



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



Winter 2006

Editor – Barbara Brunt

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Joseph Foley, RN

Greetings My Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and Happy New Year, My Dear Colleagues!

The Christmas decorations are down, it's cold, drab and dingy outside, and how many of us have already given up on our New Years Resolutions? I know I haven't yet lost that fifty pounds I resolved to lose!! We all know that the loftier our aspirations, the harder they are to achieve. The key to successful New Year's resolutions is to make them simple and to be persistent and not give up completely for relapsing. Perhaps, re-examining our goals and setting more realistic expectations for ourselves may be the key to achieving permanent changes in our lives.



It is to this end that I encourage each of you to take a closer look at your involvement with Delta Omega. At the International Convention in November, I found that lack of involvement in chapter activities is an almost universal phenomenon. It is so widespread, that our new President Carol Picard has addressed it in her Strategic Plan for the next biennium. Our resolutions are to get more members involved in smaller projects and short-term programs, so that involvement of the chapter at large is increased and there is less dependence on fewer members to do it all. Nothing is more frustrating than volunteering for a project and finding you are the solitary helper. How often have you heard a colleague say..."that's the last time I sign up..."? The more each of you is involved, the less this type of thing will occur. How much better to hear "I have a really good idea about..."

The Board is committed to this concept, but it takes a lot of trust and involvement from everyone to make this concept a reality. My thanks go out to Dina Dornack and all the members who participated in the Christmas gift-wrapping at the Open M Ministry. What a great feeling to spend a few hour wrapping presents for the less fortunate...it is what Christmas is all about. We will be serving lunch at Open M and could surely use as much help as we can get. The co-sponsored Winter program was cancelled unfortunately, but the Spring Research Program is fast approaching; please contact Karen Mascolo if you would like to help with that. Induction is also coming up quickly; remember, this is not just for new members, but also for the chapter members to demonstrate support and welcome of new members. Please contact Joan Stapf if you have any photographs or chapter memorabilia, as she is working on updating the archives. Are you interested in writing short stories or proofreading? Please contact Barb Brunt: she would delight in the chance to work with you on the newsletter! These are just a few of the many opportunities available or participation. I encourage each of you to check the calendar on the Delta Omega website and give one of the board member or myself a call. Only you know what interests you and what your expertise is, so by all means, give us a call!

Speaking of expertise, I also encourage each of you to visit the International website: www.nursingsociety.com and take a few moments to fill out the “*Volunteer Interest Profile*”. You will need your member number to sign on; the Delta Omega chapter number is 118. There are a series of questions in a variety of categories for you to fill out. This will be entered into the International database; this allows our chapter to access the activities that you yourself have identified as personal interests and strengths, so that we may contact you to participate in those specific types of activities. The more of you who complete the profile, the easier it will be for our chapter to elicit involvement. It will make our concept of increased member involvement a reality! The international website is also packed with updates, information from Convention, online journals, and even a catalogue of products to purchase online. Do you need to renew your membership? Don’t worry, you can even do this online at the website. Please take advantage of this wonderful resource...its at the touch of a finger, and the click of a mouse.

Convention was an amazing experience. It was my first time attending, and I was very impressed. The list of events, informational sessions and concurrent sessions was phenomenal! Anything you could think of or want in a convention was there from sessions on using the online induction system, to chapter fundraising, to every type of clinical nursing including pediatrics through geriatrics. We also had an opportunity to meet our new Region 10 coordinator and the international members from Canada. It turned out to be a great opportunity to network. (And here I thought that Sigma Theta Tau International was just for researchers!) Be sure to check out the Convention Highlights!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Christine Wynd for her participation in the International elections. She ran her campaign for International Vice President, and although she was not elected, she represented Delta Omega valiantly despite having her posters and handouts stolen and faced torrential rains and hotel fires to replace them. Thanks also to Charlene Calabrese for helping to retrieve and email these items to Chris...oh the wonders of the World Wide Web! Also, many thanks to Wanda Franklin, and Martha Conrad for your participation in convention. The two delegates from Delta Omega Chapter for the next biennium are myself and Sue Lehman-Trzynka. We will be responsible for representing the membership of Delta Omega in the ongoing issues at the International level by voting on-line on such issues; so again, feedback from YOU the members of Delta Omega is essential.

We still have our work cut out for us, but all things can be achieved with the efforts and involvement of each and every one of you. Please, be **resolved** to help us meet the challenges head on! All the best to you in this New Year.

Until next time...

Joe

Joseph Foley
President, Delta Omega



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 meetings will be held at 5:30 pm in Mary Gladwin Hall, 101-F, The University of Akron, College of Nursing unless otherwise noted.

- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22, location TBA
- June 26, location TBA

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/>
email: ftracie@uakron.edu

SPRING COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AT OPEN-M

Help the Delta Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International give back to the community. The *Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry (OPEN-M)* is a church-sponsored, non-profit, neighborhood-based, comprehensive ministry in Akron. We would like to bring together members (old and new) from Delta Omega Chapter to prepare and serve a hot lunch to the community at OPEN-M. The date is February 27th from 10 am-2 pm. We would love to have you join us.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY:

OPEN-M Walk to be held May 6th details will be provided at a later date.



On December 15th from 5:00pm - 7:00 pm, Delta Omega members met at Open-M to help wrap Christmas presents. Thanks to all that participated.

Save The Date

Sigma Theta Tau Induction Ceremony
and Awards Presentations
Saturday April 22rd
The Martin University Center
Breakfast at 9:30 followed by induction
ceremony at 10:30

Contact Lori Kidd for more info.
330-972-6703

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)



Updates:

The Spring meeting scheduled for February 2nd. was cancelled.

SAVE THE DATE

The Akron Canton Clinical Nursing Research Network, in collaboration with the Delta Omega chapter, will be presenting an all day program on Evidence-based Practice on Wednesday May 24, 2006. This program will be held at Akron Children's. Watch your email/mail for the call for abstracts for this program.

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

ATTENTION NURSE LEADERS WANTED –

The Delta Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing is looking for Nurse Leaders who are interested in becoming members. A nurse leader candidate needs to meet the following criteria: legally recognized to practice nursing, minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field and demonstrate achievement in nursing. Listed below are examples of achievement in nursing:

- Creativity/Innovation in clinical practice
- Leadership qualities contributing to improved health care
- Teaching
- Administration
- Curriculum development
- Improvement of the status of nursing organizations
- Innovative student-focused learning approaches
- Research development utilization
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Staff development
- Mentoring of colleagues
- Innovative professional recognition of programs

Sigma Theta Tau International Vision/Mission***A Vision to Lead:***

To create a global community of nurses who lead in using scholarship, knowledge and technology to improve the health of the world's people.

A Mission to Serve, Support and Improve:

Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing provides leadership and scholarship in practice, education and research to enhance the health of all people. We support the learning and professional development of our members, who strive to improve nursing care worldwide.

If you are interested in membership please contact Joe Foley in the PICU or Dina Dornack with Trauma Services. Interested Nurse Leaders need to

submit an application and current curriculum vitae by March 1, 2006 to the Delta Omega Chapter. The induction of new candidates will be in April.

**REGARDING MEMBERSHIP
WE ARE UPDATING OUR RECORDS!**

Please notify Tracie Epner via email at fracie@uakron.edu for the following:

*Any member that moves, or changes their address, or knows of someone who has moved or changed their address.

*Any member who knows of another member who has been deceased.

*Any member that has moved into our area and wishes to transfer their membership to Delta Omega.

*Any member that knows of an inactive member who wishes to become active.

If any active member has a friend or knows of someone who is inactive, please encourage them to rejoin. We would like to keep our membership growing!

WELCOME DELTA OMEGA'S NEW OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The following information is provided so that members have a little bit of information about the individuals who are serving the chapter in leadership positions. The last newsletter had information about Joe Foley (President), Karen Mascola (1st Vice President), Dina Dornack (2nd Vice President), Lori Kidd (Counselor), and Joan Stapf (Archivist). This issue will include the other board members/committee chairs.

Sue Lehman-Trzynka assumed the duties of treasurer when Carolyn Schubert, the former treasurer, left the area. Sue served as a delegate to the STTI Convention last November, and currently is a faculty member at the University of Akron College of Nursing.

Marlene Huff is the recording secretary for the chapter, as well as Chair of the Research Grants and Recognition Committee. She currently is a faculty member at the University of Akron College of Nursing, and has been a member of Delta Omega for many years.

Barb Brunt is currently the Newsletter Editor. She started as co-editor of the newsletter in 2000, and became the editor when Chris Wynd resigned as co-editor in the fall of 2004. Barb currently is the Director of Nursing Education and Staff Development at Summa Health System, and has been a Delta Omega member for 6 years. She enjoys swimming, reading, and writing. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in the chapter without having a big time commitment, please let Barb know – she is looking for a co-editor to transition into the editor role in a couple years.

Carol Brodbeck recently started her term as corresponding secretary. Until just recently she worked for Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates as the director of the education department. Currently she is the Program Coordinator of the Accelerated BSN Option program at the University of Akron College of Nursing. She has been a Delta Omega member for 15 years, and previously served as President of the Delta Omega chapter. Her clinical specialty is diabetes management, particularly the prevention of diabetic foot problems. Personally, her interests include hiking, exercise, and lawn work, as well as reading, especially history.

Peg DiMarco is Eligibility Committee Chair, and also Chair of the Nominating Committee. This is her first year in this role. She has been a member of Delta Omega for many years and is a pediatric nurse practitioner who works as a faculty member at the University of Akron. She has been doing research with the homeless at the ACCESS shelter – see related article in the research section.

Tracie Epner was recently hired to assume the duties of Administrative Assistant for the chapter, replacing Debi Burnsworth. She currently works at the University of Akron College of Nursing, and is the person who coordinates the Cameos of Caring gala. She enjoys reading, vacationing, going to the ballet and musicals.



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



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

Summa Health System News
January, 2006
Reporter: Barb Brunt

Louise Gifford, MSN, RN (Nursing Administration) had a chapter "Using an Inpatient Tool to Predict Cost and Measure Performance" published in the book *Health Care Financial Management for Nurse Managers: Financial Applications in Hospitals, Long-Term Care, Home Care and Ambulatory Care*.

Barbara Brunt, MA, MN, RN, BC (Staff Development) had an article "Models, Measurement, and Strategies in Developing Critical-Thinking Skills." published in the

Nov/Dec 2005 issue of *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*.

James Rosneck, MS, RN (Cardiopulmonary Rehab). presented a paper and poster on "Patient Outcome Indicators in Cardiac Rehabilitation: A Delphi Study." at the 20th Annual Meeting , American Association of Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in October, 2005.

Donna Waechter, PhD; Melissa Rice; Erin Schlegel, Eileen Fleming, MSN, RN, (Nursing Research); Sally Missimi, MEd, RN (Medical Education & Research); Samantha Williams, and Jere Boyer, PhD. presented both a paper and a poster on their research study "How do Photos in Research Recruiting Materials Affect a Patient's Participation?" at the 2005 Annual Human Researcher Protections Program (HRPP) Conference: Ethics and Trust across Boundaries in Boston, MA in December 2005.

Jan Weinhardt, RN, CNS (Stroke Unit). presented a poster on "Effect of a Post-Stroke Care Management Intervention by an Advanced Practice Nurse on Time to Arrival in the Emergency Department Upon Stroke Symptom Recurrence and Health Care Utilization: 5 Year Follow Up." at the Northeast Ohio CNS Clinical Nurse Specialists, Holiday Inn, Akron, OH in December and at the advanced Medical/Surgical conference at Summa.

Cathy Koppelman, MSN, BSN, RN (Patient Care Services). was a panel member for a session on "Practice Doctorate in Nursing: Issues Forum: the nursing administrator's perspective" at Ohio State University, College of Nursing, Columbus, OH in September, 2005.

The following Summa employees gave presentations at the Advanced Medical-Surgical Workshop in October, 2005.

Peggy Kuhar, MSN, RN, and Jane Tapp, MSN, RN – Med/Surg Emergencies
Hallie Mason, RN, NP – Palliative Care
Donna Harper, MSN, RN – Nurse Practice Act and the OBN Rules: Delegation

Kudos to James Rosneck, BSN, MS, RN (Program Director of Cardiopulmonary Rehab for receiving the 2005 AACVPR Innovation Award, the top Cardiac Rehab Program in the country.

Congratulations to the twenty-eight nurses who were recognized for their Clinical Ladder achievements at a special luncheon held in November 2005. Administration, family and colleagues were invited to honor the nurses who strive to make a difference in their patient care areas. Tom Strauss and Cathy Koppelman addressed those in attendance.

Clinical Ladder III

The ten nurses who achieved Clinical Ladder III by completing and disseminating their clinical research are:

Barbara Brunt, MA, MN, RN, BC, Staff Development/Patient Education, "Impact of Preceptor and Orientee Learning Style on Satisfaction: A Pilot Study"

Susanne Claffin, RN, MSN, CNS, Senior Services, "Fall Risk Assessment: Measuring Staff Knowledge and Staff Identification of Older Adults at Risk for Falls"

Linda DiPasquale, RNC, MSN, Perinatal Nursing and Joyce Thompson, RNC, BSN, MS, Labor & Delivery/Perinatal , "Labor Inductions-Impact on Clinical Outcomes"

Lorraine Fields, MSN, CCRN, CNRN, CCNS, ICU, "Incidence of VAP in the ICU"

Karen Frantz, RNC, Women's Health Services, "Painless Bilirubin Monitoring in the Special Care Nursery Population – A Pilot Study"



Jim Rosneck, RN, MS, Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation, "Patient Outcome Indicators in Cardiac Rehabilitation: A Delphi Study"

Jane Tapp, RN, MSN, BC, Staff Development, "Effect of Variables on Pain Management in the Hospitalized Geriatric Patient"

Dwayne Tepus, RN, BSN, Emergency, "The Effectiveness of Chloraprep in the Reduction of Blood Culture Contamination Rates in the Emergency Department"

Janice Weinhardt, RN, MSN, CS, 4 North/Stroke Center, "Effect of a Post-Stroke Care Management Intervention by an Advance Practice Nurse on Time to Arrival in the Emergency Department Upon Stroke Symptom Recurrence and Health Care Utilization: 5 Year Follow up"

Clinical Ladder II

The second level, Clinical Ladder II, the nurse needs to complete a Care Outcome Project: The following four nurses completed projects resulting in improved outcomes:

Cheryl Mains, RN, BSN, ONC, CNOR, RNFA, Specialty Surgery Center, "Wound Classification in the OR", *Cheryl also has completed a Clinical Ladder I project entitled "Abdominal Perineal Prep"*

Elaine Schon, RN, BSN, Special Care Nursery, "Improving Quality of Care and Patient Satisfaction for Methadone Babies and Their Parents"

Marytina Steele, RNC, BSN, CLC, Special Care Nursery, "Prevention of Head Molding for the Premature Infant"

Dorinda Young, RN, BSN, Special Care Nursery, "Lactation Resource Clinic"

Clinical Ladder I

Fourteen nurses completed Clinical Nurse I Scholarship Projects:

Karrie Boss, RN, BSN, 5 West, "Patient Satisfaction Initiatives"

Jill Buynak, RN and Victoria Wells, RN, CAPA, Same Day Surgery, "Operation Program for Same Day Surgery: Improvement and Revision"

Christianna Craig, RN, Center 5 Psych, "Minimizing the Use of Seclusion and Restraints on the Behavioral Health Unit"

Barb D'Aurelio, RN, Center 5 Psych, "Fibromyalgia"

Jeanne Dages, RN, BSN, Cardiology Diagnostics, "Restructuring the Outpatient Cardiology Testing Worksheets"

Lisa Gill, RN, BSN, Main7East, "Documentation"

Maria Marella, RN, Main7 East, "New Employee Handbook"

Patricia Myers-Moledor, RN, BSN, Cardiology Diagnostics, "Development of Pacemaker/Device Clinic, Pacemaker Check Competencies"

Kathleen Reinke, RN, BSN, 7 West, "7 West Patient Welcome Packet"

Wendy Sloan RN and Vicki Wells, Same Day Surgery, "Patient Medication Card Packet"

Diane Sowden, RN, BSN, Pre-Admission Testing, "Accessing Implantable Access Devices – A Guide"

Marybeth Wintrow, RN, Main 7 East, "Handing Washing – Safety First"

Myra Zink, RN, 7 West, "7 West Call Back Survey"

Congratulations to all of these nurses for their dedication to nursing!

Nurses Top Ethics Survey for 4th Time in 5 Years

Doing the right thing, speaking truthfully to patients and upholding professional standards and principles represents a hallmark of nursing, according to a recent survey. Nurses ranked at the top of the 2005 Gallup Poll assessing people's perceptions of various professionals' honesty and ethics. Eighty-two percent of the respondents gave nurses very high or high rating, significantly more than the runner-up' pharmacists and 67 percent and physicians at 65 percent.

Barbara Blakeney, MS, RN, president of the American Nurses Association said "the rating of nurses by the public again as number one in honesty and ethics reveals just how much trust the public places in the nursing profession. It is my hope that this continuing affirmation of the public's respect and trust will prompt Congress and the health care industry to support nursing education and improve the work environment for nurses."

Nurses have ranked at the top for the past four years and have averaged 80 percent high honesty ratings since Gallup first included them in the survey in 1999. The only year they fell from the top place was in 2001, when firefighters earned a 90 percent positive rating following the September 11th terrorist attacks. That was the only year Gallup included firefighters in the survey.

Gallup conducts the poll annually, interviewing more than 1,000 randomly selected adults. The surveyors asked respondents to rate the honesty and ethical standards of practitioners of 21 professions on a five-point scale, from very high to very low.

New From the "U" The University of Akron

Reporter Tracie Epner

The University of Akron College of Nursing hosted the 4th Annual Cameos of Caring Gala on Saturday, November 19, 2005 at the University of Akron Student Union.

Co-sponsoring hospitals for this event were Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Medical Center, and Summa Health System. Participating hospitals for the event were Barberton Citizen's Hospital, Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital, Doctors Hospital of Stark County, Akron General Edwin Shaw Rehab, Mercy Medical Center, and Robinson Memorial Hospital. Corporate sponsor for the event was Johnson & Johnson.

The twelve awardees for the 4th Annual Cameos of Caring Gala were: **Lucinda Egler** (Akron General Medical Center), **Barbara Probert** (Akron General Medical Center), **Mary Jo Huckabone** (Barberton Citizens Hospital), **Colette Benincasa** (Akron Children's Hospital), **Nancy Ludwick** (Akron Children's Hospital), **Deborah Jones** (Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital), **Susan Steiner** (Doctors Hospital of Stark County), **Tina Sanor** (Akron General Edwin Shaw Rehab), **Kathleen Joy Corban** (Mercy Medical Center), **Lynn Straight** (Summa Health System), **Karen Frantz** (Summa Health System), and **Mary Beth Penkala** (Robinson Memorial Hospital).

Congratulations to all of this year's Cameos of Caring Awardees!

Guidelines for Recognition Awards

Deadline April 1, 2006

Contact Marlene Huff mhuff@uakron.edu

Nomination form link:

<http://www2.uakron.edu/deltaomega/documents/Nomination%20form%20for%20Research%20Awards.doc>

- I. Purpose of the Awards: The purpose of the awards is to recognize outstanding nurses whose contributions to nursing fulfill the goals of Sigma Theta Tau International.
- II. Criteria
 - A. General
 1. Sigma Theta Tau members submit nominations for the awards
 2. Academic excellence defined as a G.P.A. of 3.0 or above when students are involved.
 3. Support for the Sigma Theta Tau member's nomination may come from peer, faculty, nursing or community leaders.
 4. Awards will be issued at the discretion of the committee.
 - B. Types of Awards and Criteria
 1. Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
 - a. Receives local, national and/or international recognition as a nursing leader in education, practice, administration and/or research.
 - b. Influences leadership in nursing through visionary and innovative approaches to leadership.
 - c. Creates an environment that enhances the image of nursing and nurses.
 - d. Participates in the development of nursing leaders.
 2. Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice
 - a. Demonstrates knowledge in area of clinical nursing practice.
 - b. Develops creative approaches to nursing practice that contribute to quality client care.
 - c. Possesses the clinical expertise and the attributes of a clinical scholar.
 - d. Advances the scope and practice of nursing.
 - e. Serves as mentor/preceptor that inspires peers' practice of nursing.
 - f. Influences the practice of nursing through communication.
 - g. Enhances the image of nursing through one's nursing practice.
 3. Award for Excellence in Nursing Education
 - a. Demonstrates excellence in teaching as evidenced by student and peer evaluations.
 - b. Advances the science of nursing through clarifying, refining and/or expanding nursing's knowledge base.
 - c. Promotes a theory/research base for nursing curricula and nursing practice.
 - d. Influences scholarly development in nursing education, practice, and/or research through teaching.
 - e. Influences the professional practice of nursing and the public's image of nursing through excellence in teaching.
 4. Award for Excellence in Nursing Research
 - a. Conducts scholarly research in nursing, according to research guidelines for Sigma Theta Tau.
 - b. Communicates nursing research findings to the nursing community, including journal citations and/or presentations.
 - c. Contributes significantly to the body of nursing knowledge through research.
 5. Award for Excellence in the Utilization of Nursing Research
 - a. Applies nursing research findings in administration, education, or clinical practice.
 - b. Documents utilization of nursing research.
 - c. Evaluates utilization of nursing research.
 6. Award for Excellence in Nurse Mentoring
 - a. Actively shapes and promotes the development of the career of a nurse, Sigma Theta Tau member, a chapter leader and/or an individual chapter leader, as evidenced through letters of support from persons being mentored.
 - b. Freely shares own resources for the growth and development of a nurse.
 - c. Maintains the mentoring relationship over time.
 7. Award for Outstanding Nursing undergraduate or Graduate Student Performance
 - a. Demonstrates excellence in areas of nursing practice, academic achievement, research or leadership activities.
 - b. Presents self as a student who seeks and enjoys the search for knowledge.

Research Corner

Submitted by Peg DiMarco

Marguerite (Peg) DiMarco has provided care in homeless shelters for women and children as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Cleveland and Akron areas for more than 12 years. One of the most prevalent problems she identified was dental caries and finding dentists to repair the cavities was very difficult. Homeless women and children represent the fastest growing group of homeless people. The Surgeon General's report, Oral Health in America, declared dental caries the "silent epidemic" with the worst oral health found among the poor of all ages. DiMarco's research will elucidate predictors of oral health access, utilization of needed oral health services, oral health status for children in female-headed homeless families, and determine whether shelter-based care is a factor that increases utilization. A convenience sample of 100 mother-child dyads will be recruited from a homeless shelter in the Akron area. Predictor factors based on the Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations will be measured upon enrollment. The mother/child dyad will be followed up one month later and outcomes will be measured. The proposed study will also describe and measure upon enrollment the level of health and oral health status of homeless children residing at the shelter. The results of the proposed study will identify significant predictors of oral health care access/utilization and oral health status in homeless children guiding nursing strategies in shelters to reduce health disparities among at-risk and underserved populations.

Reflections on Nursing Leadership is now online!

Delta Omega members can now enjoy *Reflections on Nursing Leadership (RNL)* on line. Through the use of technology, you have more up-to-date, easier to access news and information to help you help others. Go to www.nursingsociety.org/RNL to access the latest issue. Beginning with the first quarter issue of 2006, *RNL* will **only** be available through the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International Web site listed above. Each quarter members will be notified by email immediately when a new issue of *RNL* is posted online. Visit *RNL* now and take advantage of the information available in the award-winning publication!

By going online, you will receive:

- Expanded content
- Bonus information and features
- Hyperlinks to related sites, resources and honor society announcements
- Interactive features
- E-mail a friend feature
- Timely information
- Printer-friendly feature
- Search capabilities

Call For Nominations

Calling all past, present and future nursing leaders! Our Delta Omega Chapter needs you. Several positions will be open and those successful in securing them will experience new and rewarding professional opportunities.

President-elect:

Becomes the chapter's president after a one-year apprenticeship. In the first year, the president-elect attends board meeting to become familiar with chapter activities, by-laws, and responsibilities. The president-elect then serves a two-year term as a chapter president. Criteria for president-elect includes serving as a past chair of on the chapter committees.

Second vice-president:

Performs the duties of the president in the absence of the president and vice-president. Other duties include chairing the Membership Involvement Committee and being an ex-officio member of the Eligibility Committee.

Archivist:

Collects, stores, organizes and displays the chapter's historical memorabilia. The archivist serves as ex-officio member of the Public Relations Committee.

Treasurer:

Conducts financial business for the chapter, including collection of dues, maintenance of a financial record, and preparing reports and books for auditing. The treasurer is an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee and oversees activities of the Ways and Means Committee. The treasurer is required to be bonded.

Leadership Succession Committee: Formerly the Nominating Committee Member:

Seeks nominations, develops a ballot, and conducts elections in the spring according to chapter bylaws. Will chair Nominating Committee during second year of term.

Please consider yourself or a colleague for this opportunity. Send your nominations by email or surface mail to Peg DiMarco at The University of Akron, College of Nursing, 209 Carroll St, Akron, OH 44325-3701. Once we receive a nomination, our committee will do the rest. We will send a biographical form for the candidate to complete acknowledging their willingness to run. A ballot will be prepared from those completing their bio forms and will be mailed to the active Delta Omega membership for vote this spring. Those securing the most votes will be notified by phone and will be sworn into office this spring during our annual business meeting. Your time and talents are needed.

For more information please contact Peg Dimarco, Nominating Committee Chair, at 330-972-7683 or email at dimarco@uakron.edu.

Get Connected. Get Involved. ***VolunteerConnect Web Pages!***

Get connected through the Volunteer Interest Profile (VIProfile), the honor society's online interest survey. [Go there now](#) to create or update your profile. (*You will need your member number to log in: #XXXXXX.*)

Why get connected?

- Share your skills, talents and opinions
- Meet new people
- Grow personally and professionally

Get involved through the new VolunteerConnect Web Pages. Visit www.nursingsociety.org/VConnect to:

- [Walk through the Volunteer Orientation PowerPoint](#)
- [Download your Volunteer Manual](#)
- [Meet the honor society leadership](#)
- [Pick up resources for volunteer leaders](#)

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



The Delta Report is published three times yearly for Delta Omega Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, Inc. The Delta Report welcomes information about members' accomplishments in research, promotion, publication, and/or presentation. Correspondence to the Delta Report should be sent to the following address: The Delta Report, The College of Nursing, The University of Akron, Akron OH 44325-3701, or you may call the Editor, Barbara Brunt (330) 375-3075. Please include your phone number, email or mail return address.

Sigma Theta Tau International
international honor society of nursing

THE DELTA REPORT

Delta Omega Chapter

This newsletter is published three times a year by the Delta Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio. Send all change-of-address notices to:

International Secretary
Sigma Theta Tau
550 West North Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Or online at the STTI website:
<http://www.nursingsociety.org>



President
Joseph Foley
jfoley@chmca.org

1st Vice President
Karen Mascolo
kmascolo@chmca.org

2nd Vice President
Dina Dornack
ddornack@chmca.org

Treasurer
Sue Lehman Trzynka
W: 330.972.7449
esue@uakron.edu

Recording Secretary
Marlene Huff
W: 330.972.5930
mhuff@uakron.edu

Corresponding Secretary
Carol Brodbeck
W: 330.745.1601
cbrodbeck@uakron.edu

Counselor
Lori Kidd
W: 330.972.6703
kidd@uakron.edu

Archivist
Joan Stapf
H: 440.843.8710
(No email)

Delta Omega Officers

Research Grants & Recognition Chair
Marlene Huff
W: 330.972.5930
mhuff@uakron.edu

Nominating Committee Chair
Peg DiMarco
dimarco@uakron.edu

Program Committee Chair
Karen Mascolo
kmascolo@chmca.org

Ways and Means Committee
Denise Abode
Dabode1@aol.com

Past-President
Crystal Thompson
W: 330.379.4217
Thompsoncrystal@bfusa.com

Newsletter Editor
Barbara Brunt
W: 330.375.3075
bruntb@summa-health.org

*Administrative Assistant/
Newsletter Design & Layout*
Tracie Epner
W: 330.972-6674
ftracie@uakron.edu