



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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The National Student Nurses' Association's 26th Annual MidYear Career Planning Conference Held in Reno, NV, November 13-16, 2008

Brooklyn, New York. December 9, 2008 – The National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) 26th Annual Career Planning Conference was held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort in Reno, Nevada on November 13 – 16. Nursing students, faculty, exhibitors and alumni attended educational workshops, listened to renowned speakers, and spoke with exhibitors about career opportunities and services. Many attendees also had the opportunity to meet with the 2008-2009 NSNA Board of Directors.

On Thursday, keynote speaker **Patrick Hickey**, DrPH, MSN, RN, CNOR, kicked off the Opening Ceremony with his keynote address, "Conquering Your Own Everest: Do You Have What It Takes?" Dr. Hickey presented the audience with astonishing and humorous stories and images while speaking about his mountain climbing expeditions. Despite an extreme fear of heights, he became the first nurse to climb the highest summits on all seven continents while raising funds for nursing scholarships. He integrated his "Seven Summits of Life" concept into his inspiring story and challenged everyone to push themselves to achieve their goals and dreams. At the end of his moving presentation, Dr. Hickey was surprised to see an impromptu collection of almost **\$800** in donations by the audience for his scholarship.

As the conference continued throughout the next two days, students attended the Drexel University NCLEX[®] EXCEL Mini Review Course, a meeting of the Council of State Presidents, the Nursing's Future panel, and several workshops led by the Board of Directors, who encouraged members to get involved and take advantage of everything

nursing (and NSNA) has to offer. The variety of workshops held included: membership recruitment, disaster planning, newsletter production, writing resolutions, scholarships and awards, and several others. Members had the opportunity to ask questions during the two-part Nursing Specialty showcases with a panel of nursing experts and leaders. Saturday morning kicked off with a Leadership Breakfast sponsored by the U.S. Army Nurse Corps.

The Foundation of the NSNA (FNSNA) MidYear Conference Fundraiser was a huge success and raised over **\$1,950** for the Disaster Relief Fund. The “**Tube In To NSNA**” fundraiser featured a fun-filled evening of karaoke, dancing, raffle prizes and a costume contest where attendees dressed as their favorite TV personality. NSNA chapters were asked to raise funds for the FNSNA prior to the Midyear Conference. The following school and state chapters and individuals donated at least \$100 towards the FNSNA Disaster Relief Fund through the Wall of Fame Challenge:

School Chapters

Madonna University, Livonia, MI

University of Alabama, Huntsville Association of Nursing Students, Huntsville, AL

University of Arkansas Medical Sciences College of Nursing, Student Nurses
Association, Little Rock, AR

State Chapters

Alabama Association of Nursing Students

Georgia Association of Nursing Students

Louisiana Association of Student Nurses

North Carolina Association of Nursing Students

Individuals

Carol Fetters-Andersen, NSNA Director of Governance and Program Development,
NSNA Past President (1991-92)

Dr. Richard McElhaney, University of Mobile, Mobile, AL

Grant Tyler, NSNA Director, Fort Wayne, IN

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NSNA is a membership organization representing approximately 51,000 students in Associate Degree, Diploma, Baccalaureate, generic Masters and generic Doctoral programs preparing students for Registered Nurse licensure, as well as RNs in BSN completion programs.