“Vision to Action: Global Health Through Collaboration” was the theme for the convention held November 3-7, 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland. What a memorable experience it was! My attendance as a delegate from our chapter will have a lasting impact on me and my nursing career! More than 2000 nurses from around the world participated in the convention. Nurses from 33 countries gave 850 original presentations describing research and projects designed to improve worldwide health care by advancing nursing science, practice, education, administration and policy development.

Each day included many events and educational sessions to choose from. I spent time attending some of the research presentations and plenary sessions, discussing the proposed bylaw changes, talking to the candidates, attending the regional meeting, hearing about Vision 2020, learning about valuable chapter resources and membership benefits, and discussing ways to increase membership involvement while fulfilling my delegate responsibilities. It was definitely 5 full days of events and activities! I met many wonderful nurses from the United States and several countries. I came back with ideas to try and implement in our own chapter to increase membership involvement with the goal of fulfilling the mission and vision of the organization.

I have to say that the highlight of the convention for me was attending the House of Delegates the last day of the convention on Nov. 7. I met many delegates while participating in this full day of events, delegate activities and responsibilities. The opening ceremony with the arrival of past Presidents, the Board of Directors, President, and parade of flags in which

Keep us up to date on you!
To change and check your contact information (mailing address, e-mail address, etc.) go to www.nursingsociety.org, click on the membership link, click on my membership, and then contact information so you can receive valuable information from both STTI and Omicron Tau!
Update from the 39th STTI Honor Society of Nursing Biennial Convention (continued):

the flags were presented by nurses representing all the countries was quite impressive. I participated in the voting on bylaw changes and the election of officers that would have an impact on the future of the organization. The new President, Carol J. Huston gave her Presidential Call to Action.

At the conclusion of the House of Delegates, I had the opportunity to personally meet each one of the newly elected officers and board of directors. What a wonderful group of nurse leaders who will definitely lead the organization in fulfilling its mission and vision!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of Omicron Tau for their support and allowing me to attend the convention as a delegate and representative of our chapter. I hope to use the knowledge and experience I obtained for our future chapter’s activities and events. Mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual meeting on February 9, 2008 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at MSU Dept. of Nursing to learn more about STTI, Vision 2020, the Presidential Call to Action, and the benefits of membership!

Omicron Tau’s Chapter Awards for 2008

Nominations are now being accepted for the Omicron Tau Chapter awards to be awarded on May 1, 2008 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. This individual 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. This individual must be an active member of Omicron Tau.

Please submit nominations to:

Marita Hoffart PhD, RN
Dept. of Nursing, Minot State University
500 University Avenue West
Minot, ND 58707
E-mail: marita.hoffart@minotstateu.edu
Upcoming 2008 Omicron Tau Chapter Events

2008 is the 10th Anniversary Year for the Omicron Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing!

2008 Annual Meeting: To be held Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at Minot State University, Dept. of Nursing. The Minot State University Dept. of Nursing is located on the 3rd floor of Memorial Hall. We will spend time getting to know the honor society’s web site, membership benefits, discussing Vision 2020, the President’s Call to Action, and the Nightingale Initiative. The annual business meeting will be held that includes election of officers for the next 2 years, voting on potential inductees, reports from officers, and the general business of the chapter. Lunch will be available for a small cost. This is one way that you as a member of STTI Honor Society of Nursing/Omicron Tau can become more involved by learning about the honor society, meet other members, and assist in the decision making involving the chapter for the next year. Please RSVP by Feb. 6, 2008 by e-mailing Marita Hoffart at marita.hoffart@minotstateu.edu or by sending your RSVP card in the letter that you received in the mail announcing the 10th Anniversary events.

2008 Collaborative Educational Conference: Plan on attending the 6th Annual Northwest Region North Dakota Collaborative Educational Conference “To Die with Dignity: Comfort Care at the End-of-Life” to be held at the Holiday Inn, Minot, ND on April 4, 2008 from 8:00am – 4:00pm. This activity will provide participants with 6.25 contact hours. Omicron Tau is cosponsoring this conference along with the NW Region, NDNA; and the Roughrider Chapter, American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Refer to attached brochure in this newsletter for the agenda, speakers, and registration information.

2008 Induction Ceremony for New Members: The 2008 new member Omicron Tau Chapter STTI Honor Society of Nursing Induction ceremony will be held on May 1, 2008 at 7:00pm in the Missouri Room at the Minot State University, Student Union. The speaker will be Mary Wakefield PhD, RN, FAAN who spoke at our chartering 10 years ago. Dr. Mary Wakefield is Associate Dean for Rural Health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of North Dakota; Director and Professor (tenured) of the Center for Rural Health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of North Dakota, in Grand Forks, ND. To nominate a nurse leader for membership, please e-mail names with contact information to Linda Schaefer, Faculty Counselor at linda.schaefer@minotstateu.edu or call 858-3254. Strong membership attendance is needed to welcome our new members to the Omicron Tau Chapter, STTI Honor Society of Nursing.
2008 Annual Nurses Day Event: To celebrate Nurses Week, the annual wine and cheese reception/raffle has been scheduled for May 6, 2008 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at the Taube Museum of Art. This is an opportunity to meet and network with other nurses in the region while celebrating the nursing profession! Many door and raffle prizes will be given away.

Reunion of the MSU Dept. of Nursing past graduates: The reunion weekend dates have been set for August 8, 9, and 10, 2008 in Minot. The May 2008 marks 35 years of graduates from the Dept. of Nursing. The focus will be “Developing One’s Gifts”. All are invited to attend. Watch for further details in future mailings and the Omicron Tau Dept. of Nursing web site. A committee is needed and those interested should contact Marita Hoffart.

Accolades:
Jill Fuller PhD, RN was recently featured in the November 2007 HealthLeaders journal regarding her work on Transforming Care at the Bedside Program. Dr. Fuller is the Chief Nursing Officer at Prairie Lakes Health Center, Watertown, SD.

Deborah Johnson PhD, APRN, CNS was recently featured in the Minot Daily News regarding her work involving leading a charity coat drive in Minot through “One Warm Coat” during January 2008.

Kari O’Keefe MSN, FNP completed her Master’s Degree in Nursing, May 2006 from Winona State University. Since that time, she has been working as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Mayo Clinic’s Inpatient Cardiovascular Medicine at St. Mary’s Hospital.

If you have any achievements to share with our chapter, please e-mail them to Rhoda Owens, newsletter editor, at owensfam@min.midco.net