



## Beta Zeta at Large



### Fall 2008 Newsletter

Reporting & Editing: Brian Bracci & Janice Pastuszak

### Message from the Chapter President



Cynthia Jacelon PhD, RN, CRRN-A

Welcome to the fall 2008 Newsletter of the Beta Zeta at Large chapter of Sigma Theta Tau! We are the nursing honor society of the Pioneer Valley. Members come from the University of Massachusetts, the Elms College, American International College, and from the community. I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as your president. I am looking forward to a term full of activity.

I want to reflect on the name of our chapter, Beta Zeta at Large. The “at Large” part means that we are not connected to a single university or college but strive to realize the mission of Sigma Theta Tau International throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond. The mission is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide. We accomplish this mission through the activities of our members. These activities include our fall program, Scholarship Day in the spring, and this year we will be engaging in leadership development in February. In addition to these big events, a dedicated group of about 20 members meet monthly to plan and implement these activities.

Without our members, there is no Beta Zeta at Large.

How do you help realize the mission of Sigma Theta Tau? I challenge each of you live the mission of STTI this year. Come to a program! Come to a meeting! Volunteer to serve, or just say “yes” when asked to participate. I look forward to meeting each of you this year, and I am looking forward to working with you across the Pioneer Valley and beyond. If you would like to become more involved in Beta Zeta at Large activities, please email me at [jacelon@nursing.umass.edu](mailto:jacelon@nursing.umass.edu). We need your abilities and expertise.

### Beta Zeta at Large wins a seventh Key Award

A key award is bestowed upon chapters that demonstrate activities that support the mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International through events that promote learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide. Beta Zeta at Large is proud of this accomplishment.



Accepting the award are Jean Walachy and Kathleen Scoble.

## **Reporting For the Chapter at the Biennial Convention in Baltimore, Maryland**

Brian Bracci

On the ground in Baltimore, Friday, November 2nd, 2007, I find a city appearing as vibrant and welcoming as the past few host sites of our Biennial Convention. By sunset Friday, several of my colleagues were joining us for the informal kick off of this event. Many of our friends spent parts of the first few days exploring Baltimore and by late morning on Saturday, the sky brightened again, over the city, its well-known downtown and Inner Harbor sections. That afternoon saw around two thousand of our colleagues enjoy the Opening Plenary Session and Plenary Speaker Anne Ryder. Beta Zeta's own Dr. Carol Picard, President, Sigma Theta Tau International, presided over the enormously well received program. Anne Ryder who presented Power, Peace and Perseverance: Lessons Learned from Mother Teresa, observed that our convention "has the hallmark of a retreat" If the award-winning television reporter moved us with her speech; prompted us to slow our actions, encouraging us to reflect, then another kind of exceptional program energized us Monday morning.

Loretta Sweet Jemmott, PhD, RN FAAN presented theory-Based Strategies to Reduce HIV Risk-Associated Sexual Behaviors among African-American, South African and Latino Youth and Adults. In Plenary Session II, the dynamic Dr. Sweet Jemmott presented her groundbreaking research after receiving the Baxter International Founder's Episteme Award. For me to say that Loretta Sweet Jemmott utilized a rousing style is clearly an understatement.

The next day, with an early 8:30 AM start to Plenary Session III, Dr. Melanie C. Dreher PhD, RN FAAN, formally presented The Melanie C. Dreher Outstanding Dean Award to Dean Jeanette Lancaster PhD, RN FAAN. Dr Dreher, bestowed the award, named in her honor, upon the current Dean of the School of Nursing, University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA). The following discussion included a speech and presentation by Silvia Malvarez, Regional Advisor for Nursing and Allied Health Personnel for AMRO/PAHO a division of

The World Health Organization (WHO). Of interest to me, was the illustration of the breadth of mental health problems globally.

Along with the Pre-Conference and workshop on Friday and Saturday, as well as the House of Delegates on Wednesday, this was a very full week for Beta Zeta @ Large and all our colleagues in Sigma Theta Tau International. I for one will not soon forget this event.

### **Instillation of Your Elected Chapter Leaders**

At the induction ceremony on May 3, 2008 the following members assumed their leadership roles:

Cynthia S. Jacelon PhD, RN, CRRN-A President,  
Lois Kelly MS, RN - Vice President  
Meghan Midghall BS, RN - Secretary,  
Kimberly Dion MS, RN -University of  
Massachusetts-Amherst Counselor.

### **FYI**

Elections are held yearly at the Scholarship Day Function. If you would like to serve your chapter, please consult the beta Zeta at Large web page to contact an officer of the chapter.



The chapter extends a heartfelt thank you to the outgoing office-holders and appointee for their dedication in disseminating the tenets of STTI through their hard work and gift of their valuable time.

Kathleen Scoble EdD, RN  
Debra Dickson MS, APRN-BC  
Janice Pastuszak MS, ACNS-BC, FNP-BC  
Patricia Kent MSN, RN, APRN

## Beta Zeta at large Educational Programs

*Place these dates in your calendar:*

### ***1. Possibilities: The Use of Reiki in Healthcare Settings.***

Janice Muldrew BSN,RN,HN-BC  
& Nancy A. Carter-Price, RMT, KRRM, IARP

Wednesday, November 5, 2008  
5:30pm—7:30pm

Whitney Avenue Conference Center  
361 Whitney Ave  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Contact Donna Polverini at [donna.polverini@aic.edu](mailto:donna.polverini@aic.edu) for more information



Non-perishable food drive will be held at the education session to meet a Holyoke, MA. Food Bank. This is a community activity sponsored by this chapter to meet the needs of the hungry.

### ***2. Scholarship Day 2009***

Wednesday, April 1, 2009-LocationTBA  
Keynote- Jeanie Kayser Jones, RN,PhD, FAAN

### **UCSF/John A. HartfordCenter of Geriatric Nursing Excellence.**

*Consider yourself invited to present at Scholarship Day 2009.*



**FOR CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS AND  
POSTER PRESENTATIONS**  
*Research, Evidence Based Practice and Scholarly  
Activities*

Forms and timelines are available at the Beta Zeta at large Chapter Web address.

### **In the News**

#### ***Beta Zeta at large awards grant to nurse researcher.***



Janet Moore MS, RN, doctoral candidate from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Assistant Clinical Professor in the Nursing Department at Our Lady of the Elms College, Chicopee, MA received a grant from this chapter to explore whether a familiar physical activity will reduce apathy and agitation and increase eating ability, dietary intake, and weight among older persons with dementia residing in a nursing home. Many older persons with dementia residing in nursing homes become malnourished and suffer significant weight loss.

#### **Nurse assists with hurricane Gustov**

Kathy Rix

I just returned from a week in Louisiana working in a shelter for folks with medical and special needs that had evacuated from New Orleans for Hurricane Gustov. The shelter was set up in a gymnasium on the campus of Louisiana Tech University. Although the shelter was for anyone in need, not just veterans, it was entirely run by VA Hospital staff from all over the US including an LPN from Alaska. We took care of about 150 evacuees; the youngest was 4 months old. I'm not sure about the age of the oldest, but most were elderly and in need of nursing care. They came from several parishes that had lost not only electrical power but had also lost any social services that had been in place in their communities because of the hurricane and evacuation. Some had been on buses for over 30 hours looking for a shelter that could accommodate them and their needs. It was quite an adventure. We slept on mattresses on the floors of church halls at first but then moved into hotels as they became available.

The shelter was a very smooth operation, well run and clean. Of course we had nursing staff but also

support staff of secretaries, drivers, janitors, police, social workers, doctors. All were VA employees that had volunteered to be deployed to disaster areas. We had a big focus on hand washing and gel use and had no outbreaks of URIs or GI problems. Many of the patients told us that they had been in many shelters in past evacuations but never one that was so well run or clean and had such a helpful and caring staff. It was emotionally and physically exhausting work, we did 12+ hours shifts, but it was incredible rewarding.

The southern hospitality was amazing. The churches that let us sleep on their floors sent food and goodies in for us every day. They felt that we were doing work that they couldn't, so they did what they could, by keeping us stocked with brownies and water and snacks.

Without wanting to sound too dramatic, it really was a life changing experience. These people were so fragile and vulnerable. They were really at the mercy of anyone that could help them. It made me very grateful.

### **Nurse Practitioner featured for her volunteer work with migrant workers.**

*Springfield Republican  
Nurse provides medical care  
Monday, September 29, 2008*

Jean Allen a practicing nurse practitioner was featured for her work with migrant farm workers. Jean brings the global commitment for healthcare to the limelight with her Monday evening clinics in Hadley Massachusetts. The population she serves is hard-working farm workers who earn their living away from their native home by harvesting and planting crops in this region. Ms. Allen may be the only healthcare provider that they can see because of their working hours and inaccessibility to health care.

### **Cynthia Jacelon wins national award for geriatric research**

*Excerpts taken from University of Massachusetts, In the Loop October 3, 2008 issue*

Cynthia Jacelon, associate professor in the School of

Nursing, has been selected to receive the Excellence in Research and Education Award. The award will be presented at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) annual meeting and exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Jacelon was nominated by Lois White from Jewish Geriatric Services (JGS) in Longmeadow, Massachusetts who recognized her for ongoing commitment to quality in aging services through evidence-based research and dissemination of research findings through internal and external shared learning opportunities.

“In her role as scientist, she is vigilant in observing the code of ethics for research and imparting that vigilance to others,” said the award announcement. “Whether in research or daily consultations with students and JGS staff, she puts residents’ rights and well-being foremost in any decision making in which she is involved.”

### **Report on Scholarship Day 2007**



Melanie C. Dreher Ph D, RN, FAAN

### **New Members inducted**

The 2008 Induction of new members and installation of new officers into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing, Beta Zeta at Large Chapter was held on Saturday, May 3, 2008 on the Elms College campus. After the welcome by Kathleen Scoble EdD, RN, president of Beta Zeta at Large Chapter, the keynote speaker was Melanie C.

Dreher Ph D, RN, FAAN, Dean, College of Nursing, Rush University.

Karen Rousseau, MS, RN, C Counselor, American International College, Laurie Downs PhD, RN, Counselor, Elms College, and Patricia Kent MSN, RN, APRN Counselor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst coordinated the Induction ceremony and held orientation sessions for new inductees on their campuses.

**American International College -Undergraduate** inductees are:

Dianne Bogalhas-  
Bertram Henry  
Richard Horsey  
Ann- Marie Marrero  
Megan Nickerson  
Toccara Lynn Nickerson  
Kara Pool  
Alyssa Tenaglia  
Jason Thayer  
Kimberly Thurz  
Amanda Lynn Wellman  
Michaela Ann Wilde  
Eric Wollseiffen

**Nursing Leader**-Marsha Chappel

**Our Lady of the Elms College** inductees

**RN-BS**

Debra A. Allen  
Maxine Y. Allen  
Eva Cavanaugh  
Laura Chernosku  
Kathryn H. Cosme  
Jennifer J. Desrochers  
Kristen R. Dragon  
Patricia A. Healy  
Marcia A. Lamoureux  
Cheryl Anne McNabb  
Donna L. Peabody  
Christine U. Sass  
Kelly A. Zercie

**Undergraduates--**

Jacinda A. Alves  
Pamela Sue Anglin  
Tracy Lynn Blood  
Maragaret A. Cummings  
Karen A. Garcia

Nicole M. Hoschtetler  
Amanda M. Knox  
Sarah Beth Kology  
Justine R Leblanc  
Lauren E. Mahler  
Nicole M. McAvoy  
Amy M. Millet  
Jessica Jade Nani  
Karyn M. Palomba  
Jennifer L. Patrie  
Candice A. Sousa  
Desiree J. Trumble  
Amy Aysel Walsh

**Nurse Leaders**-Eugenie Formel & Terri L Jay

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**  
**Undergraduates**

Danielle Alderman	Krista La Rocca
Lydia Aloviseti	Mary Letourneau
Amy M. Brucker	Marie Machado
Amy Elizabeth Ciaramitar	Patricia F. Michalski
Molly A. Connelly	Elizabeth D. Nichols
Chelsea E. Elliott	Helene M. Phelan
Rose Elizabeth Ferrari	Paulette Marie Pontier
Ryan Gluckman	Sarah E. Porcelli
Rebecca E. Guy-Hamilton	Courtney E. Proctor
Sarah B. Hannigan	Kristina M. Sears
Marla J. Heldenreich	Susan M. Seslar
Kathryn M. Henault	Jessica J. Shi
Melinda D. Hodge	Kelly Short
Carolina C. Hoffman	Stacy A. Strezsak
Irene E. Johnson	Jenna Allyson Sweet
Lauren E. Kepple	Stacy Beth Szcesuil
Abigail L. Klein	Jennifer M. Webb
Amanda M. Laorenza	Amanda K. Worcester

**Graduate-Masters**

Joan Elizabeth Kucienski

**Doctoral**

Selena Jean Kaplan



Dr. Carol Picard, PhD, APRN-BC

**Report of the Beta Zeta at Large Scholarship Day 2008.**

Scholarship Day 2008 was a great success. In total there were 283 total participants attending, 101 RNs, and 182 students.

Dr. Carol Picard, PhD, APRN-BC presented the keynote address, *Leadership and Collaboration: An Artful, Caring Approach to Nursing Excellence*. Dr. Picard spoke about the value of leadership and collaboration in practice. The integration of these concepts she believes is quintessential in providing the level of care and caring for each patient.

Other featured speakers and topics were:

Joyce Z. Thielen PhD, RN, Assistant Director, Assistant Professor Undergraduate Studies Division of Nursing, Elms College	Women's Experiences of Living with Neurocognitive Changes While Undergoing Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer
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Joan M Culley, Ph.D., M.S., M.P.H., RN, CWOCN Clinical Associate Professor University of Massachusetts Amherst	A Conceptual Model That Provides the Structure for Studying Information Systems for Mass Casualty Events
Lynn Geldert, RN AA, ADA, CCRN 111	Improving Management of Septic Patients
Cynthia S. Jacelon, PhD RN CRRN-A Assistant Professor School of Nursing U. Massachusetts Amherst	Self in relation to health: Common ground for collaboration
Donna Zucker, PhD RN Associate Professor School of Nursing U. Massachusetts Amherst	
Maureen Groden, RN, MS, Carol Piel, RN,MS, Patricia Cavanaugh, RN, MS Marie Deitz, RN, BSN	Skilled Symptom Management: Educational Outcomes of a Palliative Care Educational Program
Lisa Wolf, RN, MS, CEN	An Analysis of Rapid Response Team Calls versus Codes: Implications for education and staffing.

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

**SCHOLARSHIP DAY, April 2, 2008---**

**Poster Presenters**

Danielle Alderman BA, LSWA, UMASS School of Nursing Second Bachelor Program	Healthcare for the Homeless Nurses: Meeting the Needs of a Vulnerable Population
Cynthia Jacelon, PhD RN CRRN-A Assistant Professor School of Nursing UMASS Amherst	Assessing Dignity in Older Adults: The Development of the Jacelon Attributed Dignity Scale
Sheila Pennell, RN	Falls from Bed: Examining Nursing Practice
Donna Zucker, RN, PhD Associate Professor UMASS Amherst	Hepatitis and Liver Disease in the U.S. and China

Erin Lamoureux, APRN, MS, BC Margaret Curnin, RN, MSN Helene Cunningham, RN, MS Joan Roche, RN, PhD	A Model for Integrating Clinical Stimulation and Evaluation into a School of Nursing Curriculum	Nancy Craig-Williams, MS RN, PhD student Dr Ginny Chandler Lisa Buckley, Second Bachelor Nursing Program Terri Jan BS, RN, MS student Regina Kowal-Safron RN, DNP student Amber Manson, BSN student Jenn Tuohy RN, RN to BSN student UMASS Amherst	The New Graduate's Experience of the First Year of practice
Michelle Whitney, BS, RNC Rosemary Ruddloff, CRN 1 Sheila Rucki PhD, APRN BC	Evidence Based Management of Pediatric Intravenous Access Devices		
Cyndi Shootz, RN Laurie Lipscomb, RN Linda Connor, RN Christine Lunsford, BS RN Kristine Wailgum, NP Barbara McDonald, RN, CNS-BC Arlene Rea, RN	A Quality Initiative to Develop an Evidence-based Skin Care Protocol		
Jean Yarrows, RN	Barriers to Pain Management in Older Adults: An Educational Approach		
Holly Evans Madison, MS, RN	The refinement of self-learning modules for rural women with coronary heart disease through cognitive interviews		
Lisa Rose White, RN, BS	What is Old Age?		
Ellen Furman, MS, RN	Psychosocial Risk Factors for Malnutrition in Older Adults		
Carolyn J. Gustason, BSN, RN, OCN Doctoral Student UMASS Amherst	Elderly Female Cancer Survivors and Sexuality: Opportunities for Research		
Erin Lamoureux, APRN, MS, BC Elina Troshin, SN, UMASS Amherst Stephanie Vasilchuk, SN UMASS Amherst	Empowered Students for Change		

For a few of these speakers and poster presenters this was their professional debut. The audience applauded them and appreciated the message they brought to the program.

**2008+ 2009 Future Beta Zeta at large meetings:**

**September 16, 2008, 5:30 - 7:30 PM** Baystate Health Education Center, 361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA.

**October 15, 2008, 5:30 - 7:30 PM** Baystate Health Education Center, 361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA.

**November 5, 2008, 5:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**Educational Presentation "Possibilities: The Use of Reiki in Healthcare Settings"**  
Baystate Health Education Center, 361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA.

**December 9, 2008, 5:30 - 7:30 PM** Baystate Health Education Center, 361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA.

**February 4, 2009**  
**Winter Member Development TBA 5:30 - 7:30 PM** Baystate Health Education Center, 361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA.

**March 3, 2009, 5:30 - 7:30 PM** Baystate Health Education Center,  
361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA

**April 1, 2009** Annual Meeting following Scholarship Day, Location TBA

**June 10, 2009, 5:30 - 7:30 PM** Baystate Health Education Center,  
361 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA.

Other Significant **Events:**

**STTI Leadership Academy: September 25-27, 2008- 2008** Indianapolis, Indiana

**Scholarship Day: April 1, 2009**, Location TBA

**Induction: May 2, 2009:** U. Massachusetts, Amherst



*To Support our local food banks, this chapter has been participating in a non-perishable food collection at each educational event. The chapter feels that this continuing community project promotes health through providing the hungry with needed sustenance.*

**Beta Zeta at large Chapter is accepting sponsorships for the 2009 Scholarship Day program. Donation checks may be made out to the chapter. A letter will be provided for your tax-deductible donation.**



The pick up of the food collected at Scholarship day 2008 weighed in excess of 300 pounds and was greatly appreciated.

*Are you interested in how a research grant is obtained?*

#### RESEARCH GRANTS

##### **Purpose:**

The purpose of Beta Zeta Chapter-At-Large research awards are to encourage nursing research and to advance knowledge in the area of nursing science by providing financial assistance to members for the conduct of the research.

Please consult the BZ at L web page for details and timelines.

[www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~betazeta/](http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~betazeta/)



*Time to get connected to STTI*

<http://www.nursingsociety.org>

*Time to get connected to your chapter*

<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~betazeta/>