

STATE and SCHOOL Activities

by Megan Hoffmann



If you'd like your chapter activities to be considered for publication in *Imprint*, please e-mail Megan throughout the year at imprinthappenings@yahoo.com or visit her web page on www.nсна.org/pubs/hap_rep.asp. You are also invited to submit high quality photographs for the column via e-mail. Please include photo credit and caption. Submissions should be at least 200 words.

CONNECTICUT

The Quinnipiac University nursing students hosted their Annual Career Luncheon in May, which featured presentations on several specialty nursing areas given by experts in their field. The event was well attended by students as well as faculty. Chapter members also collected canned goods during their spring food drive, donating provisions to local food banks. Thanks to strong fundraising efforts last fall, eight students attended the NSNA Annual Convention last April in Phoenix.

GEORGIA

The Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) held its fall Council of School Presidents at Macon State University in August. Participants discussed plans for their upcoming state convention, which include a candidate's forum about running for office and a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of elected officials. Representatives from various school chapters shared their successes on everything from Breakthrough to Nursing projects, to community service and fundraising activities. Participants also received legislative information pertaining to nurses and health care, as they shared their excitement for the year ahead and recognized the accomplishments of the outgoing board.

The GANS 2003 State Convention was held October 9-12, in Augusta, with the theme: "Stepping Out of the White-The

Future of Nursing!" Highlights included a blood drive, focus sessions, and an awards ceremony. A panel highlighted the exciting career choices now available to nurses, and an exhibit hall provided networking opportunities. Fun activities included evening music, dancing, and karaoke.

IOWA

The Iowa Student Nurses Association is enjoying a successful and productive year. Their state convention was held last October in Des Moines, and kicked off the year's focus on political action. Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) attended the chapter's joint convention with the Iowa Nurses' Association, where he accepted an award from the INA. His impassioned speech about the value of nurses inspired the student attendees. Barbara Blakeney, ANA president, was also a featured speaker, and impressed upon students the value of belonging to the American Nurses Association. Several state board members attended "Legislative Day" at the state capitol in February, where they met with several lawmakers to discuss issues at the forefront of nursing.

MICHIGAN

Members of the Michigan Nursing Student Association (MNSA) proudly report that their state convention held last February was a great success, and plans for next year are already in the works. This spring, MNSA members participated in walks supporting the March of

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Dimes and breast cancer awareness funding. They also organized care packages for troops overseas, and have made great strides in increasing membership. Board members attended the NSNA Convention in Phoenix, where MNSA President Marilyn Yelder won the Isabel Hampton Robb Leadership award, presented each year to an outstanding state president. Board members are establishing a newsletter to be published several times a year, and recently launched a new web site, www.minurses.org/mnsa.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc, is proud to announce its Executive Board for the 2003-2004 school year: Lisa Yocum, RN, president; Kevin Morse, 1st vice president; Tashana Morman, 2nd vice president; Donna C. Schmidt, secretary; Elizabeth M. Rhodes, treasurer; Carol Morris, *Pulsebeat* editor; Rodger Thorn, Membership/Nominations; Katie Menzella, Community Health; Catherine Skidmore, public relations director; Charmaine E. Yates, legislative director; Tara Bancroft, resolutions director; Charlette Samuels, Breakthrough to Nursing director; and Charity Sawyer Green, fundraising director. The NJLN consultant is Pamela J. Hicks, RN, and the NJSNA consultant is Andrea Aughenbaugh, RN. The Parliamentarian is Barbara Chamberlain, RN, MSN, who also serves as NSNA's National League for Nursing consultant. Presidential advisors are Sandra Kearns, MSN, RN, and Immediate Past President Betsy Yannazzo, RN.

New Jersey's 52nd annual state convention will be February 18-20 at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort in Atlantic City.



Members of NCANS participated in "Day at the Legislature" in April, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of nursing in North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Association of Nursing Students (NCANS) kicked off 2003 with a MidYear Convention in High Point, where they held a blood drive sponsored by The American Red Cross. In April, NCANS participated in North Carolina Nurses Associations' "Day at the Legislature," a statewide celebration of the 100th anniversary of nursing in North Carolina, with nurses, students, faculty, representatives from professional organizations, and local politicians attending. (See photo.) One highlight of the day was the establishment of a new license plate, "First in Nursing" to help raise scholarship funds for nursing students. Members of NCANS headed to Phoenix for NSNA's Annual Convention, where they enjoyed the many programs offered as well as the wonderful sights of Arizona! Chapter members are looking forward to a great year ahead!

WISCONSIN

The Chippewa Valley Technical College Student Nurses Association in Eau Claire is proud to announce their first event since becoming an official chapter last January – a benefit walk/run in Milwaukee, called "Rollin' and Strollin' for Paralysis." Students signed up numerous sponsors to raise over \$1,400 for the Milwaukee National Spinal Cord Injury Association, and were interviewed by the local media, including television, radio, and newspapers. Rachel Zink, chapter president and event chairperson, encourages chapters to dream big. "I hope the success of this project encourages other chapters to take on challenges – take charge and go for it!" ■

Megan Hoffman is this year's Happenings reporter and a nursing student at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland.