Message from the President
Marita Hoffart
President’s Theme for 2003-2004:
Do One Thing for the Chapter!
In my efforts to develop and further the cause of the Omicron Tau Chapter I have visited with many nurses. Overall, the members of Omicron Tau Chapter are committed people. Members have many obligations and responsibilities in their professional and personal lives. So, how to engage members in the work of the Chapter? If each did one thing for the Chapter during the year, the business of the Chapter would be advanced greatly. Do one meeting, work on a specific project within a committee, support one of the new members in transition to the workplace. Those who have agreed to serve on the board and committees have a bigger commitment. Thank you in advance for all that you do for the advancement of the honor society

The Awards committee has developed criteria for the “Orchid Award” that provides recognition to an active member who has excelled in chapter planning and activities.

Congratulations to this year’s Orchid Award recipient, Diane Frieberg. Diane has been involved in the Omicron Tau chapter’s leadership, fund-raising, and direction since it’s early development as the Mabel Meng Honor Society.

Annual Meeting
A small group of members gathered on Saturday, Feb 2, 2003 for the annual Chapter meeting and scholarly activity. Over breakfast those in attendance voted on new members and heard reports. Then all enjoyed activities on self-care which Shelly DeMers and Luann Henning orchestrated. Self-care is a useful topic at any time for nurses! Shelly DeMers and Sandy Boschee have accepted responsibility for planning the program for the next annual meeting, February 2004.

From Headquarters:
Make sure you are included in the conversation! In February, the quarterly member newsletter, Excellence, which focuses on issues affecting your career, was to take the form of an interactive, resource-rich Web site. It will be posted on the society Web site, www.nursingsociety.org, and Headquarters wants to let you know the moment it’s available. Visit www.nursingsociety.org, click on Publications and then Excellence. Enter your e-mail address and they will notify you each quarter when a new issue of Excellence is published. A new dialogue is about to begin, and you don’t want to miss a word!

Case Studies
Sigma Theta Tau International has case studies available on the Website. www.nursingsociety.org/education/online_casestudy.html.
The case studies are available for review. A $15 membership fee will give a member CEU’s. Over 40 case studies have been developed in the past 2 years.
For a time members can obtain free CEU’s for the case study on Disaster Preparedness and Response for Nurses.

Did you Know?
North Carolina Nursing Student, NC Nurses and NC Center for Nursing have developed a program for Boy and Girl Scouts. The Scouts can earn a Nursing Exploration patch by doing activities in five areas. Some of them include shadowing a nurse, doing an education tool on health or safety, skill building like learning CPR, volunteering in a health care facility and learning about technology used in patient care. Information was found in the Editorial, “Nursing earns big-screen accolades,” by M Fitzpatrick, Nursing Management, August 2002.~~
The local Girl Scout program director has not yet heard of this patch. The local Girl Scouts are planning a career fair Nov 22, 2003 from 1-4 pm at their Council Office. They will be asking for representative from nursing.

Vice Presidential Insights
Nancy Vitko
I would like to take this moment to discuss the results of the chapter member survey. The survey was sent to all active and inactive chapter members in October/November 2002 (approximately 182 surveys were distributed). Of the surveys sent, the response rate was 16.5%.

The survey results are as follows: Program planning rated as the most important topic and CEUs as least important. As far as the length of the program, a single day program was most important with half day program following. A question was asked to rank the topic of a program and the most important was “health care today”. Another area of the survey addressed communication methods to members. Based on the results of this area, the most important continues to be mailings with email second. The majority of the responses would like to see the newsletter become quarterly.

The information obtained from this member survey is very important to the operations and functioning of the chapter. Based on these results, the board has been able to focus on these to further enhance our chapters’ resources. I thank you for your support and contribution to completion of this survey.

Also, I would like to provide some insight into the professionalism and commitment that the chapter’s board, officers, and voluntary at-large members have achieved. Our foresight for providing several means of communication to our chapter members has been a driving force for the development of the chapter website. The website provides an avenue for chapter members to keep up-to-date on calendar events, current board members, current committee members, newsletters, contacting our chapter, and access to international information. As technology is constantly changing, we too are looking for ways to provide more information to our chapter members. We do encourage that you take a look at the website and its usefulness to stay on top of the happenings of our chapter. Also, there are mailings that address information on the chapter activities including newsletters, annual meetings, programs, and other events.

One specific goal that the board members wanted to provide you, as chapter members, was the chapter’s mission and goals for the current two years. With that in mind came the development of the ‘Blueprint for Success’ brochure that was sent to all active and inactive members in the survey. This document allows the board to keep track of where we are and where we need to go. It also allows you as chapter members to become more involved to maintain our chapter’s vitality.

Chapter activities were slow in the fall of the year, however, in the upcoming weeks, The board is focused on many activities as are outlined in this newsletter and upcoming mailings. It seems that May has been and will remain our busiest month for activities. Just to provide a sample of coming events for May,

* we are planning a second annual nurses’ day reception with wine and cheese,
* development of activities to include a raffle of exquisite items and securing a relationship with a local car dealership to provide monies on cars sold,
* community service will includes a 5K/10K run and 1.5 mile walk with proceeds to be given to the community clinic for supplies (June),
* a program at our meeting on May 20th, and
* a transition for the new officers of the board. You are invited and encouraged to participate in these activities.

Another important aspect for our chapter vitality has been networking with other local nursing organizations in our community to co-plan events. This has helped tremendously in efforts for planning programs, nurses’ week events, etc… We are hoping that we can maintain these professional relationships and continue to work together.

In the past I have commented on volunteerism. I feel strongly that for our chapter to become more stable and vital, all members of our chapter are encouraged to provide some sort of voluntary effort. “Do one thing for the chapter.”

**Omicron Tau Activities**

April 10, 2003 Induction ceremony and installation of new board members.
April 11, 2003 Program with District 2 nurses on Current Issues in Health Care. Remember to check the web site for Omicron Tau activities.

**Nurses week May 6-12.**

Volunteers are needed to go on the Noon Show May 5th – 9th.
Nurses’ Reception (Wine and Cheese Party)  
May 7, 2003 at the Taube Center, Downtown,  
5–7 p.m.

**International Convention**  
Nov 1-5, 2003, 37th Biennial Convention,  
Toronto, Canada. Brush the dust off your  
passport and think about going. Convention is a  
time to meet nurses from around the world and  
celebrate what nurses have and are doing over  
the globe. The chapter will have two delegates  
to the convention.

**Board Update**  
Welcome to the new Officers and Board of  
Director members: President Elect: Nancy  
Vitko, Trinity Health (TH); Vice President:  
Stephanie Witwer, Minot State University  
(MSU); Treasurer: Teresa Seright, (TH). Board  
members: Sandy Boschee, (TH) and Dorcas  
Kunkel (TH). Nominating Committee: Karen  
Holte (TH) and Deb Taylor (TH). Installation will  
occur at the induction ceremony April 10, 2003.  
A transition meeting will be held in June for new  
as well as outgoing officers and board  
members: Linda Pettersen (MSU), Susan  
Burkhart (TH), LuAnn Henning (Edgewood  
Vista). Retiring from the Nominating Committee  
are Wendy Walker (TH) and Donna Hegle (TH).

**Accolades:**  
Nancy Mosbaek is now an Associate Professor  
in nursing at MSU.  
Elizabeth Pross has been awarded fellow  
status in the American Association of  
Integrative Medicine at MSU. Fellow status is  
the association’s most prestigious category of  
membership. Membership comprises  
integrative, holistic, complementary and  
traditional health care professionals.  

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Beth Pross and Nancy Mosbaek both serve as  
reviewers for the National League for Nursing  
Accrediting Commission, one of the  
organizations which accredits schools of  
nursing.  

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Linda Pettersen, Department Chair of Nursing  
at MSU was awarded a grant for course work  
for degree programs deemed critical to the  
university.  

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**Thank you** and **congratulations** to all nurses  
who work directly with patients in all the  
settings in which patients and nurses can be  
found. We would like to hear about nurses who  
excel in direct care.  

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If we have missed anyone who has achieved  
excellence in nursing through advanced  
certifications, education, grants, presentations or  
other means please send that information to  
hoffart@minotstateu.edu.

**Membership**  
Nurses who will be inducted 7:00 pm on  
Thursday April 10, 2003 include:

**From Minot:**  
Melissa Beeter** Rebecca Behm**  
Tyler Braaflat** Courtney Brody  
Tami Frame Jodi Huwe  
Annie Perkins Elisabeth Wahus**

**Minot AFB:** Yvonne Ward  
**Harvey:** Mindy Opdahl**

**Glennburn:** Diane Kyhl**

**Plaza:** Tammie Braaflat  
**Watford City:** Rosie Ough, RN*  
**Rugby:** Florine Seil**

**Mohall:** Brenda McIntyre, RN*  
**Maxbass:** Linda Wright, RN**

**Williston:** Jan Nelson, RN* and  
Kayleen Erdman**

**Valley City:** Janie Larson, RN*  
(* graduated Dec, 2002;  
** graduate May 16, 2003, the others have  
another semester to graduation.)

Congratulations! Welcome to Omicron Tau  
Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International  
Nursing Honor Society!!

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**Do one thing for the chapter…**

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**Because the world needs nurses…**

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P.S **Just in from recent Region 4 meeting:** The  
International Board is working on a restructuring  
plan which includes more short term task forces.  
Their hope is that more members will be involved.  
A transition plan is also proposed for chapter by  
laws revision.

International office has also cut some  
$600,000 from expenses. Sigma Theta Tau is  
dependent on 61% of it’s income from members.  
International dues have not changed in over 5  
years. A dues increase is proposed along with  
new services for members. These topics will be  
presented to the House of Delegates meeting in  
Toronto.