Omicron Tau News

In this Edition

- 2008 Chapter Awards
- New Members
- Upcoming Events
- Accolades

2008-2009 Board of Directors

Rhoda Owens  President
Dawn Fredrich  President-Elect
LuAnn Henning  Vice President
Linda Pettersen  Treasurer
Karen Zimmerman  Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Linda Schaefer  Faculty Counselor
Donna Hegle  Board Member
Matt Lambert  Board Member

Governance Committee
Linda Haider
Margie Hair
Amy Roberts
Linda Schaefer
Susann DeForest

Leadership Succession Committee
Tammie Braaflat
Lisa Endresen
Jane Olson

Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing

Omicron Tau Chapter President’s Call to Action:
Rhoda Owens MSN, RN
Chapter President (2008-2010)

On May 14, 2008, the Omicron Tau Board of Directors met for our annual board transition meeting. We concluded that we need to meet many challenges so we can continue to be a viable chapter while fulfilling the mission and vision of STTI Honor Society of Nursing. At the Biennial Convention this past November 2007, all chapters were challenged to use the “Vision 2020” and President Carol Huston’s “Call to Action” as we plan future chapter activities over the next two years. Chapters and members need to have the goal of “leading globally”. The challenge is to be dedicated to: using knowledge, leadership and service to improve the health of the world’s people and meeting the needs of all nurse leader generations. “Leading Globally” includes four key themes: creating and sharing knowledge resources, being “intentionally global”, developing career-spanning leadership skills and providing service.

Keeping in mind the “Vision 2020” and President’s “Call to Action”, board members spent time discussing how our chapter’s present strategic plan, past activities, board meetings, and committee assignments are meeting these challenges. The end results were the revision of our strategic plan (pg. 2) and starting the planning process for our chapter’s future activities. One of our main goals is to increase the engagement of our members in present and future activities. There are many opportunities to become involved! Our chapter needs more members willing to participate on committees (pg. 4), become involved with future activities, and run for an office in 2009. My challenge to all members is to get involved! Involvement is a way to meet and network with nurses in many different practice areas and stimulate your professional growth while participating in fulfilling the mission and vision of the honor society. If you have any interest in becoming more involved, do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the many opportunities!

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!
Omicron Tau Chapter’s Strategic Plan

- Hold two scholarly activities each year
- Encourage member involvement in specific projects and/or committee work
- Invite community nurse leaders and nursing students for induction
- Involve students in chapter processes
- Provide mentor opportunities for student members
- Attain financial support through membership fees and fund raising
- Support two delegates to the biennial convention
- Support 1 active member as an officer to attend the Leadership Academy
- Recognize outstanding performance and service through awards and public relations
- Hold regular board meetings and an annual meeting
- Facilitate meetings between members
- Publish a quarterly newsletter and send to all active members
- Maintain chapter web-site to provide information and communication among members
- Develop internal resources
- Participate in at least one community and one global outreach project annually

2008 Newly Inducted Chapter Members

At the 2008 Omicron Tau Chapter Induction Ceremony on May 1, 2008, 14 new members were welcomed into our 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.

Rebecca Ajello, Judy Beck, Jennifer Eckholt, Susann DeForest, Jared Gietzen, Anna Jessen, Sarah Jessen, Brittnay Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Jaci Phillips, Jacqueline Reep, David Schaff, Tasha Tonnessen, and Jade Trottier

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. Our challenge to all of you is to become involved in future activities!

2008 Newly Elected/Appointed Board of Directors

- President: Rhoda Owens
- President-Elect: Dawn Fredrich
- Secretary: Karen Zimmerman
- Board Member: Matt Lambert
- Governance Committee: Amy Roberts
- Governance Committee: Linda Haider
- Leadership Succession Committee: Jane Olson
Omicron Tau Chapter’s Award Recipients for 2008

The Omicron Tau Chapter Awards were presented at the 2008 Induction Ceremony on May 1, 2008. 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 **Linda Pettersen PhD, RN**. Linda has been employed with MSU since 1974 and has taught many different courses, served as Department Chair, witnessed many changes and is a founding member of the Omicron Tau Chapter. Linda has been very active in chapter activities including the induction ceremony, transition meetings, board meetings and other chapter sponsored activities. She is the current treasurer and assists with updating the chapter’s web site. She is committed to research and the nursing profession. According to a former student, Linda is compassionate, caring, positive and nonjudgmental when working with students. A student once stated, “Her biggest desire is for you to succeed”!

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 **Amy Roberts BSN, RN**. Amy has achieved leadership in nursing practice with an outstanding commitment and positive attitude. She is described as energetic, caring, bright and eager to learn. Amy strives towards excellence in leadership, practice and academics by teaching students, advocating for patients and families, and promoting quality patient care. Amy graduated with her BSN from Minot State University in 2001. Since graduation, she has worked at the Garrison Hospital and medical floor at Trinity Health. She is currently employed at the Family Birthing Center of Trinity Health and as a clinical nursing instructor for Minot State University, Dept. of Nursing, and the Dakota Nursing Program. She is enrolled in graduate school at the University of North Dakota pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Nursing.

Our chapter’s **Best Practice Award for Nurses in Practice More than 10 years** recognizes a nurse employed 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 **Laurie Dimler MSN, RN**. Laurie has been described as quiet, kind, nonjudgmental, caring and promotes quality patient care. Since graduation from Minot State University with her BSN in 1992, Laurie has worked at St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck, in the recovery room and medical floor. In 1999, she moved to Garrison and has worked at the hospital and currently works mostly at the clinic. She has a passion for diabetic education and works with patients, families and community groups to help them better understand diabetes. She believes that education is the single most important intervention nurses can provide to reduce mortality and morbidity of diabetes. On May 10, 2008 Laurie graduated with her Master of Science Degree in Nursing Specializing in Nursing Education. Her thesis centered on diabetes education interventions.
Omicron Tau Chapter Web Site

Take some time to check out the Omicron Tau Web site: http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/

Future announcements, past board meeting minutes, committees, board member contact information, and other chapter information will be published on this web site. The goal is to use this web site to increase communication to our members and keep them better informed of chapter events. So add it to your “favorites”, check it out, and visit it regularly to stay informed of past and upcoming events!

Omicron Tau Committee Members Needed

Do you want to become more active in Omicron Tau Chapter activities while meeting and networking with other members? We are looking for new members on all our committees. Why not become a member of one of our several committees?

The Community/Global Outreach Committee shall identify opportunities for local, national and global outreach projects that promote health care and present suggestions to the board of directors. The committee will develop and implement an action plan for member participation/involvement in board approved projects.

The Awards Committee shall oversee the chapter awards selection process and recommend to the Board of Directors recipients for the chapter awards.

The Education Committee shall be responsible for the educational programs of the chapter, including at least two scholarly programs annually.

The Scholarship and Research Committee shall be responsible for the acceptance, review and judging of the chapter’s research and scholarship applications.

The Finance Committee shall oversee the chapter’s financial procedures and status, monitors the budget performance, participates in the audit process and assists the treasurer as needed with financial management functions.

The Nurse Day Celebration/Raffle Committee is responsible for organizing and planning this Omicron Tau Chapter’s sponsored yearly celebration and event in May during National Nurses Week.

The 10 Anniversary Celebration Committee is the committee responsible for organizing and planning the Omicron Tau Chapter’s 10th anniversary celebration with the MSU Dept. of Nursing’s 35th anniversary to be held on Sept. 25, 26 and 27, 2008.

For more information or if you are interested in being on one of these committees, contact Rhoda Owens at 839-8536, 720-1588 or owensfam@min.midco.net
Mark Your Calendars for These 2008 Omicron Tau Chapter Events:

The 10th Anniversary Celebration of Omicron Tau in conjunction with the 35th Anniversary of BSN graduates from MSU will be September 25, 26, and 27, 2008 to coincide with Minot State University’s Homecoming event. More details to follow in the near future.

Next Omicron Tau Chapter’s Board of Director’s Meeting will be on July 8, 2008 from 5:00pm – 6:00pm at the MSU Dept. of Nursing. All Omicron Tau Chapter members are invited and encouraged to attend! Any questions, contact Rhoda Owens at 720-1588 or 839-8536, E-mail: owensfam@min.midco.net

Watch the next newsletter for future events!

Accolades:

Laurie Dimler MSN, RN graduated from the University of North Dakota in May 2008 with her Master of Science in Nursing Degree specializing in nursing education.

Marita Hoffart PhD, RN was the recipient of the Nightingale Nursing Award, March 2008, at the annual All Nursing Conference in Bismarck, ND. This award was sponsored by St. Alexius Medical Center PrimeCare.

Rhoda Owens MSN, RN had an article published in the May 2008 issue of American Nurse Today, “Teaming up to improve the quality of surgical care”

If you have any accomplishments to include in future newsletters, please e-mail them to the new newsletter editor, Karen Zimmerman at Karen.Zimmerman@trinityhealth.org