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Margie Eckroth-Bucher DNSc, APRN-BC

Dear Chapter Members,

I hope this message finds you well at this busy time of year. It is December 16th, less than ten days until Christmas, and there is much to do. This message is one item on the “to do list”. However, there is much to reflect upon as the Chapter prepares for the New Year. First, I would like to thank you for your membership in Theta Zeta. I thank those who are dynamic leaders and participants in the activities of the chapter and encourage members who have not been able to be active to consider attending the educational programs. It is a new biennium for Sigma Theta Tau International and a good time to get re-involved.

The fall was a productive one for the Chapter. Two excellent education programs (with continuing education credit) were provided. Fred Miller, M. D. presented an update on dermatology assessment issues and Dawn Snyder, MSN, RN provided a helpful perspective on the grieving process as an opportunity for growth. In October, Theta Zeta, under the leadership of our Team Captain, Katie Huff (senior student) won the Bloomsburg Area Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk’s “Traveling Trophy”. It was wonderful to have so many Theta Zeta members and student nurses leading the walkers through Columbia Mall with our Sigma Theta Tau banner. Additionally, student members completed a service project with a local Brownie troop. Theta Zeta was also represented at the November Biennial Convention held in Baltimore. Several members presented their scholarly works, and the Chapter sponsored one student to attend.

With the new biennium comes change to Sigma Theta Tau International. Carol Huston has taken on her role of president and has provided the presidential call to action: “Leading Globally”. This continues the path set by outgoing president Carol Picard. I ask that each of you review and contemplate Dr. Huston’s call to action as well as the goals of “Vision 2020” and share your thoughts relative to how Theta Zeta may address these goals and further the mission of Sigma Theta Tau.

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Successful New Year!

Message from the Chair, Department of Nursing, Bloomsburg University

New Initiatives: Making an Impact on the Chapter’s Growth

Theta Zeta has seen a surge in new initiatives which has impacted the chapter in a positive manner. President Eckroth-Bucher has energized our students to participate in chapter’s fundraising activities and community service projects. They have enjoyed the challenge and competitive incentives. Likewise, students attended the International Sigma Theta Tau Convention in the fall. They had an excellent experience; attending various research and educational session. What a way to socialize our students into professional practice!

In addition, the chapter has entered into a collaborative endeavor with the Department of Nursing and the University’s Division of Corporate and Continuing Education. The Department of Nursing has submitted an application to the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association for provider status. With this application and approval to grant CEUs through the PSNA, both the chapter and the department can offer programs throughout the year and attendees will receive CEUs. Over the past year the chapter offered programs with continuing education units and the attendance increased at each meeting. What a way to energize the chapter at the same time provide opportunities for nurses to earn their mandatory CEUs for re-licensure!

Stay in touch. Come to our education and research offerings. Hold offices in the organization. Assist with our community and fundraising projects. Apply for the research award. Being a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society in Nursing is truly an honor. See you at a future chapter meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Alichnie, PhD, RN
Katie Huff, Senior Nursing Student Energizes Alzheimer’s Walk Team

Thanks to the efforts of Katie Huff, senior nursing student and Theta Zeta member, and Dr. Margie Eckroth-Bucher, the Theta Zeta Team came in first place in the Alzheimer’s Walk held in October 2007 at the Columbia Mall, Bloomsburg. The Theta Zeta team raised over $2,436 of the grand total of $9582. To the right of this article is a photo of the Theta Zeta team members who participated in the event! Thank you to everyone who donated to this very important cause!

2007 Alzheimer’s Walk Participants included:

Alisa Amo, Stephanie Bogart, Jaclyn Cardell, Margie Eckroth-Bucher, Jodi Gendron, Stacha Grochowski, Katie Huff (Team Captain), Kristi Klaus, Lissa Mercado, Lori Metzger, Jennifer Picerno, Stephanie Platt, Jeremy Vilcheck, Nicole Yost, Katie Zwilling, Brittany Martin, Andrew Clift, Kayla Whitmoyer, Dee Welk, Linda Cook, Donny Ladoue, Jane Lowe, Abbie Blasick; Debra Sanders; Terina Oman
Delegate Report for the 39th Biennial Convention, Baltimore, MD
November 3-7, 2007

First, we would like to express our appreciation for this opportunity to represent the Chapter at this convention. We share the highlights of the convention with the membership:

Conventions Programs and Member Involvement-

Linda Cook, Past President, attended a pre-conference entitled, "Igniting Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Settings: Basics & Beyond," presented by speakers Bernadette Melynk and Ellen Fineout-Overholt. These presenters are also the authors of the EBP textbook used in the graduate program.

Joan Miller participated in "Good Work" meetings, including the "Good Work in Nursing Global Community Meeting" to discuss values in nursing, mentoring, work environment, and shared professional development and learning across cultural borders.

Linda Cook, Dee Welk, and Fredda Massari-Novak, based on abstract acceptances, presented programs on research and a mentoring activity.

Katie Huff, senior student, attended the conference for the three days of programs and attended the Founders Banquet with Dee Welk and Fredda Massari-Novak. Katie repeatedly expressed how beneficial it was to see the nursing organization and its many activities personally for learning purposes and incentive to remain active in the organization in her nursing career. (continued on pages 6 & 7)

Call for Nurse Leader Nominees

Theta Zeta Chapter would like to invite qualified nurse leaders to submit an application to join STTI. 

Nurse Leader Candidates must:

- Legally recognized to practice nursing in his/her country
- Minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field
- Demonstrated achievement in nursing

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
Katie Huff Completes Honors Project

Katie Huff completed and presented her honor's project to a group of nursing faculty and to members of the university community on December 7, 2007. The title of her project is “Potential for Staphylococcus Aureus Transmission by Nursing Students: Evaluation of Nasal Carriage and Watchband Contamination.”

Dr. Judy Kipe-Nolt and Dr. Linda Cook were her mentors for the project.

Congratulations are extended to Katie for a job well done!! We hope to see her present her research at future STTI events!
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All members attended programs that were divided into the major areas of clinical, scientific, and leadership sessions. Conference program books are available to anyone who might like to review the many titles for these programs and the abstracts may be retrieved from the Honor Society website for further information.

There were three plenary sessions with inspiring messages:

- **Anne Ryder**, national award winning anchor and TV report, "Power, Peace and Perseverance: Lessons Learned from Mother Teresa"
- **Loretta Sweet Jemmott**, "Theory-Based Strategies to Reduce HIV Risk-Associated Sexual Behaviors among African-American, South-African, and Latino Youth and Adults," was high energy presentation and Dr. Jemmott showed the power of receiving large NIH and other grants.
- A colleague presented for **Jean Yan**, Chief Nurse Scientist for the World Health Organization, "Vision to Action: Global Health through Collaboration."

**Chapter Key Award**

A major highlight was the receipt of the Chapter Key Award on behalf of the Chapter, a second one [some Chapters were receiving for the 8th time and it was inspiring to see that]. We received an engraved key for display with our banner during a luncheon on Tuesday. We were very proud!! There will be an entirely new application type for future Key Awards that will be forthcoming.

**Other Events Attended**

- Poster Presentations (Fredda Massari-Novak)
- Fitness for Research Session I – Historic Walk (Dee Welk)
- Exhibit Hall opening and dessert reception
- Founders Banquet
- Fundraising Dinner to Benefit the Nancy Dickerson-Hazard Leadership Scholar-in-Residence Campaign
- Vision 2020 program description
- Bylaws Forums
- Region 11 Hosted Reception which Theta Zeta supported with a contribution; here we met with Barb Traver, Region 11 Coordinator
- Region 11 Meeting, chaired by Barb Traver. Dee Welk has served on the Region 11 Committee for the past two years and will continue to do so in 2007-2009.

**House of Delegates**

The House of Delegates met from 8 am – 5 pm on Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

Elections for all Officers and Regional Coordinators were held with strict adherence to voting rules and procedures.

Results

- President-elect: Karen Morin
- Vice President: Gwen Sherwood
- Secretary: Beverly Reigle
- Treasurer: Richard Ricciardi
- Directors: Hester Klopper, Karen Pehrson, Beth Tigges
- Leadership Succession Committee: Robin, Bartlett, Gerene Bauldoff, Mansour Jumaa, Carol Picard, Larry Plant, Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Fu-Jin Shih
- Governance Committee: Pamela Autrey, Suzanne Beltz, Linda Cooper, Geralyn Frandsen, Amy McClune, Carole Pea, Bonnie Wright
- Chair, Regional Coordinators: Jane Allen
- Region 11 Coordinator: Barbara Traver

Fredda and Dee were pleased to note that they selected all but two of the final winners.

Bylaws: There were two planned sessions and one additional session added for delegates to discuss and familiarize themselves with the proposed bylaws amendments. Many of the changes were for clarification as there is a thrust to reduce language that is USA-specific and to make them more global as chapters join from around the world (there are now 24 countries with chapters).
Highlights of bylaws changes

It is fair to say that the Governance Committee and leadership very much wanted the 35% rule to be removed from the bylaws because some expressed concern that it excluded good students. The 3.0 minimum GPA would remain but for many programs this would mean that almost all of the students would be eligible….so, was it still an HONOR society if so many persons qualified? After much discussion and debate, this motion was DEFEATED, meaning that the 35% of admission for a class will remain in effect until an alternative (other than the 3.0) is offered in its place. It is true that we look at leadership and academic integrity but there was no consistent application across the organization.

Programs with only master’s programs may have chapters
Members may join more than two chapters
Revocation of membership in one chapter applies to revocation of membership for the entire organization
If there is no chapter at a student’s university, the student may apply for membership in a local chapter

Baltimore Inner Harbor
The location offered a nice choice of lunch locations, historic items, and shopping [not enough time for this endeavor, however!]
The hotels were within easy access to the Baltimore Convention Center which Dee and Fredda never quite figured out the four-story layout of much before it was time to go home!

Other Highlights
The ceremonies and speeches of individuals were very impressive and we came away with renewed pride for being nurses and members of STTI.
Carol Picard, outgoing President, is not only a nurse scholar but also a poet and dancer and treated us to the latter talents after giving her final speech. Fredda and Dee approached her about interest in such a venue as being invited for the Faust Lectureship and she said she would be happy to be contacted. This information will be shared with Annette Gunderman for future planning.

Report from Jessica Bower, MSN, RN, Special Health Care Consultant, Pennsylvania Department of Health about the Biennial Convention held in Baltimore, Md. in November 2007.

There were approximately 2300 people in attendance at the convention and 30 plus countries represented. The conference provided the opportunity to learn about clinical innovations, cutting-edge research projects and leadership initiatives. This year’s theme “Vision to Action: Global Health through Collaboration” was reflected in nearly 650 oral and poster presentations. The plenary speaker for one morning was a nurse representing the World Health Organization (WHO). Jessica attended sessions on “The Advanced Practice Role of Community/Public Health Nurse Specialists: A Commitment to Best Practice,” “Factors Influencing Care Coordination in Children with Special Health Care Needs,” and “Parental Perceptions of Newborn Metabolic Screening Education: Implications for Nursing.” Overall, the experience was very positive and she learned a great deal!
Theta Zeta has moved to new web address:

http://departments.bloomu.edu/nursing/calendar/theta_events.htm

Wondering what is new or what the next program is?

Chairperson:
Christine Alichnie, PhD
Assistant Chairperson:
Michelle Ficca, DNSc
Coordinator, MSN Program:
Michelle Ficca, DNSc
Editor:
Linda Cook, DNSc
Editorial Assistant:
Mary Amick

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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