

The Leading Edge

Winter Edition 2007

Delta Gamma Chapter
of Sigma Theta Tau International
at Marquette University



Editor: Mary J. Polchert, RN, PhD

Awards and Hall of Fame

On the evening of October 4, 2006, the Delta Gamma Chapter recognized two inspiring nurse leaders for their contributions to nursing. Held at the Lunda Room at Marquette University; colleagues, friends, and family gathered to honor Dr. Ardene Brown as the Hall of Fame Honoree and Dr. Janet Wessel Krejci as the Outstanding Nurse Scholar.

Janet shared the story of Ardene's life and how Ardene was influenced by her grandmother as she was growing up caring for new mothers and their babies in Tacoma Washington where she began her nursing career.

Ardene continued on in her career of nursing and obtained a masters in nursing in pediatrics and education on the eastern coast of the United States before coming to Milwaukee and joining the faculty at Marquette. Ardene balanced a heavy schedule teaching and working on her PhD in nursing through University of Pittsburgh and specializing with children.

Ardene believed and taught that children needed and "deserved the full attention of exquisitely prepared pediatric nurses well versed in all aspects of care". This is evident in her teaching of her students throughout her career at Marquette and continuing now in her service to the community.

Ardene has been a member of Delta Gamma since 1980, has worked on many committees, and has done much to advance the discipline of nursing. Her service in establishing Pediatrics at Marquette, her guidance in the Manresa project, her spiritual support for the community, and her very calming, confident, and personal manner communicating with all those she encounters are truly a gift and our fortune to know her.

Janet Krejci is an Outstanding Nurse Scholar and her work is evident within the community. Janet's work has focused upon Leadership Development in Nursing at Marquette. Janet completed her PhD at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and has been serving the discipline of nursing following the core values of Sigma Theta Tau International. Janet has over

11 publications which enhance the knowledge of countless individuals and organizations and this knowledge has been gained from collaborative and scholarly inquiry. These publications disseminate research and share expertise to shape decisions and actions which serve to transform our health care systems and the role of professional nursing. Janet's leadership uses the collective expertise of her colleagues

within Marquette University to influence practice and organizational structure of health care systems. Janet has long been an advocate of networking within the community to anticipate and respond to the needs of the people and the systems and she teaches social responsibility to all of her students to increase awareness of the professional role in all aspects of everyday life and community. Her accomplishments are evident in the funding she has received to continue her scholarly work within the community and her sharing

of her expertise as editor, reviewer, and consultant for many professional projects and publications.



Dr. Janet Wessel Krejci (left), 2006 Outstanding Nurse Scholar Award recipient shares a happy moment with Dr. Ardene Brown (right), 2006 Hall of Fame Award recipient at the Award & Hall of Fame Award dinner/program, October 4, 2006.

Web Page update

The web page for Delta Gamma Chapter at Marquette University has been updated and will be more useful to keep in touch with Chapter activities. You may view the web page at: <http://www.marquette.edu/deltagamma/> You will be able to see who the Executive Board Members are and find their contact information and the schedule of meetings for the year. Please look at the website and let us know how you feel about this new addition to our chapter.

Leadership Succession Committee

We invite you to become part of an active, experienced Board, with other nurses from both academia and clinical practice. We are seeking enthusiastic, creative members for the following positions. These leaders will provide the necessary leadership to achieve the goals of Delta Gamma Chapter.

Serving on the Board is an excellent way to learn more about this professional nursing organization. It is also an opportunity to support and give back to the nursing community.



(left-right) Diana Hanks, Secretary; Suzanne Williamson, President; Arlene Kasten, Leadership Succession Committee Chair; Jacque Nook, Vice President; Linda, Masih, Treasurer; Not pictured: Kathleen Bobay, Faculty Liaison

Qualifications:

- Active member in Delta Gamma Chapter
- Consent to serve in the position

President-elect:

Service commitment: 3 years

Responsibilities:

- First Year: Work closely with the current president and board members to learn about the work of the chapter and the mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International.
- Second and Third Year: Serve as president, conducting the business of the chapter, and promoting the mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, and representing the chapter at inter-chapter activities.

For more information, please contact the current president, Suzanne Williamson at 262-741-2967.

Vice President:

Service commitment: 2 years

Responsibilities:

- Supports the work of the chapter and mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International.
- Performs the duties of the president in the president's absence
- Chairs the Program Committee. Plans a minimum of two programs per year. (Opportunities to work with our

sponsoring university and the Program Chairpersons of other local chapters to plan events.)

For more information, please contact the current vice president, Jacque Nook at 262-787-1021.

Treasurer:

Service commitment: 2 years

Responsibilities:

- Monitors the income and disbursement of chapter funds
- Proposes the chapter budget to the Board
- Prepares and reports financial reports

For more information, please contact the current treasurer, Linda Masih 414-394-2000 Ext. 46861.

Leadership Succession Committee

Service commitment: 1 year

Responsibilities:

- Develop members in organizational leadership roles
- Mentor members to assume organizational board and officer positions
- Select nominees and prepare the ballot

No matter where you are in the span of your nursing career, consider this invitation... and give us a call!

**If you are interested or would like to nominate a colleague for one of these positions, please contact Arlene Kasten at 414 384 2000, ext 42071 or Jacque Nook at 262-787-1021.*

Leadership Succession depends upon transitional meeting

The leadership team spends time each year with a transition meeting to help new officers and committee chairs plan for the gradual transition of roles and responsibilities. The time is for team building to ensure success for continuing and new officers alike. We begin the meeting with introductions to get to know people without assuming that everyone knows each other and to find out where people are in their life. After introductions, the president may review the honor society's mission, goals, and strategic directions with adequate time for discussion of the background of the business or issues so everyone feels part of the team. This transition time is important so new members feel part of the team and continuing members begin to know who to contact for concerns and issues. The focus is upon matching gifts and talents of individuals to the goals our Delta Gamma Chapter

The Delta Gamma Chapter suggests that each member ask these questions to ascertain how we can fit into the strategic plan areas of knowledge, leadership, service, community, and sustainability:

- How can I make a difference in achieving the mission and vision of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International?
- What is one thing I can do this coming year that would contribute to the success of the defined strategic plan?
- Is my vision that of the honor society's?

If a critical mass of members answers this question with action, we will be assured continued success and an enriching experience. (from Carol Picard, President, 2005-2007). Please go to the website at www.nursingsociety.org and see how you can make a difference in health care and make a difference for the greater good of people's well-being.

2007 Joint Chapter Program— SAVE THE DATE

Delta Gamma Chapter will join with Eta Nu, Tau Sigma and Tau Mu for the Annual Joint Chapter Program on the evening of Wednesday, April 25, 2007. The program will again be at the UWM School of Continuing Education (SCE) center in downtown Milwaukee. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this event with a colleague or student guest. Watch for a mailing in February for more details.

Ongoing Chiron Mentoring Program Activity

Maureen Greene RN, CNS-BC, ACNP-BC and Kelly Penza, RN, BSN are current participants with the Chiron Mentoring Program offered by Sigma Theta Tau. This year, Penza plans to research the evidence of effects of fatigue on safety and quality in the workplace. Through this research, Penza plans to incorporate her findings in understanding of the problem and how this influences nursing, especially on Wisconsin health care policy. Greene will provide guidance to Penza throughout this educational opportunity. The two will be working with the International Leadership Institute of Sigma Theta Tau during the year and hope that this information will encourage nurses to examine the policies that exist regarding safety of patients in their care and be proactive about the effects on Wisconsin's health care.



Maureen Greene (left) and Kelly Penza at Sigma Theta Tau International Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana at Chiron Leadership Session July 2006.

Leadership Spotlight

The Delta Gamma Chapter has been truly blessed with our new President, Suzanne Williamson and she shows the characteristics of an effective leader in a volunteer organization of professionals working within a community of academia and clinical experts. Suzanne has a confident sense of self awareness in her leadership role from many years working as a nurse in the community. Suzanne shows the acknowledgment of her own emotions and self insight to be flexible and confident in her leadership style. She encourages others to discover and enhance their own gifts, skills, and opportunities for growth with her communication skills. Suzanne's style of leadership and communication portray the ability to listen, seek further clarification of issues, and continually encourage the open expression of ideas and information. Suzanne has brought her knowledge, emotional energy, and enthusiasm to guide the Delta Gamma Chapter activities during this first year of service.

Suzanne Williamson has fostered the common bond of working toward finding ways for us, as a Chapter to implement the goals of Sigma Theta Tau International. The common goal focuses upon knowledge and the continued quest for scholarly research to improve health services, leadership to provide role models within health care policy and society, sustainability in a complicated social system and most importantly, on service to the community.

We have a shared purpose implementing these strategic goals and Suzanne has created the community, the climate, and the structure to work as a professional group. Most importantly, Suzanne has recognized the importance of having excellent mentors surrounding her in our past leaders within the Delta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Marquette University.

These opportunities for leadership in service to the community are available to all who choose to use their talents as nursing professionals.



Dr. Kerry Kosmoski-Goepfert congratulates Dr. Kristin Haglund (on right), recipient of the 2006 Chapter Research Award.

Sigma Theta Tau Research Award/Grant Application Announcement

Maximum Award: \$3,000 for one year

Submission deadline: March 26, 2007

The Delta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau is now accepting applications for a research grant to be awarded Sunday, April 29, 2007 at the Induction Ceremony.

Eligibility and Requirements:

- Active member of Delta Gamma Chapter
- Ability to carry out the proposed research. Beginning researchers need to have a qualified advisor.
- Research must be completed one year after the presentation of the award.
- A written copy of the completed research must be submitted in the spring of 2008.
- The grant recipient may be required to present the completed research at the annual chapter research conference.
- Funding will not be provided retrospectively for research completed or near completion.

Application Process:

Submit six (6) typewritten copies of the research proposal that include:

- Title page with name and credentials on one copy only. For blind review the five additional copies should not include identifying data
- Brief Bio - sketch
- Introduction, background, significance
- Problem statement
- Brief theoretical framework (if appropriate)
- Hypotheses or research question(s)
- Methodology
- Timetable
- Budget
- References and appendices (include copies of instruments/interview guides; organizational support letters -- e.g., access to research subjects, resources, etc.)
- Documentation of IRB approval if necessary

Limit length to less than 6 pages, double spaced (excluding title page, budget, references, and appendices), typed in 12 point font with 1 inch margins.

All applications will be evaluated using a blind review process. The recommendation of the Research Committee is submitted to the Executive Committee of the Delta Gamma Chapter for the award decision.

Applications should be submitted no later than Monday, March 26, 2007 to:

Kerry Kosmoski-Goepfert PhD, RN
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