



Sigma Theta Tau International Epsilon Eta Explorer

Official Publication of Epsilon Eta Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

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Chapter Officers

President — Vacant

Vice-President – Sheila
Pietroburgo,
spietro@siue.edu

Treasurer– Christine Durbin
cdurbin@siue.edu

Secretary – Brandi Stiles
bstiles@siue.edu

Awards Committee –
Ann Popkess,
apopkes@siue.edu

Heritage/Archives
Committee Chair –
Ann Popkess
apopkes@siue.edu

Leadership Succession Com-
mittee Chair -
Michele Beatty,
mibeatt@siue.edu

Eligibility Committee Chair
Kim White, RN PhD
kiwhite@siue.edu

Eligibility counselors
Melodie Rowbotham
mrowbot@siue.edu

Cheryl Green
Cheryl.green@swic.edu

Outgoing President's Message

To My STTI Colleagues;

Most of you are aware that last fall I resigned as President of the Epsilon Eta Chapter for health reasons. Although I am better, my health still prevents me from accomplishing all that I want to do. I developed severe cardiomyopathy and the medications I am taking have made it possible for me to return to work with some limitations. I could not represent you in the way you deserve so I let the Executive Committee and International know of my decision to resign. The Executive Committee immediately stepped in and kept Epsilon Eta going. A new election was organized and you have a new President. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and best wishes, and I want to thank my Epsilon Eta colleagues for their dedication and sacrifice during this time. I hope to continue to be an active member of Epsilon Eta and STTI International and invite you to acknowledge the honor that you have been given as a member of Sigma Theta Tau!

Ann Shelton

Editor's Note: Dr. Ann Shelton resigned her role as President of the Sigma Theta Tau Epsilon Eta chapter due to illness in October 2011; the current Vice President of the chapter, Sheila Pietroburgo, with help from the other officers of the chapter, filled in

Annual Business Meeting

Please join your Chapter on Monday, April 23th 2012
5:30pm – 8:30pm

G.C. Cuisine and Banquet Center
1230 University Dr.
Edwardsville, IL. 62025

Cost: \$30/Person

RSVP by Friday, April 13th to: Annette Musenbrock via e-mail at
amusenb@siue.edu

STTI—An Honor to Join, A Benefit to Belong

Greater St. Louis Bi-State Area STTI Consortium

In Fall , 2011 the presidents from 6 STTI chapters in the bistate region met to discuss forming a consortium for the purpose of hosting a joint research meeting. Information was provided to chapters for discussion at the local level. At the Epsilon Eta board meeting in February, the board decided to join the consortium. Since Epsilon Eta was designated to host the meeting in Fall 2014, it was determined that the annual Martha Welch Research Day would not be held in Spring, 2013. Instead, funding allocated for that meeting will be used to assist with speaker fees and travel for the Fall, 2014 meeting.

This year, the St. Louis University Chapter, Delta Lambda will host the research event on October 18th, 2012. The speaker is Mr. Kevin Sowers, MSN FAAN, President Duke University Hospitals on the advancement of the nursing profession. Hold the date.

Greater St. Louis Bi-State Area STTI Consortium Research Meeting**OCTOBER 18, 2012****Hosted by St. Louis University, Delta Lambda Chapter****Sigma Theta Tau International Professional Networking Site**

VISIT THE CIRCLE!

<http://thecircle.nursingsociety.org/Home/>

Connect with other members, participate in discussions, personalize your profile, access new chapter websites and more!

What do I do in The Circle?

The Circle was developed to connect all active STTI members with each other, their chapters, regions, and with the benefits and services of membership. You can find other members via the member directory, network with those who share the same specialty and stay active with your chapter through chapter websites.

How do I log in?

If you are an STTI member, all you will need is your e-mail address and seven-digit member number. If you have changed your password for other STTI websites, or when you

Apply for Faculty Awards

New Member Induction—October 12, 2011

Induction of 64 new members to the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Epsilon Eta chapter was held the afternoon of October 12, 2011 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Morris University Center.

Consideration for invitation for undergraduate students is based on the student's placement in the curriculum, academic achievement, ranking in the upper 35% of their graduating class, and academic integrity. Graduate student criteria for consideration is placement in the curriculum and academic achievement. Nurse leader candidates must be legally recognized to practice in their country, a minimum of a baccalaureate degree, and demonstrated achievement in nursing.

Dr. Ann Popkess provided opening remarks. Dr. Karen Kelly, Epsilon Eta member and recently elected Illinois Nurses Association President, served as speaker and discussed "Getting Political: Current Issues in Nursing". Dr. Kim White, Eligibility Chair, led the inductees in the Sigma Theta Tau International membership pledge.

Award recipients were introduced by Dr. Ann Popkess, Awards Committee Chair. Each candidate was nominated by a member who recognized the nominee's contributions to scholarship and excellence in clinical practice. Each received an certificate and monetary award. The chapter is proud to be able to sponsor such generous awards to highlight our student and community member's contributions to the chapter and STTI. Award winners are:

- ◆ Chelsea Accord, Clinical Nursing Practice Award
- ◆ Charlotte Chance, Graduate Student Merit Award
- ◆ KeNecia Dones, Dr. Gladys Mabunda Non-Traditional Undergraduate Student Award
- ◆ Allyson Doty, Betty Temples Mill Undergraduate Student Award for Academic Excellence

If you have questions about how you can contribute, contact Dr. Christine Durbin at cdurbin@siue.edu



Above: Jerrica Ampadu and Natasha Matkins-Smith welcome new members and guests.

Right: Keynote Speaker, Dr. Karen Kelly, current Illinois Nurses' Association President, emphasized the how important it is that nurses become aware of current issues and engage in political activities that affect nursing practice.



Photos from Induction Ceremony



KeNecia Dones, accepts the Dr. Gladys Mabunda Non-Traditional Undergraduate Student Award. Officers assisting with award ceremony are (from left) Dr. Chris Durbin, Brandie Stiles, and Dr. Ann Popkess.



Charlotte Chance accepts the Graduate Student Merit Award



Allyson Doty, accepts the Betty Temples Mill Undergraduate Student Award for Academic Excellence.

Right: Dr. Ann Popkess welcomes new members as each signs the Epsilon Eta Membership Roster



**Newly Inducted Members stand as they make the commitment to
Sigma Theta Tau International, Epsilon Eta Chapter**



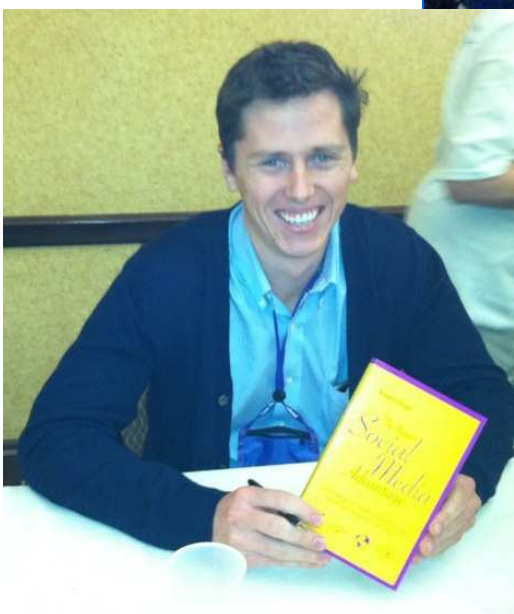
Biennial Convention—The Gaylord Hotel, Grapevine TX, October 29-Nov 2,

STTI Epsilon Eta was represented by two delegates this year, Dr. Ann Popkess and Ms. Kim Handlin-Schmidt. Ms. Handlin-Schmidt is a graduate student in Nursing Education at SIUE and new member.

Highlights of the event included receiving the 6th Chapter Key Award on Monday, October, 31. Epsilon Eta is proud to receive recognition for its contributions in the area of leadership, scholarship and service for a 6th time. The chapter received a new banner this year, as each banner can hold up to 5 awards.

Other events attended included an inspirational keynote from Ms. Kim Bouldin-Jones, of St. Louis, MO, activist and educator who has started a non-profit company to help obtain water and other infrastructure resources for health care agencies in Ethiopia; a motivating presentation by Dr. Dan Pesut and Dr. Melnyck on influencing the future of teaching and learning; and of course the delegate meeting. My favorite part was networking with dozens of old friends and meeting more new friends over the course of 4 days. It was a pleasure to be able to attend. I encourage you to go to the website to see the full meeting highlights and photos of the event. <http://www.nursingsociety.org/default.aspx>

Dr. Ann Popkess, Outgoing STTI President Karen Morin, and Kim Handlin-Schmidt



Opportunities for networking and interacting with other nurses are everywhere at the Biennial Convention. NLN book authors provide book signing opportunities as well.

Here, Robert Frasser, promotes his book, *The Nurses' Social Media Advantage*.

Highlights from the Delegate Convention

Vision 2020 was shared by new president, Dr. Suzanne Prevost. The themes for STTI include becoming:

- Intentionally global
- Premier knowledge resource
- Technology enabled
- Leadership

In order to achieve the vision several initiatives were described. A virtual chapter has been formed to encourage global membership. STTI now has associate status at the United Nations as a non-governmental organization. We have adopted the UN global regions as our geographic description.

STTI partnered with Sharecare and Dr. Mehmet Oz, as the nurse experts. Sharecare is a website where STTI members volunteer as nurse experts to answer health-related questions, providing their nursing expertise while earning incentives. If you are interested in becoming a part of this, see the site

http://www.nursingsociety.org/Pages/Sharecare_GettingStarted.aspx

Additionally, continuing education leadership modules are available on line for all members, free on a variety of topics from disaster preparedness to teambuilding. <http://www.nursingsociety.org/Education/Leadership/Pages/Leadership.aspx>

Furthermore, as board members and elected representatives in STTI, there are online training modules for many of the elected offices. <http://www.nursingsociety.org/Pages/LeadershipDevelopment.aspx>



Dr. Popkess and Kim Handlin-Schmidt represented Epsilon Eta Chapter during the Delegate Meeting. Note the member nation flags are prominently displayed on the dias. STTI serves as the premier organization for nursing around the world.

“STTI seeks to make a difference in the lives of others through our service and professional networks.”

Candidates for Epsilon Eta Offices**Nominee
for
President**

Dr. Ann Popkess joined SIUE as a faculty member in August, 1998. Her educational background includes a BSN from the University of Iowa, a Master's in Nursing Administration from St. Louis University, and a doctoral degree in Nursing Education from Indiana University (2010). Dr. Popkess' research interests are: the use of active learning strategies to enhance learning, and incorporating evidence based practice and quality and safety into the curriculum. She is a NLN Certified Nurse Educator. Prior experience includes 15 years in various healthcare administration. A member of STTI since 1991, she served Epsilon Eta as Treasurer (2006), member of the Heritage Committee (2007-present), Biennial Convention delegate (2011), and Awards Committee chair (2008).

Nominee for President Elect

Dr. Christine Durbin has been a faculty member at the SIUE School of Nursing since 1996, and a member of Epsilon Eta Sigma Theta Tau since 1998, serving as Treasurer since 2008. She has published in 2010 in *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, and is working on developing a legal education curriculum for undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

Nominees for Vice-President

Ms. Jennifer Hoxsey graduated from the University of Delaware in 1995 with a BSN. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Jewish Hospital College of Nursing at Washington University Medical Center, 2002. Ms. Hoxsey is a faculty member at SIUE and serves on the NPQIC committee and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. She maintains a staff nurse position at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Ms. Hoxsey has been an active member of STTI since 1995.



Ms. Sheila Pietroburgo graduated with her BSN in 1986 and her MS in Nursing in 2005 from SIUE SON. She started working as adjunct faculty in 2005 and became the Coordinator of the Simulated Learning Center for Health Sciences at SIUE SON in 2006. Ms. Pietroburgo has been an active member of STTI since 2005 and currently is serving as vice president for STTI Epsilon Eta Chapter.

Nominees for Treasurer

Dr. Donna Jewell has been a member of Sigma Theta Tau since 2002. During her doctoral studies she was honored with funding by her local chapter of STTI for her dissertation research, *Perceptions of Dyspnea, Physical Activity, and Functional Status in Obese Women*. This financial boost brought to light what an impact STTI can have. STTI provided so much that, when adjunct at another University, she highly recommended membership to students who fit the criteria. Dr. Jewell worked in neonatal and adult cardiac ICU's, EDs, and in public health settings. After graduating with her Ph.D. in 2007, she became Assistant Professor at SIUE SON. She loves detail, technology, and numbers. She would very much enjoy serving as treasurer.



Dr. Amelia Perez graduated with a BSN from SIUE School of Nursing in 1996 and her MSN in 2001. She graduated in 2011 from Saint Louis University with her PhD. She is now an Assistant Professor at SIUE SON. Teaching at SIUE since 2003, Dr. Perez's area of expertise is adult medical-surgical nursing. Her research expertise is in the area of acculturation, health literacy, and illness perceptions among Hispanic adults. Dr. Perez has been an active member of STTI Epsilon Eta Chapter since 2001. She has served as secretary (2005-2007) for the chapter and as a member of the governance committee (2007-2009).

Official Ballot

Sigma Theta Tau Epsilon Eta Chapter 2012-2014

All elected positions assume responsibility for their respective offices May 2012.

An official ballot was emailed to all members on February 15, 2012. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact Michelle Beatty at mibeatt@siue.edu. Please return your ballots by the date below.

Directions: E-mail your selections by name to mibeatt@siue.edu by MARCH 23, 2012

OR You may print the ballot and mail your form to:

Michelle Beatty, SIUE School of Nursing, Box 1066, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066

Member Accomplishments— Christine Durbin

Comrie, R. (2012). An analysis of undergraduate and graduate student nurses' moral sensitivity. *Nurs Ethics*, 19, 116-127.

Gaehle, K. (2012). Online module on the reproductive system, Huether, S. & McCance, K. . (eds.). *Understanding Pathophysiology*. St. Louis: Elsevier.

Harrison, R., Mattson, L., Durbin, D., Fish, A., & Bachman, J. (2012). Wellness in community living adults: The Way-to-Life program. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 86, 270-276.

Harrison, R. & Lyerla, F. , (in press). Using nursing clinical decision support systems to achieve “meaningful use.”, *Computers in Nursing*.

Popkess, A. & Luebbert, R. (2012). “The Influence of Teaching Method on Nursing Student Assessment of Suicide Risk,” poster presentation, MNRS Research Meeting, Dearborn, MI.

Newland, P., Riley, M., Fearing, A., Flick, L. & Thomas, F., (in press). The Use of Focus Groups to Characterize Symptoms in Persons with Multiple Sclerosis. *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*.

Perez, A. (2011). Self-management of hypertension in Hispanic adults. *Clinical Nursing Research*, 20(4), 347-365. doi:10.1177/1054773811411582.

Member Accolades!!

Perez, A. IBHE Fellowship award, \$10,000.



**Official Publication of
Epsilon Eta Chapter, Sigma
Theta Tau International,**

School of Nursing SIUE
Edwardsville Illinois 62026-1066
Return Address Requested

E-mail: pnewlan@siue.edu

Relay for Life coming to SIUE!
STTI members are encouraged to
Join the SNA Team by contacting
snasie@gmail.com