



SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL
GAMMA SIGMA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2004

AN INVITATION FROM THE GAMMA SIGMA PRESIDENT

Dear Sigma Theta Tau International Member:

Do you remember when you were invited to join Sigma Theta Tau? Do you remember the honor you felt at becoming a part of this elite and unique organization? Are you still an **active** member? If so, would you like to be a more active part of the Gamma Sigma chapter?

Many of you who are receiving this newsletter are currently **inactive**. I would like to personally invite and encourage you to **reactivate** your membership. Sigma Theta Tau International, like the profession of nursing, has evolved over the years. It offers many benefits in terms of web based continuing education opportunities, research and evidence based practice, development of nursing leadership and mentorship in these areas. While many nursing organizations can claim the same benefits, Sigma Theta Tau International is unique in many ways. Notice the term "international". It is a direct reflection of the organization's commitment to nursing leadership and research from a **global perspective**. What exactly does this mean?

Unlike other nursing organizations, Sigma Theta Tau is both an honor society (recognizing outstanding scholarship, leadership, and professional achievements), and a worldwide nursing organization dedicated to improving the health of the world's people through expert nursing care. This is done by utilizing the talents of its members, and/or supporting the learning and professional development of the members who strive to improve nursing care worldwide.

Sigma Theta Tau International is also unlike other nursing organizations in that nurses are recommended and then invited to join based upon either academic and/or professional achievement congruent with the vision, mission, and values of the society. Those nurses who accept membership, are then formally inducted into the chapter and society.

Being a part of STTI signifies your commitment to excellence in your chosen profession, and acknowledges your achievements—whether academic or professional—that make an impact on others in that profession. I would like to encourage you to remember that initial commitment, and to take advantage of all of the resources that STTI now has to offer you. To see what we are about, simply access www.nursingsociety.org to find out more about STTI.

So how can you easily go about **reactivating** your membership? To do this, simply access the website above, and click on *Membership* from the list at the left of the screen. This will allow you to choose *Reinstating Your Membership* from the category titled *Dues Information*. To activate your chapter status for Gamma Sigma, simply select *List of Chapter Locations* from the category *Choosing a Chapter Affiliation*. The total fee for both STTI and Gamma Sigma (site 088) is \$85.00.

If you are currently an active member, our Chapter would like to invite you to participate in our chapter activities. You will receive publications, have the chance to interact with other nurses in your area, participate in research conferences, have the opportunity to be recognized for

excellence in your area of practice, receive scholarships for research opportunities, serve on committees, or be part of the chapter governance, and much more.

As you read this newsletter, you will see many opportunities to become more active in our society and the Gamma Sigma chapter. A list of chapter officers and committee chairs are provided for you. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions about chapter activities, interest in serving on a committee, or running for an office.

Our meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from 1600-1800 at University Towers, 1650 University Blvd. NE, Suite 300-B, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Attached are the chapter activities for 2004-2005, so **save the dates!** I look forward to the opportunity to work and collaborate with many more of you in 2005!

NOTE: If you would like to receive this Newsletter by e-mail in the future, please e-mail me so that we may create an active distribution list!

Happy Holidays and Cheer,

Lorena Beeman, RN, BSN, MS
President, Gamma Sigma Chapter
(505) 272-0326 (office)
(505) 271-1368 (home)
(505) 951-3451 (pager)
lebeeman@salud.unm.edu



SAVE THE DATE: December 1, 2004

GAMMA SIGMA WINTER PROGRAM & SILENT AUCTION & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING

Where: Steak & Ale (2105-A Louisiana Blvd. NE)

Time: 6 – 9 pm

Dinner: \$28 salmon filet/\$28 filet mignon/ \$20 SW chicken/\$15 linguini w mozzarella

Guest Speaker: Dr. Marie Lobo

Topic: Families, Children, Health and Poverty

Contact: Meg Dahrling (272-5476 or pager 951-3444)

Make Check Payable to "Gamma Sigma" and mail to STTI Gamma Sigma c/o Meg Dahrling, 1524 Catron Ave. SE. ABQ.. NM 87123

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 16, 2005

RESEARCH DAY (Co-Sponsored with the UNM College of Nursing and University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center)

Where: UNM College of Nursing Auditorium

Time: 0800-1630

Fee: \$90 (flyers will be sent)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Clarann Weinert from Montana State University (Director, Center for Research on Chronic Health Conditions in Rural Dwellers)

Contact: Dr. Leah Albers (272-8861)

NOTE: Completed Research Poster Abstracts will be accepted until February 1, 2005 (Contact Dr. Mark Parshall for information at 272-4540 for more information)



SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 17, 2005

STTI GAMMA SIGMA CHAPTER INDUCTION CEREMONY

Where: UNM College of Nursing/Pharmacy Auditorium followed by a Reception in the UNM-CON Faculty Lounge

Time: To Be Determined

Fee: None

Contact: Meg Dahrling at 272-5476 or pager 951-3444 or e-mail at Mdahrling@salud.unm.edu for more information and details

CALL FOR NURSING LEADERS! Gamma Sigma is looking for nominations for nursing leaders from the professional nursing community. If you know of someone with exceptional leadership qualities, high professional standards, creative work, and/or commitment to the ideals and purpose of the profession, with a BSN or higher, *please recognize them!*

For more information on this, please contact Patsy Duphorne (272-4841 or e-mail at Pduphorne@salud.unm.edu).

GAMMA SIGMA WINTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING

AGENDA: December 1, 2004 (see previous Save the Date Information)

1. Presentation of candidates for Spring Induction.
2. Changes in Chapter Bylaws for 2005-2007.

In 2005, all chapters must submit a revision in the Chapter Bylaws. These revisions reflect changes in the International governance structure and management voted upon at the 2003 Biennial Convention. Primarily the revisions call for the institution of two standing committees: Governance Committee and the Leadership Succession Committee.

The Governance committee shall oversee bylaws compliance, make recommendations for bylaws changes, and oversee member and chapter eligibility issues. The Leadership Succession Committee shall develop members in organizational leadership roles across the span of their careers, mentor members to assume organizational board and officer positions at all levels of the organization. The committee shall select nominees and prepare the ballot.

These changes shall be presented to the general membership for formal voting on December 1, 2004. Nominations and elections to the positions will take place in 2005.

Please see the new chapter governance structure proposed by STTI in this Newsletter. If you have questions or comments, please contact Lorena Beeman at 272-0326 or pager 951-3451 or e-mail at LEBeeman@salud.unm.edu