

History of Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter

Gamma Omicron Chapter was chartered at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing on April 14, 1978 with Alpha Chapter, Indiana University, as the sponsoring chapter. The charter members consisted of 76 new members and 13 transfer members. In the past 25 years, 1348 members have been inducted into the chapter and there are currently 439 active members in the chapter including several of the chartering members.

Throughout the years, Gamma Omicron Chapter history reflects a commitment to the purposes of Sigma Theta Tau International offering two research awards and a memorial scholarship award each year. In November 1993, the chapter was honored at the Biennial Convention as a recipient of a Chapter Key Award for membership participation. It is only through its membership that Gamma Omicron Chapter is able to continue to support the purposes of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Charleston Southern University graduated its first class of Baccalaureate prepared nurses in 1998. A strong desire to see the graduates of this program and nurses in the community recognized for their outstanding scholarship, leadership, and professionalism led to the formation of a steering committee in September 1999 to create a nursing honor society based on the guidelines and principles of Sigma Theta Tau International. The Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing established its Nursing Honor Society on May 8, 2000. Eighteen new members were inducted at that time. Over the next three years, the honor society inducted a total of 35 members. Many scholarly programs were implemented and the goal of forming a chartered chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International was the guide and drive of the honor society. In Fall of 2001, the Nursing Honor Society helped to sponsor the Nursing Research Day held by the Gamma Omicron chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. This was the first effort of collaboration between the two schools and talk of the formation of an at-large chapter began on that day. A steering committee was formed and work began with great enthusiasm. The site visit was conducted on January 21, 2003 on the campus of Charleston Southern University and the Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau International gave full approval for the formation of an at-large chapter on February 19, 2003.

Gamma Omicron At-Large Chapter of the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing and Charleston Southern University Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing was chartered on April 14, 2003. This was the 25th anniversary of the chartering of the original Gamma Omicron Chapter. Twenty-two new members were inducted that day. Twenty-two current Gamma Omicron members were also present as charter members. K. Sue Haddock, Sigma Theta Tau International Region 7 Coordinator, served as installing officer. The transition into one at-large chapter has been very smooth and efficient. We are excited about the increase in membership and collaboration this new chapter will provide, and the many opportunities to support the purposes of Sigma Theta Tau International in the Charleston community.