



Mu Gamma

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Pam Springer, RN, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Nursing
Boise State University

Luann Fife, President
Mu Gamma Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau

Best wishes to all in this New Year, 2004! I am looking forward to increasing the visibility of Mu Gamma in our community as well as within nursing.

Our program in November was a big success and enjoyed by all who attended. Dr. Lee presented an evening of music and music history from a medical standpoint that was enlightening and entertaining. Mu Gamma raised approximately \$500.00 for scholarships which will help immensely.

Enclosed in this newsletter are the criteria and contact information for this year's scholarships that Mu Gamma is sponsoring.

Also enclosed are community nomination forms for membership in Mu Gamma. We would like to see many of our colleagues nominated and involved in all that Sigma Theta Tau is focused on - the support and enhancement of the profession of nursing.

Five of your board members had the privilege of attending the STTI Biennial convention from November 1-4 in Toronto, Canada. Luann Fife, Ellie Hilvers-Bristol, Karen Ray, Diana Trujillo, and Patty Mahrt were part of more than 2100 nurses that attended from around the world.

There were nearly 800 oral and poster presentations ranging from implementing evidence-based nursing to issues in nursing research and innovations in nursing leadership to choose from when attending concurrent educational sessions. These sessions were categorized by leadership, clinical, or education and were presented by nurses directly involved in these areas. There were also 73 exhibitors who offered information about nursing products and services.

The Fitness for Research aerobics event raised \$7,834 for nursing research. Patty Mahrt took part in that event and represented us well!

Part of the convention activities included the recognition of nursing and health care leaders who have made significant contributions to improving health care worldwide. Through out the convention, award ceremonies, honorary membership inductions and recognition presentations were made to nurses, educators and health care professionals.

The House of Delegates ended the convention with the election of the 2003-2005 board, voting of bylaws amendments, departure and installation ceremonies and the new president's call to action. Mu Gamma had two delegates voting - Luann Fife and Diana Trujillo.

The new president, Dan Pesut, PhD, focused his address on six areas of renewal: self, service, scholarship of reflective practice, science, society and spirit. An emphasis on task forces and goal oriented work teams is being implemented to give more nurses a chance to participate both locally and internationally.

We learned a lot about STTI in Toronto, got to know each other better, and came back with ideas for Mu Gamma which will help our chapter grow and move into the future. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you!

Luann Fife
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Mu Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Graduate Scholarship Information and Instructions

In an effort to encourage nurses in the community to further their education and pursue advanced degrees, Mu Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau is pleased to offer three scholarships for the 2003-2004 school year.

- * One \$1000 award for a Mu Gamma member and
 - * Two \$500 awards for any qualified nurse applicants.
- Applications will be accepted in the spring with scholarships awarded for the following academic year.

Applicant Criteria:

1. Applicant must be entering or continuing in an accredited nursing graduate program.
2. Applicant will provide verification of acceptance into a graduate program.
3. Applicant can be any qualified nurse practicing in the Treasure Valley.

Procedure for submitting application:

1. Mu Gamma Scholarship application form can be obtained by contacting Mu Gamma Scholarship Chair, Jennifer Jones, at jenjones@cablone.net
2. Applicant will write a 500 maximum word essay, double-spaced, 12-font size, in response to the following question: "After receiving your graduate degree, how will you promote your profession and level of practice?" The essay is the only determinant of scholarship award. It will be evaluated upon the following criteria: relevance, clarity, level of critical thinking, and acceptance of personal responsibility in response to challenges.
3. Applicant will attach essay to Mu Gamma application form (enclosed) and mail to Mu Gamma Scholarship Chair, at the following address:
Jennifer Jones
1006 S. Wilson St.
Boise, ID 83705
4. Applications will be accepted if postmarked by Friday, March 26, 2004.
5. The Mu Gamma Scholarship Chair will remove applicants' identifying information; the remaining Scholarship Committee members will review the applications.
6. Scholarship recipients will be notified by Friday, April 23, 2004.

Procedure for receiving award:

- ◆ Scholarship payments will be equally divided and issued by Mu Gamma over the school year
- ◆ Evidence of enrollment must be provided to receive 1st payment. Verification of continued enrollment must be provided to receive additional payments.
- ◆ Financial award will be sent directly to applicant.

Do you know a Nurse Leader or nursing student who would like to join Mu Gamma Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau?

Members of Sigma Theta Tau International are nurses who have demonstrated personal commitment to nursing excellence. For more information, go to:
<http://www.nursingsociety.org>

How do I apply for membership?

Complete the Membership Intent Form (enclosed) containing the criteria under which you qualify (undergraduate student, graduate student, or nurse leader) and return to:

Rosemary Macy
1910 University Drive
Boise Idaho 83725

You will also need to have two letters of endorsement (form enclosed) submitted in order to be considered by the Chapter Eligibility Committee. Nursing students should include on letter of support from a nursing faculty member. At least one of the two endorsements is to be from an active member of Sigma Theta Tau International. These two letters also need to be returned to Rosemary Macy.

Induction will be in spring of 2004

Mark Your Calendars

Spring Program

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Induction

**Sigma Theta Tau, International Mu Gamma
Chapter member directory enclosed**