Delegate Report: Marilyn Klakovich

I was honored to serve as one of Omicron Delta’s convention delegates and represent our chapter at the 43rd Biennial Convention. Omicron Delta was recognized as a double platinum sponsor and that included co-sponsoring a preconvention workshop and providing the conference bags to all in attendance. Duties of a certified delegate during a biennial convention House of Delegates include the following:

- Prepare for convention by studying the contents of the delegate newsletter, particularly the ballot, proposed bylaws amendments and all other action items.
- Review the convention materials with chapter leaders and discuss the issues to be considered at convention.
- Participate in all online activities: webinar orientation to delegate role, webinar for Q & A on bylaws amendments, delegate discussion area, reading additional documents posted on the House of Delegates Information webpage and any other delegate information.
- Attend all House of Delegates sessions and vote on the candidates, proposed bylaws amendments, resolutions and any other action items.
- Prepare a complete report for the chapter summarizing work conducted during the business meetings, results of the election, workshops attended, the content of special presentations, and social events.

The first four duties were met prior to and during the convention. This report serves to fulfill the fifth duty. I will be reporting on special events (Tribute Lunch, Founder’s Award Dinner, International Induction); the Region 2 Meeting, our Jo Hoffmeier New Inductee Award winner, Omicron Delta’s Leadership Grant Recipient, my presentation at the convention and other sessions I attended. As I was on the ballot for a 4 year term for the Governance Committee for STTI, I also needed to attend special candidate briefings and speak to delegates at special poster sessions designed to meet the candidates. I was elected to the committee and so participated in the ceremony where new officers and committee members are installed and attended an orientation after the final session adjourned.

Special Events: At each convention, there are a number of extra events that delegates and others at the convention can attend. I attended the 4 special events noted below.

**Tribute Lunch:** At this event, special awards and recognition are provided for research and evidence-based practice, a variety of publication and media formats, and use of technology. Other awards recognize individuals or organizations for excellence of care, collaboration, and partnerships.

**Founder’s Award Dinner:** At this event, special awards and recognition are presented in the name of each of the nurses who founded STTI 93 years ago. These awards recognize excellence in: nursing practice, fostering professional standards, research, leadership, education, chapter excellence, and mentoring. There are also special awards including one named after Audrey Hepburn that recognizes contributions to the health and welfare of children. Hearing about the
amazing work of the award winners during their brief acceptance speeches is always both inspiring and emotional.

For a listing of the 2015 Tribute and Founder’s Award winners click on:

**2015 Excellence Awards**

**International Induction:** At each convention and International Nursing Research Congress (INRC), STTI holds an induction ceremony to provide prospective members an opportunity to be inducted at an international event. This year, they inducted 21 new members representing 9 different countries. These new members joined chapters that are near to them geographically, or they were inducted into the totally virtual chapter. This is always an impressive event since it is conducted by the STTI President who is assisted by STTI board members. STTI also inducted 7 honorary members at this event. It was followed by a reception where all in attendance could celebrate with our new members.

**Fitness for Research:** Each year the STTI Foundation plans a special activity to raise donations for research scholarships that is associated with fitness. This year I participated in a one hour yoga/aerobics class that raised $3500 for research.

**Region 2 Meeting:** Each STTI region holds a regional meeting at convention to celebrate the previous two years, learn about candidates for the Regional Coordinator position and, plan for the coming biennium. Current Region 2 Coordinator, Dorothy Dunn presented recognition awards for members of the Region 2 committee. I was recognized for my work as chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee. In this role, I served on the Chapter Key Awards judging panel and presented about the key awards and showcase of regional excellence awards Region 2 chapters received at the meeting. Omicron Delta was also recognized for receiving 4 Showcase of Regional Excellence Awards (see link below).

**Jo Hoffmeier New Inductee Award winner:** This award is granted each year to a new member of Omicron Delta who indicates a desire to attend an STTI Leadership Summit or other STTI conference. This scholarship award supports the new inductee's attendance at the event by providing funding that will assist with registration fees, travel and hotel expenses. The 2015 winner is Sheri Hinkle. Sheri was excited to be part of the convention and was learning from each session attended.

**Omicron Delta’s Leadership Grant Recipient:** Each year, Omicron Delta sponsors a Leadership Education Grant that assists a member outside of the U.S. to attend the convention or INRC. The 2015 Leadership Education Grant recipient is Dr. Lydia Aziato, from Ghana. This grant assisted Dr. Aziato to attend the convention to present her research titled: “Realities of Post-Operative Pain Management in Ghana: Evidence from Method and Participant Triangulation.” We attended a reception that recognized all grant recipients. Dr. Aziato was very appreciative of the support she received from Omicron Delta.

**My Podium Presentation:** My colleague Patricia Hanes and I, did a presentation titled “Back to the Blackboard: Personal Technology Use and Knowledge Acquisition.” Here is our abstract for more information about our study and findings:
**Background/Problem:** Students in face-to-face classrooms (F2F) are using multiple technologies, communicating on social media, and surfing the web while listening to the professor. Faculty allow their adult learners to engage in use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Faculty themselves use technology and social media in the classroom in the hope that it will engage students and enhance their learning. The problem we are examining is: Are we tacitly encouraging students’ intellectual “absence” by allowing them to use multiple technologies in the classroom? Is there an effect on peers’ learning?

**Conceptual Frameworks:** The theory of situated action, gratifications theory, theories of cognition, media theories, and Bloom’s taxonomy were used in this study.

**Methods:** A review of the literature was conducted using the following search terms: social media, multitasking, technology, nursing, students, presence, attention, and distraction. Articles were limited to those from 2010 and later involving higher education in a F2F format. Disciplines represented in the articles included nursing, computer science, cognitive psychology, education, communication, marketing, media studies, neuroscience, and academic development. A preliminary survey was conducted, asking nursing students about technology use in the classroom.

**Results:** Review of the literature revealed that although several large-scale studies have been conducted with non-nursing populations, little was found related to nursing students’ use of technology in the classroom. Key findings were that multitasking degrades learning and increases learning time, decreases student engagement, and lowers GPA. Use of technology not only has a negative effect on those students using the technology, but also negatively affects the learning of those around them. Furthermore, biological influences may affect students’ ability to refrain from using technology. Students revealed that they engage in multiple technology use, unrelated to course content, during class time, and that this use disengages them from the class and inhibits learning.

**Conclusions and Implications:** There are multiple entities competing for students’ attention in today’s F2F classroom. The role of the professor is to limit outside distractions and encourage delayed gratification (learning) versus immediate gratification (technology use). Teaching strategies need to be interactive versus passive. Further studies are needed with larger samples of nursing students and incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data with NCLEX pass rates as an outcome variable. Further research is also needed on effective teaching strategies related to technology, social media use, and learning outcomes.

**Other Sessions:** Although I was busy attending sessions called “Conversations with the Candidates” so I could make informed voting decisions on behalf of the chapter, I managed to attend two of the keynote addresses and a session with information on promoting chapter health. I will be able to share this information with the board and strategic planning task force as we update the strategic plan for the coming biennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your delegate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mklakovich@apu.edu

**Delegate Report: Antoinette Dziedzic**

It was such an honor to serve as a delegate to the House of Delegates and represent the Omicron Delta Chapter at the 43rd Biennial Convention. This year, STTI received ECOSOC status with the United Nations, and the UN Flag was flown for the first time at the Opening Ceremonies! Chapters are encouraged to align activities with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to fulfilling the duties of the delegate mentioned earlier, I attended the Conversations with the Candidates in order to make informed decisions when voting on the candidates. I was very impressed by all of the candidates as they demonstrate leadership and a strong commitment to Sigma Theta Tau. I will be reporting on the results of the proposed bylaws amendments, sessions I attended, Presidential Call to Action, and our Chapter Key Award.

**Proposed Bylaws Amendments:** All of the proposed amendments to the bylaws were passed. When an amendment is adopted, the conforming amendments that change the language in the bylaws are also changed.
1a). Article III. Membership, Section 2. Qualifications for Membership—Removed repetitive text to streamline the wording.

1b). Article IV, Chapters, Section 1. Definition of a Chapter—Removed the word “school” and replaced with “institution of higher education” to recognize our global nature.

2a). Article VII. Board of Directors, Section 4. Functions—this amendment added that granting approval of chapter charters was a function of the Board of Directors. This eliminates the need to have the House of Delegates have a final vote to approve chapters.

3a). Article IV. Chapters, Section 9. Probation, Revocation, and Dissolution, Section 10. Removal from Probation and Reinstatement of a Chapter—this amendment removed the need for a vote from the House of Delegates.

4a). Article IV. Chapters, Section 2. Organization of a Chapter—this change allows for the addition of practice settings into an at large chapter with one of more schools. This was the most controversial change. The majority of the delegates spoke in favor of this change.

In addition to the delegate responsibilities, I would like to report on the following:

**Pre-Convention Workshop: Roles for Nurses in a Changing health Care System: Omicron Delta sponsored this conference in collaboration with Region 1 chapters and STTI.** Special thanks to Marilyn Klakovich and the Education Committee. This was an informative and interactive session and a perfect way to begin the conference.

**Poster Sessions:** There were numerous posters to view over the course of the convention. I took the time to view several of these posters and talk to some of the nurse researchers about their work. It is impressive to see the variety of research that is taking place. Evidence-based research and practice was well-represented. I found that nurses are enthusiastic about their research and the difference they are making in the profession.

**STTI, the United Nations, and Global Initiatives-GAPFON:** One of the reasons I love STTI so much is because of the global nature of the organization. The Global Initiatives Department of STTI is enhancing the global reach and impact. The Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing was convened by STTI to bring global nurse leaders together to establish a voice and vision for the future of nursing that will advance global health.

**Chapter Leadership Session on Financial Stewardship:** As a steward of the chapter’s finances, it was important for me to attend this session. The focus was on loyalty, honesty, integrity and how chapter funds can be used to benefit our members. In addition to induction, and 2 activities, members were encouraged to brainstorm on ways to enhance membership.

**Presidential Call to Action:** The new President, Dr. Cathy Catrambone’s 2015-2017 Call to Action is: Influence to Advance Global Health and Nursing. “Influence” being the key word. There are Four Areas where members can serve to influence:
**Influence through Advocacy:** As advocates, nurses achieve positive outcomes for those they serve. The need has never been greater for the voice of the nurse to be heard. Through the use of knowledge, expertise, and relationships, nurses advocate for and lead change to improve global health. Across all settings, professional practice roles, and cultures, nurses are uniquely positioned to advocate for the rights, health, and safety of populations they serve and to advance the profession worldwide.

**Influence through Policy:** Nurses in every setting must embrace our responsibility to engage in shaping policy. Health policy impacts how decisions are made and resources are allocated in every aspect of healthcare and the communities we serve. STTI calls on its 135,000 members to contribute their leadership, scholarship, and research expertise to advance health policy.

**Influence through Philanthropy:** Volunteering and charitable donations will advance and sustain STTI leadership and research resources for nurses improving the health of the world’s people. Our commitment to global health is realized as we serve populations in more than 90 countries. Through sharing our stories and inspiring those whom we have served, we can influence philanthropy to fulfill our mission.

**Influence through Lifelong Learning:** Dynamic lifelong learning leads to advancement in nursing practice. As we build upon our capacities as professional nurses, we influence the transformation of global health. Conducting a positive inventory of strengths and opportunities for continued development and advancement enhances our scholarship, leadership, and service. STTI supports every member’s lifelong learning by offering resources and engagement with Society’s Initiatives.

**Chapter Key Award:** The Omicron Delta Chapter received its 5th Chapter Key Award. This is a great honor to be recognized for our accomplishments. This takes the effort of many members! Special thanks to our Executive Director, Alison Collins for managing the documentation process for this award. We are starting to plan for the next Chapter Key Award in two years.

**Thank you for the opportunity to serve. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at antoinette.dziedzic@phoenix.edu**