My presidential year comes to a close with this last message. Even though this is a demanding job, it is always amazing how fast the year goes. This has, indeed, been a year of accomplishment for SGNA. I am proud to have been a part of this organization. SGNA has become more visible in the eyes of our professional peers and has reached out to more members than ever before with quality education programs and publications. We have truly expanded our horizons.

I would like to share with you the Society’s accomplishments during this past year. SGNA has implemented the name change successfully, published the revised procedure manual and several additions to our monograph series, expanded the newsletter to six issues, adopted new standards for practice, implemented a research grant program, participated with other nursing specialty organizations to influence health care legislation and speak to the agenda of organized nursing, initiated a core curriculum, offered two very successful education programs, profited financially, sponsored nine education scholarships, organized a campaign to enhance the image of the gastroenterology nurse/associate in the eyes of our peers as well as the consumer and increased its membership.

Many people have contributed significantly to these accomplishments. We have a great volunteer spirit in our Society, who are committed to seeing the ideals of gastroenterology nursing grow. I would like to salute the volunteers of this organization: the Board of Directors and Officers, committee chairs, committee members, regional officers, House of Delegates, Certification Council, past presidents and the many program volunteers. At our annual meeting in San Antonio we will spotlight these special people. Please be there to show your appreciation for all the work that has been done by volunteers to make this organization great for all of us. I have appreciated the opportunity to work with these fine people all year.

I would like to thank my friends, family and colleagues, the National Office staff and my employer for their support and help over the year. I thank the membership for giving me this opportunity to participate in our organization.

I have listed some of the results of our past year, but, as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “What we call results are beginnings.” This is the era of specialization in nursing. The nursing specialty organizations are gaining credibility and exposure in the health care system. The image of caring, competent, knowledgeable nurses is being portrayed to the public. We must all strive to embody this image. We must support each other and nursing as a whole to continue to get results.

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