



KeyNotes

Research • Scholarship • Leadership • Professionalism • Creativity • Service

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Sharon Posey



The start of a new year always provides us with a reason to re-examine our personal and career goals and to redirect our lives, if we so desire.

Consider using this new year to contemplate your professional goals and see how your commitment to scholarship is reflected in them.

The foundation of Sigma Theta Tau is scholarship. Many of us belong to Sigma Theta Tau because we made a certain grade point average that indicated we were scholarly in our baccalaureate academic life.

But many of us have moved beyond that formal academic life and are immersed in our professional careers.

How are we continuing to reflect a scholarly profile at this place in our lives? In this time of short staff and great work demands can one find a place for scholarship?

Consider the plight of Mary, a recent BSN graduate and Sigma Theta Tau member who has accepted a position in a small rural hospital.

She is expected to become quickly oriented to this new setting and position.

Mary needs to focus 100% on her new job and its requirements, BUT she wants to conduct her professional life in the scholarly manner that was a part of the philosophy of her BSN program.

How can she possibly do this?

The following ideas come to mind as a result of several Sigma Theta Tau workshops I have attended.

They seem to be doable in Mary's job setting. Are they workable in your setting, too?

•Keep a nursing journal in your lunch box and read when you have a short

break or eat lunch. Keep journals handy at home and use them to provide a break in your activities there.

•Select nursing journals that have research-based articles.

•Identify "problems" you encounter in the work place. Explore with fellow workers or administration how to devise solutions. Maybe a small study, maybe data collection and analysis??

•Be a strong supporter of research studies taking place in the work setting. Talk about any such study with fellow workers, help with the data collection or enlist subjects.

•Verbalize your critical thinking skills and reliance on research findings when you problem-solve with fellow workers.

•Initiate implementation of appropriate research findings and involve co-workers in the plan.

•Participate in continuing education opportunities that provide research-based content.

While these activities may seem small or insignificant, each portrays a scholarly activity, the results of which are personally enriching as well as stimulating for Mary's (and your) co-workers.

Think about you and your work setting. Do you model scholarly behaviors?

Make a resolution for this new year that you will use every opportunity to be the scholar that your membership in Sigma Theta Tau entitles you to be.

2000-2001 Delta Omicron Officers

President	Sharon Posey
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Vice President	Nancy Edwards
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Corresponding Editor	Clara Richardson
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Keynotes Designer	Lynn Holland

Keynotes is published three times each year. Send address corrections to: C. Richardson, School of Nursing 1337 Johnson Hall Purdue University West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337 Phone: 765-494-4032 clara.richardson@nursing.purdue.edu.

PLEASE... If you move or plan to move, send us your new address!

Call For Officers

Delta Omicron's Nominating Committee is currently drafting an election ballot for the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Faculty Counselor, and three members for the Nominating Committee.

Working on the Board is an excellent way to learn more about Sigma Theta Tau International and to serve Delta Omicron chapter. The future development of our chapter is dependent on fresh ideas, energy, and member involvement. That means you! Please consider nominating yourself or someone else for these offices.

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence and shall be chairperson of the Program Committee.

The Treasurer keeps accounts, deposits funds, and makes expenditures.

The Corresponding Secretary is responsible for chapter correspondence, newsletter preparation and maintenance of the membership list.

Faculty Counselors publicize membership opportunities, receive membership materials, and recommend eligible members.

Nominating Committee members prepare the election ballot.

Call (765)296-3831 or forward nominations by Feb. 28, 2001 to:

Courtney Rominger
Chairperson of the Nominating Committee
7250 West State Road 38
Mulberry, IN 46058

Professor Wins Research Award

The Research Committee has awarded \$500 to Dr. Elizabeth Jesse for her study *Testing a Nurse-Midwifery Assessment to Predict Birth Outcomes*.

The purpose of this research is to identify women at risk for low birth weight and preterm birth. The grant will assist Dr. Jesse to refine the *Holistic Obstetrical Problem Evaluation (HOPE)* that can be used by nurses obtaining a prenatal history.

Identifying women at risk and intervening during pregnancy meets one of the *Health People 2010* national health objectives to reduce preterm delivery so that infant illness, disability, and death are prevented. We congratulate Dr. Jesse and look forward to the results of this research project.

Funding Available For Research

Delta Omicron has funding available for research relevant to nursing. Application deadlines are February, June, and October 1. Funding announcements will be made by March, July, and November 15.

For information and application, contact:

Dr. Carolyn Blue
1337 Johnson Hall of Nursing
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337
Phone: (765) 494-4012
E-mail: blue@nursing.purdue.edu

The publication from Sigma Theta Tau International "2000-2001 Research Grant Opportunities: Advancing the Profession, Serving You" is available from Carolyn Blue.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2001

Delta Omicron Chapter Meeting

5-6 p.m., Johnson Hall, Room 229
Guest speaker Dr. Barbra Wall, Purdue Assistant Professor of Nursing, will discuss "A Moment in Nursing History."

Friday, April 6, 2001

Delta Omicron Induction

3:30 p.m., Fowler Hall, Stewart Center
In order to encourage increased parent attendance at the induction ceremony, this annual event will be held during the School of Nursing Honors Convocation. Your attendance is welcome and would be valued by our new inductees.

Friday, April 20, 2001

Delta Omicron Annual Meeting

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Trails Restaurant
This meeting will be held during the School of Nursing Gala Celebration. Join us as we install new officers, renew friendships, strengthen ties, and celebrate ourselves.

November 10-14, 2001

Sigma Theta Tau International

36th Biennial Convention
Indianapolis



Emoticons Tell A Story

By Clara Richardson

On a recent visit to the Sigma Theta Tau International website, I was introduced to a new word, emoticon. No, it isn't an antidiarrheal :). The following is an excerpt from that article.

"Some estimates indicate there are now 25 million e-mail users sending 15 billion messages per year. The inherent non-personal nature of electronic communication led to the creation of a lexicon of icons, called emoticons or similes, to communicate various emotions in a text-based medium. Emoticons are composed of punctuation characters and are used to communicate the mood of a text message."

Commonly used emoticons:

:) or :-)	Happiness, sarcasm, or joke
:(or :-(Unhappiness
:] or :-]	Jovial happiness
:[or :-[Despondent unhappiness
:I or :-I	Indifference
:-/ or :-\	Undecided, confused, or skeptical
:Q or :-Q	Confusion
:S or :-S	Incoherence or loss of words
:@ or :-@	Shock or screaming
:O or :-O	Surprise, yelling or realizing an error ("uh oh")

If you're like me and enjoy quirky bits of trivia, try using some emoticons in your e-mail communications. I do have a piece of advice. When you type :) and it turns it to ☺ or :(and it turns to ☹, and you don't want those faces in your copy, just hold down the shift key and hit the back space key. They'll disappear.

The New Age of Electric: What Works for You in the Electronic Zoo? by Marianne Aldridge is available at http://www.nursingsociety.org/chapters/elec_comm.html.

**Check out the
Delta Omicron Website**

http://www.nursing.purdue.edu/sigma_theta_tau/default.htm

News From International

You Can Become a 'Beta-Tester'

International offers an exciting opportunity to volunteer with an innovative continuing education program. They are looking for registered nurses who would like to be "beta-testers" with the Online Case Study Program.

A beta-tester reviews a case study that has been submitted and completed the peer review process. The beta-tester evaluates the case study from a learner perspective.

The results of this evaluation are used to determine the number of contact hours that will be assigned to a case study. Beta-testers with varying education (BSN-PhD) and practice settings (novice-expert) are needed. Case studies to review are assigned on a rotating basis and the time commitment to beta-test a case study in approximately 1-2 hours.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting program, please contact Dawn Hamilton at dawn@stti.iupui.edu or call 1-888-634-7575.

Website Offers Online Reading

The Sigma Theta Tau International website, www.nursingsociety.org, offers several easily accessible online newsletters.

If you had trouble deciding which of the three *Excellence* publications to request when offered the choice, you may read major articles from the other versions. All three, *Clinical Practice*, *Nursing Administration*, and *Nursing Education*, are available.

Envision is targeted to new members and early career nurses. This newsletter will assist in the quest to maintain scholarly activities.

Regional newsletters, called *Connections*, focus on chapter activities throughout each region. Delta Omicron is in Region 4.

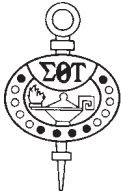
The *Online Journal of Knowledge Synthesis for Nursing* consists of synthesis articles of current research. These articles review research, note clinical implications, and identify areas for further study. Members can subscribe to this journal for \$90 per year.

Registry of Nursing Research Available

In an effort to support nursing knowledge worldwide, International now provides the *Registry of Nursing Research* as a complimentary resource on its Web site. Formerly, this resource was only available to Sigma Theta Tau International members and paid subscribers. Funded by Indianapolis philanthropist Ruth Lilly, the *Registry* may be accessed at www.nursingsociety.org.

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“A Moment in Nursing History”



Guest Speaker Dr. Barbra Wall

Delta Omicron Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

5-6 p.m.

Johnson Hall, Room 229



Please join us for Dr. Wall's presentation and a brief meeting to vote on candidates for induction into Sigma Theta Tau International.

Refreshments will be served.