DELTA ZETA CELEBRATES 34TH INDUCTION CEREMONY

When Lehman College’s Department of Nursing geared up to create innovative programs that would tackle the growing need for baccalaureate prepared registered nurses and advanced practice nurses, graduates from both the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs exploded. For Delta Zeta, that means welcoming many new members that are part of a very large graduating class. This year Delta Zeta welcomed 76 new members into the Honor Society of Nursing and two dual members, Dr. Claudette Gordon and Natasha Nurse.

Among the inductees were five nurse leaders from Colombia South America who joined us via Skype. Dr. Martha Whetsell introduced the nurse leaders: Dr. Gloria Maria Ateohurta, President of Universidad La Libre in Pereira, Colombia. She is the first nurse of South America to be a President of a University. Dr. Mercy Soto is Dean and Professor of Nursing at Universidad La Libre. Her research is in cardiovascular problems and Hope. Dr. Maria Elena Lopez is Director of Graduate Nursing Programs at Universidad La Libre. Dr. Lopez’ research is in obesity in children. Dr. Lili Andrea Buitrago is the Director of Nursing Undergraduate Programs at Universidad La Libre and her research is in obesity in women. Finally, Dr. Maria Olivo Sanchez is Director of Research at Universidad la Libre. Her research is in prevention of HIV in teen agers. These distinguished nurse leaders are interested in forging an ongoing global relationship of scholarship and research with the Delta Zeta Chapter and Lehman College. We were thrilled to interact with these nurse leaders and have their full participation in the induction ceremony.

Our keynote speaker was Connie Sobon Sensor, immediate Past Secretary of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Board of Directors and former Region 14 coordinator. Connie addressed Sigma Theta Tau’s role in addressing global health initiatives using collaborative approaches. Highlighting STTI’s role as a non-governmental organization (NGO) working with the United Nations, Connie discussed various outreach programs, such as an ongoing nurse service leadership project implemented in the Dominican Republic. Connie led the audience on her leadership journey, from chapter leader to Board of Directors. She shared valuable information to keep members engaged and motivated.

Once the keynote address ended, Delta Zeta candidates stood to affirm their acceptance in STTI. But the evening was not over yet. Kate Galambos, past president of Delta Zeta announced that she would provide an annual award that would pay the cost of one year’s membership dues for three members. Inductees were all given a chance to win through a random lottery. When the drawing was done, three inductees were announced. (see “Giving Back to Move Forward” on page 4). The evening ended with everyone enjoying refreshments and celebrating the accomplishments of our newest members.
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

First, allow me to get everyone up-to-date with Delta Zeta. When Delta Zeta’s Past President Mirian Zavala resigned from her second term of office due to unforeseen circumstances; the role of President was to transfer to the then Vice-President (VP). However, the VP was unable to assume the President’s role so upon request I accepted responsibility for leading Delta Zeta as the President once again. Dedicated to the mission and vision of promoting excellence, scholarship, leadership, and health of people world-wide, I forged ahead to help Delta Zeta accomplish its goals and remain a vibrant chapter.

Over the past two years, Delta Zeta accomplished several milestones. In the spring of last year, Delta Zeta partnered with CUNY’s Chapter of the American Association of Men in Nursing (AANM) and Lehman College to present our first collaborative nursing research day. Participants presented posters and gave oral presentations of their original research. Among the presenters were: Eleanor Campbell, EdD, who discussed her research in obesity among adolescents in New York City and South Africa; Gina Miranda-Diaz, DNP, discussed her research in screening and patient navigation for Latina patients with breast cancer. Alex Bux, PhD, discussed his research on Nurses’ Perceptions of the Usefulness of High Fidelity Simulation Technology in a Clinical Education Program. By the end of the program I witnessed one student’s “Aha” moment as she exclaimed “I finally understand how what we’re learning fits into nursing research!

In December 2013, Delta Zeta collaborated with two nursing organizations, Northeast Chapter Transcultural Nursing Society and CUNY’s chapter of AAMN to present one of the most successful mentoring events in the chapter’s history. Energy was palpable as the East Dining Room filled with nurses and nursing students in various stages of their education and careers. Over 170 people gathered at Lehman to take part in the day long mentoring experience.

The mentoring program started off with poster presentations, round table discussions, and networking; followed by greetings from Dr. C. Alicia Georges, Chair of the Nursing Department and Chapter Presidents. Dr. Connie Vance, Professor and Former Dean at the College of New Rochelle School of Nursing gave the keynote address “Mentoring New Leaders”. A renowned expert in mentoring, Dr. Vance shared her experiences and provided valuable insight for novice and veteran nurses.

Continuing with the mentoring theme was Dr. Marianne Jeffrey, who presented “Mentoring in Transcultural Research: A Way to Develop New Leaders.” Dr. Jacqueline Witter followed with an enthusiastic presentation about mentoring the novice nurses using a ‘train the trainer’ approach. At the end of the day, Drs. Connie Vance, Marianne Jeffrey, and Priscilla Sagar stayed for a book signing of their latest publications. What an excellent day!

Spring induction continues to be impressive. 76 new members joined Delta Zeta this year, and 67 new members were inducted in 2013. We are becoming more globally connected as five nurse leaders from Colombia, South America were also inducted. New members are growing fast but the challenge is keeping members active and involved. To carry on Delta Zeta’s legacy we need new members to work with seasoned leaders. I encouraged new and “old” members to be engaged. Attend chapter meetings and events. Become familiar with Sigma Theta Tau’s online site known as “the Circle.” The Circle provides a mechanism for communication among members, chapters, and regions. I also encourage you to complete the Volunteer Interest Profile (VIP). For additional information related to the Circle and VIP, go to [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org).

We are most excited about Delta Zeta’s upcoming 35th anniversary celebration in April 2015! Harriet Parness, our archivist is spearheading the event. We are calling on members to participate in the 35th anniversary planning committee and other tasks forces. If you are able to participate contact me at: Theresa.lundy@lehman.cuny.edu. I will gladly direct you to the right person.

Finally, as I prepare to exit my role as President of the Delta Zeta Chapter once again, I express my sincere gratitude to the executive board, leaders, members, and friends who help make this chapter a success. Our local, regional, and global outreach continues to forge a path of collaboration and excellence in nursing and health care. I am confident that Delta Zeta will continue to grow and thrive as a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Chapter Officers and Award Recipient Farley Villarenne, Sybilla Douglas, Nora Campbell, Dorothy Phinn, Lee-Kon Chen (award recipient), Scott Saccomano
The 42nd Biennial convention of Sigma Theta Tau International took place November 16-20th at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, Indiana. More than 2000 members were present. I had the privilege of attending the conference as a delegate for the Delta Zeta Chapter of Lehman College. The theme of the conference was “Give Back to Move Forward”, and was evident throughout the entire program.

During the conference I was very fortunate to be able to witness the installation of Hester Klopper, PhD, MBA, RN, RM, FANSA of South Africa as the 30th President of Sigma Theta Tau International. Dr. Klopper made history, as she is the first person to serve in this role from outside North America. Her call to action was for us to serve locally, transform regionally, and lead globally.

I have attended several conferences with different nursing and health professional organizations, but Sigma Theta Tau’s conference exceeded all my expectations. This was by far the largest conference I have ever attended. There were nurses present representing almost every state in the U.S. and nurses from countries all over the world. It was like a mini UN. Nurses were networking, sharing ideas, and comparing practices.

There were numerous activities, programs, educational workshops, poster exhibits, and receptions to attend. The poster exhibit was by far the largest I have ever experienced. There was a Career Management Center that was sponsored by Johnson and Johnson and provided members with career advice. Sigma Theta Tau also had the STTI Marketplace with paraphernalia and books for sale. Several authors were present for book signings. There was also a very large exhibit hall that was set up for vendors and different colleges. There was never a dull moment.

The opening session of the conference was very motivating. Mayor Greg Ballard of Indianapolis welcomed us with his warm sense of humor. Our Immediate Past President Dr. Suzanne Prevost inspired us and spoke about Sigma Theta Tau’s accomplishments during her tenure. She also discussed the importance of precepting and creating a legacy by sharing our expertise with student nurses and new nurses. There was also a magnificent flag processional with each bearer representing a country where a STTI chapter is located. It was a beautiful sight watching as each country was called and members paraded in with flags held high and proud.

Sigma Theta Tau International offered several concurrent sessions. It was difficult for me to decide which ones to attend because the topics were all very interesting. I attended a Chapter Leadership Session that spoke about strategies for effective chapter communication, “Evidence Based Teaching Strategies for Nursing Education”, and “Embrace Technology: The Do It Yourself Technology Toolbelt”, which discussed findings of STTI’s taskforce to embrace technology in all areas of nursing. I also had the opportunity to attend “Nurse Educators Role in Transforming Education for the Future” of which one of the presenters was the famous author Dr. Diane Billings. All the sessions were very informative and well attended.

The delegate’s session convened over two days. 468 chapters were represented, 18 Regional Coordinators and 3 past Presidents were in attendance. Voting was done electronically. Cathy Catrambone, PhD, RN, FAAN the current Vice-President of STTI won the vote for President-Elect. She will succeed Dr. Klopper at the end of her term. On the regional level, Teresa Torsney, MSN, RN-BC remains our Region 14 Coordinator.

While in Indiana I had the opportunity to visit STTI Headquarters, Center for Nursing Scholarship. It is located on the campus of Indiana Purdue University. It is a beautiful building with lots of nursing history and memorabilia. I went on a guided tour and one of the things that surprised me was the Audrey Hepburn Room, in honor of the famous actress. I found out that Audrey Hepburn was a staunch supporter of STTI and a great humanitarian. One of her quotes that is posted in the room reads “Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I’m possible.”

STTI conference takes place biennially, the next one will be held in Las Vegas Nevada. I encourage every single member to attend at least once. It is an experience of a lifetime that will change how you think of nursing. It will enlighten and inspire you to think globally for we as nurses have immense strength in our numbers and can have a major positive impact on the health of nations.
“Giving Back to Move Forward” was the theme of the 42nd Biennial Convention and the President’s call to action. Consistent with these strategic directions, Kate Galambos, past president of the Delta Zeta Chapter announced that she would give an annual “Gratitude Award”. The following sentiments were shared by Kate as she announced the award:

John F. Kennedy said “When we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” These words resonate as I consider my experience at Lehman College Graduate Nursing program and the many ways that experience shaped and informed my nursing career - - -and in fact my life- - ever since. I am deeply thankful that I had the opportunity to attend Lehman, for the teachers, the students, the environment, and the quality of learning there. Lehman College’s nursing program deserves its reputation as one of the most rigorous and relevant programs in the country and its administrators deserve the highest praise for their vision and dedication to the spirit and honorable legacy of nursing.

As my way of living by these words of gratitude, I am honored to offer an annual award of support to the Lehman College nursing program. The Gratitude Award will provide three Delta Zeta inductees with one year of membership in the Sigma theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. I hope that the award will encourage a lifetime of nursing excellence for the awardees and for anyone touched by the power of gratitude.

–Kate Galambos, Past President

The First Annual Gratitude Awards were presented to: Assetou Cisse-Smith, Desiree Gay Sessions, and Lee-Kon Chen (pictured above). Delta Zeta is also “giving back to move forward”. Last year Delta Zeta provided free admission to several pre-nursing and undergraduate nursing students to chapter and regional events, such as the Mentoring program.

In Memoriam

A moment of silence was dedicated to our beloved nurse and colleague K. Sook Ahn, RN who perished in the Metro North train derailment last year. K. Sook was a recent graduate of Lehman College Family Nurse Practitioner Program

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Judge Stanley Parness, husband of Harriet Parness, our archivist and First President of the Delta Zeta Chapter. Stanley often accompanied Harriet to chapter events and was even recognized during Delta Zeta’s 30th Anniversary celebration. Our thoughts are with Harriet and family.

We are saddened to announce the passing of Dr. Ronald Ellis, husband of Dr. C. Alicia Georges, Chair of the Department of Nursing. Ronald was very supportive of Sigma Theta Tau International and often accompanied Dr. Georges to events. Our thoughts are with Dr. Georges and family.

Mark Your Calendar:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Region 14 Biennial Conference and Brunch. (Co-sponsored by Delta Zeta)</td>
<td>December 7, 2014 at Staten Island University Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sigma Theta Tau Leadership Connection</td>
<td>September 24 – 27, 2014 in Indianapolis, IND. Early bird registration deadline is July 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delta Zeta 35th Anniversary Celebration</td>
<td>April 2015 (date to be announced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>STTI 43rd Biennial Convention</td>
<td>November 7 – 11, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada</td>
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