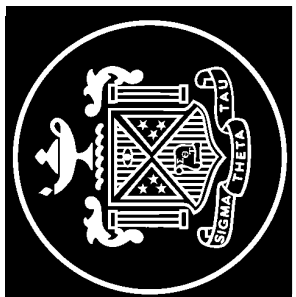


# DELTA

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



## *A Message from the President...*

Dear Members of Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large,

Where did the year go? I want to send my sincere **thank you** to all members - who already many responsibilities on their plate - who have served as volunteers and Board members of our Chapter this past year. It does "take a village" to meet the goals and vision of Sigma Theta Tau International.

April 18, 2010 was our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Induction celebration held on the lovely grounds of Immaculata University. We celebrated by inviting all the past presidents of the Chapter to be honored for their contributions in "laying the foundation" of our Chapter. Sara Eldridge gave an informative slide presentation and talk on our history starting in 1979. It was a great honor to meet our Chapter's first President, Ginny Neely (1980) in person. We inducted 160 undergraduate/graduate students and 6 Nurse Leaders. Dr. Terry Valiga, Director of the Institute for Educational Excellence, Duke University School of Nursing shared her vast knowledge with our new inductees in a presentation titled "Excellence, Leadership and Involvement in Sigma Theta Tau". Dr. Valiga is a recognized expert in the area of leadership, research, innovative teaching and curriculum development. It was a privilege to have Dr. Valiga as our guest speaker on this special day. The Inductees and families enjoyed a reception with a wonderful array of finger foods and drink following the ceremony.

In April, I attended the Leadership Summit in Atlanta, which focused on "Effective Leadership in Times of Economic Changes". My brain was on overload with all the valuable information I gleaned from the conference. There were strategies for developing nursing leadership, strategies and resources for delivery of quality nursing care/ education and the best practices for chapter operations. Meeting Erin Hurst, STTI's Chapter Training Specialist, was exciting for me; she certainly has a wealth of knowledge on chapter management. I encourage all members to attend a Leadership Summit conference ; it is a very empowering experience. **You** are all leaders; remember - you were bestowed the honor of being inducted as a member of STTI. One does not have to be a Board member to attend. Do it for your own personal growth!

Our Chapter members are out there living the vision of our Honor Nursing Society. Through leadership, research and scholarship they are making the world a better place and improving health worldwide. I would like to recognize just a few members and their accomplishments over the past year. Beth Chiatti spearheaded a nursing immersion experience for her students with a mission in El Salvador (she writes about her experiences in this newsletter). Dr. Christine Jackson received the Lindback Award for teaching at Eastern University. This is a prestigious award for teaching excellence in which students nominate a faculty member for high quality teaching skills which impact on the students' learning. Mary Wombwell from Holy Family was awarded a Health and Technology Scholar's Program Award and will use the monies to increase the technology at the university. Annette Marie Pierdomenico was accepted as a mentee in the STTI's Maternal-Child Leadership Academy. Elaine Hossler spent time this summer in Nicaragua teaching the village women basic health care skills and brought much needed medical supplies to their community center. Last, be not least, all the members who were on the ballot for this upcoming year and those who are currently fulfilling a term on the board or committee.

The Chapter co-sponsored a donation to the American Public Health Association Conference held in Philadelphia this past fall. We were also able to co-sponsor two annual spring events, the South Eastern Pennsylvania League of Nursing (SPLN) dinner and the Jean Brown Research Conference held at Immaculata University. A contribution was also made to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Immaculata University's School of Nursing which was held in May.

It is an honor to be your President. Meeting and working with members and peers who have such dynamic expertise, innovative ideas and foremost, who practice with love, courage and honor, is a gift. I am sending a call out to all of our active chapter members to commit a few hours of your crazy busy life to connect with STTI and Delta Tau Chapter- At-Large by visiting our web sites. Make use of the wealth of information available at [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org). Catch up by visiting <http://www.deltatau.libertynet.org>. Take a minute and write to me via our e-mail with suggestions, concerns, and ways that we might better serve you. Remember.... you are always welcome to our meetings :-)

Be safe and enjoy these last days of summer!

Denise Yonkoske, MSN, RN, CEN  
President of Sigma Theta Tau Chapter-At-Large  
Sigma Theta Tau International

### **2010-2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**OCTOBER 17, 2020**  
**ANNUAL TRI-STATE  
CONSORTIUM BRUNCH**  
**LOCATION: EMBASSY  
SUITES HOTEL  
PHILADELPHIA**

**OCTOBER 17, 2010**  
**BOARD MEETING  
EMBASSY SUITES  
HOTEL**  
**FOLLOWING TRI STATE  
BRUNCH**

**JANUARY , 2011**  
**BOARD MEETING  
(TIME AND PLACE  
TBD)**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2011**  
**ALL SCHOLARSHIPS &  
AWARD APPLICATIONS  
DUE**

**MARCH 2011**  
**PRE INDUCTION PIZZA  
PARTIES AND INDUC-  
TION PLANNING MEET-  
ING ( TIME AND PLACE  
TBA)**

**APRIL 10, 2011**  
**31ST ANNUAL  
INDUCTION CEREMONY  
AT EASTERN UNIVER-  
SITY**

**JUNE 2011**  
**ANNUAL PLANNING  
MEETING (TIME AND  
PLACE TBD)**

*30th Annual Induction Ceremony*  
*Welcome to our new members...*



**EASTERN**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**HOLY**  
**FAMILY**  
**UNIVERSITY**

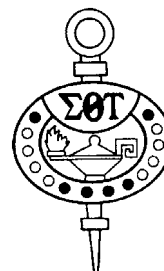
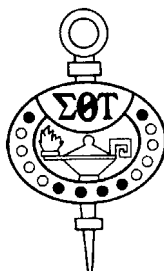
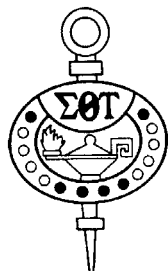


*30h Annual Induction Ceremony*



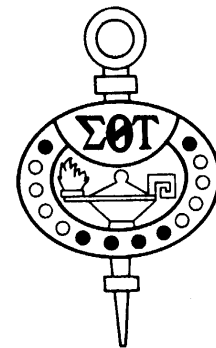
**IMMACULATA**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**IMMACULATA**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**GRADUATE**  
**STUDENTS**



*30th Annual Induction Ceremony*

**NEUMANN**  
**UNIVERSITY**



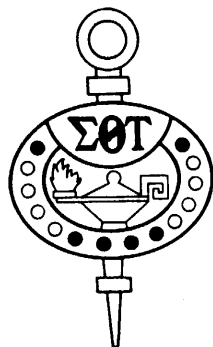
**DELTA TAU AT-LARGE  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT  
DENISE YONKOSKE  
AND GUEST SPEAKER  
DR. TERRY VALIGA**



# 30th Annual Induction Ceremony



**AWARD RECIPIENT  
MARGARET WEBSTER  
AND BETH CHIATTI**



**PAST CHAPTER PRESIDENTS  
L TO R; KAREN BRUCHAK, SARA ELDRIDGE,  
GINNY NEELY (OUR 1ST PRESIDENT) AND  
MARY WOMBWELL**

## Annual Induction Ceremony

On April 18th at Immaculata University there was a grand celebration commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large and the induction of 160 new members of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing.

Family and friends of the honored students gathered to congratulate these superior nurses and nursing students from Eastern University, Holy Family University, Immaculata University and Neumann University.

Our honored speaker was Terry Valiga, who spoke eloquently on "Excellence, Leadership, and Involvement in Sigma". Her life experiences and thoughtful words encouraged all who attended and allowed family and friends to appreciate and understand the highest types of nursing accomplishments.

Past Presidents were invited and were honored on this 30th anniversary of Delta Tau Chapter-At-Large. Those who were present were: Ginny Neely, the chapter's first president in 1980; Mary Wombell, President from 1995-1997; Bernice Hardy, President from 2000-2003; and Sara Eldridge, President from 2007-2009. Current President Denise Yonkoske gratefully thanked these and all past presidents.

A special award was given to Beth Chiatti, MSN of Eastern University for her excellence in nursing and nursing scholarship.

The "Immaculata University Heavenly High Notes Flute Choir" directed by Dr. Paula Nelson performed the inspirational processional and recessional music.

New and old members, faculty members, family and friends joined for a reception following the ceremony.



**IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY HEAVENLY HIGH NOTES FLUTE CHOIR**

## Scholarship and Grant Monies Available

**D**elta Tau Chapter-at-Large will award one Graduate and one Undergraduate Scholarship each in the amount of \$1000 during the 2010-2011 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 University, Holy Family University, Immaculata University or Neumann University.
2. Agree to a 1 year service commitment to the chapter
3. Completed all JUNIOR level nursing courses
4. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 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 **February 20, 2011**. The recipients of the Undergraduate, Graduate, and Research Awards will be acknowledged at the 31st Annual Induction Ceremony. To receive an application and further instructions for any of these awards, please contact your faculty counselors (Beth Chiatti, EU, Kathryn Hayes, HF, Jane Tang, IU, Sheila Cunningham, NU) or visit our website: <http://deltatau.libertynet.org> and click on Calendar of Events to download an application.



## *Cultural Immersion Trip to El Salvador*

Loredana is the mother of two young girls. Her husband was killed last year in a work-related accident. Loredana did not complete school and has no employable skills. Her extended family is helping to support her and the girls. The daughter, age 4, is underweight and has been enrolled in a nutrition supplementation program at the district health clinic.

Marco is a 12-year-old boy with severe asthma. His family, like many families in El Salvador, cannot afford to buy his asthma medication. Whenever he has an asthma attack, Marco's mother brings him to the Health Center in San Salvador, where he remains for many hours receiving nebulizer treatments and metered-dose inhalers. He has missed so much school because of his chronic health problem.

Eugenio is a 59-year-old man who ambulates slowly with a cane and appears decades older. He had to stop working in the fields due to severe peripheral vascular disease. Three years ago he started to develop ulcers on his legs. Eugenio visits the Health Center weekly to have the very large stasis ulcers on his left leg cleansed and dressed. Maggots, which were not placed there clinically, help to debride the wounds.

These are just some of the patients we cared for when I had the opportunity of taking a group of Eastern University BSN students to El Salvador. Together, we spent spring break on a cultural immersion/medical mission trip through the auspices of Project FIAT International, a Catholic organization of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who minister around the world assisting cross-cultural and multiethnic communities. The students and I were able to bring much-needed medical supplies and donations with us through enormous charitable community support.

While in El Salvador, we had the opportunity of making home-visits with a district health nurse; we administered immunizations, assessed newborns and their mothers, and cared for clients with chronic illnesses. We worked in the Wound Care Clinic in the capital city of San Salvador, where we treated all types of traumatic injuries, from machete wounds to animal bites, and removed hundreds of sutures. We also provided care in the Respiratory Clinic which was overflowing with babies, children and adults who desperately needed nebulizer treatments and asthma inhalers in order to breathe. Large nebulizer compressors allowed the students to administer bronchodilator medication to four patients at a time. The students then observed how the nebulizer supplies - the mask or mouthpiece, the receptacle for medication, and the tubing - were cleansed in large vats of disinfectant between patients and used over and over again. Disposable equipment is too expensive and therefore, prohibitive.

While at the community health center in the village, the students presented health education in Spanish and English, and taught nutrition to mothers at a setting for undernourished preschool children. They were able to distribute donated powdered milk, which is much needed but too expensive for most families to purchase. The students also cared for geriatric clients at an adult day care center and provided recreational activities for them, and brought comfort and cheer to a large group of children in a local orphanage supported by the Sisters of Project FIAT.

The students and faculty developed long-term international relationships and established sustainable projects in the villages around San Salvador. In this impoverished country, Eastern University students obtained nursing care experience across the lifespan and displayed enormous compassion to clients who seemed to be forgotten by life. What we saw there will forever remain in our hearts.

Beth Chiatti, RN, MSN, PhD(c), CSN  
Eastern University



**Sigma Theta Tau  
International**

Delta Tau Chapter~At~Large  
C/O Mary Wombwell  
Holy Family University  
9801 Frankford Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19114

**Delta Tau Chapter Officers  
(2010-2011)**

Denise Yonkoske, President  
Corinne Latini, Vice President, EU  
Danielle Kohler, Vice President, HF  
Nancy Berry, Vice President, IU  
Mary Jane Speen, Vice President, NU  
Pat Giuffrida, Treasurer  
Catherine(Katie) Tottser, Secretary-  
Recording  
Lucia Kubik, Secretary-Corresponding  
Beth Chiatti, Counselor EU  
Kathryn Hayes, Counselor HF  
Jane Tang, Counselor IU  
Sheila Cunningham, Counselor NU



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

Since its inception, Delta Tau has made many financial contributions to the nursing community to support events, organizations, and individuals in pursuit of scholarly endeavors. We have been fortunate in these economic times to be able to continue this practice. Last year the chapter donated to the APHA Public Health Nursing Association, to Immaculata University in support of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of their Division of Nursing.

In accordance with the mission of Sigma Theta Tau Delta Tau has continued to support both the Tri State Consortium and the Immaculata University Jean Brown Research Day. Members can also support these educational events through attendance. Please look for dates and registration information in the newsletter and on the website. Each year Delta Offers Scholarships nursing students who are members of our chapter. Last year a \$500 scholarship was awarded to Mari-Carmen Farmer a student at Eastern University. Thank you to all those who made a donation.

**Did you know that you could  
make a donation to Delta Tau  
Chapter when renewing your**

**STTI membership?**

**It's just a click away...**

*Inside Details . . .*

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