- ◆ Bring pennies for penny wars – benefiting Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center of East Texas.
- ◆ Be prepared for a great weekend!

Hopefully, the above list will give you some assistance in being the utmost prepared for convention. If you have any additional questions, you can always contact your regional director. We are looking forward to seeing you in Galveston on February 24. 🍷

Checklist for State Convention

Being well prepared at a convention can mean the difference in how much you take away from the experience. Like most things in life, the more you put in, the more you take out. Here's a basic checklist of things to think about before you leave home.



Jennifer Malone,
TNSA Southern
Regional Director

- ✓ **Waivers:** some schools require them, check with your faculty advisor
- ✓ **Money for food and goodies** (like NCLEX review books, colorful bandage scissors, TNSA pin)
- ✓ **Credit card:** if your chapter reserved hotel rooms you probably need the same one used to hold the reservations
- ✓ **Homework** because school comes first
- ✓ **Rearranged schedule, professor-approved, of homework, quizzes and exam due dates**
- ✓ **Tentative schedule of your obligations** (info at www.tnsa.org under the "events" tab)
- ✓ **Robert's Rules of Order:** you should have a basic working knowledge
- ✓ **Clothes:** business casual, cool weather & sleepwear
- ✓ **Toiletries:** especially your toothbrush
- ✓ **Campaign materials** if you are campaigning
- ✓ **Paper to exchange contact info**
- ✓ **Resolution information** if you've written one
- ✓ **Chapter scrapbook** if you're entering the scrapbook contest
- ✓ **Bragging rights and info to share**
- ✓ **Cell phone charger**
- ✓ **Chapstick**
- ✓ **Questions about other programs, residency opportunities, internships/ externships, specialties, advanced degrees and places of employment.** Talk to other students, talk to their faculty advisors, talk to exhibitors
- ✓ **Transportation:** make sure it's been arranged and double checked before you leave
- ✓ **Camera to document all the fun you've had!**

If you have any doubts or questions don't hesitate to contact any one of your TNSA board members. See you there! 🍷

The Needs to Know to Running for State Officer, Resolutions Hearing, and Appropriate Attire...

Angi Reddoch , TNSA Nominations Chair



TNSA Pins!



To order your official TNSA pin, please send a check or money order for \$12 per pin to:

TNSA, Inc.
P.O. Box 35509
Dallas, TX 75235
Attention: Pat Pollock

Please include your name, address, telephone number, and the number of pins with your order.

For those of you who have not been to a TNSA convention, we just wanted to highlight some things to expect and what to bring. There will be plenty of time to network with your peers and see the sites. This year, we will be bringing such exciting break-out sessions! There will also be the 2nd annual NCLEX Brain Bowl!

State Officer: Thinking of running for a state board position can seem overwhelming and perhaps a bit scary. You may be thinking you just started nursing school and are humbled by all you do not know, but serving your peers is a great opportunity to make a difference in nursing without having to actually be an RN. We need new leaders and if you think you fit the bill, please run for a position. If it is after this date, you can bring the form to convention. (Be sure to have the school approval form signed). Most information is in the chapter guide but if you have any questions about the positions or the elections process, please email: nom.chair@tnsa.org. Send the forms to:

Attn: Nominations Committee Chair
Angi Reddoch
P.O. Box 35509
Dallas, Texas 75235

Resolutions Hearings: Another huge part of convention is the resolutions hearings. A majority vote is needed to adopt a resolution so be sure to bring delegates! The chapter guide is a great resource for writing a resolution. If you have any questions, please contact either Co-Chair, Angi Reddoch at nom.chair@tnsa.org or Annie Dickerson at west.director@tnsa.org. Send resolutions to:

TNSA Resolutions Committee
c/o Pat Pollock
TNSA
P.O. Box 35509
Dallas, Texas 75235

Dress Attire: State convention is a professional event for nursing students and it is expected to dress and act accordingly. This means professional business attire for both men and women. (See your chapter guide for further information on dress code). We will be in Galveston, so be sure to bring site seeing attire as well.

Recap checklist: bring delegates, completed forms, resolutions, pennies for penny wars, money for merchandise, professional attire, casual attire, and be ready for a great time! ♥



Michael Reed,
TNSA Eastern Region Director

“Why is there such a shortage for nurses, yet I can’t find a job?”: Understanding the Current Employment Market

Like many of you, this is my second career endeavor and a dramatic departure from my first career as a U.S. Navy Electrician. As I stated earlier in my officer introduction, my wife is a new-grad ADN from another school in our region. This leads to the topic of this brief, the current employment market for nursing graduates in our region. Over the course of the past few months, I’ve watched my wife and classmates struggle to find ANY employment as fresh-faced nursing newbies. What a dreadful thought! If you are anything like me you choose the nursing profession not simply because of any call to service, but also the security the profession affords, especially during times of economic gloom. We have all heard the hype about the shortage and dreamt of a career where employers value our commitment to them. It’s true, nursing is the go-anywhere, well paid, and stable career that we all hope to enjoy. Then I have to wonder, why have I heard the words “If there is such a shortage, than why can’t I find a job” more than once, by more than one person? After more than a few conversations with hospital recruiters and nursing managers, I’ve compiled a list of recurring themes. I present them in this forum so that we, with a year or two of nursing school left to go, get a heads up to the situation and a leg up to prepare.

The downturn in the economy. This one is simple, experienced nurses are returning from the home to the workforce as their significant others suffer from lay-offs and cutbacks. The retirement-ready nurses are not retiring for the same reason.

The uncertainty of new healthcare legislation. Hospitals are above all, businesses with shareholders who are trying to understand the implications of healthcare legislation to their bottom-line. Hiring new nurses is risky business in uncertain times because of substantial training cost, liability, and 35-45% first year turnover.

“Magnet” Designation. This is perhaps the most dramatic reason, and the most perplexing for most students. We have all heard the term thrown around, but what does it mean? The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), which is a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), designed the Magnet Recognition Program to encourage hospitals to strive for excellence in nursing employment. In summary, this is accomplished by integrating nurses deeper into decision-making supervisory and administrative circles. This ensures that those nurses are in sync with the needs of the “deck plate” level nurses, and that

every nurse is empowered with the ability to achieve their greatest level of success and provide high standard patient care. Sounds ideal, doesn’t it? The problem is, hospitals want more educated, more experienced nurses with more certifications to round out their applications for this accolade-du-jour. This means that new ADN’s “need not apply” as one recruiter for a very prominent local hospital system put it. On top of all this, the Magnet requirement for yearlong residencies for new nurses has had a profound effect on how nurses (AND, BSN, or otherwise) get experience. As I understand it, a new nurse had the option to apply to a handful of specialty residencies in years past. If not accepted, then they would cut their teeth - so to speak- on med-surgical units until they had enough experience to apply again. Now even med-surgical units require completion of a residency. Moreover, since residencies are inherently very expensive for the hospitals, very few are offered. So what’s the bottom line? Supply and demand scales are certainly tipped toward the employers, but not for long. The economy will rebound, nurses will retire, and the impending nursing shortage isn’t getting any better in the years to come as the first waves of baby-boomers are requiring more intense care. Do not wait for the horizon to come to you, however. Be PROACTIVE! Anything you can do to improve your marketability to the employers with magnet aspirations will set you ahead of the rest. Since it is well known that hospitals tend hire most of their summer interns, start there. Getting your ACLS, PALS, etc. will certainly not hurt your resume either. Like the Boy Scouts of America motto, “Be Prepared”.

OUR MISSION:

- To provide the highest education for student nurses while aiding in the development of the whole person.
- To have direct input into the standards on nursing education and influence on the education process.
- To model a high level of integrity among students in their dealings with people as they strive for excellence in everything they do, as it is an expectation and not a goal.

For more information about the ANCC Magnet Precognition Program, visit <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Magnet.aspx>

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