



Sigma Theta Tau
International Honor Society of Nursing
THE DELTA REPORT
DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER



Winter 2012

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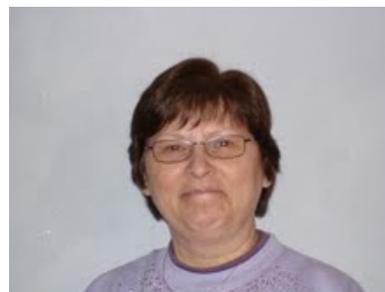
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The Delta Report is published three times yearly for Delta Omega Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, Inc. The Delta Report welcomes information about members' accomplishments in research, promotion, publication, and/or presentation. Correspondence to the Delta Report should be sent to the president Barb Brunt via email at bruntb@summahealth.org

Sigma Theta Tau, International www.nursingsociety.org
Delta Omega <http://www.uakron.edu/nursing/about-us/stti>

Message from the Chapter President:
Kathy Rose



Happy New Year to the members of Delta Omega! It has been a beautiful winter so far this year as we have not had the snow that was predicted for 2012. But as I am writing this message I look outside at the snow softly falling and the beautiful cardinals at the feeder in my back yard and it is a picture perfect day. The brilliant red of the cardinals against the white snow and evergreens is a wonder of nature that is seldom enjoyed due to our busy lives and schedules.

The members of Delta Omega are gearing up once again for a busy year. For the month of February our community activity is with OPEN-M. Announcements went out to the membership for the OPEN-M hot lunch being served on February 22, 2012. Please come and join us as it is fun and a charitable event for the community. Secondly, the scheduled April 15 induction ceremony is quickly approaching. Details are being formulated and definite plans will be announced very soon. By now you probably have been receiving e-mails, telephone calls, mail and the like for the upcoming March 23, 2012 Supreme Court repeal hearing for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2010. State representatives are asking for

health care workers to voice their stand on the repeal. The projected costs of the PPACA due to expansion of Medicaid, federal tax subsidies, the hiring of new IRS agents, and the ban on lifetime and annual coverage caps and on discrimination based on pre-existing conditions is expected to top \$2.5 trillion. Some of President Obama's provisions have already taken place, but the main provisions and cost drivers do not take effect until 2014. As of mid-July 2011, there were more than 9,000 pages of rules and Federal Register notices related to Obamacare. Nurses need to be knowledgeable regarding issues of PPACA. We as an international nursing community must write or call our representatives and take a stand on the repeal – it depends on us!

Until I correspond again in the spring, I am wishing each and every one of you a healthy, safe, prosperous and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Kathy
Kathy Rose, RN, MSN
President, Delta Omega Chapter, STTI

Community Corner

OPEN-M

“Christmas for the Love of Children 2011” Program

Many thanks to our membership for helping two families this year have a better holiday season. We provided gifts for 12 children and a \$100 gift card for each family to Acme. Final chapter expenses for the project were \$180.00 thanks to donations made by chapter membership. Thanks again to the following members for making the program a success: Beverly Bokovitz, Barb Brunt, Peg

DiMarco, Dina Dornack, Therese Dowd, Michelle Enlow, Phylis Fitzgerald, Mary Franklin, Kathy Horning, Vivian Leggett, Shannon Puliafico, Linda Shanks, Noel Sisk and Deborah Smith.

SAVE the DATE!



Hot Lunch at OPEN-M

On Wednesday, February 22nd members of the chapter will serve hot lunch at Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry (OPEN-M) in Akron. This will be our sixth year serving lunch to the OPEN-M community and our taco salads continue to be a big hit. We expect to serve 150 people and need your help. Considering membership? If you're a student or nurse leader who is considering membership – come have some fun. This is a great opportunity to meet the membership while giving back to the community.

Please contact Past President, Dina Dornack @ ddornack@sbcglobal.net with questions. If you're not able to stay the entire time here's the typical schedule: set-up from 9:30am-11:30am, serve from 11:30am-1:00pm and clean up from 1:00pm-1:30pm.

Good Samaritan Hunger Center Soup for the City Raffle Baskets

Many thanks to members that donated items and or monies to support the Soup for the City Raffle Baskets. The Delta Omega Chapter donated two raffle baskets for the Soup for the City Event on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at Todaro's Party Center.

Proceeds from this event support the Good Samaritan Hunger Center which serves over 200 meals, and over 200 bags of food and fresh soup weekly.

Members were asked to donate items for a "Wine Delight" Basket and a "Shop till You Drop/Eat Your Heart Out Basket".



The Wine Delight basket was valued at \$120 and contained the following items: Ice Bin, Bottle Stopper, Lolita Mini Wine Ornament, Cheese and Crackers, Pistachios, 4 wine glasses, Stone Cellars Merlot, Talus Collection Pinot Noir 2005, Sterling Vintner's Collection Chardonnay 2009, Bella Sera Moscato 2010, Jones Bridge Chardonnay 2009, 3 Muses Cellars Merlot 2009, Menage a Trois California Red Wine 2008



The Shop till You Drop/Eat Your Heart Out basket was valued at \$210 and contained the following items: Bowl from Indonesia, \$25 Kohl's Gift Card, \$25 Target Gift Card, \$50 Visa Gift Card, \$25 Applebee's Gift Card, \$25 Bob Evans Gift Card, \$25 TGI Friday's Gift Card, \$25 Olive Garden Gift Card

Thanks for supporting such a great community project. We plan to continue our relationship with the Good Samaritan Hunger Center. Look for other exciting opportunities in the future.

(Community Corner Articles submitted by Dina Dornak)

Research Corner

Got a question about a clinical problem? Find out what the evidence shows!

Think about the problems you see in your clinical practice. Where are the uncertainties in your practice? Are they associated with dealing with a particular population or with a particular treatment approach?

Once you identify the problem of interest, take time to see if there are systematic reviews about this problem. Systematic reviews are summaries of evidence from studies about specific clinical problems. You can find systematic reviews on <http://www.cochrane.org>. Your hospital librarian may be able to help you locate these relevant reviews.

As you review the evidence about your practice problem, consider forming a team to help you sort through the evidence. Team members might include other clinicians from your unit, your nurse manager, and advanced practice nurses. If you find that few researchers have studied your practice problem, your next step is to develop a research proposal. A research proposal describes *what* you want to study, *why* you want to study it, and *how* you want to study it. Consider collaborating with a nurse researcher in your practice setting or at The University of Akron School of Nursing.

Throughout the year Sigma Theta Tau International and the Delta Omega Chapter review research proposals and award grants to support research efforts. Delta Omega is currently accepting research proposals. Check out <http://www.uakron.edu/nursing/about-us/stti> for information about Delta Omega research proposal deadlines, guidelines, and applications. Check out <http://www.nursingsociety.org> for further information about Sigma Theta Tau International research support opportunities.

Good luck with your work!

(Submitted by Chris Heifner Graor at graor@uakron.edu and Elaine Fisher at efisher@uakron.edu)

News from Area Institutions

News From Summa Health System

Summa participated in Phase 2 of the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Study on pain. The goal of this project is to measure and improve pain care processes and outcomes in a sample of 100 hospitals across the United States.

Summa Health System participated in the 2011 Akron Start! Heart Walk. There were 1,358 walkers who attended the event, and Summa raised over \$141,321 for the American Heart Association.

The Nursing Summations newsletter received the Aster Gold Award. This program recognizes the most talented healthcare marketing for outstanding excellence against similar sized competitors from across the nation and now the world. Through an elite annual competition entries from the previous year are scored, judged and recognized nationally and internationally. Congratulations to Eileen Fleming, MSN, RN, NE-BC and Anne Leavengood from Nursing Research and Tangee Whapham from Marketing.

Seventy-five (75) nurses received Clinical Ladder status and were recognized at a luncheon in November.

Sue Hazelett, BSN, MS, RN, Carolyn Holder, MSN, RN, GCNS-BC, Kyle Allen, DO and J. Rudy had a chapter on "Summa Health System and Area Agency of Aging Geriatric Evaluation Project" published in the *Comprehensive Care Coordination for Ill Adults*.

Kyle Allen, DO, Sue Hazelett, MSN, MS, RN Skip Radwany, MD, D. Ertle, Sue Fosnight, RPH, CGP, BCPS and Pam Moore, PharmD, BCPS had an article on "The Promoting Effective Advance Care Planning for Elders (PEACE) Randomized Pilot Study: Theoretical framework and Study Design, published online ahead of print in *Population Health Management*.

Barbara Brunt, MA, MN, RN-BC, NE-BC had an article on "Ask the expert: Constructive criticism during competency assessment" published in the December 12th issue of *Nurse Leaders Weekly*, published by HCPro.

Tiffany Kenny, MSN, RN, C-EFM had an article on "Hard stop cuts deliveries before 39 weeks"

published in the November issue of *Healthcare Risk Management*.

Allison Hesse, BSN, RN had a poster on Outcomes of an Acute Delirium Detection, Prevention and Treatment Intervention at the Gerontological Society of America's annual scientific meeting in Boston in November.

Personnel from Summa Health System and Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministries (OPEN-M) received a \$491,223 research grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for their study on "Comparative Effectiveness of Two Community Base Diabetes Management Approaches"

Jennifer Foster, BSN, RN, IBCLC presented "Got Artificial Milk? Supporting the non-breastfeeding mother" at the OLCA meeting in Columbus in November.

Jennifer Doyle, MSN, RN, WHNP was selected to sit as a nursing representative at the Ohio Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review Task Force.

Summa Akron City Emergency Medicine Services moved into a new 85,000-square foot addition, located adjacent to the existing 19,000 square foot emergency department (ED) on January 19th. The enhanced ED houses 44 private rooms that are separated by walls instead of the curtain dividers found in the existing ED.

(Submitted by Barb Brunt)

Congratulations to Barb Brunt, recipient of the 2010-2011 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign. Barb has been chosen for referring Aimi Zajac for STTI membership. Barb has been recognized on the STTI website as well as in the January 2012 edition of *STTIconnect Newsletter*.

Way to go Barb! 😊

News From The University Of Akron

Cynthia Capers, Sigma Theta Tau Member from the University of Akron, was honored to have her article, "*Behaviors and Characteristics of African American and European American Females That Impact Weight Management*", accepted in the Journal of Nursing Scholarship in January 2011. **Congratulations Cynthia! 😊**

Have you worked with a **GREAT** mentor, leader, researcher, or colleague lately?

Recognize this person by nominating her or him to receive an **Award of Excellence**. Each year the Delta Omega Chapter gives the following Awards of Excellence during the Spring Induction ceremony to a worthy recipient. Areas of excellence are recognized by the following awards:

- ❖ Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
- ❖ Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice
- ❖ Award for Excellence in Nursing Education
- ❖ Award for Excellence in Nursing Research
- ❖ Award for Excellence in the Utilization of Nursing Research

- ❖ Award for Excellence in Nurse Mentoring
- ❖ Award for Outstanding Nursing Undergraduate or Graduate Student Performance

Award recipients *do not* need to be a chapter member to receive an Award of Excellence, however only Delta Omega Chapter members can nominate individuals. Awards are voted in February. So, if you have worked with several GREAT *mentors, leaders, researchers, or colleagues* lately, submit your nominations to Elaine Fisher at efisher@uakron.edu.

The deadline for nominations is **March 1, 2012**. Please see the chapter website at <http://www.uakron.edu/nursing/about-us/stti/> for more information on award criteria. The Nursing Recognition Awards Nomination Form is located at the end of this Winter 2012 newsletter. Awards will be presented at the Spring Induction Ceremony.

Delta Omega Winter Program Thursday, February 2, 2012 at Akron City Hospital

Our winter program, entitled, “*A Clinical Approach to Autism as a Mother and a Nurse*,” was presented by Phyllis Mesko, RN, CPN. The program began with a dinner, time to network with others, and was followed by a panel discussion. Over 30 nurses attended the program.



Our speaker, Phyllis Mesko, RN, CPN, works at Akron Children’s Hospital’s Post Anesthesia Care Unit. She stated, “I am the one called to care for children with special needs.” Her experience as a pediatric nurse and mother of a twenty-seven year old non-verbal son with Autism gives her knowledge and insight on what the child needs from both perspectives. Phyllis has presented her research on the use of picture communication with children to assess pain location at the local, state, national, and international levels. She published in the American Association of PeriAnesthesia’s newsletter, *Breathline* (January/February 2010 addition), and recently published in the December 2011 issue of the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*. Phyllis provided valuable information on Autism Spectrum Disorder, its impact on patient care, and strategies for caring for a hospitalized child with Autism. She also discussed the child’s transition to adulthood from a personal and nursing perspective.

Shannon Prexta, RN, BSN, one of our panel members, also has extensive experience in working with children with Autism as both a nurse and a mother. Shannon works with the Summit County Health Department as a Public Health Nurse (PHN) and with the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) program. The role of a PHN in BCMh is to assist families with care coordination, completion of the yearly BCMh application and completing a yearly medical assessment of the child for the state. Shannon has also spent a significant

amount of time working with Ohio's children (birth to age 3) with developmental delays or disabilities. This program is called *Help Me Grow*. Her personal experience with Autism is that her son, Shawn, now 8 years old, was diagnosed with moderate to severe Autism at 19 months of age.

Pam Keen, our third panel member, has been employed as a Public Health Nurse for the Summit County Health Department for the past 18 years, working primarily with BCMH. Pam has a grandson named David, 5 years old, who was diagnosed with High-Functioning Autism.



We are very thankful to Phyllis, Shannon, and Pam for sharing their expertise, and to Akron City Hospital for allowing us to hold our dinner program at their facility.

(Submitted by Linda Shanks, 1st Vice President, Delta Omega Chapter)

Sigma Theta Tau Convention 2011 **Grapevine, Texas**

Report of Sigma Theta Tau Convention

Four Delta Omega members attended the STTI Convention from Friday October 28 – Wednesday November 2, 2011 in Grapevine Texas. Dina Dornack and Noel Sisk were delegates, Marlene Huff did a paper presentation, and Barb Brunt had a poster presentation.



Preconvention sessions were held on Friday, and the opening plenary session on Saturday was given by Karin Morin, DSN, RN, ANEF, FAAN. She encouraged all members to connect through knowledge for global health by 1) creating welcoming environments, 2) enhancing knowledge resources and networks, 3) contributing to global health, and 4) creating a legacy of personal leadership. She reviewed the work undertaken on each of these initiatives in the 200902911biennium and reported significant process. Following Karin's presentation, there was a breakout session, and then the grand opening of the exhibit hall.

On Sunday, Kathleen Stevens, EdD, RN, FAAN, winner of the Episteme Laureate Award, gave a plenary session on "From evidence to outcomes: Creating the future today." Stevens is the founding member of the Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice (ACE). The ACE Star Model of Knowledge Transformation is a five-part recurring cycle that involves discovery, summary, translation, integration, and evaluation. There were concurrent sessions and poster viewing throughout the day, and Regional Meetings in the evening. Delta Omega was recognized for receiving two Showcase of Excellence Awards, one for Creating a Welcoming Environment (30th anniversary celebration) and another one for contributing to global health (work with Germany students and having a program highlighting the International Year of the Nurse). After the meeting, everyone from Region 10 went out to eat for a relaxing evening.



House of Delegates Report

Each chapter of STTI is required to send two delegates to Biennial Convention. Dina Dornack and Noel Sisk represented the chapter at the 41st Biennial Convention in Grapevine, Texas. The representatives are required to attend the House of Delegates events which occur over two days. Each delegate is provided with a 2009-2011 Biennial Report to share with their chapter. This is a great opportunity to see the business aspects of the organization. During the first day society business is conducted. A quorum is established and the House of Delegates is called into session. The 2011 ballot is approved and nominations from the floor are accepted. Elections of STTI representatives are then conducted. Lastly, the proposed bylaw amendments are discussed. On day two the election results are revealed. A vote on the proposed bylaw amendments takes place. Proposed resolutions are voted on and the President shares her Presidential Call to Action.

The 2011-2013 President of STTI is Suzanne Prevost. In her Presidential Call to Action four overriding themes emerge. They are Create Your Legacy, Engage in Collaboration, Respond to Vulnerable Populations and Embrace Technology. I encourage you to visit the STTI website at www.nursingsociety.org to gather more information regarding each of these themes.

Another document that was reviewed with the House of Delegates was Vision 2020. By the year 2020, the Honor Society of Nursing, STTI will be the organization of choice for scholarship, knowledge and leadership for nurses globally. As a leader in professional nursing, the honor society will play a significant role in addressing global health issues. This will be possible because of the intellect and leadership of its members who will influence health care decisions globally, regionally and locally. Vision 2020 has four priority goals.

Monday featured the third plenary session presented by Kim Boulden-Jones, BA, on “Healthcare and Medical Infrastructure in the Developing World.” Health care workers in developing countries, such as Ethiopia provide care under extremely adverse conditions that include no running water. Boulden-Jones, who is the founder and executive direction of the KBJ Consulting Inc and Medical Facility aid, works with the World Health Organization and a host of other agencies to enhance the conditions of medical facilities in the developing world. The Chapter Recognition event was also on Monday and I had the pleasure of accepted Delta Omega’s 10th key award. We are one of only two chapters in the world to receive this recognition of excellence ten times.

Tuesday had a couple more concurrent sessions, and then the House of Delegates convened. There is another article in the newsletter reporting on the House of Delegates.

(Submitted by Barb Brunt)



Goal #1: The honor society is a valued, relevant and meaningful organization for members and nurses worldwide. Goal #2: The honor society is an intentionally global organization. Goal #3: The honor society is a thought leader in creating and sharing knowledge and in leadership development. Goal #4: The honor society is a knowledge-focused, technology enabled organization. At the chapter level it is vital for us to embrace both the Presidential Call to Action and Vision 2020. The Delta Omega Board designs the strategic direction of the chapter around these documents.

Please let us know if you have ideas you'd like to share to assist us in meeting the above mentioned goals. Any bylaw amendments from the House of Delegates that affect us at the chapter level will be adopted into practice and the membership will be notified.

Election results for International Officers: Hester Klopper (President – Elect), Cathy Catrambone (Vice President), Nancy Sharts-Hopko (Treasurer), Connie Sobon-Sensor (Secretary) and Mary Mullen Graiver (Region 10 Coordinator).

(Respectfully submitted, Dina Dornack)



Perceptions of a First Time Delegate

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bernadette Noel Sisk and I served as a delegate for Delta Omega at the 41st Biennial Convention in Grapevine, Texas. I would like to thank Delta Omega for allowing me the honor to serve as their delegate. I am a 2011 graduate of the University of

Akron's RN to BSN program and new member to STTI. I am still new to the world of nursing as I only just graduated with my ADN a year prior. I mention this to help impress the grandiosity of the convention to my callow eyes. They say everything is bigger in Texas. Although I have not to compare this convention to, everything about it was certainly grand.

From the moment you step foot in the Gaylord Texan Hotel & Convention Center, you feel as if you were Alice who just fell down the rabbit hole and drank the shrinking potion to enter Wonderland. (As for the plane to and from Texas, it was as if I ate the cake and made myself too big.) Although I was at awe with the convention center itself, I was blown away by sheer numbers of nurses in attendance, let alone the combined level of knowledge and experience in one massive room. But instead of feeling inept and completely awkward due to my limited experience, I felt accepted and empowered.

It was here that I realized that I had felt alone and without support in my nursing position although I didn't understand what exactly I was feeling. But I suddenly realized I was not alone. I could suddenly see another world of nursing beyond the day-to-day grind which I was allowing to consume me. I want to always remember there is more out there that needs to be done. It is nurses like you and me that need to move forward from the daily shift work to help evolve the profession of nursing as those nurses did at the convention. Every poster and every presentation shared at the convention was evolution before our very eyes.

Although there must have been topics for every field of nursing, these presentations are merely the tip of the iceberg to the topics that need to be researched to help bring evidence based practice into nursing practice. It is up to all of us to help evolve nursing and we must remember that are not alone in our quest.

Thank you,
Bernadette Noel Sisk, RN, BSN

Nurses ranked as top most profession yet again

Nurses maintained their dominance atop Gallup's annual poll on trustworthy professions, topping the list for the 12th time in the 13 years they have been included as an option.

The survey was conducted Nov. 28 to Dec. 1 among a random sample of 1,012 adults representing all 50 states and Washington, D.C. When asked to rate the honesty and ethical standards of nurses, 84% responded with "very high" or "high," while 15% responded "average" and only 1% responded "low" or "very low."

The 84% positive response is tied for the highest rating nurses have achieved; they received the same rating in 2001, 2006 and 2008. The only year nurses did not finish first in the survey since their inclusion was 2001, when firefighters took the top spot in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Medical professions abounded at the top of the list of 21 professions, with pharmacists (73% positive response) and medical doctors (70%) rounding out the top three. The lowest-rated professions, with a 7% positive response, were car salespeople, lobbyists and members of Congress.

"Americans are as positive as they have ever been about those in medical professions, though the public has always held doctors, nurses and pharmacists in high esteem," Gallup noted in a news release.

"The public's continued trust in nurses is well-placed, and reflects an appreciation for the many ways nurses provide expert care and advocacy," American Nurses Association President Karen A. Daley, RN, PhD, MPH, FAAN, said in a news release. "Major national policy initiatives also show trust in nurses. The Affordable Care Act and the

Future of Nursing recommendations call on nurses to take more leadership roles and collaborate fully with other professionals in providing essential healthcare to a growing number of people who will have greater access to services."

ANA noted a recent high-profile legal case that underscored the commitment nurses demonstrate to patient safety and quality. In 2009, two Texas nurses reported a physician at their hospital for unsafe practices. The nurses withstood intimidation and criminal charges, and held firm to their principles (<http://bit.ly/tMRplh>).

When the legal battles concluded in November, four individuals involved with bringing charges against the nurses were either convicted or pled guilty to misuse of official information and retaliation.

To read the full results of the Gallup poll, visit <http://bit.ly/rPpNGF>.

(Article retrieved from Nurse.com, 14 December 2012)

Thank you for reading the Sigma Theta Tau Winter 2012 Newsletter! Please keep your eyes open for updates regarding the Induction Ceremony in Spring 2012.

The following pages consist of information for the Excellence in Nursing Recognition Award Nomination Form.

SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL, INC.
HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING
Delta Omega Chapter

Excellence in Nursing Recognition Awards Nomination Form

Category (Check one)

Nursing Practice

Nursing Research

Nursing Education

Nursing Mentoring (include letters of support from persons mentored)

Nursing Leadership

Utilization of Nursing Research

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Summary of the Nominee's Contributions and Accomplishments: Please write a brief explanation, including pertinent examples, describing how the nominee has demonstrated achievement of criteria specific to the award for which she or he is being nominated.

Nomination submitted by: Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ Chapter Affiliation _____

Please return this form to: Dr. Elaine Fisher, Chair, Research Grants & Awards Committee
College of Nursing
The University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-3703
Email efisher@uakron.edu

Guidelines for Recognition Awards

- I. Purpose of the Awards: The purpose of the awards is to recognize outstanding nurses whose contributions to nursing fulfill the goals of Sigma Theta Tau International.
- II. Criteria
 - A. General
 1. Sigma Theta Tau members submit nominations for the awards
 2. Academic excellence defined as a G.P.A. of 3.0 or above when students are involved.
 3. Support for the Sigma Theta Tau member's nomination may come from peer, faculty, nursing or community leaders.
 4. Awards will be issued at the discretion of the committee.
 - B. Types of Awards and Criteria
 1. Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
 - a. Receives local, national and/or international recognition as a nursing leader in education, practice, administration and/or research.
 - b. Influences leadership in nursing through visionary and innovative approaches to leadership.
 - c. Creates an environment that enhances the image of nursing and nurses.
 - d. Participates in the development of nursing leaders.
 2. Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice
 - a. Demonstrates knowledge in area of clinical nursing practice.
 - b. Develops creative approaches to nursing practice that contribute to quality client care.
 - c. Possesses the clinical expertise and the attributes of a clinical scholar.
 - d. Advances the scope and practice of nursing.
 - e. Serves as mentor/preceptor that inspires peers' practice of nursing.
 - f. Influences the practice of nursing through communication.
 - g. Enhances the image of nursing through one's nursing practice.
 - h. Participates in community affairs, legislation, or organizations that affect nursing practice.
 3. Award for Excellence in Nursing Education
 - a. Demonstrates excellence in teaching as evidenced by student and peer evaluations.
 - b. Advances the science of nursing through clarifying, refining and/or expanding nursing's knowledge base.
 - c. Promotes a theory/research base for nursing curricula and nursing practice.
 - d. Influences scholarly development in nursing education, practice, and/or research through teaching.
 - e. Influences the professional practice of nursing and the public's image of nursing through excellence in teaching.
 4. Award for Excellence in Nursing Research
 - a. Conducts scholarly research in nursing, according to research guidelines for Sigma Theta Tau.
 - b. Communicates nursing research findings to the nursing community, including journal citations and/or presentations.
 - c. Contributes significantly to the body of nursing knowledge through research.
 5. Award for Excellence in the Utilization of Nursing Research
 - a. Applies nursing research findings in administration, education, or clinical practice.
 - b. Documents utilization of nursing research.
 - c. Evaluates utilization of nursing research.
 6. Award for Excellence in Nurse Mentoring
 - a. Actively shapes and promotes the development of the career of a nurse, Sigma Theta Tau member, a chapter leader and/or an individual chapter leader, as evidenced through letters of support from persons being mentored.
 - b. Freely shares own resources for the growth and development of a nurse.
 - c. Maintains the mentoring relationship over time.

7. Award for Outstanding Nursing undergraduate or Graduate Student Performance
 - a. Demonstrates excellence in areas of nursing practice, academic achievement, research or leadership activities.
 - b. Presents self as a student who seeks and enjoys the search for knowledge.