



Sigma Theta Tau
international honor society of nursing
THE DELTA REPORT
DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER



Spring 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Joseph Foley, RN

Dear Colleagues,

I recently overheard someone say that May is God's apology for February! I have kept that thought in mind as I view the changes occurring everywhere I look. The trees have gone from bare sticks to bursting with colors from brilliant white to deep purple and finally to green. The grass is green and the flowers are opening up and the fragrance is awesome. Thank goodness, life goes on!

The other thing each May brings is Nurses Week. I have been a nurse for 26 years and I still love being a nurse and being a part of the nursing profession. Nurses become a part of the lives of their patients at times of great vulnerability. Each year we take time to honor nurses around the country for their caring and all their hard work. This year in particular, I have had the honor of attending local hospital's celebrations of nursing. It was a privilege to attend as a representative of Delta Omega Chapter to present an award of excellence in nursing to a staff member from each of the area's larger hospitals. I was able to listen to all the accomplishments of the institutions and their nursing departments that have happened in the past year. Although I did not know the individuals personally, I felt a great sense of pride at each one's achievements and applauded heartily. It also gave me great honor to meet the chief nursing officers and to see their pride in the accomplishments of their nurses. My greatest joy was in presenting the award to the individuals; I gave a short presentation of each of their accomplishments and presented them the award and a modest monetary gift. As usual, it is a very difficult choice picking only one individual for the award!



Congratulations to the recipients of the Delta Omega Nursing Excellence Award: Sonda Burns, RN from Cuyahoga Falls General/Summa Health Systems; Eileen Fleming, RN from Summa Health Systems; Judy LaBarba, RN from Akron General Medical Center; and Jeni Huth, RN from Akron Children's Hospital. I applaud you each for your achievements in nursing and I look forward to returning next year!

The month of May also brings many other changes. We have just had our annual Induction Ceremony which was a great success. We incorporated our awards presentation with Induction to help our newest members see the success and accomplishments of being in association with the Honor Society. Thanks to Dina Dornack and Lori Kidd for the incredible induction ceremony! Congratulations to each of the newly inducted nurses. Our hope is that our newly inducted members will choose to be a part of our chapter from the start! The students have been "pinned" and graduation is finished! Now on to state boards!! The strategic planning meeting was a great success and our plan for the Biennium is taking shape; thanks to all the Board for their hard



work, and special thanks to Carol Brodbeck for giving “life” to our plans and ideas! Thanks also to Dina for organizing the Open M walk. Our event programming carries on our chapter tradition of excellence thanks to Karen Mascolo; be sure to see the announcements on the web site.

As always, with change comes both good and bad.... I am sorry to announce that Dr. Marlene Huff has stepped down from her position as chair of the Awards Committee for the chapter. It is not easy to put into words the extent of my gratitude for all that she has done for the chapter. I am also sorry to announce that Tracie Epner has resigned from her position as Administrative Assistant to the chapter. It will be hard to fill the holes...but life must go on. Soon we will be electing new officers! Thank you to each individual who agreed to be on the ballot, and to Peg DiMarco for her hard work; it has been a long time since we have had a full ballot, and it will be a difficult choice! Please consider becoming more actively involved in your chapter. Contact any one of the board members through the Delta Omega Website. Please let us know if your address has changed. We will be happy to help you get in touch with a chapter near your new home!

Life as a nurse goes on.... until next time!

Joe

Joseph Foley
President, Delta Omega

Member News

We are proud of our distinguished membership, delighted to hear about our members’ achievements, appointments and awards, and pleased to announce your endeavors in the *Delta Report*. Please use this form to notify us of your accomplishments. Thank you!

Name: _____ Credentials: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

News: _____

Return completed form to:

The Delta Report, The University of Akron, College of Nursing, Akron, Ohio 44325-3701, fax to 330.972.5737,

Attn: T. Epner or email to: bruntb@summa-health.org

DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board meetings for Delta Omega Chapter, and/or contact members and request that items be added to the agenda. The following is a list of scheduled Board meetings. All regular meetings will be held at 5:30 pm in Mary Gladwin Hall, 101-F, The University of Akron, College of Nursing unless otherwise noted.

June 26, MGH Room 306
Annual business Meeting
Installation of officers
Transition Meeting

September 25, 2006
October 23, 2006
November 27, 2006

January 22, 2007
February 26, 2007
March 26, 2007
April 23, 2007
May 28, 2007

SIGMA THETA TAU, INTERNATIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone numbers 1.888.634.7575 – United States;
1.800.634.7575 – International' FAX 1.317.634.8188
Website: www.nursingsociety.org;
email: stti@stti.iupui.edu

Delta Omega Chapter CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website and email:
Website: <http://www2.uakron.edu/deltaomega/>

DELTA OMEGA INTERN PROGRAM

Do you want to become more active in the Delta Omega Chapter leadership but don't know where to begin? Are you a new member ready to test your skills as a leader? Then you should consider applying for the intern program designed to prepare members of Delta Omega Chapter for leadership roles in nursing and health organizations as well as for leadership at local, regional, and national levels of Sigma Theta Tau International.

There are opportunities for an intern to serve as co-editor of the newsletter, or in other leadership positions in the chapter. The program provides opportunity for a Delta Omega member to further skills and networking. Interns will participate in the following activities:

1. Serve as co-editor of the newsletter or co-chair of one chapter committee
2. Attend chapter Board of Director meetings
3. Attend local, regional, and/or national meetings as feasible
4. Work on a specific project with chapter officers (project determined collaboratively by the Board of Directors and the intern)



To be eligible, a candidate must have active membership in Sigma Theta Tau International and possess the potential for and willingness to serve as a leader within the chapter. Anyone interested in being an intern for the newsletter should contact Barb Brunt at (330) 375-3075 or at bruntb@summa-health.org. Anyone interested in another internship position should contact Joe Foley at (330)543-8953 or at jfoley@chmca.org



New Members Welcomed at Induction

Congratulations and Welcome to the newest members of the Delta Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Community Leaders inductees were Marcia Cornell, Anthony Suncire and Joyce Thompson.

Graduate Student inductees were Kathleen Atlagovich, Carrie Cuomo, Lisa Marie Flood, Janet Gobrogge, Barbara Lynne Hillegass, Kimberly Humphrys, Lisa M. Lawrence, Joan Luthanen, Toni Maroo, Shelly Irene Reed, Anthony Shumway, Karen Sue Smith and Rita A. Spirko.

The **Undergraduate inductees** were Wendy Renee Bishop, Diane Jean Boggs, Cheryl Ann Busson, Barbara Cairnie, Allison Carney, Megan Clark, Jodi Michelle Cowfer, Misti Kaye Drope, Brittany Drouhard, Denise Dues, Amy Dupont, Shannon Franz, Stephanie Lynn Gordon, Elaine B. Harper, Amy Marie Hutchison, Jessica Jamison, Melanie Kauffman, Nichole Kin, Lindsey Kirkpatrick, Jennifer Kraus, Amanda Anne Ludban, Candace Cherrece Lusby, Dennis J. Maio, Margaret Melhus, Megan Miller, Elise Mollohan, Lisa Margaret Mueller, Kimberly Newsome, April Nunez, Doris Rita Patrick, Barbara Jean Patterson, Gina Ramirez, Laura J. Riley, Crystal Lynn Robinson, Susan Shuller, Kathleen Seasholtz, Jason Michael Shawbell, Heather Smith, Kristi Lynne Stokey, Jadee Vander Baan, Cheri Watters and Darlene Pamela Wredberg.

Many of the above participated in the Spring Induction Ceremony on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Martin University Center.

**Candidate's Forum
Collaborative Endeavor for June Meeting**

For the June meeting, the Delta Omega Chapter will be collaborating with the Stark-Carroll District Nurses Association and the League of Women Voters on a Candidate's Forum. This forum, which

will be held at Kent State Stark Campus, is free and open to the public. Both gubernatorial candidates and the state legislative candidates have been invited and will be provided the opportunity to introduce their platform and answer health-care related and other questions. An invitation for this event is included below. Please plan on attending and invite your friends and family members to attend also.

*You are cordially invited
To attend a Legislative Forum*

*Sponsored by the Stark Carroll District
Nurses Association
In collaboration with
League of Women Voters
Delta Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau
In Consultation with
Democratic and Republican Local Parties*

*The format will be a moderated discussion/
question and answer session with State
Legislative Candidates. Gubernatorial
Candidates have also been invited to
participate.*

*The Forum will be held at the Fine Arts Building
Theater at the Kent State Stark Campus.
6200 Frank Ave, NW
N. Canton, Ohio 44720
on Saturday, June 10, 2006.*

10:00 – 10:30 am Meet and Greet the Candidates

10:30 – 11:30 am Gubernatorial Candidates

11:30 – 11:45 am Break

*11:45 – 12:45 pm State Legislative Candidates
Please R.S.V.P. by June 5, 2006
By calling (330) 491-1117*

Teaching Leadership/Management to Macedonian Nurses

By June G. Patton, PhD, RN



My Home In Skopje



Loretta, Judy, June and 2 Clinical Nurses



My class at the Infectious Disease Clinic

I had the opportunity to teach “Leadership/Management” to nurses in Skopje, Macedonia (part of the former Yugoslavia) from September 19-September 30, 2005. The 30 nurses who attended the 10 classes from 2-4 PM each week day were all head nurses from a variety of clinics and hospitals most of which were state run. My sister-in-law, Judy Garner, taught “Nurses as Teachers” to another group of nurses. Judy and I lived with a Macedonian family (Zvezda, Cvetko and their daughter Svetlana) and ate the main meal each day with them which was about 4:30 pm in the afternoon. Most families eat two meals a day and plenty of bread.

It was a wonderful trip. One of the nurses in my class, Paulina, is actually a Director of Nursing in a large state hospital with 1700 nurses under her. She has vision for change but no power. She expressed frustration for the situation. The nurses expressed their appreciation for my coming and sharing my expertise. All of them passed the test at the end of the two weeks so 27 received the certificates. Three students missed more than two sessions and will have to make them up in order to get the certificate. The certificate is highly regarded even though mandatory CE is not required.

Nursing school in Macedonia is at the high school level between 14 and 18 years and taught by physicians. There is NO mobility—the minister of health assigns you upon graduation and that is your career path so you better learn to like it. A couple examples of the health care delivery system—one mammogram machine for the whole country and it was recently broken down for two years. Two MRI machines in Skopje and they serve the whole country. They have little resources so must buy the cheapest and when it breaks there is no money for repairs and no one who could do it anyway. Unemployment is documented at 40% but believed to be between 50-60%. I met one family whose oldest daughter, working in Paris in a large hotel, supports her parents and two brothers and their families with her income.

I did meet with Velka Lukic, the President of the Macedonian Nurses Association, several times. She even came to my last class and presented me with a Merit of Appreciation for contributing to the advancement of nursing in Macedonia. She is a visionary leader who sees where nursing education needs to be but little resources to move it forward. She is now participating in organizing the classes taught by the visiting nurses and is taking more ownership for the whole process and the outcomes. I toured hospitals, clinics and the Suto area (pronounced “shootka” --means dumping place) where the Roma (Gypsy) people live. Skopje (the capital of Macedonia) has the largest population of Roma people in Europe—about 40,000. Some of them send their 2 and 3 year old children out on the streets to beg. Environmental pollution is a major public health concern in the country.



Evangelical Church



Marija (interpreter) and June in MPSE office



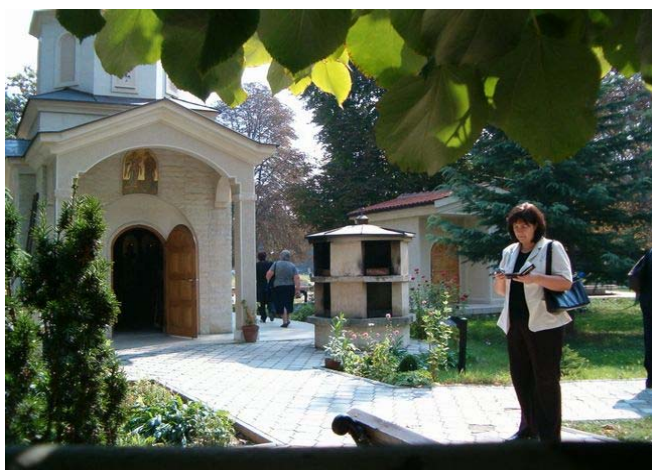
Nada, June, Cynthia and Judy

So many sights and sounds. Macedonia is a very poor post-communist country where the thinking is still communistic in many ways. They are warm and friendly and welcomed both Judy and I with open arms. Nada Andreeva coordinates the nurses' schedules and works with Velka to schedule the participants. They had about 90 nurses who wanted to attend but would only take 25 for each class. I ended up with 30 and Judy with 25. Cynthia Swanson Tolmachev (an American nurse married to a Macedonian) is a missionary with responsibilities for Medical Personnel Skills Enhancement (MPSE) the organization that sponsored our being there. Cynthia is originally from Ohio.

I was held in high esteem because I was a nurse with many credentials. I really felt that the teaching I did was greatly appreciated. The nurses asked many questions about nursing in the US, nursing students, nursing faculty (they have none), and were interested to know if their equipment/supplies were up-to-date or not. They have invited me to return and I am thinking about it. It was an opportunity to see nursing up close in another culture and to learn of their challenges in moving the profession forward with barriers we have either already overcome or will never know.



Cross on Mountain overlooking Skopje



Nada in front of Chapel on State Hospital Grounds

OPEN- M Walk for Kids

As one of our community projects, four members of the Delta Omega Chapter participated in the 2nd Annual OPEN-M Walk for Kids on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Monies raised will be used to support the programs for children at OPEN-M. Thanks to Peg DiMarco, Patti Crawford, Dina Dornack and Barb Brunt for participating. Please plan to join us next year. Earlier this year Delta Omega members provided a hot meal for community members at OPEN-M.

Research Grants Awarded

Members of the Grants and Recognition Committee reviewed the method of decision making for grant funding. Two of the applicants are novice researchers and one is a seasoned researcher. Using the same criteria, the rigorousness for the novice researchers is less. It is the philosophy of the Committee to assist the novice to become increasingly more adept at researching nursing problems.

The following research proposals were awarded research grants.

1. Kendra, Mary Agnes. *Perception of Risk in Home Visiting: A Follow-up Study.*

\$1000.00

Purpose: To compare and contrast the extent to which fieldworkers and administrators of community and public health nursing agencies today perceive the presence of risk factors during home visits compared to those reported in a previous study 12 years ago.

2. Ross, Jacqueline. *Information Literacy for Evidence Based Practice In Members of a Professional Nursing Organization.*

\$1102.00

Purpose: 1) To examine perianesthesia nurses' level of information literacy.

2) To determine if there is a difference in information literacy between Members of the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses and non members.

3. Kelades, Charles. *Characteristics of Associate Degree and/or Diploma Prepared Nurses who pursue Higher Education in Nursing.*

\$250.00

Purpose: Analysis of data obtained from the "new student survey" to develop an instrument that identifies factors which influence associate degree and/or diploma nurses to pursue higher education in Nursing.

In addition to the research grants, the chapter provided financial support for one of its long-standing members to attend the STTI research congress in Montreal. Aris Beoglis, PhD, RN, will be doing an oral presentation entitled “Venipuncture in Children: Using Eutectic Mixture of Local Anesthetic Cream and Application of Heat to Facilitate Peripheral Venous Cannulation” at Sigma Theta Tau’s 17th International Nursing Research Congress Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice to be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada July 19-22, 2006.

Delta Omega Recognizes Excellence

At the Induction Ceremony for new Delta Omega members, nurses were recognized for excellence in various areas of practice. The various awards and recipients are listed below:

Excellence in Utilization of Nursing Research -

The recipient of this award is **Pam Baker**. Pam is the Director of Nursing at CHMCA. As she fulfills the responsibilities of this position, she applies nursing research findings. This application is in administrative techniques, education of her colleagues, and implementation of clinical practice. She has incorporated evidence-based practice as the underpinning of her leadership strategies. Thus, she has promoted Nursing and has made nursing research visible to her peers.

Excellence in Nursing Research- This award goes to a person who conducts scholarly research in nursing according to research guidelines of Sigma Theta Tau International. The findings from the research are to be communicated to the community through presentations and publications.

Elaine Fisher is the recipient of this award. Elaine’s program of research has been focused on oxygenation of the gut. Although the bench research is done with rats, the results will promote health care that protects the gut or enhances oxygen to the gut. Elaine has shared her finding to date in a

variety of ways and continues to work toward the development of nursing knowledge.

Excellence in Nursing Practice - Criteria for this award include demonstration of knowledge in clinical nursing practice, and advancement of the scope and practice of nursing. **Ann Marie Brown** is the recipient of this award. Ann Marie often serves as a mentor for new employees or for those who are changing roles. She has the attributes of a clinical scholar and the communication skills to inspire her peers to practice in a positive and professional manner. She truly enhances the image of nursing through her practice.

Excellence in Nursing Leadership - This award goes to **Brenda Spear**. Brenda is currently administrative director of patient care services for Summa Health System. She effectively leads 8 medical-surgical nursing units within this system. She uses a participative management style and collaborate with others in decisions relating to clinical programming, patient care endeavors, flow and process activities in the management of these areas. She creates an environment that enhances the image of Nursing and participates in the development of nursing leaders.

Excellence in Nursing Education - This award is to acknowledge a person who demonstrates excellence in teaching Nursing. The recipient of this award is **Tracy Riley**, an associate professor at The University of Akron College of Nursing. Tracy influences scholarly development in nursing education, research, practice, and teaching. She promotes theory-based learning in the classroom and the clinical area. Her research is designed to promote the health of people with HIV. As she teaches, many of the lessons learned from her own research are shared with others.

Excellence in Nurse Mentoring - The recipient of this award, **Jane Tapp**, actively shapes and promotes the development of the career of nurses as she fulfills her responsibilities as staff development instructor at Summa Health System. Jane has developed a wide network of working relationships

with peers, physicians, supervisors, and managers. She is often called upon to solve problems long after an orientation is completed. Jane's professionalism, continued research, and abilities as a teacher/mentor, make her a wonderful role model for the profession of nursing and nursing education.

Marilyn Jinx Grelson Community Research

Grant - This grant is awarded to a person who is working toward the development of knowledge for application in the field of community health nursing. Examples are health-screening, wellness care, health promotion, environmental issues, and ethical issues. Marilyn was a secretary in the College of Nursing during the advent of Delta Omega Chapter. Therefore this award carries her name. This year the award goes to **Annette Mitzel** for her work with hand massage as treatment for pain during the end of life. The research was conducted with Kathy Kolcaba and Therese Dowd. It was, however, Annette's knowledge and experience with massage therapy that drove the research intervention.

Lillian DeYoung Award 2006 - This award is named after Dean DeYoung who was an integral force behind the formation of Delta Omega Chapter. Dr. De Young has been a loyal supporter of Sigma Theta Tau and the functions of this organization which promotes scholarship and the advancement of Nursing. The award is to be given to a person who has a proposal in existence related to education or history. **Jacqueline Ross** and her proposal meet these criteria. This proposal was funded by Delta Omega Chapter. Jacqueline is a PhD student studying "Information Literacy for Evidence-Based Practice in Members of a Professional Nursing Organization." The purpose of the study is to examine perianesthesia nurses' level of information literacy and to determine if there is a difference in information literacy between members of the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses and non-members.

Outstanding Undergraduate Performance Award This award honors an undergraduate

student who has demonstrated outstanding performance. This includes clinical and classroom activities as well as college activities. **Haley Bober** is the recipient of the award. Haley was funded by this chapter to attend an international nursing program. She has served as president of the Honors Club at the university level and on the curriculum committee at the college level. She is a leader in her class. Haley has a friendly, outgoing personality which adds to her effectiveness as a leader. She is reliable, conscientious and professional. In total, her performance in this program has been outstanding.

Outstanding Graduate Performance Award -

This year the award is shared by 2 graduate students: **Marianne Norris and Carrie Cuomo**. These two students are in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program. They have been working on a research project related to adolescent obesity in a high-risk classroom. Both are highly motivated and interested in promoting healthy behaviors in adolescents. They are excellent teachers and clinicians. They are knowledgeable, diligent, and caring.

Member Expresses Appreciation

Dear Members of the Research Grants Committee and fellow chapter members,

Receiving the Marilyn Jinx Grelson Research Grant Award was a highlight of my nursing career. I had absolutely no idea that I had been nominated and was even more stunned to have received it. I am honored and grateful for this award. The honor must be shared with Dr. Therese Dowd and Dr. Kathy Kalcaba as they were the originators of the project. It was a wonderful; experience for me to have participated in this research. It has motivated me to continue to do my part as a professional nurse to study and test through research how nursing practice impacts people. This study demonstrated how the simplest of interventions, touch brings remarkable effect. Touch has always been part of a nurse's practice. It is effortless, yet highly impacting for comfort.

Again, thank you for this award and for the many benefits I receive as a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and the Delta Omega Chapter.

Sincerely,
Annette R. Mitzel, RN,MSN, LMT

Election Results are in

Congratulations to the following Delta Omega Members on their election. With the exception of Dina Dornack, who will serve a one-year term as President-Elect, followed by a two-year term as President, each of these individuals will start a two-year term at the June transition meeting.

Dina Dornack – President Elect

Barb Brunt – Second Vice-President

Sandy Siedlecki – Treasurer

Patrice McCarthy – Archivist

Leadership Succession Committee (formerly Nominating Committee) – Marie Cobb and

Rose Beeson

Cheryl Buchanan will take over the Faculty Counselor position while Lori Kidd is on leave this coming year

Congratulations to the new officers/board members.

News from Akron Children’s Hospital Reporter: Carol Korman

There were numerous events to celebrate the profession of nursing at Akron Children’s Hospital during Nurses Week. Continuing education included seventeen nursing research presentations, nursing case consultations on assessment and build balance and a presentation on “resiliency” by L .Burnett, President of the Center for Inner Quality.

Five different massage and relaxation sessions were offered, along with a finale on Work/Life Balance yoga/meditation, and two different spa visitations from Scott Talbott’s Salon. Manicures, make-up, and facials were offered by the spa for both day and evening shift.

Along with gift certificates for area restaurants and sporting events, grand prizes included a free nursing conference registration, maid service for two hours, one month free parking in the deck and 8 hours of paid time off. The Nurse Excellence Ceremony honored 26 new/advancing nurses on Children’s Career Ladder, the Nursing Excellence award, and 18 nursing scholarship recipients.



"News from the U" by Chris Wynd



Three doctoral students from the University of Akron campus (Joint PhD in Nursing program with Kent State University) presented research posters at the Midwest Nursing Research Society conference this past April 2006. Jackie Ross presented her beginning research about "Levels of Information Literacy in Members of a Professional Nursing Organization." Jackie received a grant from Delta Omega Chapter this spring to conduct the study. Patricia Galon, who received funding from Delta Omega Chapter last year, presented "Comparison of Health Care Context, Coercion, and Compliance in Persons with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness." Dr. Pat Galon graduated with her PhD on May 14, 2006. Theresa Puckett received 2nd place for her poster entitled, "The Co-Occurrence of Risky Behaviors and Mental Health Issues among Incarcerated Juveniles." Theresa received funding last year from Delta Omega Chapter to support this work. Delta Omega members can be proud of these three doctoral students and the fact that research funding from the chapter is supporting their careers as researchers. In addition, the support from Delta Omega is adding to nursing science through our new researchers and their work.

News from Summa Reporter: Barb Brunt

Cathy Koppelman, MSN, RN, Vice President for Patient Care Services, was accepted for a three-week J&J Nurse Executive Fellowship at Wharton, University of Pennsylvania from June 11 – June 30th. She is one of 40 CNOs from around the world accepted into the program this week.

Seven (7) Summa employees received full tuition nursing scholarships to become an LPN or RN. Winners were announced during the Nurses' Week receptions sponsored by Cathy Koppelman, MSN, RN, Vice-President of Patient Care Services. Donna Hicks received a LPN scholarship. RN Scholarship recipients were: Kim Black, Lori Falat, Ashley LeBarre, Juli McKenzie, James Rossiter, and Amber Dockus.

Tow employees received a \$1,000 Umansky Scholarship. Kathy Hausch, RN, Pulmonary Case Manager, and Sharon Franz, a Nursing Student Tech, were the recipients of these scholarships.

The RN Preceptor Excellence Award winners for both Akron City and Saint Thomas campuses were also recognized during the Nurse's Week celebrations. Barbara Truman, RN, a staff nurse on 3 North, received the ACH Women's Board award, and Mary Storad, RN, CAPA, a staff nurse in Same Day Surgery, received the STH Women's Board Award.

Eileen Fleming, MSN, RN, was recognized by the Delta Omega chapter of Sigma Theta Tau for her nursing excellence. Eileen was presented this award during Nurses Week by Joe Foley, President of the Delta Omega Chapter.

Carol Kridler, MSN, RN SANE-A was the recipient of the Excellence in Preceptorship Award through the National Nursing Staff Development Organization. She will receive this award at the national convention in July in Orlando. Carol also

received Summa's Caring award in the Professional category.

Barbara Brunt, MA, MN, RN, BC was elected as President-Elect of the National Nursing Staff Development Organization. She will start a one year term at the end of convention in July, then will serve a two year term as President of that organization.

Barbara Brunt also had an article on "Nursing: The Finest Art" appear as the featured Med-Surg Matters article in the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses newsletter.

Dave Carpenter, RN from 4 West received the Caring award for nursing. In addition, Joan King received the first Critical Care Shelden Traegar Education Award. Other nurses who received continuing education awards were Deanna Green, RN in the ICU at STH, Sandy Bencivengo, RN, 6 East at ACH, Linda Kiefer, RNFA in the ACH OR, Joan Hermann, RN 2 East at ACH, and Lisa Cheatham-Clark, RN, Doug McGivern, RN, and Peggy Uzl, RN from Oncology. Rachael Bylene from CCU received the Rookie of the year award.

James Rosneck, BSN, MS, RN received the Outstanding Doctoral Candidate Researcher Award from the University of Akron College of Education.

PRESENTATIONS – PAPERS

Claudester Stephens, BS, MT, CIC; Stephen Francis, MD; Virginia Abell, RN, BA, CIC; Joseph DiPersio, PdD; and Patricia Wells, RN, has an article "Emergence of Resistant Acinetobacter Baumannii in Critically Ill Patients with an Acute Care Teaching Hospital and a Long Term Acute Care Hospital" accepted for publication in the American Journal of Infection Control.

James Rosneck, BSN, MS, RN, Donna Waechtler, PhD, I Newman, and R. Josephson had an article on "Interactive Instructional Methods in the Achievement of Risk Factor Learning Outcomes"

published in the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing. James also collaborated with others on an article "Screening for Depression in Phase-II Cardiac Rehabilitation" published in the Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation.

Janice Weinhardt, MSN, RN, CS, Susan Hazelett, MS, RN, D. Jarjoura, and Dr. Allen had an article on "Optimizing Stroke Outcomes: A Model for Post-Stroke Care Management" published in Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association.

PRESENTATIONS – POSTERS

Sherry Stewart, BSN, RN, CCRN has a poster presentation "The Management of Chronic Hypertension in Documented Patients with Coronary Artery Disease through Evidence-Based Standards of Practice" at the program Empowering Nurses through Evidence-Based Practice.

Karen Franz, RNC, Eileen Fleming, MSN, RN, and Denise Kropp, BS presented a poster on "Bilirubin Monitoring in the Special Care Nursery: A Pilot Study" at the Second annual Cleveland Clinic Nursing Research Conference in May.

Karen Robinson, MSN, RN, CNS, Judy Cianci, RN, M Parkman, Dawne Wheeler, BSN, RN, Pam Wilson, RN, Tammi Poteet, RN, and Dr. Chaffee presented a poster on "A Collaborative Approach to Inpatient Care of Heart Failure: Use of the Acute Care for Elders Interdisciplinary Team Model" at the 7th Scientific Forum on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke in Washington DC.

Jan Weinhardt, MSN, RN, CS, Susan Hazelett, MS, RN, David Jarjoura, and Dr. Allen presented a poster on "Optimizing Stroke Outcomes: A Model for Post-Stroke Care Management" at the International Stroke Conference in Kissimmee, Florida.

INVITED TALKS/CLASSES

Karen Robinson, MSN, RN, CNS and Carolyn Holder, MSN, RN did a teleconference on “Transforming Healthcare: A Systems Approach” in April for KePro.

Lorraine Fields, MSN, CNRN, CCRN, CCNS and several other national experts presented a “CNRN Review Course” at the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) 38th annual meeting “Excellence/Creativity/Compassion: The Driving Forces of Neuroscience Nursing” in San Diego, California. Their presentations will be the basis of a Neuroscience Curriculum being published by AANN.

James Rosnick, BSN, MS, RN presented “Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehab Program Design” at the Ohio Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Northeast Ohio District Meeting.

Janice Weinhardt, MSN, RN, CS and Dr. Kyle Allen presented “Improving the Quality and Cost Effectiveness of Stroke Care for the Community Hospitals: The Impact of an Organized Comprehensive Stroke Unit” at the Active Communications International Forth National Conference on Adding, Updating, and Expanding Comprehensive Stroke Center for Hospitals and Health Systems in Washington DC.

International Healthcare – Nursing in Germany Haley Minette Bober

As I have completed my sophomore year of college, and my first year in the nursing program, I have always looked into the future and wanted an international experience. Never did I think that I would take part in a class that not only studied international healthcare, but actually went to Germany. I have wanted to go to Germany since my freshman year of high school when I began taking German which I chose to take because my ancestors were from Germany. When this travel abroad opportunity arose, I took it with great ambition. Overall, this experience has been fantastic and I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world. There was so much that I learned, about German culture, healthcare and nursing. Even though I believe this class was the best cultural experience a nurse could possibly have in school, it also had many personal advantages. I truly think that this experience will make me a better nurse.

I have to admit that it was somewhat scary, trying to transition smoothly into another culture. I wanted to hold onto my personal beliefs, but also accept another culture’s beliefs and explore these differences diligently. I found out that it was rather easy to do this! When in a country or place that is unknown to you, you learn things day by day: what to do, what not to do, and most importantly you learn about yourself. I feel a cultural class with the lecture component will teach students about the culture, but when you actually are participating hands on in another country and culture, it is much more beneficial. We learn best by doing, especially in nursing. We can’t actually learn how to use therapeutic communication by listening to a professor lecture; we learn this by practicing this skill in a clinical setting with our clients. Adapting to clients of a culturally diverse background is the same story. You can read or hear about it all you want, but in the end, you will get the most from actually participating.

As I said above, this has been a wonderful experience. I have grown as a person and as a nursing student, and I feel as though this

background will prepare me for the cultural differences I will see in the workplace. Lastly, I would like to give many thanks and appreciation to the Delta Omega Chapter, International Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau for helping make my trip possible with their generous scholarship.

Proposal Regarding Office of National Nurse

To hardworking and dedicated Public Health Nurses, every day we read another statistic about the decline of our healthcare system. Just this past January, the New York Times published a four part series on Type 2 diabetes and how it is crippling our children and economy. How many patients did you assess this week with problems that could have been prevented with nurse teaching? As nurses, we know that education can stop the epidemic of preventable diseases sweeping our nation. We know we can do better. That is why we are proposing a pragmatic and cost saving intervention- the establishment of an Office of the National Nurse. House Resolution 4903, the bill introduced on March 8th, 2006 to create an Office of the National Nurse includes a National Nurse appointed by the HHS Secretary to (1) involve all Americans in preventive health practices instead of focusing on specific populations; (2) complement health services already in place, for instance the work of the Surgeon General, CDC, HHS, or American Diabetes Association; and (3) establish volunteer national nurse teams, under the supervision of a nursing coordinator in each state, to deliver preventive educational programs in their communities. To read more about this important piece of legislation please visit our website, www.nationalnurse.org and sign up to receive our newsletters to find out ways you can help HR 4903 receive a hearing. Your input as public health nurses is crucial to building a strong foundation upon which a national nurse program can flourish to improve the health of our nation. For more information visit www.nationalnurse.org and become part of this exciting process.

Sincerely, Teri Mills, RN, MS, ANP
(teri@nationalnurse.info) Alisa Schneider, RN,
MSN, CNE (alisa.schneider@pcc.edu) National
Nurse Campaign Coordinators Portland, OR

The above PR was recently published in Utah to call attention to the new legislative proposal (HR#4903) to create an Office of the National Nurse. Regardless of personal political affiliations, I think most nurses would agree, the U.S. healthcare system needs help! A National Nurse may not be able to address all issues, but such a visible office could well serve our nation as a champion of prevention practices and provider of current understandable health promotion messages. A popular National Nurse figure could also stimulate recruitment of young people into nursing and other health professions. Nurses are directly engaged with the public and national polls repeatedly show they are trusted above most other professions. Nurses know what the needs are, how to address them and what actions are needed to result in positive health outcomes. Collectively nurses could be a powerful force in shaping decisions and direction for much needed healthcare reform. The response to Teri Mills original Opinion Letter proposing a National Nurse and published earlier in the New York Times has been widespread. Please share this information with your nurses and encourage their awareness and interest in this unique effort. Thank you.

Susan Sullivan, RN MSN
Public Health Nurse
Orange County, California

VII. Campaign for the Office of National Nurse

Teri Mills, an advanced practice nurse and nurse educator at Portland (OR) Community College, is spearheading a campaign to create an Office of the National Nurse at the federal level. Mills envisions the office as complementing the Office of the Surgeon General and focusing on the following goals:



- Involving all Americans in preventive health practices
- Complementing health services already in place
- Establishing volunteer national nurse teams to deliver nursing assistance and education to communities in crisis
- Giving the nursing profession the national attention it needs to solve the current shortage of nurses

The Office of the National Nurse would not replace or compete with existing services but rather reinforce the message of prevention. Mills and her colleagues travel the United States to garner support and have approached Congress. House Resolution #4903 was introduced by Representative Lois Capps of California on March 8, 2006. For additional information, see the website at: www.nationalnurse.blogspot.com/



SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA FOR AND BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



Sigma Theta Tau International is the honor society of nursing committed to fostering excellence, scholarship and leadership in nursing to improve health care worldwide. The Society promotes the use of nursing research in health care delivery and makes its resources available to all people and

institutions interested in the latest knowledge in nursing care. Sigma Theta Tau International was founded in 1922 and has a membership of more than 120,000 members active in more than 90 countries. It has chapters located at 523 college and university schools of nursing worldwide. 45% of the Society's members are clinicians, 20% are administrators or supervisors, and 19% are educators. 65% of its members hold master's and/or doctoral degrees.

Nurses may become members of Sigma Theta Tau International by establishing eligibility through the following criteria. Once eligibility is established, potential members are invited to place an application.

Membership Criteria:

Undergraduate students must:

- have completed ½ of the nursing curriculum;
- have at least a GPA of 3.0 (based on a 4.0 grading scale);
- rank in the upper 35 percentile of the graduating class;
- meet the expectation of academic integrity.

RN students must:

- have completed 12 credit hours at current school;
- have completed ½ of the nursing curriculum;
- have at least a GPA of 3.0 (based on a 4.0 grading scale);
- rank in the upper 35 percentile of graduating class;
- meet the expectation of academic integrity.

Graduate students (Master's and Doctorate) must:

- have completed ¼ of the nursing curriculum;
- have at least a GPA of 3.5 (based on a 4.0 grading scale);
- meet the expectation of academic integrity.

Nurse Leaders must:

- be a registered nurse, legally recognized to practice in his/her country;
- hold at least a baccalaureate degree in nursing or other field;
- have demonstrated achievement in nursing.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

From scholarship to research, bedside to teaching, business and beyond, nurses of today and tomorrow have more opportunities than ever to touch the lives of people across the globe. The Honor Society of Nursing is here to support your career through a wide variety of member benefits and services.

Publications

- Reflections on Nursing Leadership, a four-color nursing news magazine
- Excellence - a customized issue-oriented online newsletter
- Journal of Nursing Scholarship, a peer-reviewed health-care journal

Career Resources

- [CareerMap](#) - online, print and person-to-person opportunities to help advance your career
- [Continuing Education](#) - through chapter programming and Online Case Studies for Nursing
- Networking opportunities
- Chapter activities - opportunities to share ideas with nurse scholars and clinicians from around the world
- Directory of Nurse Leaders - a complete listing of active Sigma Theta



Tau members and their contact information

- [Online Member Community](#) - connecting members worldwide through chats and e-forums

Research

- [Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library](#) - immediate access to nursing research and information
- [Online Literature Review and Book Review](#) - weekly e-bulletins providing the latest customized information on newly published nursing books and articles
- [Small Research Grants](#) - Grant opportunities from the society and our joint partners

[Chapter Activities](#) - experience first hand the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International through your local chapter. You will receive publications, have the chance to interact with other nurses in your area, participate in research conferences, receive research grants, serve on committees and assemblies, and much more.

There are 406 chapters on 503 college and university campuses worldwide.

International activities - you may reach beyond your local community to interact with colleagues and benefit from research conferences, biennial conventions, regional assemblies, "think tanks" and other nursing and health care-related activities.

[CareerMap](#) - Managing your career with purpose! Let Sigma Theta Tau assist you every step of your nursing career...whether you're thinking of nursing as a career, are an RN looking for new directions, or working towards a fulfilling retirement. Services include, but aren't limited to:

- [NTN NurseNet!](#) - a customized employment search database
- Career advice service - nurse experts answer your career questions
- Career profiles - online [profiles of members](#) in several specialty areas and work settings

[Member Community](#) - this online resource connects members world wide. Benefits now available include:

- e-Forum - debate important industry issues with other society members. Topics may include the nursing shortage and career advice

- Directory of Nurse Leaders - a searchable directory of society members
- Journal of Nursing Scholarship - the society's renowned research journal is now available electronically. Members may choose online vs. print delivery.

[Financial Services](#) - a no annual fee *Platinum Plus*sm or Preferred MasterCard® credit card program from MBNA America Bank, N.A. [Click here!](#)

[Publications](#) - print and electronic publications are distributed through Center Nursing Press, the society's internal publishing unit, and through the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library.

[Journal of Nursing Scholarship](#) - Free to active members, \$39 value - One of the most widely read and respected health care journals today.

[Reflections on Nursing Leadership](#) - Free to active members, \$23 value - an award-winning four-color news magazine featuring contemporary articles on nurses at the forefront of change.

[Excellence](#) - Free to active members - Three issues-oriented newspapers providing members with customized information pertinent to their individual needs. Members select from Clinical Practice, Nursing Administration or Nursing Education.

[You Belong Here](#) - an online newsletter for newly inducted members featuring industry news and targeted for early career nurses.

[Books](#) - peer-reviewed works covering many topics including health care, communication, education models, health policy and more.

[My Info Search](#) - enables you, through the Book Review for Nursing and the Literature Review for Nursing, to customize your searches to specific areas of interest.

[Online Book Review for Nursing](#) - Free to Active Members - This service features more than 72,000 books and electronic media titles and expert reviews in 140 health science specialties. Members subscribing to this free service receive weekly e-mail bulletins about newly published books in their specialty areas. It



also includes a specialty filter of the National Library of Medicines MEDLINE® database, using research strategies prepared by an expert in MEDLINE® searching. Members receive a 10% discount on books when ordering online.

Online Literature Review for Nursing - Subscribe to this new service and save time and money by letting someone else sift through more than 8,000 new articles listed each week in MEDLINE®. A subscription includes weekly, customized e-mail bulletins about new articles, reviews, abstracts, ratings and expert commentary in your specific areas of interest.

Continuing Education Credits - may be earned through scholarly programs on the society's [Web site](#) or at the chapter, regional and international events. These programs are designed to provide members with opportunities for personal and professional growth.

[Directory of Nurse Experts](#) - consider using society members as resources. More than 300 nurse experts in a variety of specialty areas - from Alternative Care to Women's Health - are available for you to contact!

[Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library](#) - Access to current nursing research data and study findings available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Literature Indexes - Free to Active Members - These indexes will give you access to nursing (and some biomedical) literature indexes in MEDLINE, the International Nursing Index and the Registry of Nursing Research. Available indexes include:

- The Nursing Research indexes cover all nursing journals since 1996 in which 50% or more articles are research related.
- The Health-Specific Indexes include research on a specific health problem or process.
- The Registry of Nursing Research Index of Findings by Variables (studied together) is more precise than other knowledge indexes

because only variables studied together are used as index terms.

The Registry of Nursing Research - Free to Active Members - The Registry is a unique electronic database that holds scientific nursing research relevant to clinical practice.

The Online Journal of Knowledge Synthesis for Nursing (OJKSN)- The OJKSN provides access to full-text, integrative reviews of research that guide nursing practice. All articles are peer-reviewed and authored by research/clinician teams.

Opportunities to be published - there are four opportunities to submit your work for publication - the Online Journal of Knowledge Synthesis for Nursing; Journal of Nursing Scholarship, the scholarly books and the Online Case Studies for Nursing. There is also a program to assist you in publishing your work - the [Distinguished Writers Program](#).

Research Grants - members receive priority when applying for research funds through the Small Grants Program and co-sponsored Grants Program.

Awards and Recognition for excellence in the areas of nursing research, education, practice, leadership, informatics, multimedia and writing.

Governance, leadership and volunteer opportunities abound at the international, regional and chapter levels including elective and appointive positions.

Support the Mission through well-managed endowment funds that will secure the future of nursing. Contributions may be made via: cash gifts, pledges, honoraria, royalties, securities, life insurance or planned gifts.



[Chiron: The Mentor-Fellow Forum](#), an individualized program with three channels to develop leadership skills - as a fellow, one-on-one mentoring within a group for nurses early in their careers; as a senior fellow, for experienced professionals to strengthen current skills or develop new ones; and as a mentor.

Sigma Theta Tau International



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