



President's Message

I want to open by commending the membership for such outstanding involvement in the chapter and for electing an extraordinary board of directors and officers. We have seen so many goals come to fruition this year! Thanks to our new Dean, we now have a single office all to ourselves. We appreciate Mr. Roberto Gonzalez sharing his space with us in the interim. To keep up with the happenings at the Chapter level, please log on to our Alpha Delta website at http://www.son.utmb.edu/stti_alpha_delta/ and you will find everything you need to know about calls for awards, research proposals, and nominations. Many thanks to Trish Richard and Nonie Mendias for getting the website up and running. Trish also keeps it updated and looking good.



Do help us keep our website up to date by letting Nonie or Trish know about additional vital links and information that should be included on the page. I also want to acknowledge the Membership Involvement Committee's work on developing and sending out the chapter's Membership Survey. I hope by now you have returned it to Judy Glaister. This dedicated committee is also working hard on strategies to use to encourage inactive members to renew their memberships. Make it your New Year's resolution to renew! Membership information is available at the STTI website at <http://www.nursingsociety.org>.

Thanks to the guidance of the Finance Committee and energetic plans of the Fundraising Committee, Alpha Delta is now the proud owner of a professional display created by Skyline Displays of Houston. We feel very fortunate to finally have a display we can be proud of.

Our counselors, Jane Gonzalez and Karen Hand, did an excellent job of inviting qualified candidates to an afternoon tea to learn about STTI, Alpha Delta, and the benefits of membership. It was a wonderful affair and we all look forward to the induction of new members in April.

As most of you know by now, Dr. Pam Watson joined our UTMB family in early December as Dean of the School of Nursing. Please join me in welcoming Pam to Alpha Delta as well. We are looking forward to her leadership of the school and her participation in Alpha Delta events. I know that she has already requested a transfer of membership to our chapter and we appreciate her support of our chapter's goals and activities! Welcome!

Judy

ALPHA DELTA OFFICERS 2001-2002		
<i>President</i> / Judith Drew (409) 772-8227 jdrew@utmb.edu	<i>President-Elect</i> / Judy Glaister (409) 772-8229 juglaist@utmb.edu	<i>Vice-President</i> / Linda J. Venzke (409) 770-6751 lvenzke@utmb.edu
<i>Immediate Past President</i> / Cheryl Lehman (409) 772-1071 clehman@utmb.edu	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> / Nonie Mendias (409) 772-8258 nmendias@utmb.edu	<i>Recording Secretary</i> / Michelle Clark (409) 772-8237 mclark@utmb.edu
<i>Treasurer</i> / Cheryl Day (713) 791-7395 cherly.day@hcahealthcare.com	<i>Archivist</i> / Joan Hayes (409) 747-2003 jmhayes@utmb.edu	<i>Bylaws Consultant</i> / Anna Pearl Rains (409) 772-1762 arains@utmb.edu
<i>Counselor:</i> Jane Gonzales (409) 772-7507 jegonzal@utmb.edu Karen Hand (409) 772-0396 khand@utmb.edu	<i>Nominating Committee:</i> Ruth Marcott (409) 772-8225 ermarcot@utmb.edu Dolly Sanares-Ousley (409) 747-7363 dcsanare@utmb.edu Charlotte Wisnewski (409) 772-8235 cwisnew@utmb.edu	<i>Newsletter</i> / Kathy Lawrence (409) 772-6337 kalawren@utmb.edu <i>Administrative Support</i> / Susie Briones (409) 772-8317 sbriones@utmb.edu
2000-2001 International Eligibility Committee Ruth Marcott Member (409) 772-8225 ermarcot@utmb.edu		

Chapter News

Kudos to our STTI Stars!

UTMB School of Nursing received a major program grant for \$219,000. The Nursing Innovation Grant Program is one of the initiatives intended to address the nursing shortage and focuses on student and faculty recruitment and retention. Titled: *Having Opportunities, Producing Excellence (HOPE) Program*, this UTMB SON project will focus on expanding current recruitment and retention initiatives and designing new programs to promote student success. **Ruth Marcott**, Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Associate Professor for the School of Nursing, is the Project Director. **Poldi Tschirch**, Baccalaureate Program Director for the School of Nursing, is the Co-Director.

Congratulations to **Mary Fenton**, former Dean of the School of Nursing, and **Alice Hill**, professor of nursing, who recently were inducted as fellows into the American Academy of Nursing for their extraordinary commitments and contributions to nursing.

Applause to **Donna Gauthier**, who became the first graduate from the School of Nursing doctoral program in September, 2001. She currently serves on the SON faculty.

Judy Glaister: 2002 Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress Diplomat by the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress.

Glenna Tolley for her certification as a Critical Care Nurse Specialist.

Effect of Healing Touch Therapy on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Symptoms, Principal Investigator: **Edilma B. Guevara**, Co-Investigators: **Connie Silva**, **Elnora (Nonie) P. Mendias**, and Cecilia Romero, MD (UTMB SOM, Family Medicine).

Summer, 2001: Graduate research elective project and included masters nursing students and SOM students who completed the first year, as well as SON and SOM faculty. Another project for Summer, 2002 is planned.

Congratulations to **Ellarene Duis-Nittsche** for receiving a **Nurse Excellence Award for Mentoring** from *Nurse Week*. Ellarene was featured on the cover of the bi-weekly publication.

Publications:

Dana Bjarnason and **Cheryl Lehman**, 2001. "Ethical Issues from Critical Care to Rehabilitation: A Challenge for Specialty Nurses". Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America, 13(3), Rehabilitation After Critical Illness.

Cheryl Lehman: Co-guest-editor, Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America 13(3), Rehabilitation After Critical Illness.

Bernier, M. J., & Leonard, B. (2001). Pulmonary rehabilitation after acute COPD exacerbation. *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*, 13, 375-387.

Froman, R. D. & Owen, S. V. (2001). Measuring attitudes toward persons with AIDS: The AAS-G as an alternate form of the AAS. *Scholarly Inquiry for Nursing Practice*, 15, 161-174.

Froman, R. D. & Peloquin, S. M. (2001). Rethinking the use of the Hogan Empathy Scale: A critical psychometric analysis. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 55, 566-572. (Allied Health Sciences & Nursing).

Mendias, E. P. & Guevara, E. B. (2001). Assessing culturally competent scholarship. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 17, 256-266. (Nursing).

Marcott, R.T. (2002). *Environmental Factors Related to Health Promotion*, Health Promotion in Nursing (pp.115-143).

Presentations:

Anthe Caruso: recently presented a lecture on the nursing shortage at the 25th Annual Conference of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Concepcion (Connie) Silva

International Presentations: "Alternative Therapies in Nursing", at the First International Oncology Nursing Congress, November 13-16, 2001 at Guayaquil, Ecuador, South America. Over 150 nurses, physicians, and other hospital staff attended.

Universidad del Valle. School of Nursing. Cali Colombia, South America. *Healing Touch Level 11-A*, November 17th, 18th, & 19th, 2001

Healing Touch Level I, November 20th, 21st, & 22nd, 2001

Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo León – School of Nursing, Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico.

Healing Touch Level 11-A,

December 10th, 11th, & 12th, 2001

Healing Touch Level I,

December 13th, 14th, & 15th, 2001

Local Presentations: UTMB, Galveston, School of Nursing
Healing Touch Level I, December 19th, 20th, 2001

Blair, P. (2001, October). *Legal issues in neonatal advanced practiced nursing*. Invited speaker at the 17th Annual National Association of Neonatal Nurses, Salt Lake City, Utah. (Nursing)

Glaister, J. A., Kesling, G. & LaBuff, K. (2001, October). *Health care providers and family violence*. Presented at the Bridging the Gap Series, UTMB, Galveston, TX.

Glaister, J. A. (2001, October). *Drawing to facilitate healing*. Texas Council on Family Violence, Twentieth Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference, Dallas, TX.

Leonard, J. (2001, November). *Radiologic evaluation, three skills sessions*. Invited speaker at the Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners Seventh Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.

Mendias, E. P. (2001, October). *A U.S.-Mexico partnership to investigate a community health need*. Presented at the American Public Health Association 129th Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, and at the WHO Collaborating Center Brown Bag Presentation, Galveston, TX.

Wisnewski, C. A., & Marcott, R. T. (2001, November). *Comparison of faculty and student perceptions of student workload in a baccalaureate nursing program*. Poster presentation at the 36th Biennial Convention: Scientific Sessions of Sigma Theta Tau International, Indianapolis, IN.

Chapter News



Sigma Theta Tau International Alpha Delta Chapter



Call for Nominations for Recognition Awards

Excellence in Research

- Conducts distinguished research in nursing
- Communicates nursing research findings
- Writes scholarly works related to nursing theory and/or research
- Demonstrates evidences of a history of nursing research activities
- Encourages research activities within STTI, the nursing profession, and/or the public

Excellence in Education

- Demonstrates excellence in teaching
- Advances the science and art of nursing through clarifying, refining, and/or expanding the knowledge base of nursing
- Promotes a theory/research base for nursing curricula and practice
- Influences scholarly development in nursing education, practice and/or research through teaching
- Influences the professional practice of nursing and the public's image of nursing through excellence in teaching

Excellence in Nursing Practice

- Demonstrates breadth of knowledge in area of clinical nursing practice
- Develops creative approaches to nursing practice that contribute to quality patient care
- Possesses clinical expertise and attributes of a clinical scholar
- Advances the scope and practice of nursing
- Serves as preceptor that inspires peers' practice
- Enhances the image of nursing through practice
- Participates in community affairs, legislation, or organizations that affect nursing practice

Excellence in Mentoring

- Serves as mentor to peers or students in research, education, and/or clinical practice.
- Actively shapes and promotes the career of a nurse or development of the chapter
- Freely shapes our own resources for the growth and development of the individual or the chapter
- Maintains the mentoring relationship over time

Deadline for nominations: March 8, 2002

The honoree will be recognized with a chapter plaque and honorarium at the Annual Induction Ceremony. Please consider potential nominees; submit their names along with a letter of recommendation and current CV. In the letter, address the specified criteria for the selected recognition award and send to:

Charlotte Wisnewski, PhD, RN,C.
University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing
301 University Blvd.
Galveston, TX 77555-1029

Chapter News

Call for Research Abstracts & Project Summaries for Poster Presentations

Connecting Conversations in Nursing Scholarship

Sponsored by
Alpha Delta Chapter- Sigma Theta Tau International
School of Nursing
UTMB Nursing Service

February 18, 2002
5pm-7pm
Levine Hall Dining Room
(refreshments will be served)

Join us for an enjoyable evening of dialogue.
Meet with your colleagues: faculty members, nurse clinicians,
clinical educators, nurse practitioners, nursing students,
and the new SON Dean.
Review posters demonstrating our accomplishments
and sharing our successes.
Explore the possibilities for your own professional growth!

Please submit 100-200 word abstract or summary describing research projects, staff development and education projects, innovative evidence-based nursing practices in which you are involved or have previously submitted at a conference.

Students are invited to submit theoretical or conceptual posters.

**Submit abstracts and summaries to Dr. Diane Heliker
at the School of Nursing (Room 3.627), or email dheliker@utmb.edu.**

If you have any concerns or questions, please call Diane at x21486.

Deadline for submissions: February 10, 2002

CNE Type II 1.0 contact hours is awarded
(This Conference is free for all attendees)

Chapter News



A Message from Alpha Delta's Newest Member...



Greetings to all my fellow members of the Alpha Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

One of my earliest actions upon arriving here at UTMB on beautiful Galveston Island, has been to transfer my Sigma Theta Tau membership from the Jefferson Delta Rho Chapter in Philadelphia to the Alpha Delta Chapter.

At this juncture I want to assure all of you that I will do everything possible to help the Alpha Delta Chapter attain its rightful status as one of Sigma Theta Tau's outstanding Chapters. It is important for the Chapter to have appropriate space to showcase achievements, archive materials [within reason...it has been my experience that Sigma Chapter leaders tend to be "keepers of everything"], interview potential inductees, and conduct business and so on. As well I believe the Chapter should have professional brochures and other related materials, business cards, and high quality stationery. Probably you have other ideas. I pledge to help as much as possible in providing the resources Alpha Delta needs.

In my view a thriving Sigma Chapter is central to the well being and professional advancement of our graduates. I look forward to getting to know all the Alpha Delta Chapter members.

Pam Watson RN, ScD

Dean and Professor, UTMB School of Nursing



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Dicken's on the Strand!

December 1st & 2nd, 2001, 9:00am – 9:00pm.

Alpha Delta Chapter participated again in this fun-filled event by covering the First Aid Station and a Refreshment Booth. Victorian costumes and Victorian nursing costumes were worn.

Refreshment Booth Chair: Caroline Dorsett

First Aid Chair: Kathy Lawrence, MSN, RNC

Pictured: Teresa Ashcraft, Margaret Grue, Karen Hand



Alpha Delta Committees 2001-2002

Membership Involvement: Judy Glaister, Jane Gonzalez, Ellarene Duis-Nittsche, & Mary Murphy.

Finance Committee: Bruce Leonard (Chairperson), Corinne Opperman, Cheryl Day, & Dana Bjarnason.

Nominating Committee: Ruth Marcott (Chairperson), Dolly Sanares, & Charlotte Wisnewski.

Eligibility Committee: Jane Gonzalez (Chairperson & Counselor), Karen Hand (Counselor), Maribel Bhojani, Jan Kvale, & Dana Bjarnason.

Research Committee: Diane Heliker (Chairperson), Trish Richard, & Ellarene Duis-Nittsche.

Awards Committee: Charlotte Wisnewski & Diane Heliker (co-chairs), Denise Voyles, & Missy Torres.

Fundraising Committee: Karen Hand (Chairperson), Missy Torres, Rebakah Richard, & D'nae Weaver.

Newsletter and Publicity Committee: Kathy Lawrence (Chairperson), Nonie Mendias, & Michele Clark.

Program Committee: Linda Venzke (Chairperson), Helen Jordan.



Chapter News



Membership Drive



Alpha Delta Chapter held its Annual Tea Membership Drive on November 12, 2001 in the Marie Hall Room, UTMB SON. Approximately 50 prospective members attended representing generic, flex-op, masters, doctoral and community. Officers and board members discussed when they were inducted as members with each sharing special memories and personal meanings about Sigma Theta Tau. Alpha Delta Chapter awards and recognitions were also shared with the prospective members as a way of showing pride in Sigma Theta Tau and our chapter. A very informative Alpha Delta Chapter STTI display was also admired.



Taking Charge: The Nursing Shortage – Causes and Cures

The Third Annual Professional Nursing Organization Collaborative Program was held on November 27, 2001 at Open Gates, Broadway and Rosenberg, Galveston, TX. The topic was “*Taking Charge: The Nursing Shortage – Causes and Cures*”. A panel presentation featuring Poldi Tschirch, RN PhD, Baccalaureate Program Director, UTMB SON, David Marshall, RN, JD, CNAA-BC, Executive Director and Chief Nursing Office, UTMB Hospitals, and Patricia A. Toliver, RN, NCH, UTMB Medical Surgical Nursing was used and moderated by Dana Bjarnason, RN, MA, CAN, Director, Medical Surgical Nursing and TNA President. The annual collaborative program is facilitated by TNA with other professional organizations and Alpha Delta Chapter, STTI co-sponsoring.



Knowledge Conference

Alpha Delta Chapter, in collaboration with others, co-sponsored the 2002, **Third Annual Southern States Knowledge in Nursing Conference – Scholarship and Clinical Practice: Pain Management**. Held on January 11th and 12th, at UTMB Levin Hall, the conference included presentations addressing the state-of-the-art and future directions in pain management, pain issues with the pediatric population, innovative pain reduction strategies, and the use of informatics in pain management. Alpha Delta Chapter provided full sponsorship of the scheduled Poster Presentations and display by conference attendees.

The conference attracted 118 attendees, including clinically based nurses, faculty and students at both the doctoral and masters levels. Most wanted to hear the addresses of the four major speakers as these nurse researchers are those who have been publishing in professional journals and being read by the conference participants. Dr. Christine Miakowski, RN, PhD, FAAN, Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiological Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco is an internationally recognized expert in pain management. She described her more than 20 years of accumulated clinical practice and research in pain assessment and intervention. Dr. Nancy Olsen-Hester, RN, PhD, FAAN, Professor at the School of Nursing at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver has been conducting research on children’s pain since 1976. She represented pediatric issues on the nationally convened panel to set pain management guidelines for practice and has received more federal dollars to study the management of pain in children than any other nurse researcher. Dr. Diana Wilkie, RN, PhD, FAAN, Professor at the School of Nursing at the University of Washington is a specialist in the field of cancer pain. She presented a new computer based pain assessment program as well as her instructional videodisc on how to teach about and assess patient pain. The fourth speaker, Dr. Marion Good, RN, PhD, an Associate Professor of Nursing at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University, has published a middle range theory and built a program of research on nonpharmacological strategies for pain management. She described alternative interventions aside from medications found to be successful in modifying patient pain.

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To include any news in the newsletter/website please contact:

Trish Richard @ 772-8221 or plrichar@utmb.edu

Kathy Lawrence @ 772-6337 or kalawren@utmb.edu

We now have our website up and running! Please take a minute and check it out!

http://www.son.utmb.edu/stti_alpha_delta/



Sigma Theta Tau International

Alpha Delta Chapter

The University of Texas School of Nursing at Galveston

301 University Boulevard

Galveston, TX 77555-1029