

# May I have your attention?



Hello everyone! So who am I and why am I am trying to get your attention? To answer the first part of the question, I am a senior nursing student at Clemson University who feels honored and thankful to be given the opportunity to serve as *Imprint* editor this year. As for the why, I hope that my editorials, now and in the future, can focus your attention on some of the great materials found at your fingertips (plus make you laugh a little)!

Everything in life is clamoring for our attention, and we only have so much time and energy to give – what should we focus on and how can we make things fit into our day and into our lives? Trying to juggle everything can become a real balancing act. One great thing about being a nursing student though is that your education is teaching you to “juggle” or prioritize. It is really hard at first (and throughout nursing school and our careers, let’s not kid ourselves) to find the most right answer, deciding which patient needs our care first, and discovering which side effects are the most critical out of the one hundred listed for a particular drug. Not to mention family, job, sleep, fun and all the other things on our plate. Yet there is good news, students just like you do it everyday.

To help you keep your sanity in this balancing act we call nursing, I encourage you to look at the article “*Entering the Nursing Profession Successfully*.” It identifies some of the fears of entering the profession and offers ways to help prepare for and alleviate those fears. I could tell you all about the article but I’m sure that in reading it you will see its worth. Also, check out the study tips from your fellow nursing students. They offer priceless experience – tricks of the trade, as it were.

Another trick of the trade is learning how to draw attention to positive causes and creating your own attention-getting devices. It is very important for you to draw attention to your student nurses association (SNA). Your SNA is support network, a connection network, an awareness network, and a lot of fun! To make your SNA all it can be,

you have to publicize it! Lillian Shaw Perry tells you how to do it in the article “*Selling Success*.”

You also need to publicize yourself. You are a unique student nurse and a unique person who makes all the pieces of your life fit. Employers should see that and in the article “*Reinventing your Resume*,” we find what the next generation of resumes will look like and how to make them now. Put in the time now to document-- we all know that if you don’t document it, then it is just like you didn’t do it!

Going along with the next generation theme (and I am not talking about Star Trek for my fellow Trekkies out there), online networking is huge and only getting bigger. In her article, “*Social Networking*,” Mary Colleen Liburdi explains professional online nursing networks and how they can add to our success. She also offers some do’s and don’ts of online networking to help us avoid some of the pitfalls of this emerging trend.

To conclude, I have some do’s and don’ts too!

DO read to your hearts delight.

DON’T skip the NSNA news and bios, they have some great info.

DO call positive attention to yourself because you’re worth it!

DON’T get discouraged in this juggling act called life. We all drop a ball every once in a while, but what makes us great is that we pick it back up and start again!

And finally, DO write a letter to the editor and share your voice in other ways. Give me your stories! My election platform was “Let me be your voice,” so whisper in my ear, you have my attention!