Happy New Year to all of you! It is already mid-January and time for our next newsletter. As I was considering what to write about in this issue, I read an article written by our Region 4 Coordinator that peaked my interest. I thought the topic would be a good one for our chapter to consider. The title of the article is “What is your chapter’s vitality level?” It asks me as Chapter President to “take a good hard look at where your chapter is” in terms of the vitality of the chapter as a whole and whether chapter members’ time and efforts are being used effectively. One of the dilemmas facing many organizations including ours is the issue of the level of involvement from all members who may be capable of being involved. There are so many professional organizations competing for our time these days. I sometimes wonder if we join an organization because at the time it seemed right or necessary, but in the long run we did not fully assess our ability to serve as a member. Organizational burnout is an issue not only with STTI, but with many others and is often a topic of discussion at leadership retreats. One of the biggest challenges to organizations is member involvement so that the necessary and vital work can continue, and the load is distributed among the membership and not just a few. In answering the 16 questions asked in the article, I found I could answer yes to all of them. So, on the face of things, it would appear Omicron Tau is doing all it must to be a vital chapter, but a lingering concern remained with me. Are we reaching each member? Is our work being leveled across the organization so that all can participate? If the answer is no or maybe not, what is our responsibility to create possibilities for that to occur? I don’t know the answers to these questions, but I adamantly believe that if aware and cognizant organizations must continually challenge themselves to ask, “What are we doing that is effective?” and “What would it take to increase membership involvement at all levels from the board to members?” “Are we reaching all members who can help us make a difference, support our mission, and continue our vision?” So, in this new year, let us give ourselves a well deserved pat on the back for all that we are doing well. Let us be determined to ask these questions and seek possible solutions so that our members can continue with energy and enthusiasm. Then we can say as Gandhi so quietly but rightly said, “We must be the change we want to see in the world.”

Keep us up to date on You!
To change your contact info go to www.nursingsociety.org, log into the membership information, click on update my membership, and update your information!

New Omicron Tau web site address: http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/
Omicron Tau’s Chapter Awards for 2007

Nominations are now being accepted for the Omicron Tau Chapter awards to be awarded on April 19, 2007 at the induction ceremony.

Our Chapter’s 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.

Our Chapter’s NURSES WHO HAVE BEEN IN CLINICAL PRACTICE LESS THAN 10 YEARS recognizes a nurse employed in any area of nursing practice for less than 10 years demonstrating exemplary work for the health of individuals, families, or groups. Must be an active member of Omicron Tau.

Our Chapter’s NURSES WHO HAVE BEEN IN CLINICAL PRACTICE MORE THAN 10 YEARS recognizes a nurse who has been in clinical practice for more than 10 years in leadership or an advanced practice role demonstrating exemplary work for the health of individuals, families, or groups. Must be an active member of Omicron Tau.

Please submit nominations to the Omicron Tau Chapter President:
Deborah Johnson PhD, APRN, CNS
Center for Mind and Body Wellness
1015 South Broadway Suite 37
Minot, ND 58701
or log on to our web site at http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/ and click on “contact us” and e-mail your nominations to the board members.

Updated Omicron Tau Web Site

Take time to check out the updated web site at:
http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/

Future announcements, calendar of events, board minutes, newsletters, membership information, and other chapter information will be published on this web site. The goal is to use this web site to keep our members better informed of chapter events. A special thank you to Linda Pettersen and Teresa Seright for updating the web site. They will continue to update the web site, so watch for future updates.

2007 Annual Meeting

Plan on attending the annual meeting on February 24, 2007 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at the Grand International Inn, Minot. Participants will order off the menu. This is one way that you as a member of STTI Honor Society of Nursing/Omicron Tau can become more involved in making plans and decisions involving the chapter for the next year. Election of new board members will take place along with voting for possible new members. This is a great opportunity to meet the board members and other chapter members. All members welcome!
2007 Collaborative Educational Conference

Plan on attending the 5th Annual Northwest Region North Dakota Collaborative Educational Conference “Global Health – A Look to the Future: What Does it Mean for Nurses?” to be held at the Holiday Inn, Minot, on April 19, 2007 from 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm. Lonna Milburn PhD, RN will be the speaker. Dr. Milburn serves on the Senior Management Team for Abt Associates, Inc. in Bethesda, Md., one of the leading international economic consulting firms in the U.S. As Principle Associate, she directs the International Marketing and Business Development Portfolio for the International Health Division and provides technical assistance in health systems strengthening for developing countries around the world. The conference begins with lunch at 12:00 noon with the conference to follow. The purpose of this conference is to familiarize the audience with the issues, initiatives, health care indicators, and challenges affecting global health care and the implementation for the nursing profession in the United States. This activity will provide participants with 3.25 contact hours. Omicron Tau is co-sponsoring this conference along with the NW Region, NDNA; and the Roughrider Chapter, American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Brochures containing registration and additional information will be mailed from NDNA to Omicron Tau members in February. Invite your fellow colleagues who are not members. Registration forms are also available on the Omicron Tau website under “Calendar of Events”. For more information contact Rhoda Owens at 839-8536, 720-1588, or 857-3116; or Debra Wibe at 720-3084 or 857-2562.

2007 Induction Ceremony of New Members

The 2007 new member Omicron Tau Chapter STTI Honor Society of Nursing Induction ceremony will be held on April 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Missouri Room at the Minot State University, Student Union. Speaker will be Lonna Milburn PhD, RN on “Looking at the World of Nursing – Just What Difference Can You Make?”

To nominate a nurse leader for membership, simply fill out a nomination form that can be obtained from the Omicron Tau website http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/ Click on “membership”. Membership information and a Nurse Leader Application form are available. Mail completed application by Feb 14, 2007 to:

Linda Pettersen PhD, RN
Omicron Tau faculty counselor
Minot State University, Dept. of Nursing
500 University Avenue West
Minot, ND 58707
Call 701-858-3252 for more information

Other 2007 Omicron Tau Events

Next Board Meeting will be 9:00am – 10:00am on February 24, 2007 at the Grand International Inn prior to the annual meeting.

Annual Wine and Cheese Reception/Raffle May 3, 2007 at the Taube Museum of Art from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.
Congratulations to Linda Pettersen PhD, RN! Linda graduated in December 2006 from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND with her PhD in Teaching and Learning with a focus in higher education. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Minot State University, Department of Nursing.

If you have any achievements to share with our chapter, please submit them to our chapter's web mail at http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/to be included in future newsletters. Simply click on “Contact Us” and e-mail any of these achievements.

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.

Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing