

Knowledge of Our Past

Traditionally, Sigma Theta Tau International chapters sponsor Founders' Day each October in honor of the six students who, with Dorothy Ford Buschmann, founded the organization on October 5, 1922. This is the day that the Sigma Theta Tau Fraternity constitution and bylaws, crafted by C. Severin Buschmann, were officially approved by the Indiana Secretary of State. Knowledge of our history offers members a unique lens for envisioning the future. With that in mind, the following is part one of the talk that founder Mary Tolle Wright gave at the 1970 Alpha Chapter Induction Ceremony. During this ceremony, she and the other five founders were honored with Life Memberships in Alpha Chapter.



Founder's 1970 Chapter Induction Talk (Part One)

Let me take you back across the years tonight, some forty-eight of them. As one of the founders of Sigma Theta Tau, I shall relate to you some of the memories that I, personally, have leading up to the conception and early days of Alpha Chapter. I would venture to say that these memories of mine could well be multiplied by six to include the other five who are not here tonight to share this delightful occasion. I am sure that each of the six of us has some small personal recollections that we hold dear to our hearts.

We entered Indiana University School of Nursing (then Indiana University Training School for Nurses) in our late teens. World War I had just been concluded. The wartime nurse was a veritable heroine and ideal both in service and dedication. Admission to the School of Nursing offered an opportunity for an excellent education and an opportunity for service to which we were dedicated. Here we received professional preparation, motivation, enrichment, a sense of responsibility and inspiration. In addition, we learned that there was no ceiling on ambition and accomplishment, just on ability. We learned that no one is ever a failure.

Over these things we pondered, alone and in groups. We were disturbed that some of our potentially excellent students in the school were finding themselves disillusioned in the daily routines and classes, with perhaps a feeling that there was really no reward for excellence in performance. We were perplexed. Even now, the making of a dream was in the offing, both with groups as well as individuals. Even, then, without knowing it, we were reaching out for professional posture.

We student nurses lived in the upstairs of a frame building near what is now the Campus. There were informal gatherings in our room of twos, threes, and fours, or more of us: it was seldom that the six of us found time and opportunity to meet together. Our casual conversations took on a serious air with a tangible purpose beginning to

evolve. On the "Old Tow Path", along the canal between Riverside and Parkview Parks, we made our decision to establish this society, if we had permission.

It seemed singularly appropriate that, in our quest for high standards for our school, we had found meaning on which we agreed. We felt that we six student nurses might fulfill a great need for our school, indeed for nursing, in the founding of an honor society of nursing with high standards of excellence.

By late 1921, there evolved from our sense of dedication to this objective, some really tangible evidence of our joint work. Many tablets were scribbled full of notes. These later become more refined and our Objectives, Purposes, Qualification for Membership, Insignia and Ritual were tentatively completed. We were learning not from our strengths but through our weaknesses.

At long last, with our neatly assembled typed copy of these, and a preamble of our ideas, with fear and trembling we approached our Nursing School Director, Mrs. Ethel Palmer Clarke, for her opinion, her permission to proceed and her blessing. We had our first meeting in the Doctors' Dining Room of the Robert W. Long Hospital. Mrs. Clarke listened attentively and asked for time to think it over. A few days later, not only did she give her consent, but in days to come gave her wholehearted understanding and cooperation.

Continued in next issue.

Permission granted by Sigma Theta Tau International to present the above information in the Beta Iota Chapter newsletter, *Connections*.

Nurse Scholars Achieving Excellence

Sigma Theta Tau International Inductees, June 2010

The Celebration of Nurse Scholars, formerly called the Induction Ceremony, was held June 6, 2010 at Kresge Auditorium, College of Medicine. Ninety undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their academic achievement, academic integrity, and potential/

actual leadership ability as they were officially inducted into The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, Beta Iota Chapter. Dr. Beverly Reigle, STTI Board of Directors Secretary, challenged the new inductees to enlighten their vision of the organization's future by being



knowledgeable of its history. Dr. Rebecca Lee, Beta Iota President, conducted the installation ceremony for the newly-elected Vice President, Jeanine Swails, and Treasurer, Jane Christianson. A reception followed the event.

President's Proclamation

Dr. Angela Barron McBride, former Dean of the Indiana University School of Nursing and former President of Sigma Theta Tau International, is author of a recently published book entitled, "Growth and Development of Nurse Leaders". As a sage and with clarity, she guides the reader through the evolution of professional leadership. The book is a MUST-READ for all nurses. In honor of her outstanding leadership in nursing, the Beta Iota President's Proclamation is an excerpt from Dr. McBride's new work.



"The health care system of the 21st century will value prevention, patient safety, quality outcomes, coordinated care, teamwork, appropriate use of information technology, encouragement of patient self-management, maximization of quality of life and functionality, and population-based approaches to major problems. I would argue that we collectively are in an excellent position to move in these directions. That's not a "We're better than others" statement of bravado, as much as it is an affirmation that what our profession has accomplished in the last half century has prepared us well for assuming that kind of leadership in the next half century.

As someone who has played a role in the development of theoretical underpinnings for women's health (McBride & McBride, 1981), I have seen that enormous area of scholarship move from critique – of women not included as subjects in health care research and their concerns being unstudied – to assertion; meaning a focus on new problems using new methods (McBride & McBride, 1993). In a comparable fashion, I think nursing has moved from the critique phase, where we focused more on remedying what wasn't yet in place, to an assertion phase, where we are focused on what we are going to change or make happen. This switch means that we will be looking less inward and more to the changing horizon, a shift in focus that will require each one of us to act boldly on the authority we have and to exert leadership that is transformational in impact. I so wish I could be around to see all of the next half century" (McBride, 2011, p. 241).

McBride, A. B., (2011). The growth and development of nurse leaders. New York: Springer.

Sigma Theta Tau Inductees, June 2010

Juniors

Kaylin Bahen
Jennifer Belew
Brenda Hewitt
Jenna Kosch
Megan Kraus
Annie Longnecker
Amanda Recker
Lorin Reeder
Jessica Schneider
Angela Spencer

Seniors

Ramie Allison
Allison Chaney
Katherine Dopieralski
Lauren DuPont
Kathleen Greathouse
Christine Hessel
Elizabeth Jennison
Sara Luessen
Sherry Melssen
Chandra Rhodes
Melissa Rodenberg
Kelly Schaffner
Rachel Schneider
Terri Sneed
Janna Stephens
Sara Wellman

Accelerated

Carole Kent
Jeanette Lisec
Susan Sprigg
Cassie Wardlaw

RN/BSN

Gwendolyn Baugh
Sarah Hebel
Connie Janka
April Johnson
Marianne Mertz
John Pennington
Rhoda Shulaw
Brenda Walker

Graduate Students

Mary Adams
Tracey Adams
Ahlam Al-Natour
April Boitano
Andrea Borchers
Carmen Cain
Natalie Cain
Denise Carlton
Frances Casanova
Amanda Cedars
Trisha DeLong
Lori Dennis
Nicole Engelbert
Maria Evans
Theresa Faulkner
Anna Flournoy
Pamela George
Ryan Gerhartz

Jennifer Ghadisha
Nancy Gray
Robin Gulley
Michelle Harris
Katherine Hebel
Theresa Howland
Michelle Hughes
Virginia Jenkins
Lauren Jones
Kellie Kale
Sherill Kennedy
Sarah LaNitto
Elizabeth Marley
Laura Marsan
Valerie Martin
Kelli McMullen
Julie Miller
Wipasiri Naraphong

Erin O'Hara
Michelle Pease
Abeer Qandil
James Robinette
Amy Ross
Jenny Saupe
Michelle Seng
Ildiko Sherman
Jessa Stanley
Yvette Steffens
Bonnie Stewart
Melanie Strickland
Christina Tino
Barbara Villegas
Linda Webster
Tigist Zewde



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Founders' Day Program

The Beta Iota Chapter Founders' Day program was held November 15, 2010 at the College of Nursing. Dr. Ann McCracken, Director of Evaluation at the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati captured the attention of the audience with her inspiring presentation "Policy, Health Care Reform & Nursing - Oh My!!!" Dr. McCracken challenged participants to recognize the role of nursing in informing and influencing health policy.



Dr. Ann McCracken

Nurse Researcher

Kelly P. Beischel, PhD, RN, NCSN, CNE
Assistant Professor, Xavier University

In 2009, Dr. Kelly Beischel's proposed study, Anxiety as a Mediating Variable to Learning Outcomes in a Human Patient Simulation, was funded by Beta Iota Chapter for \$3500. The abstract of Dr. Beischel's completed study follows:

Purpose: Research about variables affecting learning in human patient simulation experiences is scarce. The primary purpose of this study was to test a hypothesized model describing the direct effects of learning variables on anxiety and cognitive learning outcomes and the mediating effects of anxiety on cognitive learning outcomes in a high fidelity human patient simulation (HPS) experience. The secondary purpose of this study was to explain and explore student perceptions concerning the qualities and context of human patient simulation affecting anxiety and learning that may be amenable to intervention.

Methods: This study used a mixed methods QUAN dominant explanatory design with concurrent qualitative data collection to examine variables affecting learning in undergraduate, beginning nursing students (n=124) enrolled in a fundamental nursing course. Data were collected using investigator constructed learner and lifestyle questionnaires, Elsevier Evolve custom parallel pre- and post-tests, the Building Excellence Survey, the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory, and a semi-structured group discussion.

Results: A path analysis identified relationships between cognitive learning and anxiety, readiness to learn, preparation for simulation, and learning styles. Both readiness to learn ($\beta = -.31, p < .01$) and preparation for simulation directly affected anxiety ($\beta = .22, p < .01$). Anxiety and cognitive learning outcomes were directly affected by having a strong auditory verbal learning style ($\beta = .21, p < .01$) and ($\beta = .27, p < .01$), respectively. A hands on learning style mildly influenced cognitive learning outcomes ($-.17, p < .05$). The standardized indirect effect between anxiety and cognitive learning outcomes was $-.08$, indicating anxiety did not mediate cognitive learning outcomes as theorized. Dissonance was found between the quantitative and qualitative data. Students reported increased levels of anxiety that they perceived as negatively affecting their learning.

Conclusions: A gap exists in the literature involving variables affecting learning outcomes in simulation experiences. Filling this gap in the literature is the strength of this study. This study advances nursing education science by providing evidence concerning variables affecting learning outcomes in high-fidelity HPS.



Nurse Scholars in the Lead

International Experience in Tanzania

Jenna Kosch, a senior at the University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing (inducted into Beta Iota Chapter as Junior, Spring, 2010) wrote about the educational experience she and two other newly-inducted Beta Iota members (Megan Kraus and Brenda Hewitt) had in Tanzania in October 2010.

Five students from the University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing participated in an International Experience to Shirati, Tanzania in October 2010. The nursing students and their professor, Tina Weitkamp, went with the service group Village Life Outreach Project (VLOP). VLOP is a group of physicians, residents, medical students, pharmacists, pharmacy students, nurses, and nursing students that send these professionals to Shirati, Tanzania twice a year. In Tanzania, the group sets up mobile health clinics in three neighboring villages. The three villages include Burere, Nyambogo, and Roche. These health clinics provide some of the village residents with the only healthcare that they will ever receive. The group treated many illnesses including malaria, intestinal parasites, fungal and parasitic rashes, dehydration, schistosomiasis, abscesses, and joint pain.

Three of the nursing students that participated in the medical brigade are members of Sigma Theta Tau International, Beta Iota Chapter that were inducted in June 2010. These members include Brenda Hewitt, Megan Kraus, and Jenna Kosch. They had the opportunity to triage patients, perform full-body assessments, and work in the pharmacy dispensing and educating patients about the drugs. The nursing students also wrote an educational resource book on intrapartum and postpartum maternal and neonatal care. The students then presented the books and delivered an hour lecture to three village health committees. The hope is that the lecture and educational resources will help lower maternal and infant mortality in the region.

The group worked very hard and treated about 90 people each of the six mobile health clinic days. After all the hard work, the group also had an opportunity for fun where they toured Shirati Hospital, went on a safari in the Serengeti National Reserve, and had a tour of the Masai Village. The group had a great time, and the next trip for VLOP will be June 2011.



Beta Iota members: Megan Kraus (top left), Brenda Hewitt (bottom left), and Jenna Kosch (top right), other nursing members: Tina Weitkamp and Missy Felts (middle), and Megan Moore (bottom right).

Call for Nominations

Excellence in Nursing Education, Practice, Leadership & Research

The Awards and Scholarship Committee invites you to nominate active Beta Iota members who have demonstrated excellence in one of four areas, nursing education, clinical practice, leadership, and research. Nomination/Application forms are posted on the Beta Iota website at http://betaiota.org/awards_scholarship.html. **Deadline for Nomination/Application forms is March 1, 2011.** Award recipients will be recognized at the Leadership Program on April 11, 2011.

2010 Komen Race for the Cure

On September 25, 2010, Beta Iota members, Melony Rosen and Rebecca Lee, and friends of Beta Iota, Patricia Woellert and Eydie Eils, walked in the 2010 Komen Race for the Cure. Our goal was \$500.00, we raised \$365.00. For the past four years, Beta Iota Chapter has sponsored the Beta Iota Nurse Scholars for the Cure team and maintained a team website on the Komen Race for the Cure, Greater Cincinnati site. We hope that you will join us for the 2011 Race for the Cure. Details will be publicized this summer.



Eydie Eils, Rebecca Lee, Melony Rosen

Knowledge in the Making

Research Grant Recipient

The Beta Iota Chapter Research Grant recipient for 2010 was Ms. Kate York, University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing (UCCON) doctoral student. Ms. York is conducting a study entitled, Community Health Workers' Role in Community-Direct Treatment with Ivermectin Programs: A Mixed Methods Study. Her research will be conducted in two villages located in Tanzania. Her dissertation chair is Dr. Devon Berry, UCCON faculty.



Call for Grant Proposals

The Beta Iota Chapter Research Committee invites active Beta Iota Chapter members to submit proposals for research studies in the areas of nursing practice, education or administration. A maximum of \$4000.00 will be awarded to one or more researchers depending on the funds requested and quality of the proposal.

Deadline

For 2011, proposals must be submitted by June 1. Funding will begin August 1, 2011. The grant materials must be submitted electronically to Dr. Elaine Miller, Chair of the Beta Iota Research Committee, at Elaine.Miller@uc.edu. Grant guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from the Beta Iota website: http://betaiota.org/research_grant.html

Beta Iota Chapter

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Mission

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge & professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.

Vision

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service & learning to improve the health of the world's people.

