

SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING  
**ALPHA CHI NEWS**

BOSTON COLLEGE | WILLIAM F. CONNELL  
COLLEGE | SCHOOL OF NURSING

2010

Alpha Chi Chapter

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I finish my term as President of Alpha Chi Chapter, I am amazed at how quickly time has passed. I want to congratulate Alpha Chi on their 40 year Anniversary. We celebrated 40 years of excellence by acknowledging our past, present, and future Presidents with a long stem rose and a 40 year pin. I also had the privilege and honor of accepting The Chapter Key Award for Alpha Chi. This was the sixth time our chapter has received the key.

Over the past two years, we have had several programs. At the Clinical Innovation Dinner in January 2009, Kathleen Pfeiffer-Spurling, JD, RN, BSN spoke on the topic of “The Power of the Pen: Risk Issues in the Practice of Nursing”. In April 2009, Patrice Nicholas spoke at Alpha Chi’s Induction Ceremony, 86 undergraduates and graduate nurses and 3 Nurse Leaders were inducted into the Chapter. The Annual Spring Research Program was held May 2009, with Miyong T. Kim, Ph.D, RN, FAAN. She spoke on “Building Health Community by Community Based Participatory Research”. In October 2009, Lynda Tyer-Viola and I answered questions at Founder’s Night about Sigma Theta Tau and the Nurses who founded STTI. Joyce Pulcini, PhD, RNCS, PNP, FAAN, Donna Cullinan, MS, RN, FNP, Brittney Sullivan, BS, RN, and Nora Sheehan, BS, RN attended The Father Edward J. Gorman Program and Dinner and spoke on: “Perspectives from Boston College William F. Connell School of Nursing Service Trips to Haiti and Nicaragua”. In January 2010, The Clinical Innovations Dinner and Program, Barbara Rosato, MSN, ANP-BC, spoke on “Diabetes: Trends and Implications”. In March 2010, Alpha Chi co-sponsored “Multidisciplinary PhD Research Development Day”, presented by the William F. Connell School of Nursing, Graduate School of Social Work and the Lynch School Of Education. April 25th, 2010, Dr. Susan Gennaro, RN, DSN, FAAN, spoke at Alpha Chi’s Induction Ceremony, and 4 Nurse Leaders, 67 undergraduate and graduate nurses were inducted into the Chapter. At the Annual Spring Research Program, April 28, 2010, Dr. Loretta Jemmott PhD, RN, FAAN spoke on “STI and HIV/AIDS Prevention Programming: The African American and Hispanic Adolescent Females.”

In addition to these programs and events, Sherri St. Pierre and I attended the 40th Biennium at Sigma Theta Tau International Convention in Indianapolis, IN, November 2009. We were joined by Kelsey Runnalls, a senior @CSon, a new inductee sponsored by Alpha Chi. The theme of the convention was, “I am a nurse... and I am a member of a global nursing community.” A special highlight was when Greg Mortenson, a fellow nurse making a difference in the world by promoting peace by building schools for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan, spoke at the Plenary Session III.

I would like to thank all members of the Chapter for the opportunity to be President of Alpha Chi over the past two years. I could not have done my job without the incredible help of the Executive Board and Committees. Special thanks to Cathy St.Pierre, Barbara Hedstrom, Sherri St. Pierre, Kelly Stamp, Jane Flanagan, Lynda Tyer-Viola, Amy Celbluski, Nancy Baker, Heather Vallant, Joellen Hawkins, and, a very special thanks to Cathy Hill and Zan John.

Sincerely,

LOUISA DICHARD, PRESIDENT  
2010

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 40TH ANNIVERSARY | HISTORY OF ALPHA CHI CHAPTER  
Joellen Hawkins, Beth Grady, Karen Lourence, Holly Fotenot and Kristen Ferguson
- 6 A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE Kelsey Runnells
- 7 HEALTH DISPARITY RESEARCH Barbara Madden
- 8 HEADING NORTH Cathy St. Pierre and Joyce Pulcini
- 9 ALPHA CHI | AN AWARD WINNING CHAPTER
- 10 MARY PEKORWSKI MEMORIAL AWARD ESSAY Brittany Sullivan
- 12 ALPHA CHI CHAPTER INDUCTION | NURSE LEADER PROFILES
- 14 MEMBER NEWS
- 18 CLASS NEWS
- 20 LETTER FROM THE 2011 PRESIDENT Cathy St. Pierre

2010-2011 CALENDAR

|                    |   |                    |                            |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------|
| WEDNESDAY JAN 19   | Executive Board Meeting                         | 5:00–6:00pm        | Murray Room, Yawkey Center |
|                    | Winter Business Meeting                         | 6:00–6:30pm        |                            |
|                    | Clinical Innovations Dinner & Program           | 6:30–8:00pm        |                            |
| SNOW DATE JAN 26   | Executive Board Meeting                         | 5:00–6:00pm        | Murray Room, Yawkey Center |
|                    | Winter Business Meeting                         | 6:00–6:30pm        |                            |
|                    | Clinical Innovations Dinner & Program           | 6:30–8:00pm        |                            |
| WEDNESDAY MAR. 16  | <i>Executive Board Meeting</i>                  | <i>5:30-7:00pm</i> | <i>Cushing 413</i>         |
| SUNDAY APRIL 10    | Induction Brunch                                | 11am-2:00pm        | Murray Room, Yawkey Center |
| WEDNESDAY APRIL 27 | Executive Board Meeting                         | 5:00–6:00pm        | Murray Room, Yawkey Center |
|                    | Networking and Posters                          | 6:00–6:30pm        |                            |
|                    | Annual Business Meeting                         | 6:30–7:00pm        |                            |
|                    | Research Presentation Aware                     | 8:00–8:15pm        |                            |
| WEDNESDAY JUNE 6   | <i>Transition meeting – Officers and Chairs</i> | <i>5:30-7:00pm</i> | <i>Cushing 411/412</i>     |



# 40th anniversary History of Alpha Chi Chapter

JOELLEN HAWKINS, BETH GRADY, KAREN LOURENCE,  
HOLLY FOTENOT AND KRISTEN FERGUSON



In 1970, Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International was chartered. The Installation Ceremonies were held on March 15th, 1970, in McGuinn Auditorium on the Boston College Campus. Officiating was Carolyn L. Widmer, Executive Secretary of Sigma Theta Tau. Five transfer members and 128 new members constituted the 133 Charter Members of the Chapter.

Alpha Chi can trace its origins to the first Nursing Honor Society of Boston College School of Nursing. In 1960, this honor society became the Siena Society for undergraduate nursing majors and the Mater Spei Society for registered nurses earning their baccalaureate degrees. During 1963 and 1964, a preliminary committee investigated establishing a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Boston College. In 1967, both Dean Rita P. Kelleher and Reverend Charles Donovan, SJ, the Academic Vice President, gave their approval to proceed in this effort. A second preliminary committee convened in 1968 with representatives of the baccalaureate alumnae, all members of the classes of 1968 and 1969, and two representatives from the graduate program in nursing. Early in 1968, the application for charter was filed with Sigma Theta Tau and was approved at the 1969 Biennium as the 44th Chapter, Alpha Chi. The chapter membership as of 2010 is 638, including this anniversary year's inductees.

In 40 years, Alpha Chi Chapter and its members have exemplified the purpose of an honor society—to recognize

excellence and mentor the next generation. The Chapter supports the development of members through research grants, poster sessions at annual meetings, assistance to attend Biennial Conventions, and nominations for international offices and awards.

IN 40 YEARS, ALPHA CHI  
CHAPTER AND ITS MEMBERS  
HAVE EXEMPLIFIED THE PURPOSE  
OF AN HONOR SOCIETY—TO  
RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE AND  
MENTOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The Chapter and its members have garnered awards and brought distinction to the chapter through excellence in clinical leadership and practice, research, and education. Several members have received Founders' Awards including two recipients of the Marie Hippensteel Lingeman Founder's Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice; two received the Dorothy Garrigus Adams Founder's Award for Excellence in Fostering High Professional Standards; and one member received the Elizabeth Russell Belford Founder's Award for Excellence in Education. Alpha Chi nominated two persons for

Honorary Membership, distinguished librarian Mary Pekarski (1983) and prized physician collaborator Mitchell Rabkin, MD (1989) and both were inducted. Chapter members have also been honored with media and chapter newsletter awards. Several members were named as Distinguished Lecturers. One member received the research dissertation award in 1999. Another member was named to the Sigma Theta Tau International Distinguished Writers Program. Alpha Chi received the first Ethel Palmer Clark Founder's Award for Chapter Excellence. The chapter also received the International Heritage Award for its archival collection. In 1995, it was a recipient of the Chapter Research Advancement Award. The chapter has also won numerous Key Awards. Chapter members have been elected officers at the international

and regional levels, and have served on numerous international committees.

For 32 years, the chapter has honored the memory of Father Gorman, cherished friend, advisor and spiritual leader to decades of students in the School of Nursing with the Annual Reverend Edward J. Gorman SJ Lecture on Humanistic Nursing, first presented in May of 1978.

The 40th anniversary is a time to pay tribute to the founders, to the officers, committees, and members who have created and sustained this chapter and its record of excellence in practice, education, leadership, and research.

#### REFERENCES:

The Archival Collection of Alpha Chi Chapter

#### NURSE LEADERS—NEW MEMBERS ACCEPTED

Do you have a colleague that demonstrates leadership qualities? Nurse leaders from all fields may apply for membership to Alpha Chi throughout the year. Applications to Alpha Chi will be considered in both the Spring and the Fall. Please invite your deserving colleagues to apply to the Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nurses Honor Society. Eligibility criteria and application packets are available on our website at [www.bc.edu/sigma](http://www.bc.edu/sigma). New Nurse Leader members are invited to participate in the Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony held yearly in April.

## Alpha Chi Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International

#### INSTALLATION OF CHAPTER

|           |                      |           |                       |           |                         |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1970-1974 | Elizabeth M. Grady   | 1988-1990 | Joan Garity           | 2002-2004 | Mary Margaret Seagraves |
| 1974-1976 | Priscilla C. Almeida | 1990-1992 | Jean O'Neil           | 2004-2006 | Robin Wood              |
| 1976-1980 | Joan M. Riley        | 1992-1994 | Victoria Mock         | 2006-2008 | Lois Haggerty           |
| 1977-1978 | Joan M. Riley        | 1994-1996 | Diane Arathuzik       | 2008-2010 | Louisa Dichard          |
| 1980-1984 | Laurel Eisenhauer    | 1996-1998 | Margaret A. Murphy    | 2010-2011 | Cathy St. Pierre        |
| 1984-1986 | Maureen McCausland   | 1998-2000 | Maureen Curtis Cooper |           |                         |
| 1986-1988 | Rachel Spector       | 2000-2002 | Susan K. Chase        |           |                         |



# Sigma Theta Tau

## 40th Biennial Convention: A Student's Perspective

KELSEY RUNNALLS

The vision of Sigma Theta Tau International is to “create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service, and learning to improve the health of the world’s people.” From my experience at the 40th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this past November, I was able to see how each member lives out this vision in their practice. Nursing delegates from around the globe gathered to celebrate their achievements, share their stories, and present their research. It was inspiring to see their work and to think of the potential that I have to make a difference in my own career.

The keynote speaker, Greg Mortenson, was particularly impressive. He is the author of the popular book *Three Cups of Tea* and a past nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work building girls’ schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan; he is also a registered nurse. His leadership, passion, and spirit exemplify the character of all the nurse leaders whom I met at this convention.

One of the other main events of the trip was the Awards Night Dinner. The Alpha Chi Chapter received a Key Award for the sixth time. The Key Award honors Sigma chapters for their membership recruitment and retention, publicity and programming, professional and leadership development, and local, national, and international collaboration. Prior to this conference, I had not been aware of Alpha Chi’s role in STTI as a whole. Now I see that all the events and services our chapter offers comes from the mission of nurses globally, all of whom are united through STTI. In a way, this award ceremony highlighted the importance of belonging to a professional honor society.

As a student I especially benefited from attending the research presentation seminars. In between the larger events, there were also ongoing presentations of various STTI members’ current research. Convention attendees could choose to attend the presentations that interested them. It was really the first time as a student that I had been exposed to nursing research “just for fun.” Usually, when I read nursing research, it is associated with a school paper or project that I must complete. I believe that this is common to many nursing students. One of the benefits of attending this convention is that it is a fun, pressure-free way to stay current in evidenced based practice.

It was an incredible opportunity to meet nurses from all different fields, areas, and backgrounds. I learned that despite our different experiences and perspectives, we all have common interests and goals and we have so much to learn from one another. As I enter the professional world within the next year, I will remember the people I met at the convention and everything I learned there. I will continue to value my STTI membership and to participate in a chapter wherever I end up in the world. Finally, I will strive to practice nursing with honor, courage, and love, in accordance to the mission of STTI.

The convention was a wonderful experience for me as a student nurse. I hope that other student nurses have the opportunity to attend in the future.

*Kesley Runnalls is a senior nursing student at BC. Kesley received a scholarship from Alpha Chi to attend the 40th Biennium conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.*



# health disparities research highlighted at annual research program

BARBARA MADDEN

Whose attending the Annual Spring Research Program on April 28, 2010, are not likely to soon forget the “No, no, no” dance performed by the speaker, Dr. Loretta Sweet-Jemmott. Introduced to the assembled Alpha Chi members by Nancy Baker, Dr. Jemmott, professor of psychiatric mental health nursing at the University of Pennsylvania and director of its Center for Health Disparities Research, gave a lively and entertaining, yet scholarly, presentation entitled “Strategies for Reducing Health Disparities in Research and Practice Among Vulnerable populations.” In describing how she came to make this field her like’s work, her mantra was “Find your passion and grow with it.”

Identification of the social and psychological factors behind the risk behaviors that lead to health conditions exhibiting health disparities is the focus of Dr. Jemmott’s research. Understanding that knowledge alone does not change behavior, she uses a conceptual model based on Social Cognitive Theory, the Theory of Reasoned Action and the Theory of Planned Behavior, and then plans intervention programs to change the risk behaviors. Her model involves development of a questionnaire with the assistance of community members to answer the “how to” change issues, designing the intervention program, testing the effectiveness of the program to bring about change including how to retain the changes over the long-term, and disseminating the findings to the community. She emphasized the importance of building partnerships

with the target population (“Time - Trust - Team building”), listening to their voices, learning the “Code of the Street,” and giving back to the community, not just using the data and outcomes for professional publishing.

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS BEHIND THE RISK BEHAVIORS THAT LEAD TO HEALTH CONDITIONS EXHIBITING HEALTH DISPARITIES

Dr. Jemmott illustrated the effectiveness of this research model in influencing the sex behavior of minority teens to promote changes in safe-sex behavior, to reduce HIV transmission, and to reduce teenage pregnancy rates. She has shown that abstinence education works if it is free from the moralistic voice of many such programs. This is only part of her body of research. The Center for Disease Control has funded a series of twenty evidence-based web programs entitled “Research to Classrooms: Programs That Work,” of which seven are products of Dr. Jemmott’s Center for Health Disparities Research. Members can information about these programs at [selectmedia.org](http://selectmedia.org).

A lively and informative question-and-answer period followed Dr. Jemmott’s formal presentation, and much applause was generated from those attending.



# Heading North

## for the 20th International Research Congress

CATHY ST. PIERRE AND JOYCE PULCINI

On a warm sunny day, we arrived in Vancouver, Canada to attend the 20th International Research Congress of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). Out of concern for their members and the health issues occurring in Cancun, Mexico, the leadership of STTI, had decided in June to relocate the conference to Canada. The conference setting was the Sheraton Wall Centre in the heart of downtown Vancouver. The views from the hotel rooms perched on the top of a hill were amazing. It was a lovely site and a great venue for this conference. The conference was attended by approximately 486 participants representing over 23 countries including: Thailand, Mexico, Japan, Ireland and Australia.

One of the most exciting aspects of attending an international conference is the opportunity to network and hear of the exciting research that nurses at all levels of our profession are engaged in. The variety of topics ranged from clinical to evidenced based issues to academia and research methodologies. It was also a great opportunity to find out what nursing is like in other countries.

The Alpha Chi chapter of Boston College was well represented by Dean Susan Gennaro, Dr. Pamela Grace, Dr. Joyce Pulcini and Dr. Cathy St. Pierre. Dean Gennaro, as the editor of the journal *Scholarship*, participated in consultations with STTI members who were interested in publishing advice. She was also available to provide expertise and advice to potential authors. Dr. Joyce Pulcini presented an oral presentation on her research she conducted as part of the International Council of Nursing's (ICN) committee on Advanced practice nurses (APN). Dr. Pulcini's research focused on ascertaining the role of the APN in over 32 countries.

Dr. Cathy St. Pierre presented her paper on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) among veterans. Dr. St. Pierre currently works at the Bedford Veterans Administration

(VA) hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts as a nurse researcher. Her topic on TBI is very timely because TBI has become known as the "signature injury" of the Iraq and Afghanistan war. With significant improvements in military personal protection equipment, the number of soldiers surviving an explosion are increasing but with it often comes the devastation of TBI. Although all veterans are currently screened for TBI, this is not the case in the community at large where up to 90% of all veterans seek their health care. Almost ¾ of veterans with TBI are classified as having a mild form of this injury, however, the sequelae can be lifelong impacting on quality of life. Also of concern is that physically, they look "fine" and therefore can often go undetected. The VA and the Department of Defense are actively involved in implementing best practices for assessment and management of veterans and active duty soldiers who have experienced a TBI. In 2008, legislative efforts resulted in the allocation of \$ 617 million to study TBI. Nurses and other health care providers need to be astute to the subtle signs and symptoms of TBI so that veterans can be adequately assessed and treated.

We would like to commend the STTI organization for orchestrating what appeared to be a "seamless" transition of venue from Cancun to Vancouver. Although this change occurred late, the quality and organization of the conference did not appear to be affected. We look forward to the next 21st International Congress which will take place in July, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. Consider submitting an abstract or plan on attending, it is a great opportunity to network and "make friends with the world".

The authors of this article would like to express our appreciation to the Boston College chapter of Alpha Chi for offering support to enable us to attend this worthwhile endeavor.

# Alpha Chi: An Award Winning Chapter

*In this 40th anniversary year of Alpha Chi, it seems appropriate to reflect on our accomplishments as a chapter over the four decades since our chartering in 1970. One of the many highlights of those years was the garnering of awards from International for the chapter and individual members.*

## 1 FOUNDER'S AWARDS TO ALPHA CHI MEMBERS

DOROTHY GARRIGUS ADAMS FOUNDERS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FOSTERING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
Dorothy A. Jones – 1999, Joyce C. Clifford– 1983, Marjory Gordon – 1979

MARIE HIPPENSTEEL LINGEMAN FOUNDERS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING PRACTICE  
Lucy Field – 1985, Genevieve V. Foley – 1981

ELIZABETH RUSSELL BELFORD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
Joellen W. Hawkins – 1993

## 2 AWARDS FROM SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL TO INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER MEMBERS

Laurel Eisenhauer, Distinguished Writer 2000-2001  
Gwenievere Winifred Anderson, Research Dissertation Award, 1999  
Karen Hassey Dow, Research Dissertation Award, 1993

## 3 AWARDS FROM SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL TO THE CHAPTER

### ALPHA CHI CHAPTER

Ethel Palmer Clarke Award for Excellence in Chapter Programming, 1977  
Key Awards for promoting chapter membership growth, developing chapter's human resources, recognizing individual and group achievement, and attracting resources so chapters are able to support the goals of STT: 1991, 1995, 1999  
Chapter Newsletter Award, overall excellence 1999  
Chapter Research Advancement Award, 1995  
Chapter Heritage Award, 1993  
Chapter Newsletter Award, 1983  
Chapter Research Utilization Award 1987 Mary Ann Sweeney

## 4 RECOGNITION BY SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL OF ALPHA CHI MEMBERS

### DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

Laurel Eisenhauer, Joellen Hawkins, 1987; Laurel Eisenhauer, Suzanne Blancett, 1989,  
Laurel Eisenhauer, Barbara Munro, 1991

### MEDIA AWARDS

Martha Bradlee "Street Healers" 1991  
News Article Award for Excellence: Marion Francis, "Homeless—Nurses Can Help" 1989



## Mary Pekarski Memorial Award Essay

# Brittney Sullivan

### Boston College CSON

*Future Journal Entry: May 18, 2014*

Waking up from a short slumber to the buzz of mosquitoes and the early rising red sun reminds me that, on this trip, I forgot my malaria pills. “Oh well,” I think, “at least I’m not in Zambia,” where the malaria can be devastating within 48 hours. Honduran strands of malaria, on the other hand, are not as deadly; although many families I have worked with in past years have lost loved ones due to the fatal disease.

I left the clinic at 11pm, after a 16-hour day, knowing that Doña Marie was most likely going to give birth before my return this morning. I agonize about the two children with fevers pushing 102 who were lethargic and severely dehydrated. The 90-degree heat (at sunrise) makes it impossible to fall back asleep, so I get up, drink a cup of tea; eat a tortilla, and throw on a clean white t-shirt and my trusty maroon scrubs from college. As I am dressing in the dark, I hear the roosters and birds outside my door. The sounds are what draw me back here every few months – I get tired of hearing cell phones ringing, beepers going off, and crowded city streets filled with professionals rushing to work in Boston. Time is different here. I marvel at the slow pace, yet sometimes get frustrated that at times, nothing seems to happen in a days worth of work.

My first stop is Doña Marie’s house. Surprisingly, she is still laboring after six hours. She looks exhausted after a sleepless night, and her husband looks just as drained as he sits next to her on their mattress trying to comfort her. The house is quite tranquil considering a new life is soon to be born. At this point Marie is fully dilated and effaced and is pushing with progress. She tells me, “*Mi amor,*

*dejame! Otros necesitan mas.*” “My love, go! I can do this; others need you more”. She reassures me that this is her tenth birth; she has labored three with just her husband. Her sister, living next door, can help and Jose will fetch her when she is in need of another set of hands. Marie also offers to me that she will stop by the clinic later with the newborn for me to assess; as if to comfort me in this situation. Reluctantly, I leave, knowing she is a woman capable of much more than just childbirth.

AS I AM DRESSING IN THE DARK,  
I HEAR THE ROOSTERS AND BIRDS  
OUTSIDE MY DOOR. THE SOUNDS  
ARE WHAT DRAW ME BACK HERE  
EVERY FEW MONTHS...

Now that it is quarter to 6am, I let myself into the squeaky front door of the Reyes, swinging gently in the breeze that is surely to bring heavy rains this afternoon. The front yard has already been meticulously swept and chickens in one corner try to peck their way under the barbed-wire fence. I call out to Katrina and hear her in the back of the small house. I see her sitting on the mattress with a sweaty, slumbering Lena in her arms. Although Lena is three years old, she is about the size of an 18 month old due to her poor nutrition, many untreated infections as a baby, and multiple cases of parasites within the last year. I take an axillary temperature and it is down from yesterday at 99.3 degrees. Katrina said she has been giving her Tylenol and sips of purified water with the rehydration salts and anti-parasitic medication. I ask what order she gave the medicine and vitamins, and

Katrina replied that she “listened to me well”, and gave the parasitic medication first, followed by vitamins because she knows that otherwise, the parasites will eat the vitamins leaving Lena with nothing. I smile and reassure her she is doing it correct and helping Lena as much as she can.

I arrive at the clinic a bit early, yet there are already a dozen people waiting outside the doors. I am swarmed with hugs (and hollers) as I try to open the two exam rooms while listening to the fast-paced Spanish flowing from everyone’s mouths. I have only been in Honduras three days, so I wrack my brain to find the vocabulary to communicate. Speaking limited Spanish for nine months was not helping me in my rush to find bandages and a suture kit for the screaming six-year-old that was bleeding profusely from his left hand; which I later found out was from a machete he had been playing with after his dad left it on the ground behind their house. I sutured his hand with 20 stitches, gave him a booster for Tetanus, gave his mother ibuprofen to give him every 4 hours, and Amoxicillin (since it’s the only antibiotic on hand) three times a day, and told her to come back tomorrow so I could check and see if it looked infected. And its still only 7am – oh, the life of a nurse!

The rest of the morning flew by and as I walked across the soccer field in the middle of the village. I walk over to the women congregated under the Big Tree that lies on the outskirts of Villa Esperanza to chat with a few of them who have been cooking rice, beans, and patting tortillas all day. I am fatigued and sweaty; yet feel alive and am amazed at the progress of the buildings in the community. Just three years ago there was no clinic and the community center/library was only a blueprint on paper. Now, the community center is used daily and they are building an elementary and middle school.

This morning I saw 18 patients; though it was a productive morning, I still feel as though my Spanish is never sufficient to truly get across my patient teaching and education for the mothers coming into the clinic with their sick children; scared, looking for advice, and many times feeling helpless. I love to split my time between the state-of-the-art medical centers in New England and the rural clinics of Honduras and Sub-Saharan Africa. After my two nursing degrees from Boston College, I have

been blessed to share my time between clinical practice and research, as well as spend time in marginalized communities; yet stay up-to-date with new procedures, medications, and innovations within nursing from the US medical centers. Though I am a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner by training, my role here expands beyond the care of children, and I find myself welcoming new life to the world and venturing into end-of-life care for respected elders.

MY ROLE HERE EXPANDS BEYOND THE CARE OF JUST CHILDREN, AND I FIND MYSELF WELCOMING IN NEW LIFE TO THE WORLD AND VENTURING INTO END-OF-LIFE CARE FOR RESPECTED ELDERS.

On my way home, I stop at the Reyes again and find Lena smiling and eating an orange. Her temperature is down to 98.7 degrees, and I tell Katrina she still needs to make sure Lena stays hydrated. Lena’s big brown eyes look happy and I stay to play with her while taking note of her developmental delays. As the sun is setting, I walk over to Doña Marie’s house because she did not come to the clinic as expected. I find her husband working outside with a few of the children, and he pointed me inside to their sleeping area, where Marie was nursing their new daughter, Elena. I gave my congratulations and examined the dad; both were doing well.

As I sit down in my room to track the progress of a few children in the village, the date catches my eye and it dawns on me that it has been exactly five years since my college graduation. I think back to how my friends and I felt as we all embarked on our new career paths with our nursing pin on our collar and diploma in hand. My roommates and friends have all taken different paths in numerous cities around the globe and I look forward to reuniting with them in just in a few weeks at our fifth year reunion. Who knew this is where I would be?

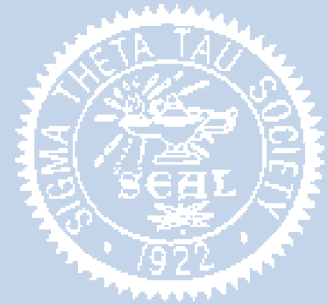
*\*All names, places and events are fictional, though based upon true life experiences. Brittney currently works as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Westboro, MA and enjoys traveling and volunteering/working internationally. [Brittney.Sullivan.1@gmail.com](mailto:Brittney.Sullivan.1@gmail.com)*



Alpha Chi Chapter

# Induction

## Nurse Leader Profiles 2010



### BEVERLY KETCHEN, RN, MS, FNP-BC

Beverly Ketchen, RN, MS, FNP-BC has been a Senior Nurse Clinician at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates in Medford for 29 years. She served in several managerial roles including Associate Director of Nursing-Internal Medicine – 2005-9 and has received several awards from Harvard Vanguard Associates including the prestigious, Solomon Peer Clinical recognition award in 2002 and the Diamond Award in 1989 and 2008 for clinical excellence. In addition, she has been a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner since 2004. Ms. Ketchen received her BSN from Boston University in 1971, where she served as President of BU School of Nursing Student Association for two years, her PNP certificate from Northeastern University in 1976 and her MS degree from Simmons College as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. She is certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

### CATHERINE NELSON

Ms. Catherine Nelson received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 2007 from Jacksonville University. She is a member of Nursing Organization of Veteran's Affairs (NOVA) and volunteers on the Pepperell disaster preparedness group and the Worcester Medical Corps. Catherine joined the Bedford VA staff as a nursing assistance in 1992 and has progressed through several capacities including: psychiatric nursing assistant, staff nurse, Nurse Manager of a community living center, Minimum Data Set (MDS) nurse, and chart abstractor. Other accomplishments include: collaboration with nursing and MDS in the redesigning of documentation formats, development of a restorative nursing program, research testing the first draft of the new MDS 3.0 and data collection, chart abstraction in collaboration with Boston University and Center for Health Quality, Outcomes, and Economic Research (CHQOER) regarding adverse event triggers, teaching CPR to all employees, and a leader in the cultural transformation journey now underway within the community living centers.

### BEATRICE MATANDIKO ZULU, RM, MSN

Ms. Zulu is the Principle Tutor of Midwifery at the University Teaching Hospital School of Nursing and Midwifery in Lusaka Zambia. Beatrice obtained her diploma in nursing in 1989 and her certificate in Midwifery in 1993 in Zambia. She received her BSN with a major in community health nursing from the University of Zambia in 2000 and her Master's in Gender Studies also from the University of Zambia in 2009. Beatrice participates in numerous international teaching programs most recently in Sweden and Japan. She is a consultant to the Ministry of Health in Zambia to strengthen the national program for Emergency Obstetrical and Neonatal Care. She is an advocate for advanced training for midwives and for improving the teaching environment for students in developing countries. She is the Co-Investigator with Dr. Lynda Tyer-Viola of a 2009 STTI Research Grant titled "The effect of simulation training on knowledge development of registered midwives in Zambia." Beatrice is a role model for the future of nursing in the developing world and an advocate for the health care needs of women and children.

### DR. AMPARO ZARAGOZA

Dr. Amparo Zaragoza is the Chairperson of the Adult Health Nursing Program (undergraduate and graduate) at the University of Navarra, School of Nursing, in Pamplona, Spain. She also was a Post Doctoral Fellow at Boston College Connell School of Nursing and the Massachusetts General Hospital between 2007 and 2008. During this time she published her research about clinical decision making and nursing assessment. Over the past two years she has been a leader in the transformation of the Master's program works to implement a new CNS tract (the first of its kind) in Pamplona. Dr. Zaragoza also collaborated with the leadership at the Clinical de Navarra to establish an official role for the CNS at the hospital. She is a leader in the advancement of nursing throughout Europe.

## MEMBER NEWS

ANGELA AMAR authored “African-American college women’s perceptions of resources and barriers when reporting forced sex,” in *The Journal of the National Black Nurses Association* 19 (2) and co-authored “The intersection of violence, crime, and mental health,” in the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association* 14 (6). She co-authored “Coping with stalking” in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*. She received NIH funding for her project determining attitudes and beliefs on college dating violence.

MARY ARUDA and PAMELA BURKE are among the authors of “Early pregnancy in adolescents: Diagnosis, assessment, options counseling, and referral,” in the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*. Mary also wrote “Early pregnancy in adolescents: Diagnosis, assessment, options counseling and referral” in the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*. The ANCC has announced Mary’s appointment as the new Chair of the Content Expert Panel for the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Exam, 2009-II. Among Mary’s recent poster presentations are: “Understanding and intervening in unprotected intercourse in adolescents,” for the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Annual Meeting in Portland, OR; “Impacting childhood obesity: Incorporating a risk factor assessment questionnaire into a pediatric primary care practice,” for the Northeast Regional Nurse Practitioner Conference. Newton; “Minimizing the discomfort of immunizations for infants,” at Children’s Hospital Nurse’s Week; and “The positive Icon,” at Children’s Hospital Pediatric Primary Care Nursing Conference. She also received the 2009 Distinguished Nurse Practitioner Award from the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners.

JANE ASHLEY authored a chapter, “Preoperative nursing,” and co-authored another, “Intraoperative nursing,” in *Medical-surgical nursing: Preparation for practice*, (Osborn, Wraa & Watson, eds.) for Pearson, New Jersey.

ANN BURGESS co-authored “Pornography use as a risk marker for an aggressive pattern of behavior among sexually reactive children and adolescents,” in the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, 14(6), and also “Children in the foster care system: Vulnerable girls and foster care placement instability,” in *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 34 (3). She was featured in the *Boston College*

*Chronicle*, for organizing a symposium, “Fact vs. fiction: The inside view on forensics in the media.”

ANN BURGESS (as a pioneer in forensic nursing) and CALLISTA ROY (for her Roy Adaptation Model) were among the first inductees into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, given at the International Nursing Research Congress, July 2010. Ann was also designated the first recipient of the International Association of Forensic Nurses’ award for research contributions, which was named after her as well.

DIANE CARROLL was named a finalist in the 2009 Nursing Spectrum Excellence Awards for Mentoring in her role as a researcher at the Yvonne Munn Center at MGH. Awards were presented at the 2009 MARN Spring Convention to several Alpha Chi members.

EDWARD COAKLEY received the Mary A Manning Mentorship Award for a long career in precepting, coaching, and sponsoring nurses at MGH. His most recent mentoring initiative is “RN residency: Transitioning to geriatric and palliative care.” SUSAN EMERY received the Excellence in Nursing Education Award for the development and implementation of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Boston College, and her use of Simulation Management was particularly noted.

DOROTHY JONES received the Excellence in Nursing Research Award for her long career in carrying out and supporting others in carrying out studies that focus on the value and unique knowledge of nurses. In her position as the director of the Yvonne Munn Center for Nursing Research at MGH, she mentors nurses in scholarly inquiry and evidence-based practice.

MAUREEN CURTIS COOPER is the president-elect of the Massachusetts Emergency Nurses Association.

ROSANNA DEMARCO’s recent presentations include: “CNS practice and women living with HIV risk in the community setting: The effective use of film as an intervention tool on safe sex behaviors, intentions, and self advocacy,” at the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists in St. Louis; “Refinement of the ‘Silencing the Self Scale – Work for registered nurses” and “Collaborative Governance Nursing Research committee, ‘More Than Just a Journal Club’” at Massachusetts General Hospital; Philanthropy and responsibilities of members of boards of directors,” at the Women of Color AIDS Council, Inc., Dorchester;

## MEMBER NEWS

“Women’s ways of knowing” and “Women living with HIV in the US.” At the Catholic Intellectual Traditions Lunch Series at the Boisi Center; “Domestic violence and HIV/Aids,” at the National Conference on African Americans and AIDS, Philadelphia; “Women’s Voices Women’s Lives®: Measuring the effect of HIV/AIDS prevention messages on film with inner-city women at risk in transitional housing and drop-in center settings (Phase II),” at the Eastern Nursing Research Society Conference in Boston; “Caring to confront: How self-advocacy positively affects the professional workforce, workplace, and patient care quality,” National Nurses Week keynote at Boston Medical Center; and “Nursing systems research and evidence: How do we know interventions against bullying, harassment, & horizontal violence work. Ending horizontal violence: Creating a culture of cohesion among nurses,” at the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing.

ROSANNA has also co-authored “The effect of prevention messages and self-efficacy skill building with inner city women at risk for HIV infection,” in the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, “Palliative care and African-American women living with AIDS: graduate students learn to creatively tailored quality improvement projects” in the *Journal of Nursing Education*, and “The effect of oppressed group behavior on the culture of the nursing workplace: A review of evidence and interventions for change,” in the *Journal of Nursing Management*, 17(3). Together with JOYCE PULCINI and LOIS HAGGREY, she published “Doctorate in nursing practice: A survey of Massachusetts Nurses,” in the *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 25 (2). Rosanna was awarded the Eastern Nursing Research Society’s Suzanne Feetham Nurse Scientist Family Research Award in March.

DEBORAH D’AVOLIO was a finalist in the Nursing Spectrum’s Excellence Awards for her work in promoting evidence-based geriatric care at Mass. General Hospital.

MARY ELLEN DOONA wrote “Carrie M. Hall (1873-1973): Pioneer at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital,” “Earning prestige at the Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing: 1918-1967,” “Drs. Muriel Poulin and Margaret L. McClure Magnet Hospitals: Attraction and retention of professional nurses,” “A spotlight on

Massachusetts nursing’s history,” “1910: The Board of Registration in Nursing is established,” “Annie McKay: Massachusetts’ first school nurse,” and “A spotlight on Massachusetts Nursing’s history,” all in the *Massachusetts Report on Nursing*.

MARY DUFFY, MARIANNE DITOMASSI and DOROTHY JONES were among the authors of “Psychometric evaluation of the revised professional practice environment (RPPE) scale,” in *JONA* 39(5).

JANE FLANAGAN published “Patient and nurse experiences of theory-based care,” in *Nursing Science Quarterly* 22 (2) and “Postoperative telephone calls: timing is everything.,” in *The Journal of the Association of Perioperative Nursing* 90 (1). With Dorothy Jones, she published “High frequency nursing diagnoses following same day knee arthroscopy, in the *International Journal of Nursing Terminologies and Classifications* 20 (2), as well as a chapter, “Evaluation of the advanced practice nurse: Cost efficiency, accomplishments, trends and future development,” in *Advanced Practice Nursing* (L. Joel, ed.). Jane’s presentations include “Implementing complementary strategies: the evidence and the practice,” for the Boston Chapter of Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association, and “The life processes and patterns of patients living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,” for the American Holistic Nurses Association in Madison, WI.

HOLLY FONTENOT is among the co-authors of “Stage of adoption of the human papilloma virus vaccine among college women,” in *Preventive Medicine* 48, as well as “College men’s knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about the human papilloma virus infection and vaccine,” in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. Together with Joellen Hawkins, she wrote, “What do you mean you want me to teach, do research, engage in service, and clinical practice? Views from the trenches: The novice, the expert,” in the *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*.

SUSAN GENNARO was featured in a *Nursing Spectrum* article December 8, 2008, entitled “Gennaro’s vision: New Dean of Boston College Nursing School breaks barriers to global education.” She was among the authors of “Fostering health inequities: Clinical and research training strategies from nursing education”

in the *Kaohsiung Journal of Medical Sciences*, “Skipping meals and less walking among African-Americans diagnosed with preterm labor,” “Searching for Knowledge:” Worth more or worth less,” and “Wanted: Less time and more space!,” all in the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, of which Susan is also the editor. Her 2008 paper, “An alternative model for post-doctoral education for nurses engaged in research with potentially vulnerable populations,” was selected by the American Academy of Nursing as Best Education Paper. 2008 paper, “An alternative model for post-doctoral education for nurses engaged in research with potentially vulnerable populations,” was selected by the American Academy of Nursing as Best Education Paper.

Three of the four 2009 Living Legends in Massachusetts Awards given by the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses went to Alpha Chi members. MARJORIE GORDON, MARY ELLEN DOONA and JOAN VITELLO received this prestigious recognition at the MARN Awards dinner in May.

JANICE GOODMAN, a professor at MGH Institute, was chosen to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Nurse Faculty Scholar program. She will study mother-infant interventions for post-partum depression.

PAMELA GRACE received a 2009 National Book Award from the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities for her book, *Nursing ethics and professional responsibility in advanced practice*. She also presented “Demystifying the ethical issues of genetic testing” at the 8th Annual Spring Convention of MARN.

ELIZABETH GRADY and SUSAN GENNARO were speakers at the event remembering Rita P. Kelleher, former long-term dean of the Connell School, who died recently at IOI.

KATHERINE GREGORY was named the first Haley Nurse-Scientist at Brigham & Women’s Hospital for her studies on premature infants’ gastrointestinal disorders. She also received an NIH training grant and a Harvard Catalyst grant to support her work on necrotizing enterocolitis.

JOELLEN HAWKINS, LOIS HAGGERTY, CAROLE PEARCE, URSULA KELLY et al published “Adapting and testing the

‘Appraisal of Violent Situation Scales’” in *Health Care for Women International* 30. Joellen, Carole and others published “Using technology to expedite screening and intervention for domestic abuse and neglect” in *Public Health Nursing* 26. Joellen also published a chapter, “Aunt Tommy”, in *Inspiring the Inspirational*.

BARBARA HEDSTROM and MARGE LACCHETTI were listed as nominees for the 2009 Annual Salute to Nurses in the Boston Globe

JUNE HOROWITZ lectured at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as the Beverly L. Bowns Distinguished Visiting Professor. She and ROSANNA DEMARCO were among those presenting “Challenges and strategies in conducting community-based research: Experiences from the CARE project” at a symposium, Strategies for Managing Risks and Challenges in Family and Community-Based Intervention Research, and together with CHRISTINE MURPHY, KATE GREGORY, JOYCE PULCINI and others, June presented “Identifying postpartum depression: Three questions are not as good as 10,” and with the same group in addition to DEBORAH McCARTER-SPAULDING presented “Do race/ethnicity, age, education, income & parity make a difference in maternal-infant interaction for women experiencing postpartum depression? Results from the CARE Study,” all at the Eastern Nursing Research Society 21st Annual Sessions in Boston.

CHERYL KANE was presented a 2009 Nursing Spectrum Excellence Award for Community Service for her role as Director of Development at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless. She also was photographed by “Party Lines” of the *Boston Globe* in connection to her contributions to the 12th Annual Nativity (Preparatory School) Spirit service-awards dinner in February.

SUSAN KELLY-WEEDER published “Identifying high-risk alcohol use and disordered eating in college-age women” in the *American Journal for Nurse Practitioners* and “Validity and utility of the current definition of binge eating “ in the *Journal of Eating Disorders*.

RONNA KROZY was the first recipient of the faculty award given by the John A. Dinneen, S.J. Alumni Committee for her commitment to the Hispanic community.

## MEMBER NEWS

ANNIE LEWIS O'CONNOR was interviewed in "Last minute reprieve" in the Dec. 2009 issue of *Advance for Nurses*, on the budget cuts for the Mass. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, and in "Finding their voices" in the Feb, 2010 issue on victims of domestic violence.

BARBARA MADDEN was selected as an item-writer for the International Association of Forensic Nurses' SANE-A certification examination. She also presented "Summoned to court" at a chapter meeting of the organization.

ANNE MANTON was recently elected Vice-President of the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses.

CAROL MARCHETTI was chosen an American Psychiatric Nurses Association' Janssen scholar, and she presented a poster at the ANPA Conference titled, "The role of post-decisional regret and police reporting among individuals who have experienced sexual assault."

The *Boston Sunday Globe* published RACHEL ROWLEY MCQUILLAN'S letter to the editor regarding health care reform, "A true tale of woe," on June 7th.

"Step forward; MARN volunteers," in the June 2009 issue of the Massachusetts Report on Nursing, featured three Alpha Chi members: ANGELA NANINNI for her work on MARN's Health Policy Committee, ELIZABETH GRADY for her service on the Convention Angela Planning Committee, and MARGIE SIPE for her work on the Membership Committee. also received the 2010 Excellence in Nursing Education Award from MARN.

RITA OLIVIERI wrote a chapter, "Physiological basis of practice: The integument," in the 2nd edition of *Gerontological Nursing*.

JOYCE PULCINI and SHERRY ST. PIERRE were among the authors of *Manual of Ambulatory Pediatrics* (6th ed.) by Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia. Joyce also published "An international survey on advanced nursing education, practice and regulation" in the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* and "Health and the global environment," a chapter in *Community and Public Health Nursing: Evidence for Practice*.

CATHERINE READ was appointed to represent the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) on a Genomics Repository Advisory Committee (National Human Genome Research Institute). She was also re-elected to a third three-year term on the Burlington, MA Board of Health. She received a Health Resources and Services Administration grant for an initiative in nursing workforce diversity.

CALLISTA ROY received the Faculty Achievement Award in recognition of her contribution to the discipline of nursing by the University of Panama Nursing Faculty in January in conjunction with a three day conference at the University of Panama where she presented "Perspectives of nursing discipline for 21st century based on vision of Roy Adaption Model", "Nursing models and theories in educational curricula" and "Linking nursing theory, research, and practice using the Roy Adaption Model." Callista and LIN ZHAN co-presented "Rehabilitation nursing in the long-terco-authored a chapter, "Sister Callista Roy's Adaptation Model and its applications," in *Nursing Theories and Nursing Practice* (Parker & Smith eds., 3rd Ed.) published by F.A. Davis. Callista was also a co-author for "The Roy Adaptation Model and research: Global perspective," in *Nursing Science Quarterly* and "Global nursing conference focused on knowledge for good of persons and society with reflections from PhD students," in the *International Network for Doctoral Education in Nursing Newsletter*. She presented "The Roy Adaptation Model and knowledge-based practice" and was awarded "The Distinguished Nurse Scholar Award" at a program co-sponsored by the Sigma Theta Tau International, Rho Phi Chapter and Framingham State College at Framingham in April. She served as chair and speaker at the Theory RIG Symposium, Knowledge Base for Interventions for the Good of the Individual and Society at the Eastern Nursing Research 21st Annual Scientific Sessions.

JUDITH SHINDUL-ROTHSCHILD, JOYCE PULCINI and others published "The university/ community partnership: Transdisciplinary course development" in the *Journal of Interprofessional Care* 22. Judith also provided a chapter, "Nursing care," to *Clinical Manual for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychotic Depression* (Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Publishing). Her opinions on the nursing job market were quoted in the *Boston Business Journal* as well as the Boston

Globe, and those on the national nurses' union issues were also in the *Boston Globe*. She has recently been appointed to the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Institute on Safe Environments in the Emergency Room.

MARGIE SIPE was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses. The September issue of its publication provided a full documentation of her career and personal life.

RACHEL SPECTOR was appointed to a two-year term on the subcommittee of the Pearl McIver Public Health Nurse Award for the American Nurses Association.

KELLY STAMP was cited in the *Boston College Chronicle* for her research on nurse practitioners' judgments of coronary heart disease risk, which has earned her a past SSTI Research Award and a Scientist Appointment at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

PATRICIA TABLOSKI published the second edition of her book, *Gerontological Nursing*, (Pearson, Upper Saddle River, N.J). The book received the 2009 Book of the Year award from the *American Journal of Nursing*. She received a Health Resources and Services Administration grant to add a pediatric concentration to her existing palliative care curriculum.

JUDITH VESSEY and ROSANNA DEMARCO published "The Undergraduate Research Fellows Program: A unique model to promote engagement in research," in the *Journal of Professional Nursing* 24, and with Lois Haggerty, "The doctorate in nursing practice: A survey of Massachusetts nurses," in the same journal.

JUDITH VESSEY and ANN WILKINSON published "Caring for patients with ADHD throughout the lifespan," in *Counselling Points* 1 (1). Judy presented information regarding academic-practice partnerships on patient safety to the Honorable Michael Kussman, Undersecretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, in February. Judith also is part of a team that established the Northeast Region VA Nursing Alliance, a consortium of area nursing schools to provide care to veterans, allow students to see a different type of health care system and generate ideas for research.

The inaugural Arnold Z. Rosoff Agent of Change Award, by the Ad Club of Boston, was awarded to

DEBORAH WASHINGTON of MGH, honoring her for outstanding diversity initiatives at MGH's Patient Care Services Program.

DANNY WILLIS wrote "Male-on-male rape of an adult man: A case review and implications for interventions" in the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association* 14, and "Meanings in adult male victims' experiences of hate crime and its aftermath," in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 29(6). He co-authored (with Ann Burgess) "Educator sexual abuse: Two case reports" in the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, and also "Healing patterns revealed in middle school boys' experience of being bullied using Rogers' science of unitary human beings" in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing* and "Nurse interruptions pre- and post-implementation of a point-of-care medication administration system" in the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*.

BARBARA WOLFE received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship to design and implement leadership projects involving interdisciplinary collaboration.

ROBIN WOOD co-presented a poster entitled "Development and psychometric analysis of the Breast Cancer Risk Appraisal Scale for Older Women" at the 6th Annual Conference of the American Psycho-Oncology Society, Charlotte NC.

LICHUAN YE was profiled in the *Boston College Chronicle* as a "Welcome Addition" to the faculty, highlighting her research work on sleep disorders in women. She recently was awarded a Research Incentive Grant (RIG). She also co-authored, "Gender differences in the clinical manifestation of obstructive sleep apnea," in *Sleep Medicine*.

ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED NOT TO SEE YOUR NEWS LISTED HERE? IT CAN'T BE HERE IF WE DON'T HEAR ABOUT IT. E-MAIL [BPMADDEN@COMCAST.NET](mailto:BPMADDEN@COMCAST.NET) TO MAKE THE NEXT EDITION.

## The effect of simulation training on knowledge development of registered midwives in Zambia.

Lynda Tyer-Viola

The largest health discrepancy in the world is maternal mortality with most deaths occurring around the labor and delivery and postpartum period. More than 700 per 100,000 women die annually in childbirth. Efforts to avert death and disability have made slow progress in improving the lives of women and children especially in Sub Saharan Africa. One way forward to ensure that women have skilled care at birth is to improve midwifery education.

Alpha Chi 2010 inductee, Ms. Beatrice Zulu, Principal Tutor of Midwifery at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka Zambia and Dr. Lynda Tyer-Viola from the MGH Institute of Health Professions received a small research grant this year from STTI to study the role of simulation in midwifery education in Sub Saharan Africa. Obstetrical simulation is the technique of re-enacting or replicating routine or critical clinical events involving a woman who is pregnant or recently delivered in a safe non judgmental environment with students. The study aimed to introduce simulation as a means of improving midwifery education prior to students entering the clinical setting. The study measured pre and post knowledge of specific assessment skills for midwives and confidence in learning. The study began with Ms.

Zulu coming to the MGH IHP in October 2009 to learn how simulation is used to educate nurses. Next clinical scenarios that supported the midwifery curriculum were developed and tested with faculty at the IHP and outside consultants. Beatrice returned to Zambia and began the study with a pre test of knowledge based on the developed scenarios. Finally in Lusaka, with the assistance of other UTH faculty, Beatrice trained the students using a birthing simulator that was donated to the school by the government of Japan.

Analysis to date has shown that midwifery students are very confident in their ability to learn using a simulator and with this method of teaching. Post knowledge scores did not improve significantly over time with the use of simulation for education. Specifically, students need more instruction in areas such as rapid assessment of a woman in labor and identifying signs of deviations in labor. A limitation of using simulation is the ability of its participants to suspend their beliefs during training to see the scenarios as real life situations. This was the first time the faculty and students have used simulation in the school. Ms. Zulu and Dr. Tyer-Viola hope to continue this training program with improved teaching methods within a skills lab and the integration of the use of simulation into the UTH School of Midwifery curriculum.

## Regret and Police Reporting Among Individuals Who have Experienced Sexual Assault

Carol Anne Marchetti, PhD, RN, CNS-BC, SANE

I would like to express my gratitude to the leadership of the Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau for awarding me a research grant. The financial award was very helpful but I am most grateful for the validation I received by having my work supported by Sigma Theta Tau.

The title of my doctoral dissertation study is "Regret and Police Reporting Among Individuals Who have Experienced Sexual Assault." Sexual assault (SA) is the most widely underreported

violent crime in the United States. Reporting is significant because it is through this process that people access resources that can mitigate psychiatric and other health consequences of SA. The purpose of this study was to describe regret among individuals who have experienced SA regarding their decision of whether or not to report the assault to the police. The Ottawa Decision Support Framework underpins this study and posits that evaluation of regret, a powerful negative emotion, influences the decision-making process.

*(continued on page 19)*

## Honorary Membership in Sigma Theta Tau International

### Mary L. Pekarski 1923-1988

Mary L. Pekarski, a graduate of Emmanuel College in 1944, began her 44-year career at 126 Newbury Street, Boston, as the Evening College Librarian. In 1947, she earned her master's in library science from Simmons College. In that same year, she assumed the position of founding librarian for the new Boston College School of Nursing. She brought this library to two stellar achievements under the National Library of Medicine: the first nursing school library to be included in its computer data bases and literature retrieval facilities and selection as one of the two collections designated as a distinguished New England Resource Library for Nursing. In the words of University President Donald J. Monan, SJ (1972-1996): "Such was the integration of her person, however, that her high professional standards had their perfect counterpart in the warmth of her association with students and colleagues."

In 1983, Mary Pekarski was inducted as an honorary member of Sigma Theta Tau at the biennial convention hosted in Boston. She received the Boston College School of Nursing 25th Anniversary Recognition Award in 1972 and the 1984 Shaw Medal for contributions to the Boston College Libraries. In 1984, the Massachusetts Nurses Association in conjunction with the Massachusetts-Rhode

Island League for Nursing presented Mary their second annual citizens award.

Source: *Alpha Chi News*, 12 (1), January 1989. In *Memoriam, Mary L. Pekarski, Honorary Member, Sigma Theta Tau*. Written by Jean O'Neill

### Mitchell Rabkin, MD

In 1989, Alpha Chi Chapter and Eta Omega Chapter, University of Lowell, jointly sponsored Mitchell T. Rabkin, MD for honorary membership in Sigma Theta Tau. Dr. Rabkin was at that time President of Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Dr. Rabkin was nominated for his support of the nursing profession, as Beth Israel was nationally and internationally recognized at the time for a professional practice environment based on primary nursing. At the induction ceremony at the 30th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis in November of 1989, the Presidents of Alpha Chi, Joan Garity, and Eta Omega, Patricia Moysenko, escorted Dr. Rabkin to receive his honorary membership award.

Sources: *Alpha Chi News*, 13 (1), January 1990, p. 1. *Highlights from the 30th Biennial Conference*. Written by Joan Garity.

The sample included 78 individuals, 18-25 years, who experienced SA during the past five years. Participants completed a 34-item, electronic questionnaire. A multiple regression model was generated to describe how selected independent variables explain variation in levels of regret. In the final model, the following, combined independent variables accounted for 33.3% (adjusted R<sup>2</sup>) of the variation in levels of regret: Weight change, the only variable associated with increased regret, was the most significant and accounted for the greatest amount of variance, followed by stranger assailant, seeking professional treatment, and reporting,

which were associated with decreased regret. On average, people who chose to report their assault experienced less regret regarding their decision to do so as compared to people who did not report. This research fills a gap in the nursing, psychiatric, and victimology literature and improves clinical practice by describing post-decisional regret. The findings from this study provide a foundation for future research on the development of strategies (e.g., the development of decision-making tools) that nurses and other clinicians can use to assist people with their decision-making. Additionally, the findings can contribute to the development of a midrange, nursing theory of regret.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alpha Chi chapter members:

This newsletter was a long time in coming, but we hope that you enjoy this edition. It has provided you with a glimpse of what some of our colleagues are up to. We want to expand on this focus and hope that you will submit your news to us, so we can also promote it. We also want to reach out to you and hope that you will join us and give us ideas/suggestion for our upcoming programs including: the innovation program in the winter and the spring research day program. So, send us your ideas and suggestions for speakers (see email address below)!

We are working on updating our Alpha Chi web site and Facebook page and would like your opinion, so check us out and let us know what you think. Also, we are looking at moving to an electronic version of the newsletter instead of sending out hard copies. You can download the newsletter at our website: [www.bc.edu/nursing/alpha](http://www.bc.edu/nursing/alpha). Email me with feedback on what you would like to see.

Lastly, I would like to offer a challenge to you along the lines of “Where’s Waldo”, I propose that when you travel, take your current copy of the newsletter with you. Take a picture of where you are displaying the newsletter and we will post it in the section titled: “Where in the World is our Alpha Chi colleague now?” Send us your picture and be sure to include your name, year of graduation and identify where you are. I hope you and your family enjoy a joyful and healthy year!

Sincerely,

CATHY ST. PIERRE, ALPHA CHI PRESIDENT

*saintlydoc@aol.com*

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