

Sigma Theta Tau International

Honor Society of Nursing

Chapter Newsletter

Message from the President

The past year has been a time of joy and sorrow. The joy included induction of 27 new members into Omicron Lambda chapter and the



election of Lacy Carpenter as Vice President, Bryan Williamson as Treasurer, Allison Hayes

as Faculty Counselor and Charlotte Wood as Leadership Succession Chair. Another joy was the success of our chapter meetings which have had wonderful attendance. This fall our speakers included Kristi Henderson, DNP, NP-BC, FAEN and Ladonna Northington, DNS, RN, BC. This spring, Tina Magers, MSN, RN, shared • her ongoing research with our members and quests. Our sorrow was the death of our Immediate Past-President, Teresa Jarnagin. Another joy was the successful attendance of our chapter at the 41st Biennial Convention of Sigma Theta Tau International at Grapevine, TX. We were fortunate to have 5 members present: Deb Welch, President; Rick Lewis, President-Elect; Charlotte Wood, Leadership Succession Chair, Mary Jean Padgett, Governance/Bylaws Chair, and Sadie Van Gorder, Membership Ambassador. It was a wonderful, stimulating conference. I encourage all members to consider attending the Region 8 conference which will be held October 26 - 27, 2012 at Union University in Jackson. TN as well as the 42nd Biennial Convention which will be held on November 16-20, 2013 in Indianapolis, IN. -Deb Welch

Member Updates

- Nature Comans (2010) recently returned home from a Germany deployment at Ramstein as a flight nurse with the MS ANG. She is engaged to Tommy Sessums and is considering the FNP program at UMC.
- Cynthia Evans (2011) has moved to Clinton while attending the Fall semester at Mississippi College finalizing her work in the RN-BSN program.
- Lenora Houston Allen (2009) is in an MSN program, Chamberlain. She is working as a clinic nurse in a NP run rural clinic while also volunteering for the free clinic in Tupelo.
- Tina Magers (1998) became ANA board certified this past year in Nursing Professional Development. She is in graduate school at Arizona State University in the graduate certificate program in Evidencedbased Practice (a program that develops nurse leaders to be EBP mentors in their clinical areas) and will complete her studies in May 2012.
- Leah Pickett (2008) graduated in August from Vanderbilt with a MSN in the Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track. She works as a RN at UMC in the Child Psych Inpatient Unit.
- Lisa L. Smith (1998) completed graduate school in 2009, completing a dual Masters: Masters of Science in Nursing and Masters of Business Administration, Health Care Management. She has two national certifications: Medical-Surgical and Critical Care.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Every fall brings a chance to begin anew – a new academic year, new students, and new faculty. Sadly, this fall we are also grieving the loss of one of our own – Dr. Teresa Jarnagin. Dr. Jarnagin was a significant part of our faculty and our Omicron Lambda chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. We feel a great loss and are going to miss her from our lives and all of our activities.

Last year was a great year for our Omicron Lambda chapter. We had some inspiring speakers, inducted some wonderful students and community leaders, and we participated in both regional and national STTI

activities. Last fall, we had two graduates and one faculty member present at the Region 8 meeting in Hattiesburg, MS. We also had two of our officers join me as we traveled to Arlington, TX for the STTI Leadership Summit. It was an informative meeting on ways to improve our chapter, as well as a pleasure to honor Dr. Billye Brown, Past President of STTI, and a special friend of our Omicron Lambda chapter, on her 85th birthday. Dr. Brown was our Inducting Officer from STTI when our chapter was chartered, and a special friend to many of our faculty members, and my mentor and very dear friend.

This fall several of our faculty and one of our graduates traveled to Grapevine, TX where we participated in the Biennial Convention of Sigma Theta Tau International. This Convention was being held at the Texas Gaylord where the inside is decorated to represent many areas of Texas, including the hill country, the Alamo, and the San Antonio Riverwalk. Registration ran 115% ahead of the last Biennial Convention, which was held in Indianapolis.

We have new STTI officers, who are very interested in you joining us as we make Omicron Lambda an outstanding chapter of STTI. I know that many of you are actively involved in research, scholarly activities, and service to our profession. I hope you will join us this year at our Omicron Lambda meetings and share with us the exciting and innovative

renew today

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JOAN ELLIOTT, RN



Joan Elliott is a December 2007 graduate of Mississippi College. She was inducted into Omicron Lambda in April 2010 and became a Membership Ambassador in 2011. Joan is the Clinic Nurse Manager for the Baptist Medical Clinics and studying the Advanced Adult-Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Track through the University of South Alabama. Joan has been married to Randy, her high school sweetheart for 26 years. They have two daughters: Katy, age 20, who is attending school in Hattiesburg and Anna Claire, age 14, who is at Sumner Hill in Clinton. Rounding out her family are two cats: Babs and Bella and their newest baby; Basha, who is a VERY energetic one-year-

old lab/retriever mix. Joan and Randy attend Pinelake Baptist Church.

INDUCTION CELEBRATION—KATHERINE NUGENT, PHD, RN

Please join us for our Induction of New Members on Tuesday, **April 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.** in Anderson Hall. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Katherine Nugent. Dr. Nugent Dr. Katherine E. Nugent who is a Professor in the School of Nursing at University of Southern Mississippi, currently holds the position of Director of the School of Nursing and Associate Dean of the College of Health. Prior to arriving at the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Nugent was at the School of Nursing in the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). During her tenure at MCG, Dr. Nugent held the positions of Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Vice Dean, and Interim Dean. Prior to her tenure at MCG, Dr. Nugent was the Assistant Department Head at Clemson University School of Nursing. She also served as faculty in the University of Texas at Galveston and College of Mainland, School of Nursing.

Dr. Nugent received a PhD degree from Texas A&M in Health Education and Higher Administration in 1987. She received her M.S. (Nursing) degree and B.S (nursing) degree from Texas Woman's University. Prior to her academic tenure, Dr. Nugent was a pediatric staff nurse, maternal-child nurse educator, and pediatric clinical nurse specialist.

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT OUR PROGRESS! The Omicron Lambda Newsletter is available to our membership primarily via electronic format. Please go to the international website at

http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/MyMembership/Pages/my_membership.aspx to update your contact information and make sure we have your email address. If you need a hard copy, you will need to let Deb Welch, President, know in writing, including your name and address. dwelch@mc.edu

Chapter Officers/Board of Directors 2011-2012

President: Deb Welch President Elect: Rick Lewis Vice President: Lacy Carpenter

Secretary: Martha Hopper Treasurer: Bryan Williamson Faculty Counselors: Allison Hayes/Jill Mayo

Leadership Succession Chair: Landa Strum Governance Chair: Mary Jean Padgett

Membership Ambassadors: Joan Elliot/Sadie Van Gorder

2nd Annual Silent Auction

The 2nd Annual Silent Auction will be held in conjunction with the 2012 Induction Ceremony. The Silent Auction will begin at 5:00 pm and end at 6:00 pm at the beginning of the Induction Ceremony. Winners will be announced at the end of the Induction Ceremony. New this year will be an hand made T-Shirt Quilt made of t-shirts significant to Mississippi College and Omicron Lambda. Please be a part of the Silent Auction. If you have any items you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact our Fund Raising Chair, Heather Mangum at hmangum75@gmail.com.

Officers for Omicron Lambda 2012-2013

President: Rick Lewis

President-Elect: Sadie Van Gorder Vice President: Lacy Carpenter

Secretary: Tara Follum Treasurer: Bryan Williamson

Faculty Counselors: Lynn Buckalew/Allison Hayes Leadership Succession Chair: Landa Strum

Governance Chair: Mary Jean Padgett



41st Biennial Convention at Grapevine, Texas Pictured from left to right: Charlotte Wood, Deb Welch, Sadie Van Gorder, Billye Brown, Mary Jean Padgett, Rick Lewis

Please send Newsletter information to Rick Lewis at lewis13@mc.edu