Greetings from Omicron Tau
Chapter President, Dr. Marita Hoffart

"O, the Places you will go and the things you will do" to quote Dr. Seuss. When I began writing this message, I started out with a dull paragraph or two which did not get me excited about President Dan Rosset's "Call to Action" in Toronto, November 5, 2003. I went online to the Society's web page and found Dan's address. Three hours later I am -

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS! In order to better serve you and keep you up to date on chapter happenings we are developing a member listserv. Please go to our website as listed below, click on "contact us" and send us your information!

fired up and ready to go. What happened? I went online to Dan's presentation and viewed the 35 slides he used in Toronto. Then I went to the reference list and clicked on to some of the links. O, the things I found! I came across "The Future: An Owner's Manual" and "Wisdom Circles: Self-Discovery and Community Building in Small Groups.

I sampled some of the brain research being done by the Noetic Science Center. I found a reference to Fredrick Hudson's two books: The Adult Years: Mastering the Art of Self Renewal and Lifelaunch: a Passionate Guide to the rest of your life. On the way I also sampled Harvard Graduate School of Education's new book: "How the way we talk can change the way we work." I also stopped to view "Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future" and "Writing as a Reflective Practitioner with Wisdom."

The Alpha Leadership: Tools for Business Leaders Who Want More from Life encouraged me to anticipate, align and act.

Attendance at an international Convention of Sigma Theta Tau has always been an awesome experience for me. Imagine over 2400 nurses gathered in one place. The programs and activities are always conducted with dignity and respect. At the Toronto gathering in Nov. the call to gather was given by a bagpiper in full garb. What a wonderful sound!

One of the highlights of

Omicron Tau Chapter - Sigma Theta Tau International
visit us at http://www.minotstateu.edu/nursing/omicron/omicron_tau.htm
President's Address cont'd

...the convention is the "Presidential Charge" or "Biennial Call to Action" which concludes the convention. As President-elect, the new president has had two years to develop his theme, his charge to the Society for his two years as president. President Daniel Posut’s charge is "Create the FUTURE through RENEWAL. He took the 7 points of the Society’s Strategic Plan: membership, development, chapter development, global linkages, leadership, research, scholarship and financial health and lined them up with areas of renewal: self, service, mindful reflective practice, science, society and spirit and outlined 150 ways that members can use to create the future through renewal.

President Posut’s slides are on the web site as is the grid of 150 ways to create the future through renewal. I encourage each of you to go online and view the materials and find three or four things that you can do to create the future through renewal: www.nursingsociety.com. The process of renewal is accomplished by clarifying one’s strengths, values, gifts and talents and by using them with intention. The key to renewal is life-long learning.

...Renewal is looking at old situations with new eyes. The results of renewal are new ways of learning, thinking, feeling, being and doing. How will we know when our spirits have been renewed? We will know ... because conversations about hope and inspiration will replace career discontent and discourse of regret. Harrison Owens (1999) suggests five leadership functions related to spirit work: Suckle Spirit with visions, Grow Spirit with collective storytelling, Sustain Spirit with structure, Comfort spirit when things fall apart, Revive Spirit when the grief work is over.

"I wonder if ... imagination plus wonder creates visions from which futures are made ... Spirit renewed is not the same old thing with fresh paint, collective storytelling, structures of time and space ... transformation moves on” Owen, H (1999), 120. So the future is in our hands, the Society’s goal is to enhance the health of all people through career development of all members.


Dorcas Kunkel and Nancy Vitko report on the 37th Biennial Convention in Toronto, Canada

I attended the Honor Society of Nursing Convention in Toronto this past fall. Its motto was "Building Diverse Relationships". There were many opportunities for learning what other nurse’s passions are and also what they are focusing their research on. I was very impressed by the broad interests of nurses. One of the sessions I attended was "Consideration in the Use of Geographic Information Systems to Plan Population-Based Nursing Interventions". Global positioning systems can be used to identify populations in need of public health interventions and to plan the most cost-effective interventions and place them in areas that are the most accessible to those who would benefit from them.

What a great way to use a tool that was essentially
created for a military purpose. During the Plenary Sessions it was inspiring to hear from so many dynamic nurse leaders. I enjoyed hearing Mary O’Neil Mundinger, DrPh. Discuss "Leading in the Diverse Clinical Marketplace". She shared information about the clinical doctorate in primary care nursing that is offered at Columbia University. A web site to go to for more information on this is http://www.columbia.edu/cu/news/media/01/maryMundinger/index.html. It’s quite an innovative program. There were many other learning opportunities at the conference and I urge others to go to the next one!

Dorcas E. Kunkel

The 37th Biennial convention was held this past November 1-5, 2003 in Toronto, Canada and our chapter was able to send two delegates. Nancy Vitko, President Elect and Dorcas Kunkel, Board Member were chosen to represent our chapter as delegates. This convention was very important at an international level as well as a local level. There were over 2100 registrants at the convention. The exemplary professionalism of this society was presented in the planning of this convention that provided educational, recognition and networking opportunities. Some of the highlights included numerous poster board displays, plenary, clinical scientific, leadership and chapter focus sessions as well as award presentations.

I would like to share with you some of the highlights from the House of Delegates sessions.

- There were 20 new petitions for chapters by honor societies; all were voted in adding five more countries to our society.

- Summary of the action taken on the Bylaws Amendments include:
  - Granting fiscal authority to the board of directors. This amendment will allow the Sigma Theta Tau International board of directors and the individual chapter boards of directors to set dues and fees within specified parameters and only once in a biennium. This change will empower the respective boards to exercise total fiscal responsibility and will permit flexible organizational planning. A $10 membership fee increase became effective January 1, 2004.
  - Revising global membership eligibility. The amendment allowed for modification of the eligibility language to allow for cultural variation and inclusivity, while still maintaining the society’s high standards.
  - Modifying the governance and committee structures. This amendment will streamline the International-level committees to three: Governance Committee, Leadership Succession Committee, and Regional Chapter

- Leadership Succession Committee, Regional Chapter Coordinating Committee. The Governance Committee will oversee membership eligibility issues and oversee bylaws changes and will have at least three appointed members and the elected counselor. The Leadership Succession Committee will develop members in organizational leadership roles, mentor members to assume positions within the chapter. Select nominees and prepare the ballot. At the chapter level, we will be required to have the Governance Committee and Leadership Succession Committee. This will open up the door to increase member involvement through specially formed advisory councils and task forces that will replace the current standing committees to fulfill chapter duties.

Being at this convention provided a level of professionalism in nursing that I have never experienced before. It was an excellent opportunity for future chapter development and career development. I would like to thank the board and members for allowing me to attend and represent our chapter at an international level. This upcoming year will bring about many changes in our chapter structure and functions.

Nancy Vitko, President-Elect
Keep These Important Chapter Events in Mind:

* Omicron Tau Induction Ceremony and Installation of Officers
  April 29, 2004, 7:00 pm, Minot State University Student Union Conference Center

* Nurses Day Win & Cheese Tasting Celebration
  May 6, 2004, 5:00-7:00 pm, Taube Museum
  All nurses welcome! Door Prizes, Raffle

* 'Run For The Health Of It'
  1.5 mile walk/5K and 10K run
  May 15, 2004, 9:00 am, Oak Park
  Proceeds donated to the Community Clinic - Minot

To volunteer at any of these events, contact Nancy Vitko at 701.838.0843 or email to jnvitko@ndak.net

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185