



# Sigma Theta Tau

Theta Omicron Chapter

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE  
SCHOOL of NURSING

Theta Omicron  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

ESTABLISHED 1986  
May 2007

## WELCOME THE 2007 SIGMA THETA TAU THETA OMICRON INDUCTEES!

You ARE the future of nursing  
Embrace the Challenge

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### Theta Omicron Chapter

- ◆ Chartered: April 12, 1986
- ◆ 1995: Tina DeLapp Professional Excellence Award established
- ◆ 1999: Theta Omicron Research Award Committee established

Are you a nurse professional interested in becoming a member of STT?

Is there someone you would like to nominate for membership?

For more information, go to [http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/mem\\_become.html](http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/mem_become.html)

Or, contact Member Svcs at 888.634.7575 (US/Canada)  
Or, +1.317.634.8171. or email [memserv@stti.iupui.edu](mailto:memserv@stti.iupui.edu)

Sigma Theta Tau, Theta Omicron welcomed forty six inductees including a nurse from the professional community. Thirty one are shown here. This year's acceptance rate, 70.77% is the highest seen for Theta Omicron. The ceremony was held at the University of Alaska Consortium Library, April 19, 2007.

Please see page 3 for Inductees names.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

## DR. CHRISTINA MUMMA: A CAREER OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE By Tina DeLapp

In 2005, Dr. Mumma retired after a 15 years career as a member of the UAA nursing faculty. During that time, she taught and mentored students at the baccalaureate and graduate levels, serving for several years as Chair of the Graduate Committee. At the undergraduate level, Dr. Mumma has had a hand in the educational preparation of nearly 1000 newly licensed RNs, having taught courses as both beginning (pathophysiology and nursing fundamentals) and advanced levels (research, medical-surgical nursing) levels within the curriculum.

At the graduate level, she set the tone, often mentoring faculty as they made the transition from undergraduate to graduate teaching. And, since 1989 when she joined the UAA faculty, she had touched virtually every graduate student who has enrolled in nursing course work through her teaching of nursing theory and nursing research. Dr. Mumma's excellence as a teacher was recognized by her students, who rated her teaching as being well above the norm; by UAA, in her receipt of the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 1999; by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in naming her the Alaska Professor of the Year in 1999; by NurseWeek, which awarded her a regional Nursing Excellence Award for Teaching in 2001; and in 2005 by UAA, with her appointment to emeritus status.

It could reasonably be argued that Dr. Mumma introduced the concept of qualitative nursing research to Alaska. In addition to teaching the Qualitative Nursing Research course to UAA graduate nursing students, Dr. Mumma also mentored many faculty members in integrating the richness of the personal experiences of research informants into their research. In her own research career, Dr. Mumma has been involved in a longitudinal study of the quality of life of individuals living with multiple sclerosis; in the process of carrying out that research, Dr. Mumma developed valuable insights that have the potential for affecting care while simultaneously "giving voice" to the individuals who live with an often devastating illness.



During the past five years, Dr. Mumma has expanded her work into a consideration of the lives of women aging with chronic illness. That expansion was accomplished in partnership with a colleague on the nursing faculty; together, they collected and analyzed data and disseminated the results of their work. In the process they made numerous presentations at regional, national and international levels and published a manuscript in a refereed journal.

It is also reasonable to describe Dr. Mumma as the most published nurse in the history of Alaska. Even before she arrived in the state, she was the editor of the Core Curriculum of the Rehabilitation Nurses Association, had authored or co-authored articles in at least four refereed nursing journals, and authored a chapter in a Neuroscience Nursing textbook. She continued to be prolific after she relocated to Alaska. Since 1989, she has authored no fewer than six chapters in various neuroscience, rehabilitation nursing, and medical-surgical nursing textbooks and she authored or co-authored three refereed nursing journal articles. During the same times frame (1989-2005), she gave 17 scholarly presentations at refereed regional, national or international conferences.

Dr. Mumma's scholarship represents both the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge as well and an extension of her teaching to audiences well beyond Alaska's borders.

It was because of her substantial influence on nursing in Alaska and in the West, that Dr. Mumma was inducted into the Western Academy of Nursing in 2003. It is because of her long and laudable career, which has been filled with documented evidence of professional excellence, that she was selected as the 2007 recipient of the Theta Omicron Professional Excellence Award.

## Congratulations to Christine Walrath, RN Sigma Theta Tau Theta Omicron Nurse Leader Inductee

Christine Walrath, a Registered Nurse, working in the Progressive Care Unit (PCU) at Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC) was nominated from the professional community. She was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, Theta Omicron Chapter on April 19, 2007. Christine was nominated because she demonstrates



the qualities and characteristics of a Nurse Leader. Her achievements include:  
 2004 -Graduate, University of Alaska School of Nursing, BSN.  
 2004 -Hired by PAMC in the PCU.  
 2005 - Nominated by nurse managers for the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award.  
 2006 - Submission of a research proposal that asked the question “Is our new teaching tool for nurses taking care of kidney patients effective? to the Evidence Based Practice/Research Council at PAMC.  
 2006 -Awarded grant from PAMC to attend an evidence based practice immersion program at Arizona State University in June, 2007.  
 2006-Co-Chair PCU Council.  
 2006-Preceptor, PCU Nurse Intern Program  
 2007-Attained PCCN Certification.

A former Graphic Designer for twelve years, Christine described why she made a life change to become a nurse. “I chose nursing because it is more in-line with my personal beliefs. Human to human interaction and humanity were lacking for me in graphic design. Connecting with patients and their families and being able to impact them in the smallest of ways is a true honor. Nursing is an intellectual challenge for me every day. I enjoy the satisfaction that doing my job well provides.

I am thrilled by the opportunities that belonging to Sigma Theta Tau will create for me. Research specifically for that purpose of improving patient outcomes is very important to me. As a new nurse starting out at an older age, I feel as though there’s no time like the present. I set high, but reachable goals and so far its working out. Nursing has already enriched my life tremendously. I plan to continue my education path and attain a Master’s Degree and possibly become a nurse practitioner.”

### May 2007 Inductees

**JAMIE ALLISON  
 JILL AMENT  
 HEATHER ANDERSEN  
 CYNTHIA BEAL  
 DOREEN CLARE BRODERICK  
 LINDSEY E. BROWN  
 PAMELA BUTCHER  
 LEAH CATHEY  
 JAMIE LYNN CLARK  
 PATSY COOPER  
 ANNA DICKERSON  
 AMY CHRISTINE DOWNING  
 LAURIE EDGE  
 BRIAN ERDRICH  
 EMLYNNE S. ESCALANTE  
 EMERALD ETIENNE  
 KRISTINA GUMMER  
 KRISTA BROOKS GUZMAN**

**JACKIE HELLER  
 HOLLY KATHLEEN HERRON  
 VICKI L KINDSETH  
 AUBREY KNAPP  
 JENINE ANN LAUGHEAD  
 MARY LEE  
 SHANNON LEE  
 KATHLEEN LIBKE  
 KELLY MARSHALL  
 ERICA JILL MARTINEZ  
 ANGELIA MORRIS  
 LISA OSTIA  
 RACHEL ROBINSON  
 KRISTY RODRIGUEZ  
 CHRISTINE KNOBEL SAGAN  
 DENISE BETH SMITH  
 JEANNE SPONSEL  
 CHINA K. STONE**

**LINDSAY KATHRYN STRAWN  
 KELSEY ANN STURROCK  
 ZELDA SWAIN  
 GENEVIEVE SYKES  
 LAURA RHIANNON SZMYD  
 MELISSA TENINTY  
 CHRISTINE M WALRATH  
 BERNADETTE WELDON  
 AMANDA WILLIAMS  
 DEANN L WITTRUCK**

**Two Groups of Senior University of Alaska Nursing Students  
Poster Projects Tied for “Best” of the Spring 2007  
NS 411 Community Health Promotion Project Presentations**

The poster presentations of two groups of senior undergraduate students were voted as “Best” of the posters presented as part of the University of Alaska School of Nursing’s NS 411 Community Health Promotion Project. The groups are required to design and create a poster about their group’s community project. The posters are then publicly displayed and voted upon. The winners are awarded a cash prize. This year’s winning groups were invited to present their posters at the Spring Membership Meeting held at March 7, 2007 at the Snow Goose restaurant. In addition, each member was awarded funds that applied towards dinner at the event.



Poster/Project Title:  
Health Preparedness: Catholic Social Services Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services Program.

Student participants: Matt Byrd, Carol Greenway, Emilie Masalta, Sara Muir, Jeremy Nelson, Kristy Rodriguez, and Colin Sullivan. Catherine Sullivan was their instructor.

Poster/Project Title:  
Doorway to Opportunity.  
Working in collaboration with Catholic Social Services in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley this project focused on Russian refugees.

Student participants: Naomi Ingram, Aimee Larimer, Laura Szmyd, DeAnn Wittrock, Sara Krokos, Brooke Maruskie, Vickie Kindseth, and Dawn Brickle. Catherine Sullivan was their instructor.



## Upcoming Events 2007

For updates, check the Theta Omicron Website at  
<http://alaskanursingsociety.com/index.html>

**June 9:** Alaska Run for Women. This charitable event focuses on raising community awareness of breast cancer. If you are interested in participating in this fun and rewarding event, please contact: Team Leader Betty Predeger at 786-4575 or via email at [predeger@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:predeger@uaa.alaska.edu).

**June 25-26:** National Evidence Based Practice Conference at the Alaska Native Medical Center. Theta Omicron will be hosting a poster presentation. For more information, contact: Karen Y. Wainwright at (907)729-1970, or email her at [kwainwright@anmc.org](mailto:kwainwright@anmc.org).

**August 23 8:30 am to 5:30 pm :** Providence Alaska Medical Center Evidence Based Practice Conference. Theta Omicron will be hosting a poster presentation. The conference features Dr. Bernadette Melynck and Dr. Ellen Finecout-Overholt. The conference is being held at Providence Alaska Medical Center 3200 Providence Drive, Anchorage Alaska, 99507. For more information, please contact Jeannie Keith RN, MSN, AOCN, CHPN, Director of Nursing Practice at (907) 261-6005 or via fax at 261-4911.

The event brochure describes the event this way : “Dr. Melynck and Dr. Finehout- Overholt will spend the day educating clinicians on evidence-based practice, and the role of nursing in promoting positive outcomes for patients through EBP. The seminar will describe methods for synthesizing and disseminating evidence. Learn to ask compelling clinical questions, critically appraise the literature for answers to your clinical questions and influence your clinical practice arena with the knowledge you gain.” If you wish to submit an abstract please go to the Theta Omicron Website, look for the link and click on “ Call for Presentations.”

If you have any questions regarding calendar events or wish to submit a calendar event, please contact Maureen O'Malley, President, at (907) 786-4584 or via email at [afmbo@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afmbo@uaa.alaska.edu).

### Members!

Check out our website at  
<http://alaskanursingsociety.com/index.html>.

### The Annual Alaska Run for Women:

Contact **Betty Predeger**, she is this year's team leader.

If you have any questions about participating call **786-4575** or e-mail her at: [predeger@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:predeger@uaa.alaska.edu) .

Register online at [www.akrhw.org](http://www.akrhw.org), and be sure to indicate Team Theta Omicron in the appropriate spot. You can either register online (link with race application) or you may download the registration form & mail in your registration. It must be postmarked by May 25<sup>th</sup> (if mailed in) or by 5:00 pm June 8<sup>th</sup> (if on-line). All individuals will pick up their own bibs (new this year) at any of the following times: in Anchorage, at the University Center on June 2 from 10 am to 3 pm; June 5 from 4 to 7 pm; or June 7 from 4 to 7 pm -- in Wasilla, at the Alaska Club on June 6 from 4 to 7 pm.”

## Theta Omicron Offers Financial Support for Nursing Research

Are you returning to graduate school? Do you have an idea for a small study? Funding is available through Theta Omicron in the form of grants in support of these endeavors. Contact Dr. Betty Predeger at 786-4575 for more information.

### Theta Omicron Board:

President: Maureen O'Malley, PhD, RN  
Vice President: Patricia Lynes-Hayes, PhD, RN  
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Excellence Award: ; Tina DeLapp, EdD, RN

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### Research:

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Robin Bassett, BS, RN



Chris Caples, UAA SON BS Secretary (who helps with this newsletter), has recently given birth to a beautiful baby girl. Welcome to the world, Megan Aurora.

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### We're on the Web!

<http://alaskanursingsociety.com/index.html>