

Sigma Theta Tau- Omicron Chi Chapter Newsletter

MIA KAPΔΙΑ



*Honor Society of
Nursing
Sigma Theta Tau
International*

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ❖ President's Message
- ❖ SONK Conference
- ❖ Calendar of Events
- ❖ News
- ❖ New Officer List
- ❖ New Inducted Members
- ❖ STT International Information
- ❖ 2020 Initiatives

"ONE HEART" ♥



***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
making a difference in health
worldwide.***

February 19th
SONK
Convention.

The annual SONK Conference will be February 19, 2010, at the Sharonville Convention Center. Betsy Weiner, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, Associate Dean for informatics at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing will discuss the timely topic, *Disasters and Pandemics: Nurses Pivotal Roles.*



Dear Omicron Chi Members:

Why Should I Renew my Membership in Omicron Chi?

Most of us have many competing interests in our lives. We have obligations to our nursing career, perhaps to our children's schools and their sports, perhaps to community organizations in which we focus our attentions and energies, perhaps to our church, and certainly to mates, family and friends. So when that notice comes by email or in snail mail to renew our membership in Sigma Theta Tau, International, we might wonder, do I need to? Do I have time or money to invest in yet another organization?

Each of us has to make those important decisions for ourselves, however, as President, I would like to address some of the reasons membership in Sigma Theta Tau, specifically Omicron Chi is worth it.

SSTI is the only international nursing honor society, and thus membership in this group is significant. There are 446 chapters in many countries from Australia through Asia and Africa to North and South America. Its members are a knowledgeable group with 61% holding masters and/or doctoral degrees. The members of STTI are clinicians, educators, administrators, and researchers.

The members, then, find support for their need for nursing knowledge through STTI. The honor society contributes a significant amount of money annually to nursing research. Additionally, the honor society produces publications that support professional development of nurses. We receive, as part of our membership fee, *The Journal of Nursing Scholarship*. This journal reports on peer-reviewed research conducted by nurses all over the world. *Reflections on Nursing Leadership* is a quarterly e-newsmagazine that tells about nurses' contributions to the world today. Another quarterly publication is *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing*. This is an excellent source of the best research and evidence available that applies to nursing. And finally, an excellent online library, The Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library, houses more than 17,000 nursing research studies, as well as abstracts from nursing research conferences. These services can be invaluable to its members.

By renewing our membership each year we contribute to nursing research and evidence-based practice in a very collaborative way. By renewing our membership we can join with our own chapter members and other local chapters, in renewing old friendships, forging new connections, and participating in important programs that will enhance our own knowledge. This is truly a membership that gives more than it takes from us. As nurses who give a great deal, sometimes it is great to be on the receiving end!

Jan Teets
President, Omicron Chi

Spring 2009
Inductees.
Welcome!



New Members

Nurse Leaders:

Ginger Arrowood
Tiffany Daniels
Jamie Kist
Sonia Wills

Traditional BSN Students:

Stephen Wagner
Ashley Wallace

RN-BSN Students:

Camie Blair
Megan Doak
Tina Gregory
Sarah Hill
Melissa Johnson
Kari Karwisch
I. Chun Lin
Angela Senften

Omicron Chi Calendar of Events

Omicron Chi Calendar of Events Fall 09-Fall '10	
Date/Time	Event
July 21, 2009 5 : 30	Board Transition Meeting
September 29, 2009 5:30 pm	Board Meeting
End October, 2009	Newsletter Mailing
February 9, 2010 5:30 pm	Board Meeting
February 19, 2010	SONK Program Sharonville Convention Center
Early March If needed	Board Meeting
March 21, 2010 1:30-2:30	Induction
May 12, 2010 Tentatively 7-9	Career Pathways in Nursing (program) Voice of America Learning Center

News and Events

Ohio Law Presentation

Miami University's Omicron Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International presented the program *Ohio Law for Nurses, 2009* on May 14th at Miami's Voice of America Learning Center, located in West Chester. The speakers for the evening were Omicron Chi's very own Brenda Anness and Cynde Zipperian. The thirty attendees received one contact hour that met the Ohio Board of Nursing's requirement to be relicensed while enjoying networking opportunities, light snacks and beverages. Many participants toured the beautiful state of the art building. Look for Omicron's Chi next opportunity to earn contact hours and to reconnect with friends.

Omicron Chi Scholarship is Awarded

Each year the chapter awards a scholarship if funds are available to a member who is working on a higher degree in nursing. This year the scholarship was awarded to Suzanne Stricklin. Suzanne has been a member of Omicron Chi for a number of years, and served as counselor of the organization. She is pursuing her PhD in nursing at the University of Kansas. Suzanne has been in the role of Student Support Specialist in the Nursing Department here at Miami, which means she provides extra tutoring and support to students. The Department has found that extra tutoring increases student success. In addition Suzanne has been teaching a clinical in psych this past semester. Omicron Chi is proud to support Suzanne in her endeavors to earn her PhD.

Fellow Members of Omicron Chi,
Thank you so much for your scholarship assistance. I am honored that you have voted to provide financial support for my journey toward a PhD. I am an official 'Doctoral Candidate' at The University of Kansas School of Nursing, with a Chairwoman for my Dissertation Committee and a topic identified. I will officially begin writing the proposal for my study in January of 2010 and hope to graduate in December of next year. Thank you so much for your assistance and confidence in my abilities.
Yours Sincerely,
Suzanne Martin Stricklin

SAVE THE DATE!

On the evening of May 12, 2010, Omicron Chi will present a program on "Career Pathways in Nursing". Several nurses in a variety of nursing positions will speak about their career pathways. The program will be held at the new Voice of America Learning Center in West Chester. Plan to join us to learn of the interesting jobs nurses hold and to renew old friendships.

Enhancing Communication among Members

One of the goals of the Omicron Chi Board is to enhance communication among members of the organization. To that end we decided we need to know more about how members would like to receive the Newsletter. As many organizations are currently doing we emailed the last newsletter to members, and did not mail them out as had been done in the past. Using snail mail costs time and money, but by not having the Newsletter in hard copy, we may be decreasing the sense of connection and communication members feel to the organization, which is counter-productive. We need to do what meets members' needs.

Thus, we need to know more from our members about how they feel about receiving the Newsletter by mail versus receiving it by email. This time we will be mailing newsletters to those members for whom we do not have emails, and will ask if you would be willing to send us your email. Additionally we are asking if members would please complete a very short survey about their desires that is enclosed. For those of you with emails, you will receive a survey soon with the title of "Omicron Chi Survey", which we hope you will complete pronto! Our aim is to connect with our members as much as is feasible, whether that be by emails, snail mail, or a combination of the two.

News from the Miami Nursing Department About the new traditional BSN program (fondly called the tBSN):

There are 3 classes, 15 in the senior class, 28 in the junior class, and 35 in the sophomore class. In 2010 the expectation is to have 30 sophomore students on both the Middletown and Hamilton campuses. In addition, the University is investigating the feasibility of having a tBSN section on the Oxford campus where students would take all their courses, including nursing courses (except clinicals).

The seniors are enrolled now in their community health, psychiatric nursing, and leadership courses. In their last semester they will have a multisystem med-surg course in which they will be paired with preceptors for role transition experiences. In addition they will take a course focused on the older adults, and their capstone course about health care delivery.

The juniors are learning med-surg and OB nursing, and pharmacology. In the next semester they will be doing more med-surg and pediatrics as well as research and nursing informatics. The sophomores are focusing in on communication and foundations of professional practice. Next semester they will be learning assessment and the fundamental skills in nursing.

The Departmental faculty believe they are off to an excellent start with this new traditional BSN program.

About RN-BSN program:

A goal for the last 3 years has been to put all of the RN-BSN nursing courses in an online format. Most all are now available in this way. The question remains as to whether to change to all online offerings, or whether to offer classroom courses as well.

In place of the old clinical, Complex Health Problems, a new clinical was developed and being taught this semester. NSG 420 is "Focused Practicum in Baccalaureate and Expanded Nursing Roles" and allows the RN student to learn more about actual and potential expanded roles for nursing, particularly in an area of interest. The course faculty are pleased that several Omicron Chi members are preceptors to RN students in this course. Students have been paired with educators, case management, quality management, clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, school nurses, to name a few.

Accreditation:

The Department is seeking accreditation for both the tBSN and RN-BSN programs from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's accrediting arm, CCNE. Visitors from that agency came in October and stated they believed the Department met all four Standards, and had concerns about only one sub-standard, that of student participation in governance. The Department will hear final word from CCNE in April about their accreditation decision.

Dropping the ADN Program:

In light of the shift to all BSN education at Miami the last ADN class will be admitted for fall 2010. Although this has been a difficult decision to make, Miami believes that this is in the best interest of the community, the profession, and our patients. ADN education continues to be available through other local colleges, and Miami expects to continue to offer the RN-BSN students for those graduates.

Omicron Chi Chapter
Leadership
2008 – 2010

President (2008-2010)

Jan Teets
785-7747 (w); 738-2013 (h)
Teetsj@muohio.edu

Vice President (2009-2011)

Deb Stevison
785-7736 (w)
stevisda@muohio.edu

Secretary (2008-2010)

Brenda Anness
867-2116 (w); 895-5244 (h)
Brenrn85@aol.com (home)

Treasurer (2008-2010)

Nancy Wolpert
Nancy.wolpert@healthall.com
513 686-3270 (work); 829-5708 (h)

1st Faculty Counselor (2006-2008)

*Debbie Beyer
Beyerda@muohio.edu
513 785-7746 (work); 367-1991 (h)
659-2125 (cell)

2nd Faculty Counselor (2007-2009)

Brooke Flinders
Flindeba@muohio.edu
513 315 2773 (cell); 677-3178 (h)

Leadership Succession

Debby Tibbs (2009-2011)
727-3298(w)
tibbsdk@muohio.edu

Amy Weeks (2007-2009)
Weeksam@muohio.edu

Governance Committee

Deborah Beyer (2007-2009)

Karla Avance (2008-2010)
591-6222 (w); 939-0054 (h)

Karla.avance@prexushealth.com

Research Committee

Peggy Jones Walton (Chair)
Joneswp@muohio.edu

Paulette Worcester Ex officio
Worcesp@muohio.edu

Program Planning

Deb Stevison
785-7736 (w)
stevisda@muohio.edu

Archivists

Marge Ryan
825-1910 (h)
ryanma@fuse.net

Newsletter Editor

Nancy Kern-Manwaring
Kernman@muohio.edu

Key initiatives that the honor society plans to undertake in the coming decade as part of the 2020 vision

- Professional associations will continue to be part of professional life as they are relevant to society and provide services that members want and need.
- Honor society to be an internationally global organization by 2020
- To be the premier knowledge resource for professional nursing
- More comprehensive leadership development programs are needed to ensure that nurses have the skills to be global leaders in 2020 and beyond.
- Technology to be used more to achieve many of the vision 2020's goals and desired outcomes





[Sigma Theta Tau International Online Update](http://www.nursingsociety.org/)

<http://www.nursingsociety.org/>

The Sigma Theta Tau International Website has significantly improved its array of activities and opportunities for members. Here are a few of the site perks!!

- Renew Your Membership Online or update your Membership Profile online.
- Wondering who to contact from the chapter at your alma mater? Search for Chapters by name and location for current contact information.
- Obtain the latest information on Nursing Research (Research Grants, Research Awards, and Research Presentation Opportunities).
- Gain access to member Newsletters and the Journal of Nursing.