Having recently returned from SUNA's 32nd Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA, I feel motivated and energized. This is not a novel occurrence. It occurs every summer after the Annual Conference. Years ago, before attending this national meeting, I made resolutions once a year, along with many others, at New Year's. Since attending SUNA's meetings, I now have resolutions twice a year. At New Year's, they are related to my personal life, and in the summer, they are geared to my professional endeavors. Why? The Annual Conference motivates me to do "more" in my career. After 5 days of learning, sharing, and networking with other urologic health care professionals, I feel the power of our presence, the power of our practice, the power of our partnerships, and the power of our passion for urologic nursing.

As we pass one another in the hallways going from session to session, there is an uplifting pride that permeates all of us. Many have remarked at the meeting, "I can do that." • "I am going to become certified." • "I am going to write an article in the Uro-Gram." • "I am going to write an article in Urologic Nursing." • "I am going to do a poster session." • "I am going to conduct research." • "I am going to join a task force." • "I am going to create a chapter." • "I am going to join the Board of Directors." • "I am going to speak next year." • "I am going to ..."

There are so many opportunities!

Many times, we return home engaged in our busy lives and these "I am going to..." challenges and opportunities are forgotten until next year when the process repeats itself.

Who inspired you at the conference? Was it a speaker or was it the person who sat next to you in a session? Who provided you with pearls of wisdom? In turn, who did you influence? How many email addresses did you exchange? Be sure these contacts do not lapse for nursing is powerful and our networking increases this power.

Follow that professional vision that you had for yourself 3 months ago. Nursing is a source of inspiration and pride. Your professional action will lead to personal gain. SUNA is anxious to provide the stage for your triumph, no matter what size it may be. Opportunity is knocking. Allow yourself to follow that vision... keep that resolution!

Donna Brassil, MA, RN, CURN
SUNA President-Elect

SUNA Sets Goals for the Future

On April 21-22, 2001, in Nashville, TN, Betsy Nielsen-Omeis (chairperson) convened the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee. Committee members include: Donna Brassil, SUNA President-Elect; Evey Kliever, Upper Midwest Chapter President and Uro-Gram Editor; Karen Graf, CBUNA Vice President; Glenn Sulley, Central Oklahoma Chapter President; Nancy Mueller, editor of SUNA's telephone triage manual; Jean Lewis, SUNA President; and Rick Grimes, SUNA Executive Director.

The group gathered with the goal of developing SUNA's future Long Range Strategic Plan. They took their responsibility very seriously and did an amazing amount of work over a 2-day period, producing a comprehensive and futuristic plan for SUNA over the next 3 years. In review, the mission statement is SUNA's purpose for existing. You can find the mission statement on the back of every issue of the Uro-Gram and in every issue of Urologic Nursing. The vision is a picture of where the SUNA should be in the future. The strategic plan helps to guide SUNA in the direction of its vision. Goal statements and action strategies continued on page 2
You will see a few new things in this issue of the Uro-Gram. We have added a Member Spotlight and want to make it a regular feature. This column profiles a member of SUNA who works at the local level to make SUNA what it is: a thriving, viable organization. In this issue, the profile features a member of the Alamo Chapter in San Antonio, TX. We all know SUNA members who are active at the local level and deserve recognition. The Uro-Gram wants to publicly acknowledge their contribution with a special column about them. If you know someone you think should be featured, please contact me at eveyk@skypoint.com.

We are also pleased to publish an article by the Columbia-Presbyterian Chapter of SUNA in New York. Their chapter received a special recognition at the annual awards luncheon in Anaheim for having the most certified members. I happened to be sitting at the table next to this group, and believe me, they were excited! I am happy they chose to share their excitement and their passion with the readers of the Uro-Gram. Every local chapter has a story, and we would like to publish an article from one of the chapters in each issue. Please consider sharing your frustrations or your celebrations with your peers from across the country. Many chapters are fighting the same battles as you are. You are not alone.

My final note is on volunteering. Winston Churchill said, “You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.” The call is out for volunteers for various short-term task forces. Please consider answering this call. There are a variety of opportunities available, and you will be able to find a task force to match your interests. The bonus is that you meet some great SUNA members and can establish long-lasting friendships. Volunteering and being a part of SUNA has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my nursing career. I never imagined it would be so enjoyable. Think about Mr. Churchill’s words. Your help is needed. Please volunteer.

Evey Kliever, MA, RN, CRRN-A, CURN
Uro-Gram Editor

SUNA Sets Goals
continued from page 1

gies are developed to meet the association’s goals. The plan in its entirety is printed in this issue (see pages 3-6). If you have any questions regarding the plan or wish to volunteer to help with some aspect of it, please contact the SUNA National Office (888-827-7862 or 856-256-2335).

Jean Lewis, BSN, RN, CNP
SUNA President

Register Early for 2001 Fall Institute

Have you registered for SUNA’s Fall Institute? There still may be time to beat the early registration deadline! Individuals who register for the meeting by September 12 will save $25 on registration. So pull out your meeting brochure and complete the registration form, or register online at www.suna.org/events.

The 2001 Fall Institute will be held October 12-14 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. This year’s meeting will again feature two courses: Understanding Urodynamics Seminar and Comprehensive Review of Urologic Nursing. Registrants can register for one of these 2-day courses, or take advantage of both courses through a combination 3-day registration.

Understanding Urodynamics Seminar

The Understanding Urodynamics Seminar (15.3 contact hours) will provide an opportunity for nurses and technicians performing urodynamics to meet together to learn and discuss the anatomy and physiology of normal and neuropathic bladder function, urodynamic terms and procedures, pressure-volume relationships, quality control, marketing, and urodynamics case studies. The course will be offered on Friday and Saturday, October 12-13.

Comprehensive Review of Urologic Nursing

The Comprehensive Review of Urologic Nursing course (13.5 contact hours) will be held on October 13-14. This course will provide an opportunity for a rapid but intensive review of a wide range of urologic nursing topics, including kidney/bladder cancer, genitourinary trauma, genitourinary infections/sexually transmitted diseases, erectile dysfunction, urolithiasis, urinary diversions, embryology, anomalies, anatomy/physiology of the urinary tract, urodynamics, urinary incontinence, cancer of the prostate, and benign hyperplasia of the prostate. Attending the Comprehensive Review of Urologic Nursing is a great way to review and prepare for the urologic nursing certification examination.

SUNA’s Fall Institute is large enough to attract some of the most popular and well-known speakers in the field but small enough to afford participants with lots of opportunities for networking, problem solving, and discussion. Be sure to join us in October!

Lisa Neu, BSN, RN, CNP
Fall Institute Planning Committee Chairperson
# SUNA’s Long Range Strategic Plan 2001-2003

**Goal 1.** SUNA will be recognized as the center for excellence in urologic nursing education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible Person</th>
<th>Targeted Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1.</strong></td>
<td>SUNA will continue to provide quality conferences and other forums for the dissemination of information and education for the urologic nursing community, including the Annual Conference, Multi-Specialty Conference, and Fall Institute.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 2.</strong></td>
<td>SUNA will convene a task force to study current conferences. The task force will make recommendations for increasing or decreasing the number of SUNA sponsored conferences and/or revising the scope of existing conferences. The task force will be asked to consider the following:</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Convene task force by September 2001 and report to BOD January 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The impact of separating the SUNA Annual Conference from the AUA annual conference beginning in 2003.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The feasibility of combining Urodynamics with the Multi-Specialty Conference, supplementing each conference with hands-on practicums.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Developing the Comprehensive Review Course into another medium.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>The feasibility of instituting nationally-sponsored conferences on specific topics of interest to urologic nurses rotating through the U.S., utilizing national and local speakers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 3.</strong></td>
<td>SUNA will continue to provide quality educational publications to urologic nurses, their patients, and the public.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Urologic Nursing Journal. The Urologic Nursing Journal Editorial Board will be asked to diversify articles to include general urology topics and to provide patient education materials within the Journal for reproduction by readers for their patients.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>January 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Uro-Gram. The Uro-Gram editor will be asked to make each issue of the Uro-Gram more “member-friendly” by including such items as crossword puzzles, relevant cartoons, more information related to urology nursing practice, member recognition, and profiles of key SUNA leaders.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Convene task force by January 2002 and revisions by August 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Urologic Nursing: Principles and Practice textbook. Convene a task force to review and revise the current textbook.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>J anuary 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Urologic Nursing Standards Manual. Revise the current manual every 2 years.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Patient and Urologic Nurse Fact Sheets. Develop Fact Sheets on urologic conditions for distribution to SUNA members through the Uro-Gram, Urologic Nursing, and the Internet. Appoint a task force to outline the format, scope, and number of Fact Sheets to be developed. Assign the development of each Fact Sheet to an individual expert or experts.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Convene task force by January 2002 and produce first Fact Sheets by April 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Urology Nursing “Tackle Box.” Appoint a task force to develop “tackle boxes” (models, fact sheets, etc.) for use by urologic nurses in different areas of specialty for patient education.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Convene task force by January 2002 and complete task by April 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Responsible Person</td>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Manual for Toilet Training. Develop a manual for urologic nurses to use in helping parents provide appropriate potty training for toddlers.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Complete project by Jan 2003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Urodynamics How To. Complete and distribute the Urodynamics How To study.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective 4. SUNA will continue to explore the uses of technology to advance its goals and provide state-of-the-art resources to its members.

1. Web Site. Maintain a state-of-the-art Web site. Appoint a task force to review the current Web site, make recommendations for improvements, and keep the Web site current.
3. Listservs. Provide a listserv problem-solving service to members. Enlist a task force to oversee the implementation of this service.
4. Online Certification. Explore the feasibility of providing the certification test online.

Objective 5. Enhance the urologic nursing professional by enhancing the certification process.

1. Convene a task force to review certification process and the feasibility of subspecialty certification exams (i.e., continence) and identify incentives to certification.
2. Make recommendations to CBUNA through the SUNA Board of Directors. Develop marketing plan to promote certification, including employers, SUNA members, and other qualified individuals.

Goal 2. SUNA will promote and support research in urologic nursing.

Objective 1. Develop and fund a young investigator research program for urologic nurses.
1. Convene a task force to develop a young investigator program for approval by the Board.
2. Promote, fund, and implement the young investigator research program.

Objective 2. Recognize and celebrate all nurses conducting urologic research.
1. Contact appropriate research departments in the Veteran’s Administration, universities, and in military facilities.
2. Establish a network for nurses involved or interested in research in urologic nursing.
3. Promote membership and certification among these nurses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1.</th>
<th>Develop “position statements” to reflect the official position of SUNA on issues of vital importance to urologic nursing practice and patient care.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Assign a task force to identify position statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 2.</th>
<th>Develop a format for creating community support groups.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Appoint a task force to create the product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Review and incorporate existing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<th>Objective 3.</th>
<th>Monitor and participate in current legislative issues of importance to SUNA.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Appoint a task force to review options for SUNA involvement in obtaining and participating in legislative issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Review and consider legislative initiatives presented to the SUNA Board of Directors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Objective 4.</th>
<th>Support the Continence Coalition.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 5.</th>
<th>Participate in patient advocacy national program (Bladder Health Awareness Week).</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>President</td>
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</table>

**Goal 4. Ensure the continuing growth of a viable and dynamic organization.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1.</th>
<th>Leadership Development. Develop effective, hard-working, and committed SUNA volunteers and SUNA Board of Directors who take responsibility for ensuring the accomplishment of SUNA's mission.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Develop an organized plan to identify and groom future leaders of SUNA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
<td>January 2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 2.</th>
<th>Revise job descriptions of current directors and other leaders to ensure that responsibility for recruiting is much of their own and an ongoing process all year.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
<td>April 2002, 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 3.</th>
<th>Review and revise current bylaws and policies related to the role of the nominating committee and the election of officers. The nominating committee will be charged to identify the best possible slate of candidates based on experience, enthusiasm, and demonstrated leadership skills.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
<td>BOD meetings three times per year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Objective 4.</th>
<th>Conduit an annual leadership course for current and future leaders of SUNA.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
<td>BOD meetings three times per year and badges to be implemented by January 2002.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 5.</th>
<th>Ensure that all conferences, regional meetings, and chapter meetings have a component related to recruiting future leaders. Create a board agenda that relates directly to the strategic plan.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
<td>BOD meetings three times per year and badges to be implemented by January 2002.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Objective 6.</th>
<th>Post mission and goals in a prominent place at all board meetings; put mission statement on registration badges.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Date</td>
<td>BOD meetings three times per year and badges to be implemented by January 2002.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal 4. Ensure the continuing growth of a viable and dynamic organization.

**Objective 2. Membership.** Develop a plan to increase membership to 3,500 members by 2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible Person</th>
<th>Targeted Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Appoint a task force to develop an organized recruitment plan which identifies strategies for recruitment and retention, targets markets for new members, and makes recommendations to the board.</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Convene task force by Sept. 2001 with recommendations to the BOD Jan. 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Appoint a task force to design a plan for the recognition of members, including performance on the job or within SUNA.</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Convene task force by Sept. 2001 with recommendations to the BOD Jan. 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Locate and make contact with the head nurse of relevant departments of nursing and other sources where potential members may be found. Begin with VA, university hospitals, and military institutions.</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>September 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Overhaul current membership package and tools for the recruitment of new members; distribute to SUNA leadership, including the board, task force and committee chairs, chapter presidents, and others.</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Create an incentive plan for SUNA leaders and members to contact nurse recruiters, head nurses, and others who may be sources of SUNA members (modeled after the incentive plan of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses.)</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
</tr>
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**Objective 3. Chapter development.** Support existing chapters and develop six new chapters to support the mission of SUNA.

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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible Person</th>
<th>Targeted Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Appoint a task force to develop an organized plan for chapter development.</td>
<td>Regional Directors</td>
<td>Convene task force by Sept. 2001 with recommendations to the BOD April 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Review and revise chapter development orientation manual.</td>
<td>Regional Directors</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Enhance communications with presidents and develop tools for the recognition of chapters.</td>
<td>Regional Directors</td>
<td>September 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective 4. Public relations and marketing.** Increase awareness and visibility of SUNA among medical and nursing organizations, urologic patients, and the public.

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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible Person</th>
<th>Targeted Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Appoint a task force to develop a marketing plan for SUNA.</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Convene task force Jan. 2002.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Advertise SUNA in AUA and similar publications promoting professionalism and certification.</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ensure links from relevant Web sites to SUNA’s Web site.</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>January 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Develop closer relationship between SUNA and AUA and other professional nursing and non-nursing organizations.</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>January 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Exploit opportunities to speak at AUA and other professional meetings.</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>January 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Develop press releases and other materials for distribution to the public and trade press.</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>January 2002</td>
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**Objective 5. Financial.** Increase annual revenues from $1.4 million to $2.0 million by March 31, 2002.

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<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible Person</th>
<th>Targeted Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Increase corporate support, increase membership, increase sales of publications, increase attendance at SUNA conferences, and increase exhibit sales to support the growth to $2 million by 2002.</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Invest reserves consistent with established investment policy.</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Conduct an annual audit of SUNA’s resources.</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
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(continued)
long-range strategic planning session for the Urologic Nursing Journal was held in Philadelphia, PA, on June 30. Attendees included: Editor Jane Hawks; Editorial Board members Dan Lemmens and Jan Giroux; SUNA Immediate Past President Dotti Calabrese; President-Elect Donna Brassil; and representatives from Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., Managing Editor Ken Thomas and Editorial Coordinator Carol Ford.

Mary Beth Fidler, a professional facilitator of long-range planning for organizations and publications, led our sessions. Predicting the future is a very involved task, yet we must determine the impact it will have on Urologic Nursing and how we want to direct our publication to assure its quality and utility. The results of the Strategic Planning Survey were reviewed. We also discussed the results of the Pfizer SUNA study regarding demographics, expectations, and suggestions for improvement. Topics included refining journal content to reflect the interests of our readership, uses of the journal to influence quality and consistency in urologic health care, and maintaining alignment with the mission statement of SUNA. Goals for publishing and delivery, scope of influence, audience, and content were debated. Five-year goals were established that would allow the journal to meet the needs of SUNA members far into the future.

Personally, it was one of the most difficult jobs I have ever undertaken, and I must commend the excellent facilitation provided by Mary Beth. The task seemed overwhelming at the onset, and the resulting direction and organization was astounding. The production of the journal involves the organization and coordination of a great number of people with a great number of talents and skills. Seeing all this in action made me appreciate it even more.

A meeting at SUNA’s administrative offices and an orientation and tour of Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., followed the 2-day strategic planning session. I was most impressed with the open, modern, and interactive capability of the facility. There is an amazing array of technology related to design, printing, communication, layout, graphics, art, archiving, delivery, word processing, photography, and organizational administration! The talent that is assembled there is no less impressive. I must admit, it opened a whole new realm of possibilities.

Dan Lemmens, CUPA
Urologic Nursing Editorial Board Member

After the journal planning session, Dotti Calabrese, Jan Giroux, Jane Hawks, and Dan Lemmens visited the SUNA National Office in Pitman, NJ.

SUNA’s Web site is a wealth of information for members. And if you haven’t discovered, it’s an easy way to complete your chapter’s continuing education (CE) approval application. With just a few simple clicks, you can complete and download all the SUNA application forms for your next educational program. Here’s how:

2. Click on Continuing Education.
3. Click on Activity Approval Forms.
4. Choose either WordPerfect or Word.
5. Click to download forms.

After all the forms are completed, the original and three copies of the application are then mailed to the SUNA National Office. For additional guidance, don’t forget your SUNA Guidelines for Continuing Education Approval Manual. This manual gives you detailed examples of how to complete each form. Every chapter should have a copy of the manual. If you are a chapter president and your chapter does not have a manual, please contact the SUNA National Office to obtain a copy.

Next time, try the SUNA Web site. It’s another way SUNA is serving its members.

Jan Giroux, MSN, CURN
Approver Unit Chairperson
Regional News

Northeast

Lots of activity is building in the Northeast chapters, with several groups pulling together to begin the process of starting new chapters! This is very exciting as our membership grows and new ideas and energy come to these areas.

For those in the Dartmouth area, contact Laura Stempkowski regarding interest in the newly forming group wishing to start a chapter. She can be reached at 603-650-6953 or laura.stempkowski@hitchcock.org. A meeting is currently being planned for early September. Please call Laura for more details.

In the Philadelphia area, Julia Bowen is spearheading a group to build a chapter in that region. A September kick-off is planned with a program and networking session. Please call Julia at 215-662-7600 for more information.

Congratulations are in order for two chapters in the Northeast Region. The Metropolitan Baltimore Chapter was recognized at the Annual Conference for Sustained Chapter Growth. Way to go, Baltimore! They also held a chapter meeting on September 5. For more information about the chapter, contact Nancy Shackelford at 410-583-5866.

A huge congratulations to Marie Fatal and her hard-working group in the New York area for their recognition at the Annual Conference for Outstanding Performance! For more information on what this dynamic group is doing, contact Marie at 212-305-2543 or fatalmatt@hotmail.com.

The Metropolitan Washington DC Chapter has been busy planning its fall meeting for September 11 in Tysons Corner. A half-day fall seminar is in the planning stages, and a call is out for those willing to serve in some way with this program. All interested persons please contact Karen Sellers at 888-326-0022 or momrulz81@aol.com.

The Southcentral Pennsylvania Chapter is planning its fall activities. Contact Connie Laudermilch at 717-566-9931 for dates and locations.

The New England Chapter is continuing its regional meetings to help meet the widespread need of its members. For an update on the fall calendar of events, contact Carol Loring at 978-373-6988 or caloring@ix.netcom.com.

Central New York is planning an active schedule for the fall session. For more information, please contact Maureen Kiernan at 716-334-7433 or 716-217-7257.

The Syracuse Chapter is working hard under the leadership of Susan Lipsy to plan an active fall calendar of events. Please call Sue at 315-449-2262 or 315-471-0190 for more information.

The Seventh Annual Fall Institute will be held in the Washington, DC, area at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City on October 12-14, 2001. The 3-day event will feature 2 days of intensive urodynamics sciences and application as well as 2 days of comprehensive urologic nursing review for those just getting started in urology or urodynamics or for those who want a review prior to taking the CBUNA certification exam. Come and join us for 3 days of updates, how-to’s, and networking!

Regional Members to Be Recognized with Annual Award

At the May 2001 SUNA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, the SUNA BOD decided to implement a Regional Member of the Year Award. One member from each SUNA region will be recognized annually for his/her work and dedication at the chapter level. There are many SUNA members who are working hard to meet members’ needs at the chapter level. The BOD realizes the work that these individuals are doing to keep chapters viable and wants to recognize them for their contributions at the local level.

The mechanisms for this award have not yet been finalized. Watch the Uro-Gram and the SUNA electronic newsletter for details about this award.

As I begin my travel plans to continue to visit and meet with chapter leaders and future leaders in the Northeast Region, I welcome your comments and input for our shared future as urologic nurses and specialists. Please feel free to contact me by fax or email at 410-461-6557 (fax) or bad2bne@aol.com. There are a lot of exciting things happening in SUNA and at the chapter level. I look forward to hearing about your success and challenges as we grow personally and professionally.

Lisa Neu, BSN, RN, CNP
Northeast Regional Director

North Central

Since returning home from the Annual Conference I have had the pleasure of speaking with all of the chapter presidents of the North Central Region. In some ways the chapters are very similar and in other ways very different. Chapter membership varies from 10 to 290 members. Our chapters are at different points in their life spans. We have a 1-year-old chapter and several 30-year-olds. The one recurring theme that emerges is that members are struggling with and striving for balance in their lives. Members are juggling work, family, school, friends, and SUNA activities. Truly, these are challenges we all face.

True to SUNA’s mission, North Central regional members are busy planning educational opportunities for the fall. The Mississippi Valley Chapter is holding a 1-day Fall Update on October 13 at the Radisson Hotel in Iowa City, IA. The Chicago Metro Chapter is holding a 2-day event on September 14-15 at Navy Pier in Chicago. The Great Lakes Chapter is planning a fall program for November. The Kansas City Chapter has a program planned for September 28 at Baptist Medical Center in Kansas City, MO. And the Upper Midwest Chapter will host a program at the Airport Holiday Inn in Bloomington, MN, on September 8. We should applaud ourselves that seeking and sharing knowledge is so very important to all of our members!

Lynn M. Fisher, RN, CURN
North Central Regional Director
Western

The Western Region is on the march! In addition to the five existing chapters, activity is underway by four other groups in the region to begin chapters. Soon there may be chapters in Hawaii, Arizona, Southern Oregon/Northern California, and the Seattle area. If you live in any of these areas and want to get involved with the exciting activities of helping start a chapter, please email me at jcol503@aol.com. Also, I hope to see a number of you at the regional conference in Anchorage on September 16-18. The Yakima Chapter has planned a wonderful program in a beautiful setting.

During this second year in my role as regional director, I plan to focus on chapter development for both new and existing chapters. I also hope to make some site visits during the year. I wish each of you a wonderful fall.

Joyce Colling, PhD, RN, FAAN
Western Regional Director

SUNA Chapter Shares Its Success Story

In 1999 I sat at my first SUNA Annual Conference in Dallas. I had been able to convince my colleague, Melissa, that going to a SUNA conference would not only be educational but may be fun, too. I was excited and looking forward to learning — I got more than I expected. It was exhilarating to meet so many nurses from around the country and some from outside the country, and they all worked in urology! I spent the next 5 days listening to new ideas, sharing experiences, and most of all feeling that I could do more.

At the awards luncheon, Melissa and I enjoyed the research presentations, the Pearls awards presentation, and the chapter recognitions. I felt proud to sit among some of the winners and gently nudged Melissa and whispered, “We could do that, too.” We were determined to be winners, too. And so on the trip home we outlined our strategy for the next year’s SUNA meeting. Our plan involved setting a goal, managing the plan, and reaching the goal.

The Plan

The plan was set into motion. We thought about what we knew and wanted share with other urology nurses. Then we set out to prove what we did make a difference. We realized we would have to recruit others in our efforts. Knowing that there is strength in numbers, we pondered how we would get the other nurses to buy in to the idea. According to Tuckman, Jensen, and Lacousier (Tappen, 1989), there are stages of group development: (1) forming, (2) storming, (3) norming, and (4) performing. This was the model we used in motivating others to become involved.

Working with others can be difficult, but we found that it was easy when soliciting the support of others who share the

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Planning Underway for 2002 Multi-Specialty Conference

The Seventh National Multi-Specialty Conference on Urinary Continence will be titled Sharing the Secrets and will be held in Phoenix, AZ. Thursday, February 7, will feature the pre-conference workshops, and the 2-day conference will run Friday, February 8, through Saturday, February 9, 2002.

The preconference workshops will include: (1) Advanced Biofeedback with Mikel Gray, PhD, CUNP, CCN, FAAN, and Barbara Woolner, BSA, RN, CCN, MDO; (2) Advanced Urodynamics with Derek Griffiths, PhD BA; (3) Continence Care Basics with Donna Thompson, MSN, CRNP, CCCN, and Margaret Ann Hayn, MSN, RN CRRN; and (4) a Coding Workshop with Susanne Talebian, CPC, CCS-P.

The conference keynote presentation, The Best is Yet to Be will be presented by Venner M. Farley, EdD, RN. A general session entitled Sharing Your Secrets: Packaging Your Ideas, to be presented by Cheryle B. Gartley from the Simon Foundation, will be another conference feature. Challenges of continence care will again be presented with case studies about pesky problems, diabetes, adult enuresis, pediatric cases, and a CVA case study. Additional topics to be presented include pediatric continence, injectables for intrinsic sphincteric deficiency, HCFA incontinence standards in long-term care, neobladder nursing care, principles of innervation and neuromodulations, acupuncture, establishing a continence practice, prevention and management of perineal dermatitis, musculoskeletal evaluation and exercise for urinary incontinence - physical therapy perspectives, status of continence care in long-term care, hormone replacement therapy, urinary incontinence among the native American population in the Southwest, iatrogenic urinary incontinence in men, interstitial cystitis, InterStim therapy for treatment of refractory bladder conditions, prevention of urinary incontinence, advanced biofeedback and e-stim techniques, treatment of both fecal and urinary incontinence, research abstracts, and the role of pelvic floor therapy in gynecologic oncolgy.

The committee has worked hard to incorporate into this conference the ideas shared by members through evaluations and verbal comments. We hope to see you all there.

Carralee Sueppel, MSN, CURN
Multi-Specialty Conference Chairperson

Legislative Update

I hope you are enjoying the summer and getting some well deserved rest and relaxation. There is not a lot happening in Congress right now because of the summer break. I would encourage you to keep an eye on any legislation pertaining to the nursing shortage as that potentially would have an impact on all of us.

SUNA’s Annual Conference in Anaheim was a great experience. The presentations were excellent and provided an opportunity for continuing education at both the general and advanced levels. The social events fostered collegiality and facilitated networking among participants. The business meeting was well attended and it was at this meeting that outgoing SUNA President Dorothy Calabrese and incoming President Jean Lewis shared aspects of SUNA’s Strategic Plan.

SUNA is making the transition from a committee structure to a task force structure in order to achieve its goals. This is an exciting concept as it potentially will increase membership involvement by limiting the time commitment necessary to complete a project. The Legislative Committee is now the Legislative Task Force, and Paula Forest will assume its leadership as my term as chairperson is complete.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience and thank you all for your support. I will continue as a member of the task force and look forward to its continued growth.

Laura Stempkowski, MS, CUNP, AOCN
Outgoing Legislative Committee Chairperson

NKF Announces New Research Funding Opportunity

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is now accepting grant proposals to support research in the area of enuresis. The Enuresis Research Grant, sponsored in part by Aventis Pasteur Pharmaceuticals, was created to stimulate research to contribute to the understanding and cure of this condition.

Applicants must have at least 2 years of experience as an allied healthcare professional, PhD or MD in the areas of pediatrics, pediatric urology, pediatric nephrology, child psychology, behavioral medicine, or continence nursing. The grant may be used toward basic, clinical, epidemiological, or behavioral research. The typical grant is $12,500 but up to $25,000 may be awarded.

Letter of Intent Deadline: January 2, 2002
Proposal Deadline: February 15, 2002
Announcement of Recipients: May 2002
Grant Period: July 1, 2002-July 1, 2003

For more information about the Enuresis Research Grant, contact Dolph Chianchiano at 800-889-9559. Letters of intent should be mailed to: National Kidney Foundation Office of Scientific and Public Policy, 11911 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 801, Arlington, VA 22209, Attn: Enuresis Research Grant.
Call for Candidates for Approver Unit Chairperson

The SUNA Board of Directors is seeking candidates for the position of Approver Unit Chairperson. This person is responsible for implementing and evaluating the peer review process for approval of continuing education activities. The Approver Unit Chairperson is responsible for overseeing a committee of four to six members who review 20-25 program approval applications annually. This person is also responsible for chairing any meetings or conference calls regarding committee business and prepares three committee reports for the SUNA Board of Directors prior to each Board meeting.

Qualifications

Qualifications for the position are as follows:

1. Minimum of a master's degree. At least one degree, baccalaureate or graduate, must be in nursing.
2. Five years experience in urologic nursing and current position in a urologic-related field at the time of appointment. Certification in urologic nursing preferred.
3. An active member of SUNA for a minimum of 5 years.
4. Proven expertise in education, clinical practice, and management.
5. Experience with and knowledge of the implementation of criteria for continuing education in nursing.

Interested candidates should send a letter outlining their qualifications for the position addressed to the SUNA President, along with a copy of their résumé or curriculum vitae. All correspondence should be sent to the SUNA National Office. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2001.

Scholarship Available for South Carolina Nurses

The Wound Care Education Program of the College of Nursing at the Medical University of South Carolina is pleased to announce the availability of a new scholarship in the amount of $3,100 for a nurse in South Carolina to attend the Wound Care Specialty Course in Charleston, SC. This program is accredited by the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN). Graduates of the course are eligible to take the national board examination to become certified in wound care nursing.

This scholarship is made available by a private donation and will be awarded to a qualified South Carolina Registered Nurse with a BSN who is interested in this specialty area of nursing. The application deadline is December 15, 2001.

To request information or an application for the scholarship, please call or write:

Scholarship Committee
c/o Phyllis Bonham, MSN, RN, CWOCN
Wound Care Education Program
College of Nursing, Office of Professional Development
Medical University of South Carolina
99 Jonathan Lucas Street, PO Box 250160
Charleston, SC 29425
phone: 843-792-2651
fax: 843-792-3680
e-mail: bonhamp@musc.edu
Uro-Gram
September 2001

Special Interest Group Update

Formation of New SIGs Being Considered

At the 2001 Annual Conference, several members of the Board of Directors were approached about the possibility of forming additional Special Interest Groups (SIGs). As you may know, a SIG consists of SUNA members who share a common interest in a specific area of urology. SIGs offer a way for members with this interest to network and share information. SUNA currently has five SIGs: (1) ESWL/OR/Cystoscopy, (2) Continence Specialists and Services, (3) Outpatient, (4) Inpatient, and (5) Urodynamics. The potential SIGs mentioned to the Board were Advanced Practice, Erectile Dysfunction, and VA Nurses.

In you are interest in joining a SIG on Advanced Practice, Erectile Dysfunction, or VA Nursing, please let us know. Ten SUNA members are needed for a SIG to be formed. Interested members need to let SUNA know, either by calling the national office (888-827-7682) or emailing SUNA Treasurer Virginia Lewis (virginialewis@msn.com), by October 15, 2001. SIG formation is encouraged if it meets the needs of SUNA members.

Jean Lewis, BSN, RN, CNP
SUNA President

Continence Specialists and Services

The Continence Specialists and Services SIG met at the Annual Conference and discussed several items. The first of these items was that a small task force will be working on reimbursement guidelines for biofeedback. These will be sent to the Continence Coalition to be used as a guide for reimbursement. The task force consists of three people: Diane Smith, Marta Krissovich, and Margie Degler. These guidelines will be completed in the fall.

 Volunteers are needed to respond to consumer questions on incontinence. Interested parties should contact Diane Smith at 610-353-4391 or dsmith0504@aol.com.

Marilyn-Lu Webb discussed her task to assemble a book on urologic protocols. Suggestions from the group were given, and Marilyn-Lu and Joyce Colling will share these suggestions with the SUNA Board of Directors.

John Perry discussed the current movement to establish biofeedback certification for pelvic disorders. This certification will seek to encompass all professionals who use biofeedback for pelvic muscle rehabilitation. The group is in the beginning stages, and several SUNA members are participating in this effort.

Not discussed at this meeting but very important to this special interest group are the new Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) Instructions for Coverage of Billing of Biofeedback Training for the Treatment of Urinary Incontinence, which were released on July 1, 2001. You can access these online by going to http://www.hcfa.gov/pubforms/transmit/AB0179.pdf.

Diane A. Smith, MSN, RN, CRNP
Continence Specialists and Services SIG Leader

Inpatient

The Inpatient SIG met at the Annual Conference in Anaheim. We had a very productive meeting and discussed the needs of inpatient urologic nurses. Our group would like to develop one or two clinical pathways for inpatient care under the direction of SUNA in the coming year. We will be collecting resources and starting to review materials in September. The SIG will keep members informed of our progress.

Susan Lipsy, CUNP
Inpatient SIG Leader

Outpatient

Let me introduce myself as your new Outpatient SIG Leader. My name is Sharla Lee. I live in Shawnee, OK. I have been married for 25 years and have two daughters. I work in Norman, OK, for a urologist who is in private practice. I have been an active member of SUNA since 1997. I want to thank you for this great opportunity and learning experience.

I would also like to thank Kelly Rosenquist, outgoing SIG leader, for all of her hard work and dedication to our group. She is very dedicated to SUNA and the Outpatient SIG. I wish her the very best in all her future endeavors.

This is quite a challenge for me, and I want to be available to everyone. If anyone has any questions, problems, or even solutions that you feel would benefit those of us working in the outpatient setting, please feel free to contact me through the SUNA National Office or via email at leesharla@hotmail.com. I welcome all suggestions and comments to make this group the best it can possibly be.

The Annual Conference in California was a great success. I hope that everyone had the opportunity to attend. All of the sessions were interesting and educational. Disneyland was also great! During the Outpatient SIG meeting, Kim Spencer discussed Potassium Sensitivity Testing for Interstitial Cystitis. I also had a chance to meet several of you who attended our SIG session. If you have never had the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference and our group session, please strive to make this a goal for next year. You will not regret it.

One of the things this SIG is about is networking. I hope that we can identify areas of concern and interest among us that will meet our needs. In identifying our needs in outpatient urology, we can start paving a road to providing an excellent standard of care as urology professionals.

Sharla Lee, RN
Outpatient SIG Leader

Urodynamics

At SUNA’s 2001 Annual Conference, Jeff Albaugh stepped down as the Urodynamics SIG leader. He will definitely be more than busy planning next year’s annual conference. At the meeting a new leader was elected — Jenny Boles, RNC, WHCNP. After the meeting she asked me if I would co-chair the group with her. Jenny and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and to thank Jeff for all his hard work!

Jenny attended Independence Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing (1963) and the University of Colorado
Certificate Women's Health Care NP program (1975) and has worked in the area of women's health care for over 25 years. In 1998 Jenny joined Joel Rosen and Barbara Wiggin, CNS, at the Continence Center of America, a nurse-managed continence center that specializes in conservative, nonsurgical management of urinary and fecal incontinence, pelvic pain, and female sexual dysfunction. Jenny currently serves as clinical director. In addition to seeing patients for evaluation and management, Jenny does most of the urodynamic testing. Jenny also provides urodynamic testing for a number of urologists and gynecologists in the greater Phoenix area in their offices. Like many of you, Jenny has learned to do urodynamic testing on the job and has received most of her education in urody-
namics schedules (video and non-video studies) as well as approxi-
mately 100 per month) and coordinate all the urody-
namics from nurse colleagues and SUNA conference presenta-
tions.

Jenny can be contacted at:
Continence Center of America
13460 North 94th Drive, M-2
Peoria, AZ 85381
Phone: 602-977-1212
Email: jbolesnp@aol.com

I graduated from Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis, TN, in 1990. After 3 years in ortho/neuro rehabilitation nursing, I took my first urodynamics job in 1993 at the University of Tennessee-Memphis. I think most urodynamics clinicians did not have a clue what it was all about when they got started. I know I sure didn’t! Since that time I have devoted my career to urology nursing, especially urodynamics. In 1996 I became board certified in urologic nursing, and in 1999 in continence care nursing. Currently, I work for a private urology practice in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. There are 23 urologists in our group (two of which are fellows trained in female urology, neuro-urology, and voiding dysfunction) and comprise the North Texas Center for Urinary Control. I perform all the video urodynamics (averaging approximately 100 per month) and coordinate all the urody-
namics schedules (video and non-video studies) as well as
trending and analysis of our services.

I can be contacted at:
The North Texas Center for Urinary Control
1325 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 550
Fort Worth, TX 76104
Phone: 817-332-2810 ext. 40
Email: tdickinson@uant.com (work) or
tcheftam1@yahoo.com (personal)

Jenny and I need feedback from all of you regarding your
needs from the SIG. We are planning to continue the question
and answer column in the Uro-Gram. We look forward to hear-
ing from all of you.

Tamara Dickinson, RN, CURN, CCCN
Urodynamics SIG Co-Leader

Chapter Success Story

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same goals. Meeting with chapter members gave us the oppor-
tunity to convince them of their importance, not only as a
group but as individuals, too. This meeting served as the form-
ing stage.

Gaining the support of others or mobilizing the assistance
of others is the most crucial factor on getting the group mov-
ing in the same direction. People can be overwhelmed by goals
that appear to be beyond their reach. Helping people set rea-
sonable goals and break down long-term goals into shorter
increments is helpful.

After a session of storming, a list was made of all the possi-
ble activities in which we would like to be involved, such as
publishing, research, inventing, outreach programs, and cer-
tification. Then we talked about what each activity meant to us
personally and what the rewards were for the group.

Managing the Plan

Time is limited for most of us who work outside the
home. Our leisure time is precious and should be utilized for
activities that we enjoy. Of course, research and writing are not
at the top of the list in the leisure category, but they can be
made to be both enjoyable and rewarding. Setting a timeline
for activities helps to maintain focus on a project. We found
that spending short periods on a project works best. Our plan
was being set in motion, and we called this part of the process
norming.

Research and Publishing

Traditionally, nursing is a science borrowed from many
disciplines — medicine, psychology, physiology, and educa-
tion. For the most part, we are all researchers. No formal doc-
umentation is needed to be a researcher, just awareness.
Knowledge is gained from experience and oftentimes is not
shared with others. Trial and error teaches us to be researchers
everyday. Now we set out to write about our experiences.

Why is it that we as nurses always seem to think that we
have to say could never be important to anyone else? We wrestle
with why anyone will be interested in what we know or
would write about. Many times I have sat down to write an
article I think has some importance or impact on nursing and
then hesitate and ask myself these very same questions. But on
many occasions, I pick up a journal and read with interest an
article I think has some importance or impact on nursing and
would write about. Many times I have written by a nurse and think to myself, “I
could have written that piece.” So we decided that we should
write about our experiences.

We were able to submit several research abstracts to the
SUNA 2000 meeting, and four abstracts were accepted in 2000.
We were ecstatic! Our plan was really coming to fruition. Who
would have thought that we could have accomplished this
feat? We received not only recognition from our peers but also
from our colleagues at work and especially the doctors. It helps
to foster a sense of accomplishment in adding to the scientific
knowledge base of nursing, too. We realize now the feeling
of accomplishment Florence Nightingale must have had when
discovering the importance of asepsis!

The word research conjures up thoughts of spending lots
of time pouring over data collection and the dreaded statisti-

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Chapter Success Story
continued from page 13

cal analysis, but it can be done simply. For instance, think about the different ways nurses perform particular skills, such as catheter removal. Techniques differ, so compare them. Which is more effective in providing comfort for the patient? Which is less traumatic? Use a pain scale questionnaire to evaluate the patient’s comfort during the procedure. Set a time frame for data collection, and at that time point evaluate this technique. You see, it is really that simple. If you need help in evaluating the data, seek a statistician or consult a nursing research text, such as Understanding Nursing Research (Burns & Grove, 1999). It will become your bible to formulating, writing, and analyzing research. The SUNA Research Committee was so supportive and provided us the guidance we so needed since we were novice researchers.

Since we were successful on our first attempt, other nurses were excited to join in at the 2001 annual meeting. Fourteen of our nurses attended the SUNA Annual Conference in Anaheim. Our chapter submitted nine abstracts, and three were accepted for presentation. All of the abstracts were observations that we made in working in urology, which becomes the framework for practice. Nursing science helps shape the way we practice everyday. We were on our way to success! We were right in line as we entered the group phase of performing. Once you see your name in print under a published article, you will be hooked on writing and research for life.

Activities

Planned activities are one way to allow for creativity and sharing. They foster research and enhance camaraderie. Each year, our chapter hosts a prostate cancer screening program for the general public. It is a huge event that requires many hours of planning and manpower to be successful. We recruit everyone in the department to assist in the day’s activities. The residents arrive and are ready to perform the examinations while the nurses assist the public in completing paperwork, drawing blood, and providing educational information and literature. Some staff members ensure that the public is informed about the event, and others direct them through the process of registration, examination, and blood drawing. The day is long, but the rewards are many. Each year the number of individuals who partake in the screenings has risen. This year we were able to screen 350 men for prostate cancer. Since then, we have been solicited to perform the same service for local health clubs, union employees, and church groups on a regular basis.

Certification

Certification gives credibility. Part of our plan was to impress upon the nursing staff at our facility the value of certification. The hardest part of the plan was to get all the nurses to take the exam, so we decided to lead by example. After much procrastination, Melissa and I became certified in the fall of 2000. Our certificates hang proudly in our offices for all to see. We had purchased the Study Guide and have passed it along to others. Some formed small study groups. Once a few nurses added CURN to their title, others were encouraged to do the same. To date, we have many certified nurses in our chapter, and the plan continues.

Now, Raise the Bar

After you have achieved your first goal, it is easier to do the next time. Raise your expectations. The act of striving for a goal strengthens and improves us. It’s not the goal itself that counts as much as the drive to attain it. Our logo now is: Give yourself credit. Take the credit. Revel in the credit! It comes well deserved, now celebrate!

Pat Meade-D’Alisera, BSN, RN, CRC, CURN
Melissa Wentland, BSN, RN, CRC, CURN
Tamara Merriweather, BSN, RN
Columbia-Presbyterian Chapter

References
Macfarlane Award Winner Honored

CBUNA President Emmie Amerine presents Marlene Simon Mahnke (right) with the Macfarlane Award during SUNA's 2001 Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA.

Each year the Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates (CBUNA) presents the Macfarlane Award to the individual achieving the highest score on the certification exam. The award for 2000 goes to Marlene Mahnke, CURN. Marlene is from Watertown, SD, and is currently employed at Watertown Urology, P.C. She began her nursing career working as an LPN. Marlene worked as an LPN for 16 years before obtaining an associate degree in 1992. She became certified in 1994 and was the Macfarlane Award winner that year as well.

Marlene had the following to say about her certification.

“Certification has given me maximum credibility, both with our patients and with the health care professionals in our community. Studying for the exam was a learning experience for me, giving me a broad background in all areas of urology. I take great pride in being a CURN and thank my employer, Dr. Stephen Gehring, for his encouragement and financial support in this endeavor.”

Emmie Amerine, CUNP, president of the Certification Board, presented Marlene with a plaque during the SUNA Awards Luncheon in Anaheim. The members of CBUNA congratulate Marlene and encourage everyone to become certified!

Judy Secrist, CURN
CBUNA Secretary

Call for Nominations

SUNA’s new Board of Directors (BOD) is looking at the work that is ahead of them during the coming year. As Immediate Past President, I need to look beyond this year. As chair of the Nominations Task Force, I am looking for strong candidates to lead SUNA into the future.

There are several positions on the BOD that will need to be filled at the next election, including President-Elect, Treasurer, Northeast Regional Director, and Western Regional Director. My goal is to have several qualified candidates presented to the membership for each position.

If you are interested in learning about these positions, please contact me via the national office, via email (calabrese22@msn.com), or via phone (216-382-6575) in the evening, or at work during the day (216-444-7773). SUNA cannot survive without its volunteers. We need you to continue to grow and thrive. And I can promise you that you will get more than you give when you become actively involved in SUNA.

Dotti Calabrese, MSN, RN, CNP
Immediate Past President

September 2001
Call for Abstracts for 2002 Multi-Specialty Conference

Abstracts are being accepted for oral and poster presentations for the Seventh National Multi-Specialty Conference on Urinary Continence, which will be held February 7-9, 2002, at the Hyatt Hotel and Convention Center, in Phoenix, AZ. This year’s theme is Sharing the Secrets.

Abstracts may address the following:

- Practical clinical approaches to the treatment and management of urinary and fecal incontinence or related issues.
- Practical clinical approaches to the treatment and management of fecal incontinence, skin care, and containment.
- Research related to urinary and fecal incontinence.
- Strategies for managing urinary and fecal incontinence in specialty clinical practice (for example, after stroke, in diabetics, or those with neurologic disease, etc.).
- Development of continence services or programs.
- Challenges in urodynamics, pelvic muscle exercises, and continence management.

Case studies and product evaluations are welcome.

A statement of financial disclosure must be submitted if applicable.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is October 31, 2001. For instructions on abstract submission, contact the Abstract Review Committee, c/o SUNA National Office, East Holly Avenue Box 56, Pitman, NJ 08071-0056; 888-827-7862 or 856-256-2335; fax 856-589-7463; suna@ajj.com. Or visit SUNA's Web site at www.suna.org.