

Spring 2005

# Par Excellence!

## President's Message



2005 – another year, and another opportunity to make out a list of resolutions you promise that you will accomplish in the brand new year. For many of us, that includes such things as losing those extra pounds, exercising more, taking less of the “office” home with you at night and on the weekends, spending more quality time with friends and family, and the like. Unfortunately, for many, the New Year hardly gets off the ground when we find we’ve been less than true to keeping our promises.

This year, please take some time to add Gamma Chapter activities to your do/will do list and keep the promise to yourself. During our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration keynote, Dr. M. Patricia Donahue commented, “The leadership of the past 75 years offers you the strength, courage and wisdom which are needed in nursing and the world today. That challenge is yours.” I’d like to challenge each member of Gamma to add at least one “will do” Gamma activity to their 2005 list of resolutions. There are numerous ways to get from just a little involved to a lot involved. I encourage you as well to consider enrolling your talents on the STTI website VIP Profile ([www.nursingsociety.org/VIP](http://www.nursingsociety.org/VIP)).

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jill Valde as President–Elect for Gamma Chapter. I appointed Jill to this position in early February after Neil Mac Naughton stepped down for personal reasons. Jill is an Assistant Professor/Clinical at the University of Iowa College of Nursing. She teaches leadership courses in the baccalaureate program and has previously taught at Grand View College in Des Moines. I am looking forward to working with Jill in this new capacity. I would like to thank Neil for his many years of active and excellent service to Gamma Chapter and know he will continue to participate as able.

We have already had a busy spring. From January 1 – March 1, 2005, information on the Betty Means award, the CPIA, and scholarships were posted on the Gamma website (<http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti>). We hope that you nominated yourself or a peer for one of these awards. If you have further questions, contact the committee chairperson noted on our Board member roster. Also, nominations for Sigma Theta Tau International award were due by March 1, 2005. The chapter submitted for the following awards: Chapter Website, Media award, Chapter Newsletter/Special Edition, and Computer-Based Professional Education Technology award. We will be notified of decisions regarding these submissions in early July. In July, we will be submitting for a Chapter Key award. We are very pleased to announce that Gamma Chapter has been featured on the International website in the Gallery of Honor for our 75th Anniversary. (<http://www.nursing.society.org/programs/gallery.html>.) Many thanks to Jan Denehy for preparing our submission and making this happen.

Information on Spring induction has begun to circulate from counselors Anita Stineman and Teri Boese. If you have further questions on induction, contact them at [anita-stineman@uiowa.edu](mailto:anita-stineman@uiowa.edu) and [teri-boese@uiowa.edu](mailto:teri-boese@uiowa.edu). Induction is scheduled for May 7 from 9:30-12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Coralville.

Several Sunday afternoons found Gamma mentors working with UIANS Board members in putting the final touches on the 2005 (28<sup>th</sup> Annual) Progressive Nursing Day. PND was held this year on Tuesday, March 8 at the IMU. This year’s theme centered around nursing involvement in end of life care, including keynote speaker Libby Tsubai and local nurses from UIHC, Jane Caswell and Jane Wilkins. It was one of the best ever! Kudos go out to Ashlea Lehman and the PND/UIANS board for all of their hard work. Thank you also to those of you from Gamma who served as PND mentors.

Spring voting on members/inductees occurred on February 8. A month later, on March 8, there was voting on president-elect (ratify vacancy), vice-president, secretary, nominations/leadership committee for governance committee. Results will be announced on the chapter listserv and website. Many thanks to Todd Ingram and his nominating committee for preparing an outstanding slate of candidates for officers/Board members for 2005 – 2007.

Please also consider attending the UIHC annual Evidence Based Practice Conference or nominating a peer as one of 100 Great Nurses (Gamma co-sponsoring). Feel free to contact me or any officers/Board members at any time if you want to get more involved or learn more about Gamma Chapter. Please take the challenge and join us in keeping Gamma Chapter one of the best!

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Montgomery  
President, Gamma Chapter



## Gamma Member Spotlight

*Aleta Porcella, RN, MSN*

*Advanced Practice Nurse, Informatics Specialist*



In November 2004, Aleta Porcella, RN, BSN, BC, received an Improving Our Workplace Award for her work on an AHRQ grant to develop and implement a wireless bar code blood products administration process house - wide at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. From selecting new patient identification bands that support bar coding, to arranging a cart fair for clinicians to 'hands-on' select their preferred mobile device, to training the entire Department of Nursing in the new process, Aleta was involved in every aspect of the two-year project. The first pilot unit went up in April of 2004, the pilot was extended to other units through the end of the year, and the process successfully went house - wide in February of 2005. Aleta received a BA in Psychology from the University of Iowa, and a BSN from Morningside College in Sioux City. In December 2000, she received the first Masters of Science in Nursing Informatics ever conferred by the University of Iowa College of Nursing. Her Master's research project resulted in the paper 'Narrative Nursing Notes in a Nursing Information System (NIS)', which was published in the *Proceedings of the Annual Symposium of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), 2001 pp 538-42*. For this work she received the 2001 Harriet H. Werley Award, given annually in recognition of the paper making the greatest contribution to advance the field of nursing informatics. Aleta received her Informatics Nurse Board Certification in January 2004. She has been a member of the Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau since 2001. Aleta is also active in the community, serving as a board member of the non-profit organization Friends of Old Time Music, and is a very active supporter and practitioner of local acoustic music.



## Gamma Chapter Calendar



DATE	EVENT	TIME & PLACE
MAY 7, 2005 (SAT)	SPRING INDUCTION	9:30 AM - NOON HOLIDAY INN IN CORALVILLE (BRUNCH AT 11:00AM)
MAY 15, 2005 (SUN)	CHAPTER KEY SUBMISSIONS DUE FROM BOARD TO L. MONTGOMERY	
JUNE, 2005 (TBA)	TRANSITION MEETING	11:00AM-2:30 PM RIVER CITY BEEFSTRO CORALVILLE, IA
JULY 15, 2005 (TBA)	CHAPTER KEY DUE TO HEAD-QUARTERS ANNUAL REPORTS FROM OFFICERS DUE TO PRESIDENT	
AUGUST 1, 2005 (MON)	CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT DUE TO HQ OFFICER LIST DUE TO HQ	



## *2004 Slate of Candidates*

At press time, elections had occurred but candidates were still being notified of results. Results will be announced via Gamma's listserv in the near future

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

#### **Jill Gaffney Valde, PhD, RN**

Jill Valde is an Assistant Professor in the Adult-Gero Area at the College of Nursing. Her BSN is from the University of Iowa, as is her Master's in Nursing. Her areas of emphasis for her Masters were Community Health/Mental Health. Her PhD is in Sociology from Iowa State University. Her dissertation was on stigma towards the use of mental health services. Her nursing practice has included acute care, and hospital administration. She has taught nursing at Grand View College in Des Moines, IA. and has served as adjunct faculty for the University of Iowa. For the past two years she has coordinated a state-wide leadership grant which looked at mentoring activities and nurse retention.

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

#### **Mary Berg MSN, ARNP, CPNP**

I would like to state my interest in the position of Vice President for Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. I received my BSN and MSN degrees at the University of Iowa College of Nursing in 1988 and 1997 respectively. I currently have a full-time Assistant Clinical Professor position at the College of Nursing. I teach an undergraduate pediatric clinical Practicum on a cardio/pulmonary pediatric inpatient unit at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. I also teach in a graduate PNP clinical applications and physical exam course as well as the PNP practicum course and seminar. I am the founder and director of The Young Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program at the College of Nursing. In addition, I practice part-time as a PNP at the HACAP Clinic in Cedar Rapids.

I have been a member of Sigma Theta Tau since 2000 and have been serving as a STT advisor to UIANS Progressive Nursing Day Planning Committee this year. I very much appreciate the importance of involvement in professional nursing organizations and I am interested in becoming Even more actively involved in Sigma Theta Tau.

#### **Elizabeth Swanson PhD, RN**

I have been a member of Sigma Theta Tau International for a number of years serving in various capacities at the chapter and national levels. I have been on the Nominations Committee, Newsletter Committee and served previously as Vice President. Recently I served for two years on the Public Relations Committee at the national level. I appreciate the opportunity to serve Gamma Chapter in this capacity.



## *Check out Gamma's Website*

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/>.

Gamma Chapter is now featured on the Gallery of Honor page of the STTI webpage. <http://www.nursingsociety.org/programs/gallery.html> This is a great honor for Gamma.



## **SECRETARY**

### **Paula Allen BSN, RN**

I am a 2004 graduate of the University of Iowa College of Nursing BSN Program. I am currently in the BSN-to-PhD program at Iowa in Aging Studies. My area of interest is end of life/palliative care. I currently work as a staff nurse on the Adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit at UIHC. I have been married for 22 years and have a son, age 20, and a daughter, age 17 (who will be attending UI in the fall as a pre-nursing student). As an undergraduate student, I served as secretary for The University of Iowa Association of Nursing Students (UIANS) in 2003-2004, and also served as Program Director for Progressive Nursing Day. I was a Young Scientist Scholar for 2003-2004, as well, and participated in two research studies with Dr. Kristine Kwekkeboom, and attended the Oncology Nursing Society's annual last year. I am anxious to be an active, contributing member of Gamma Chapter. I am currently serving as a Gamma mentor for the Progressive Nursing Day Program Committee.

### **Andrea Green BSN, RN**

I graduated from the University of Iowa College of Nursing in May 2004 and was inducted into STT in April, 2003. I currently work full-time as an RN in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at UIHC. I feel I am qualified to be Secretary of Gamma Chapter due largely to my leadership experience as an undergraduate student. Past experiences include: UIANS President, UISG Senator, Resident Assistant, and WISE mentor. Through these roles, I have gained numerous leadership and organizational skills necessary to work efficiently and effectively with others. Sigma Theta Tau International is a very distinguished organization of high scholarship, research, and honor. I saw this first hand in April 2003 when I attended the STT Biennial Conference in Toronto. Since then, I have been looking for opportunities to become more involved in the organization. I am very proud to be a member of STT and hope you will consider me for the position. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## **LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE**

### **Stacey Abel BSN, RN, CCTC**

I am a transplant coordinator for the Department of Surgery at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. I have been employed by the University of Iowa since June 1987, when I started my employment as a staff nurse on Solid Organ Transplant. My positions at the University have revolved around the care of transplant patients in all aspects of care. In my current role, I am responsible for the evaluation process of those patients with end stage renal disease, either on dialysis or approaching dialysis; presenting their completed evaluation to our weekly multidisciplinary physician team for listing approval; evaluating potential living donor candidates and if approved, scheduling living related transplants. Other responsibilities include writing insurance approval letters for potential kidney transplant and kidney/pancreas transplant patients, maintaining relationships with referring nephrologists, managing those patients that are waiting on our candidate waiting list, and taking call for potential organ transplants that occur when donor organs are available. Being involved with organ transplantation for many years, I am continually intrigued by the continual progression that I am exposed to on a routine basis. Thank you for considering me for the committee.

### **Sherry L. McKay MSN, ARNP, GNP**

Sherry McKay is a half-time Assistant Clinical Professor at the College of Nursing and a half-time Geriatric Nurse Practitioner in the Family Health Clinic at UIHC. She also works as a consultant at local nursing homes. She has been a member of Gamma Chapter for a number of years.



## 2004 Slate of Candidates

### Leadership Succession (cont'd)

#### **Perle Cowen PhD, RN**

I have been a faculty member of the College of Nursing, University of Iowa since 1985. I am currently an Associate Professor in the Area Studies of Systems and Practice. My primary teaching responsibilities include Human Development and Behavior in the undergraduate program and Nursing Science and Inquiry in the graduate program. I am also an Adjunct Associate Director at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and a Patient Care Administrator, Peoples Memorial Hospital of Buchanan County. I am an active researcher and writer and have several publications and computer assisted instruction modules in the areas of child maltreatment prevention and nursing interventions in families at risk for child maltreatment. I received the Iowa Department of Human Services Certificate of Recognition for Efforts in Prevention of Child Abuse. I serve as a consultant to the following: NIH and ASAMHA Peer Review, Access to Respite Care and Help (ARCH) National Resource Center, Institute for Social and Economic Development, and the State of Iowa Council on Chemically Exposed Infants. I am a member of the Healthy Families American Research Network of the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. I have also served on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Chapter, National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. My area of research is the prevention of child maltreatment and family violence with a focus on interventions, which improve the quality of life for at-risk families. I have been the Principal Investigator or Evaluator on over 15 research studies focusing on child maltreatment prevention. The majority of the grants have been field studies of preventive intervention programs including Crisis Nurseries, Home Health Visitors, Respite Care for Children with Developmental Disabilities, Iowa HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) and Nurturing Interventions for Adolescent Mothers and their Children. Most recently I was PI on a large grant to prevent adolescent pregnancy among youth 9-14 in rural settings that include schools, community youth agencies and institutions housing high-risk youth. I have been a member of Gamma Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau since 1985 and am very interested in assuming a more active role through service on the Leadership Succession Committee.

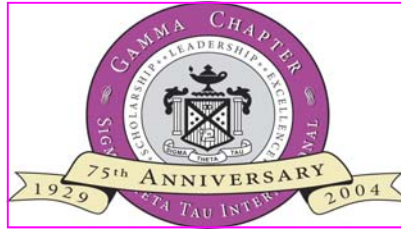
#### **Linda Chase MA, RN**

Linda Chase received her BSN from Coe College in 1986 and her MA from the University of Iowa in 1993. Linda has worked at UIHC in a variety of positions including Staff Nurse, Nurse Manager, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Administrative Associate in Pediatrics during her 25 year tenure. She currently is the Associate Director of Nursing, a position held since 2001, and has been a member of Gamma Chapter Sigma Theta Tau since 1992.

#### **Mary Kanak, PhD (c), RN**

I have been a nurse for the past 26 years, practicing primarily in clinical and research mental health settings for the majority of my career. My nursing educational preparation includes a BSN, a Master of Arts in Nursing, and a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Practice Nursing. I am currently finishing a PhD in nursing administration at the University of Iowa College of Nursing. My focus and research interest within nursing administration is the study of nursing factors that influence healthcare outcomes, particularly clinical outcomes. I have held a variety of regional level leadership positions within the Iowa Nurses Association and look forward to applying those skills to a leadership position in Gamma Chapter.

# Gamma Chapter Officers



## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2004-2005

PRESIDENT <a href="#">LOU ANN MONTGOMERY</a>  LOU-MONTGOMERY@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2004	SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS <a href="#">LISA SKEMP KELLEY</a> LISA-KELLEY@UIOWA.EDU  <a href="#">KEELA HERR</a> KEELA-HERR@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2004-2006
PRESIDENT-ELECT <a href="#">JILL VALDE</a> JILL-VALDE@UIOWA.EDU	2005-2006	ARCHIVIST <a href="#">M. PATRICIA DONAHUE</a> MARY-DONAHUE@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2006
VICE PRESIDENT <a href="#">STACY MICHAEL</a> STACY-MICHAEL@UIOWA.EDU	2003-2005	FINANCE COMMITTEE <a href="#">THEREESA SCHAEFER</a> TSCHAEFER@MERCYCARE.ORG	2004-2006
SECRETARY <a href="#">NICKIE MARKOVETZ</a> NICOLLET-MARKOVETZ@UIOWA.EDU	2003-2005	LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE <a href="#">TODD INGRAM</a> , CHAIR TODD-INGRAM@UIOWA.EDU <a href="#">BARBARA RAKEL</a> BARB-RAKEL@UIOWA.EDU <a href="#">CHARMAINE KLEIBER</a> CHARMAINE-KLEIBER@UIOWA.EDU	2003-2005  2004-2006  2003-2005
TREASURER <a href="#">KAREN GRIFFITH</a> KAREN-GRIFFITH@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2006	PROGRAM COMMITTEE <a href="#">STACY MICHAEL</a> STACY-MICHAEL@UIOWA.EDU	2003-2005
FIRST COUNSELOR <a href="#">TERI BOESE</a> TERI-BOESE@UIOWA.EDU	2003-2005	NEWSLETTER EDITOR <a href="#">GRACE MATTHEWS</a> GRACE-MATTHEWS@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2006
SECOND COUNSELOR <a href="#">ANITA STINEMAN</a> ANITA-STINEMAN@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2005	WEB PAGE <a href="#">JAN DENEHY</a> JAN-DENEHY@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2006
BY-LAWS CHAIR <a href="#">TRUDY LAFFOON</a> TRUDY-LAFOON@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2006	REGION 4 COORDINATOR <a href="#">CONNIE TROWBRIDGE</a> CONNIE-TROWBRIDGE@UIOWA.EDU	2004-2006
MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT <a href="#">STACY MICHAEL</a> STACEY-MICHAEL@UIOWA.EDU	2003-2005	GAMMA OFFICE SECRETARY <a href="#">KIM HAMMEN</a> KIM-HAMMEN@UIOWA.EDU THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF NURSING 101C (O) 319-335-7296	1998-PRESENT
RESEARCH <a href="#">ANN MARIE MCCARTHY</a>	2004-2006		