



# SIGMA THETA TAU

International Honor Society of Nursing  
Iota Sigma Chapter Newsletter, Azusa Pacific  
University, Azusa, California

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring, 2004

## Greetings from Your President, Cathy McPhee, RN, MSN

### Chapter Officers and Chairs

**President:** Cathy Mc Phee

**Past President:** Leslie Van Dover

**V.P., Program:** Viann Duncan

**Treasurer:** Heather MacDonald

**Nominations:** Pam Cone

**Finance:**

**Eligibility:** Renee Pozza

**Awards:** Badrieh Caraway

**Research:** Marilyn Klalovich

**Archivist:** Phyllis Esslinger

**Membership:**

**Student Intern:** Wendy Jacobs

**Newsletter:** Phyllis Gallagher

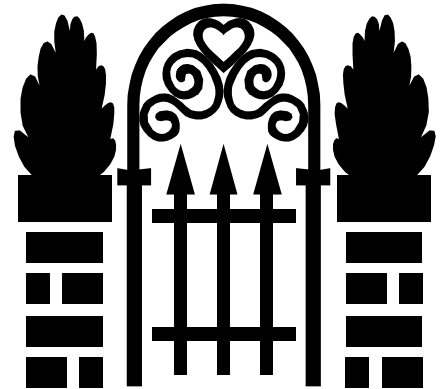
We all know that *change* brings with it *challenge*. This Biennium, STTI made several changes involving both structure and finance. The purpose of these changes is to make STTI a streamlined, fiscally responsive organization, able to continue its delivery of high quality services at reasonable cost.

International is now assisting our Iota Sigma Chapter in streamlining our operations. We will be decreasing the number of appointed Chairs on our Board and using a "task force" approach to projects. We hope that this will attract more members who would like to be involved but have limited time to participate. There will be many opportunities for members to participate on a periodic, short-term basis..

International dues increased \$10.00 this year, to \$55.00 per year. This is a very reasonable membership fee when compared with other professional organizations, many of whom charge over \$100.00. Our Iota Sigma Chapter dues will remain at \$30.00 per year. With any change, it is necessary to provide accurate information about the benefits the members receive from belonging to STTI. I'd like to use this, my last letter as your President, to describe some of the benefits you receive from your membership.

STTI's web site is loaded with resources. As I've suggested before, I encourage you to take some time and tour YOUR organization's web site. It is there for YOU. A brand new 90 page Chapter Resource Manual is FREE for the downloading. The manual will answer most of your questions at your convenience. The web site also gives you access to the Virginia Henderson Library, excellent Case Studies, research opportunities, and more. <http://www.nursingsociety.org>.

International is looking for volunteers (novice and expert) for projects/tasks that will help you to demonstrate your talent, hone new skills, network, and grow within your profession. Please visit [nursingsociety.org](http://nursingsociety.org) to complete your



Involvement in STTI: Your Gateway to Success

*(President's Letter continued on page 2)*

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### ***IOTA SIGMA MEMBER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES CHIRON MENTORING PROGRAM***

***Badrieh Caraway, BSN, MS, Chair of the Awards Committee for our Iota Sigma Chapter has just received her Certificate of Completion of the 2003 Chiron Mentoring Program. She is the first member of Iota Sigma Chapter to receive this honor. Congratulations, Badrieh!***

***Watch for a story about Badrieh and the Chiron Mentoring Program in the next on-line issue of the newsletter.***

***Want to know more about the Chiron Mentoring Program? Click on [nursingsociety.org](http://nursingsociety.org) and follow the links to the Chiron Mentoring Program.***

***Each year a select group of STTI members are nominated for the program by STTI Leadership Institute. If you meet the criteria for selection, you may apply for this award.***

(President's letter, continued from p.1)

VIPProfile. You can go directly to <http://www.nursingsociety.org/VIP> but you will miss all the good stuff on the web site!

Thanks to Vice President, Viann Duncan, our **annual meeting** was a night to remember. Viann sure knows how to throw a party! The presentation by Aja Tulleners Lesh, our interim Dean, nudged us gently into the appreciation of the research mode. I appreciated Grace Elder bringing her senior students from their Issues and Ethics class. They were able to hear how research is actually applied in clinical practice while networking with such resources as our own Katie Skelton, Vice President of Patient Care Services at St. Joseph Hospital, Orange. **Member surveys** were collected and are being analyzed in order to bring you, our members, what you want and when you want it. Lastly, **elections** were completed and results tabulated. We welcome the following to their new positions on our Board:

**President: Kathleen Taylor**, currently works as a Health Specialist/School Nurse at Access, in Orange, CA. Kathie received her MPH at LLU in 1979 and her MSN at APU in 1992. She was inducted into Iota Sigma Chapter in 1989. She has served as Board Secretary for two years.

**President Elect: Marilyn Klakovich**, currently serves as Lecturer/Director of Continuing Education at APU School of Nursing and Area Chair of Graduate Nursing with the University of Phoenix. She obtained her MSN at CSULA and her Doctorate at USD. Marilyn has served on our Board for many years as Chair of the Research Committee. She participates in the planning for our annual regional research conference, *Odyssey*, serving as Chair in 2002 and 2003. She is a dual STTI member at Omicron Delta and Iota Sigma.

**Vice President: Vickie Simmons**, currently works at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. Vickie is a recent graduate of APU School of Nursing and the recipient of the 2003 Iota Sigma Scholarship.

**Secretary: Viann Duncan** currently is on faculty at APU. Viann is a mental health instructor and has served on our Board for 2 years as Vice President and Program Chair. She also works at Huntington Memorial's Dela Martin Mental Health Science Center. She earned her MSN at Texas Women's University, Houston, Tx.

**Treasurer: Janice Barlow**, currently works as an Administrative Liaison at Riverside Community Hospital. She is also an adjunct instructor at APU and has been in the Air Force Reserves for 12 years. Janice obtained her MSN and was inducted into STTI at the University of Phoenix in 1997. She joined Iota Sigma in 2003.

**Heather Mac Donald** has completed her service as our Treasurer. I cannot say "term" because she has continued to serve in that role for 5 years! She has served in a variety of Board positions since her induction 10 years ago. Heather currently teaches in the AND program at Chaffee College and also works at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center as Nurse Analyst for IS and Administrative Supervisor. She is an AGNP and graduate of LLU and CSULB. I sincerely thank her for her extensive service and look forward to her continued contributions.

Could you spend a few minutes to **act as a resource** for a new nurse? I am compiling a list of Iota Sigma members who would be willing to be available to our APU graduates by phone/e-mail. I hope to create a resource list of nurses willing to discuss work opportunities and the working environment at their places of employment. This information would ONLY be made available in the School of Nursing upon request for our graduates. What a great way for you to recruit talented help! Please e-mail me your name, place of employment, specialty/unit, position, and phone number or e-mail address.

Another change is at hand: my term as President expires in June. I want to thank my Board members, past and present, for their unwavering support and friendship, and members and students who have offered support. Special thanks to one of our Founding members, Dean Rose Liegler, recently promoted to Vice Provost at APU, who has always been there to offer me encouragement. It has been an honor to serve. I've achieved many of my goals, but I wish I could have done more, so I'll continue to serve in a capacity yet to be determined. Please forward your suggestions, opinions, and concerns to me at (714) 731 5379, (CMcPhee@apu.edu). You can also contact Roxanne moutafis@nursing.arizona.edu, your Region 2 Coordinator. Please encourage other members and RNs to visit our web site too.

With best wishes to all of you,

Cathy McPhee

## Legal Update: Nurse Opinion Must Define the Standard for Nurses in Illinois

by Phyllis M. Gallagher, RN, JD

The Illinois Supreme Court has decided that only nurses may be permitted to testify regarding the standard of care for nurses. Thanks to the amicus curiae brief filed by TAANA (The American Association of Nurse Attorneys), nurses being tried for malpractice in civil trials will have the standard of care decided on the basis of testimony given by expert nurses. The lower court had permitted expert testimony from a physician to be presented to the jury.

For many years, courts have considered physicians to be appropriate experts for defining the standard of care for nurses, over the objections of many nursing and legal scholars. This case has put to rest the question of whether physicians may testify as experts in cases in which the standard of care for nurses is an issue, at least in the State of Illinois. However, the decision is expected to influence the holdings of appellate courts in other states regarding this issue.

The rationale for considering physicians as experts in nursing matters is derived from the belief that medical licenses give authority to physicians to do whatever nurses may do. While there may have been some validity to this view in the distant past, when nursing practice involved fairly simple procedures, the complexity of modern nursing practice undermines the support for this belief. Physicians may not be familiar with nursing practice to the degree needed to testify as experts, and so it would be an evidentiary error to permit them to define the standard of care for nurses.

An amicus brief is a "friend of the court" brief. In the brief submitted by TAANA, the nurse attorneys argued that nursing is a profession distinct from the practice of medicine, and thus defines its own scope and standard of practice. At issue in the case was the question of whether a nurse should be held to the same standard of care as a physician. The nurse described the patient as "agitated" rather than as suffering from "delirium." A physician testified that the nurse was negligent in failing to diagnose delirium. The brief pointed out that delirium is a medical diagnosis, and under the Illinois Nursing Practice Act, the nurse is not permitted to make a medical diagnosis. By permitting a physician to testify that the nurse failed to make the proper diagnosis, the jury may be misled into believing that the standard of care for a physician and a nurse is identical. The case is Sullivan v Amelia Conte-Rassian, MD and Edward Hospital No. 95409 in the Supreme Court of Illinois, February, 2004.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS, SAVE THESE DATES:

- March 24, 2004 Recruitment Fair, APU Campus
- April 12, 2004 Board Meeting SON Library
- May 1, 2004 Induction and Luncheon/  
Fundraising Auction
- May 6-12 Nurses' Week (check *nursingsociety.org*  
for beautiful, meaningful gifts)
- May 10, 2004 Board Meeting SON Library
- June 14, 2004 Board Meeting SON Library
- July, 2004 Strategic planning/ Board Meeting
- October, 2004 Memory Walk
- October 21 & 22 Nursing Odyssey 2004

# HELP PRESIDENT DAN PESUT FIND VIPS

February, 2005 Annual Meeting

November 12-16, 2005 Biennium, Indianapolis, IN

STTI President Dan Pesut is committed to assisting chapters and regions to identify individuals who are interested in getting involved in STTI at all levels. He has designed a Volunteer Interest Profile survey (VIPProfile) to query members about their talents, skills, and interests. It doesn't take long to complete. Check it out at STTI's site, *nursingsociety.org*. Click on VIPProfile and complete your profile. You will find priceless opportunities to develop your talents, skills,

**Member Survey: TELL US WHAT YOU WANT. WHAT WOULD YOU  
COME OUT TO HEAR? DO YOU WANT CEUs? SOCIAL EVENTS?  
Our Web site is <http://www.apu.edu/iotasigma>  
Let us know YOUR BEST TIMES FOR MEETINGS  
BEST DAYS FOR MEETINGS  
PROGRAM CONTENT YOU'D LIKE  
SUGGESTED SPEAKERS  
We want to hear from YOU!!!!**

## The Research Corner

by Dr. Marilyn Klakovich, Chair, Research Committee

In this issue, I'll be sharing three exciting news items that relate to funding, conducting, and disseminating research.

### Research Award Deadline Extended!

For any of you who would like to obtain a \$500.00 research award to assist you to conduct and disseminate your research, there is still time! The deadline for the 2004 award has been extended to April 1, 2004. Please let me know if you have any questions. I would be happy to assist you to prepare and submit your application. The process is quick and easy! If you are interested, e-mail me at [mklakovich@apu.edu](mailto:mklakovich@apu.edu).

### Odyssey 2004 Conference

I'm pleased to report that the plans are progressing well for our Fall research, education, and clinical practice conference presented in collaboration with 12 other schools (representing 10 chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International and two honor societies. This year the theme will be "Nursing Odyssey 2004: Charting a New Course in Nursing." For the complete brochure, see the link on this website. Our keynote speakers include Anthony Minks, MSN, RN, Chief Nurse Executive/Assistant Administrator, Kaiser Permanente, San Diego, who will present "One Year into the Ratios" on Thursday, October 21. Joan Burritt, DNSc, RN, Associate Administrator, Chief Nursing Executive, Scripps Memorial, La Jolla will present "Defining Magnet Status" on Friday, October 22.

I will be posting the call for abstracts for the podium and poster presentations in April, so please check back. We would love to have the Iota Sigma Chapter well represented among the presenters.

### Research Presentation

I had the privilege of presenting research at the Nursing Odyssey 2003 conference that Dr. Felicitas dela Cruz and I have collaborated on for the past few years. The nursing faculty at APU had found that in spite of the centrality of interpersonal communication in nursing, not psychometrically sound instrument existed to measure the communication competency of nursing students. Because of this finding, we developed and tested the *Interpersonal Communication Assessment Scale (ICAS)*.

Although the development of the *ICAS* required a series of studies, the focus of the presentation was on a national study to validate the *ICAS*. This study was partially funded by a grant by the APU Faculty Research Council. Undergraduate and graduate faculty (N=578) from 246 CCNE accredited schools of nursing participated in the survey. Faculty rated the effectiveness of a "typical" student's communication behavior at the beginning BSN, graduating BSN, beginning MSN, and graduating MSN levels. 1 (seldom) to 4 (usually or always).

Results showed that the *ICAS* has three distinct subscales which we labeled **advocacy** (clearly conveying diagnostic and other relevant information in a way that supports patient/family wishes and decisions), **therapeutic use of self** (demonstrating interpersonal behaviors that assist clients in achieving healthy emotional and behavioral outcomes by being genuine, empathetic, and respectful of the client) and **validation**

(continued on page 5)

*(Research Corner continued from page 4)*

(listening carefully and verifying that the intent of messages is accurately interpreted). Furthermore, the *ICAS* differentiated between entering and graduating students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

We propose that *ICAS* can be used as a formative tool to provide student feedback following each clinical rotation. As a summative tool, it can be used to compare entering versus graduating student scores. Further research is recommended with actual nursing students in a variety of nursing programs (ADN, degree completion, as well as BSN and MSN). The *ICAS* can also be used in research to determine the effectiveness of communication teaching methods and to determine predictors of effective communication.

Since presenting at the Odyssey 2003 conference, this research has been accepted for a poster presentation at the April, 2004 Western Institute of Nursing research conference in Portland, OR and for a podium presentation at the 15th International Nursing Research Congress (sponsored by STTI) in Dublin, Ireland. Dr. dela Cruz and I are excited to be able to represent Iota Sigma Chapter and Azusa Pacific University at this international conference.

### **Student Abroad:**

#### **Reflections of a Nursing Student on the Biennial Convention, Toronto, November 2003**

*by Wendy Jacobs*

Eager to arrive at the hotel, I looked out the window of the Airport shuttle to see the beautiful landscape between Toronto Airport and the Sheraton. I tried to imagine what was in store for me at the STTI 37th Biennial convention that I was about to attend. The extent of my experience with conventions was limited to a Regional STTI research conference in Ontario, CA. I had been involved in Iota Sigma Chapter as the Student Leadership Intern for a few months and I was honored to have them sponsor my trip to the Biennium. I had no idea how large the Biennium was going to be or the effect it would have on me.

When I received my convention materials I was in shock as I flipped through the list of over 2100 names of the nurses registered to attend. Now I was beginning to get the picture. The next task at hand was choosing which sessions I would like to attend the following day. Cathy McPhee, my roommate and mentor, advised me to pick the session that most interested me. I struggled when I found three different sessions offered at the same time in which I was interested. How was I ever going to choose? The following morning we arrived early to claim our seats at the opening plenary in an enormous ballroom. I was filled with excitement and awe to realize that this was put together by an organization of which I am a part. I was surrounded by hundreds of nurses, peers, and mentors from all over the world. In this setting I was not just a student, but a member of this prestigious, professional organization.

I attended several sessions the next few days and I learned from each speaker about research, professionalism, and leadership. It never became easier to choose which session to attend, but I did the best I could. I was especially drawn to a few sessions that were aimed at attracting faculty. There were sessions about on-line courses, and the well-being of students. I was curious to hear what was being presented and I was also interested in contributing to the topics if possible. During these sessions I realized how much thought and effort is put forth by the faculty in order to strengthen our learning experience. I was engaged in conversations with my peers to offer my opinion about methods used to increase student success in nursing programs. It was empowering to feel that my opinion was very helpful to them.

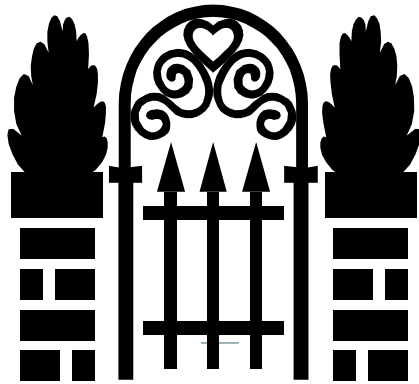
Immersed in the professionalism of nursing, I was delighted to see how many advanced practice nurses there were. I was inspired to reach for goals beyond any I had ever before imagined for myself. I had pictured myself going on to obtain my MSN, and even NP, but I had never before entertained the idea of a doctorate. Men and women of all ages presented their journeys to me through their work in research and education. Although I lack experience at this time, I have a great deal to offer the profession of nursing and there are many ways I can contribute. The experience of talking with such great leaders and knowledgeable advocates for nursing has inspired me to expand my goals to include higher expectations than ever before. *(continued on page 6)*

Dr. Amy Rex Smith will be the featured speaker at the Spring Induction and Luncheon, **Saturday, May 1, 2004** at Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing. She'll share ten lessons of importance to nurses, learned by her while on a 30 day silent retreat. She has served on faculty at APU School of Nursing in the 80s and 90s. Currently an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director for the Department of Nursing at University of Massachusetts, Boston, she is a dual member of STTI, holding membership in both Iota Sigma Chapter and Theta Alpha Chapter at University of Massachusetts, Boston. She is a well known speaker and writer with a special interest in spiritual knowledge for nurses.

This year's induction will add approximately 50 new members to the Iota Sigma Chapter. The inspirational presentation by Dr. Amy Rex Smith will add meaning to the event for the families and friends of both current and new members who attend. Throughout the event and following a delicious lunch, the chapter will auction items donated by members and community agencies. Watch for your invitations which will be arriving in the mail soon.

## Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow Launches Campaign to Increase Number of Nurse Educators

The nursing shortage hasn't affected only hospitals, clinics, and other health care delivery systems. Did you know that approximately 11,000 qualified nursing school applicants were turned away from schools of nursing in 2003 because of a shortage of nursing instructors? In 2002, approximately 5,000 qualified students were turned away.



Education: Another gateway to success

A coalition of 43

leading nursing and health care organizations is spearheading a campaign to increase the number of nurse educators. The shortage of nurse educators has resulted in curtailing programs and turning away students in almost 65% of the reporting schools.

Advertisements are appearing in publications across the country urging that nurse educators be valued for their contributions. Fac-

ulty recruitment ads convey the satisfaction that nurse educators receive in pursuing their teaching careers. By using actual nurse educators in the ads, instead of actors, the impact that nurses have on health care and the values and beliefs of nursing educators becomes more real.

STTI is one of the founding members of the coalition. Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow can be found online at [www.nursesource.org](http://www.nursesource.org). The name of the national campaign for nurse educators is titled: "Nursing education...pass it on."

## Student Reflections on the Biennium, 2003 (continued from page 5)

In addition to my experience at the STTI 2003 Biennium, I have served as a student leader at my school. As a student advocate, I have attended faculty meetings and developed personal relationships with faculty. I have been able to represent the student perspective and give the students a voice in the decision making process. I have established relationships of respect with many of my faculty members and I know that even-

tually I want to work with undergraduate nursing students. In all of my leadership experiences I have learned skills such as delegation and group decision making. I have come to know the responsibility that comes along with a leadership position.

I am grateful to Sigma Theta Tau, especially my Iota Sigma Chapter, for the experiences and inspiration these experiences have instilled in me. I

plan to continue my involvement in Iota Sigma after my graduation in May. I want to encourage other students to seek out available leadership opportunities, and other chapters of STTI to sponsor students to attend international events. This experience has changed me as a person and as a nurse. My role as Student Leadership Intern has been incredible! Thank you, Iota Sigma.

## HAVE ANY AUCTION ITEMS?

Iota Sigma Chapter needs Auction items, such as new books, jewelry, fancy food baskets, etc. which can be auctioned off at the May 1, 2004 Spring Induction. The money raised is used to provide research grants, to sponsor members at meetings, and to provide scholarships to deserving nursing students.

If you have any items which would be suitable for auction, please call Viann Duncan at (626) 815 5387 or e-mail her at [vduncan@apu.edu](mailto:vduncan@apu.edu). Please help your chapter advance the profession of nursing!

***Nominate a Community Leader: Do you know a nurse who is "out in front" in the community? Sure you do! NOMINATE A NURSE for a Community Leader Award!***

## **Michelle's Place: A Story of Family Caring**

*by Lynn Young\*\* with Marilyn Watson and Kathleen Taylor*

Breast cancer ravages women's lives, with family members often playing a primary role as protectors, supporters, and cheer leaders. Through this journey, family members may discover strengths and capacities they did not know they had. The story of Michelle's Place is one such story.

Michelle Watson was born March 9, 1974 in Bellflower, CA, the youngest daughter of Bill and Marilyn Watson. As the youngest of three children, Michelle was known as the one who wanted to keep up with her siblings, Leilani and Wayne. Her tenacious spirit and abundant energy was evident at an early age as Michelle followed her brother Wayne in many of his sports activities. As a child, Michelle was always eager to try her hand at something new. She loved playing soccer, participating in church group activities, family camping trips, 4WD Adventures, and joining the family for vacations at their cabin in the mountains.

Michelle grew in her tenacity and drew on her abundant energy during her teens and early adulthood as she became a competitive swimmer and then swim coach, a devoted undergraduate student in biology, and a steadfast friend to many at Colorado State University. She loved to travel, so she took a break from her studies to travel to New Zealand and Fiji, a trip that changed the direction of her life. On this trip she decided to become a holistic medicine practitioner and to join the Peace Corps. Not one to waste time, Michelle immediately took steps to realize her dreams and applied to the Peace Corps.

During the application process, Michelle underwent a physical exam during which a breast lump was discovered. Like many others, she had this "breast lump" checked by several physicians, all adamant that she was not to worry since she was "too young and too healthy to have breast cancer." She couldn't join the Peace Corps until she had a "clean bill of health," so, true to her dynamic spirit, she began to pursue her other dream and enrolled in the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in San Diego.

Michelle, then still in her early 20s, and her family began the roller coaster ride of their lives. Finally diagnosed with breast cancer, she began conventional treatment,

*(continued on page 8)*

chemotherapy and stem cell replacement, but not without the challenge of thinking through and sampling what a holistic/eastern perspective on disease and treatment might have to offer. Through a most challenging time, marked by peaks of hope and valleys of despair, as treatments held promise for recovery, then failed, Michelle, true to form, kept as active as possible and sought out companionship and support from family and friends. Michelle's family stayed with her every step of the way, with unconditional respect for the choices she made. Michelle died in 2000 at the age of 26.

After Michelle's death, the family came together to explore how they could keep Michelle's vibrant, caring, life-loving spirit alive. After much discussion, the family pursued the idea of opening a resource center in their town, where women and their families could come for information and support to manage a disease such as breast cancer. In September 2001, Michelle's Place opened in Murrieta, CA. This project was so successful that in March, 2003, Michelle's Place moved to a bigger space. Michelle's Place offers access to information, books and videos, wigs or scarves to wear during chemotherapy, access to a support group, and financial support for mammograms for women without insurance. Through collaboration with the local medical community, funds are in place designated for support groups for Spanish speaking women. Discussions are underway to determine how Michelle's Place might serve local Native American women both on and off the reservation. (See <http://www.temelink.com/oldtown/album/album.htm> for a pictorial view of Michelle's Place.)

The 2nd Celebration of Life Golf Tournament was held at the Temecula Creek Golf Course in November, 2003 to raise funds for Michelle's Place. Kathleen Taylor, Iota Sigma Chapter, who is Michelle's aunt, has contributed and continues to contribute much to keeping Michelle's spirit alive through the dream of Michelle's Place. Xi Eta extends kudos to Michelle's family for their pioneering spirit and deep and enduring commitment to women's health. For more information see [michellesplace.org](http://michellesplace.org)

*\*\*Lynn Young, Xi Eta, lead investigator in a research project with Kathleen Taylor, wrote this article with the help of Kathleen Taylor, Iota Sigma, Michelle's aunt, and Marilyn Watson, Michelle's mother. Azusa Pacific University School of Nursing and School of Physical Education undertook the research project along with University of Victoria, B.C. and The University of Washington School of Nursing. The results showed that single mothers are at increased risk for heart disease. The project was "Exploring Low-income Mothers' Risk for Cardiovascular Disease: A Multi-method Approach."*



Please let us know where you are and what you've been doing. We'd like to share your good news regarding accomplishments, research grants, promotions, etc. in our newsletter. E-mail us or download this form and mail it to us.

School of Nursing –1203

Iota Sigma Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau

Azusa Pacific University, School of Nursing  
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Azusa, CA 91702-7000

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## **SIGMA THETA TAU MEMBER UPDATE**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**E-mail address:**

**Phone Numbers:**

**Position:**

**Employer:**

**Recent professional activities and/or accomplishments:**

**Date submitted:**