

THE LEADING EDGE –SUMMER EDITION 2006

Editor: Maureen T. Greene



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Picture: Suzanne Williamson, current Delta Gamma President with STTI past President Dan Presut: Receiving Delta Gamma recognition for 25 years of chapter service, November 2005

Hello everyone and “Happy Summer 2006”. On behalf of the Delta Gamma board of directors, I would like to acknowledge and thank Barbara Malecki for her strong leadership and commitment as President. During this past year as President-Elect, Barb has been an awesome mentor to me and I look forward to serving the chapter with enthusiasm, pride and accomplishment.

The Board year of 2005-2006 is coming to an end. Much has been accomplished and much gratitude needs to be extended to all membership for their support and guidance.

The Board will transition on August 11, 2006 and the previous strategic plan will be reviewed, and new objectives and goals will be developed to meet the overall vision of Sigma Theta Tau International, that of “Global Health through Collaboration”. At the local level, we are asked to focus on key areas including; Knowledge, Leadership, Service, Communities and Sustainability. We already have a blue print from our International President Carol Picard.

This will be accomplished through active involvement on the part of all our members giving a little bit of their time and talents throughout the year. As chapter president, I look forward to touching each and every one of you to “tap into” your expertise to accomplish our goals.

Remember, most of our talents and skills as nursing professionals are within our hearts and hands and heads, as we carry out our work each and every day to serving those around us, in our immediate presence. The value in having a chapter allows us to come together and have tremendous resources to further carry out the mission of nursing.

Have a safe and wonderful summer with family, friends and colleagues. Please feel free to email me at Suzanne.Williamson@aurora.org.

“Path to Laboring Down: Award Recipient Presents Research”

Lisa Hanson, DNSc, CNM, Associate Professor, Marquette University spoke at the May 2, 2006 Spring Program, held for the first time at the College of Nursing. New inductees were guests of the Chapter for this program, entitled "The Path to Laboring Down."

A gap exists between research and current practice in the management of second stage labor. Passive descent (laboring down) has been studied and recommended for anesthetized women due to identified maternal and fetal benefits. However, passive descent has not been systematically examined for unanesthetized low-risk laboring women. A description and evaluation of the strategies used to direct women during second stage labor is needed. A convenient sample of 10 full term, healthy primigravidas who wish to labor without epidural anesthesia were sought. Research assistants began data collection in the late first stage of labor. At the time of complete cervical dilation, subjects experienced second stage without provider direction to bear down. Non-participant observation were documented using an adapted Naturalistic Observation of the Childbirth Experience Tool. Measures made at prescribed intervals include pain and fatigue scales, maternal sounds, behavioral and positions, vital signs, contraction pattern, fetal heart rate patterns, provider communication, behavior and management suggestions and response to maternal cues. Following birth interviews of the client, nurse and provider were obtained to solicit perceptions of the management experience. The success and barriers of this approach was discussed with suggestions for future research entertained. Publication of results are planned.



Picture: Teri Vega Stromberg, RN, CNS

“Seek First to Understand”

The prayer of St. Francis has guided Teri Vega Stromberg, this years Marquette Distinguished Nursing Alumnae recipient in her quest for scholarliness. In her presentation to the Delta Gamma STT Inductees and quests, she recalled that early in her nursing career, her search for knowledge occurred in the library, reading nursing journals and publications. She is thankful for the advances in the

internet which have enabled more efficient literature searches, and easy access to national guidelines and best practice resources. Yet she is always reminded that the ability to implement new knowledge or best practices is only possible by first seeking to understand the unique and individual perspectives of patients, families and communities. Teri shared three personal examples of patient/family/community experiences to illustrate her lessons. In her stories, she recalled that she approached each patient, family or community with great eagerness to bring knowledge or news of resources to assist with a diagnosis of cancer. Although fortified with patient teaching materials, brochures of community programs, data or statistics, in each case, Teri was awakened by the personal needs, cultural values and specific barriers of the patients and families she sought to help. Only through stepping back and listening to their stories, was she able to truly learn the message of St. Francis, “seek first to understand, than to be understood.”

Awards and Recognition Continue to Recognize Student Success

Two undergraduate and two graduate students were selected from a pool of submission to receive monetary recognition from the Sigma Theta Delta Gamma Chapter. The recipients were honored for their commitment to scholarship, leadership and service.



Left to Right: Gina Kinsey and Jessica Stafford Draper, Graduate Students, and Seniors Students, Stefanie Kocourek and Jodi Jakubek

Introducing the New Leading Edge Editor:

Welcome aboard Mary Polchert, doctoral candidate from University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin and Delta Gamma Member. We are pleased to welcome Mary to the Board as the Newsletter editor. Please contact Mary for needs related to membership communication. Mary can be reached at polchert@uwm.edu.

Induction 2006: Not Just Another Face in the Crowd

Induction 2006 was again a successful recognition of student and community leaders whose future will shape the nursing profession in service, skill and science. The following new members were inducted April 30, 2006.



Community Leaders: Mary Brunn
Denise Costello
Tina Rentmeester
Susan Vlasny

Undergraduate Seniors: Carolyn Chmielewski
Stefanie Kocourek
Anne Monaco
Molly Summer

Junior Students:

Leah Durkin, Rebecca Fisher, Christyn Gaa, Carlie Gagliano, Jennie Gehlhausen, Melinda Gille, Jennifer Lemmers, Amanda Speck, Katherine Spittler, Laura Stoltenburg, Elizabeth Wieselmann

RN Students

Joseph Coppersmith
Jo Layne Klein

MSN Students:

Martha Aregbesola
Anne Bourguignon
Jamie Broker
Leah DeMars
Jodi Doering
Elizabeth Gansz
Kara Hanley
Hazel Hanson
Natalee Hartwig
Lynn Krug

Jessica Leiburg
Kim Nelson
Christine Pasinski
Jessica Stafford Draper
Jennifer Steele
Kathleen Van Thiel
Kimberly Weber
Rita Wermers
Christine Willis

Mentoring Continues in the Chiron Mentor Program Through Sigma Theta Tau International



The Chiron Mentoring Program offers members of Sigma Theta Tau International an invaluable resource for mentoring and individualized leadership development. Named for Chiron, a centaur in classical mythology who was a mentor to Aesculapius, Achilles and Hercules, the program gives the individuals to participate either as a mentor or mentee. Mentees are usually early in their careers and wish to develop leadership or scholarship skills. They are paired with nurses who are experienced and who will assist them in this one year program to achieve their professional growth centered on scholarship, leadership and evidence-based practice.

Last year 2005, Maureen Greene, RN, CNS-BC, ACNP-BC, doctoral student was mentored by Amy Coenen, RN, PhD. Maureen's goals were to "rub elbows with researchers" and hone her skills in research methods and leadership involvement. Maureen's final project centered on working with the STTI Virginia Henderson Library and a practice team of seasoned professors in determining effective methods to use terminology and retrieval software for library services. The goal was to address which method of terminology would suit the library in retrieving the "researcher" submitted articles and presentations on this library service. A strategic pilot project to match International Classification of Nursing terms (ICNP®) was undertaken by Maureen and monitored by Dr Coenen. This project is ongoing as a process summary is being done by Maureen and two other masters prepared students from University of Nebraska who were also on the team.

Maureen is also involved in the ACW® project. This cooperative project between Aurora, Cerner and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is spearheaded by Norma Lange and a team of researchers looking at nursing knowledge and evidence-based practice research results to guide nursing practice and performance. Maureen is providing literature evidence for one of the concepts of interest in this project. Maureen was financially supported by Delta Gamma Chapter for attendance at the first Chiron Leadership/Learning event July 2005. Maureen Greene is now the Region 4 Coordinator for the North-Central region of STTI representing 28 chapters in this region.

Maureen continues to work on these projects but has now offered to mentor the next Chiron recipient, Elizabeth (Kelly) Penza. Kelly is a BSN, Madison University graduate of couple of years ago who is now a cardiopulmonary nurse at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-St Joseph Hospital. Kelly is being financially supported in part by Beta-Eta-at large chapter at UW-Madison. Kelly's focus is on public policy and hopes to participate in projects being undertaken through the Wisconsin Nurses Association, one of which is nurses' fatigue.



Maureen Greene, Chiron Mentor (Left) and Kelly Penza, Chiron Mentee (Right) at Chiron Leadership Session and Sigma Theta Tau International offices at Indiana University/Purdue Campus.

Members are encouraged to seek these opportunities through the STTI website: www.nursingsociety.org or leadership@stti.iupui.edu.

Postscript: Maureen T. Greene wishes to thank Delta Gamma Chapter for their past financial support for this award. Presentation of the projects is planned for the Biennial event for STTI Convention in November 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Joint Chapter Program Brought Chapters Together on Complimentary Approaches to Health and Wellness

Once again the local chapters of STTI united for a Winter collaborative program. This Program on “complimentary health” served to bring a panel of speakers together to discuss options for client and self to enhance wellness and health balance. Karen Gordon ARPN, BC, MSN (Tau Mu president) moderated this Continuing Education event. The panelists were Sunday Muniz, RPh, CCN a Naturopathic Pharmacist the discussed the biological ramifications of prescription drug use on the enzymes and cell utilization of essential minerals and nutritional substrates. Thomas Ryan, program coordinator from integrative medicine, Columbia Hospital and Debra Johnson, MSN, RN, BC, from Tau Sigma Chapter (Columbia School of Nursing/Mount Mary College) discussed Heartmath as a basic strategy to address and reduce stress. Lori Setterstein, RN, PhD, from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Eta Nu chapter discussed esoteric healing and described the central balance of bio-energy and methods to correct imbalances through naturapathic methods. Delta Gamma chapter president and diabetic educator with Aurora Healthcare, Suzanne Williamson offered information on nutritional genome and environmental influences on health and wellness. Suzanne described methods to analyze current health and methods to intervene to correct and address deficits to curtail illness onset.

This cooperative effort has been submitted for recognition ad award through the STTI Showcase Award which will début at the Chapter Leadership Academy in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 28-30, 2006. Plan to attend to see if the local chapters of Tau Mu (Carroll College), Tau Sigma (Columbia/Mount Mary College), Delta Gamma (Marquette University), and Eta Nu (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) are successful in this submission. Information on this conference and application is available at the www.nursingsociety.org website.

Delta Gamma Chapter Has Purchased a Sigma Theta Tau International Brick Paver

The Delta Gamma Board of Directors approved the purchase of a \$500.00 brick that will be cut and placed on display at headquarters at Sigma Theta Tau International during the Chapter Leadership Academy event in September and beyond. Bus service for viewing the headquarters and this paver garden area is offered during this event. Individuals can purchase bricks also! Visit the website for this recognition and philanthropic opportunity. Congratulations, Delta Gamma Chapter for your 26 years of scholarship and leadership that is recognized by this brick!

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Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc

Delta Gamma Chapter

Honor Society of Nursing

Marquette University

College of Nursing

Bring a fellow nurse, or nursing student...come renew your spirit!
Join us as we honor two inspiring nurse leaders....

Awards & Hall of Fame Dinner Program

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union
1442 West Wisconsin Avenue
(Free parking – 16th Street Parking Structure)

HALL OF FAME HONOREE

Ardene Brown, PhD, RN

OUTSTANDING NURSE SCHOLAR

Janet Wessel Krejci, PhD, RN, CNAA

Associate Dean Undergraduate Program, Marquette University College of Nursing

Program:

5:30 PM Henke Lounge: Reception and Networking

6:30 PM Lunda Room: Dinner

7:30 PM Awards Program

8:00 PM Dr. Krejci

“Innovations in Undergraduate Education”

Members: \$25 Undergraduate Students: \$15 Guests: \$25

Please consider sponsoring a nursing student’s dinner by adding \$15 to your check. You will be recognized in the program as a “sponsor.”

Thank you!

Make checks payable to **Delta Gamma Chapter**

-----**Detach and mail this portion by 9/25/06**-----

Awards & Hall of Fame Dinner Program – October 4, 2006

Name _____ Phone/email _____

Please indicate entrée choice:

_____ Chicken Breast with Mushroom Marsala Sauce

_____ Vegetable & Tofu Stuffed Roasted Eggplant with Marinara Sauce

_____ I am enclosing an additional \$15 to sponsor a student’s dinner.

Return with check to:

Jacque Nook, Program Chair
2615 N. 111th Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53226 - 1207