

Gamma Alpha Chapter News

Annual Business Meeting Held April 26

On Thursday, April 26, 2012 the Gamma Alpha Chapter's annual business meeting was held. A required activity to remain a viable chapter, the meeting serves to report to the membership the "state of the chapter" in terms of membership, finances, triumphs, issues and challenges the chapter has faced for the last year. An election took place to replace board members whose terms have expired. We met our budget obligations for this year, and due to our Osaka student workshop fundraiser,

were able to add over \$5000 to our treasury. We were able to fulfill the goals of our strategic plan, which included in-



creasing communication with chapter members, via STTI Connections and chapter newsletters, winning our first "Key Award", and beginning a chapter Facebook page.

Currently we have 402 active chapter members out of a total of 1603 that have been inducted since 1976. Sixty-five percent of this year's eligible students have accepted membership (45 students) and will be inducted on June 6. Next year's initiatives will include focusing on outreach to inactive members, and inviting more nurse leaders to join. Delicious home made soup and whole grain breads were served and enjoyed by all who attended. See back page for a list of the 2012-2013 officers.

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Special points of interest:

- Annual Business Meeting held
- Help decorate the Nurse's Float
- 13th Annual Research Conference
- NFLA participants selected
- Facebook page created

*Do not follow where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*
Harold R. McAlindon



Nurse's Float Rose Parade Countdown



Come and help decorate the 2013 Nurse's Float, "A Healing Place" on Thursday, December 27, 2012 from 8-4PM at the Rosemont Pavilion in Pasadena. To sign up, go to:

<http://www.flowers4thefloat.org/volunteer.php>

No matter where nurses work; their knowledge, intelligence, compassion, dedication, strength and determination create a healing environment for patients. On January 1, 2013 the world will be reminded of the good work that nurses do to create "healing places."

13th Annual Nurse's Week Research and Evidenced-Based Practice Conference

Thursday, May 10, 2012 over 100 students and nursing staff attended the conference entitled, "Improving Patient Outcomes through Evidenced-Based Practice and Research." The event was held at the Wong Kerlee conference center on the campus of Loma Linda University. Ideas, concepts and areas of innovations were presented by our excellent keynote speakers, and staff presenting on their innovative and stimulating projects.



Our first keynote speaker, Dr. Jan Nick presented, "Accessing Research in Evidenced-Based Practice." She showcased some of the excellent resources available free on-line as well as other resources available through the University Library. Our second keynote speaker was Dr. Anna



Gawlinski from UCLA who spoke on "Practical Steps to Implementation of EBP," describing the wonderful work staff nurses at the Ronald Reagan UCLA medical center are doing. Our own terrific nurses presented on topics including quality and service excellence, partnerships and teamwork/synergy. It was a wonderful day where all who came learned a great deal!



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Gamma Alpha Members Selected for STTI's Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy

The Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA) is an exciting, challenging and career-changing experiential learning program for new nurse faculty members who are committed to developing their leadership skills as they transition to the faculty role. With funding from the Elsevier Foundation, STTI has designed this exceptional, robust leadership development opportunity for nurses committed to a career in nursing education. By enhancing the development of new nurse faculty, the NFLA will promote faculty retention and cultivate high-performing, supportive work environments in academe. Gamma Alpha members Asma Taha (new nurse faculty and designated NFLA scholar) and Ellen D'Errico (mentor for the new faculty scholar) are joined with a third experienced faculty, Anthony Forrester from the New Jersey College of Medicine & Dentistry School of Nursing. These three individuals constitute the mentoring "triad." Selection for the NFLA was by competitive application. The scholar develops leadership capability via the development of a major project. Asma will be incorporating the use of simulation into an undergraduate course in pediatric nursing. Scholars and mentors attend two annual workshops over the next 22 months, participate in regular conference calls, on-line discussions and prepare for "site visits" to meet with all stakeholders concerning the scholar's project. Each scholar will showcase their work at a special session at the next Biennium Convention to be held in Indianapolis in November of 2013.

(Right)

NFLA group
2012-2013 cohort

Top far right

Asma Taha
(NFLA scholar)

Bottom far right

Ellen D'Errico
(Faculty Mentor)



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An honor to join; a benefit to belong



2012-2013 Board of Directors

President – Dorothy Forde

Past President – Ellen D’Errico

President Elect – Vacant

Vice President – Carolyn Davidson

Vice President Elect – Asma Taha

Secretary – Deborah Monson

Treasurer – Jan Nick

Governance/Eligibility – Patti Radovich, Kathie Ingram, Lana Kanacki, Lisa Waggoner

Leadership Succession – Cora Caballero, Lisa Highton, Ysis Mercado

1st year Faculty Counselor – Nancy Testerman

2nd year Faculty Counselor – Peggy Burns

Facebook Page Inaugurated

A big “shout out” to Randy Lim for the development of a Facebook page for Gamma Alpha chapter. We recognize that in order to keep pace with the latest technological trends, it was time to join in the phenomena of social networking. We hope our page will be “liked” by younger and older members alike. Please go to: <http://www.facebook.com/GammaAlphaChapter> and LIKE US.

Through Facebook, we can keep members informed on a regular basis as to chapter activities, programs, and member accomplishments. We can also post board meeting minutes, By-laws and other “breaking news.” If you are interested in helping keep our page updated, you can contact Ellen D’Errico, Past President [ederrico@llu.edu] and ask to join the Gamma Alpha Chapter communications committee.

Keeping members informed was the most desired activity members asked for in the last membership survey report conducted by STTI headquarters. We understand that often, people are inundated with information, both wanted and unwanted. We understand that “staying connected” is a delicate balance of providing sufficient information to keep members informed, and information overload.

Gamma Alpha Chapter values it’s members. Please let us know if our methods of communication is meeting your needs. Our current communication methods include: Periodic chapter newsletter, Information in monthly STTI “Connections” e-newsletter from headquarters, our website hosted within the LLUSN website at: [<http://www.llu.edu/nursing/index.page>] AND our new FACEBOOK page.

