

# NATIONAL GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING SECTION

Official Section of the National Gerontological Nursing Association



## NGNA CONVENTION

NGNA's 1997 convention in Nashville was again the success that it has been every year since NGNA was affiliated with Mosby. There were many highlights at the convention. I will just share a few special ones.

NGNA collaborated on a panel with representatives from three nursing organizations: American Nurses Association, National Council of Geriatric Nurse Practitioners (NCGNP), and National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care (NADONA). The panel presentation was entitled: *Caring, Cooperation, and Collaboration: Association Perspectives*. Representing NGNA were the incoming and outgoing presidents, **Marie Fisher** and **Mary Lou Long**. Representing NCGNP was **Kathleen Fletcher**, a former president and renowned author and speaker. Representing NADONA was **Joan Warden**, founder of NADONA and presently serving as NADONA's executive director. NGNA has long been interested in collaborating with other nursing organizations, and this was an exciting first effort.

NGNA once again had an excellent poster presentation session. There were approximately 30 posters. Several examples of the posters on display are shown.

NGNA shared speakers with the Case Management Convention, which was at Opryland at the same time as our convention. The Tuesday plenary session presented by **David Nash**: "Can Case Management Deliver on Its Promise" was one of the major attractions at both conventions and was very well attended. Dr. Nash spoke on how managed care has radically changed how we

view health care today. There is a critical need to control escalating medical costs and to standardize medical care. Providers are now "managing care," and the financial responsibility for care and cost management has shifted to them. They are now responsible for the overall care of patients—hence, *case management*. Dr. Nash described some of case management's early successes and failures and some of the potential pitfalls facing managed care in the future.

**Melodie Chenover** was her usual creative self and provided a rousing opening session to the convention. She taught us the steps in the creative process and why some of us are reluctant to exercise our creative powers. She instructed us in using our imagination to take a new look at old problems. The popular Ms. Chenover showed us how to reduce resistance to change and new ideas and how to help our colleagues work with us instead of against us in our work lives.

## NGNA BOARD MEETING

NGNA holds its annual board meeting before the convention each year. I will share with you some of the highlights of this meeting.

The president's report indicated

the work that she has been pursuing with New Zealand regarding the possibility of a first international chapter. Mary Lou Long, NGNA president for the last 3 years, was invited to New Zealand last spring to discuss chapter development.

Management has been working to develop a new membership directo-



Panel representatives



Melodie Chenover

ry. **Susan Sibiski**, executive director of NGNA, is compiling information about what NGNA offers its members: *Geriatric Nursing*, our national journal; *New Horizons*, our newsletter; tuition discounts to the convention each year; certification examination discounts (American Nurses' Credentialing Center [ANCC]); committee membership and participation; research and pub-

lication opportunities; as well as the membership directory.

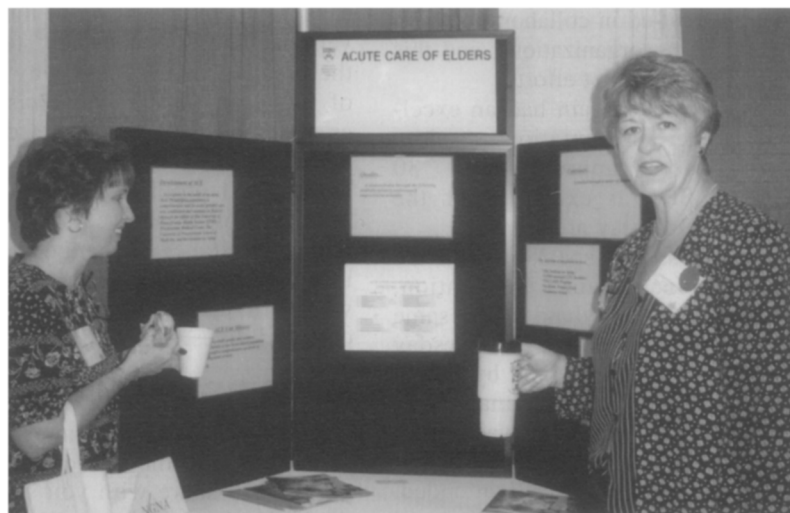
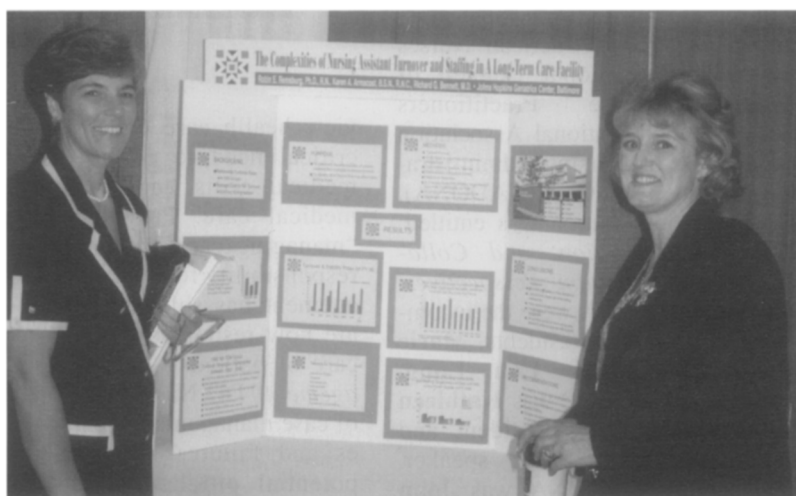
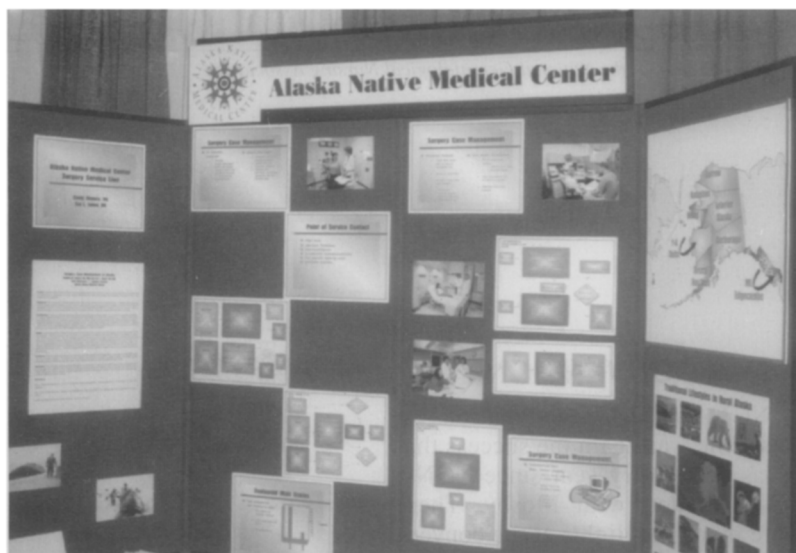
NGNA's Advanced Practice Committee, cochaired by **Kay Roberts** and **Roberta Vitcusky**, has begun a regular column in *New Horizons*. They are planning to develop practice guidelines and position papers that will be published in *Geriatric Nursing* and the newsletter.

Scholarship Committee has updated its Mary Opal Wolanin scholarship applications. NGNA offers one graduate and one undergraduate scholarship each year, valued at \$1500 each. The committee had six applications this year for the awards.

Education Committee selects members from NGNA for appointment to the ANCC for gerontologic nursing and advanced practice gerontologic nursing examinations. There was a call for applications at convention. This busy committee also is working to collaborate with other nursing associations to write position papers of an educational nature. They have been working to establish NGNA as a provider of contact hours for educational offerings. The committee has been working hard to influence gerontologic nursing education in academia and is planning a massive mailing to U.S. nursing schools.

Research Committee awards the Judith V. Braun Research Award each year to the best poster presented at the convention. This committee supports the use of research in practice and mentors new poster presenters who have exciting projects to share but lack experience in putting the information in poster format. This year's recipients (on the basis of both podium and poster presentations) were **Kimberly Ballard, RN, BSN**, and **Terri Weigand, RN**, staff nurses on the acute care for elders unit at Summa Health System in Akron, Ohio. We were so pleased that the award went to first-time researchers and staff nurses! The other three finalists were (1) **Pamela Fleming, Carol Harris**, and **Sherry Lopata** (2) **Marlene Rosenkoetter** and **John Garris**; and (3) **Robin Remsburg, Karen Armacost**, and **Richard Bennett**. The poster session has gotten better and better each year. **JoAnn Congdon** has chaired this committee for the past 2 years.

—Ann Schmidt Luggen



Posters from Poster Presentation Session