

WENDY Ann JACKSON

by Noele Kasper



“Up Close” is a regular feature in *Imprint*.

This column profiles outstanding nursing students. Readers are invited to submit names for consideration to caroline@nsna.org or noelek@nursing.upenn.edu.

Wendy Ann Jackson, a senior at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, is a nursing student from a small town in Georgia, who is making a big impact. She has been an active member of her state and local chapter, and currently serves as the Breakthrough to Nursing Director for the Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS). An active member of Healthcare Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT), she serves as one of the only nursing students involved in this coalition, composed primarily of medical and public health students.



was an LPN when she was a young girl, which served as her inspiration. Jackson even had two years’ experience as a pharmacy technician, which reaffirmed her love for health care and made her appreciate the hands-on quality of nursing. “Nursing encom-

passes all of the other health care fields rolled into one, and also provides direct interaction with patients,” Jackson states.

Jackson has many goals while in nursing school. While she plans to become an active member of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Georgia Nurses Association (GNA) after graduation, she also dreams of becoming an ANA lobbyist and a pediatric nurse. Jackson’s love of children and drive to improve health care ensure her a promising future in pediatrics.

Jackson has many dreams, but her busy life keeps her grounded. She is the third of five children, and lives with her parents, grandmother, and siblings, near college.

“I love laughing, meeting new people, and just having fun,” says Jackson.

With her positive outlook and passion for politics, she will definitely be an RN to watch in the future. She deserves to be celebrated as a one-of-a-kind leader and role model. ■

“H-STAT is working to better the lives of the people living in Georgia by addressing issues we see every day,” states Jackson, who regularly recruits nursing students into the group, whose mission is to encourage student involvement in political activism, community health, and education. (Visit www.hstatweb.org for more information).

Despite her enormous passion for improving health care, nursing was not Jackson’s first major. She spent her first year at Bauder College studying to be a fashion designer. “I wanted a mental challenge and I wanted to help people,” she states. This led her to change her major to nursing, and she completed her core classes at East Georgia College.

Another factor in her choosing nursing was the fact that her mother

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