



# The Insider

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## News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- UOA has received another Youth Rally grant! The Harold R. & Winifred R. Swanton Foundation, established in 1986 in California to support charities in the health care field, has granted UOA \$2,500. The 2003 rally will be held July 12–16 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. Applications for campers, counselors and nurses are available at: [http://www.uoa.org/events\\_youth.htm](http://www.uoa.org/events_youth.htm). You can also support the Youth Rally with an online donation at: [https://secure46.cedant.com/uoa/secure\\_youth\\_donations.htm](https://secure46.cedant.com/uoa/secure_youth_donations.htm).
- The first-ever **UOA Young Adult Conference** is now just four short months away. Please help spread the word about this July 17–19 event in St. Paul, MN, to those in the 18-25+ year range. Program, registration and lodging details can be found at: [http://www.uoa.org/events\\_yan.htm](http://www.uoa.org/events_yan.htm) and in a brochure available from the UOA office. Additional information was sent in the January chapter mailing.
- Have you registered for the 41<sup>st</sup> UOA National Conference? Registration forms, schedule, lodging information and exhibit applications are all online at: [http://www.uoa.org/events\\_conference.org](http://www.uoa.org/events_conference.org). You can also call 800-826-0826, ext. 104 for more information. Las Vegas and UOA—A Winning Combination that will have something for everyone this August 10–14.
- Chapter presidents will be receiving a personal invitation to join the **2003 Chapter Participation Challenge** to assist UOA national fundraising efforts. Chapters will be recognized at the national conference opening session, on the Wall of Honor and in print materials acknowledging our most generous donors. This program was wildly successful last year, and we again thank the 28 chapters and individuals that supported the program. We encourage all chapters to take on the challenge this year! Chapters that respond by June 1 will be entered into a drawing to win a limited edition wildlife photograph by Thomas Mangelsen which can be used for local fundraising activities.
- Many thanks to the chapters that have completed the recent **Chapter Survey**. More than 150 chapters responded, which provides excellent data for creating a profile of UOA chapters. It is not too late to have your chapter included; you will receive a free copy of the *Diet and Nutrition Guide* in return.
- UOA and ConvaTec are pleased to announce that a fourth **Ostomy Education Seminar** has been scheduled for May 31 in Philadelphia. This is the fourth of five to be held to update members of the medical community on anatomy/physiology and psycho-social support for patients undergoing bowel and bladder diversionary surgery. Additional details will be posted on the UOA Web site.
- **Mary Sweeny**, an ET nurse at Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque, IA, has been selected as the recipient of the **Archie Vinitzky Scholarship for WOC(ET) Nursing**. Mary, who will receive her training at M.D. Anderson in Houston, TX, has assisted her community by organizing an annual ostomy fair, presenting educational sessions on “Travel Tips for the Ostomate,” initiating a nursing newsletter and has been honored by the Iowa Nurses’ Association as Nurse of the Year. We congratulate Mary and wish her well.
- March is **National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month** and the American Cancer Society is supporting this with the Colossal Colon Tour, the Great American Weigh In, and a Daffodil Days fundraiser. Additional details are available at 1-800-ACS-2345.
- The Central Office reports the following **statistics and member needs** for February:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Care Guide Sales: 182 copies</li><li>• Phone Calls: 725</li><li>• E-Mail Inquiries: 216</li><li>• Chapter Members: 20,954</li><li>• National Association Members: 3,567</li></ul>
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- Browse the following sites to find **Ostomy Chat Rooms**:
  - Yahoo Peoples with Ostomy2:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/peopleswithostomy2/>
  - StuartOnline Ostomy Chat:  
<http://www.stuartonline.com/chatroom.htm>
  - Community Zero (Ostomy) Support:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ostomatessupport>
  - Shaz & Jason’s Chat:  
<http://www.ostomy.fsnet.co.uk/chat.html>
  - Yahoo UK Ostomy Support:  
<http://clubs.yahoo.com.clubs/ukostomysupport>