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# Sigma Theta Tau Eta Omicron Echo

Spring 2002

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Excellence in Nursing Practice Awards

The Excellence in Practice Awards were established to honor practicing nurses in any health care agency in our community.

Any Sigma Theta Tau member can nominate nurses for this prestigious award.

The nurses nominated do not have to be members of the STT Honor Society.

The recipients received an etched crystal award. A wonderful reception was held for family and friends after the ceremony that was held April 17 at TAMU-CC in the University Center Lonestar Ballroom

This year Recipients were:

Linda Ivy Row  
Erin Hazlewood  
Valarie Dees  
Jana C. Borjas  
Mary Aurora Canales  
Debbie Merrit  
Margarita Sanchez  
Michealanne Brimmer  
Robin Appleby  
Charisse Leach  
Shirley Tish.

Please congratulate these caring nurses who practice in our community.

The Eta Omicron Chapter plans to hold this event each year in the Spring. Please consider nominating nurses you work with and let one of your board members know.

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## Meet Your STT Members

### Elaine Yellen

Welcome Elaine who joined in April 2001 and is an ad-hoc Board member of Eta Omicron Chapter. Elaine is originally from Ayr, Ontario, Canada, a small town South West of Toronto. Her family continues to live there and she makes a yearly visit in July to cool off. Elaine comes from a family of eight children none of whom are in the medical profession.

Elaine started a long career in healthcare at the local nursing home where she and her sister washed dishes. It was a logical move to start taking care of the residents when she was replaced by a dish washing machine. She continued her education completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Following one and a half year of psychiatric nursing in Toronto, Elaine was off around the world. At the time she did not want to be a nurse any more.

Elaine and a girlfriend hitch hiked around France. While in England, she ventured in a two and a half month camping bus tour to Katmandu. Following the tour, she met her husband Rick who like her, hiked the Himalayan

Mountains. Upon arrival in Australia and two months at a secretarial job, she decided maybe she did want to be a nurse after all. She worked for one year in Australia followed by three years in Singapore where she married Rick.

Back in the United States she worked for three years in Tucson Arizona, followed by thirteen years in Denton Texas. Elaine had evolved into a critical care nurse and had returned to school. She holds a CCRN certification from the AACCN. She received a Master of Science degree in Nursing with an Education focus in Medical Surgical Adult Health from Texas Women's University (TWU) at Dallas in 1991. Elaine began a career in education with six years of teaching at North Central Texas College in Gainesville, TX. She completed a Ph.D. in Nursing from TWU at Denton in 1999.

Dr. Yellen is a member of the Texas Nurse's Association, AACN and ANA. Her research interest are in Patient Satisfaction and Nurse-Sensitive Patient Outcomes. At TAMU-CC Elaine teaches Research, Issues, and Medical Surgical Nursing.

### Jackie Bailey

Jackie has been a member of STT since 1996. As chair of the By-laws committee she assures that all new policies and procedures of the local chapter are kept updated and congruent with the International STT organization.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 1962 from the University of Cincinnati. She has a Master of Science in Nursing from TWU at Denton. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

She has worked in multiple settings and her experience ranges from staff nurse to supervisor to staff development in various hospitals.

Jackie began her academic career as adjunct faculty in 1984 in New Mexico State University, Carlsbad. She was an Assistant Director of the Department of Registered Nursing at Howard College in Big Springs, TX.

Currently, she is a full time faculty in the Registered Nursing Program at Del Mar College.

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## Recent Publications

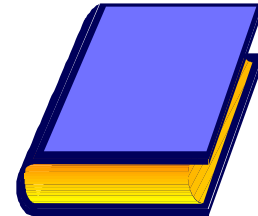
Many of our Members have been busy writing. Look for their publications!

Dr. Judith Sutherland: Substance Abuse: Complementary Therapies Offer New Hope (2002). Multidisciplinary CE Anthology Edition: 168-174. Craving to Rave: The Agony of Ecstasy Abuse (2001), NurseWeek, 6 (5):25-27.

Dr. Linda Cook: Adolescent Addiction and Delinquency in the Family System (2001).

Dr. Esperanza V. Joyce, Petra A. Martinez and senior nursing students, Adriana Brown and Adrian Harwood had an article published in the February 2002 issue of the Journal of School Nursing. "How to Cook up a Healthy Summer Camp" provides a recipe for school nurses to promote healthy eating habits and exercise in a

summer camp program. The same authors had an article published in Nursing Spectrum titled "Exercise and Nutrition Finish First at Summer Camp" (October 2001).



## TEXAS NURSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Early Childhood Center at TAMU-CC was the site for the Research Conference held April 8, 2002.

Out of town and local speakers presented research that they are involved in. Senior Nursing students presented their research posters. The evaluations were very positive and suggestions for the next conference were given.

The Research Conference Committee will be having a planning meeting on May 1, 2002 to start planning for next year.

If you would like to be a member or have suggestions, please contact Erma Wilson at 361/698-1480 or e-mail: [Ewilson@delmar.edu](mailto:Ewilson@delmar.edu)

## 2002 Contributions

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

American Bank - \$100  
Corpus Christi Medical Center - \$500  
CHRISTUS Spohn Health System \$250  
Tom Hunt Jr. \$25

## C.E. RULE FOR HEPATITIS C

The TEXAS BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS has a new rule for continuing education. This rule requires that "every licensed holder who renews a license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Texas, for the biennium beginning 6-01-02 and ending 6-1-04 must complete at least two hours of continuing

education related to Hepatitis C"

For both RNs and RNs with advanced practice, this requirement may be met via approved Type 1 or Type 2 continuing education programs. For more information: [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us).



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# Advanced Practice Update

By: Louise Autio, PhD, FNP, BC,

Within the past year the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners has made several changes to the rules and regulations for Advanced Practice Nursing. These changes are noted in the areas of educational preparation, authorization to practice, and prescriptive authority.

Beginning January 1, 2003, education preparation must be at the master's degree level. Waivers from this requirement will be granted to qualified certificate-prepared nurse-midwives and women's health care nurse practitioners graduating between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2006.

Applicant's who wish a waiver must submit a written request. Clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioner students must complete a minimum of 500 clinical hours to be able to use their respective titles after graduation.

Those nurses who desire provisional advanced practice authorization must apply within six months of graduation. Applicants for advanced practice nurse authorization must pass the appropriate certification exam within two years of completing the advanced educational program.

Applicants who fail the examination on the first attempt

must then practice under the direction of a sponsor approved by the Board of Nurse Examiners.

Applicants who fail the exam twice may no longer practice in an advanced role and must return the provisional authorization to practice document to the board's office and must cease holding him/herself out as an advanced practice nurse.

Applicants may continue to test until two years from the date of completion of the advanced educational program and may utilize their advanced knowledge, skills and abilities while under the direct supervision of another advanced practice nurse or physician in the same specialty area.

If less than four years, but more than two years have lapsed since completing the advanced practice educational program and/or the applicant does not have 400 hours of current practice in the advanced role and specialty during the previous biennium, the applicant must obtain 400 hours of current practice. These clinical hours shall be obtained under the direct supervision of and advanced practice nurse authorized by the board in the same role and specialty or by a physician in the same specialty. The applicant shall also complete the continuing education requirements.

If more than four years have lapsed since completion of the advanced practice educational program and/or the applicant has not practiced in the advanced role in the previous four years the applicant must successfully complete a refresher course or extensive orientation in the appropriate advanced practice specialty and role. This refresher course must include clinical practice supervised by a qualified instructor/sponsor. The instructor/sponsor must provide written verification of satisfactory completion on special forms to the Board of Nurse Examiners.

Finally, the board now allows advanced practice nurses with prescriptive authority to sign prescription drug orders at a site alternate to the delegating physician's primary practice site. This alternate site must provide services similar to those at the primary practice site and be located within 60 miles of it. The delegating physician must spend 20% of his/her time at this site with the advanced practice nurse.



***SIGMA THETA TAU ETA OMICRON CHAPTER CALL FOR NEWS***

***SHARE WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU.....***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Year graduated if TAMUCC graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: Sigma Theta Tau—Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi, School of Nursing and Health Sciences or  
call Bonnie at 361/887-8811 or e-mail [bonnie\\_ross@iwhs.org](mailto:bonnie_ross@iwhs.org)