



Sigma Theta Tau International

Epsilon Sigma Chapter

East Tennessee State University

Volume 3, Issue 2

Winter 2005

Highlights from the 38th Biennial Convention

Epsilon Sigma sent the President, Suzanne Boswell to the Convention. Below is a brief list of the convention highlights. There will be a President's message next issue.

Plenary Keynote Address

Greta Sherman, nationally recognized authority on healthcare staffing, delivered the keynote address at the convention's opening plenary session Saturday afternoon. Sherman is senior vice president of healthcare strategic planning at TMP Worldwide Advertising & Communications, a division of Monster Worldwide, Inc., the parent company of Monster®.

Her presentation was titled *Empowering Nurses—Taking Control*.

"By 2010 we're going to have a gaping hole in U.S. healthcare delivery because 600,000 nursing positions in this country will be vacant," Sherman said. "Healthcare organizations, like the rest of corporate America, are finally discovering that recruiting and retaining top talent is critical to survival. We need to move beyond the caring, altruistic female-dominated image of nursing to one that is professional, respectable and desirable."

Audrey Hepburn Award

Dr. Gene C. Anderson, PhD, RN, FAAN. Accepted the Audrey Hepburn Award in recognition of her significant contributions to the health and well-being of children.

Anderson is the Edward J. and Louise Mellen professor of nursing at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Through decades of research, Dr. Anderson has proved that most mature preterm infants, born between 34- and 36-weeks' gestation, can thrive safely without intensive care if they begin skin-to-skin contact with the mother within the first half hour after birth, remain in this "kangaroo care" almost continuously, breastfeed whenever possible and are cared for cooperatively by a supportive nursing staff.

The Episteme Laureate

Marylin J. Dodd, RN, PhD, FAAN is Professor and Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, and the Sharon A. Lamb Endowed Chair in Nursing, University of California, San Francisco, School of Nursing. For over 30 years, she has tested a variety of self-care interventions designed to reduce the severity and distress of cancer-related symptoms and treatment-related side effects experienced by oncology patients. As a leader in the field of oncology nursing and symptom management, she has been a mentor for oncology nursing researchers. Many of her students hold leadership positions in university schools of nursing in the United States, Europe, Canada, Japan, and Taiwan. Others are clinical specialists and administrators who are instrumental in influencing the care of oncology patients.

Sigma Theta Tau Fall Lecture featuring Dr. Madeleine Leininger

Sigma Theta Tau has continued the tradition of bringing another notable nurse theorist to the region this past October. Dr. Madeleine Leininger was the featured guest for the 2005 Fall Lecture. She is the founder and leader of the academic field of transcultural nursing which focuses on comparative cultural care theory, research and practice.

She began her career as a nurse but came to understand that the essential quality nurses bring to healthcare is caring. This term has been extremely difficult to define as each person and each culture places different values on the term. She then turned to anthropology and specialized in learning about 2 cultures – Africa and southeast pacific islands. She was sent to each region to live and learn. Once she felt established in the communities she found they had equal difficulty defining what they felt caring involved.

Lack of caring is easy to define, however the qualities of positive caring are hard to put into words. Subsequent studies by her followers have found over 20 different terms/definitions of the caring principle. Dr. Leininger feels strongly that caring is the essence of nursing and when we can properly define this to a larger audience, the profession will be better able to have a concrete defining statement of what benefit nurses bring to healthcare. In an increasingly global world, she believes nurses need at least training in 2 cultures in order to be able to relate to different peoples that will inevitably show up in our clinics and hospitals.

For more information on Dr. Leininger, you can read the following websites: <http://www.madeleine-leininger.com/>

Nursing Students with Dr. Leininger. [Photography courtesy of Cathy Jo Damoth](#)

Sigma Theta Tau International, Epsilon Sigma Chapter Induction

Epsilon Sigma Chapter held the 2005-2006 induction ceremony on November 10, 2005 and welcomed sixty-four new members into the chapter. The inductees included 43 undergraduates, 8 RN to BSN students, 10 master students, one doctoral student, and two community leaders. Jean Croce Hemphill RN, PhD, and president –elect of the chapter, gave the keynote address on nurses' responsibility to promote advocacy for those we care for and to for those who participate in nursing research. She emphasized the difficulties nurses face when promoting patient advocacy in practice and research, especially actively promoting advocacy for those who are most vulnerable and who have no voice.

A reception was held at the Jonesboro Visitor's Center following the ceremony for the new inductees, family and friends, and current members. The new members were welcomed into the chapter and encouraged to participate in the numerous chapter events.

Photography courtesy of Cathy Jo Damoth

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board of Director Meeting

ROOM 109 AT THE VA NURSING HOME CARE UNIT #162

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH AT 5:30

39TH BIENNIAL SIGMA THETA TAU CONVENTION

“VISION TO ACTION: GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH COLLABORATION”

NOVEMBER 2-6, 2007

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY

FEBRUARY 23, 2006 5:30PM -8:00PM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 1/15/2006

SEND TO: DR. PATRICIA HAYES, ETSU

17TH INTERNATIONAL NURSING RESEARCH CONGRESS

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY GLOBALLY THROUGH COLLABORATION

JULY 20-22, 2006

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE-BASED NURSING PRECONFERENCE

ADVANCING EVIDENCE-BASED NURSING THROUGH COLLABORATION

JULY 19, 2006

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA – LE CENTRE SHERATON

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR BOTH: 12/15/2006

Call for New Board Members

Epsilon Sigma Chapter Board election will take place this spring. This year there are opportunities available for the following positions: President- elect, Nominating Committee Chair, Faculty Counselor, and Research Chair. Position description of President –elect includes 2 year mentoring by the chapter president on chapter operations. Nominating Committee Chair is responsible for the committee that gathers interested candidates for office. Faculty Counselor is a member of East Tennessee State University nursing faculty who determines student membership eligibility, and Research Chair leads the committee who organizes the annual search meeting. All offices are two year commitments and include support from current board and active members. If anyone is interested, please contact Sara Winegar at sara.winegar@med.va.gov or 423-979-2687.

Epsilon Sigma Chapter Annual Research Day Call for Abstracts

Epsilon Sigma Chapter announces the Annual Research Day will be held February 23, 2006 from 5:30pm to 8:00 pm at D.P. Culp Center on the campus of East Tennessee State University. Keynote speaker is Dr. Joellen Edwards, who will speak on health disparities research.

Call for abstracts for presentation are due by January 15, 2006. Please send abstract information to Dr. Patricia Hayes at East Tennessee State University at HayesP@etsu.edu

Condolences

The Board and members of Epsilon Sigma Chapter send sincere condolences to chapter president Susanne Boswell who recently experienced the death of her father. Our prayers for sympathy and peace are with her and her family during this time of loss.