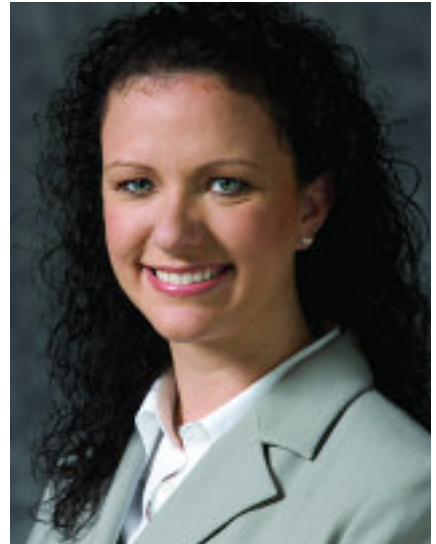


# Looking Up, Out, and Beyond



Happy New Year! There is so much ahead of us in 2007! If you're like me, you're divided between daydreams of the future and the reality of the day-to-day. Actually, we in nursing school are *overwhelmed* by the day-to-day. I invite you to take some time out to escape into this edition of *Imprint* and explore thoughts of a future

where you are in grad school or working in your new job as an RN. For me, just thinking that I'll be taking the NCLEX a year from now is both exciting and overwhelming. I like to imagine all the opportunities open to us as registered nurses. This issue offers a variety of perspectives on where your career may lead. In fact, we have so many options that these topics only give you a taste. The sky is the limit and who knows where the wind may carry you.

The insight provided by the professionals who contribute to *Imprint* is invaluable. I encourage everyone to soak up this kind of wisdom whenever possible. It's also very helpful to consult with mentors. I have found guidance from numerous individuals in nursing to help me navigate school and my career preparation. Often, it's just a matter of asking for their opinion. You can meet a mentor through school, work, or a friend of a friend – next door or across the country. Reach out: you will love what you learn.

Take note of the career resources on pages 64 and 68. You have quick access to professional nursing organizations in numerous specialties and information on hospitals across the U.S. hiring new grads. No matter how much longer you have left in school, graduation will be here before you know it. The future awaits!

Wishing you all the best in 2007,

*Laura Hudgens*