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Press Release

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NSNA's 56th Annual Convention **March 26-30, 2008** **Grapevine, TX**

Brooklyn, NY, February 11, 2008 –Over 3,500 attendees will pack the Gaylord Texan™ Resort and Convention Center for the National Student Nurses' Association's (NSNA) 56th Annual Convention, March 26-30, 2008, in Grapevine, TX. The Convention features renowned nursing leaders, including Keynote Speaker Major General Gale S. Pollock and Dr. K. Lynn Wieck, who will close the meeting. Over twenty focus sessions address current trends in nursing and nursing education, including advice from new nurses, holistic nursing, and tips on how to successfully tackle exams and the NCLEX®-RN.

Nursing students will also have the chance to network with students from around the county, develop leadership skills, and visit with exhibitors that include hospitals, health care agencies, nursing schools, publishers, NCLEX® review course providers, and others.

Keynote and Endnote Speakers

Major General Gale S. Pollock, 22nd Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, and Deputy Surgeon General for Force Management, opens the Convention as Keynote Speaker, addressing the convention theme, "Blazing Trails: The New Age of Nursing." General Pollock's experiences in the Army and in leadership inspire and invigorate her audiences and she promises a motivating start to the Grapevine meeting.

Dr. K. Lynn Wieck, Chief Executive Officer, Management Solutions for Healthcare and the Jacqueline M. Braithwaite Professor, University of Texas at Tyler, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Tyler, TX, brings the Convention to a close with her endnote address *Nano-Nurse: Preparing for Tomorrow's Hyperworld*. Hear about the journey that awaits new nurse leaders as they graduate and enter the profession and its many specialties.

Plenary Sessions

Thursday's plenary session features **Dr. Peter Buerhaus** who will discuss his new book, *The Future of the Nursing Workforce in the United States: Data, Trends and Implications* (March 2008, Jones and Bartlett, Publishers), and provide a timely, comprehensive, and integrated body of data that is shaping the nursing workforce and health policy in the future. The session, "Health Care Policy and Nursing: A framework for the Future," will give attendees a better understanding of health care policy in action through a discussion of the evolving workforce, changes occurring in the practice environment, and public opinion of the nursing profession. The session will be moderated by **Kenneth W. Dion**, MSN/MBA, RN, President and CEO of Decision Critical, Austin, TX.

Dr. Rosemary Luquire and ANA president **Rebecca Patton**, MSN, RN, CNOR, address "The Future of Nursing and Health Care: What's in it for me?" during Friday's plenary session. They will discuss what the future could be like, what directions nurse researchers and entrepreneurs are moving in, and what tomorrow's nurse is looking for. **Dr. K. Lynne Wieck** moderates the session.

New This Year - Awards Presentations

Instead of having an Awards Ceremony, the top NSNA and FNSA awards will be presented throughout the Convention. The General Scholarship, Promise of Nursing Scholarship, and Marilyn Bagwell grant recipients will be recognized during the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, March 26. The Isabel Hampton Robb Award will be presented during the Thursday, March 27, 2008 plenary session, and the Leader of Leaders award during the Friday, March 28, 2008 plenary session.

Other Highlights

- The House of Delegates convenes to vote on resolutions and elect the 2008-09 Board of Directors and Nominating and Elections Committee.
- Drexel University offers the NCLEX® EXCEL! Mini-Review, an eight-hour course designed to cover selected topics frequently asked on the NCLEX-RN®. The review is scheduled over three days to accommodate all attendees and features speaker **Deanna A. Blach**, MSN, RN, President of DB Productions, and clinical instructor at North Arkansas College, Harrison, AR.
- Faculty, consultants, and advisors can earn continuing education credit in a series of workshops scheduled throughout the meeting. The faculty pre-convention workshop, "Managing Incivility and Other Student Challenges," takes place on Wednesday, March 26, and explores a variety of challenging situations, from classroom interruptions to threats and intimidations, directed at faculty.
- Attendees also have the opportunity to attend the popular Foundation of the FNSA annual auction. This year's **Grapevine City Auction**, held on Friday, March 28, features items ranging from jewelry to electronics, to other exciting items donated by sponsors, students, and faculty. The auction raises funds for the Mary Ann Tuft Scholarship Fund.
- Attendees can relax, dance, and enjoy themselves at one of Convention's most enjoyable evenings, the **First Night Party**. This year's "Stars, Boots, and Saddles" event offers attendees a chance to dance, sing, meet new friends, win prizes, and enjoy some good Texas grub. Students can dress up in their best Western gear and dance away to the "two-step."

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NSNA is a membership organization representing approximately 50,000 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.