



Fall 2002

Par Excellence!

Gamma Chapter College of Nursing, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, 319/335-7138

President's Message



Are you "infected"? It is fall, school is back in session, and there is an excitement in the air about the start of a brand new academic year. Although this was the year we worried much about West Nile Virus infections, not to worry about catching the Gamma Chapter enthusiasm bug. The officers and committee chairs have met over the summer and are geared up for an exciting and fresh approach to Gamma programming. Join us in this adventure. There are many opportunities to participate and contribute. Just ask us. We are especially interested in finding a newsletter Editor, finance committee members, membership involvement activists, and other officer candidates.

The two major Gamma Chapter themes to emerge this year are leadership development and membership involvement. Since the strength of Gamma Chapter depends upon prepared and committed leaders, we seek to devote our resources to grooming members to take on leadership roles. If you have even a mild interest in a leadership role in Sigma Theta Tau International, please contact me (diane-huber@uiowa.edu) or our President-elect, Lou Ann Montgomery (lou-montgomery@uiowa.edu). Because we are a membership organization, our vibrancy is fed by member involvement. To this end, the Board and committee chairs are designing creative programming to entice and engage members toward active involvement.

Gamma Chapter's goal is to assist members to develop professional excellence in scholarship, practice, research, and leadership. We give both research awards and undergraduate scholarships. We support scholarly programming and leadership opportunities. We are most proud of our inception of and ongoing support for Progressive Nursing Day (PND) as a leadership development venue for undergraduate nursing students and the larger membership community. The next PND is coming up on Wednesday, April 2, 2003. The Board also is working hard to focus on excellence in clinical practice in this current year.

There are some events to keep an eye on. First, the Men in Nursing media campaign won two regional awards this year, thanks to Pat Donahue's submission and Dean Dreher's inspiration. This will be forwarded for International recognition at the biennial convention in 2003. Gamma Chapter also is planning some new awards this year. Under the able direction of Jan Denehy, the Gamma web site is under significant reconstruction and updating. Archivist Pat Donahue plans to convene a committee to look at our archives and write a more detailed history of Gamma (the second oldest chapter of STTI, our chapter number is 002). President-elect Lou Ann Montgomery is spearheading our Chapter Key Award application effort. Both she and Vice President Robyn Wheeler are working on creative programming, specifically to focus on excellence in clinical practice. Our Chapter bylaws have been approved, thanks to Annette Scheffel. Our Secretary, Nicki Markovetz, and our Treasurer, Theresa Schaefer, both devote a tremendous amount of energy into keeping Gamma running smoothly. This should be a great year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane L. Huber".

Diane L. Huber
Gamma Chapter President



Congratulations to the newest inductees into Gamma Chapter! These individuals were inducted on May 5, 2002 during the Spring Induction Ceremony.

Undergraduate Student Inductees

Emma Ankeny	Patty Fisher	Cassie Pederson	Gina Shannon
Jamie Austin	Venessa Gerstenbrand	Kim Pederson	Kristen Shea
Julie Bauer	Nikki Gevock	Kahala Pfrimmer	Jessica Schultz
Carie Biederman	Michele Gobush	Heather Pitt	Candace Sonnefeldt
Kelly Blankenship	Jennifer Goode	Nancy Rahe	Erin Springer
Jill Bobolz	Mary Haffarnan	Jennessa Reicks	Laura Triplett
Bryanna Brodell	Tamara Herold	Amber Ridge	Melanie Veach
Sarah Dowsett	Anya Jepson	Leah Rinehart	Kimberly VonLanken
Melissa Eighmy	Katherine Main	Kelly Ripperger	Brynn Wagner
Kristen Ferrie	Sabrina Miller	Marlene Runyon	Melissa Wickart
Melissa Fischels	Jennifer Oppold	Megan Sampson	Kristin Widlund
			Jessica Wray



RN-BSN Progression Student Inductees

Iowa City	Spencer	Orange City	Calmar	Mason City	Fort Dodge
Mara Clarke, RN	Krystie Brashear, RN	Laurie Berbauer, RN	Barbara Nickelotti, RN	Kathleen Anderson, RN	Renea Seagren, RN
Kathleen Fair, RN	Mary Ellen Garlick, RN	Robbi Johnson, RN	Mary Reicks, RN	Carolyn Ewen, RN	
Allison Myers, RN	Valetta Krumwiede, RN	Deborah VonderPlas, RN	Allison Zweibohmer, RN	Vivian Heller, RN	
Kelly Richards, RN	Pamela Mankze, RN			Krista Ohden, RN	
Darcey Rosenblum, RN	Mary Kay Ulrich, RN				
Debbie Speltz, RN					
Karla Todd, RN					
Kellie Yarrow, RN					

RN-BSN Progression Student Inductee group photo not available. Visit www.nursing.uiowa.edu/eventphotos/Sigma_May02/ for photos of inductees by individual city.

Graduate Student Inductees

Margery Amelon, RN, BSN
 Jodine Gunn, RN, BSN
 Jianying Liu, RN, BSN
 Stacy Michael, RN, BSN
 Jennifer Muller, RN, BSN
 Catharine Sellers, RN, BSN



Community Leader Inductees

Beth Houlahan, RN, BSN, MSN
 Grace Matthews, RN, BSN, MSN
 Sherry McKay, RN, BSN, MSN
 Heidi Nobiling, RN, MA, MBA
 Helen Rittenmeyer, RN, BSN
 Heidi Shedenhelm, RN, BSN



Gamma Chapter Board Members & Committee Chairs

President	Diane Huber	diane-huber@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
President-Elect	Lou Ann Montgomery	lou-montgomery@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Vice President	Robyn Wheeler	awheeler@avalon.net	2001-2003
Secretary	Nicollet Markovetz	nicollet-markovetz@uiowa.edu	2001-2003
Treasurer	M. Theresa Schaefer	tschaefer@mercy.org	2002-2004
First Counselor	Teri Boese	teri-boese@uiowa.edu	2001-2003
Second Counselor	Anita Stineman	anita-stineman@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
By-laws Chair	Annette Scheffel	annette-scheffel@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Membership Involvement	Robyn Wheeler	awheeler@avalon.net	2001-2003
Research Chair	Joanne McCloskey Dochterman	joanne-mccloskey@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Scholarship Awards Chair & Co-Chair	Eleanor McClelland	elleanor-mcclelland@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
	Janette Taylor	janette-taylor@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Archivist	M. Patricia Donahue	mary-donahue@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Finance Committee Chair	Linda Everett	linda-everett@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Nominating Committee	Ann Rhodes	ann-rhodes@uiowa.edu	2002-2003
Program Committee	Robyn Wheeler	awheeler@avalon.net	2001-2003
Web Page	Jan Denehy	janice-denehy@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Gamma Office Secretary	Kim Hammen	kimberly-hammen@uiowa.edu	1998-open
Par Excellence Editor	Sam Thibodeaux	samuel-thibodeaux@uiowa.edu	2001-2003

If you are interested in joining a Gamma Chapter committee please contact the chairperson for information.



Gamma Chapter Member Highlights



Robyn Wheeler

Robyn has resided in Iowa City for the past 17 years. She graduated from the University of Iowa in 1997, earning both the BSN and BA degree in Psychology. She is currently enrolled as a full-time graduate student in the Masters program at the College of Nursing and the Advanced Family Nurse Practitioner Program. She is actively involved in the promotion of nursing serving as treasurer for the Southeast Region of the Iowa Nurses Association; vice-president for the local Sigma Theta Tau Chapter; co-chair for the University of Iowa College of Nursing AGNS; and numerous committees promoting undergraduate students in the College of Nursing, including Progressive Nursing Day. Robyn looks forward to meeting colleagues in nursing as she continues her education at the University of Iowa, and hopes to continue to actively promote nursing as a valuable and vital health care profession.



Sam Thibodeaux

Sam was born and raised in Cedar Rapids. Following graduation from high school he enrolled at the University of Iowa, receiving his BS in Microbiology in 1997. Sam continued his education at the University of Iowa, receiving his BSN in 2000. Sam currently works as a staff nurse at UIHC in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. He also works with Iowa Donor Network, promoting organ and tissue donation. Sam is currently enrolled in the Masters program at the University of Iowa with a specialization in Anesthesia Nursing. He serves the Gamma Chapter as editor of Par Excellence. Sam served on the Progressive Nursing Day Board and on the University of Iowa Provost Student Advisory Board as an undergraduate. He has enjoyed his opportunities to promote the nursing profession and plans to continue to assume leadership roles during his nursing career.



Jenessa Reicks reads to pediatric patients of Princess Margaret Hospital



Cross-Cultural Nursing: Jamaica 2002

Nicki Markovetz MS, ARNP, CNM, Gamma Chapter secretary and Clinical Instructor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing took 12 students to St. Thomas Parish, Jamaica May 19 – June 6, 2002. The group worked at Princess Margaret Hospital and cared for various groups of hospitalized patients. Students were able to live within the communities of the parish with families and work with the local public health nurses. This is the fourth year that a group has traveled to Jamaica.

Third world conditions are present in St. Thomas Parish and the group lived and worked without air conditioning, hot water or window screens. The students experienced functioning under very different conditions than they had been accustomed. Supplies were scarce, goats and chickens were occasionally chased from hospital wards, and although the people of Jamaica speak English, the Jamaican dialect, "patois" is often hard to understand.

This year the group endured a tropical depression that resulted in rain for 12 straight days. This produced extensive flooding resulting in the death of at least nine on the island. The rains created water and power outages and resulted in dangerous travel conditions. Students learned additional "skills" such as bathing in the rain and "toileting" in their rooms! Travel required "nerves of steel" as rushing water covered the roads, often coming up to the bus doors.

All who traveled to Jamaica came away with the utmost respect for the staff at Princess Margaret Hospital and the people of the parish. Excellent care was given under very adverse conditions, scarce supplies, and relatively primitive technology. Whether helping deliver their first Jamaican baby, visiting homes with dirt floors, three tin walls, and no electricity or running water, or getting stung by jellyfish, all were saddened when it was time to return home.

Gamma Chapter members who traveled to Jamaica were: Emma Ankeny, Beth Hem, Jenessa Reicks, Candace Sonnefeldt, and Megan Weimer.



Gamma Chapter Seeks Chapter Key Award

By Lou Ann Montgomery, PhD, RN
President-Elect, Gamma Chapter

Gamma Chapter has begun the process of applying for the Chapter Key Award. This award was established by Sigma Theta Tau International in 1991 and honors chapters who excel in six areas of chapter activities: opportunities for new membership, membership involvement, membership renewal, professional leadership development, recognized achievements and promoting collaboration. All active chapters are eligible to apply, and the number of chapter key awards granted is unlimited for each award period.

Gamma Chapter's submission will cover activities from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2003. The awards will be announced at the Biennial convention in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in fall 2003. The award criteria were distributed at the August Gamma board meeting and will be distributed in September to chapter officers who did not receive the criteria. Officers and board members should read the criteria and submit requested documentation to Kim Hammen, 101 College of Nursing, NB. For further information, contact Lou Ann Montgomery @ 356-3959 or lou-montgomery@uiowa.edu.



Fellow Appointment

Center for Nursing Classification & Clinical Effectiveness

The Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness at the College of Nursing, the University of Iowa has established a fellows program. An appointment of *Fellow, Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness* is designated for individuals who contribute significantly to the ongoing upkeep and implementation of NIC and NOC. Such individuals will be non-students who are actively contributing to the Center and may include research team members, retired professors, staff at cooperating agencies, and visiting scholars.

Fellows are expected to donate a portion of their time to some work activity of the Center. They are available as resource persons for such activities as: ad hoc reviews of proposed new interventions and outcomes, participating in team or other meetings, serving on a planning committee for a conference, reviewing drafts of monographs, participating in grant writing activities. The list of fellows will be updated annually and posted on the Center's bulletin board. An appointment of a fellow will be for a three-year period, or shorter time depending on need (e.g. Visiting Scholar). If you are interested in information on how to become a fellow contact the Center (335-7051).



Calendar of Events

<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
10/24/02 7 - 8:30 pm	Fall General Meeting & Dinner	University Athletic Club
11/18/02 10 am - 1 pm	Founder's Day & Cake Celebration	CON—Well Area
1/14/03 9 am	Board Meeting	Perkins—Coralville
2/25/03 3:30 pm	Spring Voting on Inductees	CON—STTI Room
2/18/03 9 am	Board Meeting	Perkins—Coralville
4/1/03 6 to 8 pm	Progressive Nursing Day Board Dinner	Iowa River & Power Co.
4/2/03 8 am	Progressive Nursing Day	Iowa Memorial Union
4/15/03 11 am - Noon	Voting Meeting for Officers	CON—Room 133
4/26/03 9 am - Noon	Spring Induction Ceremony & Brunch	University Athletic Club
Date & Time TBA	Transition Meeting & Brunch	Amanas