

**SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:**

- New Member Induction—November 8th
- 42nd Biennial Convention—Nov 16-20 in Indianapolis
- Next General meeting—February 3rd
- Nursing Research Day—April 16th

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# TAU TAU NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 9

September 2013

## Message from Tau Tau President

This is my first year as President of Tau Tau Chapter and I can see already we have gotten off to a great start! We installed new officers in June and we are busy organizing committee memberships and planning activities, as well as formulating a strategic plan for the year.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial STTI Convention will be held in Indianapolis in November. Dr. Suzanne Prevost's presidential call to action, *Give Back to Move Forward*, spotlights four key themes: creating your legacy; engaging in collaboration; responding

to vulnerable populations; and embracing technology. This will help set the pathway and goals for the next 2 years.

I look forward to being a delegate to represent our Tau Tau Chapter, along with Jeremy Blake. I am excited about being a delegate as I have not had that role before, and am interested in the processes. I also hope to bring back a lot of good information about chapter activities that will help our officers and committees, and therefore the membership as a whole.



**Tau Tau Chapter  
President Gail Boston,  
MSN, RN-BC, CCRN**

Please feel free to attend any board meetings, as they are open to the membership. Also, we are always looking for people to help with committee work. Join us and find out what is going on!

## Update from Fundraising Committee

“COME PLACE  
BIDS AT THE  
SILENT  
AUCTION  
DURING THE  
NEW MEMBER  
INDUCTION!”

The fundraising committee has many projects in the works!

First up—bring your checkbook to the Induction Ceremony on Nov 8th. There will be a silent auction with many wonderful items available for bidding. You can support Tau Tau **and** bring home fabulous new stuff all at the same time!!

Later in November we will have a Christmas Shopping Event where the vendors will donate a portion of the proceeds to Tau Tau. One stop shopping options may include: Pampered

Chef, Wild Tree, 31, Diva purses, Mary Kay cosmetics, jewelry, Tupperware, and many more! Details coming soon...

Plans for additional fundraising activities are:

- ◆ Gift wrapping services at Westroads Mall in December
- ◆ Food Service at a Creighton basketball and/or UNO hockey game in February
- ◆ March Madness Bracket Pool—winner gets a do-

nated prize and all proceeds go to Tau Tau

- ◆ Kentucky Derby Party in May
- ◆ Garage Sale in NMC parking lot next summer

Your fundraising committee is ALWAYS looking for more ideas for fun and exciting ways to raise money for our scholarship fund. Please contact chair **Hilary Spurgeon** if you have creative opportunities that will boost participation and funds!



**Silent Auction**  
**SOLD**

## 2013 Star Award

Sigma Theta Tau International, Tau Tau Chapter, in collaboration with the Methodist Hospital and College Research Day Committee, honors nurses for their work in the area of research and evidenced based practice with the Star Award. The Star Award was initiated in 2008 by the Tau Tau Chapter of STTI to honor nursing excellence and scholarly endeavors in advancing nursing practice. STTI is committed to the development of knowledge and using it in practice. The Star Award highlights the accomplishments of nurses who engage in scholarly inquiry with the sincere desire to improve patient outcomes and promote healthy work environments.

This past year has proven to be rich in accomplishments for several Methodist nurses. Each nominee has promoted evidence-based practice by conducting research studies or evi-

dence-based projects. The findings of these studies have influenced significant changes in nursing practice, education or administration within the Methodist Health System. The nurses nominated for the 2013 Star Award were, Bev Johnson, MHA, RN, Jean Adair, MSN, RN, Gail Boston, MSN, RN-BC, CCRN, Lee Bollock, BSN, RN & all Short Stay staff, Hilary Spurgeon, BSN, RN, Lisa Curtis, BSN, RN-BC, and Carrie Johnson, BSN, RN. Gail Boston was selected as this year's Star Award recipient.

Gail was nominated for her promotion of evidence-based practice in 2 research studies. The first study was in an effort to reduce and eliminate perioperative healthcare acquired pneumonia in the acute care hospital setting. With this study, care processes were evaluated and changes were implemented using best-practice evidence. Results from

**Tau Tau President Gail Boston**



2011 to 2012 proved to show a significant decrease in perioperative healthcare acquired pneumonia.

The second study took place in 2 phases and Methodist participated with other institutions across the United States to improve pain care processes and outcomes in hospitals. Practice implications for this study included participation in a national nursing research project, bedside nurses active in nursing research and quality improvement, identification of opportunities to improve pain management for patients, and assisting the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators to develop a new nursing quality indicator.



“WHAT DO I  
WANT TO DO  
WITH TAU  
TAU?”

## Membership Involvement

**What would you, as a Tau Tau member, like to do?**

The membership involvement team is looking for feedback and ideas for increasing member involvement. We would like to use your ideas to make your membership in Tau Tau a more positive and engaging one.

This is an opportunity for you as a member of Tau Tau to speak up and share your thoughts and ideas for making your involvement successful and fulfilling/rewarding.

Please send ideas to Kim Hall at  
[kim.hall@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:kim.hall@methodistcollege.edu)

and/or Cheryl Bouckaert at

[Cheryl.bouckaert@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Cheryl.bouckaert@methodistcollege.edu)

Next newsletter: More on what your Tau Tau membership has to offer you!

**Look for a link to a membership involvement survey from Survey Monkey...coming to an inbox near you in October!**



## Inactive Members



Are you a currently inactive member of Tau Tau? Have you not renewed your membership in the last couple of years? Think about coming back and getting involved. We want you and your ideas to help make Tau Tau a more vibrant and relevant part of your nursing world!

## 42nd Biennial Convention

STTI will hold their 42nd Biennial Convention this November in Indianapolis. Your Tau Tau delegates in attendance will be president Gail Boston and Jeremy Blake.

This event offers an exiting opportunity to network and to hear wonderful speakers and see interesting poster presentations in an atmosphere of professional collegiality. You can also earn 12.5 CNE hours!



Keynote speakers will include STTI President Suzanne Prevost, Dr. Betty Ferrell, and Tilda Shalof.

If interested, check out details at [http://www.nursingsociety.org/STTIEvents/BiennialConvention/Pages/42\\_2013\\_Home.aspx](http://www.nursingsociety.org/STTIEvents/BiennialConvention/Pages/42_2013_Home.aspx)

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## New Tau Tau Chapter Officers

Elections were held in June, and new officers for Tau Tau are:

- ◆ Hilary Spurgeon—Fundraising Chair
- ◆ Kim Hall & Cheryl Bouckaert—Member Involvement Co-Chairs
- ◆ Nicole Dempsey—Leadership Succession Committee

Congratulations and Welcome to the Tau Tau Board!

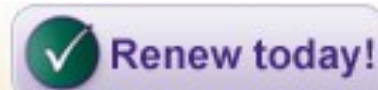
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From the Faculty Counselor:

Need to renew your membership?

Go to [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org) click on membership. Or call 888-634-7575 , Sigma Theta Tau International Headquarters and ask for member services.

Questions: Contact Jean Farnham, Faculty Counselor Tau Tau at [jean.farnham@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:jean.farnham@methodistcollege.edu)



“JOIN THE  
CIRCLE TODAY  
AND NETWORK  
WITH NURSES  
ALL OVER THE  
WORLD”

## Do You Use the Circle?

The Circle is the social network site for Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). You can create a profile, create contacts, and network with other nurses all over the world who have similar interests and specialties. You can also participate and create discussions for your local network contacts. Our local Tau Tau chapter has a specific Circle page that will have news about upcoming events and ways to become more involved in your local chapter.

You can get to The Circle by going to the main STTI page at [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org) and in the middle of the page, look for The Circle symbol to take you to the page. Your

STTI  
The  
Circle



registered email address is your ID and your membership number is your initial password. Once logged in, find the bar at the top of the screen and go to “Profile” there you can update your professional and personal information. Detailed instructions about how to use the messenger and other aspects of the site will be coming soon.



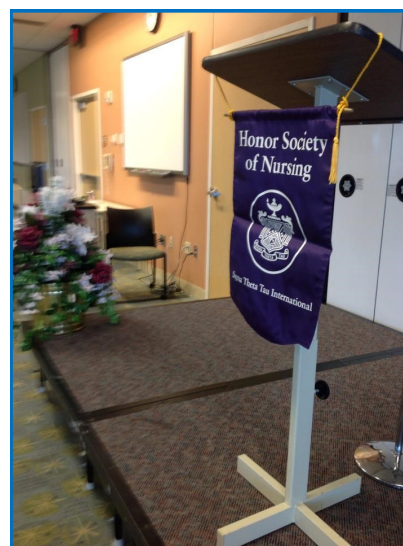
**NOV 8TH—NEW MEMBER  
INDUCTION!**



## 2013 New Member Induction Ceremony & Reception

All Tau Tau members are invited and encouraged to attend the annual New Member Induction Ceremony on November 8 at 4:30pm at Nebraska Methodist College. This is a great opportunity to welcome our newest members and network with friends and colleagues. The ceremony begins at 4:30pm with a cake and punch reception to follow. Our speaker this year is Deborah Marks Conley, MSN, APRN-CNS, GCNS-BC, FNGNA who is a Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist, Asst. Professor, NICHE Program Director, AgeWISE Site Coordinator, and ACE Unit CNS at Methodist. Whether you are a new or an experi-

enced nurse, the event will be an inspiring celebration of nursing. Also, as we did last year, there will be a silent auction fundraiser to support our endowment for nursing scholarships. We hope to see you there!



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## Tau Tau Program Committee Calendar of Events

### November 8:

New Member Induction Ceremony and Reception

### 2014

### February 3:

General Meeting and Program

### April 16:

Methodist Nursing Research Day

### June 16 (tentative):

General Meeting with Activity

### September 15:

General Meeting and Program

### November 14:

New Member Induction Ceremony and Reception

**SIGMA THETA TAU  
INTERNATIONAL**

**Tau Tau Chapter,  
Nebraska Methodist  
College**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.NURSINGSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.NURSINGSOCIETY.ORG)

LOVE, COURAGE, AND HONOR

*The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.*

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

President — Gail Boston, MSN, RN-BC, CCRN  
Vice President — Katherine Marquardt, RN, MSN  
Past President — Chris Hoebelheinrich, BA, MSN, RN  
Secretary — Margaret Medeiros, MSN, RNC-OB  
Treasurer — Sue Rohlf, MSN, MA, RN  
Counselor/Governance Chair — Jean Farnham, BSN, MSN, RN  
Fundraising Chair — Hilary Spurgeon  
Membership Involvement Chairs — Kim Hall & Cheryl Bouckaert  
Leadership Succession Chair—Lori Shaw-Warren  
Leadership Succession Committee—Nicole Dempsey  
Program Chair — Phyllis Zimmerman, BGS, BSN, RN  
Publicity Co-Chairs — Janet Syslo, BSN, RN &  
Jeremiah Blake, BSN, RN



Sigma Theta Tau International  
**Honor Society of Nursing**

**Upcoming Events!**

**November 8**

**New Member  
Induction Ceremony &  
Reception**

4:30 @ Clark Building

New members inducted  
into the august ranks of  
the Tau Tau chapter!  
Reception with light  
refreshments to follow.

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR**



**Help recruit NEW  
members!**

**Direct interested  
future members to  
[jean.farnham@  
methodistcollege.edu](mailto:jean.farnham@methodistcollege.edu) !!**

**October 10**

**Tau Tau Board  
Meeting**

4:15 @ NMC Alumni  
Center

Visit the board meeting  
and see your board  
members in action!