

DETAILS

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



A Message from the President...

On Sunday, April 14, 2002, at Eastern University, Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large inducted 47 new members: 38 undergraduates, 6 graduates, and 3 community leaders. This momentous occasion reminded me of the significance of the induction ceremony, which inspires honor and privilege. The symbolism of the Honor Cord, worn with pride, and the Pin, with its charm, adds to the significance of the ritual. However, what happens after the ceremony is over, and the Honor Cord is placed in the bag, and the Pin is returned to the box? Induction into Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large, of Sigma Theta Tau International, is more than an academic destination. Membership is more than just an honor to be included on a resume or vitae. It is a tool used in the pursuit of personal and professional growth. It is at the chapter level where members encounter the benefits of the society most directly. Become an ACTIVE member and discover ALL that Delta Tau has to offer, and ALL that you have to give.

Nicky Hardy, RN, BSN, President, Delta Tau Chapter

10th Annual Research Day at Temple University a Resounding Success!

The Tenth Annual Research Day was held at Temple University Health Sciences Center on April 19, 2002. This collaborative event was co-sponsored with Delta Rho (Thomas Jefferson University), Eta Beta (Widener University), Kappi Chi (Temple University), Kappa Delta (LaSalle University), Nu Eta (MCP Hahnemann University) and Xi (University of Pennsylvania) chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International. Dr. Nancy Rothman, delivered an inspiring keynote address presenting research priorities for a changing world and the need to incorporate the community into research practices. Additionally, the Research Day program provided a forum for several paper presentations, discussing topics from a variety of nursing perspectives. Robert Atkins from Temple University gave the closing luncheon address entitled "Civic Identity of Urban Youth: Implications for Research and Practice." The event was a great success with over 75 colleagues in attendance and a wonderful opportunity to network. Delta Tau was proud to co-sponsor this scholarly program and we look forward to continuing our participation in this research tradition!

Inside Details . . .

<i>President's Message & Research Day</i>	1
<i>Welcome to Our 2002 Members (The Photo Spread)</i>	2
<i>From the Perspective of a New Inductee...</i>	3
<i>Candidate Profiles & 2002 Election Ballot</i>	4 ~ 6
<i>Is There Really a Nursing Shortage? & Award Information</i>	7

- 2002-2003
- Calendar of Events
- September 26-28, 2002
- Professional Development Conf.
- Clarion Hotel
- Cherry Hill, NJ
- September 25-28, 2002
- Advancing Nursing Practice Excellence: State of the Science
- Washington, DC
- October 10, 2002
- Board Meeting
- Holy Family College
- 6:00 P.M.
- October 13, 2002
- Tri-state Consortium Brunch
- Renaissance Hotel
- Philadelphia Airport
- *December ?, 2002
- Community Service Projects
- January 27, 2003
- All Scholarships Due!
- January 30, 2003
- Board Meeting
- Neumann College
- 6:00 P.M.
- March 18, 2003
- Pre-Induction Pizza Party at Holy Family
- March 25, 2003
- Pre-Induction Pizza Party at Neumann
- April 6, 2003
- 23rd Annual Induction Ceremony
- Neumann College
- June 13, 2003
- Annual Planning Mtg
- Location: TBA
- November 1-5, 2003
- 37th Biennial Conv.
- Toronto, Canada
- Visit our Website at:
- Http://del.tatau.libertynet.org

22nd Annual Induction Ceremony

Welcome to our new members...

**HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE
UNDERGRADUATES**

Christine Andrews
 Darl a Conover
 Rachel DiGiugno
 Al icia Ful ton
 Dana Gil l en
 Veronica Higgins
 Dorothy K. McLane
 Tara Norton
 Renata M. Ormond
 Karrima Owens
 Marie C. Parisano
 Megan Rosenbl att
 Karen Ryan
 Eugenia Ugbogu

GRADUATE

Patricia M. Dana
 Teresa Eastl ack
 Mary M. Mal ec
 Karen E. Marchand
 Debra L. Masterson
 Jacquelin e Rigby



EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Karen Cornwall I
 Pamel a DiMegl io
 Mary K. Friedl and
 Corinne Latini
 Anna McGonigal
 Joan McPhil I ips
 Karen A. Minker
 Jo Ann Orner
 Bambi L. Seponski
 Diane B. Sowel I
 Donna Tayl or

**COMMUNITY NURSE
LEADERS**

Deva-Marie Beck
 Murine George
 Nina Wyrsta-Brown



NEUMANN COLLEGE

Tiffany Adams
 Daniel le Marie Adorante
 Robert L. Austin
 Jacl yn Brown
 Tara Bl uzard
 Hel en Evers
 Natasha Gil es
 Mary G. Grugan
 Jil l M. Kel l y
 Teresa Machamer
 Stacey Mangene
 Andrianinar i j ao (Nina) Ravol aharivao
 Beverl y A. Smith

From the Perspective of a New Inductee...

It was one of those profound life moments - where many of my important experiences and desires came together at one pivotal time - that day I was inducted into the Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International.

For many years, I was, as a nurse, aware of Sigma Theta Tau's reputation for bringing the highest academic standards to nursing excellence and leadership. I looked at STTI with awe for it seemed way beyond my reach. I was working in the clinical trenches - in many areas of critical care. I gained much needed experience and impressions and applied these to our scope of practice in these areas. Yet, I found myself wishing that I could do more for our profession of nursing and for our mandate, the promotion of healing, recovery, and health. I was looking for another way to make my difference.

But, at that time, I had only been prepared in nursing at the Associate level and my further college work was completed in other fields. To be honest, in those years, I looked at nursing with ambivalence. I valued my training and my skills. I knew that I made a difference almost everyday that I was working at the bedside. But, in truth, even though I was working at very sophisticated levels of clinical nursing practice - with life and death literally in my hands - I began to become dissatisfied with my role as a someone subservient to hospital administrators and physicians. I maintained my nursing priorities as best I could but I kept knowing that I was working more in a medical practice world, rather than a nursing practice world. Even then, without advanced perspectives of Bachelors' or Masters' levels of nursing practice, I was forever asking myself, am I helping others to practice medicine - the diagnosis and treatment of disease? Or, am I practicing nursing - the promotion of healing and health? Although these two practices may look the same, at Sigma Theta Tau, we know they are not. The disease treatment mandate has become co-opted and may be called "health care." But the "health" "care" providers, the nurses - with "health" and "care" as their mandate - have become increasingly less visible and valid. As the years of my career went on, from throughout 1970s, 80s and 90s, our mandate - our practice perspective - has become now nearly invisible, to our

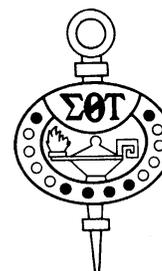
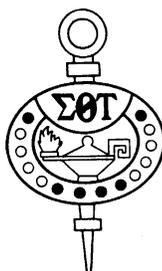
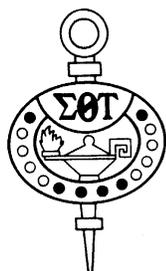
employers, to our medical colleagues, to the general public, and even within our own ranks. (This I believe, is the true underlying reason for the nursing shortage. We are currently not valued and so too many of us have deserted our ranks, nor have we encouraged others to follow in such a thankless situation.)

As I worked under these conditions, I solved my own dissatisfaction by discovering other ways to promote human health, outside my apparent practice scope, outside my "official duties" of nursing. I developed independent health education programs, classes, workshops. I wrote books and home study courses. I became a citizen activist, working on environmental issues and human rights issues. I even made a significant contribution to the international health caucus at the United Nations Human Settlements Summit in Istanbul in 1996. But was I practicing nursing with all of these endeavors? I actually believed I was walking away from my "practice" doing these things.

Well, one thing led to another and my story, like each of yours, is far longer than one smallish newsletter article. In the intervening years, I rediscovered the passionate and wide-ranging work of Florence Nightingale, recently completed a Doctorate in Nursing while looking at Nightingale's last comprehensive (1893) vision for nursing, and found myself surprised, as life sometimes does, by an opportunity to come around full circle.

So there I stood, with the rest of Delta-Tau's honorable inductees on April 14, 2002 at Eastern University, invited and welcomed to join those who still take nursing and the leadership of nursing seriously. With all of my questions and concerns and choices throughout the years, I discovered that I wasn't walking away from nursing at all. Standing tall, with you as my new colleagues, I was walking toward nursing again, in a way that was meaningful for me. Nightingale has taught us to first ask, "what is your calling?" My "calling" is to promote human health and well-being, as a woman, as a nurse, and with all of you. It is a privilege to join your ranks. It is my deep prayer that we can all make our difference.

Deva-Marie Beck, PhD, RN



Candidate Profiles ~ Delta Tau 2002

PRESIDENT ~ ELECT

This could be you! We are looking for a candidate to take over the “presidency.” As president-elect, you will receive a year “in-training” to assume the role of the president for the 2003-2005 term of office. This is an opportunity to become active and involved in your local chapter. The qualifications and responsibilities of the president-elect are listed below:

Qualifications & Responsibilities:

- Be an active member of the chapter
- Consent to serve in the position
- Succeed into the presidency at the end of a one-year term of office
- Communicate to the public the purposes of the society
- Be chair of committees, as needed
- Learn the chapter operations and facilitate the achievement of chapter goals and mission of Sigma Theta Tau International
- Oversee the process for completing and submitting the Chapter Key Award application.

VICE PRESIDENT – EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Sara A. Eldridge - BSN, RN - is currently a public health nurse at LaSalle Neighborhood Nursing Center. Her primary clinical expertise is in the areas of perinatal home visiting and immunization outreach. She possesses extensive experience working with urban and vulnerable families, especially women and children, identified as “at risk” for sub-optimal health maintenance. She has been a member of Sigma Theta Tau International since 1997 and hopes to volunteer her expertise to Delta Tau Chapter.

VICE PRESIDENT – HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE

Cathleen Jenner - DNSc, RN - is an assistant professor of nursing at Holy Family College and recently became Chair of the MSN program at Holy Family. Her career in nursing includes extensive experience in critical care nursing, administration, and education. Research interests include health policy and the ethical aspects of nursing practice. She has been a long-standing member of Sigma Theta Tau International and believes that through service to Delta Tau-At-Large, she can contribute in a meaningful way to the profession of nursing at this crucial juncture in its history.

SECRETARY

Seeking a candidate – We are currently looking for someone to fill the office of secretary. The following list contains the requirements and description of duties:

Qualifications & Responsibilities:

- Be an active member of the chapter
- Consent to serve in the position
- Record and arrange for typing the minutes for each Board of Directors and business meeting
- Distribute minutes to all members of the Board of Directors
- Keep an official record book of the minutes of all Board of Directors and business meetings to present to the succeeding secretary
- Order all stationery, forms and mailing labels for the chapter
- Send a list of new officers to Headquarters within two weeks following officer elections
- (Many of these duties are done via email)

NEUMANN COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Marian C. Slater - PhD, RN - is an assistant professor of nursing at Neumann College. Her primary research interest is nursing education, specifically, student nurses’ development of skilled clinical decision-making. She has been a member of Sigma Theta Tau International for several years and has served for the last year as the faculty counselor for Neumann College. She hopes to continue to share her extensive knowledge and expertise with the Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large.

Delta Tau Ballot 2002

Make your selections for the below positions by placing a check on the appropriate line. Deadline is July 31, 2002. Please return your ballot by folding the ballot (so the address shows on the front), tape, and stamp. Thank you for paying the postage.

PRESIDENT - ELECT

Write-In Candidate _____

VICE - PRESIDENT EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Sara A. Eldridge _____

Write-In Candidate _____

VICE - PRESIDENT HOLY FAMILY COLLEGE

Cathleen Jenner _____

Write-In Candidate _____

SECRETARY

Write-In Candidate _____

NEUMANN COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Marian Slater _____

Write-In Candidate _____

*Positions not filled will be appointed at the discretion of the President and the Executive Board.

Delta Tau Ballot ~ 2002

Eileen M. Alexy
1137 Shackamaxon Street
Suite C
Philadelphia, PA 19125-4143

PLEASE SEND YOUR BALLOT BY:

JULY 31, 2002

Is There Really a Nursing Shortage?

Slowly the media and the country are starting to become aware of the impending nursing shortage. So where do we actually stand? Read on....

According to a recent poll conducted by The Lewin Group on behalf of the American Hospital Association (2001), there are close to 126,000 vacant nursing positions in hospitals and healthcare agencies across the United States. This shortage of qualified staff has caused a crisis in the American healthcare system. Numerous hospitals have noticed increased waiting times for surgeries, emergency room delays, and a decrease in the overall quality of care their patients are receiving (American Hospital Association, 2001).

In early 1999, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), together with the Tri-Council (made up of The American Nurses Association, The American Organization of Nurse Executives, and The National League of Nursing), started to investigate the impending nursing shortage. They noted that Bachelor of Science (BSN) enrollment levels were down by over five percent and that the number of nurses pursuing master and doctoral degrees was declining (AACN, 1999).

Decreased school enrollment and lack of qualified instructors are only a small part of the overall problem. With baby-boomers on their way to retirement and the average age of nurses increasing, we are facing a true healthcare crisis that will have an overall impact on the entire healthcare system.

The current shortage will decrease healthcare standards, increase costs by way of recruitment needs, and can cause an already financially burdened system to go to the brink of demise.

Become an activist and help stop this spiral and change the status of staffing by becoming involved in the process. Write to your politicians and convince them that they must act now to stave off the worst that is yet to come. Together we can make a difference.

Laurie Colborn, RN, MSN, Vice President, HFC



Scholarship and Grant Money “Up for Grabs”

Delta Tau Chapter-at-Large will award one Graduate and one Undergraduate Scholarship each in the amount of \$1000 during the 2002-2003 year. Additionally, we will award one Research Grant in the amount of \$1000. The Graduate Scholarship and Research Grant Awards will be given directly to the recipient to be used toward his/her graduate course of study and research. The Undergraduate Scholarship Award will be deposited into the student's account at his/her school.

In order to be eligible for the *Undergraduate Award*, the applicant must:

1. Be currently enrolled as a nursing student at Eastern College, Holy Family College or Neumann College.
2. Agree to a 1 year service commitment to the chapter
3. Completed all JUNIOR level nursing courses
4. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA or 3.25
5. Submit a short essay.
6. Submit one copy of official transcripts.
7. Submit a faculty recommendation.

To be eligible for the *Graduate Award*, the applicant must:

1. Be an active member of Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large (paid dues are up-to-date)
2. Agree to a 1 year service commitment to the chapter
3. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25
4. Completed 1/3 of graduate program requirements.
5. Submit a short essay.
6. Submit one copy of official transcripts.
7. Submit a faculty recommendation.

To be eligible for the *Research Grant*, the applicant must:

1. Be an active member of Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large (paid dues are up-to-date)
2. Submit Proposal Abstract (limited to 4 pages)
3. Present a poster presentation at induction ceremony

Deadline for all applications is **January 27, 2003**. The recipients of the Undergraduate, Graduate and Research Awards will be acknowledged at the 23rd Annual Induction Ceremony. To receive an application and further instructions for any of these awards, please contact your faculty counselors (Chris Jackson, EU, Chris Rosner, HFC, Marian Slater, NC) OR:

Eileen M. Alexy
deltatau@libertynet.org



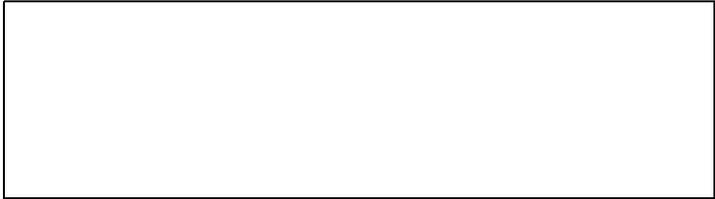
**Sigma Theta Tau
International**

Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large
1137 Shackamaxon Street
Suite #C
Philadelphia, PA 19125-4143

Delta Tau Chapter Officers

*Bernice "Nicky" Hardy,
President
Laurie Ann Colborn,
Vice President -HFC
Mary E. Wombwell,
Treasurer*

*Christina Jackson, Counselor EU
Christine Rosner, Counselor HFC
Marian C. Slater, Counselor NC
Karen T. Bruchak,
Awards Selection Committee
Mary Austin,
Research Committee
Eileen M. Alexy,
Publicity Committee*



In this issue. . .

Visit our webstie at <http://deltatau.libertynet.org>

***"Member Spotlight"
In Memoriam
Joan Kane Amick***

It is highly unusual for our chapter to spotlight a person who has passed away; however, "unique, and wonderfully caring" are the adjectives that best describe Joan Kane Amick. Joan was a VERY ACTIVE and devoted Nurse. She was a faculty member at Thomas Jefferson University for 45 years when she retired in 1997. She obtained her RN from the nursing school at Pennsylvania Hospital, her BSN from the University of Pennsylvania, her MSN from Villanova University and was pursuing her Doctorate from Widener University. Joan was very active in the Delta Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing at Thomas Jefferson University. She held the positions of: President 1994 to 1996, Chair of Bylaws 1994 to 1997, Editor of Delta Rho News 1994 to present, Corresponding Secretary 1995 to present, and Region 6 Mentoring Chair, (PA, NJ, DE, VA, West VA and Washington DC) 1997 to present. She belonged to four chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International: Delta Rho, Xi, Alpha Nu and Eta Beta.

I first met Joan in 1996, when I attended my first Tri-State Consortium Brunch. She was the woman with the warm smile and manner who made me feel "welcome" amongst many of my new colleagues (many that were formerly my faculty). I met Joan at **EVERY** Sigma event that I attended (always with a camera in her hand at-the-ready!) Joan was always there, and touched the lives of every person she met. She was the living embodiment of the definition of a mentor, acting as teacher, sponsor, counselor, developer of skills and intellect, host, guide, exemplar, and one who supported and facilitated the realization of the dreams of many young "mentees." We mourn her passing and realize that it has left a large hole in our hearts and our community. It is my sincere hope that Joan's spirit of giving and volunteering will be reflected in each of you, by actively giving of yourself, serving as a mentor (in whatever capacity), and inspiring those around you!

Eileen M. Alexy, PhD(c), MSN, RN, CS