

**SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL NURSING HONOR SOCIETY
NU CHI CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2009**

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

CHAPTER INDUCTION CEREMONY

The ceremony took place on Thursday evening, April 9, 2009 in the Millennium Student Center. Despite heavy rains and flash flood warnings outside, we experienced the inner warmth of a lovely, traditional ceremony and the presence of friends and family supporting our inductees. We were especially honored to have Dr. Carol Picard, immediate past President of Sigma Theta Tau International, as our keynote speaker. We extend a special welcome to all our new members:

NURSE LEADER: Janet Diffey;

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: Tara Baca, Mary Baxter, Katherine Bradshaw, Angela Brown, Melissa Buckner, Lauren Casper, Dorothy Cochran, Andrea Drussa, Sarah Kitchell, Lisa Linn, Allison Manenti, Lyndsey Osborne, and Shannon Vombey;

GRADUATE STUDENTS: Jessica Bell, Tracy Breece, Andrea Galati-Brown, Christy Geraci, Monica Guler, Teresa Hamra, Christine Herrington, Brandi House, Julia Hoven, Krystal James, Sheila Jones, Jean LaFolette, Cassandra Loggins, Shelly O'Malley, Patricia Pitman, Anna Rademann, Amanda Reynolds, Theresa Rice, Karen Rottler, Laura Wallace, Jennifer Weilbaecher, Sarah Weyhrich, and Anneka White.

OTHER SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

The joint meeting of St. Louis Area Sigma Theta Tau chapters took place on February 12 at Maryville University. We enjoyed a great dinner, networking, and an informative presentation on Missouri Health Net given by Jan Polizzi. Ms. Polizzi is a past Delegate to the Missouri House of Representatives, past President of Third District Missouri Nurses Association, board member of Nurses for Newborns, and a recognized expert on health care legislation and policy.

The Celebration of African-American Nursing History was held on the UMSL campus February 20 and was a huge success. With a theme of "Health Disparities within a Historical Context", this day-long event included nationally-known keynote speakers, focus groups, and a historical theatrical presentation. Nu Chi Chapter was pleased to be a contributor, and it is anticipated that this will become an annual February event. Plan now to attend the 2010 Celebration!

Nu Chi Chapter hosted an informal luncheon on March 12 in the Living Room of the Nursing Administration Building. It was also good to see several chapter members in attendance at the College of Nursing Alumni Luncheon on April 18.

FALL HIGHLIGHT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Wednesday September 16, 2009, 4-6 PM – scheduled day/time for the first Elizabeth McIntosh and Jerry D. Durham Endowed Alumni Lecture to be held on the UMSL campus. Dr. Lynn Sommers, an expert on injury prevention research, will be the speaker.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nu Chi Board met on June 16, 2009 and gave approval for the following:

1. Leadership Succession Committee, chaired by Erin Catoor, to complete ballot of candidates for the chapter offices of Vice-President, Treasurer, and Faculty Counselor, and also two new members of Leadership Succession Committee;
2. Request to Dr. Margaret Barton-Burke to organize competition for chapter research awards;
3. Jean Nelson to send out summer edition of chapter newsletter including election ballot and information about research awards;
4. Chapter to publicize and support the Elizabeth McIntosh and Jerry D. Durham Endowed Alumni Lecture on September 16, 2009.

ABOUT YOUR CHAPTER OFFICERS

Bobbie Lee continues as Nu Chi Chapter President until July 2010. Dr. Lee is an Endowed Professor and Director of Doctoral Programs in the College of Nursing, and has extensive past involvement with Nu Chi and other Sigma Theta Tau chapters.

Lora Claywell continues as President-Elect until July 2010, when she will assume the office of president. Dr. Claywell teaches on-line courses for Regis University in Denver, Colorado, and is one of the original members of Nu Chi Chapter.

Carol Berger continues as Secretary of our chapter. Carol is a graduate of the MSN program, currently engaged on doctoral study, and has been a graduate research assistant in the College of Nursing.

Mimi Hirschberg continues as a member of the Leadership Succession Committee. Mimi is a teaching faculty member in the College of Nursing and has also held various nursing positions at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES FOR CHAPTER OFFICES

Pam Grant, candidate for Vice-President, is an experienced school nurse in the Special School District of St. Louis County. She is a recent graduate of the MSN program with a strong interest in teaching.

Kathy Lee, candidate for Treasurer, is a teaching faculty member in the College of Nursing. Kathy has served two terms as Faculty Counselor for Nu Chi Chapter, has been very involved in the Alumni Association, and has also been Secretary-Treasurer of the Faculty Association.

Jean Nelson, candidate for a second term as Faculty Counselor, is a teaching faculty member in the College of Nursing and Editor of the Nu Chi Newsletter. She previously served as chapter Secretary and member of various committees.

Candidates for the Leadership Succession Committee are Sue Farbermann and Cassandra Loggins. Sue is a graduate faculty member in the College of Nursing and a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

Cassandra recently completed the MSN program, is continuing with doctoral study, and will be an adjunct faculty member this fall.

ENCLOSURES: (1) Ballot; (2) Information on Research Award Competition