



## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **The NSNA 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Defies Gravity**

**Brooklyn, NY. May 18, 2011.** Nearly 2,500 participants attended *Defy Gravity: Reach New Nursing Summits*, the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 6-10, 2011. The Convention program included an abundance of focus sessions, faculty workshops, plenary sessions, exhibitors, an American Red Cross certification program, and the annual NCLEX<sup>®</sup> mini-review course.

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#### **Defying Gravity with Keynote Speaker Patrick Hickey**

The Opening Ceremony kicked off Convention week on Wednesday, April 6. Describing nursing as “a journey with an adventurous route and an ever present fear of the unknown,” keynoter **Patrick Hickey**, DrPH, RN, CNOR, clinical assistant professor of nursing, University of South Carolina, focused on the seven summits in life students must scale on their journey in nursing. He noted that in his experiences, climbing all seven world summits (the highest mountains on the world's seven continents), the lesson he learned was “what is most important in life is the journey.” In his address, “Reaching the Summit of Nursing Education: Are You Prepared for the Journey?” Dr. Hickey identified seven summits for student nurses: maintaining balance, developing wellness, establishing goals, keeping a positive attitude, harvesting one's potential, striving for success, and defining one's legacy. With faith in unlimited potential, Dr. Hickey established the “Nurses Can Do Anything” scholarship in the Foundation of the NSNA (FNSNA) after delivering the 2008 NSNA MidYear keynote address in Reno, NV. The scholarship is supported by a portion of sales from his book, *7 Summits: A Nurse's Quest to Conquer Mountaineering and Life*. After Dr. Hickey's inspiring presentation, 2010-2011 NSNA

President **Carylin M. Holsey** surprised him by bestowing him with NSNA's highest honor, Honorary Membership!

During the Opening Ceremony, national nursing association leaders, state student nurse association presidents, convention sponsors, sustaining members, and other NSNA supporters were recognized and applauded. The American Nurses Association (ANA) President, **Dr. Karen Daley**, and the National League for Nursing (NLN) President, **Dr. Cathleen Shultz**, extended greetings from their organizations. NSNA Scholarship Sponsors and Recipients were recognized, and the Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development Grant was presented to Mt. Carmel College of Nursing, Columbus, OH. The Spirit of Nursing Award was presented to **Jaime E. Benator** of Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University, Atlanta, GA.

The Opening Ceremony was sponsored by **Catholic Healthcare West**, San Francisco, CA; **University of Pittsburg School of Nursing**, Pittsburg, PA. The Keynote Address was sponsored by **Nurses Service Organization**, Hatboro, PA.

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## Plenary Sessions

**Karen Daley**, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANA President, moderated the Thursday Plenary Session, "The Future of Nursing—Leading Change, Advancing Health" on April 7, 2011. She opened the session by stressing the importance of nursing. "You see people at their most vulnerable point. You will have the ability to make a difference, but you will be challenged to provide care in the current healthcare system." Plenary speaker, **Susan B. Hassmiller**, PhD, RN, FAAN, of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing, led attendees on an examination of the 2010 Institute of Medicine report, which proposed a series of recommendations intended to enable nurses to more fully function in transforming healthcare. Thursday's plenary session also featured award presentations to the Project InTouch winner, **Desiree Sonza**, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, and the Leader of Leaders honoree, **Diane Spatz**, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA. Thursday's session was sponsored by the **American Nurses Association**, Silver Spring, MD.

In the Friday Plenary Session, "Launching Your Career—Advice from the Cognoscenti!" moderator **Cathleen Shultz**, PhD, RN, FAAN, NLN President, defined *cognoscenti* as people with superior knowledge and understanding in a field. The panel of cognoscenti included past NSNA presidents and board members, and past state student nurse association presidents: **Giselle Melendez**, MSN, RN; **Jennifer Tucker**, MA, RN; **Trisha Mimms**, MSN, RN, HCM; **Kenya Haney**, BSN, RN; **Michael Desjardins**, MSN, APRN; and **Todd Uhlman**, BSN, RN. The panel identified skills learned through involvement in NSNA that contributed to their success in nursing, education and clinical experiences that led them to where they are now. Friday's plenary session also featured award presentations to the Isabel Hampton Robb Leadership Award winner, **Lindsey Siefferman**, President, Arkansas Nursing Students' Association, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR. Each year the Isabel Hampton Robb Leadership Award is presented to a state president who has shown exemplary leadership. Also announced during Friday's plenary session was the NSNA/*Nursing Spectrum*/*NurseWeek*

Writing Contest winners. First place went to **Sarah Lutgen**, Bradley University, Peoria, IL. And the Grand Prize winner was **Jennifer Seegmiller**, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, ID. Friday's plenary session was sponsored by **Life Uniform**, St. Louis, MO.

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### **Fundraising for Scholarships**

The Annual Challenge and Beehive Auction raised several thousand dollars to benefit the Foundation of the NSNA (FNSNA). On Friday, April 8, 2011, the Beehive Auction raised over \$5,400 for the Mary Ann Tuft Scholarship Fund and inspired several bidding wars. On Saturday, during a House of Delegates break, attendees pledged \$5,500 to support the Haiti Nurses Foundation and the Disaster Relief Fund.

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### **Defying Gravity with Endnote Speaker G. Rumay Alexander**

NSNA's top program awards were presented during the Closing Ceremony on Saturday, April 9, along with introductions of the incoming 2011-2012 Board of Directors and Nominating and Elections Committee (see below). Endnote speaker **G. Rumay Alexander**, EdD, RN, Clinical Professor, Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, finished the Closing Ceremony with her presentation, "Defying Gravity... Wicked Problems... Wicked Solutions." "Be kind, because it's what feeds the world," she advised. "Be generous with your goodness. Treat all you encounter with dignity and respect, even your enemies. Because you know what? It confuses wickedness. 'Wicked' doesn't know what to do with goodness. It's one of the best ways to bring out the best in everyone." Using clever analogies to the hit musical *Wicked*, Dr. Alexander delivered a rousing, uplifting and musical presentation that had attendees on their feet and spreading their "wings," ready to fly.

The Closing Ceremony and Endnote Address were sponsored by **Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI)**, Stillwell, KS.

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### **Election Results**

Elections were held on the morning of Saturday, April 9. Following elections, the new officers were installed during the closing session of the House of Delegates meeting. NSNA would like to congratulate the following individuals on their election to the 2011-2012 Board of Directors and Nominating and Elections Committee.

#### 2011-2012 Board of Directors

**Joe Twitchell, President**, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

**Margaret P. Ngai, Vice-president**, Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing, Portland, OR

**Megan K. Seston, Secretary/Treasurer**, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University, Atlanta, GA

**Medora S. McGinnis, *Imprint* Editor,** Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing, Richmond, VA

**Colin D. Tomblin, Breakthrough to Nursing® Director,** University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL

**Rhys Haydon, Director (North),** Lakeview College of Nursing, Danville, IL

**Miranda McNicoll, Director (East),** Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

**Chelsea E. Nye, Director (South),** Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN

**Jaclyn T. Coleman (West),** Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

**Regina Leonard, Ex-officio and Chair, Council of State Presidents Planning Committee,** University of Maryland-Baltimore at Shady Grove, Rockville, MD



*2011-2012 NSNA Board of Directors*

*Sitting (left to right): Margaret P. Ngai; Joe Twitchell; Megan K. Seston*

*Standing (left to right): Medora S. McGinnis; Jaclyn T. Coleman; Chelsea E. Nye; Rhys Haydon; Colin D. Tomblin; Miranda McNicoll; Regina Leonard*

2011-2012 Nominating and Elections Committee

**Chair: Regine Faucher, Eastern Election Area,** University of Maryland-Baltimore at Shady Grove, Rockville, MD

**Jennifer Duff, Northern Election Area,** Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD

**Meagan Muellenschlader, Southern Election Area,** Northwestern State University, Shreveport, LA

**Julie Cunningham, Western Election Area,** Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA



*2011-2012 NSNA Nominating and Elections Committee*  
*Left to Right: Julie Cunningham; Jennifer Duff; Regine Faucher (Chair); Meagan Muellenschlader*

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## **Resolutions Adopted**

The House of Delegates passed 33 resolutions, in support of:

- The Future of Nursing Campaign for Action to Implement the Recommendations Made in the Institute of Medicine Report Titled, “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health
- Increased Awareness of Rosa’s Law Which Changes the Term “Mentally Retarded” to “Intellectual Disability”
- Increased Research and Education on Eating Disorders through the Freed Act
- Research and Education for Quality Pediatric Palliative Care
- Working With the American Nurses Association to Increase New Graduate Membership
- Ongoing and Increased Awareness of Needle Stick Injuries in the Health Care System
- Increased Government Funding For Nursing Faculty Development
- Increasing Awareness and Identification of Physical and/or Mental Abuse Related to Hazing Through Utilization of a Screening Tool by Health Care Providers
- The Implementation of Comprehensive School-Based Health Centers
- Adoption of Screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency to Every States’ Core Panel of Disorders for Newborn Screenings
- Incorporating Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation (SBAR) Techniques in Nursing Education
- Screening and Enhanced Healthcare Provider Awareness for the Undiagnosed Bleeding Disorder
- Increased Education about Immunizations for Families
- Increased Awareness of Parental Education Methods Related To the Prevention of Childhood Obesity
- Promoting A Positive Image of Nursing Students with Disabilities

- Research, Development and Adoption of an Individual Informed Consent for Use of the Drug Pitocin in Women during Labor
- Increased Awareness of Research for Artificial Pancreas Systems for Insulin Dependent Diabetics
- Managing Nurse to Patient Vertical Hostility
- Team Based Learning Aimed At Fostering a Healthcare Delivery System that Assures Quality Care and Patient Safety
- Increased Education and Awareness of Blood Transfusion Alternatives and Blood Management Options for Patients
- The *Period of Purple Crying*® Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program
- Awareness and Education Pertaining to Behavioral and Nutritional Interventions Regarding Prevention and Management of Obesity in Elementary School Children
- Implementation of Standardized Blood Pressure Screenings to Promote Early Detection of Hypertension in Children and Adolescents
- Further Evidence-Based Research and Education on the Effects and Prevention of Job Related Nurse Fatigue
- Increased Education About and Awareness of the Effects of Caffeinated Energy Drink Use with Alcohol among Teenagers and Young Adults
- Accessible Hand Hygiene for Patients
- Increasing Awareness for Equitable and Comprehensive Health Care Services For Women Veterans
- Increased Awareness of National Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Installation and Training in All K thru 12 Schools for Students and Staff
- Increasing Awareness of the Growing Mental Health Facility Deficit
- Increased Awareness of the Effects of Bullying in Children and the Need for Bullying Prevention Programs
- Promoting the Social Responsibility of Nursing Students to Assist with the Health Needs of the Homeless Population
- Increased Awareness of Organ Donation and Donor Registration
- Awareness for Potential Federal Government Shutdowns of Our Nation and Potential Nationwide Impact

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*NSNA is a membership organization representing over 56,000 students in Associate Degree, Diploma, Baccalaureate, generic Masters and generic Doctoral programs preparing students for Registered Nurse licensure as well as RNs in BN completion programs.*