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■ Message from the President



Dear colleagues,

Collaboration is such a powerful tool for achieving our goals locally and globally. I have been so honored to meet with members and chapters to hear how, through collaboration, they are meeting challenges of health in their own communities.

This month I traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and met with nurses at the Southern University School of Nursing and their honor society chapter Tau Pi. After Hurricane Katrina, the Dean, faculty and honor society members saw a huge need for primary care services for persons who had moved from New Orleans, and other damaged and flooded areas to a large trailer park that they named Renaissance Village. Dean Janet Rami led the effort to have the school of nursing be the lead organization in providing health care to the residents of the Village, since the need was so great and no services were in place. Because they had been providing services with a mobile health clinic and nurse managed clinics for the past 10 years prior to the hurricane, they had an infrastructure which could be tapped in a time of crisis.

For the past 18 months, faculty, students & honor members have coordinated services with other agencies and departments within the University to see to it that those displaced by Katrina had primary care, health promotion and nutrition services.

Something that was not lost on the group was the fact that many providers post-Katrina were also displaced because of the storm and subsequent flooding. Several faculty had lost their homes. Dr. Cheryl Hill is one such person. She is the Director of Research at Southern, an honor society member who realized that those who were caring for others were also carrying the burden of displacement and stress of living through so much devastation and need in their communities. She worked with others around the country to create a retreat for care providers in the New Orleans area so that they might have a time for rest as well. Drs. Rami, Taylor and all those at Southern were truly inspiring in their efforts to support the health and healing of those who continue to be affected by the storm. They are a model for me, for you and for the honor society in collaborative efforts.

Best regards,

Carol A. Peard

Carol A. Picard
President

■ Upward and Inward

by *Claudia K.Y. Lai*

My decision to join a fund-raising, awareness promotion event became a journey into knowing a bit more about myself, insight that seemed hidden until the journey up Kibo revealed it to me. As a mature adult who thought I already knew myself completely, I learned something new: In pursuing a goal I believe in, I must not let fears consume me and stop me from moving forward. The perceived difficulty may be real or imagined, but I will never find out for sure unless I try . [Read more.](#)

This article originally appeared in the fourth quarter 2006 issue of [Reflections on Nursing Leadership](#)

■ Cultural Immersion Reveals Common Bonds

by *Susan M. Hinck and Kathryn L. Hope*

Quito is “a city of graffiti and gates, pollution and gardens, poverty and beauty, and never-ending movement and noise. I like it here.” That’s how one student from Missouri State University in the United States described the capital of Ecuador. She was one of 14 undergraduate and graduate nursing and premedical students from the school who spent two weeks in Quito as part of a three-credit course to learn about the people, culture and health care of Ecuador. Since returning to the United States, students have continued their learning and development of cross-cultural competencies. Some have enrolled in additional Spanish courses. Others have chosen jobs that allow them to serve Spanish-speaking immigrants. An important outcome of our Ecuadorian experience is that we now recognize we are citizens of the world. [Read more.](#)

This article originally appeared in the fourth quarter 2006 issue of [Reflections on Nursing Leadership](#)

■ Board Matters

The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International Board of Directors convened 16-17 February to conduct the governance business of the honor society. The board took action on the following matters:

- Approval of charter amendments to Epsilon Delta and Kappa Phi charters
- Ratification of delegate vote to approve a chapter charter to the University of North Alabama
- Approval of a member task force and approval procedure to review and approve nurse leader candidates received through headquarters
- Reviewed and made recommendations to Governance Committee on bylaw amendments
- Affirmed the development of a virtual chapter as a viable model for the future
- Approved revision to complimentary registration policy
- Received and approved reports from committees, councils, task forces, subsidiaries and operations
- Reviewed and accepted financial statements through 31 December 2006 for all corporations

The board engaged in dialogue and planning around the Visioning 2020 draft document of the Future’s Advisory Council and the report of the honor society Global Initiative 2020 of the Global Transitions Task Force. Four key strategic areas of focus emerged from the discussion. To be an

intentionally global organization in 2020, the honor society will create a mission/vision driven organization that:

- Positions the honor society as the thought leader in the knowledge and leadership domains
- Provides relevance and value to its diverse constituents and stakeholders
- Delivers best practices as a technology enabled organization

Focus and discussion groups will be held at the biennial convention in November 2007 to provide an overview and seek member and delegate feedback on the Presidential Call-to-Action initiatives and proposed bylaw amendments.

The Executive Committee of the Board also met with the CEO search firm and finalized the position profile and search announcement to solicit candidates to replace CEO Nancy Dickenson-Hazard, who will retire in November of this year. The employment advertisement is available on the honor society's [Web site](#).

Additional links:

General page where all BOD reports for the biennium are available:

http://www.nursingsociety.org/about/board_resources.html

Specific page for February 2007 BOD Reports:

http://www.nursingsociety.org/about/TOC_0207.pdf

■ Making the Most of Your Membership

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Critical Portfolio, the official platform for eportfolio services of The American Nurses Credentialing Center and the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, goes beyond the conventional curriculum vitae. This consummate representation of professional abilities, achievements and efforts acts as an online safety-deposit box for a host of portfolio documentation – anytime, anywhere. Your portfolio is on the Internet so it travels with you. [Learn more about this new member benefit now!](#)

Community Service Forums

Are you actively involved in a community **service project**? Find out if other honor society members share your passions and interests through a newly created online forum. This is a great way to **network, make connections and share with each other** how you are making a difference in the health of others around the world. [Go there now](#).



Begin your journey as a nurse philanthropist!

New members (5 or fewer years) will become an **Honor Circle** donor with a \$25

contribution. To contribute online, [click here](#) then click "Other" under gift amount, or contact the foundation staff at foundation@stti.iupui.edu for more information.

Working together to improve health care.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the honor society have together published a book titled: *The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Nursing Profession: Shared Values, Shared Legacy*.

This book, published by the honor society, describes how, for more than 75 years, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has worked with nurses and nursing to improve health care. The relationship began in the 1930s with an effort to improve the health of children in rural Michigan. Over the decades, this effort grew into a national and international collaboration extending to Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa. [Get your copy today](#).

If you would like to offer your thoughts and experiences for inclusion in this newsletter, please contact marketing@stti.iupui.edu.

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