



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing



GAMMA SIGMA CHAPTER

SUMMER 2005

President's Message

Greetings and happy summer! This is Mary Eichorn and I am the new Gamma Sigma Chapter president. It is a wonderful time to belong to Sigma Theta Tau and not just because of the great weather. Our induction this past spring had the greatest number of inductees to the chapter in a long time. I want to welcome each and every one of them and invite all members to take this change of season as an opportunity to revive your involvement in the chapter. How can you become involved? You may volunteer on a task force, help with a project, present at a program or simply contact persons who have let their membership lapse.

Within this newsletter, you will find the following information and much more. We will be talking about the induction and listing out our new members (if you see them, congratulate them on their achievement!).

The Sigma Theta Tau mission statement is included to remind us all about why we joined this organization: "to create a global community of nurses who lead in using scholarship, knowledge and technology to improve the health of the world's people", in other words, to promote and improve the practice of nursing.

A calendar listing the events of the years, their dates, times and locations is included so that you and your friends, members or not, can attend our meetings and events. If you know a person who you see as a nursing leader, bring them to the fall tea, so that they can meet the board and find out themselves what the chapter is doing.

If you have suggestions for improvement, for projects, want to know how to apply for a research grant, or just want to chat, the board members have their names, positions and e-mail addresses listed in this newsletter. Do not hesitate to contact us—we want membership involvement.

If you are involved in an activity that promotes nursing, please let me know so that we can include it in this newsletter and possibly release it as a media announcement. We want nurses that are proud to be a nurse and are actively showing their pride.

If you are a member and want to be mentored to become a nursing leader, we have a leadership intern program. Please let me know what position and area of nursing scholarship in which you are interested, and I will get you contacted to the appropriate board member.

Look at your membership cards to see if your membership has lapsed. Sometimes we so caught up in our lives that we forget to keep track of the details. If your membership is about to or already has lapsed, don't panic!! You can go on line to the Sigma Theta Tau website and easily renew.

As always, we are sad when members let their membership go. Sometimes it is because they feel that they are not really part of the organization. If you know a former member, encourage them to come with you to a meeting. We really want to see them.

Sigma Theta Tau International has a membership drive going right now. It is called "25 in 2005". There is more on that to come in this newsletter as well.

As you can see, this is a good time to belong to Sigma Theta Tau! I invite you to re-energize yourself and the chapter and together, we can support and strengthen nursing!!

Mary L Eichorn, MSN, RN, CEN
Gamma Sigma President
Sigma Theta Tau International
Meichorn@yahoo.com

The Society's Vision and Mission

A Vision to Lead

To create a global community of nurses who lead in using scholarship, knowledge and technology to improve the health of the world's people.

A Mission to Serve, Support and Improve:

Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing provides leadership and scholarship in practice, education and research to enhance the health of all people. We support the learning and professional development of our members, who strive to improve nursing care worldwide.

Overview

- Sigma Theta Tau International is dedicated to improving the health of people worldwide by increasing the scientific base of nursing practice.
- Members are nursing scholars committed to the pursuit of excellence in clinical practice, education, research and leadership.
- We believe that broadening the base of nursing knowledge through knowledge development, dissemination and use offers great promise for promoting a healthier populace.
- We are committed to furthering nursing research in health care delivery and public policy.
- We sustain and support nursing's development and provide vision for the future of nursing and health care through our network of worldwide community of nurse scholars.
- We make available our diverse resources to all people and institutions interested in the scientific knowledge base of the nursing profession.

**SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL – GAMMA SIGMA CHAPTER
OFFICER / CHAIR CONTACT INFORMATION 2005-2006**

CHAPTER POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBERS
President-elect	Lorena Beeman 9225 Mickelsen SE 87123	LEBeeman@salud.unm.edu	272-0326 / 271-1368
President	Mary Eichorn 636 San Pablo NE 87108	MEichorn@yahoo.com	256-2448
First Vice President (Programs)	Meg Dahrling 1524 Catron Ave SE 87123	MDahrling@salud.unm.edu	272-5476 / 299-0325
Second Vice President (Membership/Mentorship)	Jean Giddens 626 Blackhawk Dr NE 87122	JGiddens@salud.unm.edu	348-9382 / 821-4102
Treasurer	Cheryl Duran		
Secretary	Dorothy Posey 6901 Esther NE 87109	econmdDPosey@aol.com	888-5737 / 821-4058
Counselor (Lead) Counselor	Jan Wayland Debby Smith	JWayland@salud.unm.edu DJSmith@salud.unm.edu	272-0850 / 254-4969 272-0860 / 294-1809
Nominations Chair	Debra Brady 9208 Berryessa Rd NE 87114	DBrady@salud.unm.edu	272-3996 / 856-3408
Leadership Succession Committee	Sookie Escandon 1323 Tiffany Ln RR 87124	SEscandon@salud.unm.edu	272-4556 / 896-8592
	Pauline Welborn-Brown 4636 Croyden Ave NW 87114	PWelborn-Brown@salud.unm.edu	272-8187 / 922-1084
Governance Committee	Ruth Nichols Jackie Burkett		
Finance Chair	Pat O'Brien 7427 Chacone NE 87106	OBSpecial@aol.com	248-9382 / 821-4102

25 in 2005

Each year, we find that membership involvement is the greatest challenge the chapter faces. In order to reconnect with lapsed members, we need your help. If you can spend the time to connect with five former members by phone, please contact counselors Jan Wayland, Debby Smith or Mary Eichorn. We have prepared a list of people who have let their membership lapse and are more than willing to help you!

Jan Wayland / JWayland@salud.unm.edu

Debby Smith / DJSmith@salud.unm.edu

Mary Eichorn / MEichorn@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 15 - Executive Board Meeting*
- Sep 20 - Executive Board Meeting*
- Sep 21 - Fall Program & Annual General Membership Business Meeting (6 pm at Pappadeaux's)
- Oct 18 - Executive Board Meeting*
- TBA - Eligibility Tea (UNM-CON Faculty Lounge)
- Nov 22 - Executive Board Meeting*
- Dec 6 - Winter Program & Annual General Membership Business Meeting & Silent Auction (6 pm at Pappadeaux's)

* 4:30 pm; 1650 University Blvd. NE, Suite 300-B

“A Time for Every Purpose...”

(Lorena Beeman, Outgoing President & President-Elect)

What an exciting and memorable time it has been for the Gamma Sigma Chapter. In 2003, our Chapter experienced one of those lows that comes with every organization. It was a wake up call for those of us in Gamma Sigma to use that low as an incentive to identify what had happened, where we needed to go, and how we were going to accomplish this. In the following paragraphs, I would like to describe for you our journey.

At that time in 2003, Beth Tigges presented to the Board the requirements for the Chapter Key Award (which is given to Chapters exhibiting excellence in all areas of the mission and values of STTI). We didn't even come close to qualifying for it! Using the Chapter Key criteria as a measure of the Chapter's health, we were able to pinpoint the areas of greatest need, and use this as a prescription for a new, healthier outlook. The ultimate goal would be to qualify for application for the 2005 Chapter Key Award at the 38th Annual STTI Biennium.

Coming into the role of Chapter Presidency without a President to mentor me, it was very clear that mentorship was a crucial area that needed to be more formally and creatively addressed. This fit very nicely with the changes in the International Bylaws that required the founding of a Leadership Succession Committee. This committee, among other responsibilities, will be actively involved in mentorship of members into leadership roles. The new committee will also serve an historical function by bringing in past chapter officers in mentorship capacity. Members of the Leadership Committee include Sookie Escandon and Pauline Welborn-Brown. Our 2nd Vice President, Jean Giddens, will also be involved with the committee given her responsibility involving mentorship.

Additionally, it was my intent to implement a Leadership Intern program by July 2005. This was achieved when the new inductees for 2005 were surveyed regarding their interest in Chapter participation and interest in leadership internship to a specific Chapter officer position. Each inductee who responded to the survey has been assigned a mentor from our Board and/or Committee members.

Other areas that were targeted in the strategic plan included the following:

- Improve attendance of Executive Board meetings. At one point, our Chapter was unable to consistently meet quorum, which significantly disrupted Chapter functioning, and of course, decision-making. Since the early part of 2004, we have consistently met quorum!
- Improve documentation of activities by revision of the template for minutes. As simple as this may sound, when past minutes were reviewed, it was unclear what was discussion versus action, who had accountability for the topic, and the status of the topic. By formalizing the template, it is clear to see what transpired, and what continues to be topics for old business versus new. This was also instrumental when it came to putting together documentation for the Chapter Key criteria.
- Promote fiscal responsibility of the Chapter. In 2003, our Chapter's fiscal bookkeeping clearly needed improvement. With the help of Pat O'Brien, who graciously assumed the role of Finance Chair, and the Treasurers Rachel Crossley, and then Debby Smith, we continue to be fiscally sound (which was never the problem), and we have a two year budget to keep us on target. We are also ready to proceed with an external audit of our books. Our new treasurer, Cheryl Duran, will now assume this responsibility, and Pat will continue to serve as our Finance Chair and sounding board for spending our Chapter's money wisely!
- Implement the new bylaws in compliance with STTI. In 2003, STTI gave all chapters the direction to form a Leadership Succession Committee, and a Governance Committee. This would involve some restructuring of existing committees and positions. STTI provided a timeline by which the Chapter Bylaws had to be revised and submitted. Working with Beth Tigges, who is part of the International Committee reviewing chapter bylaws, we were able to accomplish this revision well before the deadline of March 2004. The new Governance Committee, chaired by lead Counselor Jan Wayland, and her newly

elected committee members Ruth Nichols and Jackie Burkett, will now be responsible for overseeing compliance with our Chapter bylaws.

- Improve collaboration with the College of Nursing. In the spring of 2004, members of Gamma Sigma met with Dean Ferketich to develop a strategic plan to accomplish this goal. On April 16, 2005 we collaboratively held the 1st Annual Research Day. Also involved in this were nurse leaders and faculty from Las Cruces, and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. Gamma Sigma provided the honorarium for the guest speaker, Dr. Clarann Weinert, and also provided two \$100 monetary awards for the most outstanding research abstract, and the most clinically relevant abstract. The former went to Judy Liesveld for her abstract on "ADHD in the Emergency Department", and the latter went to Lori Ponge, for her abstract on "Reduction of Seclusion and Restraint in a Children's Psychiatric Center."
- Improve numbers of new members via the induction process. At this year's induction, on April 17, 2005 we inducted the most new members in our Chapter's history! There were 26 undergraduate students, 15 graduate students, and 6 community nurse leaders inducted! The event was held at the UNM College of Nursing followed by a reception for the inductees and their guests.

The success of this induction was due to several strategies. These included asking faculty to give the Chapter a few minutes to talk about STTI and Gamma Sigma. Board members talked at the undergraduate, master's level, and the Ph.D. level. Specific board members volunteered to find community leaders, including Meg Dahrling, Debra Brady, Dorothy Posey, and Lorena Beeman.

Faculty were asked to display laminated book marks with the STTI logo outside their doors to identify themselves as members, and to help facilitate application for membership by students. The Chapter Counselors, Patsy Duphorne and Jan Wayland were especially outstanding in helping to coordinate all of this, and to go out of

their way to follow-up with interested applicants. Add to this that this was the first year that induction process was to be done totally on-line, and their success was even more incredible. For her outstanding work at mentoring Jan into this process as well as for mentoring so many of the students (and myself), Patsy was given the Marion Fleck Mentor Award!

- Target inactive members and improve retention. Achievement of this goal focused on having the Board approve a plan for "25 in 2005" targeting inactive Gamma Sigma members. This plan will be an ongoing part of the new President during her term. New inductees were invited to a Membership Orientation tea. Comments summarized from the previous Membership Orientation tea were incorporated into our Chapter activities related to recruitment and retention. This is probably the most difficult area of the strategic plan to consistently accomplish. Hopefully, working with STTI and their strategies to assist chapters with retention and reactivation of membership, and the activities of the Leadership Succession committee, we will see greater accomplishment of this goal in the future. (Hint: If you're reading this and not "active", please go to the STTI website at www.nursingsociety.org and reactivate or "transfer" your membership to us).
- Improve communication of Chapter activities. Our focus here was on the development of a Chapter website (still in its infancy) where you can now find our calendar of events, chapter roster, newsletter, and other items of interest. Address: hsc.unm.edu/consg/gammasigma

As I transition to the role of President-elect, and Mary Eichorn assumes her role as President of Gamma Sigma, I would like to give special thanks to my Board and Committee Chairs and members. They have all worked with dedication, and are truly exemplars of Sigma Theta Tau International, and they have been my inspiration as President.

First, a very special acknowledgement to a true visionary leader in Sigma Theta Tau, the UNM College of Nursing, and Gamma Sigma. That very special person is Dr. Virginia Crenshaw. Not only is she present for almost all of our General Membership meetings and the Induction & Awards ceremony, but she consistently motivates us to continue to strive for excellence in our nursing profession.

Recently, Dr. Crenshaw donated several STT pins and a crystal ornament with the logo of STT to our Chapter. These serve as special historical significance in that the pins have the original logo, and Dr. Crenshaw was instrumental in revising the logo to the one currently in existence. More on this can be found on our website.

For our purposes, our Chapter was very pleased to donate \$1,000 to the Sigma Theta Tau International Brick Paver campaign in Dr. Crenshaw's name. We look forward to involving Dr. Crenshaw in future endeavors by our Chapter.

I would like to thank all of the following Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members who have worked with me the past two years.

- President-elect: Mary Eichorn (responsible for learning the role of President, and for helping to organize our Chapter Key application).
- First Vice President: Meg Dahrling (responsible for all of our General Membership meetings).
- Second Vice President: Joyce Powers (responsible for mentorship and retention).
- Secretary: Dorothy Posey (responsible for documenting all of our Chapter's efforts for posterity).
- Treasurer: Debra Smith (who graciously assumed the role of Treasurer when Rachel Crossley moved).
- First Counselor: Patsy Duphorne (outstanding mentor, and responsible for recruitment).
- Counselor: Jan Wayland (also involved with recruitment, and who will assume the Chair of the Governance Committee).
- Nominations: Susan Fox (Chair) and Debra Brady (who were responsible for identifying nurse leaders for not only the traditional roles, but also the new Leadership Succession and Governance Committees).
- Finance Chair: Pat O'Brien (she keeps us fiscally sound, and also helped with the Nominations committee).
- Research and Awards Chair: Beth Tigges (who almost single handedly pursued candidates for the awards, and for awarding of our research money).

For the new composition of the Gamma Sigma Chapter, please see our roster and contact numbers (but if you've read this far, you know who they are)!

We should also recognize those nurse leaders who received awards at our 27th Annual Induction & Awards ceremony. They certainly deserve our congratulations and respect!

- Marion Fleck Mentor Award: Patsy Duphorne
- Clinical Practice Award: Yolanda Jaramillo
- Estelle Rosenblum Education Award: Jean Giddens
- Research Award: Paula Meek (presented to her by Ph.D. candidate, Sheena Ferguson)

This year, we were also able to award monies for research grants. In previous years, we did not even have any applicants, but not so this year. At the Induction & Awards ceremony we gave \$2,100 to Jean Giddens for her research on "A Survey of Physical Examination Skills Taught in Undergraduate Nursing Programs", and \$3,100 to Judy Liesveld for her research on "Teachers' Beliefs and Values Regarding Children with "ADHD"".

In November of this year, Mary Eichorn and I will be representing the Chapter at STTI's 38th Biennium to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jean Giddens and I will also be representing our Chapter as abstract presenters.

So, for every purpose our Chapter had since 2003, we have made great strides. While we don't know the outcome of the Chapter Key award, it has been submitted, and we hope for success. In either event, we have achieved what we set out to accomplish. The application clearly demonstrates how we have worked together to improve the health of our Chapter. We invite you to come join us. Our calendar for the next 12 months is also posted on our website, or we would be happy to e-mail it to you. Please read Mary Eichorn's message as she assumes the role of President (and I'll be supporting her all the way)!!

Respectfully yours,

Lorena Beeman, RN, BSN, MS, CCVT
 Immediate Past-President
 President-elect
 Gamma Sigma

**SIGMA THETA TAU
INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING**

**GAMMA SIGMA CHAPTER
SPRING INDUCTION CEREMONY**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO / COLLEGE OF NURSING
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

APRIL 17, 2005

AGENDA

WELCOME..... LORENA BEEMAN (PRESIDENT)

GREETINGS..... DEAN SANDRA FERKETICH

GUEST SPEAKER INTRODUCTION..... DR. MARIE LOBO

GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION..... DR. CLARANN WEINERT
"CORPS OF DISCOVERY AND THE UNFOLDING OF A NURSING CAREER"

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS..... DR. BETH TIGGES

MARION FLECK MENTOR AWARD
PATSY DUPHORNE

CLINICAL PRACTICE
YOLANDA JARAMILLO

NURSING EDUCATION
JEAN GIDDENS

RESEARCH
PAULA MEEK

RESEARCH GRANT - \$2,100
*JEAN GIDDENS: "A SURVEY OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
SKILLS TAUGHT IN UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS"*

RESEARCH GRANT - \$3,100
*JUDY LIESVELD: "TEACHERS' BELIEFS AND VALLIES
REGARDING CHILDREN WITH "ADHD"*

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS..... GAMMA SIGMA BOARD

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS..... LORENA BEEMAN

INDUCTEES

GRADUATE STUDENTS

JONAS ALLALUNIS
JENNIFER ANDERSON
MOLLY ASHCRAFT
EMILY CAREY
ROSALIE CASARES
LORENA CAVAZOS
JOY ESSENMACHER
LORI FROHE
KELLY GOMEZ
LESLIE GRUER
CHRISTY HARTLINE
DENISE JARVIS
ROSS MYNATT
STEPHANIE NOYA
KELLIE OLIVE
JULIE PLANETA
RAZVAN PREDĂ
MARISSA ROMERO
MARA SALINAS
COLETTE SMITH
RACHEL STEPHENS
JONATHAN PAUL TOMAS
CLAUDIA TORRES
ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
KENDALL WINES
RAE WOODS

GRADUATE STUDENTS

DARLA BANNISTER
KERI BLACK
LISA CORSIE
KAREN FARIAS
PAULA JOHNSON
MICHELLE KIRK
HANNA KRIEGER
JENNY LOSHBAUGH
ELIZABETH MADISON
YOLANDA MORALES
STEPHANIE MORGAN
DEBORAH PIFHER
JENNIFER READ
PATRICIA ROMERO
ANDREA WALL

**COMMUNITY NURSE
LEADERS**

CHERYL BRUBAKER
KATHY GARCIA
MARGARET GLASS
LAURA MARSH
CYNTHIA MARTINEZ
KATHERINE L. MCKENZIE

**OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
AWARD RECIPIENT: RANDALL ROUCKUS**

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT
AWARD RECIPIENT: HANNA KRIEGER**