

Omicron Alpha Chapter

Upstate Medical University

Sigma Theta Tau International

Vision:

Sigma Theta Tau International is committed to improving the health of people worldwide through the development, dissemination and deployment of nursing knowledge. Omicron Alpha embraces the global mission of Sigma Theta Tau International. Consistent with this mission of growth, development, and sharing of nursing knowledge, the Chapter is dedicated to the improvement of health of people in Central New York and beyond. Omicron Alpha is committed to advancing nursing leadership, scholarship, and research in clinical practice and in public policy.

Goals:

- Building a community of nurses committed to scholarship, leadership, and research.
- Enhancing the image of nursing and nursing activities.
- Developing the members' basic and advanced leadership skills.
- Promoting member intellectual stimulation and development.
- Expanding the base of nursing knowledge.
- Integrating research into nursing practice

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to welcome all the new members inducted on Saturday to Omicron Alpha and congratulate them on their accomplishments. These individuals are among a distinguished group of students and community leaders who have met or exceeded rigorous standards and have the qualities of scholars and leaders. We are honored to have you join us and would welcome you to participate actively in the chapter.

To all current members I would like to encourage you to join in some of the events that will be representative of what Sigma Theta Tau stands for.

We will have our annual meeting at the Nursing Summit in June. At that time we will also present the awards from our chapter to outstanding current and new members. It is also an opportunity to attend the educational presentations, where some of our members will be presenting the work they do as members of the Central New York professional nursing community.

We will also be having a picnic to get together to discuss mentoring opportunities and to hear ideas about what you would like Omicron Alpha to be working on.

The STTI Biennial Convention will be in Toronto this year and we are planning to have lots of fun, please think about joining us as we experience the work that is being done around the world by nursing leaders such as you. We have members of Omicron

Alpha who will be presenting their work in Toronto.

I would like to at this time thank all the officers and committees that have worked very hard to keep our chapter alive. They do a phenomenal amount of work and they deserve a round of applause!! Please join them and become a member of a committee and learn more about the skills of these professional leaders.

I look forward to this next year as chapter president and I would like to share with others the feelings of being a professional nurse for 30 years and to share the pride myself and Jan Cieply herself, reminded me, we felt as we were inducted as members of STTI.

Please join us in the activities that are scheduled. The listing of dates and times are included in this newsletter. Have a fun and safe summer!

Celebration of Nursing Research in CNY a Success!

“Refreshing presentation method and exciting application”, “always makes research fun”, “nice; makes me want to do something!” were just a few of the comments made by those who attended the April 23rd Research Day in Syracuse. Co-sponsored by Upstate’s University Hospital and Omicron Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau (STTI) as well as by Iota Delta Chapter STTI from SUNY Utica-Rome and Zeta Iota Chapter STTI from Binghamton University, this year’s Research Day focused on showcasing local nurse researchers. Speakers included Cathy Antonacci, PhD, RN, Utica College; Pamela Stewart Fahs, RN, DSN, Binghamton University; Melanie Kalman, RN, PhD, SUNY Upstate College of Nursing; Sandy Lane, MPH, PhD (also a nurse), SUNY Upstate; Cindy Wojtecki, RN, MS, Syracuse VAMC; and, Priscilla Worrall

PhD, RN, University Hospital. Each speaker presented a concurrent session on her current/recent research plus a “Meet the Expert” session in which participants were encouraged to take an active role in discussion.

“The logistics were a bit daunting, but the wonderful members of Omicron Alpha’s Research Committee came through with flying colors, as they always do! Joan Farmer from Iota Delta deserves recognition, too. Her willingness to handle finances and registration for every Research Day has been a terrific asset!” commented Priscilla Worrall, co-chair of the Research Day. Patricia Knox, APRN, MSN, FNP, President of Omicron Alpha and member of the Research Committee also served as a co-chair. “Most rewarding of all were the comments that the Research Day ‘spoke to nurses’ and was relevant to clinical practice”, noted Dr. Worrall. “As professional nurses, our ‘bottom-line’ is excellence in evidence-based care of patients and families. Many who attended the conference are direct care nurses. When they say that Research Day is relevant to them, to their practice, then I know we’re doing something right.”

Induction Ceremony

On May 17, 2003, Omicron Alpha held its annual induction ceremony. President Patricia Knox greeted the inductees and the guests. The new members were given information about the formation of Sigma Theta Tau International and its current role in today’s nursing society. 24 new members including 10 Undergraduate students, 10 Graduate students, and 4 Community leaders were inducted. Cynthia Wojtecki, M.S., R.N. Clinical Nurse Specialist and Education Manager at the Syracuse VA Medical Center and Omicron Alpha member presented “Advancing Knowledge”. Her style of

presentation provided the inductees with a unique glimpse into the past and into the future of Sigma Theta Tau and the great opportunity they have by becoming members of this organization.

The following members were inducted:

Undergraduate Student Members:

- Janice Coleman
- Joanne Coppola
- Rebecca Dockstater
- Kathleen Gere
- Sarah Hershey
- Karen Hirschman
- Scott Jessie
- Lettitia McNally
- Roberta Rolland
- Kathleen Wilson

Graduate Student Members:

- Jennifer Alberry
- Deborah Body
- Anne Dow
- Krisien Luke-Houseman
- Madeline Lynn
- Jennifer Olbveys
- Patricia Powers
- Suzanne Shafer
- Cristine Wells
- Kelly Winchell

Community Leader Members:

- Diane Congden
- Ann Markle
- Patricia Shay
- Joan Zallnick



Date to Mark on Your Calendar

June 6 Annual Meeting

Meeting will be held at 1000 AM at the Oncenter. Please attend this open annual meeting to get an annual report and see what the chapter has been doing.

June 6&7 Nursing Summit

Attend the first of many conferences organized by 10 professional nursing organizations from CNY. See CON website for details.

August 13 Summer Picnic

Please come to welcome the newest members of our chapter. Bring a dish to pass and we will be cooking the hot dogs. 4PM-till at Pat Knox home at 3839 Griffin Road, Syracuse 469-3986.

September 15 Transition/General Meeting

New officers and old will come together to develop the strategic plan for chapter activities. All members are welcome. We will be looking for interested in members.

Watch the Chapter Website for other important dates. www.upstate.edu/con/oa/

Awards Presented

Matthew Carr Memorial Award

John Besaw

Excellence in Nursing Research

Award Jackie Mahady-Smith

Virginia B. Byers Professional Organization Commitment Award

Cynthia Wojtecki

Outstanding Student Performance

Award Karen Hirschman

**SIGMA THETA TAU
INTERNATIONAL/ OMICRON ALPHA
CHAPTER**

**Desire to Serve Interest
Form, 2003-2004**

Leadership opportunities are available for Chapter Committee member's position for the next coming year. You are encouraged to pay an active role in the chapter's activities. If you believe your talents would assist in furthering the mission of Omicron Alpha Chapter and Sigma Theta Tau International please consider becoming a members of one of our committees.

Standing Committees:

- AWARDS:** Coordinates the processing/judging of Chapter Awards, receives nominations, and presents recommendations to the Chapter.
- BYLAWS:** Submits amendments in accordance with Article XIV.
- ELIGIBILITY:** Chaired by Faculty Counselors: Publizes the opportunity for membership, accepting, and reviewing membership materials and recommending eligible members.
- FINANCE:** Treasurer is a member. Reviews the chapter's budget and finances.; reviews and recommend the chapter's financial policy, guidelines and fee structure changes.
- FUNDRAISING:** To recommend and conduct revenue generating endeavors to ensure Chapter financial growth.
- HERITAGE:** Recommends policies related to archival collection, maintenance, and utilization of the chapter's archives.

- MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT:** To be responsible for promoting membership renewals and involvement
- PROGRAM:** Chaired by Vice President; Plans and oversees educational programs for the chapter
- PUBLICATIONS/ PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Develops newsletter . Oversees the development of internal and external public relations, the awards selection and presentation process and the society's displays.

Send your completed form to :

**Patricia Knox,
3839 Griffin Rd.,
Syracuse, New York, 13215**

Name: _____

Phone _____

Mailing

Address _____

E-mail _____

City: _____ **NY**

Zip _____

Place of employment/position

