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NSNA Turns 50 – Time to Reminisce, Rejoice, and Represent the Future



For some turning 50 evokes thoughts of midlife crisis – heightened awareness of advancing age, and impending mortality. For others, turning fifty means endurance, determination, and growth. And for associations such as NSNA whose longevity has stood the test of time, turning fifty is indeed cause for celebration.

Recalling the Past

Current NSNA members will read about the association's history in the next five issues of *Imprint*, and in a book being prepared for the anniversary. Beginning with the 1950s, past NSNA leaders will reflect on their involvement in NSNA and how this has influenced their nursing career. Based on my doctoral dissertation, NSNA's rich history will be celebrated in words and photos in the 50th Anniversary commemorative book. Readers will gain an understanding of the meaning and value of the NSNA to its members, the nursing profession, and the community at large. All 50th Anniversary Convention attendees will receive a copy of the book with their registration. The book will also be available for purchase.

A documentary video highlighting NSNA's fifty-year history is being produced by Envision, Inc., Nashville, TN (the same company that produced "Nursing – The Ultimate Adventure" for NSNA). The documentary features on-camera interviews and testimonials with past NSNA leaders; archival photographs from early NSNA conventions; and filmstrips and films once used to promote NSNA and to tell "The Taiwan Story."* Accompanied by a period soundtrack, the video will transport viewers through NSNA's exciting history. The video will also serve as an historical archive for future generations of nursing students.

Celebrating the Present

NSNA Leadership U

In 1999, NSNA leaders envisioned a closer relationship between NSNA members and their nursing programs. The Board of Directors created the NSNA Leadership University with three alpha sites: Golden West College, Grand View College, and Valencia Community College. By April 2001, 260 students in 85 schools participated. Last spring, www.nsnaleadershipU.org was launched. The site, hosted by Decision Critical, Inc., makes it easy for students and faculty

to access NSNA's leadership development tools. In addition to descriptions and objectives for participation in NSNA's many programs and activities, the site includes chatrooms and hot links to hundreds of program-related Web sites.

The mission of the Leadership U is the development of future leaders who embrace the values of the nursing profession. Participating faculty offer NSNA members class or independent study credit for NSNA participation. Graduating seniors receive a certificate to acknowledge participation. As "adjunct NSNA Leadership U professors," faculty also receive a certificate to recognize their support. Please consider involving your students and faculty in this cutting-edge program. The Board of Directors invites all 600 NSNA chapters to enroll in the NSNA Leadership U.

Recruitment into the Profession

Increasing demand for nurses and declining undergraduate enrollments are bringing nurses and health care stakeholders together in new ways. NSNA is involved in collaborative activities to address declining enrollments in nursing schools. For example, NSNA is working with the National Association of School Nurses to involve these key nurses in recruitment efforts. NSNA is also part of the Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow coalition, and two past NSNA leaders, Sharon Brigner (1996-97 president) and Aurora Hernandez (immediate past president) are featured in the media campaign. Michael Desjardins, current NSNA president, is now serving on a national advisory committee for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study entitled, "Healthcare's Human Crisis: The American Nursing Shortage." The Foundation of the NSNA (FNSNA) collaborated with Smartees Dolls, Inc. to develop "Nicole the Nurse," a nursing doll designed to interest children in the profession and to establish a scholarship in Nicole's honor. The doll is available for \$14.95 in stores nationwide including Wal-Mart and Target. A portion of the sales is contributed to the FNSNA Nicole the Nurse scholarship.

Breakthrough to Nursing, a program established in 1965 for recruitment and retention of nursing students, has taken on new life with the addition of the "Nursing – The Ultimate Adventure" video, pamphlet, and Web site. NSNA chapters with Breakthrough to Nursing committees may request one free video and 100 pamphlets (\$12 for shipping and handling). If your school is an official chapter and you have not yet received the video, please contact me at diane@nsna.org and I'll provide more details.

The Mentor Connection

At the NSNA MidYear Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri last fall, Dr. Connie Vance launched a new NSNA initiative to help students and faculty understand the importance of mentors. Dr. Vance, co-author of *The Mentor Connection in Nursing*, believes that career success is enhanced when

meaningful, guided relationships are developed well before students graduate from nursing school. The full-day program for faculty prepares participants to return to their schools and implement the process with other faculty and students. The workshop will be offered at the NSNA MidYear Conference in Reno, Nevada, in November. (See the MidYear Conference brochure for details.)

50th Anniversary Celebration and Alumni Reunion

Philadelphia, home of American Bandstand and birthplace of Frankie Avalon and Fabian, will rock and roll when an expected 6,000 nursing students, faculty, and registered nurses arrive next April for NSNA's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Alumni Reunion. This is one event that you, your faculty, and, of course, all of your students, must not miss! NSNA is providing rooms for schools of nursing to hold their own alumni reunions during the anniversary celebration. Reunions are scheduled for Thursday, April 4. A mailing with details was sent to deans and directors in July. If you did not receive the mailing, please contact me.

The anniversary convention program includes continuing education sessions for faculty and returning alumni (RNs). An extensive education program for nursing students offers everything from a state board mini review to general sessions, workshops, and forums. Clips from the NSNA history video will be premiered during the convention. Your own copy of NSNA's 50th Anniversary book is included with the very affordable registration fee of just \$80 advance registration for student and sustaining members.

If you were a NSNA member, come to the 2002 convention and see for yourself how nursing has changed, or remained the same. What are today's issues and how do they differ from those of the past? How has education changed and what advice or questions do you have for future nursing leaders? One of the greatest outcomes we can achieve at the convention is to have students, faculty, industry leaders, and caregivers come together in mindful conversation. The convention program will be thought provoking with dialogue and threaded discussions in real time that can be continued in *NSNALeadershipU.org* chat rooms. Dust off your dancing shoes, dig out the poodle skirts, the bell bottoms, and the tied shirts you have stashed away and do the stroll over to Philadelphia for nursing's biggest birthday party of the century!

Representing the Future

A Call to the Profession

NSNA leaders are honored that the American Nurses' Association (ANA) invited NSNA to take a leadership role in "A Call to the Nursing Profession – Nursing's Agenda for the Future." NSNA is co-champion of the diversity domain along with the National Black Nurses Association. In September, a four-day summit convened in Reston, VA to develop strategies to advance critical aspects in the following ten domains: communications; practice models; work environment; economic value; policy; recruitment and retention; diversity; education; professional culture; leadership and planning. You will be hearing more about this important work.

NSNA is also represented on the ANA Futures Task Force. The Task Force is developing an organizational plan for the future of the ANA. As the voice of the profession's future, Michael Desjardins, NSNA president, brings the student perspective to these meaningful deliberations. In June 2002, delegates to the ANA House of Delegates will consider bylaws for a new ANA.

Support for Undergraduate Nursing Education

Last April, members of FNSNA amended bylaws by changing the composition of the Board of Trustees. FNSNA members elected trustees who are business and professional leaders with the experience and capacity to achieve FNSNA's goal to establish a nationally endowed scholarship fund for undergraduate nursing education. The new Board of Trustees is working with a consultant to develop a plan to raise funds for FNSNA's "The Promise of Nursing" capital campaign. Students and schools of nursing will benefit from the scholarships and programs funded through this endowment.

In Philadelphia, two FNSNA fundraising events are planned for Friday, April 5, 2002. The annual auction to raise funds for the Mary Ann Tuft Scholarship Fund takes place in the afternoon (if you have nursing or NSNA memorabilia or other items you would like to contribute for the auction, please contact me). On Friday night, a signature gala dinner will be held to celebrate the generosity of scholarship contributors and to honor leaders of the "Winner's Circle" point program. Your support of these events will help fulfill "The Promise of Nursing" campaign.

NSNA is turning fifty at a time when the profession faces formidable challenges in providing an adequate supply of nurses to serve the health needs of the public. 2002 is an important milestone for the association. Come to Philadelphia next April and discover why, at fifty, NSNA remains as idealistic and hopeful as it was in 1952.

* The Taiwan Project took place in the early 1960s. A dormitory that housed fifty nursing students was built at the cost of one million Taiwan dollars, raised through the efforts of fifty state NSNA constituents by selling shares in the Nurses' Dormitory at twenty-five cents per share. Mary Dennesaides, NSNA president, and Frances Tompkins, NSNA Executive Director, visited Taipei, Taiwan on their return from the International Council of Nurses Congress in Australia. The visit was documented in a narrated film-strip, "Journey to Taiwan," made from photos taken during the visit. The film-strip was viewed by thousands of nursing students throughout the United States and inspired students to contribute to this fund-raising campaign.

Diane J. Mancino is Executive Director of the National Student Nurses' Association and the Foundation of the National Student Nurses' Association. Dr. Mancino wishes to acknowledge the support of Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc. publisher of Dean's Notes, for making this publication available to the leaders of nursing education.

References

- Mancino, Diane J. The Role of the National Student Nurses' Association in Addressing Social and Political Issues that Contributed to Student Unrest from 1960 to 1975. Doctoral dissertation, Teachers College Columbia University 1996.
- Vance, Connie and Olson, Roberta A. *The Mentor Connection in Nursing*, Springer Publishing Company, 1998.



Faculty Schedule for MidYear Conference: Reno, Nevada

The 2001 MidYear Conference is a great opportunity to get continuing education credit, network with colleagues and friends, and learn about the exciting work being done at the National Student Nurses Association. The lovely city of Reno Nevada will be our host from November 1-4. Please check our Web site at www.nсна.org for updates and news about this conference and our 50th Anniversary Celebration/Annual Convention to be held April 4-7 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Hope to see you there.

NSNA Midyear Career Planning Conference

Thursday, November 1, 2001

The Mentor Connection: Train the Trainer Seminar

Speaker: Connie Vance, EdD, RN, FAAN, co-author, *The Mentor Connection in Nursing*, Springer Publishing Co., 1998

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday, November 2, 2001

Faculty Lounge Open Today

1:00pm - 4:00 pm

Faculty Networking Breakfast: Discussion of Computerized Information Resources for Education

Speaker: June Levy, MLS, Managing Director and Diane Pravikoff, PhD, RN, Director of Research, CINAHL Information Systems

Sponsor: CINAHL Information Systems, Glendale, CA
8:00 am - 9:30 am

Faculty for the Millennium: What the Emerging Workforce Values in their Educators

Speaker: K. Lynn Wieck, PhD, RN., Associate Professor and Director of Research, Texas Woman's University College of Nursing, Houston, TX, and President Texas Nurses Association

Sponsor: National Student Nurses Association
10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Facing the Music: Professional Obligations for Self Care

Speaker: Gloria Donnelly, Ph D, RN, FAAN, Dean College of Nursing and Health Professions, MCP Hahnemann University, Philadelphia, PA.

Sponsor: MCP Hahnemann University, Philadelphia, PA
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Power Teaching to Facilitate Learning

Speaker: JoAnn Zerwekh, Associate Clinical Professor, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, Consultant Nursing Education Consultants, Dallas, Texas

Sponsor: Nursing Education Consultants, Dallas, Texas
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Saturday, November 3, 2001

Faculty Lounge Open Today

1:00pm - 4:00 pm

Meet the Speakers Reception: Leadership Address and Breakfast Buffet

All consultants, advisors, and faculty are invited to come and meet BG William T. Bester, Chief, Army Nurse Corps. General Bester will give a presentation on Leadership.

Sponsor: U.S. Army Nurse Corps Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, KY

7:45 am - 8:45 am

Current Issues in the Regulation of Nursing Professionals

Speaker: Lynda Crawford, PhD, RN, Director of Research and Education, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and Casey Marks, Director of Testing, National Council of State Boards of Nursing

Sponsor: National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Chicago, Illinois

9:45 am - 10:45 am

Incorporating Technology in your Presentations

Speaker: Laurie Davis, Technical Project Manager, Delmar Thomson Learning

Sponsor: Delmar Thomson Learning, Albany, NY
11:00 am - 12:00 noon

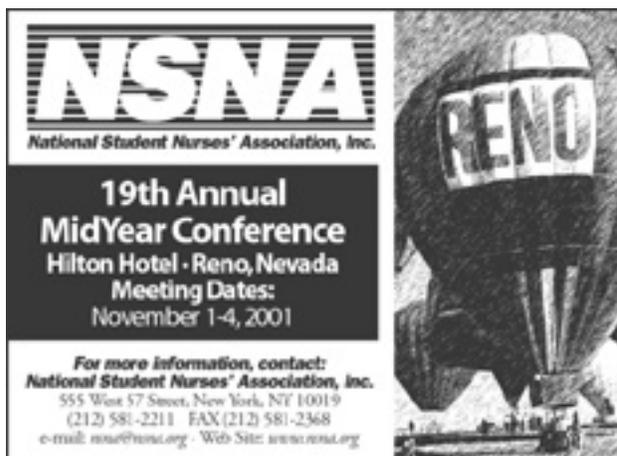
Innovative Strategies for Teaching on the Web

Speaker: Mary Anne Rizzolo, EdD, RN, FAAN, Associate Director, Professional Development, National League for Nursing

Sponsor: National League for Nursing, New York, NY
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Consultants and Advisors Workshop

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm



NSNA
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.

**19th Annual
MidYear Conference**
Hilton Hotel - Reno, Nevada
Meeting Dates:
November 1-4, 2001

For more information, contact:
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Spirit of Nursing Award

The 2002 Spirit of Nursing Award, sponsored by the United States Army Recruiting Command in cooperation with the Army Nurse Corps and NSNA, is presented to a student who demonstrates outstanding achievement and commitment to the nursing profession.

Each participating school selects one student for the Spirit of Nursing Award through a process determined by the dean or director of the school. Any NLN-or AACN accredited nursing school may participate and confer the award on an undergraduate in a two, three, or four-year program. There are currently over 1600 schools eligible to nominate a worthy student for this award.

The recipient of the national Spirit of Nursing Award is selected in early March from among school nominees. A selection committee composed of two NSNA representatives and an ANC representatives will judge the entries.

The student selected for this national honor will receive an all expense paid trip to NSNA's annual convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the award presentation at the Foundation Awards Ceremony, on Thursday April 4, 2002.

The criteria for selection of a national award winner includes:

- academic achievement
- demonstrated excellence in nursing practice
- involvement in community activities
- professional involvement
- leadership experience

Information about the award program is mailed to schools in late fall or can be obtained from local Army Nurse Corps recruiting stations. Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2002.

