

DELTA TAU

Sigma Theta Tau International ~ Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large



From the President . . .

Lisa Roberts Cadorette, President, Delta Tau



Lisa R. Cadorette

As the new president of Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large, one of my duties is to prepare some “words of wisdom” known as the “President’s Message” for the newsletter. In all honesty, when I first sat down to complete this task, I was truly stymied. What so-called “wisdom” would Delta Tau members want me to impart upon them? I could share some general information with you – that the 1997-98 year is off to a good start and that the Executive Committee is dedicated to serving Delta Tau’s members to the best of its abilities. Both statements are absolutely undeniable. However, a different issue kept coming to the forefront of my mind. I wondered, when you as members catch your first glimpse of this light purple paper, what is your first reaction? Do you read it immediately, set it aside to be read on a rainy day, merely peruse it only to see if anyone you know is captured in any of the pictures? Or – and this was my most sobering thought – do you read the newsletters at all? As president, my greatest hope (and biggest challenge) is that you will not only read these newsletters, but that you will also mark your calendars regarding the upcoming events. My sincere hope is that it will be you who grace us with not only your words of wisdom, but also with your ideas, enthusiasm, dedication, and your presence. It is truly a privilege for me to serve as president of such a diverse Chapter – a Chapter whose very core is built upon a vast array of professional nurses who display truly unique gifts and talents – knowledge, versatility, leadership, and insight, just to name a few. I invite you to continue to share these wonderful gifts with Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large as we continue to sup-

Delta Tau is Expanding!

Eastern College is in the process of making application to join Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large. Our Executive Committee is currently working with Christina Jackson, MSN, CRNP, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Eastern, in order to complete and submit the application. This project has been ongoing for the past two years and is now projected to come to fruition in early 1998. This merger will ultimately contribute to Delta Tau’s general membership pool, it will increase our networking abilities, and it will fortify our Chapter as a whole, as we welcome new faculty and students from Eastern College.

Inside Details . . .

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1997~1998

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 28, 1997
TRI-STATE
CONSORTIUM BRUNCH
AIRPORT
RADISSON HOTEL

OCTOBER 7, 1997
BOARD MEETING
ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT
HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE

*NOVEMBER 18, 1997
COME MEET OUR
INTERNATIONAL
MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2-6, 1997
BIENNIAL CONVENTION
75TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

JANUARY 27, 1998
BOARD MEETING
PRE-INDUCTION PIZZA
PARTY
HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 10, 1998
PRE-INDUCTION PIZZA
PARTY
NEUMANN COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 22, 1998
18TH ANNUAL
INDUCTION CEREMONY
HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE

MAY 1, 1998
SIXTH ANNUAL
RESEARCH DAY
ALLEGHENY UNIVERSITY

JUNE 26, 1998
ANNUAL BOARD
PLANNING MEETING

A Mission of Education and Empowerment

Ralph Vigoda, The Philadelphia Inquirer, May 2, 1997

Jill Derstine, a nurse and an educator, has a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University, a master's from the University of Pennsylvania, and a doctorate from Temple.



Dr. Jill Derstine

But nothing could have prepared her for what she saw three years ago when she stepped off a plane in Vietnam for the first time.

"Shock," she said. "Culture shock. The big thing I remember is tons and tons of kids begging, little kids with their hands out."

Derstine was in Vietnam to stretch out her own hand. As chairwoman of the division of Nursing and Health Sciences at Neumann College in Aston, she was part of a group from Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), sent to help teach modern medical practices to Vietnamese doctors and nurses.

But when she got to the hospital, she was hit by a series of aftershocks. There was a shortage of medicine, a shortage of supplies, limited equipment, and beds of straw mats on rusty frames. Much of the health care was performed by family members who remained with the patients 24 hours a day.

"They're about 30 years behind us," said Derstine, whose specialty is rehabilitation nursing.

"When I used a disposable glove and threw it away, they went into the wastebasket to pick it out. They didn't have that luxury."

"We had to show them the simple act of turning a patient. I was dealing with patients who had head injuries or strokes

and they were just lying on their backs. They were feeding them when they were lying flat out. One of the things we taught was just showing them how raising the head would not hurt the patient. They would do anything you told them to, but nobody told them the right way."

Derstine, born and raised in Doylestown, lives just over the Bucks County line in Northampton County. One of the early numbers of nurses who got advanced degrees in rehabilitative nursing, she worked at Hahnemann and Thomas Jefferson Universities before joining the Neumann faculty in 1992.

Her first journey to Vietnam in March 1994 – shortly after the United States lifted its 19-year trade embargo – was as part of a team put together by HVO, which organizes voluntary assistance for health training and care in developing countries. The group, including doctors, nurses and physical therapists, gave workshops in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

She has made three more trips since then and will return in July, though she no longer travels with an interdisciplinary group, focusing instead entirely on nursing. She and colleagues from two other colleges have established formal links with nursing schools in three cities: Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City, and a site just outside Hanoi. Neumann's sister school is Da Nang Secondary School No. 2, where Derstine is working to establish a bachelor's program in nursing. The hope is that the links can be expanded to include an exchange of students and teachers.

On each trip she brings boxes of supplies and books.

"And obstetrical aids," she said. "They were using homemade things – a rag doll and a piece of plastic arranged to look like a pelvis – to demonstrate to students

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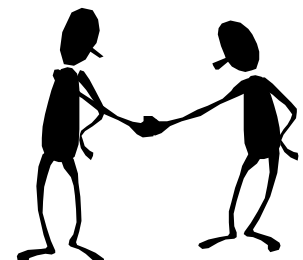
Congratulations to Newly Elected Officers!

Vice President: **Jacqueline Conaty, RN, BSN**, Neumann College. Jackie's energy and enthusiasm will be an asset toward the continuing success of the chapter.

Treasurer: **Frank Burgert, RN, BSN**, Holy Family College. Frank's motivation and "fiscal expertise" will strengthen the chapter. We welcome Frank's experience and talents in continuing to develop our chapter resources!

Nominating Chair: **Colleen Callahan, RN, BSN**, Neumann College. Colleen brings motivation and commitment as she continues to promote the ideals and goals of the chapter and works to increase member involvement.

Holy Family College Counselor: **Kay Broughton, RN, MSN**, Instructor Pediatric Nursing, Holy Family College. Kay has contributed her expertise in helping students pursue excellence through membership in





CALL FOR PAPERS

SIXTH ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE CLINICAL RESEARCH AND CLINICAL SCHOLARSHIP

MAY 1, 1998

at Allegheny University of the Health Sciences
Queen Lane Campus
3300 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19129

Abstracts related to nursing research using any methodology are invited. All topics may be submitted for poster or paper presentation, except research in progress which may be submitted for poster presentation only. The focus should be on clinical research and clinical scholarship - innovations and trends in nursing specialties, patient outcomes, community nursing, impact of technology, or current health problems such as AIDS. Papers and posters utilizing a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach are also welcomed.

Abstracts are to be camera ready, limited to one page and typed, single-spaced on one 8 1/2 by 11 sheet paper, margins 1 1/2 inches left, 1 inch bottom, top, and right. Abstracts will be blind reviewed according to the abstract guidelines. Submit 2 copies of the abstract without researcher(s) identification, 2 copies of the abstract with researcher identification, which should include name(s), degrees and affiliation. Send on a separate cover sheet the title, researcher(s)' name, affiliation, address, phone and fax numbers, preferred method of presentation and two learning objectives for your presentation.

Abstract Guidelines:

Title
Purpose/Problem Statement
Methodology
Data Analysis
Findings
Implications for Nursing
Presentation Time: 30 minutes

Submit by January 31, 1998

Mary Austin, MSN, RN
305 Columbia Place
Broomall, PA 19008

Notification: February 20, 1998

Sponsors:

**NU ETA CHAPTER - ALLEGHENY UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES
KAPPA CHI CHAPTER - TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
DELTA TAU CHAPTER - NEUMANN / HOLY FAMILY COLLEGES
XI CHAPTER - UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
DELTA RHO CHAPTER - THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY
KAPPA DELTA - LASALLE UNIVERSITY
SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL**



Excerpts from “An Open Letter to the Members Regarding Proposed Membership Fee Increase for 1998”

Dear Colleagues:

Sigma Theta Tau International’s Board of Directors is recommending to the 1997 House of Delegates a modest increase of \$10 in the annual membership fee, to become effective March 1, 1998. If approved, it will be the first fee increase approved by the House of Delegates in four years. We have carefully considered this action and wanted to share our thoughts with you.

Planning for the Future

Many organizations find it necessary to increase their dues annually just to keep up with inflation. For Sigma Theta Tau International, inflationary costs have accumulated 15 percent since the last dues increase in 1994, and 2-3 percent increases are anticipated annually over the next two years. But, thanks to careful planning and prudent fiscal oversight, Sigma Theta Tau International has operated successfully for the past four years without a dues increase, all the while expanding member services.

The proposed increase will be necessary, however, to ensure continuation of the high quality benefits that presently exist; to alleviate the projected budget deficit; and to enable the society to expand existing programs and services as well as develop new initiatives which are responsive to member needs. This increase is projected to secure the society’s long-standing history of balanced budgets and exemplary member service into the next century.

Excellence Achieved

Sigma Theta Tau International continues to expand, not only in the services provided to our members but also in the positive attention attracted for the science of nursing and the profession. Since the last dues increase in 1994, a maturation of services and benefits has occurred including:

- Toll free global access to headquarters - 1-888-634-7575;
- Easy access to the most current society information via the home page on the World Wide Web, with linkages to regional and chapter home pages;
- Enlarged research grant opportunities by seven for a total of 26 grant options;
- Provision of 14 regional and six national/international educational offerings focusing on clinical scholarship;
- The expansion of leadership opportunities for members through the Leadership Extern Program, task forces, committees, and mentoring programs; and
- FREE access to the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library Registry of Nursing Research (effective January 1998) – a Web-based electronic knowledge resource.

Building on Today’s Success

In addition to maintaining and expanding the listed benefits and services, your support of the recommended \$10 annual dues increase will provide the necessary resources for several new and exciting initiatives including:

- The Sigma Theta Tau International Leadership Institute designed to position nurses as leaders and partners in creating a vision and agenda for global health. Potential programs include: summer institutes focusing on nursing enterprise and creativity, nursing education, public communication, trustee leadership development and knowledge synthesis; databases of interdisciplinary models in nursing practice, education and research, and international scholar opportunities; and a career leadership program offering a clearly defined pathway to leadership through active society involvement, mentorship, and philanthropy;
- A worldwide public relations campaign to disseminate the science of nursing. The campaign will be launched in tandem with the 75th Anniversary Celebration in Indianapolis during the 34th Biennial Convention;
- The emergence of Center Nursing Press as a major publisher of scholarly nursing works, providing members with an expanded scope of resources for professional publishing and growth, including the Distinguished Writers Program;
- Career development opportunities through career pathway services and mentoring programs at the international and chapter levels.

This is a pivotal time for nursing and the society. We now have the unprecedented opportunity to capitalize upon our prior investments in the future of Sigma Theta Tau and nursing. Thank you for your support.

Melanie C. Dreher, RN, PhD, FAAN

"Kudos!"

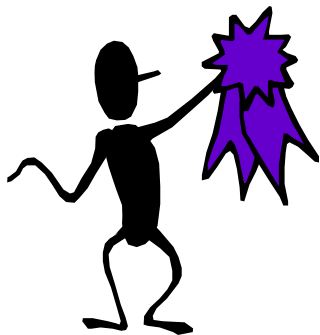
The Chapter wishes to extend a "heartly congratulations" to Eileen M. Alexy, for being selected as the Region 6 - Leadership Extern. Region 6 encompasses DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA, VA and WV. As Leadership Extern, Eileen will work closely with members on the International Board and increase our Chapter's visibility!

Eileen was also awarded the Sigma Theta Award for Leadership and Scholarship by Xi Chapter, at the University of Pennsylvania.

Again, congratulations to Eileen and the Chapter

"Ciao...for Now"

Delta Tau would like to extend a "fond farewell" to member, Claire McCloskey. Claire has accepted a position as a pediatric oncology nurse in Atlanta, Georgia and will be relocating. The Chapter will miss her, and we wish her the best of luck as she continues to pursue her nursing interests!



Continued From Page 2 . . .

the birth of a baby." "They do the best they can with what they have. And they don't do too badly.

It makes you stop and think of all the things we have here and how they accomplish a lot with very, very little."

Derstine said she had seen improvement on each visit, but there's still a long way to go in a country that was cut off from much of the world for nearly two decades following the 1975 exit of the United States.

One frustration is that everything must be approved by the Ministry of Health. "You have to go through every stage with them," said Derstine. "It's going through a lot of red-tape just to get anything done."

But the rewards are tangible. "We're trying to change the image of nursing there," Derstine said. "It has not been thought of highly. When we first arrived, we'd tell them they had to take part in the discussions. And they'd say, 'I can't tell anyone what to do.'"

"Now the nurses are becoming more empowered. They're not afraid to speak up. The consciousness level has been raised to make nursing a strong curriculum."

Derstine, who has traveled through much of the country, said she has seen few vestiges of the Vietnam War. And she was surprised by the complete lack of bitterness toward Americans, more of whom are entering the country both for business and as tourists.

She does not do all her good deeds overseas, though. She has been instrumental in getting a new community nursing center for senior citizens at Ninth and Hayes Streets in Chester. Renovations continue at the senior center there.

"We provide health education, health screening and illness prevention to sen-

ior citizens in the area," she said.

Though they are different cultures thousands of miles apart, Derstine said, Vietnam and Chester have a similarity. "In both places," she said, "we are servicing an underserved group."



"Finnish Friends" to visit Holy Family College in November, 1998

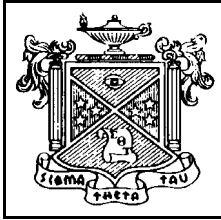
Plans are underway for Delta Tau members to welcome and exchange ideas with our new community members from Finland. Dr. Merja Miettinen, Ms. Kristi Dementjeff, and Ms. Seija Miettinen, will be visiting with us for a week in mid-November.

Dr. Merja Miettinen recently accepted a new position as nurse leader for a large regional hospital with a surgical theater and soon to be implemented day surgery program.

Ms. Kristi Dementjeff and Ms. Seija Miettinen are from Kuopio, in northern Finland. Ms. Miettinen's nursing responsibilities include a major psychiatric hospital and community clinics while Ms. Dementjeff is the equivalent of a nursing CEO for all regional health matters involving hospitals and some clinics.

Delta Tau hopes to co-sponsor a lecture at Holy Family College, tentatively scheduled for November 18, 1997, from Dr. Merja Miettinen about her dissertation "Entrepreneurial Leadership and Nursing."

We encourage our members to join in this wonderful educational opportunity

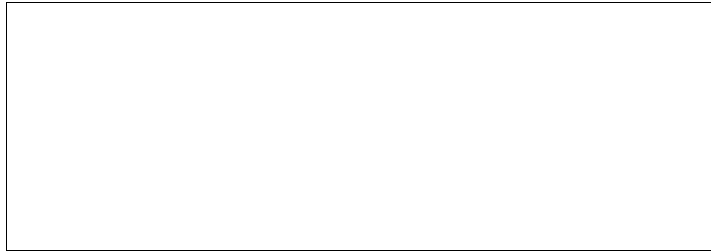


**Sigma Theta Tau
International**

Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large
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Delta Tau Chapter Officers

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Mary E. Wombwell, President
"Emeritus"
Eileen M. Alexy, Vice President HFC
Jacqueline Conaty, Vice President NC
Debra Budge, Secretary
Frank Burgert, Treasurer
Judy Wentz, Counselor NC
Kay Broughton, Counselor HFC
Barbara McGuinness,
Publicity/Newsletter Committee
Karen Bruchak,
Awards Selection Committee
Kathy Dermott,
Research Committee
Colleen Callahan,



In This Issue...

"Get a taste" of International and Transcultural Nursing from our chapter members!



*Pardon
Our
"Faux
Pas"*

Delta Tau wishes to extend an apology to some of our recently inducted community members. It appears, in our excitement, we omitted and misspelled some of our new members' names! Here is the

1997 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

GEORGE CASTLEDINE
KRISTI DEMENTJEFF
ANNA-LIISA EERONHEMO
KIRSTI KINNENEN
HELLEVI LEPPIAHO
VUOKKO LOHINIVA
PAULA MAGEE
MERJA MIETTINEN
MARIJA NIISILA
KRISTIINA POIKAJARVI
PAULA POIKELA

Fifth Annual Research Day ~ A Great Success!

Mary E. Wombwell, President "Emeritus," Delta Tau

Held on Thursday, May 8, 1997 at Thomas Jefferson University Alumni Hall, 72 individuals registered for the Research Day which was sponsored by: Delta Rho (Thomas Jefferson University), Delta Tau (Holy Family & Neumann Colleges), Kappa Chi (Temple University), Nu Eta (Allegheny University), Xi (University of Pennsylvania) and the Southeastern Pennsylvania League for Nursing.

The keynote address "The How-To's of International Research," was presented by Dr. Susan Gennaro and Dr. Linda Brown. Concurrent presentations followed, offering a variety of sessions which promoted a sharing of knowledge and research findings. Dr. Jane Pond presented the closing address: "Clinical Scholarship: An Oxymoron." This jointly sponsored research conference provided an excellent opportunity

to learn, socialize and network with colleagues. Delta Tau member, Mary Austin, was a member of the Planning Committee who organized the conference. The chapter was very fortunate that Mary was able to work on this committee and we extend our thanks to Mary and congratulate the Planning Committee for a successful conference.

Following the conference, the Planning Committee held a meeting to begin the work for the Research Conference to be held on May 1, 1998, at Allegheny University - Queen Lane Campus.

If anyone would like to assist Mary with this year's conference, please call her.

