

Sigma Theta Tau European Regional Newsletter

No. 1 Spring 2013



Greetings all members in the European region of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). It is a great triumph to finally be able to present a joint, trans-European newsletter with the intension of sharing, connecting and bringing together all STTI nurses in our region. This first newsletter will therefore briefly present the history of both the region and development of each chapter. Further, current activities and planning inside each chapter will be presented, as well as common, European activities. Our ambitions are to be able to continually support you with current developments and planning within the region, and we welcome all forms of comments from our fellow members. Please enjoy!

*On behalf of the European Regional Communication Board,
Professor Elizabeth Rosser*

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The European Sigma Theta Tau Region

The new European Region was introduced at the 2011-13 Biennium (Grapevine, Tx), bringing together chapters from the Netherlands, Sweden, Wales, England and Portugal. A Regional co-ordinator, Dr Thóra Hafsteinsdóttir, President of the Dutch chapter (Rho Chi) was elected at the Biennium and plans were hatched early on, to bring together the different chapters in their own 'Call to Action'. This is the first time in the history of Sigma Theta Tau International that Europe has gained such a prestigious place in the organisation of the society. There was great excitement among the members and ambitious plans were agreed. The very first strategic activity set up by the new Region, was the development and implementation of the very successful Inaugural European Conference 12-14 July 2012, hosted by Upsilon-Xi Chapter-at-Large, Wales. The conference was held in the Welsh capital city of Cardiff with over 100 delegates from 25 countries to explore the theme "Diversity Across Europe: Implications for Nursing".



At the conference, Suzanne Prevost, President of the STTI presented a key message of support for the new Region, along with messages from key leaders from across Europe. In addition to its success, this one collaborative activity cemented the partnership working from members of the different European chapters and encouraged the introduction of different working groups, drawing leadership from members of the different chapters. Already plans are well ahead for the second European conference to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden 16-18 June 2014. Each of the five European chapters agreed to sponsor one keynote speaker, and each keynote speaker addressed one dimension of European diversity – including nursing education, regulation, practice, population movement, and policy development within the EU.

To see the powerpoints of the keynote presentations go to the Upsilon Xi Chapter website (www.upsilon-Xi.net). As well as the keynote presentations, there were several concurrent sessions. 92 abstracts were submitted, and 36 were selected for oral presentation in concurrent sessions and 29 as posters; the selection was made by a scientific committee, chaired by Dr. Angie Kydd, on which all chapters were represented. Several presentations came from students, and these were brought together in a special student programme. The social highlight of the conference was the banquet held in Cardiff Castle. As well as a menu of welsh food (including laverbread and cawl!) we had an evening of welsh entertainment. The conference was evaluated (67% response rate) as "an outstanding success". One participant (from Malta) commented:

"An unforgettable experience, especially meeting so many nurses from different countries. Makes you proud of the nursing profession.... I never knew of STTI before; thanks to my thesis supervisor I was chosen to present a paper. Therefore one should take the opportunity to promote STTI in different nursing colleges while organizing conferences in different European countries."

As well as providing for meeting new people and learning new things, the conference was an important step in establishing STTI Europe as an important entity, and a demonstration that nurse leaders in Europe are willing and able to collaborate in delivering high quality events. The conference has been a great financial success and has introduced new STTI European Development Fund (see below). The next STTI Europe conference will be held June 16-18 2014 in Gothenburg, Sweden, hosted by the Tau Omega Chapter.

<http://www.sttietc2014.net/>

Forthcoming STTI events

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Rho Chi



The Netherlands Chapter

Rho Chi Chapter-at-Large has been established since 2002 and has about 400 members. Each year an Induction Symposium and various scholarly meetings are organised.

The Rho Chi celebrated its ten year anniversary on 21st November 2012 in the Academic building of Utrecht. Over 100 members and other guests joined us in the celebration. We were very surprised that so many people attended. Among the guests were some of the initiators of the chapter, former presidents, board members, and members from other nursing organisations in the Netherlands. The President, Thóra Hafsteinsdóttir opened the ceremony with a lecture STTI and Rho Chi and the many benefits of membership. Prof. Hester Klopper, president elect, gave an inspiring lecture on her various projects in Africa, Prof. Theo van Achterberg gave a lecture on leadership. Both Suzanne Prevost, president of STTI and Prof. Lilly Shortridge from NY, not able to attend, sent congratulations through a video message. 27 new members were inducted and hopefully these new members will become actively engaged in the activities of Rho Chi and STTI on a chapter, regional or global level.



During dinner, the Chapter awarded six persons, with the "Friend of Nursing" Award which was a wonderful part of the program. In her closing remarks, Prof. Marieke Schuurmans, emphasised the importance of leadership in nursing. We were delighted of how many people joined in the celebration and hope that this will give a positive impulse in winning more members for our highly successful organisation.

The Rho Chi Chapter is now organising an *Induction Conference* which will be held on 25th November 2013 in the Academic building of Utrecht.

See further information and a selection of photos on the Circle at www.rhochi.eu.



Tau Omega

The Swedish Chapter

Initial discussions about founding an STTI Chapter in Sweden started in October 2002 together with former Dean, Professor Fannie Gaston-Johansson. The Chapter Tau Omega was established in the beginning of 2004 and gained Chapter status in November 2005, as the second Chapter in Europe. The first Chapter Chartering Ceremony was held by Professor Karen Carlson in April 2006, followed by the first Induction Ceremony. The Swedish Chapter is hosted by the Institute of Health and Care Sciences, The Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. The chapter has 103 members, with members even outside Sweden. Induction Ceremony is held every year. In addition, two open seminars, annual meetings and monthly boarding meetings are constantly preformed.

In 2011 the chapter started a tradition with *A Friend of Nursing Award Certification*. In conjunction with the Induction Ceremony the Chapter holds a program: *Symposium, Induction and Award Ceremony*.

In 2011, Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan received *A Friend of Nursing Award Certification* from the Chapter.

Unfortunately Her Royal Highness could not attend. However, a representative was appointed, Her Excellency Professor Rowaida Al Mäaitah personal adviser for Her Royal Highness.

In 2012 Dr Morag Morrison received the Chapters *A Friend of Nursing Award Certification* for her support an engagement in the field of Nursing education and research, and for the long and fruitful collaboration between the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, and the Institute of Health and Care Sciences, University of Gothenburg. Furthermore Special guests were professor Thora Hafsteindottir, Professor Denise Polit, which both attended the *Symposium, Induction and Award Ceremony* and gave presentations.

Current chapter activities concerns the second STTI European Regional Conference which is to be hosted by the Chapter Tau Omega and The Institute of Health and Care Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, between 16-18 June 2014. Themes for the Conference is *Leadership, Learning and Research in Nursing and Midwifery*.

<http://www.sttietc2014.net/>

The English Chapter

Phi Mu Chapter was established in July 2011 after a long history of development. The Chartering ceremony took place in the US Embassy, London with the then President, Karen Morin and the CEO Pat Thompson in attendance. It was a great success with nurse leaders from across England in attendance. The Chapter, hosted by Bournemouth University holds quarterly scholarly meetings with alternate meetings being held in Universities across the country.



Since gaining Chapter status, meetings have been held in Liverpool John Moores, Huddersfield, University of the West of England and Northumbria with plans to meet in the University of Hull in March 2013.

A very successful Induction ceremony was held in Bournemouth in June 2012 with new members drawn from nurse leaders across the globe and for the first time, the introduction of two student prizes. This will now be a key feature of our Induction ceremonies to attract the student community and spread the word to students and nurse leaders in practice to build on the work we have achieved to date.

Plans are afoot to hold the inaugural chapter conference in Bournemouth on 21 June 2013 with very special keynote presentations and combine the opening ceremony the evening before, with a special induction ceremony.

The Chapter continues to grow and members are increasingly becoming involved in Chapter activities.



Phi Mu

The Portuguese Chapter

Phi Xi Chapter was established in September 2011 at Coimbra, Portugal.

Recently, they organized a dinner-debate on November 20th with the participation of the president of the Portuguese Nursing Council, Germano Couto. The dinner was part of the plan of activities of the Phi Xi Chapter for 2012 and it aimed to build a space for collective reflection on the challenges of Nursing regarding the health of the populations, as well as for the Chapter to present its compliments to the OE – represented by the vice-president of the Council's Directing Board, Lúcia Leite, and the president of the Regional Section of the Center, Isabel Oliveira. During the dinner-debate, the Chapter's president, Professor Aida Cruz Mendes, reaffirmed that "the disciplinary development and autonomy of the profession are key requirements for nurses to fulfill their social mandate of meeting citizens' health needs." Referring to the "Global Standards for the initial education of professional nurses and midwives" report. Also mentioned was "(...) the great variation in the levels of initial education for professional nurses and midwives around the world can no longer be neglected", the president of our



Chapter and also vice-president of the Nursing School of Coimbra also stated that "professional and academic leaders should promote a joint reflection on the paths of Nursing today". The president Germano Couto reaffirmed that Nursing should be taught at a university level and he also made public that the OE is currently working on updating the Strategic Plan for Nursing Education, in close collaboration with the schools.

At the end of the dinner-debate, both organizations confirmed their willingness to collaborate in future initiatives.



Phi Xi

"The disciplinary development and autonomy of the profession are key requirements for nurses to fulfill their social mandate of meeting citizens' health needs."



Upsilon Xi-at-Large

The Wales Chapter

Upsilon Xi-at Large was established in 2007 at the Baltimore convention, after initiative and thorough work of professor Dame June Clark together with many colleagues, nationally and internationally. The first chapter ceremony was conducted in 2008. Initially hosted by Swansea University, the chapter moved to a Chapter-at-Large with Cardiff University drawing membership from across Wales.

The chapter has been highly involved in the establishment of the European STTI region. It was at the Baltimore Convention that the (then) three European chapters decided to work together to develop STTI in Europe. Their first meeting was held the following year in Utrecht following their induction ceremony; it included members from Utrecht, Gothenburg, Swansea, Bournemouth, Coimbra and the USA, and the group met each year, with Professor Merrell acting as co-ordinator, until the new STTI global structure, in which Europe formally became a region in its own right with an elected Regional Co-ordinator, Dr. Thóra Hafsteinsdóttir, enabled the establishment of a formal European Regional Committee.

Further News and Highlights

THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

This newly established fund has been set up in agreement with all five chapters across Europe to draw upon for European activity for the development of the Region. It is initially planned to use this fund to support our biennial conference to be hosted by each European Chapter in turn. Additionally, it will be used for mobility of chapter members across Europe and joint activities.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EUROPEAN EVENTS

The English conference Phi Mu Chapter is in the process of organising its own inaugural conference Entitled "Putting people at the heart of nursing care: leading the way". The conference will be held on 21st June 2013 with the conference opening the evening of Thursday 20th June alongside the annual Induction Ceremony at Bournemouth University. More information can be found at: <http://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/heart-of-nursing-care/>

The 2nd European Regional Conference – 16-18 June, 2014 Gothenburg, Sweden
<http://www.sttiec2014.net/>

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

24th International Nursing Research Conference – 2013 22-26 July, Prague, Czech Republic

42nd Biennial Convention– 2013 16-20 November, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Creating Health Work Environments – 2013 12-14 April, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



What do I do in The Circle?

The Circle was developed to connect members with each other, their chapters, regions, headquarters and with the benefits and services of membership. Features of The Circle include member profiles you can personalize according to your preferences and event notifications. You can find other members via the member directory, network with those who share the same specialty and stay active with your chapter through new chapter websites.

Who is in The Circle?

All active STTI members have been added to The Circle. Once logged in, members will determine what information they would like to share and whom they would like to share it with.

How do I log in?

If you are an STTI member, all you will need is your e-mail address and seven-digit member number.

How can I get started?

Read 10 Easy Steps to Get Started or log in at <http://thecircle.nursingsociety.org> to get started today! Chapter leaders can receive training for their chapter websites in the Tools and Resources section of STTI's website.



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