

**Spring/Summer 2011**

**Attachments:**

**Chapter Fundraising letter  
(attached)**

**Chapter Key Award Appli-  
cation (attached)**

**Inside this issue:**

Greetings	<b>1</b>
Leadership Dinner	<b>1</b>
International Travel to Ecuador	<b>2</b>
Lambda Eta Scholarships	<b>2</b>
Membership Benefits	<b>3</b>
Museum of Nursing Treasures	<b>3</b>
Symposium in the Bahamas	<b>4</b>



*Students in Ecuador, page 2.*

## Salisbury University's Chapter Lambda Eta News

### Greetings from the President

Greetings and Happy Spring,

By the time this message reaches you Lambda Eta will have sponsored our spring leadership dinner/meeting, co-sponsored an ethics speaker/dinner with PRMC, and participated in 2 community service events - the St. Paddy's Day Walk and the Kidney Walk. Hope you were able to join us.

In this issue or included with it you will find 2 documents of great importance. One is a fund raising letter or donation request from Lambda Eta. We are asking for your financial support so that we may continue our mission. The \$15 of your international dues that is returned to us does not cover our biennial costs. We must ask for donations or resort to fundraising to remain an active chapter. Last summer 30 members and friends worked at the Shorebirds Concession for \$15-25 per game. This year we are asking members to give the equivalent money and spend your valuable time with family and friends.

The other item I need to address is equally important and that is recognition of Lambda Eta for all the great accomplishments of our chapter and our members. Lambda Eta is 20 years old and is a very active chapter based on my observations, feedback from the Region 12 Coordinator, and from International Office. Yet we have never been recognized with the top chapter award - the Chapter Key Award (CKA) - nor have we ever attempted to apply for it. I intend to do so this summer. Attached to this newsletter is a survey form asking for information on your accomplishments for the past 2 years. Yes, your accomplishments, everyone, new nurses, experienced nurses, just "feeling old" nurses, and students. The CKA is awarded biennially to chapters based on the accomplishments of the chapter and its members. I can not complete the lengthy application process without your input. Take a few minutes to look over the form and fill in what you have done in the past 2 years and return the form to me no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. If this newsletter arrived electronically the form was attached to the email: Simply open it, print it and fill it out or save it to your computer, type directly into the form, and attach to an email back to me at [wycampbell@salisbury.edu](mailto:wycampbell@salisbury.edu) or save it, fill it out, print it, and drop in the mail to me at Salisbury University (address is on the form). If this newsletter came in paper form then the survey was inserted, just drop it in the mail to the address on the form. I will complete the application in June and submit it for the peer review process. Hopefully, Lambda Eta will earn the CKA and the recognition that it desires. If we are successful the CKA would be awarded to us in Texas in November at the STTI Biennial Convention.

Have a great summer. Bill

### Leadership in Nursing Dinner

April 4th was Lambda Eta's Spring dinner meeting. The guest speaker was Susan Delean-Botkin, CRNP, MSN who spoke of her first hand experience with the legislative process in Maryland. It was the work of Susan and her team that got the bill passed which eliminated the need for a written collaborative agreement between a physician and the nurse practitioner. Susan spoke of the long and sometimes difficult process of getting legislation passed which included educating physicians and lawmakers that nursing has many of the answers for health care reform.

Susan was recognized two years in a row by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners as Nurse Practitioner of the Year in 2010.

## **International News: Nursing Students and Faculty Visit Ecuador** **Submitted by Dr Vonnie Brown**

What does the health care system in Ecuador offer? How do Ecuadorians stay healthy?

How do traditional health practices blend with Western medicine?

A group of 10 women traveled from Salisbury University to Cuenca, Ecuador in order to answer these and other questions. The 3 credit course, Cultural Considerations in Health and Wellness, was offered over a 12 day period in January of 2011. Drs. Vonnie Brown and Karin Johnson took a group of predominately nursing students on this trip.

Highlights of the experience included walking tours of Gualaceo and Guayaquil, a hike in the Cajas national park, a weekend visit to the community of Saraguro including a visit to the shaman, teaching sessions at the CEDEI school and a day with the Department of Nursing at University of Cuenca. The purpose of the course was to facilitate cultural competence since nurses continue to serve an increasing multicultural group of patients.

Ecuadorians value family. Schools close and businesses shut their door at lunch time so families can have a meal together. Rural health care centers include a "family" chart rather than individual charts. Environmental and mental health issues are systematically addressed by rural, health promoting clinics. Medicinal plants and alternative practices are often used by both rural and urban Ecuadorians.

If you're interested in spending a busy two weeks in Ecuador in 2013 contact Dr. Vonnie Brown, at 410 548-4784. This course is open to graduate students and registered nurses as well.



*Dr Vonnie Brown and Dr Karin Johnson with students who traveled to Ecuador.*

## **Lambda Eta Scholarships Awarded** **Submitted by Dr Mary DiBartolo, Scholarship Coordinator**

The Department of Nursing is pleased to announce this year's winners of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society Undergraduate and Graduate awards.

The undergraduate award winner is Samantha Michalski. Samantha is currently a sophomore student with an SU GPA of 4.00. She has a wealth of community service on her resume as she prepares to begin the 1<sup>st</sup> degree curriculum this fall.

The winner of the graduate award is Becci Skorobatsch. Becci received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Salisbury University in 2005 and is currently pursuing her master's degree in nursing at SU in the clinical nurse educator track. Her GPA is also a 4.00 in the rigorous master's curriculum and her capstone research project, which she hopes to complete this summer, focuses on the comparison of aspirin and Coumadin in the prevention of venous thromboembolism following total knee arthroplasty. Becci is also employed in a newly-created Hospital Clinical Faculty position that is funded by a grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission-Nurse Support Program. Salisbury University Department of Nursing, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, and Atlantic General Hospital are partners on this grant designed to attract expert nurses to clinical faculty positions.

Lambda Eta Scholarships are awarded each spring to an outstanding undergraduate and graduate student who demonstrates superior scholastic achievement. Preference is given to Sigma Theta Tau International members. The undergraduate award is \$250 while the graduate award is \$500.

Both students will receive their awards at Salisbury University's Spring Honors Convocation to be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Holloway Hall. Congratulations to both these students on their outstanding academic achievements.



*Classroom activities in Ecuador.*

## Lambda Eta Membership– What's In It for You

*Submitted by Dr Lisa Seldomridge*

Congratulations-you've been inducted into Salisbury University's chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing. This means you've not only met strict criteria for academic excellence, but you've also demonstrated leadership potential. Sure, Sigma Theta Tau membership looks great on a resume, but what else is in it for you?

Here are my TOP 10 REASONS FOR BEING AN ACTIVE MEMBER of Lambda Eta:

10. Getting help with finding a job or advancing your career.
9. Expanding your professional network
8. Finding a nursing program and scholarship opportunities for advanced education
7. Having access to great continuing education programs
6. Promoting nursing as a career choice
5. Becoming involved in nursing research
4. Being a role model for others
3. Giving back to the community
2. Staying abreast of changes in clinical practice
1. Being part of a global community of nurse leaders

Each of these benefits is a result of investment in the organization-our chapter is only as strong as its members. As in anything you do, you get out of it what you put into it. Consider investing in Lambda Eta by: 1) attending an educational event, 2) assisting with a fund-raiser, 3) renewing your membership, 4) serving on a committee, 5) writing an article for the newsletter, or 6) running for a chapter office.

Once you are inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, you are considered a member for life. Whether you maintain membership in the Lambda Eta chapter or transfer your membership elsewhere, there are countless benefits

## Museum of Nursing Treasures Opens at Salisbury University

*Submitted by Dr Lisa Seldomridge*

Ever wonder what the original nursing caps for Peninsula General Hospital School of Nursing or Salisbury State College Department of Nursing looked like? Have you ever seen a community health nurse's cape? These and other nursing treasures now have a permanent home on the second floor of Devilbiss Hall on the campus of Salisbury University. Dr. William Campbell, SU assistant professor of nursing and historian is credited with the idea after assembling the treasures for display at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the baccalaureate nursing program at Salisbury University. Other items on display include a community health nursing bag, notebooks from nursing classes in the 1920's, photographs of the original PGH School of Nursing, and nursing pins from both PGH and SU.

"We believe it is critical to preserve these artifacts as they are windows into our past. History helps us also understand the present and influence the future", said Dr. Lisa Seldomridge, Chair of the Salisbury University Department of Nursing.

The display is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. til 5 p.m. Donation of artifacts are welcome so that we may continue to expand the collection. For more information or to make donations, contact Dr. Seldomridge at [laseldomridge@salisbury.edu](mailto:laseldomridge@salisbury.edu) or 410-543-6413 or Dr. Campbell at [wrcampbell@salisbury.edu](mailto:wrcampbell@salisbury.edu) or 410-543-6414.



*Susan Delean-Botkin CRNP, MSN was the featured speaker at the recent Lambda Eta Leadership Dinner.*



*Seniors Sarah Benson, Lauren Malecki, and Laura Eller at the Lambda Eta display case.*



*Lambda Eta members, Danielle Toland and Erica Jalio viewing a display in the SU Nursing Museum.*



L-R: Dr Mary DiBartolo, Dr Michele Bracken ,  
Dr Dorothea McDowell and Dr Laurie Rockelli

Visit the *Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library* to read complementary full-text articles from CINAHL on topics that rotate each month. The articles for April focus on getting published. [Read your free articles.](#)



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SIGMA THETA TAU

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## Nursing Faculty Offer Symposium in Bahamas

*Submitted by Dr Mary DiBartolo*

Four nursing faculty were invited to Freeport, Bahamas, courtesy of retired nursing faculty member who now resides there, Dr. Mary Delashmutt to offer a one-day symposium on January 13<sup>th</sup> for nurses and other health care professionals. Dr. Dorothea McDowell spoke on the topic of *Evidence-Based Practice*, Dr. Laurie Rockelli addressed *Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatment for Childhood Trauma and Abuse*, Dr. Michele Bracken presented on the topic of *Intimate Partner Violence*, and, Dr. Mary DiBartolo did a presentation on *Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care*. Over 120 health care professionals from both Freeport and Nassau attended the seminar which was organized by Dr. Delashmutt in conjunction with Grand Bahama Health Services. While visiting the area, the faculty also toured the local hospital in Freeport, Rand Memorial Hospital, to explore the possibility of a student travel abroad experience in maternity.

## Chapter Communications

Lambda Eta communicates its activities in a monthly e-newsletter that comes from Sigma Theta Tau International. *STTI Connect* is the monthly publication that contains news briefs from Lambda Eta on the front page. It is one way to know of upcoming chapter events. Lambda Eta is one of several chapters in Region 12. Activities and events sponsored by other Region 12 chapters are also publicized in *STTI Connect*. In order to receive this information, your email address must be on file at STTI headquarters. Click on Membership, then [My Membership](#) to update your email address. At least twice a year, Lambda Eta will send a chapter newsletter to all active members either by email or hard copy if no address is on file. The newsletter is filled with articles on both past and future chapter activities and many photos of members. Lambda Eta activities and photos can also be found on the link from the Salisbury University's [Department of Nursing's website](#). There you can link to the homepage of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Other communication includes *Reflections on Nursing Leadership*, an award-winning magazine from STTI available exclusively to members, sharing nurses' contributions to the health of people worldwide. Once you log in, you may search the site, explore content, comment on articles and even subscribe to receive new content delivered directly to your RSS reader or e-mail.

## Mentoring Program New Members

Several seasoned Lambda Eta members were asked to be mentors to the newest members of the organization. Chris DiPasqua took a few minutes to write of his positive experience with the program.

"While teaching at SU during the 2009-2010 academic years, I had the opportunity to become acquainted with Sarah Benson who exhibited the traits of responsibility and dedication to the nursing profession beyond the classroom. As a junior in the nursing program, I had shared with Sarah about Sigma Theta Tau's opportunities for professional growth and she immediately seized the day by frequently volunteering at the Shorebirds fundraising events. During the fall of 2010, she was inducted as a member into our chapter and has realized the importance of networking within the organization. As she reaches the advent of her commencement, we engaged in multiple discussions about her career opportunities and she expressed a desire to work with a surgical population upon graduation. Consequently, I took the initiative to introduce Sarah to the manager of 5 West at Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Bethany Arion, in which she took advantage of the chance to demonstrate her professionalism and subsequently has been hired to begin her employment on this unit following her commencement."

Denise Conklin, a mentor and the newsletter editor also writes, "My mentoring experience is about staying in touch with the assigned students, answering questions, and just encouraging them through rotations, exams, and job searches." Don't forget to include your mentoring experience as part of the Chapter Key Award survey.