

LOCAL UNIT NEWSLETTER

September/October 2005

NEW MEMBER VOICE:

Angie Montani

by Sibyl Davis, RN 7N

Angie is like many new nurses working at UWMC – she is a new graduate nurse struggling to learn the myriad of skills needed to be



successful on a busy hospital floor. What's different? She is a former investment banker! Angie also used her financial skills to work for a year raising money for kids with cancer. The money went for pediatric research and to send children with cancer and their siblings to summer camp.

A chance meeting with a nurse at her fund raising job piqued her interest in nursing, and at the age of 26 she entered the University once more, this time at the Calgary Faculty of Nursing. "I wanted a connection with families touched by cancer, more than fundraising would allow."

Angie worked briefly as a new grad in Canada before starting her job here at UWMC, and she is grateful for the number of training days new grads have here, as she works very hard at mastering the skills needed to be a proficient nurse. Angie enjoys working on 7SE; she feels that she is starting to fulfill her dream of working closely with families and patients affected by cancer.

Finally, Angie appreciates the WSNA contract for new hires, and the ability to have a full time job. "In Canada, I would have to wait 2 to 3 years to obtain a full time position, and then have to work fluctuating shifts that can take a toll on your body."

Angie, welcome to the U.S., to Seattle, and to UWMC!

UNIT SPOTLIGHT ON
8 NORTH – REHAB

A brief note from a longtime employee and member of WSNA. My name is Valerie Martin and I work on 8 North, the Acute Inpatient Rehab unit. The type of patients we see are Spinal Cord Injury, CVA's, Traumatic Brain Injury, Multiple Sclerosis and deconditioning from a serious illness. We are proud to be involved in primary nursing as our patient population need longer stays than most other units in the hospital. The "team" approach and patient focus on mobility goals and activities of daily living including community integration, involve coordination between nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, vocational, psychological counseling and recreational therapy.

The goal is to maximize patient independence with the hope they can return to home, school or work. What keeps me working rehab all these years is the inspiration I get from my patients who have worked through medical hardships and are able to "move on" with their lives in a

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positive way. People are taught to be "independent in spirit" regardless if there is a residual physical disability.

VOICES FROM 8 NORTH **REHAB**

Stacie Brua, Evening Shift

Due to the nature of many of the patients' injuries, I find it very impressive that there is a psychological team to deal with the many issues they face. I have worked at other institutions with these injuries and they never received psych assistance. You can definitely notice a difference on 8 North!

Cheryl Jacob, Night Shift

Hi! My name is Cheryl and I'm a new grad on 8N. I just transitioned to nights and the scene is very different from my preceptorship during days; however, the staff remains the same- fun, helpful, and entertaining. Working on 8N, no matter what shift, you know you'll have a great time because the staff make the difference.

Josie Ouellette, Evening Shift

Hi! I'm Josie Ouellette, RN on 8N, the Inpatient Rehab Unit. October 7th marked my 15th year on Rehab. I came here from eastern Canada, looking for a job after leaving socialized medicine/team nursing on an active med surg floor. One previous job I had in Canada was with Team Canada and Team Ontario, sports teams for the disabled. 8 North was a real eye opener; I hadn't understood what the disabled athletes I had traveled with had endured to get to where they were! On Rehab, I see the person after a terrible accident or a long stay in the hospital for a debilitating illness. I work with them and see them progress to independence in self-care and mobility.

It's very rewarding to see someone leave as a whole person again. I just found my home on Rehab!

John Torretta, Night Shift

The staff on 8N provided my introduction to the healthcare profession, and I couldn't have asked for a wiser, saner, saltier bunch to shepherd a new grad. I believe that the learning curve in nursing is infinite, and nobody makes the trip alone. 8N has taught me that compassion can be exercised at the level of profession, and that camaraderie binds all nurses together. It's a great job!

LEADERSHIP

I've just returned from the 16th Annual Leadership Development Conference in Chelan, Washington hosted by the Washington State Nurses Association. Twenty-three Local Units from across the state of Washington attended the conference. During Local Unit Council each unit spoke on trends and issues in their hospitals. The next day, the WSNA staff- Nurse Reps and Attorneys taught sessions on negotiating, organizing, grievances and communication. All were well attended and very interesting.

*Keith Koga, Anita Stull
Sibyl Davis
UWMA Leadership
Janet Parks, WSNA Nurse
Rep*



I am proud to announce two RNs at UWMC were honored at the Awards Banquet. Keith K. Koga from 5SE, who is our Local Unit Co-Chair at UWMC, was given the Rising Star Award for 2005. Keith recently returned from union training in Chicago. Sibyl Davis from 7 North was given the 2005 Membership Award for her excellent work as Membership Coordinator.

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She meets with nurses new to UWMC to share the benefits of belonging to WSNA and writes and coordinates our newsletter.



UWMC Organizer Jason Beauchene, Sibyl Davis and Anita Stull enjoying the Awards Banquet.

The Leadership Development Conference is held every year in late September. Next year the dates are September 24-26th, 2006. Save the dates and plan to attend!

*Submitted by Anita Stull
7 North WSNA Local Unit Secretary*

***From the Desk of
Janet Parks, RN,
WSNA Nurse Representative***



The new contract is being distributed. Look in your unit mail boxes. We're still getting to the Roosevelt Clinics, some main campus clinics and the Pavilion. They're coming! Don't forget your can find them on the WSNA web site, too. www.wsna.org under Local Units.

Elections are completed! Announcing your new LU officers:

Chair: Harry James, RN - OR
Vice Chair: Keith Koga, RN- 5SE
Secretary: Anita Stull, RN - 7N
Treasurer: Travis Paoli, RN - ED
Grievance Officers: Mary Desmarais, RN - ED
Steve Krauss, RN - OR

Congratulations to our new officers and we'll be hearing about them in the next newsletter.

Welcome New Members!

WSNA extends a warm welcome to our newest members:

*Audrey K. Allard, RN, Oncology
Stacie L. Brua, RN, 8N
Sherri R. Burch, RN, 6S OB/GYN 6096
Ernest T. Company, RN, 4SE Med/Surg
Scott V. Crowe, RN, Emergency Room
Ryan N. Decena, RN, 5NE Med/Surg
Dallas R. Gogal, RN, Operating Room
Angelica C. Montani, RN, 7SE
Stephanie M. Newton, RN, Emergency Room
Roy V. Owings, RN, 5NE Med/Surg
Erika J. Poole, RN, 7NE SCCA
Melissa M. Schorn, RN, 7SE Oncology
Shannon D. Vassar, RN, Emergency Room*

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

January 30	2006 Nurse Legislative Day Olympia
March 6	WSNA Hall of Fame

Membership Reminder

It is the responsibility of each nurse to notify the Washington State Nurses Association of any change in work status which may include but are not limited to: **name, address, phone number, FTE increase or decrease, leave of absence, medical leave, maternity leave, leaving or joining a bargaining unit.** This change must be done in writing either by using a **Change of Information Card** or sending an email to wsna@wsna.org.

The Cabinet on Economic and General Welfare (E&GW) policy states, when a nurse is on an unpaid leave of absence, the dues are adjusted to the Reduced Membership Category during the unpaid Leave of Absence period. The accumulated dues payment is to begin within 90 day of return to work. The nurse will have up to twelve months to complete payment of these dues. ***It is the responsibility of the nurse to notify WSNA of this change in work status.***

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