Expanding our Chapter Focus

At the recent STTI Biennial Convention (November, 2011), Suzanne Provost, STTI President, began implementing the call to action “Give back to Move Forward”. This initiative expands the purpose of STTI to also focus on service. Dr. Provost urges Chapters and members to become actively involved not only with their Chapters but also within their communities.

Our Delta Kappa Chapter embraces “Give Back to Move Forward” initiative. It builds upon our specific Chapter initiative to STAY CONNECTED with our members. Our Chapter Board approved initiating several strategies to increase the visibility of our Chapter and improving our member services. Additional information about these strategies are presented in this newsletter.

Refer to the attached file with the article “Focus on Service” in Reflections on Nursing Leadership.

Induction of New Members:

Fall, 2011: Thirty-five new members were inducted. On behalf of our Chapter, we welcome each to our Community of Nursing Excellence.

Our Chapter believes STAYING CONNECTED begins with increasing the visibility of our Chapter and recognizing the honor of being invited to apply for membership. Induction of new members is now planned twice/year (Fall and Spring) and is incorporated with the traditional and established programs for recognizing and celebrating nursing successes.

** Undergraduate (Traditional, “Fast Track”/second degree, and RN/BSN) students are recognized and inducted at the SON Traditional Pinning Ceremony.

** Graduate students are individually recognized and inducted during the SON Traditional Hooding Ceremony.

** Community Leaders are individually recognized for their professional nursing achievement and their induction is incorporated within the Traditional Hooding Ceremony.
“Sharing Best Evidence— From Academics to Practice”

On Saturday, March 10, 2012, the UTEP Delta Kappa and NMSU Pi Omega Chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International sponsored a collaborative conference. Five podium presentations and 21 posters focused on academics and practice related topics. Location: the new UTEP/SON building in one of the large tiered classrooms with major technology enhanced capabilities.

Dr. Joan Engebreston (UT Houston), a nationally recognized culture expert, gave an informative keynote address on cultural cues and client centered care. She reminded participants of the complexities of culture and issues related to achieving cultural competence. She recommended nurses use a reciprocal, one-on-one, negotiation process to gain an understanding of how a client views health, healing, and a therapeutic outcome when developing interventions and addressing adherence issues.

Dr. Lynnette Summers (New Mexico State University) presented an overview of horizontal violence (bullying) in the workplace. Her presentation included how to identify bullying behavior among nurses and practice settings and strategies for dealing with this destructive behavior.

Dr. Maria Diaz (University Medical Center-El Paso) and Ms. Deborah Sikes (UTEP), recipients of 2011 Delta Kappa Chapter research awards, provided updates on their respective funded project.

Dr. Charon Pierson (UTEP School of Nursing) presented attendees with an eye opening discussion of publication and research misconduct, publishing integrity conundrums, clarified the meaning of “fair use” and “public domain” and discussed the negative impact of retracted journal articles on scholarship.

Videos and pdf files on the topics presented by Dr. Pierson are available from the SON home page at <http://nursing.utep.edu/resources/publication-ethics>

The Conference concluded with a tour of the SON, Simulation Center, Classrooms, Faculty Offices and DK Chapter Office. Special thanks to University Medical Center (formerly Thomason) for providing 4.5 CEU
PROJECT MOVE: UTEP (DK Chapter and SON)

On Saturday, March 3, 2012 our Chapter and the SON participated in this annual UTEP-wide community service activity. Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experience) began in 2010. This year’s event involved over 1000 participants at 50 locations in El Paso including the El Paso Zoo, Animal Rescue League, YMCA Transitional Living Center.

Deborah Sikes, MSN, Chapter Treasurer, served as the liaison for our Chapter. She also was a Project MOVE participant for the Child Crisis Center of El Paso. This is non-profit organization that provides 24/7 Emergency shelter care for newborns and children to age 13 and their families experiencing crisis. The Discovery Shop is resale thrift shop, with volunteer staff since 1990. All proceeds (+$250,000/year) go to funding the Center’s mission.

Lisa Hennessy, PhDc, DK Chapter Board Member, led a small group of Project MOVE participants in assisting the Therapeutic Horseman Ship of El Paso (THEP) to improve their new home. This non-profit organization is devoted to serving children and adults with disabilities since 1988 through powerful modality of equine-assisted therapy. Lisa reports that “This activity is far more than pony rides.”
Chapter Member Community Involvement:

This “Give Back to Move Forward” segment of our newsletter highlights examples of our local and out of town members for their community service activities. Gold Stars go to the following two Chapter members:

Dr. Tom Beeman, SON Faculty, has been working 10 years with Ciudad Nueva, a non-profit organization for youth development in one of El Paso’s empowerment zones. He coaches and funds a teenage boys’ soccer team in The Christian Soccer League. His team won 2nd place for the last two seasons against much older and skilled players.

Laurie Harris, MSN, FNP-BC (Big Spring, Texas) is an exemplar of the many hats most nurses wear: nursing practice, on-line nurse educator, and family. Her community activities now focus on activities involving her children, Boy Scouts, sports, teaching Bible school for elementary children. In her daily activities, she role models health and wellness.

Membership Team Update:

Our Chapter Board approved hiring a person for 10 hours/week to assist with our Chapter Member Services. Jaymee Aguirre, a UTEP graduate student in Rehabilitation Counseling, was accepted for this position. She is working with Dr. Audree Reynolds updating our chapter listserv sttdeltakappa@listserv.utep.edu based on the member reports sent to our Chapter.

Members whose membership has inadvertently lapsed will receive an invitation to renewal membership. Our next strategy is to send a “thank you” to members for their continuing support based on reports of membership renewals. You may receive emails from Jaymee from our Chapter email address dkchapter@utep.edu

Our Team continues to explore ways to STAY CONNECTED with members. Postings about our Chapter and activities are available on the SON Facebook http://facebook.com/utepnursing/ Or Twitter access from the SON home page www.utep.edu/SON Information about our Chapter also is accessible from the SON web site or directly http://nursing.utep.edu/current/stti/

Newsletter Team: Audree Reynolds, PHD, FNP-BC (editor); Pearl Pope, MSN (STTI Connect reporter); Shannon Jordan, BSN (editorial reviewer); Rena Digregorio, MSN, PhD.c (reporter), Jana McCallister, PhD,c (reporter). Local & out of town members are invited to join our Team. We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions to our DK Newsletter. dkchapter@utep.edu