

Tau Chapter Biennial Conference Report Indianapolis, Indiana November, 2013

The biennial conference of Sigma Theta Tau International occurred November 15-20, 2013 in Indianapolis, Indiana with an estimated 1,000 nurses from around the world in attendance. Hundreds of oral presentations and posters served to chronicle nurse engagement in education, research and practice from diverse perspectives. In addition, there were daily opportunities to meet candidates for STTI Board of Directors and to meet with book authors during book signings. Networking with global colleagues was facilitated by curiosity and ample space at the venue to sit and dialogue as needed. The entire proceedings were a remarkable chance to recognize and celebrate accomplishments within the profession. Attendees heard about various chapter activities other nurses are involved in with their local communities to advance knowledge, provide services and care for poor and disadvantaged individuals. Media presentations and STTI Marketplace goods served to reinforce our rich nursing history.

On prominent display were flags of the 8 Millennium Development Goals. These include:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

STTI has been actively involved with the United Nations (UN), having several nurses working intensely with the UN to help implement and evaluate the Millennium goals, which are scheduled to conclude in 2015. Moving forward, these nurses are in strategic positions to have input in the development of the next set of global health related goals, which will be referred to as Sustainability goals. A very well attended session was the presentation of the work of Sigma with the UN. It was inspiring and highlighted a core mission of STTI, which is global engagement to improve health for all.

There were 12 new chapters inducted at the conference, a variety of chapter awards presented and reports from long-standing chapters who are extremely active. The Proposed 2013-2015 International Bylaws changes were voted on and approved (a copy of which is attached) at the House of Delegates sessions.

The following 18-month leadership development opportunities exist for all STTI members under the International Leadership Institute (ILI):

- 1) Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA)
- 2) Geriatric Nursing Leadership Academy (GNLA)

3) Maternal-Child Health Nurse Leadership Academy (MCHNLA)
Detailed information about the academies can be obtained at
www.nursingsociety.org

Additional membership benefits include the Global Ambassador Program that helps to advance the STTI goal of increasing the organization's visibility and global contributions. Additional information about this program can be accessed at www.nursingsociety.org/GlobalAmbassadorProgram. Lastly, the Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository is an open access and peer-reviewed digital resource for nurses to disseminate their research and evidence-based practices materials. This site can be accessed at www.nursingrepository.org.

The conference ended with the induction of Hester C. Klopper, PhD, MBA, RN, RM, FANSA as the 2013-2015 President of STTI. Dr. Klopper is from South Africa and in her Presidential Call to Action address identified the following three pillars that will be the focus of her presidency, servant leadership, connectedness and transformation. She would like to see STTI pivot more aggressively to the global community and encouraged the audience to get involved by providing service to others, the profession and contributing to knowledge development and dissemination. Of note, she spoke about building a record of "livacy." By this she meant legacy and leaving something behind for the good of others.

The 43rd Biennial Convention will be held November 7-11, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Submitted by,

Edilma L. Yearwood, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN