SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL'S

1997-99 PRESIDENTIAL CHARGE

BY PRESIDENT ELEANOR J. SULLIVAN, RN, PhD, FAAN

PRESENTED TO THE
1997 HOUSE OF DELEGATES
Sigma Theta Tau International is a mission-driven organization dedicated to improving the health of all people through the development, dissemination and utilization of our collective knowledge. Nursing research, leadership and scholarship function as our compass and will continue to guide us into the new millennium.

The 1995-97 biennium, with skillful guidance from Melanie Dreher, has been a time for renewing our commitment to clinical research. It has been a time for educating the public regarding the contributions of nursing research to global health care. And, it has been a time for enhancing the worldwide leadership of the Society through our individual chapters. In short, the Society is pointed in the right direction to carry out our mission in the years to come.

During the 1997-1999 biennium, we will explore and clearly define Sigma Theta Tau International’s course for the next millennium. Our theme will be “Avenues to the Future.”

Utilizing our collective knowledge, talent and energy, we will pave avenues through the rough terrain of today’s world to the future. The foundation of these avenues will be enhancing our membership, creating collaborative partnerships and refocusing the public’s image of nursing.

Our greatest strength is the global diversity of our membership. Over the course of the biennium, we will design and implement strategies for ensuring the vitality of our global diversity. We will seek alliances with strategic partners to further our mission. And we will actively design and implement communications to create a contemporary image of nursing and to educate the public regarding the significant contributions of nursing research.

I invite you to join me and the 1997-1999 Board of Directors as we create and travel the avenues toward our future.

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I. Strengthen the global diversity of Sigma Theta Tau International.
   - Establish a variety of mechanisms to facilitate international research, consultation, education and programming exchanges.
   - Increase the number and participation of international members at all levels of the organization.
   - Expand the international chapter development network and efforts.
   - Enrich the society by focusing on regional and chapter strategies that promote, develop and use the diversity of membership talent and involvement.
THE FUTURE

- Facilitate diverse representation throughout the society's activities and governance.
- Provide multiple opportunities for leadership development through the Sigma Theta Tau International Leadership Institute.
- Expand international research access through promotion, use and contributions to the Registry of Nursing Research, the Online Journal of Knowledge Synthesis for Nursing and electronic communications vehicles.
- Address health and professional issues of international significance through the Arista think tank series and other mechanisms.

II. Envision Sigma Theta Tau International's preferred future in the next millennium.
- Develop a plan for the first decade of the new millennium that will provide a framework for future goals, objectives and tactics.
- Convene a task force to analyze and recommend the society's strategic direction.
- Complete the strategic planning process and prepare strategic goals and objectives for the Society through year 2005.

III. Engage in strategic alliances with collaborative partners to further the mission of Sigma Theta Tau International.
- Encourage multidisciplinary participation in planning and implementing Sigma Theta Tau International activities.
- Seek professional partnerships in all activities appropriate to Sigma Theta Tau International's mission and goals.
- Participate in mutually beneficial ventures with a variety of partners.

IV. Showcase nursing and nursing research as the cornerstone to global health care delivery.
- Utilize marketing, public relations and communication experts to effectively impact the public image of nursing.
- Educate Sigma Theta Tau International members regarding the importance of communicating the science of nursing to the public, including the media.
- Prepare nurse scholars with the skills to effectively communicate to the public the vital role nursing research plays in improving health.
PRESIDENTS

1929-1934  Dorothy Ford Buschmann  Alpha
1934-1938  Florence Parisa  Delta
1938-1941  Ruth P. Kuehn  Epsilon
1941-1947  Katherine Densford  Zeta
1947-1951  Frances George  Eta
1951-1955  Thelma Dodds  Zeta
1955-1957  Myrtle K. Aydelotte  Gamma
1957-1959  Lois Austin  Epsilon
1959-1962  Edna Treasure Whitley  Kappa
1962-1965  Catherine McClure  Eta
1965-1971  Virginia Crenshaw  Iota
1971-1975  Ruth Hepler  Alpha Epsilon
1975-1981  Sr. Rosemary Donley  Eta
1981-1983  Carol Lindeman  Beta Psi
1983-1985  Lucie S. Kelly  Alpha Zeta
1985-1987  Vernice D. Ferguson  Kappa
1987-1989  Angela Barron McBride  Alpha
1991-1993  Beth C. Vaughan-Wrobel  Beta Beta, Gamma Xi
1993-1995  Fay L. Bower  Beta Gamma, Alpha Gamma
1995-1997  Melanie C. Dreher  Beta Zeta
1997-1999  Eleanor J. Sullivan  Delta, Delta Lambda

Presidential Charge for 1997-1999 Biennium