



TAU TAU NEWS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nursing Research Day—April 16th
- Heart Walk—May 10th
- General Meeting—June 16th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Research Day	2
Heart Walk	3
New Member Orientation	4
Fundraiser Info	5
Nurses' Day in Lincoln	6
Leadership Succession	7
AGES Seminars	8

Volume 1, Issue 11

March 2014

Message from Tau Tau President

My biggest personal goal for Tau Tau Chapter is to earn the Chapter Key Award for this upcoming Biennium. The Key Award recognizes chapters who excel in chapter activities such as membership and recruitment, fundraising, publicity and programming, collaboration, and professional development. Since our inception as a chapter, we have been working very hard on all of the criteria, as this is the basis of our strategic plan. The timeline for the award would be July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015. I reviewed the criteria with the board recently and I am very sure that



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

we already have a great start on this. Included in this newsletter, you will find information that we need from our membership to help fulfill the criteria. I would love to hear from you. If you are interested in reviewing the criteria for the Chap-

ter Key Award please go to the STTI website and click on Awards/Grants.

It has been wonderful being a member of this chapter and seeing all the great activities being done that would make this award possible. And it takes involvement, dedication, and a little bit of time to make these things happen. Thanks to all of you, perhaps it will.

Happy St Patrick's Day!



Research Day 2014

Tau Tau Chapter is proud to join with Methodist Hospital, Nebraska Methodist College, Methodist Women's Hospital, and Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in presenting the annual Methodist Nursing Research Day on Wednesday, April 16th. This year's theme is "EBP: Changing our Healthcare Landscape".

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker is Ann Scanlon-McGinity, PhD, RN, Clinical Member of The Methodist Hospital Research Institute; Chief Nurse Executive and Senior Vice President of Operations for The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX. In addition to her positions at The Methodist Hospital, Dr. Scanlon-McGinity also holds a faculty appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Baylor College of Medicine. She is the recipient of numerous grants and research awards for her work in the areas of psychiatry and home care and is an accomplished

writer and lecturer. She will give two presentations at the event focusing on the role of nursing related to our current and ever-changing health care landscape and on retaining master's prepared nurses in clinical roles. The annual event also features oral and poster presentations of research projects from our own health system and in our region. Program information including the full agenda and registration details can be found by [clicking here](#).

As part of the Research Day event, Tau Tau Chapter also presents the annual STAR award which highlights the accomplishments of nurses who engage in scholarly inquiry with the sincere desire to improve patient outcomes and/or promote healthy work environments. The goal of the STAR Award is to honor nursing excellence and scholarly endeavors with the intention of advancing nursing practice. Nomi-

nations are currently being accepted and are due by March 7.

An individual, team or department may apply or be nominated for this award if they have:

- Promoted research and/or evidence-based practice
- Conducted research or led an evidence-based practice project
- Participated on a research and/or evidence-based practice team that impacted patient care outcomes and/or that promoted a healthy workplace for nurses
- Implemented a research-based change

Award criteria:

An individual, team, or department who has met one or more of the following criteria can be considered for this award:



Research Day 2014 continued

- Influenced evidence-based practice in nursing practice, education, or administration
- Influenced further research in nursing practice, education, or administration
- Utilized the findings of an evidence-based project
- Utilized the findings of a research study
- Supported other/further research based on the findings
- Created an important advancement in nursing practice, education, or administration
- Improved patient care was noted
- Improved work environment was noted
- Imparted new knowledge
- Disseminated (or has planned dissemination) of the results



Please click on the link below to complete a nomination for this award.

[Star Awards: Honoring a Nurse](#)

Calling All Tau Tau Members...

The Tau Tau Chapter of STTI is forming a team to participate in the 2014 Omaha-Council Bluffs Heart Walk. The walk is Saturday, May 10th. Please consider joining us for a fun group volunteer experience. The goal is to raise awareness and money in support of the American Heart Association. There are three distance options: 1, 2 & 3 miles. The walk begins at Miller's Landing in downtown Omaha by the river.

If you would like more details about the walk please visit the following link: [Heart Walk](#)

If you decide to participate, you can register on the Tau Tau Chapter STTI page: [HERE](#)

You can also register from the 2014 Heart Walk main page by clicking on the "find a team" link on the left-side menu & our "Community" team is called **Tau Tau Chapter STTI** then just complete the registration process. Once you enter your personal data and register, you will receive emails and more information regarding the walk. There is also

Heart Walk®



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Association®**

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an app for iPhone and Android called "Heart Walk." I look forward to walking with all of you in support of the American Heart Association! Don't forget to wear PURPLE the day of the walk.

Thank you for "Stepping Up" to the challenge!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Kathy Marquardt, MSN, RN—Tau Tau Chapter Vice President.

akmarquardt@me.com

cell: 402-719-6486



New Member Orientation—February 2014

A successful New Member Orientation was held on February 3rd in conjunction with the General Meeting. We had 25 new members attend the orientation. Tau Tau Board Members mixed and mingled with the new members over pizza and tasty beverages. Board members also shared with the new members their roles in Tau Tau and opportunities for future involvement.

Door prizes were given away during the orientation. Prize winners were Catlin White, Katy Doty, Lyndsey Schlegel, Jenny Fisher, Jori Reeves, and Jessica Wagner!

The following committees are looking for new representation and bright ideas from our new members, if interested please contact one of the following:

- Lori Shaw (Leadership Chairperson) lori.shaw@methodistcollege.edu
- Cheryl Bouckaert and Kim Hall (Membership Involvement Co-chairs) Cheryl.bouckaert@methodistcollege.edu
kim.hall@methodistcollege.edu
- Hilary Spurgeon (Fundraising Chairperson) Hilary.spurgeon@nmhs.org

Again welcome to all new members! We look forward to getting to know you and your future involvement in Tau Tau!

Cheryl and Kim



Chapter Pres Gail Boston & Sec Marky Medeiros present for the general meeting.



Publicity Co-Chair Jeremy Blake explains to members how to access The Circle on the STTI website.

Tau Tau Chapter has a future goal of granting scholarships and research grants through an endowment. If you would like to donate to this fund, you may do so through the [Methodist Hospital Foundation website](#) and specify Tau Tau Chapter.

You may also donate to the chapter when you renew your membership on the [STTI website](#).

New Member Orientation continued

Right: Members in attendance listen raptly to the presentations.



Left: The meeting finishes up with door prizes and a selection of pizza and beverages for all, as well as some testimonies from board members regarding their experiences with Tau Tau.

Garage Sale Fundraiser Coming Soon!

Your Tau Tau chapter is planning a garage sale for late April or early May. Specifics are currently being worked out, but now is the time for you to take advantage of spring cleaning your closets and garage to find treasures to donate. We would be happy to take those items off your hands so funds may be raised to help with future scholarships.

Thank you for your consideration!



Nurses' Day at the Legislature 2014

"NURSES
WORKING
TOGETHER TO
IMPACT HEALTH
CARE POLICY IN
NEBRASKA"

The NNA hosted their Annual Nurses' Day at the Legislature on February 13, 2014 in Lincoln, NE. There were 415 in attendance which included 115 RNs and 300 Student Nurses & Faculty. 20 of the 49 state senators joined for lunch.

The program consisted of Steve Martin, CEO of Nebraska Blue Cross/Blue Shield, as the keynote speaker who presented information on how *Health Insurance is Changing: New Benefits, New Costs*. Linda Stones, MS, BSN, RN, CRRN talked on how nurses can and do participate on a national level and included current national legislation in progress. Tara Whitmire, DNP, APRN-NP and Terry Thomas, MSN, APRN-FNP-BC presented on the *Nurses Practitioner Act and LB 916* legislation to eliminate integrative practice agreements (IPAs); change provisions regarding NPs to function in numerous specialty and general practice roles to help address the primary care and mental health shortages in both rural and urban areas. This particular legislation moved from committee to the floor on February 12, 2014. Don Wesley, BA, O'Hara Lindsay Government Relations and NNA Lobbyist talked about the *Cur-*

rent Legislative Environment to include current state legislative activity and Melissa Florell, MSN, BS, RN presented her experience on *Testifying to a Legislative Committee*.

The morning ended as we were joined by our state senators for one-to-one group discussions and conversations during lunch. As an optional opportunity, all participants were invited to tour the capitol as there was no healthcare related legislative bill sessions scheduled to attend on this particular day.

Nebraska is a Unicameral Legislation and is the only single house system in our country. This is the 103rd Legislature 2nd session. There are 14 standing committees, 3 of these committees review healthcare related legislation and are the Health & Human Services Committee, Appropriations Committee and the Bank, Commerce and Insurance Committee.

For additional information on the Nebraska Legislature and/or current legislative bills, click [here](#). For a look at the presentation slides, click [here](#).



Tau Tau Leadership Succession

Please consider serving your local Tau Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau as an officer!

The rewards include collaboration with nurses who have a variety of expertise, helping to plan local chapter events, and assist with Sigma Theta Tau, Tau Tau Chapter Research Day, plus much, much more! The time commitment includes one scheduled 60 minute meeting per month. The location of the meetings, at this time, is at Nebraska Methodist College-Alumni Center. Executive board positions include: president, president-elect/past president advisory, vice president, secretary, treasurer, finance director, faculty counselor, governance committee chair, leadership succession chair, publicity chair, research chair, membership involvement chair and webmaster design chair. Each committee chair serves for a two-year term. The asterisk (*) next to the position represents an open position for this year's election. Elections will be held in May 2014.

An explanation of each position is included below. Nominations for President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Leadership Succession committee member and Program Chair are currently being accepted. **Please e-mail your nominations to Lori Shaw @**

lori.shaw@methodistcollege.edu by April 1, 2014.

The term for these offices officially starts July 1, 2014.

President: Presides over the business and executive board meetings. Understands the mission and goals of Sigma Theta Tau International and helps to develop chapter goals that reflect the national mission. Prepares agenda items for the

meetings. Sends chapter reports to the headquarters. Delegates responsibilities to chapter committees. Assures there are active meetings, community service and professional events throughout the year. Represents the chapter for official Sigma Theta Tau International meetings (unless appointed to another member). Serves one year as president overseeing the chapter. The second year is served as a past president in an advisory position to the chapter and the president (Past President Advisory)

Past President Advisory: Advisory position to assist the incoming president with matters concerning the general operation of the chapter. The past president may make recommendations regarding the chapter based upon the chapter and national bylaws.

****President-Elect:** Succeeds into the presidency within one year. (Serves as President-Elect for one year, President for one year and Past President Advisory for one year) Chairs various committees as needed. Is in charge of the public relations for the chapter. Learns how the chapter is run. Oversees the Chapter Key Award.

Vice President: Presides over the meetings and events when the president is unavailable. Chairs committees as needed. Helps the president in overseeing events and activities of the chapter. Will step in as president should the president not be able to fulfill his/her term. Assists the treasurer in certifying the chapter funds. Acts as the finance chair. Assists with the annual budget and proper auditing practices.

Secretary: Records the minutes for the business and executive board meetings. Distributes minutes of the meetings to the members. Submits the list of new officers within two weeks of the election. Oversees the policy and procedure manual for the chapter. Sends out chapter correspondence.

Treasurer: Prepares an annual budget for the chapter. Presides over the chapter funds. Works with the accountant on the biennial audit and submits the re-

Leadership Succession continued

port to the headquarters. Completes chapter tax forms. Manages chapter investments.

Fundraising Chair: Organizes public events to raise money for local chapter support. Additional fundraising events go toward scholarships, national and international Sigma Theta Tau International sponsored projects/donations, conventional support of the local Tau Tau chapter and professional continuing educational programs.

Faculty Counselor: Must be on staff with the affiliated college (NMC). Determines eligibility of students and nursing leaders. Sends out invitations and applications to eligible students.

Leadership Succession Committee Member: Informs current members regarding open executive positions. Mentors members to assume executive positions. Prepares and manages election ballots. Notifies all candidates of the election results.

Publicity/Webmaster Chair: Manages the Tau Tau web page and makes changes and updates to the page as needed. Advertises chapter events using promotional strategies. Oversees the chapter quarterly newsletter. Manages the chapter displays at community events.

Membership Involvement Chair: Promotes membership renewal and membership involvement. Provides orientation and mentoring to new members. Plans and promotes service projects within the community for the chapter.

****Program Chair:** Provides professional Continuing Education Units (CEU) as an option to promote research and evidenced practice in professional nursing. Oversees Nursing Research Day and coordinates presentations for the event.

Governance Committee Chair: Updates the chapter bylaws to comply with changes from Sigma Theta Tau International. Leads the amendment process through review, editing and correlation of current international bylaws. Oversees the chapter membership eligibility process.

AGES Seminars

Did you know that every day in the United States 10,000 people turn 65 years of age, 100 people turn 100, and the most rapidly growing population are those 85 years of age and older? To increase nurses' knowledge and skills in Geropalliative Care, Methodist Hospital and Nebraska Methodist College were selected in 2010 by Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston to participate in a Geropalliative Care Nurse Residency program called AgeWISE. Today, there are 67 AgeWISE nurses at Methodist and acute care nurses are increasing their understanding of caring for older adults in the last 2 to 5 years of their

life. An outcome of the residency are AgeWISE Geriatric Education Seminars (AGES), which are 3-hour quarterly interprofessional continuing education sessions which provide a forum to discuss and learn best-practices in Geropalliative Care. They are usually held on Tuesdays from 9 am to 12 noon at the Women's Hospital and preregistration is highly encouraged. Access the [NMC Professional Development website](#) to find out more information. The dates for 2014 are May 6th, August 5th, and November 4th. You may also want to SAVE the DATE for the NICHE-AgeWISE Collaborative Gerontological Nursing Conference which will be held August 15, 2014 in Omaha and sponsored by NMC.

Friend of Nursing Award—Call for Nominations

The Friend of Nursing Award is conferred by local chapters and recognizes an individual or organization that is not eligible for regular membership but has impacted the chapter, the local nursing or health care community, and/or the health of people in a significant way.

STTI has established the following criteria for Friend of Nursing Award:

- Demonstrate a commitment to the ideals and purposes of STTI.
- Demonstrate superior achievement and leadership in their field of work.
- Contribute to the long-term significance of the chapter, the nursing profession, and/or to the health of people within a local or regional area.
- A printer who produces the chapter's newsletter consistently and with a high level of excellence.
- A person who produces and/or maintains the chapter's website.
- A local business that consistently sponsors the chapter or donates time, money, resources or services for chapter events.
- A member of the support staff of the nursing school who consistently exceeds the expectations required of his or her job.
- Non-nursing instructors who have taken additional steps to help teach nursing students within their university.
- Individuals who have made significant contributions to nursing or to advance the nursing profession or the health of people on a local or regional level. (This list is not inclusive.)

Because nominations can only be submitted by chapter members, we encourage all Tau Tau members to reflect on the above criteria and consider nominating someone from our community who has made a significant impact on Tau Tau chapter, the health of our community or the profession of nursing. All nominations will be reviewed by the Tau Tau Board of Directors and selection will be based on the criteria set forth by STTI.

Some examples of individuals or organizations that may be nominated:

Tau Tau Chapter would like to make this award at our next formal Induction ceremony in the fall of 2014 with a personalized certificate and public recognition, so please start thinking now about persons or groups who meet the above criteria. Please contact Chris Hoebelheinrich (Christine.hoebelheinrich@alegent.org) with questions or to request the nomination forms.



**SIGMA THETA TAU
INTERNATIONAL**

**Tau Tau Chapter,
Nebraska Methodist
College**

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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!

April 16

Research Day

DC Centre

8:00 to 3:30

Join Methodist Health System and Sigma Theta Tau for the annual presentation of nursing research. Evidence-Based Practice: Changing Our Healthcare Landscape.

More details found [here!](#)

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR**



**Help recruit NEW
members!**

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

2014

June 16:

General Meeting &
Program

4:15-4:45 meeting

4:45-5:15 social time

5:15-6:30 presentation

September 15:

General Meeting &
Program

November 14:

New Member Induction
Ceremony and Reception