President's Letter Fall 2018
Dear Colleagues,

As we settle into the fall, I hope that you will look forward with me to a wonderful year of programming, connecting, and growing as a chapter. We have invited a record number of undergraduates to join Eta Omega this fall and we could not be more excited to acknowledge the accomplishments and hard work of our students! It is an honor to be a part of Sigma, and we are happy to be able to offer this to so many deserving individuals.

To continue our growth trajectory, the chapter is making some changes to our induction plan. This fall we invited senior undergraduate students, graduate students and community leaders to join our organization. In Spring 2019, we will be extending the invitation to accomplished junior undergraduate students as well as graduate students and community leaders. Beginning Fall 2019, fall induction will focus on our consummate graduate students and community leaders and spring induction will be for undergraduate students, starting at the junior year. We hope these changes will encourage students to take full advantage of their membership while still being a student on campus.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all of our members of our research and practice grant opportunities as well as travel awards. The call for grants comes out in the spring with a deadline of July 31st each year. This fund is to support Eta Omega members in their research or practice project and we encourage all members to apply. Travel awards are awarded at both the Founders Day and Induction in the fall and the Fox Lecture and Induction in the spring. Beginning this year, the recipient must be present at the event to receive the award. More information on both of these opportunities can be found on our website or by emailing etaomega@uml.edu

Finally, I would like to encourage anyone considering getting more involved with the chapter to please do so! My term as President will end in June 2019, and we still need a President Elect. If you think you may be interested or just want more information on joining the board, please feel free to reach out to me at Christine.Repsa@uml.edu. Additionally, our calendar of events is included in the pages below and I would love to connect with each of you at an upcoming event!

Best wishes for a wonderful fall,
Christine Repsha, MS, FNP-C
President, Eta Omega of Sigma 2017-2019
Leadership Intern Award Recipient

Cathryn Cook, BS, RN

Cathryn graduated from the Solomont School of Nursing in May 2018 as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar. After graduation, she was accepted into the New Graduate RN Nurse Residency Program at Lowell General Hospital and has begun her nursing career in adult medical surgical nursing. During her college career, Cathryn worked as a nurse’s aide at both Lowell General Hospital, on the maternity unit, and at Boston Children’s Hospital, on the Hematology/Oncology unit. During her senior year, she completed her Honors Thesis by writing a literature review on current pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Cathryn is excited to be acting as the Student Leadership Intern for Eta Omega, and is looking forward to the year ahead!

New Faculty Member Highlight

Dr. Marchand-Ciriello is a family nurse practitioner certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners since 2003. She started caring for pediatric patients in 1996 as an RN, BS focusing on children with chronic complex conditions, and after completing her MS moved into primary care of children and adolescents in urban populations in the Merrimack Valley. While completing her DNP at University of Massachusetts Lowell, she conducted a scholarly project measuring a primary care provider intervention to increase vaccination of adolescent males for Human Papilloma Virus. She has served as adjunct faculty in the Solomont School of Nursing for the past ten years, teaching both didactic and practicum courses for the Bachelor, Masters, and RN to BS programs in addition to precepting for Family Nurse Practitioner students at her pediatric practice in Lawrence, MA. She is a member of the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, Merrimack Valley Chapter, and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Congratulations New Members!

2018 Spring Induction Ceremony of Eta Omega

Speaker: Amanda Ford, BS, MBA, RN “Caring for Our Community”

Inducted Members

Baccalaureate Nursing Program
Kathryn N. Krawczynski
Sean C. McSweeney
Lauren H. Sheehan

RN-BS Completion Option
Denise L. Shanning
Annemarie D. Vaughn
You’re Invited!

Eta Omega Chapter
Solomont School of Nursing
University of Massachusetts Lowell

2018 Founder’s Day
and
Induction Ceremony

Featuring speaker Julianne Nemes Walsh
“Diagnostic Errors: The Impact of an Educational Program on Pediatric Primary Care”

November 5, 2018
6:00p.m.

Mount Pleasant Country Club

Go to tinyurl.com/EtaOmegaFoundersDay2018 or contact Pat Moysenko at pat-m@rcn.com for more information and to RSVP!
On September 15th and 16th, I had the pleasure of representing the Eta Omega Chapter at the Sigma Leadership Connection Conference in Indianapolis. This conference welcomes nurse leaders from around the country to foster leadership among Sigma chapters. During this conference, I had the opportunity to network with many nurses and discuss not only my own goals and aspirations as a nurse leader, but also present our chapter’s poster titled, Fostering Leadership Through Intern Program. This poster highlighted our leadership internship program that was created a few years ago to develop new members into active leaders within the chapter and promote chapter sustainability. While I served as an intern, I had the opportunity to work closely with Board members, utilizing them as mentors and learning from them as nurse leaders. With this program, I was also able to serve as a member of the Board and participate in meetings and events. I had the chance to mentor undergraduate nursing students at various recruitment events and offer advice and encouragement. I realized, while being an intern, my innate love and desire to teach. When I was young, I always knew I wanted to be nurse – it is not my profession, it is truly my calling. Now, because of Sigma, I feel inspired to teach others how to provide compassionate, patient centered care and share my passion for this profession. I recently began my Master’s degree in Nursing with a specialty in nursing education while also becoming a more active member in our Sigma chapter.

After leaving the conference, I was overwhelmed with new ideas and amazed by the determination of other Sigma nurses. When I was an undergraduate nursing student, I saw joining Sigma as an academic achievement and honor. I did not realize the value of being a member and the plethora of opportunity that comes with membership. Our leadership internship program serves as an incredible way to mentor newer members, and hopefully to inspire them to become more active within the chapter as well as leaders among their peers. I have realized the importance of mentorship and engagement to sustain members and I am hoping to build on our internship program by utilizing the role to engage undergraduate and graduate nursing students. I would really like to help Sigma become a more active group on campus and potentially create a peer mentorship program for undergraduate students and new graduate nurses. Becoming a leadership intern provided me with so much support and guidance as I began my nursing career and I think using this role to further support other aspiring nurses will not only grow our chapter but develop strong emerging leaders. We, as Sigma nurses, have the opportunity to impact the next generation of nurses. By fostering an environment of inclusivity, we can continue to grow as an organization and inspire others to reach their full leadership and nursing potential.

Olivia Marshall, BS, RN
Community Service

Lowell General Hospital TeamWalk for CancerCare

On Sunday, June 10, 2018 ten supporters of Eta Omega walked in the Lowell General Hospital TeamWalk for CancerCare. The event raised $825,000 to support oncology services at the local hospital. Funds raised are used to provide medications, nutritional supplements, wigs, prosthesis, support groups, transportation, and other care for those fighting cancer in our community. Thank you to those who participated and gave!

Connect with us!

Like us on Facebook! STTIEtaOmega
Follow us on Instagram! EtaOmega_Sigma

Do you have news you would like to share with your Sigma peers?
Submit any honors, awards, or presentations to:
EtaOmegaLowell@gmail.com
Member Awards, Grants, and Presentations

Awards and Recognitions:
Drs. Lisa Abdallah, Patricia MacCulloch and Karen Devereaux Melillo have been recognized by the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) as Distinguished Educators in Gerontological Nursing.

Grants:

Presentations:


Havaei, N., Lee, S.E., & MacPhee, M. (October 2019). What predicts nurses’ perceptions of safety in their workplace? Similarities and differences between medical surgical and mental health settings, 6th International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector, Toronto, Canada

Quinn, B.L., Serna, R.W. “We’re With These Kids Every Day: Pain Identification in Students with Intellectual Disability”. National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, USA, June 2018

Publications:


Quinn, B. (2018). School nurses are able to support adolescents experiencing pain secondary to stress and unhealthy lifestyle choices. Evidence Based Nursing, 21(2), 45.


Think you deserve a Research or Practice Grant Award? Maybe a $100 Travel Award? Visit tinyurl.com/EtaOmegaAwards2018 for applications!

Next Travel Award deadline is October 29, 2018
Next Research and Practice Grant Award deadline is July 31, 2019

Announcement & CE Hours

The Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW) at the University of Massachusetts Lowell has developed a new program – Ergonomics in Healthcare: A Continuing Education Program for Nurses, Nursing assistants, and Healthcare managers. The program was developed by ergonomic and nursing experts at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and offers 5 contact hours. It is accessible free of charge, and a convenient, self-paced program. This online program was developed to combat the high rates of musculoskeletal injuries, which are the leading occupational hazard among nursing staff.

Participants who complete the program will learn:
• the risk factors involved in musculoskeletal injuries
• why nurses in particular are at risk
• ergonomic principles and risk reduction strategies
• the essential components of a Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Program

The program can be found at https://www.uml.edu/cphnewCE
On October 4, 2018 the Solomont School of Nursing celebrated 50 years in existence! Eta Omega’s Vice President Pat Moysenko and Former Treasurer Celeste Tremblay were both members of the founding class and served on the planning committee for this wonderful event. This celebratory evening at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center acknowledged 50 leaders in 50 years including the members of Eta Omega listed below. Alan Solomont, served as keynote speaker and inspired 245 guests with his story of how he came to nursing and turned that into an illustrious career leading to the naming of the School of Nursing for him and his wife Susan. Congratulations to those honored!

- Karen Devereaux Melillo ‘78
- Jacqueline Dowwling
- Amanda Ford ‘14
- Valerie King ‘81, ‘88, ‘12
- Ainan Koren ‘04
- Patricia Moysenko ‘72, ‘93
- Brenna Quinn ‘11
- Tina Santos ‘93
- Laurie Soroken ‘89, ‘14
- Janice Stecchi
- Celeste Tremblay ‘72, ‘10
- Julianne Nemes Walsh ‘88, ‘93, ‘10
Get Involved!

We have openings on our Board of Directors!

In June we will have openings for our Board of Directors including President Elect and Voting Delegates! If you are interested in getting more involved with the chapter please email Christine_Repsha@uml.edu for more information! We always welcome new faces and need fresh ideas and leadership to sustain our chapter!

Eta Omega Chapter Calendar of Events

November 5, 2018 6:00pm
Founder’s Day Induction Ceremony
Mount Pleasant Country Club, 141 Staples St, Lowell

February 26, 2018
Eta Omega Social Event
UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center

April 2, 2019
Kathleen M. Fox Memorial Lecture & Spring Induction
Mount Pleasant Country Club, 141 Staples St, Lowell
Dear Eta Omega Colleagues:

I am delighted to bring you updates and greetings from the Susan and Alan Solomont School of Nursing. We have much to celebrate. On Thursday, October 4, 2018, the UMass Inn and Conference Center hosted our 50th Anniversary of the start of the Nursing Program. So many of the attendees, and honorees, are Members of the Eta Omega Chapter, and some were Charter Members when the Chapter began in 1984. I count myself among them, and I continue to be proud of the excellent leadership that this Chapter demonstrates in all of its activities.

For the 50th Anniversary celebration, peers were invited to nominate alumni, classmates and nursing program leaders for the 50 Leaders in 50 Years’ recognition. An outstanding 50th Anniversary Event Committee provided tremendous support for this process, which culminated in its overwhelming success. The Committee comprised current and former Eta Omega Chapter leaders and members: Christine Repsha, Pat Moysenko, Brenna Quinn, and Celeste Tremblay. They, along with the Advancement and Alumni Affairs Office, were instrumental in the outreach that resulted in 270 individuals attending the event to celebrate nursing’s beginnings and to promote its vision for the future. Attendees came from as far away as Tennessee, Louisiana, North Carolina and South Carolina. Drs. Janice Stecchi, Dean Emerita of the (former) College of Health Professions, and May Futrell, Professor Emerita and former Chair, were among the honorees, along with Alan D. Solomont, for whom our School is named. The event registration allowed participants to contribute to the 50th Anniversary Future Leaders Fund, as well as to our other well-established Endowment Programs (May Futrell Graduate Endowment Fund; Janice M. Stecchi Scholarship Fund; BDN Endowment Fund, to name a few).

Our Solomont School of Nursing alumni and current students exemplify our slogan, “Advancing Health Promotion and Nurse Leaders”. We are looking forward to this Fall’s Sigma Induction Ceremony scheduled for Monday, November 5, 2018. I always appreciate participating in this special evening, which recognizes our invited students for their academic success and leadership. We thank all of the Eta Omega Chapter leaders and officers who work tirelessly for the success of our Chapter.

Karen Devereaux Melillo, PhD, A-GNP-C, FAANP, FGSA, Professor
Interim Dean, Solomont School of Nursing
Vice Dean, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences
Past President, Eta Omega Chapter
## 2019 Events from our Parent Organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Creating Healthy Work Environments</td>
<td>February 22-29, 2019</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Are you actively working to improve the health of your workplace? Come to New Orleans and get the tools you need to help transform your organization, utilizing the AACN Healthy Work Environment Standards.</td>
<td>19 December 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th International Nursing Research Congress</td>
<td>July 25-29, 2019</td>
<td>Calgary, Canada</td>
<td>Plan to share your poster or oral presentation with Sigma and over 800 nurse researchers, students, clinicians, and leaders as we explore innovative and collaborative research and evidence-based practice strategies.</td>
<td>7 November 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>45th Biennial Convention</td>
<td>November 16-20, 2019</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Sigma's largest event features award presentations, outstanding plenary speakers, networking opportunities, over 800 oral and poster presentations, and the election of officers for the 2019-2021 biennium.</td>
<td>5 December 2018</td>
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