

# Gamma Alpha Chapter News

Volume 30 Issue 1

August 2011

## Members teach in Thailand

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***"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present, are certain to miss the future."***

**John F. Kennedy**

Twenty-eight students from 9 different countries met at Asia-Pacific International University in Thailand for their second summer intensive in Loma Linda University's off campus masters program. The program is four years in length and students study subjects all during the year. The group is at the half-way mark as of the end of July. Gamma Alpha members Danilyn Angeles, Ellen D'Er-rico, Edelweiss Ramal and Delores Wright traveled to Thailand this summer conducting two-weeks each of intensive classroom instruction. Classes taught were Nursing Leadership, Teaching/Learning Theory, Health Policy, and Pathophysiology. Students represented their countries well as they "soaked up" nursing knowledge. Students hailed from Cambodia, China, Haiti, Solomon Islands, Nepal, Thailand, Nigeria, Kenya, and Jamaica. When these students graduate with their masters degree in nursing education, they will have the opportunity to take leadership roles in their home country organizations (hospitals and schools of nursing). The students are also building a collegial network of friends for life. All of the students were told about the benefits of belonging to STTI. We hope to have several new candidates from this group very soon!



# Region 2: Odyssey Conference

Planning is well underway for this year's Sigma Theta Tau Region 2 (southern California chapters) annual research and innovation conference entitled, "NURSING IN TRANSITION: A call to Action." The conference will be held Thursday, October 20, and Friday, October 21, 2011, at the Sheraton Hotel located in Cerritos, California. Attendance at this conference has improved every year because word is getting out about the excellence of the speakers and the many high quality presentations and posters. You will not want to miss this one! Our keynote speakers are dynamic and include Gwen Sherwood, vice president of STTI, and Louise Selanders, well known author and one of 5 Nightingale scholars. There will be posters and presentations on research and innovative projects. Lunch and snacks are included. Register early! A flyer will be sent to you via email soon.

## 41st STTI Biennium 41st STTI Biennium

The Biennium convention for Sigma Theta Tau will take place from October 29, 2011—November 2, 2011 in Grapevine, Texas. The Biennium convention is a time to celebrate the work of nurses. Keynote speakers are internationally known experts in their areas of study. For example, Kim Bouldin-Jones will give the plenary session III keynote address. Ms. Bouldin-Jones is an internationally recognized and sought after educator specializing in HIV, STDs and global disease prevention.

The convention is a time to honor and celebrate accomplishments. It is our hope that Gamma Alpha will be awarded a "Key Award." This honor is awarded to chapters who have excelled in the execution of chapter-related activities and member accomplishments. Eva Miller has spearheaded this project, and for the last two years, has been collecting chapter data entering it into a report that is sent to headquarters. The deadline was July 15, 2011. A big thank you to all who have sent in information on your activities. We have exceeded in the number of points needed to qualify.

Each chapter must send 2 delegates to the Biennium. It is a honor to be chosen to represent our chapter. We carefully budget funds to send our delegates. This year's delegates are Ruby Sun and Patti Radovich. Delegates must be present at the business meeting where important issues are voted upon and by-laws are updated. It is a remarkable process to witness and be a part of. Those who have attended a Biennium convention say it has been a highlight of their professional career. For more information and registration, go to: [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org), click on "Events", then "Biennium."



# Members who Fundraise

Gamma Alpha members care about their communities! Michelle Tinkham is raising funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as a participant in their “Team in Training” program. She is running in the Nike Women’s Marathon this October. Each donation helps accelerate finding a cure for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Nearly 958,000 Americans are battling blood cancers. If you would like to support Michelle with a donation, go to: <http://pages.teamintraining.org/ocie/nikesf11/mtinkham>. Donations are tax deductible.

## 4th Annual Believe and Walk

Calling all local Gamma Alpha members! The 4th Annual “Believe and Walk for a Cure” takes place on Sunday, October 2, 2011 in downtown Redlands, CA. Registration begins at 7AM. This will be the 4th year that Gamma Alpha members have participated in this wonderful community event raising money for local Inland Empire cancer patient support. If you participate, snap a picture and send it to: [ederrico@llu.edu](mailto:ederrico@llu.edu). We want to know how many Gamma Alpha members participate this year! To register for the 5K or 10K walk, or to just donate, go to:

[http://www.believeinlandempire.com/site/TR?fr\\_id=1030&pg=entry](http://www.believeinlandempire.com/site/TR?fr_id=1030&pg=entry). Click on “Join a team,” and in the search box type “Gamma Alpha.” Donations are tax deductible.



## Osaka Students

Planning continues for the three-day “Nursing in the United States” workshop and cultural exchange taking place on October 17-19, 2011. Thirty-five second year nursing students from the Jekei college in Japan will be traveling to Loma Linda to learn about nursing in the US. Tours of various health care facilities are planned, as well as a mixer with LLU nursing students. The Japanese students will be learning about the various roles nurses do (public health, home health, occupational health, correctional nursing and advanced practice roles). Gamma Alpha will earn a fee for planning and executing the workshop. We hope to earn enough money to be able to offer students paid registration fees to attend professional nursing conferences.

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*An honor to belong. A benefit to join*

**We're on the web!**

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

**2011-2012 GAMMA ALPHA OFFICERS**

President: Ellen D'Errico

President Elect: Dorothy Forde

Vice President: Christine Neish

Secretary: Carolyn Davidson

Treasurer: Delores Wright

1st year Faculty Counselor: Peggy Burns

2nd year Faculty Counselor: Megan Schatzschneider

Leadership Succession Committee: Cora Caballero,  
Lisa Highton, Ysis Mercado, Ruby Sun

Governance Committee: Michelle Ballou, Kathie  
Ingram, Patti Radovich, Lisa Waggoner

# Did you Know?

Since our inception in 1972, over 1500 candidates have been inducted into the Gamma Alpha Chapter of STTI. Currently we have 419 active members. THANK YOU, faithful active members for continuing to renew your membership annually. The portion of dues Gamma Alpha receives is crucial to our ability to conduct honor society business. Without you, we could not exist.

# Let us Know.

What have you been up to Gamma Alpha members? Have you presented at a local, regional, or national conference? When? Where? On what topic? Have you published? Gone on a mission trip? Done something innovative? Won an award? Done fundraising for a worthy cause? Been recently certified? Promoted? Started or lead out in a community project? It is OK to "toot your own horn!" In fact, we'll toot it for you! We would love to hear about it and feature a story about it in our newsletter. We know our members are always up to something and we want to know about it! Email your story to:ederrico@llu.edu (a picture is always nice too).