FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN

VISITING TANZANIA . . . AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

BY: RHODA OWENS, MSN, RN, PRESIDENT—OMICRON TAU CHAPTER

Our trip on December 30, 2009 - Jan. 11, 2010 to visit Machame Lutheran Hospital Palliative Care Program in Tanzania, Africa was a success! What an incredible “life changing” experience we had! Because of all we experienced, we came back with knowledge about the African culture, health care system and established some wonderful relationships with health care professionals in the Moshi and Machame, Tanzania area. Our base camp was located at a hotel in Moshi, Tanzania. From there we traveled to and toured Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center and Machame Lutheran Hospital and spent time in the city of Moshi learning about the culture. We toured the buildings and future site of Machame Lutheran Hospital’s nursing education program. We spent time working with the palliative care staff as they traveled to see patients and families in their homes. We visited an orphanage and spent time at one of the program’s day clinics. The staff welcomed us with open arms. We had the opportunity to visit with them and learn about the wonderful work they are doing. They were very appreciative for the medical supplies we delivered and for the money that was wired to them from our medical supply/money drive. The money will be used by them to purchase medical supplies and assist with expenses. You will have an opportunity to hear about our trip and learn how we can continue to support Machame at our annual meeting on March 23, 2010 at 5:00pm at MSU, Dept. of Nursing.

The Many Faces of Tanzania

The country of Tanzania has a lot to offer to the modern day adventurer. Tanzania is home to several amazing locations such as Lake Victoria, Zanzibar Island, and the Serengeti Plains. The Serengeti plains are home to more than 2 million animals who roam the 100 mile game reserve. Tanzania has rich history that can only be truly experienced in person.
HEAR YE . . . HEAR YE

New members needed: Do you know a nurse who would benefit from membership with our Omicron Tau Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing? Why not invite them to become a member? Nurses can become a member at anytime, but participating in our annual new member spring induction is a great way to start their membership experience. More information can be found on the STTI web site: www.nursingsociety.org under the "membership" link. For other information on how to assist nurses in joining STTI, contact Rhoda Owens 720-1588 or owensfam@min.midco.net

WHAT EXACTLY DO THEY DO?

The President serves as the executive officer and administers all business of the chapter as provided for in the bylaws. Also, the president is the chief chapter representative at inter-chapter activities and is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Leadership Succession Committee. With approval from the board of directors, the president, when appropriate, appoints other persons as necessary to conduct chapter business. Also the president submits a report at each board of directors meeting and assists in the preparation of the Chapter Annual Report.

The Secretary prepares and distributes agendas, meeting minutes and correspondence, submits a report at each board of directors meetings and report's chapter election results to headquarters.

Faculty Counselor must be a faculty member at the institution of higher education where the chapter is located. This person may serve as chairperson of the Governance Committee and submits a report at each board of directors meeting. This member assists with induction of students and new members.

Board Member: Attends all board of director meetings and serves on committees and task forces as appointed or needed.

President-Elect: The president-elect may serve for a one or two year term and may succeed into the presidency depending upon the chapter's structure. The president-elect also serves as committee chairperson as needed, communicates to the public the honor society’s purpose, and learns about chapter operations and strategic planning.
Are you looking for ways to meet other members and become more involved in the activities of Omicron Tau?

Why not consider running for an open position on our Board of Directors. All positions are two year terms (2010-2012). Nominations are now being accepted for the following officers to serve on the Omicron Tau Chapter's Board of Directors:

- President
- President-Elect
- Board Member
- Governance Committee (3 positions, one is the Faculty Counselor position) Faculty Counselor
- Secretary/Newsletter Editor

The Leadership Succession Committee is working on obtaining member nominations to run for offices. They are currently calling present active members.

If interested in running for an office or for more information, please contact any member of the Leadership Succession Committee: Dianne Plesuk (plesuk@srt.com); Lisa Endresen (lisam@min.midco.net); Tammie Braafiat (elliotandtammie@hotmail.com) or Ashley DeMakis

RECOGNIZE SOMEONE WHO SHINES!

Nominations are being accepted for the 2010 Omicron Tau Chapter Member Awards. These awards will be given to members at the April 22, 2010 new member induction ceremony:

**Orchid Award:** This award recognizes an active chapter member who has promoted the development of the chapter's functions and activities through promoting the image of nursing, active involvement in chapter activities, outstanding leadership and participation in chapter functions, inspirational role model for volunteerism and leadership.

**Best Practice Award for Nurses in Practice Less than 10 Years:** This award recognizes a nurse employed in any area of nursing practice for less than 10 years demonstrating exemplary work for the health of individuals, families or groups.

**Best Practice Award for Nurses in Practice More than 10 Years:** This award recognizes a nurse employed in clinical practice for more than 10 years in leadership or an advanced practice role demonstrating exemplary work for the health of individuals, families or groups.

{For submission of nominations, please contact Marita Hoffart, Awards Committee Chair, at 858-3253 or marita.hoffart@minotstateu.edu. Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible.}
1. The ______________ 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.

2. The __________ committee members in organizational leadership roles across the span of their careers, mentors members to assume organizational board and officer positions, selects nominees, and prepares and sends the ballot to the board of directors at least four weeks prior to scheduled election.

3. The ______________ committee shall be responsible for the acceptance, review and judging of the chapter's research and scholarship applications.

4. The ______________ 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.

5. The ______________ committee shall be responsible for the educational programs of the chapter, including at least two scholarly programs annually.

6. The ______________ committee shall oversee the chapter awards selection process and recommend to the Board of Directors recipients for the chapter awards.

7. The __________/Raffle Committee is responsible for organizing and planning this Omicron Tau Chapter's sponsored yearly celebration and event in May during National Nurses Week.

8. What is needed for Omicron Tau to be successful?
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.

Important Dates!

Future Board meeting Dates: (all will be at MSU, Dept. of Nursing)(All members welcome to attend.

Attendance is a great way to find out what is going on and a way to get more involved in chapter activities)

Next board of director meetings:

Annual meeting—March 23, 2010 at 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Board Transition Meeting - May 18, 2010 5pm—7pm.

New member induction: April 22, 2010 at 7:00pm MSU Student Center

Nurse Day Celebration/Raffle at the Taube: May 6, 2010 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Collaborative Education Conference - April 9, 2010: Register anytime for “Evidenced Based Nursing Practice for Today.” Contact hours will be awarded for attendance. Please refer to the attached conference brochure for further details and registration form.

Answer to Crossword Puzzle on Pg. 4

**Check Us out**

*We’re On the Web*

HTTP://WWW.MINOTSTATEU.EDU/OMICRONTAU/