



Commentary to the Article Nursing Honor Societies; Past, Present and Future Published in the Nursing and Care 2014 3(4) 1000172-1000173

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Commentary

I had the privilege of serving on the advisory board for the evolution of the Chi Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Kathleen Spadora was instrumental in envisioning a virtual chapter and chaired the virtual organizing conference calls to enlist support and suggestions for making the chapter come to fruition. Kathleen was the founding President of Chi Zeta Chapter and proposed a virtual poster presentation session which was very creative. I have first-hand experience with two of their DNP graduates who teach at the college where I serve as Consultant for Nursing Research and Education. These two male faculty members are so proud of their DNP program that they have encouraged many nurses in the community to apply for the DNP program. One of our nursing faculty is currently enrolled and is very interested in belonging to the STTI Chapter. I have shared this article with our faculty as we struggle to become a STTI chapter after instituting the Honor Society. Recruiting and maintaining membership is a problem for all chapters when there are a large number of commuter students or working RNs in RN-BSN programs such as ours. This article has helped us to take some of the ideas that Doas, Spadaro and Stevens and incorporate into our honor society so we can be installed as a chapter in 2015.

The article is missing some of the rich history especially the fact that the seventh Founder is Ethel Palmer Clarke, the Director of the Indiana University Training School from 1915-1922. Ms. Clarke was instrumental to the six students in establishing the Honor Society and a Founders Award is given in her honor at every STTI Biennial convention. Since Chatham University is located in the city of

Pittsburgh, I would like to clarify and add to the history of STTI. The honor society started as the Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau. The founders chose the name from the Greek words Storgé, Tharsos, and Timé, meaning "love," "courage," and "honor." STTI became incorporated in 1985 as Sigma Theta Tau International Inc., a nonprofit organization with a 501(c) [1,2] tax status in the United States. STTI was one of the first organizations to fund nursing research in the United States. The first nursing research grant for \$600 was awarded in 1936 to Alice Crist Malone of The Ohio State University for her study "Measures of Achievement among Students at The Ohio State University". In 1940 Alice Crist Malone became the first faculty to be hired by Dean Kuehn at University of Pittsburgh as an assistant professor and acting chair of Nursing Education. In 1940, Dean Kuehn and Ms. Malone developed the first nursing continuing education workshop in the US for teachers and supervisors in nursing schools (Goldberg, 1996). The School of Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh became the sixth chapter of STT, Eta chapter, established in 1940; Ms. Malone was very active both in the chapter and in STTI, always grateful for her research grant.

Although Alice Malone was my professor in my RN-BSN program at University of Pittsburgh in the late 60's, I never knew this about her until I served on the STTI Research Committee.

Reference

1. www.nursingsociety.org
2. Goldberg E (1996) The history of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing 1939-101. Reed and Writing Company.