



SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING BETA OMEGA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES, DEKALB IL

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Greetings from the President

Since becoming the President of Beta Omega, I have become increasingly aware of how very active our national organization is. For example, as soon I returned from the 18th International Nursing Research Congress in Vienna in July, I had to get ready for the 39th Biennial Convention in Baltimore. If the Vienna Congress is any indication, the Baltimore Convention is going to be invigorating.

In the Vienna Congress there were over 1300 oral presentations to attend and hundreds of posters to view. There were also new friends to make, old friends to become reacquainted with, and book and equipment companies to visit. Then, there was beautiful Vienna to discover, and enjoy.

The focus of the Vienna Congress was evidence-based practice with an overall theme of collaboration. Those attending from Beta Omega beside myself were graduate students Ms. Teresa Hansen and Ms. Mary Jane Shaw, and faculty member Dr. Donna Plonczynski. We did the best we could to take advantage of everything the Congress offered without getting exhausted. Every session was appealing. I attended presentations where staff nurses searched for evidence in the use of bilibeds for bilirubin-induced problems, those who investigated the scientific basis of the healing touch, and those who examined the gender effect in the quality of life of heart failure patients. There were numerous research presentations reporting how undergraduate and graduate students learned evidence-based practice. It was particularly informative to attend presentations by international colleagues and learn about their research

interests and professional issues. Some of the colleagues in Asia and Europe presented research on nursing interventions via clinical trials which is the type of evidence considered the gold standard for evidence-based practice. Above all, everyone shared their research and knowledge with colleagues around the world. Encounters such as these leave you in awe of our scientific progress.

For matters related to the Beta Omega: our bylaws require that we stagger our Board members. Consistent with that, we ran elections during the Summer of 2007. Thanks to those of you who voted you elected Dr. Mary Ellen Koren as your Vice President, Ms. Mary Jane Shaw as Treasurer, and MS. Sandy Nicolosi as Junior Advisor. I am looking forward to working with our new Board. Each member has the talent and motivation to serve you. Please see page two for the names and terms of your new Board.

This academic year concludes the services of Dr. Sharon Coyer as Vice President, Dr. Judith Hertz as Treasurer, Dr. Stacie Elder, as Secretary and Ms. Connie Uhlken as Senior Counselor. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for their service to Beta Omega. Dr. Hertz was particularly helpful in completing the last part of the 2007 elections (not the job of a treasurer) when most of us were gone during the summer. I would like to thank her for her outstanding service to Beta Omega not only as treasurer but also in whatever capacity we might have needed.

Finally, we are still in need of volunteers for our various committees, particularly the governance committee. Please volunteer. Beta Omega needs you more than you'd ever know. I look forward to seeing you at our business meeting and Fall Induction.

Very Sincerely,
Ayhan A. Lash, PhD, RN, FAAN
President
Sigma Theta Tau International, Beta Omega Chapter

STTI 2007-08 Beta Omega Board of Directors

Dr. Ayhan Lash, President
Dr. Mary Elaine Koren, Vice President
Dr. Donna Munroe, Secretary
Ms. Mary Jane Shaw, Treasurer
Dr. Judith Popovich, Senior Counselor
Ms. Sandra Nicolosi, Junior Counselor
Nominating Committee:
Dr. Jeanette Rossetti
Ms. Teresa Hansen
Ms. Nadine Thornton

Chapter elections will be held in April/May 2008 for President, Secretary, Senior Counselor and one Nominating Committee member. Please volunteer! Sigma Theta Tau, International is one of the most esteemed organizations in nursing that offers countless educational programs, publications, and national, and international conferences. A short visit to its website will tell you how much it has to offer. We serve the national organization both through its committees and by taking active roles in its chapters. Please get involved!



Sigma Theta Tau Grants and Scholarships

Sigma Theta Tau Beta Omega Chapter has several opportunities for members to obtain funding for research and/or attendance at research presentations. Information and applications are available at <http://www.chhs.niu.edu/nursing/stt/grants.asp>. Applications are due April 1, 2008.

Beta Omega Chapter Grant. The purpose of this fund is to encourage research by qualified nurses and/or nursing students who are learning to conduct research to advance knowledge in the area of nursing science.

Annette Lefkowitz Fund for Nursing Research. The purpose of this fund is to facilitate nurses or nursing students in the completion of research projects, presentation at nursing research findings at conferences, and attendance at presentations of nursing research.

Sara Fuller Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund will support graduate or undergraduate nursing students in the School of Nursing and Health Studies at NIU who are conducting clinical research projects under the mentorship of a nursing faculty member. In addition, faculty who are conducting research with students will be considered for this fund.



Updated News about STT Membership

Undergraduate Student, Registered Nurse Student, Graduate Student Candidates

Formerly an all-paper process, the new induction system is initiated and completed electronically. Membership is by invitation only. Individuals meeting the criteria for membership will receive an electronic invitation via NIU e-mail account.

Response deadlines, membership fees and induction date and time will be included in the e-mail invitation

Nominations for Nurse Leader Candidates

Is there a nurse that you know who is active in the community, place of employment, or who you believe is a great leader, mentor, or researcher? We are encouraging you to nominate any of those nurses from the community for membership in Sigma Theta Tau. One of the goals of our strategic plan is to incorporate more community nurses into our chapter. It certainly will enrich our membership and enhance our relationship with local healthcare agencies. If you know someone who you think would be an asset to our chapter, or who would enjoy the networking and benefits of membership in Sigma Theta Tau, please send his/her name, address, and phone number to Dr. Judith Popovich, Senior Counselor at popovich@niu.edu or 815.753.6559 **before November 11, 2007**. Prior to nomination, please be certain that the person meets the criteria listed below.

STTI Membership Criteria

Undergraduate Students must

- have completed ½ of the NIU nursing curriculum;
- have at least a GPA of 3.0 (based on a 4.0 grading scale);
- rank in the upper 35 percentile of the graduating class;
- meet the expectation of academic integrity.

Registered Nurse Students must

- have completed 12 credit hours of the NIU nursing curriculum;
- have at least a GPA of 3.0 (based on a 4.0 grading scale);
- rank in the upper 35 percentile of graduating class;
- meet the expectation of academic integrity.

Graduate Students must

- have completed ¼ of the NIU nursing curriculum;
- have at least a GPA of 3.5 (based on a 4.0 grading scale);
- meet the expectation of academic integrity.

Nurse Leader Candidates must

- be legally recognized to practice nursing in his/her country;
- hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field;
- demonstrate achievement in nursing.

Questions about membership?

Contact Dr. Judith Popovich, Senior Counselor at popovich@niu.edu or 815.753.6559.



Fall Induction

Our Fall Induction of new members is scheduled for Sunday, December 9, 2007^{at} Holmes Student Center, NIU Campus, DeKalb, IL. The ceremony will also include the inductees from Spring 2007.

Induction to Sigma Theta Tau, Beta Omega chapter, is a beautiful ceremony at which the inductees receive their purple honor cords as they are welcomed into nursing's international honor society.

This year's speaker will be Corinne Haviley, RN, MS, Director of Medical Nursing, Northwestern Memorial Medical Center, Chicago, IL. Ms. Haviley has published, spear-headed research, and presented extensively in the area of nursing administration and clinical nursing. She will speak about incorporating evidence-based research into clinical nursing practice.

Help Wanted

Beta Omega Chapter is seeking three members for the Governance Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to review chapter bylaws and compare to the bylaws of STT International.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Ayhan Lash at alash@niu.edu or 815.753.0812.



Fall Meeting

The fall business meeting will be held on Monday, October 29, 2007 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the Northern Illinois University School of Nursing and Health Studies, 1240 Normal Road, DeKalb, IL. At the meeting, we will discuss our strategic plan; ideas for future STTI induction; ideas about how to encourage community members to become Beta Omega inductees; and a few other items. Following the business meeting will be a pizza dinner. Dr. Ayhan Lash, President, will discuss nursing students' service to earthquake victims in Turkey in 2002.

Please plan to join us for this evening of networking and fun. RSVP to Dr. Mary Elaine Koren at mkoren@niu.edu or 815.753.0469. Hope to see you there!!!!

Alumni of the Year

Each year, the Nursing Program at NIU honors an alumnus who demonstrates excellence and leadership in his/her career through research, mentoring, education, public service, and other appropriate activities. Previous recipients include Daniel Pesuit, Past President of STTI, Julia Norem, and Anna Ortigara.

If you know an NIU Nursing Program alumnus who embodies and demonstrates leadership excellence, please forward that person's name, a short paragraph about why you are nominating him/her, and his/her curriculum vitae/resume to Dr. Brigid Lusk, Professor and Chair, at blusk@niu.edu.



STTI International Conference Vienna, Austria July, 2007

by
Mary Jane Shaw

It was an honor for me to receive the Annette Lefkowitz Scholarship for nursing research to attend the STT International Congress in Vienna, Austria. It was the opportunity of a lifetime. The multitude of research currently being conducted from all over the world presented at the congress was phenomenal. I was able to attend and review many of the oral presentations during the conference. My most difficult decision was what to attend. I was able to attend presentations in education and other arenas as well. I found 90% of the information presented to be of high interest to me and I look forward to the final results. The remaining 10% either was not something I found interesting based on the presentation or the presentation itself was information I have already obtained during my course work here at NIU.

Some of the presentations I attended discussed evaluation of students and the education of students in clinical settings based on intelligence theories. Two

presenters presented new theories expanding on the Central Intelligence Theories. These ongoing studies in Ireland and England presented new information on utilizing these theories in the clinical settings to provide more problem-based learning experiences for the students and evaluation of the skills learned from these approaches. I found these two presentations to be extremely thought provoking and look forward to seeing more of the results of these studies in the future.

I also had the opportunity to assist the speaker presentation from Amsterdam as the moderator for their session. I volunteered to moderate this session to increase the richness of my experience at the Congress. This group presented the progress of their program since it was instituted ten years ago. It was a very productive discussion to learn the differences between our two countries and the physician involvement with the practice implementation in the patient care settings. Following their presentation I was able to discuss with them more about their experiences with evidence-based practice and research.

I feel so honored to have received this scholarship. The research congress has stimulated me in so many ways. The architecture of Vienna was beautiful and awe inspiring. The history, culture and atmosphere of the city lent itself into making my first trip outside of the US a fantastic experience.



In the photo, from the left: Graduate student Mary Jane Shaw, presenters Donna Plonczynski and Ayhan A. Lash, and graduate student Teresa Hansen.

The Use of Hypothesis Testing in Nursing Research During Two Decades: 1980-1989 and 1990-1999

Drs. Ayhan A. Lash and Donna Plonczynski
at the 18th International Nursing Congress in
Vienna, July 14, 2007

by
Ayhan A. Lash

It was a thrill to receive the letter that the research abstract we submitted for the 18th International Nursing Research Congress Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice was selected for an oral presentation. Also thrilling was the opportunity to hear nursing scholars from around the world involved in the advancement of nursing science. Even though our presentation was scheduled for the last day of the Congress we had excellent attendance and received insightful comments from the audience. It was particularly enjoyable to have two of our graduate students with us through out the Congress. It was an experience we all look forward to repeating!