

May 19, 2011

Sandy Summers, RN, MSN, MPH
Founder and Executive Director, The Truth About Nursing
203 Churchwardens Rd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21212-2937

700 Tiverton Ave.
Factor Building
Box 951702
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1702

Dear Sandy,

It is hard to believe, but one week ago we were all gathered together to share ideas, experiences, and scholarship on the images of nurses in media at UCLA. After a great deal of planning and preparation, at last the day was here, and what a great day it was! In the last week, we have received a great deal of positive feedback from those in attendance at the May 12th conference, signaling a wonderful increase of interest in the topic. Part of the reason that this event was so successful was your presentation, your input, and your presence at the symposium.

Therefore, I want to specifically express my gratitude for all that you did to help create this inaugural event, Sandy. No doubt we made history on May 12 at UCLA as we brought together film scholars, film makers, media scholars, as well as leaders, practitioners, activists, researchers, and scholars from nursing, to focus specifically on the issue of nurses and the media. It was absolutely fantastic to watch you bring the audience to the height of attention through your analysis of depictions of nurses on television, film, and media advertisements. The media clips you chose were extremely effective. Your careful analysis and critique of the various ways that television shows depicted nurses brought new insight to an audience that was hungry to learn. It is easy to see that your devoted scholarship on these issues has produced new knowledge; your work is timely and important. The entirety of your presentation on May 12th gave perspective to the overall situation of the impact of these images in the US and internationally. This is a valuable contribution to our understanding and a novel point reflecting your unique scholarship related to these issues. Indeed, it was our honor to be able to hear your ideas first hand on May 12th. I know that many attendees lined up to talk to you throughout the day and we are so glad that you took the time to entertain their questions and comments. Many thanks!

While you were here in LA, we talked about a number of creative ideas including the possibility of a future anthology, maybe a DVD, or some other tool to reach a large number of nurses. Who knows what the future will hold, but I trust we will talk about some of these ideas again.

Once again, on behalf of Dean Courtney Lyder and the UCLA School of Nursing, I would like to thank you for the crucial role you played at our inaugural UCLA conference, "Media Images and Screen Representations and of Nurses." Thank you for making this a priority, for not only putting your fine mind into preparation for our event but your heart and soul as well, and for following through with a fantastic presentation, from start to finish!

Sincerely,

MarySue V. Heilemann, PhD, RN
Associate Professor and "Media Images & Nursing" Symposium Creator