Leaders from the international urology nursing community met at SUNA's Annual Conference in October 2007 to discuss the formation of the Global Alliance of Urology Nurses. Pictured (from left) are: Gordon Frith, President of the Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society (ANZUNS); Saundra Seidel, SUNA Immediate Past President; Jeff Albaugh, SUNA Past President; Donna Brassil, SUNA Past President; and Tom Ladds, President of the British Association of Urological Nurses (BAUN). During the conference Seidel honored Frith and Jerome Marley, Past President of BAUN, with President's Trophies for their efforts on behalf of the international urology movement (see details on page 4).
From the Editor's Desk

It is always fun to look back and put together the Annual Conference wrap-up issue. As usual, it was difficult to find room for everything we wanted to include. We had so many photos, it was hard to decide which ones to include. This was another wonderful conference that provided many opportunities for members to learn and network.

I hope you will start thinking now about attending the 2008 Annual Conference in Philadelphia. I am looking forward to going to Philadelphia as I enjoyed it so much the last time I was there. So, take a look at those 2008 conference dates and start planning now.

And don’t forget the Annual Symposium coming up in Tampa on February 28. I think by that time of the winter I will be ready for some warm temperatures and sunshine myself!

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Evey Kliever, MA, RN, CRRN-A, CURN
Editor
eveyk@chartermi.net

Global Alliance continued from page 1

• Provide opportunities for colleagues to attend urology nursing education programs across the globe.

• Create, utilize, and strengthen links among organizations and nurses across the world to enhance holistic and evidence-based urologic nursing theory and practice.

• Create mechanisms for the standardization of the components that represent urologic nursing expertise and support debate on ways in which such components could be used to develop and implement globally agreed methods of certifying expert urologic nursing practice.

• Provide quality education to patients and the community through sharing of best practice initiatives, guidelines, and materials.

• Identify opportunities for the establishing and fostering of mentoring and fellowship programs for urologic nurses across the globe.

It is an extremely exciting time to be a part of SUNA and learn about urology nursing around the world. I know many of our members who attended the Annual Conference enjoyed meeting and learning from international colleagues. We look forward to more opportunities in the future to collaborate on urology issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve SUNA over the past years. I look forward to my new role as ambassador in this incredible effort to unite urology nurses across the globe for the good of our patients and ourselves.

Jeff Albaugh, PhD(c), APRN, CUCNS
SUNA Past President

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Urologic Professionals Experience a ‘Grand Adventure’ in Phoenix

Five hundred urologic nurses, technicians, medical assistants, physicians, physician’s assistants, and industry representatives convened in Phoenix, AZ, on October 12-16, 2007, for SUNA’s 38th Annual Conference, Grand Adventures Await You at SUNA. Sessions were split into special interest areas such as continence/urodynamics, surgical urology, advanced practice, and inpatient and outpatient care. Participants attended educational sessions, networked with colleagues, and met with vendors in an exhibit hall packed with more than 90 booths.

“This year’s conference had something for everyone, with sessions for new and experienced nurses, and topics running the gamut of urologic nursing,” said newly-inducted SUNA President Tamara Dickinson, RN, CURN, CCCN, BCIA-PMDB. “In the SUNA tradition, we had a stellar educational program and many fantastic opportunities to network with our colleagues across the country.”

On Saturday, October 13, SUNA sponsored an “Ask the Experts” panel discussion, during which attendees heard from President Tamara Dickinson, RN, CURN, CCCN, BCIA-PMDB; President-Elect Mary Anne Wasner, RN, CURN; Fran Foley, BS, RN, CURN; Marie Page, BS, RN, CURN, BSPA; Cindy Dobmeyer-Dittrich, BSN, CURN; and Victor Senese, BSN, RN, CURN, on such topics as operating room instrumentation, bladder cancer, nerve stimulation, as well as an update from the International Continence Society. The discussion was followed by a question and answer period.

Later that night, during the SUNA Party, the SUNA Foundation held a Silent Auction and raised more than $4,600 to support urologic nursing grants and scholarships.

Also on Saturday, Jesse Billauer presented the Keynote Address, Overcoming Adversity. At age 17, Billauer was pursuing a surfing career when he suffered a spinal cord injury. During his address, Billauer spoke about how he overcame this experience to lead a healthy, fulfilling life.

Awards

Each year SUNA honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to urologic nursing. The awards were presented during the Awards Luncheon on Monday, October 15. The following individuals were honored.

President’s Trophies
- For Outstanding Contributions to the Specialty of Urologic Nursing
  Jerome Marley, RN, and Gordon Frith
- For Outstanding Contributions to SUNA
  Cynthia Dobmeyer-Dittrich, BSN, CURN

Continence Care Champion Award
Angela Joseph, MSN, CNS, CURN

Ron Brady Career Mobility Scholarship
Jeff Albaugh, PhD(c), APRN, CUCNS

Jan LeBouton Certification Scholarship
Todd Morningstar

Suszette McKay Memorial Excellence in Urologic Nursing Award
Olive Adriano, RN

MacFarlane Award
Kathleen Fonder, CURN
Mary Jo Forte, BSN, CURN

Chapter of the Year Award
Upper Midwest Chapter

Regional Member of the Year Awards
- Northeast Region – Joan Colella, MPA, MSN, APN-BC, NP-C
- North Central Region – Kathy Marchese, BSN, APN, CWOCN, CURN
- Southeast Region – Tina Yancey, BS RNC CURN
- Western Region – Jan Jensen, RN, and Linda Adams, LVN

Recruiter of the Year Award
Gina Gerberding-Powley

For those unable to attend the conference, SUNA offers a CD-ROM that features live recordings of educational sessions. For more information or to order, contact Convention Recordings, Inc., at 630-985-1182 or customersupport@dcproviders.com.
President’s Trophies Awarded at Annual Conference

During the Annual Conference in Phoenix I was privileged to honor three individuals with President’s Trophies for their outstanding contributions to the field of urologic nursing and to the organization.

It was my privilege to recognize the international urology movement by presenting the President’s Trophies for Outstanding Contributions to Urologic Nursing to Jerome Marley, RN, Past President of the British Association of Urological Nurses (BAUN), and Gordon Frith, President of the Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society (ANZUNS).

These two individuals along with SUNA leaders were instrumental in the globalization of urology nursing. Initial contact was made among the nursing organizations years ago when Donna Brassil and Jerome Marley were presidents of SUNA and BAUN, respectively. Jerome Marley kept the momentum going with continued dialogue between the groups. As ANZUNS President, Gordon Frith was tenacious in seeking to formalize a global organization. He played a key role in initiating continued meetings and collaboration among various urology nursing organizations, and he encouraged international leaders to meet in Phoenix during SUNA’s Annual Conference to discuss how urology nursing associations could develop principles and policies for interaction and cooperation for the common good. Representatives at the meeting in October 2007 included SUNA, BAUN, ANZUNS, and the European Association of Urology Nurses (EAUN). This dynamic movement is now underway!

Even though different countries have different regulations, we all have the same issues. In the United States we can learn about access to health care from others. Canada and the European countries already have learned to do more with less and all about rationing health care. To quote Tom Ladds, current BAUN President, “there is no need in reinventing the wheel – it may be smaller or larger but it won’t be square and could be used as a model by any of us.” Read more about the Global Alliance of Urology Nurses (GAUN) in Jeff Albaugh’s article on page 1 of this issue. I commend these leaders for their persistence in pursuing this initiative.

I also was pleased to present SUNA member Cynthia Dobmeyer-Dittrich, BSN, CURN, with the President’s Trophy for Outstanding Contributions to SUNA for her many valuable contributions to the organization. I first met Cindy at the SUNA Annual Symposium 3 years ago when we discussed the need to create a special interest group (SIG) for sacral nerve stimulation. In a short time, Cindy followed all the requirements to form a new SIG. She worked diligently to improve this clinical area for SUNA. Under Cindy’s leadership, the SIG developed a fact sheet and presented a pre-conference workshop at the Annual Conference. Now this SIG is SUNA’s largest group and has continued interaction among its members. Cindy is also a great ambassador for SUNA and has recruited many new members. I thank Cindy for her ongoing commitment to SUNA.

Saundra Seidel, APRN-BC, CNOR, CUCNS  
SUNA Immediate Past President
SUNA Chapters Honored

SUNA chapters were recognized with awards at the Awards Luncheon on October 15. SUNA chapter activities over the past year were exceptional. Every chapter was active as a professional organization, sharing their expertise with their communities and colleagues to improve urologic care. Outgoing Secretary Barbara Broome and Incoming Secretary Debbie Hensley presented the following chapters with awards.

**Exceptional New Chapter.** The Central Florida Chapter was formed in 2006. This chapter has grown to 85 members, and 3 are CBUNA members. The chapter has held six educational activities and frequent board meetings. This chapter has demonstrated growth and provided its members with opportunities for professional and educational development.

**Most Improved Chapter.** In 2006 the Yakima Chapter had 30 members. It now has 39, and 1 member is CBUNA certified. This chapter has been active in educational and community activities. The educational activities awarded continuing nursing education credits. The community activities included advertising for prostate awareness on the radio and a prostate cancer support group. Chapter members also presented information on catheter care to home health nurses. This chapter also has been financially supportive of members, sending them to SUNA’s Annual Symposium and Annual Conference.

**Little Chapter with a Big Heart.** The Central New York Chapter has 12 members, but this small chapter has a lot of energy. They do prostate screenings with blood draws, have published in the *Urologic Nursing* Journal, and still had the energy to prepare and host the American Urological Association meeting this past September.

**Exceptional Contribution to SUNA.** The Northern California Chapter has been active in SUNA educational activities. Members have served nationally on the Annual Planning Committee and as SUNA Inpatient/Outpatient SIG leader. They also donated money toward SUNA lectureship awards and participated in the chapter leadership workshop conference held in Kansas City in 2006. This chapter has been active in presenting educational programs as far out as Hawaii! They also have created a chapter Web site and newsletter.

**Best Communication.** Bright, exciting, and full of news that members can use! That is the only way to describe the Great Lakes chapter newsletter. It is jam-packed with information for members. It even has some humor that only urologic folks will understand and appreciate. The Great Lakes Chapter holds lots of educational activities as well as a journal club. This chapter has 246 members, and 31 are CBUNA certified. Although this chapter is large, it does a great job of keeping its members connected.

**Exceptional Community Activity.** The Central Virginia Chapter has 65 members, of which 9 are CBUNA certified. This chapter charges an unusual fee for entry to its educational offerings – two canned goods, which are then donated to a local food bank. With the number of offerings this chapter has provided, many families have been able to sit down to a dinner. In addition to helping out the local food bank, this chapter has lectured at community health fairs, participated in fundraisers, and held a prostate cancer screening.

**Exceptional Educational Program.** The Research Triangle Chapter has offered a considerable number of educational programs, many with contact hours. All of their educational events have been well attended. The educational programs offer something for attendees at all levels of expertise – from novice to expert. This chapter also has 16 members who are CBUNA certified.

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**Lectureship Awards**

The following individuals received lectureship awards for their presentations at SUNA’s 38th Annual Conference in Phoenix.

**Arthur T. Evans Lectureship**
Sponsored by the American Urological Association
Glenn Sulley, BS, RN, CURN
“Sacral Nerve Stimulation”

**Russell Church Memorial Lectureship**
Sponsored by T-DOC Company and the Western Region of SUNA
Polly Gerber Zimmermann, MBA, MS, RN, CEN, FAEN
“What’s Wrong with this Picture? Picking Up Key Aspects in a Patient Presentation”

**Patricia Putetti Memorial Lectureship**
Sponsored by the Central Virginia Chapter of SUNA
Cheryl LeCroy, MS, RN
“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Urodynamics but Were Afraid to Ask”

**Ian Murchie Thompson Memorial Lectureship**
Sponsored by the San Antonio/Alamo Chapter of SUNA
Leanne Schimke, MSN, FNP-C, CUNP, CRNP
“Microscopic Hematuria Evaluation”

**Vance Caselman Lectureship**
Sponsored by the Great Lakes Chapter of SUNA
Mari Olsen, BSN, RN and Suzanne Leckness, BSN, RN
“Learning Through Play”

**Wyland Leadbetter Lectureship**
Sponsored by the Upper Midwest Chapter of SUNA
Shelly King, MSN, RN, CPNP and Valre Welch, MSN, RN, CPNP
“Update on Common Pediatric Urological Conditions”

**Past Presidents’ Lectureship**
Sponsored by the Past Presidents of SUNA
Paula Forest, MSN, OCN, GNP, CHPN, ARNP
“Hospice, Palliative Care, End of Life Care: Just What Kind of Care Are We Giving as Our Patients Die?”

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continued on page 6
CBUNA Recognizes MacFarlane Award Winners

The MacFarlane Award is given to the highest scorer on the certification exam during the previous year. It was exciting this year to announce that there was a tie for the award. The 2006 winners were both RNs who took the CURN exam.

Kathleen Fonder, CURN, of Decatur, GA, is a diploma nurse who has spent 39 years at the bedside. She is currently a Level IV staff nurse on a uro-gynecological unit at Emory University Hospital. When I asked her what prompted her to pursue her certification she said that her organization is applying for magnet designation. One of the goals of the magnet program is to increase the number of certified nurses. Her advice to others considering certification is “if I can do this, anybody can. It is never too late.”

Mary Jo Forte, BSN, CURN, has spent her entire nursing career (31 years!) at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore City, MD. Mary Jo works in the operating room and is the team leader in the urology cystoscopy area. She was certified in urology 14 years ago but let her certification lapse. Her facility is applying for magnet status as well. She decided that “there was no reason why a professional with my experience should not have the validation of certification.” This prompted her to study hard in the areas in which she had little to no experience, and it proved successful. To those considering certification she advises you to “GO for it. It’s hard work, but makes you feel great about your profession.”

The common theme for nursing in health care seems to be applying for magnet status or its re-designation. Certification is a testimony of your knowledge and willingness to go that next step. CBUNA congratulates Kathleen and Mary Jo for their commitment to certification and their top exam scores for 2006.

2007 Conference Sponsors

SUNA gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their contributions to the 2007 Annual Conference:

**American Urological Association**
- Arthur T. Evans Lectureship

**Astellas Pharma**
- Luncheon Symposium

**Astra Tech**
- Cyber Cafe

**Central Virginia Chapter**
- Patricia Putetti Memorial Lectureship

**Coloplast Corporation**
- New Members and First-Time Attendees Welcome and Orientation Breakfast

**Cytogen**
- Dinner Symposium

**Dale Medical Products, Inc**
- Exhibit Hall Grand Prize Drawing

**Great Lakes Chapter**
- Vance Caselman Memorial Lectureship

**Gyrus ACMI**
- SUNA Search

**Laborie Medical**
- Keynote Address

**Matritech**
- Exhibit Hall Coffee Break

**Medtronic Urology**
- Sacral Nerve Stimulation Preconference Workshop
- Sacral Nerve Stimulation SIG Meeting
- Sacral Nerve Stimulation Concurrent Session

**NCA**
- Research Session

**Ortho Urology**
- Conference Tote Bags

**Past Presidents of SUNA**
- Past Presidents Lectureship

**Pfizer, Inc.**
- Luncheon Symposium

**San Antonio Alamo Chapter**
- Ian Murchie Thompson Memorial Lectureship

**Sanofi aventis**
- Attendee Lanyards

**T-DOC**
- Hotel Key Cards
- Russell Church Memorial Lectureship

**Upper Midwest Chapter**
- Wyland F. Leadbetter Lectureship

**VIVUS**
- Chapter of the Year Award

**Western Region**
- Russell Church Memorial Lectureship

SUNA Chapters Honored

continued from page 5

Chapter of the Year. The Upper Midwest Chapter has excelled in every area. This chapter has 213 members, of which 36 are CBUNA certified. They offered numerous educational activities with contact hours that have been well attended. They have a vast array of community offerings regarding prostate health. In fact, one of their creative ideas was to man a prostate awareness booth at a major league baseball game where they screened 530 individuals! The members are active and involved, which contributes to the success of this chapter. The chapter also has a Web site and newsletter. The Upper Midwest Chapter’s achievements are numerous, and chapter members worked hard to earn the Chapter of the Year Award.

Every SUNA chapter should be proud of their contributions. I know SUNA is proud of you.

Barbara Broome, PhD, RN, CNS
Outgoing National Secretary
Annual Conference
Photo Highlights
Hyatt Regency • Phoenix, AZ
October 12-16, 2007

SUNA Foundation Chair Ardeth Hale presents Jeff Albaugh with the Ron Brady Career Mobility Scholarship.

Gina Gerberding Powley (right) accepts the 2007 Recruiter of the Year Award from SUNA President Saundra Seidel.

Outgoing President Saundra Seidel (left) passes the gavel to 2007-08 SUNA President Tamara Dickinson.

The Upper Midwest Chapter in the North Central Region was recognized as the SUNA Chapter of the Year.

A new and very popular feature at this year’s conference was an “Ask the Experts” panel discussion that included topics such as operating room instrumentation, bladder cancer, and nerve stimulation.

Conference attendees met with industry representatives in the Exhibit Hall to learn about the latest technology, products, and services in the specialty.
I want to thank all of the Northeast members who attended the Annual Conference in Phoenix. We had wonderful attendance at the meeting. We all got together for an informal “meet and greet” session and enjoyed a lively discussion about issues and events in our region. It also was a chance for me to meet all of you, which I really appreciated. It is so nice to be able to put a face to a name and email address. I am looking forward to some joint ventures among chapters in our region and getting a chance to visit some chapters this year.

Jane Berlew, CUNP, president of the **New England Chapter** (and member of the Red Sox Nation), is hoping her chapter will host another spring educational meeting. Jane, who attended the Annual Conference and had a chance to talk with other regional presidents, proposed possibly having the **Twin States Chapter** co-host the meeting. It might be held in Portsmouth, NH, again, but that will depend on whether the two chapters jointly host the meeting. She is looking forward to input from chapter members for meeting topics. She also is considering breaking down into specialty groups at the conference to share ideas with members functioning in similar professional roles. Members should contact Jane to both plan and implement the conference as well as to suggest topics.

**Twin States Chapter** President Kelley Hamill-Lemay, MSN, ARNP, attended the Annual Conference with other Vermont members. She reports that the chapter held the last in their series on *Urology Throughout the Lifespan*. The last topic, stone management, was presented by Dr. Gulla. It was an excellent presentation with wonderful attendance. The chapter is currently in the process of electing new officers. Stay tuned for election results. (My apology for previously calling this chapter Twin Cities.)

Congratulations to the **Central New York Chapter** and President Maureen Kiernan for winning the Little Chapter with a Big Heart Award at the Annual Conference.

**Northern New Jersey Chapter** member Joan Colella, MPA, MSN, APN-BC, NP-C, won the Northeast Regional Member of the Year Award. Joan has been an extremely busy woman this year. She published two articles, one in *Urologic Nursing* and the other in *Nursing Research*, and presented at five different meetings, including the American Psychosocial Oncology Society, the Northern New Jersey Urological Updates Certification Review Course, the Association of Radiation Therapists, and the AONE Research Day. Congratulations to Joan for this well-deserved award and recognition.

**The Southern New England Chapter** is planning a spring educational conference according to President Mary Roche, RN, CNP, CUNP. Topics will include erectile dysfunction, interstitial cystitis, and urodynamics. These topics should appeal to a wide variety of urologic professionals. They are planning on holding the meeting at the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Mystic, CT, on April 19. Watch for more details, or contact Mary Roche for more information.

**Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter** President Mary Emmett, CURN, RNFA, is working on the chapter’s next educational meeting. A conflict with speakers led...
them to reschedule the meeting. Mary and several other chapter members attended the Annual Conference and found it very informative. The 2008 Annual Conference is in Philadelphia so Mary and her chapter will be actively involved in this event.

The Columbia-Presbyterian Chapter and President Pat Meade-D’Alisera took part in the Annual Health Fair at Dominican College. This is one of the chapter’s annual community activities. Members have a wonderful time at this well-attended event. This year over 500 people attended the health fair. The chapter had a booth for urologic health issues and presented the SUNA Bladder Health Awareness slide show. This would be a great community activity for any chapter. Please avail yourselves of the resources that are available through SUNA to provide information on bladder health to your community. The chapter also enjoyed a brunch and shopping meeting (very creative!) at the Palisades Mall in December.

Congratulations to Phyllis Sheldon, MSN, who recently passed her urology board certification as a Urology Clinical Nurse Specialist. Phyllis is one of only four urology board certified clinical nurse specialists.

The Upstate New York Chapter, which is now officially an active chapter in SUNA, and President Linda Davis are excited to be an official chapter. It took the enthusiasm and activities of all their members to accomplish this goal. They had a very busy year, and Linda wants to thank all members for their support and participation. During an educational meeting in November Cheryl Aikey, ANP, CURN, spoke on urodynamics. There was very good attendance at this meeting, and everyone agreed they learned a great deal. The chapter held another meeting where attendees brought incontinence/feminine hygiene products, which were then donated to a women’s shelter in Albany, NY, as a chapter community service project. Great idea! I’m certain this was very much appreciated by the residents of the shelter.

The Central Virginia Chapter received the Exceptional Community Activity Award at the Annual Conference, and President Cheryl LeCroy, MSN, RN, was there to accept the award on behalf of the chapter. The chapter is continuing their community service of providing food to the local food bank at each meeting. Cheryl also was awarded the Catherine-Ann Lawrence Award for her article in Urologic Nursing on “Games As An Innovative Teaching Strategy” and the Patricia Putteti Lectureship Award for her presentation at the Annual Conference. Valre Welch, MSN, RN, CPNP, received the Wyland Leadbetter Lectureship Award for her presentation at the Annual Conference.

Member Jeannie Brown went to Niger, Africa, on a medical mission trip to provide free care to local residents. The chapter had an educational dinner meeting in October, during which Dr. Zedler, a local gynecologist, discussed the new vaccine for HPV.

The chapter held elections at their meeting in December. Watch for an update on the election results in the next issue of the Uro-Gram.

Valre Welch, MSN, RN, CPNP
Northeast Regional Director
vswelch@hughes.net

Southeast

I hope that all of you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. As we pack our decorations and reflect over the past year’s accomplishments and dream about what the new year will bring, Southeast members continue to exhibit great professionalism and grow and learn. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet several of you at the Annual Conference in Phoenix in October. Thank you all for welcoming me aboard! I would like to highlight some of the wonderful activities of the Southeast chapters.

The Central Oklahoma Chapter held their Fall Meeting on November 8, 2007. G. Stanford Law, MD, and Susan Burke, RN, spoke on the robotic prostatectomy. Participants earned 1.0 contact hours. Thanks to Intuitive Surgical for their support of this meeting. The chapter is planning to hold their spring meeting in Tulsa, OK. President Genevieve Zerger can be contacted for further information at genzerg@cox.net.

The Florida Sunshine Chapter, under the leadership of President Cindy McLean, held their Sixth Annual Fall Meeting at the Hyatt in Sarasota on November 10. There were 32 attendees at the meeting, which was supported by nine industry representatives. Topics included urodynamics, update on sexually transmitted diseases, hypotestosteronism, interstitial cystitis, robotic prostatectomy, and preparing for certification.

Several chapter members also recently participated in the Men’s Health Forum, where they assisted in the screening of 175 men for prostate cancer. For more information regarding upcoming meetings and activities, please contact Cindy at cmclean456@comcast.net.

The Research Triangle Chapter is planning to hold their Annual Spring Conference in Wilmington, NC, on March 15. More information will follow. Also, keep your
eyes and ears open for another series of dinner meetings that will offer contact hours. For more information, contact President Fran Bryant at bfbryant52@hotmail.com.

Allison Beaver, president of the Greater Dallas Fort Worth Chapter, reports that a successful Fourth Annual Urology Symposium was held on November 3. Twenty-eight people attended the program, which was supported by eight corporate sponsors. The keynote speaker, former golf-pro Terry Jo Myers, who has interstitial cystitis, received rave reviews. She shared her trials and tribulations with this disorder and how Elmiron® therapy ultimately changed her life. There were also lectures on GU pharmacology, evaluation of renal masses, and robotic surgery.

This chapter is currently planning their spring seminar. Anyone interested in assisting should plan to attend a planning meeting in January. For further information or questions, contact Allison at allison.beaver@utsouthwestern.edu or 214-645-8788.

Calling all Treasure Coast Chapter members! President Colleen Layton is interested in planning an educational meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity for chapter members to exchange knowledge and network with peers. If anyone is interested in planning a social event or meeting, Colleen can be reached at 772-216-7971 or teltale445@yahoo.com.

Thanks to all the chapter presidents and members who continue to offer excellent educational meetings and opportunities to network with peers. I hope to see you at SUNA’s Annual Symposium to be held February 28 through March 2 in Tampa, FL. Mark your calendars!

Lee Ann Boyd, MSN, ARNP-C, CUNP
Southeast Regional Director
lboyd@rtsx.com

Western

SUNA’s 2007 Annual Conference in Phoenix was a great success, and the Western Region was well represented. The following individual and chapter awards were given at the Awards Luncheon on October 15. The Northern California Chapter, under the leadership of Co-Presidents Jan Jensen and Linda Adams, won the award for Chapter with Exceptional Contribution to SUNA. The award for Most Improved Chapter went to the Yakima Chapter led by President Cindie Neufeld. The Western Regional Member of the Year Award was presented to both Jan Jensen and Linda Adams for their outstanding work and dedication this past year. Western Region member Angela Joseph from San Diego was the recipient of the Continence Care Champion Award, which was presented by the National Association For Continence (NAFC).

A big thank you goes out to President Linda Sabre and members of the Arizona Chapter for graciously hosting the Annual Conference. Conference attendees were greeted with a friendly welcome and goody bags.

The new year brings much excitement and renewed energy. We are happy to announce that Cindie Neufeld will be serving as Western Regional Director this year and will be assisted by Diane Clowers as Assistant Regional Director. The region has many educational programs planned for 2008. Check out the SUNA Web site for the latest educational programs, or contact your local chapter president to find out what events are being planned in your area:

**Regional Director**
Cindie Neufeld
cneufeld@yua.com

**Assistant Regional Director**
Diane Clowers
diane.clowers@med.va.gov

**Portland Chapter**
President: Lane Reid Biag
lanereid@comcast.net

**Southern California Chapter**
President: Julie Limfueco
jlimfuec@uci.edu

**Northern California Chapter**
Co-Presidents: Janice Jensen and Linda Adams
kpuronurse@hotmail.com
www.norcalsuna.com

**Utah Chapter**
President: Edith Acex
eacey@micluro.com

**Yakima Valley Chapter**
President: Cindie Neufeld
cneufeld@yua.com

**Arizona Chapter**
President: Linda Sabre
davlinsabre@msn.com

**Big Sky Chapter**
President: Debbie Johnson
azeland@bresnan.net

**Puget Sound Chapter**
President: Jean Dearn
wichj@comcast.net

Cindie Neufeld, Diane Clowers, and the SUNA Board of Directors wish you a very prosperous New Year.

Debbie Hensley, BSN, RN
SUNA Secretary

Mary Anne Wasner, RN, CURN
SUNA President-Elect
North Central

This is my first report as the North Central Regional Director and what a great region I get to write about! The North Central Region is well-represented at both the local and national levels, and each chapter is working hard on educational programs and community events.

Chicago Metro Chapter
President Kathy Marchese and her members hosted a successful Bladder Health Fair to recognize National Bladder Month and celebrate Urology Nurses Week. This was a team effort utilizing local physicians, pharmacists, industry representatives, nurses, and associates in educating the public about urologic issues. Kathy states that the SUNA fact sheets (cleverly added to goody bags) were a hit with attendees.

The chapter continues to hold monthly educational meetings, and December’s event was the Christmas party combined with a community event supporting the shelter for abused women. Finally, Ginger Lewis, the chapter’s president-elect, is developing plans for the chapter to do a Web cast certification review course. This flexible learning style may facilitate more members as they seek national certification.

The Great Lakes Chapter held elections last fall and their new board members are: President Todd Morningstar, LPN; Secretary Mary Gail Blasier, CURN; and Member at Large Leslie Wooldridge, CURN. Congratulations to Annette Liechty, CUA, and Norma Lowery, CURN, for obtaining their certification in urology. Well done! Kudos as well to this chapter for receiving the Best Communication Award at the Annual Conference in Phoenix!

Lastly, the chapter is looking forward to its spring conference on March 14. This will be held in a new location, and all information can be found on the Web site (www.glcsuna.com). Todd and his crew welcome everyone to Michigan for what they hope is their best conference to date.

Kansas City Chapter
President Beatrice Stuck and her planning committee have been meeting to discuss details for their next educational event and meeting. The chapter was well represented by several members who attended the Annual Conference in Phoenix.

President Jane Ackerman reports that the Mississippi Valley Chapter is busy as usual. They had great representation at the Annual Conference. Their past president, Gina Gerberding-Powell, received the Recruiter of the Year Award. Congratulations, Gina! Debbie Buback served as chair of the Annual Conference this year. Thanks, Debbie, for your time, hard work, and commitment at both the national and chapter levels, and for agreeing to continue as Assistant Regional Director for the North Central Region. Another chapter standout is Carralee Sueppel who went above and beyond in organizing the chapter’s October conference with educational speakers and great vendor support. Jane extends thanks to each chapter member for helping to make this a strong chapter.

The Upper Midwest Chapter ended a very busy year with an outstanding Fall Seminar in September, which combined a day-and-a-half educational opportunity with a celebration of 35 years as the Upper Midwest Chapter of SUNA! One of the highlights of the celebration was having almost all of the previous chapter presidents in attendance, including our charter president. The toy drive held during the seminar collected items for a local hospital pediatric unit.

Congratulations to Bobbie Stolp for passing the CNOR test. Bobbie also joined Bladder Health Committee members Theresa Lesher and Diane Spindler as they visited two Minnesota Curves sites, distributing educational material and advice to over 45 women. Several members continue to be involved in support groups, such as the UsToo prostate cancer support groups in Rochester, MN, St. Cloud, MN, and Stevens Point, WI, as well as prostate cancer screening events in St. Paul.

President Shirley Peter reports that currently four chapter members serve at the national level: Mari Olsen on the Planning Committee; Jean Lewis on the Foundation Committee; Amy Driscoll as North Central Director; and Evey Kliever as Uro-Gram Editor.

The chapter is very proud to have received the coveted Chapter of the Year Award. It was truly a great team effort, and credit goes to the entire Upper Midwest Chapter membership. The next chapter conference is scheduled for April 12 in Rochester, MN. Find out more information about this chapter online at www.umcsuna.org.

Last, but not least, there is a newly forming chapter in our great organization – The Bluegrass Chapter. This chapter will represent our members in Kentucky (the Bluegrass State!) and is the result of the persistence and dedication of several members in that area: President Gwendolyn Hooper, Vice President Denise Brooks, Secretary Deborah Rouser, and Treasurer Tina Petot. They had their first meeting last November and have hit the ground running.

Amy Driscoll, BSN, CURN
North Central Regional Director
amydriscoll@comcast.net

Patient Resources Available on SUNA Web Site

In keeping with SUNA’s commitment to promote excellence through education of patients and the community, SUNA recently launched an Online Patient Information Resource Center, which is accessible via the SUNA Web Site. Simply go to www.suna.org and click on the red “For Patients” tab at the top of the home page. Patients can learn more about SUNA and access all of SUNA’s Patient Education Fact Sheets. Be sure to tell your patients about this new online resource!
I became the Northeast Regional Director for SUNA 1 year ago. Since that time I have been privileged to meet many outstanding SUNA members and urologic professionals. It is difficult to single out only one outstanding member in my region. This column requires that the spotlight shine on one individual. I have chosen Jane Berlew, MSN, RN, FNP, CURN, to be that member, and I think you will easily understand my choice.

Jane became an advanced practice nurse practitioner in 1998, graduating from Simmons College master’s program. Prior to choosing urology for specialization, Jane worked as a registered nurse in cardiology. When Jane started working in her current urology practice, which is the largest urology practice in the state of Maine, she became the first advanced practice provider in the practice. This was a first for the area, and Jane was up to the task.

Jane quickly understood the benefit of belonging to a specialty professional nursing organization. She joined SUNA in February 1999 and became CBUNA certified in November 1999. She received her certification as an FNP in 2000. Jane is a wonderful example of a professional nurse who appreciates that certification is the key to advancing the profession and specialty in both clinical practice and research.

Jane has been president of the New England Chapter since 2005. The chapter has grown in both numbers and activities under her direction. Last year the chapter presented a very informative, well-attended all-day educational seminar in Portsmouth, NH. Jane put a tremendous amount of time and energy into the planning, implementation, and execution of the meeting. Jane continues to have high expectations for the New England Chapter and plans to sponsor another all-day educational seminar this year.

Jane has a personal side as well, which keeps her a well-rounded individual. She is married to her husband, Derek, and together they have three grown children. Emily is a high school math teacher in Greensboro, NC. Their son Walter is a student at St. Bonaventure University in New York. Their youngest child is a student at Stetson University in Florida. Jane is also “mother” to two senior labradors, Max and Sophie. This group rounds out her life and keeps her very busy away from work.

Fortunately, Jane still understands the need to take care of herself so she is better able to care of others. She enjoys walking Max and Sophie and appreciating the great outdoors in Maine. Her other favorite pastimes – downhill skiing and kayaking – are easily accessible in her home state of Maine. One other favorite activity is being an avid supporter of the World Series champions, the Boston Red Sox, and the New England Patriots.

Jane is a wonderful role model and example of a truly professional, caring human being. We at SUNA are extremely proud to have her as one of our own. Congratulations to Jane Berlew and best wishes in all your future endeavors! We are certain you will be successful.

Valre Welch, MSN, RN, CPNP
Northeast Regional Director

SUNA Foundation Hosts Successful Fundraiser, Establishes New Scholarships

**Success!** The SUNA Foundation Silent Auction held at the 2007 Annual Conference was a great success. Because of the generosity of donors and bidders, we were able to add $4680.50 to the Foundation’s funds. There were 62 items donated, and everyone enjoyed themselves between bidding for their favorite items and sampling the offerings at the Welcome Party.

The SUNA Board of Directors has created two more scholarships: one for the Annual Conference and the other for the Annual Symposium (see details below). Two scholarships were awarded in 2007. The Ron Brady Career Mobility Scholarship was presented to Jeff Albaugh, and the Jan LeBouton Certification Scholarship went to Todd Morningstar. In addition, funding for the first phase of two urologic nursing research projects was awarded in the amount of $20,000 each.

The SUNA Foundation Board of Trustees is examining options for fundraising projects and is currently at work preparing a fundraising raffle for the upcoming Annual Symposium in February. A number of high-tech prizes are planned for those holding winning tickets.

**New Scholarships!** Two new scholarships are now available – one provides funding for the SUNA Annual Conference and another provides funding for the SUNA Annual Symposium. The first Annual Conference scholarship will be available for the 2008 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Applications for this scholarship must be submitted by June 1, 2008. The first scholarship for the Annual Symposium will be offered for the 2009 symposium.

Information regarding all of the scholarships and urologic nursing research grants is available on the SUNA Web site (<www.suna.org>) and by contacting the SUNA national office. Information also will be available at the SUNA Foundation booth at the Annual Symposium.

Ardeth Hale, CURN
SUNA Foundation Chair & Trustee
**Advanced Practice**

Forty people attended the SIG meeting held during the Annual Conference in Phoenix, resulting in 20 new additions to our email list. The following topics were discussed.

- A library of subjects will be attempted, and information will be presented with specific repeated questions.
- Information was requested regarding coding for the nurse practitioner performing as first assistant in the Da Vinci cases.
- Malpractice insurance was discussed, such as benefits of your own policy vs. that issued by an office setting and liability limits.
- A salary survey is still pending but not forgotten. Alternative options for gathering that data were discussed.

As a group we represent a small section of the advanced practice members of SUNA – nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Our current population is 120. We have agreed to have our email addresses on a listing. When questions are posted to SUNA, these are then forwarded to each SIG leader. If the question pertains to our SIG, I distribute it to the group. Responses are then emailed back. Some prefer to contact the individual with the question, some respond to me individually and I then forward it to the individual with the question, and some respond to the group. We also use this forum as a “think tank” for our own purposes. Quite often questions come from within, which leads to an exchange of information and opinions.

Here is an update regarding the discussions held on the Internet over the past 2 months. We have responded to inquiries regarding the following issues:

- Protocol for irrigation of ureteral stents
- Foley irrigation in the patient with high sediment
- Questions regarding scope of practice for the urology nurse practitioner
- Feedback requested for the invention of a collapsible urine hat
- Request made for a urodynamics interpretation “cheat sheet”

Jo Ann Kleier has agreed to perform a delphi technique research of those NP members practicing in urology in order to collate a current scope of practice.

You are invited to join us!

**Martha Klay, MSN, RN, APRN**

SIG Leader

marthaklay@yahoo.com

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**Sacral Nerve Stimulation**

What a beautiful backdrop for a meeting – Phoenix surrounded by mountains and sunshine! The ride from the airport had me begging to see more of the scenery and then I arrived to prepare for a terrific SUNA meeting. What an experience! I was fortunate to be part of the first sacral nerve stimulation (SNS) preconference workshop. We enjoyed a nice morning of information sharing and a good networking luncheon. The next day the SNS SIG gathered at 7:00 am for a breakfast meeting. Thanks to everyone who decided to get up early and join us!

The meeting was a time of change as we regrettably said goodbye to Cindy Dobmeyer-Dittrich and thanked her for being our leader since the SIG’s inception. During the meeting we revisited our original goals and accomplishments. The fact sheet was completed, and an article on SNS was submitted to the journal and will be printed this year. Cindy developed the program, contacted speakers, and prepared for the first preconference workshop on SNS. The program was a great success. The SIG set lofty goals for the first year, and we met all of them. All members present at the meetings have been interested in sharing the message about the importance of SNS and keeping communication open among members.

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**Continence**

The SIG held a very successful meeting during SUNA’s Annual Conference in Phoenix, and I thank all of the 50 attendees for their valuable participation. We discussed a range of topics pertaining to incontinence, including recurrent urinary tract infections, procedures of catheter care using instillations, and much more. An email support group was initiated that will provide SIG members a forum for asking questions. Thank you all for your energy and enthusiasm.

**Martha Klay, MSN, RN, APRN**

SIG Leader

marthaklay@yahoo.com

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**Attention SUNA members!**

If you are interested in sharing your email address so that you can participate in a forum where you and other members can ask questions about your practices and protocols and network with colleagues, please submit your email address to Martha Klay, Continence SIG Leader, at marthaklay@yahoo.com.
We used the second half of the meeting to develop goals for the coming year, which include:

- Develop an awareness presentation to be used for presentations at a local level. We made this goal our first priority.
- Find a way to use the SUNA Web site.
- Develop an advisory board, with members from all four regions who would be available to answer questions about SNS, increasing communication among SIG members.
- Convene a task force to develop tools and resources for clinicians and patients.

The last part of the meeting was open for general discussion. Several members wanted to find a way to provide patients with information about health care providers in different regions who know about SNS so when patients have to move or go on vacation, they have someone to help them. This topic will remain on the agenda for future conversations. It would be great to provide continuity of care for this group of patients.

There will be another SIG meeting at the Annual Symposium in Tampa, and we look forward to continued dialogue and discussion on how to meet these goals. If anyone is interested in the SIG or has questions or ideas so we that can attain these goals, please contact me at hlr316@hotmail.com.

Helen Rittenmeyer, BSN, RN
SIG Leader
hlr316@hotmail.com

CBUNA Board Meets in Phoenix

The Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates (CBUNA) met in Phoenix, AZ, during SUNA's 38th Annual Conference in October. Board business included discussion of recently updated operational policies, board terms, as well as a strategic plan for future board membership.

CBUNA board members held a business meeting while in Phoenix for SUNA's Annual Conference. Pictured (from left) are Patrick Scoles, Carole Kingsbury (C-NET testing), Miki Ribbeck, Vicki Johnson, Phyllis Matthews, Jan Giroux, Michael Brennan (Executive Director), and Tina Yancey.

Board terms for Mary Linn, Patrick Scoles, and Susanne Quallich were extended. The officers for 2007-2008 are: President Tina Yancey, President-Elect Phyllis Matthews, Secretary Mary Linn, and Treasurer Patrick Scoles. We say goodbye and a gracious thank you to Miki Ribbeck and Vicki Johnson for their valuable contributions to the certification board over the past years. The board is currently reviewing resumes to add three new board members in the next month.

The board started the intensive review of the advanced practice certification exam during our meeting. We will complete the final review at the Annual Symposium in Tampa, and it will be tested in the fall of 2008.

During the conference the board presented a concurrent session on certification that was well attended. We were able to provide an overview of the certification process, what sample questions look like, how to navigate the CBUNA Web site, and the benefits of certification and recertification. We were pleased to present this informative session and enjoyed answering and clarifying all the questions asked by attendees.

The CBUNA board was excited to be able to answer the questions of those who visited the CBUNA booth in the exhibit hall. We always enjoy talking with attendees and having the opportunity to answer your questions.

If you are going to be at the Annual Symposium in Tampa, FL, please come meet the CBUNA board members in the exhibit hall and hear about the certification process and the benefits of becoming a certified urologic nurse or associate.

Tina Yancey, BS, RNC, CURN
CBUNA President

Transition in Historian Role

It has been my pleasure to provide you with highlights of SUNA's history for the past 6 years. Now I have the pleasure of introducing SUNA's new historian, a name very familiar to you, Nancy Mueller. Nancy will be delving into our past and who knows what she'll discover! Enjoy it, Nancy.

Ardeth Hale, CURN

It is an honor to succeed Ardeth as SUNA Historian. For the past 6 years she has researched and recorded our organization's history with love and dedication. As J. William Jennings said, “History is waiting to be made as each new opportunity passes before us.” I look forward to the challenge.

Nancy Mueller, MSN, MA, RN, CURN
SUNA Historian

Ardeth Hale, SUNA Historian 2001-2007
Call for Abstracts for SUNA Search

Do you remember the most interesting urology patient you cared for this year? Have you created patient education for urology? Have you implemented an idea that improved patient care? We are looking for you!

SUNA Search is a session planned for SUNA's 39th Annual Conference that will give members the opportunity to share new ideas and experiences with colleagues. All SUNA members are invited to submit an entry for this dynamic session. Authors of selected topics will present a brief (4-7 minute) presentation to conference attendees.

Abstracts can be submitted in any one of (but not limited to) the following categories:
- Patient education materials – written, audiovisual, or electronic patient education materials that you have developed for the care of a urology patient.
- Urologic pearls – innovative ideas pertaining to urologic methods, procedures, programs, or policies that improve patient care.
- An unusual urologic case report.
- Experience with a new urology product, procedure, or medication.

Criteria for Entry
✓ You must be a SUNA member to participate.
✓ Entries are limited to those created/authored by the SUNA member making the presentation.
✓ Presentation at the conference will be a PowerPoint presentation from the podium and will be limited to 4-7 minutes, depending on the number of entries selected for presentation.
✓ Presentations may not have been previously published in a professional journal.
✓ Entries may not have received corporate funding or grants.
✓ Presentations may not assume or appear to be representative of companies or their products, nor represent any financial interest on the part of the presenter.

Submission
To be considered for SUNA Search, please submit your abstract and CV (including address, telephone number, and email address) by June 13, 2008, to the SUNA National Office, East Holly Ave, Box 56, Pitman, NJ 08071-0056 or email to suna@ajj.com. If you are submitting a patient education entry, include a copy of your patient education material. Up to 10 SUNA Search entries will be selected for presentation. Each author will be notified of his/her acceptance status.

Call for Abstracts for Research Scientific Session

Presenters are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations for the Research Scientific Session during SUNA's 39th Annual Conference. Submission guidelines and accompanying forms are available on SUNA's Web site (www.suna.org). All presenters will be awarded 1 day complimentary registration to the Annual Conference.

Please read and follow the submission guidelines carefully. Submissions that do not follow the guidelines will not be reviewed. It is often helpful to have a colleague or mentor review an abstract or manuscript prior to submission.

Abstract Submission Information
✓ Abstracts must be typed using New Times Roman.
✓ Abstract length is limited to fitting within the one-page abstract form.
✓ Abstract information must be received by the date specified in the call for abstracts.
✓ Email to suna@ajj.com. Faxed abstracts will not be accepted.
✓ A completed call for abstracts cover page must accompany each abstract.
✓ Final acceptance is conditional upon registration at the Annual Conference and meeting the format and criteria requirements for the abstracts.
✓ Contact the national office or visit the SUNA Web site (www.suna.org) for specific abstract information and material on writing abstracts and preparing posters.

Abstract structure: Each abstract should contain the following, in separately labeled paragraphs, in this order:
- Title and investigator(s).
- Background: a brief background of the study, significance of the study, theoretical or conceptual framework, if applicable.
- Purpose/aim/objective: two or three sentences stating that major purpose/aim or objective of the study.
- Brief review of salient literature.
- Methods: a brief description of the design of the study, collection of the data, description of the sample/subjects in the study, power/effect size, sample size, inclusion and exclusion criteria, ethical considerations.
- Measurement instruments: reliability and validity information, data collection procedures.
- Statistical analysis.
- Results: summary of the studying findings, including demographics, findings.
- Discussion/implications: discussion of findings, implications for urologic nursing practice.
- Limitations.
- Future research.
✓ A resume of the presenter no longer than one page must be submitted with each abstract.
✓ Authors of accepted abstracts are strongly encouraged to consider publication in Urologic Nursing.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is June 13, 2008.
The 2008 Annual Symposium: Pelvic Pain and Pelvic Floor Disorders is rapidly approaching. Make plans to spend February 28 through March 2 at the beautiful Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina and enjoy some sightseeing and leisure time while also taking advantage of the excellent learning and networking opportunities offered at the symposium.

Program Highlights
Five preconference workshops will be offered prior to the official start of the symposium. These include: Basic Urodynamics; Pelvic Pain Treatment for Nurses; Interpretation, Diagnosis and Documentation of Urodynamics; “Leaping” into the Toolbox: Using Biofeedback and Electrical Stimulation as Components in the Treatment of Pelvic Pain in Men and Women; and Urinary Incontinence in Long-Term Care: Overview and Implications of F-315.

The symposium will officially kick off Friday evening, February 29, with a reception in the exhibit hall followed by a choice of networking sessions addressing current trends in the field.

On Saturday, March 1, Joseph Schaffer, MD, Chief of Gynecology and Urogynecology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, will open the conference with a presentation on “Approach to Pelvic Pain in Women.” The session will emphasize a multisystem approach to the evaluation and treatment of pelvic pain.

The symposium program will continue through Sunday with a choice of concurrent sessions on a wide variety of topics, including:
- urinary tract infections
- botulinum toxin and it urologic-related uses
- video urodynamics
- coding and documentation for urology
- gastrointestinal disorders associated with pelvic pain
- percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation
- interstitial cystitis
- role of physical therapy in the treatment of chronic nonbacterial prostatitis and chronic pelvic pain syndrome
- paruresis (shy bladder syndrome)
- use of pessaries in pelvic floor prolapse

In addition, the program will include a research networking luncheon, general sessions on urodynamic artifacts and the pharmacologic management of pelvic pain, a fundraising raffle for the SUNA Foundation, and time to visit the exhibit hall to learn about the latest technologies and products.

View the full meeting program and register online at www.suna.org. Register by February 15 to take advantage of reduced registration fees!