



Par Excellence!

Spring 2003

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

President's Message



Opportunity knocks, and I hope you will open the door. Spring is a busy time for Gamma Chapter members. Come join in the activities and the excitement. There are many opportunities to participate and make a difference. First is our spring programming. Please see the Gamma calendar for our upcoming events. Plan to attend Progressive Nursing Day (April 2) and the spring induction (April 26). Second is the opportunity to stand for election to an officer or chair position or to volunteer to help the officers and chairs by committee participation. For example, we need a volunteer to take on the job of newsletter editor. Please contact our nominations chair, Ann Rhodes. Third is involvement by nominating or being nominated for one of 4 awards being given by Gamma Chapter in 2003: research, undergraduate scholarships, the Betty Means Community Health Award and the Clinical Performance Improvement Award. The last two of these awards are new this year and are exciting opportunities for Gamma members to receive recognition for their important work in nursing and health care. See further information in this newsletter and refer to the Gamma Chapter web site (<http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti>).

Since the strength of Gamma Chapter depends upon prepared and committed leaders, we continue to devote our resources to grooming members to take on leadership roles. If you have even a mild interest in a leadership role in Gamma Chapter, 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 nourished by member involvement. Gamma Chapter needs your creative energy.

Gamma Chapter's goal is to assist members to develop professional excellence in scholarship, practice, research, and leadership. One example of how Gamma members have contributed innovative leadership is in Jan Denehy's detailed and creative development of the Gamma Chapter web site. Please visit the site often and use it for keeping up with activities and opportunities. Please let Jan know if you have any suggestions for its ongoing development.

There are some events to keep an eye on. First, the Men in Nursing media campaign (that won two regional awards in 2002) will go forward for International recognition at the biennial convention in Toronto in November. President-elect Lou Ann Montgomery is spearheading our Chapter Key Award application effort, again for the biennial convention. She also has developed a creative fall program on clinical decision-making, featuring Dan Pesut as the speaker, for September 4, 2003 (so mark your calendar). This program, as well as our two new awards this year, is in keeping with the theme of celebrating the innovative clinical practice of nursing in an interdisciplinary health care system. Please encourage and facilitate applications for the two new awards, the Betty Means Community Health Award and the Clinical Performance Improvement Award. Please also contact us with your creative ideas. Gamma Chapter strives to seed the fields of opportunity here at Iowa and beyond. Seize the opportunities.

Sincerely,

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

Diane L. Huber
Gamma Chapter President



Gamma Chapter Member Highlight



Beth Houlahan

On October 8, 2002 Beth Houlahan, RN, MSN, Gamma Chapter member was presented with the 2002 Alumni Professional Achievement Award from Mt. Mercy College.

This award was in recognition of her significant contributions and achievements in the profession of nursing. Of note, was evidence of her excellence and commitment to patient care, nursing, and collegial collaboration through her role as Clinical Director of the Family Care Center at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). The Family Care Center (FCC) is the on-campus site for primary care including Family Practice, General Pediatrics and General Internal Medicine. The health care team in the FCC serves to meet the needs of patients from birth through senescence.

In addition, Beth was acknowledged for her work as co-leader (with Linda Everett, RN, PhD, Gamma Chapter) with the broad scale service leadership initiative at UIHC. This initiative is a multifaceted approach toward ensuring individual and organizational commitment to quality service for all patients, visitors and staff.



Progressive Nursing Day: Igniting the Spirit of Nursing

Faced with a growing shortage of nurses, UI nursing students have dedicated the 26th annual Progressive Nursing Day, scheduled for April 2, to recruitment and retention of nurses. The theme of the half-day conference, "Igniting the Spirit of Nursing," keeps pace with recent efforts by the nursing profession to teach nurses how to promote nursing and recruit others into the field. The keynote address, "Selling Nursing", will be delivered by May Wykle, PhD, dean of nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.

The keynote address begins at 8:30am in the Main Ballroom at Iowa Memorial Union on the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City. Other presenters include Linda Everett, PhD, Associate Director and Chief Nursing Officer at UI Hospitals and Clinics with Melanie Dreher, PhD, Kelting Dean and Professor of the UI College of Nursing who will discuss nursing retention. A panel of nurses employed by UI Hospitals and Clinics will discuss the positive benefits of being a nurse.

Progressive Nursing Day is organized by the UI Association of Nursing Students (UIANS), an undergraduate student leadership organization, and is co-sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau, Gamma Chapter. For more information contact the UIANS office at 335-7002. CEU's available.



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
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First Counselor	Teri Boese	teri-boese@uiowa.edu	2001-2003
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Research Chair	Joanne McCloskey Dochterman	joanne-dochterman@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
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Archivist	M. Patricia Donahue	mary-donahue@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Finance Committee Chair	Linda Everett	linda-everett@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
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Web Page	Jan Denehy	janice-denehy@uiowa.edu	2002-2004
Gamma Office Secretary	Kim Hammen	kimberly-hammen@uiowa.edu	1998-open
Newsletter Editor	Sam Thibodeaux	samuel-thibodeaux@uiowa.edu	2002-2003

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



Gamma Chapter Announces Two New 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, 2003.

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, 2003.

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.



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, 2003 at noon to Kim Hammen, in 101C, at the College of Nursing, University of Iowa. Awardees will be notified by April 1, 2003. Awardees are expected to attend the Gamma Spring Induction ceremony April 26, 2003, at the University Athletic Club to receive the award. We look forward to receiving your applications. Further information may be obtained from Kim Hammen.



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!



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.



Chapter Key Award Data Collection Underway

Present and a select group of former Board members have recently received information asking for their direct participation in the data collection process for Gamma's submission for the 2003 Chapter Key Award. Data and related information should be sent to Lou Ann Montgomery via campus mail, c/o CNO, T100, GH, or email to lou-montgomery@uiowa.edu by March 1, 2003. Chapter Key award winners will be announced at the biennial STTI Convention this fall in Toronto.



Institute on Nursing Informatics and Classification—June 9-12, 2003

The University of Iowa will host the 5th annual Institute on Nursing Informatics and Classification in Iowa City, Iowa, June 9-12, 2003. Registration is limited to 50 individuals. The purpose is to discuss cutting edge issues in informatics and learn the current state of development and use of NIC and NOC. This year's conference will feature the new forthcoming editions.

Content for the Institute will include lectures by distinguished national speakers, such as, Melinda Costin, Vice-President, Healthlink; Daniel Pesut, Professor and Chairperson, Environments for Health, Indiana University; and Roy Simpson, Executive Director, Cerner Corporation, as well as field site visits to agencies that use nursing standardized language; a preview of selected software including Cerner, Elseiver (NANDA, NOC, and NIC: Electronic Linkages), Ergo, McKesson, and Nurse's Aide will be previewed; and opportunities to dialogue with the developers of NANDA/NDEC, NIC and NOC.

The institute is co-sponsored by the Organizations, Systems, and Community Health Area of Study and the Center for Nursing Classification & Clinical Effectiveness, University of Iowa, College of Nursing. Contact Jen Clougherty at (319) 335-7119 or Shawn Gibbs at (319) 335-7051 for further information.



STTI President-Elect Dan Pesut Keynote Speaker at Gamma's Fall 2003 Meeting
By Lou Ann Montgomery, RN, PhD, President-Elect

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming Fall 2003 meeting to be held from 4:00-6:00 pm on Thursday, September 4, 2003, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center (formerly the Clarion Inn), I- 80 and 2nd Ave, Coralville, Iowa! Sigma Theta Tau International President-elect Daniel Pesut, PhD, CS, RN, FAAN, Indiana University School of Nursing at Indianapolis, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Pesut will be speaking on "The Five Logics of Clinical Reasoning." His presentation will include discussion of the differences between clinical reasoning, decision making and judgment, and an overview of the OPT model of clinical reasoning. This promises to be an interesting and worthwhile presentation for all Gamma members and will be open for other interested nurses to attend as well. CEUs will be available. The program will be begin with a brief general business meeting, followed by Dr.Pesut's presentation. An hors d'oeuvre reception will follow from 6:00-7:00 pm. Brochures will be available later this spring. For more information, contact Lou Ann Montgomery at (319) 356-3959 or lou-montgomery@uiowa.edu.



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 samuel-thibodeaux@uiowa.edu and it will be added to our database. Thank you for your cooperation.



Calendar of Events

<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
April 1, 2003 6 to 8 pm	Progressive Nursing Day Board Dinner	Iowa River & Power Co.
April 2, 2003 8:30 to 12:30 am	Progressive Nursing Day	Iowa Memorial Union
April 15, 2003 11 am - Noon	Voting Meeting for Officers	CON Heritage Room (133)
April 26, 2003 9:30 to 12:30 am	Spring Induction Ceremony & Brunch	University Athletic Club
June 10, 2003 11 am	Transition Meeting & Brunch	Amanas
September 4, 2003 4:00 to 6 pm	Fall General Meeting & Presentaiton—The Five Logics of Clinical Reasoning	Holiday Inn & Convention Center (former Clarion Inn)