Hi Gamma Rho Members... we did it!
Through hard work and dedication of our members and board we received the Presidential Servant Leadership Award for the abundant amount of service to both our students and community. Thank you all for giving back, once again showing that nursing is the most caring profession.

Maddie
Madeline Lassche, MSNEd, RN
Interim President, STTI Gamma Rho Chapter

Congratulations Gamma Rho for being one of the first chapters to receive this Award!

The Showcase of Regional Excellence is designed to recognize the good work of chapters in relation to the biennial Presidential Call to Action. Recognition is given at the regional level and spans the course of the biennium – from 2013 through 2015.

Accomplishments being submitted for 2013-2015 recognition represent one of the four areas of Hester C. Klopper’s 2013-2015 Presidential Call to Action:

- Servant Leadership
- Connectedness
- Transformation
- Gratitude

Check out the Sigma Theta Tau International website at
http://www.nursingsociety.org
Meet Your Gamma Rho Board Members

President – Interim

Maddie Lassche, MSNEd, RN
Maddie Lassche has been a member of STTI since 2007 and has enjoyed being a part of the board for the same number of years. Sigma Theta Tau has given her the opportunity to give back to the nursing community through philanthropic and community involvement. It has also allowed her to increase skills in leadership. Maddie has been a pediatric nurse for over 15 years including 9 years at Primary Children’s Hospital on the Infant Unit and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. In addition, she has been teaching at the University Of Utah College Of Nursing for 9 years, three years as a shared employee. Her love of teaching and drama are fulfilled by teaching and directing the Simulation Learning Center. She is originally from New York and has lived in Nebraska, California and finally Utah. She loves living in Utah and one of her greatest pleasures is traveling with her children. She also considers herself a “football mom” so you will see her rooting for Peewee Darts, Utah Utes, and the New York Giants depending on the season and day of the week.

Vice President

Nanci McLesky, MCG, MDiv, RN-BC, CHPN, FNGNA
Nanci has been a member of STTI for 3.5 years and was inducted as a Community Leader. STTI provides her leadership opportunities, connectedness with other nursing leaders and the critical changers in moving nursing forward. She has been a nurse for 40+ years in various capacities and loving each one. After 20+ years as an ICU and medical-surgical nurse, her education includes: a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Unit, a Masters of Gerontology, a Masters of Divinity, a Teaching Nursing Post Masters Certificate, is an ELNEC End-of Life-Trainer and is board certified as a Gerontological Nurse and as a Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse. Nanci’s work experience also includes working as: an Alzheimer’s Director in an assisted living facility, a Nurse Educator in a long-term care facility, and a Geriatric Nurse Educator in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of Utah. Currently, Nanci is a Clinical Instructor in Gerontology at the University of Utah College of Nursing, and is completing her Doctoral of Nursing Practice degree. She is also an active member in the National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA), serving two terms recently as Vice President and is an NGNA Fellow. Educating and changing attitudes of nursing students to appreciate gerontological nursing, especially in the care of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and at end of life, is her passion! She loves spending time with her family, taking a hike up the mountain with her German shorthair dog, Solomon and is a Denver Bronco Fan.

Secretary

Tamara Ekker, RN, MS
Tamara Ekker has been an STTI member for nearly 7 years. She remains a member for the networking and philanthropic opportunities and to serve the profession of nursing. Tamara has been a nurse for 6.5 years and worked as a critical care nurse at University Hospital for 5 years on the Intermediate Care Unit (IMCU). She currently is a Clinical Instructor at the University Of Utah College Of Nursing. Tamara is from Green River, Utah and loves small towns. She spends as much time as possible in the desert and enjoys river running, geology, just about anything Sci-Fi, gardening, crocheting, cross stitch, napping and chocolate. She loves her cat, Matty, and she loves her students. “Go save lives, check your patient, and what are the trends”. If Tam was your instructor these phrases will sound very familiar!

Here is Matty helping Tam grade papers
Meet Your Gamma Rho Board Members (cont)

President-Elect

Sue Chase-Cantarini, RN, DNP, CHSE
Sue Chase-Cantarini joined Sigma Theta Tau during her baccalaureate program at the University of Florida – GO Gators! She still has her induction letter and remembers how honored she felt being invited 28 years ago. Once she was a member, she knew she would always be a member of this great organization. Throughout the years her participation in chapter activities varied, depending on where she was in her professional career. In 1998, she joined the University of Utah College of Nursing faculty and became more interested in leadership positions in Sigma Theta Tau. The Gamma Rho Chapter was an excellent place to grow professionally and help develop leadership in herself and others. There is excitement encouraging others to join the chapter and work alongside them as colleagues.

Awards Recognition Chair

Barbara Wilson, RN, PhD
Barbara Wilson has been in STTI since her induction in the mid 1980s. She has served in various capacities for STTI, including Iota Iota chapter president (1990-1992), Beta Upsilon Governance / Member Selection Committee (2006-2008), Beta Upsilon Vice President (2008-2012), and currently Awards Chair for Gamma Rho. Barbara believes that nurses have a responsibility to ‘give back’ to nursing by serving in a professional capacity to influence education, research, scholarship, and / or global initiatives; and STTI provides these opportunities to all active members. Barbara has been a nurse for more than 35 years and has worked in various hospital positions (staff nurse, charge nurse, clinical nurse specialist, nurse manager, nursing administrator) and more recently, has assumed leadership positions in academia.

Barbara is from Murray, Utah, the youngest of 5. She graduated from Weber State (ADN), University of Utah (BS in Nursing), Brigham Young University (MS in Nursing as maternal child specialist), and University of Arizona (PhD in nursing with an emphasis on healthcare delivery systems). She is currently the associate dean of academics at the College of Nursing. She loves sleepovers with her grandson, good chocolate, good friends, and working with such dedicated men and women who are committed to transforming healthcare through education, research, and practice.

SAVE THE DATE! 😊
New Member Induction is April 9, 2015
We would love to see you there!
Meet Your Gamma Rho Board Members (cont)

Web Master

**Jia-Wen Guo, RN, PhD**
Jia-Wen Guo has been an STTI member for 2 years. Because of STTI, she can apply for and receive research funds to support her research. She has been a nurse since 1998 when she was in Taiwan. She got her nursing degree in Taiwan and worked as an oncology nurse at the first cancer medical center in Taiwan for a couple of years. Due to her passion for Informatics, she studied abroad at the University of Utah for a PhD in Nursing Informatics. After she earned her PhD, she stayed at the U of U, which she loves, as an Informatics faculty. She likes to go hiking and snowboarding when she can get away from her work. She also likes to eat various raw oysters.

![Jia-Wen](image)

You’re Invited!
STTI Gamma Rho Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 16th at 5:00 at the College of Nursing

There are opportunities to serve!
Email Tamara at tamara.ekker@nurs.utah.edu to get involved in STTI Gamma Rho!

Co-Chair
Philanthropic Committee

**Linda Edelman, RN, PhD**
Linda Edelman has been an STTI member for longer than she can remember! She maintained her membership while working as a clinical research nurse, through a PhD and now as a faculty member because of the opportunities to network with other STTI members and to raise the visibility of nursing scholarship. Linda worked for many years as the research coordinator for the University of Utah Burn Center. Now she teaches in the DNP and Gerontology programs at the University of Utah College of Nursing and conducts research on rural older adult injuries. She loves reading, hiking and wishes she had more time to spend in the desert with her husband Scott and her dog Ozzie (you can follow his adventures on Instagram #ozziesamerica).

![Linda Edelman](image)

Ozzie – Linda’s dog
# Current Gamma Rho Board Members
## 2014 - 2015

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<td>President-elect</td>
<td>Sue Chase-Cantarini</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Amy Hartman</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Tamara Ekker</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Gwen Latendresse</td>
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<td>Faculty Counselor (CON Faculty)</td>
<td>Katie Baraki</td>
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<td>Leadership Succession Committee</td>
<td>Sharifa Al-Qaaydeh</td>
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<td>Publicity/Newsletter Chair</td>
<td>Nicole Miller</td>
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<td>Electronic Delegates</td>
<td>Sharifa Al-Qaaydeh &amp; Katie Baraki</td>
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<td>Madeline Lassche &amp; Amy Hartman</td>
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<td>Archivist</td>
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<td>Jia-Wen Guo</td>
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<td>Membership Ambassador</td>
<td>Celeste Wouden</td>
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<td>Membership Involvement Chair (Induction)</td>
<td>Tamara Ekker</td>
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**Open Positions**

- Finance Chair (optional)
- Governance Chair
- Key Award