

The Leading Edge

Winter Edition 2008

Delta Gamma Chapter
of Sigma Theta Tau International
at Marquette University



Editor: Mary J. Polchert, RN, PhD

Emancipatory Knowledge Development

As we begin the New Year, I have been preparing to guide graduate students in Theory Development coursework and I have been reading Chinn and Kramer's newest publication of *Integrated Theory and Knowledge Development in Nursing* (2008). This new seventh edition introduces Emancipatory Knowledge as the way of knowing that "makes social and structural change possible" (Chinn & Kramer, 2008, p. 77). The authors build upon enhancing and understanding the sociopolitical context of the nursing discipline as suggested by White (1995). The knowledge used in the discipline of nursing provides the foundation of caring for individuals and communities and this is the underpinning of all disciplines interacting within society. Nurses have always advocated for improving the health and welfare of the people and the communities that we serve; it is time for us to more critically examine societal influences in health outcomes beyond problem solving. Problem solving focuses upon a single instance or specific problem. The health of society is complex due to the multiple influences and structures surrounding our communities.

Barbara Carper (1978) originally conceptualized the "ways of knowing" as:

- Aesthetic and artistic - that is actually feeling the experience with another.
- Personal - that is knowing thyself, experience that influence our perspectives.
- Ethical commitment of service with respect for human life while recognizing our moral obligations to society.
- Empiric - that is research utilizing scientific processes and rigorous methodologies.

Chinn & Kramer (2008) now suggest **Emancipatory**

Knowledge Development as a necessary to accomplish goals for social and structural change.

Emancipatory knowing is the "capacity not only to notice injustices in a social order, but to also critically examine why injustices seem not to be noticed or remain invisible, and to identify social and structural changes that are required to right social and institutional wrongs" (Chinn & Kramer, 2008, p. 78).

We need to create the practice in which we can continue to develop knowledge that moves beyond only problem solving skills. This is praxis; "the process of emancipatory knowing" (Chinn & Kramer, 2008, p. 81). This is a practice which is informed by all the ways of knowing.

Emancipatory knowing requires us to see the larger picture and detect patterns and structures in day-to-day situations that are problematic. The emphasis needs to be on "seeing what lies beneath issues and problems and redefining those issues and problems to reveal linkages among and between complex social and political contexts" (p. 81). We need to recognize the historical and sociopolitical perspectives and begin to address these influences. We need to create an environment where students learn to challenge the social inequities and injustices and continue to support the solid foundation we have in our discipline for a future where all those who practice within the discipline of nursing recognize their social obligation to participate in the change process. Finally, we need to seek solutions that correct fundamental social inequities with an alliance of both the academic and grass roots perspective. As you read this edition of the *Leading Edge*, you will see how the Delta Gamma Chapter supports these endeavors in research and practice.

Enjoy the New Year, Mary Polchert, RN, PhD, Editor

Project BEYOND

Dr. Janet W. Krejci, and Dr. Leona VandeVusse at Marquette University College of Nursing (MUCN) received a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant to Create Nursing Workforce Diversity. The grant has been given the title of *Project BEYOND (Building Ethnic Youth Opportunities for Nursing Diversity)*. The intent of this grant is to not only improve recruitment, matriculation, and retention of students from underrepresented groups, but also to offer leadership development for students in the program. Faculty from Marquette University will be working with students in middle schools, high schools, and BSN students. The students will be mentored by leaders in the community as well as leaders from our two health care system partners, Aurora Health Care and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Increasing the numbers of nurses from diverse backgrounds is essential as individuals from underrepresented backgrounds comprise 25% of the U.S. population, yet account for less than 9% of RNs. The Milwaukee area is worse, where 33% of the community is underrepresented but only 7% of all registered nurses are ethnically or racially diverse.

Project BEYOND consists of three main objectives focused on increasing the number of registered nurses from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented groups. The objectives address pre-entry preparation, stipends and scholarships, and retention.

Mentoring is believed to be a valuable component to ensure the success of nursing students. The role of the mentor is to serve as a role model, share knowledge, provide direction, and promote development within the nursing profession. The **benefits** of being a mentor include helping students develop leadership skills, connect with a nursing student interested in personal growth, promote a sense of "giving back", and most of all have a rewarding experience that is pivotal to the effective development of future nurses. The Delta Gamma Chapter had agreed to collaborate with the Project BEYOND team by providing mentors and speakers for their BSN students.

The Delta Gamma Chapter and the Project BEYOND team are inviting you to share your knowledge and expertise to help nurture and cultivate MUCH BSN students. We are asking you to make a **minimal commitment** of one contact per month (via phone, email, or in person) with a mentee. **Contact Karen Goodwin at Karen.goodwin@mu.edu , or Terrie Garcia at Juanita.garcia@mu.edu to learn how you can become a nurse mentor.**

Become a part of this rewarding opportunity to make a positive impact in the investment of the future generation of nurses!

by Terrie Garcia, RN

Marquette Neighborhood Health Center

The Fall Chapter Program was held on October 11, 2007 at the Marquette Neighborhood Health Center (MNHC.) The MNHC is designed as a nurse managed health center, under the auspices of the Marquette University College of Nursing, providing community access to health care services while enhancing educational opportunities.

Margaret "Marty" Berner, MSN, CNM, APNP and Nurse Manager of the Center gave a brief overview of the history of the Center, introduced the experienced staff of PNs and support staff, and described the service provided by MNHC. Those services are: Health histories and physical exams; health screenings, education and counseling; immunizations; diagnose, treat, and monitor common acute and chronic health care problems; prescribe medications and therapies; order and interpret diagnostic studies; and follow-up and referral to specialists as needed.

The Vision of the MNHC is to reduce health disparities by delivering quality health care to adults and children in the Milwaukee metropolitan area and providing clinical education to nursing students. Any agency or individual may refer clients or themselves to the Health Center.

Members attending the program contributed children's books, greatly enhancing the center's library resources. The Chapter is looking at other ways to support the work of the MNHC.

by Jacque Nook, Leadership Succession Chairperson

**FUTURE NEWSLETTERS
WILL BE MAILED
VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

In the future, the Leading Edge will be available on-line via the website or via email.

Printed newsletters will be mailed only by request.

The web page for Delta Gamma Chapter at Marquette University is updated and will be useful to keep in touch with Chapter activities.

Please view the web page at:

<http://www.marquette.edu/deltagamma/>

You will be able to see the Executive Board Members, and find their contact information and the schedule of meetings for the year.

Members must also contact STTI for changes in address.
memserv@stti.iupui.edu

Candace Hennessy, PhD, R.N., named president of Aurora Visiting Nurse Association

Candace Hennessy, PhD, R.N., has been promoted to Aurora vice president and president of the Aurora Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin.

“Candy’s extensive leadership experience, her passion for quality care and her commitment to Aurora’s values make her an outstanding choice to lead the VNA,” said Susan Ela, R.N., senior clinical vice president of Aurora and president of the organization’s Metro Region. Hennessy succeeds Ela in the role.

The Aurora Visiting Nurse Association is Wisconsin’s leading provider of home health care services. The VNA also offers home and residential hospice care, Mobile Meals and durable medical equipment, and each fall the VNA conducts the state’s most ambitious influenza vaccination program, providing flu shots for tens of thousands of Wisconsin residents.

This year Aurora VNA is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service, and it recently marked another milestone by providing its one-millionth flu shot during

Shoo the Flu & Pneumonia Too! public flu clinics.

“I am honored to be joining the many dedicated caregivers at the VNA and look forward to building on the agency’s rich tradition of service to patients throughout eastern Wisconsin,” Hennessy said.

In Hennessy’s previous position as vice president of nursing and clinical integration for Aurora’s Central Region, she has provided leadership for all patient care services at Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center and Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh.

During her 37 years in nursing, Hennessy has been on the administrative staffs of five different hospitals. She earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Wright State University and her master of science degree in nursing from The Ohio State University. Hennessy earned her PhD from Marquette University and is a member of the American Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau. She is a resident of Brookfield.

The Aurora Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin is part of Aurora Health Care, a not-for-profit Wisconsin health care provider and nationally recognized leader in efforts to improve the quality of health care. Aurora offers care at site in more than 90 communities throughout eastern Wisconsin.

Congratulations to Delta Gamma members in the news

The United States Agency for International Development has honored Dr. Darlene Weis, associate professor emeritus of nursing, with the Presidential Volunteer Award. Issued by the president of the United States, the award recognized Weis for her volunteer work in American International Health Alliance Partnerships.” Dr. Weis is a long-time member of Delta Gamma, and a member of the Governance Committee 2007-2009.

Dr. Ruth Ann Belknap, assistant professor of nursing, has been selected as 2007 Marquette University College of Nursing Regner Research Award winner. The Regner Research Award is a College of Nursing grant to promote the research program of a full-time faculty member. Belknap’s research project partners Marquette and the Latina Resource Center, a domestic violence service provider on Milwaukee’s south side.

Consider Becoming a Member of the Delta Gamma Board!

Becoming active on the Board is an excellent opportunity to network, build leadership skills, and participate fully in a global nursing organization. Active Chapter members are encouraged to nominate themselves for Board position, or recommend a colleague for a position. As per Bylaws, the Ballot will be distributed at the Chapter Business meeting, at the 2008 Joint Chapter Meeting. Watch the DG website for detail.

The leadership Succession Committee is accepting nominations for the following Board Positions. All terms are July 2008 - June 2010:

Secretary

Faculty Counselor -- Must be faculty member, Marquette
University College of Nursing

(1) Leadership Succession

(2) Governance--Positions may be elected or
appointed.

All active members are eligible for Office. Please email Jacque Nook, Leadership Succession Chair to discuss further. jnook@wi.rr.com

Board Members

PRESIDENT * (Term: 2006 – 2008)

Suzanne Williamson

Phone: 262-642-2349

e-mail: suzanne.williamson@aurora.org

PRESIDENT - ELECT (Term 2007 - 2008/President 2008 - 2010)

Barb Haag-Heitman

email: bhaagheitman@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT * (Term: 2007 – 2009)

Program Committee Chair

Danielle Siclovan

e-mail: dsiclova@fmlh.edu

SECRETARY (Term: 2006 – 2008)

Diana Hanks

e-mail: ronhanks1@msn.com

TREASURER * (Term: 2007 – 2009)

Mary Darling

email: mdarling7@wi.rr.com

FACULTY COUNSELOR * (Term: 2006 – 2008)

Governance Committee Chairperson;

Kathleen Bobay

e-mail: Kathleen.bobay@marquette.edu

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Mary J. Polchert, RN, PhD

Associate Professor

Marian College - School of Nursing

45 National Avenue

Fond du Lac, WI 54935

mjpolchert12@mariancollege.edu

Is this your Home or Office address?