

LETTERS *to the editor*

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* Editor, c/o NSNA, 45 Main Street, Suite 606, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, or e-mail to nsna@nsna.org, att. WRITE ON.

An Experience to Remember

My first time as an attendee of the National Student Nurses' Association Annual Convention in Baltimore, MD, has definitely made my "never to be forgotten" list of experiences. As a graduating senior from the University of Louisville, I have missed out on past NSNA conferences, convinced that I was "too busy" to participate in NSNA.

We arrived at the NSNA Convention prior to the opening address. The keynote speaker was Dr. Barbara Dossey, who discussed the importance of being a modern day Florence Nightingale and encouraged students to take action towards ensuring healthy futures for our communities, families, co-workers, and ourselves.

In addition from the opening speaker, there were great educational presenters at the Convention. I attended *Pharmacology Made Insanely Easy, Nurses for America*, and an NCLEX mini-review session. Throughout these sessions, I developed a sense of who I was as a nursing student, the impact I could have on the communities I will be serving, the standards and practices expected of me, and a broader understanding of the opportunities available to me as a nursing graduate.

I also had the pleasure of meeting and networking with several students outside of Kentucky. I had dinner with five students from the University of Arizona. I met a nursing student from Arizona who aspires to attend the same graduate school as I do. It was interesting and encouraging to interact with other students who have similar challenges, desires, and goals.

One of the main reasons I was able to attend the NSNA conference was my involvement with the Peer Mentor Leadership program. NSNA Leadership University was a component of the program that was recently introduced at our university. The purpose of this program is to increase the retention of freshman nursing students by pairing them with graduating senior nursing student mentors during their first year. Each senior nursing student was allowed to choose one or more freshmen nursing students to attend the NSNA conference with them.

I definitely enjoyed my trip. My wish for future nursing students is that they take advantage of educational opportunities like the NSNA meetings and participate at the national, state, and local levels. The conference environment provides a unique and exciting way to grow in our profession. The future of nursing is in our hands. We must work hard and stand proud as a knowledgeable, informed, professional group.

Ta'Neka C. Vaden, Nursing Student
University of Louisville, KY

Moving Forward

On behalf of Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) at Delgado Community College, please extend our best wishes to Todd Uhlman for a successful tenure as NSNA President. We wish him well and hope to meet him in Anaheim.

We have set the attendance at NSNA '07 Convention as a major chapter goal in our post-Katrina lives. These have been challenging times for our students and faculty. We look forward to being back at the national convention and thanking everyone for the support given to our city during this disaster.

Mary Trosclair and Carol Leefe
Faculty Advisors of CASN,
New Orleans, LA