



Honor Society of Nursing  
Sigma Theta Tau  
International

# Rho Chapter

The University of Michigan  
Chartered 1959

Web Page: <http://www.nursing.umich.edu/stti>

Spring 2003  
Vol. 44, No. 2



## *The Dean's Perspective*

By Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D.,  
R.N. F.A.A.N.

As this publication goes to press, we have just learned of the Supreme Court decisions upholding the right of universities to consider race in admissions procedures in order to achieve a diverse student body. President Mary Sue Coleman has responded to the decision by saying "this is a resounding affirmation that will be heard across the land—from our college classrooms to our corporate boardrooms."

As nurses we understand the connection between a culturally diverse nursing workforce and the ability to provide quality patient care. We know that minority populations are increasing substantially, have higher rates of certain diseases or chronic conditions, lower rates of successful treatment, and in too many cases shorter life expectancies. Our communities will benefit if we have more minority nurses as leaders in the development of models of care that address the unique needs of diverse populations including inadequate access and care.

We have made a concerted effort toward recruiting and graduating nurses that closely mirror the patient population, and we realize that we still have a long way to go before adequate representation becomes a reality. We also understand that the Supreme Court decision is a powerful means for moving us forward, but that we still need to work hard to recruit and retain a rich and diverse student body and faculty.

As we consider the projected shortages of nurses and nursing faculty we renew committed efforts to bring more nurses and more minority nurses into our profession. We invite each of you as a nursing leader to assist us by identifying potential nursing students and then work with our staff toward a successful recruitment. Please feel free to contact Elaine Cosme-Peterson at (734) 647-0109.

Working together, we can make all the difference.



## *Summer Reflections*

Elizabeth Beattie, PhD, RN  
President, Rho Chapter

Summer sunshine has arrived after a long, slow Spring and many of you will be vacationing as this newsletter reaches you. Fourth of July, fireworks, bare feet, watermelon, gardening and long twilights filled with the scents of grilling, the sound of birdsong and the magic of fireflies! Rho Chapter greeted Spring with a wonderful afternoon tea and Awards ceremony at the Matthei Botanical Gardens. As we celebrated the achievements of the many fine nurses featured in this newsletter, we shared a special time with them and their families and friends. The tables were decorated with tulips, iris and daffodils and a late snow fell from an eggshell blue sky beyond the tall glass windows. The room was filled with pride, laughter and dreams for the future. The Awards ceremony helped focus us on some of Rho's finest. Congratulations to each one of you for the awesome work you do!

So often we nurses go about our work in a matter-of-fact way, forgetting what role models we are in the community and what a difference our work makes to the many lives we touch. We are facing the most challenging nursing shortage in a generation, with burgeoning numbers of older people needing skilled care. Our actions speak for the work we have chosen. Speak out for nursing via your Honor Society. We need to attract those in

*Continued on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Rho Chapter Board/Committees .....	pg. 2
Committee Reports .....	pg. 3
Member Spotlight .....	pg. 6
Otosopes for nurses in Haiti .....	pg. 7
Calendar of future events .....	pg. 8

## *2002-2003 RHO Chapter Board And Committees*

**President:** Elizabeth Beattie  
W (734) 647-9331 H (734) 741-1917  
ebeattie@umich.edu

**President Elect:** Kathleen Gold  
W (734) 677-6010; H (734) 455-5357  
F (734) 677-0505  
ksgold@umich.edu

**Past President/Ritual:** Sue Fink  
W (734) 763-1516  
suefink@umich.edu

**Vice President/Program:** Karen Zasada  
H (734) 522-6850  
kzasada@selectmedicalcorp.com

**Corresponding Secretary:** AkkeNeel Talsma  
W (734) 615-9718 H (734) 994-0361  
F (734) 615-0062  
antalsma@umich.edu

**Recording Secretary:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Ruth Barnard  
H (734) 995-0281  
rbarnard@umich.edu

**Faculty Advisor/Membership:**  
Ann Kruszewski  
W (734) 763-9436 F (734) 647-2416  
annkrusz@umich.edu

**Faculty Advisor Elect/Membership:**  
Cynthia Arslanian-Engoren  
W (734) 647-0182  
cmae@umich.edu

**Research/Special Projects Committee:**  
Jane Anderson  
W (734) 764-6327  
janea@umich.edu

**Excellence in Nursing Awards Committee:**  
Cecilia Trudeau, Chair  
W (734) 936-8955 F (734) 763-4189  
ctrudeau@umich.edu

**Nominating Committee:**  
Dorothy Elliott, Chair  
W (734) 647-0338; H (734) 665-7435  
delliott@umich.edu

**Communications Committee:**  
Website: Ruth Barnard  
Newsletter Editors (This Issue): Elizabeth Beattie  
and Ann Kruszewski

*Summer Reflections continued  
from page 1*

the next generation who seek a career with meaning, a chance to use their head, their hands and their heart every day. Take time this Summer to think about what skills you can bring to Rho Chapter that can help us achieve our mission. As we welcome the new Board into office, led by incoming President Kathleen Gold, we seek more than your membership dues. Walk with us in the Fall to raise money for Alzheimer's Research. Welcome our new young inductees into the Rho family. Attend an educational evening. Email us with an offer to join a committee. Help us expand the face of nursing scholarship and service

### *Installation Of Officers And Business Meeting*

New officer installation will take place on Thursday, July 10 at the School of Nursing from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Installation will be followed by a brief business meeting to begin planning for the 2003-2004 year.

Rho Newsletter, supported by member dues, is published three times a year: Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer. **We welcome your comments and news about STT Rho member's activities.** Send your contributions via email or disk by the 15th of April, July, and November, to Newsletter Editor, Rho Chapter, STTI, c/o Elizabeth Beattie, Rho President, University of Michigan, 400 N. Ingalls, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0482, (734) 647-9331, ebeattie@umich.edu

## RHO Chapter Board Election Results

Results of the spring election of Rho Chapter officers are in! We are pleased to announce the new officers for the 2003-2004 year:

President-Elect: Norma Sarkar  
 Recording Secretary: Cecilia Trudeau  
 Corresponding Secretary: Debbie Brunelle  
 Treasurer: Kathy Bobay  
 Nominating Committee: Sue Clemen-Stone  
 and Sandy Merkel  
 Faculty Advisor Elect: Pat Rutowski

We are very grateful to all of the candidates who stepped up to place their names on the ballot. This year, the process of developing a ballot was very time-consuming and we appreciate the quick response from our membership in returning their votes. Thank you to our Nominating Committee for their hard work: chairperson, Dottie Elliott; and members Elaine McIntosh and Todd Ray.

---

## Volunteers Needed

Please take advantage of this opportunity to become involved with your honor society by volunteering to serve on one of the Rho Chapter committees. Each committee welcomes volunteers. Some of the committees in need of your assistance and the commitment involved include: Membership Eligibility (assists with the selection process for new members; one meeting), Ritual & Reception (helps plan and conduct the Fall Induction ceremony; a few planning meetings and attendance at the ceremony), Finance (assists the Treasurer with budget; small ongoing time commitment), Research & Special Projects (assists with the selection of recipients for Rho Chapter grants; two meetings & contact work), and Excellence Awards (assists with soliciting and selection for Rho Chapter awards; two meetings and contact work).

For those of you who can only give a few hours of time, these volunteer opportunities are an ideal way to give service your honor society. Please contact our new President, Kathleen Gold by email (ksgold@umich.edu) or by phone (734-677-6010) to offer your help.

## Call For Research/Special Project Proposals September 30

The next deadline for submission of requests for assistance for research or special projects in September 30, 2003. These awards encourage the membership to contribute to the advancement of nursing through research and special projects, such as development of patient education programs, media projects, etc. Rho Chapter has set aside funds to be awarded to members involved in such efforts in the form of project grants. Please see the information on the chapter webpage for directions on how to apply. The web address is: <http://www.nursing.umich.edu/stti/grants/apply.html>

Jane Anderson, Chair  
 Research and Special Projects Committee

---

## Nominate A Colleague For Membership In Sigma Theta Tau Deadline September 1!

Rho Chapter is accepting nominations for new members from our nursing community. Do you know a nurse who should be a Sigma Theta Tau member? Please encourage him or her to apply for membership, or send a nomination form with the name of the nurse to the Rho Chapter Faculty Advisor, Dr. Cynthia Arslanian-Engoren (email: [cmae@umich.edu](mailto:cmae@umich.edu)). Deadline for nomination is September 1, 2003

Nomination forms and the nomination process are found on the Rho Chapter website: [www.nursing.umich.edu/stti](http://www.nursing.umich.edu/stti). After entering the website, click on the membership button, then on the Community Leader Membership button.

- Registered nurses who are not students apply for membership in the "community leader" category. The criteria for membership are:
- Registered nurse with at least a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a bachelor's in another field with outstanding accomplishments in nursing
- Graduated at least 5 years ago

Please visit the Rho Chapter website and nominate your deserving colleagues for membership.

## *2003 Awards Celebration*

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 9 in the beautiful setting of Matthaei Botanical Gardens, over 100 Rho Chapter members, family members and friends gathered to celebrate the 2003 award recipients. With a view of light snow falling on the outside, participants thoroughly enjoyed the spring decor, dulcimer music and delicious variety of afternoon tea treats. Assistance in food preparation and serving was provided by international students from the School of Nursing, members of the Pioneer High School National Honor Society and our very own Rho Chapter, President Elizabeth Beatty. A raffle was held to raise funds for the Rho Chapter Endowment Fund, which supports the membership fees for international students. Membership fees are often unaffordable for international nurses when they return to their home country. The endowment fund assists these nurses to continue their membership in Sigma Theta Tau. Dr. Shaké Ketefian gave an overview of School of Nursing's international research and educational activities. The Endowment Fund was initiated several years ago by a generous donation from Dr. Ketefian.

This year the award categories were expanded and we were pleased to be able to recognize a large number of our highly talented members. These include:



Awards Committee members and chapter officers (right to left): Cecilia Trudeau (chair), Ingrid Deininger (member), Marge Calarco (member), Kathleen Gold (member and chapter president-elect), Elizabeth Beattie (chapter president). Committee member Elsie Nolan is not pictured.



Dr. Shaké Ketefian describes the Rho Chapter Endowment Fund to support international students' Rho Chapter membership.

Rising Star	Heather Livermore, BSN, RN Heather is a staff nurse on 7D, Cardiac Care Unit, at UMHS
Nursing Practice	Megan Eagle, MS, RN, CS, FNP Megan is a family nurse practitioner working with women and children at Safe House, a local domestic violence shelter
Nursing Leadership	Victoria Averhart, MS, APRN, BC Victoria is a clinical nurse specialist on 5B, General Surgery, at UMHS
Education	Valerie Spotts, BSN, RN Val is an educational nurse coordinator on 7C, Cardiology at UMHS
Distinguished Service	Roberta Asplund, BSN, MPH, Ed.S. Bobbie has devoted years of service to Rho Chapter, most recently as our newsletter editor and publicity chairperson
Student Leadership	Elise Erickson, Cathy Fanone, Ewurabena (Robbie) Menyah, Kierste Munding, Elizabeth Van Hall All of these students are members of the class of 2003 BSN program, and have provided significant leadership in the school and university

We are very pleased with this year's successful campaign to give very well-deserved recognition to these individuals who represent the standards of excellence of Sigma Theta Tau. My thanks go to the Awards Committee members (Ingrid Deininger, Elsie Nolan, Marge Calarco and Kathy Gold) who worked so well together to make this a reality.

Cecilia Trudeau, RN, MS  
Awards Committee Chair



International students assisted with the Awards ceremony



Chapter president, Elizabeth Beattie, poses with an international student. International students were hostesses for the ceremony.



Rho chapter members and guests were entertained by a hammer dulcimer performance



Excellence Awards recipients (from left to right): Cathy Fanone, Kierste Munding, Elizabeth Van Hall, Elise Erickson, Ewurabena Menyah, Heather Livermore, Valerie Spotts, Victoria Averhart, Roberta Asplund, Megan Eagle



*Greetings from Your New  
Newsletter Editor*

I am happy to serve Rho Chapter as the new newsletter editor and Communications Committee chairperson as of July 10. I am taking over from Ruth Barnard's capable hands. Prior to Ruth's leadership, Bobbie Asplund filled the position very capably for many years. I have big shoes to fill! This newsletter is my first effort, and what a learning experience it was. If you have any suggestions for newsletter format, articles of interest to the membership, or general hints, I am happy to receive them. My email address is: [annkrusz@umich.edu](mailto:annkrusz@umich.edu)

—Ann Kruszewski, Newsletter Editor

## Member Spotlight

In this issue we are introducing a new column: a feature article on current members. Rho Chapter is large and has a diverse membership. This characteristic is both our strength and our challenge. While we have a large pool of talent to draw from, our members often do not know each other very well. This column is a means of helping us to learn more about each other. For our first feature, we are highlighting a new Rho chapter member, Ewurabena Menyah, and a longstanding member, Val Spotts.



Ewurabena (Robbie) Menyah was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau Rho chapter last November and graduated from the BSN program in May 2003. Although a recent graduate, her list of activities and honors is impressive. She was a recipient of a student leadership award from Rho

Chapter in March 2003, for her activities in promoting diversity awareness in the School of Nursing. While she was a student, Robbie was president of the Multicultural Student Nurses Association. She worked with the Office of Multicultural Affairs in facilitating several diversity initiatives, including a diversity workshop for students and faculty in the School of Nursing, and the first Student Fishbowl event designed to hear the voices of diverse students. She received the Michigan Leadership Tapestry Award from the University's office of Student Activities and Leadership, which described her as "a highly spirited and motivated leader and educator within the School of Nursing who conscientiously works to bring about awareness of diversity." Robbie has worked closely with the Office of Multicultural Affairs in the School of Nursing. The OMA Director, Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns, describes Robbie as a "gem," and a "team leader with a mind clearly focused on concrete outcomes for whatever she sets out to do." noting her willingness to assist with recruiting high school students, and assist with publicity for the Genesis academic support project. And these are just a few of her service projects and awards during her student years.

Robbie is currently working at the University Hospitals of Cleveland in the adult intensive care unit and we know she is bringing the same dedication and enthusiasm to her job as she demonstrated during her student years.



Val Spotts has been a member of Rho Chapter since 1983 when she was inducted as a junior nursing student. She has worked at University of Michigan Health System since she graduated in 1984. She began her career in the Heart Care Program and became a nurse educator in

the cardiology unit in 1999. She is currently the Educational Nurse Coordinator for the cardiac step-down unit at UMHS. As a cardiac nursing care educator, she precepts new nurses, teaches classes on topics such as pacemakers, cardiac medications, and EKG interpretation, and participates in a variety of committees. She has also developed many symposia and courses for clinicians. These educational programs include the *Cardiovascular Center Symposium For Nurses* in 2002, *Advanced Cardiovascular Pharmacology for Nurses* in 2001, and *Reducing the Risk of Stroke, MI, and Cardiovascular Death* in through Wayne State University in 2001. In addition, she has a long list of invited lectureships on cardiac care. To recognize her longstanding efforts in nursing education, Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau presented Val with the Chapter Award for Excellence in Nursing Education in March 2003.

Val states that one of her greatest satisfiers in her current job is seeing nurses progress from novices to experienced clinicians. "I love seeing those who started as scared graduate nurses now orienting to the arrest team and teaching other new staff!"

*Do you know a member that deserves to be spotlighted? Please send your suggestions to newsletter editor, Ann Kruszewski (annkrusz@umich.edu). Ann will do the rest!*





## AACN applauds U.S. Supreme Court Decision on U of M Admission Policy

As a follow up to the Dean Hinshaw's article in this newsletter, for Rho Chapter members' information, I am printing the response to the Supreme Court decision by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the organization representing four-year and university nursing programs:

"AACN applauds the decisions handed down today by the U.S. Supreme Court in support of race-conscious admission policies in the University of Michigan cases. AACN signed on to the following statement released by the American Council on Education earlier today:

**JOINT STATEMENT BY NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS ON TODAY'S DECISION BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT IN GRATZ V. BOLLINGER AND GRUTTER V. BOLLINGER**

American higher education welcomes today's U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the two cases before the Court addressing admissions at the University of Michigan — Gratz v. Bollinger and Grutter v. Bollinger. In both cases, the Court not only upheld racial and ethnic diversity as a compelling state interest, but also reaffirmed the importance of giving colleges and universities leeway in the admissions process. These decisions enable our institutions to maintain their strong commitment to be welcoming places to students of all races and walks of life and to continue to pursue a wide range of legally permissible means of attaining a diverse student body.

In the amicus briefs that we and some 50 other higher education associations [including the American Association of Colleges of Nursing] filed with the Supreme Court in February, we argued that the Court should not impede colleges' and universities' pursuit of diversity, based on the following logic:

- Our nation's long tradition of government giving colleges and universities wide latitude in academic matters has been critical to the preeminence of American higher education;
- Leaders of every type of college and university hold student diversity to be educationally valuable, and there is ample evidence supporting that belief; and
- The government has a compelling interest in maintaining the student diversity needed to sustain the quality of American higher education.

The Court specifically upheld the law school admissions policy as narrowly tailored and

constitutional, and while the Court struck down the particular means employed by the University of Michigan to achieve diversity in the undergraduate case, we are extremely pleased to see that all of the opinions of the justices — majority, concurring and dissenting — hold to the same three principles set forth above. We applaud the University of Michigan for so vigorously defending them.

Now comes the hard work of scrutinizing and implementing the details of these important decisions. We are confident that colleges and universities, gratified that they can move forward on the basis of a decision by the nation's highest court, will seek out the most effective paths to diversity and thus fulfill their role in the nation's historic quest for equal opportunity for all." —American Council on Education, Washington, DC, June 23, 2003

Ann Kruszewski, Rho Chapter Newsletter Editor

---

## Teaching Use of Oscopes in Haiti



Nurse practitioner Marlene Cesar, RN, shown above, demonstrates the use of an otoscope, during the 10 days she spent in February giving workshops on physical assessment skills to nurses at the Hôpital Sainte Croix in Léogâne, Haiti. Ms. Cesar, a Haitian-American nurse

living in Florida, worked with Dr. Donna Steele Martsolf who spent a 4-month Fulbright fellowship at Hôpital Sainte Croix. Dr. Martsolf is a 1971 graduate from the University of Michigan School of Nursing. Several months ago, Rho Chapter contributed over \$630 to purchase these otoscopes for the nurses. Another Sigma Theta Tau Chapter contributed money towards the purchase of stethoscopes. Ms. Cesar's trip was sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church—Ann Arbor.

## *Sigma Theta Tau, Rho Chapter Fall Calendar*

<p><b>August</b> 28 In conjunction with All-School Welcome for incoming students for September</p> <p><b>September</b> 12 Applications for membership due (students and community leaders) 15 Membership eligibility committee meeting to review applications 17 Board meeting to approve applications for membership 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. General membership meeting is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to approve new inductees</p> <p><b>October</b> 5 Rho Chapter Team, Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk; 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. 8 Rho Chapter Board Meeting 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>November</b> 12 Rho Chapter Board Meeting 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. 16 Induction of new members Michigan League Ballroom</p> <p><b>For Program Information:</b> In addition to the newsletter, we will be announcing events on the Rho Chapter website; via emails; bulletin boards in the School of Nursing; and announcements in the Ann Arbor News.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rho Chapter website:</b> <a href="http://www.nursing.umich.edu/stti/">http://www.nursing.umich.edu/stti/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please send your new email address to:</b> <a href="mailto:rhochapter@umich.edu">rhochapter@umich.edu</a></p>
---	---

Honor Society of Nursing  
Sigma Theta Tau, Rho Chapter  
University of Michigan  
School of Nursing  
400 N. Ingalls  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48109-0482

Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage <b>PAID</b> Ann Arbor, MI Permit 22
---