



Eta Beta Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society

Greetings to All!

The STTI Vision 2020 states that, "By the year 2020, the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, will be the organization of choice for scholarship, knowledge and leadership for nurses globally. It will be the "go to" organization for nurses looking for information on global health issues. Why STTI? "Because of the intellect and leadership of its members who will influence health care decisions globally, regionally and locally, I thought it would be helpful to review the contributions of Eta Beta toward achieving that goal over the past year and our plans for the upcoming year.

The first goal for STTI to reach this vision is that the honor society becomes a valued, relevant and meaningful organization for members and nurses worldwide. Eta Beta inducted 32 undergraduate students, 14 graduate students, and 2 nurse leaders in 2008. Students were invited to attend Eta Beta programs to introduce them to the organization and encourage membership and involvement. This year, Eta Beta hopes to induct even more members through more outreach and education about STTI to potential members. We encourage new members to get involved in the chapter through participation on the board, attendance at educational programs and meetings, and involvement in service projects.

The next goal is to create an intentionally global organization. The membership of Eta Beta includes several Widener graduates that live and work in various parts of the world. One of our new nurse leader members, Ellen Boyda, shared her experiences on her medical mission in Africa in January of 2008 at the 2008 induction ceremony. Eta Beta members participated in a service project in the spring of 2008 in which supplies were collected and sent to nurses serving in Iraq. We have also sent nursing textbooks to our colleagues in Africa. If you have any international service projects that you would like to see our chapter participate in this year, please contact one of the board members.

The third goal is to be a thoughtful leader in creating and sharing knowledge and in developing leadership resources. Eta Beta funded three research grants in the spring of 2008 to two doctoral students and two faculty members at the School of Nursing. We look forward to those grant recipients presenting their results to the membership in the near future. Research day was highlighted by the presentations of several nurse researchers as well as senior nursing honors students who presented the results of their research projects. Karen Morin, President-Elect of STTI was our keynote speaker at the spring dinner, sharing her thoughts about Evidence-

Based Practice. This fall, Amy Luckowski will be presenting her expertise in assisting the visually impaired client with his/her health care needs. Research day will be held in March this year and abstracts will be accepted for presentation through February 1, 2009. Guidelines for applications for research grants can be found on the chapter web site, www.etabetachapter.org. Small grant applications through STTI are due December 1, 2008. Guide-lines for applications are available on the STTI web site (www.nursingsociety.org).

The last goal is to create a knowledge-focused, technology enabled organization. Eta Beta recreated its newsletter over the past few years with the goal of publishing two newsletters a year to keep members up-to-date. The chapter web site was redesigned to facilitate more timely communication with members. Please remember to update your email address in the member profile at STTI so that we can add you to our mailing lists and keep you up to date with chapter activities.

The board and I look forward to your active participation in chapter events this year. Please let us know how Eta Beta can better serve you and together, we can create a path towards meeting the goals of Vision 2020.

Anne Krouse, PhD
President, Eta Beta Chapter

Dean's Message Eta Beta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau

It is an exciting time within the School of Nursing at Widener University, home to the Eta Beta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of doctoral education, preparation of 154 nurse scholars, and the re-titling of the original Doctor of Nursing Science degree to the Doctor of Philosophy degree. On October 4, in a ceremony during Homecoming 2008, we will award new diplomas bearing the title 'Doctor of Philosophy' to graduates who have returned to participate in a celebration in their honor.

Dean Janette Packer and the founding faculty of the DNSc degree are commended for their vision of a curriculum that would stand the test of time and place Widener's doctoral graduates at the forefront of the new movement to formally prepare nurse educators. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing position statement on optimal preparation of faculty in our discipline, passed by a majority vote of deans at the spring 2008 meeting in Washington, DC, states that "Doctoral graduates who

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**MAKE YOUR PLANS
TO ATTEND
Eta Beta's FALL DINNER!
October 22, 2008
6:00 - 9:00 PM
Springfield Country Club
Speakers:
Mark & Amy Luckoski
and Sparky
Watch your mail,
flyers will be arriving shortly!**

Eta-Beta Board Members 2008-2009

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THANK YOU PAST BOARD MEMBERS

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Board Members who so faithfully served their positions over the past year.

Thank you to:

President Elect - Anne Krouse; Secretary - Rose Schwartz
Treasurer - Lynne Borucki; VP Programs - Lynn Kelly
Faculty Counselors - Normajean Colby, Mary Francis & Donna Callaghan
Corresponding Secretary - Mary Rose Smochek
Governance - Rose Schwartz; Nominating Chairperson - Joyce Raisin
Nominating Committee Members - Jane Brennan & Kelly Sharkey
Committee Member - Jennifer Timony

All of your hard work paid off for a most-productive year. Congratulations to the new Board Members and President, Anne Krouse. May this year be another year of success!

Mary Baumberger-Henry

Eta Beta Fall Program 2008 October 22nd • 6pm-9pm

CEU Dinner Program at the Springfield County Club • Cost: \$40

Amy Luckowski RN, MSN, CCRN and Mark Luckowski, BSW, will be presenting Nursing Care of the Visually Impaired Patient for the Eta Beta fall program on October 22nd. They will also share the challenges and joys of living with a disability. Their article on nursing care was published in the September issue of LPN2008 and they will be presenting at the Trends Conference for Critical Care on October 28, 2008.

Amy is a Lecturer at Widener University School of Nursing and has a critical care nursing background. Mark has a

bachelor's degree in social work and is a residential program counselor for the mentally ill. Mark is totally blind and uses a guide dog. Sparky is very happy to be the star of this presentation.

Amy and Mark have been married for almost 20 years and have two children. They would like to thank the Lion's Club for sponsoring Mark for his third guide dog. Proceeds from the Chinese auction and 50/50 will benefit the Lion's Club International and their support for guide dogs. Attendees will be granted 1CEU pending PSNA approval.

Remembering Edie Huggins

Mary Baumberger-Henry, RN, PhD

Edie Huggins, an award-winning news writer and broadcast journalist for WCAU in Philadelphia, died on July 29, 2008. Edie was inducted as a community member into the Eta Beta Chapter in 2006. She was well-known for her extensive community service and interest stories. As the featured speaker for the induction ceremony, Ms. Huggins spoke of her life in nursing. Before she began her career in journalism, she was a registered nurse working the night shift at Bellevue and Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospitals and a consultant for the daytime soap opera *The Doctors*. Her consulting led her to acting in other soap operas including *Love of Life* and *The Edge of Night*. Huggins later made history by becoming WCAU's first African American female reporter. Though known for several different shows, a notable achievement for Edie Huggins was *Huggins' Heroes* where she featured the unsung heroes of the Philadelphia region. Edie never forgot her first career and often featured stories related to nurses and the nursing profession. Edie was a pioneer in many ways and will be missed.

NEWS FLASH:

Widener University, School of Nursing announces a change in doctoral degrees. The Doctorate of Nursing Science degree is now a PhD with the same emphasis on nursing education.

The Doctorate In Nursing Practice: Update

Since the year 2001, there have been intense debates in nursing education and practice over the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommendation for the future preparation for specializations in nursing. The AACN (2004), *Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing* (DNP) degree, recommends moving current levels of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice roles from the master's to the doctorate level by the year 2015. A majority vote of nursing Deans in October 2004 at an AACN meeting, serves to support this position. Resistance to this preparation change surrounds concerns that practice doctoral education in nursing will be confusing to the public and undermine the importance of the highest level of preparation in nursing, the Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) Degree. Nursing has survived these debates and the outcome is that the practice doctorate in nursing is widely accepted. This acceptance is evidenced by: 1) DNP program expansion in educational institutions all over the country, 2) soaring admissions into these new nursing programs, and 3) advanced practice nurses holding the DNP degree who are providing efficient, safe, and high quality care in a variety of roles in diverse health care settings.

The transition from master's level preparation is a natural evolution as the national demand for advanced practice nurses and nursing faculty increases. There is a projected shortage of health-care providers in the field of primary care, and nurses with advanced practice skills are expected to fill this need (AACN, 2004; Berlin & Sechrist, 2002). Simultaneously, the demand for quality and accountability in the delivery of healthcare has been established (IOM, 2000; 2003). In addition to this, population health care needs in the United States and globally have drastically changed. There is a growing demographic diversity and an increasing number of older adults living longer with chronic conditions. Technologic advances will continue to change health care and increase the educational needs of health care providers. In a hallmark report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), *Health*

Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality (2003), the IOM charges all health professions, nursing included, to change the ways providers are educated and to expand competencies. The National Academy of Science (2005) calls for nursing to develop a "non-research clinical doctorate" to prepare expert practitioners who can also serve in faculty roles. The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties is also in support of the DNP as the eventual entry into practice at the advanced practice level (2008).

In health care systems, it is common to encounter professionals who hold various types of doctoral degrees. The physician has traditionally been titled "doctor." However, if a health care provider enters a patient's room today and states, "I am Dr. Jones," this could be somewhat confusing as "Dr. Jones" could be a psychologist, a physical therapist, the dietitian, a CEO or even an advance practice nurse. Therefore, providers including physicians must clearly identify and emphasize their role in the health care delivery system. The DNP is a degree. It is not a role, and no profession can monopolize the title "doctor." The primary goal of a DNP degree program is to prepare nurse scholars at the highest levels in direct patient care and/or system leadership capacities. The DNP program is different from the research-focused academic doctorate (PhD) program. DNP students may be prepared to function as expert advanced practice nurse clinicians in primary care, adult health, community health, emergency critical care, or psychiatric mental health with distinct in-depth knowledge in complex health care delivery systems in addition to high levels of clinical competence.

In summary, the DNP movement and the curricular innovation have been lined to four drivers (*The National Organization of Nurse Practitioners, Practice Doctorate Task Force* (2003) include:

1. Changes in the healthcare systems. The health care system and the needs of patients served have become more complex, the education needs for advanced practice nurses have expanded and can not be addressed within existing

curricula and credit hours; therefore, curricular innovation and expansion is the natural solution

2. Parity with other practice disciplines. The practice doctorate has been established as a standard for entry into practice in several other clinical disciplines including physical therapy, psychology, dentistry and medicine.

3. Credentials that correspond with educational preparation. With knowledge expansion and technological advancement in health care, advanced practice nursing programs have needed to expand credits and clinical hours to prepared expert clinicians. Given the need for greater emphasis on informatics, health system change, ethics, health policy and translational research curricular expansion and the award of a degree that reflect preparations is also the natural evolution.

4. Faculty shortage. There has been a critical nursing faculty shortage making it difficult for programs to expand and prepare the workforce needed to meet the health care demand in this country. The DNP degree graduate will be prepared to compliment PhD prepared faculty to support preparation of clinicians for advanced practice.

The Widener University School of Nursing (WU SON) has developed a proposal to compliment the long standing history of excellence in doctoral education in nursing education program (the PhD program) with the development of a new DNP degree program. This expansion is consistent with Widener University's mission to "*become a pre-eminent metropolitan university known for distinctive programs*" (Widener University, Mission & Goals, 2007) and the WU SON's goal "*to address the metropolitan region's most pressing health concerns and enhance our program offerings to respond to the needs of our communities* (WU SON, 2007).

The WU SON is nationally recognized for advanced practice and doctoral nursing programming and seeks to remain among outstanding schools who offer the DNP degree. There are schools of nursing in the local Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware areas offering DNP programs, however, WU SON will be

The Doctorate In Nursing Practice: Update

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the only local school that will develop an innovative multiple entry (post-baccalaureate, post-masters, and post-doctoral) programs.

There are over 77 existing DNP programs around the country. Program length varies as educational institutions have the freedom to design programs that reflect the needs of the communities served, the character of the institutions, and the needs of students served. There are established competencies for the DNP which must be met prior to practice entry (*Practice Doctorate Entry Level Competencies, NONPF, 2007*). The AACN has recommended that programs have at a minimum of 1,000 direct care clinical hours post-baccalaureate. The standard for clinical hours in master's preparation is 500 clinical hours minimum in addition to the advance practice core of health assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology. Clinical hours are based on DNP content and DNP competencies. However, ongoing research clinical hours will be necessary to establish and evidence-based national standard for the future.

So, one might ask, "What is the added value of a DNP degree? For the nation the added value is that advanced practice nurses will be increasingly effective in the delivery of health care in systems with ever-changing complexities. For higher education, curricular innovation provides opportunities to better serve communities and field a highly qualified essential workforce. The added value for the individual nurse is career investment for future preparation at the highest level of clinical practice. DNP graduates will have advanced knowledge and skills in independent practice, scientific foundations, leadership, evidence-based systems quality management, practice inquiry, technology and information literacy, health policy, health delivery systems, and ethics (Practice Doctorate Core Competencies, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, (2006); AACN Essentials, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2005). This innovation in nursing education is a

win-win situation for the public, higher education, and advanced practice nurses. Stay posted for the progress of the WU SON doctorate in nursing practice proposal and remember to **"Reach higher! Go farther! Choose Widener (Widener University, 2007)!"**

Regards,
Shirlee Drayton-Brooks PhD, FNP,
APRN, BC, CRRN
Associate Professor & Director,
Family Nurse Practitioner Program
Widener University, School of Nursing
Doctorate in Nursing Practice
Task Force, Chairperson

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Dean's Message

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will be involved in an academic role will have preparation in educational methods and pedagogies"(retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Publications/positions/preferredvision.htm> (9/23/08). How exciting to realize that Widener has prepared 154 nurse educators to meet this requirement, beginning in 1983!

This is a year of celebrating other significant dates in the history of the School of Nursing, as well. This is the 40th anniversary of the first graduates of the BSN degree in 1968, with well over 3,000 alumni having earned their bachelor's degrees in nursing.

I joined Widener's School of Nursing as Dean in July, 2007. What a wonderful group of colleagues I have found! I feel privileged to join with our faculty and alumni, and look forward to all we will accomplish in our beloved profession. Clearly this is a group at the forefront of education and scholarship; what a wonderful home for the Eta Beta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

Best Regards,
Deborah R. Garrison, RN, PhD

“Into Africa”

Marye O'Reilly-Knapp, PhD

For as long as I can remember, I have dreamed of going to Africa. It may have been due to the many trips I took with my family to the Philadelphia Zoo or the TV programs of Animal Kingdom or Animal Wild Life I watched as often as possible. In August, my dream came true. After a 17 hour plane ride, I arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa.

It is the end of winter in South Africa. Temperatures range from 89 degrees in the day to 32 degrees at night. The early morning safari at 6am was very cold; however, the sun quickly warmed us up. The Republic of South Africa is a constitutional democracy. Known as the “Rainbow Nation,” the term coined by Desmond Tutu, the country has the most diverse population in Africa. There are about 46.9 million people with eleven official languages and many more spoken. I learned a few words in Zulu while I was there.

For the first two days, I stayed in a lodge about 10 miles outside of the city. A day long tour took me to Soweto, the Apartheid Museum, a diamond mine, and downtown Johannesburg. The highpoints were to visit Soweto and the museum. Soweto is the home of two recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize - Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. I got to see where they live and where the Mandela Foundation is located. I was deeply moved by the monument honoring Hector Petersen, one of the school children who took to the streets in 1976 to protest a new rule enforcing the Africans language in the schools. Police opened fire on the student march and killed 13-year-old Hector. My visit to the Apartheid Museum gave me an appreciation for the struggles of the people and their fight for freedom. At his inauguration as President of South Africa, May 10, 1994, Mandela said, “Out of the experience of an extraor-

inary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud.” Apartheid, meaning separateness, where races lived separately and where some were “more equal than others” had to come to an end. I felt all of humanity had benefited from the movement to end apartheid.

On Saturday morning we boarded a plane for the first camp. A ranger met us and drove us in a Land Rover which would take us into the bush each morning and afternoon. As we arrived at Kerkmans Kamp, we were told that there were no fences between us and the animals. On the lawn was a warthog eating grass. Monkeys ran around and jumped from tree to tree. At night we had to be accompanied to our rooms. One morning I woke to the roar of a lion. In the second camp, I was awakened by splashing sounds and saw about 30 buffalo followed by 30 elephants entering the water hole in front of my tent. As I became accustomed to the animals roaming freely, I was able to let go of my fear and enjoy their closeness. There were times when a wave, comprised of a mixture of joy, excitement, and awe, moved inside me.

At 6 am there was knock at the door (at the second camp drums woke us up). Coffee and biscuits were served and then about 6:20, we were off on safari. We came back to the camp for lunch and a rest; and then, we were out again for safari until 7:30 pm. The first afternoon we went to see the wild dogs. I learned later that thousands come to Africa and never see the Cape dogs or wild dogs. Here I was, the very first time out, seeing them. We returned to their den the next day and were able to see the eight dogs and nine pups. Later that day the dogs moved and were not seen again until a day later. On the second day our ranger followed two of the dogs into the bush

for “the kill.” Again, few get to see the beginning to the final attack. I was worried about this, since I would always close my eyes when there was a kill in movies. Because it seemed such a part of nature, I was able to appreciate the strategies the animals used to kill their prey. The next day I watched three lionesses and a lion stalk a herd of buffalo. Two of the lions charged the buffalo and they immediately placed the young in the middle and stood in a circle making loud, angry noises. The lions retreated and went back to lay down on the rocks. This was amazing to witness. Other memorable events were the bull elephant that took a mud bath, the leopard we followed in the bush for over half an hour, another leopard who climbed down from her perch in a tree and ate right beside the Land Rover, and the 300 plus buffalo who surrounded our vehicle as they came down to the watering hole where we had stopped for our ‘sundown break.’ I saw giraffes, antelope, wildebeest, kudu, baboons, rhinos, zebras, elephants, many beautiful birds, and more. I was in awe so many times. To witness the beauty and strength of the animals was breath-taking. To be in the bush was amazing and humbling.

On the return, we drove from the second camp over 450 miles back to the Johannesburg airport through Drakensberg Mountains and the Blyde River Canyon. The mountains reminded me of the Grand Canyon. We saw beautiful water falls, tiny villages, people walking along the roads, many cows and baboons. I felt like I had been away from home both, forever and for only a few days. It had been an amazing trip. My heart and soul have been touched by the country and its people. I hope to return someday to this beautiful country.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!!

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Promotions
Personal News
at
www.etabeta.wuson.org



Congratulations to our Newly Elected Board Members in 2008



- President:** *Anne Krouse*
- President Elect:** *Rose Schwartz*
- Treasurer:** *Danielle Calabrese*
- Recording Secretary:** *Marye O'Reilly-Knapp*
- Corresponding Secretary:** *Mary Rose Smochek*
- Governance Chair:** *Mary Ellen Santucci*
- Programs Chair:** *Amy Luckowski*
- Faculty Counselors:**
Donna Callaghan, Janice Reilley
- Leadership Succession Chair:** *Brenda Kucirka*
- Leadership Succession Committee:**
Jennifer Timony, Mary Francis

Eta Beta Welcomes New Members

BACCALAUREATE: Generic: Lori Buckingham, Ashley Carroll, Kristy Marie Chester, Dana Maria Chieffo, Evelyn Christy, Elisa Daniels, Janice Falcon/McCumisky, Robin Ferree, Thomas Michael Flanigan, Samantha Glynn, Allison M. Griffin, Jennifer Marie Haines, Ashley Blair Haller, Jeryl-Ann Haney, Rachel Hartstein, Stephanie Nicole Henson, Archie Holsomback III, Raymond Jawers, Gurwinder Kaur, Christopher Mark Kohan, Arlene Lowthert, Jackie Marinelli, Heather Lauren Massimo, Melanie Theresa Miller, Samantha Lyn Mulfino, Megan Mulgrew, Maurine Oyombe, Christina Allison Reed, Kerri Ann Schulz, Lindsey M. Siefert, Lisa Tabibian, Ashley Dawn Thompson

GRADUATE: Master's Degree:

Annie Arquin, Monique Lynn Bayham, Lisa Barley Blyth, Marcella Christine Herbert, Amy Lori BuckinJo Lisanti, KRistina McGroarty, AnneMarie Monachino, Harriet Onyeachu, Michelle Anastasia Ritzler, Carl Jensen Signor, Theresa Naomi Suter.

GRADUATE: Doctoral Degree:

Susan Mills, Jane Ryan, Gayle Watson

NURSE LEADER:

Ellen Boyda, Margie Hamilton

DATES TO REMEMBER!

October 22, 2008

Eta Beta's Fall Program -
CEU Dinner Program - Springfield Country Club
6:00-9:00 pm

December 1, 2008

STTI Small Grant Applications due

February 1, 2009

Abstract Submission for Presentation for Eta Beta
Research Day, both Paper & Poster, will be
accepted

Check www.etabeta.wuson.org
for further information!