



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

Rho Chapter

The Ketefian Fund

Guidelines for Providing Assistance with Membership Dues to Potential and Active Rho Chapter Members from Middle - and Low-Income Countries (Original Document 9/23/2008; Last Revised 10/22/2012)

Background:

Due to lack of funds for membership, visiting scholars and eligible international graduate students may return home after their studies at U of M without having been inducted in Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society. Of those that join, anecdotal evidence suggests that many of these graduates drop their memberships in Rho Chapter and other professional associations after returning home since their salaries make it difficult to maintain such memberships.

In response to this problem, Shake´ Ketefian, then Professor and Director of International Affairs, funded an endowment (the Ketefan Fund) within Rho Chapter, STTI with the understanding that returns from the endowment would be used to provide STTI membership support for international scholars and graduate students from middle- and low-income countries.

While the focus of available funds is to be support of visiting scholars, when available funds are sufficient, the original purpose will be expanded to also provide partial support for eligible graduate students to support their initiation and membership dues while they are on campus.

To keep these new members connected to our scholarly community, and provide them support in settings where it may not exist, membership support could be continued for up to 3 years should funds be available while they established themselves in their new roles.

Objectives of the Rho Chapter International Initiative are to:

1. Promote international membership of qualified/selected international scholars, students, and graduates of the University of Michigan School of Nursing (UM SoN) in the Rho Chapter of STTI.
2. Provide financial support for prospective and newly inducted Rho Chapter members from eligible countries.
3. Support the career development of new international graduates by keeping them connected with both the U of M School of Nursing (UM SoN) and STTI communities.

Implementation:

A. New Member Support

1. In May, the Rho Chapter Board will determine the number of memberships that can be supported for the next year and where that support should be directed (new membership and/or ongoing membership support.)
2. In early August, the Faculty Counselor will contact the Office of Student, Academic & Multicultural Services (OSAMS), and the Office of Global Outreach to obtain the names and email addresses of all visiting scholars and international students from middle and low income countries (as designated by the World Bank).
3. In September, the Counselor will contact each person on the list to determine whether they are members of STTI, provide information about the Ketefian Fund, and ask for a response within a specific time frame as determined by the Counselor.
4. The Counselor will follow up with those who are already members of STTI in other chapters regarding either adding Rho Chapter to their existing chapter membership or transferring membership to Rho chapter.
5. For those who are not members, Counselor will provide information on STTI, guidance on the application process, funding (if available) and the deadlines to be met. (These actions may be done by setting up an informational session for the entire group.)
6. The Counselor will send a reminder email to those who do not respond within the time frame described in #3 above.
7. Information about the Ketefian fund objectives, eligibility, application process, and renewal process will be placed on the SoN Rho Chapter website.

B. Membership Renewal Support

1. At the induction ceremony, membership support from the Ketefian Fund should be acknowledged.
2. At the time of induction, Ketefian fund recipients will be given instructions for applying for renewal of dues support.
3. Instructions for renewal process and an application form for renewal will be placed on the SoN Rho Chapter website.
4. Renewal requests will be considered and approved by the Rho Chapter board as described in #A 1 above

Notes:

Original document prepared by Shake' Ketefian, in consultation with Norma Sarkar, Rho Chapter President, and Susan Cares, Chapter Treasurer.

Revisions prepared by Ann Kruszewski, Norma Sarkar, and Judith Wismont.