



Kappa Eta Chapter

New Jersey City University

Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing®

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings:

I am excited to share our recent activities, achievements, and updates for 2025 in this newsletter. The chapter submitted the 2023-25 chapter key award application to Sigma. The Chapter Key Award, established in 1991, honors Sigma chapters that excel in chapter-related activities. Chapters earn points for the 2023-2025 Chapter Key Award in five different categories: Chapter Leadership and Operations, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Communication and Engagement and Chapter Service, Awards, and Philanthropy. The chapter is confident that Sigma will present Kappa Eta with their tenth coveted award at the biennial convention in November.

Thank you to the board members who served for the year 2024-2025. Special gratitude to Marissa Rodrigues, Leadership Succession Chair and Helen Urusov, Treasurer, for their many years of dedicated service to Kappa Eta chapter. There is a reorganization meeting in July for our 2025-2026 board. Kappa Eta welcomes all members to join committees, become board members and/or attend meetings. Please let me know if you are interested. The chapter will post on our Kappa Eta site the meeting dates and zoom links to join the meetings. All the minutes are posted in the library section on our website.

Members, please reach out to me with news about your educational achievements, certifications, research and community service at p.joffe@verizon.net so the chapter can share these important achievements with all members.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Best, Pat Joffe .

2025-2026 KAPPA ETA CHAPTER OFFICERS/BOARD

President - Patricia Joffe

VP/President Elect - Jenny Joachim

Treasurer - Bryanna Long

Secretary - Liliana Wood

Governance Members - Amanda Tobias,

Connie Sensor, Joyce Wright

Newsletter - Ruth Cyrius

Leadership Succession Chair Members - Wendy

Watson, Lewis Blackman and Tara Marko

Membership Ambassador - Jeanne Ruggerio

Webmaster - Yavuz Eriske

Counselor - Joyce Wright

2025 INDUCTION



Sunday, March 23, 2025, Kappa Eta welcomed inductees, their families and friends, faculty, and guests to Kappa Eta's induction held at the Stage House in Mountainside, NJ. Patricia Joffe, president, presented the mission and vision of Sigma. Dr. Barbara Blozen, President of the Board of Nursing was the Keynote speaker on the topic of leadership in nursing

Candidates were inducted by Kappa Eta board members, Patricia Joffe, Jenny Joachim, Bryanna Long, Kevin O'Neill and Alliyah Ramzee and faculty counselor Dr. Joyce Wright.

Kappa Eta congratulated the new undergraduate members, Virginija Abu Alula, Yavuz Erike (intern), Florence Balouga, Juan Miguel Belamide, Sarah Bregna, Frances Caballero, Robin Collins, Erin Day, Janet Mainye, Rashaad Hicks, Josine Ophrah Ladaban, Brianna Macklin, Catherine Petroccia, Noelle Racuya, Sabrina Scibetta, Mason Seipp and Regina Migliara a student in the Master's Program with a specialization in School Nursing. There were four Nurse Leaders, Carrie Rozen, Cala Nanda, Salomeh Ahmadi and Jodie Komar Witt.

Members bought donations for the shelter in Jersey City.

A new member orientation was held virtually on April 16, 2025, at 7 pm.



KAPPA CORNER

Kappa Eta Star



Lewis Blackman is a Kappa Eta star. He has had a plethora of experiences that have enhanced his nursing career and leadership skills. Before starting his journey in nursing, Lewis was a substitute teacher and owned a catering business. He graduated from Middlesex County Vocational School's LPN program in 1983. As an LPN, he was a staff nurse in Oncology at JFK Medical Center and then a psychiatric nurse at Marlboro Psychiatric State Hospital. He graduated from Orange Memorial Hospital (Winifred B. Baldwin) School of Nursing as an RN. Lewis was the president of his graduating class and formed the first community health fair at the hospital. As an RN he was a staff nurse at St. Michaels Hospital and then assistant nurse manager at UMDNJ. He graduated from New Jersey City University (Jersey City State College) in 1994. His capstone project was a program on minority nurses. At graduation, he was awarded the leadership award and inducted into Sigma. Lewis earned his Master of Science in Health Administration at NJCU and additionally was ordained to the Ministry (Universal Life Church Ministries). He believes his spiritualism and faith has kept him grounded. His mantra is to accept, love, support and inspire others. Lewis' hobbies are praying, sewing, knitting, cooking and traveling. Besides his ministry and membership in Sigma/ Kappa Eta Chapter, he is a member of ANA and NJSNA.

Lewis has been a dedicated Kappa Eta member since his induction. He never misses a Founder's Day celebration or induction to support and welcome our new members. Lewis is actively involved in our partnership with the Jersey City Day Shelter. He collects an immense number of items for every shelter drive. For 2025/2027, Lewis is a member of the Leadership Succession Committee.

Liliana Wood is a new transfer member to Kappa Eta chapter. Liliana has been a critical care RN in JCMC for the last 5 years. Recently, she zoned in on the cardiac specialty and states it's been so rewarding to truly make very small but very crucial differences in patients' care. Jersey City and the Jersey City Medical Center has a diverse population, and Lilliana is fluent in English, Spanish and Italian, which allows her to communicate to her patients during critical cardiac emergencies. Liliana represents the Informatics and the Magnet shared governance councils for her critical care unit. She collaborated on multiple activities as Magnet Champions, including going to the 2022 Magnet conference in Philadelphia, as well as the annual career fairs at Dickinson High School (DHS). Quote from Liliana: "Nurses who support and encourage nurses. It's the secret sauce that elevates our profession and it's a big part of the reason I love being a nurse " Lilliana will assume the position of secretary for the Kappa Eta board. Welcome to Kappa Eta! Liliana



DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY

On April 30th, 2025, nurses from Kappa Eta, and JCMC went to Dickinson High School in Jersey City to encourage students to consider nursing as a profession. Amanda Tobias who created the program has been the facilitator for over 10 years. This year Liliana Wood led the nursing team. She used a high fidelity mannequin arm and butterfly needles/ vacutainers and taught the students their first simulation phlebotomy. Students were actively involved in the discussions on nursing. The team enjoyed the opportunity to speak to the wonderful students from diverse backgrounds who have taken an interest in science



GARDEN STATE EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SHELTER

Coffee, Coffee and more Coffee!!!

Thank you to all Kappa Eta members and our current NJCU Nursing Students who once again, donated the requested items of Coffee, Sugar, Summer T-shirts, undergarments and socks to the Garden State Community Development Center in Jersey City.

This is always an excellent opportunity for Kappa Eta to support those who are less fortunate in the Jersey City Community. Thank you all!



CALLING ALL KAPPA ETA CHAPTER #245 MEMBERS!

Our Board is currently looking for motivated, creative, and inspired nurses interested in getting more involved on our board. As a member of our board, you would be able to participate in decision-making, assist with creative ideas for the chapter, and have the option to travel to networking events. On the board, there are various opportunities to network with other driven nurses throughout the state of NJ and the world. There are many opportunities for growth, throughout the various entities of Sigma. If interested, contact Pat Joffe at p.joffe@verizon.net. We welcome our new members. Our board will mentor you in positions.

SIGMA FOUNDATION FOR NURSING: HELP MAKE NURSING STRONGER

Each year, for every research and leadership grant that is awarded, seven are declined due to limited funding. A donation to Sigma's Foundation for Nursing can help provide for grants and programming to help nurses around the world.

Visit <http://www.sigmanursing.org/why-sigma/stti-foundation-for-nursing/make-a-gift> to make your donation today. Also, consider starting a Chapter Giving Circle, where a group pools their donation to help make a larger philanthropic impact!

REGION 14 CONFERENCE



The Region 14 Conference – Respond, Respect & Reflect with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was on Sunday March 2, 2025, from 8:30 -1:30 PM. Amita Avadhani, Sigma Region 14 Coordinator welcome participants and offered remarks. The opening keynote address was by Sandra C, Garmon Bibb, DNSc, RN, FAAN, Sigma President. She presented her call to action Respond, Respect and Reflect. There were 7 podium presentations and several poster presentations that covered diverse topics. Following the program, there was a Regional 14 meeting. Awards were presented by the Region 14 Awards and Recognition Committee. Kappa Eta chapter was a sponsor of the conference. Kappa received the 2023-2025 Regional Excellence Award.



Kappa Eta is looking for Nurse Leaders to induct into Kappa Eta. If you know anyone who meets the criteria for induction as a Nurse Leader, please contact Pat Joffe at p.joffe@verizon.net. Criteria for a nurse leader is:

- ❖ A registered nurse, legally recognized to practice in his/her country
- ❖ Have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field; and
- ❖ Have demonstrated nursing achievement in one of the following areas: scholarship, leadership, and service



Renew your Sigma membership.

Invest in your professional future and improve health for all people around the world.

Renew your membership »

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Sigma sends out renewal reminders. Don't forget to Renew your membership and stay active in Kappa Eta.



48th Biennial Convention

8-12 November 2025 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Sigma's largest event, the biennial convention, will feature outstanding plenary speakers, networking opportunities, over 800 oral and poster presentations, and the opportunity to travel to our headquarters city, rich in culture, sports, and tradition.

Join more than 2,000 Sigma members and global leaders in nursing that come together to celebrate our heritage while building upon our successes, and to embrace the 2023-2025 organizational call to action: **Represent**, *Reflect. Respect. Respond.*

Registration Information / Important Dates

Presenter Registration Deadline: 13 August 2025

Early Registration Deadline: 3 September 2025

Standard Registration Deadline: 8 October 2025

On-Site Registration: 8-12 November 2025

Kappa Eta Chapter at NJCU

NJCU Nursing Dept.
2039 Kennedy Blvd.
Jersey City, NJ



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