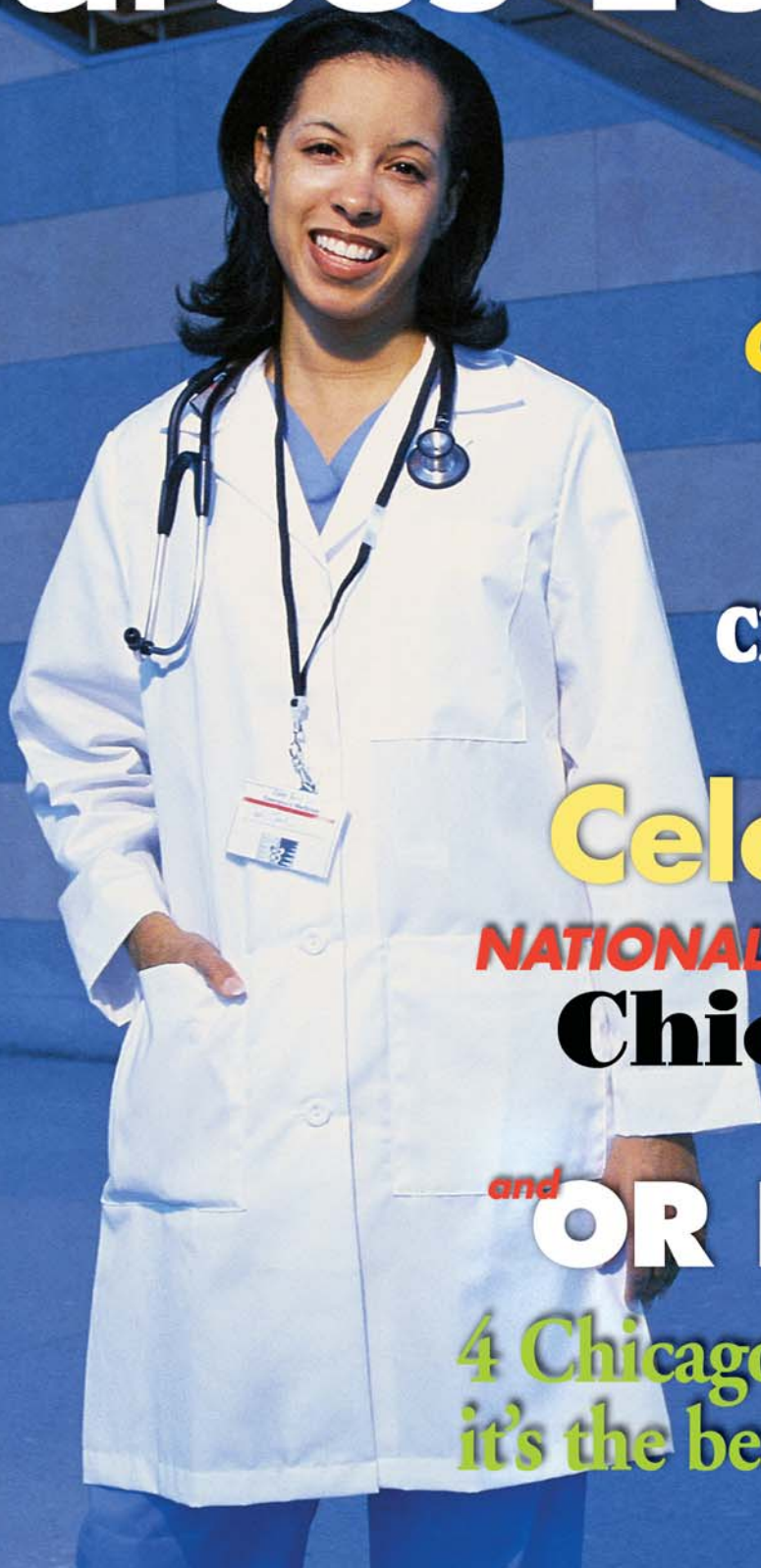


The

A Magazine for Chicago Area Nurses

JUNE 2005

Nurses' Lounge



Our **TV** accuracy meter

The best way to see
Chicago's Skyline

Celebrating

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Chicago Style

and

OR Nursing

4 Chicago Nurses tell why
it's the best job in nursing

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SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS OR CHECK OUT THE BEST IN NATIONAL NURSING NEWS

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www.nurseslounge.com is your place for jobs, news and topics

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Photos and stories recollect some of the best events held at area hospitals during National Nurse Week festivities.

20 Perioperative Nursing

Four Chicago nurses share their views on what it's like to have one of the best jobs in nursing, and why more nurses should go into the field.



Here, nurses represent the Loyola School of Nursing at the Chicago Nurses' Parade, circa 1950's. More on page 14.

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Nurses from all over were happy to be appreciated during this special week. **Michelle Janney**, **Katherine Antos** and **Colleen Perez** reflect on what the occasion really means.

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A tradition from the 1950's is back again as 65 nurses took to the streets for the 2nd annual (modern) nurses' parade.

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A National Infection Rate Reporting Standard is coming for hospitals. 1.5 hours of CE.

The Nurses' Lounge is published by The Nurses Lounge, Inc. and TNL Enterprises, LLC. This magazine is mailed to registered nurses in the Greater Chicagoland area free of charge and delivered to select clinics and hospitals. *The Nurses' Lounge*, including all artwork and logo types published herein are registered trademarks of The Nurses Lounge, Inc. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission. Although we

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Welcome to The Nurses' Lounge Chicago!

Take a break, grab a beverage and relax for a minute. Let's talk about "The Nurses' Lounge."

The Nurses' Lounge was first published in Dallas, Texas in 2003. It was met with such enthusiasm that we are now thrilled to launch a Chicago edition. As our name suggests, *The Nurses' Lounge* is a place where nurses will find interesting articles and topics to discuss. Our goal is to produce a publication of quality that speaks to nurses on a personal level. We are a magazine about Chicago nurses and the issues that impact their careers. In addition, we have included articles that are for your enjoyment. Are you looking for a unique way to view Chicago's famous skyline? Check out our kayaking story on page 27. How many of you have shouted, "That would never happen!" while watching TV hospital dramas? Check out our Accuracy Meter on page 23, where we rate an unauthorized autopsy on ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*.

As relatives of nurses, both of us have an inside scoop on what it takes to be you. We have listened to nursing stories our entire lives, and we understand the vital role that nurses play in health care today. We are also building an Editorial Advisory Board made up of professionals to help guide us down the right hallway. But most importantly, we have you. We need your feedback and we want your stories. Help us share your successes, highlight your needs and make *The Nurses' Lounge* the publication you will read from cover to cover each month. Please contact us with your thoughts. We can be reached by e-mail at chicagoeditor@nurseslounge.com or by mail at 40 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 230, Chicago, 60611.

We hope you enjoy your first edition, and we look forward to hearing from each of you.

In good health,



Kathleen Hogan
Co-Editor



Julie Reid
Co-Editor

The cure for the common career

It takes a special kind of individual to be a Nurse. Someone whose compassion and concern for others transcends the ordinary. This being the case, it's only right that that kind of commitment be reflected back by an employer dedicated to creating careers that transcend the ordinary as well. Whatever your career ambitions, there is a role — *and a future* — for you at Caremark.

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National

What does it really mean?

Whether they were spending an educational day listening to experts on health care or being treated to a luxurious lunch and massage, nurses all over Illinois said they were grateful that hospital officials and the public were thinking of them during National Nurses Week. The week, which is usually celebrated May 6-12, has become an annual tradition for hospitals.

That wasn't always the case. A number of governmental attempts were made at designating a week for nurses, but it wasn't until 1974 when President **Richard Nixon** issued a proclamation for the week. In 1982, President **Ronald Reagan** signed a proclamation for "National Recognition Day for Nurses" as May 6, 1982. In 1990, the American Nurses Association declared May 6-12, 1991 as National Nurses Week. May 12 is Florence Nightingale's birthday.

But what does the week really mean to nurses? Three nurses at Chicagoland hospitals gave us their insight.

At **Northwestern Memorial Hospital** in Chicago, recognizing outstanding nurses is crucial, according to **Michelle Janney**, RN, PhD, CNAA, vice president of operations and chief nurse executive. Janney, who has been at Northwestern for three years, spent many years as a practicing nurse in Toledo, Ohio.

This year at Northwestern, eleven nurses were recognized in a formal ceremony for all their efforts and their commitment to patient care. A tea was held after the ceremony for the patients who were grateful for the care they had received.

"Our annual award really draws attention to – and celebrates – the contributions that nurses and nursing make to the community in caring for patients and in caring, in the broadest sense of the word, whether it's through advances in technology or through meeting the spiritual/psycho-social needs of patients during a time of crisis," Janney said.

Janney added that Northwestern was able to keep morale high for nurses in general by creating a collaborative environment and maintaining a high nurse-to-patient ratio.



Michelle Janney, RN

Nurses Week

By Janice Neumann



Colleen Perez, RN

For **Colleen Perez**, RN, MS, director of clinical support at **Advocate Christ Medical Center** in Oak Lawn, the week is significant because of the myriad of contributions that nurses make to the community. Perez said, "creating a stimulating environment and a supportive atmosphere for nurses was the key to their satisfaction at the hospital, but a week of recognition just topped it all off."

"As we elevate the profession of nursing, nurses week gives us an opportunity to sit back and reflect on the contributions that nurses make to patient care," said Perez.

"Nurses really serve such a crucial role in decision making, collaborating with other disciplines and ensuring the best possible outcomes for their patients. And this is an opportunity to celebrate all those contributions," said Perez.

What makes the week special for **Katherine Antos**, RN, who works in pediatric intensive care at **Shriners Hospital for Children** in Chicago, is that special "thank you" for a job well done, as well as a little

pampering. Antos said her favorite part of the week is a lunch and free massage. Because of the hectic schedule in her department, nurses often only have time for this one event.

"It's just really nice to have a thank you because sometimes even if you're having the worst day of your career, if someone says thank you for doing a great job, it makes you feel better," said Antos.

"Sometimes the regular people who love being nurses are the ones who are overlooked because they're not getting a higher degree and stuff. They just like taking care of people," said Antos, adding that the atmosphere at Shriners' is like a big family, where employees regularly feel a sense of appreciation. ♦



Katherine Antos, RN