

Distinguished Speaker Series Reflection

Taylor Hill

Covenant School of Nursing

Instructional Module 6: (Nursing 1206) Childbearing Family and Acute Psychiatric Nursing

Concepts

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Coming into this Distinguished Speaker Series, I had no idea what we were going to dive into, all I knew was that we were going to be talking about nursing careers. During the lecture, I was surprised to hear the speaker, Dr. O'Grady, talk about not only the great aspects of the nursing profession but also the down sides. In nursing school, we mainly talk about how great nursing can be and how we can make a difference in patients lives but it was refreshing to hear that the concerns of nursing students as well as licensed nurses were being talked about.

Dr. O'Grady made points on low staffing issues and the patient to nurse ratio, saying that nurses are seen as left of the column expenses instead of assets that are needed to run a safe and proficient hospital. As a nursing student and a future registered nurse, I want to not only talk about how great we can be as nurses, but I want to also talk about the issues that come with the job because more likely than not we are going to run into these issues in real life. Another issue that was brought up was communication between nurses, more importantly when nurses give report. When a nurse gives report to the oncoming nurse, we are telling them things that have already happened to the patient and not telling them how we as the nurse helped them affect change in their condition or in their daily life. This made me think because yes, we need to tell the oncoming nurse the things that we were running around all day trying to achieve for the patient, but we never stop to think or tell how we helped change their condition whatever that may be. But just because there are issues within the profession doesn't mean that there aren't amazing things that come with it as well. With a nursing degree and license, there are endless opportunities to help patients from inpatient hospitals to outpatient health care settings. Dr. O'Grady mentioned that more people are being seen or treated in outpatient health care settings than inpatients and because of that there are endless opportunities for nurses to choose a different job if you aren't happy in the position that you are in. With all of this in mind, I am grateful that

my journey led me to becoming a nurse and with all the information that I learned during the series, I am going to try to make my nursing practice as best and proficient as possible.