

SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING 44TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

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The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing held its 44th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, from 28 October to 1 November 2017. The convention theme was Influence through Action: Advancing Global Health, Nursing, and Midwifery. The convention outcomes were to celebrate global nursing excellence, which includes comprehensively the impact of nursing researches in health promotion and disease prevention, to build professional education experience by sharing knowledge in a profound manner, to network through visual sharing by means of nursing resources exhibitions and learning, and to grant its members the opportunity to expand career opportunities through networking with all health professionals globally.

The event was attended by more than 2 200 nursing leaders from across the globe, including students' leaders from institutions of higher learning. The programme comprised research presentations as concurrent sessions, poster presentations, the exhibit hall opening, marketing sessions, plenary sessions, award ceremonies, speed connect events, House of Delegates sessions, and the induction of new honorary members. The theme of the opening plenary session was Influence to Advance Global Health and Nursing, by Dr Cathy Catrambone who was the president of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing from 2015–2017.

During special award events, lifetime members were awarded trophies and certificates for their contribution to the improvement of global health through research and interventions. These awards served as a great motivation to the first-time attendees and students who are growing into the profession's leadership fraternity. The awards were categorised as tribute awards, chapter recognition, and founders' awards.

Among some of the attendees from South Africa were: Ms Matumelo Motaung, second-level nursing student from the North-West University School of Nursing Sciences and national chairperson of the South African Nursing Students' Association (SANSA), Mr Thabang Mokoena, newly graduated RN from the University of the Witwatersrand and the immediate past national chairperson of SANSA, Prof. Hester Klopper, the past president of Sigma Theta Tau and the founder of the Forum of University Nursing Deans of South Africa (FUNDISA), Dr Elizabeth Mokoka, the CEO of FUNDISA, and Prof. Nokuthula Sibiyi, the chairperson of FUNDISA.

Ms Motaung won a book titled *Take Charge of Your Nursing Career* by Dr Lois Marshall during the students' engagement event. Mr Mokoena won the research race by the Alpha Chapter with the aim to raise funds to support nursing research. The 45th Biennial Convention will be held in Washington DC, USA, in 2019. We are delighted to see the chapters across 90 countries grow and continue to make a positive change in the health system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our special thanks to FUNDISA, the mother body of SANSA, and the management of the North-West University School of Nursing Sciences for the full support to attend the convention. A special thank you also to the SANSA members for keeping this organisation alive and vibrant and also for entrusting Ms Motaung and Mr Mokoena to represent them at the convention. Thank you to Sigma for the lifetime membership and a great convention.