



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing Delta Kappa Chapter Newsletter 2014 Centennial Issue

2014 is the Centennial Anniversary of the University of Texas at El Paso. The Colleges, Departments and Programs are reflecting on their own heritage and contributions to our nationally recognized University.

This Centennial Issue of the Delta Kappa Chapter Newsletter highlights of our shared nursing heritage, a solid foundation of Nursing Excellence at UTEP, within our region and nationally. By reflecting on our beginnings and pathway to the present, our vision of the future becomes clearer.



The name Sigma Theta Tau represents the Greek words love, courage, and honor. As a member of this organization, I am honored to serve with nurses who display these qualities on a daily basis. I was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) as an undergraduate student in 1985 at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. Like many new nurses, I never became involved in the organization. I missed out on the opportunities for professional growth for many years.

My professional involvement in STTI really began in 2009 when I was inducted into Delta Kappa Chapter. I presented at conferences, attended a national leadership conference and experienced personal and professional leadership growth. I discovered the wealth of knowledge and professional resources available through STTI. I developed relationships with loving, courageous nurses serving their communities. My personal growth as a nursing leader has been highly impacted by the relationships developed through STTI. I am grateful to the leaders of Delta Kappa Chapter for their dedication to nursing and our community.

As a proud member of Delta Kappa Chapter, I encourage you to take this opportunity to "Get Connected" with us. Our members serve as nursing leaders throughout the El Paso region in hospitals, community clinics, educational settings, and executive leadership roles. We are nurses who are seasoned (50 years of service+) and others who are just starting their nursing careers. STTI provides opportunities for sharing knowledge, leading others, and serving in community. I invite you to join us for upcoming conferences and induction ceremonies to foster relationships with peers and colleagues who exemplify love, courage and honor through service, scholarship, and nursing excellence. Don't wait to get involved...our UTEP Centennial is a great time to re-connect or connect for the first time. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debbie Sikes".

Debbie Sikes, MSN, RN
President, Delta Kappa Chapter
Sigma Theta Tau International

Delta Kappa Chapter Newsletter

Centennial Issue (page 2: Early Beginnings: 1882-1979)

- ◆ **1882.** Nursing came to El Paso with the arrival of three Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul who were invited by Reverend Charles Ferrari to care for persons with tuberculosis. Persons were moving from northern regions as it was believed that our hot, dry climate would heal TB. Recall, this approach was common as it was before the discovery of appropriate antibiotics to treat tuberculosis.



Within a few years, the Daughters of Charity raised enough money to build the first hospital in El Paso, Hotel Dieu. It was located on a full block bounded by Stanton, Arizona Kansas and Rio Grande streets. This location was criticized at that time for being too far from town and inconvenient for the sick. As the hospital grew, a School of Nursing was started.

- ◆ **1902.** Hotel Dieu Hospital School of Nursing graduated its first class of 4 students. During the next seventy plus years, 1,076 nursing students graduated.

- ◆ **1960s.** The Daughters of Charity successfully obtained funding for the “new” Hotel Dieu School of Nursing. In addition to obtaining federal funding from the Hill Burton Act, local residents made sizeable contributions.

- ◆ **1967.** This building and adjacent auditorium were dedicated. In addition to the “state of art” classrooms, the medical library and dormitory suits were located at 1101 North Campbell Street.



- ◆ **1960-70s.** Many changes occurred in healthcare and nursing education. Our national nurse leaders advocated for “career ladder” or lifelong professional education paradigm for nursing. Mildred Montag, RN, EdD (Columbia University) completed her research on a new paradigm for nursing education. Nurses could be educated in 2 calendar years and pass the State Board Exams for Registered Nurses (predecessor to NCLEX) with comparable or higher scores as nurses completing accredited hospital based diploma programs. The emerging community college movement was occurring at the same time. <http://nursing.adelphi.edu/about/who-we-are/history/>

- ◆ **1970.** A major change was emerging in El Paso. The Hotel Dieu Hospital and School of Nursing advisory boards made a historic decision....to convert to a baccalaureate nursing program and become part of UT System-wide School of Nursing. Nursing programs at six UT campuses included: Austin, Arlington, El Paso, Galveston, Houston, San Antonio.

- ◆ **1972.** The first class of UT System School of Nursing earned their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Several graduates returned to El Paso to practice nursing and their nursing education.

Two of our many leaders during our “Early Beginnings”



Sr. Alloyious Williams was influential establishing the “new” Hotel Dieu SON & residence, continued an active role in the UT System nursing program & later was the Director of Continuing Nursing Education.



Esperanza Moreno was the first college educated Hispanic Librarian in El Paso. Her long career began at Hotel Dieu and continued at UTEP as a valuable colleague to nursing students and faculty.

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Centennial Issue (page 3: **Pathway to the Present: 1976-2014**)

Our Chapter shares our pathway with UTEP School of Nursing



1976. Dr. Eileen Jacobi (1918-1996) was hired as the first Dean when the College of Nursing became an academic unit of UTEP, instead of a part of the UT-System Schools of Nursing. At the time, she was the only doctorally prepared nurse in El Paso, and the only female college Dean. Within two years of her appointment, the College of Nursing earned full national accreditation. With prior experience as Executive Director of the American Nurses Association, she was a frequently sought-after member to numerous state level committees, and also served six years on the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners. She retired from UTEP in 1986, but remained active in the International Council of Nurses including serving as Vice President.



1980. The establishment of Delta Kappa Chapter 104 of Sigma Theta Tau International was formalized in 1980 under the leadership of Dean Jacobi with 32 charter members: Gay Aguilera, Robert Anders, Ann Bechtel, Rena Brands, Maria Caldwell, Elaine Campbell, Karen Carte Lyon, Helen Castillo, Charlene Chartrand, Deborah Maese Chasco, Gail Kathleen Clark, Camille Carpenter-Cates, Sandra Earles, Judith Estabrook, Mona Fields, Terry Hester Hernandez, Gina Long, Margarita Lozano, Margo Mendez, Terry Moreland, Gail Michael, Sharon Pontious, Marydelle Polk, Rebecca Price, Mary Pries, Marta Reeder, Marilyn Steffel, Marlene Weitzel, Sr. Aloysious Williams, Thomas Wilke, and Ann Uranga



1999. Sigma Theta Tau International bestows honorary membership upon individuals of national or international influence who have positively influenced health care. Because of the strong support given to our chapter by UTEP administration, Delta Kappa nominated UTEP President Diana Natalicio for honorary membership and was inducted at the Biennial Meeting in San Diego.



2001. Delta Kappa sponsored New Mexico State University School of Nursing's application for their own chapter of STTI, Pi Omega. We now proudly collaborate with Pi Omega chapter twice a year on continuing education conferences.



2010. UTEP SON became an independent academic unit and moved from the original Campbell Street location to a new Sqft Bhutanese-style, state-of-the-art building across from the UTEP Library. Chapter programs are often held in the large, 100 seat, tiered classroom with the latest technology for presenters able to provide audio-visual materials on three screens.

Our DK Chapter Office is located in room 341; 747-7229; dkchapter@utep.edu



2014. In keeping with the UTEP Centennial Celebration, we recognize our Centennial Chapter Members (27) who have been active members since their induction (34 or more years) Robert Anders, Taffy Arias, Georgia Avery, Judith Bartley, Jean Bernardini, Jose Blance, Rena Brands, Angelina Carver, Donna Cieslik, Deborah Chasco, Rena DeGregorio, Lou Feuille, James Flahive, Patricia Flowler, Judy Fredrick, Debbie Fuller, Ruth Giordano, Terry Hernandez, Olga Kalpakgian, Cheri Love, Jana McCallister, Paula Mitchell, Patricia Parsons, Pearl Pope, Audree Reynolds, Kathryn Reveles

With our current 350 active members, our Delta Kappa Chapter is active and thriving!

Some of the events we sponsor include:

- ** Induction ceremonies for new student and community members three times/year
- ** Continuing education conferences twice a year
- ** Annual Chapter Research/Evidenced Based Practice Awards
- ** Community Service Activities: UTEP's Project Move and local community organizations
- ** Funding Chapter member-presenters at STTI national meetings

STAY CONNECTED Join colleagues: November 14th civilitydialogues.utep.edu