



Par Excellence!

Spring 2004

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

President's Message Spring, 2004



Got "cabin fever"? Ready for some excitement? The year 2004 promises to be one filled with special activities for Gamma Chapter. This is because 2004 is the year of the 75th anniversary of the first Gamma induction, which started the chapter in those days. We have some special events being planned. Come join in the activities and the celebrations. Mark your calendars! There are many opportunities to participate and make a difference.

EARLY ALERT: Watch for further information about 2 wonderful 75th Anniversary events: a special re-enactment of the original secret ceremony at this year's induction on May 1, and a special anniversary event currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 8. The Surgeon General has been invited to be the keynote speaker, thanks to the great ideas of Dean Melanie Dreher. The University President, Dr. Skorton, has written a letter of support, and there is enthusiasm that the Surgeon General may come.

Spring is always a busy time for Gamma Chapter members. First is our spring programming. Please see the Gamma calendar for our upcoming events. Plan to attend Progressive Nursing Day (April 13) and the Spring Induction (May 1). 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. Please contact our nominations chair, Trudy Laffoon. Third is involvement by nominating or being nominated for one of 4 awards being given by Gamma Chapter in 2004: research, undergraduate scholarships, the Betty Means Community Health Award and the Clinical Performance Improvement Award. The last two of these awards 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/sti>). Be sure to keep your email address up to date with us, as well: communications now are by electronic methods.

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. Lots of volunteer help will be needed for the special celebrations.

Since the last newsletter, President-elect Lou Ann Montgomery and I were privileged to attend the 37th Biennial Convention of STTI in Toronto in November, 2003 as Gamma Chapter delegates. It was an exciting convention. Gamma was well represented among award winners. The Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness at the UI College of Nursing won a Clinical Scholarship Award. Joseph Greiner and Jane A. Greiner won a Nursing Spectrum-Evidence Based Practice Award for "Sedation Management for the Adult Mechanically-Ventilated Patient". Thanks to the hard work of President-elect Lou Ann Montgomery, Gamma Chapter won its first Chapter Key Award. The banner looks distinguished in our chapter room. Connie Trowbridge was re-elected regional coordinator for Region IV. Finally, Steven Warner and M. Patricia Donahue won a regional media award for the Men in Nursing campaign. Good showing! Also from the convention were approved bylaws changes to streamline the governance structure and to give the Board authority to increase dues (\$10 per year this biennium).

Please also contact us with your creative ideas. Gamma Chapter strives to seed the fields of opportunity here at Iowa and beyond. Seize the chance to make a difference!

Sincerely,

Diane Huber

Gamma President



Gamma Chapter Supports Student Attendance at the STTI Convention in Toronto

Gamma Chapter sponsored the attendance of two BSN students at the University of Iowa, Andrea Green and Stacey Lens, at the fall STTI Convention in Toronto. Here is an excerpt one of the students wrote about her experience:

Hi! My name is Andrea Green and I served as the President of UIANS during the 2003-2004 school year. I had a wonderful experience at the Sigma Theta Tau convention in Toronto. In particular, I was extremely impressed with all of the research that takes place in the nursing profession. As a nursing student, I learn about the importance of research many of my classes, but rarely do I ever get to see first-hand the impact that nurses have on research and evidence based practice. I was also overwhelmed by the amount of pride expressed by the nurses at the conference. All of the nurses at the convention loved the fact that they were nurses and would not trade their job for anything in the world. The Sigma Theta Tau convention reconfirmed my desire to become a nurse. Now, more than ever, I am proud to be graduating from such a prestigious nursing school and will soon be proud to say that I'm a nurse.



Attention All Gamma Members!

We are attempting to compile a list of Gamma Chapter presidents, to honor them at the 75th Anniversary celebration. We urgently need to get the list updated! Please email (janice-denehy@uiowa.edu) if you can help us complete the list.

Thanks in advance for your assistance!



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.



*In Memory of Annette Scheffel
College of Nursing, the University of Iowa, 1965-2002*



Annette Scheffel came to the College of Nursing in 1965. Over the 37 years she had a number of teaching responsibilities, mainly in the baccalaureate program with both basic and RN to BSN students. The courses that she taught included Foundations of Nursing, Nursing of Adults and Children, Nursing V, Introduction to Health, Loss and Death in Clinical Nursing Practice, Integrated Approach to Professional Nursing Practice, Nursing Leadership and Care Management, Honors Independent Study, Practicum for Leadership and Care Management in Professional Nursing Practice, and Community Health Nursing Practicum. She was a co-founder of the senior internship program and served as the coordinator of this program since it began in 1985 until her retirement. Over the years, Annette facilitated the placement of 2261 students in internship positions. Annette was also very active over the years in many professional organizations including Gamma Chapter Sigma Theta Tau and the Iowa Nurses Association. In the INA she served on 17 committees, serving as

President, Member of the Board of Directors, Parliamentarian for 8 conventions, Bylaws Committee Chairperson for 7 years and member of the Bylaws committee forever. She also served as the Iowa Association of Nursing Students Parliamentarian for 8 conventions. In 1997 she received the Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Alumni of the Year Award (she had received a diploma in 1957); in 1999 she received the INA District V Nurse of the Year Award.

In the College, Annette also served on numerous committees with many leadership positions. These included Chairperson of all of the following: Academic Council; the College's Self Study Review in the early nineties; Planning, Development and Coordinating Council; Admissions Subcommittee; Bylaws Committee; Undergraduate Council; and the Graduate Council, not to mention numerous other committees of which she was a member. She was the editor of the College's little fyi for 23 years

(1979-02). During one of our previous nurse shortages (1988-1992) she was a co-founder and co-Director of the very innovative Iowa Nursing Summer Camp for Junior and Senior High School students. From 1985-1988 she was the Coordinator of the College's Mantoux Skin Testing for College of Nursing and Physical Therapy students. This was an entrepreneurial undertaking whereby nursing students under supervision gave the skin tests and the college got paid a percent of the charge for delivery of the service. Annette was very active in the University and in the community. She was literally one of the major supporting bones of every organization she participated in.

Annette also had a creative craft bone, which she occasionally demonstrated to her colleagues with small surprise gifts such as homemade Christmas tree ornaments or a wall-hanging hat with a flower arrangement on the brim designed according to her perception of your personality. The College of Nursing was, indeed, very fortunate to have Annette's assistance and dedication for many years. She became ill shortly after she retired and handled her illness for the past two years with courage and dignity. We will miss her.

Gamma Chapter Celebrates its 75th Anniversary



IN MAY 1929, AN INITIATION CEREMONY MARKED THE FOUNDING OF THE GAMMA CHAPTER OF SIGMA THETA TAU. THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE CHAPTER INCLUDED FIVE FACULTY AND SUPERVISORY NURSING PERSONNEL FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SCHOOL OF NURSING AND THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, AS WELL AS 17 STUDENTS. THE MEMBERS WERE INITIATED WEARING BLACK GRECIAN ROBES IN A BLACK-DRAPED CHAMBER WHERE THEY PLEDGED TO UPHOLD THE IDEALS OF SIGMA THETA TAU. THIS INITIATION CEREMONY, WITH MANY UNIQUE AND SECRET RITUALS, WAS REPEATED ANNUALLY UNTIL 1942. IT WAS REENACTED AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND WILL BE DONE AGAIN AT THE SPRING INDUCTION CEREMONY ON MAY 1, 2004 AT THE ATHLETIC CLUB.

A 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO PLAN SPECIAL EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY, BEGINNING WITH THE SPRING INDUCTION CEREMONY ON MAY 1. A LIST OF GAMMA CHAPTER PRESIDENTS FROM ITS CREATION IS BEING UPDATED, AND GAMMA CHAPTER MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS NATIONAL OFFICERS WILL BE FEATURED. IN ADDITION, A LONG LIST OF AWARDS GIVEN TO GAMMA MEMBERS WILL BE DISPLAYED. THE GAMMA CHAPTER HISTORY, PUBLISHED BY SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL TO COMMEMORATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1997, WILL BE UPDATED AND PUBLISHED.

A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAMMA CHAPTER WILL BE HELD AT THE IOWA MEMORIAL UNION ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2004. SURGEON GENERAL, RICHARD H. CARMONA, M.D., M.P.H., HAS BEEN INVITED TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER, FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS AND COMMEMORATING THE MANY ACHIEVEMENTS OF GAMMA CHAPTER. UPDATES AND SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT THE GAMMA CHAPTER WEBSITE WWW.NURSING.UIOWA.EDU/SITES/STTI



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 hollydave@mchsi.com and it will be added to our database. Thank you for your cooperation.



Celebrate of Gamma Chapter's 75th Anniversary!

We are wishing you a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We at Gamma Chapter look forward to 2004, the year that is our 75th anniversary. As you know, we are the second oldest chapter in Sigma Theta Tau International. We have a dynamic team planning our anniversary events. Please check our website at: <http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti> to follow the planning and events. In addition, if you have a "history memory" and would like to send this along, please email or US mail these to our Gamma secretary, Kim Hammen. Our treasurer, Theresa Schaefer, would be pleased to accept memorials or donations (send these to: Theresa Schaefer, 3810 F. Street, Amana, IA 52203. Please make checks payable to Gamma Chapter). The first and oldest chapter, Alpha Chapter, has had their 75th celebration, but they are located in the headquarters city of Indianapolis. So we look forward to a unique and special time. We are especially interested in hearing from you if you were a past president of Gamma (please note the years of your presidency). This will help us cross check and verify our records. Many thanks!



Gamma Chapter's Online Web Site

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 to Jan Denehy for her continuous support and updating of this site!



Calendar of Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
SPRING 2004 JUNE 9, 2004 (TU) 11:00 AM	TRANSITION MEETING	LUNCH AT THE AMANAS WITH MEETING TO FOLLOW AT THERESA SHAEFER'S HOME
FALL 2004 SEPTEMBER 8, 2004 (TU)	75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAMMA CHAPTER	4 - 6 PM IOWA MEMORIAL UNION BALLROOM