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2006 ARNA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

2006 ARNA AWARDS LUNCHEON

Several Arkansas nurses were recognized and honored by their colleagues at the 2006 ARNA Awards Luncheon for their contribution to the nursing profession.

Melba Tatom (District 1) received the Outstanding District Member Award. She is a retired nursing educator from South Arkansas Community College and is currently a hospice volunteer in her community. Dressed in her nursing cap and cape, Ms. Tatom performed the Nightingale Tribute as a memorial for Arkansas nurses who have died during the previous year and performs this memorial locally as well.



Outstanding District Member
Melda Tatom

Elaine Holloway (District 9) received the Outstanding District President Award. She is the director of the nursing program for Northwest Arkansas Community College. As District 9 president, she has worked to increase membership and participation among nurses as well as nursing students. She has met with students and encouraged them to consider nursing as a profession and has served as the faculty advisor for the local nursing students association.



Outstanding District President
Elaine Holloway

Joyce McConaughy (District 9) received the Distinguished Service Award for her continued support for the nursing profession, even in retirement. She organized a new model for District 9 meetings, which were coordinated with the AHEC-NW continuing education programs to offer contact hours for nurses. Her leadership and vision in her district as well as her service as ARNA's vice-president is an inspiration for future generations of nurses.



Distinguished Service Award Recipient
Joyce McConaughy

Melodee Harris (District 8) received the Gerontology Nurse of the Year Award. As a geriatric nurse practitioner, Ms. Harris collaborates with physicians and other healthcare providers to provide quality care to residents in long-term care facilities. She also serves as a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Arkansas organization. Her day care program for these clients include activities which are fun and maintain function. She includes gerontology nursing students to increase their understanding about the special needs of these clients while providing respite care for the caregiver. As she was inspired by spending time with an older neighbor during her childhood, she has inspired others to creatively care for the unique needs of the geriatric patient.



Melodee Harris,
Gerontology Nurse of the Year

Two nurses received the Nurse of the



Keynote Speaker
Dr. Claudia Beverly



Nurse of the Year
Sarah Rhoads



Dr. Claudia Beverly



Nurse of the Year
Irene Shirley

Year Award. **Sarah Rhoads** (District 10) combines the many roles available to nurses today. As a nurse, she has practiced as an obstetrical clinical nurse in treating non-insured Hispanic women. As a professor, she instructs nursing students at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. As a student, she is currently seeking her Doctorate in Nursing from the University of Tennessee. As a researcher, she has initiated a new program to determine the psychological effects of using real-time video technology to connect families with their sick newborns in the University's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Ms. Rhoads has also collaborated with a writing and research team to secure grant funding and recognition for the Antenatal and Neonatal Guidelines, Education and Learning System (ANGELS). As a professional, she has recently been elected as Section Chair for Arkansas for the Association for Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nursing. In all of these roles, Ms. Rhoads demonstrates her passion for nursing both to her students and to her colleagues.

Irene Shirley (District 10) also received the Nurse of the Year Award for her continued advocacy of advanced practice nursing. Ms. Shirley was one of

the first advanced practice nurses to be hired at the VA hospital in the 1970's. She has also been a mentor to many APN students over the years. She was instrumental in ensuring that the salaries were comparable to the national average. In 2005, Ms. Shirley received the VA Secretary's Hands and Hearts Award, which recognizes commitment and dedication in providing support, care, help and guidance to patients.

Joanne Dejanovich, Jean Zehler, and **Rita Monsen** were the recipients of the President's Award. This award is given at the discretion of the ARNA President for service during the previous year. All three recipients were instrumental in assuring ARNA's status as a provider of continuing education for nurses through their willingness to organize and coordinate the reaccreditation process through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Countless hours were spent detailing activities, writing reports and meeting with the site visitors from the ANCC. Because of their expertise in the strict criteria required and their recommendations for the future, ARNA may continue to provide and approve continuing education programs for our nurses.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
AWARD RECIPIENTS!**



Joanne Dejanovich,
President's
Award Recipient



Jean Zehler,
President's
Award Recipient



Rita Monsen,
President's
Award Recipient

HALL OF FAME

ARNA Hall of Fame Award

Presented to Shirlene Harris and Linda Hodges



Dr. Linda Hodges,
Hall of Fame



Dr. Shirlene Harris,
Hall of Fame

The ARNA Hall of Fame Award represents a lifetime of dedication to the nursing profession. The award is given to a nurse who is retired or near retirement in acknowledgement of the contribution made to our profession's past, present, and future. Two distinguished nursing leaders and the 2006 Hall of Fame recipients, Dr. Shirlene Harris and Dr. Linda Hodges were honored by their colleagues at the ARNA Awards Luncheon in Hot Springs on October 12, 2006.

Dr. Linda Hodges has been the Dean of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing for 17 years. During that time, Dr. Hodges was successful in guiding and developing the only doctoral nursing program in the state. After several years of educating stakeholders of the value of such a program, the College of Nursing began accepting doctoral applicants in 1997 and has since graduated 14 doctorally prepared nurses. She has also been an advocate in reducing the critical nursing shortage in our state. She has testified before the General Assembly and was involved in the establishment of the Arkansas Legislative Nursing Commission (ALNC), whose mission was to study the scope of the shortage and provide suggestions to allevi-

ate this healthcare problem. Through her support and active participation, the work that began with the ALNC will continue as nursing leaders and others meet as the Arkansas Nursing Workforce Center.

Dr. Shirlene Harris began her nursing career as a diploma graduate of the Arkansas Baptist School of Nursing. As she continued her education, she rose as a leader in the clinical area as well as in nursing education. As the Dean of the Baptist School of Nursing, she has served on countless committees and task forces aimed at improving health care for Arkansans. She has been a leader with the Arkansas League for Nursing, the National League for Nursing and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. She also served on the Arkansas Legislative Nursing Commission. Dr. Harris has served ARNA by assuring the integrity of our by-laws, our positions regarding nursing education and continuing education for all nurses, and monitoring our House of Delegates as our Parliamentarian. Because of her commitment to excellence in nursing practice and nursing education, Dr. Harris has made a significant impact on her colleagues and her students as she has sought to improve the health of Arkansans.