



NSNA school chapter leaders joined the NSNA Board of Directors and NSNA President, D. Todd Uhlman (center) at the Chapter Connection Participatory Forum to explore setting up “sister chapters.” A similar Participatory Forum will be held at the upcoming NSNA Convention in Anaheim on Thursday, April 12, 2007.

MidYear Wrap-Up

The MidYear Career Planning Conference in Atlanta, GA, was a rousing success, with over 1,200 students attending to hear renowned speakers, participate in workshops, and meet the 2006-2007 Board of Directors.

Dr. May L. Wykle, RN, FAAN, FGSA, Dean and Florence Cellar Professor of Gerontological Nursing, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, addressed a full ballroom to kick off the Conference on Thursday, November 2. Dr. Wykle used a Harry Potter theme to emphasize her message. “Nursing is searching,” she noted. “We are looking for that *magic* to bring nursing to its fullest potential. We still have to convince young people and society that nursing is truly the finest profession.”

Throughout the next two days, students attended the New Directions in Nursing panel, the Leadership Breakfast featuring Major General Gale S. Pollock, Chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and workshops presented by the Board of Directors on topics ranging from membership recruitment to newsletter layout.

Moderated by Dr. K. Lynn Wieck, RN, FAAN, the New Directions in Nursing panel introduced students to the mission of various professional nursing organizations and their role in shaping the trends and issues of the profession. Exploring the state of the health care system

and the concerns about on-going nursing shortage, Dr. Wieck noted, “It’s a great time to be a nurse. The health care environment doesn’t get much more chaotic than it is now. But out of chaos comes opportunity.”

She went on to introduce leaders representing the National League for Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Dr. Wieck went on to moderate the two Nursing Specialty Showcase panels, which featured Operating Room Nursing, Nephrology Nursing, and Nurse Anesthesia, to name just a few of the specialties.

Other sessions featured workshops on image, acing nursing exams, and finding a first job. The Leadership Breakfast featured Major General Gale S. Pollock who addressed a crowd of enthusiastic listeners by emphasizing the importance of going the “extra” degree. She noted that all great leaders, such as nurses, succeed because they realize that going the extra mile is what distinguishes them from everyone else. She compared it to the difference between water as a hot liquid at 211° F to water as a powerful boiling substance at 212° F. She received a standing ovation.

The Foundation of the NSNA raised over \$3,000 for the Disaster Relief Fund and featured dancing, karaoke,

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and a batting cage. (Read more about the Home Run Derby on page 24).

The Board of Directors' Meeting Highlights will be featured in the February/March issues of *Imprint*.

Convention Update

The Endnote Speaker at NSNA's 55th Annual Convention in Anaheim, CA, will be Rear Admiral Bruzek-Kohler. A native of Camden, NJ, RDML Bruzek-Kohler is the 21st Director of the Navy Nurse Corps and the Naval Medical Inspector General Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Bethesda, MD.

A decorated officer, she has served abroad and throughout the country in a number of positions, including Director of Nursing, U.S. Naval Hospital, Guam; Executive Officer, Naval Hospital, Pensacola, FL; Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Lemoore, CA; and Assistant Deputy Chief for Medical Operations Support, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D.C. RDML Bruzek-Kohler has earned two Legion of Merit awards, two Meritorious Service Medals, Commendation Medals from the Navy and Marine Corps, and other service awards. She promises to present a stirring conclusion to the Convention.

NEWS: *national*

Run for Office

Show the World Your Character

Running for national office can be an exciting, challenging and empowering experience. Getting your application in by the January 23, 2007 deadline has many advantages, including having your name on the slate, which is published and distributed to NSNA members nationwide. In addition, pre-slating gives a candidate months of preparation to organize and campaign to fellow members. Although pre-slating presents numerous benefits, NSNA recognizes that the busy lives and demanding schedules of nursing students do not always accommodate outside deadlines. So if by chance you do not meet the January deadline...hope is not lost! You still have the option of running from the floor.

There are two ways to run from the floor: 1) you can decide in Anaheim to run for office and face a very small timeframe to complete your application, be credentialed, and organize campaign materials OR 2) you can come to Anaheim *prepared* to run from the floor! The first step to take if interested in running for office is to contact NSNA headquarters or a member of the Nominating and Elections Committee to request an application packet. This packet includes a checklist of everything you need to complete your application. It also includes *Getting the Pieces to Fit* which provides a description of the available positions and includes the bylaws of NSNA. It is beneficial to familiarize yourself with NSNA Bylaws Article V, Officers and Directors, and Article VI Nominating and Elections Committee when deciding which leadership position interests you most. If at any time you have questions about the nomination, election or campaign process, contact a

member of the NEC: we're at your service!

I did not make the official decision to run for the NEC until after the January deadline. However, I knew that I wanted to pursue the opportunity of running for national office and I wanted to do

everything within my power to go to annual convention prepared. I completed my application and sent it to NSNA headquarters as soon as possible. The candidate packet I received provided me with the information to prepare my platform statement, learn the rules and regulations of campaigning, prepare materials to distribute to delegates and organize my setup for campaign headquarters. Although I could not campaign until nominated at Convention, making the decision to run and sending in my application still provided me with months of prep time.

An important fact for any candidate running from the floor to remember is that at the end of the first session of the House of Delegates when candidates can be nominated from the floor, any position with two or more candidates will be closed to further nominations. Why is this important to you? If you are planning to run from the floor for a position on the NEC or the Board of Directors, make sure you are nominated at that first session of the House of Delegates to avoid being shut out of the position of your choice.

NSNA history is full of credentialed candidates running from the floor at convention and going on to accomplish great things during their term in office. So whether pre-slating or running from the floor consider running for national office and *Show the World Your Character!*



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NLN Designates New Centers of Excellence in Nursing Education™

The 2006 – 2009 Centers of Excellence (COE) were announced at the NLN's annual Education Summit this past September. The University of Oklahoma College of Nursing, Indiana University School of Nursing, and Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing were acknowledged for achieving this designation.

Now in its third year, the COE program recognizes schools of nursing that have achieved a level of excellence in a designated area; demonstrated sustained, evidence-based, and substantive innovation in that area; and have a proven commitment to continuous quality improvement. "The COE program was initiated to publicly acknowledge nursing schools that distinguish themselves by outstanding achievement in the promotion of excellence in nursing education" said Dr. Ruth Corcoran, CEO of the National League for Nursing.

The University of Oklahoma achieved Center of Excellence status for its accomplishments in *Creating Environments that Promote Student Learning and Professional Development*. The College of Nursing builds its teaching/learning environment on caring, critical thinking, communication, and citizenship. Student diversity, community outreach efforts, and strong partnerships with a wide range of community agencies are effective in developing what the College of Nursing refers to as "the next generation of health care leaders."

The COE designation for *Creating Environments that Advance the Pedagogical Expertise of Faculty* was awarded to Indiana University for its School of Nursing "corridor" campuses, which enroll nearly 1,500 students in associate degree, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs. This group of more than 100 full-time faculty are nationally and internationally recognized for their expertise in developing creative, interactive pedagogies that

promote excellence in nursing education, including web-based learning, problem-based learning, narrative pedagogy, and use of simulation technology.

At Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing in Quincy, IL, faculty have successfully *Created an Environment that Advances the Science of Nursing Education*. A small school that offers a

baccalaureate program, approximately 300 nursing students are taught by 14 full-time faculty who have created an environment where teaching, evaluation, and other educational practices are evidence-based; and where all faculty are contributing to the advancement of the science of nursing education. As

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a result of their participation in a national research study using narrative pedagogy, the faculty have changed the way they teach, the way they relate to and interact with students, the structures and processes that are in place for getting the work done, and the value they place on evidence-based teaching practices.

In keeping with the NLN mission to continually advance quality nursing education, throughout the three years that schools carry the COE designation, they are expected to be available to other schools seeking to move their own programs toward distinction. Summed up NLN chief program officer Dr. Terry Valiga, "Through the Centers of Excellence designation, nursing's most exciting programs are made known to the entire academic community and thus able to inspire other schools to strive for excellence." ©