



**Sigma Theta Tau**  
**International Honor Society of Nursing**  
**THE DELTA REPORT**  
**DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER**



Summer 2008

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Sigma Theta Tau, International  
[www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org)

Delta Omega  
<http://www2.uakron.edu/deltaomega/>

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Members of Delta Omega,

Hope everyone is having a wonderful start to the summer season. Our chapter has had many successes over the past four months that meet Dr. Carol Huston's Presidential Call to



Action. This success doesn't come easy. Much time and energy has come from the Board and our members/students to get us where we are today and I thank each of you. Many of these successes will be found throughout this edition of the newsletter. We have continued to create and share knowledge with our colleagues and students through the Combined Chapter Program held in February with Dr. Carol Huston's talk on the Leadership Journey and our most recent Business Meeting/Spring Program that was held in May. We were thrilled to have chapter members present their research and process improvement projects to us. Thanks to Kim Young - Akron Children's Hospital, Stephanie Clubbs – AGMC, Paula Thraser – AGMC and Carrie Majko – newly inducted senior student for sharing your expertise. Karen Mascolo, second vice president continues to do a wonderful job with our chapter programming. On an International level, I encourage everyone to consider attending The Leadership Academy in Indianapolis, Indiana the weekend of September 25-27, 2008. More information can be found on the STTI website @ [nursinghonorsociety.org](http://nursinghonorsociety.org). There's also a free sleep and chronobiology course online through the STTI website.

As you're taking time to enjoy the pleasures of summer think of one way you can get involved with Delta Omega in 2008-2009. We are starting to discuss doing a global health initiative on the chapter level. Anyone with connections in another country or interest in participating on a global health task force please feel free to contact me. As I've said previously, there are many ways to challenge your self as a member of STTI. I encourage you to get the most out of your membership by utilizing the resources on the honor society web site, getting involved at the chapter level with programming, service projects and bringing new ideas to the Board. Hope your summer is a splash!

*Dina*

Dina Dornack  
President, Delta Omega Chapter, STTI

## *Spring 2008 Induction*

### *Welcome to Our Newest Members*



Sixty-seven nurses and nursing students were inducted into Sigma Theta Tau this spring. The induction ceremony was held at the Martin University Center on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. This is the first year that junior nursing students were invited to join. Welcome to the following new members.



**Community leaders:** Linda Breedlove, Jean Christopher, Kristie Oles, Denise Ready, Diane Sprankle, and Michele Wilmoth

**Graduate students:** Debra Ann Albert, Cristen Breary, Julie Del Blaso, Shannon Davis, Erin Heleen Discenza, Brandy Funni, Alishea Gay, Amy Grebenstein, Julie Lalli, Collette LaValey, Meshelle Antrenette Lynch, Rebecca Michaels, Judy Lynne Miskey, Jodi Padrutt, Kirandeep Rakkar, Kathleen Marie Reagan, Joyce Maureen Restifo, Rebecca Joyce Schreck, Lynn Marie Szoka, Jennifer Thomas, and Lara Lindsey Van Huysen.



**Undergraduate students:** Nicholette Wise Black, Tonya Campbell, Jessica Ann Campobasso, Riki Lee Darke, Jennifer Marie Davis, Donna Kay DeChant, Caitlin Gwen Dix, Bianca Angela Fragomeni, Laura Garba, Jessica Lynn George, Katherine Goodrich, Stephanie Rae Graham, Joanne

Hollins, M. Bridget Kerr, Monica Ann Klaus, Amanda R Lama, Debra D. Lehr, Michelle Lynn Lloyd, Ryan McBeth, Emily Elizabeth McDonough, Carrie Jean Majka, Salma Mansour, Rebecca Sue Meade, Alexandra Miller, Rebecca Neeley-Rollins, Aileen Klope Niehaus, Larissa Ann Olson, Carol Ann Pehotsky, Andrea Lynn Pertz, Erica Portis, Martina Secnik-Impala, Valerie Shiderly, Doris Singer, Jenette Stillwell, Lynnea Tinl, Josephine Velasquez, Marva Yvette Walker, Tara Lynn Warholic, Miranda Weller, and Katherine Yovanovich.

**Recognition Awards:** All nominations were reviewed and considered by the committee.



The following selection was made:

### **Lillian DeYoung Research Reward**

Carol (Carrie) Scotto

### **Marilyn "Jinx" Grelson Community Research**

Marguerite (Peg) DiMarco

### **Excellence in Nursing Leadership**

Cheryl Buchanan

### **Excellence in Nursing Practice Pam Eaton**

### **Excellence in Nursing Education Cheryl Liberton**

### **Excellence in Nursing Research Carolyn Holder**

### **Utilization of Nursing Research Paula Thrasher**

### **Excellence in Nurse Mentoring Anita Meehan**

### **Outstanding Graduate Student Lisa Davis**

### **Outstanding Undergraduate Student Carrie Majka**

The person (s) receiving the following award was decided by the Delta Omega Chapter Board.

### **Outstanding Contribution to the Chapter Dina Dornack; Barbara Brunt**

### **Delta Omega Research Awards**

1. Elaine Fisher, *Generation of Gut C)2 Under Dysoxic Conditions in Rats*; funded for \$2242.00.
2. Lisa Davis, *Fever Phobia: An Educational Approach*; funded for \$400.00
3. Carrie Gavriloff, *Nurse Mentoring Study*; funded for \$1900.00.

### **Science Fair Award Winners**

The Delta Omega Chapter presented a certificate of achievement with a \$50 monetary award for "Best Nursing Related Project" to two local High School Students.

Akron Science and Technology EXPO winner was 7<sup>th</sup> grader Cassidy Harrison for her project "Don't Rush the Brush."

The Western Reserve District Science Fair winner was 11<sup>th</sup> grader Jessica Foreman for "Examining the Alteration of the Action Potential and its Affects on the Brugada Syndrome."

Criteria utilized in determining the winners were;

- Can the project be applied to the field of nursing ?
- Does the project promote awareness of health and/or medicine?
- Is there evidence of nursing or medicine related research in the student journal and/or literature search?

**Spring Program**  
**“Practice Pearls”**  
*Research and Evidenced Based*  
*Practice Presentations*

Was held May 19, 2008 At Akron Children’s Hospital



Left to right is Paula Thrasher, Kim Young and Carrie Majka. Additional speaker not in the photo was Stephanie Clubbs.

Paula and Stephanie are in staff development at AGMC. They presented *The Impact of Educational Initiatives on Performance Outcome of Newly Graduated RNs*.

Kim is the director of surgical services at Akron Children's Hospital. She presented *Using Evidence Based Practice to Improve Surgical Efficiencies*.

Carrie Majka is a newly inducted member who presented her senior honor's project, *The Effect of Animal Therapy on Comfort and Pain Scores in Hospitalized Children*.

**Nurse Recognition Week**  
**Delta Omega Excellence in Nursing Practice**  
**Awards**

The Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice recognizes dedicated clinical nurses from area Hospitals who provide high quality care. The individuals are selected by each institution. They do not have to be a member of STTI currently but would be a good choice to elect into STTI as a

nurse leader in the near future. This nurse does some, if not all of the following:

- ❖ Demonstrates knowledge in area of clinical nursing practice
- ❖ Develops creative approaches to nursing practice that contribute to quality client care
- ❖ Possesses the clinical expertise and the attributes of a clinical scholar
- ❖ Advances the scope and practice of nursing
- ❖ Serves as mentor/preceptor that inspires peers’ practice of nursing
- ❖ Influences the practice of nursing through communication
- ❖ Enhances the image of nursing through one’s nursing practice
- ❖ Participates in community affairs, legislation, or organizations that affect nursing practice

Each awardee received their award along with a \$50 monetary gift.

**Awardees**

Debra Wolff - Robinson Memorial Hospital

Carrie Gavrilloff - Akron Children's Hospital

Anita Meehan – AGMC

Unhee Kim - Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital

Monica Dever - Akron City Hospital/Summa.

**Delta Omega Out and About**  
**Celebrating Nurses Week**

**Article in Akron Beacon Journal May 8, 2008**

Did you see the article in the Akron Beacon Journal? The Delta Omega Chapter announced receiving its 8<sup>th</sup> Key Award and shared a little bit of information about who we are and what we do. We also had an ad congratulating our newest members.

**Research Table at CCF**

In honor of Nurses Week, the Delta Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau was a sponsor of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cleveland Clinic Nursing Research Conference: Smooth Sailing through Nursing Research. This

conference was held at the Cleveland Clinic Administrative Campus in Beachwood, Ohio. Many conference attendees visited our table to obtain information about Sigma Theta Tau and information about how to become a member and become involved. Many of our members are employees of the Cleveland Clinic or Cleveland Clinic System Facilities, and it was a pleasure to be able to be a sponsor of this annual nursing research conference.

## Congratulations!!!

### New Board Members

- Peg DiMarco

Congratulations to the new officers and thank you to everyone for agreeing to run for Sigma offices. Sixty people voted. New officers read the email below- you will be sworn in at our board meeting. Thanks again to everyone who agreed to be on the ballot.

### PRES-ELECT

#### ***Barb Brunt***

Director of Nursing Education and Staff Development, Summa Health System. Received her nursing degree from Lima Technical College and her MN (masters in nursing) from University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland. Barb served as co-editor of newsletter from 2000 to 2004 and has been the Newsletter editor from 2004 to 2007. She serves as second VP from 2006- present.

### SECOND VP

#### ***Paula K. Thrasher***

Paula is an Instructor in Staff Development & Nursing Research at Akron General Medical Center. She received her diploma from Aultman Hospital School of Nursing, her BSN from Walsh College (University), and her MSN from the University of Akron. She is a Delta Omega Member.

### TREASURER

#### ***Patti Crawford***

Patti is a Chief Nursing Officer in Ashland, Oh. She served on the financial committee for Delta Omega.

### ARCHIVIST

#### ***Carrie Scott***

Carrie is an Assistant Professor at The University of Akron. She received her BSN and MSN from The University of Akron and her PhD from Duquesne University. She is a Delta Omega Member

### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### ***Cheryl Sadler***

Cheryl Sadler is an Associate Professor of Nursing at The University of Akron. She received her PhD from The University of Akron. She has been very active in Delta Omega Chapter.

#### ***Sandra Siedlecki***

Sandra is a Senior Nurse Researcher, Department of Nursing Research & Innovation, Cleveland Clinic. Received BSN and MSN from The University of Akron and PhD from Case Western Reserve University. Sandy is a 2007 ANF Scholar and was treasurer for delta omega 2006-2008. She has been a chapter member since 1991.

**Congratulations and welcome!** Please come **Monday, June 23rd 5 pm – 7pm** to our **Transition Meeting** for incoming and outgoing officers. We typically bring food and take the time to mentor the new members of the board. The meeting is held at the University of Akron College of Nursing in the Delta Omega Room. Room may change due to the number of people typically in attendance.



were given to Denise Bode, T3 and Val Bosz, T2, and Florence and Wilfred Weaver Education Awards to Denise Dollinger, CCU and Andi Cullion, 5 West.

The following three nurses all received a \$1,000 Umansky scholarship: Theresa Flohr, Special Care Nursery, Brigitte Hill, Home Care Maternal Touch, and Patricia McCormick, Outpatient Surgery/PACU.

Marilyn Nibling, MSN, APRN-BC, Wendy Miller, RN, Lisa Dukeman, RN, and Barbara Brunt, MA, MN, RN-BC received the 2008 Barbara Donaho Distinguished Leadership in Learning Award from Kent State University.

Barbara Brunt, MA, MN, RN-BC had a book *Evidence-Based Competency Management System: Tools for Assessment and Validation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Published by HCPro. In addition she did a national audioconference with Donna Chase on “Evidence Based Competencies: Assessment and Validation Tools to Ensure Patient Safety” sponsored by HCPro, April 14, 2008

Jane Tapp, MSN, RN-BC did poster presentations at the VA Conference on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> on “Measuring the anti-fat attitudes of hospital staff” and “Assessing the Nurses’ Actual and Perceived Knowledge of Diabetes Management Before and After Implementation of an Educational Intervention.” She also did a paper presentation on the diabetes study and a poster presentation on the anti-fat attitudes at Robinson’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Nursing Research Day on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Karen Robinson, MSN, RN, CNS and Andrea Cullion, RN had a poster presentation on “Change Can Be a Good Thing: Enhancing Patient Education for Heart Failure” at Robinson’s research day also.

## Upcoming Delta Omega Meetings

M – June 23 5p-7p Transition Mtg – MGH DO RM  
M – Aug 25 5p – 6:30p Board Mtg  
M – Sept 22 5p – 6:30 p Board Mtg  
H – Oct 9 6pm -8pm Fall Program – SAVE THE DATE\*  
M – Oct 27 5p – 6:30pm Board Mtg

## Upcoming Events and Notices

### Deadlines set for Delta Omega Research Grant Applications

Research as one component of scholarship is part of the mission of the Delta Omega Chapter. Historically research proposals have been funded for novice researchers as well as more advanced researchers. This year \$6500 has been allocated to support research projects. The deadline is September 15, 2008. Applications and procedures are on the Delta Omega Chapter website which can be found at <http://www2.uakron.edu/deltaomega/Grants.htm>. Any additional questions please contact Marlene Huff, Research Grants and Recognition Chair @ [mhuff@uakron.edu](mailto:mhuff@uakron.edu).

### Save the Date: July 7 – 11, 2008

#### 19<sup>th</sup> International Nursing Research Congress, Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice.

Note: the Delta Omega Chapter has made an annual contribution to Sigma Theta Tau International Foundation for Nursing’s leadership endowment in honor of its founding advisor Dr. Lillian DeYoung. The donation is designed to provide financial assistance to a Delta Omega or Region 10 member whose abstract has been accepted for presentation at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Research Congress.

On behalf of the Delta Omega Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Foundation will provide one Dr. Lillian DeYoung Leadership Education Grant at USD 400 for registration fees and travel expenses associated with attending the 19<sup>th</sup> International Nursing Research Congress. To be eligible for the Dr. Lillian DeYoung Leadership Education Grant you must be (1) an active member of Sigma Theta Tau International Delta Omega Chapter (preferred) or of another chapter in Region 10 and (2) find it difficult if not impossible to attend the Biennial Convention without financial support. Application deadline April 21, 2008.

Applications available from Sigma Theta Tau International. Toll free 1-888-634-7575 or [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org)

**Save the Date: September 25 – 27, 2008****STTI Leadership Academy**, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Experience the best in leadership training the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International has to offer! The honor society's Leadership Academy, with its revised format, will help you:

- Develop and apply leadership skills.
- Think creatively about building strong communities.
- Prepare for your role as chapter and community leaders.
- Connect with peers.
- Earn continuing education credits.
- Have fun.

Check it out: at

[www.nursingsociety.org?LeadershipInstitute](http://www.nursingsociety.org?LeadershipInstitute)

**Visit the Calendar of Events on our website for important deadlines and upcoming events:**  
<http://www2.uakron.edu/deltaomega/Calendar.htm>

**Sigma Theta Tau  
Member-get-a Member Campaign****Do you know an excellent nurse?**

Honor friends and colleagues who are not yet members with an invitation to apply!

Between October 2007 and September 2008 you have the opportunity to refer friends or colleagues for honor society nurse leader membership.

By participating, you will be entered into US \$50 quarterly prize drawings for referrals and a US \$250 grand prize drawing for referrals that result in an induction.

Details are available on the honor society's web site at [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org) under Campaigns in the Membership section.

**SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL  
CRITERIA FOR AND BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP  
can be found in the Fall 2007 issue of the Delta Report**

