



The "Happenings" column highlights chapter activities and accomplishments. Submit your activities to Carrie Mortensen at [carriemortensen@cox.net](mailto:carriemortensen@cox.net)

# State and School Activities

## Georgia

During the 2006 NSNA Convention in Baltimore, MD, the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses (MASN) spread the word of a Katrina fundraising project that would involve the collaborative efforts of other state nurses' associations. The Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) and MASN partnered and publicized the idea.

MASN President Chris Booth introduced the project to Georgia nursing students at the Georgia caucus meeting, and answered their questions about the fundraiser. The GANS Executive Board realized that several schools were interested in participating, and decided to create their own convenient and simple project to raise funds for Katrina victims. The GANS Community Service Director believed that a cookout, held at the beginning of the school year, would be a great way to welcome students and raise money for the nursing students affected by Katrina.

Eight schools participated in "Cookouts for Katrina" and submitted their contributions to GANS during the cookout held at the 2006 GANS Convention in Columbus. The nursing students from Georgia raised \$1,425 during the project. During the Awards Banquet on the last evening of the convention, Emory University was honored for raising the most money for the project. Their fundraising event was a potluck cookout held during the beginning of the school year at Candler Park in Atlanta. Not only was the event a great way to raise money for Katrina victims, it also introduced new students to the nursing student association. Additionally, GNA board members attended the convention cookout and contributed to the fundraising project as well.

This successful project was one of the first collaborative efforts in which GANS has ever participated. The project provided a sense of connection among nursing students

from different states, while doing a good deed for nursing students in need.

## Indiana

The Indiana Association of Nursing Students (IANS) is collecting donations for the Riley Hospital Cheer Guild. The Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis is responsible for the care and treatment of those children in the area with the greatest needs, many of whom spend several months at the hospital. Early in the learning process, nursing students realize the value and effectiveness of high patient morale. The Riley Cheer Guild is a volunteer group responsible for raising morale and bringing joy to hospitalized children and their families. To benefit the Cheer Guild, IANS is involved in a year-long project that includes collecting items such as toys, activity books, mobiles, board games, art supplies, radios, and other items for infants to teens. The donations will be collected at all IANS functions with a large drive taking place at the state convention. An award will be given to the school student nurses' association that collects the most items.

## Kansas

Nursing students from Pittsburg State University discovered what transcultural nursing is all about during a learning experience in Juarez, Mexico. The 23 nursing students went to Juarez from January 6-13, 2007, and were accompanied by two instructors and one bilingual Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) during their visit. As the group crossed the bridge into Juarez from El Paso, TX, they realized they were stepping into another world. The sidewalks in Juarez were lined with townspeople as the nursing students entered the small hospital.

## HAPPENINGS *State and School Activities*



The Nursing Students' Association of New York State (NSNAYS) presented a check to the Foundation of the NSNA for \$900 to benefit the Disaster Relief Fund.

The students had the opportunity to care for patients in labor and delivery, the operating room, emergency, neonatal intensive care unit, postpartum, and adult care. They were allowed to take vital signs, prepare and administer medications, start IVs, perform gastric lavage on neonates, and bathe and hold infants. Differences in patient care at the Juarez hospital included postpartum mothers providing care for healthy newborns while nurses intervened only when necessary; gloves were washed and re-worn; and patients were bathed using gauze. Witnessing these conditions, as compared to the United States, and dealing with a language barrier provided these students with a cultural experience they will never forget. As Meagan Gill explained, “the nursing trip to Mexico provided an experience that no lecture, classroom, or textbook could. We learned the importance that culture, environment, and economics play in an individual’s health.”

### New York

The Nursing Students' Association of New York State (NSANYS) held a state-wide book drive in collaboration with Better World Books for their community health project. Most of the books collected by the nursing students were sent to students in Africa. However, those books that could not be donated were sold to Better World Books, and NSANYS received a portion of the proceeds.

The NSANYS Board of Directors chose to donate their portion of the funds to a relief effort assisting nursing students affected by Hurricane Katrina. They presented a check for \$900 to the Foundation of the NSNA Disaster Relief Fund. The community project helped many individuals, and as a result, NSANYS received the 2006 Community Health Award at the NSNA Annual Convention. ©