Omicron Tau Talks
October 24, 2002
Volume 2 Issue 3

President's Corner
From International Nominations:

International Nominating Committee issued its first call for nominations for Board of Directors and Elected Committees. Names can be submitted any time and are due by February 15, 2003. Specific times are set for campaigning and meeting candidates. It is an interesting experience. One does meet nurses from around the world, even if no election spot is won!

Beta-Testing online case studies:

Spend two hours as a Beta-Tester and Receive Continuing Education Credit. Looking for registered nurses to beta-test the online case study program. A beta tester reviews a case study from a learner perspective and the results of the evaluation is used to determine the number of contact hours that will be assigned to a case study. They need nurses from a variety of education and clinical backgrounds. Contact Dawn at dawn@stt.jupui.edu or 888.634.7575.

Biennial Convention:

Time to think about the 37th Biennial Convention, November 1-5, 2003 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Find that passport - so you can come home after the convention. Each chapter sends two delegates for decision on governance issues.

The HeART of Nursing

From the book: “The HeART of Nursing: Expressions of Creative Art in Nursing” Edited by M. Cecilia Wendler, RN, Ph.D., CCN. This recent publication becomes an open-ended inquiry asking “When is nursing art?” Wendler is from Eau Claire, WI.

These creative revelations span a variety of art forms, shapes, colors, sensations, moods, movements, emotive expressions that areas diverse and artistic as the humans we are. Whether viewed through the lens of the theoretical, postmodern discourse, the historic, or from the collected art forms themselves, the stories, words, visuals, texture and poetry are the human spirit made whole. Once you enter this work, it is almost impossible to put it down. It is evocative, emotional, intellectual, exciting, sad, joyous, creative, intimate, private and public. It is a dance with our humanity and all the vicissitudes of nursing and nurses’ engagement with caring and human experiences.

As Kandinsky reminds us: The spiritual resides in art and art bestows significance to the soul. So too does this work reside in that special place where spirit and art converge in the heart, mind and soul of the human condition. Ultimately, we are forced to conclude that art is not separate from science, from practice, from life, from living and dying. Thus, just as art mirrors the infinity of the human soul, this work is about healing the spirit and soul of nursing and our shared humanity. The book is available from www.nursingsociety.org.

Scholarship

Omicron Tau offered scholarship dollars to Reta Welsh, who recently spent 2 weeks in China with the People to People Ambassador Program. Reta, who is Certified in Gerontological Nursing, shared her Long Term care and teaching experience and gain understanding of the care of the elderly in China. She will be sharing her experience with colleagues on her return.

Web Site

The Region 4 web-woman has given great praise for the Omicron Tau web site. Thanks to Nancy Vitko who orchestrated the design and assisted in the implementation of the site: www.minotstateu.edu/nursing/omicron_tau.htm

Dues

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Surveys
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Surveys

Thank you to all who have returned the surveys, which will assist in planning programs. The Board wishes to be of useful service to you and your professional development through educational programs.

Nursing's Great

The students in Marita's class continue to present "Nursing's Great" to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in the area. In Spring 2002, presentations were made at Washington, North Hill, St. Leo's Little Flower, Roosevelt, Sunnyside, and Burlington this Fall students plan to be in Longfellow, Our Redeemer's, and St. Leo's in Minot.

Also planned are presentations at Wildrose, Upham, and Velva. If members have children in various elementary schools, we invite you to do a presentation in the school. We do have four 10 minute videos: "Nursing's Great" which prompts much discussion among children.

Former Director

A nurse from Alliance Nebraska, who was in town for Norsk Hostfest, brought greetings from Sister Mabel Meng, first Director of the Nursing Program at Minot State. Seems Sister Mabel, who officially retired last year, is going a little slower as she recovers from knee surgery. She is home and doing well. She lives at 1020 Tuloca Ave., Alliance, Nebraska, for those of you who would be interested in contacting her. The Honor Society also was named for Sister Mabel before we were chartered as Omicron Tau.

Technology

Have I told you lately how I love technology! That refrain reflects my efforts at getting this corner written and to the editor. I had two pages all set a week ago, when somehow I managed to delete the "whole thing." On the other hand, I have used the technology for many projects without fail.

Papers

One of the hazards of this office is the overabundance of papers that come my way. If someone is good at organizing papers, please call me immediately. I seem to have a flood of them everywhere. I do think that if you leave one or two sheets around, they multiply into dozens overnight. So you see I need a shovel to find my way out.

Important Dates

Mark your calendars! Induction is April 10, 2003, 7 pm. Self-care is the theme for the Annual Meeting February 8th. Also at the meeting, the membership will review and vote on a list of candidates for induction, vote on ballot for Board members and officers. This year we will also vote for delegates to the International Convention. When the nominating Committee calls take a risk and say "yes."

VP Insights

By: Nancy Vitko, RN, BSN, MS

I am grateful to the chapter for selecting me to attend the "Learning & Leading in a Diverse, Global Community 2001 Chapter Leadership Academy" in June 2002. This specific leadership academy was designed to provide resources, current trends, and strategies to make our chapter more vital and sustainable within our profession and community in which we live and work. One specific area of interest was geared at defining Volunteerism.

Volunteerism was defined, as a "service of own free will," offering or giving of yourself to a specific cause. Volunteerism plays a major role in Sigma Theta Tau International's mission and vision. We as members are volunteers to our local chapter is structured and how the parameters of sustainability are defined. We must know our chapter's mission and vision, and know the talents of each of our chapters' members. From knowing, we can create a plan of action, identify resources, and assist in creating the next generation of leaders. From this point, we can grow by communication, recognition, and evaluation of our chapter. For our chapter to be viable, we as members must ask ourselves "what service (talent) do I have to offer for the profession of nursing through our chapter?" As an officer of the board, I recognize that volunteering my talents and time is sometimes hard to juggle with family and work but I do feel that there is a return on my investment. I encourage each of you to think about this question and let us know what your thoughts and talents are. One of our objectives is to identify, through a member survey, what your thoughts and talents are. This survey will allow the officers and board members to move forward with our chapters' vision.

The leadership academy also addressed many other issues that are relevant to the chapters' mission and vision. These issues are also addressed in Sigma Theta Tau International's Strategic Plan. Again, I thank the chapter for sending me to the leadership academy.

Accolades

These members of our chapter are being recognized for their personal and professional accomplishments. If you or another member you know should be recognized, please forward that information to include name and accomplishment to “mail to:hoffart@minotstated.edu”

Mary Sadler - had a baby boy on 9/3/02. Austin David, 8 pounds 1 ounce 21 inches long.

Member Recognition Corner
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Member Recognition Corner

Congratulations to Jill Fuller who has received a 3 year Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship award through the University of California, San Francisco. Fuller is interested in “studying policy in revising the patient care delivery model for acute-care hospitals. With all the changes in health care, we haven’t changed the way we deliver care.”

New graduate, Robby Volk, a former member of the State Student Nurses Association Board, has been elected to serve as Graduate Consultant.

Current senior Kayla Blom served on the Region 4 Media Pinnacle Awards review panel.

Listed in 2002 Who’s Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges are members are recent MSU graduates Robby Volk and Lisa Stammers.

Accolades to Diane Friberg and Nancy Vitko, for their work on Nurses Week Reception in May. Thank you also to many other members who helped make that even possible, including Sylvia Timboe, who helped decorate and assisted with the door prizes.

Board Update

Omicron Tau’s vision is for prepared, confident and competent nurses to provide health care to people in the community. Omicron Tau’s mission is to provide leadership and scholarship in nursing practice, education and research, through learning and professional development, to enhance the health of all people whom it’s members touch. The following are nursing principles advocated by Omicron Tau:

Values Education
Practice Research
Scholarly Activity Personal Development
Professional Development Volunteerism
Collaboration Diversity

Awards Nominations

Nominations for awards are also in line, in the areas of research, technology, chapter programs, philanthropy, and chapter support. Omicron Tau is looking for nominations for evidence-based proactive award: Innovations in Clinical Excellence. Who do you know that utilizes evidence-based nursing? Who among your colleagues is an excellent nurse? Please submit nominations to a board member. The Omicron Tau board members will consider nominations at its November meeting. Local awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting February 8, 2003.

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Linda Shaefer, Counselor
Shelly DeMers, Board Member
Susan Burkhart, Board Member
Linda Haider, Board Member
Mary Sadler, Board Member

Future Planning

Another year has passed and the chapter’s Board of Directors have set a busy agenda to accomplish this year and need your input. Each member of the chapter plays a diverse role personally and professionally. This diversity will create an opportunity for the chapter to support nurses’ personal and professional development and to stimulate members to think in different ways. Creating and sustaining leadership within communities requires an active engagement and respect for the complexities of our health care community needs. (Nancy Vitko, VP) If you have not yet returned the survey, please complete and return it as soon as possible.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Business meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2003 from 9-11 a.m. at the International Inn. Self-care practices is the theme for the scholarly activity.

Induction

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Nurses’ Week
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Nurses’ Week


Christmas Party

Co-sponsored Christmas party with District #2 Nurses Association
Place: Dakotah Rose Bed & Breakfast
Date: December 17, 2002
Time: 7-9 p.m.
Bring: dozen cookies or bars to share

Website and Board contacts: http://www.minotstateu.edu/nursing/omicron_tau.html

LuAnn Henning, Board Member.