

"Dreams Come True"

Congratulations, Christine Masini! Your story was drawn as the winner of NANN's "Dreams Come True" Story Contest, and you have won a complimentary registration to the NANN 2005 conference in Anaheim—"Tiny Babies, Big Dreams."

NANN thanks Christine and all of the other nurses who submitted a "Dreams Come True" story. To read all of the stories, visit www.NANN.org.

E-NANN

www.nann.org

Sweet Dreams

Christine Masini, RN

A girl dreams of becoming a bride...a couple dreams of becoming parents. But one night in 1986, a couple thought their dream was about to be shattered.

When labor occurred at 24 weeks, the baby wasn't expected to be viable. But after she was born weighing only 450 g, she took a few gasping breaths. So the L&D nurse called the NICU team.

I brought the baby back, placed her on a warmer, and administered oxygen. At that time, these were only comfort measures. The parents were aware of the situation and knew that they would be told as soon as their baby had died.

Well, this little one started breathing

regularly. She was bright pink in the oxygen! The father came in a few hours later, wanting to know why I hadn't come to tell them when she died. I looked at him, smiled, and said, "Because she is still here." He came in to see his daughter, touching her ever so gently with his strong hands. He went back to L&D and brought his wife over in a wheelchair. She, too, was overwhelmed with joy.

I called the doctor, and it was decided to change her plan of care. We put in an IV and weaned the oxygen. She became my primary baby. Needless to say, her parents and I became very close. Amazingly, she never had any complications. She became



The "Dreams Come True" baby in 1986.

the star of that year's NICU reunion.

Having come so close to grieving the loss of their child, these parents truly cherished their little miracle, and they still do, every moment of every day. Their dream really did come true.

Christine Masini is a staff nurse II at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, CA.

Beacon

My Beacon, My Mentor

Jennifer Twaddell, MSN RN

I was on orientation, working 12-hour night shifts in the Level III NICU at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC. It was just months after my nursing-program graduation. The 2-day-old, 35-week infant I was caring for had just been weaned from under an oxygen hood. I received an order to discontinue his umbilical arterial catheter after starting a peripheral intravenous line. My head was spinning—I had never done either before. I was both shocked and relieved when the neonatal nurse practitioner on duty that night took one look at me and said, "Come on, I'll help you." She stood by me and held my hand the entire time, encouraging me by saying, "We have lots of time. Don't rush!" "He has virgin veins. It will be easy!" "I know you can do it!" She was right. After I stopped shaking and listened to her calm voice, I got the IV on the first stick.

It did not take me long to realize what a wonderful teacher and mentor I had found in Doni Meyer, RNC NNP. Doni is first and foremost a nurse—something that she is quick to remind everyone of. She is known for talking to the babies and holding them as their medical condition allows. She is terrific at teaching others, whether the person she is instructing is a nurse or a parent. She knows how to use carefully chosen analogies to help each person understand the point she is trying to make, and she never minds answering questions.

Doni is both a leader and an encourager. She challenges each nurse to think beyond an infant's basic needs and is always glad to see a nurse act as an advocate for a baby. We all know how rare these traits are in the busy and often hectic NICU environment.

I always looked forward to working with Doni and hoped that she would be the practitioner caring for my babies with me. When I recently left the NICU after 9 years, I was sad to acknowledge that I would no longer be working closely with her. She has been a wonderful advisor and friend. I am confident Doni will continue to inspire other nurses with the burning desire to achieve excellence that she instilled in me. The NICU and the nursing profession are brighter because of Doni Meyer. ☺

Jennifer Twaddell is an assistant professor in the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Nursing.



Doni Meyer, RNC NNP

Retired Nurse: A New NANN Membership Category

The NANN Board of Directors has approved a new membership category—Retired. Retired members will continue to receive the NANN journal, newsletter, and other membership mailings; may participate on committees but not hold office; and retain their voting rights. Annual dues will be \$55. A member who is age 65 or older and has 10 years of consecutive membership can request a change from Regular to Retired status **at renewal**.

NANN hopes this new membership category will facilitate life-long learning for our valued members who are at or near retirement. ☺

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Spectrum Health

The Power of Spectrum Health Careers



from NANN's President

Robin Bissinger, MSN RNC NNP



We have to take a fresh look at what we are doing and how we do it...We have to look to where we want to be in the future, set a course, and choose the path, the vehicle, and whatever else is needed to get there.

—Geraldine Feldman, Executive Director
National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission

Recently, NANN reviewed its mission statement—"NANN is the professional voice that shapes neonatal nursing practice"—and decided to raise the bar. NANN has dedicated itself supporting the profession of neonatal nursing by building a career development roadmap to fill the needs of both emerging and advanced professionals. Neonatal nurses will know they can rely on NANN as they build their career.

Several upcoming NANN products will help you develop in your professional role and meet your professional needs:

- a comprehensive, consistent, and neonatal-specific orientation program

that can be adapted to meet the specific needs of different levels of care

- the fourth edition of NANN's policies and procedures manual, to be published later this year in a print-and-CD format.
- tools for discharge (from NANN's journal, *Advances in Neonatal Care*)
- the Navigator program, which formalizes the roles of nurse preceptors, mentors, and aides in integrating new nurses into practice.

Do you know what career path you are on? Do you know how to achieve your career goals? Planning your neonatal nursing career can help you deal

NANN is committed to helping you find opportunities to grow as a neonatal nurse.

with uncertainty and change, develop your skills and knowledge, avoid burnout, and most important of all, give you some control in your career. Your responsibilities as a neonatal nurse continue to grow, and NANN is growing along with you. NANN is committed to helping you find opportunities to grow as a neonatal nurse and then to help you help those around you grow. ☺

"The Faces of Neonatal Nursing"

The New NANN Photo Contest

Neonatal nursing has many faces: the faces of dedicated nursing professionals in the NICU, in transport, in home care, in academic settings, in local communities, on Capitol Hill, and around the globe; the faces of children who are a few days old or who are growing up and prospering; and the faces of mothers, fathers, grandparents, and siblings.

Join NANN in celebrating neonatal nursing by participating in the new "Faces of Neonatal Nursing" Photo Contest. The contest rules are as follows:

- The photograph must represent an aspect of neonatal nursing.
- The photo can be submitted in a printed or electronic format.
- A short narrative (not to exceed 50 words) must accompany the photo.
- If a patient appears in the photo, it must be accompanied by a permission form signed by the guardian. Visit www.NANN.org to download the permission form.
- The photo and all accompanying materials must be received

by the NANN office (mcebula@amctec.com or 4700 W. Lake Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025) no later than **Friday, August 26, 2005.**

All photo submissions, along with the narratives, will be displayed during the NANN Annual Conference in Anaheim. Conference attendees will vote for the winner. The prize is one **complimentary registration** to the NANN 2006 Annual Conference November 8–11 in Nashville, TN. All submissions will be recognized on www.NANN.org and will become the property of NANN for use by the association. ☺



NICU Leadership Forum 2006

Lori Armstrong, MSN RN

Every spring, NANN and Children's Medical Ventures cosponsor the NICU Leadership Forum for NICU nursing directors and managers. This year, 60 neonatal nursing leaders from around the country met in Tucson, AZ, to share best practices, learn from one another, network, and spend time with leading vendors in the world of neonatology.

This year's innovative and challenging curriculum highlighted team-building concepts, included the Fish model and collaborative nursing practice. Presentations on collaborative practice supported many of us whose hospitals are on the long quest for magnet status. We learned about the science behind nursing recruitment and retention strategies. We were reminded that as nurse leaders we have true power to

We have true power to make an impact — on our unit, in our hospital, and on generations of nurses to come.

make an impact—on our unit, in our hospital, and on generations of nurses to come.

We learned about 2005–2006 changes in Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) regulations, including new staffing-effectiveness requirements and infection-control policy recommendations. This information was invaluable to many of the attendees who expect a JCAHO visit this year. Our closing speaker was a former U.S.

Navy Top Gun pilot. No one left that session with a dry eye, but all of us left feeling more motivated—to encourage and empower our teams, to stay strong, and always to be there to lead our team through the toughest of times.

One of the greatest values of this conference is in the relationships with colleagues, whether they began 6 years ago or are brand new. There are endless opportunities for networking, benchmarking, mentorship, and friendship. Thank you, Children's Medical Ventures and NANN, for the opportunity to attend! ☺

Our Nance

Julie Olsen, RN

*In these hours of holding hands,
sharing tears and telling our favorite stories,
her silence shakes us,
as we expect to hear that voice,
that passion
that sass.
As we expect her to walk thru the door
to humor us once again
with her larger-than-life personality.*

*Our "Nance," our friend
who taught us to say what we feel and
stand up for what and who we believe in.
Who taught us to find a little humor
in just about every situation
And left us with belly aches
from all the laughter.*

*Nancy had a way with these little lives.
I remember when my own boys were first here,
she propped them up as they fit inside her hands
and looked into their eyes
as if trying to reach their souls.
She spoke to them like she wanted to
know the men they would become.
It was her gift...it was her magic.*

*The magic of bringing people together,
of being the first one out on the dance floor
with everyone to follow.
The center of a coffee klatch
at 2 in the morning when her sleep room
beckoned
and we selfishly kept her up
Cracking jokes and giving in to the punchy
giggles
that overnights bring.*

*Nancy had this powerful energy,
this fire and spirit of a fighter.
It captured us—made us stand
just a little bit taller.
She could drill us till we knew our stuff
and build us up to the sky
When our confidence was slipping.
A mentor with the passion to teach,
she was contagious.*

*Her face flashes in our minds
the way we all knew her
and will always remember her.
For no one had a sense of humor quite like her,
one that might make a Catholic schoolgirl blush.
No one knew how to have more fun
than our Nance
and so our hearts feel heavy now, but our lives
much richer
for she has touched us all.*

*And in these hours of holding hands,
sharing tears and telling our funniest stories,
we know that Nancy would remind us
to celebrate her life and raise a glass
to the friendships she has made with all of us.
She would remind us to say "I love you" to those
who matter,
before it is too late.
As we light candles and pray for her family
her flame flickers on,
brighter than all the stars in our Flagstaff sky.*

*Some may say a job is just a job,
A coworker is just that.
But here in the nursery, we are blessed with
a family.
One who cries together, laughs together
and saves tiny lives together.
Nancy was at the heart of it all
and she will live on in all of us
every single day.*

WE LOVE YOU, NANCE!

*Note: Nancy Kannenberg was a much-loved
NNP in the Flagstaff Medical Center Special Care
Nursery who died unexpectedly at the age of
50. This poem is a tribute to her.*

*Julie Olsen is a staff nurse in the special care
nursery at Flagstaff Medical Center, Flagstaff, AZ.*

Make Your Dream a Reality



Advanced Practice

Preconference Workshop
Medications in the NICU

In-Depth Symposium
Multisystem Organ Failure

SIG Networking Breakfast
Advanced Practice

Concurrent Sessions
*Changing the Outcomes: Managing Neonatal
Hyperbilirubinemia*

Controversies in Care

*Hypothermia as a Neuroprotective Strategy
in the Term Infant*

*Following Intrapartum Hypoxia-Ischemia: Does It
Work?*

*The Skin and Neonatal Nursing: From the Biology
of Vernix to Neonatal Adaptation*

Clinical Care

In-Depth Symposium
Coming Full Circle: A Fresh Look at Old Problems

SIG Networking Breakfast
Developmental Care/Pain

Concurrent Sessions
The ABCs of Neonatal Hepatitis

Case Study: Epidermolysis Bullosa

*Commonly Used Ventilators: Understanding Uses, Differences, and
Implications for Nursing Practice*

The Role of Physical Appearance in Maternal-Preterm Interactions

Management

In-Depth Symposium
The Navigator Mentoring Program: Anchoring the Future

SIG Networking Breakfast
Management

Concurrent Sessions
Electronic Medical Recording in the NICU Is Here to Stay

Neonatal Resuscitation Program: What to Expect in 2006

Patient Safety: Shifting from Blame to Recognition

NANN 21st Annual Conference
September 28–October 1, 2005
Disneyland® Hotel • Anaheim, CA

Hotel reservations: 714/520-5005

Special room rate: \$139/single, \$159/double
Deadline for special room rate: August 2, 2005

Tiny Babies, Big Dreams



With 24 concurrent sessions, 12 paper presentations, three in-depth symposia, and 40 posters to choose from, your dream conference can become a reality! Visit www.NANN.org to view the complete conference schedule and to register online for NANN 2005 Anaheim.

Correction

The author of "How SEFANN Does It," in the Spring 2005 issue of *NANN Central*, is Julie Fullerton, BSN RNC. Julie is a NICU staff nurse at South Miami Hospital in Miami. She leads the unit's family-centered care committee as well as the hospitalwide patient education committee. Julie is SEFANN's secretary.

NANN Central regrets the error.

Embrace Life-Long Learning

“Neonatal Nursing Excellence:
Growing and Knowing”



To teach is to learn twice.
—Joseph Joubert

Share your neonatal nursing knowledge and expertise at the 2006 NANN Annual Conference! NANN is looking for nurses who would like to present a topic of interest and make the NANN Conference even more valuable as a forum for peer-to-peer sharing. Your submission may be accepted as a concurrent session, paper presentation, or poster presentation. The conference theme, “Neonatal Nursing Excellence: Growing and Knowing,” encompasses these topics and many others:

- advanced practice (consider case studies)
- developmental care
- home health care

- NICU management
- nutritional management
- pain management
- palliative care and loss
- parent education
- respiratory management
- transport.

NANN’s 22nd Annual Conference will take place November 8–11, 2006, in Nashville, TN. Online abstract submission opens Friday, August 12. The deadline for submitting an abstract is **Monday, November 21**. All abstracts are submitted electronically via www.NANN.org.

Encourage yourself to submit an abstract, then encourage your peers, too. If you have questions, call NANN Education Manager Nicki LaCroix at 800/451-3795 ext 4835. ☎



NANN and the March of Dimes: Partners in Education

NANN feels strongly linked to the mission of the March of Dimes (MOD). Did you know that MOD publishes a series of continuing education modules specifically for neonatal nurses? They include, for example, *Assessment of Risk in the Term Newborn* (5 contact hours), *Discharge and Follow-Up of the High-Risk Preterm Infant* (4.4 contact hours); *The Premature Infant: Nursing Assessment and Management* (6.3 contact hours).

MOD publishes 29 print modules as well as two online modules, *Understanding the Behavior of Term Infants* and *Preterm Labor: Prevention and Nursing Management*. The modules are easy to use, are well written, and cost only \$20 each. There is no additional fee for contact hours. For more information, visit marchofdimes.com/nursing.

Every year, MOD awards several \$5,000 scholarships to nurses enrolled in graduate programs in maternal-child health. This year’s scholarship winners are Mary Barger, RN CNM, Cambridge, MA; Robin Bratt, RN, Minneapolis, MN; Julia Chachere, RN, Sag Harbor, NY; Kathleen Utter King, Rochester, NY; Rebecca Matthews, Jonesboro, AR; and Elizabeth Thomas, Lubbock, TX. To learn more, visit marchofdimes.com/scholarship. ☎



NANN Chapters Go for a Walk!

Go to www.NANN.org to see WalkAmerica photos from the Southern California and Southeast Florida NANN chapters, plus NANN’s national office staff.



Walkers from the Southern California Association of Neonatal Nurses (SCANN) raised \$2,415 for the March of Dimes. In addition, SCANN contributed \$241.50 as a matching donation.



NANN SIGs Are Restructuring

Linda Juretschke, SIG Director-at-Large

Effective January 2006, NANN’s Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will be consolidated into four groups: Practice, Education, Research, and Management. You can expect to see quite a few enhancements to the SIG structure. For details, go to www.NANN.org, or write Linda Juretschke at info@nicusolutions.com.



Facilitators

Facilitators play a vital role in the success of a SIG. They keep Listserv conversation strings active, report to the board on SIG activities and goals, and submit articles to *NANN Central*. If you want to step up your leadership role in neonatal nursing and contribute at the national level, consider submitting your name as a candidate for a facilitator position when the call for volunteers goes out in October. Terms will be for one year, beginning January 1.

One member of each SIG will be assigned as the group facilitator. The new Practice SIG will have two facilitators: one working in a staff nurse role and the other working in an advanced practice role. In addition to the Practice Listserv, there is a new NNP Faculty Listserv.

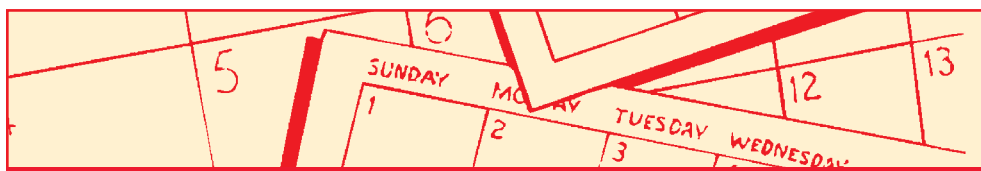
To join any NANN Listserv, visit www.NANN.org. ☎



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2005–2006 Calendar

National Neonatal Nurses Day **September 15, 2005**

NANN 21st Annual Conference
Anaheim, CA **September 28–October 1, 2005**

NANN 22nd Annual Conference
Nashville, TN **November 8–11, 2006**

Look for chapter meeting dates at www.NANN.org.



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PERIODICALS