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EDITOR'S NOTE KIMBERLEY KEARSEY

The power of influence

SPRING IS ALWAYS A HECTIC TIME AT RNAO as the organization plans for two of its biggest events: the annual general meeting (AGM) and Nursing Week. Although preparation starts in January, the real push comes during the weeks preceding the events. April and May can be a little nutty at home office.

In this issue of the magazine, we bring you our recap of both events, with plenty of photos and analysis. You'll see we did something different for our coverage of the AGM this year: we solicited feedback from nursing students who participated in RNAO placements in April. Their reactions are telling. They left inspired and with a better understanding of everything nursing has to offer. These students are at a crossroad. Decisions about the future are imminent, and they need guidance from role models to determine the direction they want to take.

That same notion is at the core of our cover feature on men in nursing. We introduce you to a group of men who are helping to promote the profession to a new generation of young people who may not

have ever considered nursing as a career. They tell us why they chose nursing, who prompted them to pursue the profession, and what they think needs to happen in order to convince more men to enter the profession. As role models, they are influencing others who will one day look back and say "I'm glad I had someone to show me what nursing was all about."

Whether just starting your career or considering a change after several years as an RN, every nurse needs a good role model. And it seems most have one, especially when you consider the response we received to our call for Nursing Week stories. This year, we asked you to tell us about the colleague who's made a difference in your life. And you delivered with touching and wonderful stories. Your submissions are still posted on RNAO's website, and more will be published in our summer issue of the *Journal*. I'd like to thank every member who responded. I'd also like to remind those who haven't had a chance to still consider writing to us. We'll be receiving submissions until June 24. **RN**

Correction:

- The March-April 2011 issue of RNJ stated that Vanessa Burkoski served 2.5 years as Ontario's Provincial Chief Nursing Officer. Her term ran from June 2007–Dec. 2010, making it 3.5 years. We apologize for the error.
- The article *Make Your Voice Heard* (March-April 2011) incorrectly described the scope of the study conducted by Susan Ray and Cheryl Forchuk. The study is looking at homeless veterans who were deployed overseas and/or served on Canadian bases. Again, we are sorry for the error.