Delta Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International

## Upcoming Events:
- March 25, 2013 — Spring Poster and Research Presentation.
- May 16, 2013 — Induction Ceremony.
- November 16—20, 2013 Biennium Convention, Indianapolis, IN.

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### President’s Message

Dear Delta Rho Members: I am looking forward to another exciting year of supporting nurses through learning, knowledge, and professional development. Delta Rho continues to be an active and thriving chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. I encourage all members to connect with our Chapter through the Circle and be a part of our society’s official website. Members can join the circle at http://the circle.nursingsociety.org/deltarhochapter/home. Many exciting events are planned for this year. Please mark your calendars. We will keep members updated on fundraising activities throughout the year and the Board is planning a general membership meeting for later this year. I encourage everyone to participate in upcoming Delta Rho programs. Delta Rho’s fall research Night was the best attended fall program yet and we look forward to many more. Sigma Theta Tau was founded in 1922 and celebrates its 90 years of excellence and growth. Link here to read President Prevost’s remarks on this wonderful milestone http://www.nursingsociety.org/Publications/Newsletter/Pages/Octo-ber2012_PresidentsLetter.aspx. It is an exciting time to be part of the global community of nurses who connect with one voice for nursing excellence throughout the world. I hope to see you at one or more of Delta Rho’s upcoming events!

Sharon Rainer, MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC, ANP-BC
2012-2013 President

### 2012 Induction

On May 14, 2012, Delta Rho hosted the 32nd annual induction ceremony for the nursing graduates from Thomas Jefferson University. Eighty-nine new members were inducted; 68 members from the undergraduate program, 9 members for the RN/BSN program and 6 members from the graduate programs. In addition, 6 members in the Nurse Leader category were inducted. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Linda Trout, a leader in hospice care throughout the tri-state area. Her presentation on presence at the bedside for nurses dealing with end-of-life issues was both moving and a challenge for the new inductees, many of whom will perhaps for the first time, be the one person who is with the patient and family during this difficult time.
Awards Corner

The Delta Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau was pleased to award two students with the distinguished leadership award and community service award at our induction ceremony in May 2012. Both of these students have shown a large amount of accomplishment as a nursing or emerging nursing leader and in service to their community. We will once again be offering three distinguished awards at our induction ceremony in May 2013. The leadership award, recognizes a student who is an emerging leader in the field of nursing and/or has been active in leadership activities. The community service award, recognizes a student who has shown significant participation in community event and service to their community. The research award, recognizes a student who has contributed to nursing knowledge by conducting substantial nursing research and/or participating in significant research activities. Award nominees will be nominated by members of the Jefferson School of Nursing faculty and will need to provide documentation of their activities. More information will be following in the next few weeks. We look forward to honoring members of the student body for their significant contributions and achievement in the nursing profession.

Best Regards,

Anthony Angelow
Awards Chair, Delta Rho Chapter of STTI

Founders Week

Early October brings falling leaves, cool autumn temperatures and the celebration of Delta Rho’s Founders Week. This year, Founders Week was celebrated October 8th through the 12th. Board members met with student groups including undergraduates and graduates to explain the history, mission, eligibility criteria and benefits of becoming a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, the honor society of nursing. Also emphasized were our own Delta Rho’s chapter accomplishments including our bi-annual research symposiums and our philanthropic activities at a local elementary school in Camden, NJ. As with previous years, our Delta Rho poster, (Created by our own Kathryn Shaffer), was on display in the lobby of the Jefferson School of Nursing and added to the excitement and enthusiasm about Delta Rho Chapter and its activities. Soft pretzels were served to welcome the students to their fall academic programs and to remind them to keep their GPAs high so that they will be eligible for induction into Sigma Theta Tau in May.

Tri-State Consortium Brunch

The 26th Annual Tristate Consortium Lecture and Brunch was held on October 14, 2012 at the Renaissance Philadelphia Airport Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Dorothea Frederick and Sharon Rainer attended this year’s brunch. The distinguished lecturer Kathleen Calzone, PhD, RN, APNG, FAAN spoke on “Genomics: How Personalized Health Care will Influence Teaching and Practicing Nursing”.

“So never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself.”

Florence Nightingale
Delta Rho Scholarship Fund

Delta Rho provides a scholarship opportunity for members who are academically outstanding nursing students and who desire to advance knowledge in the areas of nursing science and practice. Funding is awarded to active members of Delta Rho who are students in the Masters of Science in Nursing program or Doctor of Nursing Practice program with scholarship monies. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Julia Ward. Note: The scholarship is awarded at the STTI Delta Rho Induction Ceremony on May 16, 2013. A letter of interest to the Scholarship Chair is due by March 15, 2013 to Julia.ward@jefferson.edu

Research Corner

The Third Annual Delta Rho Research Seminar was held November 14, 2012 in Jefferson Alumni Hall. Eight Scholarly posters, submitted by Jefferson School of Nursing (JSN) faculty members, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital nurses and recent MSN and DNP graduates of JSN, were accepted for display at the symposium. Four of the posters were also selected to be given as oral presentations to the audience. The featured speaker for the seminar was Delta Rho Chapter Research Chair, Dr. Theresa P. Yeo, who presented the findings of her original research study entitled, “A Progressive Post-Resection Walking Program Significantly Improves Fatigue and Health-Related Quality of Life in Pancreas and Periampullary Cancer Patients”. The research seminar was enthusiastically received by the approximately 80 persons attending the seminar. A Spring Research Seminar is planned for March 25, 2013.

Delta Rho Research Seed Grant

Delta Rho provides research seed grants to active members who are conducting new research projects. A research scholarship of $1000 will be awarded. If you are interested please e-mail Theresa.yeo@jefferson.edu for the application. All applications must be submitted to Dr. Yeo no later than March 15, 2013.

Philanthropic Events

2011-2012 was a busy year for the philanthropic Delta Rho Chapter. The Chapter decided to adopt a school over the year instead of several different organizations. Delta Rho adopted the first grade class at Wiggins Public Elementary School in Camden NJ. Wiggins Elementary is located in an underserved neighborhood surrounding Cooper hospital. The first exciting fundraiser was a back-to-school drive. The Chapter, along with JSN students and faculty, collected backpacks, supplies, and nonperishable items for the 19 boys and girls. The drive was so successful providing a new backpack filled with school supplies to each student with the overfill going to the classroom supply closet. Board members transported the items from JSN to the overjoyed students in early September. The next collection was held over the winter period where new hats, gloves, uniforms, and books for each student was collected from faculty and students from JSN. More board members got to experience the excitement of the children and enjoyed the afternoon with the students as they participated in a read-aloud from one of the donated books. The final collection to round out the year was a “getting ready for summer” drive. Flip flops, sunscreen, and fun summer activities were collected and delivered in time for the school’s “Fun Day”. Their teacher was overjoyed by the items and commented how “Fun day was really going to be fun this year”.

The Chapter has decided to adopt a school in the surrounding Jefferson neighborhood and identified, General George A. McCall Elementary School in Philadelphia. The elementary school and Delta Rho are collaborating on what is needed the most. Contact Kathryn.shaffer@jefferson.edu if interested in donating supplies for this school.
Meet the Delta Rho Board of Directors:
President: Sharon R. Rainer
President Elect: Dorothea Frederick
Treasurer: Kathleen Sibre
Recording Secretary: Denise R. Brown
Research Chair: Theresa Yeo
Leadership Succession: Amy Szajna
Faculty Counselor: Cecilia Borden and David Jack
Awards Chair: Anthony Angelow
Philanthropic Chair: Kathryn Shaffer
Governance Chair: Susan Egger
Publicity-Scholarship Chair: Julia Ward

Founded in 1922, Sigma Theta Tau is an international nursing honor society comprised of over 200,000 members in over 346 chapters. The name Sigma Theta Tau identifies the society’s commitment to love (Storga), courage (Tharos), and Honor (Tima). Our members represent the best in the profession, and collectively we shape the future of professional nursing throughout the world. As a collective of nurse leaders, Sigma Theta Tau International is a dynamic force that actively promotes scholarship, inquiry, leadership and quality in nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing research. Founded in 1980, Delta Rho is celebrating 27 years of scholarship, research and leadership. Delta Rho was granted the international “Key Award” for chapter excellence in 1995, 1997, and 2001. Our first “Newsletter Award” was recognized for “Special Edition Excellence” in 1995. More recently, in 2011, Delta Rho received four “Showcase of Regional Excellence” awards recognizing good work in all four areas of the Sigma Theta Tau Presidential Call-To-Action: creating welcoming environments, enhancing knowledge resources and networks, contributing to global health, creating a legacy of personal leadership.

View the current chapters that are recipients of the 2009-2011 Showcase of Regional Excellence.

At the induction in May, items are available for sale such as mugs, paperweights, STTI labels and chords. If interested in purchasing these items contact Julia.Ward@jefferson.edu.