Final Thoughts from the President

This will be my last message as your President and even though these years have been busy, they were rewarding to see that our chapter is thriving because of members like you. We have been involved in so many chapter activities and functions that one can easily see how the time flies by. I would like to highlight this past year with a summary of the chapter functions and activities.

Membership Development. Our chapter currently has over 200 members, 50% of the members are active. Your membership renewal has been fundamental for our chapter to run its normal business activities. We have been fortunate to send a chapter member to attend the annual Chapter Leadership Academy and two members to the Biennial Convention as Chapter Delegates. We have recognized members through chapter awards (Orchid Award and Best Practice Award) providing a channel to formally recognize our members for their commitment to nursing and volunteerism in the chapter. This past year we broadened our scope and invited nurse leaders to join from the northwest region of North Dakota.

Chapter Development. We’ve been successful in this initiative through communications to members via a quarterly newsletter, monthly electronic newsletter and website. We developed policies and procedures that allow our chapter to become financially responsible. We have been involved in community relations with our 5th Annual Wine & Cheese Reception raising over $900 for scholarship and research. This reception is legendary in bringing nurses together to celebrate our profession, enjoy friendships, kindle new friendships.

Scholarship and Research Development. The Board has developed and adopted a Scholarship and Research Program that is available to chapter members (refer to insert). Our chapter has also developed a collaboration with NDNA and AACN offering three educational opportunities. As you can see, our chapter has been successful and remains strong for the future.

I would like to thank you for your continued support in our chapter with a special thank you for your continued support in our chapter with a special thank you to the Board. As my position comes to a close a new president and Board will continue to drive our chapter forward.

Nancy Vitko, Chapter President

“We must be the change we want to see in the world” Ghandi

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
Omicron Tau’s Chapter Award Recipients for 2006

Omicron Tau’s 2006 chapter awards were presented at the Induction Ceremony on April 20, 2006 to two most deserving individuals. 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 Marita Hoffart, PhD. Marita has played a very significant role in the founding of the chapter as a founding member. She has also held several offices, which includes the President’s position. Marita has supported and volunteered her time for chapter activities at the local, regional and national level. Congratulations!

Our Chapter’s **Best Practice in Leadership Award** 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. The recipient of this award has demonstrated a commitment in nursing leadership with over 40 years of nursing experience. She experienced the revolution of nursing going from traditional caps and white uniforms to a nursing approach emphasizing practicality and problem solving. Her focus has been on providing quality of care services to patient’s through leadership, education and experience. This award was presented to Corrine Semmen, RN, MSN for her outstanding professionalism and commitment to the nursing profession. Congratulations to you Corrine!

Introducing Your New Chapter President

As our chapter changes President positions, I would like to introduce you to the chapter’s incoming President. **Deb Johnson, PhD, APRN** is a nurse leader and private entrepreneur of the Center for MindBody Wellness. She is involved in all aspects of psychiatric-mental health nursing including depressive research, general psychiatry, psychotherapy, and education in the areas of women’s mental health. Deb has served as a member and president of the North Dakota Board of Nursing, board member of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and is active in local community service organizations including as the American Heart Association. Deb lectures frequently about women’s mood disorders and anxiety disorders and serves as a consultant and investigator in child custody matters.

Recently, Deb has launched her health and wellness education service ClubMedEd to address the needs of professional and consumers alike. Her most recent offering is ‘Navigating Menopause – the mind body approach’ which is a group program based on Harvard’s Medical School Mind Body Medical Institute. Deb has also offered printed and enewsletters ‘Women’s Wellness Matters’ and ‘Girls Talk, too’.

I would like to welcome Deb with open arms as our chapter continues to remain vital fulfilling the mission and vision of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing. Welcome!
Newly Inducted Chapter Members

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.

Dawn Fredrich, Ashley Slind, Thomas Boostrom, Christine Nelson, Melissa Fettig, Trisha Johnson, Connie Ulland, Chantel Tester, Rhonda Conlin, Kathy Wyman, Deb Vesey, Rachelle Veazey, and Kirsten Tryba.

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.

2006 Board of Directors

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Deb Johnson

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Leadership Succession Committee
Alyce Killmer, Linda Haider, Jane Olson

These individuals assume their positions on July 1, 2006.
Kelly Buettner-Schmidt was awarded the **Lillian Wald Service Award** with the American Public Health Association/Public Health Nursing Section. This award recognizes individuals, agencies, or media depicting exemplary public health nursing practice to the public, especially in political, legislative, professional, or interdisciplinary activism. Kelly has demonstrated initiative and resourcefulness in developing efforts to improve the health of the public through her advocacy for tobacco prevention and smoke free environments. Congratulations!

*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.*