

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT-ELECT (ELECT ONE)



Sandra Bibb DNSc, RN, FAAN



I am honored to be a candidate for President-elect on the Sigma 2021 International Ballot. I am running for President-elect because I want to partner with Sigma's Leadership and Membership in making a difference. Across the years, through my personal,

professional and volunteer experiences, I have matured as a servant leader and grown my passion for making a difference in the lives of others. I was inducted into Sigma in 1982, and since that time I have maintained membership and engaged in service to the organization and its members. I have always known that Sigma was a service organization that valued and respected the interest of all people. But when I was elected to the Sigma Board of Directors as Director-At-Large in 2015, I got an up close and personal look at the behind scenes excellence that makes Sigma what it is. I want to be part of that excellence as a Servant-Leader, as President-elect, and subsequently, as President. If elected to serve, I will partner with Sigma's connected and empowered nurse leaders in transforming global healthcare. Key to realizing this vision is increasing awareness of Sigma's value for nurses serving their profession in the 21st century; and translating Sigma's global values, and strength as a diverse, inclusive global organization, with a commitment to "developing nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere". I have over 30 years of experience in senior and executive leadership positions in military, academic, professional and community settings, and I have served on numerous local, regional, national and international review committees, boards, and task forces. In 2020 I transitioned to an entrepreneurial role as owner and cultural competence consultant in my own consulting business. From August 2014 to January 2020, I served as dean and professor at a college of health professions. From May 2004 to July 2014 I served as

faculty, then department chair, and then associate dean for faculty affairs at a graduate school of nursing. From June 1974 to June 2004, I served on active duty in the United States Navy and assumed roles of increasing leadership before retiring as Captain in 2004. All of these experiences provided me with opportunities for leadership development and expansive experience in leading and coaching teams. I also attain rich experiences in providing leadership and service to groups and organizations as a consultant in population health and cultural competence education and program development; and while serving in volunteer positions on professional and community boards, committees, and task forces. I have the professional, personal and volunteer experiences to serve as President-elect and partner with Sigma's Leadership and Membership to grow and sustain membership; improve chapter health and member experiences; and translate the value of Sigma for its current and prospective membership. I am committed to devoting my time, talent, leadership experiences, and resources in partnering with Sigma to make difference.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT-ELECT (ELECT ONE)



Connie Sobon Sensor PhD, RN, CTN-A, NJ-CSN



I welcome the opportunity to serve as your President-elect.

Leadership Highlights:

- North America Regional Coordinator (2007-2011)
- Secretary, International Board of Directors (2011-2013)
- Liaison and Chief Representative to the United Nations (2016-2020)
- Mentor for Global Leadership Mentoring Community (2019-2021)
- National Public Policy Advisor for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
- Past Secretary for Region 3 of the NJ State Nurses Association
- Chapter President for the Transcultural Nursing Society

Background:

The UN role prepared me to lead Sigma by building global collaboration and providing a broad perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as Social Determinants of Health. When nurses are empowered to act in all settings to the full extent of their abilities in leadership, health promotion and disease prevention, as well as treating illness and disease, we contribute a pathway to achieving the SDGs with no one left behind. The Sigma UN team developed valuable strategies for nurses in clinical and academic settings to achieve the SDGs and shared them in a recent publication: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8051639/. As President of a struggling chapter, I engaged members to earn one of seven Key Awards for Chapter Excellence. Collaboration with other chapters and the community was a foundation for our success. We developed regional awards to recognize and promote nursing scholarship, leadership and early-career service. Exceptional Sigma mentors and friendships, networks and teamwork with members throughout the world motivated me to explore innovative ideas and create new partnerships and initiatives. My PhD dissertation "Health-related beliefs, practices, and

experiences of migrant Dominicans in the Northeastern United States" was inspired by leading a group of nurses to the Dominican Republic to set up health clinics in rural areas. This inaugural work became an ongoing service leadership project among several Sigma chapters.

Ideas for the future:

Chapters grow stronger through supportive networking and sharing resources for scholarly programs. Virtual platforms facilitate collaboration and advance nursing science while reducing travel expenses. Virtual pathways for mentoring relationships and membership connections across global regions develop nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere. This gives value to membership and promotes the growth of the organization. Provide advocacy education and media communication strategies for members. We must use our individual and collective expertise to lead and inform decision-making and policy related to the health of populations, communities and health systems, including safe workplace environments. Media coverage of the pandemic showcased courageous examples of nursing leadership, advocacy and excellence that improved outcomes. As we heal from this worldwide trauma, nurses must continue our advocacy for connected, empowered nurse leaders to transform global health care.

About me:

Advanced-level Certified Transcultural Nurse (CTN-A). Completing 13 Women's Sprint Triathlons taught me perseverance, determination, and confidence to master challenges. www.linkedin.com/in/connie-sobon-sensor-phd-rn-ctn-a-2450642b/

If elected, I will use my passion for Sigma, global citizenship, and the SDGs to inspire you to be advocates and inclusive leaders for population health and safe, healthy environments in your communities locally, regionally and globally. Together we can have a tremendous impact on transforming global health. I would be honored to have your vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT (ELECT ONE)



Gloria Chan DNP, CRNA



I am honored to be a candidate for the office of Vice President. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), providing anesthesia for all types of procedures and surgeries. I state this with a huge amount of pride, as I first and foremost consider myself a strong nurse clinician.

I have maintained my clinician side while serving leadership roles in Sigma on the local, national, and international level. On the chapter level, I served as president for the Upsilon Chapter, helping to obtain our first Chapter Key Award. I served as the Region 14 Coordinator, aiding chapters in my region while also serving as a UN Youth Representative to the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health (NIGH), working in tandem with Sigma UN Youth Representatives toward understanding and educating nurses regarding UN issues and goals. Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Foundation of Nursing understanding the business and charitable arm of Sigma.

A primary goal I have has been to support and guide nurses who are younger and newer to the profession. Mentorship is near and dear to me, inspiring me to establish a mentorship program in the Rutgers University nurse anesthesia program and guiding me toward researching mentorship in the nurse anesthesia community. Just as Sigma has always supported me through my career from novice nurse to expert clinician, I strive to give back to our nursing community.

Sigma is a strong international organization consisting of members from more than 100 countries, representing the very best that nursing has to offer. As we have seen and always known, diversity matters. Inclusivity matters. As a global organization, Sigma's executive board should be diverse and inclusive with board members

reflecting various backgrounds and nursing experiences.

Members are the most important part of Sigma, and as such we should listen to their wants and their needs from this global organization. The age-old question Sigma and its chapters are always presented is: how can we be the organization for nurses of ALL backgrounds and get them to be involved? As a Chinese American staff CRNA with 13 years of nursing experience—that is a challenging proposition, one which I would work diligently to advocate for.

If elected as Vice President, my priorities would be:

- Promoting diversity and inclusivity within our organization.
- Championing Sigma to understand and have real time responses to social activism issues that occur around the world.
- Encourage further social engagement online due to our now digital reliance.
- Continue our global outreach with other nursing organizations that strengthen the field of nursing.
- Create new strategies and focus on different topics to engage our clinician focused members to increase their involvement with Sigma.

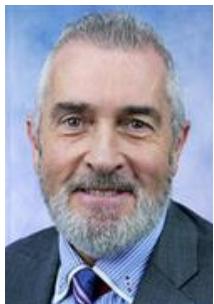
It is a privilege to be considered for the office of Vice President and thank you for your continued involvement with Sigma.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

VICE PRESIDENT (ELECT ONE)



Thomas Kearns EdD, FFNMRCSE, MEd, BNS, RNT, RGN, RPN



My nursing career commenced in 1980, I worked in a range of clinical settings including community mental health, Community Care, Older person care and Aids Patient Care. I am a Registered Psychiatric and General Nurse and a Registered Nurse Tutor. I have a Bachelors degree in Nursing, a Masters degree in Education, a Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI and my Doctorate is in Education. My leadership experience ranges from clinical leadership to policy, regulatory and academic leadership at local, national, European and Global levels. As a nurse program leader I managed undergraduate and post graduate nursing education in University College Dublin in the 1990s. I worked for the Statutory Regulatory Authority for Nursing in Ireland for 14 years as Deputy/ Interim Chief Education Officer. In this capacity I facilitated the development of national standards for nursing education and professional practice including Scope of Practice Guidance . I lead the approval and monitoring of Mental Health, Public Health, Nurse Prescribing and Post Graduate Education leading to Specialist and Advanced Nursing Practice.

I was invited to work for the Irish Ministry for Health in 2004 to project manage the restructuring of the Undergraduate Nursing Degree program in Ireland. This led to the development of an integrated theoretical and clinical program across the four year degree , a program structure still in place today.

In 2014 I was appointed Professor /Executive Director of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI. I lead the strategic and operational education and research direction of the Faculty. I am the founding Director of the European Center of Research Excellence. This Center is developing the

science of continuing education and Continuing Professional Development with partners in 21 European Countries. This Center has an MoU with the Coalition for Certification Research based in Sigma.

I am the academic partner for the European Nursing Council (Council of Nursing Regulatory Authorities) I provide research and evidence to support better regulation of professional practice in Europe to strengthen better professional practice and better patient care in the Region.

In 2017 I took a career break, invited to become the Interim CEO of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). I was the Executive head of the organisation and I facilitated a transition within the Governance and leadership of the organisation. I facilitated a strengthening of executive values, Risk management of the organisation and established an evaluation review of the ICN strategy.

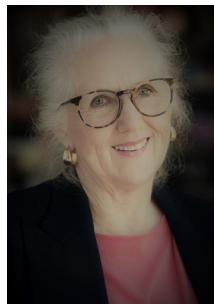
My values include Care, Compassion and Commitment linked to Research, Collaboration, Scholarship and Innovation. I passionately believe my values and leadership experience will support Sigma to deliver its Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals as the voice for individual nurses locally, nationally, regionally and globally. This would be a joy and an honor.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

SECRETARY (ELECT ONE)



Nancy Rollins Gantz PhD, MBA, MSN, RN



Shwmae, Hola, Bonjour, Ni hao, Hallo, Marhabaan, O'Syo, Barev, Kon'nichiwa, Guten Tag, Ciao, G'day, Salam, Kamusta, Habari, Nín hǎo, Bore da, Hej, Sawubona, Tja, Servus, Hei Hei, Aloha, Jambo, Sveikas, Privet, Buna, Goeie dag, Li-Ho, Namaste, As-salaam 'alykum, Ola and hello...

I am honored and privileged being slated for the office of Secretary. I have significant experience at the local level in the Beta Psi Chapter, currently serving as Chapter President, additionally as Chairperson of the upcoming Region 1 International Congress in 2022. I served in local and national positions with the American Organization of Nurse Leaders, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Geriatric Nurses Association of Oregon, American Nurses Association, National League of Nurses, and served a four-year term on Sigma's Nursing Knowledge International (now Sigma Marketplace) Board.

The book *101 Global Leadership Lessons for Nurses: Shared Legacies from Leaders and their Mentors* is my monumental journey of making my passion for mentoring a reality. Published by Sigma, this book reflects the commitment I have made to mentoring since graduating from nursing school and realized the importance in giving back to the profession through developing our future leaders so they can continue the spirited journey of nursing. *Remembering, we get what we give in life...*

The challenges we face are numerous, but never have we had such an opportunity to make our contributions known than after this horrific pandemic where **nurses at the frontline** showed the strength, dedication, and fortitude that we as

nurses and the profession possess. Nursing is now center stage in the healthcare and political arena, and we must not lose momentum and show our *strength, expertise, and knowledge* to the people of authority as they are listening. We have the opportunity like no other time in history to drive healthcare practice, policy, and education.

I began my journey in nursing as a nurse's aide in high school, to critical care nursing, then to Vice President of Nursing/administration, followed by international consulting. I am now in education and find it extremely rewarding. I feel blessed for my career and the over 45 countries and cultures I have visited, consulted, and lived in making my experience extensive and a champion for the wealth of diversity. I believe service is the platform for Sigma's pillars **Honor, Love, and Courage** ... rendering service as essential.

My international proficiency will guide my thinking and attention to the global issues facing Sigma and nurses worldwide. My universal experience will contribute to the vision and mission of Sigma.

Join with me as we continue advancing Sigma further into the future of our profession, global healthcare, and most importantly, the care for our patients. Through listening, collaborating, and working *together* I believe we can stand stronger and as a profession and organization we will **thrive!** Thank you.

"So never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself." —Florence Nightingale

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

SECRETARY (ELECT ONE)



Terry Siek MSN, RN, NEA-BC



I am excited and humbled to have the opportunity to highlight my background, servant leadership, and qualifications for the position of Secretary. My extensive leadership, advocacy for Sigma, professional practice, and community service will provide a

solid foundation to support our vision of “improving the health of the world’s people” through evidence-based practice, scholarship, and nursing leadership development. Engaging our Chapters in this vision across the world is a significant priority for me.

For over 15-years, I have been the Chief Nursing Officer for a tertiary care hospital and have been responsible for building a team that delivers exceptional care, patient and staff satisfaction, strategic planning, and stewardship. I believe in the importance of life-long learning and lead by example, mentor, and encourage team members to complete advanced degrees in nursing.

I have served my Chapter as the Treasurer, President-elect, President, and Delegate to the Biennial Convention. Our Chapter actively recruits, mentors, and inducts new members to our prestigious organization. I have found my Chapter leadership positions rewarding as we induct new members, teach about Sigma, and encourage their development as new leaders.

As we built membership from practice settings, it became apparent that our Chapter needed to develop strategies to support and engage members from them. We reconfigured our meeting location schedule to include these settings and developed strategies to be more inclusive as we consider succession planning. As an international honor society, it will be a priority to continually evaluate how we can build equity and inclusion within Sigma.

I have also had the pleasure of serving as the Region 3 Chapters Coordinator. This position allowed me to interact with Sigma members on a Regional and International level. One of the responsibilities of the Coordinator is to assist Chapters in the region and be a resource to the Chapter Presidents in resolving issues and connecting them to resources to help solve those issues.

On the international level, I have served on the Board of Sigma Marketplace, which included being Chairman of the Board. The Board provides oversight and feedback on how the Marketplace can improve access and support to our members. This position allowed me to learn more about the inner workings of Sigma. I am currently serving on the Chapter Charter Review Task Force which has allowed me to have a deeper understanding of our bylaws.

At the State and community level, I have led in multiple roles, including the Kansas Organization of Nurse Leaders, the Education Committee of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, the Kansas State Nurses Association, United Way of Ellis County, and the Kansas Nursing Foundation. These experiences have taught me about the impact that the social determinants of health have on our community members.

As Sigma Secretary, I am committed to serving with “love, courage, and honor.”

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DIRECTORS (ELECT TWO)



Debra Anderson PhD, MNS, GDNS(ED), BA, RN



What inspired me to run for an elected position?

I am running for the role of Director in Sigma. I am keen to play a part in the next chapter of Sigma as it moves forward to a new level. Since working with Sigma to establish and act as President for the Phi Delta

Chapter in Australia and then working with Sigma as the first Oceania Regional Coordinator role, I have seen tremendous opportunities and potential for Sigma to be an influential health force globally and specifically in Australia and the Asia-Pacific regions. Sigma has the opportunity and flexibility to adapt to the ever-changing environments both internal and external to Nursing. This, I believe is a key strength of Sigma and where I see a good fit with my leadership, teaching, research and community engagement experience.

What attributes, strengths and qualifications do I bring to the position?

- An accomplished academic leader with a distinguished research record and global influence in the field of women's health and the prevention of chronic disease through lifestyle modifications. Recognised for being a visionary, supportive and inclusive leader; I engage teams in strategic goals, empower leaders to take accountability, and bring measurable success leading the accomplishment of goals and transformation projects.
- National and international research projects have attracted millions of dollars in funding and collaborations with the world's most respected research institutions including: The World Health Organization, Peking University, Kings College London, University of Massachusetts and key organizations including Diabetes Qld, Cancer Australia, Cancer Council Qld, and Stroke Foundation. A proactive networker, I build and leverage deep relationships with industry,

Government and health organisations.

- Success is founded on an outstanding record of teaching and learning with a demonstrated commitment to innovation and continuous improvement through reflection, student feedback, market research and external engagement. My experience includes leading the development of accredited programs and integrated clinical experience to optimise learning outcomes and student engagement.
- Complementing my academic and research success, I bring strong financial, business and operational leadership skills to deliver commercial success and operational efficiency within large, complex organisations. I am committed about inspiring and mentoring the next generation of academic, and research leaders whilst creating a legacy through my work and impact in health.

Experience with Sigma

- I have worked with Sigma to establish and then act as President for the Phi Delta Chapter in Australia,
- Regionally: I then took up the contested appointment as the first Oceania Regional Coordinator role for Sigma.
- Internationally: I have worked in a leadership role as, a mentor for the Global mentorship groups a member of the Sigma International United Nations Advisory Council currently a member of the Sigma Foundation Board
- While working with Sigma to establish and act as President for the Phi Delta Chapter in Australia, I saw an opportunity for Sigma to become an influential force in the Oceania region. I worked with the then global development manager to establish the first Oceania Regional Coordinator role. This has set up tremendous opportunities and potential for Sigma to be an influential health force globally and locally.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DIRECTORS (ELECT TWO)



Marie-Louise Luiking MANP, RN



I am honoured and privileged to be on the ballot for the office of Director.

My career in nursing has predominately been in intensive care nursing. I have a masters with a major in critical care advance practice. Being one of

the first nurse practitioners to qualify and practice in the Netherlands with this title. My PhD has been about nurses' participation in the implementation of innovations, which has helped greatly in engaging members to participate with Sigma.

Over the last 16 years I have served in international positions with Sigma and other organisations. Firstly, as a chapter president with our Dutch chapter Rho Chi at-Large from 2014-2018. During my tenure we were the first chapter to secure three chapter key awards consecutively in Europe and in 2018 the first chapter outside of the United States to receive the Ethel Palmer Clarke award for implementing creative chapter activities that achieve the purpose of Sigma, recognizes superior achievement in scholarship, research, practice, and education and recognizes the development of leadership qualities.

Since 2017 I have had the honour to serve two consecutive terms as Sigma's European Regional Coordinator. In that time the European Region has grown by 100% in the number of chapters. This due in part to developing an European Identity of Sigma for European Sigma members to engage and participate with, both at the regional and chapter level.

My strengths have been in developing very successful programs such as the PhD connect virtual conference, the introduction of an annual virtual masterclass with eminent nurse scientists from all over Europe, the launch & take up of the

annual recognition endeavours for excellence in nursing research, education, and clinical practice during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Biennial Sigma European Awards for Research, Education, Clinical Practice & new Early career research or educationalist. Sigma Europe is the first region in May 2021 to have constructed a Sigma European Regional Website for all members. Putting together scholarships, awards and stipends to attend our regional conferences. We have a sound presence on our social media platforms giving our members more possibilities to connect with Sigma. Creating and developing eight standing committees at a pace that is needed has been realised. In listening to our Sigma European members, we have engaged in planning our 6th Biennial European Regional conference with the theme being: Sustainability in Partnership in February 2022. I coordinate five research lines of nurse inquiry with Sigma European members from all over the region.

Throughout this time I have actively provided strategic leadership, took part in strategic planning, worked on global committees, the judging of Sigma International Awards, reformulating of the chapter key award 2021-2023 and have developed a secure knowledge of how the society wants to move forward in the next biennium. I believe that Sigma has to concentrate on providing value for the membership. I will work diligently to represent the membership and am committed to the values, mission, and vision of Sigma.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DIRECTORS (ELECT TWO)



Donald Rose PhD, MN, BScN, RN



I am honored to be nominated for a Director position on the Sigma Board of Directors. I am excited to share a summary of my professional background, qualifications and leadership experience and what I would like to accomplish if elected as a member of the Board of Directors.

If elected, I would apply my expertise, knowledge and commitment to contribute to Sigma's strength and success as a global organization. As a Canadian Sigma member, I will draw on my international experience and diverse leadership roles in Sigma, academia and healthcare. I support Sigma's vision and mission for transforming global health especially through involvement in GAPFON and the UN SDGs. As a collaborative board member, I will advocate for the members needs of Sigma, particularly the clinicians who comprise 48% of membership. I have a reputation as a team player, good communicator, quick problem solver, and hard worker with excellent organization skills. My personal mantra throughout my career has been "It's all about relationships!"

My varied leadership experience spans academia, healthcare and professional associations in Canada and the US. I was a Nurse Manager on inpatient psychiatric units in Toronto and Project Director of the Centre for Integrated Healthcare, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), College of Nursing. More recently, I was the Director of one of the largest nursing schools in Canada. Currently, I am an Associate Professor at the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Ryerson University.

In 1998, I was inducted into the Lambda Pi at-Large Chapter. I gained valuable experience at the local board, and later held the position of vice president elect, vice president, president-elect, president, past president and finance chair. I have consistently

engaged with Sigma, including my time at UIC with Alpha Lambda Chapter. Since 2016, I have been a member of the Region 10 Conference Planning Committee. My two terms as Region 10 Coordinator connected me with Sigma members across 24 chapters. I supported chapter leaders and members to augment their impact in their communities. My understanding of the strengths, challenges and opportunities of the chapters was deepened and I will carry this understanding if elected as a board member.

As a member of Sigma for over two decades, I continue to maintain and affirm my commitment to the vision and mission of the organization. Sigma calls us to promote scholarship, leadership and service. I am motivated to hold an elected position by service. Sigma representatives serve Sigma members and thus Nursing and our patients. I recognize that I am privileged and hold as a personal belief: "those to whom much has been given, much is expected". Serving in elected board position is an opportunity to give back. I am motivated by challenges and inspired by the adage: "A ship in harbor is safe — but that is not what ships are built for".

I appreciate consideration of your vote and welcome the opportunity to serve as Director. If elected, I will contribute and promote the vision and mission of Sigma and the Presidential Call to Action.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DIRECTORS (ELECT TWO)



Elizabeth Weathers PhD, BSc, PGCertTLHE, RGN, FAAN



I am honored to be considered for a Director. I have 15+ years' experience building strategic relationships globally across clinical practice, academia, and the medical device industry in Europe, the US, and Asia.

I am currently the Clinical Affairs Manager for a global medical device company, Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies, responsible for clinical research and providing strategic leadership for regulatory submissions across all world regions. Before joining Terumo, I was Clinical Research Manager at Ion Beam Applications, Belgium, where I initiated the first company-sponsored clinical study. As a nurse leader in the med-tech industry, I am an advocate for patients, responsible for monitoring the quality and safety of medical devices.

I am also a Lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork, Ireland, where I am leading the development of two graduate nursing programs. Previously, I lectured in Bahrain, where I led inter-professional, collaborative research projects to improve the medical management of syncope/falls and to increase public awareness of prostate cancer – a first for the region. In Ireland, working in practice and academia, I was the nurse lead for the first regional syncope/falls service, that resulted in 50% reduction in length of stay and a net saving of €1.1M for the hospital.

From 2013 to 2019, I served as President of the first Irish chapter of Sigma, Omega Epsilon at-Large. I led chapter development from conception to chartering in 2018. One year later, I was elected to the Sigma International Governance Committee. I am one of just five nurses from Ireland inducted into the American Academy of Nursing and the only European to serve on the Academy's

Governance Steering Committee. Other leadership roles I currently hold include: Chair of Media and Marketing (Omega Epsilon at-Large Chapter Board of Directors); Editorial Board Member (Seminars in Oncology Nursing); and Expert Reviewer (European Commission).

I am deeply committed to improving healthcare by effecting change for patients and highlighting the valuable contribution of nurses globally. My journey, working across three continents, has equipped me with an understanding of the cultural nuances that exist across global healthcare systems and practices. I have witnessed the benefits of Sigma membership for nurses working in all countries and settings. If elected, I would draw upon this experience to provide a culturally astute perspective to the Board, diligently representing the global membership. I would continue to advocate for Sigma by sharing my experience with others, especially with those outside of North America who may not recognize the many rewards that Sigma offers.

Reflecting on the challenges of COVID-19, I have observed how the pandemic necessitated social isolation to ensure safety. Yet, it also nurtured solidarity amongst our profession. There is a sense of having been through the trenches together, emerging united, but tired, and reliant on each other for that unspoken understanding. Sigma provides a global community of peers and seeks to build a connected and empowered global nursing workforce. I would be honored to dedicate my time to supporting this mission.

Thank you!

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Phyllis Brenner PhD, RN



Having earned master's degrees in nursing and management and a PhD in nursing with a cognate in labor relations, I have built on these educational experiences in my career and my commitment to service through my involvement with a variety of nursing and multidisciplinary organizations. I am currently Professor Emerita at Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan, having retired as the graduate-level Nursing Administration and Nursing Administration/MBA Program Director and Health System Liaison and faculty for DNP students.

My leadership involvement with Sigma began in 1988 and continues to the present as the Kappa Iota Treasurer. I have gained valuable experience in every chapter role in three different chapters. At the international level, I served as the Midwest Nursing Research Society representative to the Sigma convened Evidence-Based Practice Committee (2000-2002) and as a member of the Sigma Bylaws Taskforce (2006-2007).

I have served in various capacities in many nursing organizations, including state affiliates or the national organizations of ANA, AONE, MNRS, and CGEAN. I served on two different state's multi-disciplinary boards addressing the needs of impaired health professionals and the local Detroit Asthma Coalition and the Steering Team of the MI Consortium of Asthma Coalitions. No matter the organization or group, I contributed in various capacities while growing my servant leadership abilities.

My particular interest in Sigma's Governance Committee is related to having served in 2006-2007 on a bylaws taskforce and more recently through a nine-year involvement with ANA-MI and ANA bylaws. One's appreciation for bylaws compliance

is heightened when rare issues arise that shake an organization at its very core, like threats of litigation around eligibility criteria, failure of board oversight leading to fiscal losses, or loss of the organization's nonprofit status. While these experiences did not involve Sigma in any way, they left an indelible impression on me that the operationalization of bylaws at the level of affiliates, or within Sigma at the chapter level, is of critical importance. The idea of bylaws as a living document "where the proverbial rubber meets the road" is of particular interest to me.

Reflecting on Sigma's strategic goals to "advance innovative and customized resources to develop nurse leaders", I believe my national and local involvement in governance issues may assist in identifying additional resources for chapter leaders to promote making bylaws a lived reality. For instance, knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order is essential knowledge for emerging chapter leaders to possess and deploy at the chapter level, thus better preparing members to then participate in governance at the international level. I can best summarize my education, experience, and interest in serving on the Governance Committee through Goethe's quotation: "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Sarah Caro PhD, CNE, RN



Hi, my name is Sarah Caro. I have been a nurse for 27 years with experience in medical-surgical nursing, intensive care, and community health. My current position is as an Assistant Professor with the Nursing Department with Towson University in the College of Health Professions in Towson, Maryland. I love teaching future nurses.

I entered the nursing profession in December of 1994 as a graduate of Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland. I obtained a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in nursing leadership with a certificate in health care education from the Loretta Heights School of Nursing in Denver Colorado.

Sigma became part of my journey in 2015 when members of Sigma's Iota Epsilon Chapter with Towson University invited me to join. I was thrilled to embark on a new adventure with Sigma and learn about this amazing organization. I am currently the President of the Iota Epsilon Chapter and have served as a community liaison and volunteered annually with the inductions and new member outreach events. Sigma represents nursing excellence and I continue to be amazed at opportunities to serve and connect with members of the nursing profession.

I am passionate about pursuing nursing research to improve patient outcomes, so I earned a Ph.D. in Nursing from the Catholic University of America in January of 2020. My research focus is the autoimmune disorder alopecia areata with the motivation to raise awareness and develop resources for patients, their families, and health care providers. I attended the 2019 Sigma biennial conference as a chapter delegate. During this conference, I shared a podium presentation of my dissertation research, "Exploring the Lived Experience of Alopecia Areata". Most recently I shared my research at the National Alopecia

Areata Foundation conference in June of 2021.

My leadership philosophy is that of servant leadership principles conveying that the greatest leader is the servant. Serving others is a privilege and a joy. My past leadership experience has been as a charge nurse in the clinical setting, a team leader with Johns Hopkins Home Care, the chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee with Towson University, and as a mentor with the Transfer Mentor Program with Towson University. As the newly elected president of the Iota Epsilon Chapter of Sigma, I look forward to growing through service to the chapter leaders, members, and future recruits.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be considered for the privilege of serving as a member of the Governance Committee.

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Fang-Yu Chou PhD, RN, FNP-BC, CNE



Dear colleagues,

I am Fang-Yu Chou, and I am a Professor at San Francisco State University, School of Nursing. My professional interests include chronic illness self-management, cross-cultural healthcare and education, and evidence-based practice. I was born and raised in Taiwan and came to the U.S. for higher education. I have had the great privilege to work as a nursing faculty since 2005 to educate and mentor the next generation of nurses. I have been an active member of Sigma since 1998. Sigma Theta Tau has been an inviting organization to connect with colleagues from different international regions. For Sigma, I have had opportunities to serve in various roles for our local chapter, including Convention Delegate, Secretary, President-elect, President, and Treasurer. During my term as the Chapter President, I proactively fostered the diversity and inclusivity of chapter leadership. Through my outreach effort, I've recruited and mentored student members and minority faculty to join the chapter leadership team. After my term as the Chapter President ended, I continued to serve in the chapter to mentor officers on chapter governance, operation, and membership. Additionally, I have continuously served as Sigma abstract and grant reviewer and contributed to the Region 1 program planning.

My leadership involvement in other capacities embodies my experience in furthering collaboration and transitional changes, such as initiating transcultural cancer care and health literacy topics while I served as a Coordinator for the Oncology Nursing Society Transcultural Nursing Issues Group. Moreover, during my role as the Program Director for the HRSA Traineeship Grant, I supervised the securing and distributing scholarship funding to a diverse body of students

with needs. I also have had the privilege to be one of the first few Fulbright nursing faculty scholars in exchange to the Asia region, where I spearheaded a cross-cultural collaborative project examining self-management practices among cancer patients in the region. In my academic role, I have chaired various committees—including those pertaining to curriculum and faculty review—to facilitate significant curricular and policy changes and engaged in shared governance for university academic program review. Aside from being an educator, I've also served as Associate Director for Graduate Programs to usher in the recent transitional change in Advanced Practice Nursing Programs and resolve the pedagogical and organizational challenges that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am honored to be a candidate for the Governance Committee and to have this opportunity to broaden my contribution to Sigma. If elected, in addition to serving as an active member for the committee, I also see myself as a contributing member through my prior international experience to promote the Sigma mission of creating a global community of nurses and improving global health. Thank you for your consideration.

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Juli Maxworthy DNP, MSN, MBA, RN, CNL, CPHQ, CPPS, CHSE, FNAP, FSSH



Hello Colleagues,
Thank you for taking the time
to learn a little about me. I am
excited about the opportunity to
serve Sigma as a member of the
Governance Committee.

I have served in multiple roles in
Sigma over my many years of
membership. The roles have included:

- 2019-2021 Vice President, Beta Gamma Chapter
- 2017-2019 Vice President, Executive Board of Directors, Sigma
 - Led international IT infrastructure taskforce
 - Participated in strategic planning which includes a revision of the mission and vision statements
 - Collaborated on the development of international strategic partnership guidelines
- 2016-2018 Governance Chair, Beta Gamma Chapter
- 2014-2016 Faculty Counselor, Beta Gamma Chapter
- 2013-2017 Region 1 Coordinator (Two Terms)
 - Provided leadership for regional events (2013 and 2017)
 - Provided leadership for Preconference offering at 2015 Biennium
- 2011-2013 Chair, International Foundation Board, Sigma
 - Met and exceeded metric expectations for biennium related to Fellows
 - Both a Virginia Henderson and Billye Brown Fellow
- 2011-2013 Chair, Leadership Succession Committee, Nu Xi at-Large Chapter
- 2009-2011 Chair, Fellows Committee, Foundation Board
 - Met and exceeded Sigma board metrics
- 2009-2011 President, Nu Xi at-Large Chapter
- 2007-2009 Omada International Board Leadership Fellow
- 2007-2009 President-elect, Nu Xi at-Large Chapter

- 2005-2007 Chapter Leadership Intern, Nu Xi at-Large Chapter
 - Provided leadership for two chapter key award submissions

My career has spanned over thirty years as a critical care nurse, administrator (last clinical role as VP Quality and Risk), and now an academic (Associate Professor) at the University of San Francisco. I currently teach in our DNP/ELDNP programs and was the Chair of the Healthcare Leadership and Innovations Department.

Besides my love of Sigma, I am very involved with Healthcare Simulation. In 2017, I was inducted as a Fellow into the inaugural class of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). I currently have the honor of serving as the President of SSH. I am also a Fellow of the National Academies of Practice where I am currently serving as the Vice-President of the Partnerships and Networking Committee.

When asked why I have been so involved with Sigma at every level of the organization I state that Sigma is where “I am a nurse first”, no matter how many initials are after my name.

I believe, and I hope you do too, that my experiences will benefit the governance committee in its role to provide oversight of the various charges it has in ensuring compliance within the organization!

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Jennifer Saylor PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC



I am seeking re-election for a 2-year term to the Governance Committee. I believe the Governance Committee is the backbone of Sigma, charged with maintaining the integrity of the organization, while encouraging flexibility and innovation to change as healthcare and the world evolve.

If elected, I will provide a considerate, forward-thinking, and unique perspective to the committee with the goal of strengthening Sigma's position as the world's only honor society of nursing. I will provide input and guidance into making the organization relevant for its diverse membership across the career spectrum and foster global health and policy to improve the health of the world's people.

Accomplishments as Governance Chair (2019-2021)

- Tasked with revising international bylaws, our committee was able to accomplish this in addition to preparing chapter bylaws to mirror international which was beyond this task for the 2019-2021 biennium.
- As chair of the Governance Committee, I worked closely with Sigma's parliamentarian, legal council, staff, and Chair of Bylaws Revision Task force under the direction of Sigma's Board of Directors to propose 13 amendments
- Updated the bylaws document into a more modern readable format, removed redundant content, moved policies and procedures to appropriate documents
- Proposed amendments that reflect the current Sigma practice and strategic goals and modernize the Sigma bylaws for the next 100 years
- Developed web-based educational training with other Board and Bylaws Revision Task Force Chair regarding the premise for International Bylaw revisions and Amendments

- Held six webinars to present and answer questions about proposed bylaw amendments
- Posted each proposed amendment on The Circle and answered questions of Sigma members
- Revised nurse leader application to provide more guidance for chapters in inducting nurse leaders as well as reflect the pillars of Sigma

I believe in serving Sigma in a variety of avenues at all levels, including:

International:

- 2017-2021 Governance Committee and Chair the last 2 years
- Selected by President Ricciardi to serve on the Bylaws Task Force in 2019
- Chapter Key Award Judge for 2 Bienniums
- Since 2016, I have been active member of the Charter Review Task Force, a sub-committee of the Sigma
- Governance Committee that reviews new chapter charters and chapter charter amendment applications
- Sigma grants and conference abstracts since 2013
- Previous delegate at biennial convention as well as being an electronic delegate
- Career Center mentor

Regional/Local:

- Since 2014, I have been a Planning Committee Member for the Tri-State Consortium (Region 12)
- Assist the Regional Coordinator with chapter excellence award reviews
- Beta Xi Chapter: I have served as faculty counselor and chair of the governance committee, as well as being a member of outreach and philanthropy committees, and now past-president
- Mentor for the Chapter's Leadership Intern Program

I aspire to help the organization meet the needs of its members who are a diverse global group of individuals whose careers span novice to expert to retiree. While embracing new ideas, I strive to maintain the mission, values, and rich history of Sigma.

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Monica Tenhunen DNP, RN, GNP-BC



Hello,
I am Dr. Monica Tenhunen
and I am running for a position
on the Sigma Governance
Committee for the 2021-2023
biennium. I am currently
an Associate Professor at Texas
A&M University-Commerce
and I am a certified

Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. At this point in
my nursing career, I feel that I have the time and
motivation to assist Sigma at the international
level.

At my current chapter, Iota Nu at-Large in Region
6, I am presently the Treasurer. Over my nursing
career, at Iota Nu at-Large and my previous
chapters, I have held positions as President, Vice
President, Counselor, Treasurer, Leadership
Succession Committee Chair and Governance
Committee Chair.

I was my university representative for the group
that joined with University of Texas-Tyler and East
Texas Baptist University, in developing our
at-large chapter.

Having experience in most of the positions at the
Chapter level, has given me a fantastic overall
view of Sigma's organizational structure and
challenges. My experience as Governance
Committee Chair for chapters along with being
a Counselor for my university, allows me to
understand the issues related to bylaws and to
member and chapter eligibility.

I am detail oriented and dedicated to Sigma as
my nursing organization of choice. I look forward
to serving on the Governance Committee.

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT TWO FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Leslie Gelling PhD, MA, BSc(Hons), PGCertHE, RN, FHEA, FRSA



It is a great privilege to have been selected as a candidate on the 2021 international ballot for a position on Sigma's Governance Committee. Whilst I might still have much to learn about Sigma, I would bring an enthusiasm and considerable commitment to this important position and to the work of this Committee.

I joined Sigma 10 years ago and was inducted as part of the Phi Mu Chapter's chartering ceremony at the US Embassy in London in July 2011. As someone committed to developing the practice of nursing and every nurse's potential to impact positively on people's lives, I was immediately struck by Sigma members' considerable enthusiasm for leading the professional in seeking to meet these same objectives through Sigma.

Sigma is unlike any other nursing organisation because of its focus on leadership in nursing locally, nationally and internationally.

Locally, I am Chair of the Phi Mu Chapter's Awards and Recognition Committee, I am a member of the Chapter's Communication Committee and I am a member of the Chapter's Board. Through these important positions I have demonstrated local leadership and helped to build the Phi Mu Chapter into a successful chapter with a vibrant membership. Most notably, the Awards and Recognition Committee has been successful in multiple nominations, including three Researcher Hall of Fame nominations over the past two years.

Nationally, I Chaired the Local Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee for the 2018 Sigma European Conference in Cambridge (UK), which attracted delegates from around the world and was a great scientific and social success.

My leadership of this event helped turn this conference into an important event on the conference calendar in Europe and around the world.

Internationally, I was delighted to have been invited to be a keynote speaker at Sigma's 30th International Nursing Research Conference in Calgary in 2019. This provided an exciting opportunity for me to share ideas around the ethical conduct of research wherever it is conducted around the globe. Attending the Conference also gave me an opportunity to network with members from around the world and this highlighted to me that nurses in different parts of the world and in very different cultures share many of the same ambitions and face many of the same challenges. It also became much clearer to me how Sigma can play an important role in providing leadership for nursing globally.

If elected to the Governance Committee, I would commit to serving Sigma's members to the best of my ability and would continue to support the growth of Sigma around the globe. I would bring knowledge and experience from outside North America but would also want to continue building on Sigma's amazing history. Sigma has achieved much since its formation but could achieve so much more in the future. I hope to be able to play my part in Sigma's future through the Governance Committee.

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT TWO FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Karen Gorton PhD, RN, FNP, MS



I am seeking election for a four-year term on the Governance Committee of Sigma. I have been a member of Sigma since 2002, and had the honor to serve Sigma at the chapter, regional and international levels. These service experiences have helped me gain insight into member experiences, chapter operations, strategic visioning and the need for Sigma to be representative for all members

If elected to the Governance Committee, I will strive to ensure that we monitor bylaws compliance, make appropriate recommendations for bylaws changes to meet the needs of chapters and to oversee issues of member and chapter eligibility. As Sigma continues to intentionally grow, we need to ensure that we are using best practices in our foundational documents for governance - the bylaws. Attention to detail and relatability are important skills for members of this committee. I believe that I have these skills and will seek to use them to provide quality outcomes. As a committee member, I will be open to different viewpoints, opinions and seek to learn via discourse with my colleagues. I will strive to be a collaborative and engaged member as we seek to provide the best opportunities for Sigma to continue for another 100 years.

In the past biennium, many changes have occurred globally, impacting our members in unforeseen ways. As an organization, Sigma has striven to make changes to meet the needs of our diverse membership. Presently, the majority of our members work in the clinical setting and Sigma has responded to this with many resources for nurses on the website and The Circle. When conditions change around the world in varying ways, it is imperative that our bylaws provide guidance, reflect our historical values and provide

the opportunity for change.

Sigma has been able to respond because our foundational document, the bylaws, has provided a framework for operations at both the chapter and international levels.

I believe it is imperative for the Governance Committee to continue providing members with a foundation which allows for nimble, judicious and forward thinking. For example, at the last biennial convention, it was approved to allow electronic voting for the House of Delegates. This change allows us to hold our current House of Delegates in a hybrid format - which addresses some of the current constraints of our delegates. As we continue to move forward as an organization, I want to support Sigma in continuing to integrate innovation, yet respect our history.

I have had additional nursing leadership experiences outside of Sigma, as a faculty member, academic administrator, team leader/staff nurse as well as experiences within the Athletic Training environment. I believe that all of these experiences have taught me to be a better listener, team member and leader. The Sigma Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy and the Leadership in Academic Nursing Program have bolstered my leadership strengths. I would welcome the opportunity to use my experience to serve the members of Sigma as a member of the Governance Committee.

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT TWO FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Jean Reinert MSN, RN, NE-BC



Thank you to the Leadership Succession Committee for the opportunity to be considered for a position on the Governance Committee of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma). I have been a nurse for more than 44 years, 24 of those serving on active duty in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve. Most of my career was caring for patients in medical-surgical areas. I spent nearly 10 years as a clinical and adjunct faculty member, including three years teaching Adult Health at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG). I also served as the Director of Education and Training for a large six-hospital system with more than 12,000 employees in the Triad area of North Carolina. Recently I have been providing COVID-19 vaccines and education for my local community. I was inducted into Sigma in 1989, in my MSN program at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. For years I have been actively involved in chapter level activities and governance. I served as Vice President, President-elect, President and Governance Committee Chair for Gamma Zeta Chapter, my current local chapter, affiliated with The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In these roles I have learned what makes a chapter successful. As President I was most proud of collaboration with two sister chapters, Rho Lambda at North Carolina A & T State University, and Mu Tau at Winston Salem State University. We held collaborative health screening events and soup kitchens for underserved community residents. GZ created an endowed scholarship for UNCG nursing students.

On the international level, I currently serve on the Chapter Review Task Force, where I review applications for potential chapters for Sigma. I serve as an abstract reviewer for biennium and other Sigma professional meetings. During the

last two biennial conventions I volunteered in the House of Delegates.

For the last 3 years I chaired the Governance Committee for Gamma Zeta Chapter. This role has given me a unique opportunity to carefully and thoroughly review both chapter and international bylaws. I realize how important the bylaws are in providing guidance to members and the chapter on how to best support the mission of Sigma. Based on my experience with local governance and with Sigma internationally, I believe I am well positioned to serve on the International Governance Committee. I know the issues faced by chapters and can bring my extensive chapter leadership experiences to this role.

I have the time to devote to the work of the Governance Committee. If elected, I would bring expertise, excitement for the work, ideas, and solutions to the committee to help positively impact policy change. With more than 25 years of leadership experience and an understanding of the Sigma bylaws I will serve Sigma and its members. I pledge to help with overseeing the bylaws, chapter development, and to address eligibility issues as needed. I am excited to be offered this opportunity.

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT TWO FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Tanya Smith PhD, RN, CNE



My name is Tanya Smith and I am running for the position of International Governance Committee member for the 4 year term. I have been a Sigma member for over twenty years. I have been active in my home chapter Nu Zeta for the last ten years. Most recently I have served on the Nu Zeta board as Leadership Succession member, Leadership Succession Chair, Vice-President/President Elect, and President. I am currently on my second year as President of the Nu Zeta board. During my time as a board member of Nu Zeta I have gained knowledge about the policies and procedures of Sigma including the chapter bylaws. I have participated in membership engagement and nurse leader member recruitment. One of the most significant contributions I have personally invested in is the Nu Zeta board member orientation. I strive to ensure each board member fully understands their role and what is expected as a board member. With the aid of the Sigma website and chapter management system, board members have access to many resources to help them reach their full potential. During my time as President elect and President, I strive to engage our board members to create meaningful ways to include our members in activities such as programming, community events, and recognition events. Because of the active involvement of our Nu Zeta board, this year we are able to submit a robust chapter key award application.

Professionally I am the assistant chair of the Department of Nursing at Fort Hays State University. With this role I oversee the Undergraduate programs in the Nursing Department. As a leader I guide approximately fifteen faculty\ with course delivery and student interactions. I also oversee the Undergraduate curriculum committee which ensures appropriate

nursing education standards are met. In addition to the assistant chair role, I teach nursing courses to both undergraduate and graduate students focusing on leadership and management concepts.

As a member of the International Governance Committee, I will serve Sigma as needed to maintain appropriate bylaws and other committee requirements as needed. I have a PhD in Nursing and have published several manuscripts. The written and editing skills gained by completing my PhD benefit my ability to critique written documents. As a Governance Committee member, I will be committed to Sigma both in time and philanthropy. I look forward to this opportunity to serve the nursing profession.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT FOUR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Tina Antill Keener PhD, MBA, MSN, RN, CPNP, CNE



My name is Tina Antill Keener, and I am a candidate for the Leadership Succession Committee. I live in the northeastern United States in the state of Pennsylvania. I earned a BSN and MBA from Waynesburg University, MSN with a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) focus from the University of Pittsburgh, and a PhD in Nursing from West Virginia University. I have worked as a pediatric staff nurse, primary care PNP, and assistant professor at Waynesburg University and am currently at West Virginia University. My program of research aims to enhance compassion through cultivating nurse resilience.

I have been an active member of Sigma since my induction in 1996. I have held leadership roles in two local chapters, serving as president, vice president, faculty counselor, and program coordinator. Through my years of chapter leadership, I have learned much and worked to address challenges chapters often encounter, including engaging and retaining members and sustaining activity during the pandemic. I have learned that a dedicated leadership team can come together and do great things to benefit their chapter, profession, and community. For example, our Alpha Rho leadership team shared a vision of recruiting new members, engaging existing members, and offering events that impact nursing practice, professional development, and our community. To actualize that vision, we established yearly 'Meet and Greet' receptions for eligible inductee candidates, provided several continuing education events, executed local research and student professionalism conferences, and developed a peer-to-peer mentoring program to build resiliency among students entering a baccalaureate nursing program. We organized food and clothing drives, benefiting university students and the local community.

Chapter leadership experience has taught me to lean into challenges and embrace times that I may feel unsure or uncomfortable—for example, taking this leap and having my name on the Sigma international ballot! If elected, I will encourage chapter leaders to pursue new opportunities, even those outside one's comfort zone. I will devote energy and time to identifying outstanding chapter leaders who may serve as future international leaders and thoughtfully and carefully select nominees for the biennial ballots.

The pandemic underscored the vital role of nurses in caring for patients and maintaining community health. Now more than ever, we need to nurture our vision and mission to develop nurse leaders to improve and transform healthcare. I am honored to be a candidate on the international ballot for the position of Leadership Succession Committee and will work diligently to advance the goals of Sigma.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT FOUR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Brigit Carter PhD, RN, CCRN



I joined Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON) in 2010 and currently serve as Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. From 2015-2018 I served as the Director of the DUSON Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program.

I earned my BSN at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in 1998, a Master of Science in Nursing Education from University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2002 and PhD in Nursing from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009. I teach evidenced based practice in both the Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Nursing Science Programs. I am an Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity and serves as a Senior Fellow Advisory Board member. I served 28 years in the United States Navy and retired in 2018. I have been a member of Sigma since my graduate from nursing school and continue to be an active leader of our Sigma chapter, Beta Epsilon, since 2006, first as a member at large and for the past four years as treasurer.

My passion for Sigma was ignited early when I was elected to serve as the honor society president and member of the team that developed a Sigma chapter during my undergraduate nursing degree program (Pi Sigma). During the development of the chapter we immediately had to begin thinking about leadership succession from the honor society to the chapter. Leadership succession is critical component enable the Sigma organization to thrive, which requires diligence to ensure that the Sigma ballots offer the membership the most highly qualified and committed candidates for each of the leadership roles. As an international organization we must be as diverse as our Sigma community and engage nominees who represent its stakeholders. I will work diligently to support equitable processes that will ensure a diverse and

qualified applicant pool and bring a solid commitment to identify candidates who are committed to the Sigma's mission, vision, and strategic plan. Whenever possible, I will provide my support to the chapters by identifying strategies for their own leadership succession. I will continue to mentor our undergraduate, graduate students and future Sigma members, so they understand and can clearly visualize the value of Sigma and service to the organization. This is a sincere honor to be considered for this committee and to be a part of supporting Sigma's future.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT FOUR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Viji George MA, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC



Training as a military nursing officer and experience in multinational healthcare organizations prepared me to lead in various leadership positions throughout my career for over twenty-five years. I have the passion, discipline, and organizational skills needed to

lead at the local and international level. My educational qualifications include a bachelor's degree in Nursing, a master's degree in Sociology, and am a student of Doctor of Nursing Practice to graduate in Summer 2022. Leadership assessment shows I am a transformational leader with high scores in communication, positivity, creativity, judgment, and emotional intelligence. I have led Magnet, evidence-based practice (EBP), shared governance, mentoring and staff engagement programs. I have shared my experience in publications and presentations at the national and international levels.

My work-related leadership experience includes Magnet Program Director, Clinical Excellence Program Manager, Clinical Instructor, Staff Development Administrator, and Military Nursing Officer. I am active at local, national, and international nursing professional organizations, including nurse executive organizations in the US and India. I have held leadership positions as Professional Development and Educational Committee chair, member of National Education Committee and chair for a regional educational conference. In the community, I strongly promote support to nursing students. Currently, I serve as Board of Directors in two community boards. My passion for sharing best practices and mentoring to develop leaders has led me to start an international collaborative initiative with Johns Hopkins University to start an international EBP academy. I have received many recognitions for my leadership skills such as DFW Great 100 Nurse and Nurse

Excellence in Leadership Award.

As a learner, I constantly seek challenging opportunities to grow. At Sigma, I am a chapter leader, professional development committee member and an elected member for the Leadership Succession Committee of Alpha Alpha Alpha Chapter. I represent Region 7 of Sigma and serve as a judge for Chapter Key Award. I recently completed Sigma's Global Leadership Mentoring Community mentoring program, providing an opportunity for me to learn firsthand from significant Sigma global leaders, including the presidents of Sigma.

Every nurse is a leader. I am a firm believer in Sigma's mission in developing nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere. My involvement in mentoring nurses to grow into leadership positions will serve me well for the role. My disciplined strategies will help me efficaciously serve as a member of Sigma's Leadership Succession Committee. Having a broader perspective due to my diverse background, I will be a voice for less-represented nurses. My collaborative expertise and global initiatives will help Sigma to reach un-explored countries like India. If elected, I will foster Sigma's vision to empower nurse leaders in transforming global healthcare.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT FOUR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Venessa Lee EdD/CL, MSN, BSN, RN



Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States, once said, "The supreme quality of leadership is unquestionably integrity." He believed that real success is impossible without the quality of integrity. A good leader will always be honest, dedicated, transparent,

and stick to their values and core beliefs; this, in turn, allows them the unique ability to recognize those same qualities and identify those who have the potential to be in leadership. Someone with experience, who is innovative, dependable, and who will be the eyes, ears, and voice to represent each and everyone of you, my name is Dr. Venessa Lee, and I am running for membership on the Leadership Succession Committee (LSC) of Sigma Nursing.

As a member of the Leadership Succession Committee, I would have the responsibility, alongside the other committee members, of developing members in leadership roles, selecting nominees, and preparing the biennial ballot for our organization. I am no stranger to leadership and working on a team. Having worked as a nurse for over forty-three years, most of my career has been in emergency medicine and academics. I started working with Sigma Nursing as a web developer for an honor society. This role required me to be creative and innovative, figuring out ways for us to facilitate online chapter meetings and inductions.

After working as a web developer, I had the pleasure of serving as the Governance Chair of Psi Upsilon Chapter; I was responsible for keeping the chapter's bylaws aligned with the national requirements. I later went on to serve as the treasurer for the Psi Upsilon Chapter for the past four years, submitting monthly and annual reports as required. I currently serve on the Region 3 awards committee.

As quoted by Doug Thorpe, "If serving is beneath you, then leadership is beyond you." My years of working on the board of directors for the Psi Upsilon Chapter have prepared me to serve on the Leadership Succession Committee. I am a proactive thinker with advanced logistical planning skills. I understand the role of the chapter's officers in our organization and have demonstrated my commitment, reliability, and ability to work with others on all levels. If elected, I plan to prepare our members for their newly elected positions and speak with other members seeking to aspire into a leadership role.

I desire to develop and find those leaders who are adaptable and operate with a high sense of integrity that will help advance the mission of our organization. I humbly ask that you cast your vote for me, Dr. Venessa Lee, as a member of the Leadership Succession Committee—2-year term.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT FOUR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Brenda Owusu DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC



It is a great privilege to be a candidate for the Leadership Succession Committee at Sigma International. I am a dedicated and conscientious team player who is passionate about serving in nursing roles. I have a history of leading others to successful outcomes in a professional

setting, and I believe I would be the ideal candidate to fill this role. I'm excited by all the challenges inherent in the position and look forward to the opportunities it presents. I bring a rich background with over 20 years of experience in the field of nursing, dual board-certified as an Adult & Family Nurse Practitioner with experience in administration, academia, palliative, long term, and acute care settings.

Currently, I am the Director of Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program and Assistant Professor of Clinical at the University of Miami School of Nursing & Health Studies. At the University I serve as chair of the Graduate Academic Standing and Admissions Committee. I earned my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Miami, my Master and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU). I also hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Leadership and Administration from National Louis University.

Over the course of my career, as an ardent proponent of educational inquiry and professional excellence, I have always made it a priority to encourage colleagues, staff, and students to strive for the highest ideals. I enjoy sharing my professional knowledge and expertise in the field of nursing with others, motivating them and providing the support needed for others to be successful and find gratification in the nursing profession.

Leadership has been a part of who I am for most of my life. I have previously served as Treasurer for two consecutive terms from 2015 - 2019 at the University of Miami Beta Tau Chapter. Currently, I serve as the Chair of the Leadership Succession Committee and the president elect. In both capacities, I have led by example and helped to plan and execute various activities, including fundraisers and obtaining the first- and second-Chapter Key Awards in the history of the Beta Tau Chapter.

In my position as Chair of the Leadership Succession Committee I was able to create the first Beta Tau Leadership Intern Program. This program has been implemented to promote mentoring of new members, to develop future chapter leaders, and to promote innovative chapter practices. If elected to the Leadership Succession Committee, I plan to work with the other Committee members to develop strategies to mentor and develop nursing leaders at the international level. Also develop tools and resources to assist chapter leaders to implement mentoring and internship program for future nurse leaders.

I appreciate the time you've invested in considering my application, I am sure that I would be an asset to the Leadership Succession Committee and would very much like the opportunity to demonstrate that to you.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT FOUR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Kathryn Trotter DNP, CNM, FNP, FAANP, FAAN



As a clinician educator, I am an Associate Professor at Duke University School of Nursing where I am the lead faculty for the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner major. I've been a nurse for over 35 years and practiced full scope midwifery for almost twenty years. I added certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner and earned my Doctorate in Nursing Practice degree in 2012. While teaching advanced women's health content within the nurse practitioner courses, I continue a 40% FTE active practice as an Advanced Practice Provider in the Duke Cancer Center. A senior NP for both the benign breast clinic as well as the high-risk breast cancer clinic, I am well respected for breast care from benign conditions to cancer survivor care with numerous publications in the field. My leadership experience ranges from clinical leadership in development and implementing group healthcare appointment model in local clinic sites, to providing national expertise and consultation in system redesign related to implementation of the Centering Healthcare Institute's group care model, including Kaiser Permanente and the U.S. Army. As a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, I serve on the Expert panel for Maternal Health, and provide program directorship at the highly ranked Duke University School of Nursing for our women's health NP major. Besides curriculum vision and budgetary work with this program, I have provided marketing and evaluation plans for growth and stability with high alumni satisfaction and desire to give back to the program via precepting. Within Sigma, I have been active in our chapter for 10 years; most recently as our Chapter President the last four years. We have almost 600 members and earned a Regional Excellence award the last two years! I attended Sigma's inaugural Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy in 2015 which offered both validation of my current leadership

skills, and added depth to leadership styles, goal setting and professional representation. I am a team player, with a facilitator leadership style, but not afraid to make a decision with careful consideration. Moving into the Leadership Succession Committee role, I hope to become an active team committee member with focus on networking and sharing my passion to encourage and mentor up and coming nurse leaders. This should be a continual process, and not simply a few months prior to an election. Whether in simple hallway conversations, or meetings and scholarly work, or service activities, letting nurse members know their talents and contributions are important to build a diverse set of leaders is vital. Mentoring and supporting them is key, as well as providing education on our organizational leadership roles. Further, in support of Sigma's mission and values, diversity in nominations for leadership board and non-board members should provide a range of nursing background and experience and viewpoints to keep our organization fresh, vibrant, and representative. Please see my short video!

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT FOUR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM)



Kimberly Velez MSN, RN



Sigma Theta Tau International's vision and mission statements paint a clear picture that nurses are instrumental in shaping the future of healthcare. The organization is constantly promoting future nurse leaders' empowerment and preparation with expertise to succeed on a global scale. Since joining in 2012 as a Nurse Leader, Sigma's continued inspiration is why I, Kimberly Velez, MSN, RN, am honored to run for a seat on the Leadership Succession Committee. Currently holding active memberships in three chapters, including Vice President of Alpha Omega Chapter, showcases my commitment to Sigma and to continue reshaping nursing on a global platform.

As a Senior Clinical Informatics Nurse for 11 years, the position combines two passions of mine, education and technology. My nursing background spans 20+ years featuring management, Emergency Room, PACU, and the Float pool in public and private institutions across diverse, culturally underserved populations. To quickly summarize my education, it started with an RN degree from the College of Staten Island followed by a BSN from SUNY Downstate, MSN in Nurse Executive from Long Island University, Post-Graduate Certificate in Informatics from the University of Phoenix, and currently am enrolled in a Nurse Educator Post-Graduate Certificate program, to pave the way to academia.

Fourteen years as an Auxiliary member of the New York State Board for Nursing demonstrated how to drive change within nursing organizations and was a springboard to other opportunities. In addition to Vice-President, I serve on the Board of Directors of ANA-NY, Treasurer and Immediate Past-President for the Nurses Association of the Counties of Long Island (NACLI), Treasurer of the ANIA Tri-State Chapter, and active membership in the Omicron

Delta and Psi Tau chapters of Sigma at the University of Phoenix and SUNY Downstate Medical Center, respectively.

These leadership roles at national, state, and local nursing association levels, as well as committee collaborating efforts on Nominating, Bylaws, Nursing Practice, and Ethics, to name a few, add to my level of prowess in this space and demonstrate both a willingness to volunteer and desire to transform the nursing community by seeking qualified candidates for a diverse ballot.

Some of my accomplishments across these various roles include supporting hearings in the New York State Board to ensure public safety and maintain the nursing professions' integrity with fairness to Registered Nurses and recognized for a GAPFON award in the last Sigma Biennial Convention as a result of collaboration on the Culture of Care committee within the Alpha Omega Chapter.

This educational underpinning, coupled with professional experiences, built a foundation for leadership and management interactions across my nursing career. The different points of view shaped the lens through which I practice nursing, all while infusing joy, a concept synonymous with Sigma.

I will end with my motto - "Strive to be better tomorrow than you are today," which displays my goal to encourage nurses to strive for greatness within Sigma and rise to the challenge of an elected position. Would you please cast your vote for Kimberly Velez, MSN, RN, for Leadership Succession Committee?

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Robie Hughes DSN, MA, RN, CENP, FAAN



I have served in various clinical, administrative and educational leadership positions during the last 35 years. My clinical background is as a psychiatric advanced practice nurse certified as a substance abuse counselor and an adult psychiatric clinical nurse

specialist. I have served in front line manager roles in psychiatric and family practice clinics. I have served in administrative upper management roles as director of education and staff development at a hospital, director of nurse research at a medical center, nurse executive for three medical locations, and chief executive officer of a medical treatment facility. I was honored to serve as a dean for a healthcare science college. In addition, I have demonstrated leadership in response to natural disasters overseas and provided international clinical and theory based educational seminars. I have moved 19 times and had opportunities to experience multiple organizations and cultural settings. I believe leadership is all about helping others become successful. There are many generous leaders who have invested in me. I want to pay it forward by using all of my experiences and resources to help other nurse leaders achieve their vision and potential.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Karen Maxwell EdD, RN, NPD-BC



My name is Dr. Karen Maxwell, and I am running for the Leadership Succession Committee. I have been a nursing leader for 44 years serving in various staff nurse, clinical education and academic roles. I graduated from Georgia Baptist School of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia with my Diploma in Nursing in 1977. I later completed my BSN from Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa in 2000, my MSN with a focus in nursing education, from Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia in 2004, and my EdD in Instructional Leadership from the The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 2014. I also hold a certification in Nursing Professional Development from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In my current position I serve as an Education Coordinator for Emory Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia. My research interests include transition to practice for new graduate nurses, and quality and safety education for nurses.

I am currently serving as the Sigma North America Region 3 Coordinator and am a member of Sigma's Alpha Kappa at-Large Chapter where I have served as the treasurer and chair of the governance committee. In my previous Sigma chapter, Pi Gamma, I served as treasurer for 6 years, Vice President for 2 years, President-elect for 1 year and President for 2 years. I have consistently served in a leadership position since my induction into Sigma in 2004 demonstrating my passion and commitment to Sigma.

I was awarded the Doris J. Biester Award for Excellence in Leadership in December, 2020 for Sigma's Alpha Kappa at-Large Chapter. I was honored to have completed Sigma's Experienced Academic Leadership Academy in March of 2021. During this academy I was awarded a \$5000.00 Scholarly Innovation in Learning and Teaching

Grant from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. The grant money was utilized to establish an interdisciplinary HeartCode Room in the Ruckert Hartman College of Health Professions at Regis University.

I have 3 children, who I consider to be my greatest accomplishment in life, 3 grandchildren, and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, named Patches. I love to play tennis, snow ski, hike, spend time at the beach and I have a passion for travel and exploring new places.

I bring a wealth of experience from my service to both my local chapters and the Sigma Board as the North America Region 3 Coordinator. If elected to the Leadership Succession Committee I will work to develop members in their leadership roles and help with the selection of candidates for the new board for the upcoming biennial ballots.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Colleen Maykut DNP, RN



As a nurse for over 30 years, my choices around engaging in service reflect my beliefs and values on power, privilege, and relationship. Being in community, through the act of service, helps us to transition from an egocentric perspective to embracing an ideology that

everyone's voice and contribution provide a balanced and just world. I have been intentional with how I have chosen to utilize my strengths and sought out learning opportunities for self-improvement to become a just planetary citizen.

I was inducted into Sigma's Alpha Mu Chapter at Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, Ohio) in 2007. I initiated an honour society and was instrumental in the process of chartering Chi Nu in 2015 (Chapter 515 - MacEwan University; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada). I was the founding President 2010-2016, Past President 2016-2018, and finally Director of Research and Scholarships 2018-2020 for Chi Nu. I have also been involved in Sigma/Chamberlain University Center for Excellence in Nursing Education (CENE) Advisory Board since 2018. Serving on this committee offers the opportunity to influence the creation, delivery, and evaluation of key educational programming for Sigma members.

I have been an active member of the International Association for Human Caring since 2005, currently holding the office of the Recording Secretary/Treasurer. I am the Vice-President of the Canadian Caring Consortium whose mission is to foster the health and well-being of Canadians. I have been involved in fund-raising for two non-profit organizations, and currently am a Board Director for a domestic violence shelter.

All of these positions are in organizations that include both operational and governance

expectations. I have been involved in a variety of projects and committee work, which I strongly believe have made a difference for these organizations and those they serve. My involvement has increased my awareness of the need for health care reform from a local to a global level. As a result of these positions, my abilities to mitigate and navigate change and chaos have been reinforced.

My leadership acumen and committee involvement reflect the integration of cultural humility, ethical judgment, flexibility, accountability, and responsibility to ensure my actions have congruence with the mission, values, and strategic plan of Sigma. As a member of this global organization, I am cognizant of the importance of challenging ideas of privilege. This action influences those who have power and voice, to engage in liberation, to address structural inequities for all members in which to advance the profession of nursing.

I'm asking you to endorse me as a candidate for the Succession Committee. I would be honoured to be your voice for Sigma.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Tamar Rodney PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, CNE



I am an Assistant Professor and the Track Coordinator for the post-graduate psychiatric mental health certificate program at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. I maintain a clinical practice as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner in Baltimore City, serving

families recovering from substance use. My research focus is to improve mental health care for individuals with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) by advancing knowledge of how physical injury affects their mental health, with a primary focus on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

I consider it a privilege to serve my fellow nurses and have always appreciated the opportunity to be trusted with a leadership position. I have served at the local, national and international level. I currently serve as the Leadership Succession Chair at the Johns Hopkins University Nu Beta Chapter and have held this position for the past 3 years. I am proud to be an active member that assisted in the process of them becoming an at-large chapter of Sigma, and along the way increased chapter engagement, membership, and retention by working with our six Johns Hopkins affiliated hospitals.

I have also served as the Executive Director of the International Network for Doctoral Education in Nursing (INDEN). This was an amazing opportunity to serve and meet fellow nurses and nursing students across the globe. In this role I also had the opportunity to organize three international conferences supported by Sigma as preconference to their annual research congress.

It would be an honor to be elected as a Leadership Succession Committee member. I am confident it is a role I would thrive in. I bring to the position excellent organization skills, the ability to connect and

coordinate with my fellow nurses, and the dedication to the profession of nursing. I look forward to serving my fellow nurses, working with the exceptional Sigma members and committees and contribute in the process of advancing the nursing profession.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



William Rosa PhD, MBE, MP-BC, FAANP, FAAN



A proud member of Sigma's Upsilon Chapter, I currently serve as the Chief Research Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Center, New York. My streams of research focus on various aspects of cancer pain and palliative care disparities for minoritized groups. I spent one year with the Human Resources for Health Program in Rwanda, East Africa, contributing to the curriculum content for the first Masters-prepared nursing cohort in the country and continue global health efforts with internationally based colleagues focused on advancing universal palliative care access and health equity. In 2016, I completed the MSK interprofessional hospice and palliative medicine clinical fellowship and am a board-certified palliative care nurse practitioner. I am the editor/co-editor of four books, have contributed more than 150 publications in diverse forums, and have given over 100 keynotes, lectures, and conference presentations on palliative care and health equity since 2014. In partnership with an esteemed global steering committee, I recently served as lead researcher for the 2021 World Innovation Summit for Health policy report, Nurses for Health Equity: Guidelines for Tackling the Social Determinants of Health, which has been endorsed by Sigma, the International Council of Nurses, and the World Health Organization, among others. In 2017, I received Sigma's Daniel J. Pesut Spirit of Renewal International Award for Nursing Excellence. I have also been recognized with the national Public Health Service Award for Distinguished Practice in Nursing from the American Nurses Association, the national Lillian Wald Humanitarian Award from the National League for Nursing, and was recently named to Crain's New York Business 2021 Most Notable in Health Care list. I proudly serve as an

editorial board member for the American Journal of Nursing, Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing, and Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, and as a board/committee member for multiple global health and palliative care organizations, including as Vice-Chair for the American Academy of Nursing Global Nursing and Health Expert Panel. I am an International Council of Nurses Global Nursing Leadership Institute Scholar Alumnus, an American Psychosocial Oncology Society Health Equity Scholar, and the International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care U.S.A. Advocacy Focal Point. In addition, I am a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American College of Critical Care Medicine, and the New York Academy of Medicine. It would be my sincere privilege to serve on Sigma's Leadership Succession Committee (LSC). My career trajectory has been clearly aligned with the values of Sigma and my ethical commitment to integrity, transparency, and fostering respectful, mutually beneficial, and sustained interpersonal partnerships all position me well to provide competent service to the organization in this role. I am eager to leverage my global networks and work closely with other members of the LSC, Board, and Sigma membership to identify accomplished and driven candidates for leadership in Sigma. I seek to ensure that our nominees represent the diversity and strength of Sigma nurses from across our regions.

CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE (ELECT THREE FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Briana Snyder PhD, RN, PMH-BC, CNE



I was inducted into the Rho Epsilon Chapter of Sigma in 2009 during my baccalaureate nursing program at Stevenson University in Maryland, USA. I quickly recognized the importance of Sigma's work, and I knew immediately that this was an organization in which I would be

engaged for years to come. Soon after graduating, I joined the Governance Committee and became the chairperson of that committee. I also served as treasurer, president-elect, and ultimately, president of the chapter. In addition to learning valuable leadership skills in each position, I was able to assist with planning and implementing multiple activities and events for the chapter, ranging from securing presenters for fundraising dinners to staffing the medical tent at a local pancreatic cancer 5K fundraiser. I joined the Iota Epsilon Chapter of Sigma after being hired as an assistant professor of nursing at Towson University in Maryland, USA in 2016, and I immediately signed on as a chapter leader to continue my engagement with Sigma and Region 12. In Iota Epsilon, I have served as the Leadership Succession Committee chairperson and the chapter secretary, which has expanded my leadership experiences and further strengthened my commitment to lifelong engagement with Sigma. I have presented, volunteered, and voted at multiple biennial conventions and conferences offered by Sigma, and I have had my personal leadership journey featured in Sigma's *Reflections on Nursing Leadership*. I worked on a leadership project with Sigma staff as a Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar in my doctoral program. With each new endeavor, I learn something new, and I am reminded of how valuable Sigma's work is to the nursing profession globally.

If elected to the LSC, I will continue to work tirelessly to promote excellence in nursing scholarship with nurses of all backgrounds and

educational preparations. As a psychiatric-mental health nurse, I have always been a staunch advocate for vulnerable and marginalized populations, and I strive to be cognizant of whose voice is missing from the discussion and whose perspective is not being considered. I will make every effort to ensure that the LSC ballots reflect the wonderfully diverse and gifted membership of this organization. I am passionate about leadership development for nurses, and I have published on this topic with my colleagues in the Emerging Scholars Network of the Midwest Nursing Research Society. Early in my career, I never considered myself a nurse leader, and I am extremely grateful to my mentors who showed me, and continue to show me, otherwise. I endeavor to be the kind of leadership mentor for others that my own mentors have been for me. Sigma's mission has become even more crucial in the current global climate, as it is more apparent than ever how desperately nurse leaders are needed worldwide. My goal as an LSC member is to recruit, retain, and develop the many talented nurses who make Sigma such a dynamic and prominent organization and who transform healthcare globally.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL CHAPTERS COORDINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR (ELECT ONE)



Shena Gazaway PhD, RN



Hello fellow Sigma chapter leaders and members, thank you for taking the time to read my candidate statement for Regional Coordinating Committee Chair. Serving as the Regional Coordinator for North American Region 7 (GA, SC, FL, PR), I have appreciated assisting chapter leaders as they navigate changing times with multiple responsibilities while still creating engaging experiences for their members and communities. In this role and my past roles as a chapter leader (Past President, Vice President, and Leadership Succession Committee Chair), I uniquely understand how challenging it is to recruit and retain members within our Sigma chapters when leaders are limited on time, resources, and support. Witnessing this and appreciating how lost one can feel transitioning into a leadership role is why I am seeking to be the Chair of the Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee.

In my own experience as a Regional Coordinator, I acknowledge the difference in how I serve when I feel connected to a committed group of individuals who are there to support me with questions or concerns. Through my term as a Regional Coordinator, many of my fellow Regional Coordinators and I have remained close, reaching out, connecting, chatting, and supporting each other as we have sought to discover new ways to support the leaders in our Regions. I want to see a Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee structure that supports each other, and thereby individual Regional Coordinators are better equipped to assist the chapter leaders in their region. Ultimately, Sigma leaders need a Regional Coordinating Committee that is poised to encourage chapter leaders at any level to positively enhance the leader's personal Sigma experience as well as the chapter members they serve.

I know that some will read this and have no clue what a Regional Coordinator is and may not know the name of your coordinator. My goal is to change that experience by enhancing the visibility and connectivity of the Regional Coordinators with the leaders they volunteer to serve and increase the connectivity of the Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee to each other. Through thoughtful media pushes, I hope you will know who your coordinator is before the end of the 2021 year, maybe not because you have spoken to them, but because you have seen something with their face and name attached to it. Then, along with the wonderful returning Regional Coordinators and dedicated Sigma staff, I will help mentor and coach our newest Regional Coordinators through their first year of service. I know in my heart that the role of the Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee is vital to the chapter leader and, ultimately, the Sigma members' experience. Therefore, if selected, I am dedicated to creating a structure to support and highlight these Regional Coordinators so that Sigma leaders know who they can reach for encouragement and ideas as you, the leader, strive to create an experience that your members value. Thank you for your time, your service to Sigma, and enjoy your conference!

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL CHAPTERS COORDINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR (ELECT ONE)



Carole Liske PhD, MS, RN



Thank you for the privilege to serve as Regional Chapter Coordinating Committee Chair (RCCCC). I treasure my longstanding Sigma service and opportunity to lead as Chapter President of 3 chapters, Chair of Regional Committees, and Chair of several Advisory Task Forces.

I am honored by your confidence to run again for RCCCC. When COVID-19 impacted our organization, chapters, members, students, and communities I reflected on our Sigma values - love, honor courage - and collaborated with Sigma staff to reframe the RC Committee's goals and strategic actions. I would like to share some of the accomplishments of the RCCCC during my tenure as Chair and my goals if elected for a second term.

2019-2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DATA:

- Facilitated development of a “data warehouse” to regions timely access to actionable data
- Analyzed chapter growth, new chapter charters, inductions, and award applications - to identify opportunities for RCs to provide targeted support

RCCC OPERATIONS:

- Redeveloped RC Orientation to accelerate training and access to resource documents after election allowing RCs to perform immediately in their roles

CHAPTER KEY AWARD:

- Achieved a 20.2% increase in award applications (125 > 104) from 2017-2019
- Modified award requirements and added a “bonus” section to recognize the innovative work of chapters during a global pandemic
- Updated 2021-23 award criteria to align with the organization’s strategic plan and enhance chapter and member success

COMMUNICATION:

- Increased consistent use of the Circle Regional Workgroups and piloted a Member-wide European Regional Workgroup
- Eliminated duplicative chapter communications

by implementing communication discussions between RCCC and staff to streamline release

- Implemented creative use of virtual platforms and collaborated with development of RC/chapters resources

2021-2023 GOALS

DATA

- Formally launch Chapter and Regional Dashboards by Q1 2023 to allow leaders to access, interpret, and leverage data to meet operational goals

- Create communication, education, and evaluation plans to accompany launch of the dashboards

RCCC OPERATIONS:

- Implement accelerated onboarding of RCs within the first 3 months with a hybrid model (web-based and in-person)

CHAPTER KEY AWARD:

- Increase number of award applications by 20% during the biennium
- Hardwire the new award criteria through a deliberate education and communication plan

COMMUNICATION:

- Establish an RCCC Communication Task Force by Q3 2022 to develop a collaborative Chapter Leader Communication Plan with Chapter Specialists that minimizes redundancy and maximizes reinforcement

Over the last 2 years, I have grown my understanding of the complexities of the RCCC Chair role. I will continue to serve as an influencer and effective advocate for chapters while also honoring the strategic role as a Board member. I will support the operational role of Sigma staff and strengthen their relationship with the newly elected RCs. I will continue to work tirelessly to support and coordinate the actions of the RCs as they become experts in the nuanced needs of the chapters in their Regions. I look forward to continuing to serve our chapters and RCs as Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee Chair and thank you for your vote.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR AFRICA (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Agatha Kapatuka Bula PhD, MPH, RNM



My name is Agatha Kapatuka Bula. I am a Director of Nursing at UNC Project Malawi and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at UNC School of Nursing in Chapel Hill. I am a qualified Malawian Nurse Midwife with a PhD in Midwifery obtained in 2015 at City University, London. I also hold a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) from Sheffield University, UK and MPH in Advanced Public Health methods from University of Copenhagen, Denmark. I have over 15 years of experience conducting research on HIV, sexual and reproductive health, and public health in developing countries. I have over 15 years of experience in conducting research on HIV, sexual and reproductive health, and public health in developing countries. I have a consulting background in healthcare and have previously been involved in research proposal writing with researchers at City, University London and Kamuzu College of Nursing.

My work as the Director of Nursing involves overseeing all nursing activities including nurse led research and collaborations with other stakeholders. My work also involves hiring qualified nursing staff and ensuring that the nursing personnel deliver excellent care to study participants and general patients. I am also involved in coordination of study activities for a prospective cohort evaluating the pregnancy rates and pharmacokinetic interactions among HIV-infected Malawian women on “Efavirenz initiating the Levonorgestrel Implant or the Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate Injectable”. I have experience coordinating qualitative studies at UNC Project-Malawi. As part of Collaboration with the Malawi Ministry of Health, I am the Co-Investigator of the 2019-2020 Malawi Biological Behavioral Survey with Action AID and Malawi National AIDS Commission. Previously, I worked as

a Co-Principal Investigator for the Mapping exercise for key populations under LINKAGES program.

As a current adjunct faculty, I serve as a guest lecturer annually to UNC-CH nursing students across nursing programs and my first visit as a guest Lecture was in June 2019 where I cofacilitated a lecture on Global cancer with Dr Ashley Leak Bryant, Assistant Professor at the UNC School of Nursing. Jointly with the faculty members from the UNC School of Nursing, we have managed to secure funding for two proposals both focusing on Oncology nursing in Malawi. As part of partnership, I mentor undergraduate and postgraduate students in Malawi as well as in the United Kingdom. I intend to continue mentoring and co-mentoring students with an interest in global health, women's health, and nursing research at UNC-CH School of Nursing and Kamuzu College of Nursing in Malawi.

If successful for this position, I am intending to use my skills to mentor nurses not only in Malawi but across Africa. My wish is also to promote networking among nurses globally so that we can do collaborative research and share nursing related evidence that would help to improve nursing and Midwifery care within our countries.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR ASIA (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Kwua-Yun Wang PhD, FAAN



I am a nurse leader in multiple roles such as Director of Nursing Department, Dean of School of Nursing, Superintendent and Director in long-term care institutions, President and Vice President in nursing associations, researcher, journal editor, and advocate for nursing. In my whole life as a nurse over 40 years, I have done my best to improve the quality and safety of patient care, particularly in helping collaboration between professional organizations and with government. This is why I choose to apply for Asia Regional Coordinator. Followings are some of past experiences.

My leaderships are very comprehensive from academia, nursing practice, acute care, long-term care to quality control and research innovation. Taking an example when taking the job of nursing director at Taipei Veterans General Hospital, I led hospital nursing staff to complete several outstanding projects including “A Creative Idea for Comfortable Hospice Home Care”, which earned a national Biotechnology and Medical Care Quality Award and the Certificate of Symbol of National Quality. In terms of national nursing policy reform, I significantly expanded the hospital’s nursing information system streamlining paperwork and shift handover requirements.

In terms of my experiences in Lambda Beta at-Large Chapter in Taiwan, I had been elected the Board Member and Editor of Editorial Board since 1999. Currently, I am still enthusiastically involved in the organizational operation and management as a Board Member working to ensure the Chapter’s sustainability and visibility nationally and internationally. Furthermore, I have been very devoted to supporting the development of the organization as to fulfill the vision to improve health of people worldwide by increasing the

scientific-based nursing practice.

As Chairperson of Compiling Committee and Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Nursing Research (JNR)* at Taiwan Nurses Association (TWNA), I worked with the committee members to initiate the JNR to be indexed in SSCI and SSCIE, which was finally successful in 2012. The *JNR* was the first SCI-included nursing journal in Taiwan and in Chinese-speaking world as well. When acting as TWNA President, I worked with the government and other nursing organizations to ensure an adequate supply of well-prepared nurses. Examples include position statements on “Nursing Education Reform” and “Opposition to Vocational-Technical Schools Establishing Joint Nursing and Midwifery Curricula”. As a result of the advocacy and collaboration, the government had improved nurses’ salaries and welfare and had included nurse-patient ratio in the formula of health insurance payments. Other achievements include the establishment of Center for Excellence, APN Committee, ICN Leadership for Chang Program and actively led TWNA to launch task-oriented and policy-based nursing projects.

In conclusion, I sincerely solicit your generous support. No one is natural born as a leader. Let’s fulfill our responsibilities and make profession sustainability.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR ASIA (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Janet Wong PhD, RN, MN, FHKCHSE, FCHSM



It is a great privilege to be the candidate for Asia Regional Coordinator again this year.

Sigma's vision is to be a global organization for developing nursing leaderships in education, research, practice, and policy. My interest in putting myself forward for the position because of my passion to serve in Asia Region. Also, my experience in the past 2 years provided me a strong background in understanding the needs and strengths of each chapter in Asia Region and taught me to courageously step forward and strategically develop and connect chapters.

Since 2013, I have been fortunate to engage with Sigma in different ways as community leader in my Pi Iota Chapter, Counselor of Pi Iota at-Large Chapter, volunteer of steering committee, and Asia Regional Coordinator. I involved in expanding my Pi Iota Chapter to be an at-large chapter in 2020/2021. My publicity skills on social media also helped in making Asia Region more visible globally. The passion to serve in Sigma is not unique to me; however, I believe my prior experiences have uniquely prepared me to be the Sigma's next Asia Regional Coordinator.

Committed to service to the nursing profession, I stepped up early in my career for leadership roles. As a nurse researcher, I led my research team in promoting women's health and health equity via empowerment on attaining their health literacy in health promotion projects, for examples, safe sex practice and sexual abuse prevention in female college students, HPV vaccination promotion in secondary school students, and reduction of alcohol drinking in at-risk populations by using gamification and instant-messaging.

I also demonstrated leadership in nursing education in School of Nursing, the University of Hong Kong. I am currently the Associate Professor and Chair of Teaching & Learning and provides leadership for 3 postgraduate programmes. I led the teaching team to use technology in nursing education including virtual reality based education in enhancing students' empathy for psychiatric patients, using a robot to train up health assessment and questioning skills during patient admission and using high fidelity simulation for enhancing students' clinical competency, situation awareness and problem solving skills with the funding supported from seven UGC Teaching Development Grants. In 2021, my teaching team has received the Teaching Innovation Award under the teaching excellence scheme by my University.

Healthcare is changing rapidly and the ability for nurses to be innovative, exchange knowledge and experience is the key. Sigma provides a platform for facilitating global dialogue and sharing across clinical and academia settings. As the Asia Regional Coordinator in the next term, I aim to continue with my meaningful work, encourage more nurses in joining us and enhance the support we provide to our presidents and members in Asia region globally.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR EUROPE (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Liz Westcott DCM, MSC, RGN



I would be honoured to be considered for the leadership position of the Europe Region and to lead the 11 chapters as Regional Coordinator. I have been a nurse for 43 years and I am a highly motivated, organised and compassionate leader. My career has been spent empowering, supporting, leading and coaching nurses and midwives. I am a passionate advocate of the global nature of nursing and the pivotal role that nursing is having in the context of global health.

My leadership and experience within Phi Mu and Europe gives me insight into the needs of members based outside USA and I would bring this knowledge and skill to this leadership role in Sigma. I have been part of the working group to redraft our European Strategy and I also led a working group of European chapters to look at how we can increase our membership from nurses in Europe.

I led the Phi Mu Chapter's successful submission and awarding of our first Chapter Key Award in 2019. This award represents the epitome of a Chapter's achievements within Sigma and is a full demonstration of Sigma's vision and mission. I would be keen to support other European chapters to achieve their first Chapter Key Awards in 2023.

It is an honour to serve in Sigma and I have been fortunate to hold a number of leadership positions since I joined Sigma 7 years ago. I have been privileged to be President and secretary of the Phi Mu Chapter in England since July 2019. Prior to this I was Vice President and Midlands Hub Lead for 2 years. Within Phi Mu Chapter I Chaired the Awards and Recognition Committee for 3 years and I am a member of our Finance and Membership Involvement Committee.

I have led the organisation of the annual conferences for the Phi Mu Chapter in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Within Europe I was a member of the Europe Communications Committee for 18 months. I have been on the planning Committee for the 2018, 2020 and the next 2022 Sigma Europe Region Conferences. The 2018 event was hosted by the Phi Mu Chapter and the 2020 event was the first ever fully virtual Sigma conference and was very well evaluated. I have been a member of the Europe Regional Council for 2 years and a member of the Sigma Europe Regional Committee for 3 years.

Globally I have been a member of the Sigma Marketplace Committee for 3 years and helped to redraft the Vision and Mission of the Sigma Marketplace to align closely to the main Sigma Vision and Mission. I am currently secretary of this Committee. I am a mentor in the Global Leadership Mentoring Community and have a fabulous mentee who is a joy to work with.

Membership of Sigma in Europe is growing daily, and it would be a privilege to serve the European chapters as their Regional Coordinator, further develop Sigma in Europe and to follow in the footsteps of Joy and Marie-Louise and their fantastic leadership.

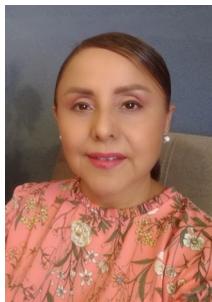
CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Lidia Guadalupe Compeán Ortiz PhD



My name is Lidia Compean. I graduated from Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas in Tampico Mexico with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1992, and from two master's degrees in the same university. One of them was in Teaching in High Education in 1996 and the other one was in Academic Communication in 1999. I got a master's degree in science of Nursing focuses on Community Health in 2004 and a Doctoral Degree in Sciences of Nursing in 2006 both in the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey México. As part of the doctoral program, I did a Research Stay in the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor USA for one semester, I met students from Korea, Japan, China, and Taiwan.

I was invited to be part of Sigma's Tau Alpha Chapter in 2004 in Mexico, since then I have participated in many ways. I served on the local Mexican leadership committee for two years, I participated as Chapter Delegate in 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland, I have served Sigma as congress reviewer since 2010, and as presenter and moderator in some research congresses in Vancouver in 2009, Indianapolis 2017 and Calgary 2019. I got a scholarship from 2015 to 2017 in the Public Health Leadership and Implementation Academy for NCDs "PH-LEADER PROGRAM" from the University of Emory Rollin School of Public Health and the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública from Mexico (INSP). I connected this experience with my research, clinical practice, and administrative activities, and in 2015, I participated and got a Sigma Grant for a Binational Research Project which helped Mexican people with diabetes and their families (collaboration with UNC Chapel Hill).

I have done networks with Health professionals from places like Nuevo Leon, Puebla, Tamaulipas,

Chiapas, Baja California Norte, Cuernavaca, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosí, Veracruz, Tabasco, Coahuila, Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Ecuador, Perú, Guatemala, USA, India. Right now, I am a professor in the Universidad Autónoma of Tamaulipas, my main activities are in teaching, research, evaluation, and mentoring. I am in contact with clinical, administrative, teaching and research nurses and students who every day faces challenges in improving Health care of people.

If I am elected to the position of Regional Coordinator for Latin American and Caribbean Region, I would like to provide leadership that maintains networks for communication, be the voice of the region for its development, support individual chapters according to regional needs and circumstances, work collaboratively with Sigma headquarters staff, but at the same time I would like to empower the chapters for promoting our own physical and emotional well-being that help us to be in balance for improving awareness that we need to do our job. With this pandemic I do realize the importance to be ok for helping others, as nurses we enjoy our job, but we have a lot of stress that sometimes, we forgot our own health, we need to co-create better circumstances to achieve success in every personal and professional goal.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Sonia Patricia Carreño Moreno PhD, MSN, RN



My name is Sonia Carreño, I am a nurse with both a master's and doctorate degree in Nursing. I worked as a chronic care nurse for 12 years, and I've worked as an associate professor to the nursing faculty at Universidad Nacional de Colombia for 7 years, teaching advanced

chronic care classes at a master's and doctorate level. I am a leader nurse in Colombia, where I have developed this role mentoring students that are part of the research hotbed in the nursing care for the chronic patient, also, with the program Caring for the Caregivers®, in which, we support informal caregivers of people with chronic conditions. Furthermore, I lead the Colombia node of the Latin America Network for Chronic Patient and Family Care, being this a research network with more than 25 nodes in Latinamerica. As a researcher, I've published 72 articles in both national and international indexed magazines, I have also been awarded 3 grants in Colombia and I have 7 open research projects. I have obtained the qualification of a senior researcher in the Colombian science and technology system, which is the highest in its category.

My leadership experience in Sigma began with my induction in 2013, since that moment I started to join the activities and goals of the Upsilon Nu Chapter in Colombia, initially as a volunteer, then as a secretary. I have served in this role for the past 4 years, where I have developed mentorship activities with the new members, furthermore, philanthropic activities with the families of children with cancer and nursing students in rural zones of Colombia. I have also participated in the education of over 2300 nurses throughout Colombia. My main leadership achievement in Sigma has been the mentorship and motivating members. I always seek to develop meaningful activities that promote the desire in members to make their leadership visible

and work to be connected and empowered, for this reason, in the Upsilon Nu Chapter they recognize me as a happy and motivating person. I have been linked to the activities in the Latin American and Caribbean Region for the past 6 years, in which I have enthusiastically participated in the activities that have been developed.

If I was selected coordinator of the Latin American/ Caribbean Region I would like to continue the work my antecessors have done, which is, working for the leadership consolidation in the region, the visibility of the excellence in nursing, and the connection that would lead us to strengthen networking. The Latin American populations' health has suffered because of the covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic exacerbated and made visible the work overload and lack of pay for our nurses. My goal as coordinator would be to motivate nurses who are already fatigued with the pandemic to consolidate networking and co-creation with the chapters of the region, based on the awareness of our competencies and with the balance and purpose that the community opens for our mind to creativity and joy.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

MIDDLE EAST (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Yasmin Parpio MSc Epidemiology & Biostatistics, BSc Nursing



Hello Sigma Family!

I am Yasmin Nadeem Parpio, It is a great privilege to be a candidate for the position of Regional Coordinator Middle East Region of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma).

confident that I will work diligently for the nominated position. The passion to serve Sigma is not unique to me; however, I believe my diverse experience have prepared me enough to take on the role of Regional Coordinator, Middle East Region.

I am currently working as nurse educator at Aga Khan University at school of nursing and midwifery, Karachi Pakistan.

I have been associated with Sigma for around 2 decades. I have been an active member of Rho Delta Chapter for last 20 years and have rendered my services on different standing committees. I have also served as a chapter president and currently working as a Regional Coordinator for Middle East Region and am running for re-election. I have been actively engaged in the networking with the various chapter in the region. I having been providing strategic directions and support to chapters in the region on need basis during my term.

I have rich experience of around 15 years working as an educator and researcher at national and international levels. I am humbled to share that being a public health nurse I have made a significant contribution through my knowledge, skills and time by working in diverse communities on different health and developmental projects that include mental health literacy programs for adolescents, and creating awareness about COVID-19 in underprivileged communities. If I become a Regional Coordinator, I am confident to render my services with dedication and commitment to excel the standards of nursing education, practice and scholarship. My diverse experience of services is a testimony to my strong leadership trait as well as my adaptive skills. I am

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

MIDDLE EAST (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Sujatha Shanmugasudaram PhD, RN, RM, GCTE



Dr. Sujatha Shanmugasundaram is an experienced international academic and researcher with a solid global alliance in community health nursing, palliative care nursing, nursing education, and aged care nursing, to mention a few.

Dr. Shanmugasundaram has been an active member of Sigma since 2005. She has held as a leader in several chapters. Currently, she is a North America Region 1 Coordinator. Recently, she served as a Treasurer of the Mu Nu Chapter for 3 years. Since then, she was committed to helping Sigma's mission, advancing world health, and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

In addition, Dr. Shanmugasundaram held an Extra-ordinary Research Chair position with The Honour Nursing Society of Eta Pi Chapter, Wisconsin University, Oshkosh, the USA, for the two consecutive terms from 2012-2016. Dr. Shanmugasundaram also one of the key persons of the Board of Directors of Victorian-Tasmanian at-Large Honor Society of Nursing at Melbourne, Australia. She actively engages with the current project in developing a chapter. She organized an induction ceremony and professional development day in June 2015 at Victoria University, a grant success. She played a significant contribution in recruiting the members of the society and currently sitting 136 members in 2 years.

Dr. Shanmugasundaram has been playing a vital role as Global Ambassador of Sigma for the past 3 years. As an Ambassador, she traveled internationally to few universities in the Middle East and promoted the Sigma to academics. She made a considerable contribution in creating global visibility to the nursing community across the world.

Her passion for the nursing profession is countless, and she contributed a lot through evidence-based practice in her teaching, research, and clinical practice globally. She is a very dynamic and enthusiastic person and strives to move forward with Dr. Ricciardi's slogan of infusing joy locally, regionally, and globally, especially during this pandemic.

As a Sigma Regional Coordinator, Middle East Region (2021-2023), Dr. Shanmugasundaram will focus on:

- A global initiative to become a member;
- Promoting network through professional development programs;
- Strengthening an international alliance with nurses, academics and researchers;
- Recruiting and retaining members across the globe.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR OCEANIA (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Elizabeth Halcomb PhD, BN (Hons), RN, GradCertICNurs, GradCertHE, FACN



An internationally award-winning nurse academic, Professor Liz Halcomb gained her PhD from the University of Western Sydney in 2006 and is currently employed at the University of Wollongong as the Professor of Primary Health Care Nursing. Before undertaking her

PhD, Professor Halcomb worked in the Intensive Care Unit and Trauma Department of a major metropolitan hospital for over ten years.

Professor Halcombs' research expertise relates to the primary care nursing workforce, chronic and complex disease and lifestyle risk factor reduction. She is also passionate about building capacity within the nursing profession and has led research about the nursing academic workforce and teaching and learning in nursing. A key feature of her work is the collaborative way in which Professor Halcomb has inspired and mentored novice nurse scholars to develop into independent researchers. This has led to both knowledge gain and improved outcomes, through increased uptake of higher degree study, particularly by primary health care nurses. In 2018, Professor Halcomb was inducted into Sigma's International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame in recognition of the significant and sustained national / international recognition of her work and its positive impact on the profession and the community. In 2020, she was named in the 100 Outstanding women nurse and midwife leaders by Women in Global Health (<https://yonm.org/>). At the University of Wollongong, Professor Halcomb plays a leadership role developing primary health care nursing research, as well as engaging multidisciplinary primary health care academics to address the growing challenges in providing health care within the community. As Head of PostGraduate Studies she works closely with PhD candidates and their supervisors to develop research training capacity and promote timely

completion of Doctoral studies. Professor Halcomb also mentors a range of early and mid-career academics to develop their careers.

Professor Halcomb has been an active Xi Omicron Chapter member since 2002, serving as Chapter Secretary, Vice President and President (two-terms). This service has allowed her to appreciate the complexity of the various Board roles and understand support needs. The two terms as President has demonstrated her capacity to lead the chapter, as well as to appreciate the complexity of running a Chapter in Oceania Region so far from the US based support of Sigma. During her term as President the chapter was rechartered to an at-large chapter, bringing four Schools of Nursing together.

Professor Halcombs' vision for the Oceania Region, now that chapters have become established, is to advance networking and collaboration across the Region to optimise the value of Sigma membership and promote Sigma values. Her priorities are to clearly define an Oceania Region Leadership group and develop a Regional strategic plan for Oceania over the next five years. As current Regional Coordinator from 2019-2021 Professor Halcomb has led the planning for the upcoming Inaugural Oceania Regional Conference. While this event has had to be virtual due to pandemic restrictions, the potential to plan an Oceania Conference to bring together chapter members from across the Region to share knowledge and promote networking is a key priority.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 1 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Susan Rushton BSN, RN, MHSA, CHE



Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. I was born at Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) No. 3 Fighter Wing Zweibrücken, Germany where my father was a jet fighter pilot, my mother a Nursing Sister. Affiliation with the RCAF brought opportunity to live in various locations:

Germany, Tyndall United States Air Force Base Florida, rural Quebec, Montreal Quebec, and Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Living in different locales meant meeting people of varied backgrounds while learning about, appreciating and enjoying diverse cultures.

I'm seeking election to the position of North America Region 1 Coordinator. I've been an active member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing since my induction almost 27 years ago. Internationally, I served as an elected member of the Governance Committee for six years: from 2013-2017 and from 2017-2019. I currently serve as an appointed member of the Nurse Leader Review Committee, a position held since 2015. Regionally, I've been active with the Region 1 Conference Committee since 2013. In 2017 I chaired the very successful Regional Conference held in Vancouver that year.

Locally, I've held various chapter leadership roles assuming progressive levels of responsibility: president (current), president-elect, treasurer, secretary, plus governance, induction and finance committee chairs. Our chapter is at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver and the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. I attended the 2012, 2014 and 2020 (virtual) Leadership Forums in Indianapolis and have been a delegate at the 2013, 2015 (and 2021) Biennial Conventions. My participation in the society locally, regionally and internationally has broadened my abilities, talents and knowledge base to better meet the needs and requirements of membership and stakeholders.

I've a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of British Columbia, and a Master of Health Services Administration from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. I'm an executive member of the Canadian College of Health Leaders holding Certified Health Executive designation.

My commitment to continuous professional development has been supported by my volunteer work with a variety of health care and community service organizations:

- President (past)—Soroptimist International, Downtown Vancouver Club, Vancouver, British Columbia
- Treasurer (past) –Nurse Administrators' Association of British Columbia.
- Vice-President (past)-Health Labour Relations Association of British Columbia, North West District Council
- Secretary-Treasurer (past) - local chapter of the Registered Nurses' Association of British Columbia.

As a senior health services administrator, I've experience in a variety of health care settings—isolated communities and large city centres, including chief multi-site responsibilities. My ability to prioritize, and organize enables me to work tirelessly under pressure.

My leadership style is one of inclusiveness, recognizing and respecting differences. If elected to office, I'll collaborate on issues before the region working towards identified outcomes while respecting the unique qualities and abilities of each member involved.

My experiences with governance, leadership, teamwork and service all showcase my skills and enthusiasm to execute the society's mission as we collectively aim to improve global health. I hope this brief shows my commitment to humanism, science and ongoing learning—all supporting Sigma's vision and mission.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 1 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Laura Van Auker DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, MSN, SN-C



It is a great honor to speak to you today as a candidate for Region 1 Coordinator on the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma) Leadership Team. My name is Laura Van Auker, and I am excited to work with Sigma chapters that come from the top of the American Continent in Canada from; British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Alberta, and include the Western United States of Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii, and northern California. We are a diverse region of cultures, geography, education, and resources which blend to create rich opportunities for nursing excellence. We also share challenges within nursing that must be met with nursing leadership, education, and research to address diversity within our profession and health disparities of our patients and communities across our North American Region. I believe we also have the capacity and responsibility to address more global ills through both local and global filters and solutions. This is our Sigma mission.

I bring leadership, nursing talents and experiences and broader community and international leadership to support the function, goals, development, and growth of local chapters within Region 1. We are called by our Sigma mission to support the advancement of nurses and midwives through local support of nursing students, nursing research and advancement of community partnerships where Sigma nurses demonstrate leadership and excellence. On a global level we must embrace Sigma's support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, engaging in sustainable solutions that impact locally and globally by enhancing abilities and resources of our global Sigma nurse partners to solve their local community healthcare problems.

I am passionate and well-qualified to support the mission and vision of Sigma through leadership and support of all local chapters in Region 1. I have always been a “nurse’s nurse”, personally experiencing a broad range of nursing roles, from inner-city hospital-based care to rural community nursing in public, occupational, school, and correctional health to primary care as an APRN-NP in Family Practice and Tribal Health and currently as full-time faculty in a university SON. I hear the issues and can support nurses from many areas, engaging local chapters in creative solutions for local health issues. I have served as an elected official and worked in government, understanding the impact of policies upon healthcare for groups and individuals. Within Sigma I have been chapter President, President-elect, VP, Board Member, Biennial Delegate, and the Region 1 Conference Chairperson in 2019. I am a graduate of Sigma’s 2018 Institute for Global Healthcare Leadership in London and serve on the health advisory board and nurse volunteer for a Kenyan NGO as well as volunteering in Central and South America, with travel in Europe and Asia. These experiences have prepared me to be a strong nursing advocate as a member of Sigma’s international leadership team. I would be honored to have your support and partnership to further serve Sigma and as your voice as Coordinator for a stronger Region 1.

Thank You.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 2 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Brooke Newman MSN, RN



Professional Background

Brooke Newman is a Sigma multi-community ambassador, mentor, career advisor; and a local chapter newsletter editor candidate. She is internally motivated to maintain and mature Sigma's United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal initiatives for continuous organizational capacity building. Brooke is an inclusive transformational and servant nurse leader supporting an ongoing Year of the Nurse and Midwife for meaningful universal contributions such as her Sigma-inspired GAPFON doctoral project.

Brooke targets personal and peers' accountability for organizational efficiencies. Her fiscally responsible implementations and ability to pivot according to unanticipated priorities and stakeholder concerns support evidence-based operations. Her strategic approach is not limited to DNP program offerings, illustrated by her qualifications and leadership experience.

Qualifications and Leadership Experience

Brooke is completing her Doctorate in Nursing Practice (Organizational and Systems) Leadership program at Capella University. Her organizational and systems leadership Capstone project steers philanthropic organizations to mitigate nursing participation in policymaking for enhanced nurse leader capacity building. She is a doctoral-prepared nurse leader focused on philanthropic achievements which target professional nursing organizations and peer-reviewed literature methodologies.

Brooke's healthcare data analysis acumen utilizing statistical software (SPSS) pushes past Sigma's four strategic directions, mission statement, and vision

to operationalize relevant benchmarks. She is a nurse leader serving on two international boards (CDH International and the American Board of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine). Brooke is a Nurses on Boards Coalitions' (NOBC) (Sigma sponsored organization) team member; the Association of California Nurse Leaders (ACNL) virtual program facilitator/consultant; an American Nurses Association\California (ANA)\C advocacy institute volunteer; and an American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and a National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) member. Her strategic planning and organizational capacity-building competencies flourish with a mentor approach to foster Sigma inter-professional nursing processes.

Targeted Accomplishments

If elected, Brooke will address Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Western Texas's return on investment (ROI) by contacting Region Two leaders to execute current priorities and strategic planning according to healthcare data analytics and stakeholder communications. Her proposed governance action plan expands upon Sigma's biennial report and 2019-2021 bylaws; targeting Goal One (grow in value for members); facilitating innovative networking opportunities; Goal Two (promote and celebrate scholarship); developing the Sigma repository; Goal Three (partnerships): underscoring Dr. Hofmeyer's Influence Through Change initiative, and Goal Four (sustain society resources); advancing healthcare information technology and other applicable Sustainable Developmental Goals.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 2 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Susan Opas PhD, RN-C, PNP-BC, PMHS-BC, CNS, CHES



I am honored to be selected as Region 2's Coordinator candidate where I will continue to work with our current 30 Chapter's leadership and represent you at Sigma International. All chapters and members worldwide met novel challenges this Biennium with

their personal and family's health and welfare; their nursing careers as clinicians, administrators and educators; and recent student inductee/graduates. Our Region's Chapter leaders made time to speak with me where I heard incidents of great creativity and innovation with the fortitude to support, maintain and often devise ways to keep members engaged and participating. I thank you!

I have remained an active Gamma Tau at-Large Chapter member since my 1982 induction as a nurse leader. I have served my chapter three terms as president, eligibility committee 10 years, governance for 12. Other positions include undergraduate counselor, community membership, nominations, awards, scholarship, and research. Long ago I was chapter liaison to Odyssey. I continue with proposal selections for the yearly research conference. I have served as Regional Awards Chair, International Bylaws Chair and International Eligibility Chair, remaining on the Eligibility Task Force 2001-2009.

I became a Virginia Henderson Fellow in 1998, Billye Brown Fellow, Orchid Society Member, and STT Fellow in 2019. Beyond Sigma, I am since 2000 a volunteer manuscript reviewer for two peer-reviewed school health journals; published a book chapter and spoke at nursing-specific conferences, webcasts, and lectures - including UCLA. I continue to gain global health care perspective since 2011 through volunteer missions with ProjectHOPE. I am a current member of their disaster response team.

2021 marked my 50th BSN anniversary and entry into practice. Soon after I began teaching while completing my MSN/CNS with CSU Los Angeles. Then I taught for Mount Saint Mary's University, became administrator for CSU Dominguez Hills' RN-BSN program, before 19 years as UCLA faculty. In 2001 I returned to practice with Kaiser as Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Mental Health Specialist.

My nursing experiences prepared me well to understand diversity in healthcare which presents challenges and needs to our Region's chapters. I have the tools to address your chapter's administrative concerns, eligibility questions, event programming, recruitment and retention, and collaboration. Recently I developed and presented a virtual meeting, "Building a Policy and Procedure Manual". The proceedings and documents are archived in the Region 2 library on the Circle, available to your chapter. We may offer this again in the new biennium, along with other meetings to strengthen your chapter.

This Biennial Convention will be like none other. Many of you will not travel to Indianapolis attending the House of Delegates remotely. With your consideration to elect me once again as your Region 2 Coordinator, I will support your Chapter's leaders and members as we design new methods to recruit and sustain newly inducted members. We shall find new ways to engage and maintain current members through educational, leadership, research, and service programs and projects. May you continue to Infuse Joy through your personal and professional connections.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 3 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Christine Hober PhD, MSN, RN-BC, CNE



My name is Christine Hober, and I am a candidate for the international ballot position of North America Region 3 Coordinator.

I adhere to Sigma's mission that global nurse leaders must be empowered to improve healthcare everywhere. I would like to work collectively with Sigma colleagues to help develop exciting and rewarding careers for nurse leaders, practitioners, and advocates for quality healthcare services internationally. I intend to work diligently towards increasing the visibility and credibility of Sigma through assisting with regional programs, events, and projects that will expand Sigma connections locally, regionally, and internationally.

Professional qualifications and background: Currently I live in WaKeeney, Kansas. I have been a Registered Nurse since 1996. I completed my Masters of Science in Nursing at Chico State University in Chico, California, in 2002, followed by my PhD in Nursing from the University of Kansas, School of Nursing in 2012. I have been employed since 2004 at Fort Hays State University (FHSU) in Hays, Kansas, and I am currently a tenured Professor of Nursing for the Department of Nursing FHSU. I have served for six years as the Graduate Nurse Educator (NE) Program Coordinator & student advisor, in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. I work to meet Boyer's model of scholarship. A recent co-published peer reviewed manuscript with a Sigma colleague is: Meaningful Learning Actualized through a Perinatal Continuity of Care Experience, published in the Nursing Forum, DOI: 10.1111/nuf.12526.

University and Department of Nursing Leadership experience: Recent essential FHSU university service that has helped build my leadership skills

includes: the Scholarship Environmental Committee; the Council of Institutional Effectiveness for Accreditation; the University Institutional Review Board (IRB); the Department of Nursing Accreditation Committee member for the Master of Science and Bachelor of Nursing programs; and participation on the High-Fidelity Simulation Task Force consortium. Current fundamental community leadership opportunities of interest include: serving as an appointed board member and later elected Treasurer at Trego-Lemke Hospital in WaKeeney, Kansas; an appointed program advisory member at North Central Kansas Technical College in Hays, Kansas; and also serving on the Hays Medical Center IRB board.

Professional Leadership: Four key areas are integral in helping me to development leadership skills in program implementation with regional professionals. The first professional leadership development involved my service as a Northwest faculty co-leader in the KS Nurse Leader Residency (KNLR) program, an online statewide certification program for Registered Nurses who needed to foster their leadership knowledge and skills. Secondly, my service for the Kansas Action Coalition from 2012 to 2019, serving as the subcommittee co-chair for the education assembly from 2011 - 2016. The third integral experience was my professional service on the Kansas State Board of Nursing education committee from September 2013 to 2017 in Topeka, Kansas. And equally important, my continuous service to our local chapter of Sigma, Nu Zeta #316, in the active roles since 2004 of Governance Chair, Leadership Chair, Publicity Chair, Faculty Counselor, and past Chapter President, in addition to my most recent nomination to serve a second term as Chapter President.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 4 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Stephanie Bruce DNP, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, APNP



I am an associate professor of nursing in the JoAnn McGrath School of Nursing and Health Professions at Alverno College with expertise in undergraduate, direct entry, and graduate curriculum development, in both traditional and on-line courses, related to pharmacology,

geriatrics, clinical practice, and nutrition. My clinical background includes significant experience in geriatrics, inpatient physical rehabilitation, and occupational health. My doctoral dissertation was on the effect of an asynchronous webinar education module on nurses' knowledge, skills, and attitudes toward older adults to provide quality geriatric medication management in a home care setting. I have served in a variety of leadership positions over my career, including: Sigma Region 4 Coordinator, Sigma chapter treasurer, faculty senate member, chair of Aesthetic Engagement, faculty advisor for three student nurse groups, and facilitated the creation of a free diabetes clinic in my community.

I became a member of Sigma in 2008. I am currently president of the Delta Gamma at-Large Chapter and have served on the board since 2014. As an active member of the board, I spearheaded initiatives focused on increasing the services to, and involvement of, our members. Some of these initiatives include the development of: an annual scholarship award, an annual continuing education scholarship award, social networking events, and ways to connect our members through the use of social media. To this end, I directed the creation of a social media liaison as a new position on the board of directors which has led to additional involvement and retention of members. Through my leadership, encouragement, and mentoring, several new members have successfully run for board positions and have become more engaged in the chapter. Additionally, I continue to find ways to

involve the general membership while keeping our finances stable. In addition to the new initiatives, over the last five years, I have decreased the cost of events for our current and future members (students) and have increased our charitable giving all while maintaining a balanced budget by finding areas of redundancy or reallocating funds to maintain the solvency of the organization.

If re-elected as Regional Coordinator for Region 4, I will build on the previous work between chapters to strengthen and facilitate new connections through the use of social media and technology in order to break down geographic distances. I will provide mentorship, support chapters in networking events, available as a keynote speaker, and advise and troubleshoot challenges within our region's chapter leadership. Lastly, I will showcase the great work of our region's chapters and members by sharing these resources through The Circle email list serve.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 4 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Cynthia Elverson PhD, RN, NNP-BC, CNE



Professional Background: I am a maternal-child nurse. During most of my professional life, I have been in academia where I have broadened my interests to include research, evidence-based practice, and study abroad. Nursing is a rewarding profession where I can see families grow and students achieve beyond what I have ever been able to do myself.

Qualifications: I have been a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing since 2003 when I joined as a nursing leader because I wanted to be involved with this organization. I have served as vice president, president, and on numerous committees for Phi Chapter at South Dakota State University. At the international level, I have attended or presented at biennium, research congress, and one global leadership meeting. The resources at Sigma are a wonderful benefit of membership; I use them as student learning resources as well as to improve my teaching and scholarship. I am a peer reviewer for *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing*. I definitely appreciate the benefits of membership.

Leadership Experience: We are all leaders, even in our informal roles. I see myself strongest in coaching leadership. Besides my experiences as a leader in Phi Chapter, I served as a member of the finance committee for Midwest Nursing Research Society. I have served in several committees and workgroups at the university, and I currently am serving in an interim administrative position. Within the past few years, I have continued to grow in leadership knowledge and skills through two opportunities. I participated in the Kouzes & Posner Leadership Challenge as well as the Clifton-Strengths assessment. I am a life-long learner in leadership skills and practices.

Goals as Regional Coordinator for Region 4: My leadership strengths are in strategic thinking and enabling others to act. My goal is to use those strengths in working with Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents to learn what is working well within each chapter and share those strategies with other chapters. As regional coordinator I would like to introduce chapter leaders to others who have similar goals so that they might learn from each other and disseminate innovative approaches. My approach as regional coordinator would be to listen, learn, share, and coach.

Thank you for your consideration.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 5 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Vivianna Carter BSN, RN, TNS, TCRN



I graduated from Saint Louis University School of Nursing with my BSN and was inducted into the Delta Lambda at-Large Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing in 2017. I gave the keynote speech for the following year's inductees.

I began working at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department (ED) in 2017. I am a clinical nurse and designated trauma preceptor. I am a Trauma Nurse Specialist (TNS) through the state of Illinois, and a Trauma Certified Registered Nurse (TCRN) through the BCEN. Other certifications include PALS, TNCC, ENPC, and CPI. I am a member of the ED's Unit Practice Council (UPC), ensuring use of up-to-date, evidence-based practice in emergency and trauma care, and promoting consistency of quality and safety for all ED staff roles. I am the Co-Chair of our ED's Trauma Champion Committee. I am a member of the Care for Caregivers Staff Support Group whose function is to provide additional emotional support for staff in emotionally intense situations and advocate for positive staff member mental health to reduce burnout and maintain safe practice in the work environment. I am a member of the Society of Pediatric Nurses' Chapter Support and Development Committee as a Regional Liaison, where I assume responsibility for providing support to the South Central Region of the United States to include chapters in Texas, including in Dallas, Fort Worth, and North Central Texas as well as Coastal Virginia and Southwest Florida. I am also a member of the Emergency Nurses Association's Quality and Safety Advisory Council, the Dermatology Nurses Association's Education Advisory Committee, the Ohio Nurses Association's Caucus on Advancing Nursing Education, and the planning committee for the National Trauma Awareness Month in 2021. I've had the opportunity to author an article titled

"Nurse Educator Workload Survey" in the Ohio Nurses Review, and I collaborated with other professionals in Pediatric Nursing as a contributor to the following publication: "Chapter 2: Influences on Child Health" for the textbook Primary Care Pediatrics for the Nurse Practitioner (1st Edition) published by Springer Publishing Company. Both were published June 2021. I am also a peer reviewer for the Journal of the Dermatology Nurses Association. Additionally in 2021, I was a nominee for the Nancy Fedak Ross Exceptional Nurse of the Year Award. I am pursuing an MHA degree through Webster University and will graduate in 2024. Sigma's mission and vision include developing nursing leaders and fostering connections between them to advance the nursing profession. If elected to a Sigma position, I would like to achieve new memberships, retain existing memberships, and increase participation by supporting new emerging professional members. I believe that promoting individual nurse satisfaction and maintaining or expanding the number of active nurses in the workforce will improve the nursing profession in its entirety.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 5 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Shannon Schraeder MS, RN, CNOR, NE-BC



My name is Shannon Schraeder and I have been a nurse for about 16 years. I received my BSN from Quincy University in 2006. I received my MS from Wright State University in 2013. I am currently dual certified in the OR and as a Nurse Leader.

My nursing background experience is in med-surg/cardiac, the OR, Critical Care, and float pool where I was dedicated to ER and NICU. I then got into leadership as a supervisor, then assistant manager and a nurse manager. I recently got into education for a better work life balance and absolutely loved it but due to covid, all education positions were eliminated from my hospital. I am currently working in an Electrophysiology/Cath Lab and enjoying it as well. I have worked as a nurse in three different states and my diverse background in bedside nursing provides a solid knowledge base to be a strong candidate for the position of North America Region 5 Coordinator. My volunteer experience includes being a member of Sigma since 2006 and actively involved in Ohio and then Illinois when we relocated. For the last two years I served as a delegate and now I am stepping into the president-elect position for Nu Pi. I also volunteer at a local Karate Dojo in teaching karate to young children and self defense to young girls.

If elected I want to support the position in providing visibility across the regions and not only regionally but globally. I want to work to build and support the relationships Sigma has established historically with the position. I would be excited to serve on projects and provide a future presence for Sigma.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 6 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Cynthia O'Neal PhD, RN



I currently serve as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at the University Of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing. I am seasoned educator with over 29 years of academic experience including associate, baccalaureate, master's, DNP,

and Ph.D. levels. I have a professional journey punctuated with a variety of faculty appointments, at public and private academic institutions across five states, thus enriching my appreciation of diverse perspectives and informing my ways of knowing. I believe in creating and fostering positive, inclusive, faculty environments, while empowering others to grow, explore, and achieve a fulfilling academic career themselves.

My leadership contributions to nursing have included the following national and international service roles:

- (1) Mentor in the Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy for Sigma Theta Tau
- (2) Member on the Organizational Leadership Network (OLN) Steering Committee for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- (3) Member on the national Bylaws Committee for Phi Kappa Phi (an interdisciplinary honor society)
- (4) Co-developer of an international nursing student exchange program between Asahi University in Gifu, Japan and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

the chapters enact strategic plans that advance health and create nurse leaders. I am willing to be of service however I can to accomplish the Sigma mission.

If elected, I want to support chapter leaders and help them access resources for chapter success. I also want to celebrate the wonderful work of the chapters through visible means. I hope to help

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 7 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Katrina Embrey DNS, RN



Hello! My name is Trina Embrey and I am honored to be a candidate for Sigma's North America Region 7 Regional Coordinator. I would like to present myself by expressing my thoughts in four areas: Professional Background, Qualifications, Leadership Experience, and What I Would Like to Accomplish if Elected.

Professional Background: I have had the privilege of using the title Registered Nurse for thirty-three years. I became an officer in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps after completing my BSN. Clinical experiences included Critical Care and Post Anesthesia Care. After serving 4 years I completed a Master of Science in Nursing while continuing to work in the Critical Care/PACU areas. My newly obtained master's degree coupled with relocation provided my first opportunity to teach nursing. When the time was right I returned to nursing academia and completed my Doctor of Nursing Science in 2014. I have been teaching for the past 11 years and have recently become a tenured Associate Professor as well as the Interim Associate Chair for the School of Nursing at Georgia Southern University.

Qualifications: My experiences in teaching, scholarship and service over the last eleven years qualify me for the Regional Coordinator position. The roles I have served have developed the qualities and skills needed (mentor, educate, support, collaborate, recognize others, strategically plan, advise and troubleshoot) to fulfill the roles of Regional Coordinator. I mentor, educate and support over 500 students and 43 faculty and staff members while serving in leadership roles in the School of Nursing. I participate in networking and collaboration opportunities between the School of Nursing and local clinical and community partners.

I recognize students and faculty yearly at awards and recognition ceremonies. As a member of the School of Nursing Leadership Council I help create and implement strategic, action oriented plans that keep the School of Nursing running smoothly. I advise students, faculty and staff and troubleshoot challenges arising in the school's day-to-day operations.

Leadership Experience: I have served in leadership positions for many years to include: serving as an officer in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps, BSN Program Director for eight years, Course Coordinator for senior Medical Surgical nursing courses, Committee chair for departmental and university committees, 2 terms as Past President of the local Sigma chapter, Treasurer for Georgia Association of Nursing Education, being the current Associate Chair for the School of Nursing as well as a member of Sigma's International Governance Committee.

What Would I Like to Accomplish: My goals are to facilitate progression, growth, success and collaboration. As Regional Coordinator I would like to inspire others to create positive momentum to strengthen our region's impact in fulfilling Sigma's mission of "developing nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare anywhere". Thank you for considering me for this opportunity!

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 7 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Seongkum Heo PhD



This is Seongkum Heo who is a professor at Mercer University in Atlanta. I have been a member of Sigma since 2002 and involved in various Sigma activities at local and international levels. At local levels, I have been involved in Sigma chapter activities, including preparation of,

participation in, and presentation at many chapter events and review of articles and research proposals for students and faculty. In addition, I was elected as the treasurer of the Sigma Gamma Xi Chapter in 2018 and led and/or involved in the establishment of more effective financial management system, financial support for members' research activities and dissemination, and better ways of serving members. At international levels, in 2020, I was selected as an abstract reviewer and research proposal reviewer. In 2020 and 2021, I reviewed abstracts and research proposals for Sigma.

I have contributed to Sigma's mission and vision of "discover how Sigma supports nurses' efforts to improve the health of the world's people" by conducting research, disseminating the findings, and supporting other researchers and clinicians. I have disseminated research findings through approximately 60 manuscripts regarding quality of life (QOL) status and multidimensional factors associated with it, self-care, physical and psychological symptoms, inflammation, obesity, hospitalization and mortality, and palliative care in patients with heart failure and cancer and nursing education in nursing students. I have worked with national and international researchers to conduct research and disseminate the findings. The findings were cited by researchers and clinicians in nursing and multiple non-nursing disciplines more than 3,000 times and by the 2013 ACCF/AHA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure. I also have tested and disseminated instruments of QOL, symptoms,

and perceived control. I provided the symptom instrument to researchers and clinicians in 10 countries. I also developed, tested, and disseminated a QOL model. All of my work is critically important for nurses' effort to improve people's health.

I have developed my leadership by serving many national and international committees, including the American Heart Association (Nomination and Communications Committee of Council of Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing), the Heart Failure Society of America (Nursing Committee, Research Committee, and Education Committee), the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses (Research Committee), and the American Nurses Association (Grant Review). I have participated in activities of enhancement of members' activities and roles, modification of professional educational modules, review of abstracts and research proposals, review and revision of policies regarding members, research, and grants, and becoming a mentor for nursing faculties in several countries. I also have served as a chair or member of several regional and local committees to plan and hold conferences; newly establish a subcommittee system and online registration and abstract submission systems; and establish more effective management systems of curriculum or tenure and promotion review.

My qualification for the coordinator role can be supported by my experiences and leadership in recruitment and management of members, establishment and improvement of management systems, strong involvement in professional network and collaboration, and selections of abstract, research proposals, and awardees.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 8 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Cassandra Ford PhD, MBA, RN, FAHA, FGSA



I am an associate professor at the Capstone College of Nursing at The University of Alabama. Throughout my career, I have worked extensively with rural and underserved populations as a clinician, academician, and researcher. As a result, I have been inducted as a Fellow of the

American Heart Association and the Gerontological Society of America. I have published numerous research articles, authored several presentations, and been the recipient of state and federal grants. I have had a continuous clinical and research program focused on community-based research and improving health outcomes for rural populations for over 10 years. I enjoy mentoring undergraduate and graduate students as well as tenure track faculty in health disparities and educational research.

I became a member of Sigma in 2004 as a charter member of the Tau Eta Chapter and have been an active dual member of the Epsilon Omega Chapter since 2008. I have had the opportunity to serve in various leadership roles throughout the years and serve as a mentor to incoming members and officers. Currently I am serving as Counselor for our chapter. This provides a wonderful opportunity to share the message of Sigma, identify potential candidates, and engage with new members on various levels from undergraduate and graduate students to nurse leaders. I regularly attend the Induction System training workshops and participate in all elements of the induction process. I have served on our Founders Day Program Planning Committee and our Governance Committee. I also participated in the review and revision of the chapter bylaws. I am currently serving on the Sigma International Nurse Leader Review Committee. This serves as a natural extension of my role as counselor and provides an opportunity to serve Sigma in a greater capacity.

I have served in leadership and service capacities in various local, state, and national organizations over the past decade. My roles have included assisting with conference organization and program development, serving as a community volunteer and speaker, training volunteers, facilitating and organizing meetings, maintaining meeting notes, and completing committee reports.

My involvement in Sigma has provided opportunities to engage in leadership and service opportunities with individuals that strive to develop the nurse leaders of tomorrow. Upon graduation, many of our students go on to pursue advanced education and leadership opportunities all over the country and world. Providing the foundation for these opportunities through involvement in Sigma is a rewarding experience. I was inspired to run for an elected position because I would like to continue to work to build and grow the vision and mission of Sigma and help our local members become more involved in activities for growth and development of future nurse leaders while utilizing that work to be of service to the local, national, and global community.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 8 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



D'Ann Somerall DNP, MAEd, CRNP, FNP-BC, FAANP



In November 2019, when I was elected as the Region 8 Regional Chapter Coordinator (RCC), I was excited to implement ways to increase engagement between the Region 8 chapters, develop a Region 8 newsletter that would highlight the accomplishments of our chapters, serve as a representative for Sigma and Region 8 at Sigma events, help chapters expand their offerings to their members, and much more. I had no idea that four months later, our lives would change tremendously due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The country halted in-person meetings, college campuses closed their in-person classes, and travel ceased. The shutdown also halted the fulfillment of goals I had set for myself as the Region 8 RCC.

I believe that one should not hold on to a role/position forever but should serve as a mentor to those members younger than us (in years/experience). Initially, my first thought was to serve as Region 8 RCC and then serve as a mentor to the next RCC. But as I believe that one should not hold a position forever I also do not believe in leaving projects/goals/missions unfulfilled. I have not achieved the goals I set for myself when initially elected. For this reason, I am seeking reelection as the Region 8 Regional Chapter Coordinator.

I continue to have a vision of expanding the newsletter. I published two editions and I am presently working on the third. The regional newsletter is an excellent way to connect the 33 chapters within Region 8. The sharing of ideas serves as a spark that can propel a chapter to greater heights. It has been a delight to hear and see the events that our chapters have engaged in around Region 8 despite the challenges we have faced due to the pandemic. I have attended, virtually, several events as RCC. However, I would like to visit, in person, more of our chapters and

share my enthusiasm for the many benefits and opportunities of being a Sigma member. I believe our chapters should be recognized for their contributions to our communities, schools, and members and that recognition can be in the form of credit through the opportunities such as the Showcase of Regional Excellence, Chapter Key Award, or individual awards presented to members. In my role as RCC, I can assist chapters in the submission process for these types of recognition.

The vision of Sigma is to connect and empower nurse leaders to transform global healthcare. The way we do this is through the Sigma mission of developing nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere. I would be honored to be reelected as the Region 8 Regional Chapter Coordinator and continue the vision and mission of Sigma.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 9 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Nasreen Lalani PhD, MScN, RN



I am an Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing, Purdue University, IN, USA. I have 25+years of diverse nursing experience and have worked in three different countries including United States, Canada, and Pakistan. I started my career as a bedside nurse from Pakistan in 1992 and then worked on multiple nursing positions as a nurse clinician and educator for 20 years; then completed my PhD in nursing from the University of Alberta in Canada. During my nursing career, I have worked with several multidisciplinary teams including health and social scientists on several projects around nurses' empowerment, spirituality, resilience and wellbeing, health inequities and disparities among marginalized and vulnerable communities. My own research program informs interventions to promote resilience and spiritual wellbeing of caregivers during palliative and end of life care as well as during post disaster recovery among marginalized and underserved communities. My rich and diverse nursing practice experience across various geographical regions has enabled me to critically examine nurses and nursing professional roles, and their challenges and struggles from a wider global perspective.

I believe Sigma has played a significant role in pursuing my professional career goals throughout these years. I have been a Sigma member since 1995 and have served on its three different chapters in three different countries including Pakistan, Canada, and the US. Being part of these chapters, I worked on several leadership positions as a Vice President, Secretary, and Chair for different committees including those of research, publications, and Bylaws. Using Sigma platform, I was able to present and publish at various national and international forums, mentor nurses and other healthcare professionals, network and collaborate

with several service organizations working in the underserved communities.

Besides Sigma, I have also served as a Board Member for Alberta Hospice and Palliative Care Association in Canada. I was an IPAC (the Institute of Public Administration Canada) intern at the Women's Ministry, Government of Alberta, and a non-profit agency-Alberta Council for Women Shelter. Presently, I am serving on a Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board for Midwest Nursing Research Society and a fellow for the Center of Aging and Life Course and Center for Families at the Purdue University. During the current pandemic, I developed and offered several activities and conducted sessions on building resiliency and recovery for university students and faculty as well as older adults and families in rural communities of Indiana. With my rich and diverse nursing experience along with strong leadership and advocacy skills, I am confident that I can contribute well to the mission and vision of Sigma in the region. I will support and mentor nurses and nursing organizations in advancing nursing practice roles and help them in creating new avenues and opportunities for empowering nurses and nursing profession.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 9 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Briyana Morrell PhD, RN, CCPN-K, CNE



gifted group.

Through my local Sigma chapter, Lambda Epsilon at the University of Indianapolis, I have participated in several university and community service opportunities. Chapter meetings spur my career growth as I learn from talented leaders on healthcare issues and ways to increase our professional impact. Through mentorship with an international Sigma leader, I have set goals to impact my profession. I have presented at a chapter meeting and at conventions; I hope you will join me at the cardiovascular clinical escape room experience at this biennium!

A nurse for 13 years, I currently serve as an Associate Professor at the University of Indianapolis. My previous experience in critical care and clinical education were key to my preparation for my current role. It is a joy to engage with students in fun, innovative ways, see their passions come to life, and witness the impact of their work! My research interests relate to innovative teaching practices, especially educational escape rooms, and interprofessional education (IPE) and practice.

One of the key ways that I have led at the University of Indianapolis is in chairing 20 faculty in the development of interprofessional programming for 1,000 attendees. My team's work has been recognized through dozens of presentations and articles and in my receipt of the Outstanding Faculty Award. Furthermore, I served on the Programming Committee of the Indiana

What a privilege it is to be a candidate for the role of Regional Coordinator for North America Region 9! You are Sigma's international leaders and scholars who serve globally to expand partnerships and improve our world's health. It is an honor to be a part of this

Association for Nursing Professional Development and on the scholarship and award committee of the Indiana League for Nursing. As a Faculty Liaison on the board of the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, I encouraged students' professional development even before graduation. In this and many more service and leadership roles, I experience the fulfillment of working with colleagues from nursing and other health professions to impact healthcare in positive ways.

I find great joy in collaborating with others, connecting professionals with one another, and mentoring them to further their careers. In leading projects, I take a shared leadership style, forging a path toward goal achievement and encouraging everyone to be a part of the work. If given the opportunity to serve in this position, I will work with regional chapters to:

- Promote leadership growth and member engagement, especially after the pandemic,
- Serve as a liaison between Sigma and local chapters,
- Continue the work of assisting chapters in achieving strategic plans, and
- Facilitate the work of chapter leaders in planning innovative meetings and events.

I will bring energy and commitment to the Regional Coordinator role if elected! I appreciate the opportunity to share and for your consideration as you vote.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 10 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Sandra Maxwell MN, BScN, RN



Professional Background:

- 2003-2005 - Staff Nurse - Oakwood Hospital and Windsor Regional Hospital
- 2004-2007 - Charge Nurse and Acting Director of Care - Chateau Park Nursing Home
- 2007-2016 - Director of 190 bed Complex Care program and multiple outpatient programs - Windsor Regional Hospital/Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare (also was Interim Chief Nursing Officer during a realignment of Hospital Services)
- 2017-2018 - Manager of Inpatient and Emergency Psychiatry and Manager of Nursing Operations - Detroit Receiving Hospital
- 2018-Present - Group Practice Director of Academic Internal Medicine Clinics - Henry Ford Health System

Academic Experience:

- 2005-Present - Sessional Instructor - University of Windsor (UofW)
- 2008 - Sessional Instructor - St. Clair College
- 2016-2017 - Sessional Instructor - Nipissing University

Leadership Experience:

In addition to formal Leadership roles above; I have been a mentor to Masters level students, former students and Healthcare Professionals looking for career advancement. I continue to take leadership training courses, the most recent being an Executive Leadership Course through inFORUM. I have mentored new chapter leaders both in my own chapter as well as other Canadian chapters.

Qualifications:

- BScN and MN - UofW
- 2007 - Inducted into Tau Upsilon Chapter
- 2007-2011 - Newsletter Chair: Tau Upsilon
- 2009-2011 - Secretary: Tau Upsilon
- 2010-2011 - President-elect: Tau Upsilon
- 2010-Present - Region 10 Conference Planning Committee Member
- 2011-2017 - President: Tau Upsilon

- 2011-Present - Voting Delegate: Tau Upsilon
- 2017-2018 - Past President: Tau Upsilon
- 2017-2019 - Treasurer: Tau Upsilon
- 2018-2020 - Sigma Global Regional Council - Region 10 Representative
- 2019-2021 - Awards Chair: Tau Upsilon
- 2017-Present - Judge for Chapter Key and Showcase of Regional Excellence Award Applications

Sigma Accomplishments:

- I led Tau Upsilon in applying for and receiving our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Chapter Key Awards and the application process for 2021 biennium.
- I led Tau Upsilon in receiving SRE recognitions from 2011-Present
- On the Region 10 Conference Planning Committee I have been on the abstract committee, I led the abstract committee for two conferences, and I initiated and led our silent auction. I am also the current Chair of this committee

Goals to Accomplish:

I am aware that chapters have struggled through the pandemic and see this biennium as one to rebuild, re-engage and reimagine how our chapters thrive moving forward. I plan to use my significant chapter and regional experience to mentor chapters toward improved chapter health and sustainability. Some of my goals are as follows:

- Talk to Chapter leaders to determine first what they need from me in this role and then provide that
- Create a pool of resources that come from our chapters on successful initiatives/programs as an 'idea bank' for other chapters
- Have a member from every chapter involved on our conference planning committee
- Work with Chapter leaders to develop a more robust recruitment plan that works for students and community leaders
- Mentor chapters and act as a liaison to Sigma for Region 10 Chapters

Following the leadership of Donald Rose and Mary Gravier before him means large shoes to fill, but I have learned from both and am ready for the challenge!

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 10 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Jessica Parsons BSN, RN



I have achieved my BSN from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and have been a Pediatric Medical/Surgical RN with Nationwide Children's Hospital since graduation in 2018. While working toward my BSN, I held the full-time positions of Patient Care

Assistant and Staffing Coordinator with the same hospital. This organizational consistency has allowed me 13 years of experience working with a world-renowned interdisciplinary team from whom I have learned much about the nursing profession, the occupation of healthcare, the art of caring, and learning new skills and information at every given opportunity. I have been involved with several committees to the benefit of improving patient outcomes by refining hospital processes, improving nurse outcomes through education, support, and advocacy, and improving nursing student outcomes via collaboration between University staff, nurse educators, and student representatives. Prior to entering the healthcare arena, I assembled an eclectic range of experiences that have prepared me for customer service, time management, and problem solving roles. I believe that my proficiencies could be applied to sharing knowledge with nursing leaders and that, working together, could lead to the development of innovative strategies for promoting the nursing profession internationally. Electing me in this role would bring my worldview and acquired abilities to join the outstanding resources of the Leadership Succession Committee and enable us to further education to the members about Sigma and leadership opportunities, to connect with the chapters and members in Region 10, and to augment the collaborations already occurring within Sigma.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 11 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Janice Jones PhD, RN, CNS



As a professor at the University at Buffalo, I am the Coordinator of the MS in Nursing Leadership and Health Care Systems program and have served on, or chaired, numerous committees and task forces at the department and university level. I previously served on

the NYS Organization of Nurse Leaders Education Committee, planning continuing education programs. With a passion for informatics, I was a major contributor to the Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform Initiative (TIGER) Initiative and was awarded the Open SUNY Online Teaching Ambassador award. In addition, I have presented papers at many conferences including Sigma and interdisciplinary conferences, published in major peer-reviewed journals and co-authored one of F. A. Davis's best-selling books, Critical Care Notes.

A funny thing happened to me at my first Sigma convention. I truly fell in love with Sigma and all it encompasses. My commitment to Sigma has been longstanding. I have served in many capacities at the chapter and regional level and have been mentored by two excellent Regional Coordinators. Being an active member of Sigma Nursing, I served on the Gamma Kappa board as President, President-elect, Vice President, Counselor, Leadership Succession, Governance Committee and Past-Presidents Advisory Council. I am also an active member of Sigma's Northeast Global Council that helps to provide strategic plans for the organization as the society expands into a more global focus. Serving as a delegate for nine conventions, I have come to appreciate the global impact of Sigma. Serving as an abstract reviewer for major Sigma conferences and a reviewer for the Sigma Repository has shown me the depth of nursing's contribution to the science and mission of Sigma Nursing.

A hallmark of Sigma is to promote shared scholarship and scholarly activities. I have been fortunate to do this on a local level in collaboration with other Sigma chapters within the region and would like to further promote sharing members' expertise at the regional level. I firmly believe in mentoring not only current chapter leaders but future leaders as well. As a Regional Coordinator, I can serve as a conduit for new ideas for recruitment and retention and organizational efficiency for chapters. Given the members' time commitments, I prefer short exchanges with chapter leaders and members that promote chapter health. Identifying best practices through collaboration can enhance a culture of working together with renewed enthusiasm for participation both within and across Sigma chapters. I plan to give the chapters tools to work "smarter, not harder" and promote the efficiency of the chapters. Although COVID has restricted many of my planned activities and also those of Region 11 chapters, I will work hard to encourage and assist chapter leaders as we emerge from the pandemic to re-energize our chapters and Sigma members. Let's collaborate and innovate together to make for a stronger Region 11 and showcase our regional excellence.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 12 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Jennifer Graber EdD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC



I am seeking re-election to the Region 12 Coordinator position for Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma). I have been a proud and dedicated Sigma member since 2006. At the International level, I am currently the North America

Region 12 Coordinator. Since 2015, I have continued to volunteer for Sigma in a variety of roles including being a moderator, conference greeter, career mentor and advisor, Key Award Task Force and Key Award judge. I have also previously served as an Electronic Delegate and Biennial Convention Delegate for the Beta Xi Chapter. As a previous Delegate, Past President of the Beta Xi Chapter, and now Region 12 Coordinator I am very familiar with Sigma policies and procedures. I am eager to serve again as the Region 12 Coordinator again if elected and will continue to uphold the mission and vision of Sigma.

Since 2012, I have been a Planning Committee member for the Tri-State Consortium and more recently a co-chair. From 2014 to 2016, I was a Planning Committee member for the Chesapeake Consortium where I was instrumental in obtaining speakers for the annual conference. At the local level, I have served as Secretary and President twice, as well as being the Chair for the Outreach and Service Committee. I have been involved with the Special Edition Newsletter as an editor and a liaison/second reader. I continue to have an active role in the application for the Chapter Key Award, having received 4 under my tutelage.

I am currently an Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Practice Initiatives in the School of Nursing at the University of Delaware and an Advanced Practice Nurse in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. As the sole specialist in mental health at the School of Nursing, I have been

responsible for development and advisement of the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner/doctorate of nursing practice program. This experience has provided me with opportunities to create and edit student policies and develop curriculum. Given my professional background, I have skills in active listening and mentoring. I believe that I am capable of acknowledging multiple viewpoints and working to achieve consensus, even on particularly challenging topics. These are valuable attributes to possess in order to be an effective leader and mentor for Region 12.

I aspire to help the organization meet the needs of its members who are a diverse global group of individuals with careers spanning from novice to expert to retiree. While embracing new ideas, I strive to maintain the mission, values, and rich history of Sigma. If re-elected, I will continue to provide a considerate, forward-thinking, and unique perspective to the region with the goal of strengthening Sigma's position as the only global honor society for nursing. I will provide input and guidance into making the organization relevant to the diverse membership across the career spectrum and foster global health and policy to improve the health of the world's people.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 13 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Judith Cornelius PhD, MS, RN



Professional Background
It is an honor for me to be considered as a candidate for the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma) North America Region 13 Coordinator position. My professional background has prepared me to work with

diverse populations from traditional and nontraditional backgrounds. I received my BS from Hampton Institute, MS from Hampton University and PhD from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. In my current position, I am an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with decades of experience working with professional organizations. My first professional organization was Sigma. I was inducted as a graduate student and have been enthusiastically involved as a member. I have served in a leadership role in Sigma chapters, been a grant reviewer, peer reviewer for the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* and *Worldviews on Evidence Based Practice*, and conference moderator for several Sigma events. If elected, I will use my professional background, qualifications and leadership to showcase the work of the North America Region 13 chapters. I will champion chapter collaborations, identify the needs of the members and key stakeholders, and promote the work of Sigma by celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Qualifications

My qualifications make me a viable candidate for this position. As an individual, I am self-motivated and have several years of experience working and leading people. During my nearly 44-year nursing career, I developed effective communication skills and gained knowledge in strategic planning, nursing leadership and management. In my current position, I have chaired committees, served as a chapter liaison and Commissioner for Workplace issues for the Virginia Nurses Association, and been

an ambassador for the National Institutes of Health and the National League for Nursing. As a state liaison, I served as an intermediary for chapter leadership. As an ambassador, I championed diversity and health initiatives. As the Commissioner of Workplace Issues, I communicated to nurses with a monthly column. This column was disseminated to over 85,000 practicing nurses. Presently, I serve as vice president of the Board of Directors for RAO Community Health and co-chair of the Black AIDS Treatment Network in Charlotte. Last, I am the lead researcher on a study with nurses from 8 different countries globally representing Sigma chapters.

Leadership Experience

Sigma has provided me opportunities to mature as a professional and a leader. I have been mentored by Sigma leaders and have served in several leadership roles. As a leader, I have been nationally recognized for my contributions to health care. The time that I have spent in service to Sigma has provided me with a sense of accomplishment in being part of an organization that strives for excellence. Through my service to Sigma, I recognize the international impact of the organization on global health, education, and research.

Professionally, I chair students' doctoral projects and mentor junior faculty. One of my mentees received an international Sigma Grant award. I am now ready to serve you as the North America Region 13 Coordinator.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 14 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Amita Avadhani PhD, DNP, CNE, DCC, ACNP-BC, NP-C, CCRN, FAANP, FCCM



My name is Amita Avadhani and it is with great enthusiasm that I request your support to serve as Regional Coordinator for North America Region 14. I have extensive leadership, clinical and academic experience to facilitate the advancement of Region 14 in the post COVID-19 era. I also have the creativity, the technological and human networking skills as well as the courage to take Region 14 to the next level.

I am a dedicated Sigma member for the past 18 years and have established a record of accomplishments. I served as the President of Alpha Tau Chapter from 2018-2020 after its merger with the Omicron Pi Chapter. I utilized my leadership skills from Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy in assuring a seamless transition as the integration of chapters came into action. I proudly created Alpha Tau's first mentorship program and developed a collaboration with the school's alumni association group to celebrate Alpha Tau's 50th anniversary and to raise money for nursing student scholarships. I also drafted Alpha Tau's first Chapter Key Award application which earned the chapter it's very first key award in 50 years. Additionally, I have also served as a chapter leader with the New Jersey Consortium of Sigma Chapters' Founders Day planning committee for the past 4 years and was instrumental in conducting our first virtual Founders Day in 2020, the year of the Pandemic. Additionally, I have participated in the Region 14 activities through my service to the Northeastern Global Regional Council as a member as well as the Regional Awards Committee member in the past. I have also engaged in service as a speaker, volunteer and session moderator during the biennial conferences. As a Virginia Henderson fellow, I have given back to Sigma by supporting other nurses' research and scholarship endeavors.

My years of hard work and career progression provides a strong testimony for my ability to succeed as a Region 14 coordinator. I am a minority nurse with my basic nursing education from India and international nursing practice experience in India, Saudi Arabia, Canada and the United States (US). In the US, I have accomplished my goals of being a Certified Nurse Educator, a PhD, a DNP, and a dually certified Nurse Practitioner. I served as a Nurse Practitioner in the Intensive Care Unit during COVID-19 as I made adjustments to my in-person teaching methods to a live virtual format. Quality of my contributions to nursing education and clinical practice are evident from my esteemed fellowships in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

I believe Region 14 needs a visionary leader with strong clinical, academic, leadership and technological skills along with a vision to lead the regional chapters into a more cohesive, and collaborative region overcoming challenges along the way. I have organizational skills and the track record of keeping the commitments that I make. With your trust and vote for me, I am committed to giving back to Sigma.. Thank You!!

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 14 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Diane McClure DNP, RN, CPNP-CP, CNL, APHN-BC, CCRN, CCAP, CEIM



I have been in the nursing profession for over 40 years. During this time, I have held positions in healthcare as a staff nurse, educator, nurse manager, clinical and educational nurse specialist and nurse practitioner. My field of practice is acute care neonatology and primary care pediatrics. Additionally, I hold national board certification as a primary care pediatric nurse practitioner, advanced practice holistic nurse and clinical nurse leader. Currently, I am a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program at Seton Hall University.

My association with Sigma began in 2001 when I was inducted as a member to the Gamma Nu Chapter, Seton Hall University. I have held positions as board member, president-elect and president. I currently hold the office of chair of scholarships and awards. I have attended the biennial convention as a delegate. Recently, I had the privilege of serving on the planning committee for the Region 14 annual conference and presenting an abstract written by the Organization of Nurse Leaders (NJ) entitled, “What Nurses Need to Support a Healthy Workplace Environment: An Integrative Review of Nurses’ Perspectives” published in *Worldviews Evidence Based Nursing*. At present, I am the Chair of the Chapter Engagement Committee for Region 14.

The mission of Sigma, “developing nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere” resonates within me as a holistic nurse. As a holistic nurse and academician, I have journeyed with many nurses aspiring to become nurse leaders. Over the course of some forty years, I have educated, mentored and supported nurses in becoming better leaders and clinicians by providing individualized review classes for certification and

licensure. These nurses have gone on to become managers, advanced practice nurses and educators. I am so proud to say that I helped them in their journey. Currently, I am mentoring a young woman from Nigeria who is preparing for the NCLEX exam. It warms my heart to watch her grow and join the ranks of NJ nurses.

My leadership experience started in the early 80’s when I was asked to join the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care nurses (AACN). I felt I was out of my element because the chapter was comprised mostly of adult critical care nurses. What could I, as a neonatal critical care nurse, bring to the table? This group enveloped me with compassion and warmth because I could speak to caring for the pregnant woman and her unborn child that they were so frightened to care for in the intensive care unit. During my journey with this chapter, I went from board member to president. This association started my travels and experience in leadership. My other leadership experiences include Founder and Chapter Leader of the Tristate Chapter of the American Holistic Nurses Association, President of the NJ Association of Neonatal Nurses and Chair, Academic Integrity Committee, Seton Hall University.

My motivation and commitment for serving Sigma in an elected position is an easy one. I want to give back to my colleagues and friends for their lifelong support of my endeavors. I would not be where I am today without the loving support of my mentors and cheerleaders. To them I am forever grateful. Because of my leadership and volunteer activities with many associations; I feel I could benefit Sigma and its membership as a future leader. I am up for the challenge.

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 15 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Lindsey Horrell Camp PhD, MPH, RN



My name is Lindsey Horrell Camp, and I am an Assistant Professor in the William F. Connell School of Nursing at Boston College. I am running for the position of the North America Region 15 Coordinator because Sigma has played an integral role in my leadership and professional development to date, and I now hope to help other chapters and new members take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits Sigma offers.

I was inducted into Sigma as a third year BSN student at Bellarmine University, though I missed my own induction while studying abroad in Fremantle, Australia. Despite the distance, I immediately began experiencing the benefits of Sigma membership, as my local chapter provided a scholarship to support my attendance of the International Council of Nurses Congress in Melbourne, AUS. Interacting with the global nurse leaders at that conference solidified my desire to pursue a career in nursing research, leadership and education, and that is where I first met past Sigma CEO, Pat Thompson, who graciously listened to my career goals and provided me her contact information to provide ongoing support. From that moment, I knew I wanted to become more involved with Sigma and one day give back to the organization that had already provided so much support for my professional goals and interests. Upon my return to the States, I acted as the Program Chair for the Lambda Psi Chapter and helped organize our Induction Ceremony. I also attended the Biennial Convention that fall, where I was invited to the “Wisdom Sharing Session for Past, Current and Future STTI Leaders” hosted by Past President Suzanne Prevost. Two years later, I worked as an intern for the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery (GAPFON) - a Sigma led initiative to identify priority issues in

global health and amplify nursing’s voice in solution development. Immediately after completion of my BSN, I moved to pursue my MPH and PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and eventually served as Counselor of the local Alpha Alpha Chapter. Last year, I participated in the first cohort of Sigma’s Nightingale Challenge—a year-long leadership training program for early career nurses. Finally, upon my recent move to assume my current faculty position at Boston College, I became involved with board activities with the Alpha Chi Chapter, and I was recently elected to serve as the 2021/22 Alpha Chi President.

Thus, I have served many roles within Sigma and enjoyed countless opportunities to travel, collaborate, learn and grow through this organization. It is now my goal to help each chapter in our region identify ways to engage members in innovative local opportunities and opportunities available through headquarters. As someone who can speak to the impact Sigma has had on my early career, I am particularly interested in collaborating with chapters to identify ways to support new members. Thank you for considering me for this position, and I hope to have the opportunity to meet each of you soon!

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

NORTH AMERICA REGION 15 (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Debra Kramlich PhD, RN, CNE, CCRN-K



I am currently Assistant Director for the University of New England School of Nursing and Population Health in Portland, Maine. I earned a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Saint Joseph's College of Maine and a PhD in Nursing from Duquesne

University. I have been a registered nurse for over four decades and am certified in the specialties of nursing education and critical care. Additionally, I hold a certificate as a Child Care Health Consultant and have been in private practice for over a decade, serving over 40 child care centers throughout southern and central Maine. During the 2019-2021 biennium I have served on several regional task forces by appointment, and the experience has been so rewarding. I have served in various leadership positions within the Kappa Zeta at-Large Chapter for over a decade, from newsletter editor to president. I chaired the committee for the successful application for a charter amendment to include a practice site in our at-large chapter in 2017, the first chapter internationally to do so. Our chapter has thrived as a result, and we have mentored other chapters regionally who have pursued this model. Outside Sigma, I serve on boards of directors for several other professional and non-profit organizations. My leadership style is collaborative, and I try to build trust and psychological safety through clear and open communication. I respect and encourage diverse perspectives. I welcome constructive coaching for my own growth. I am highly organized and manage my time effectively. I try to lead by example; one of my favorite quotes is “the speed of the leader is the speed of the team.” I am also willing to serve when called upon, where my skills align with the identified need.

Evidence has shown a steady decline in civic engagement and social capital over the past several

decades. At the same time, we are becoming an increasingly global society, never more evident than during the pandemic. Sigma's vision, mission, and strategic goals set a course for nurses to serve at the forefront of global initiatives. I have served on the planning committee for the Region 15 collaborative symposium for the past four years, including co-chairing the committee when my chapter hosted the event in 2019. The enthusiasm and sharing of innovation by nurses at all levels and from diverse settings at these events is inspirational. Through this experience I have come to know and appreciate the leaders and members throughout the region, and I value their collegiality and passion for nursing practice, leadership, scholarship, and service. I believe such engagement can contribute to the growth and sustainability of our chapters and the organization as a whole by demonstrating the value of Sigma membership as the organization of choice. I hope to continue fostering these collaborative relationships as Region 15 Coordinator. I feel my qualifications and the leadership skills I've gained through my experiences have prepared me well to assume the role.