



The "Write On" column is intended as a forum for students to respond to articles in **Imprint** as well as issues in nursing today. Please send your letters to: **Imprint** Managing Editor, c/o NSNA, 45 Main Street, Suite 606, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, or e-mail to [larisa@nsna.org](mailto:larisa@nsna.org), attn. WRITE ON.

# Letters to the Editor

## Responding to Katrina

My name is Brianna Neylon and I am the Texas Nursing Students Association (TNSA) president of my chapter at Tarrant County College. I would like to recognize the faculty, students and especially the TNSA members and organization for stepping up to the plate during this catastrophic time in our history. Many have volunteered to help with triage at a shelter approximately one mile away from our school. Others have helped collect and deliver supplies and money donations to the Red Cross Shelter. The wonderful thing is that Tarrant County College students and faculty are still reaching out and always asking to do more! We are continuing to contact the shelter on a regular basis to volunteer our time. Clinical groups and instructors received permission to do some of their clinical time at the shelter. This allows students to still practice nursing and medical interventions, while opening a whole new in-sight into our careers. We are keeping a box in our nursing building lobby to continue collecting supplies and making a difference in the lives of the evacuees and the recovery effort. I am proud to say that I am the TNSA President of such a wonderful and dedicated group of students and faculty.

**Brianna Neylon**  
**TNSA Chapter President**  
**Tarrant County College**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

## Nursing School: New Challenges, New Rewards

Having been a student for eighteen years of my life, I figured nursing school would be no different. Nursing school was just another step on the staircase of my life, so I didn't have high expectations. I knew that the accelerated program would be intense but I have always enjoyed a challenge. I never expected just how challenging nursing school would really be.

The first day in the hospital proved to be the day that changed everything for me. The PCT assigned me to a few patients and told me to introduce myself and get their vital signs. As I entered the first room, I introduced myself and proceeded to tell the woman in the bed that I was a student nurse and there to take her vital signs. She could tell I was a little nervous and was very understanding. She told me I could try as many times as I needed and could practice anything I wanted on her. After taking her

vital signs I thanked her for her kindness and as I left, she told me I would make a wonderful nurse because I seemed to be very good with people. I had entered that room a nervous student nurse beginning to doubt if nursing was for me, but left a confident student nurse willing to learn and wanting to succeed. I had only taken the vital signs of that patient, I had not treated her or made her well – it was she who made me feel better. This experience taught me that not only do nurses treat patients but patients can impact nurses' lives as well.

**Jacqueline Fintak**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL**

On behalf of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and *Covering Kids & Families*, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the National Student Nurses' Association for your support of the sixth annual *Covering Kids & Families* Back-to-School Campaign. With your support, and the support of nearly 200 other national partner organizations, we were able to expand the reach of the Back-to-School Campaign by publicizing events and activities in all 60 states and the District of Columbia through newsletters, listservs and Web sites.

Calls to the national 1-877-KIDS-NOW increased by 260 percent when comparing the pre-campaign period to the period after the campaign was launched. The campaign has also generated widespread media coverage in the nations' leading print, television and radio news outlets, resulting in stories in all of the top 20 media markets. Highlights included an appearance by U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona on CBS' "The Early Show" and a letter from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that was included in "Dear Abby," a syndicated column with an estimated readership of 95 million.

Thank you for helping to connect uninsured children with available health care coverage. We hope to work with you in future efforts aimed at making sure every American has the health care coverage they need

**Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA**  
**The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**