



# The Insider

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## News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- UOA is pleased to announce a free service offering **mental health and social work consultation** to those in need of professional psycho-social counseling. Dr. Ron Burton, Ph.D., Social Policy, is offering *pro bono* telephone counseling to ostomates and their caregivers who are in a crisis situation. Burton, himself a urostomate from Philadelphia, can also refer callers to local resources for continuing assistance. For psycho-social assistance, call, 1-800-826-0826.
- UOA's Chattanooga Chapter will host the **Southeast Regional Meeting**, October 3–5, at the Clarion Hotel in Chattanooga. Updates on types of diversionary surgery, advocacy issues, spousal support, "Ask the ET," coping with psycho-social issues, a free Stoma Clinic and an update on UOA initiatives are planned. Registration information will be sent to all chapters within easy driving distance. For more information, contact: Bill Johnson, (423) 877-1988, [billbetty100@aol.com](mailto:billbetty100@aol.com); or Bobbie Brewer, (770) 952-4906, [gbrew@mindspring.com](mailto:gbrew@mindspring.com).
- **Viva Las Vegas!** If you haven't been to Las Vegas in a while, it's time for a return visit. Our host, the Riviera Hotel, has recently been expanded, renovated and upgraded. The opening session on Sunday, August 10, will feature the Nevada Silver Tappers, a group of tap-dancing grandmothers, and will be keynoted by Certified Laughter Leader, **Jenny Herrick**, RN, BAS, DTM, CLL. The awards luncheon will feature another humorist returning from a successful appearance in 2001, UOA's own **Brenda Elsagher**, president of the Minneapolis Chapter. Remember to pack your dancing shoes for the banquet August 13. The UOA and you, a winning combination.
- **Runners:** take your mark! We hope you are getting ready for the **UOA fundraising Fun Run** at the national conference in Las Vegas. **Charlie Grotevant** will serve as honorary chair and lead-off runner. Charlie, president of the Kankakee (Illinois) chapter, farmer and longtime marathon man, received the Great Comeback Award from ConvaTec in 2002. Can you keep his pace? Runners, walkers and couch potatoes will collect donations to support UOA. Prizes will be awarded for the newest and oldest stoma, oldest and youngest entrants, farthest traveled, tallest and shortest entrants, most money raised and special recognition to the chapter with the most participants. See you on the trail!
- Chapter leaders: get on the **Leadership Track** during the national UOA conference. This special set of sessions will provide the insight and practical tools to run a successful chapter. Sessions include "Revitalizing Chapter Meetings," "Utilizing Internet Resources," "Putting the FUN in Chapter FUNdraising," "Collaborations and Partnerships" and "Visitor Training Skills."
- "Check Your Insides Out" is the message of the **Colossal Colon Tour** making its way around the United States and featuring a 40-foot long, 4-foot high "colon" you can crawl through. This family-friendly exhibit includes interactive educational stations covering colon and rectal anatomy, colorectal cancer prevention, early detection and treatment. Visit [www.CheckYourInsidesOut.org](http://www.CheckYourInsidesOut.org) or call (703) 519-2104 for the tour schedule.
- **The TWO-Day Colon Cancer March**, benefiting the Colon Cancer Alliance, will take place October 18–19 when 2,000 marchers will walk from Leesburg, VA to Washington, DC. Designed to raise funds for education and research and raise public awareness, this event is sponsored by a grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology and ImClone Systems.
- Five years after losing her husband to colon cancer, NBC Today show host Katie Couric is launching another salvo against the disease. The National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance, a nonprofit group Couric helped create in 2000, announced the launch of a **free, 3-hour CD-ROM aimed at encouraging routine colon screening**. The CD-ROM will be distributed in doctors' offices nationwide. For a "sneak peek" at the product, visit [www.nccra.org](http://www.nccra.org).
- Introducing: **Shelai Siets, UOA's new Membership Coordinator**. Shelai (pronounced Shell Lay) joins us with a solid background in nonprofit health organizations and customer service positions. Shelai is undergoing extensive training, and we know she will get our complex membership process back on schedule before long. Welcome Shelai at [membership@uoa.org](mailto:membership@uoa.org).
- The Central Office reports the following **statistics and member needs** for April:
  - Care Guide Sales: 2,283 copies
  - Phone Calls: 1,420
  - E-Mail Inquiries: 360