

CONNECTIONS

FALL 2011

Biennial Convention House of Delegates

By Elaine M. Kopp

Chapter Representation

Chapters must send delegates to the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Biennial House of Delegates (HOD) to comply with the organizational bylaws. Our appointed convention delegates are Barbara Carrig and Teru Coleman. Both meet eligibility criteria. They are active dues paying members with e-mail and Internet access and named in the (password protected) chapter management system. Each is serving a two-year term.

Informational Resources

STTI provides a host of informational resources for delegates. Recorded web casts help orient delegates to role expectations and convention protocols. The STTI Delegate Forum is an interactive space for peer-to-peer discussions where delegates can ask questions and receive answers. Announcements, general background and historical narratives from petitioning Honor Societies are viewable online. A newsletter containing election-based materials mails in advance to all voting delegates. It includes the bylaws grid and charter amendments, candidate declarations, and a sample ballot. Delegates are encouraged to study its contents beforehand and bring it to the biennium.

Website Address

- Visit the www.nursingsociety.org home page
- Click on chapter management (upper left corner)
- Click on delegate information and follow links

Role and Responsibilities

A delegate serves as the chapter's representative in all HOD activities during the biennium. According to STTI, delegates are obligated and responsible to vote as well as carry forward chapter instructions. After the delegate certification, which is an on-site check-in, delegates obtain a convention schedule and pertinent data to guide them toward assignment completion. Entry into the HOD permits delegates to take part or equal part in the decision-making that affects the membership. Post convention, delegates provide a synopsis to their chapters that highlights actions during the HOD. Delegates then continue casting votes electronically to approve or decline proposals (as they arise) in collaboration with fellow board members.

First-Time Participants

STTI recommends that chapters try to send uninitiated delegates to the biennial HOD versus having the same individuals succeed in consecutive cycles. It is important to note that members need not be on the board of directors to serve in this capacity. Similarly, a non-delegate board member may also volunteer. To that end, officers need to make concerted efforts to welcome all members into the fold of first-time participants. Our chapter is committed to mentoring members (experienced or inexperienced) particularly those with an expressed interest in professional development. It is well within our mission to assist members to find meaningful engagement so that they may contribute to and derive satisfaction from chapter life.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Barbara A. Carrig

A Welcome Message

My term in office as President-Elect enabled me to gain a broader understanding of the presidential role, function, and responsibilities at the chapter level. I experienced a wonderful two-year tutelage serving alongside Caroline Kornutik, Immediate Past President. During my orientation, she and many others shared their valuable insights without reservation and guided the socialization process that has prepared me for this professional transition. Moving ahead, I am ready to provide the leadership and direction our chapter requires in implementing its objectives on your behalf. Thankful to all for the honor and privilege of serving, I am committed to fulfilling the needs of the membership while working closely with the board of directors and executive committee. Our chapter has widened its scope considerably in a relatively short time. Those who have invested the time and energy in steering it thus far have done so in a measured and responsive manner making the necessary adjustments to ensure continuity as we carry forward the ideals of the Honor Society.

STTI's Vision 2020 is "To create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service, and learning to improve the health of the world's people."

Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter endorses the STTI Vision 2020 statement charging us "to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service, and learning to improve the health of the world's people." Indeed, this is an expansive undertaking and in response, no president issues a call to action in isolation. I recognize that your volunteerism is critical in executing the plan. I realize too, the influence our chapter might possibly have on affecting a nurses' future. We are therefore, dedicated to giving all members the collegiality, knowledge or skills needed to overcome the challenges that they face.

One of our major goals is in fact, to increase our membership and member involvement in chapter activities and events.

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Ongoing membership has much to offer those who actually participate. Our chapter has made great strides for instance, in expanding its fundraising initiatives that support education scholarships or research grants as well as numerous community donation and outreach efforts. We encourage leadership development and promote visibility. Access to ample communications media and social networks are available including the chapter *Connections* newsletter and Facebook ® and a website that directly links members to the national organization and its vast electronic resources. The linkages here will further point you toward desired interests. The World Wide Web literally, at our fingertips, can help us open doors to countless career-related ventures as technology has blazed new trails and online contacts may prove beneficial and far-reaching.

I compare the organizational matrix to a tapestry. The threads are similar to local chapters and when intertwined with many equally distinctive threads form a complete composition. If we stand too close, the design becomes a blur leaving visible only the woven texture. Frayed strands weaken the fabric. If threads are broken or pulled out the pattern is then permanently flawed. For these reasons, master weavers consider both the big picture and the finer details. As such, we will continue teaching our members how to weave so each may grow in ways that enhance his or her full potential. Chapter leaders must also take care to strengthen their bonds with each other as we renew our relationship to the collective whole. I believe that together we can create a masterpiece richer and more vibrant than any one of us could ever conceive of alone. Lastly, I look forward to having everyone attend the general membership meetings and invite you to bring your friends!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SERVICE MISSION

CALL FOR DONATIONS

WHO: Dr. Eileen C. Specchio, Professor, College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) and Eligibility Chair and Faculty Counselor for Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter leads service-oriented mission trips to the Dominican Republic (DR).

WHAT: In turn, chapter members support the delegations by contributing healthcare kits intended to aid impoverished Haitians living on the Bateyes in the Dominican Republic. We are most in need of vitamins (adult, prenatal, and children), therapeutic shampoos (used to treat scalp and skin conditions), soap, washcloths, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

WHEN: We will collect donated items at our next general membership meeting, which is on 08 November 2011.

WHERE: The meeting is at CSE in the Ward Dining Room (first floor) in Saint Joseph Hall.

HOW: Please contact Dr. Specchio via e-mail at especchio@cse.edu to learn more about becoming involved in various service learning activities.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- Do you enjoy helping others to grow personally, professionally, and in their career?
- Are you accessible to share your practice skills, knowledge, and resources with nurses in developing countries in Africa?
- Would you be willing to serve as an e-mail mentor for a nurse in Liberia?

Kindly contact Dr. Specchio via e-mail to discuss this grass roots mentoring program.

TEXTBOOKS NEEDED

Our chapter is presently looking into the possibility of donating a mobile library through The International Council for Nurses (ICN) to a nursing program in Liberia. This would greatly benefit nurse educators as they graduate and return to their under-resourced programs. Input is priceless and we welcome yours!

<http://www.icn.ch/projects/mobile-library>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Anderson, MSN, RN; Gayle Pearson, DrPH, RN; Connie Sobon Sensor, PhD(c), RN, CCRN, CTN, Region 14 Coordinator of STTI chapters; Eileen C. Specchio, PhD, RN; and Carrie Steele, MSN, RN, NNP-BC, CPNP-AC will present:

“Learning, Sharing, and Responding to the Call”

This one-day conference sponsored by Compassion Corps and the Foundation for Peace is intended for Nurse Educators (undergraduate and graduate), nursing students, and all globally minded nurses. Faculty will share first-hand experiences related to volunteering in a service mission capacity in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, or Kenya. The date is 05 November 2011 in the Ward Dining Room at CSE.

Edwin Cabassa, DNP, MSN, RN, R.T. (R), APRN, BC graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) with a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree on 17 May 2011. Referenced herein, is his nursing practice published dissertation titled "Pain Assessment in Patients with Advanced Dementia."

Cabassa, E., Guttman, M., Reineke, P., and Parietti, E., (2011). Pain assessment in patients with advanced dementia. *The UPNAAI Nursing Journal*, 7(1) 46-48.

Clare Cruz, MSN, RN Clinical Information System (CIS) Design Coordinator of Trinitas Regional Medical Center is attending *Morrissey Concurrent Care Manager™ Application Administration Training* this month in Chicago, IL.

Patricia D. Fonder, MSN, RN BC, CCRN is a member of the steering committee that co-authored and submitted the application for Ramapo College of New Jersey Nursing Programs Honor Society to STTI in petition for chapter consideration.

Marianne Gerace, APRN-BC, DMH is an Assistant Professor at the College of Saint Elizabeth. She is receiving a New Jersey League for Nurses (NJLN) Nurse Recognition Award during its 96th Anniversary and 2011 NJLN Recognition Awards Gala. The

ceremony is at The Pines Manor, Edison, NJ on 04 November 2011.

June Halper, APN-C, MSCN, FAAN is a member of the Faculty Panel for *Multiple Sclerosis Counseling Points™*, which is a quarterly continuing education publication dedicated to enhancing patient communications for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) nurse. June is the Executive Director for the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) and the International Organization of MS Nurses (IOMSN) in Hackensack, NJ.

Lolita C. Jacob, DNP, RN, FNP-BC is a past president of the Lambda Delta Chapter of Monmouth University, Long Branch, NJ. Dr. Jacob succeeds Marianne Duffy, MA, RN, CNAA, BC as the Program Coordinator for the New Jersey Consortium of STTI.

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, RN, EdD, FAAN will be the Keynote Speaker for the Sixth Annual Nursing Research Day at the College of Saint Elizabeth. Dr. Smeltzer is the Director for the Center for Nursing Research and a Professor at Villanova University, Villanova, PA. She is a charter member and a past president of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). A passionate advocate for people with disabilities, Dr. Smeltzer is the recipient too, of the Pennsylvania Health Educators Award for Health Promotion for Special Populations, awarded to the Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project. Colleagues regard her as an accomplished scholar, teacher, and mentor who is a prolific author. She holds countless commendations for excellence in writing including the American Journal of Nursing Book-of-the-Year Award for *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* that she and Brenda G. Bare, RN, MSN edited for many years.

Eileen C. Specchio, PhD, RN and Edna E. Johnson, PhD, RN gave a presentation together in Limerick, Ireland titled "Developing a Graduate Nurse Education Program in Post Conflict Liberia: What We Are Learning." Dr. Johnson, a retired Professor Emerita from University of Connecticut has been living in Liberia for the past six years where Dr. Specchio also participated in a teaching sabbatical.

REGIONAL FALL EVENTS

Saint Peter's College School of Nursing

Annual Distinguished Lectureship

*"Caring Science: Transforming Self & System
Via Caring Theory Practice & Clinical Research"*

Jean Watson, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN

Monday, 03 October 2011—Admission is Free
JC Campus: 12:00 pm and EC Campus: 7:00 pm

McIntyre Lounge ▪ Jersey City ▪ NJ 07960
Main Building ▪ Englewood Cliffs ▪ NJ 07649
Contact SPC School of Nursing at (201) 761-6270

College of Saint Elizabeth Department of Nursing

Annual Nursing Research Day

*"A Passion for Research
& Research for a Passion"*

Suzanne C. Smeltzer, RN, EdD, FAAN

Wednesday, 26 October 2011
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Students with Identification: \$25.00
All Others: \$30.00
An Educational Offering with 1.5 Contact Hours

Annunciation Center

2 Convent Station ▪ Morristown ▪ NJ ▪ 07960
Contact CSE Department of Nursing at (973) 290-4056

New Jersey Consortium of SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS

Founders Day Dinner & Education Program

Date:

- Tuesday, 11 October 2011
- (5:30 pm – 9:30 pm)
- Registration Fee: \$35.00 per person

Venue:

- The Rutgers Club
199 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Speaker and Topic:

- Mary Ann Christopher, MSN, RN, FAAN
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Initiative on the Future of Nursing,
Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report:
"Implications for Nursing Practice"

www.rutgersclub.rutgers.edu/directions/

TRINITAS

Regional · Medical · Center

210 Williamson Street · Elizabeth · NJ · 07202

Annual Nursing Research Day

Who: Della (Dee) Campbell, PhD, APN, NE-BC, CNL, Associate Professor, Felician College and Eileen C. Specchio, PhD, RN, Professor, College of Saint Elizabeth are presenting:

"The Nuts and Bolts of Nursing Research"

When: Thursday, 17 November 2011
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: Administrative Services Building, 1st Floor, TRMC Physician's Conference Room

How: Details are available from Cindy Torres, Education Department at (908) 984-8672

INTERNATIONAL LENS

STTI 41st BIENNIAL CONVENTION

People and Knowledge: Connecting for Global Health—Grapevine, Texas

Concurrent Research Session

Paper Presenter:

Sylvia Colon Cabassa, DNP, FNP-C
Henry P. Becton School of Nursing and Allied Health, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ

Session Title:

Nurse-Generated Reminder System to Reduce Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection

Objectives:

1. The learner will be able to discuss the reasons for the development of quality standards for implementation of best practices.
2. The learner will be able to describe the major factors influencing evidence-based quality and patient safety.

Date: 31 October 2011

Time: 10:00 am

Creative Arts in Nursing Sessions

Poster Presenter:

Elaine M. Kopp, BSN, RN
Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter, Lodi, NJ

Session Title:

The Navajo Nation: An Exploration of Native American Culture and Lifeway

Objectives:

1. The learner will be able to explain how the Navajo people came into existence.
2. The learner will be able to describe central themes associated with Navajo cultural identity.

Date: 31 October 2011 and 01 November 2011

Time: Five Scheduled Sessions

Concurrent Leadership Session

Paper Presenter:

Muriel M. Shore, EdD, RN
Division of Nursing and Health Management
Felician College, Lodi, NJ

Session Title:

Leading the Change Process: Designing an Innovative Upper Division BSN Curriculum

Objectives:

1. The learner will be able to apply aspects of this leadership model for change in advancing educational programs in various academic settings.
2. The learner will be able to evaluate the benefits of this leadership model with other models achieving similar results.

Date: 31 October 2011

Time: 2:25 pm

Concurrent Research Session

Paper Presenter:

Cheryl A. Krause-Parello, PhD, RN
School of Nursing, Kean University, Union, NJ

Session Title:

Human-Canine Interaction: Examining Stress Indicator Response Patterns of Salivary Cortisol and Immunoglobulin A

Objectives:

1. The learner will be able to understand the use of biomarkers salivary cortisol and Immunoglobulin A (IgA) on stress and health indicators.
2. The learner will be able to gain knowledge about the relationships between stress, animal-human interaction, and human health outcomes.

Date: 31 October 2011

Time: 3:15 pm

Final Biennium Registration Timelines

Registration Due	Registration Fees and Qualifiers
28 September 2011	Standard registration discount applies
Note: Must be postmarked on or before 28 September 2011	
29 September 2011	Discount no longer applies
For additional info please visit www.nursingsociety.org	

CONTINUOUS LEARNING



Pre-Conference Workshops

Date	<u>Saturday, 29 October 2011</u> ▪ 8:00 am to 5:15 pm
Topic	“People and Knowledge: Improving Health Through Disseminating Nursing Research Writing Workshop”
Venue	Texas 4, 5, and 6

Chapter Operations Sessions

Date	<u>Saturday, 29 October 2011</u> ▪ 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm
Topic	“The Circle: A Leader’s Quick Start Guide to Chapter Website Management”
Date	<u>Sunday, 30 October 2011</u> ▪ 11:00 am to 12:15 pm
Topic	“The Missing Link: Accessing Officer Resources”
Date	<u>Monday, 31 October 2011</u> ▪ 10:00 am to 11:15 am
Topic	“Bylaws: The Rx for Chapter Health and Vitality”
Date	<u>Tuesday, 01 November 2011</u> ▪ 8:30 am to 9:45 am
Topic	“Making Cent\$ out of Chapter Finances”

Poster Viewing Session 1

Date	<u>Saturday, 29 October 2011</u> ▪ 3:15 pm to 6:30 pm
Date	<u>Sunday, 30 October 2011</u> ▪ 11:00 am to 12:15 pm ▪ 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm ▪ 4:15 pm to 5:30 pm

Poster Viewing Session 2

Date	<u>Monday, 31 October 2011</u> ▪ 10:00 am to 11:15 am ▪ 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm ▪ 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm
Date	<u>Tuesday, 01 November 2011</u> ▪ 8:30 am to 9:45 am ▪ 10:00 am to 11:15 am
Venue	<u>Longhorn Exhibit Hall E</u> ▪ Saturday to Tuesday

CONVENTION NETWORKING



Tours of Texas Healthcare Facilities

Date	<u>Saturday, 29 October 2011</u> ▪ From 8:00 am
Venue	▪ <u>University of Texas at Arlington, College of Nursing Smart Hospital™</u>
Venue	<u>Parkland Memorial Hospital</u> ▪ Dallas County, TX

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening

Date	<u>Saturday, 29 October 2011</u> ▪ 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Venue	Longhorn Exhibit Hall F

International Leadership Institute Commencement Dinner & Celebration

Date	<u>Saturday, 29 October 2011</u> ▪ 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Topic	“Empowered to Create Your Own Leadership Brand and Legacy”
Speaker	Connie Curran, EdD, RN, FAAN
Venue	Gaylord Texan Resort Texas Ballroom

Hosted Receptions

Date	<u>Saturday, 29 October 2011</u> ▪ 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Venue	Ballroom Level

Tribute Awards Luncheon

Date	<u>Sunday, 30 October 2011</u> ▪ 12:30 pm to 1:45 pm
Venue	Texas Ballroom

Conversations with Candidates

Date	<u>Sunday, 30 October 2011</u> ▪ 11:00 am to 12:15 pm
Date	<u>Sunday, 30 October 2011</u> ▪ 2:45 to 4:00 pm
Date	<u>Monday, 31 October 2011</u> ▪ 10:00 am to 11:15 am
Date	<u>Monday, 31 October 2011</u> ▪ 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm
Date	<u>Tuesday, 01 November 2011</u> ▪ 8:30 am to 9:45 am

CHAPTER		
2011 Meeting Calendar		
<i>Annual Planning Meeting</i>		
Date and Time	Venue	Notations
09/22/2011 6 pm to 9 pm	Ward Dining Room—CSE	Goal Setting Refreshments
<i>General Membership Meeting</i>		
Date and Time	Venue	Notations
11/08/2011 6 pm to 9 pm	Ward Dining Room—CSE	Speaker/Lecture Refreshments Donations
<i>STTI 41st Biennial Convention</i>		
Date and Time	Venue	Notations
10/29/2011 To 11/02/2011	Gaylord Texan Resort/Convention Center	Required Registration
<i>STTI Biennial House of Delegates</i>		
Date and Time	Venue	Notations
10/29/2011 To 11/02/2011	Gaylord Texan Resort/Convention Center	2 Pre-approved Representatives
<i>Annual Holiday Social</i>		
Date and Time	Venue	Notations
T.B.D.	T.B.D.	Donations Group Dine-Out Self Pay
<i>Note: Calendar is subject to change</i>		
<i>Editor's Note: Elaine Kopp produced the newsletter content editing and layout. She thanks Michelle Lilly of STTI for permission to print STTI related information and all STTI members for their submissions.</i>		

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
2011 – 2012	
FACULTY COUNSELORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andrea Centrella-Nigro, Saint Peter's College ▪ Eileen C. Specchio, College of Saint Elizabeth ▪ Sara B. Thompson, Felician College 	
PRESIDENT ▪ PAST PRESIDENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barbara A. Carrig, President ▪ Caroline A. Kornutik, Immediate Past President 	
VICE PRESIDENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roslyn Gourdine, College of Saint Elizabeth ▪ Elaine M. Kopp, Felician College, Kathleen Motacki, Saint Peter's College 	
SECRETARIES ▪ TREASURER	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clare Cruz, Corresponding Secretary ▪ Sr. M. Patricia Kennedy, Recording Secretary ▪ Teru Coleman, Treasurer 	
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES	
2011 – 2012	
FACEBOOK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caroline Kornutik, Coordinator 	
FUNDRAISING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kathleen A. Fagan, Chair ▪ Teru Coleman ▪ Roslyn Gourdine ▪ G. Marie Ricci ▪ Felicia M. Villari ▪ Beverley H. Wright 	
LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Donna Gray ▪ Caroline A. Kornutik ▪ Elaine T. Walsh 	
NEWSLETTER / PUBLICITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elaine M. Kopp, Editor ▪ Monica O'Neill 	
RESEARCH / SCHOLARSHIP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kathleen A. Fagan, Chair ▪ Ellen G. Ehrlich 	
WEBSITE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beverley H. Wright, Coordinator 	