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■ Message from the President



Dear colleagues,

Did you know that you have a great deal of influence on whether new inductees continue to remain active members of the honor society? The board of directors recently met and discussed the findings of a membership assessment survey. Of the members surveyed who decided not to renew, 73 percent said that contact from their local chapter would have influence on their interest to remain active in the honor society. Also important, 65 percent of lapsed members thought that contact from their local chapter was too infrequent.

So what does this mean to each one of us? It is not only chapter officers who can create this point of contact. It is every member who knows and connects with a new inductee- and it is not always necessary for the contact to be in person. Most young inductees stay in contact with people virtually. How might you commit to engaging with new members? Whenever I visit a chapter and speak at an induction, I make it a point to speak to each inductee individually and invite them to stay in touch with me. I give them my card and take this point of contact seriously. We have to call out the dreams of new members and find ways for them to stay in contact with people who are committed to the honor society.

For the past 20 years, we have known that it is in the first 1-2 years that chapters are pivotal in keeping new members engaged. We have tried a variety of initiatives to help chapters to do this important work. After that 1-2 year period, members are more likely to renew because they have identified with the honor society and see the benefits not only for themselves, but see the "bigger picture" of being part of an international organization that works in a variety of ways to support nurses in improving health.

For chapters who are successful at keeping your new inductees engaged, please contact us and share your innovative ideas!

Best regards,

Carol A. Peard

Carol A. Picard
President

■ **The Emerging Role of the Nurse Informaticist**

By Christina Orlovsky, senior staff writer

As computers take on a growing presence in hospital settings, the need continues to increase for the marriage of patient care and information technology. Enter the nurse informaticist—a role that perfectly combines the two most important aspects of health care delivery in the 21st century. [Read more.](#)

■ **The Endless Nursing Benefits of Electronic Medical Records**

By Christina Orlovsky, senior staff writer

As America's hospitals venture farther into the electronic age, nurses are beginning to recognize the benefits the electronic medical record (EMR) provides both to their patients and their profession. Pat Wise, MSN, RN, vice president of electronic health records for the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), explained that although the two terms are often used synonymously, there is a difference between electronic health records and electronic medical records. [Read more.](#)

■ **High Touch from a High-Tech Solution**

By Debra Wood, RN, contributor

Designed to improve patient safety and quality of care, eICU® centers—off-site electronic monitoring facilities staffed by experienced critical-care nurses and physicians—also build ICU nurses' skills and add to job satisfaction. [Read more.](#)

■ **Nursing Education in the Virtual Age**

By Christina Orlovsky, senior staff writer

"I thought she was pushy and arrogant. I didn't like her demeanor, and I didn't like the way she answered questions," recalls Charles Leven, AARP board chair emeritus and retired chief of operations for Saks Fifth Avenue. "Boy, was I wrong." [Read more.](#)

This article originally appeared in the fourth quarter 2006 issue of [Reflections on Nursing Leadership](#)

■ **Online Education-Can it Work at Your Facility?**

By Karen Siroky, RN, MSN, contributor

Can your staff be "active" learners in an online education environment? Diane Billings, Ed.D., RN, FAAN, and Pam Jeffries, DNs, RN, enthusiastically say, "Yes!" The two educators from the University of Indiana Center for Teaching and Lifelong Learning are creators and educators of many online courses and education systems. [Read more.](#)

■ **Through a wider lens**

by Leslie Flowers

Joanne Disch, RN, PhD, FAAN, got off to a bad start in her interview to become an AARP board member.

Can your staff be "active" learners in an online education environment? Diane Billings, Ed.D., RN, FAAN, and Pam Jeffries, DNs, RN, enthusiastically say, "Yes!" The two educators from the University of Indiana Center for Teaching and Lifelong Learning are creators and educators of many online courses and education systems. [Read more.](#)

■ Making the Most of Your Membership

Community Service Forums

Are you actively involved in a community **service project**? Find out if other honor society members share your passions and interests through a newly created online forum. This is a great way to **network, make connections and share with each other** how you are making a difference in the health of others around the world. [Go there now.](#)

New Multimedia Available

Now available! Multi-media products—[Distinguished Nurse Theorists DVD](#), [Contemporary Issues in Nursing, Volume I](#) and [Contemporary Issues in Nursing, Volume II](#). These products include interviews with renowned nurse legends and today's nurse leaders addressing contemporary topics. These make great additions to your multi-media collection.

Vietnam Nurses DVD

They knew where they were going, but they had no idea what they were going to. In this 45-minute documentary DVD, *Vietnam Nurses with Dana Delany*, for the first time Vietnam nurses reveal the horrors they witnessed, the care they provided and the emotional scars they earned as nurses in Vietnam.

WE tv, the only cable network dedicated to helping women connect to one another and the world around them, aired the premier of Vietnam Nurses with Dana Delany in August 2006. This documentary DVD is about the young American nurses sent halfway around the world to serve in horrific and dangerous conditions. Delany, who played Army nurse Colleen McMurphy on ABC-TV's *China Beach*, narrates the documentary. [Learn more.](#)

New Nurse Manager Certificate Program

The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is proud to introduce the Nurse Manager Certificate Program. This new robust, Web-based educational tool uses the latest evidence-based content and is designed to facilitate the development of nursing management competencies crucial for functioning in a fast-paced and ever-changing health environment. [Find out more](#)

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If you would like to offer your thoughts and experiences for inclusion in this newsletter, please contact marketing@stti.iupui.edu.

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