

Mu Delta Chapter Newsletter

Induction 2008

This year's induction was held on April 25th at Vazzy's 19th Hole Restaurant at Fairfield's Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course. Twenty-five candidates were ceremonially inaugurated into Mu Delta Chapter. Kim Foito, President of Mu Delta Chapter, presided over the event. Kaitlin Gerberville, an undergraduate senior nursing student, was asked to deliver this year's keynote address. Her presentation entitled "The Making of a Nurse" outlined her personal journey through an undergraduate nursing program while highlighting her community service involvement. Kaitlin has been instrumental in the success of Sacred Heart University's Habitat for Humanity Program. Under her direction, this program is now ranked nationally as the fifth most active chapter. She illustrated her experiences with vignettes and photographs from her multiple national and international Habitat projects while encouraging the audience to become more globally focused.

This year's new inductees are:

Senior Undergraduates:

Carly Alvernez
Colleen Deegan
Crystal Lindsey
Marsha Locke
Becky Mitchell
Marigny Mulock
Colleen Vasak
Laura Warburton

Junior Undergraduates:

Jennifer Agatep
Jennifer Bock
Kimberly Davis
Kimberly Ferris
Jacquebyn Fortier
Molly Kenneson
Jessica Mauro
Jennifer Miller
Allison Perry

RN-BSN:

Michele Bender
Susan DeMatteo

RN-MSN:

Bree Cunningham

Gale Sullivan

Graduate Students:

Carolyn Bruno
Nadine Southard

Nurse Leaders:

Elizabeth Foden (Bridgeport Hospital)
Deborah Jackson (Bridgeport Hospital)



Congratulations to all!!!!

SAVE THE DATE!!

OCTOBER 15TH

Come learn....

***Alternative
Medicine***

***In Nursing: What
is the evidence?***

Scholarships Awarded.....

Mu Delta awarded its first scholarships during this year's induction ceremony. The scholarship review committee under the leadership of Anne Barker, Ed.D, RN, recognized three students. Each recipient received a \$200 scholarship honoring their leadership and community service accomplishments.

Sacred Heart University's nursing program donated monies for one award to create two undergraduate scholarships due to the overwhelming amount of applicants. This year's awardees were:

Undergraduate Students:

Rachelle Jules (senior)
Veronica Mejia (junior)

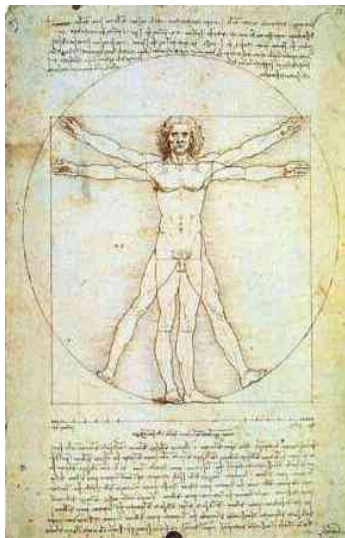
Graduate Student:

Linda Kaplan

***Congratulations to all of our
awardees.***

Applications for next year's scholarships will be available online in January 2009 at:

[www.sacredheart.edu/
honorsociety.cfm](http://www.sacredheart.edu/honorsociety.cfm)



Spring Meeting 2008

A record number of attendees were present at this year's annual general membership meeting on April 2, 2008. The event was held at Sacred Heart University's Cambridge Campus in Trumbull, CT. A business meeting focused on finalization of bylaw changes to reflect the creation of the scholarship committee and its purpose.

Officer elections were held for 2008-2010. Anne Barker,

EdD, RN was elected to chair the newly established scholarship committee. Caren Silhavey, MSN, BSN, RN, CURN and Linda Melodia, MSN, RN were re-elected to vice-president and secretary of the executive board.

Marianne Treantafilos APRN and Dawn Sawrun APRN co-presented a continuing education seminar entitled, "Pain Management: Understanding and Treating Your

Patient's Pain." Attendees learned about barriers to pain management, physical assessment findings, pharmacological methods and proper documentation techniques.

The annual silent auction raised over \$200 for the scholarship program. Thank you to all who contributed to this year's fundraiser.

Executive Board 2008-2009

President: Kim Foito

Vice-President: Caren Silhavey

Secretary: Linda Melodia

Treasurer: Alicia O'Brien

Faculty Counselor: Linda Strong

Committee Chairpersons:

- *Connie Young*
- *Sue DeNisco*
- *Anne Barker*

The president of Sigma Theta Tau International, Carol Huston, MSN, MPA, DPA, met with executive board members from each of the Connecticut Sigma Chapters at Yale on April 14th to present her presidential call to action. The theme behind this call is "Leading Globally" and builds upon key elements from Vision 2020. This inspiring presentation urged chap-

As a result of Carol Huston's, MSN, MPA, DPA, president of Sigma Theta Tau International's call to action, Mu Delta will begin to undertake service learning projects. Linda Strong, Ed.D, RN, has been named the coordinator of Community Service and Service Learning for Sacred Heart's nursing department.

A Call to Action

ters to focus on knowledge, leadership, and service.

To substantiate these initiatives, STTI will apply for an observer status with the United Nations with the ultimate goal of becoming an active non-governmental entity.

Ms. Huston is also interested in restructuring STTI's current regions to foster global alliances; creating a technology enabled global network for

active members, and making Sigma more visible in responding to national and international disasters.

Log onto <http://www.nursingsociety.org/aboutus/CalltoAction/Pages/CalltoAction.aspx> to see the president's PowerPoint slide presentation.

Service Learning

Mu Delta Chapter's executive board has asked Linda to assist us in identifying partnerships for interested chapter members.

Possible projects for this fall will include lead screenings for daycare children and the administration of flu vaccinations for vulnerable populations. Mu Delta is hoping that

these projects will create mentoring opportunities for potential members to learn and work with both new and experienced nurses.

If you are interested in volunteering for an upcoming service learning project please email Kim Foito at:

foitok@sacredheart.edu.

People in the News

Dori Taylor-Sullivan, PhD, RN, CNA, CPHQ, has been named associate dean for academic affairs at the Duke University School of Nursing in Durham, N.C.

Anne Barker, Ed.D, RN, has been named interim Chair of Sacred Heart University's nursing program.

Julie Stewart, DNP, FNP, APRN, successfully defended her doctoral thesis entitled, "Psychological and Structural Empowerment Among Nurse Practitioners" for Case West-

ern Reserve University in April.

Sue DeNisco, DNP, FNP, APRN, successfully defended her thesis entitled, "Exploring Resilience in African American Women with Diabetes" for Case Western Reserve University's DNP Program on July 1. She also received an award in May from the "Unique and Unified After School Program" in Bridgeport for effort and collaboration with the disenfranchised children of the west end.

Stephanie Poricelli, BSN, RN, was promoted to Nurse Manager for the Maternity Unit

(FCMU) at Stamford Hospital in October 2007.

Shelley Hoskins, MSN, RN and Joann Gatti-Petito, MSN, RN are presenters at the upcoming Laerdal simulation conference on August 25th. They will discuss their experiences with VitalSim mannequins and the process for developing and integrating simulated learning in undergraduate nursing.

*Congratulations
on your
Graduation*



Congratulations to all!!!

Please keep us posted on your accomplishments post-graduation. We love to celebrate and recognize your dedication to nursing.

Please email your accomplishments and any interesting career stories to:

Kim Foito at:
foitok@sacredheart.edu

Where Are They Now?

Here is a little information on some of our more recent undergraduate members:

Lori Lindsley, BSN, RN, is employed as a maternal/child health nurse at Middlesex Hospital.

Alicia O'Brien, BSN, RN, is working as an emergency room nurse at St. Vincent's Medical

Center.

Danielle Morton, BSN, RN is employed as a pediatric nurse on the infant/toddler unit at Yale New Haven's Children's Hospital. She also serves as a pediatric lab RN for Sacred Heart's undergraduates.

Marlene Pressoir, BSN, RN is employed as a labor and delivery nurse at Bridgeport Hospital.

Mu Delta Chapter Calendar

- Wednesday October 15th:** Alternative Medicine in Nursing: What is the Evidence? This continuing education seminar will begin at 5pm in Cambridge Commons at Sacred Heart University. Details to follow.
- March 15th:** Deadline for Mu Delta Chapter scholarship applications.
- Wednesday March 25th:** Annual General Membership Meeting with continuing education seminar.
- Friday April 24th:** Annual Induction Ceremony, 19th Hole Restaurant, Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course.

Mu Delta Scholarship Fund

Please send scholarship donations to:

Attn: Alicia O'Brien
Mu Delta Chapter STTI, Sacred Heart Univ.
c/o Nursing Department
5151 Park Ave.
Fairfield, CT 06825

Your donation will be used to support both undergraduate and graduate students' academic and research endeavors.