

# Define Image: Challenge Yourself and Others



The image of nursing is hard to define as a concept. I look around at my classmates and think of the different students I've met from around the country and I know that each would have a unique perspective on what "image" means.

Nursing is beautiful in that it presents us with a breadth of roles and a diverse membership. I am sure that all students and registered nurses alike desire to be appreciated for their knowledge of science and medicine and want to be honored for their devotion to caring. This edition of *Imprint* explores the challenges of conveying this image to the general public, and occasionally to our own ranks.

My simple advice is to start each day reminding yourself of the ideal nurse you imagined yourself becoming when you chose this career. That model may not feel achievable every moment of every day, but the thought of it gives you something to strive for and reminds you of your purpose.

Others around you may not fulfill your vision and discourage you, but remember that you can serve as

an example through your behaviors. You can define the image of nursing as an individual.

The National Student Nurses' Association and state and local chapters offer exposure to many role models for leadership and advocacy. Our professional associations also provide motivation and inspiration to help us rededicate ourselves regularly. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to connect with the nursing community. We can feed off of the energy of each other! Remember, nursing is not just a job, it's a profession!

Finally, I want to share some images the Board took while on its recent mission to New Orleans. (See page 12 for the story.) We'll be covering our trip and its goals throughout several upcoming issues of *Imprint*, but I wanted to let you know that the nursing students and faculty we met there were truly inspirational. They've been through so much and continue to persevere in situations most of us can't imagine. We continue to think of them and hope you do too.

*Laura Hudgens*

