



The "Happenings" column highlights chapter activities and accomplishments. Submit your activities to [nsna@nsna.org](mailto:nsna@nsna.org)

By Susan D. Indest

# State and School Activities

## Arizona

Student Nurses' Association of Arizona (SNAAZ) is proud of member Yolanda McCready, who was awarded the FULD Scholarship, for her project working with dementia and Alzheimer's patients.

SNAAZ's mentor program is helping the future nurses of tomorrow. The mentor program is an opportunity for returning nursing students to provide as good an experience or better to the Junior I students. Mentors must accept the responsibility of all the work that goes along with the position, such as answering emails from the juniors, offering helpful insight, and providing support for any questions or concerns the juniors may have. But despite the work, SNAAZ officers say that mentoring is fun and a wonderful opportunity to serve.

## California

California Nursing Student's Association (CNSA) Community Health Director Kelley Stewart of San Diego State University, is excited about the implementation of CNSA's 2008 project, "Future Nurses Strive to Promote Healthy Lives," a statewide health fair drive. In an effort to accommodate the variety of ideas SNA members have shared, Stewart has broadened her scope to fit the ideas SNA members have for their own community.

Health fairs are a great way to be creative as you can tailor the education to best meet the needs of the various areas in your community, including high schools. "The goals for this project are to promote a positive image of nursing and healthy lifestyles," said Stewart. "Also, we want to promote nursing as a career choice, by modeling the value of community service and healthy lifestyles to especially impressionable groups. Working together with the American Red Cross, through blood drives at health fairs, is a great way to encourage the rewards of giving blood - the gift of life—and promote a positive image of nursing." Overall, it is up to the partici-

pants to have fun, Stewart said. Additional ideas include taking blood pressures, distributing handouts on diabetes education, medication education, healthy eating and exercise habits, etc. Providing tips and clarifying misconceptions are both great ways to use your passion to promote a career in nursing and a healthy future for all, Stewart said.

Stewart urges SNA members to reach for excellence. She has made available on the CNSA website materials to assist members in their effort, including a "how to" guide that consists of a timeline; references for various educational topics; an advertising flyer template to promote a health fair; and "Helpful Links," including American Red Cross California chapter locations.

The winning chapter will receive a scholarship and be given recognition for their successful health fair project. And, of course, the chapter members will know that they have made a huge difference in the lives of many in their community.

## Florida

Each year, the Florida Nursing Students Association (FNSA) raises thousands of dollars for member scholarships, and this year is no different. School chapters are already competing in fun and creative activities to raise scholarship money.

FNSA was so successful with its last "penny wars" that another one has been planned to raise money. The rules are: 1 penny = 1 point, 1 dollar = 100 points (checks = same as cash), any silver (nickels, dimes, quarters) = negative that amount (example: 1 quarter = negative 25 points for the school cup it gets put into). The school with the most points gets half the proceeds raised from the game, and the other half goes into the scholarship fund.

Another great fundraiser FNSA holds for scholarships is "Pennies PRN." This is a fundraiser school chapters hold prior to the FNSA convention. Each school chapter brings the money they have raised at their fundraisers to the

convention and they receive “chapter of the year” points. This money all goes into the scholarship fund.

One of the favorite challenges is the foundation challenge. The FSNA board starts the ball rolling by challenging a school to raise a certain dollar amount by the start of the state convention. If that school accepts, then that school has the right to challenge another school. If that school accepts then they earn the right to challenge another school. And so on. It’s a lot of fun for all involved, all for a good cause. And, the winning school is presented with a plaque at the annual FNSA Awards Banquet.

## Louisiana

The Student Nurses Association at Our Lady of the Lake College (OLOL) in Baton Rouge is enjoying an active and rewarding year under the dedicated leadership of faculty advisors Keeley Harmon-Dupuy, Carla Harmon, and SNA President Trish Irwin. Many fundraisers have been planned for 2008-2009 including a recruitment luncheon, a raffle, a brunch for graduating seniors, and a breast cancer ribbon sale, as well as a toy drive, a food drive and a blood drive. SNA member volunteers also will check vital signs weekly at a senior assisted living facility, and act as mentors for first semester nursing students. SNA officers who attend the annual state conference, “An Ocean of Opportunity,” will share valuable information and resources with fellow nursing students.

SNA members are proud to serve under OLOL dean Melanie Green, PhD, RNC, who was awarded the Nursing School Administrator of the Year at the 2008 Annual Nightingale Awards sponsored by the Louisiana State Nurses Association. Dean Green led the nursing school through a successful accreditation visit from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), who recommended the school be awarded eight years of continuing accreditation, the maximum amount possible.

The Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia program at Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing has recently graduated its first class of 29 students. These CRNA graduates achieved a remarkable 100% certification exam pass rate.

The School of Nursing is proud of Kim Hurst, Suzanne Carpenter, and Dr. Annette Knobloch, who have achieved Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) status through the National League for Nursing (NLN) this year, proving their excellence and commitment to nursing education.

In yet another example of the faculty’s commitment to excellence, faculty members Denise Martin, Paulette Johnson and Desley Washington received certification in medical-surgical nursing.

## North Carolina

Congratulations go out to Cathy Gurganious, who is the recipient of the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students (NCANS) Essay Scholarship! Cathy

## HAPPENINGS *State and School Activities*

was awarded \$500 for her outstanding essay entitled, “Characteristics of a Leader in the Nursing Profession.” Cathy is a member of Sampson Community Association of Nursing Students. You can read Cathy’s award winning essay in the February 2008 issue of the NCANS newsletter, *Hypodermic*.

North Carolina is a nursing pioneer state that represents excellence in nursing practice and leadership. NCANS is proud of this nursing legacy and looks forward to being the nursing future of the state. This legacy inspired the theme of “Pioneers in Nursing” for this year’s conference, which celebrated the state’s accomplishments. NCANS is donating money raised from its Penny War at the convention to mental health efforts in North Carolina.

NCANS has been honored for their commitment and dedication to children by Safe Kids North Carolina. The organization recently sent a letter of thanks to NCANS for a donation of \$750 to the Safe Kids helmet safety project. “Your dedication and concern will have a great impact on preventing unintentional injuries to children,” stated Kelly Ramsdell of Safe Kids North Carolina in her letter. “You are helping to save lives and reduce injuries in North Carolina.” Keep up the great work, NCANS!

### Oregon

Members of the Oregon Student Nurses’ Association (OSNA) have teamed up with local organizations to address environmental health issues. OSNA nursing students and faculty have formed a committee with members of the Multnomah County Environmental Health Services, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Center for Environmental Health, the National College of Natural

Medicine, and the Oregon chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility. The committee submitted a grant request to *The Luminary Project* for funding for nursing students to attend the upcoming First Annual Northwest Environmental Health Conference in Portland, OR, on February 6–7, 2009.

“We are delighted to announce that we received funding to send 75 nursing students to this conference,” said OSNA President Nina Katovic, a nursing student at Oregon Health and Sciences University. Katovic, an environmental activist as well as a nursing student, has written an article on environmental health activism. “*The Luminary Project* is an exemplary organization of nurses dedicated to improving health through improving the health of the environment,” Katovic states. Katovic encourages those who would like more information about this project or resources on environmental issues to visit the [www.luminaryproject.org](http://www.luminaryproject.org).

Jeff Creviston, an environmental activist and OSNA member, established a recycling club called Readily Enabled Unified Students for Environmental Restoration (REUSER) on the Linfield College Portland campus. The group worked with a health system waste management team and the local recycling office to learn innovative approaches to encouraging recycling. REUSER drafted a proposal to the campus administration to encourage the use of recycling receptacles in high traffic areas, the proposal was later approved. The club inspired students and faculty to recycle by raising awareness through weekly emails providing recycling tips, organizing field trips to local healthcare and waste management facilities, and holding drives to recycle left over handouts from classes.



(Left) Kindra Scanlon, Sue Kim, and Pazely Yates help students register at OSNA State Conference. (Right) Colonel Regina Aune delivers her Keynote speech at OSNA State Conference.

*Photos by Justin Hartmann*

## HAPPENINGS *State and School Activities*

OSNA is also proud of Kindra Scanlon, media director, and Beth Bolander, membership director, Linfield College, who traveled overseas to learn about nursing outside of the United States.

Scanlon participated in an educational trip to Germany organized by the University of Akron's International Nursing Program. The course focused on studying patterns of health care and nursing roles in the German health care delivery system and comparing them with the U.S. system. Scanlon has written an interesting article about healthcare and nursing in Germany and encourages nursing students to take advantage of the wonderful learning opportunities summer study abroad offers.

Bolander visited Southeast Asia this year, and plans to return as a volunteer nurse in Thailand. Bolander is spreading the word about the need for international nursing, and the many opportunities available for those who are called for such work. Bolander's article about her trip was printed in the summer edition of OSNA's newsletter *Oregon Nursing Student Vitals*.

The annual OSNA Conference last February was a huge success, with more than 300 students in attendance. Focus sessions informed students on interesting topics, including hospice nursing, leadership, flight nursing, ethics, international nursing, oncology, NICU nursing, safety and ergonomics, and other topics relevant to nursing today. Students from Oregon high schools, colleges and universities attended the conference and everyone enjoyed the two-day gathering.

"We need to remember that we are all in this together and that if we put our energy towards supporting each other, we can move mountains," Katovic said. "So, the next time you are confronted with a choice to create unity or create separation with another nursing student, or even a

nurse, think about the power behind a united group of voices. I urge you to put your differences aside and celebrate what brings us together—our love of nursing!" ©

Student Nurse leaders discuss nursing school with area students. *Photo by Justin Hartmann*

