

Welcome Back to School!!!



Some of you may have been in classes all summer, and others, like me, are getting back into the swing of things for fall. Either way, this edition of *Imprint* has much to offer to help you during your next semester and throughout your nursing career!

Throughout this issue, every board member urges you to take advantage of the perks of membership. We want you to use these benefits and absorb all you can from NSNA.

Inside this issue, you will find study tips, advice on how to write an academic research paper, information on how to maintain your sanity in school, and how to work well with preceptors, coworkers, and faculty who are of various generations. This issue also provides insight on pursuing a career in mental health nursing. This specialty is often overlooked by nursing students, but it provides an excellent opportunity for a nurse to provide long-term care and develop rewarding relationships with his or her patients. Nursing provides us with a myriad of options and this issue explores just some of the possibilities open to us as we learn more about the profession.

Check out the story of how one student nurse began a project to collect flip-flops for one community in need of foot protection (p. 49). I love to hear how such grass roots projects can impact so many!

As chair of the Image of Nursing Committee, I want to announce our Image theme for this year, “Nursing: Not Just a Job, a Profession!” I love our theme as it underscores the importance of setting high standards for nursing behavior that can saturate the health care industry.

Make sure to check out the new Image Booklet, which has tips on how to start Image of Nursing projects and promote this year’s theme. This piece details the requirements for the Image Project Award as well. You can download it from the NSNA website or contact NSNA for printed copies.

COME TO MIDYEAR! Besides the ever-invaluable NCLEX review, MidYear will offer the exhibit hall, an association round-table session, and many workshops. We have great plans for the Newsletter Workshop — I hope to see you there. Check out the spotlight section on the 2006 National Convention in Baltimore for even more motivation to join us.

Meanwhile, in your spare time (ha, ha), take your bursts of inspiration and put them to paper for submission to *Imprint*. Author guidelines can be found on www.nсна.org under the Publications heading and then the Periodicals tab. The focuses for the upcoming issues are November/December: Image of Nursing; February/March: Legislation and Education in Nursing; April/May: Nurses on the Frontline; September/October: From Novice to Expert: A New Nurses Journey; and November/December '07: The Baby Boomer Retirement. You may also submit info on a stellar student to the *Up Close* column and your chapter’s project updates to *Happenings*.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments or to bounce around ideas. Best of luck with the new school year!

Laura Hudgens