

Elmira College

Rho Gamma Chapter Newsletter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing



Volume 9, Issue 3

Autumn 2011

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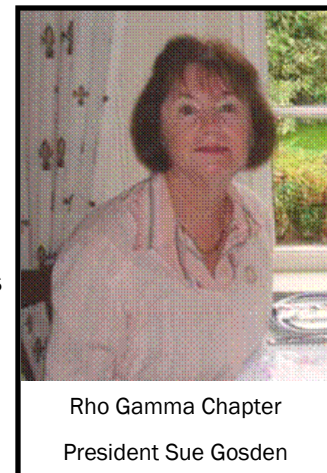
President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Once again members of our Rho Gamma chapter contributed their time and energy to our booth at the annual Elmira College Octagon Fair in an effort to raise money to fund scholarships for deserving nursing students. All who participated had fun doing so, and our "Pirates' Treasure Trove" raised a substantial seven hundred dollars through the sale of ice cream and tenderly-used jewelry.

This endeavor, and others like it, represent a fundamental goal of

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Rho Gamma Chapter
President Sue Gosden

Arrrgh and THANK YOU to All

Once again, Rho Gamma “faired” well at the recent Octagon Fair at Elmira College. Numb fingers and cold toes made the making of change and keeping blood circulating a challenge for the few tried and true volunteers that help out every year. The theme of “Nautical Pirates” was fun and lent itself well to the treasure chest display for our popular jewelry sale. Costumes of pirate themes were evident everywhere especially on the Roving Pirate (a relative of a Rho Gamma member that was urged into costume) who gave out coupons for 25 cents off a purchase at our decorated booth. We had talking parrots, “gold” coin necklaces, boots, eye patches and ship’s flags, among other memorabilia.

Interacting with our patrons was really the biggest reward. One particular lady couldn’t stop buying “...cause I think the Nursing Students here are just great!” and of course we encouraged her all the more! Children loved the Holiday offerings and many people took chances on the better bling donated from an estate. When two young E.C. students wandered by and found out Rho Gamma was a Nursing Honor Society, they relayed to us that they thought they had a heavy course load until they realized what the student nursing load encompassed and they were amazed.

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our organization. Each year the body of knowledge required of nurses becomes more comprehensive, the requisite skills and responsibilities more wide-ranging. How well a nurse is able to respond to these demands depends not only on his/her commitment and caring, but also on the quality of education that has been acquired. Our booth is one indication of the value we place on our profession and of our attempt to address the catastrophic shortage of nurses and its impact on the health care system. Those concerns are at the heart of all our Rho Gamma activities.

In my last year as Rho Gamma President, I am asking all of our members to invest in our chapter's commitment to nursing by participating in the following chapter projects:

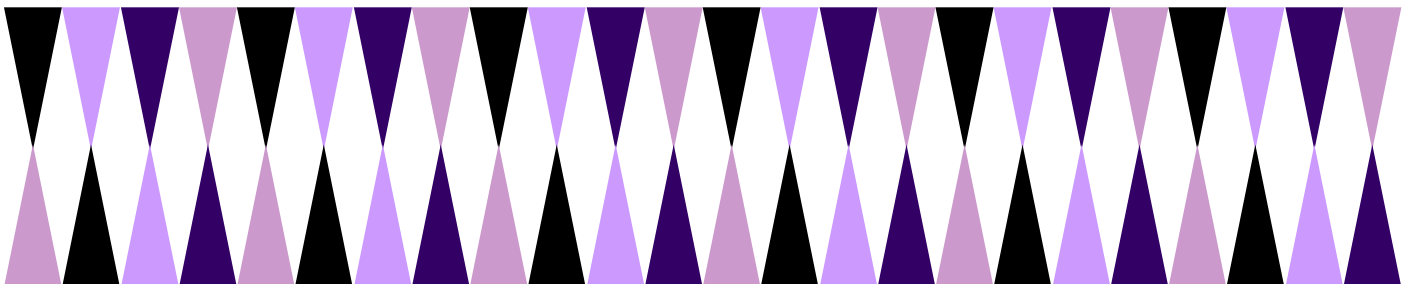


- ✦ Let us know your professional accomplishments so we can share them with your colleagues. You can do so by e-mailing us at rhogamma@elmira.edu;
- ✦ Attend at least one of the upcoming educational programs/dinner meeting scheduled with Professional Nurses District 3;
- ✦ Alert us to any volunteer activities in which you participate so it can be reported in the newsletter and tracked for our future key award submission;
- ✦ Attend the Annual Sharing Innovations Symposium on February 13, 2012;
- ✦ When you renew your STTI membership, include a donation to International which will help with our efforts to receive a future key award;
- ✦ Attend Anita B. Ogden Symposium March 23, 2012 where Barbara Dossey, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN will speak on a topic concerning health and wellness;
- ✦ Participate in the STTI Region 11 Educational Conference March 29-30, 2012, venue to be announced;

Your active involvement will champion the nursing profession by elevating community perception of the role of nurses and by helping nurses who will enter the profession be well-prepared and ready to take on the many challenges we know they will face.

Respectfully,

Susan Gordon



Induction 2011

Family, friends and Rho Gamma members celebrated the induction of new members into the Rho Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. The ceremony was held Friday September 30, 2011 at Hamilton Hall on the Elmira College campus. Lois Schoener, PhD, RN, CNE provided the opening remarks, welcoming the guests and explaining that Mansfield University nursing students as well as their Elmira College nursing students are eligible for membership in the Rho Gamma Chapter. Elaine Caso, MS, APRN, BC gave a brief history of Sigma Theta Tau International and an explanation of its insignia and coat of arms. A fascinating keynote address was given by Martha Williams, MS, RN, NEA-BC. Ms. Williams encouraged inductees to bring respect for others into their lives and their nursing practice. In doing so, each individual will better weather the stresses which their chosen profession, as well as life, bring. She closed her remarks with four challenges for the nursing audience:

⇒ Remove the scope of practice's limitations and barriers.

With 3 million nurses in the world, we need to work together to facilitate positive change, so that we can deliver seamless quality care to all. The nursing profession has the largest portion of healthcare teams and has a very powerful influence.

⇒ The program to transition to a higher level of practice, AS to BS to MS needs to be certified and available to more partners.

Education means better patient outcomes. Thirteen states now allow autonomous practice for Nurse Practitioners and an additional 31 more states are considering similar changes to their practice model as a Nursing practice model. A reasonable goal is PhD prepared level for all School of Nursing directors by 2020. The estimate for 2020 for BS prepared nurses is to become 80%, up from the recent 40 %.

⇒ We will be full PARTNERS of physicians, advancing and designing healthcare, and collaborating to maximize impact.



M. Williams addressing the audience



Elmira College Inductees



Mansfield University Inductees



Nurse Leader Inductees

⇒ Lifelong learning is the most important component of these challenges with better data management for improved information infrastructure. It is our personal responsibility to protect nursing by being leaders, mentors and role models.

“NURSES ROCK...” That’s how Dr. Stephen Coleman described nurses in his address to the Inductees. In his inspiring comments, he saluted the differences Nurses make in the lives of everyone !



Dr. Coleman congratulates the inductees



Have difficulty attending a Rho Gamma Meeting?

The Rho Gamma Board of Directors is interested in maintaining and increasing the participation of our retired members. Retired or not, if you need a ride to a meeting or would like to carpool, please e-mail us at rhogamma@elmira.edu and let us know.

Rho Gamma Teams with ArnotHealth for a Grant



The Rho Gamma Chapter, partnering with ArnotHealth, received a grant from the New York State Department of Mental Health for funding of a suicide prevention project. Recognizing that nurses play a key role in suicide prevention, the project's goals include: establishing a baseline understanding of nurses' expertise in the recognition of potential suicides; increasing the awareness among nurses of the need for knowledge and skill in dealing with the issue of suicide and assisting organizations. The area hospitals which are under the ArnotHealth umbrella are Arnot Ogden Medical Center and St. Joseph's Hospital in Chemung County, and Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital in Steuben County.

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Our material rewards were amazing also, with \$ 378.80 from jewelry and a scholarship drawing. First prize of 14 Kt Opal drop earrings was won by Michelle Hoyt with a locket as second prize taken home by Maureen Donahue-Smith. Elaine Caso claimed a necklace as third prize winner and earrings went to Mila Meier.

Ice cream profits on a blustery day were \$322! Thank you so much to Elaine Caso for manning the dipping duties, with assistance from Lou Ann DiPetta. A total of \$ 700.80 was, therefore, added to Rho Gamma's Nursing Scholarship fund.

Most of the previously owned jewelry, this year, was donated by Pam Seeley, Margie Hopkins, Liz Wavle-Brown and Emma Gosden Blattenberger. A huge package of already marked and categorized estate jewelry was received from Karen Baker, who's mother is Lois Crane Bosworth Class of '46.

Thank you to Suzanne Urban, Wendy Brown, Sue Gosden and Lois Schoener who volunteered at our booth all day. Assisting them were Maryann Letizia, LouAnn DiPetta, Shirley Forrest, Elaine Kerrick and Jan Brewer.

The Elmira College Nurse Education Program is seeking an excellent teacher, clinician and scholar for an adjunct faculty position.

A Masters Degree in Nursing is required.

For more information, please call

Lois Schoener at (607) 735-1890 or e-mail at lschoener@elmira.edu.

KUDOS and THANK YOU

Best wishes to recent Elmira College graduate and Rho Gamma member **Casey Norman'11** on her receiving the Excellence in Nursing Senior Year Award.

Thank you to **Karen Baker**, daughter of **Lois Crane Bosworth'46** for her very generous donation of jewelry that was sold at the Rho Gamma booth at the Octagon Fair.

Compliments to recently-inducted member **Allix Rashid'11** who received the Kathleen Sward Excellence in Nursing Award from Elmira College.

Bravo to member **Nicki Austin** who presented her poster *Operation STAT 2010, 10th (MDDF) Medical Regiment Disaster Triage Training: A Military, Academic, and Community Partnership* at the Annual Training Muster, Maryland Defense Force, Military Department of Maryland, Pikesville Military Reservation, Pikesville, MD in March 2011.

Kudos to member **Joyce Hyatt** who was elected to a three-year term of office on the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Rural Health.

Welcome and congratulations to Elmira College's new nursing faculty member, **Sydney Peck**. She will present the poster: *Audra Lorde – The Cancer Journals: A discourse Analysis* at the next Sigma Theta Tau International conference in Grapevine, Texas on October 29th through November 2, 2011.

Best wishes to **Mary Hicks** on becoming a new mother and thank you for your service as the former Vice President of the Rho Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.



Quote of the Season

Contrary to popular belief, there most certainly is an “I” in “team”. It is the same “I” that appears three times in “responsibility”.

Amber Harding



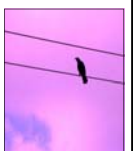
NOTICE...

The next meeting of the Board of Directors for Rho Gamma will be Monday November 14, 2011 @ 5:00 in room 204 (second floor) at Elmira College in Carnegie Hall.

Every Rho Gamma member is welcome and fresh and innovative input is encouraged.

**Rho Gamma News
On-Line**

You can access our publication on-line by going to the Elmira College website (www.elmira.edu), enter “RhoGamma newsletter” in the search box; Click on the “search” button or press “enter”. Choose the Newsletter you wish to read by double clicking on the edition desired.



Sharing Innovations in Nursing Research and Practice

Monday, February 13, 2012

Hamilton Hall

Elmira College

Sharing Innovations in Nursing is consistently one of the chapter's most popular programs and provides an arena to highlight the excellent work being done by nurses in our community.

Nurses in our region practice in a wide variety of settings and apply nursing knowledge in many ways to improve health outcomes.

Please consider *sharing* how you contribute to that effort.

We are preparing an application for continuing education contact hours for this program and need to hear from you by **November 30th 2011**.

Abstracts will be scored and submissions with the HIGHEST THREE SCORES will be invited to provide an oral presentation. Scores will be based on the following criteria:

Purpose/significance of topic clearly stated

Program design is clearly described

Reported data is clearly presented

Conclusions and implications for nursing are discussed

Other abstract submissions that are accepted will be invited to be presented in a poster display.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Abstracts are summaries of the presentation and should include explicit details. Abstract length is a maximum of 250 words.

Title of Presentation:

Contact Information for Presenting Author

Name with Credentials:

Place of Business:

Home Mailing address:

Daytime Telephone Number:

Nighttime Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail Address:

If you are interested in submitting an abstract or have questions please contact

Suzanne Urban, MS, RN Program Committee Chairperson

by **November 30, 2011** at:

E-mail: surban47@yahoo.com

Work Phone: 570-882-4747

Home Phone 607-565-2361

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Members Lois Schoener and Marybeth Gillis will be primary officers for this project. Marybeth, a faculty member at Elmira College is also a certified trainer for Living Works on suicide prevention. Members of the Rho Gamma Chapter are now developing a process for surveying the nurses at the participating agencies. To determine the level of expertise in suicide prevention Dr. P. Wyman of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry has agreed to serve as a consultant for this part of the project.

An incentive for participating will be provided in the form of a drawing for an electronic device. Data will be entered and the results analyzed by the Rho Gamma members involved. Following data analysis, each organization will receive the results of the survey that apply to the individual organization as well as for ArnotHealth. Recommendations will also be made regarding the next steps needed to improve staff suicide prevention expertise. To promote further training, all participating staff nurses will receive a magnet inscribed with contact information for further resources on training and prevention of suicide.

Our proposed project has broad community support and the potential to serve as a model for development of initiatives for creative and collaborative efforts in support of suicide prevention. If you are interested in participating in this project, please e-mail lschoener@elmira.edu or telephone 607-735-1890.

2011 Rho Gamma Inductees

Elmira College Students

Teresa Boehlert '12
 Jacqueline Bordoni '12
 Cori Day '12
 Joan Goodman '12
 Naomi Harmon '12
 Courtney Howell '12
 Bethany Incze '12
 Katherine Kerr '12
 Alyson King '12
 April Mott '12
 Shamay Ng '12
 Kathryn Reeves '12

Mansfield University Students

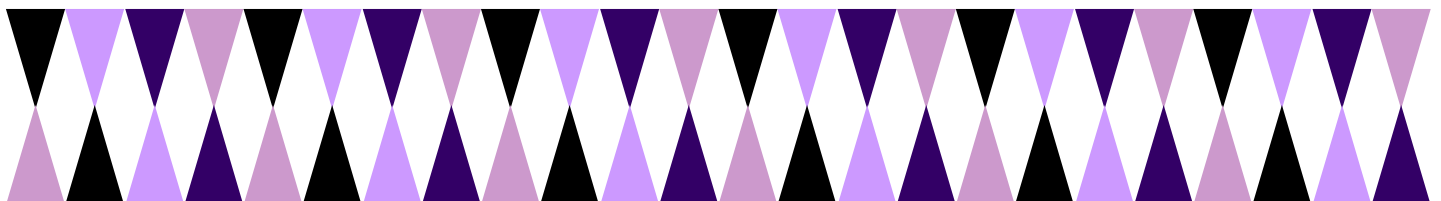
Lindsey Baily
 Megan Boehret
 Kamilah Burlingame
 Rita Carey-Nita
 Kara Gowan
 Nicole Haas
 Katherine Kasper
 Catherine Kenenitz
 Dawn Linn
 Sandra Miller
 Jodi Olenginski
 Linda Sampson
 Ashley Smith
 Jeffrey Stroup
 Linda Szmaj
 Sarah Tinney

Nurse Leaders

Jennifer Carapella
 Courtney Carr
 Victoria DeCola
 Amy Goodrich
 Norma Jones
 Marilyn Oggeri
 Mary Jo Roberts
 Evelyn T-Armstrong

Nursing/Rho Gamma Blog





Elmira College and the Board of Directors of Rho Gamma are sponsoring the Nursing/Rho Gamma Blog. To gain access, go to the Elmira College website, click "Check out our blogs", scroll to "clubs and organizations", click on "Rho Gamma".



Redbookshelf Donations



As reported in the Summer 2009 Newsletter, Rho Gamma was honored to receive a **Regional Excellence Award** for our efforts to spread the word regarding the Family Reading Partnership's promotion of literacy in our community. We continue our book collection campaign by maintaining donation sites throughout our area. Gently used children's books may be placed in the **red** boxes at the following locations:

-  Nurse Education Program at Elmira College — Carnegie Hall
-  Arnot Ogden Nursing Program at Arnot Ogden Medical Center— Clute Building
-  Nursing Program at Corning Community College
-  Elmira College Library

All donated books are given to the Family Reading Partnership for distribution in our community.

Call for Membership Candidates

An honor to join . . . A benefit to belong.

By using the Rho Gamma Chapter's Get-A-Member Campaign, we hope our members will honor nurse colleagues who share the commitment to research, education, nursing practice and leadership by nominating them for membership. A mechanism also exists for nurse leaders to sponsor their own membership in Sigma Theta Tau International. By going to the STTI website and clicking on the *membership tab*, a potential member can access information on joining the organization as well as indicating a chapter preference (Rho Gamma's Chapter number is 409). STTI then submits the self-nominee's application to the local chapter who has the authority to approve the candidate's membership.

Rho Gamma Welcomes Newly Appointed Vice President



Sydney Peck, MS, RN

Sydney Peck has been appointed to the vacant Vice President of the Rho Gamma Chapter seat until the next election. Sydney brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise with her from her home state of Oklahoma and is excited to have joined the Elmira College faculty this year. She has previously taught in ADN and BSN programs and has served as director of a nursing program in Oklahoma. She is a doctoral candidate at Texas Womans University, focusing on trust in patients with chronic illness. She lives in Corning with her husband James who is the Curator of Collections at the Rockwell Museum and their 5 year old son, Alex.

Important Website for Nurses

Website for Evidence Based Nursing:

www.guides.lib.unc.edu/ebn_resources



Leaders Needed for Chronic Disease



The Chemung Valley Rural Health Network (CVRHN) and the Chemung County Dept. of Aging and Long Term Care have been providing training for volunteer peer leaders to conduct workshops that help participants develop skills to better manage chronic disease. Workshops utilize the Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, a nationally recognized initiative, which provides participants with best practices to control symptoms of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, and arthritis. In order to expand this program to Chemung County, there is a need for leaders trained to use the curriculum with small groups. Interested individuals do not need a healthcare background to be an effective leader of a group.

The volunteer peer leader training will again be offered free of charge in the Spring of 2012. At the training peer leaders will receive the leaders manual, workshop strategies, and lunch and refreshments are provided. The Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, evidence-based (researched) ways to be healthier, has been extensively evaluated, and helps participants identify, build, and use their own skills to better manage their chronic disease.

Watch for enrollment information on the full six-session workshop offered periodically in the community. For current workshop offerings please go to www.cvhn.org for times and location.

Individuals interested in becoming a peer leader to assist others to better health, or if you have questions on becoming a peer leader, please contact CVRHN at 737-2826 or Sam David, Dept. of Aging at 737-5520.

Joyce Hyatt

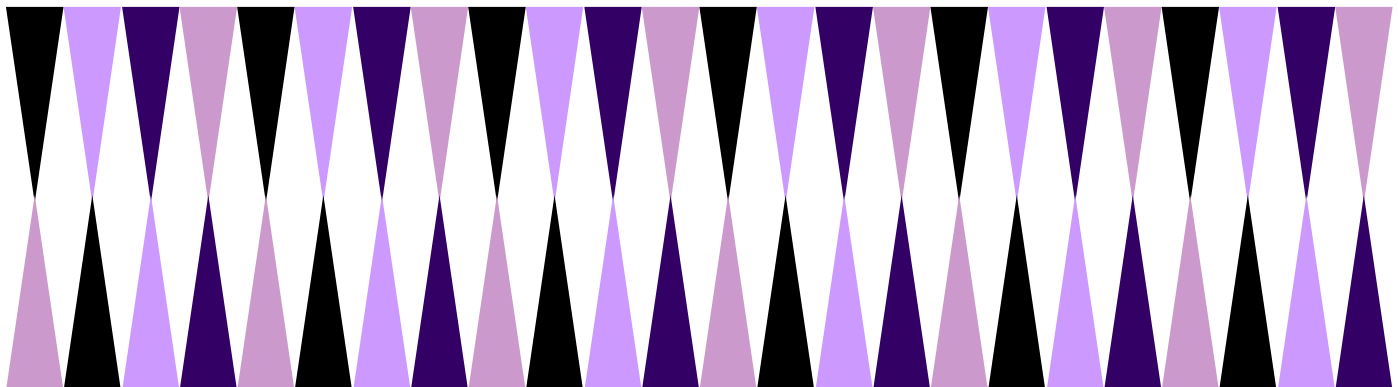
An Open Invitation to All Rho Gamma Members

The Board of Directors extends an open invitation to all members to attend Board meetings. Usually the Board meets on the **second Monday of each month** at Elmira College in Carnegie building, Room 204 at 5:00 pm. In very rare instances,

dates or times for meetings may be altered. Please check with Rho Gamma by phone at 735-1890. rhogamma@elmira.edu for Board Meeting verification.

REMEMBER, come to all general meetings. General meeting attendees are eligible for a yearly

drawing which entitles the winner to attend a general meeting free of charge. Rho Gamma members may earn extra chances to win by bringing a non-member colleague to a meeting.





*Sigma Theta Tau International
Rho Gamma Chapter
Elmira College Nurse Education
One Park Place, Elmira, NY 14901
607-735-1890*

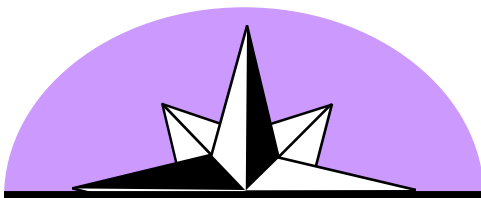
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Elmira College Nurse Education
One Park Place, Elmira, NY 14901
607-735-1890

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E-mail us at:

rhogamma@elmira.edu



Vision

The vision of the Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people.

Mission

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.



November 10, 2011

Sulcide Prevention

February 13, 2012

Sharing Innovations

February 2012

Disaster Preparedness

March 23, 2012

Anita B. Ogden Symposium

March 29–30, 2011

STTI Region 11 Conference

