



# Sigma Theta Tau International

## Epsilon Sigma Chapter

### East Tennessee State University

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#### A Message from the President

Dear Chapter Members,

We are called to action to look forward to new directions. Action and looking forward are themes of Epsilon Sigma Chapter as we move to incorporate chapter best practices. In order to fulfill strategic directions, Sigma Theta Tau, International has challenged all chapters to focus on specific principles of excellence, specifically knowledge, leadership, service, community, and sustainability. Our chapter has excelled in knowledge. Chapter excellence is exemplified by expansion of research programs and activities with both students and practicing nurses, culminating in our spring program featuring Dr. Janice Morse. Our chapter has exemplified leadership by our alliances with local and regional health care organizations, institutions. We are recognized for our service and community by joining with other nursing organizations to celebrate nurses' week, and by our outreach to other nurses in surrounding states. We are committed to sustainability by actively identifying members' talents, and by providing grants to students and researchers for research activities. Mentoring is also an important part of our sustainability process because if we nurture nursing's future leaders in their professional growth, the profession will thrive. We have an ethic of mentoring that includes knowledge sharing and knowledge development among members, students, and the community. We are proud to be sponsoring one of our nursing leaders at Sigma Theta Tau International Omada Board leadership program. We have surveyed students at least twice on membership privileges and have scholarships available for potential student inductees.

*Jean Croce Hemphill PhD, APRN, BC  
President, Epsilon Sigma Chapter  
Sigma Theta Tau International*

#### Epsilon Sigma Chapter Celebrates 25 years of Chartering

Epsilon Sigma Chapter is proud to celebrate its 25 year anniversary of its chartering. The chapter was chartered at East Tennessee State University by the College of Nursing. First housed in Lamb Hall, the nursing faculties diligently pursued development of the Epsilon Sigma Chapter with the hope of supporting scholarship and excellence. A plaque was presented to Dr. Patricia Smith at the Annual Research/Theory Symposium on March 15, 2007 at the Millennium Center in Johnson City, Tennessee.

## Seventh Annual Research/Theory Symposium Features World Renowned Researcher Dr. Janice Morse

We hosted another successful Nurse Theorist Night on March 15 at the Millennium Place. The nurse theorist Janice Morse, PhD was the guest of honor and described her theory of suffering.

She began by developing a praxis theory of suffering (defined as emotional or physical distress) and further developed a qualitative based study of enduring, suffering, and comfort (or hope). She developed a model showing the relationships among enduring, suffering and comfort.

Her videos and pictures illustrated the various communication styles both verbal and nonverbal of trauma nurses. She indicates this type of communication in a trauma setting is crucial for improved patient outcomes and lowering costs.

This communication usually occurs naturally between the nurse and patient and family, but understanding these dynamics can improve the effectiveness of the communication. During the research she has identified positive ways to respond to cues of suffering with patients and family

She is currently a professor at the University of Utah, having come from the University of Alberta in Alberta, Canada. Further accolades:

- PhD in both anthropology and nursing
  - Morse Fall Scale used in area hospitals
  - - editor of the Qualitative Research Journal and started the Qualitative Research Conferences held annually in Canada.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Episteme Laureate with Sigma Theta Tau
  - The International Institute for Qualitative Methodology in 1998
- For more information: <http://www.janicemorse.com/>



Pictures courtesy of Cathy Jo Damoth



Pictures courtesy of Cathy Jo Damoth

## Epsilon Sigma Chapter Calendar of Events- Mark Your Calendars!

April 5, 2007	Business meeting 6:00pm, Nicks Hall 134
May 3, 2007	Research presentation, 6:00pm (rescheduled from 2/2007 by snow) Nick Hall (old Sherrod Library) Room 134, food provided by ARA. Speaker: Amber Pewitt
June 2007	Planning meeting TBA
July 2007	Planning meeting TBA
September 2007	New School Year meeting TBA

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

More abstracts and presentation/conferences available at ETSU Friday newsletter:

[http://www.etsu.edu/nursing/News\\_and\\_Events/fridaynewsletter.asp](http://www.etsu.edu/nursing/News_and_Events/fridaynewsletter.asp)

Sigma website list for conferences and abstracts (too many to list)

<http://www.nursingsociety.org/research/conferences.html>

## ETSU Grant for LPNs

Dr. Priscilla Ramsey (PI), Dr Sally Blowers (Co-PI) and Carolyn Merriman (Co-PI) received a 3 year, \$745, 574 grant from the Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions, HRSA for a project entitled, "Collaboration with Tennessee Technology Centers for LPN to BSN Career Advancement."

The objectives of the project are 1) to establish collaborative partnerships with four Tennessee Technology Centers in Elizabethton, Kingsport, Morristown, and Greeneville and 2) to recruit and retain a total of 65 LPN graduates as BSN students at ETSU from all sites over a 3 year period. This is a 5 year, "learn and earn" program of study with individualized academic advising, peer mentoring and tutoring, and role transition seminars.

Each TTC site will have an "ETSU at TTC" center for academic counseling and recruitment. Project faculty provides workshops on requested topics such as test taking skills. Partnership employers who provide tuition assistance for LPN graduate employees include Mountain States Health Alliance, Wellmont Health Systems, VA Medical Center, Laughlin Memorial Hospital, NHC at Johnson City, and Tacoma Adventist Hospital.

If interested in more information, call Janelle Grooms, Project Coordinator, at 423.434.4528.

## ETSU Presentations in Europe

There is excitement at ETSU College of Nursing. There are four professors presenting papers at Sigma's International Nursing Research Congress in Vienna, Austria. Attendees are Sally Blowers, Cynthia Merriman, Priscilla Ramsey, and Gail Gerding. Dr. Ramsey's presentation is, "Collaboration with Tennessee Technology Centers for LPN to BSN Career Advancement." There is one Doctorate candidate attending as well- Jane Walker.

In August Lowery, Gerding, Ramsey will present at Oxford University, England at the Oxford Round Table (invitational). Dr. Ramsey's presentation will be: "CHOICES: Winning the Right Way at ETSU" (alcohol abuse prevention and education).

## Congratulations!

Jane Walker, current member of the nominating committee, is attending Omada Board Leadership Program at Sigma Theta Tau International. She was endorsed and is being sponsored by our chapter. This opportunity is a two year commitment that prepares mentees to learn about board governance on national and international boards, strategic planning, nonprofit governance, and fiduciary responsibilities, and strategic planning. We are proud to have one of our members selected for this prestigious honor.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

May 8, 2007 Tuesday 6pm Nurses Day, Holiday Inn, Springbrook Drive, 345-8082  
May 15, 2007 6pm Gerber-Stanton Hall 20<sup>th</sup> Ann Mortell Memorial Lectureship- Pediatric Cardiology  
May 24, 2007 6:30pm Gerber-Stanton Hall Impact of Poverty on the Health of Children  
June 1, 2007 7:30AM Millennium Place Asthma  
June 14, 2007 Thursday Gerber-Stanton Hall, VAMC 8:00-4:30 2<sup>nd</sup> MSHA Research Day  
\$45 (\$35 MSHA/ETSU). CEU offered.  
July 11-14, 2007 18<sup>th</sup> International Nursing Research Congress, Vienna, Austria  
September 8, 2007 8:00AM Stanton-Gerber Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Primary Care Research Day  
October, 2007 Beyond the Basics  
October 12-14, 2007 TNA Convention, Knoxville Marriott  
October 19, 2007 8:00AM Millennium Place Psychiatric Issues Across the Lifecycle  
October 26, 2007 8:00AM Meadowview Center Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology  
November 2-7, 2007 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Baltimore, MD  
2 Board members will attend, others are welcome to attend.