

It is with a sincere sense of excitement that I write this message to my colleagues of the Upsilon Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International! It is my hope that this message will not only reach the most experienced nurses within our organization but will also inspire the students and newer nurses to take heed as well. As a nurse with 16 years experience, I have found our profession to continually fulfill my need for learning. Nursing has also provided the challenges I require to grow personally and professionally, in areas of leadership, mentorship, and research. Serving as president for this chapter is one of the most recent challenges I have encountered, and one I take very seriously.

It is not lost on me that I lead a board of directors who will, for the next two years, make critical decisions about the activities of the chapter. I follow in the footsteps of those who have not only successfully developed the chapter to what it is today, but have implemented and maintained such programs as the MAMA Project, the Honor A Nurse Program, and for the first time in the history of the chapter, a research grant program.

Our profession is diverse. We are unified, however, by the desire to "improve health of the world's people by supporting the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses" (STTI, 2012). Upsilon Alpha offers a continual challenge, one of a deliberate global nature. Whatever your specialty, interests, experience, or knowledge level, there is a place for you in Sigma Theta Tau International. The Upsilon Alpha Chapter is the door to which you may enter to find a wealth of resources individualized to your unique interests.

As president, my goals are simple and in direct alignment with the overall vision and mission of Sigma Theta Tau International. Together with the board of directors, we will further refine these goals using the information obtained from the recently completed first-ever online membership survey. You have responded and have been heard! The board of directors will utilize the information obtained to drive our chapter in the direction of membership priorities. My goals for the 2012-2012 biennium are as follows:

1. Strategic Planning based on information obtained from chapter members, bylaws changes, and mission and vision
2. Increase the utilization of technology at the chapter level (online survey tools, webinars, effective use of a chapter website for communication, networking)
3. Implement actions that make it easy for UA members to achieve increased use of chapter and STTI resources
4. Increase membership and mentorship

I encourage you to visit the chapter website regularly at <http://upsilonalpha.nursingsociety.org> for news, information, and updates. Please join me and the officers of the board of directors of the Upsilon Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International as we move forward together.

