

OMICRON TAU NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

VISION 2020: HOW THE OMICRON TAU CHAPTER CAN PARTICIPATE IN MEETING THIS VISION (BY RHODA OWENS, RN, MSN, OMICRON TAU, CHAPTER PRESIDENT)



2008-2009

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At the 2007 Biennial Convention, Vision 2020 was introduced by the Board of Directors of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). By the year 2020, the honor society will be the organization of choice for scholarship, knowledge and leadership for nurses globally. As a leader in professional nursing, the honor society will be the organization nurses use when looking for information on global health issues. This will be possible because of the intellect and leadership of its members who will influence health care decisions globally, regionally and locally. Chapter members were challenged to assist the honor society in meeting this vision.

One of the goals in Vision 2020 is to be an "intentionally global organization". One way chapters can meet this goal is to cultivate partnerships and collaborative endeavors with like mission organizations. The mission of the honor society is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to make a difference in health worldwide. The vision of the honor society is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the

world's people. Keeping all this in mind, the board of directors made the decision to include in our chapter's strategic plan for 2008-2009 the goal of participating in at least one community and one global outreach project annually.

Our chapter's global health outreach project for the year will include a medical supply collection for the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA). FHSSA is a U.S. organization that works with the African Palliative Care Association in the development and provision of hospice and palliative care initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa. Their vision is for all people who are affected by HIV/AIDS and other terminal illnesses to have access to and receive quality palliative and end-of-life care. Our medical supply drive is an excellent opportunity for us to partner with FHSSA in providing much needed medical supplies to accomplish their vision. By doing this project, the Omicron Tau Chapter will be recognized as a "Friend of FHSSA".

As a member of Omicron Tau you have the opportunity to assist with this pro-

ject, collect supplies and publicize it to all of the Minot community. You can assist the chapter in meeting Vision 2020 and the mission/vision of STTI. Information is included in this newsletter regarding dates of this project, needed supplies, and drop off locations. Watch for further publicity in the newspaper and on local TV stations.

So start collecting those medical supplies!!

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BEYOND OUR BORDERS

The Omicron Tau Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing and the nursing students at Minot State University, Dept. of Nursing will be conducting a medical supply drive for the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa October 13, 2008 to November 1, 2008. The Omicron Tau Chapter of STTI is sponsored by Minot State University, Dept. of Nursing and consists of 89 active members who are nurses working in many different practice areas. Their mission is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide. Their vision is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people. This medical supply drive is being done with community involvement to support their mission and vision.

The Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA) was incorporated in 1999 to help generate resources and technical support for hospice organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa. FHSSA's mission is to support organizations in their development and provision of hospice and palliative care initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa. FHSSA's vision is for all people who are affected by HIV/AIDS and other terminal illnesses to have access to and receive quality palliative, hospice and end-of-life care.

FHSSA (Alexandria, Virginia), the African Palliative Care Association (Kampala, Uganda) and Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa are working together in an international

effort to scale up hospice and palliative care services in Africa. Several other organizations and partners are involved as well. Every day, 7,000 people die from HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa – many without basic supplies that would bring comfort to them. In many countries of Africa there are desperate situations of suffering, stigma, poverty, isolation and no access to hospice and palliative care. With the goal of reducing suffering and providing quality end-of-life care, palliative and hospice care in Africa provides client-centered holistic care that address needs relating to pain control, symptom management, social, emotional and spiritual support. Care is provided through trained interdisciplinary teams. This care is similar to hospice and palliative care provided in the United States. Palliative care and hospice care for individuals with HIV/AIDS is as important as management and treatment of the disease. FHSSA relies on contributions and donations to assist the African Palliative Care Association and Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa with this effort. All contributions and donated supplies are guaranteed to arrive at one of the 60 plus African hospices. These hospices are located in such African countries as Burundi, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia.

You can help the Omicron Tau Chapter in this community wide effort by donating needed basic supplies that will bring comfort to the many individuals with HIV/AIDS and other terminal illnesses in these African hospices. Many of the needed supplies are

basic and inexpensive. The following supplies are being collected during this medical supply drive.

Please note that supplies that expire should have at least one year or longer expiration date:

- Band aids
- Bed Sheets
- Blankets
- Booties/socks
- Dental Floss
- Depends/Adults
- Diapers/Baby
- Exam gloves
- Wash Cloths
- Face Masks
- Gauze Pads
- Gauze Rolls
- Linen Savers
- Lotion, Skin
- Nail Cutters
- Pajamas
- Patient Gowns
- Petroleum Jelly
- Q-tips
- Shampoo
- Soap (liquid)
- Bars of Soap
- Medical Tape
- Facial Tissues
- Tongue Depressors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Sanitary Napkins with Wings



Where can these medical supplies be dropped off?

Affinity First Federal Credit Union (small items can be dropped off through the drive-up window) at 811 South Broadway, Minot, ND.

Trinity Hospitals Home Health/Hospice, Town and Country Shopping Center, 1015 South Broadway, Suite 306, Minot, ND.

Minot State University, Department of Nursing Office, Memorial Hall (on the 3rd floor), 500 University Avenue West, Minot, ND.

Minot State University, Student Union building, 500 University Avenue West, Student Activities Office (2nd floor), Minot, ND

For more information, contact Rhoda Owens MSN, RN (701-720-1588),

Laurie Dimler MSN, RN (858-4453), or

Dawn Fredrich BSN, RN (852-0673).

“Geriatric Nursing Excellence” - Collaborative Educational Conference

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 7th Annual Northwest Region North Dakota Collaborative Educational Conference to be held on April 3, 2009 from 7:45am – 3:30pm at the Holiday Inn, Minot, ND. The sponsors of this education conference include the NW Region, NDNA; Omicron Tau Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Roughrider Chapter, American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

The purpose of this conference is to provide participants with evidence based information relating to excellence in geriatric nursing practice.

The objectives for the conference are:

- Identify the key health issues that can be modified to improve health outcomes for the elderly patient.
- Discuss one national model with demonstrated success in the delivery of care to frail, vulnerable individuals.
- Differentiate mental health issues in the elderly including depression, dementia and delirium.
- Recognize specific issues concerning medications and the elderly.
- Describe the development of a student staffed adult health maintenance, promotion and wellness center.
- Explore the community resources available for the elderly and vulnerable adult.
- Identify geriatric nursing excellence initiatives to advance the care of older adults through alliances and models of care which promote geriatric nursing expertise.

Keynote speaker for the conference is Patricia Kappas-Larson APRN-BC, MPH who will address the topic “A Paradigm Shift: Frailty and the Consequences of Chronic Illness”. Pat is the Senior Vice President of Professional Development/Public Affairs for Evercare/Ovations, a division of UnitedHealth Group in Minnetonka, Minnesota. She has galvanized public support for nurse-driven care mod-

els while strengthening the voice of nursing in key policy discussions. Pat’s leadership has helped open doors for nursing in Congressional forums where national health care decisions are made. Her trailblazing contributions to care delivery have helped reshape health care nationally and internationally.

Pat’s innovative work in practice and systems transformation has made an extraordinary impact on the health of people living with long-term conditions, all while generating substantial cost savings for the health care system. She has been instrumental in the design and testing of care models for those with complex needs, including people with end stage renal disease, the frail and elderly. She has also helped redefine the role of nurses within the Medicare program while promoting the need for increase care coordination.

Pat has been the catalyst of public-private partnerships that are improving access, quality of life and health outcomes for thousands of people. She is helping pave the way for the next generation of nursing leaders through curriculum and mentoring relationships. She is a member of leading nursing organizations, including the Hartford National Nursing Home Collaborative Steering Committee, the Health Affairs Committee for the National Conference of Nurse Practitioners, American Geriatric Society, American Society of Aging, National Nursing Centers Consortium, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse Practitioners, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, American Nurses Association, Minnesota Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Pat has published several manuscripts in professional nursing journals including her most recent one “The Evercare Story: Reshaping the Health Care Model: Revolutionizing Long-Term Care” in the February 2008 issue of *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. In this manuscript she describes one nurse practitioner-developed collaborative practice model and the elements that have contributed to its success in



delivering effective care to the growing geriatric and chronically ill population.

Additional speakers scheduled include Deborah Townsend APRN, CNS, MS; Nikki Medalen RN, BSN; Mari Don Sorum; Linda Pettersen RN, PhD; and Bonnie Ler FNP, MSN. Refer to agenda. Additional information on this conference including registration form will be published in the next issue of the *Prairie Rose*. More information can be obtained by calling Mary Smith RN, MS at 701-858-3251 or Rhoda Owens RN, MSN at 701-720-1588. Application for contact hours has been made to CNE-Net, the education division of the North Dakota Nurses Association, an accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. Please call Mary Smith RN, MS at 701-858-3251 for more information about contact hours.

A registration form for this conference will be included in the next Omicron Tau Newsletter!

Conference Agenda on page 5

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE . . .

ARE YOU MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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.

BUETTNER-SCHMIDT NAMED A ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION FELLOW

Recently, Kelly Buettner-Schmidt, chair of the Department of Nursing, was awarded a three-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Doctoral in Nursing Research Fellowship beginning in 2008-09. Fellowship recipients, like Buettner-Schmidt, will receive funding for tuition, along with resources for computers, textbooks and travel.

"I am excited to be the recipient of this fellowship; health policies can impact people's health in their daily lives, as well as when seeking health care services," said Buettner-Schmidt. "As a former public health nurse, my hope is to improve the health of all people through policy development, implementation and evaluation."

Buettner-Schmidt began doctoral studies at the University of New Mexico in August 2007 as a part-time student. She was encouraged by UNM faculty to apply for this fellowship because of her extensive work and research in policy related to tobacco prevention and cessation.

In December 2007, UNM received a five-year, \$4.8 million grant from RWJF to increase the quantity and diversity of nurses with knowledge of health policy. The grant was utilized by the UNM to establish a health policy concentration in the nursing doctoral program.

For 35 years RWJF has focused on the crucial health care issues facing the U.S. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change.

Agenda for "Geriatric Nursing Excellence"

7:45am - 8:30am	Registration	
8:30am - 8:45am	Welcome/Opening Remarks	
8:45am - 10:15am	Patricia Kappas-Larson, APRN-BC, MPH	"A Paradigm Shift: Frailty and the Consequences of Chronic Illness"
10:15am - 10:45am	Break	Refreshments Provided to Conference Participants
10:45am - 11:45am	Deborah Townsend APRN, CNS, MS	"Mental Health Issues and the Elderly: Differentiation Between Dementia, Depression and Delirium"
11:45am - 12:00pm	Linda Pettersen RN, PhD	"Geriatric Nursing Initiatives"
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Lunch	Lunch Provided to Conference Participants
12:45pm - 1:45pm	Bonnie Ler MSN, FNP	"Special Considerations Relating to Medications and the Elderly"
1:45pm - 2:15pm	Break	Refreshments Provided to Conference Participants
2:15pm - 2:45pm	MariDon Sorum	"Remaining Home in Later Years: It's Our Right!"
2:45pm-3:15pm	Nikki Medalen RN, BSN	"Development of a Student Staffed Adult Health Maintenance Center"
3:15pm-3:30	Evaluations	

**CHECK US OUT
WE'RE ON THE WEB**
<http://www.minotstateu.edu/omicrontau/>

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(701) 858-3101

E-MAIL:

"Contact Us" on the website

Mark Your Calendar!

- √ November 4, 2008—Board meeting*
- √ February 3, 2009—Board meeting*
- √ March 3, 2009—Annual Meeting
- √ April 3, 2009—Collaborative Education Conference
- √ April 30, 2009—Induction Ceremony
- √ May 7, 2009—Nurses' Day Celebration
- √ May 18, 2009—Transition Meeting

*Board Meetings are held from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the MSU
Department of Nursing.



Our Vision

The vision of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people.

Our Mission

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to make a difference in health worldwide.

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