President’s Message:

It seems so cliché to say this, but 2013 has just flown by! Here we are at the holiday season with bustling activity all around us. The new Tau Phi Board has already met on November 19th and the Chapter will resume full swing in January. Several chapter meetings are planned, several community service activities are under consideration, and last but not least, we must continue to build our endowed scholarship fund. We have just over $4,000 currently in the fund with a goal of $25K—so, lots of work to do here! If each and every member contributed just $25 it would make a significant difference toward our goal.

Lisa Allison-Jones has agreed to lead our initiative to earn the 2015 Chapter Key Award, which recognizes chapter activity for the timeframe between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015. To earn the award, our chapter must have met all chapter responsibilities as outlined in STTI bylaws.

Please make one of your 2014 New Year’s resolutions to become more actively involved in chapter activities. There will be many opportunities during the coming year to serve on chapter committees and/or chapter teams. The board and the program committee are always looking for volunteers for our chapter sponsored projects. We need you!

I wish everyone a bright and blessed holiday season and will see you in January!

Ava

STTI Presidential Call to Action, 2013-2015

During the 42nd Biennial convention, Dr. Hester C. Klopper was inaugurated as the new STTI President for 2013-2015 term.

From South Africa, she is STTI’s first international president.

Dr. Klopper’s mission statement is founded on advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

**Lead Globally:** Servant Leadership.

Serve others to live their dreams by mentoring and investing in new members.

**Transform Regionally:** Transformation.

Co-invention through the rollout of the new STTI vision and mission

Active engagement in charters and regions.

**Serve Locally:** Connectedness.

Engage in collaboration and networking.
From November 16th to 20th, 2013, the City of Indianapolis opened doors to welcome the International Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau’s 42nd Biennial Convention. This city was called home by Dr. Prevost because of the location of the STTI headquarters there and the city’s vibrant culture. With over 130,000 members from 490 chapters, from 85 counties, the STTI organization represents nursing professionals from frontline nurses, educators, and leaders to researchers and policymakers. During these five days, the attendees had an opportunity to attend hundreds of educational sessions, network with colleagues from different chapters and around the world, discuss ways to create a legacy of nursing practice, education, leadership, and research through innovation and leadership, and set the future directions for the organization. The convention theme “Give Back to Move Forward” was reflected in the presentations of the key note speakers.

It was a magnificent event to attend!

**The 42nd Biennial Convention:**
90 years of Nursing Excellence and Leadership

From November 16th to 20th, 2013, the City of Indianapolis opened doors to welcome the International Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau’s 42nd Biennial Convention. This city was called home by Dr. Prevost because of the location of the STTI headquarters there and the city’s vibrant culture. With over 130,000 members from 490 chapters, from 85 counties, the STTI organization represents nursing professionals from frontline nurses, educators, and leaders to researchers and policymakers. During these five days, the attendees had an opportunity to attend hundreds of educational sessions, network with colleagues from different chapters and around the world, discuss ways to create a legacy of nursing practice, education, leadership, and research through innovation and leadership, and set the future directions for the organization. The convention theme “Give Back to Move Forward” was reflected in the presentations of the key note speakers.

It was a magnificent event to attend!

**Proposed Bylaws Amendments**
The convention delegates had a busy schedule. The Tau Phi Chapter delegates, Ms. Deidra Stewart and Dr. Milena Staykova, had to review the convention materials, the candidates’ statement, and cast votes for elections and several bylaw changes as well as prepare a report. During the House of Delegates Session I, the delegates voted for the Board of Directors, Governance Committee, Leadership Succession Committee, and Regional Chapters Coordinating Chairs.
The proposed 2013-2015 International Bylaws Amendments addressed changes to Article I: Name, Key, Seal, and Headquarters, Article III: Membership, Article IV: Chapters, Article VIII: Offices Article IX: Elections, and Article XIII: Parliamentary Authority. After hearing the treasurer's report at the end of the session, the delegates approved the budget. During the House of Delegates Session II, the delegates voted for newly chartered chapters and charter amendments.
The Tau Phi Chapter induction ceremony took place on November 7, 2014 at St. John’s Episcopal Church. Over 50 candidates and their family members attended the event and celebrated the great honor of being recognized and inducted as a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Dr. Porter, the chapter president, opened the celebration with a warm welcome and shared the chapter accomplishments.

In a Power Point presentations, the attendees learned about the history of the honor society such as that the chapter was founded in 1922 by six nursing students dedicated to excellence in the nursing profession. The key elements representing specific symbolic features of the crest and key were part of the presentation as well.

Another important event that took place during the induction ceremony was the installation of the newly elected board members: Dr. Melody Sharp, President-Elect; Ms. Wendy Gilraine, Vice President; Dr. Lisa Allison-Jones, Treasurer; and Dr. Rebecca Greer, Leadership Succession Committee, bestowing them with the new responsibilities.
Ms. Jessica Nester is a senior student at Jefferson College of Health Sciences in the Traditional-BSN program. Ms. Nester was first introduced to healthcare professions in high school. She noticed that compassion and care were deeply embodied in her nature and helped her succeed in that class. At this moment she realized that she did not choose nursing but nursing chose her. Ms. Nester’s personal goals are to become culturally competent and to become a good listener and a healer. Continuing her education as a Nurse Practitioner will help her stay up-to-date with the best evidence to provide patient-centered care based on current evidence-based practice. Ms. Nester’s passion to make a difference is best described by the statement:

“I want to be a leader showing other nurses how important research is…” and

“I want to be the best I can be…”

The Recipients of the 2013 Tau Phi Chapter Nursing Student Scholarships

Each year, the Tau Phi chapter presents scholarship awards to students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the nursing profession and to individuals who have embraced the values and standards of the honor society of nursing. For 2013, there were a number of qualified candidates. After a careful review and deliberate consideration of each candidate application, the board awarded $500 scholarships to each of the following students for their contributions to academic and/or professional excellence:

Ms. Adriane Biggio, is a registered nurse and a graduate student at Jefferson College of Health Sciences, Nursing Administration program. After working in nursing for over eight years, her personal goal is to continue her education in a doctorate program. Teaching and caring for others have fulfilled her professional goal in nursing. She would like to give her time to others within the community as she has by volunteering to speak to high school students about nursing and infectious organisms. Ms. Biggio has chosen the field of nursing because of her desire to help others, which has granted her personal gratification to make positive changes in the lives of her patients. As a travel nurse, Ms. Biggio has worked in New York City, Los Angeles, and South Virginia; she has taken care of prematurely-born children, the terminally and mentally ill, and those with infectious disease. She is truly grateful for the experiences nursing has given her in so many interesting fields. Ms. Adriane Biggio’s ultimate goal is to volunteer as a nurse in a third world country.

Ms. Melinda Lutz is a senior student at Jefferson College of Health Sciences in the Traditional-BSN program. Ms. Lutz found her true passion for nursing in the neonatal intensive care unit during her clinical rotation. Ms. Lutz professional goal is to create new standards of care for neonates admitted with a failure-to-thrive. In her research class, she learned the process and structure of a research project, and she decided to write about the benefits and detriments of Kangaroo care on the neonate population. While searching for the evidence, Ms. Lutz was fascinated by the benefits of the technique and the incredible difference it can make to the neonates and their caregivers for ensuring the well being of a fragile human life. Ms. Lutz’s aspirations to make a change are well defined by the exclamation:

“My goal is small, but my drive is big!”

Ms. Jessica Nester is a senior student at Jefferson College of Health Sciences in the Traditional-BSN program. Ms. Nester was first introduced to healthcare professions in high school. She noticed that compassion and care were deeply embodied in her nature and helped her succeed in that class. At this moment she realized that she did not choose nursing but nursing chose her. Ms. Nester’s personal goals are to become culturally competent and to become a good listener and a healer. Continuing her education as a Nurse Practitioner will help her stay up-to-date with the best evidence to provide patient-centered care based on current evidence-based practice. Ms. Nester’s passion to make a difference is best described by the statement:

“I want to be a leader showing other nurses how important research is…” and

“I want to be the best I can be…”
Thank You and Goodbye

Janice Taylor, JCHS Nursing Department Secretary, has supported the Tau Phi Chapter for the past eight years. Her tireless dedication to serving the chapter and its members has been greatly appreciated. She is retiring on December 13th and will be sorely missed by all. We wish Janice the best in her new phase of life and wish her much enjoyment during her retirement!

Manna Ministries 2014

In 2014 Tau Phi Chapter will resume our community service with Manna Ministries in Vinton, VA. We will prepare and serve meals on fourth Thursdays every other month on the following dates:

- January 23
- March 27
- May 22
- July 24
- September 28
- November (date TBD)

Roxanne Wilson is coordinating his project and will send more details out before each date.

Fundraiser for Endowed Scholarship

Hello Tau Phi Members!
Have you visited the website www.thatsmypan.biz/FRVA10087 to see the wonderful products available for our fundraising effort for The Tau Phi Endowed Scholarship Fund?
You still have time to order these great products. Why not get some holiday shopping done?

You can order directly on the site, too!

Make checks payable to: Tau Phi Chapter
Mail to:
Sharon Jones
167 Little Valley Drive
Troutville, VA 24175

I have brochures available also if you’d like to see one. Just let me know.

Submitted by:
Sharon A. Jones, MSN, RN

Congratulations!

Your submission for the Showcase of Regional Excellence has been approved. You and the rest of Tau Phi chapter should be very proud of the work that the chapter has accomplished in relation to President Suzanne Prevost’s call-to-action specifically related to the area of Creating Your Legacy.
A summary of the chapter’s success will be posted on the STTI web site so that others may be inspired by your activities. You will also receive an electronic certificate from headquarters within the next 3-4 weeks that you may wish to print and display within your institution of higher learning. I hope you will take this opportunity to share with the rest of your members the recognition that the Tau Phi chapter has received.

Congratulations again!

Kind regards,

Pamela Reis
STTI Region 13 Awards and Recognition Committee Chair
September 25, 2013
Note from the Editor

Dear members,
I would like to use this opportunity and wish you a wonderful Holiday Season. You may have noticed that we have added two extra pages to our newsletter. As the chapter grows, the members' activities increase as well. In this issue, we are recognizing the new STTI president, Dr. Heser C. Klopper. Her new call of action will design the next organizational biennial activities. I would also like to invite each of you to bring us ideas of how we can move forward by adapting the new expectations and excelling in our chapter activities and by serving locally, transforming regionally, and leading globally. The change starts with you!

Milena Staykova, EdD, APRN, FNP-BC

Member’s Profile

Ms. Susan Wirt

At the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN), Ms. Wirt is the Chair of the Leadership and Nominating Committee. The committee was charged with identifying potential new leaders of ARN and the members had a very successful year. They had so many excellent candidates and had a very difficult decision to make following the organizational bylaws that allow 2 candidates per open position. What a great problem, don’t you agree?

Ms. Wirt presented a paper at the conference called “Concussions in Young Athletes”, as part of a segment on traumatic brain injury. The presentation was well received and the room was full of attendees.

Ms. Wirt has been selected to serve on the Advisory Committee for the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses Revision Panel. The work of the Advisory Committee is to provide additional information, feedback and advice to the Steering Committee.

Submitted by:

Susan Wirt, MSN, RN, CRRN, CCM, CLCP, CRP, CNLCP

Save the Date: Events and Opportunities for Scholarship

7th Health Disparity Conference
March 10-12, 2014
New Orleans
Call for Abstracts
January 10, 2014

STTI’s Nursing Education Research Conference, April 3-5, 2014
Indianapolis, Indiana

STTI Event: Creating Healthy Work Environment
April 12-13, 2014
Indianapolis, Indiana

21st National Evidence-Based Practice Conference:
Promoting Patient Decision Making with Evidence-Based
April 24-25, 2014
Iowa City, Iowa

10th Annual Cleveland Clinic Nursing Research Conference
May 5-6, 2014
Cleveland, Ohio

25th International Nursing Research Congress
Engaging Colleagues: Improving Global Health Outcomes
July 24-28, 2014
Hong Kong

Call for Abstracts: December 13, 2013
http://www.nursingsociety.org

Save the Date
STTI Region 13 Regional Conference
“Transforming Nursing Research through Collaborative Inquiry”
April 11 - 12, 2014
The Hawthorne Inn
Winston-Salem, NC 27101