

Submitted by: Barbara Bucci
President of Gamma Theta Chapter

History of Gamma Theta Chapter; Chapter # 078

The impetus for striving to become a Sigma Theta Tau Chapter came from Sr. Bernadette Armiger, D.C., PhD, who was Dean of the College of Nursing from 1968-1974. Armiger, along with two faculty members, established the Nursing Honor Society at Niagara University in 1975.

Sigma Theta Tau International granted a chapter to the nursing honor society at Niagara University on March 4, 1978. On this date, Sr. Aloise Ann Zasowska and 12 faculty members of the College of Nursing were among the 75 Charter members inducted.

Our records reflect in 1981, on behalf of Gamma Theta Chapter, Sr. Mary Balthasar (Margaret John) suggested to Sigma Theta Tau International that this prestigious society have a symbolic honor cord similar to other academic honor societies. Sigma Theta Tau International approved the academic cord in its official colors of purple and white.

Since 1984, Gamma Theta Chapter co-sponsored annual Nursing Research Conferences with several local chapters within the Western New York Area. They include:
Zeta Nu Chapter @ D'Youville College
Gamma Kappa Chapter @ SUNY @ Buffalo
Pi Zeta Chapter @ Daeman College
Professional Nurses Association of WNY, District 1, NYSNA

Since 1983, our chapter has been committed to awarding several scholarships to nursing students in the College of Nursing. The Niagara University College of Nursing's last graduating class completed their program in December 2002.

In January 2003, Gamma Theta Chapter transferred from a College of Nursing to an Alumni Chapter at Niagara University. We have our own Web site, developed in collaboration with Niagara University Alumni office.

As an alumni chapter we currently have 153 active members. Today our chapter focuses on sustainability, community service and education. We have a dedicated core membership which still includes one of our founding charter members Mary Lorch, who actively provides mentorship to future leaders within this chapter. Our chapter truly appreciates her dedication and support throughout the past 30 years.