



# Kappa Chronicle

**KAPPA EPSILON AT-LARGE CHAPTER**

**Fall 2009**

of SIGMA THETA TAU International  
Honor Society of Nursing

## Sigma Theta Tau and Healthcare Reform



**Mary Molewyk Doornbos PhD RN**  
Chairperson and Professor  
Department of Nursing  
Calvin College

The news is saturated with talk of health care reform. Turn on the television, pick up a newspaper, check your Blackberry or search the latest health care tweets – whatever source you consult, everyone is talking about health care reform. The dialogue around this issue at the town hall meetings across the nation has alternatively been productive and caustic. The variety of issues posed includes quality care, efficient care, affordable care, access to care, preventative care, universal coverage, private versus government sponsored insurance, health care choice, and health care decision making. It is apparent that the concerns are extremely complex as well as real and personal.

In the spring, 2009 *Kappa Chronicle*, Dean Cynthia Mc Curren wrote of the interface of the vision of Sigma Theta Tau International with the IOM competencies. I would suggest that this same vision statement provides excellent direction as to the role of nurses in this critical dialogue about health care reform. Our vision statement can be read as a challenge:

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

Nurses as the largest group of health care providers in the United States can and must take a leadership role in this conversation about health care reform. Our discipline's generation of new knowledge via research and scholarship expands the science of nursing and provides the foundation for our evidence based practice. Such evidence based practice can concretely assist our nation in moving toward the goals of a health care system characterized by quality, efficiency, and affordability. Nurses have historically understood the essential nature of preventative care and partnering with persons around their health care decision-making and have directed scholarly endeavors toward these topics. So who better than nurses to offer an informed perspective on this issue? Who better than nurses to speak on a panel, write a letter to the editor, or communicate with a member of Congress? Let's use this opportune moment to rise to the challenge of our organization's vision statement and work toward improving the health of our nation. One caution, however, offered by Florence Nightingale: "You ask me why I do not write something.... I think one's feelings waste themselves in words; they ought all to be distilled into actions and into actions which bring results."



## Spring Research Gathering a Great Success

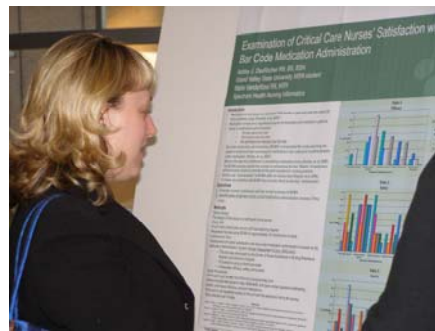
**Barbara Vincensi RN MSN**  
**Hope College**  
**VP and Kappa Epsilon at-Large Chapter**  
**Planning Committee Member**

The April 15 annual spring event held in Grand Rapids at the Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavilion Healing Gardens had just under a 100 attending the three hour program. Held in collaboration with Spectrum Health Nursing Research, twenty seven poster presentations represented research from practice as well academia. Topics included evidenced based practice and quality improvement, to education and various research methodologies to study certain phenomena. The poster presenters ranged from students in upper level undergraduate nursing programs to doctoral level students, as well as seasoned researchers in academia and staff nurses at local hospitals, allowing for important networking opportunities across all levels.

Margaret Bowles PhD RN from Grand Rapids Community College, a new researcher and recent doctoral graduate, presented on her dissertation topic of the lost boys and girls of Sudan. Phyllis Gendler PhD RN from Grand Valley State University presented on building a program of research based on her years of research experience with osteoporosis in women. Both presentations provided insights into different research methodologies and topics, and were so well attended there was literally standing room only. For the first time, continuing education units were offered and members had an opportunity to contribute money to support Kappa Epsilon's research scholarships at a table manned by our research committee members.

The food, the people, the research, and the networking made this evening a big success. We hope to make this an annual event and have our numbers grow, to allow local and regional sharing of quality research that is taking place by our colleagues. Thank you to all who

attended and to all who helped to make this event a success! We hope to see you next year.



## New Member Induction and Award Ceremony with Brunch Reception is November 14

The honor of your presence as a chapter member is requested to welcome our newest members into the chapter and celebrate chapter award recipients.

**9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.** at the Applied Technology Center (ACT)

151 Fountain St NE, GR 49503

**Parking:** Please plan to park in the student/public ramp across from the ATC on Ransom St. Please note, if you park on the street, metered street parking around campus is patrolled/ticketed on Saturdays. There is now very limited public parking in the ATC ramp (under the building).

**Speaker:**

*Discover Your Strengths and Lead!*  
Michelle R. Troseth, RN, MSN, DPNAP  
Executive VP/Chief Professional Practice Officer  
CPM Resource Center/Elsevier

**Chapter Members Welcome** - RSVP by November 5 to Denise Edgecomb at [denise.edgecomb@spectrum-health.org](mailto:denise.edgecomb@spectrum-health.org) or 616-391-3601.

## Kappa Epsilon Awards Research Monies

Congratulations to our two Kappa Epsilon members, Kari Blech and Jamie Rubin, who were awarded monies from our chapter in April 2009 for their research. A total of \$875 was distributed between these researchers, based on the review of their proposals by the Research Committee chaired by Dr. Sue Mlynarczyk. The abstracts from each proposal are included below to inform members about the types of research being conducted by their fellow KE at Large colleagues.

***Kari Blech***

Grand Valley State University  
MSN Candidate Summer 2009

***Coping Mechanisms Utilized by Adolescent Mothers During Early Infancy***

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Teenage mothers are in a stressful situation as they begin caring for an infant during a time when they are still developing. In the literature there is limited information about how teenage mothers cope. This non-experimental, descriptive study seeks to determine what coping methods are utilized and which are most effective among teenage mothers of young infants during the first six months of the infant's life. Teenage mothers who are 19 years old and younger when the infant was born will be recruited from two health clinics. Instruments to be used include a short demographic form and the Revised Jalowiec Coping Scale. Analysis will be done using SPSS; descriptive statistics will describe the sample and t-tests will be used to answer the research questions. ■

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***Jami Rubin***

Hope College  
BSN Candidate May 2009

***Measuring the Impact of a New Health Education Curriculum in Cameroon, Africa***

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Evidence based health education modules were designed in the summer of 2007, for a village in Cameroon, based on the needs identified in the community health surveys. The lessons have been implemented, with a group of trainees, in May 2008. This project seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum to initiate behavior change, and the sustainability of the teaching process. A modified version of the KPC 2000 survey and qualitative questioning will be implemented in May 2009 with families with children under five years. Analysis will be done with SPS 16.0 and qualitative data coding for similar themes. ■

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## “It’s a Cure Thing” for this Community Service Activity

Participation fee: \$23.00 . . . Time expenditure: Maximum of three hours . . . Knowing that each member of the Kappa Epsilon RNs team of walkers/runners made a difference in the fight against breast cancer: **PRICELESS!!!**

Members of the Kappa Epsilon-at-Large Chapter voiced a desire to be involved in an activity where connections are made with the West Michigan community, making a difference in the lives of others. As a result, the executive board of the chapter opted to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual **Race for the Cure®** event which was held at Rivertown Crossings Mall, Grandville, on Saturday morning, September 26, 2009.

Using the rallying cry of “It’s a Cure Thing”, Megan Roberts and Joy Washburn co-coordinated the team representing our chapter. Thirty people registered as members of the Kappa Epsilon RNs team. Everyone who participated had a great experience at the **Race for the Cure®**. Some of the team members participated in the timed 5K race, while others chose to participate in the non-timed 5K community walk. No matter which aspect was the focus of participation, it was agreed that this event was a wonderful venue for Kappa Epsilon-at-Large members to demonstrate involvement and commitment to making a difference in our community.

**Race for the Cure®** is sponsored annually by the Grand Rapids affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure. Of the monies raised at this event, 75% remain in the West Michigan area. Funds are used for programs related to breast cancer education and awareness as well as providing women in need with financial assistance to help cover costs associated with screening mammograms.

Researchers at the U.S. National Cancer Institute estimate that 192,370 women and 1,910 men will be diagnosed with new cases of breast cancer in 2009. For the same time period, it is estimated that breast cancer will result in the

deaths of 40,170 women and 440 men (<http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/types/breast>).

An unfortunate reality is that every member of the Kappa Epsilon-at-Large Chapter has known or will know someone affected by breast cancer.

The plan is to have a Kappa Epsilon RNs team participating in the 2010 **Race for the Cure®**. This year, we had 30 people sign up for our team (over 6,500 people registered to participate in the 2009 event). For 2010, we would like to double the number of participants representing the Kappa Epsilon-at-Large Chapter in this community event. Together we can make a difference in the fight against breast cancer in the West Michigan community. Be a part of a “Cure Thing” in Fall 2010 and we will see YOU at the starting line.

**Thanks to Megan Roberts and Joy Washburn for serving as team captains. Great job!**



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

The annual chapter business meeting was held on April 15, 2009 in conjunction with the research educational event. There were over 50 members in attendance. A motion was passed allowing members of the chapter Research Committee to apply for research funds by removing themselves from the decision-making process in order to become eligible. The Kappa Epsilon at-Large Chapter by-laws were modified accordingly.

The 2009-2010 strategic plan was reviewed and supported by the membership. The plan is listed below.

### KNOWLEDGE

will lead in the development and transfer of knowledge

1. Offer two educational programs per calendar year
  - Spring 2009 research event- April 15, 2009
  - Fall 2009 Induction
2. Provide a minimum of 2 research awards annually- finance awards through chapter fundraising activities

### LEADERSHIP

will focus on the development of creative nurse leaders in all areas of practice who influence and transform communities and environments

3. Create a chapter intern program designed for newer members to serve in an advisory capacity on the Board as a liaison for nursing students and new members
4. Sponsor a newer member to attend the STTI leadership academy or biennial convention (chapter intern as above)

### SERVICE

the application of knowledge and leadership used to make a desirable difference for others.

5. Partner with global initiatives occurring through chapter nursing programs
6. Promote community fundraising efforts on the part of chapter members. Form teams on behalf of Kappa Epsilon to participate in the Race for the Cure scheduled for Saturday, Sept 26, 2009

### COMMUNITIES

to promote the development of communities among the nurses of excellence within its membership, chapters and beyond to address issues of importance aligned with the vision, mission and strategic directions of the organization.

7. Link chapter website to all 4 colleges
8. Use technology to highlight newsletter on college web-sites- include a place for members to update e-mail addresses
9. Provide a balance of practice setting clinicians and academicians on the board to increase visibility in the community at large.

### GROWTH

the cultivation, acquisition, stewardship and development of human and fiscal assets that preserve the vision, values and legacy of the honor society.

10. Increase relevance for new members by redesigning the chapter website. (See also chapter intern, educational events, & fundraising above.)



## Encourage Your Colleagues to Join the Nursing Honor Society

Did you know that it's now easier than ever for your nurse colleagues to join our chapter? Nurse leaders who meet the criteria listed below may join the Nursing Honor Society at any time during the year. Letters of endorsement from chapter members are no longer necessary. New members will be invited to attend the next scheduled chapter Induction Ceremony after joining.

### Nurse Leader Candidates must:

- Be legally recognized to practice nursing in his/her country
- Have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field
- Demonstrate achievement in nursing

**How to Join:** Candidates may apply on-line at [www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/ApplyNow/Pages/applynow.aspx](http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/ApplyNow/Pages/applynow.aspx)

### Examples of Achievement in Nursing:

- Creativity/Innovation in clinical practice
- Leadership qualities contributing to improved health care
- Teaching
- Administration
- Curriculum development
- Improvement of the status of nursing organizations
- Innovative student-focused learning approaches
- Research development utilization
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Staff development
- Mentoring of colleagues

- Innovative professional recognition of programs

**Marlene Holstine**, RN-C, MBA-HCM recently volunteered to take on the role of Nurse Leader new member liaison. Once a candidate applies for membership on the Nursing Honor Society website, Marlene will review the application and communicate with the candidate. We are very grateful for Marlene's willingness to serve the chapter in this capacity along with her Award Committee Chair responsibilities.

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## Be a Member Who Makes a Difference

Not sure what you are getting from your chapter membership? Perhaps you are missing the opportunity to be a member who is making a difference for the chapter. There are many ways to actively participate. Currently the **newsletter editor position** is vacant. This may sound daunting but it's actually made very simple by our excellent administrative assistant Pat Hall who has the formatting down to a science. In addition we are looking for members to give a few hours a year to assist with ongoing **archiving**.

Are you a newer member? Perhaps you would be interested in leadership mentoring by serving as a **Chapter Intern**. Is photography your hobby? Perhaps you would enjoy serving as our **chapter event photographer**. Want to join a **planning team** for our annual fundraising or research events? If any of these options interest you or if you have an interest in serving on the Board please e-mail Jeanne Roode our chapter President at [Jeanne.roode@spectrum-health.org](mailto:Jeanne.roode@spectrum-health.org).

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## Welcome to New Board Members

Ten newly elected board members were sworn in at the April 2009 annual business meeting (see names with asterisk below). We are grateful for their willingness to step forward and support our chapter some for a second term.

### 2009-2010 Kappa Epsilon Board and Committees

#### President:

**Jeanne Roode**- Spectrum Health

#### President-elect:

**Joy Washburn\***- Grand Valley State University

#### Vice-Presidents:

**Cindy Beel-Bates**- GVSU

**Paulette Chaponniere\***- Hope College

**Carol Rossman\***- Calvin College

**Michelle Teschendorf\***- Ferris State University

#### Secretary:

**Sharon Etheridge**

#### Treasurer:

**Cindy Reistroffer\***- Spectrum Health

#### Faculty Counselors:

**Nicki Grinstead**-GVSU

**Susan Mlynarczyk\***-GVSU

**Mary VanderWal\***-Calvin

**Judith Baker**- Calvin

**Donna Garrett\***- Hope

**Susan Fogarty**- FSU

#### Leadership Succession / Nomination:

**Marilyn Smidt**- Chair

**Keverne Lehman\***- Spectrum Health

**Jacquie Oliai\***- Spectrum Health

#### Award Committee:

**Marlene Holstine**- Chair-  
Zeeland Community Hospital

**Karen Meyerson**-  
Saint Mary's Health Care

**Marilyn DeVries**- MetroHealth

#### Governance Committee:

Judith Baker

#### Research Award Committee Members:

Sue Mlynarczyk- chair- GVSU

Michelle Teschendorf- FSU

Pat Schafer- GVSU

Linda Scott- GVSU

Nancy Barnum- Hope

Mary VanderWal- Calvin



Seated left to right: Sharon Etheridge, Jeanne Roode, Joy Washburn

Standing left to right: Jacquie Oliai, Paulette Chaponniere, Cindy Reistroffer, Susan Fogarty, Cynthia Beel-Bates, Marilyn Smidt



## Website Under Construction

You've probably noticed that the website for the Kappa Epsilon-at-Large chapter of STTI has not been available for the past several weeks. That's because the website address and server/host are changing - the website will be hosted by the server associated with Grand Valley State University. So we are taking advantage of this opportunity to put together a whole new site to meet the needs of our members. So stay tuned . . . an email and link will be sent out to invite everyone to explore the Kappa Epsilon website as soon as it is ready!

