



Par Excellence!

Fall 2003

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

President's Message



As the crisp, cool days of Fall surround us, we turn our attention to the exciting activities planned for Gamma Chapter, STTI. Building upon the foundation for excellence laid last year, look for three major themes in the 2003-2004 academic year: communication, member involvement and community activities, and planning for Gamma Chapter's 75th anniversary celebration in the Fall of 2004.

Communication is an important function of any high-achieving chapter. One of our strategic goals has been to "spread the news" farther and wider. To further this aim, Gamma has created two listservs: one for active members and one for those who are inactive. Look for welcoming messages, periodic updates, and alerts for upcoming events. Please keep us informed of email address changes. Please use the listservs to remain committed, involved members of STTI. Please check our website (<http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti>) frequently for the program schedule and other timely news. Our website manager, Jan Denehy, has worked diligently on making this a premiere site.

We are in process of planning for more intensive efforts related to community involvement. November 10th is our Founder's Day event in conjunction with the UIANS blood drive. Dean Dreher is meeting with the Gamma Board to discuss her vision. This year we will feature our two new awards: the Clinical Practice Improvement Award (CPIA) and the Betty Means Community Health Award. Please nominate yourself or deserving colleagues. Keela Herr is chair of the CPIA award committee; Lisa Kelly is chair of the Betty Means award committee. Our Gamma support secretary, Kim Hammen, is the contact point for all questions.

We are delighted that Gamma Chapter is the recipient of a Chapter Key Award, to be presented in Toronto in November at the STTI biennial convention. President-elect Lou Ann Montgomery has spearheaded this intensive but successful award effort on behalf of Gamma.



Fall of 2004 brings us the 75th anniversary of Gamma's first induction. In those days, the first induction was the "sentinel event" prior to issuing the charter. Please let the Gamma board know your creative ideas for an exuberant celebration. Have a great fall into winter. Keep active!

Sincerely,

Diane L. Huber
Gamma Chapter President



Gamma Chapter Member Highlight

Laura Cullen

Gamma chapter member Laura Cullen, M.A., R.N., is the Evidence-Based Practice Coordinator at University of Iowa Health Care. Her position serves to support evidence-based practice within the department of nursing. Two key responsibilities are: developing and coordinating the *Evidence Based Practice Staff Nurse Internship* program at UIHC and the *Advanced Practice Institute: Promoting the Adoption of Evidence-Based Practice*. Laura is very supportive of evidence-based practice, "seeing the potential impact of nursing ignited my enthusiasm." She also believes that UIHC's evidence-based practice program is important for nursing retention: "nothing is more valuable than getting nurses excited about nursing and improving patient outcomes." Laura was named the Isabelle Brandon Distinguished Lecturer when presenting an evidence-based practice program. Laura has these recommendations for nurses to get involved in evidence based practice: first, question your practice and ask, "why am I doing this routine?"; then examine research in that area, and finally use the evidence-based practice process to implement and evaluate the changes when appropriate. Laura serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Iowa College of Nursing and speaks to undergraduate and graduate nursing students about the evidence-based practice process and projects that have been implemented at UIHC. She completed her B.S.N. and M.A. at the University of Iowa College of Nursing. Laura developed her master's thesis working with the NIC team at the college and won the MNRS student poster award. Laura also is actively involved as a school volunteer, being named "Volunteer of the Month." She and her husband, Joe, reside in Iowa City and have three children: Jessica, Brendon, and Meredith.



Gamma Chapter Member Highlight



Jean Pottinger

Jean Pottinger, R.N., M.A., C.I.C., joined the PHE staff in January, 1997, and serves as a full-time nurse epidemiologist. She received her BSN degree from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, and her MA degree from The University of Iowa.

Ms. Pottinger has 25 years of infection control experience and has conducted surveillance using the NNIS criteria for 17 years. Ms. Pottinger serves as the Administrative Assistant on the Tuberculosis Task Force. She also serves on the Nursing Quality Management, Professional Nursing Practice, and various construction committees. She also serves on the University Task Force on Infectious Diseases and the AIDS/HIV Education Advisory Committee. Ms. Pottinger presents inservices to numerous departments and has presented educational programs for ICPs in various Districts in Iowa. Ms. Pottinger directed and spoke at the 1998 and 2001 Annual Infection Control Symposium for ICPs in Iowa. She was a coauthor on chapters about surveillance and exposure workups for *A Practical Handbook for Hospital Epidemiologists*. Ms. Pottinger's areas of expertise and special interest are surveillance of nosocomial infections and infections in the elderly, animals in the health-care facility, and epidemiology of patient falls. Ms. Pottinger is a member of APIC and previously served on its National Research Committee. Ms. Pottinger is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society. Each year, she attends the annual meeting of either APIC or SHEA.



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	Stacy Michael	stacy_michael@hotmail.com	2003-2005
Secretary	Nicollet Markovetz	nicollet-markovetz@uiowa.edu	2003-2005
Treasurer	M. Theresa Schaefer	tschaefer@mercy.org	2002-2004
First Counselor	Anita Stineman	anita-stineman@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Second Counselor	Teri Boese	teri-boese@uiowa.edu	2003-2005
By-laws Chair	Annette Scheffel	Alscheffel@aol.com	2002-2004
Membership Involvement	Stacy Michael	stacy_michael@hotmail.com	2003-2005
Research Chair	Joanne McCloskey Dochterman	joanne-dochterman@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Scholarship Awards Chair	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	Trudy Laffoon	trudy-laffoon@uiowa.edu	2003-2005
Program Committee	Stacy Michael	stacy_michael@hotmail.com	2003-2005
Web Page	Jan Denehy	janice-denehy@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Gamma Office Secretary	Kim Hammen	kimberly-hammen@uiowa.edu	1998-open
Newsletter Editor	Holly Gaede	hollydave@mchsi.com	2003-2005

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



Spring Deadline for Gamma Chapter Awards: Clinical Performance Improvement Award and Betty Means Community Health Award

Clinical Performance Improvement Award

Purpose: To recognize members in clinical practice who have demonstrated innovative and high quality practice. Awards may be given for projects or activities in process or completed.

Nomination and Application: A clinical leader may be nominated by any nurse, healthcare provider, agency, or citizen. Application guidelines and further information may be found at <http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti/CPIA.pdf> through the Gamma website. Submission deadline is March 1, 2004.

Selection Criteria: Nominees must be a registered nurse; be an active member of Gamma chapter; demonstrate evidence of innovative and high quality clinical practice that has contributed to improvement in quality of patient care or services, has expanded access, has had a positive financial impact, or has promoted important patient outcomes; and agree to acknowledge Gamma chapter in publicity or information dissemination related to the project.

Betty Means Community Health Award

Purpose: To promote community health nursing in an interdisciplinary environment, recognize outstanding community health projects, and to reward innovative community health activities.

Nomination and Application: Individuals may be nominated by any nurse, healthcare provider, agency, or citizen. Application guidelines and further information may be found at <http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti/BettyMeans.pdf> through the Gamma website. Submission deadline is March 1, 2004.

Selection Criteria: Nominees must be a registered nurse or enrolled as a BSN student; be an active member of Gamma chapter, or if a student, the student's faculty advisor must be an active member of Gamma chapter; demonstrate evidence of innovative and high quality community health practice that has expanded access, has a positive financial impact, or has promoted important community outcomes; present at a Gamma chapter meeting; and agree to acknowledge Gamma chapter in publicity or information dissemination related to the project.



Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness To Receive Award from Sigma Theta Tau International

On November 2, during the Tribute Luncheon at the Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention in Toronto, Canada, the Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness at the University of Iowa will receive the STT Board of Directors' Clinical Scholarship Award. This award, established in 1997, is bestowed by the Board of Directors in recognition of established excellence in integrating knowledge and clinical experience to achieve exemplary practice. The award notice from May Wykle, President of STT stated "The work of the Center has had an international impact on nursing practice, education and research because of its commitment to knowledge representation in nursing. Through its leadership in informatics and the development of models and methods for taxonomic classification, the Center influences the health of individuals and communities while simultaneously ringing together disciplines, academe, research and/or clinical practice in innovative ways. ... These extraordinary contributions to the health and well-being of people worldwide are sincerely appreciated." Gloria Bulechek and Sue Moorhead will be in attendance to accept the award for the Center; several other "Fellows" from the Center will also attend.



Gamma Chapter Fall meeting features Daniel Pesut, STTI President Elect

by Lou Ann Montgomery, Ph. D., RN, Gamma President Elect

On September 4, 2003 Gamma Chapter was pleased and proud to welcome a very special keynote speaker, Daniel J. Pesut, PhD, CS, RN, FAAN, President Elect, Sigma Theta Tau International and Professor and Department Chair, Department of Environments for Health, Indiana University School of Nursing. The program was held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Coralville after a brief annual fall meeting directed by Gamma President Diane Huber. Dr. Pesut offered a 90 minute presentation entitled "The Five Logics of Clinical Reasoning". Based on Dr. Pesut's program of research and collaborations with other prominent nursing scholars, the presentation provided an insight to apply select strategies to daily practices. Following his presentation, Dr. Pesut informally met with the 70 Gamma members, guests and students who attended at a reception. Our guests included nurses from Mercy Medical Center/Cedar Rapids, Trinity Regional Hospital in Moline, Illinois, Mercy Hospital/Iowa City, Genesis Medical Center, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and two international scholars visiting the College of Nursing from Africa and Europe.



*Gamma Chapter Induction Ceremony Was Held April 26, 2003.
Please welcome our new inductees!*

Undergraduate Students

Holly Baer, Jorilyn Baumgarten, Sara Bina, Tommy Blodgett, Teresa Bordonaro, Emily Bruce, Angela Buch, Kimberly Burns, Aleshia Chester, Stephanie Dallenbach, Dana Daubenberger, Abby Dryer, Carrie Faber, Nicole Frederick, Jodelle Goeller, Lynette Head, Kristine Hitzman, Ewa Jedrzejczak, Amber Jefson, Carrie Johnson, Sarah Keat, Joanna Klaas, Kimberly Larson, Andrea Mayer, Brooke McCuen, Megan Meredith, Staci Millner, Amy Monroe, Jasmine Nelson, Janelle Patterson, Andrea Rebman, DeeAnn Rieger, Jaclyn Roman, Erin Rupe, Lynn Rutherford, Lisa Schlenker, Sheila Schmidt, Polina Shisel, Seth Sibunka, Jessie Sorensen, Catherine Squires, Brooke Thielking, Heather Thorington, Sara Tonsfeldt, Cassie Valasek, Kara Walker, Brooke Watkinson, Anne Wellman, Danielle Wendland, Julie Wengryn, Emily Wiese, and Rachel Zenner



RN-BSN Progression Students

Susan Adams, RN, Meranda Anderson, RN, Cynthia Burr RN, Anne Gentil-Archer, RN, Doris Jacobs, RN, Linda Kerschenske, RN, Bonnie Kester, RN, Ma Cristina Moore, RN, Julie Shaw, RN, Mary Laures, RN, Kimberly Schaefer, RN, Kathleen Verhalen, RN, Kari Birdsell, RN, Erin Evans, RN, Amanda Monroe, RN, April Mueller, RN, Danielle Nelson, RN, Kim Rupp, RN, Steven Van Stralen, RN, Sandra Benda, RN, Norma Jean Larson, RN, Terry Mitro, RN, Janet Montour, RN, and Donna Walker, RN



Graduate Students

Aaron Gopp, BSN, RN, SRNA, Apawan Nookong, MSN, RN, Linda Peterson, BSN, RN CEN, Jacqueline Rodgers, BSN, RN, and Michelle Umbarger, BSN, RN



Nurse Leaders

Ann Fountain, BSN, RN, Mary Gengerke, BSN, RN, Mary Hanna, BSN, RN, Helen Lazio-Stegall, BSN, RN, Elizabeth Mulbah, BSN, RN, MA, FWACN, Kathleen Osterman, MSA, BSN, RN, Debra Pettit, PhD, RN, Cynthia Powers, BSN, RN, and Kristin Richardson, BSN, RN, ARNP





Gamma Chapter to Receive Chapter Key Award

by Lou Ann Montgomery, Ph. D., RN, Gamma President Elect

Gamma chapter was notified shortly after Labor Day that we have successfully met requirements to receive a Chapter Key Award. This award recognizes continued chapter excellence and participation of members at the local, regional, and international level. Lou Ann Montgomery and Diane Huber will receive the award on behalf of the Gamma membership on November 4, 2003 at the biennial convention in Toronto. Thank you to the Gamma Board members and Gamma membership for your assistance in preparing the award submission.



Research Award Applications Available

Gamma Chapter supports the advancement of nursing knowledge through the provision of seed grant money from the research fund on a competitive basis. Research proposals, budgets, and other application materials are due March 1, 2003. An application packet may be obtained from Kim Hammen, in 101C, at the College of Nursing, University of Iowa. For further questions please contact Joanne McCloskey Dochterman at (319) 335-7120.



Gamma Chapter's New Web Site Online

Jan Denhey, Gamma chapter web page editor, launched the new chapter and regional websites this past fall. The Gamma website is located at <http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti> and the regional website can be found at <http://www.sttiregions.org/region4/>. Both websites are extremely easy to navigate and contain great information. These sites will be updated on a regular basis to ensure members have current and up to date information. Please visit these sites often. Previous editions of Par Excellence can be found on the Gamma site. Thank you Jan, and congratulations on a wonderful job!



Undergraduate Scholarship Award Applications Available

Gamma Chapter is soliciting applications for undergraduate scholarship awards. The application form is available from Kim Hammen, Gamma Secretary. Applications are due Friday, March 14, 2004 at noon to Kim Hammen, in 101C, at the College of Nursing, University of Iowa. Awardees will be notified by April 1, 2004. Awardees are expected to attend the Gamma Spring Induction ceremony May 1, 2004, at the University Athletic Club to receive the award. We look forward to receiving your applications. Further information may be obtained from Kim Hammen.



Attention All Gamma Members!!!

In an effort to serve you better, Gamma chapter is requesting that you help us update our database. We are specifically asking members to submit their e-mail addresses so that we may be able to distribute important information in a more timely fashion. If you have an e-mail account please e-mail your address to holly-dave@mchsi.com and it will be added to our database.



Calendar of Events

<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
November 10, 2003 10 AM to 1 PM	Founder's Day Celebration/Blood Drive	College of Nursing—Well
January 13, 2004 9 AM to 11 AM	Board Meeting	River City Beefstro
February 17, 2004 9 AM to 11 AM	Board Meeting	River City Beefstro
February 24, 2004 3:30 PM	Spring Voting on Inductees	College of Nursing—STT Room
April 12, 2004 6 PM to 8 PM	Progressive Nursing Day—Planning Committee Dinner	Iowa River Power Company
April 13, 2004	Progressive Nursing Day	Iowa Memorial Union
April 13, 2004 2 PM	Voting Meeting for Officers	College of Nursing—STT Room
May 1, 2004 9 AM to Noon	Spring Induction	University Athletic Club