Summer greetings!

Our year at Omicron Tau ended successfully with many accomplishments. Our annual wine and cheese was one of the best ever! The spring workshop which we co-sponsor with two other nursing organizations was a big success. We inducted new members and celebrated outstanding nurses and their leadership in three separate categories. We elected new officers and had a very relaxing and focused transition meeting at Treasurer Teresa Seright’s home. Summer transition offers members of Omicron Tau and the board the opportunity to reflect on what worked well and discuss areas that didn’t work so well. One of the areas that is not working as well as it could is active membership involvement from all members of the board on down. Our annual meeting was not attended very well and regular board meetings suffered from attendance at times, too. With everyone’s busy schedule, it is hard to carve out time for yet one more function or activity or group; yet our organizations lifeblood is our members. We need each member’s energy, ideas and leadership so we can continue our standard of excellence into the future. The board will be discussing membership involvement as part of our strategic planning in August, but each member is encouraged to email or snail mail if desired, any suggestions or ideas that can help Omicron Tau connect with all our members. So, summer awaits us all, but each member is encouraged to recall both the mission and vision of STTI and OT when August comes around and our next newsletter comes out with requests for membership activity at meetings and other gatherings. We are only as strong as each member.

Dr. Deb Johnson
Omicron Tau’s Chapter Award Recipients for 2007

The Omicron Tau Chapter Awards were presented at the Induction Ceremony on April 19, 2007 and the Annual Wine and Cheese Tasting Reception on May 3, 2007. These members represent a commitment to leadership, scholarship, clinical practice, and volunteerism.

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. It is with great honor that this award was presented to Nancy Vitko. Nancy has been an active member since her induction as a nurse leader in 1999. Nancy’s vision has been for the Omicron Tau Chapter to be a scholarly center for this part of North Dakota. She has played an active role in planning several educational activities; and in several fund raising events including the Runs for Health, Annual Wine and Cheese Tasting Receptions, and raffles. Nancy has given 5 years to the leadership of the Omicron Tau Chapter. She consented to president-elect 2001-2003, president 2003-2005, and past president 2005-2006.

Our Chapter’s BEST PRACTICE AWARD FOR NURSES IN 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. It is with great honor that this award was presented to Terry Evers. Terry was inducted into Omicron Tau in 2005. Since graduation, Terry has been employed by the Community Behavioral Health Hospital in Annandale, MN. Terry is very dedicated to the nursing profession, enjoys philosophical discussions, highly motivated, actively participates as a team member, demonstrates leadership qualities, and communicates therapeutically with patients and professionally with peers. He has applied for graduate school to further his knowledge and contributions to the nursing profession.

Our Chapter’s BEST PRACTICE AWARD FOR NURSES IN 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. It is with great honor this award was presented to Susan Porterfield. Susan was one of the founding members of the Omicron Tau Chapter. Susan received her BSN in 1995. In 2000 she received her MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner. In 2005 she received her PhD in Nursing Science from the University of Florida. Since 2005, Susan has been teaching graduate and undergraduate courses at Florida State University. She also works at Tallahassee’s Student Health Center at Florida State University and at the Quincy Care Clinic. Susan has published articles in the Journal of the Nursing Practitioners and given presentations at the local and national level. She is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Florida Nurses Association, and Southern Nursing Research Society. She also volunteers at her church, Relay for Life, and Women Build Coop – Women Helping Other Women.
2007 Newly Inducted Chapter Members

At the 2007 Omicron Tau Chapter Induction Ceremony on April 19, 2007, 11 new members were welcomed into the honor society. It is with great honor that the following members are recognized as the newest members of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Omicron Tau Chapter.

Alicja Cebulak, Jessica Heggen, Raechel Loecken, Matthew Lambert, Denise MacDonald, Lacey Peterson, Dianne Plesuk, Jane Reiter, Brandy Warmsbecker, Fern Westergaard, and Karen Zimmerman

Congratulations and welcome to our chapter! Your commitment to the profession of nursing has been demonstrated in your scholarly activities and leadership. Your future in the honor society will grow as you live out your role with integrity, intelligence, caring, and courage.

2007 Newly Elected/Appointed Board of Directors

Vice President       LuAnn Henning
Treasurer            Teresa Seright
Board Member         Donna Hegle
Governance Committee Margie Hair
Governance Committee Janet Maxson
Governance Committee Linda Schaefer
Leadership Succession Committee Lisa Endresen
Leadership Succession Committee Tammie Braaflat

2007-2008 Omicron Tau Chapter Events

The year 2008 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Omicron Tau Chapter. To celebrate this milestone, planning has begun for the celebration. The Board of Directors will be meeting August 2007 to begin finalizing the 2007-2008 chapter events and strategic planning. If any members would like to get involved in these upcoming events please contact one of the Board of Directors by e-mail of phone call. Several e-mail addresses are available on the web site at: http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/ (Click on the board members link)

Watch for future announcements after August 2007 in this newsletter, the above web site, and other mailings.

Have a Great Summer!
Congratulations to Kelly Buettner-Schmidt. Kelly has been appointed to the Department Chair position at the Department of Nursing, Minot State University. She begins her new position July 1, 2007.

Congratulations to Teresa Seright who will be publishing a series of 2 articles entitled “Cultural Competence of North Dakota Registered Nurses” in the OJRNHC (Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care). She has also been accepted into the Doctoral Program for Teaching and Learning at UND, Grand Forks ND.

Congratulations to Margie Hair who has been accepted into the PhD in Nursing program at New Mexico State University.

If you have any achievements to share with our chapter, please submit them to our chapter's web site at http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/ so we may include them in future newsletters. Simply click on Board Members, Rhoda Owens, secretary and newsletter editor, to inform us of these events. You may directly e-mail them to owensfam@min.midco.net

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.