Omicron Tau Chapter
Of Sigma Theta Tau International
Nursing Honor Society

Omicron Tau Talks
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President's Corner
By Marita Hoffer

Greetings for an exciting springtime. A time of renewal and new birth. Soon green leaves and flowers will be evident. So too, the Chapter has seventeen new members. Thirteen students and four community leaders were inducted into Omicron Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, April 11, 2002. Please welcome them.

Thank you to each of you for your continued support to make Omicron Tau a strong chapter. The Board tries to plan activities that will involve many of the members. The Program Committee can always use ideas for its two educational sessions per year. The Eligibility Committee is always looking for new members. Send your suggestions to an officer or board member. The retiring and incoming officers and board will be meeting in June to plan for the year. Each committee needs to have a budget and goals so that the Finance Committee can prepare a budget.

The research fund has been slowly growing. The amount is not enough yet to give research awards. However, I am sure that if we looked around and noticed what others are doing we could find excellence among our peers who qualify for an “Orchid Award.” These awards will become part of the annual meeting held in February. At this time, we do not have a President-Elect. The board has the power to fill this spot. If there is someone who we missed asking and is interested, please report them! Along this same line, Sigma Theta Tau International offers a Chapter Leadership Academy every other year. This year it is June 13-15, 2002, Indianapolis, IN. An excellent opportunity to learn from other members and gain enthusiasm and ideas for chapter functioning.

A plan for nurses week is to give life saver candy to a life saver, or an Almond Joy to a nurse who is a joy to work with, or a small tube of hand lotion, for those caring, healing hands of the nurse who exudes in personal attention in the midst of a busy day. Best wishes for an excellent celebration of Nurses Week.

“Nursing’s Great”-A recruitment plan.
At the Sigma Theta Tau national convention this year two nurses displayed a 12 minute video, “Nursing’s Great.” The video, produced with the input of grade school children, is made for 3rd to 5th graders. That is the group to target for interest in nursing. So, students from MSU, and some professionals, have been out and about visiting with grade school children. The goal is to visit all the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms in the Minot area in the next year. Nancy Vitko of the program committee and others have arranged for 8 school presentations this month. If you are able to visit a classroom, call Marita at 858-3263 for a copy of the video. “Nursing’s Great.” Five copies are available. Online is another source of information for attracting Kids into Health Careers. The site, “http://www.bhpri.hrsa.gov/kidscareers/contact_us.htm” is working to get children interested in health careers. The National League for Nursing, Tylenol, and Johnson and Johnson Companies are all taking part in scholarships and or advertisements for recruiting and retention of nurses.

Biennial Convention Report
The 36th Biennial Convention and House of Delegates was held in Indianapolis, IN November 10-14, 2001. This event provided numerous opportunities to advance nursing practice and chapter leadership through an overwhelming number of choices. The new theme is Building Diverse Relationships. Jennifer Jacobson and Diane Friberg went as delegates. Marita went as a candidate for Regional Coordinator and also volunteered. She had an interesting time networking with nurses from around the world and helping out with volunteer tasks. Volunteers monitored rooms during presentations and assisted at the bookstore and registration desk. The Society had nice gifts for volunteers, and this year it was a small clock. Sigma Theta Tau has over 300,000 members in 90 countries, with 406 chapters in 7 countries. Each chapter has a flag for each of the countries. The latest countries to establish chapters were Brazil and the Netherlands. In our region, Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD is scheduled for chartering this year. As of Nov. 15, 2001, all the chapters were divided into 15 regions. ND, SD, MN, Manitoba and parts of IA and WI are in Region IV. Each region has a coordinator and cabinet to assist chapters within the region to do their best work. Connie Trowbridge from University of Iowa is Region IV coordinator. May Wykle was installed as the International President. Her vision and goals include diversity and cultural inclusion. Dan Pesut is the new President-Elect. Carol Picard serves as Vice President. Linda Everett is Treasurer, Heather Clark as Secretary. Peter Buerhaus, George Evers and Carol Jorgenson Huston join Clareann Weinert, Maria Salmon, Lillian Douglas and Mareen Keefe on the Board of Directors for the biennium. This team is a collaboration of very skilled and knowledgeable leaders who will guide Sigma Theta Tau in the biennium.
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**Omicron Tau Activities**

“How Safe is Safe Sex” was a community health forum on Thursday, April 25, 2002 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the International Inn, Minot, ND. This was co-sponsored by Omicron Tau, First District Health Unit, Trinity Health, and CSCC/Kid’s Council. Regional professional speakers included Dr. John Diggs and Mr. Gary Swant. RSVP to the Kids Council at 852-1376.

Nurses Day Celebration: Omicron Tau is sponsoring a “Nurses Day Wine & Cheese Celebration” at the Carnegie Center, 105 2nd Ave SW Minot, ND on Thursday, May 9, 2002, from 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. This is free of charge to honor all nurses. Come and savor the taste of Old World Breads with wine and cheese, anticipate door prizes every half-hour, and enjoy the entertainment by Dr. Nissenbaum, concert pianist.

Nurses from Minot talk about nursing on the Noon Show of KMOT on April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2002, and KXMC on May 1, May 2, and May 3, 2002. Also, look for upcoming raffle tickets in the mail. The prizes are GREAT; a gourmet meal for 4 cooked in your home, a day at the spa at Bern’s, and a free photo sitting with 8x10 by Barb Stitzer. Tickets are only $1!

**Board Update**

As you read the Omicron Tau Talks newsletter you will notice that the Omicron Tau board has been working diligently to advance nursing leadership and practice in our community through educational opportunities and support. Sigma Theta Tau International states the reason, Because the world needs nurses.

The last newsletter did not include Diane Frieborg as an ex-officio member of the board.

**Accolades**

Congratulations to Susan Burkhart RN, MS, CDE for achieving Board Certification in Advanced Diabetes Management. She is the first person in N.D. to take this test. Thank you to Diane Frieborg and Nancy Vitko for their persistent hard work in planning the community nurse’s week celebration. Thank you to Stephanie Witwer, RN, MS for presenting about leadership at the April 11, 2002 induction meeting. Thank you to Nancy Vitko and Billy Boyeff, Minot State University, for their work on the Omicron Tau web site, which will be available soon. Thank you to the many community businesses that donated prizes and food for the nurse’s day celebration. We miss Jennifer Jacobson and wish her success in her new position in Fargo, ND.

**Future Planning**

The transition and goal setting meeting for Omicron Tau is scheduled for June 22, 2002. All current and incoming board and committee members are encouraged to attend for brain-storming and planning to strengthen our Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society, Omicron Tau chapter, and to empower nurses in our community. Board and community members will be notified of a time and a place.

**Membership**

Welcome to the new members of the Omicron Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau who were inducted on April 11, 2002: Kayla Blom, Sandra Boschee, Jacquelyn Cayko, Krystal Culbertson, Emma Desjardins, Lisa Edwards, Vania Faul, Randi Galloway, Clay Hegney, Amanda Knutson, Michele Jacobson, Deborah Johnson, Pam McKay, Jennifer Nelson, Andrea Nielson, Teresa Seright and Shannon Stover.