Greetings from the President

Welcome back to another action packed year for our chapter. I hope your summer was pleasant and relaxing. This will be my last year as President and we will continue to focus on our strategic initiatives: chapter development, membership development, leadership development, scholarship and research development, and financial health. Chapter development will involve activities for our chapter members as well as promote the profession of nursing through educational activities with continuing educational opportunities, communications and our annual Wine & Cheese Tasting Event that celebrates the profession of nursing. Membership development will involve member retention and member recruitment.

Our chapter currently has 240 members, however, only 50% of those members continue to renew their membership. We are formalizing a plan of action to identify nurse leaders in the Northwest region of North Dakota to invite to join our chapter’s Honor Society of Nursing. Leadership development will encompass a more detailed focus on STTI’s Chapter Key Award criteria as we are preparing to apply for this award in the next 2 years. Another goal is to continue to identify members for our chapter awards and national awards. To read more about our chapter awards, go to our website and even nominate an individual or individuals. Scholarship and research development is a major focus as we are developing criteria for our members that are interested in research and scholarship that will offer monetary assistance and provide direction. $1,000 has been dedicated to this fund and will be awarded annually. Financial health involves membership renewal and fundraising activities so that we are able to direct chapter activities.

The board would like to encourage you as members to take a more active role in chapter activities, even if it is a short-term project, we still do need volunteers to help organize our chapter activities. If you are interested, send an email to the chapter email at omicrontau@minotstateu.edu. Your commitment to the profession of nursing and chapter is outstanding. Thank you and have a warm and cozy fall!

Nancy Vitko, Chapter President

2006 Chapter Positions Open for Nominations (2 Year Terms)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Board Member at Large</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Nancy Vitko</td>
<td>Diane Freiberg</td>
<td>Anne Welch</td>
<td>Ken Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Counselor</td>
<td>Deb Johnson</td>
<td>Teresa Seright</td>
<td>Kelly Schmidt</td>
<td>Donna Hegle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance Committee</td>
<td>Diane Freiberg</td>
<td>Diane Sjol</td>
<td>Donna Hegle</td>
<td>Ken Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership Succession</td>
<td>Nancy Vitko</td>
<td>Diane Sjol</td>
<td>Kelly Schmidt</td>
<td>Donna Hegle</td>
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Nominations can be submitted to omicrontau@minotstateu.edu. Elections will be held February 18, 2006 at the Annual Meeting. For position details, logon to our website, click on bylaws and scroll down to Article VIII and X.
Omicron Tau News

Omicron Tau Challenges Chapter Members

As members of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, our mission focuses on improving the health of the world’s people. With that in mind, I would like to challenge our chapter members in offering some type of commitment to the recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Our chapter has been in contact with the Red Cross office in Minot, North Dakota to determine what kinds of needs there are. They have indicated that at this point there are three emergent needs identified:

1. Monetary donations to pull together supplies, food, etc...
2. Volunteers to answer phones as the Minot Red Cross is a national call center and receives one seventh of all the calls across the nation to the Red Cross. They stated that the calls coming in are exceeding their manpower.
3. Mental health workers to provide counseling to the workers and individuals affected by the disaster.

I know that some of you are not in Minot, North Dakota but your local Red Cross in your city is also coordinating efforts for this recovery effort. Our chapter board is dedicated to this cause for our nation and the people.

If you are able to assist in anyway with this recovery effort, our chapter would like to hear from you as we would like to put together a memorial of your commitment to recognize our efforts.

National Email: www.redcross.org

Minot office contact info: American Red Cross
Mid - Dakota Chapter
2021 4th Ave NW
Minot, ND 58703-2915
E-mail: almcgeoough@minotredcross.org
Phone: 701-852-2828
Fax: 701-852-6953

For sale: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives: The Stories of Nurses by Carolyn Smeltzer & Frances R. Vlasses. The nurses in this book tell us stories of how they reconcile extraordinary work and life experiences. They tell us the story of living life as a nurse. $35.00 plus shipping. Order by email to omicrontau@minotstateu.edu or by contacting Nancy Vitko at 701.838.0843.

Important Reminders

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
**STTI’s New Focus**

The Honor Society of Nursing influences and changes the health of people by engaging the intellectual capital of nurses around the globe. The core values of the organization has committed to five strategic directions that will guide and sustain the honor society as it fulfills its mission. These five strategic directions include *knowledge, leadership, service, communities, and sustainability.* Knowledge through research, experience, values and nurse expertise to shape decisions and action. Leadership to use this knowledge to transform the health of communities. Service to apply the knowledge and leadership used to create a desirable difference for others ensuring public trust. Communities are created through relationships encompassing collaboration, cooperation, consensus building, alliance formation and partnerships. Sustainability cultivating, acquiring and developing human and fiscal assets that preserve the vision, values and legacy of the honor society. To gain further details of this new direction, log-on to the honor society website at [www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org) and click on ‘Future Strategic Directions’.

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**Omicron Tau Calendar of Events**

October 25, 2005: CNE Opportunity *‘Together We Prepare’* 7:00 p.m. Minot State University, Memorial Hall #114.

November 14, 2005: Chapter Business Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Prairie Room.

January 9, 2006: Chapter Business Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Prairie Room.

February 18, 2006: *Annual Business Meeting.* 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. International Inn, Conference Center.

March 13, 2006: Chapter Business Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Prairie Room.

April 10, 2006: (tentative) Chapter Business Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Prairie Room.

April 20, 2006: Annual Induction Ceremony and Awards Presentation. 7:00 p.m. Minot State University, Student Union, Metigoshe Room (3rd Floor).

April 21, 2006: Regional Assembly. *‘North Dakota Summit on Patient Safety: Medication Management’* All day event. Holiday Inn Riverside. CNE’s offered.

May 4, 2006: 4th Annual Wine & Cheese Reception. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Taube Museum.

June 12, 2006: Officer Transition Meeting. 6:00 p.m. 1115 12th Ave SW.
Sandy Boschee has been named ICU Nurse Manager and Chief Flight Nurse for NorthStar Criticair at Trinity Health. Congratulations!!!

Stephanie Witwer (MSU Center for Extended Learning), Becky Brodell (MSU Department of Nursing), Marie Mohler (MSU Department of Nursing), Rita Meyer (MSU Department of Nursing), and Deb Townsend (MSU Department of Nursing) have all been accepted into doctorate programs. Kudos!!!

Teresa Seright and Margie Hair have joined the Department of Nursing at Minot State University. Awesome!!!

Margie Hair has received her Master’s of Nursing Degree. Congratulations!!!

Omicron Tau
Nursing Honor Society

Omicron Tau
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Minot, ND 58707

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E-MAIL: omicrontau@minotstat.eu.edu

WEBSITE: http://mail.misu.nodak.edu/~omicrontau/

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