



Sigma Theta Tau  
International  
Honor Society of Nursing

FALL 2019, VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

# Rho Chapter

University of Michigan  
Chartered 1957

[www.nursing.umich.edu/info/current-students/clubs-organizations/sigma-theta-tau](http://www.nursing.umich.edu/info/current-students/clubs-organizations/sigma-theta-tau)

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**Rho Chapter receives its 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter Key Award at the 45th Sigma Biennial Convention**



**Rho Chapter Delegates Laura Struble and Norma Sarkar**

### Follow Us On:

Facebook: Sigma-RhoChapter  
Instagram: [sttirhocchapter](https://www.instagram.com/sttirhocchapter)  
Chapter Website (School of Nursing) <http://nursing.umich.edu/rho-chapter>  
Chapter Web page The Circle: <http://rho.sigmanursing.org>

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## SUMMARY OF THE 45TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION: CONNECT, COLLABORATE, CATALYZE

More than 2,000 Sigma members and global leaders in nursing came together in Washington, DC from November 16 to November 20 to celebrate Sigma's rich heritage and build upon our successes, embracing the 2017-2019 presidential call to action. Rho President Laura Struble and Secretary Norma Sarkar served as our Rho delegates in the conference.

### House of Delegates Summary

The 45th Biennial Convention, in 2019, marked the halfway point in the process of rolling out the revised Sigma brand. All materials will be updated with the new Sigma logo by the 46th Biennial Convention in 2021, just prior to the organization's 100th Anniversary. Several resolutions recognized the contributions of national officers: President Beth Tigge, CEO Elizabeth Madigan and staff, and chairs and members of committees, advisory councils and task forces. A fourth resolution focused on developing the next generation of leaders, including presentations and electronic resources for organizing events, developing mentorship programs, and engaging in social media. One bylaws amendment was approved that addressed a process for the removal of a member of elected standing committee members.



President Ricciardi's call to "Infuse Joy"

The House of Delegates sessions also included election results. Richard Ricciardi, PhD, CRNP, FAANP, FAAN, was installed as Sigma's 33rd president. Each president presents a call to action to help guide members and chapters as we strive to fulfill our mission. President Ricciardi's call asks us to infuse joy into all we do. All healthcare workers face challenges that can trigger burnout, such as staffing shortages, incivility or violence, lack of control in the workplace, barriers to education, and misaligned policies and regulations. Instead of viewing these issues as insurmountable and inevitable, he asks us to seize the opportunity to improve our experiences and work cultures. As Sigma members, we are well positioned to infuse joy into practice in clinical, administrative, research, and policy settings. President Ricciardi's call to action highlights three essential elements – the ABCs – that promote joy: Awareness, Balance & Purpose, and Co-creation.

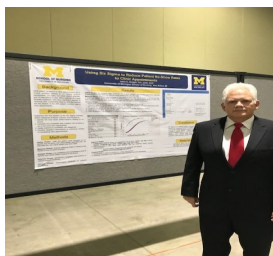
### New Sigma Mission and Vision statement

A key goal of Sigma has been developing nurse leaders, with the understanding that nursing leadership can happen at any career stage, from new graduates to nurses who have been in the profession for many years. While our core values continue to be love, courage and honor, this emphasis on leadership development has been infused into new statements of Sigma's vision and mission.

Sigma's new vision statement is: ***Connected, empowered nurse leaders transforming global healthcare***

The new mission statement is: ***Developing nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere.***

### Several Rho Chapter members presented their scholarly work



John Knight presents his project:

Laura Schipper, DNP, AGPCNP-BC along with April Bigelow, PhD, and Michelle Pardee, DNP gave an oral presentation of their project, *Overcoming Barriers to Diabetes in Homeless Adults Through the Environmental Barriers to Adherence Scale (EBAS)*, on Saturday November 16. Dana Tschannen, PhD, RN and Christine Anderson, PhD, RN presented their project, *The Pressure Injury Predictive Model: Accurately Identifying Risk for the Hospitalized Patient* on Monday November 18. John Knight, DNP, RN, PMP, CSSBB, participated in the poster session on Sunday November 17 with his presentation, *Using Six Sigma to Reduce Patient No-Show Rates to Clinic Appointments*. Summaries of their presentations can be read on page 6 of this newsletter.

Rho Chapter proudly received its third Chapter Key award during the Chapter Awards Recognition event. The Chapter Key program honors Sigma chapters that show excellence in membership support, programming, professional development, and collaboration at the local, national, and international levels. President Laura Struble received the award on behalf of the chapter. All

Rho members can be very proud of this active chapter's accomplishments.

Laura and Norma had several opportunities to network with the Sigma Members of EMU Chapter and the University of Toledo. They attended the Region 10 Dinner, which was another great way to meet other Sigma nurses in our Region. University of Michigan was well represented in the Exhibition Hall and the School of Nursing recruitment staff indicated that it was a really good conference as many inquired about graduate opportunities at U of M.



Our Chapter Key Award

A complete summary of the 2019 biennial convention can be downloaded at: [https://www.sigmanursing.org/docs/default-source/bod-documents/sigma-biennial-report\\_2017-2019\\_issuu.pdf?sfvrsn=a7e60cf2\\_0](https://www.sigmanursing.org/docs/default-source/bod-documents/sigma-biennial-report_2017-2019_issuu.pdf?sfvrsn=a7e60cf2_0)

## RHO CHAPTER 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SUMMARY

Rho Chapter members, U of M faculty and students, alumni, and colleagues from the UM Health System filled the lecture hall on Wednesday October 2 to celebrate the Chapter's charter 60 years ago. We were thrilled to have Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto return to Rho Chapter and her alma mater to share her deep expertise on nurses' involvement in health care policy. Dr. Miyamoto was very generous in sharing personal time with students who consulted with her after her presentation about their career goals. Dean Patricia Hurn gave a welcome from the School of Nursing and introduced Dr. Miyamoto. We were also honored with the return of two of our charter members, Dr. Norma Marshall and Professor Angela DelVecchio. Several past presidents also attended the evening's activities and were recognized for their service to Rho Chapter. Our 60th Anniversary celebration was so memorable. Thank you to all the members who were able to join us—you made the event very special. Thank you also to planning committee members Ann Kruszewski, Julia Morrissey, Deb Price, Beth Russell, Norma Sarkar, and Cristina Wojack. More photos of the event can be viewed at this link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/DfEZZXpBr7ZR8Kii6> Dr. Miyamoto also graciously offered to share her presentation slides with us. If you would like them, contact Ann Kruszewski ([annkrusz@umich.edu](mailto:annkrusz@umich.edu))



### THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Laura Struble, President, Rho Chapter



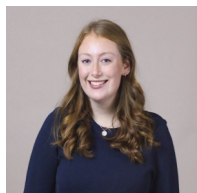
Laura Struble, PhD, RN

Fall 2019 has been a busy one for our chapter. One of the highlights was the celebration of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 2. We were honored with the return of Suzanne Miyamoto, PhD, RN, FAAN, who was inducted into Rho Chapter as an undergraduate. Dr. Miyamoto has charted a stellar career in policy, and she shared her perspectives about how nurses can engage policy makers. It was particularly heartwarming to see her engage with students as she encouraged their leadership potential. We were so pleased to have two charter members from 1959, Dr. Norma Marshall and Professor Angela DelVecchio, join us for the celebration. The 45th Sigma biennial convention was held in Washington, DC. As a first-time attendee, it was a memorable experience for me. Norma Sarkar and I served as convention delegates and we were proud to represent Rho Chapter in convention activities and voting. See the Convention Summary on page 2 for a description of the House of Delegates activities on November 19 and 20. Many convention attendees gathered in the ballroom on Monday November 18 to participate in the Chapter Key Awards Ceremony. The keynote speaker was Dr. Diana J. Mason who described nurses' presence in the media and the need to increase our visibility.

Ninety-two chapters received Chapter Key Awards, with Rho Chapter receiving its third award. Rho chapter members can be very proud of this important accomplishment. Only 15% of chapters received this recognition for high achievement in the mission of Sigma. This award belongs to all of you because your participation as a Rho member made it possible. We also were recognized as one of the Chapters that retained 70 % of its membership. But there is more work to be done. Please consider getting involved in our active chapter, either as a committee member or volunteer in our service activities. In summary, Norma and I are thankful for the opportunity to attend and represent Rho Chapter and we are so proud to be your delegates! Happy holidays to everyone!

### MEET OUR NEW STUDENT LEADERS

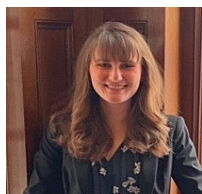
Rho Chapter is honored to have the involvement of several undergraduate students on our leadership team. We are in the fourth year of our Student Leader Intern program and also have a student serving on our Publicity Committee. Meet our students:



Lizzie Flood

#### Student Leader Intern, Lizzie Flood

My name is Lizzie Flood, I am a senior from Wheaton, Illinois. This summer I had an internship at the Cleveland Clinic on a cardiac step-down unit that I really enjoyed. As for the future, I am open to many different specialties. Currently I am hoping to work in pediatrics, but that could change! I plan on moving to Chicago after graduation. Besides Sigma, on campus I am involved in Greek Life, Blood Drives United, and Nursing Student Ambassadors. I applied to Sigma because I wanted to join a nursing organization, and I decided to apply for the internship after Dr. Price encouraged me! I will be working on several service projects as part of my internship program.



Athena Lievense

#### Publicity Committee Student Liaison, Athena Lievense

Athena Lievense is a senior student in the undergraduate Nursing BSN program. She is currently involved in the Student Nurses' Association and the University of Michigan Student-Run Free Clinic. Her career interests include emergency nursing care and mental health across the lifespan. Athena handles Rho Chapter communication with undergraduate students through social media.

**RHO CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**President:** Laura Struble, PhD, GNP-BC (lstruble@umich.edu)  
**President-elect:** Julia Morrissey, MSN, RN (julmorri@umich.edu)  
**Past President:** Deborah Price, DNP, RN (debprice@umich.edu)  
**Vice-President:** Paul Edick MSN, RN (edickp@med.umich.edu)  
**Treasurer:** Cristina Wojack, MS, RN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN (wojackc@umich.edu)  
**Secretary:** Norma Sarkar, MPH, RN (nsarkar@umich.edu)  
**Faculty Counselor:** Penny Riley, PhD, RN (riley@umich.edu)  
**Faculty Counselor-Elect:** Melissa Bathish, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC (mbathish@umich.edu)  
**Student Leader Intern:** Lizzie Flood, SN4 (lizflood@umich.edu)

**COMMITTEES****Governance Committee** (Membership & Bylaws)

Chairperson: Alex Fauer, BSN, RN (ajfauer@umich.edu)

Member: Susan Maycock, DNP, RN, CNS-BC

(smaycock@umich.edu)

Member: Diane Accurso, MBA, BSN, RN (accursod@umich.edu)

**Leadership Succession Committee**

Chairperson: Julie Buser, RN, CPNP-PC (jbusser@umich.edu)

Member: Raja Issa, DNP, RN (rajaissa@umich.edu)

Member: Deanna Bitner, MSN, RN, NEA-BC (dbitner@umich.edu)

**Excellence in Nursing Awards Committee**

Chairperson: Corinne Lee, DNP, RN, ACNS-BC (leeco@umich.edu)

Member: Mary Sue Webb, BSN, RN (mswebb@med.umich.edu)

Member: Suzanne Knight, DNP, RN (knightsn@med.umich.edu)

**Newsletter/Publicity Committee**

Chairperson: Ann Kruszewski, PhD, RN, (annkrusz@umich.edu)

Social Media: Julia Morrissey, MS, RN (julmorri@med.umich.edu)

Student Social Media: Athena Lievense, SN4 (alievens@umich.edu)

**Research/Special Projects Committee**

Chairperson: Deb Lee, MSN, FNP, ACNP-BC (webdeb@umich.edu)

Member: Carol Loveland-Cherry, PhD, RN (loveland@umich.edu)

**Membership Involvement Committee**

Chairperson: Victoria Bearse, BSN, RN, (vbearse@umich.edu)

Member: Ann Kruszewski, PhD, RN, (annkrusz@umich.edu)

**MEET THE RHO CHAPTER BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rho Chapter election in summer 2019. We are especially grateful to those who are serving the chapter as members of the board or committees. Here is an introduction to your chapter leaders for the upcoming year:



**President: Laura Struble, PhD, GNP-BC** is a Clinical Associate Professor at the U of M School of Nursing. She holds a PhD, GNP, and an Acute Care M.S. degree from the U of M. Dr. Struble has made geriatric and dementia care her life's work through clinical practice, education and research. She serves as the gerontology curriculum expert for all of the advanced practice nursing programs and is an experienced nurse practitioner with a background in neurology, acute care and geriatric psychiatry.



**President-elect: Julia Morrissey, MSN, RN** is the Clinical Nurse Supervisor of the Adult Bone Marrow/Hematology/Oncology Unit at Michigan Medicine. She received her BSN from Eastern Michigan University and her MSN from the U of M School of Nursing in Nursing Leadership.



**Past President: Deborah Price, DNP, RN.** Deb is a faculty member of the U of M School of Nursing. She holds a DNP in Nursing from Oakland University, and a M.S. and B.S.N. from the U of M. She currently teaches undergraduates, and also mentors graduate students. Deb's research and scholarship focus on interdisciplinary palliative and end-of-life care. She has presented nationally and published on teaching innovations in undergraduate education and palliative care.



**Vice-President: Paul Edick, MSN, RN** is a staff nurse on the inpatient child and psychiatry unit at UMHS. He received his MSN from Western Michigan University and a BSN from Michigan State University's College of Nursing second career program after receiving his BA from the U of M.



**Secretary: Norma Sarkar, MPH, RN** retired in 2018 as Clinical Instructor Emerita after 16 years teaching Community Health Nursing at the U of M. Norma developed the India Immersion program which enabled students to travel to Delhi to compare health care delivery and health policy. Norma returns to the Rho Chapter Board after serving as chapter president from 2004 – 2009.



**Treasurer: Cristina Wojack, MS, RN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN** is a Nurse Practitioner at Henry Ford Detroit in their Cardiovascular Center. She is currently working toward her DNP at the U of M Flint. She received both her MS and BSN from the U of M. She serves as both a lab and clinical instructor to ACNP graduate nursing students.



**Faculty Counselor: Penny Riley, PhD, RN** currently serves as director of the Undergraduate Studies program. She received her BSN at EMU, and her master's and Ph.D. at U of M and has been teaching at the School of Nursing since 2003. Her clinical work has been varied, including psychiatric, obstetric, cardiology and home care nursing. Penny's research is focused on cognitive function in individuals with heart failure.



**Faculty Counselor-elect: Melissa Bathish, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC** is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the U of M School of Nursing. She holds PhD, MSN and BSN degrees from the U of M. She is the pediatric specialty lead and undergraduate faculty lead in the Clinical Learning Center. Melissa's research focuses on deliberate practice and its influence on nursing competence, and self-regulation of recurrent depression.

**Governance Committee:**

**Chair: Alex Fauer, BSN, RN, OCN** is a Ph.D. student at U of M School of Nursing. He is interested in health services research and outcomes research in oncology populations. Alex's dissertation research will focus on patient experience, care coordination, and health care utilization in adults with leukemia and lymphoma.

Alex works clinically on the inpatient bone marrow transplant unit at Michigan Medicine.



**Member: Raja Issa, DNP, RN, CPHQ, CPPS, HACF** holds a DNP from U of M and is currently working with the Nursing Quality Excellence Program at Michigan Medicine. Raja is leading the nursing department in its endeavors to ensure Accreditation and Regulatory Readiness as well as several other quality and patient safety projects.



**Member: Diane Accurso, MBA, BSN, RN** is a clinical instructor at the U of M School of Nursing. She completed a B.S.N. from the U of M, a MBA from Wayne State University, and a B.S. in finance from Madonna University. She currently teaches in the undergraduate program.

**Leadership Succession Committee:**

**Chair: Julie Buser, PhD, PNP, RN** holds a PhD and Pediatric Primary Care MS from U of M, a BSN from Wayne State University, and a BA from Kalamazoo College. She works in pediatric hematology, oncology & bone marrow transplant nursing. She currently is a Fogarty Global Health Fellow with a postdoctoral research program focused on maternal-child health in Ghana.



**Member: Susan Maycock, DNP, RN, CNS-BC** is an educational nurse specialist in the Department of Professional Development & Education. Her current practice focus includes nursing staff development, simulation, curriculum development and redesign, support for technology implementation of a clinical information system at the health system level. Dr. Maycock was a leader in promoting a "restraint free" environment at the U of M Health System.

free" environment at the U of M Health System.



**Member: Deanna Bitner, MSN, NEA-BC** is currently the Clinical Nurse Director for 8D- Progressive Care Unit at Michigan Medicine/U of M Health System since July 2016 as well as a member of CAFN. She mentors UM senior level leadership students. She has been a member of Sigma since 2010 and her goal as a Rho leader is to give back to nursing and make a difference.

**Excellence Awards Committee:**

**Chairperson: Corinne Lee, DNP, RN, ACNS-BC.** Corinne is an Educational Nurse Specialist at the Department of Professional Development & Education, UMHS. She holds a DNP from U of M. She is the program director for the Transition-to-Practice programs at UMHS. She is involved in many leadership development programs for nurses at various levels as well as continuing education for the nursing community at the U of M.



**Member: Suzanne Knight, DNP, RN** is an Educational Nurse Specialist in the Professional Development & Education department. Her work focuses on leadership development, program/education implementation, simulation, and the Magnet journey. With work experience across the care continuum, transitions of care across settings was the focus of her DNP project and

ongoing scholarly work.



**Member: Mary Sue Webb, BSN, RN** is recently retired from UMHS Ambulatory Services and soon will be enjoying Florida sunshine!

**Research/Special Projects Committee:**

**Chair: Deborah Lee, MSN, RN, FNP, ACNP-BC, CHSE** is currently the Graduate Faculty Lead for the Clinical Learning Center and also serves as Clinical Faculty in the Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program. She extensive background in the development and implementation of Rapid Response Teams and her current project involves use of an Advanced Practice

Team to decrease non-ICU cardiac arrests.



**Member: Carol J. Loveland-Cherry, PhD, RN, FAAN** is Professor Emerita, U of M School of Nursing. Her NIH funded research focused on development and testing of health promotion interventions for families with infants, children, and adolescents. She was formerly Executive Associate Dean at The U of M School of Nursing. She is currently Co-Chair of the International

Family Nursing Foundation and is active in the Haiti Nursing Foundation

**Publicity/Communications Committee:**

**Chair: Ann Kruszewski, PhD, RN** is emeritus faculty from the U of M School of Nursing. Although retired, she is still passionate about involvement with the next generation of nurses.

**Social Media: Julia Morrissey, MSN, RN and Athena Lieveuse, SN4**

**-Membership Involvement Committee**

**Chair: Victoria Bearse, BSN, RN** works in Adult Bone Marrow/Hematology/Oncology unit at Michigan Medicine. She is a graduate of the U of M School of Nursing.

Member: Ann Kruszewski, PhD, RN

## RHO CHAPTER PROJECT SUMMARIES

The following projects were presented by Rho Chapter members at the 45th Biennial Convention. Summaries are included here so that all Rho members can benefit from these colleagues' work. The abstracts have been abbreviated but complete abstracts are available at the URL's listed below.

### Overcoming Barriers to Diabetes in Homeless Adults Through the Environmental Barriers to Adherence Scale (EBAS).

**Laura Schipper, DNP, AGCNP-BC, April Bigelow, PhD, Michelle Pardee, DNP**



Laura Schipper

Homeless persons have diabetes rates similar to the general population but they are more likely to face barriers to chronic disease management<sup>1</sup>. The first objective of this project was to improve assessment of patient identified barriers to diabetes self-care of homeless adult diabetic patients (Type 1 or Type 2) receiving primary care at a health clinic. Barriers were assessed using the Environmental Barriers to Adherence Scale (EBAS) 4, which focuses on diabetes self-care in diet, exercise, blood glucose monitoring, and medication. The second objective was to determine if the patient-identified barriers would prompt providers to offer referrals or recommendations for care. Methods: Diabetic patients who presented to the health clinic for primary care during the project dates were asked to complete the EBAS tool. This was facilitated by the Medical Assistant (MA). Twelve diabetic (Type 1 and 2) adult patients completed the EBAS questionnaire. Providers offered referrals and/or recommendations to 10 out of the 12 diabetic patients (83%). Reasons for not offering referrals or recommendations were due to patient refusing and patient having just received diabetes care the month before at another practice. Using the EBAS tool provided the opportunity to assess for patient-perceived barriers to diabetes self-care. The tool also prompted providers to make referrals and recommendations, ultimately influencing the healthcare these patients received.

Full abstract: <https://stti.confex.com/stti/bc19/webprogram/Paper100008.html>

### The Pressure Injury Predictive Model: Accurately Identifying Risk for the Hospitalized Patient.

**Dana Tschannen, PhD, RN, Christine Anderson, PhD, RN**



Dana Tschannen

Over 1 million patients suffer from a pressure injury (PI) developed during their hospital stay. Successful attempts to model the complexity of PI risk remains elusive. The purpose of this study was the development of a conceptual model of pressure injury risk for hospitalized patients based on a synthesis of present PI models and recent research on hospitalized patients. Walker and Avant's (2005) theory development methods were used as a guide for this project. The result was development of a new conceptual framework, the Pressure Injury Prediction Model. This model accounts for the complex and dynamic nature of pressure injury risk and addresses new patient, contextual and episode of care process influences. A total of six primary constructs emerged. Pressure, tissue tolerance, and shear and friction align with earlier models. New constructs include patient, environment, and episode of care. The design of the model—which includes concentric circles—represents the dynamic and multi-level nature of patient, episodic, and environmental factors within the hospital stay that could change the level of PI risk for a patient.

Full abstract: <https://stti.confex.com/stti/bc19/webprogram/Paper98609.html>

### Using Six Sigma to Reduce Patient No-Show Rates to Clinic Appointments.

**John C. Knight, DNP, RN, CSSBB, PMP**



John Knight

The purpose of this quality improvement project is to implement the five phases of the Six Sigma process--Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control to develop a prediction model that predicts patients at higher risk of appointment no-show and targeted interventions to improve the likelihood of patients completing appointments. This project was developed in a large inner-city ambulatory clinic system that schedules over 34,000 patient visits per year. Patients are typically lower social economic status with over 76% unemployed, 21% disabled, and 58% with either Medicaid coverage or no insurance. The high no-show rate of 29% not only prevents patients from receiving high quality health care but also results in an approximate annual revenue loss of \$600,000. The author used structured brainstorming sessions with key stakeholders to identify and prioritize potential root causes of no-shows and collected and analyzed EHR patient data based on the brainstorming outcomes to confirm the root causes and develop the prediction model. Significant predictors were: Friday appointments, appointments in June and July, afternoon appointments, lack of insurance, specific visit types, students and minors, appointment lead time, and controlled substance prescriptions. Six Sigma methods were used to develop a model that incorporates significant predictor factors to determine patients' no-show probability. The final prediction model fit  $R^2$  was over 56% with an adjusted  $R^2$  of 55.9%. Clinic leaders will use the no-show prediction model to divide patients into low, medium, and high risk of no-show categories with targeted interventions for each category. While the model is targeted toward an inner-city clinic with lower social economic status patients, other clinics can replicate the process to build a prediction model for their patient population.

Full abstract: <https://stti.confex.com/stti/bc19/webprogram/Paper98543.html>

### CONGRATULATIONS TO RHO CHAPTER GRANT RECIPIENTS

Thanks to Rho membership dues and donations from members our chapter can support a number of grants.

Congratulations to these members who received grants from Rho Chapter.

Student Scholarship Awards (support for educational expenses):

BSN Students: Bailey Forde and Sarah Herndl

MSN Student: Heather Vanvallis-Maczka

Professional Development Grant

Sarah Hortsch, PhD, RN to support attendance at the Sigma Institute for Global Leadership.

Global Health Initiative Grant

Kristiana Hila and Nathan Stefanovsky, both DNP students in the UMSN nurse practitioner program who will participate in the UM clinical field experience in Thailand.



Student Scholarship Awards: Bailey Forde, Sarah Herndl, Heather Vanvallis-Maczka

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## RHO CHAPTER SERVICE PROJECTS

### Thanksgiving Food Drive



A sample of the collection

Thank you to everyone who helped with our successful food drive to benefit Michigan Harvest Gathering in November. This collection is an annual statewide event that raises food and funds for Michigan's emergency food response.

### Sigma Giving Tree for Safe House Center



Our collection of items to benefit Safe House was very successful and over 150 items were donated. Many of our Rho members, nursing faculty and nursing students have been involved with Safe House over the years. Thank you for your support for this wonderful resource that provides support for those impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: RHO CHAPTER

### Make Your Nominations for Rho Chapter Awards

**Nominations due February 29, 2020.**

Do you know a nurse who demonstrates excellence in his or her work? Consider nominating your colleague for a Rho Chapter Excellence award. Nominations are sought for excellence in practice, education, research, mentorship, and more. See back page for more information or visit our website: [nursing.umich.edu/rho-chapter](https://nursing.umich.edu/rho-chapter) (click on Chapter Grants & Awards). Awards nominations can also be submitted at this link:

[https://umichumhs.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0CA2g6fEjSuyWO1](https://umichumhs.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0CA2g6fEjSuyWO1)

### Research and Special Projects Grants

**Applications due January 31, 2020**

Do you need support for your research or scholarly projects? Rho Chapter provides grants to support research and special projects such as patient education programs, media projects, etc. Masters and doctoral students, faculty, and community members who are Sigma members are eligible. Please see the application process on our website:

<https://nursing.umich.edu/about/nursing-michigan/sigma-rho-chapter/chapter-grants>

### Rho Chapter Grants

Rho Chapter offers grants to support travel to present scholarly work, professional development activities, and global health work. Grants are also available to support chapter dues for long-term Rho members. Applications are taken at any time for these grants. See our Grants page for more information and application forms

<https://nursing.umich.edu/about/nursing-michigan/sigma-rho-chapter/chapter-grants>

### Taking The Lead 2020: Shaping A Culture Of Positivity

**Thursday, January 16, 2020; 7:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

**The Inn at St. Johns, 44045 Five Mile Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170**

The annual leadership conference will explore how nurses lead and demonstrate their value in the era of healthcare transformation as they work to manage change and improve care in their practice settings. Co-sponsored by Rho Chapter. More information and registration:

<https://leadersandbestevents.cvent.com/LDR20>

### SICU Conference: Stitching Evidence into Practice

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 7:00a.m. —4:15 p.m.**

**The Kensington Hotel, 3500 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48108**

For more information go to: <https://leadersandbestevents.cvent.com/SICU20>

### Sigma Region 10 Conference: Bridging Nursing Leadership, Research & Practice

**Friday March 20 & Saturday March 21, 2020**

**The Kensington Hotel, 3500 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48108**

Our Sigma Region's biennial conference features outstanding speakers and scholarship from Sigma Region 10 members.

More information and registration coming soon.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: RHO CHAPTER Continued

### Annual Awards and Induction Ceremony

**April 5, 2020; 2 - 4 p.m.**

**North Campus Research Complex, G201 Dining Hall:**

**2800 Plymouth Road, Building 18 - Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2800**

Join us to welcome the newest Rho Chapter members and acknowledge your colleagues' leadership and excellence in nursing. Look for your invitation in March. Note our new location!

### School of Nursing Research Day: Avenues of Global Nursing Impact

**April 6, 2020 - 12:00pm to 4:30pm**

**Michigan League 911 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Save the date for 2020 Research Day! Research Day features the Suzanne H. Brouse Lecture, a panel discussion, and poster session. This event is supported by Rho Chapter and is free. Abstract submissions are due January 20, 2020. Additional information and abstract submission:

<https://nursing.umich.edu/research/research-day>

## UPCOMING EVENTS: SIGMA

### Nursing Education Research Conference:

**March 26-28, 2020, Washington DC**

NERC will focus on translating educational research outcomes into educational practice and policy, through oral and poster presentations, educational workshop sessions, and influential plenary presentations. Attendees will be provided with the tools to enhance nursing education programs to make education more effective in nursing practice.

Registration is open: [https://www.sigmanursing.org/connect-engage/meetings-events/nerc?utm\\_source=events-page&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=NERC2020&utm\\_content=listing](https://www.sigmanursing.org/connect-engage/meetings-events/nerc?utm_source=events-page&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=NERC2020&utm_content=listing)

### 31<sup>st</sup> International Nursing Research Congress

**July 23-27, 2020 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Connect with over 800 nurse researchers, students, clinicians, and leaders who are focused on research and evidence-based practice projects. More information is available at: <https://www.sigmanursing.org/connect-engage/meetings-events/congress-2020>

### Chapter Leadership Connection

**September 11-13, 2020, Indianapolis, IN**

This event combines chapter and nursing leadership topics. Chapter leaders learn the skills necessary to operate well-functioning and vital chapters, while the other half of the program is devoted to a variety of topics relevant to today's nursing workforce. New, affordable pricing!

<https://www.sigmanursing.org/connect-engage/meetings-events/clc>

### Sigma Scholarship for DNP Students!

The new Helene Fuld Trust Scholarship is available for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applications for this scholarship will open 1 January 2020. Funding is up to US \$5,000 per academic year. More information:

<https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/scholarships>

### Research Grants

Multiple grants are available from Sigma and other organizations to support research and evidence practice projects. See the Sigma grants page for information and application deadlines

<https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/research/research-grants>

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH RHO CHAPTER:

### RHO CHAPTER IS ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK!

Social media is a great way to get news and view photos from recent Rho events and activities. Follow Rho Chapter at [sttirhochapter](https://www.instagram.com/sttirhochapter).

### DON'T MISS CHAPTER NEWS--UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH SIGMA

Rho Chapter compiles email addresses from the Sigma database. We use the Sigma database for sending the Chapter newsletter, information about upcoming events, and photos from recent events. Be sure that your email address is up to date in your Sigma member profile. Contact Membership Services to update your information: 888-634-7575 (toll free).

**Publication information:** Rho Newsletter, supported by member dues, is published two times a year: Fall and Winter. We welcome your comments and news about Rho members' activities. Send your contributions by the 15th of March and November, to: Newsletter Editor, Ann Kruszewski via email: [annkrusz@umich.edu](mailto:annkrusz@umich.edu).

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**Sigma Rho Chapter  
Excellence in Nursing Awards**

**NOMINEE:**

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

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

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**For award criteria and submission process, visit the Rho Chapter website: [www.nursing.umich.edu/rho-chapter](http://www.nursing.umich.edu/rho-chapter) . *Click on Awards***

**NOMINATED BY:**

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Award Categories (check one)**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education             | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Practice               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising Star           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentorship                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Nursing                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguished Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Leadership**           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional/Organizational Excellence |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Drickamer Student Mentorship** |

**\*\*awards for current UM nursing students**

1. Attach Summary of Nominee's Contributions and Accomplishments
2. Additional supporting materials to be submitted with this nomination form include:
  - The nominee's curriculum vita
  - Supporting statements from peers and community leaders or other documentation regarding award criteria



**Submissions must be received by February, 29 2020**  
**For questions, contact Corinne Lee ([leeco@umich.edu](mailto:leeco@umich.edu)) or call 734-764-5315**