Sigma Theta Tau International

Indiana University
Of Pennsylvania

March 2009

# Zeta Lambda Chapter

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**Register NOW to attend the 20th. Annual International Research Congress! For more information, go to:**

http://www.nursingsociety.org/STTIEvents/ResearchCongress/Pages/EventRegistration.aspx

## NURSING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Congratulations to the nursing faculty and former IUP nursing students for their hard work and success in achieving a 95% pass rate on the latest six month report. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) program report from April 2008 to September 2008 reported that IUP had a 95% pass rate. The national pass rate for this same period was 87% and was 88% for programs similar to IUP. This is just one of the areas in which we will 'shine' in our upcoming CCNE accreditation visit! Another will be our burgeoning simulation lab for which we have coordinator, Dr. Julia Greenawalt and our new lab faculty, **Mrs. Taylor Edwards** to thank! Welcome aboard Taylor! A hearty congratulations goes out to **Dr. Julia Greenawalt** and **Dr. Edie West** who recently procured their PhD. Dr. Greenawalt's dissertation thesis was on, 'Modifiable Cardiovascular Risk Factors in the Early Adolescent Period.' Dr. West's research is entitled, 'History, Organization and the Changing Culture of Care: A Historical Analysis of the Frontier Nursing Service.' Dr. West will be presenting a poster on her research at the American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN) Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota September 24—27.

The nursing department would also like to welcome back, **Dr. Nashat Zuraikat**, and express how relieved we all are to know that he is now well enough to return to work!

**MS in Nursing Information**

In Dr. Zuraikat's absence, **Dr. Kristy Chunta,** Graduate Program Coordinator, is encouraging those who may be thinking of procuring a graduate degree to consider the variety of options offer at IUP. IUP will be offering the administration track at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown beginning Summer 2009. Courses will be offered on Tuesday evenings from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. New cohorts are also planned for Indiana in the Education track. These courses will begin Fall semester 2009 and meet on Monday evenings from 5-9 pm. All classes are 7 week courses and include a small component of electronic class activities. The program can be completed in 7 semesters of study. For more information visit www.iup.edu/rn-alliedhealth/programs/nursingms or contact 724 357-7647.

**PhD in Nursing Information**

PhD Coordinator, **Dr. Teresa Shellenbarger** reports that the PhD in Nursing Program is currently accepting applications for the next cohort that will begin in Fall 2010. Applications are accepted on a rolling admission basis. Graduate assistant and teaching associate positions are available to assist with educational costs. For further information about the program and opportunities visit www.iup.edu/rn-alliedhealth/programs/nursingphd or contact 724-357-2559

Attend an Information Session to learn more about the MS in Nursing or PhD in Nursing program. Information Sessions are scheduled for Monday March 23rd 6-7 pm—MS in Nursing; 7-8 pm – PhD in Nursing; Saturday April 18th 1-2 pm –MS in Nursing; 2-3 pm – PhD in Nursing. RSVP 724 357-7647 or pedaci@iup.edu

## FALL INDUCTION PLAN

Graduate & Undergraduate STTI Zeta Lambda Candidates for membership are being solicited now for a planned Induction/Luncheon on Saturday, November 7th., 2009. So, mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information via the next newsletter!

## FUTURE NEWSLETTER

**Please, appraise STTI at: www.nursingorganization.org of your e-mail address ASAP as all future ZL Newsletters will be sent via e-mail. *This will be the last newsletter that will be sent via 'snail mail' to members who do not have an e-mail address*!**

# Zeta Lambda News

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am proud to announce that the Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions at IUP will be hosting our first nursing conference entitled, Environmental Health Best Practices. This conference will be held at the Crimson Event Center on September 24, 2009 and will feature at least eight speakers who are expert in environmental health issues, a panel discussion, and a poster session opportunity for researchers in environmental health to display their work.

Organized by the Environmental Task Force of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, the conference will focus on food safety, chemical exposures in the workplace, body burden and "toxic babies". Other topics include the latest information concerning environmental tracking systems, formulating nursing "green teams" and strategies for environmental advocacy.

ZL would like to issue a "call for abstracts" for STTI members working with environmental health issues and interested in participating in the poster session. The deadline for submission is April 24th. Nurses, administrators, educators, dieticians, students and researchers are encouraged to submit their poster abstract, via e-mail, no later than April 24th., 2009. Abstracts can be e-mailed to psmith@panurses.org. For more detailed information regarding abstract submission, contact psmith@panurses.org or call 717-657-1222 extension 209. For more information about the PSNA Environmental Task Force go to: www.panurses.org/2008/ and click on 'Resources', 'Task Forces/Committees' and 'Environmental Health Task Force.'

***Let's all work together to promote the next generation of nurse educators***

As Sigma Theta Tau International is actively concerned with environmental health issues, our local chapter, Zeta Lambda, is privileged to support this event. I encourage you to participate in the conference, as either an attendee or a poster presenter. More information concerning the registration process and fee will be forthcoming in the next Sigma newsletter. Thanks in advance for your support of this conference & I hope that some of you will be submitting abstracts for posters!

**Nina Kaktins, MS, RN**
**Zeta Lambda, President**

**Dr. Theresa Shellenbarger receiving STTI Research Grant from former ZL Chapter President, Annette Kostelnik**

# Zeta Lambda Ballots

ZL is seeking nominees for the following positions: **VP and Treasurer**. Both of these positions are for two year terms. The Vice President shall: Be an active member in the ZL Chapter and have experience or skill in program planning and program development. The Treasurer shall: Be an active member in the ZL Chapter and possess basic knowledge and interest in the area of finance or a willingness to seek and use resources to acquire knowledge. We sincerely hope you will consider serving. If you would prefer to send your ballot via e-mail, you can do so by sending your candidate choices to: srhoades2@verison.net. You can also choose to download and print your ballot (page 4) and send it back via post to: Scott Rhoades, 1290 Ben Avon Street, Indiana, PA 15701.

ZL Fall Induction Guest Speaker, Dr. Kristy

"Making a Difference in Nursing"

*Send your Zeta Data to: n.m.kaktins@iup.edu to be included in the next newsletter!*

## Zeta Lambda Officers & Committee Chairs

**President**
Nina Kaktins 2008– 2010
n.m.kaktins@iup.edu
**President Elect** **OPEN**
**Vice President**
Ann Esachina 2001-2007
aesachina@ExcelaHealth.org
**Secretary**
Lori Jo Bell 2008– 2010
L.j.bell@iup.edu
**Treasurer**
Terri Liberto 2003-2007
tliberto@consolidated.net

**Archivist**
Merry Previte 2002-2008
merry651@adelphia.net
**Awards**
Annette Kostelnik 2008-2010
akostel@comcast.net
**Counselor/Governance and Eligibility**
Lisa Palmer 2008-2010
lpalmer@iup.edu
**Leadership Succession**
Scott Rhoades 2007– 2009
srhoades2@verison.net
**Newsletter**
Edie West 2007-2009
edie.west@iup.edu

### STTI NEWS

Nurse educators at Indiana Regional Medical Center are seeking to expand opportunities to offer continuing education and is working to partner with Zeta Lambda in providing continuing nursing education to the nursing community of Indiana in future. This is something ZL is keen to do. In addition, Dr. Shellenbarger has also requested that this collaboration include IUP's Master's students in the development of workshops. So, stay tuned for future workshop development via these collaborations!

Congratulations to Zeta Lambda member **Margaret Stoneback**, a senior Honor's College student. Margaret was accepted to The University of Pennsylvania and will begin studies in their Nurse Practitioner Program in Psychiatric Nursing. Margaret will start at Penn in May 2008. Congratulations Margaret on your accomplishment and best wishes in your future nursing studies! Congratulations to ZL Leadership Succession Chair, **Mr. Scott Rhoades** and ZL Secretary, **Ms. Lori Jo Bell**. Scott was asked to do a presentation for the Student Nursing Organization by SNAP members who attended the Fall Induction Ceremony and heard him speak there! Lori Jo, who is a Parish Nurse at Graystone Presbyterian Church, will be attending a Parish Nursing Conference in June 2009 where she will be co-leading a 'Grief

### ZETA LAMBDA AWARDS

ZL is also pleased to announce that the STTI Research Grant ($1000) was awarded to **Dr. Theresa Shellenbarger** and **Dr. Theresa Gropelli** on October 16th. 2008. $500 was awarded to Dr. Gropelli to assist her research study entitled: 'Nurses' and Therapists' Experiences with Occupational Musculoskeletal Injuries. Dr. Gropelli reports that the study clearly demonstrated a need for additional education and the need to create a culture of safety in health care systems. the findings will assist in decreasing the incidence of occupational musculoskeletal injuries in health care providers.
The remaining $500 was awarded to Dr. Shellenbarger for her study entitled: The Lived Experience of New, Full-Time Nursing Faculty. This research project explores the lived experiences of new faculty teaching in nursing programs. Results of the study will also be helpful in identifying the needs, issues and concerns of new faculty. In dept interviews are currently being conducted with new nurse educators. If you are a new full-time nursing faculty member and would like to participate in this study, please contact Dr. Shellenbarger at 724-357-2559 or via e-mail: tshell@iup.edu.

Stay tuned for a future education program for CEU's by our recipients! Thank you ladies!

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INTERNATIONAL AWARDS for NURSING EXCELLENCE

**For Information on STTI Awards contact:**

**awards@stti.org**

# Spring into Health ~ Come to the Fair!
# Saturday, April 18, 2009

We are pleased to welcome ZL as a sponsor of the 5th. Annual Health Fair, a partnership between the IUP Department of Nursing & Allied Health Professions (NAHP) & the St. Thomas More University Parish (STMUP)!

**History of the Health Fair**

The health fair began with an idea in 2004 when Fr. Michael Crookston, then pastor of STMUP approached **Dr. Marie Twal** & **Dr. Lisa Palmer**, NAHP faculty, to develop a forum that would provide current information to optimize health and help connect folks with community resources. Fr. Crookston, believed the mission of the Church was to address the physical and mental, as well as the spiritual well-being of the community and had identified a need among his parishioners for this type of information.

The first Health Fair was held in the spring of 2005 and included massage therapy, yoga for stress reduction, and a children's corner. The second Annual Health Fair offered cooking classes by the IUP Culinary School, which encouraged healthy eating. The 3rd. Annual Health Fair included a *Step Into Spring Walk, to Enhance the Health of Children.* Over the years the Fair has been supported in various ways including a NAHP grant, 2 United Way Grants, community & parishioner donations, and the wonderful time and energy of many professionals & students! Please, join us this year in the church lounge!

***Poster Presentation at Health Fair***

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

ZL Members are invited to submit an abstract for a poster presentation at the 5th. Annual Health Fair to be held Saturday, April 18th., 2009 from 10am—2:30pm. This years theme is ***Living Health Lives.*** The planning committee is seeking interactive presentations that address lifestyle issues or tips on living with a chronic disease. This population may be particularly interested in asthma, diabetes, arthritis, depression, and stress. Abstracts should be in a summary of the proposed poster in 250 words or less and include learning objectives. The audience will be IUP students, older adults, and families of Indiana County.

ct submissions can be sent to Dr. Marie Twal, DrPH, CPNP at metwal@auxmail.iup.edu by March 19th., 2009. Be sure to include your name and contact information with the submission. Notification of acceptance will be March 23rd., 2009.

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**Zeta Lambda Ballot**
**Spring 2009**

**Vice President**: Elaine Little Write in:_____

**Treasurer:** Donna Ferguson Write in:_____

**Please, circle the nominee or write-in a nominee of your choice and return ballot to:**

Scott Rhoades, 1290 Ben Avon St., Indiana, PA 15705 Or E-mail your choice to : srhoades2@verison.net