



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

Kappa Phi-at-Large Chapter, St. Cloud, MN

Fall 2009

A note from the President:



The Board of Kappa Phi has been planning for an exciting year. The newsletter will highlight some of the upcoming events. It has been invigorating to work with nurse leaders from both the community and academia. As we look forward to the coming year – the goal that has emerged to guide the board is to promote scholarship while remaining fiscally stable. We are always open to ideas of the membership to work towards these goals and towards the mission of Sigma Theta Tau International – to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.

Joyce Simones

What's Happening?

At the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University



The College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University Department of Nursing is off and running for another academic year. We welcome Jodi Berndt and Erica Timko Olson as new faculty members! Carie Braun assumed the role of Department Chair in July of 2009. Kathy Twohy is now the Director of the Learning Enhancement Service for CSB/SJU and continues to teach in the Nursing Department. St. Bens enrolled the largest class in the College's history and St. John's also met its enrollment goals despite our wavering economy. The

incoming first year class also touts the largest number of international students. The interest in the nursing major continues to be strong and average ACT scores across the Colleges was over 25. We have about 70 students applying for admission this fall and we continue with cohorts of 45 students per year. The curriculum committee is working diligently on revising the nursing curriculum based on the 2008 AACN *Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing Education*. We continue to report excellent NCLEX results with the most recent report (second quarter 2009) showing a 97.45% (n=43) pass rate. One of our most significant initiatives is the redesign of our nursing laboratory to support simulated learning and other emerging pedagogies. We are very excited to be working on a new learning space to support the nurses of the future!

Meet one of our new board members:



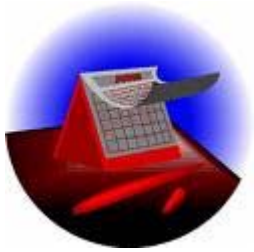
Carol Upcraft, MBA, RN, PHN. St. Cloud Hospital.

Originally from Hopkins, MN, Carol's nursing background includes work in the float pool, ER, and Home Care/Hospice. She attended graduate school in business followed by work with an insurance company in their Utilization Review department. After some time as Director of Nursing in Long Term Care she made the decision to stay home for ten years with her children. On her return to nursing, she worked in Hospice, then came to St. Cloud Hospital in their newly-formed Clinical Utilization department. Carol met her husband on her first nursing job as a camp nurse at Camp Courage. Between her husband's retirement from Camp

Courage, a family move to Maple Lake, and three kids (one in middle school, one in high school and one in college) she keeps busy. As the lead for St. Cloud Hospital's heart failure evidenced-based practice project, she presented her work at the Center for American Nurses LEAD Summit in Washington DC in June 2008. Carol is inspired by the nurses she works with and their desire to improve the quality of patient care. She is interested in contributing more to nursing through involvement with the Kappa Phi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

Annual Induction Ceremony ~ Silent Auction

Kappa Phi-at-Large is holding a **silent auction** at the November 5th induction ceremony. This will give guests a chance to mingle, bid on exciting items, and help Kappa Phi continue to offer research and scholarship events and opportunities. Anyone interested in donating an item or two for the silent auction should contact Cathy Keller at cmkeller@charter.net. All donations will need to be available by Oct. 30th. Your support will be greatly appreciated!



Calendar of Upcoming Events



Monday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. ~ Chapter Board Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend! The meeting will be held at the St. Cloud Public Library in Room 268.

October 31st – November 4th ~ STTI Biennial Convention. Ron Hemmesch is planning to attend.

Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m. ~ the Annual Induction Ceremony will be held in the Windfeldt Room at the CentraCare Health Plaza. Please RSVP by Oct. 26th to Deb Baloun at 320-363-5404 or dbaloun@csbsju.edu. Along with inducting our newest members, there will be a silent auction, guest speaker, and dessert will be served. Marjorie Schaffer will be speaking about “Creating Golden Moments in Communication at the End of Life”. Please plan to join us for this event!

Monday, November 30th at 5:30 p.m. ~ Chapter Board Meeting. Check our website for updates regarding the location of this meeting.

Spring 2010 ~ The Fireside Chat event will be held in the spring. Please check the website for updated information regarding the date and topics.



Visit Our Web Site

<http://www.csbsju.edu/nursing/studentresources/KappaPhi.htm>

What will you find?

- General Information – that “good to know” stuff about our chapter and membership.
- Meeting Minutes – keep up on all of the happenings and discussions.
- Board Members – find contact information for the various committee members.
- Newsletters – like this one to keep you informed.
- Region 4 Sigma Theta Tau International news – to help you keep up with regional activities.