



Spring 2008

# Par Excellence!



## President's Message

Welcome to 2008! As I sit here writing my message for the newsletter I am struck by how quiet it is. The Iowa caucus has ended, and so have the countless evening phone calls. The catch phrase of this election appears to be “change.” Change will also be coming to Gamma chapter, as this will be my last message to you as President.

The experiences that I have had these past two years as your President have been phenomenal. This past fall, President-elect Beth Houlahan and I had the opportunity to serve as delegates and to attend the STTI biennial convention with two undergraduate nursing students.

Over 2,000 nurses from around the world attended this convention and nurses from 33 countries gave 850 original presentations. Experiencing the convention and presentations on clinical innovations, leadership initiatives, and cutting edge research through the eyes of the students, was both energizing and refreshing. I also heard a new term while I was there which really struck a chord with me. The term was “thought leader”.

During the past two years Gamma chapter has focused on the strategic areas of knowledge, leadership/sustainability, and community service. In the area of knowledge, we continued to provide a fall program and to co-sponsor the annual Progressive Nursing Day and Evidence-based Practice Conferences. Gamma members were also nominated and selected for scholarship, research and community service awards. In addition to the leadership mentoring, which occurs with the Progressive Nursing Day, a Leadership Internship program was initiated and the first candidate was selected. The focus for this internship experience is to develop leadership skills in new members so they will be prepared to assume leadership positions in the chapter.

The Board aggressively began a “grass roots” campaign to meet one on one with individuals and management groups to discuss the benefits of membership. This initiative resulted in better attendance at our programs as well as increased participation in a variety of community service activities including walks for diabetes and breast cancer, toys for tots, and a collection drive for a former nursing student now serving in Iraq. The Gamma chapter also won its first Regional Showcase in Excellence award for its mentoring activities with nursing students and its third successive Chapter key award.

Sigma Theta Tau International recently revealed its Vision 2020 and its plan to be “the organization of choice for scholarship, knowledge and leadership for nurses globally.” I would encourage each of you to take a minute to reflect on this. A vision this inclusive can only become a reality because of the talents, intellect, and leadership skills that each of you possess. What a powerful role to play in our profession's future!

In closing, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to my Board members. Without you, Gamma chapter and I would not have been able to accomplish the goals we set and my Presidency would not have been as much fun! Thank you again for the honor of serving as your President, I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Jill Gaffney Valde  
President, Gamma Chapter



## *STTI Bicentennial Convention*



In November, Christy and I were able to travel to Baltimore, Maryland to attend the Sigma Theta Tau International Bicentennial Convention. We went to numerous break-out sessions discussing topics from international health to rural community health topics, attended the formal awards banquet, and visited with our regional representatives. We are planning on bringing back what we learned to the University of Iowa to initiate new activities and programs to foster more enthusiasm and interest in STTI. There was time for a little sight-seeing, which allowed us to explore the city and beautiful harbor of Baltimore. The biggest thing Christy and I both took away from this trip was a greater knowledge and appreciation for what this organization stands for and can do for the nursing profession. We are both very honored and appreciative for the opportunity to represent Gamma Chapter and the University of Iowa at a very prestigious convention. Christy and I are both excited to come back to the University of Iowa and spread the word about STTI.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent Gamma Chapter and experience what STTI can do for our nursing careers.

**Ashley Carlson**  
Gamma Leadership Intern  
UIANS Co-Vice President

**Christy Berte**  
UIANS Co-Vice President

### **Reflections on the Past, Directions for the Future Implications for Research and Clinical Practice**

**The Fifteenth National Evidence-Based Practice Conference  
Friday, April 25th, 2008 with pre-conference offered on Thursday, April 24, 2008**

**Purpose:** The program will celebrate contributions to the advancement of professional nursing practice through use of evidence, translation science, and clinical research. In addition, the conference will address future directions, benefits, and challenges in evidence-based health care practices.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Keynote Speaker-Joanne Rycroft-Malone, PhD, MSc, BSc(Hons), RN;  
Reader in Health Services Research, Bangor University; Editor, Worldviews on Evidenced-Based Nursing



## *Gamma Ballot-2008 Biographies*

### ***President-Elect Candidates:***

Ellen Cram PhD, MA, BSN, RN: Is currently Vice President of Gamma Chapter. Clinical Nursing Professor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing and is Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the Iowa Nurse's Association.

### ***Vice President Candidates:***

Leah Sheaver: PhD, APN, RN: UIHC, Research, Quality and Outcomes, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Project director for the "Impact of System-Centered Factors, and Processes of Nursing Care on Fall Prevalence and Injuries from Falls.

Rebecca Chuffo-Siewert, DNP, ARNP: a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital and an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing.

### ***Secretary Candidates:***

Emily Griffith MSN, ARNP, FNP: Currently working in the Research, Quality and Outcomes Division of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Is a pain resource nurse coordinator and also teaches evidence-based practice to staff nurses and nurse leaders through the Advanced Practice Institute.

Amy Leitch MBA, BSN: Currently working as a nursing supervisor at University of Iowa Children's Hospital and has previously worked as the Nurse Clinician of the Continuity of Care Program

### ***Treasurer Candidate:***

Jackie Nelson MBA, MA, BSN: Is currently the Treasurer of Gamma Chapter and is the Administrative Specialist of Children's and Women's Services at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She has previously worked as an APN in CORM, a Nurse Manager in PICU and a Nurse Clinician III in Pediatrics

### ***Governance Committee Candidates:***

Teri Boese MSN, BSN: Is an Associate Professor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing and is the Co-Director of the Clinical Nursing Education Center. She has been on the Governance Committee since 2001.



## *Gamma Ballot-2008 Biographies*

### ***Governance Committee Candidates continued:***

Erin Springer MSN, BSN, RN: Has worked in a surgical ICU, completed her MSN in Genetics in 2006. She currently teaches in the University of Iowa College of Nursing: physiology/ pathophysiology and undergraduate student clinical practicum.

Brenda Hoskins DNP, ARNP, GNP-BC. Is a private practitioner in geriatrics and teaches in the MSN and DNP programs at the University of Iowa College of Nursing

### ***Leadership Succession Committee Candidates:***

Lisa Jones BSN: Currently works in SICU at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics since graduating in May, 2007 from the University of Iowa College of Nursing. She serves on several staff nurse committees and is a Habitat for Humanity and US Marine Corps Toys-for Tots volunteer.

Jimmy Reyes: MSN, ARNP, GNP: Is currently pursuing a DNP and PhD in Gerontology and Public Health. Is actively involved with the University of Iowa Minority Students Nurse Association, Human Rights Week Committee and Proteus Migrant Health Clinic.



## *2008 Elections*

**Gamma Chapter Election of officers will be held on February 19, 2008.  
There are several options for voting this year.**

1. In person at the Gamma Room, 101M, College of Nursing between 2:00 and 3:30PM.
2. Electronically by accessing the ballot on the Gamma Website and emailing your completed ballot to: [nicollet-markovetz@uiowa.edu](mailto:nicollet-markovetz@uiowa.edu).
3. Regular mail by printing the ballot from the website, filling it out and mailing it by February 17, 2007 to:

Nicki Markovetz  
449NB College of Nursing  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA. 52242

**Sample Ballot  
Gamma Chapter  
Sigma Theta Tau International  
2008**

Please vote for the candidate of your choice by checking the selected person.  
Write-in votes are acceptable if prior approval has been obtained from the write-in candidate.

Each of the following is a 2-year term of office:

**President:** (Vote for one)

**Ellen Cram**  
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**Vice President/Program:** (Vote for one)

**Leah Sheaver**  
 **Rebecca Chuffo-Siewert**

**Secretary:** (Vote for one)

**Emily Griffith**  
 **Amy Leitch**

**Treasurer:** (Vote for one)

**Jackie Nelson**  
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**Leadership Succession** (Vote for two)

**Lisa Jones**  
 **Jimmy Reyes**

**Governance Committee:** (Vote for two)

**Teri Boese**  
 **Erin Springer**  
 **Brenda Hoskins**

A majority of votes cast elects each officer.  
In event of a tie, the election is determined by lot.



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<http://www.nursingsociety.org/membership/main.html>





## ***2008 Research Awards***

Purpose: Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International supports the advancement of nursing knowledge through the provision of seed grant money from the Research Fund. The Gamma website contains information about how to apply for a seed grant from the Research Fund. If you have questions, please contact Ann Marie McCarthy (335-7087) or Kim Hammen (335-7296).

### ***Application Instructions***

Submit a research proposal of *not more than five (5) typewritten pages* plus instruments as appropriate and the proposed budget. One original and four (4) Xerox copies of the entire application package are to be received by **March 5th**.



## ***Clinical Performance Improvement Award***

The purpose of the Clinical Performance Improvement Award (CPIA) is to recognize nurses in clinical practice who have demonstrated innovative and high quality practice. This award may be given to an individual or individual/community partner. This partnership may include an individual and the partner (individual or agency) for joint recognition. Awards may be given for projects or activities in process or completed.

Deadline for Application: **March 1** of each year, with a decision by April 1. Please send or deliver your applications to the College of Nursing, Attn: Kim Hammen, 101C Nursing Building, Iowa City, IA 52242.



## ***Betty Means Award***

### Purpose:

The purpose of the Betty Means Community Health Nursing Award is to recognize and reward innovative and high quality Community Health practice.

### Nomination and Application:

A current Gamma Chapter member nominates individuals or individual/community partners for the award. This partnership may include an individual and the partner (individual or agency) for joint recognition.

### Deadline for Application:

**March 3** of each year, with a decision by April 1, for recognition at Gamma Chapter Spring Induction.

***Visit our website for Gamma Chapter membership and award information at  
<http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti>***



## *Calendar*

February 13, 2008 (W)	Board Meeting	8:30 -10:30 am at River City Beefstro, Coralville
February 18, 2008 (M)	Dinner for PND Planning Groups	6 - 8 pm Marriott Hotel, Coralville
February 19, 2008 (TU)	Progressive Nursing Day (PND)	7:30 am - 2:30 pm Iowa Memorial Union Main Lounge
February 19, 2008 (TU)	Voting for New Officers	2 - 3:30 pm CON Gamma Chapter Room (101M)
March 4, 2008 (TU)	Applications due for scholarships, CPIA, and Betty Means awards	Information and Forms on Gamma Website
April 26, 2008 (SAT)	Spring Induction	9:30 am - Noon; Holiday Inn Convention Center, Coralville
June 4, 2008 (W)	Transition Meeting	11am - 2:30 pm River City Bistro - State Room - Lunch followed by Meeting



## *Gamma Chapter Leaders*

President	<i>Jill Gaffney Valde</i>	Scholarship Awards	<i>Barb Rakel</i>
President-Elect Membership Involvement	<i>Beth Houlahan</i>	Betty Means Award	<i>Lisa Skemp Kelley</i>
Vice President/ Program Task Force	<i>Ellen Cram</i>	CPIA Award	<i>April Roe</i>
Secretary	<i>Andrea Green</i>	Archivist	<i>Janice Denehy Kathryn Shweer</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jackie Nelson</i>	Newsletter Editor	<i>Grace Matthews</i>
Finance Task Force	<i>Karen Griffith</i>	Leadership Succession Committee Chair	<i>Nicki Markovetz</i>
Governance Chair First Counselor/ Eligibility & Bylaws	<i>Anita Stineman</i>	Web Page	<i>Jan Denehy</i>
Governance Committee/ Second Counselor	<i>Teri Boese</i>	Past President	<i>Lou Ann Montgomery</i>
Governance Committee By-Laws Chair	<i>Trudy Laffoon</i>	Chapter Key Award	<i>Lou Ann Montgomery</i>
Research Awards	<i>Ann Marie McCarthy</i>	Gamma Chapter Secretary	<i><u>Kim Hammen</u></i>



## **GAMMA CHAPTER, SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL, WINS 2007 CHAPTER KEY AWARD**

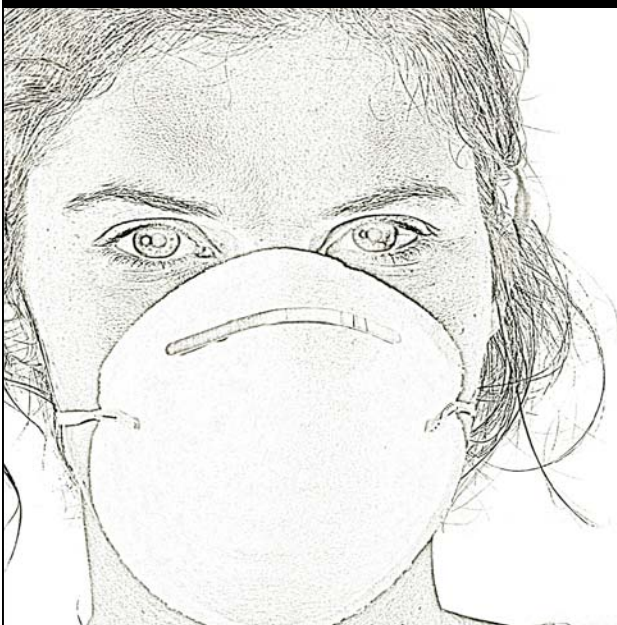
The Sigma Theta Tau International Board of Directors has announced that Gamma Chapter at UI College of Nursing has been selected as a recipient of the 2007 Chapter Key Award. The Chapter Key Award, established in 1991, honors chapters that excel in chapter-related activities, such as membership recruitment and retention, publicity and programming, and professional and leadership development.

The 2007 Gamma Chapter Key Coordinator is Lou Ann Montgomery, PhD, RN-BC, Associate Director, Nursing Education, in the Department of Nursing Services and Patient Care. This is the third consecutive time that the Gamma Chapter has achieved this award under Dr. Montgomery's direction.

The Gamma Chapter was honored at the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International's 39th Biennial Convention held on November 3-7, 2007, in Baltimore, MD. For more information about the Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, click <http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/stti/>



## **When Disaster Strike Preparing for the Unknown**



**31st Annual Progressive Nursing Day**  
Tuesday, February 19, 2008  
Co-Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau  
International, Gamma Chapter  
And The University of Iowa  
Association of Nursing Students