

# Gamma Alpha Chapter News

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## Members Assist with LLU Nursing Dedication Feb. 5, 2011

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"The door that nobody will go in, seems always to swing wide open for me."

Clara Barton, civil war nurse and founder of the American Red Cross

Ninety-seven bright and energetic soon-to-be RNs attended the 106th annual nursing dedication service at LLU school of nursing. They marched down the aisle at University church and paused for a faculty to "light the lamp" representing the legacy of Florence Nightingale. Several Gamma Alpha members came early to help the students apply their caps (which were expertly folded by Dr. Marilyn Herrmann). The keynote address was entitled "Our Covenant to Care" delivered by Dr. Betty Winslow. On behalf of the alumni association, Zelne Zamora, LLUSN alumni association president announced that a new gift Bible will be given to each student.



Faculty: Anne Peterson,

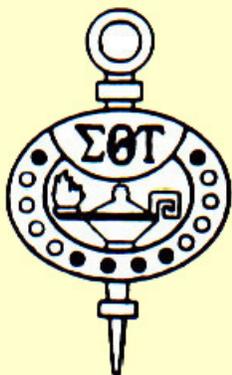


Faculty Cathi Horinouchi,

**I solemnly pledge myself before God... to faithfully practice my profession of nursing...**

Faculty: Nancy Sarpy,

Faculty: Megan Schatzschneider



## Job interviewing workshop for Undergrads Held Wednesday, February 16, 2011

As any new graduate nurse can tell you, "It's a jungle out there!" Competition for new graduate nurse positions is fierce. Gamma Alpha member Nancie Parmenter, RN MS knows this "first hand" because she has had many years experience interviewing and hiring nurses for positions in health care. In this one hour workshop, 50 students were given pointers on how to be ready to put their best foot forward when they get a job interview. Behavioral interviewing asserts that the most accurate predictor of future performance is past performance in a similar situation. Currently, most organizations are using behavioral interviewing to some degree. Behav-

ioral interviewing emphasizes a candidate's ability to problem solve, make decisions, plan, organize and demonstrate interpersonal skills and motivation. As a consequence, candidates unprepared for the rigor of behavioral interviewing have not fared well. Simply practicing the list of common interview questions no longer works. Student Danielle Mucker recently went through the interviewing process and shared her experience with the group. A pizza lunch was provided by the LLUSN deans. A special thanks to all who participated in making this workshop a success!



## Thirteen Attend "Film Night" February 4, 2011

Gamma Alpha members and friends gathered for fellowship, supper, and discussion of an award winning documentary. "Angel in the Hood" is a film profiling two tough Latina girls from a gang neighborhood, who have turned their lives around (attending college, working toward degrees in nursing and education). But the kicker to the story is: they are obsessed with Peter Pan's Tinker Bell; specifically, Disney's version of Tinker Bell. Both of Mexican descent, the girls see Tinkerbelle as a guardian angel or personal spiritual guide. Their "tough-love" teacher tries to talk them out of their devotion, saying she's "a fairy going nowhere." But the girls stand firm in their conviction. The documentary follows their story for three years, their life-changing journey out of the ghetto and into adulthood through the inspiration of a most unlikely source. A special "thank-you" goes to Michele Wilson for opening her beautiful home to this event, and to Dorothy Forde for preparing a beautiful and delicious meal.



### **Local scholar and member publishes landmark findings discovered in a descriptive study using focus group methodology of perceived barriers of non-US healthcare providers (HCP) for responding during mass casualty incidents (MCI)**

An experienced local/international public health nurse and LLUSN community health nursing faculty, Dolores Wright, PhD, RN, noted that the idea for this research project was stimulated by comments made in a paper written by one of LLUSN's Off-Campus Master's students. "She was writing about HCP's in her own country and the only literature she could find to support assertions were from research reported in a U.S. journal. When I read the article she had used as her supporting document, I realized that the research was done in New York City and may have little to do with healthcare providers in the majority world. This disconnect continued to haunt me until I devised a research project to 'fill the information' gap in the literature."

Of further concern for Dr. Wright are the increased threats of MCI's and the migration of nurses and other HCPs, therefore, she designed the study to examine non-US educated nurses perceptions of the ability and willingness of HCP's in their countries to respond during an MCI.

**You are invited to the Gamma Alpha Chapter Annual Business Meeting Dinner, April 21, 2011, 5-6:30 Room 1378.**

"The research was very rewarding as I was able to ask all the off-campus students in both sections to be participants in this research," says Dr. Wright. Study participants included 42 nurses completing a master's degree representing 26 countries and territories. They were assigned to one of eight focus groups based on the location of their country of origin. The findings revealed several themes. The first, some countries had no perceived barriers in either ability or willingness to respond to an MCI. In these countries it was the

**Join us for Nursing Research Day, May 12, 2011  
Wong Kerlee Conference Center, LLUMC**

transportation, staff shortages in their work places, equipment shortages, personal illness, and lack of child care. Perceived barriers to willingness were dimensions of fear of the unknown and employment status. Cultural differences played a significant role in the ability and willingness of the HCP's to respond to an MCI. This study was published in the *American Journal of Disaster Medicine*, Vol. 4, No.6, November/December 2009.

## SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL

Loma Linda University School of Nursing  
11262 Campus Street  
Loma Linda, CA 92354

Phone: 909-338-1000 Ext. 83832  
Fax: 909-558-4237  
E-mail: ederrico@llu.edu



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**We're on the web!**

[www.llu.edu/nursing/gamma-alpha](http://www.llu.edu/nursing/gamma-alpha)

## Chapter Key Award Progress

Keep your leadership/outreach activities for the *Chapter Key Award* coming. Our application is looking good but we need more data. Also need more members to complete the VIP profile at [www.nursingsociety.org/VIP](http://www.nursingsociety.org/VIP)

**Remember the reporting period for data for this award is from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.**

Our application is to be submitted to International by July 15, 2011.

Tell us about your presentations, publications, leadership activities and community service. Send name, date and activity to [eva.miller@att.net](mailto:eva.miller@att.net)

# Gamma Alpha Events Calendar

**April 21, 2011 5-7 PM** Gamma Alpha Annual Business Meeting Dinner, West Hall Room 1378

**May 12, 2011** Research Day Nurses Week Seminar 8AM-4PM Wong Kerlee Conference Center, Loma Linda

**June 9, 2011** Gamma Alpha Induction Ceremony, Basic Sciences First Floor Amphitheater 5-6:30PM

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS!** If you are interested in being on the Gamma Alpha Board, please contact Ellen D'Errico at: [ederrico@llu.edu](mailto:ederrico@llu.edu). I promise you will be well supported in learning your leadership role!



## GAMMA ALPHA INVITATIONAL TEA HELD

Thursday, March 10, 2011 was the Gamma Alpha Invitational Tea held in West Hall room 1201 from 1-3PM. This year 50 undergraduates and 30 graduate students met criteria for membership. Prospective inductees were provided with information on how and why they were selected and the excellent benefits that active membership brings. Delicious scones, cookies, pastries and other delights were served. Current members mingled with invitees. Much thanks to all member volunteers that helped with set up and clean up!

