



Gamma Alpha Chapter News

Sigma Theta Tau International

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SPECIAL NURSE'S FLOAT EDITION!

Gamma Alpha Members Decorate Historic Float



It began 5 years ago with 5 nurses whose dream was to showcase nurses and the nursing profession in one of the most "watched" venues around the globe—The annual New Year's Day Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, California. "Bare Root Incorporated," a non-profit organization was founded to raise money to build a float honoring nursing for the 2013 Rose Parade. A true grass roots effort, money was raised "rose by rose" over a 3 year period. Phoenix Float Company was commissioned to design and build the float, "A Healing Place"—for this is what nurses provide for patients.



Symbolism of the Nurse's Float

Our chapter began soliciting members for participation in this project beginning in August 2012.

Team Members:

Carolyn Davidson
Ellen D'Errico
Dorothy Forde
Valerie Gumanga
Lisa Highton
Joanne Leach
Ysis Mercado
Eva Miller
Jonnell Myren
Debbie Premus
Patti Radovich
Asma Taha
Thi Tran
Emeka Uchendu
Diana VanDerLinden

The mother deer and baby represent the quality of Caring. The Owls represent the wisdom and the conscientiousness (note Florence had a pet owl), and the rabbit represents fertility as we support not only this function in our patients but also as we recruit, educate, and nurture new nurses into the profession. The Raccoon represents intelligence, those nurses who work at night, have compassion that supports patients through those long night hours and you can see the raccoon is gently moving the turtle forward which represents the patient and their journey to health. The squirrel represents the commitment that nurses have to making sure the patient has everything they need. The birds and butterflies are the supportive environment of "A Healing Place."

The three birds on the branch are Nightingales representing the founder of the nursing profession, Florence Nightingale, who sang loud and clear about what was needed to improve patient care in hospitals. The lanterns light the path to healing and a return to a quality of life. Also they are replicas of the original Florence Nightingale lamp that she used as she walked the halls of the hospitals.

(Quoted from <http://www.flowers4thefloat.org/float.php>)



The day began bright and early as we left Loma Linda at 6AM sharp heading for the Sierra Madre Gold Line station. In order to avoid traffic, we took the Gold Line train into Pasadena's "Rose Palace" where our float was housed.



(Left) Thi Tran, Debbie Premus & Diana VanDerLinden buying train tickets. (Right) Team Gamma Alpha float decorators seated on the Gold Line train—6 stops from Sierra Madre Villa to Fillmore—10 minute ride and we were right there! (Below) The work is painstakingly meticulous—student and Diana VanDerLinden applying dried peas and dried grasses to features.



(Left, forefront) Joanne Leach, Asma Taha & Lisa Highton preparing bark strips for application.

(Right) Eva Miller & Dorothy Forde preparing onion seeds for application to float. Every inch of the float must be covered with organic materials. These details are important for judging.





(Left) Undergraduate LLU student Debbie Premus and (Right) faculty member Ellen D'Errico gluing black beans to the word, "Confident."

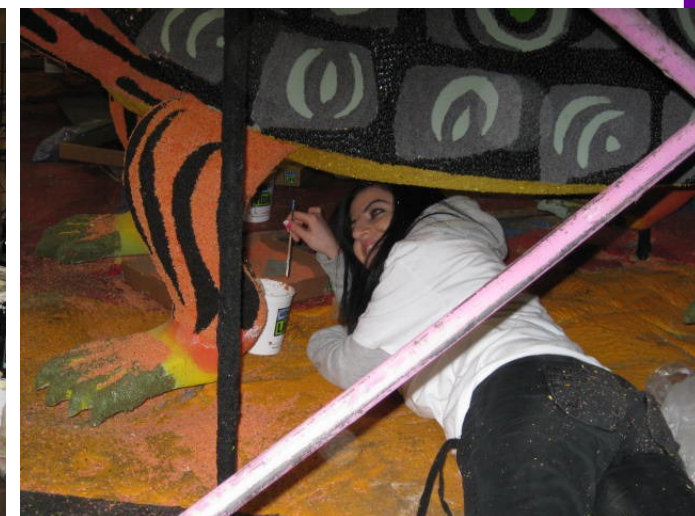


(Left) Emeka Uchendu, undergraduate LLU student up on scaffolding applying wood bark to feature. His work was so excellent, the crew boss wanted him to come back the next day! (Below) Young people fared well up on the scaffolding. Don't look down!



(Above left) Valerie Gumanga and (Right) Patti Radovich applying grasses and ground up flowers to deer. The glue can get messy which is why we were advised to wear old clothes!

The Nurse's Float received the CRAFTSMAN AWARD: Exceptional Achievement In Showmanship and Dramatic Impact For Floats over 55 feet. (Right) Commemorative Pin for the Nurse's Float.



Three different kinds of glue are used depending on what is being applied where. It is a very "sticky situation" indeed. All features on the float must be covered with organic materials; even the undersides of things! Judges are very meticulous about this when they are evaluating the quality of the float's craftsmanship. At the end of the day we were able to sign a memory book. This float is the culmination of a truly remarkable feat. Gamma Alpha was privileged to be a participant in this wonderful endeavor. The float received much press from local and national news circuits. It made us proud to be nurses! By the way, one of the five founding nurses Susan (Fowler) Ward is a Loma Linda University School of Nursing Graduate! Sally Bixby is the 2nd woman and first RN to be president of the Tournament of Roses in it's 124 year history!



A FABULOUS, ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

Roses yet to be applied to the float. There were thousands of them ready to be individually “tubed” for application.



Several other floats were being decorated at the Rose Palace. It was ONE BUSY PLACE.



(Right) Pictured is the Thursday, December 27, 2012 8AM-4PM decorating crew. There were 60 in all from all over southern California and across the nation. We all worked very hard and were exhausted by the end of the day—but it was worth it to be a part of this project. Nurses and student nurses of all ages worked together in harmony.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 15, 2013—Gamma Alpha Board Meeting 12-1PM West Hall, light Lunch Served
February 15, 2013—"Publish or Perish" series 12-1PM West Hall, light lunch served
February 19, 2013—Gamma Alpha Board Meeting 12-1PM West Hall, light Lunch Served
March 14, 2013—Gamma Alpha Invitational Tea Open House 1-3PM West Hall Room 1201
March 19, 2013—Gamma Alpha Board Meeting 12-1PM West Hall, light Lunch Served
April 16, 2013—Gamma Alpha Board Meeting 12-1PM West Hall, light Lunch Served
April 25, 2013—ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING West Hall room 1378 5PM-7PM Supper served RSVP please to cmdavidson@llu.edu
May 21, 2013—Gamma Alpha Board Meeting 12-1PM West Hall, light Lunch Served
June 12, 2013—GAMMA ALPHA INDUCTION CEREMONY 4:30-5:45PM (Venue TBA)
June 18, 2013—Gamma Alpha Board Meeting 12-1PM West Hall Transitional Board Meeting (room TBA).

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 2013-2014 GAMMA ALPHA BOARD

The following board positions will need filling for the 2013-2014 academic year. Any member in good standing may apply for these positions by contacting Ellen D'Errico at ederrico@llu.edu for consideration to be nominated for the April ballot and upcoming election at the April annual business meeting.

PRESIDENT ELECT: One year apprenticeship with current president, then 2-year term

VICE PRESIDENT ELECT: One year apprenticeship with current VP, then one year term

FACULTY COUNSELOR: 2 year term

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION COMMITTEE MEMBERS: nominate candidates for board vacancies

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: By-laws and eligibility of new members

KEY AWARD DOCUMENTATION

We continue to document members accomplishments and chapter activities to be eligible for a SECOND key award at the 2013 Biennium in Indianapolis. Send your entries to Eva Miller and she will add them to our application/report. Eva can be reached at: eva.miller@att.net

