

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- Spring General Meeting—Feb 9
- Nursing Research Day—April 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Leadership Succession	4
Induction Ceremony	6
Mission Support	8
Finances, etc	10

TAU TAU NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 14

December 2014

Message from Tau Tau President

Our November Induction Ceremony has passed, and once again I am impressed by the number of new members we can proudly say belong to Tau Tau Chapter. It is interesting to note how our numbers of inductees has increased over time, to the point where we are doubling our previous numbers. This is exciting news as the sustainability of our chapter relies heavily on our membership.

For those of you who are new members and perhaps seeing the Tau Tau newsletter for the first time, I hope you will find



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

it to be interesting reading. There are many activities going on. In addition, I will also mention that those activities will help to contribute to preparation in meeting criteria for the Key

Award, the basis of our strategic plan.

I am hoping that Tau Tau Chapter meets criteria and earns the Chapter Key Award for this Biennium. The Key Award recognizes chapters who excel in chapter activities such as membership and recruitment, fundraising, publicity and programming, collaboration, and professional development. The timeline for the award would be July 1, 2013-June 30 2015. I reviewed the criteria and I am very sure that we already have a great start on this. Included inside,

continued—page 2



Message from President—continued

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

It has been great 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.

Starting from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 we will need information about presentations from our membership. Please feel free to contact me at any time if any of these questions apply to you gail.boston@nmhs.org

- ♦ Have any of our members presented at Biennial Convention, International Nursing Research Congress, Regional or Consortia events or any other official STTI events? And if so would you be interested in sharing the presentation with the chapter (STTI only)?

- ♦ Have any of our members presented at professional nursing meetings, conferences or forums (non-STTI events)? If so would you be interested in sharing the presentation with the chapter?
- ♦ Have any of our members presented at interdisciplinary professional meetings, conferences or forums? And if so, would you be interested in sharing the presentation with the chapter (Non-STTI)?

I also want to take this time to thank our board and committee members for all their hard work and efforts in these past months. Little by little, we are getting much done.



I also want to wish all of you a very blessed and safe holiday season!



Farewell and Thank You to Marky & Robyn—longtime Tau Tau members

We want to thank two departing Board Members, **Marky Medeiros** and **Robyn Michal**, for their contributions to Tau Tau Chapter. Both are moving out of state and we will really miss them!

Marky has been our Secretary for three terms and has been a very active member of Tau Tau since 2006. She has served on the Board six years and has been a member of the Fundraising Committee where her creativity and full-of-life approach has been evident in the Holiday Shopping events, book and cookie sales, and the garage sale this past May.

Marky has been a nurse for 29 years, graduating with her AD from UNMC, and her BSN and MSN from Nebraska Methodist College. Her clinical passion is Labor and Delivery where she was a staff nurse and most recently the Team Leader at Methodist Women's Hospital. Marky is best known at Methodist for her role as Magnet Program Director. She was involved with Magnet at Methodist since our first designation in 2004.

Marky has transitioned to our Magnet Nurse Consultant. She has relocated to Ohio to be closer to family and her years of service to Tau Tau are much appreciated!



Robyn Michal has also been a member since 2007 and was recently elected as our President-Elect. She has been a nurse for 24 years and started as an RN at Methodist Hospital in 1990. She was an ICU nurse, then a staff nurse and nurse manager on the IMC unit before taking the clinical nurse educator role on the cardiac unit. Most recently Robyn developed and coordinated the new Nurse Residency Program at Methodist. She received her BSN from Creighton in 1990 and her MSN from Nebraska Methodist College in 2009. She is moving to Knoxville, TN to pursue an exciting opportunity, and we also appreciate her contributions to Tau Tau over the years!



Nursing Trivia!

Which U.S. President's wife served as a volunteer nurse in the Civil War?

Answer found at the end of the newsletter!

Leadership Succession Committee Update: We want YOU!

By Deborah Conley

Sixty four new members were inducted into Tau Tau on November 14th! What an awesome opportunity for our organization to get people involved right at the very beginning! Have you ever wondered how to get involved and make a difference with a professional nursing organization? The best way is to jump in with both feet and serve on a committee or the Board of Directors!

The Leadership Succession Committee has been busy contacting Tau Tau members asking about their interest in serving in these capacities. Networking with fellow Tau Tau members towards the common mission of advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service is exactly the way to make a difference.

We know everyone is busy. We all have the same 24 hours in a

day. It's how we choose to use those hours that make a difference. Please consider our invitation to "serve" if you are contacted. We welcome any Tau Tau member to contact us via the links below if you are interested in being a candidate. Committees are already established for the areas below and your role would be to chair and facilitate the work of that specific committee.



The following two-year officer and committee chair positions are available for the 2015 upcoming ballot:

- ◇ Secretary
- ◇ Leadership Succession Committee Member
- ◇ Membership Involvement Chair
- ◇ Governance Chair and Counselor (must be an NMC nursing faculty member)
- ◇ Fundraising Chair
- ◇ President-Elect

When the Leadership Succession Committee comes "calling", please consider serving in a capacity that will assist you in developing and enhancing your leadership and networking skills, as well as promoting the work of Tau Tau.

Leadership Succession committee:

Deborah.Conley@nmhs.org;
Jean.Adair@nmhs.org; or
Candy.Rutledge@nmhs.org



STTI Leadership Connection—Sep 2014

By [Kristen Hanten](#)

As one of the newest board members of Sigma Theta Tau International - Tau Tau chapter, I had the opportunity to attend the [STTI Leadership Connection](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana this past September. Having only been involved with Sigma Theta Tau for less than a year and then running for and obtaining a board member position, I felt a bit overwhelmed to say the least. Don't get me wrong, all the board members both present and past have been gracious with their time in mentoring me as I learn my new position, but I continued to feel somewhat lost. So when offered the chance to attend the Leadership Connection with its many educational opportunities to learn more about Sigma Theta Tau, I was, of course, very excited.

I was able to attend the Leadership Connection with a seasoned member of Tau Tau, Jean Farnham. She took me under her wing and together we set our goals to get as much information as we could from as many leadership sessions as possible. We split up and chose sessions that each of us found most interesting or what we thought might benefit our chapter the most. We learned so much in a matter of just a few days. From how to develop effective board members and create a sense of community to global nursing education, nursing advocacy and workplace violence. Daily plenary



sessions focused on the many aspects of leadership, presented by experts in their field. There were many opportunities to view the hundreds of poster submissions as well as exhibits and the STTI Marketplace. The Marketplace offered many books, resources, STTI clothing and jewelry—there was something for everyone.

A continental breakfast, a fabulous lunch, snacks and hors d'oeuvres were offered daily. This led to many opportunities to network with other Sigma Theta Tau officers and members from many different areas around the globe. Discussions involved questions and concerns as well as what has been working well for each specific chapter.

The professionalism, support and encouragement seen through out this experience was incredible and has given me a better sense of just what STTI truly is. I have gained the confidence to proceed forward as a board member of our Tau Tau Chapter of STTI, and as a bonus, found a good friend in Jean Farnham.

2014 Tau Tau Induction Ceremony

By [Jean Farnham](#)

The 2014 induction ceremony was held on November 14th at 4:30 pm at Nebraska Methodist College, with approximately 200 people present including the inductees, their family and friends, along with current members. President Gail Boston conducted the ceremony and gave a short presentation on “The Experience of Membership”, while NMC Director of Spiritual Development Dan Johnston provided the invocation. Karen Johnson, Director of Undergraduate Nursing, delivered the keynote address

“Challenges and Opportunities”. Each inductee, as their name was called, walked across the stage to accept a welcome greeting from Gail Boston and was given a flower and a certificate packet by board members. Each inductee then signed the official chapter membership book. Following the ceremony, a cake and punch reception was held. Thank you to everyone who helped with the ceremony from organizing the event, ordering refreshments, to setting up and cleaning up after the reception. And welcome to our newest members!



2014 INDUCTEES

Nurse Leaders

Deborah Adams, Stacy McCann, Blake Smith, Katelyn Van Galder

Graduate Students

Dena Behrns, Melissa Bell, Stephanie Bricker, Kelli Briggman, Joey Fichtl, Brittney Fritzinger, Kathleen Gammie, Rhonda Garretson, Roxanne Gould, Ethel Hartman, Rachel Johnson, Jacqueline Kussman, Amy Lechtenberg, Janice Morgan, Heather Rasmussen, Nicole Rauth, Carey Sliva, Sandi Stickrod, Melanie Thompson, Susan Timm, Nicole Trevett, Tebecca Van Winkle, Kristen Villareal



New Member Orientation!

Membership Involvement co-chairs Kim Hall and Cheryl Bouckaert coordinated New Member Orientation on December 2, 2014. This was a great opportunity to meet and socialize with new and current members of Tau Tau. It was also an opportunity for new members to learn more about what Tau Tau has



RN to BSN Graduates

Nikki Blume, Dianna Magee, Amanda Rutter

Undergraduate Students

Analisa Best, Ryan Brechbill, Lora Burki, Victoria Davitt, Katelyn Donohue, Ashley Dunn, Alicia Exstrom, Shaila Fox, Kathryn Francisco, Jordan Gadbois, Sherry Graner, Kaitlan Greco, Lauren Heine, Crystal Hraban, Danielle Keltner, Jessica Kenyon, Angela Knigge, Sarah Marang, Erika Medinger, Meagan Morris, Brittany Nordby, Hannah Park, Sarah Pelini, Amberley Proctor, Alexandra Rachuy, Amanda Ragland, Jessica Riley, Tori Ross, Taylor Sass, Rebecca Schneider, Jessica Siniard, Katelyn Smith, Tiffany Steinke, Courtney Thompson, Deidre Walsh, Ann Weidner, Lindsey Wood



to offer and how to get involved! We look forward to seeing our new members at upcoming programs and events.

Happy Holidays!

Kim & Cheryl



Support Request

The Tau Tau Chapter received the following request and heeded the call:

This is Katie Wulf, BSN alumni of 2007! I've been at Children's NICU since graduation and absolutely LOVE it! But I've recently made a BIG life decision that will change a lot of things. I've committed to becoming a full time Medical Missionary in the Dominican Republic with an organization called Student's International!! I'm very excited for the future, but a little overwhelmed as well. As a missionary I won't be getting paid, so I have to fundraise all of my financial means before I can go. I'm trying to brainstorm and come up with possible avenues to pursue. I met with Erika Prichard and Dan Johnston last week at the college and Erika mentioned that you were the Tau Tau (which I was a member of in college) sponsor and that maybe they would be willing to "adopt" me and do some sort of fundraiser. Erika thought maybe I would have better luck going through a student organization. I'd be happy to come to a meeting and share my story or what ever would be needed!

Tau Tau decided to provide some financial support and also to provide a platform to inform the membership about Katie's mission.

HER STORY

Hi! My name is Katie Wulf and I am a 2007 BSN graduate of Nebraska Methodist College. After college graduation I traveled to South



Africa for the summer to do Mission work and was exposed to true poverty for the first time. This trip changed everything, it changed my outlook, my priorities and the way that I wanted to live my life! It was during that summer working in HIV/AIDS orphanages that I knew overseas mission work would somehow be a part of my future. That fall I came back to Omaha and began my “dream job” in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children’s Hospital & Medical Center. I wasn’t sure how to fulfill both callings of NICU nursing and mission work, but I made a commitment to participate in one short term mission trip each year, thinking that would satiate the desire in my heart. Boy, was I wrong! Each year and each trip pulled my heart deeper into the mission field. I found a way to use the blessing of my nursing education in a new way and was able to give of myself in a dif-



ferent light to the people I encountered. God has blessed me with meeting many people from many different countries. Over the years I have done seven short term mission trips with an organization called Student's International. I have recently committed to serving two years as a Medical Missionary with SI in the Dominican Republic. While there I will be working as a Nurse alongside a Dominican Doctor and a Physician's Assistant from New York. Most of what I will be doing is packing up medicines and medical supplies in my car and driving up into the mountains and setting up clinics for the people of the villages that don't have access to medical care. We make clinics out of old abandoned buildings, outdoor community gathering areas and sometimes right out of our cars! We see all types of patients and diagnoses. Our clinics provide initial assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and follow up care. We also find resources for higher level care if needed. I am very excited to see what God will do through these clinics in the DR! I feel blessed that I am able to use my gifts as a nurse and my education to give back to others.

I am a firm believer that we are all missionaries

every day. You don't have to go overseas to make a difference in this world. We have all been placed in life to love those around us, care for them on a daily basis, and help nurture their mind, body and souls. Remember that you are making a difference in the lives of others every day!



If you would like to hear more about my story or find out ways that you can help support my mission contact me at

[Nurse Katie's Calling](#)

Or get updates on my new adventures in the Dominican Republic at

[Nursekatiecalling.wordpress.com](#)



Treasurer's Note

By [Jed Hansen](#)

Warm holiday greetings from the Finance Committee!

Several years ago Tau Tau's board was tasked with creating an endowment fund for the chapter that could benefit future generations of nurses through philanthropic giving. This idea has blossomed well and our endowment now has over \$19,000 in its current balance. With plans in place for additional growth, the hope is to reach \$50,000.00 over the next 6 years. Ultimately, this fund has been designed with a goal to provide grants for nursing research and offer academic

scholarships to follow in the mission of Sigma Theta Tau International. I would like to thank all those involved through the donation of your time and money that have made this such a successful endeavor thus far. If any members have questions regarding donations or the goals of the fund, please feel free to contact me at jed.hansen2@nmhs.org.



Tau Tau Holiday Shopping Event

The Holiday Shopping fundraiser was held on the evening of Oct 28?? at the Alumni Center. Vendors included Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Lia Sophia, and Scentsy. A total of \$0000 was raised and many Christmas presents acquired. Another successful fundraising effort to build the endowment funds the chapter will use to support future nursing students!



Nursing Trivia!

By [Kathy Marquardt](#)

Which U.S. President's wife served as a volunteer nurse in the Civil War?

The answer is [Mary Todd Lincoln](#)!

Mary Todd Lincoln (1818-1882) provided nursing and care services to Union soldiers following the outbreak of the Civil War. The White House became temporary quarters for soldiers throughout the war, and she also visited Union hospitals to bring food, write letters, and help to raise money.



More links with additional information:

[Nursing Center](#)

[First Ladies Biography](#)



Member Updates

Colleen Steinhauser, MSN, RN-BC, FNGNA, Assistant Professor of Nursing at NMC, was inducted October 3rd, 2014 as a Fellow in the National Gerontological Nurses Association at their annual convention in San Antonio, TX. Colleen has been actively involved with NGNA and the local Heartland Gerontological Nurses Association for the past 10 years serving on national committees and as co-chair for both the Education and Convention Planning Committees. Congratulations to Colleen on this esteemed accomplishment!

Newly inducted member **Blake Smith** has been officially accepted to The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, MSN in Health System Management and Administration Program. Congratulations to Blake as he begins the next segment of his journey as a nurse leader!



**SIGMA THETA TAU
INTERNATIONAL**

**Tau Tau Chapter,
Nebraska Methodist
College**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.NURSINGSOCIETY.ORG

**Don't forget to renew
your membership!**



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

President Elect — Robyn Michal, MSN, RN, CCRN, CSC

Secretary — Margaret Medeiros, MSN, RNC-OB

Treasurer — Jed Hansen, BSN, RN

Counselor/Governance Chair — Jean Farnham, MSN, RN

Fundraising Chair — Hilary Spurgeon, BSN, RN

Membership Involvement Chairs — Kim Hall, MSN, RN & Cheryl Bouckaert, MSN, RN

Leadership Succession Chair—Deborah Conley, MSN, APRN-CNS, GCNS-BC, FNGNA

Leadership Succession Committee—Jean Adair, MSN, RN & Candy Rutledge, BSN, RN

Program Chair — Kristen Hanten, MSN, RN

Publicity Co-Chairs — Janet Syslo, MSN, RN & Jeremiah Blake, BSN, RN



Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing®

Upcoming Events!

Feb 9

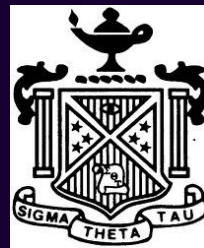
**Spring General Meeting
& Program**

Alumni Center

5:00-6:00 meeting

6:00-7:30 Bernice Yates,
PhD, RN—keynote
speaker

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR**



**Help recruit NEW
members!**

**Direct interested
future members to
Jean Farnham!!**

2015

April 8:

Methodist Nursing Re-
search Day

June 9:

Summer General Meet-
ing & Program/Activity

July 9:

Installation of Officers
(tentative)

September 8:

Fall General Meeting &
Program

November 13:

Induction Ceremony
(tentative)