President’s Message

I am truly honored to have been elected as President-Elect. I now find myself in the difficult position of immediately stepping into the role of President. While I am excited about this challenge, I am saddened by the circumstance that has caused this unusual situation. I know I speak for everyone when I say that our hearts continue to be with Lynn Chilton, DSN, GNP-BC, FNP-BC, who was elected to be this year’s President. Lynn’s courage and strength will provide a guiding light for all of us as we move forward to face this year’s challenges and opportunities.

NCGNP had an incredible year of growth in 2007 with Anna Treinkman, MSN, RN, GNP, providing steady guidance. I am looking forward to Anna’s continued guidance and assistance in the coming year. In fact, NCGNP has been truly blessed with exceptional women providing a legacy of leadership-influencing, motivating, and enabling the organization to continually grow. I know their continued support will enable us to continue along this path.

Our organization is facing many challenges and opportunities ensuring yet another pivotal year of growth and change. Opportunities to develop educational materials for both patients and our peers are coming in regularly. We continue to collaborate with other professional groups on important patient care issues; we are important players in regulation and legislative issues that may have far-reaching effects on our practices; and we are a major player in the most expansive national quality improvement collaboration in the history of long-term care.

(continued on page 6)

Immediate Past President’s Message

I can’t believe a year has gone! It has been my profound privilege to serve as NCGNP President for the past year. I know I leave my post in the very capable hands of Debra Bakerjian, PhD, MSN, FNP. I will remain on the Board for another year to serve as Immediate Past President and look forward to working on many of the tasks set forth this past year. NCGNP will continue to be the leader of all advanced practice nurses working with older adults. We will strive to encourage increased numbers of APNs to appreciate the unique contribution that can be made in the field of gerontological nursing. We will continue to work with our partners at other organizations and legislators to make these unique needs known and responded to. Our committees are charged up for their work in 2007-2008. You will be able to read all about the work going on at the committee level in this newsletter. Please consider joining one of NCGNP’s committees.

This year’s Annual Conference & Business Meeting in San Diego was an utter success. Almost 400 attendees converged on the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina for four days of cutting-edge continuing education, celebrations, awards, and powerful networking. We kicked off this year’s opening reception with a record number of exhibitors and sponsors at the Wednesday evening Opening Reception. The 2nd annual Foundation Golf Tournament was held Wednesday afternoon, with Mary Pat Rapp’s, PhD, RN, FAANP, foursome winning the scramble. The Foundation also sponsored its first Fun Run/Walk Thursday morning.

Our keynote speaker at Thursday morning, Loretta Ford, EdD, RN, PNP, FAAN, FAANP, delivered an inspiring look at the legacy and future of the nurse practitioner movement. Dr. Ford pioneered the nurse practitioner concept in 1965 as one solution to the physician shortage. She describes not having a lot of fans back then as she continued to be a stand for advanced practice nursing in the face of fierce opposition.

(continued on page 2)
Today, at 87 years of age, Dr. Ford represents what we all recognize as “successful aging.” She attended several sessions throughout the conference and even partied and danced with NCGNP at the Awards Dinner Friday evening.

Our ever growing research posters were unveiled at the Wine & Cheese Reception Thursday evening. The quality and variety of the posters selected for presentation was impressive. This year we had more submissions than we could accept. This is a great problem to have. The Research Committee is already at work preparing for next year’s abstracts. You can read more about the Research Presentation awards in this issue.

On Friday, we had our Annual NCGNP Business Meeting and election of officers. I would like to thank every member who provided input on the proposed bylaws revisions. Several significant changes were made to the current bylaws including a provision to hold a “Special Election” to fill a vacancy in the office of President-Elect. The new bylaws also provide for one additional Director on the Board. Since this was a new position, the Board appointed Evelyn Duffy, ND, APRN-BC, to fill this post. Evelyn has been an active NCGNP member for many years; she was the Chapter President of the Ohio chapter and Chair of the Education Committee. We welcome Dr. Duffy to the Board.

Even though the conference was starting to wrap up on Saturday and Sunday, there was no shortage of great sessions. This year was the second time we offered the Certification Review Course on Sunday. Twenty new or recent graduates preparing to become certified GNPs took this year’s course. If last year’s course is any indication, we know they will all pass with flying colors! We also had an “End of Life” workshop and a very well received “Wound Closure” workshop. There were just so many great happenings at this year’s conference. Please read the newsletter for acknowledgements of the Excellence Award winners, Foundation scholarships, and more. Lastly, I want to thank our sponsors and everyone who worked so hard to make this year’s conference a huge success. Mark your calendar now for next year’s conference: Gateway to Quality: Improving Care for Older Adults Across the Continuum on September 24-28, 2008, at the Hilton St. Louis At the Ballpark in St. Louis, MO.

Thanks again…it’s been a great ride and it ain’t over yet!

All the Best,

Anna Treinkman, MSN, RN, GNP
Immediate Past President
Member in the Spotlight:

Shelley Yerger Hawkins, DSN, APRN-BC, FNP, GNP, FAANP
Birmingham, AL

“Shelley has served as a role model for many students and colleagues by incorporating PDAs into all aspects of her faculty and practice roles. Similarly, her practice in telemedicine resulted in a growing interest in conducting research in this area.”

Shelley Yerger Hawkins is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) School of Nursing. Shelley began the two-year fellowship in August 2007. The fellowship is funded through an NRSA grant focusing on Interventions to Prevent or Manage Chronic Illness. The T32 provides monthly stipends, tuition assistance, and many other benefits such as participating in the interdisciplinary research of top nursing scholars. During her fellowship experience, Shelley will develop a proposal for NRSA funding related to telemedicine as an interventional strategy to manage older adult patients with diabetes.

She completed her BSN in 1982, MSN in 1987, and DSN in 1993, all at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Shelley completed the post-master’s family nurse practitioner (FNP) certificate program at the University of Virginia (UVA) in 1996 and the post-master’s certificate program for geriatric nurse practitioners (GNP) at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in 2003. She is certified by the American Nurse’s Credentialing Center. She was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) in June 2007 during the annual American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) conference.

Prior to beginning her fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill, Shelley held faculty positions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), University of Virginia (UVA), and Auburn University (AU). Shelley held an associate professor rank at UAB from 2004-2007. She was director of the FNP programs including a completely online program and a traditional program. During her 10-year tenure from 1994-2004 at UVA, Shelley was director of the Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program encompassing the family, pediatric, and geriatric NP programs. Shelley’s initial faculty position was at Auburn University from 1987-1994 where she served as coordinator of the second-degree program at AU.

Shelley has extensive faculty and administrative experience in baccalaureate, master’s, and post-master’s programs in nursing with specialization in curriculum development in nurse practitioner programs. Her knowledge with pharmacology and collaboration with a cohort of PharmDs was integral to the highly successful revision of the graduate pharmacology course at UVA; students consistently identified this course as their favorite course. Likewise, her incorporation of business content into NP programs helped to prepare NP graduates for the reality of practice. She received funding from the Hartford Foundation for enhancing geriatrics in the FNP program at UVA and received funding from the Health Resources and Services Administraton (HRSA) for a post-master’s GNP program at UVA and an ANP/GNP program at UAB.

Shelley’s leadership extended into various faculty service roles. She was the chairperson for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Task Force at UAB and served in numerous leadership roles during her tenure at UVA including chairperson of the Master’s Program Committee and Master’s/Post-Master’s Admission Committee. She was able to further enhance her administrative skills with selection as an American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Helene Fuld Academic Leadership Fellow. Later, Shelley was selected as the UAB candidate for the American Council on Education Fellowship.

During the past 10 years, Shelley has been very active in the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) organization. She was selected to the first community faculty mentoring program. Presently, Shelley serves on the Faculty Practice Committee and the Gerontology Special Interest Group; she has consistently been selected for presentations at NONPF annual meetings. Additionally, Shelley has presented at the AANP annual conferences on multiple occasions. Her presentations have consistently related to her practice, teaching, and research on Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and nurse practitioner education. She has extended her professional memberships to several different gerontology associations including National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners (NCGNP), Gerontological Society of America (GSA), and American Geriatrics Society (AGS). Presently, she serves as the Newsletter Editor for NCGNP. She has numerous publications related to nursing education, practice topics, and PDAs. Shelley has served on the editorial board for Advance for Nurse Practitioners for 10 years.

Shelley’s initial nursing practice following completion of her BSN was in intensive care units (ICU) and medical-surgical settings with adult patients. Her consistent attention to nursing practice has been maintained throughout her 20 years of academic experience. During the past 10 years she has practiced part-time as a FNP/GNP in various rural practices and in telemedicine. Shelley precepted undergraduate and (continued on page 6)
Committee Reports
Nominating Committee

Jennifer Serafin, GNP
Siobhan McMahon, GNP
Members, Nominating Committee

The Annual Conference this year in San Diego was an inspiration! Our organization made major changes in the bylaws which drew much debate from the members. A new position was created on the Board of Directors called the Director-at-Large. These changes invoked much discussion during the annual meeting which was very encouraging. I appreciate that the meeting was interactive and we can still use your input! Please consider a position on the national level. We are seeking members to fill the following positions in 2008: President-Elect, Secretary, Director-at-Large, and Nominating Committee (two vacancies). Nominations for 2008 offices will begin this winter. Elections for 2008 positions will occur in the summer of 2008.

Self-nomination is strongly encouraged. If you are interested or want to learn more about these positions, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair Lois Hamel (DRHLCH@aol.com), PhD, APRN-BC, or Committee members, Jennifer Serafin (jserafin@hsf.org), GNP, and Siobhan McMahon (siomcmahon@earthlink.net), GNP. Alternatively, you may contact the National Office at (866) 355-1392 or e-mail ncgmp@puetzamc.com

Basic duties required for these offices

President-Elect: The functions of the President-Elect are to assist the President, monitor committee activities, chair the Bylaws Committee, and perform duties requested by the Board of Directors. Travel is required with expenses reimbursed as set by NCGNP policy. This is a three-year commitment with the first year as President-Elect, the second year as President, and the third year as Immediate Past President.

Secretary: The Secretary shall record all proceedings for the official meetings of NCGNP and will notify members of the annual conference and other special meetings. Travel is required and expenses are reimbursed as set by NCGNP policy. This is a two-year commitment.

Director-at-Large: The function of this position is to perform duties assigned by the Board of Directors. Travel is required and expenses are reimbursed as set by NCGNP policy. This is a two-year commitment.

Nominating Committee Member (2): The Nominating Committee oversees the elections process, solicits and screens applicants, and presents candidates to members for voting. The business of the Nominating Committee is conducted via conference calls; travel is not required. The candidate receiving the most number of votes will serve for two years, the second year of the term as Chair of the committee. The candidate receiving the second most votes will serve a one-year term.

Member Services Committee

Valerie Matthiesen, PhD, ANP/GNP
Chair, Member Services Committee

A total of five new local chapters formed this past year: Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi/Louisiana, Pennsylvania/Delaware, and Tennessee. There is interest in developing three new chapters: California (southern) with contact Christine Cauvet, MSN, ANP, GNP; Kansas with contact Carol Buller, FNP; and New York with contact Carolyn Auerhahn, EdD, APRN-BC, NP-C, FAANP.

Representatives from 9 of our 16 chapters attended the Member Services Committee meeting in San Diego on Saturday, September 15. A panel of experts fielded questions on chapter issues and included Rosemary Smith-LaMacchia, MS, NP (MD); Lynn Sivertsen, GNP (IL); and Beth Slutsky, GNP (IL). It was an informative and useful discussion for all chapter officers and interested attendees. The Chapter Presidents Tea, given on behalf of the Board, was enjoyed by all Chapter Presidents on Friday, September 14.

The revised Chapter Formation Handbook is now available on the NCGNP website. Committee Board Liaison Sandi Kamp, APN, GNP (IL), directed this project. It contains helpful information for those wishing to form a local chapter. More standardization of chapter bylaws and responsibilities are being implemented which will assist in facilitating the work at the national level. Please contact Richelle Wells (mrwells@puetzamc.com) at the National Office for further information.

A new Chapter Excellence Award has been approved and will be awarded for the first time at the 2008 conference in St. Louis. Please check the NCGNP website for award criteria.

The Member Services Committee, which includes all Chapter Presidents and other NCGNP volunteer Committee members, remains dedicated to serving the needs of the members. One of our charges from the Board this year is to recommend additional member services to NCGNP members. If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the National Office at (866) 355-1392, (850) 471-7075, or the Committee Chair (matthiesenv@wscn.edu). You will find a Committee application on the NCGNP website.
Research Committee

Lisa Byrd, PhD, CFNP, Gerontologist
Chair, Research Committee

The Research Committee and all who attended the conference this year were impressed with the variety of research posters and presentations. The members of NCGNP are really on the forefront of nursing research and innovative practice ideas. The attendance at the poster sessions and oral presentations were fantastic and there was a lot of interest in what was being presented. The abstracts of the winning presentations will be published in *Geriatric Nursing*.

Thanks to all who presented and all who helped score the abstracts/posters/sessions. There was one project that stood out above all others and won first place for oral presentations and tied for first place of poster presentations. We would like to commend Alice Bonner, APRN-BC, Patricia MacCullock, MS, APRN-BC, and Terri Gardner, MS, ANP, GNP, for their presentation on "A Student-Led Demonstration Project on Fall Prevention in a Long-Term Care Facility." The other winners also need special recognition.

Oral Presentation Winners:
- 2nd place: Susan Swaniund, PhD, RN, with “Medication Regimen Complexity: A Factor in Successful Self-Management of Medications by Community Dwelling Older Adults?”; and
- 3rd place: Mary Perloe, APRN-BC, GNP, with “Designing Interventions to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations of Nursing Home Residents.”

The winners of the poster sessions were:
- Tied for 1st place: Margaret Ackerman, MSN, ARNP, with “Initiatives to Decrease Hospital Use in a PACE Program”; and Alice Bonner, APRN-BC, Patricia MacCullock, MS, APRN-BC, and Terri Gardner, MS, ANP, GNP, for their presentations on “A Student-Led Demonstration Project on Fall Prevention in a Long-Term Care Facility”;
- 2nd place goes to Barbara Martin, PhD, RN, and Joan Roberts, MS, RN, with “Assessing Patient Fall Risk in Older Adult Rehabilitation and Geropsychiatry Populations”; and
- 3rd place is awarded to Lee Ann Tata, MSN, APN, with “Glidepaths: Tools to Coordinate Patient Care and Improve Patient Outcomes.”

Thanks to all of the Research Committee members and to all who attended and shared in this exchange of knowledge from members. We look forward to bringing more research to next year’s conference and sharing with you the ideas and expertise from the members of NCGNP. Please consider presenting next year. The 2008 Call for Abstracts is already out.

Education Committee

Carolyn Auerhahn, EdD, APRN-BC, NP-C, FAAN
Interim Chair, Education Committee

It was an exciting Annual Conference for the Education Committee. The preconference “Essential Geriatric Workshop” was well attended and participant feedback rated it as excellent. Evelyn Duffy, APRN, Chair, was selected to fill the new second Director-at-Large position on the Board. Congratulations, Evelyn! I will be assuming the role of Chair for the remainder of her term.

Members of the Committee met with several other NCGNP members to discuss proposed changes in the regulation of advanced practice nurses – specifically the proposal to make geriatrics a specialty designation and not a regulated role. Members of this ad-hoc group continued the discussion via e-mail after the conference ended and their work has been successful in delaying the decision on this proposal until input from stakeholders for the older adult population could be provided.

We also got a head start on activities for the coming year. In collaboration with the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties’ (NONPF) Gero SIG, abstracts for two symposia will be submitted for NONPF’s annual meeting in April 2008. Planning for next year’s preconference workshop was also begun. Suggestions for some different and exciting activities were also discussed.
Health Affairs Update

Patricia Kappas-Larson, APRN-BC
Chair, Health Affairs Committee

Fall of 2007 may well prove to be important for health care with the discussions about workforce development and universal health care leading the way. With much work yet to be done on the congressional level and the year fast approaching a close, it is difficult to predict the level of attention that will be given to the legislation that impacts our practices.

The good news is that on June 21, 2007, Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME) introduced the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act. It was, ultimately, referred to the Committee on Finance. Overall, the goal of the act will help to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries get the home care they need, when they need it, by allowing nurse practitioners and others to order these services.

As she introduced this bill, she used a case study of the delays in the provision of these services because of this issue, and it is clear that there is opportunity to support this legislation by sharing your experiences. As the opportunity to contact representatives is clear, we all need to do so and will notify you with an e-blast.

Medicaid Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants Access Act has been introduced in both the Senate and the House and is in committee for both. It is of note that the costs of this act are under discussion and it is possible that a hearing on the impact and potential outcomes may be held. This again would be our opportunity for input and to support our designation as primary care providers and reimbursement for services.

The introduction of such acts along with other discussions about health care and providers has led to recent media attention including questions about the safety and quality of care provided by nurse practitioners in retail clinics. The American Medical Association (AMA) has released a resolution addressing this and calling for nurse practitioners to be regulated by state medical boards rather than nursing boards. The American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) released a media statement in response, and, ultimately, the resolution was withdrawn but not before highlighting the thinking of the American Academy of Family Physicians that nurse practitioners should not function as an independent health practitioner. The controversy continues and will as legislation is brought forward that promotes independence in practice. We will keep you informed.

President’s Message (continued from page 1)

In this next year I will continue these efforts, but, more importantly, I hope to reach out to involve many more members in these efforts. This year we will be working on educational materials that we hope to market to other organizations, website development, collaborating with both nursing and physician groups, working on regulatory and legislative issues, and extending our support of local chapters. This is an extremely aggressive slate of issues that will only succeed with greater member involvement. I am asking each NCGNP member to commit to one volunteer effort this year. That might be as simple as sharing information from NCGNP, bringing in a new member, or as much as volunteering for a committee or task force. Together we can accomplish so many things that will promote our cause of improving the health and well being of older adults. I hope to hear from each and every one of you over the course of the year.

NCGNP Members Rock!

Deb Bakerjian, PhD, MSN, FNP
President

Member in the Spotlight (continued from page 3)

graduate nursing students in multiple settings. She takes great pride in her practice skills and consistently incorporates her clinical practice into teaching and research.

Throughout her career, her interest in learning technology and, subsequently, incorporating technology into nurse practitioner education, research, and practice has escalated. At UVA she was an early adopter of PDAs in both the classroom and clinical settings. Shelley has served as a role model for many students and colleagues by incorporating PDAs into all aspects of her faculty and practice roles. Similarly, her practice in telemedicine resulted in a growing interest in conducting research in this area. Shelley will build a program of research at UNC-Chapel Hill with a focus on telemedicine as an interventional strategy in helping older adults manage their chronic illnesses.

Shelley makes her home in Birmingham, AL, with her husband, George, and their two dogs, Fletcher and Champ. George is a mortgage banker and is working on his PhD in Scottish history “for the fun of it.” His research allows them to enjoy travel to Europe with his work in the Edinburgh archives.
Members in the News

Sheila Molony, PhD, RN-BC, GNP

Sheila Molony, PhD, RN-BC, GNP, Yale University School of Nursing, is a recipient of the John A. Hartford/Atlantic Philanthropies Claire M. Fagin Post-Doctoral Fellowships. The grant money provided enables awardees to focus on full-time study and honing their skills in research, education, and leadership. Dr. Molony will be conducting a mixed-methods study entitled “The Experience of Home in Traditional and Social Model Long-Term Care Settings,” under the mentorship of Dr. Lois K. Evans at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Dr. Molony’s research program focuses on the potential for caring environments to optimize person-environment relationship and quality of living in older adults.

Christine Peterson, CRNP, CDE

Christine Peterson, CRNP, CDE, has been asked to serve on Governor Rendell’s Chronic Disease Care Commission. The Pennsylvania Governor is committed to re-structuring the healthcare system of the state c/w meeting the goals of the Institute of Medicine as reported in the Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century, 2001. Christine is serving with members of the governor’s office, healthcare experts including health system presidents, insurance executives, corporate leaders, and concerned citizens some of whom live with serious chronic illness. The Committee is charged to design a strategic plan to engage Pennsylvania consumers in healthier behaviors and to increase health knowledge and awareness of personal responsibility about health maintenance.

NCGNP Kicks off Assisted Living Special Interest Group (SIG)

With the increasing numbers of older adults residing in assisted living, NCGNP members are serving more clients in these settings. As an organization, NCGNP sees great potential in serving as a key source of information and training for the assisted living industry and those nurses and caregivers who work there as well as the older adults and families who receive care and services there. Dr. Richard Stefanacci, Editor-in-Chief of Assisted Living Consult, and Sharon Roth Maguire, GNP, Past President of NCGNP, Senior Director of Healthcare and Resident Services at Brookdale Senior Living, presented a session at this year’s annual conference entitled “Past, Present, and Future of Assisted Living: Opportunities for Advance Practice Nurses.” The session highlighted the growing potential for advanced practice nurses in assisted living, including not only primary care but also health education, risk management, and administrative roles. The NCGNP Practice Committee has updated the Practice Links page of the NCGNP website to include an assisted living section. These indeed are exciting times in senior care in which NCGNP and its members can make a difference!

Members interested in joining the Assisted Living SIG should contact the National Office at (866) 355-1392, (850) 471-7075, or e-mail Sharon Roth Maguire at smaguire@brookdaleliving.com

Clinical content on GeroNurseOnline.org will be moving to a new website

Evidence-based clinical content on the care of older adults, developed by the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU, can now be found on a new website, ConsultGeriRN.org

ConsultGeriRN.org is your resource for information on the care of older adults. You will find the following information:

• Evidence-based geriatric content by topic, symptoms, and specialty nursing practice
• The Try This Assessment tools series
• Hospital competencies
• Opportunities to acquire continuing education and much more!

New features coming soon!

ConsultGeriRN.org is the geriatric clinical nursing website of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, New York University College of Nursing. ConsultGeriRN.org is an evidence-based online resource for nurses in clinical and educational settings. ConsultGeriRN.org is funded in part by a grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies (USA), Inc., to support work with specialty nursing associations.

The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing: Making Geriatric Best Practice Standard Practice www.hartfordign.org
NCGNP Foundation

San Diego was a beautiful backdrop for the NCGNP Foundation, Inc.'s, second annual Golf Tournament and first annual Fun Run/Walk held at NCGNP’s 26th annual conference. Under the orchestration of MJ Henderson, RN, CS, GNP, both events were as flawless as the weather. Members and sponsors were very generous in support of these fun-filled fundraisers. There were 28 golfers and 33 runners participating this year.

The Foundation would like to say a special “thank you” to Geriatric Associates of America for Longest Putt, Inspiris for Hole # 1; Virginia Lee Cora, RN, ANP, GNP, donation for Longest Drive for Men; Charlotte Kelley, GNP, ARNP, & Associates for Longest Drive for Women; and the GNP students from the University of Maryland who gave the Closest to the Pin prize.

In addition, the Foundation awarded the Dave Butler Spirit of NCGNP Award to Lisa Byrd, PhD, CFNP; the Research Award to Jenice Ria S. Guzman, MSN, APRN-BC; and the Student Travel Award to Carrie Fernald. Each of these awards was $1,000.00. Please watch for the Call for Abstracts for the 2008 conference. We look forward to bestowing these awards again next year.

On Saturday evening, Cathie Taylor of Johnson & Johnson provided the underwriting for a beautiful reception to benefit the Foundation. Those of you who joined us know that it was truly a beautiful affair in a glorious setting.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors for the Foundation was held on September 11, 2007. At this meeting, three new directors were seated – MJ Henderson, Fundraising Chair; Virginia Lee Cora, Strategic Planning Chair; and Sharon Roth Maguire, MS, APRN-BC, GNP, Public Relations Chair. The Board will once again expand as Cathie Taylor is seated. Cathie has been an ardent supporter of NCGNP for many years. As she retires from Johnson & Johnson, she will join the Foundation as Community Member and Liaison to Pharma and the corporate world. We are excited by Cathie’s willingness to serve and eagerly await her ideas and implementation plans.

On behalf of the Foundation, I would again like to thank you for your generous support of the Foundation activities. On a personal note, I sincerely appreciate the outpouring of sympathy and support I received from so many of you on the passing of my beloved husband this past July. You all are so special and I am honored to know you and to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Warmest regards,

Barbara B. Phillips, DNS, CNS, GNP-BC
Chairman of the Board, NCGNP Foundation, Inc.

NCGNP Foundation - In Memoriam

The NCGNP Foundation Board of Directors contributed to the Foundation in honor of the late Harvey Phillips, husband of Barbara Phillips, NCGNP Foundation President, Founder, and Past President of NCGNP.

Please consider honoring someone you love through a gift to the NCGNP Foundation.

NCGNP Foundation Fun Run/Walk

Up at the crack of dawn were the fearless 33! Led by the mighty mouse of them all, Barbara Resnick, GNP, and the starving students of the GNP program at the University of Maryland, we laughed, ran, and walked along the San Diego Bay watching the sunrise. It was a glorious morning indeed! We were all winners and gratefully no photos were taken of the scraggy haired and makeup-less faces of the mighty 33.

This year we raised $850.00 for the NCGNP Foundation, and we hope to double that next year. All we need are some warm bodies with sneakers and checks! So meet me in St. Louis in 2008 by the banks of the Mississippi!
NCGNP Foundation Golf Steele Canyon Style

MJ Henderson, RN, CS, GNP
NCGNP Foundation

Once again we had a terrific golf tournament with 28 enthusiastic golfers and fabulous weather. We played the famous Steele Canyon golf course east of San Diego out in the California desert. Despite the warnings, no rattlesnakes were seen and any errant balls going off course were left for the snakes! Virginia Lee Cora was not only an encore special sponsor but also our course Ranger and measurer of putts.

There was much shrieking and hollering as we rolled up and down the canyon course. The key word was canyon! A few balls were lost forever and many (who shall remain nameless) paid dearly for Mulligans, but we had a wonderful time and certainly encourage you all to join us next year in St. Louis where there will be no rattlesnakes or steep canyons!

This year’s winning team at six under par was the Texas team of Mary Pat and Keith Rapp and Dawn and Kirk Boudreaux!

Lois Judd of Arizona won Longest Drive for Women, and the Longest Drive for Men was won by Eddy Hobbs. Kathleen Woolman from Pennsylvania won the Closest to the Pin prize for dropping the ball 8 feet 2 inches from the pin, while Bud McConkie won the prize for the Longest Putt sinking a 44 feet and 11 inches putt!

We would like to thank the following special sponsors of the NCGNP Foundation Golf Tournament:

Inspiris of Arizona, Inc., Hole #1  •  Virginia Lee Cora, Longest Drive for Men  •  Charlotte Kelley and Associates, P.C., Longest Drive for Women  •  Geriatric Associates of America, P.A., Longest Putt  •  GNP Students from University of Maryland, Closest to the Pin Golf Balls - Barbara Phillips  •  Water - MJ Henderson  •  Winning Team prize - Ann Gerth.

We invite you to be a special sponsor next year. If starving GNP students can support the Foundation, surely others can do the same! The challenge is there for the taking.
Innovative Practice: Managing Chronic Disease

Christine Peterson GNP, CD; Chicano, Kathleen CRNP, CD; Deborah Capone-Swearer MSN, RN, CNA, BC; Susan Thompson BSN, CDE; Walt Lumley BSN, CDE; and Molly Doyle, Pharm D

Anyone who has practiced as a geriatric nurse practitioner will agree that most of the patients suffer from the ravages of chronic disease. Complications could be diminished or avoided if patients understood their responsibility about managing their conditions. Realistically, no clinician can impart adequate information in the traditional one-on-one encounter, and patients often do not attend educational sessions because they do not realize the value of knowledge and information. We have to find a better way to engage patients before they suffer the consequences of poorly managed chronic conditions!

One such method is the shared medical appointment (SMA). SMAs are a hybrid of a group educational session and a private clinician encounter. Instead of repeating the same information to individual patients over and over, the SMA model allows the clinician to communicate facts with a group of patients sharing the same diagnosis. Participants are comforted and informed by their peers at the table as well. Patients are referred to SMA by their primary care provider (PCP) or are invited because their clinical lab values are outside target. The SMA goal is to help improve patient and “significant other” knowledge and information about self-care management. SMA appointments are billed as a clinical patient encounter according to Medicare guidelines.

There are two significant elements to SMA: 1.) patient education for 8-12 patients (plus significant other) in a group setting and 2.) open discussion of each individual’s targeted medical condition. The latter is made possible because all participants sign an agreement of confidentiality promising to honor others’ privacy by not discussing patient-specific information outside the room. The facilitating nurse practitioner (NP) reviews patient-specific lab values, vital signs, and disease management openly. Sharing information benefits everyone and breaks down the “woe is me” feeling and empowers patients to ask questions they might have thought “stupid” when alone with the PCP. Each has the opportunity to share successes/failures that they may have encountered as part of their own experiences. In our groups, we notice that patients are much less shy and intimidated by the “experts” because they have peers sitting next to them. They encourage each other to start insulin, stick to an exercise or diet regimen, and an occasional hypoglycemic event can serve as a powerful “show and tell”.

As of this time, NPs along with RNs, pharmacists, podiatrists, and others in the Primary Care Clinic of the Philadelphia VA Medical Center are conducting SMAs for patients with diabetes only. Participants are asked to arrive an hour early to ensure parking in our urban setting and to perform a comprehensive intake including a 10 g monofilament foot sensation check. Along with the usual vital signs and review of any complaints, this is recorded in the electronic medical record (EMR) by an RN.

The two-hour SMA is intentionally informal. Patients and their support person gather at a large table after intake. Each patient’s weight, last HbA1C, serum creatinine, LDL, HDL, and blood pressure are recorded for all to see on a 4’x 8’ white board. The facilitating NP refers to it while addressing each patient for about 7-8 minutes. Information usually imparted to a single patient in the office is now shared with the group. Patients contribute their solutions, experiences, and wisdoms openly, thus adding to total exchange of information. Teaching points such as the importance of exercise or why a particular medication is appropriate or elements of good foot care are elucidated by another clinical expert. The facilitating clinician uses this time to do a brief physical exam, has a tête â tête with each patient, and completes documentation. It is a little like a tennis game: back and forth with information.

At the end of the SMA, each patient receives a written summary including changes and recommendations made in their diabetes management and ordered by the NP. They receive return information and a schedule for telephone follow up for patient-specific coaching. A dedicated telephone line was established and is checked daily to improve access to the SMA team. Return SMA visits are scheduled on ad hoc as needed basis. New prescriptions are made available for pick up after the SMA. If needed, additional exams or demonstrations may be conducted privately immediately following the group encounter. The referring clinician is able to read a record of the encounter in the EMR.

Shared medical appointments have been enthusiastically received by all involved: patients, providers, and support staff. Patients seem to respond to learning when they are not the only ones with a problem. We have found, to our surprise, that even those who openly state they do not like groups open up and give excellent evaluations of the encounter.

We are tracking outcomes of the patient cohort as compared to patients who receive “usual care” as a quality improvement measure. It is our plan to expand this model of care to other chronic conditions such as CHF, COPD, DJD, PVD, and dementia, all seen frequently in our geriatric clinics. The expansion of SMA is expected to be organic as demand grows from word of mouth and from evidence of efficacy.

SMA is a perfect match for NPs. Nurse practitioners are teachers/clinicians. First, as nurses they are imbued with a keen focus on patient education. As licensed practitioners, NPs are skilled at managing chronic illness by ordering diagnostic tests and prescribing behavioral changes and medications. The ability to meet both the clinical and educational needs in a single session is a model of efficiency.

The mandate for changing how we, as a nation, provide care to patients with chronic disease is at http://www.gohcr.state.pa.us/prescription-for-pennsylvania/index.html

NPs, carpe diem (seize the moment)! Be the change agents in your institution or your community. Offer services to practices that do not have NPs. This is a perfect opportunity for NPs to shine.
Chapter News

North Carolina Triad Chapter of NCGNP

Lisa Chilton, MSN, APRN-BC
Chapter President

Our group has been recognized as a Chapter of NCGNP for approximately 14 months now. We began with eight committed advanced practice nurses who were interested in promoting the professional development of advanced practice gerontological nursing and becoming advocates for quality care of older adults. Currently there are 25 members, and I am proud to report that with each meeting we are seeing new people who are interested in our mission. We always welcome advanced practice nursing colleagues and embrace students...as they are the future of our practice!

Our meeting October 23 was about “Depression in the Elderly,” a very crucial topic with the holidays right around the corner. We already have a few topics in the plans for January and February that include stroke and COPD.

We welcome new members! For information on membership and meetings please contact Linda Chilton, MSN, APRN-BC, at lchilto@bellsouth.net

Great Lakes Chapter

Alice Early, MSN, APRN-BC
Chapter President

The Great Lakes Chapter had seven members attend the NCGNP Conference in San Diego. We returned to Michigan charged up with new ideas and goals for 2007-2008.

Two of our main goals include enhancing membership and providing new geriatric continuing education opportunities. We are asking that each member commit to bring one new member into the organization during the next year. Members are being encouraged to bring potential members to a meeting. Three new members joined at our September meeting. We will also be working closer with nearby universities to encourage student membership as well.

In working toward our second goal, we have formed an education committee that will begin working on a one-day geriatric workshop for advanced practice nurses. We plan to target GNPs, ANPs, and FNPs. The workshop is being planned for fall of 2008.

At our September 27 meeting, we celebrated our 25th anniversary of getting together as advanced practice nurses in gerontology. Barbara Harrison, PhD, APRN, and Andrea Kwasky, DNPC, APRN, from Oakland University in Rochester, presented preliminary results of their ongoing research of using memory books with persons with Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) to help them maintain their identity. Research has suggested that AD patients continue to see his/her past identities as important. This was an excellent example of how nursing research can help improve quality of life for both caregivers and persons with AD.

Cindy Gerstenlauer, MSN, APRN-BC, CDE, then presented highlights of the group’s history, from its humble beginning to the present. The group was reminded of its many accomplishments over the years. These included working with the Michigan Nurses Association in many joint endeavors to improve the quality of care for older adults in the state on many levels as well as to advance gerontological and advanced practice nursing. We were instrumental in ANA developing the certification exam for gerontological CNSs. We hosted the successful 1999 NCGNP Conference in Dearborn. We officially became a Chapter of NCGNP in 1998. Interspersed with the highlights were trivia questions with raffle prizes. No one went away empty handed! We were fortunate to have many give-a-ways courtesy of a number of pharmaceutical companies. Two of the original charter members, Cindy Gerstenlauer and Linda Mondoux, MS, APRN-BC, were present. All in all, it was a gala event!

Our next chapter meeting is December 6, 2007, on Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy. More details will be posted on the NCGNP chapter website.

NCGNP Welcomes Middle Tennessee Chapter

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses of Middle Tennessee
President: Jennifer Kim, MSN, GNP
Nashville, TN
jennifer.kim@vanderbilt.edu

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Chapter News (continued from page 11)

Magnolia Chapter of Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses (MagGAPN)

Lisa Byrd, PhD, CFNP, Gerontologist
Chapter President

MagGAPN is expanding and taking in the southern arm of Alabama–adding two new members and hoping to begin a strong southern influence for NCGNP. We are planning an educational seminar on geriatric issues and palliative care to be held February 2008 in Jackson, MS. The specific date will be confirmed soon. Anyone needing information, please e-mail LByrd3@comcast.net

Northern California Chapter of NCGNP

Jennifer Serafin, RN, GNP
Chapter President

Many members of our local chapter attended the 2007 NCGNP Conference, and we really enjoyed our time in San Diego. We had a group poster presentation on our Tube Feeding in Dementia Project. I would like to extend thanks to Nancy Mandler, GNP, for the beautiful poster! I would also like to thank Patty Kang, GNP, for her hard work preparing the pamphlets! During the conference, we had a local chapter meeting to plan our February 2008 CE event. We are also working on another pamphlet project: CPR Use in Elders.

Our next meeting will be November 3, where we will have a potluck and CE presentation on NPs in Africa. Please contact Jennifer at jserafin@jhsf.org for more information.

Looking for a Chapter Near You?

Arizona (Sonoran) Lisa Latto (Lisa.latto@inspiris.com)
California (Northern) Jennifer Serafin (jserafin@jhsf.org)
Delaware/Pennsylvania (Delaware Valley) Suzanne Ransehousen (Suzyr107@yahoo.com)
Georgia (Atlanta) Nikki Davis (Barbara_N_Davis@uhc.com)
Illinois (Chicago) Beth Slutsky (bas1000@comcast.net)
Louisiana/Mississippi (Magnolia) Lisa Byrd (Lbyrd3@comcast.net)
Maryland (Baltimore) Rosemary Smith-LaMacchia (mcpn@yahoo.com)
Massachusetts (New England) Anne Marie Bourque (ambourque@verizon.net)
Michigan (Great Lakes) Alice Early (ame626@aol.com)
North Carolina (Triad) – Linda Chilton (Ichitlo@bellsouth.net)
Ohio – Alicia A. Wolf (wolfa@summa-health.org)
Tennessee – Jennifer Kim (Jennifer.kim@vanderbilt.edu)
Texas (Gulf Coast) Elizabeth Godlove (elzgdll@earthlink.net)
Texas (Lone Star) Eric White (ewhitegnp@hotmail.com)
Wisconsin (Southeast) Lynn Jensen (l2b2lyj@aol.com)

Chapters in Formation – Contact One Today!

Minnesota (Rochester) Mary Doucette
(Douce6@magnaspeed.net; maryd@elder-network.org)
New York (New York City) Carolyn Auerhahn (Ca35@nyu.edu)

Interested in Starting a Chapter?
Contact NCGNP Chapter Services Specialist, Richelle Torres, at
(866) 355-1392, (850) 471-7075, or
e-mail her at mrwells@puetzamc.com
The Joint Commission Expands Pilot Testing for Standards Development

The Joint Commission has recently expanded the pilot testing of its WikiHealthCare™ application to include a collaborative approach to developing accreditation and certification standards. Please visit the site and take advantage of the opportunity to provide input at the very beginning stages of standards development. Participants can engage in discussions about emerging issues pertaining to different types of service settings, help determine how standards might be applied to address those issues, and suggest performance requirements that should be used to measure compliance with standards. The Joint Commission will use this collective input when developing accreditation or certification standards.

During the pilot testing of the site, the first standards issues to be considered are:
- the transfer of health information,
- pharmacist review of protocols for contrast agents in radiology, and
- how healthcare services can be provided using the concepts of clinical microsystems and patient-centered care.

Several additional issues to be added include surgical site infections, MRI and imaging safety, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This free, Internet-based collaborative forum can be accessed through a link on The Joint Commission’s home page, or directly at http://wikihealthcare.jointcommission.org. The site was publicly launched in June and there are now more than 2,000 registered users. Please take a moment to visit the site and make comments related to the issues.

Note that although WikiHealthCare™ is sponsored by The Joint Commission, the content developed on the site is non-proprietary, open source information. Participation within this collaborative forum has no impact upon an organizations’ accreditation status as all users participate as individuals, not as representatives of an organization.

Florida Celebrates National Gerontological Nurses Week

October 1-8, 2007

NCGNP Bylaws Update

Charlotte Kelley, GNP, ARNP
Secretary

For those of you who were not at the NCGNP Annual Conference in San Diego, you missed a great demonstration of the Board of Directors and members working together. The bylaws were discussed first at the Reference Hearing by the members on Thursday, September 13. Some small modifications to the bylaws language were made then; however, there were several sections that were discussed at the Business Meeting on Friday, September 14. Motions were made for modifications. The discussion about the proposed amendments was lively and lengthy. Members present voted on or rejected the changes, making the bylaws truly a product of the members. One significant change was the addition of another Director-at-Large position allowing for seven voting members. Another was the provision to have a special election for the position of President-Elect if there is a vacancy, as was the case this year.

In the past, when bylaws were changed, it was required the changes go through the time-consuming process of going out to the members 60 days before being voted on at the annual Business Meeting. The purpose of the changes was to make the bylaws a more solid structure for NCGNP and put the detail of the workings into the Policy and Procedure Manual. This allows the organization to be more fluid in noting small changes in procedure that do not require a change in the bylaws. The final approved draft of the bylaws is on the website available for review at www.ncgnp.org
The NCGNP Excellence Awards are given in recognition of members’ contributions to Advancing Excellence in Elder Care.

**The Excellence in Clinical Practice Award** was presented to Nancy Henry, RN, GNP. Nancy was recognized for her lifetime commitment to nursing and her work in the VA Health Care System Nursing Home Care Unit and as a nursing instructor at the University of California, Los Angeles. Nancy’s enthusiasm for the quality care of aging residents and their families has evolved into areas of research and education. Nancy is a PhD candidate; her focus is in the area of late-life mental illness.

**The Excellence in Leadership Award** was presented to James F. Lawrence, GNP/APN, in recognition of his commitment to geriatrics through direct care, education, and research and his advocacy for geriatric care and education. He serves as an outstanding advocate for older adults and an effective role model and leader in geriatric nursing. James serves as faculty at Emory University’s ANP and GNP programs and has served in a variety of leadership roles at the local, regional, and national level.

**The Excellence in Community Service Award** was presented to Suzanne Valerie, MSN, APRN, GNP, in recognition of her commitment to community services to benefit the older adult. Suzanne has developed her role and services to meet the needs of her rural community. Suzanne’s practice includes outpatient medical care and medical home visits for consultation and chronic or episodic medical needs; she serves as the first nurse practitioner at two nursing facilities in Hilo, HI. Suzanne took part in a program to assess the health of the Native Hawaiian Kupuna (Elders) and has built a relationship with this community and also extended her service to neighboring islands.

**The Excellence in Education Award** was presented to Lynn Chilton, DSN, GNP-BC, FNP-BC, for her tireless commitment to the education of advanced practices nurses concentrating in gerontology. Lynn oversees the gero-psych programs at the University of Alabama. Lynn’s knowledge and expertise contribute to the learning experiences of students, and she strives to be consistent and fair in their treatment.

**The Excellence in Research Award** was presented to Kathleen Walsh Scura, EdD, RN, GNP-BC, for her commitment to research that has a direct benefit for the geriatric community. This commitment is demonstrated by published research beginning in 1988 with an investigation concerning hearing assessment. Kathleen has investigated and published numerous articles on her research on the risks and issues of HIV/AIDS for older adults. She has focused on the effects of cancer, particularly prostate cancer, on older adults and presently works with graduate and undergraduate nursing students targeting this cancer research in minority men. Kathleen’s goal is not only to continue nursing research but also to nurture future nurse researchers.

**1000th Member**
This year the Board set the goal, as part of its strategic plan to have 1,000 members in 2007. There are currently at 1061 members. The 1000th member is Alicia Lever, MSN, RNP.

**Theme Contest**
This year NCGNP invited input for the theme for the 2008 Conference. There were many suggestions submitted. Colleen Stephens-Kelley submitted the winning theme: **Gateway to Quality: Improving Care for Older Adults Across the Continuum**.

**Industry Sponsor Awards**
- Bronze Sponsor Award: Proctor & Gamble Pharmaceuticals
- Bronze Sponsor Award: Watson Pharma, Inc.
- Silver Industry Sponsor Award: Novartis
- Gold Industry Sponsor: Merck/Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals
- Platinum Industry Sponsor: Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems

**2007-2008 Board of Directors**
The following Board members were recognized for completing their terms of service on the NCGNP Board of Directors:
- Immediate Past President: Sharon Maguire
- Treasurer: Debra Bakerjian

Lynn Chilton had to resign from her position as President Elect on the NCGNP Board of Directors to concentrate on her health issues. A plaque recognizing Lynn’s contributions to the Board of Directors was sent to her.

Following are the members of the 2007-2008 Board of Directors:

- President-Elect/President: Debra Bakerjian, PhD, MSN, RN, FNP
- Immediate Past President: Anna Treinkman, MSN, RN, GNP
- President-Elect: Vacant
- Secretary: Charlotte Kelley, MSN, GNP, ARNP
- Treasurer: Marianne Shaughnessy, PhD, CRNP
- Director-at-Large: Sandy Kamp, MS, RN, APN, CNP
- Director at-Large: Evelyn Duffy, ND/DNP, APRN-BC
Call for Abstracts 2008
Oral and Poster Presentations

The NCGNP Research Committee is accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations at the 2008 annual conference to be held September 25th-September 27th in St. Louis, MO. Abstract submissions for both poster and oral presentations are to be e-mailed to ncnnp@puetzamc.com

The Research Committee’s goal is to facilitate those NCGNP members who wish to present their research projects, innovative clinical practice models, innovative chapter projects, case studies, or ethical practice issues at the 2008 conference. Projects should enrich the advanced practice nurse’s knowledge and/or enhance the care of the older adult. Winning abstracts will be published in the NCGNP newsletter.

Guidelines for Submission
Title Page and Abstract must be submitted as two separate e-mail attachments. Submit in Microsoft Word with one-inch margins on all sides, 12 pt., un-bolded, left justified.

Title Page must include the authors’ names, institutional affiliations, e-mail address, mailing address, and a telephone number; state your preference for “Oral Presentation,” “Poster,” or “Either.”

Abstract is limited to 350 words on one page and include the Title, all left justified. Research abstracts should contain the background and purpose, methods, results, conclusions, and applicability to practice, if appropriate.

Innovative practice models, case studies, ethical issues, or other abstracts should include a review of literature.

- Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions.
- All first authors on accepted posters must be NCGNP members.
- All accepted oral presenters must be NCGNP members.
- Student submissions are encouraged and welcomed.

Selection Criteria
Selection will be based on interest to advanced practice nursing, clarity, and content. Notification of acceptance will occur by June 15, 2008. The Research Committee at the conference will determine prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place poster and oral presentations. Awards will be given during the conference Awards Ceremony.

Please provide contact information for the months of June and July should the committee need to clarify information or for acknowledgement of acceptance.

Deadline for submission: April 30, 2008
The NCGNP
Newsletter
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GNPS, INC.

7794 Grow Drive
Pensacola, FL 32514

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President-Elect ........................................ Vacancy
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Director-At-Large............... Sandra Kamp, APN, GNP, IL
Director-At-Large............... Evelyn Duffy, APRN, OH

2007-2008 Committee
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Practice ............................ Sue Mullaney, GNP, MA
Health Affairs ............ Patricia Kappas-Larson, APRN, MN
History ............................ Kathleen Fletcher, GNP, VA
........................................ Trudy Keltz, GNP, CA
Member Services .... Valerie Matthiesen, GNP, ANP, IL
Nominating ............. Lois Hamel, APRN-BC, ME
Research ..................... Lisa Byrd, FNP, MS
Approver Unit ............... Elizabeth Macera, FNP, CA
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Save This Date!
September 25-27, 2008
NCGNP Annual Educational & Business Meeting
Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark
St. Louis, MO
Preconference, September 24, 2008
Postconference, September 28, 2008

Please send your change of address
and corrections to
ncgnp@puetzamc.com

Visit our website at
www.ncgnp.org

Next Newsletter Deadline:
January 7, 2008

Send articles to
mnicholson@puetzamc.com