



Honor Society of Nursing
Sigma Theta Tau
International

Rho Chapter

The University of Michigan
Chartered 1959

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

Winter 2006
Vol. 6, No. 1

Rho Chapter *Excellence in Nursing Awards* March 26, 2006 • Matthei Botanical Gardens



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See Inside...

The Dean's Perspective By Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D. R.N. F.A.A.N.

A Journey Through a Deanship

"Stepping out" of the Deanship at the University of Michigan School of Nursing after twelve years is a bitter-sweet event for me. The decision to come here in 1994, after a successful tenure at the National Institute of Nursing Research, was due to the strong academic initiatives, world class faculty with their research programs, and the excitement and challenge of facilitating a major research intensive School of Nursing to continue to push the frontiers in its education, research and service endeavors. Under Dean Rhetaugh Dumas, the faculty and she built an exciting environment for academic scholarship that made the School a respected and integral part of the University and a national leader in the nursing discipline and profession. Building on that foundation has been a privilege and great fun!



One of the Dean candidates asked me, "What is it like to be Dean at Michigan's School of Nursing?" How does one answer that question? One could cite so many strengths; the caliber of faculty, staff, and students that are at Michigan; the never-ending creative ideas and initiatives that are implemented; the strong community with diversity of backgrounds, thoughts and positions; the richness of the interdisciplinary possibilities across the university; and, the major support of the School as an integral and vital part of the greater University. The question could also be answered by citing the School's many accomplishments; faculty contributions to science and nursing practice through their scholarship; the academic programs' responsiveness to the shortage of nurses and nursing faculty with new curricular initiatives; the growth and contributions of the faculty practices to the educational and research needs of the School and

service needs of the community of Ann Arbor; and, the strength of the faculty, staff, and student communities. But the bottom line for me is the excitement of the future, given all the School's growth and accomplishments—its potential for the future is even greater! In a time of transition, the School's faculty, staff, and students are still on the move—nothing is in a maintenance mode. For example, at a recent Sigma Theta Tau award event, the members and faculty were discussing a new academic graduate program in palliative care! The secret is strong leadership and "go-blue" spirit that is evident at the individual level for each faculty, staff, and student group -- truly the "leaders and the best."

Leading and shaping mutual visions and programs during the past twelve years has been very exciting and challenging. Creating strategic plans and initiatives with faculty, staff, and students has provided marvelous opportunities to grow together as a School and as individuals. Facilitating these endeavors and working with colleagues in a leadership role will be an aspect of the Deanship journey that I will miss. But I am looking forward to engaging with the faculty in scholarly discussions more often. So as I "step out" of the Deanship, I am excited about my next venture in studying the influence of nursing research on health policy at the state and national levels, tracking the current areas of impact, and exploring the models and strategies for more explicitly shaping health policy by nursing scholars and scientists.

A special thank you to Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Thank you for being an important collaborator with the School of Nursing and including the School in many of the chapter activities. Thank you for sharing this column with the School in each of the newsletters - a special form of communication between the Chapter and the School. Thank you for all your support over the past twelve years during my tenure as Dean.

Leadership Conference: Have Patient Safety and the Workforce Shortage Created the Perfect Storm?

Rho Chapter, along with the University of Michigan Health System and Nursing Spectrum, are proud to co-sponsor a leadership conference honoring our retiring Dean, Ada Sue Hinshaw. The conference, "Have Patient Safety and the Workforce Shortage Created the Perfect Storm," will take place on May 12, 2006, in Ann Arbor Michigan. It will be preceded by a reception on the evening of May 11. Speakers include Linda Burnes Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Nursing Research & Development, who will be addressing practice issues and Donald M. Steinwachs

PhD, Professor and Director, Health Services R & D Center, Department of Health Policy and Management, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, who will focus on health policy. Dean Hinshaw will be the keynote speaker. Please plan on attending to honor Dean Hinshaw. Registration information can be obtained on the School of Nursing website: <http://www.nursing.umich.edu>. Or contact University of Michigan Educational Services for Nursing by phone: (734) 936-3631.

The President's Column: By Norma J. Sarkar MPH, RN

President, Rho Chapter

Dear Rho Chapter Members:

It is hard to find the words to describe the Sigma Theta Tau Awards Ceremony held on Sunday, March 26, 2006. It was my privilege to report the impressive achievements, read the words of praise from colleagues, and recognize twelve very special individuals for their accomplishments. All of these individuals demonstrate the mission of STTI.

The Honor Society provides leadership and scholarship in practice, education and research to enhance the health of all people. We support the learning and professional development of our members who strive to improve nursing care worldwide.



The achievements of these individuals make that mission statement come to life. The Awards ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to recognize our colleagues for their excellence in the nursing profession. The Distinguished Service Award was the final award of the day and was presented to Linda Strodtman. Linda's words of acceptance were an inspiration to us all. Linda looked around the room and described everyone as part of a quilt. Each of us, like a quilt square makes a contribution and joined together we can have a significant impact. Linda proceeded to talk about many in the room and how they were part of the quilt. It was a moment I will never forget.

Another special moment was provided by Dean Ada Sue Hinshaw as she completes her deanship at the School of Nursing. She was most appreciative of her Leadership Award from Rho Chapter. She noted recognition by your peers "at home," who know all your strengths as well as your weaknesses, is a true honor. Thanks to Dean Hinshaw for her support of Sigma Theta Tau and Rho Chapter during her years at U of M.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their time, ideas, hard work and commitment to the chapter. As you read about the programs and activities in this newsletter, it is evident that we are working hard to meet the needs of our members. Please consider joining us; we share the load to accommodate our busy schedules and numerous commitments, and we get the job done. We continue to work on three goals:

Visibility – Wear your pin and talk about your membership in Sigma Theta Tau

Communication – we now have an e-mail list of members living within a 60 mile radius of Ann Arbor, to communicate about local events. Please share your e-mail address with STTI so that we can communicate with you.

Involvement – The Board of Directors has done an excellent job. We are offering more programs to involve more members; please try to join us soon at a Rho Chapter event.

Call for New Rho Chapter Members: Community Nurse Leaders

Do you know a nurse who displays leadership, creative work, support for professional standards and commitment to scholarly nursing? This nurse should become a member of Sigma Theta Tau! The "Community Leader" membership category is for practicing nurses who hold at least a bachelor's degree, and whose professional work exemplifies the purposes of Sigma Theta Tau International.

To nominate a nurse for membership, please visit the Rho chapter website, and download the membership form: <http://www.umich.edu/~nursing/stti/membership/community.htm> or send your name and contact information along with the name and contact information for your nominee to:

Nicole Lauderdale, Faculty Counselor 2006-2007

Email: augres@umich.edu

Office Phone: (734) 647-0141

Nominations are due by August 1, 2006.

Sigma Theta Tau International Rho Chapter

Awards Ceremony: March 26, 2006

Awardees, their guests, and Rho members enjoyed an early taste of spring at the Sigma Theta Tau Rho Chapter Awards Ceremony, held at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor, Michigan. We strolled through the greenhouse, viewed the blooming spring plants, enjoyed tasty food and listened to delightful music at our annual ceremony honoring our members' contributions to nursing.

Rho Chapter proudly acknowledged twelve outstanding professionals for their hard work, guidance, leadership, in service for the nursing profession. Welcoming comments and congratulations were presented by Rho Chapter President Norma Sarkar. Dean Ada Sue Hinshaw gave closing comments, reminding us of the importance of recognizing each other for our contributions. Special thanks to DeJuana Meekins who chaired this event and organized it flawlessly. DeJuana was assisted by Lan Yao and Tansey Rossett. This "all-student" committee generously gave their time and skills to produce this beautiful ceremony.



*Awards Chairperson
DeJuana Meekins and
committee member Dr.
Lan Yao.*

Here is a list of awardees and their accomplishments:

Excellence in Nursing Education:

Donna L. Algase, PhD, RN, FAAN

Dr. Algase is Professor at the UM School of Nursing with a focus on Gerontology. Dr. Algase has demonstrated excellence and leadership in education for all levels of students at the U of M, expanding gerontologic nursing focus throughout the curricula. While it is difficult to adequately summarize the many accomplishments cited by her colleagues, Dr. Algase's "Lead, Link and Learn" program is one example. This project provided hands on experience for students from undergraduate through post-doctoral levels to do health policy work and other hands-on experiences in gerontology.

Excellence in Nursing Leadership:

Ada Sue Hinshaw, PhD, RN, FAAN

Dean Hinshaw has provided outstanding national and international leadership for research and policy in the nursing profession, most recently, in the field of patient safety and nursing practice environments. Dean Hinshaw held numerous national leadership positions in-

cluding the first permanent directorship of the Center for Nursing Research, which later became the National Institute for Nursing Research, and Presidency of the Fellow of American Academy of Nursing. She has received numerous awards, including one from the Institute of Medicine for her work as chair of the committee on patient safety. Her colleagues note that she has earned respect for her national and international work in health care policy, yet "she is never too busy to talk with student groupsor others who asked her to share her expertise."

Excellence in Nursing Mentorship:

Beatrice Kalisch, PhD, RN, FAAN and

Lisa Falzetta, MS, RN

Dr. Kalisch and Ms. Falzetta are the originators and principle staff of the Group Electronic Mentoring (GEM) Nursing Program, a unique approach to mentorship using electronic communication for young persons, ages 15 to 21, to encourage them to consider a career in nursing. The program uses a group mentoring format to link nurse mentors to young people, allowing them to provide advice, information, and support while reducing the barriers of scheduling and geography. GEM Nursing has enrolled more than 1100 student participants and has gathered the services of 275 nurse mentors from 18 nursing specialties.

Excellence in Nursing Mentorship:

Iracema Crawford, RN, BSN

Ms. Crawford was nominated for her longstanding work as a preceptor to senior nursing students in the Chelsea ICU where she works as a staff nurse. Her nomination noted that she has a unique ability to bring out the best in every student, from the timid to the ma-



Dena Crawford and guests.

ture and polished. Her colleagues note that she is very active in committees in her workplace. Ms. Crawford is current president of the Washtenaw Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Excellence in Nursing Practice:

Linda K. Strodtman, PhD, RN, FAAN and

Maureen Goode Giacomazza, MA, RN

Dr. Strodtman, Assistant Professor and Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Ms. Goode, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Ethicist, were recognized for their contributions to end of life nursing practice. Specific accomplishments noted by their colleagues included participation on the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium program to provide leadership in end

Sigma Theta Tau International Rho Chapter

Awards Ceremony: March 26, 2006

of life care education and numerous consultations to groups and individuals to resolve dilemmas around care of the dying. They have led numerous end of life improvements at UMHS, including initiating the first palliative care service. Other projects include the film "Evan Mayday's Good Death," and organizing an annual conference on end of life issues for health care professionals. Rho Chapter is pleased to recognize their long-standing work as champions for quality care at the last stage of life.

Excellence in Nursing Research:

Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN

Dr. Villarruel is Professor, Co-Director of the Michigan Center for Health Interventions, and Director of the Center for Health Promotion at the UM School of Nursing. Her colleagues note that she is an internationally renowned scholar in the area of health promotion and underserved populations, "whose cutting edge research crosses interdisciplinary and international boundaries. Her focus on health disparities and in particular, HIV risk among Latino youth is groundbreaking and highly relevant." Dr. Villarruel's research projects focus on reducing health disparities, promoting healthy lifestyles among women, and reducing HIV risk. She has authored 36 peer reviewed, data-based articles, 11 book chapters, two books, and numerous research presentations. Dr. Villarruel mentors young scholars to grow the next generation of nursing researchers.



Dr. Toni Villarruel is presented with the Excellence in Research Award by President Norma Sarkar.

Excellence in Student Leadership:

Megan Finn, BSN student

Ms. Finn is a senior nursing student who has been active in student leadership since she began her nursing program. Much of her work has been with the UM Student Nurses' Association (MSNA). She began as Events Coordinator of that organization and she is currently the president. Ms. Finn's colleagues note that she is an active, motivational leader whose involvement was instrumental in doubling the membership in the MSNA, increasing meeting attendance by 200% and the election of five U of M students to the state board of the MSNA. Ms. Finn has been a peer facilitator and tutor at the nursing school and she organized the Nursing Career Fair in both 2004 and 2005.

Friend of Nursing Award:

Edward Goldman, JD

Mr. Goldman is Health Systems Attorney at UM and Associate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for UM. Mr. Goldman was nominated for his many years of service educating nursing students related to legal issues in health care, preparing them to act as advocates in the current complex practice environment. Mr. Goldman's outstanding national background in health-related legal issues make him a valued contributor to nursing student education. His nominator notes that "he has been a willing guest speaker for senior nursing and second career nursing students...His presentations always capture the students' interest with practical advice and evident respect for the nursing profession."

Rising Star Award:

Jennifer R. Cheng, RN, MS, MPH, NP

Ms. Cheng is a graduate of the UM Gerontologic Nurse Practitioner program, and is currently a Nurse Fellow in the Pain & Palliative Care Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She was nominated by her colleagues who noted her dedication to learning, her knowledge about pain management, her strong interpersonal skills, and her ability to relate to people from many different backgrounds, noting that "she has become a valuable Palliative Care resource to others within the institution."

Rising Star Award:

Kimberlee A. Gretebeck, PhD, RN

Dr. Gretebeck is Assistant Professor, UM School of Nursing. She has developed a program of research in exercise and health promotion. Her current projects focus on exercise promotion for older adults with Type 2 Diabetes and work-site-based education to reduce hypertension. Her supporters for this award note that she is not only a rising scholar but and excellent teacher who "challenges students to think while maintain a supportive teaching environment."

Distinguished Service:

Linda K. Strodman, PhD, RN

Dr. Strodman earned the unique honor of receiving two Rho Chapter awards this year! Her colleagues recognized her for significant ongoing contributions to the nursing profession. Among her accomplishments are: development of the Clinical Nurse Specialist role at UMH, development of the Diabetes Unit at the UM, her work with undergraduate and graduate students in her academic role at the School of Nursing, her educational work on end of life care with professionals from numerous disciplines, and her efforts on the team that created the Palliative Care Program at UMHS. Professionals from medicine, social work and nursing acknowledged Dr. Strodman's creativity, passion, and dedication in her efforts to serve the nursing profession and the public.

GEM Nursing Program

GEM NURSING PROGRAM ENCOURAGES CAREERS IN NURSING

Ann Kruszewski PhD, RN

What is wise, friendly, supportive, AND available 24/7? The answer...The GEM Nursing Program. The GEM acronym stands for "Group Electronic Mentoring" a web-based program to educate and motivate young men and women to choose a nursing career. Initiated and staffed by two Rho members, Dr. Beatrice Kalisch and Ms. Lisa Falzetta, this innovative program has connected with over 1000 young people from across the country. The website contains information about the nursing profession, how to become a nurse, financial aid and scholarships, and links to nursing websites. The heart of the GEM program is the nurse mentors.

What is a mentor? Sigma Theta Tau International's website provides this definition: "someone who takes a special interest in helping another person develop into a successful professional....Good mentors are able to share life experiences and wisdom, as well as technical expertise. They are *good listeners, good observers, and good problem-solvers*. They make an effort to know, accept, and respect the goals and interests of a student." This description gives an excellent summary of the GEM nursing mentors. Mentees submit questions which are compiled and distributed to the network of mentors. Mentors answer questions in their areas of expertise. On Friday, a digest email is distributed to participants, listing the mentors' answers. This format allows practicing nurses to overcome the barriers of limited time and geographical location to provide support to young

persons who are exploring nursing. It also allows students from underrepresented groups in nursing to learn from mentors who are like them. For example, several male students reported finding interest in nursing as results of hearing from male nurse mentors

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Students described their experience as "better than a textbook." The mentors also enjoyed their participation, describing the program as "wonderful and innovative." Mentors report spending between 20 minutes to 2 hours each week reading and answering Digest questions.



**Lisa Falzetta, RN, MSN,
GEM Project Coordinator**

Would you like participate in the GEM program? The program is always looking for new mentors, and Rho members would be excellent candidates. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Project Coordinator, Lisa Falzetta, by email: falzetta@umich.edu

Be sure to visit the website, <http://www.gem-nursing.org> to see this innovative program for yourself.

References:

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. *What is a Mentor?* Retrieved April 1, 2006 from: http://www.nursingsociety.org/career/cm_mentoring.html

Excellence in Nursing Awards — Photo Captions, Page One

Clockwise from top left: Donna Algase — Education award; Dean Ada Sue Hinshaw — Leadership award; Dena Crawford — Mentorship award; Beatrice Kalisch — Mentorship award; Ed Goldman — Friend of Nursing award; Kim Gretebeck — Rising Star award; Linda Strodman & Maureen Giazomazza — Excellence in Practice award; Lisa Falzetta — Mentorship award; Dean Hinshaw and Ed Goldman; Megan Finn — Student leader award.

Congratulations to all of the Rho Chapter 2006 Winter Award Recipients!

RHO Chapter Board and Committee Roster: 2005-06

OFFICERS

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- Alison Sweet
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- Sue Begeny
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Leadership Succession Committee

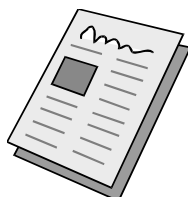
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- Lan Yao, PhD, RN
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Rho Newsletter, supported by member dues, is published two times a year: Fall and Winter. **We welcome your comments and news about STT Rho members' activities.**

Send your contributions via email or disk by the 15th of March and November, to: Newsletter Editor, Rho Chapter, STTI, c/o Ann Kruszewski, University of Michigan, 400 N. Ingalls, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0482, (734) 763-9436, or via email to <annkrusz@umich.edu>. Thanks!



Rho Chapter—Fall Induction of New Members

Sunday, November 5, 2006

Michigan League

Save this date and plan to attend our annual induction ceremony to honor our newest Rho chapter members.

Future Board Meetings:

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Location Room 2184, School of Nursing
400 N. Ingalls.

All Rho members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas!

Nominations Needed IMMEDIATELY for Rho Chapter Board Members

Are you a new member? A recently retired member? A student? A working professional? Looking for an opportunity to network? The Leadership Succession Committee is working to prepare a ballot that has members from a variety of settings. WE STILL NEED THE HELP OF OUR MEMBERS! We promise that the work will be fun and the workload reasonable. The Chapter provides secretarial support for all officers. Please nominate yourself or a fellow member for these offices. Each officer serves a two year term.

- Vice President (assists president and develops ideas for programs)
- Secretary (records board meeting minutes & maintains mailing list and email group)
- Faculty Counselor Elect (must be a U of M faculty member; assists the Faculty Counselor with new member selection; these officers have secretarial support to assist them)
- Leadership Succession Committee (one member; obtains nominations for Rho Chapter elections)
- Governance Committee (one member; reviews bylaws and makes recommendations for revision)

Nominate Board Members Today!

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