January 2006

Omicron Tau News

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Happy New Year!
The past several months have brought many future changes to our society at the national and local level. The biennial convention was held in Indianapolis in November 2005. Highlights from the convention include a new dynamic President, Carol Picard was sworn in office, several bylaw changes, leadership and educational opportunities, chapter development solutions, lots of collaboration and reminiscing, recognition of new chapters across the globe, and much more. Our chapter was fortunate to send two delegates to convention this year to represent our chapter during the delegate session. Thank you Beth Pross at Minot State University and Deb Johnson at Mind, Body and Wellness for your commitment.

With a new strategic direction from our President and national headquarters, our chapters’ strategic goals will be reviewed and renewed to follow this new path for our Society. These changes will be discussed at our transition meeting in June and incorporated into our chapter this next fiscal year.

As we move forward with our chapter activities, one very important function is to recognize those members through our chapter awards. There is more detail on our chapter awards in this newsletter. We are also seeking members to identify potential nurse leaders to join our chapter. Refer to this newsletter on how to nominate a colleague to join.

Spring is our chapters busiest time of year with our annual meeting, workshop, induction of new members, and nurse week activities. We still looking for volunteers to assist with these functions. If you are interested, send an email to the chapter email at omicrontau@minotstateu.edu and specify which function you would be interested in.

I would like to thank you for your continued support as a chapter member and supporting our chapter through your renewal of membership, support of chapter activities, and volunteerism. As my position comes to a close at the end of July this year and a new president is sworn in, my commitment for our chapter’s vitality will remain.

Nancy Vitko, Chapter President

Board of Directors
Nancy Vitko
President
Deb Johnson
President Elect
Diane Freiberg
Vice President
Teresa Seright
Treasurer
Anne Welch
Secretary
Kelly Schmidt
Counselor
Donna Hegle
Board Member
Ken Fox
Board Member

Governance Committee
Sandy Boschee
Janet Maxson
Diane Sjol

Leadership Succession Committee
Alyce Kilmer
Linda Haider

2006 Chapter Positions Open for Nominations (2 Year Terms)

President-Elect
Faculty Counselor
Governance Committee

Secretary
Board Member at Large
Leadership Succession Committee

Nominations can be submitted to omicrontau@minotstateu.edu. Elections will be held February 18, 2006 at the Annual Meeting.
Omicron Tau’s Quest to Identify Chapter Members for our 2006 Chapter Awards

Omicron Tau’s 2006 chapter awards will be presented on April 20, 2006 during our new member Induction Ceremony. These awards represent a commitment to leadership, scholarship, clinical practice, and volunteerism.

**Orchid Award** recognizes a chapter member who has promoted the development of the chapter’s functions and activities through promoting the image of nursing, active involvement in chapter activities, outstanding leadership and participation in chapter functions, inspirational role model for volunteerism and leadership, and an active chapter member.

**Best Practices Awards** recognizes 1st award) a nurse who has been in clinical practice less than 10 years employed in any area of nursing performing in an exemplary fashion with patient(s), families or groups; and 2nd award) a nurse who has been in clinical practice more than 10 years in leadership or an advanced practice role demonstrating exemplary work for the health of individuals, families or groups. These two awards do not require you to be a member of the chapter; however preference will be given to active chapter members.

The process for nominating a person for any or all of these awards would be to provide a written statement supporting their nomination for the award as well as their name, address, phone number, place of employment, position, and your contact information. You can also log onto our chapter website (http://mail.misu.nodak.edu/~omicrontau/) and complete the award nomination form(s).

The chapter awards will be presented on April 20, 2006 during the new member induction ceremony.

**For sale:** Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives: The Stories of Nurses by Carolyn Smeltzer & Frances R. Vlasses. The nurses in this book tell us stories of how they reconcile extraordinary work and life experiences. They tell us the story of living life as a nurse. $35.00 plus shipping. Order by email to omicrontau@minotstateu.edu or by contacting Nancy Vitko at 701.838.0843.

**Important Reminders**

Keep us up to date on You!
To change your contact info go to www.nursingsociety.org, log into the member community, click on E-Profile, and update your information!

Scholarship Opportunities are Available at http://www.nursingsociety/careers/scholarships_opps.html
Seeking Chapter Members to Identify Nurse Leaders for Membership into Our Society, Locally and Nationally

If you know of a registered nurse with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree and who has demonstrated achievement in nursing, they can be invited to join our Society both locally and nationally. Nominate them by completing the enclosed form and returning it to our chapter by February 15, 2006 or sending the following information via email to 'omicrontau@minotstateu.edu': candidate name, address, email (required), phone number, place of employment, position, and a brief description of their practice. Note: Our new member induction process has become electronic so it is very important to include an email address.

Omicron Tau Calendar of Events – Mark Your Calendars

February 18, 2006: Annual Business Meeting. 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. International Inn, Conference Center.

March 13, 2006: Chapter Business Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Prairie Room.

April 10, 2006: (tentative) Chapter Business Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Prairie Room.

April 20, 2006: Annual Induction Ceremony and Chapter Awards Presentation. 7:00 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Metigoshe Room (3rd Floor).

April 21, 2006: Regional Assembly. ‘North Dakota Summit on Patient Safety: Medication Management’ All day event. Holiday Inn Riverside. CNE’s offered.

May 4, 2006: 4th Annual Wine & Cheese Reception. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Taube Museum.

June 12, 2006: Officer Transition Meeting. 6:00 p.m. 1115 12th Ave SW.
**Accolades**

If you have any achievements to share with our chapter, please submit them to our chapter’s web mail at omicrontau.minotstateu.edu to be included in future newsletters.

This is a great opportunity to let us know how and what you are doing in your profession and personal life.

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**Our Vision**

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

Sigma Theta Tau has over 450,000 nurses in 90 countries working to improve health worldwide. Omicron Tau Chapter, chartered in 1998, is located within the Department of Nursing at Minot State University.