



Sigma Theta Tau International

Honor Society of Nursing

Chapter Newsletter

As this school year begins the Sigma Theta Tau International, Omicron Lambda, chapter has already begun to make plans for the year. The Board of Directors meet this past July and began planning for the year. Board members are actively working together to make this year one of the best that Omicron Lambda has ever experienced. This past summer, nine member of Sigma Theta Tau International participated in the 2013 Summer Mission Trip by partnering with Medical Missions International to form the mission team. The team traveled 7 hours by boat up the Amazon river to remote villages where they conducted medical clinics during the day. The team was based in one village and traveled by boat each day to different villages. Students participated in various areas of service including pharmacy, immunizations, de-worming, de-licing, vital signs, pap smears, fluoride treatments and dental assisting. Our first chapter meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in classroom 132 in Cockcroft Hall. Omicron Lambda members and students that participated in the 2013 Summer Mission Trip to the Amazon will be presenting "Journey Down the Amazon". Thank you to all of you that made this trip possible.



Message from the President

Summer Missions 2013

On June 7, 2013, three faculty and six members of Omicron Lambda Sigma Theta Tau International and graduates of the Mississippi College School of Nursing participated in the 2013 Summer Mission program sponsored by School of Nursing. This year the team traveled to Leticia, Republic of Columbia. Leticia is located on the left bank of the Amazon River, and is located at the point where Columbia, Brazil and Peru come together. The medical team provided health screenings, assisted with setting up medical clinics. While they were they also toured a small hospital located in Leticia operated by Medical Mission Incorporated. In the village, the team members provided basic care and health promotion to members of the village as well as assisted in children's ministries by sponsoring a nightly soccer tournament for the children in the village. The children were divided into six teams. Each night team members presented a Bible story to the children through an interpreter as well as a drama presentation of the Bible story. Members of the team will be presenting "Journey Down the Amazon" in the first chapter meeting on September 16, in the School of Nursing. Members of the team will also be displaying items purchased on the mission trip.

Omicron Lambda Sponsors the MNA— Sigma Theta Tau International Luncheon

The speaker for the Sigma Theta Tau International Luncheon this year at the Mississippi Nurse association is Dr. Ann Blouin. Dr. Blouin, RN, PhD, FACHE, is the Executive Vice President of Customer Relations at the Joint Commission. In this position, Dr. Blouin focuses on building and strengthening external customer and stake holder relationships, primarily in the hospital market. She gathers customer input and feedback, assisting in guiding business development and retention strategies. Dr. Blouin continues her leadership role with the Nursing Advisory Council and co-sponsors the Health Systems Corporate Liaison group.

Dr. Blouin has published and taught extensively on topics focused on health care and nursing administration, and served as an adjunct faculty member at several Chicago area schools of nursing and medicine. She currently serves on the National Patient Safety Foundation Board of Directors and as an editorial advisor for the Journal of Nursing Administration and Journal of Biotechnology in Healthcare.

Dr. Blouin earned her PhD in Nursing Sciences and MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She received her MSN with honors in Maternal/Child Nursing from Loyola University of Chicago, and BSN with high honors from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. She is a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executive and member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, American Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau International.

Our website: <http://www.mc.edu/academics/nursing/stt/>



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DEBORAH WELCH, MSN, RN

Deb Welch is a 1978 graduate a MC. She received her MSN from UMC in 1997 and is currently in study at William Carey University for a PhD in Nursing Education and Administration. Deb is treasurer of Omicron Lambda and has served in the past as Faculty Advisor, President Elect, President, and Past President. Deb has also served as President, Secretary, and Membership chair of Pediatric Endocrinology Society. Deb and her husband Howard have been married for 27 years and live in South Jackson. Deb and Howard love to travel and have been to Carlsbad Caverns, Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, Northern California, and most recently to Hawaii.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Well, a new year has begun for Mississippi College, and for the School of Nursing. Last year was a wonderful year for us as we heard outstanding accreditation reports from both the national and state accreditation groups, and we received maximum length of 10 years accreditation by both groups.

We are still continuing to work on a major revision of our curriculum that we have been working on for the past 3 years. We began implementation of this curriculum this fall, with a pre-nursing transition course to introduce students to health care professions. We hope to implement the remaining revision beginning fall 2014 and beginning a roll out to continue until all four semesters contain revised courses.

We conducted a feasibility study last year to determine whether to begin a graduate nursing program. We found a great deal of interest in a graduate program from graduates and other registered nurses who live in a 100 mile radius of Clinton. Over the next couple of years, we hope to continue exploring this possibility with intent to move into graduate education as soon as we complete implementation of the revised curriculum.

This fall we have the opportunity to participate in our chapter activities, as well as our Biennial Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year is the 90th Anniversary of Sigma Theta Tau and the Convention will hold special recognition activities related to this. I have been asked to serve as host at some of the Convention events for the son and daughter-in-law of one of the original founders of the organization, Mrs. Mary Tolle Wright. It is indeed an honor to have the opportunity to visit with them, and perhaps to have the opportunity to introduce them to our other chapter representatives - Rick Lewis, Deborah Bolian, and Jill Mayo.

There is still time to register for Convention. I promise you that the opportunity to network with nurses from all over the world, to attend outstanding professional education opportunities, and to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our only nursing honor society will be something you will never forget. I would love to have you join us in Indianapolis, the home city for Sigma Theta Tau International.

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

Officers for Omicron Lambda 2012-2013

President: Rick Lewis, MSN, RN
President Elect: Deborah Bolian, MN, RN
Vice President: Nikki Frost, BSN, RN
Secretary: Vickie Gerrard, BSN, RN
Treasurer: Deborah Welch, MSN, RN
Faculty Counselors: Lynn Buckalew/Allison Hayes
Leadership Succession Chair: Ethiopa Haiule, MSN, RN
Governance Chair: Mary Jean Padgett, Phd, RN

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