

# Sigma Theta Tau International



## Epsilon Eta Chapter Newsletter

October, 2009

Volume 27, Number 2

### President's Message

Welcome! The summer has flown by so quickly! I have been President now since April (officially). However, our immediate past president, Dr. Rhonda Comrie, has so graciously assisted me along the way. We have made great accomplishments over the last year. This could not have been accomplished without the help of a lot of people. I would like to thank Dr. Comrie and the board members of Epsilon Eta Chapter.

Just some of our accomplishments-Induction 2009 , Martha Welch Research Day 2009,Wine for Water-Fall 2009, Relay for Life, and collaboration with Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses.

I now look forward to plans for the New Year. The 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial convention is to be held in Indianapolis, IN, October 31 to November 3. This is great opportunity to network and join in the mission and plan of international. I plan to attend as delegate for our chapter. In addition, we are planning a fall induction ceremony and faculty development conference on October 14 (see later in the newsletter).

Pam Newland, RN, PhD, CMSRN  
Chapter President

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## Upcoming Events School of Nursing

September 20, 2009 Dedication to the Profession & Faculty Awards Banquet

October 14, 2009 Faculty Development Conference: Innovation in Nursing Education

October 14, 2009 Sigma Theta Tau Induction Ceremony

December 19, 2009 SON Convocation

December 20, 2009 Fall Commencement

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### Sigma Theta Tau Epsilon Eta Induction Ceremony



**On right:**  
**Dr. Pam Newland receives congratulations from outgoing President Dr. Rhonda Comrie**

**On left:**  
**Newly elected incoming officers take pledge of office**



New members were inducted into Epsilon Eta in a ceremony held at the Four Points Sheraton Conference Center on Friday evening, April 3, 2009. Following a brief presentation, undergraduate and graduate students and four community nursing leaders were asked to signify their intention to support Sigma Theta Tau International by pledging their intention to fulfill its commitment to nursing excellence, knowledge, service, and leadership through their careers. New officers were also inducted.



Keynote Speaker was chapter member Dr. Louise Flick, MSN, DrPH, MPE. Dr Flick spoke in regards the Southern Illinois/St Louis regional participation in a National Children's Study. The study is a massive epidemiologic investigation to examine the effects of environmental exposures on the health and development of 100,000 children across the country from preconception or early pregnancy until the age of 21. This study will be the biggest epidemiologic study of children ever conducted in this country. Dr. Flick who is a co-investigator will be responsible for data collection in Jefferson County, Missouri and 3 rural counties near Carbondale, Illinois. Dr. Flick is at present recruiting nurses, from 102 counties, to assist with data collection of the targeted sample of 4,000. The start date for the study is July 2010

At the conclusion of the induction ceremony, the following awards were presented:

- Betty Temple Mills Undergraduate Award for Academic Excellence – Shelly Mellendorf
- Graduate Student Merit Award – Leah Baecht
- Excellence in Nursing Practice Award – Andrea Brinkman
- Research Grant – Ron Kister

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The Second Annual SIUE Relay for Life was held at the Intramural Field on April 17, 2009. We were a small but mighty team, “The Life Savers”. Caitlyn Knight served as the team captain. Surrounded by SIUE students, the team paid tribute to those who had experienced cancer by cheering them along during the “Survivor Lap.” Later, a poignant ceremony allowed all of the ‘relayers’ to pay honor to those with a diagnosis of cancer, and to remember those who had died from the disease. Be ready to join next year’s Relay for Life – again to be scheduled in April at SIUE.

### **Martha Welch Research Day**

On April 10, 2009, the Epsilon Eta Chapter of STTI hosted the Martha Welch Research Day, along with SIUE School of Nursing. Keynote speaker, Dr. Carol Piccard, immediate past president of STTI spoke in regards to “Partnerships: Weaving the Threads of Collaboration into Nursing Research, Practice and Education.” There were over 220 students, faculty and presenters in attendance. Presenters included representatives from several practice partner institutions, including Memorial Hospital in Belleville, Anderson Hospital, Memorial Hospital in Springfield, Children’s Hospital in St. Louis and Children’s Memorial in Chicago, BJC in St. Louis. Evaluations of the event revealed attendees were highly satisfied with the presentations and the format. Thanks to the planning committee consisting of SIUE SON faculty, Terry Alsbury from Memorial Hospital and several newly inducted STTI student members especially Nicole Bambrough and Shelly Mellendorf. The event will be held again in the 2010-2011 academic year.



Carol Piccard, presenter for the Martha Welch Research Day, visits with those who had individual questions.



Students enjoy viewing and voting for the best poster presentations. Oral and poster presenters, who came from across Illinois and Missouri presented a variety of research subjects, sharing designs, implementation processes and disseminating results.

At the end of the day, awards were presented:

Best Poster Presentation Award Winners:

- Evidenced Based Practice: Alisa Williams, Laura Bernaix
- Research: Louise Flick

**SAVE THE DATE**  
***Sigma Theta Tau International Epsilon Eta Chapter***  
***Induction Ceremony***  
***October 14, 2009***  
***Morris University Center***  
***Registration 2:00***  
***Guest Speaker: Dr. Marjorie Baier***

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**SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS AVAILABLE**

Each year the Scholarship and Awards Committee of the Epsilon Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau presents several awards at the annual Induction Ceremony. The Induction Ceremony will be held on October 14, 2009. Applications will be accepted until September 21, 2009.

The following is a list of the 2009 awards and the established criteria for each award:



**Betty Temples Mill Undergraduate Student Award for Academic Excellence**

One award is given annually, consisting of a certificate and \$100. The award is open to any undergraduate student who has been inducted as a chapter member and currently is a junior or senior in the School of Nursing at SIUE.



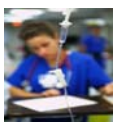
**Epsilon Eta non-traditional student undergraduate scholarship**

Nontraditional students are students who have other full-time responsibilities besides nursing studies. Such students are men and women who might be older than traditional students, parent children, or grandchildren/dependents, maybe or may not be married, work full time or part-time outside of school.



**Graduate Student Merit Award**

One award is given annually consisting of a Certificate of Recognition and \$100.00. The award is open to any chapter member who is currently a student admitted to the Graduate Program of the School of Nursing at SIUE.



**Excellence in Clinical Nursing Practice Award**

One annual Award for Excellence in Clinical Nursing Practice of \$100.00 is presented to a current member of the Epsilon Eta Chapter who is nominated by clinical faculty due to portraying excellence in clinical nursing practice.



**Writing for Publication Award**

The Epsilon Eta Chapter encourages its members to write for publication. With that in mind, this competitive annual award was established. All members - students, graduates, community leaders and faculty - are invited to prepare an original and previously unpublished manuscript, to be submitted simultaneously to our Committee and to an appropriate professional journal. A single Award will be given to previously unpublished authors. Winner of the award will receive a Certificate of Recognition and a \$100 cash award. Multiple authors of an award winning manuscript will share the \$100 cash award.

Application forms can be obtained online <http://www.siu.edu/nursing/organizations/stt/>, or from Christina Daniels, SIUE, School of Nursing, Campus Box 1066, Edwardsville, IL 62026; telephone number: 618 650 3958. Completed application forms and supporting materials should be sent to Dr. Gladys Mabunda, Room AH 2332b, SIUE, School of Nursing, Campus Box 1066, Edwardsville, IL 62026 no later than September 21, 2009

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- Karen Kelly and her graduate student, Mary Bartlett, have just received word that their manuscript, entitled "Hospital-Acquired Conditions: A Leadership Challenge for Nursing Quality Management and Performance Improvement Nurse Leader" has been accepted for publication in AONE's Nurse Leader.
- Ann Popkess has received word that her manuscript, entitled "Are Nursing Students Engaged in Learning?", has been accepted for publication in Nursing Education Perspectives for sometime later this year
- Terry Wood passed the Nurse Educator (CNE) Certification exam.
- Cynthia Schmidt, PhD, RN was appointed as a Board Member to the local chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- Cynthia Schmidt, PhD, RN received the 2009 Teaching Distinction Award.
- Kathy Ketchum has been inducted as a fellow to the AACN Leadership for Academic Nursing Program. This is a great honor and a great opportunity for her, as she will be participating in a variety of experiences to develop her academic leadership skills.
- Laura Bernaix was appointed to a 3 year term (2009-2012) on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing (JOGNN).
- Pam Newland has been awarded the Outstanding Scholar Award from the St. Louis VA Medical Center. This is a very prestigious award within the VA system and is given to individuals who are considered outstanding professionals in the field of health care education. Moreover, the award is given to individuals who display a commitment to learning and scholarly activity, along with compassion and understanding of veteran issues.
- Dr. Karen Kelly has been selected by Chancellor Vandegrift and the Chair of the UPBC to serve for three years on this committee. This is a prestigious committee to serve on, since members assist the chancellor to determine the best allocation of the budget. The members put forth a lot of effort and assist the chancellor with the tremendous decisions in regards to which new initiatives should be funded.

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## PROJECT KAWA GRADUATE ITS LAST CLASS

Gladys Mabunda, RN, PhD, APRN, Associate Professor, School of Nursing identifies and addresses how African refugees are isolated from the larger **community because of their unique cultural and language barriers**. Dr. Mubunda acknowledges that refugees often lack knowledge to utilize available resources effectively. Her literature reviews reveal that African refugees are less likely to engage in health promotion behaviors compared to majority populations. Also, they lack knowledge related to health promotion. The overall goal of Project KAWA (Keeping African Women Active) was to implement a program to increase physical activities among African refugees and immigrants in St. Louis. Dr. Mabunda offered exercise classes twice a week. The intervention included aerobic classes, completion of a three-day diet recall sheet, education about basic nutrition, importance of physical activity, as well as benefits of a healthy diet and physical activity. The program began in fall 2008 and ended in June 2009. At the end of the program, participants received Project KAWA Bags, water bottles and T-shirts. Health promotion is an important approach to enrich and extend productive years of life of refugees/immigrants and the population as a whole. Dr. Mabunda continues to offer classes once a week to keep them motivated to remain physically active! She will be presenting her results at the Transcultural Nursing Society in Seattle, Washington in October 2009.

## Fund rising for The Well Project continues

Epsilon Eta Chapter continues to raise funds for the Well Project in South Africa. Our goal is to raise about \$6500 to drill a bore hole that could access water below ground, where ground water is far beneath the earth's surface. To help make this dream a reality, please continue to purchase water at the SIUE School of Nursing to fund the project. Women and young girls spend hours waiting for scarce water to fill their containers! Then they have to push the containers to homes for use! We hope that one day they will have a borehole to draw water from so they won't have to wait hours for it.



### International Events

International Conference on Communication in Healthcare October 4-7, 2009 Miami, Florida

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Transcultural Nursing Society: "Resurgence and Resettlement: The Roles of Transcultural Nursing" October 14-17, 2009 Seattle, Washington

American Nurses Credentialing Research Symposium: "Testing Innovations, Achieving Outcomes" September 30, 2009 Louisville, Kentucky

Healthcare 2010 & Beyond: Opportunities, Choices Changes November 6, 2009 Kansas City, Kansas

For more listings visit [nursingsociety.org](http://nursingsociety.org)



### Treasures Note: Money, Money, Money, and a Little Water

The Martha Welch Research Day was successful and well-attended. Our small chapter has a well-earned reputation for sponsoring thoughtful and timely research symposia. Martha's fund account is a bit on the anemic side, so we could use your help in coming up with ideas to "pump it up". (Too SNL for you?) Bake sales, artifact sales, sales of officers, (just checking to see if you were paying attention), whatever strikes you (without causing permanent damage) as feasible. Send your comments and thoughts (be nice) to [cdurbin@siue.edu](mailto:cdurbin@siue.edu).

For the faculty at SIUE, the Water for a Well or Water for Water, or whatever we called it, (bottle water in the refrigerator on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) will resume, with this one change: if it's a small bottle (let's remember our portion sizes) then it's 50 cents. If it is a regular size bottle, it's \$1.00. And no Casino coins. They're a nice thought, but the Bank of Edwardsville frowns upon them as legal depository items.

The Checkbook Keeper,  
Chris Durbin

## Scholarly Accomplishments

- Anderson, M. & Comrie, R. (In press 2009). Adopting Preoperative Fasting Guidelines Using Rogers' Theory of Diffusion of Innovations. *Association of Operating Room Nurses Journal*.
- Duane, CG, & Perry A.G. (2009). Factors influencing the parental decision on the participation of children in vaccine research. *The Monitor* 23 (3) 50-55.
- Griffin, A., & Yancey, V. (In Press, 2009). Spiritual Dimensions of the Perioperative Experience: Theoretical and Practical Concerns. *Association of Operating Room Nurses Journal*.
- Newland, P., Naismith, R., & Ullione, M. (in press). Impact of Pain and Other Symptoms on Quality of Life in Women with Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis. *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*.
- Newland, P., Riley, M., & Naismith, R. (2009, September). The financial burden of pain in persons with multiple sclerosis. Abstract presented to 19th National Conference American Society for Pain Management Nursing, Jacksonville, FL
- Newland, P., Riley, M. Fearing, A., Neath, A., & Gibson, D. (2009, May). Symptom clusters in women with Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis. Poster presented at Americas Committee for Research and Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis, Atlanta, GA
- Newland, P., Riley, M., Fearing, A., Neath, A., & Gibson, D. (in press). Pain in Women with Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis relationship to demographic variables.
- Perry, A.G. (section editor) In: Geiger-Bronsky M. and Wilson D.J. (2008). *Respiratory Nursing: A Core Curriculum*, New York, Springer Publishing Company
- Riley, M. & Fearing, A. (2009). Mentoring as a teaching-learning strategy in nursing. *MedSurg Nursing: The Journal of Adult Health*, 18(4), 228-233.
- Schmidt, C. Chiappetta, M., Bernaix, L., Carroll, E., & Beland, A. (April 10, 2009). /Survival Skills Training for Type 1 Diabetes: Perceptions of Children and Parents. /Paper Presentation at the Annual Gateway Martha Welch Nursing Conference, Edwardsville, IL.
- Schmidt, C. & Herrman, J. (April 4, 2009). Emergence of Bests Practices In a Learner-Centered Paradigm: Lessons from the Field. / Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society of Pediatric Nurses.
- Schmidt, C., Koski, A., Weese, J., Bernaix, L., Chiappetta, M., Sandrik, K. (April 4, 2009). /Hospitalized Children's Perceptions of Nurses and Nurse Behaviors. / Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society of Pediatric Nursing.

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Free On-line Education Available at Sigma Theta Tau International website under the "Education" tab

Innovations in Nursing Education  
A faculty development continuing education offering sponsored by the SIUE School of Nursing &  
Epsilon Eta Chapter, STTI  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Presenter: Teri A. Murray, PhD, RN  
RWJ Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow, 2006-2009  
Dean and Associate Professor, School of Nursing, St. Louis University

Conference Center, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus  
8:00 a.m. Registration  
8:45 a.m. Introduction  
8:50 a.m. Presentation: Dr. Teri Murray  
10:20 a.m. Evaluation & adjournment

The School of Nursing will award 1.6 contact hours of continuing nursing education credit for completion of this offering.

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Illinois Nurses Association which is an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Faculty may register by small to [ecoffin@siue.edu](mailto:ecoffin@siue.edu). There is no charge for SIUE faculty. Graduate students may register for \$10. A registration form is available at <http://www.siue.edu/nursing/continuinged/index.shtml> or from [kkelly@siue.edu](mailto:kkelly@siue.edu).

Please register no later than October 7, 2009.

Official Publication of



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Check out the Epsilon Eta Web page at <http://www.siue.edu/NURSING/organizations/STT/index.shtml>  
The International Website is <http://www.nursingsociety.org/>