Governor Christie and Rutgers President Barchi Break Ground for Nursing and Science Building at Rutgers-Camden

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie joined Rutgers President Robert Barchi, Rutgers–Camden Chancellor Wendell Pritchett, New Jersey State Senator Donald Norcross, and Camden Mayor Dana Reid at a ceremonial groundbreaking for the construction of the new Nursing and Science Building at Rutgers University-Camden on October 16, 2013.

The Nursing and Science Building will be a state-of-the-art, $62.5 million teaching and research facility that will allow Rutgers to expand its ability to prepare a new generation of science and nursing leaders for New Jersey and the region. Supported by funds from the higher education bond referendum passed by New Jersey voters in November 2012, the 100,000-square-foot facility will be built at Fifth and Federal Streets in downtown Camden.

“Last year, I signed bipartisan legislation to transform higher education in New Jersey and create...”

Thomas Edison State College Adds Simulation Laboratory

“...everything hurts! Somebody help me!”

The nurse hears screams for help and darts into the room to find a patient half out of bed and having difficulty breathing. She attempts to position the patient back onto the bed and begins to check vital statistics.

“Ouch! That hurts,” the patient responds.

This type of scenario plays out daily in hospitals throughout the country. Thanks to the support of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, it also takes place in the new Nursing Simulation Laboratory at Thomas Edison State College as part of the course work for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students. Only the patients in the lab are high-fidelity simulators and the caregivers are students in the College’s Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program.

“It’s as close to real life as you can possibly get,” said accelerated BSN student Mariel Palumbi, of Blackwood, N.J. “It makes you think on your feet and teaches skills that we can apply in our clinical experiences.”

Students and staff met with supporters of the new simulation lab on Aug. 8, during an open house reception at the Kuser Mansion Carriage House on West State Street, where the lab is located. The state-of-the-art simulators, which cost around $139,000 each, can be programmed to simulate virtually any healthcare emergency or condition.

“I can’t breathe! Everything hurts! Somebody help me!”

(From left) Student Mariel Palumbi goes to work on a high fidelity simulator as students Chelsea Alex, Diana Quirk, Kirti Patel, Gwen Oliphant, Saber Alaoui, nurse educator Deborah Caniano, RN, MSN, CEN, and Stephen Fox observe.
President & Interim CEO Report

Judith Schmidt, RN, MSN, NNSNA President and Interim CEO

We often as nurses are not recognized or rewarded for the things that we do by those outside the healthcare system. Therefore, it is a pleasure and a privilege that I inform the members of the New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) that we have received the ‘Organizational Award’ from the Filipino Nurses Association of the United States that I inform the members of the New Jersey State Nurses Association Convention in Atlantic City. The convention was well received by attendees and exhibitors alike. We were privileged to have Tim Porter-O’Grady, a nationally known nursing expert and listen to how they can be and will be leaders in the new health care arena.

NJSNA Board of Directors participated in a Strategic Planning Retreat in September facilitated by Dr. Robert Philips. We ended the full day energized to begin setting a new and positive direction for the organization. One of the outcomes that emerged from this event was a “branding” for the organization. You may have seen this tag line on our advertisements and emails: “Advocating-Positioning-Educating NJ RNs—Join Us.” NJSNA is the only professional organization in New Jersey that offers this breadth of programs for the Registered Nurses in the state. If you are reading this and are not a member of NJSNA—JOIN US!

New Jersey Nurse

Official Publication of the New Jersey State Nurses Association
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Trenton, New Jersey 08618
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Fax: 609-883-5343
Email: njn@njsna.org
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NJSNA Mission Statement
Advance the practice of nursing to improve health outcomes, fostering quality outcomes in education, practice and research

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New Jersey Nurse

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New Jersey Nurse

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Fact: New Jersey State Nurses Association membership does not happen automatically when you become an RN...it’s your choice. NJSNA circulates the New Jersey Nurse, its quarterly Newsletter, to each NJ licensed registered nurse as a courtesy. Your choice to gain access to knowledge in the rewarding profession you have chosen. Your choice to have opportunities to further your nursing experience through networking, mentoring opportunities, serving on committees and boards that truly impact how you practice every day in the state of New Jersey, and becoming a voice among thousands of other colleagues who experience what you experience each day in the workplace.

NJSNA’s mission is to promote the profession of nursing, advance the practice of nursing and advocate for nurses. NJSNA achieves its mission through the activities of its members in Education, Policy Development, Leadership, Professional Representation and Workplace Advocacy. And we don’t stop there! Our vision is “Creating the future through advocacy, leadership and public policy.” But most important are our values... a shared vision for the future of the profession, a unified nursing voice; informed proactive leadership; innovation with transparency; mutual respect and cooperation; safe and collaborative work environments; professional and courteous attention; evidence based practice in all nursing arenas; improvement of health care standards; continuing education and professional growth; and, socially significant work.

What an incredible force RNs will have in the health care world if more nurses support their professional organization. When you join New Jersey State Nurses Association you will become an integral part of a network that speaks for nursing, and, even more important, the profession will gain your much needed participation, support and expertise.

Myth: I Must Be a Member – I Get the New Jersey Nurse Newspaper!

Has your contact information changed?

New name? New address? New phone number? NEW EMAIL ADDRESS?

If so, please email or call the New Jersey State Nurses Association to update your contact information: Jennifer@njsna.org or 888-UR-NJSNA (888-876-5762).

**FINAL NOTICE—GRACE PERIOD EXPIRED**

As of June 1, 2013 NJSNA no longer accepts payroll deduction payments for membership dues. All participating employers and members have been notified and all funds received have been returned to the issuing facility. Please see your payroll administrator for a refund.

In an effort to allow members and payroll departments to make the change we extended affected memberships through a grace period. The grace period has expired and regrettably we will be forced to cancel memberships for non-payment of dues if the appropriate steps are not taken immediately.

We continue to receive and return payroll deduction payments on behalf of members from their employers. Please notify your payroll department to cancel this voluntary deduction.

If you are employed at one of the following facilities and participate in payroll deduction for membership dues please contact ANA at (801) 628-5184 to make alternate payment arrangements:

- Central Jersey Behavioral Health—Barnabas Health
- Hunterdon Medical Center
- Kimball Medical Center—Barnabas Health
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center—Barnabas Health
- Robert Wood Johnson Visiting Nurses, Inc.
- VNA of Central Jersey

Thank you for your continued support! If there is anything we can do to assist you with selecting a new payment option please call us at (609) 883-5335 x13.

2013 Tax Deduction for NJSNA Dues

NJSNA dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes but may be deductible as a business expense. NJSNA estimates that 80.23% of dues are deductible as a business deduction on your income tax return. Contact your tax professional for additional information.

Your career is important in your life. What is it worth to you to protect your license, and to be a part of the cutting edge of nursing decisions in New Jersey. Is it worth less than a cup of coffee a day? Your choice should be YES.

Make New Jersey State Nurses Association your choice today. If you have any questions regarding membership, please call 1-888-UR-NJSNA (1-888-876-5762) ext. 13 or email Jennifer@njsna.org.

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www.monmouth.edu/NJNurse
of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. ‘The new simulation lab gives our students the opportunity to learn how to handle a variety of situations in a safe environment and develop critical thinking and decision skills required in our profession. We are grateful to all of the businesses, organizations and individuals whose generous donations made our new lab a reality.’

In the simulation lab, students are the practitioners who can save the life

Simulation sessions are scripted and the simulators are programmed to exhibit specific symptoms and to respond to the actions of the students. This includes bodily functions, speaking and having any reaction a nurse can expect when treating a live patient. Students will be experiencing a wide variety of scenarios in the simulation lab, including cardiac disease and cardiac arrest, diabetes, acute respiratory issues and patients that exhibit co-morbid conditions.

“When a code takes place during a clinical experience involving a live patient, students are typically moved to another floor to watch students during simulation sessions. The new simulation lab gives our students the opportunity to connect what we learn in the clinical experiences,” said Lawrence. “In the simulation lab, we get to deal with situations that are more extreme than we would see in our clinical experience, where the patients are more stable.’ Each simulation session is videotaped so students and nurse educators can review student actions and continually improve student performance.

‘Working within the simulation lab is very interesting,’ said student Kirti Patel, of Franklin Park, N.J. ‘It helps us understand the symptoms we need to look for when get on the patient floor. Patel said she selected Rutgers because of its simulation lab. ‘This building is important both for what it is and for what it signifies,’ said Rutgers President Robert Barchi. ‘When we open this building, the city of Camden and all our partners can see in our clinical experience, where the patients are more stable.’ Each simulation session is videotaped so students and nurse educators can review student actions and continually improve student performance.

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Rutgers–Camden is committed to promoting educational advancement and economic development throughout the region,” said Rutgers–Camden Chancellor Wendell Pritchett. ‘The construction of this Nursing and Science Building will provide the cutting-edge technology, research lab space, and classrooms that will place our graduates among the best trained in the nation,’ Barchi said. ‘What this building signifies is the expanding commitment of the university and our partners to the Rutgers–Camden campus, the City of Camden and, indeed, the entire South Jersey region.’ Barchi added.

The new building will serve more than 1,000 nursing students in undergraduate and graduate programs. It will also support students in Rutgers–Camden’s P.D. in computational and integrative biology program and its doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program. The facility will include classrooms, computer labs, conference rooms, lecture halls, student work and study stations, and administrative offices. It will expand Rutgers’ footprint in Camden by creating a corridor that will connect Camden’s University District (which includes the Rutgers–Camden campus) with the neighborhood populated by Cooper University Hospital, the Coriell Institute for Medical Research, and the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

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Gov. Christie Wins Second Term and Two Assemblymen Lose

On November 5, 2013, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a Republican, was reelected to a second four year term, along with his running mate, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, who is one of 10 women in the US serving in this office. Governor Christie received 60 percent of the vote, in contrast to his opponent Senator Barbara Buono’s 38 percent. Forty incumbent Senators were returned to office. However, in the Assembly race to elect 80 members, two incumbent Assemblymen lost their bid for reelection.

New Jersey State Nurses Association’s political action arm, Interested Nurses Political Action Committee (INPAC) endorsed 18 Senators and 29 Assembly women and men, and two Assembly candidates in the election. All INPAC endorsed candidates were elected, incumbent District 38 Assemblyman Timothy Eustace, a Democrat in a Bergen/Passaic county district, was reelected by 44 votes. District 1 Assemblyman Nelson Albano, a Democrat from Atlantic county lost to Samuel Fiocchi, a Republican, and District 2 Assemblyman John Amodeo, a Republican from Atlantic County lost to Samuel Fiocchi, a Republican, and District 2 Assemblyman John Amodeo, a Republican from Atlantic County. The final tally in the Senate of 24 Democrats and 16 Republicans, and in the Assembly of 48 Democrats and 32 Republicans will continue in January, 2014.

The number of women elected to the legislature was increased by one to 36, ten Senators, and 26 Assemblywomen. New Jersey ranks 10th in the country based on the proportion of women elected to the state legislature; women hold 30% of the 120 legislative seats in the Senate and Assembly.

INPAC, similar to other NJ Political Action Committees, did not make an endorsement in the Governor’s election; early reports indicated that Governor Christie’s lead was insurmountable. Senate and Assembly endorsements were based on evidence of commitment to healthcare and responses to an INPAC questionnaire which was sent to all incumbents and candidates. INPAC Chair Kathleen Gillespie, RN, MBA, NE-BC, stressed the importance of the role that nurses play in working with and influencing their legislators. Gillespie stated, “All politics is local. NJ nurses have been reaching out to their district legislators and providing them important information about health care and nursing that will guide legislators in their policy making role.”

NJ registered professional nurses, numbering over 117,000, and advanced practice nurses, numbering over 6,000 are major health care providers in the State, and have the potential to be a formidable force in shaping health policy and at the ballot box. Please visit NJSNA’s webpage at: www.njsna.org for additional information.

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INPAC Endorsed Candidates Win NJ Senate and Assembly Elections

January 2014 New Jersey Nurse & Institute for Nursing Newsletter

Calendar of Events

JANUARY 18 | 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
• Region 1 Business Meeting
Newton Medical Center Cafeteria Conference Room
175 High Street, Newton, NJ 07860
Join Region 1 as we discuss nursing issues and network with other local nurses. RSVP to Region 1 President Dan Misa at danmisa1@gmail.com

JANUARY 27 | 3:00 pm. to 6:00 p.m.
• Institute for Nursing Board of Trustees Conference Call
1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, NJ

JANUARY 28 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
• NJSNA Region President and Board of Directors
1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, NJ
The NJSNA Board of Director’s invites members and non-members to attend their meetings. Contact Sandy Kerr at 609-883-5335 ext. 11 to register.

MARCH 15 | 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
• Region 1 Business Meeting
Passaic County – specific location to be determined
Join Region 1 as we discuss nursing issues and network with other local nurses. RSVP to Region 1 President Dan Misa at danmisa1@gmail.com

MARCH 25 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
• NJSNA Region President and Board of Directors
1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, NJ
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APRIL 28 | Time to be determined
• Institute for Nursing Board of Trustees
1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, NJ

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1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, NJ
The NJSNA Board of Director’s invites members and non-members to attend their meetings. Contact Sandy Kerr at 609-883-5335 11 to register.

MAY 27 | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
• Institute for Nursing Board of Trustees
1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, NJ

OCTOBER 18 | 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
• Region 1 Business Meeting
Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
651 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown, NJ (tentative)
Join Region 1 as we discuss nursing issues and network with other local nurses. RSVP to Region 1 President Dan Misa at danmisa1@gmail.com
William Paterson Nursing Student Reflections on NJSNA Convention Attendance

Robin del Rosario, BSN Student
William Paterson University of New Jersey

As a nursing student attending the New Jersey State Nurses Association’s 2013 Nursing Convention, I first felt out of place. Almost everyone around me were registered nurses who were greeting and hugging each other, and having conversations about work. Everyone seemed to know each other, and there I was trying to stick with my fellow nursing students and not get lost. As I began making my way through hugs and kisses, I started to introduce myself to most of the vendors. Some were nurse recruiters for graduate schools from universities and colleges. They were all very friendly and provided great information about all the variety of graduate programs out there. NJSNA allowed me to be more knowledgeable about all the different degrees and specialties I could pursue in the near future.

Then, I got the courage to talk to a variety of nurses such as nurse practitioners and nurse leaders. They taught me about all the benefits of joining an organization and how you get so much support from others who have the same love for their profession as you. They new friends we were going to add on Facebook. They have inspired me to join the NJSNA and other organizations after I graduate.

At the beginning of the semester, I was always questioning myself, “Why is nursing so difficult? Do I really want to suffer through all this hard work and deprive myself of sleep?” I began to make nursing diagnoses for myself. Stress related to knowledge deficit, lack of social interaction, and sleep deprivation as evidenced by being a nursing student. After listening to the speakers, I knew that I made the right choice. The speakers were wonderful, especially Tim Porter-O’Grady. I honestly thought I was going to fall asleep during his “lecture”, but I felt as if I was at a comedy show with all his jokes about nursing and patients. Later, he became serious and discussed how important the role of a nurse is when it comes to patient-centered care. He opened all of our eyes to see that we are the sun of the solar system. Without us, our patient’s voices would not be heard. We tell physicians, therapists, and even family members what the patient wants and need. He made me proud to be a nurse, a patient-advocate.

The rest of the speakers talked about how difficulties and stress do not stop after nursing school. Nursing is a stressful, nail-biting profession, but after attending the convention, I learned that the negatives are outweighed by the rewards. Nursing is a very rewarding profession. The hugs you receive when you have helped a patient walk and the tears of joy when you give a mother her first-born child – these little things make nursing worthwhile. I recommend all nursing students to attend future conventions and join organizations after graduation. It was a wonderful experience. I look forward to becoming a member of NJSNA in the future.

WPU students at the NJSNA Convention in October, 2013

Research and Quality Improvement: Gray, Black, and White

Kendra Dugan, MSN, RN, CCRN
Raritan Bay Medical, Center Director of Nursing Quality, Resources, & Research;
Susan Fowler, PhD, RN, CNRN, FAHA
Walden University; and NJSNA Research Corner, Editor

In some instances, clinicians demonstrate uncertainty or confusion in determining if a project is considered research or quality improvement. There are gray areas between the two, as well as clarity in black and white.

Authors often use a definition of research supplied by the government (Foster, 2013; Newhouse, Pettit, Poe, & Rocco, 2006) that identifies research as a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Findings from research may not be used immediately. Quality improvement (QI), on the other hand, is a process, with a systematic approach, aimed to improve current processes with the intent to improve outcomes. The intent is not to generate generalizable knowledge, but rather, improve care. Once again, authors writing about QI use nearly identical definitions (Foster, 2013; Newhouse et al., 2006).

Foster (2013) suggests asking specific questions that can aid in determining if a project is research or QI. For example, if you answer yes to the following questions, your project addresses quality improvement/effort: 1) Is your project intended to provide immediate improvement in patient care? 2) Is your project meant to sustain improvement, and 3) Is your project specific to your institution?

The following quality improvement will be presented and reviewed, citing its alignment with the definition and intent of QI.

Quality improvement is not research but, it is essential that we begin with reviewing current research findings and/or best practices for improving performance aimed at improving patient outcomes.

Aknowledging that our institution’s catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) rates did not outperform the national benchmark we gathered a multidisciplinary team to improve performance. Although our ultimately goal was to reduce CAUTI rates and strive toward sustained elimination of this hospital acquired condition (HAC) altogether, it was essential that we assess our current practices for indwelling urinary catheter utilization.

Our questions were: excluding surgical care improvement project (SCIP) indwelling urinary catheter use

• What criteria directed insertion and discontinuation of an indwelling urinary catheter?
• What lumen sizes were used?
• What determined the duration of use?

Our process included:
• Review of the literature
• Develop a Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) outline
• Involve members of the nursing quality council.

Our Plan included:
• Adoption of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) appropriate reasons for indwelling urinary catheter utilization (best practices)
• Implementation of a Nurse Driven protocol (Innovation)
• Staff Education including a newly developed policy and procedure
• Monitoring, monitoring and more monitoring for protocol compliance.

References:

William Paterson University Faculty (L-R)
Dr. Claire Donaghy,
Dr. Leo-Felix Jurado,
Dr. Kem Louie with keynote speaker
Dr. Tim Porter O’Grady.

Our results and success:
• Post implementation of the Nurse Driven Protocol for Prevention of Catheter Associated Infection we are proud to report:
• January 2013 (8) cases of CAUTI
• February 2013 (2) cases of CAUTI
• March 2013 (0) CAUTI
• April 2013 (1) case of CAUTI
• “ZERO” cases of CAUTI during the past four months May, June, July, August, and September 2013 (4 sustained months).

Our project was Quality Improvement answering YES to:
• Project intended to provide immediate improvement in patient care
• Project meant to sustain improvement
• Project specific to our institution.

Benjamin Franklin said that “without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/improvement.html
NJ Veteran Affairs Participates in Launching: Have You Ever Served in the Military?

Question will enhance health care for veterans

Have you ever served in the military?, is a simple but very important question that nurses and other healthcare providers will now be asking their patients. Military service members may have been exposed to environments that could lead to adverse health risks—rules that healthcare providers need to know to serve veterans better.

The American Academy of Nursing, with the assistance and cooperation of state commissioners of veteran’s affairs, is launching Have you ever served in the military? in Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. The Academy estimates this initial launch will benefit approximately one million veterans. Subsequently, Have you ever served in the military? will be rolled out in all fifty states over a three-year period. Over 75 Academy fellows have served or currently serve in the uniformed military.

On Labor Day, Cheryl Sullivan, the CEO of the American Academy of Nursing, announced at the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) conference a new awareness campaign to improve the health of veterans. The campaign, “Have you ever served in the military?” encourages healthcare providers to ask about their patients’ military background.

“Have you ever served in the military?” asserts Linda Schwartz, a fellow in the Academy and commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, “can be the key to timely and adequate assessments, diagnosis, and treatment.” Less than 20% of all veterans receive care within the VA healthcare system. Harold Kudler, MD, associate director, VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center, noted that “56% of community providers don’t routinely ask their patients about being a current or former member of the armed forces or a family member.” While VA healthcare providers may be familiar to military-related occupational and environmental hazards, many civilian healthcare providers may not be fully aware. Through Have you ever served in the military?, the American Academy of Nursing seeks to address these major gaps in veterans’ healthcare.

NASDVA, which represents all US states and territories, endorsed Have you ever served in the military? The NASDVA resolution states that this campaign “will ultimately raise the quality of health assessments and, most importantly, appropriate diagnosis and treatment of the military members.”

Have you ever served in the military? represents the Academy’s commitment to First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden’s Joining Forces campaign, to mobilize all sectors of the community to support veterans and their families. Nurses, healthcare’s equivalent to the boots on the ground, are uniquely positioned to facilitate this fundamental change of ensuring vital information is obtained and recorded in order to improve the quality of healthcare provided to our veterans and their families.

One example of a veteran health risk faced by civilians. Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, who worked or slept near open-air burn pits, may have been exposed to multiple toxins. These toxins can lead to an increased risk for respiratory illnesses and a variety of cancers, including leukemia. Nurses and other healthcare providers will be given a pocket card listing the most common health concerns linked to military service, as well as questions the provider should ask the veteran. This information will assist providers to obtain a more complete military service history and identify possible health factors or illnesses related to such service.

In addition to the American Academy of Nursing, Have you ever served in the military? is generously sponsored by the Veterans Support Foundation and the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

For more information, visit www.HaveYouEverServed.com.

Board of Directors Update:

The NJ Board of Directors met on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in Trenton. In attendance were: Judy Bennett, President; Norma Rodgers, President-Elect; JoAnne Penn, Treasurer; June Brandes Chu, Secretary; Mary Ann T. Donohoe, Immediate Past President; Directors Margaret Haryk, Margaret Dainingerfield, Mary A. Carroll, Mary Wachter, Grace Reilly, Dan Misa, Region 1 President; Linda Wolfe, Region 2 President; Sandy Quinn, Region 4 President; Corie Jacon-Region 5 President Elect; Debra Elko, CFO; Debra Harwell, Associate Director; Suzanne Kinkile, Director RAMP; Barbara Chamberlain, Education Specialist, Sandy Kerr, Executive Assistant

Excused: Benjamin Evans, Vice President; Directors Tara Hoagle, Brenda Marshall, Kenneth Adorno, Eileen Davis, Susan Weaver, Carole Rosemarie Rosales, Region 3 President, Kate Gillespie, Region 5 President, Kathleen Brack, Region 6 President

Guests: Al Richardson, RN, Laurie Beth Montedonico, Katie Linares, RN, Sharon Thomas—Kean University

Following are highlights of the action items:

Motion 1—Approve the NASN Financial Reports. Motion came from Committee. Passed Vote 12 Ye

Motion 2—Approve the revision of the Policy on Formulating and Revising Position Statements. Passed Vote Yes 13

Motion 3—To have a one-day Professional Summit for 2014 instead of a convention. Passed Vote Yes 11; No 3

Motion 4—Board of Nursing Recommendation: to send a letter of recommendation for the Governor to appoint Barbara Bleson, EdD, MA, RN, BC, CNL to the NJ Board of Nursing. Passed Vote 10 Yes

Other Business: Future NJSN Board of Director’s meeting dates: January 28, 2014; March 29, 2014; May 27, 2014.

As a Veterans Affairs Nurse, I’m inventing a new model of health care.

Call for Nominates

ATTENTION NJSNA MEMBERS (and “not yet” members)

Take an active role in shaping your Association! Expand your leadership skills!

Run for a Board office or join one of our Committees (Congress on Policy/Practice; Nominations)

Preliminary Election ballot being assembled – Deadline July 1, 2014

Complete and submit a CONSENT to SERVE form found at www.njsna.org

BOARD of DIRECTORS – positions on the ballot this year.

President-Elect – serve as an elected representative to the ANA Membership Assembly, performs duties as designated by the President and Board of Directors, and, assumes the duties of the President as necessary. (Term: two years – plus commitment to serve as President & Immediate Past President for two years each)

Board Treasurer – accountable for monitoring the fiscal affairs of the association and shall provide reports and interpretations of the financial condition to the Board of Directors and the membership. (Two year term)

Directors at Large – participates in establishment and implementation of NJSNA policies and position statements and assumes responsibility for fiscal solvency of the Association. (Three year term)

Congress on Policy/Practice – promote and perform the comprehensive, integrated analysis of various issues affecting professional nursing practice. Findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors to assist in guiding the organization. (Three year term)

Committee on Nominations – shall prepare a slate consisting of at least two nominees for each office to be filled and shall publish the slate in the New Jersey Nurse or on the web site before the election period. (Two year term)

NOTE: ELECTION will be CONDUCTED ONLINE. MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

If you are not getting regular email notices, we probably don’t.

Just send an update to: Jennifer@njsna.org

Paper ballots will be available for members who do not have email.

*NJSNA membership is required for these positions – another good reason to JOIN NOW!

Contact Jennifer Martin-Steen at 609-883-5335 ext. 13 or via email – Jennifer@njsna.org for membership rates and details.

Visit our website www.njsna.org to see all that membership offers!
APN Grassroots Lobbying to Remove the Joint Protocol

by: Margaret (Peg) Huryk, RN, APN, GNP-BC with Mary Mountcastle

When Grace Reilly, APN-NJ Grassroots Co-chair, sent out the call for a grassroots team to start meeting with our legislators, I received it with great trepidation. The work was important and I knew that what she was asking us to do would be no small task. The goal would be to bring the question of removing the joint protocol from the APN statute into sharp focus, and to convince the political powers that voting yes to the bill would bring about real, tangible, positive change in the lives of the people of New Jersey.

My first visit was with Eileen Davis when we met with Assemblyman Gary Schaer. Had it not been for Eileen – her cool-headed focus and her warmth – I don’t know how I could have managed because I felt out of my depth and out of my element. Although I knew what needs to be done in a practice situation, and I am a rather confident person in general, the worlds of law and legislature are altogether foreign to me and I was really concerned going in that I would say the wrong thing. The great news was that we had a wonderful visit with Assemblyman Schaer whose daughter, as it happens, is a nurse studying for her Master’s Degree. The Assemblyman was already pretty well informed about what we were advocating for.

We came away from the meeting with a sense that we had been heard, that our cause was of interest to this Assemblyman who was articulate about his support for what we are trying to accomplish. He was encouraging, offering his impression that most people view nurse practitioners as being cost effective healthcare practitioners, and that people who are open to looking for cost-effective healthcare strategies will be interested in hearing from us. He was also very honest about the difficulties facing us and he emphasized the importance of getting the Medical Society and NJSNA and the Nurse Practitioners together in a meeting to hash things out and get to some workable consensus. Again, the wave of trepidation was felt because the work was important and no small task. Here again the worry that comes from knowing that something must be done and not being sure that you can do it. But the power of “we have to” was in play. We had made our first visit and there was no turning back now.

Next, I visited Assemblyman John McKeon whose work I had respected when he was the Mayor of my town of West Orange. Shantha Franks, my colleague from the NJ State Veterans’ Home in Paramus, made this visit to Assemblyman McKeon with me, which was another positive experience. He was, interestingly, very open about his wish to learn more, unguarded about what he didn’t know and interested in really understanding why we were there and why it mattered. He wanted to know specifics about the bill and so we were able to educate him and he was wonderfully open to this. It was a “eureka” for me because, as nurse practitioners we are constantly called upon to educate and we are really good at that. And so now, as I think about these visits and I prepare for them as opportunities to educate, my anxiety goes down. I feel empowered and I feel like I can at least work on teaching these legislators about the bill and why it is good for New Jersey.

More recently the trepidation came up again when Grace Reilly asked me to accompany her to Assemblyman McKeon’s fundraiser. As is my way, I was a little afraid again because it was a whole new venue for me, but we forged ahead and we had a wonderful experience. I had the chance to meet Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, who is a Nurse Practitioner in Wayne, NJ, to Assemblywoman Mila Jasey’s fundraiser. The Assemblywoman took time to talk with us about her experiences as a nurse, as she is concerned and very informed about many of the things that we are concerned about.

Following these meetings, I placed a campaign sign for Assemblywoman Mila Jasey and Assemblyman John McKeon on my lawn. I believe that these Assembly members are sincere and serious in their support of the joint protocol and I will continue to seek out others within the legislature to elicit their support.

Assembly members Jasey, McKeon, and Schaer were endorsed by NJSNA’s Interested Nurses Political Action Committee (INPAC) and were reelected in the November election.

Subsequently, I went with Linda Goldenberg, who is a Nurse Practitioner in Wayne, NJ, to Assemblywoman Mila Jasey’s fundraiser. The Assemblywoman took time to talk with us about her experiences as a nurse, as she is concerned and very informed about many of the things that we are concerned about.

Following these meetings, I placed a campaign sign for Assemblywoman Mila Jasey and Assemblyman John McKeon on my lawn. I believe that these Assembly members are sincere and serious in their support of the joint protocol and I will continue to seek out others within the legislature to elicit their support.

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American Academy of Nursing Inducts Five NJ Nurses

Five New Jersey nurses were inducted into the American Academy of Nursing at its 40th Anniversary Ceremony on October 19, 2013, in Washington, DC. Robert Atkins, Janice Beitz, Jeannie Cimiotti, Cynthia Hnatiuk, and Sandra Ryan were among the Class of 172 Fellows inducted. 15 of whom were international nurses. AAN President Joanne Disch, PhD, RN, FAAN, explained that, “for many, the Induction Ceremony represents the high point of the Academy’s life cycle (as) we gather to welcome Fellows from across the nation and the globe. We salute their extraordinary individual accomplishments, and also celebrate the collective power of our fellowship.” Further she stated, “while it is a personal honor to be inducted into the Academy, it also represents a significant professional responsibility to contribute to improving the health of the nation, and to making nursing’s contribution visible.” Established in 1973 by the American Nurses Association, the Academy is comprised of more than 2,000 Fellows who are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research.

Robert L. Atkins, PhD, RN, FAAN, is an associate professor at Rutgers University, School of Nursing, Camden. Atkins also serves the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as national program director of its New Jersey Health Initiatives, the Foundation’s signature statewide grant making program. As one who has spent his childhood improving the health and well-being of vulnerable children and families, he moved to Camden as a new nurse, working in the public school as a school nurse, and co-founded the START program, a youth development program dedicated to improving the health of Camden’s youth. Through his scholarship and practice, Atkins has become a leader in shaping policy and practice that influence the health of those living in high-poverty neighborhoods. A Brown University graduate with a BA in political science, he received a BSN from University of Pennsylvania, and PhD in Public Health at Temple University.

Janice M. Beitz, PhD, RN, CS, CNOR, CWOCN, CRNP, FAAN, is a professor at Rutgers University, School of Nursing, Camden, and Director of the Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Education Program (WOCNEP). Having practiced for more than four decades in acute, sub-acute, and outpatient settings, Beitz is board certified as an adult health clinical specialist, an operating room nurse, a wound, ostomy, and continence nurse (WOC), and an adult nurse practitioner (APN). A prolific author and faculty member who has taught students at all levels, as an APN she maintained a faculty practice with a surgical practice and consulted as a WOC and a clinical specialist for health care management. Founder of the LaSalle University WOC nursing education program, she is conducting funded research on Pressure Ulcer Prevention Algorithms and Quality and Safety Standards. Beitz earned a BSN degree from Villanova University, and BS from LaSalle.

Cynthia Nowicki Hnatiuk, EdD, RN, CAE, FAAN is a prolific author and faculty member who has taught students at all levels, as an APN she maintained a faculty practice with a surgical practice and consulted as a WOC and a clinical specialist for health care management. Founder of the LaSalle University WOC nursing education program, she is conducting funded research on Pressure Ulcer Prevention Algorithms and Quality and Safety Standards. Hnatiuk authored a publication, Mentoring the Stars: A Program for Volunteer Board Leaders (2009, 2nd ed.). Nova Southeastern University awarded her an EdD; she received a masters’ degree from Medical College of Ohio, and bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Toledo. Hnatiuk is a Certified Association Executive (CAE).

Sandra Festa Ryan, MSN, RN, CPNP, FCPP, FAANP, FAANP, is the chief nurse practitioner officer and clinical advocate for Walgreens Take Care Clinics. One of six founding officers of Take Care Health Systems, Ryan was the first chief nurse practitioner officer in the industry, leading the startup to over 370 clinics in select Walgreens in the country. Her leadership was integral in developing integrated technology, quality assurance programs and evidenced-based guidelines to create patient focused experiences for those treated. She leads efforts on legislative issues that prevent access to care, while overseeing clinical nursing governance. A Convenient Care Association founding board member, she developed their Quality and Safety Standards. Ryan earned a MSN degree at Arizona State University, a BSN at Niagara University, and is a highly decorated retired US Air Force Officer.

Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden Offers DNP Degree

The New Jersey Presidents’ Council has approved a doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree-granting program for the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden. Courses will begin in summer 2014. The DNP program, considered a significant step forward in advancing nursing education and practice in New Jersey, is designed to educate clinicians for advanced practice leadership roles with an emphasis on primary care and clinical populations. This critical program will prepare nurses to fill the growing need for expert clinicians who can provide comprehensive primary care to a wide range of healthcare needs, says Joanne Robinson, dean of the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden. “It will enhance healthcare throughout our region and allow Rutgers–Camden to continue to grow as a center for health sciences in New Jersey.”

“We want our students to demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes, says Patricia Spielie, an assistant professor of nursing at Rutgers–Camden and coordinator of the DNP program. “Our graduates will be leaders in their communities and will be prepared to address major community health challenges such as improving access to care and delivering health promotion and disease prevention programs for adult and gerontological populations.”

Rutgers–Camden will be the first southern New Jersey academic institution to offer licensed registered nurses with an associate’s or bachelor’s degree direct admission into a DNP program, which will prepare students for licensure and a doctoral degree as an advanced practice nurse in adult-gerontology primary care. By offering the 62-credit DNP degree, Rutgers–Camden’s nursing program will become one of the few in the nation to provide a seamless academic transition from pre-licensure to doctoral education. Students enrolled in the program will have the unique opportunity to choose a clinical nursing practice specialty such as chronic illness, end-of-life care, mental health, oncology, palliative care, women’s health, wound care, or continence care.
Kirby and Grazel Receive Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden Awards

The Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden has honored two of its distinguished alumnae for their career accomplishments in the nursing profession. Adrienne Kirby, president and CEO of Cooper University Health Care, received the school’s Alumni Nursing Pioneer Award. Regina Grazel, a project coordinator for the New Jersey chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, was presented with the Alumni Nursing Excellence Award.

“These awards are presented to individuals who have made impressive contributions to nursing and healthcare,” says Joanne Robinson, dean of the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden. “They commit to making a difference every day and they are extraordinary role models for the next generation of nurses.”

The Alumni Nursing Pioneer Award is given annually to a trailblazer in nursing in recognition of significant and innovative contributions in the areas of practice, education, scholarship, and leadership. A 1979 alumna, Kirby manages the daily operations and leads strategic initiatives for the entire Cooper University health system, which includes Cooper University Hospital and more than 100 office locations throughout South Jersey. Kirby states, “At Rutgers–Camden, I had the opportunity to learn in a small group environment and received personalized education and mentoring. That experience inspired me to want to continue to grow and expand my knowledge and expertise.” Kirby is pleased with the growth and advancement of the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden as a center for health sciences in New Jersey. Prior to her appointment as president and CEO, Kirby, who has more than 30 years of healthcare management experience, oversaw the strategic direction of Cooper’s health care delivery operations, including the 600-bed academic teaching hospital, 60 ambulatory sites and 500-member physician organization. She is also a member of the Cooper Health System Board of Trustees.

“The education of future nurses to serve our community is vitally important to our region,” says Kirby, who delivered the keynote address at the Rutgers–Camden nursing school’s 2013 commencement ceremony. “The population in our region is aging and our use of health care is increasing. As such, the need for well educated, highly skilled nursing professionals will be increasing. As an employer, I know firsthand how important that is as we actively recruit from Rutgers because the caliber of nursing graduates is outstanding.”

The Alumni Nursing Excellence Award is given in recognition of extraordinary and enduring contributions to the nursing profession as a leader, scholar, educator, or clinician. Grazel, who received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Rutgers–Camden in 1981, also has more than 30 years of professional nursing experience and has made significant contributions to maternity and infant care and resuscitation training, both regionally and beyond.

In her current role with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Grazel is the project coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Health Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening Program, for which she develops parent and professional education materials and resources for 54 maternity hospitals.

“To be recognized by my alma mater is truly special,” Grazel says. “I am honored to receive an award amongst graduates of the nursing program at Rutgers–Camden in 1981, also has more than 30 years of professional nursing experience and has made significant contributions to maternity and infant care and resuscitation training, both regionally and beyond.”

In her current role with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Grazel is the project coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Health Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening Program, for which she develops parent and professional education materials and resources for 54 maternity hospitals.

“Because of the high quality baccalaureate education that I received at Rutgers–Camden,” she says, “In addition to course studies, it was here that I first discovered and further instilled. These principles have continued to guide me throughout my career.”

Chamberlain Named NJSNA Education Specialist

Barbara Chamberlain, Ph.D., RN, MBA, has been appointed the NJSNA Education Specialist for the approver and provider units of New Jersey State Nurses Association’s (NJ SNA) Education Department. A NJSNA past president, Chamberlain brings a wealth of experience in education and NJSNA with her to the position. In 2013, Chamberlain received the Richard Stockton College, Department of Health Sciences, Professional Achievement Award, one of eight awards given to an individual from each department, she was nominated by Linda Aarsen, a longtime faculty member at Stockton, who had been her professor in the past. Also, Chamberlain was an inaugural inductee, and the only female, named to the Gloucester County College Hall of Fame graduates of the school and the community. Recently, she received the Sigma Theta Tau InternationalEta Beta Chapter Excellence in Mentoring Award.

Bloomfield Nursing Student Reflections on NJSNA Convention Attendance

Julia Campos, 1st Vice-President, New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc.  
BCNSA Secretary Bloomfield College  
BSN Class of 2015

My first experience at a nursing convention was full of different emotions. Prior to attending the NJSNA Convention, I was excited to see what I could learn and whom I would meet. While arriving on Wednesday night my classmates and I realized our plan to walk from our hotel to the convention was not the greatest of plans since the weather wasn’t in our favor, but thankfully the rain did subside. As we walked to the convention, we anticipated meeting great exhibitors and attending a conference or two. As we checked in with the registration desk, check-in was fast and pain free. I felt overwhelmed while being there not knowing where to go or what to do, I also felt attending one day wasn’t enough, or if I was able to only afford one day I should’ve attended the Wednesday instead which gave me another reason as to attend the day early. I can say I did meet great people during the day, but take in the full experience. Networking is the key to your success!
Ramapo College Holds Ceremony for Adler Center for Nursing Excellence

Ramapo College’s new Adler Center for Nursing Excellence moved a step closer to completion recently, as donors Myron and Elaine Adler and College officials signed the last beam to “top off” the two- and one-half story structure on the College campus. The Topping Off ceremony is a centuries-old milestone celebrated during construction projects. The beam was signed by the Adlers, President Peter P. Mercer, members of the Ramapo College Board of the Trustees and Board of Governors, and marking students, and then raised by a crane atop the structure.

“It is a wonderful day for us to see our dream for the nurses of tomorrow come a step closer to fruition,” said Elaine Adler. “We feel blessed to be able to help Ramapo College graduate well-educated nursing professionals who will be at the forefront of the challenges facing society.”

In November 2010, the Adlers made a $2 million gift to name the Adler Center for Nursing Excellence. The Adler Center will be the new home of Ramapo College’s expanding Nursing programs, as well as state-of-the-art labs to enhance the education of Ramapo College students in the sciences. Ramapo’s undergraduate Nursing program has had significant increases in enrollment since its inception in 1993, and a Master of Science in Nursing Education was added in 2002. More than 460 students are enrolled in both Nursing programs and will use the facilities of the Adler Center for Nursing Excellence.

“It is a privilege for all of us to be here today signing this final beam with Mike and Elaine,” said President Peter P. Mercer. “Their vision for and support of Ramapo College has not wavered and they are among our most generous benefactors. We thank them for their compassion and leadership.”

The new Adler Center for Nursing Excellence features three simulation rooms where students will learn to address emergencies involving their computer-simulated patients. Nursing faculty located in a control room recreate medical scenarios that play out each day in hospitals, making each patient encounter unique. Students are videotaped and, in a debriefing room, they receive invaluable feedback from their instructors on how to improve their skills and reaction times.

A Nursing Skills Lab will be available to teach students the necessary basics of nursing, including physical assessment of a patient and the many procedures that make up skilled nursing. The Adler Center also features an Anatomy and Physiology Lab, computer labs, as well as general purpose classrooms.

A conference room, a café with gallery space and an assistant dean’s suite are incorporated into the plans. The 36,000 square foot Adler Center will be connected by an overhead walkway to the science building that is currently undergoing a complete renovation.

Mike and Elaine Adler of Franklin Lakes were joined by family, members of Ramapo College’s Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, college administrators, Nursing Program faculty and Nursing students at a Topping Off Ceremony to commemorate the placement of the last steel beam in the Adler Center for Nursing Excellence. Photo: Carolyn Herring

Advocating – Positioning – and Educating NJ APNs: Annual Education Day

by Trish Vigna, RN, MSN, APN, CWCN, FNAP, Forum of Nurses in Advanced Practice, President

“Riding the Waves of Change,” was the theme for the Annual APN Educational Day held on October 11, 2013 at Bally’s Hotel and Casino, in Atlantic City. The lectures focused on how APNs can change their practice to achieve better outcomes.

Barbara Chamberlain, PhD, APN, MBA, presented caring for the LGBT population; Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, discussed Health Policy updates for APNs; Aileen Holmes, MSN, RN, Nancy Winter, MSN, RN, and Shannon Davila, MSN, RN, from NJHA discussed Innovative Practices that lead to improved patient care and reviewed the Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST); Alan Chant, BS, Pharmacy, Sanofi, EBM Outcomes Liaison spoke about Motivational Interviewing and Health Literacy; and, Lucille Joel, EdD, RN, FAAN, ended the conference by presenting the history of the APN and where we are today.

We wish to thank David Knowlton President and CEO, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute and Phyllis Zimmer, MN, FNP, FAAN, President, Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation for joining us during lunch and speaking about APN practice, advocacy and leadership. It was a great conference and we want to thank all the speakers for sharing their expertise with us.

Forum of Nurses in Advanced Practice Education Day – October 11, 2013
Advocating—Positioning—and Educating NJ APNs
New Jersey Advanced Practice Nurses—Coming Together
RAMP Shares Successes of Recovering Nurses

by Suzanne Alunni-Kinkle, RN, BS, CARN; RAMP Director

What are your thoughts when you hear about someone with an addiction to drugs or alcohol? Disgust, loser...why can’t they just stop? The news sensationalizes people who are suffering and actively using or abusing substances. Our society seems to enjoy all the negative stories about people struggling with their disease of addiction. The news is forever spotlighting Lindsay Lohan, Charlie Sheen, and Gary Busey, when they are active in their addiction. Did you know that Patrick Kennedy, Dick Van Dyke, Buzz Aldren, Cope Moyer, Eric Clapton, and Chris Herren (former NBA player) are all in long-term recovery? Eric Clapton has a recovery center called Crossroads Centre, located on the beautiful island of Antigua. Chris Herren formed The Herren Project to educate at-risk populations on addiction and help others in taking the first steps toward recovery and a life of sobriety. Herren was in the film, “The Anonymous People,” a 2013 documentary about people in long-term recovery. The news does not spotlight the successes of people doing well in long-term recovery.

RAMP is a voluntary monitoring program for nurses with impaired practice related to mental health and substance use disorders. RAMP’s primary goal is safe care for patients; however, RAMP also has the goal of assisting our peers to toward a goal of long-term recovery. RAMP has many high achieving, successful nurses, despite their having the disease of addiction. I asked nurses in RAMP to provide me with some success stories to share that contradict the notion nurses in RAMP are losers and failures. The RAMP program has witnessed many nurses who are doing well in their recovery. Below are a few of their stories.

One recovering nurse shared, “I am truly grateful for the RAMP program and would like to take this opportunity to thank RAMP for all your support. This program allowed me the opportunity to secure my license as a registered nurse in New Jersey. Four years ago, I had been an unemployed nurse for many years. I was recovering from substance abuse with one year of sobriety. I remember thinking, ‘my career as a nurse is over,’ it’s been too long and I have made too many wrong decisions along the way. I invested in my personal recovery and wanted to return to nursing, but I didn’t know how! I was introduced to RAMP and I embraced the program with open arms. I did everything I was told I had to do. I was given a second chance at life, and RAMP was the catalyst I needed to make the necessary changes.

Through RAMP support and participation, the NJ Board of Nursing consented to my reinstatement after successfully retaking and passing the NCLEXRN (must re-test after greater than 5yrs, unemployed), and a nurse refresher course. I surmounted every obstacle. Today, gracefully, I am doing well. My life is so different. I am a psychiatric nurse and I love my job. I managed to reacquire all the things I lost through my addiction; family, friends, responsibility, accountability, and my self-esteem. Through RAMP I received the following certifications and awards:

• 2009 Clinical Resource level of clinical ladder at my employment
• 2011 Certified Addictions Registered Nurse –CARN
• 2011 Clinical Research of Nurse of the Quarter at my employment
• I have been awarded the Florence Nightingale Nursing Award, for exemplary contributions to healthcare.
• I have obtained national re-certification and am sitting for a second certification in the Spring

Another recovering nurse explained, “I joined RAMP in June of 2008 after being dismissed in 2008 from my position in the ICU. I had been dismissed for diverting Percocet. Only through a family member reaching out to my with my then case manager, I started in RAMP and called. I had been RN in 2006, I had considered myself a ‘recreational’ substance user, but never thought I would divert medications from the hospital’s stock supply or from patients. It was exactly what ended up happening, and as my attempts to stop the behaviors became more frequent, my addiction grew.”

After calling the RAMP hotline and speaking with someone, I attended my first peer assistance meeting and enrolled in the program. I attended my first 12-step meeting that night and immediately called. Passionately, I wanted to begin treatment. I had been terminated and knew my story. They put their recommendation forward with my current Chief Nurse Executive and she also been more than eager to demonstrate that RAMP has afforded me. On a personal note I have the love and support of my family, I have recently bought a home, and most recently gotten married to a beautiful, healthy woman. These were not things I ever would have been able to do if I

While in RAMP I received the following certifications and awards:
• 2011 Certified Addictions Registered Nurse –CARN
• 2012 Clinical Research of Nurse of the Quarter at my employment
• 2013 Both the Polaris and Orion Award
• 2013 Medical Surgical certification
• 2013 Nurse of the Month for our unit

I completed the program in June of 2013 and I am eternally grateful. RAMP was the initial roadmap and nudge that I needed to get started on my journey to recovery. At a time when I was lost and wanted to give up, the RAMP program was there to guide and support me, and now it helps me to share in my successes.4

Most Importantly, I have become a better human being. Thank you to RAMP for encouraging and supporting us the way that you do. It is appreciated more than you know.

A third recovering nurse has written the following: “I agree that the nurses I have met in the RAMP program are among the best. I am happy to share my successes while in RAMP since 2009.

• I am working full time at a job I love
• I am almost done with obtaining my BSN (Spring of 2014)
• I have received four Nursing Scholarships from various foundations and the hudab through my employer returning home I put a return back to nursing

Most Importantly, I have become a better human being. Thank you to RAMP for encouraging and supporting us the way that you do. It is appreciated more than you know.

A third recovering nurse has written the following: "I entered RAMP in 2009 while I was in my second semester of a masters’ nursing program. I decided to take a leave of absence from school at that time. After 2 years of sobriety, I returned to school and was eventually dismissed my 2nd day at work. I graduated from the Family APN program in 2012 with a 3.9 GPA. I later went on to pass the ANCC Certification exam. I will be completing the RAMP program in March 2014, and plan to work as an APN at that time. Thank you for the work you are doing for us as nurses in recovery."
The Institute for Nursing (IFN), NJSNA’s professional endorsement, recognized the 2013 Scholarship Awardees: Arthur Davis Publishing Agency, Inc. recipient, Danielle Erickson, the Centennial recipients, Vanessa Betancur and Idelisa Cabral, Mary Germain recipient, Jeanine LaBoy, Meridian Health Care Systems Jean Marsh Scholarship Award recipients, Varsha Singh and Christine Zebrowski, Nueva City Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Scholarship recipient, Joanne Didier, and the Sylvia C. Edge Endowment Scholarship recipient, Rananda Brusswell. Congratulations to each of the deserving recipients.

The Institute for Nursing (IFN), NJSNA’s foundation, is built on volunteers giving of their time and expertise. The IFN cannot move forward without the ongoing support of the IFN Board of Trustees. The Institute for Nursing would like to thank the appointment of Joanne Vanak, MSN, RN, Senior Director, Scientific Advocacy, for Jarsssen Services, I.L.C.; as a member of the Board of Trustees. We are honored to have such a distinguished healthcare expert join us in this role. The IFN 2013-2014 Board of Trustees includes June Brandes Chu, Benjamin Evans, Dr. Helene Feller, Joanne Vanak and Robert Wise. Our hardworking support staff are: Judy Schmidt, NJSNA President and Interim CEO; Debra Elko, CFO; Debra Harwell, Associate Director, Barbara Chamberlain, Education Specialist, Tyler Safari, Education Coordinator, Suzanne Kinkle, RAMP Director; and Sandy Ken, Executive Assistant. Special thanks to Jamie Smith, MSN, RN, CCRN Director of Practice and Education for her years of service as the Interim RAMP Director, and as NJSNA Director of Membership, Jamie has logged countless hours running both the RAMP program and the Education department. We wish her continued success as she transitions into her new role at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

On December 7, 2013, the Institute for Nursing hosted an opportunity to “Celebrate the Season” at the Forsagate Country Club in Jamesburg. We celebrated the holiday season by giving back to the communities in which we work and live, at a holiday party at which we collected non-perishable food items and toiletries. The items collected were distributed to a variety of charities around NJ.

“The gift of time and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more.” – Anthony Robbins

I encourage you to continue to provide support to the IFN so that we can continue to support the membership through education, scholarships and research grants.

Expand your health care practice!
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www.easternschool.com

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427 Bloomfield Ave. Montclair, NJ 07042 973-746-8717

New Jersey STD Clinical Update
CME and CNE will be available.
Please visit: www.nycptc.org for information as it becomes available!

March 2014
The Institute for Nursing celebrated its fourth APPLE Awards Ceremony, acknowledging fourteen physician partners. The Institute recognized those physicians who embody the spirit of support and collaboration with nurses.

Award recipients are physicians who truly are partners. They believe in and are committed to the physician-nurse relationship. Nominated by nurses, the award recipients are physicians who demonstrate that they value, respect and collaborate with nurses. The physicians were honored at the Institute’s APPLE Award Benefit Gala held on October 9, 2013, at Bally’s Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, NJ.

Lorenzo Borromeo, MD, is an attending physician in cardiology and internal medicine at St. Peter’s University Hospital (SPUH) and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. Borromeo epitomizes the true physician partnership in patient care; “in my practice, the nurses are my partners.” He believes that “nurses know more of what is going on with patients because they spend more time with them. I value nurses’ opinions.”

Mark Brescia, MD, FACOG, is the Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen. He listens attentively to the nurses’ concerns, values the decision-making of the nursing staff, and collaborates with them in patient care, establishing a process for eliminating non-medically indicated elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks, and a 23% cesarean birth rate, the second lowest in NJ.

George Davis, MD, is the Medical Director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care departments at Monmouth Medical Center. He truly values nursing’s contributions to the care of critically ill patients, and has partnered with nurses to introduce cutting edge technology, worked collaboratively to reduce hospital-acquired infection, and promoted the dignity and comfort of patients receiving end of life care.

Reza Farhangfar, MD, is Chairman of the Department of Medicine, and President of the Medical Staff, at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Wayne. Farhangfar has collaborated with nursing leadership to update the credentialing process for advanced practice nurses (APNs), leading to the assurance that advanced practice nurses are able to practice to the full extent of their license and education.

Michael A. Goldfarb, M.D., FACS, is Chairman and Program Director of the Department of Surgery at Monmouth Medical Center. Goldfarb is able to engage all disciplines in improving patient care. He makes everyone, especially nurses, want to continuously do more for patients, and he provides tremendous support for the improvement of patient care. His research focuses on patient safety and reducing costs for care.

Ronald J. Librizzi, DO, FACC, is the Chief, Maternal Fetal Medicine at Virtus and Director of Medical Specialties, Virtus Medical Group. As an outstanding advocate for Virtua’s nursing staff, Librizzi consistently creates a work environment that allows nurses to provide the best possible patient care. He collaborates on initiatives and research that have enhanced the Maternal Fetal Medicine Program.

Clark Philogene, MD, a physician at the Union Medical Group in Union, is a volunteer consulting physician for the Calgary Gospel Church where he collaborates with the Newark based Nurses Guild. He was influenced and inspired early in his medical career by the nursing profession, and his wife, Ruth, who is a nurse. Philogene has collaborated with groups of nurses, supporting their continuing education and nurturing them in their specialty areas.

Mark Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP, FACP, is Chair of Emergency Medicine and Chief of Geriatric Emergency Medicine and Palliative Medicine at St. Joseph’s Regional Medical System in Paterson. As a result of discussions with the nursing administrative director, nurse manager, educators and charge nurses, policies have been generated that are supported by leaders who participated in the creating them, and which strengthen the quality of patient care.

Dominic Ruocco, MD, is the Emergency Department Director at Palisades Medical Center, North Bergen. Ruocco has been a strong advocate of the physician-nurse relationship. He and the nursing staff view the team as described by the American Nurses Association: “the essence of teamwork is that it is not a sum of the parts, but how those parts perceive their contributions toward the goal, work together, and exhibit fidelity to one another.”

Theresa Soroko, MD, FACP, is an Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease Specialist in private practice, and serves as Chief Medical Officer at Hackensack University Medical Center (UMC) Mountainside. Soroko supports the partnership between the medical and nursing staffs, and advocates for their continuing education and involvement. She was named the first female Vice President of the Medical Staff, and subsequently served as its President.

Christopher Valerian, DO, MM, is the Chief Medical Officer, St. Mary’s Hospital in Passaic. He has had a lengthy commitment to the education of advanced practice nurses, serving as a preceptor at a number of institutions including Columbia University and Emory University. In his collaborative approach, partnering with nurses and advanced practice nurses, they have developed programs focused on management of population health and chronic diseases.

Marilouise Venditti, MD, CPE, is the Chief Medical Officer at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center and the President of the AtlantiCare Physician Group. In collaboration with nursing leadership they created a culture of mutual respect. She is a role model for physician colleagues and a partner in charge with nursing leaders and staff to implement innovative solutions to enhance quality and safety for patients throughout the health system.

Fredrick M. Weinberg, MD, FACCS, is chief of the cardiology section at University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro. An instrumental force in furthering the physician-nurse relationship, Weinberg’s practice is based upon the conviction that physicians and nurses must work collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes for patients. His professional approach and respect for nursing is instrumental in the well-being of patients.

Eran S. Zacks, MD, FACC, is an attending cardiologist at University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro. As a preceptor at a number of institutions including Columbia University and Emory University, he collaborates on initiatives and training sessions for the nursing staff, focusing on the most challenging arrhythmias recently reported. Thus, he opens up a dialogue with the nursing staff, engaging them at every step of the learning process.
APPOINTMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS
Judy Rugg, RN, has been appointed chairperson of the Burlington County, NJ, NJSNA Nominations Committee. Sandy Foley, RN, has been appointed Vice President to the Congress on Policy and Practice representing Region 1. Sandy will continue to serve as INPAC representative through 2014. She is the current treasurer until a new treasurer is located. President Elect Mary Ellen Levine, RN will receive her Masters Degree in Nursing Education this January and her 30th year of academic achievement Mary Ellen was inducted to the Gold Key International Honor Society in October 2013.

OFFICER VACANCIES: The following positions are open on the Region 1 Board of Directors: Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President for Education. Application forms are available from the current treasurer until a new member is appointed. Dates for upcoming meetings are January 18 and March 15, and our Annual Dinner Meeting will be held during National Nurses Week (May 6-12). Information is available on the Region 1 page at www.njsna.org and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NJSNARegion1.

CONNECT with REGION 1: Led by Deborah Drumm, RN, President, Nurse Education and screenings. Drumm, RN, five members from Region 1 assisted to Helen Donovan, Florence Jennes, JoAnne Penn, Mary Carroll, Convention Chair, for her tireless efforts. Region 2 was represented at the APPLE Awards Dinner on October 9, 2013. Congratulations for a job well done. Region 1 received a recognition award for her Poster Abstract that won 3rd place at the University of Texas Health Science Center in July 2013. Sandra Austin-Benn received one of the New Jersey League for Nursing Nurse Recognition Awards. Norma Rodgers, President of IFP and President-Elect of NJSNA received a Nurse of the Year award by the NJNBA on November 16, 2013 at Newark Marriott. Gina Adams will soon be taking over as president for Region 1. Region 1 members and a good time was had by all.

REGION NEWS

Region 1 – Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren
Francesca A Nordin, RN, Vice President for Communication

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COMMUNITY SERVICE: Led by Deborah Drumm, RN, President, Nurse

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