

OMICRON-PSI E-NEWSLETTER

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IT'S NEVER TO LATE TO LEARN

BY: DONNA JONES

When I walked into the class and looked around the room, all I saw were young "kids." Now "young" has a different meaning when you are 65 years old, and just starting back to school. I prayed, "Lord, what am I doing here?" A small voice said, "I called and you came." Yes, that was true, but I was hard of hearing because it took me 20 years to heed His call.

After graduating from high school in 1960 I began raising a family, and soon became a single parent with two sons. The thought of college was put way back into my dreams.

A few years later I remarried and my husband encouraged me to go to college. I started in 1972 and received an Associates Degree in 1973. We then moved to Alaska and I continued on at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. In 1975 I was once again a single mother of teenagers. Fortunately I had some dear faculty friends at the University of Alaska in Anchorage who kept encouraging me. I graduated Cum Laude in 1976. I was now the teacher I had always wanted to be.

It was about this time that I met that man God had always meant for me. We moved to Juneau and I began teaching. I kept thinking I would get my Master's Degree, but life became busy and then I became very ill. I was bedridden for 4 months and in a wheelchair for 4 years. It was during this time that I felt God was calling me to go into ministry. I never mentioned it to anyone, as I thought they would think I had lost my mind! Years passed and I became healthier. We moved to Surprise, Arizona. Our children were gone from home and we were retired, but I still felt God was calling me.

It was about this time that my darling husband began showing sign of Alzheimer's disease. I felt that was the end of any further education. One day I mentioned that I really felt God wanted to use me in ministry. My husband looked at me and said, "OK, I'll back you in any thing you feel you are to do. Our kids thought I was nuts! I went to the Lord in prayer for many days, and then I knew I would never be content if I didn't follow His calling.

I contacted Trinity Bible College and Theological Seminary and behold—they had a scholarship for me! That's when I knew I was doing the right thing.

During my year in Seminary we lost 6 members of our family, one being our eldest son. My husband's disease progressed, many friends and family members didn't believe in me, and I became ill again. I didn't give up. I knew God was in control. December 2007, I graduated Cum Laude with my Master of Christian Theology degree. AMEN!

Would I do this all over again? Yes, but I wouldn't fight God for so long. Some people think I'm too old to be of much use to God. Hey, no one is too old, or too anything, to do the work of God. We have been put here to spread His word and to glorify Him. I have never found anything in the Bible that said we "old folk" are to stop serving. If you are young, middle aged, or "more mature" like me, start praying and listening. God will call and He won't let go until you come to your knees before Him and say, "Send me Lord. I'm ready." Then watch out!

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Educational Tidbit

Nola Ochs became the World's Oldest college graduate on May 12th, 2007. Nola graduated from Fort Hays University in Kansas with degree in history at the ripe young age of 95. Nola plans to seek employment on a cruise ship, traveling around the world as a storyteller.

2007 Scholarship Recipients

Rachel Bennett Steury~ Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne
 Nancy A. Almodovar~ Trinity College of Bible and Theological Seminary

WHAT MAKES A PERSON GREAT

BY: RACHEL BENNETT STEURY

A prime example of a great person would be my father. He made great sacrifices in his life so that we put our best foot forward as adults. My mother died when I was a baby and dad raised my sister and me alone. He worked hard six days a week and came home exhausted, but never too tired to make dinner and start a load of wash.

Through the years I remember my sister Dara and I being the center of the world for him, never making time for himself and always focusing his energy and resources on our needs. Dad would bring us flowers for Valentines Day and bunnies for Easter. Every Sunday dad would get up early and make French toast and sausage and we'd listen to Casey Kasem's Top Forty Countdown. Something as simple as Sun day breakfast really made Dara and I feel special.

I am the first in my family to attempt college. It is an even bigger accomplishment that I am attending Graduate school. My father did not consider college. Higher education was not as important as paying rent and buying school shoes. What he did consider was how important it was for us to do well in school, so that we may have better opportunities and op-

tions in life. What makes a person great are the lengths they are willing to go to for others and the sacrifices made so that others can advance.

I have been doing very rewarding work in my hometown. Being a labor studies major, I am receptive to issues affecting working people. Unemployment skyrocketed to 5.9% in my county last year and has been consistently higher than the state and national level since 2001. Service sector, low wage jobs are replacing our manufacturing jobs that once provided living wages. Our workforce is in need of new training programs that attract new business into the area. Generally older workers are not ready to jump directly into the university atmosphere. Many have never composed a resume before, much less used a computer. Until I took on this program there was no opportunity for workers to transition into students.

I, along with friends, and colleagues have developed a workforce computer literacy program called the Indiana Training Cooperative (www.indtc.org). Through diligence and persistence, we have solicited donations of everything from computers and printers, to office space and cable internet ac-

cess. Our instructors, specialists in their fields have also donated their time. Through this program we are able to offer workshops in Microsoft Office programs, resume writing and online job searching.

While I recognize that in order to sustain our program we must seek long term funding sources, I am currently working with the State of Indiana Rural and Community Affairs Department to apply for government dollars. Additionally I am contacting federal foundations and organizations for funding. Starting a training program from square one has been a very complicated, agonizing, but rewarding process. At the end of the day I know that my efforts and my sacrifices are well worth helping working people gain new skills for new jobs.

I intend to contribute to society by helping to advance working people. While foreign trade laws and outsourcing have left many Midwestern communities as ghost towns, DeKalb County workers and will have an ally to prepare for economic recovery. The diligence and sacrifice inherited from my father has empowered me to help others.

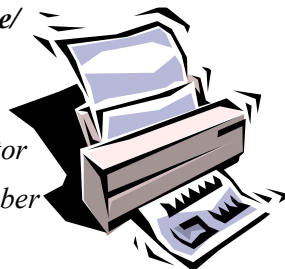
Rachel Bennett Steury

***Rachel maintains a GPA of 3.3 at IPFW her College/
Community Activities includes:***

United Way of Dekalb County Board Member

Dekalb County Day of Caring Sponsorship Coordinator

Indiana Training Cooperative Primary Founding Member



Scholarship Tips

When filling out a scholarship application please include the name and address of your College or University. Do not however place your name or College/University on the actual essay. Scholarships are solely based on the essay and complete anonymity is required.

Philosophy on Education

Plato 424/423 BC - 348/347 BC

Plato is the earliest important educational thinker. He saw education as the key to creating and sustaining his republic. He advocated extreme methods: removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the state, with great care being taken to differentiate children suitable to the various castes, the highest receiving the most education, so that they could act as guardians of the city and care for the less able. Education would be holistic, including facts, skills, physical discipline, and music and art, which he considered the highest form of Endeavour.

For Plato the individual was best served by being subordinated to a just society. Plato's belief that talent was distributed non-genetically and thus must be found in children born to all classes moves us away from aristocracy, and Plato builds on this by insisting that those suitably gifted are to be trained by the state so that they may be qualified to assume the role of a ruling class. What this establishes is essentially a system of selective public education premised on the assumption that an educated minority of the population are, by virtue of their education (and inborn educability), sufficient for healthy governance.

Plato should be considered foundational for democratic philosophies of education both because later key thinkers treat him as such, and because, while Plato's methods are autocratic and his motives meritocratic, he nonetheless prefigures much later democratic philosophy of education. This is different in degree rather than kind from most versions of, say, the American experiment with democratic education, which has usually assumed that only some students should be educated to the fullest, while others may, acceptably, fall by the wayside.



Omicron Psi would like to introduce Stephanie Diiolia as our newest member to our staff.

Stephanie started with Omicron January of 2008. Her duties include but are not limited to answering questions from students and advisors, filling the membership orders, writing letters of recommendation for students, assisting Jennifer and Diana Maunu (the President and Founder) in any and all activities.

In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys shopping, spending time with her nephews, Scrap Booking and photography.

All questions, inquiries, and applications should be directed to our office in Minnesota at

1415 Ruth St. N

St. Paul, MN 55119

417-543-3788

info@omicronpsi.com

WHAT IS INCLUDED WITH OMICRON-PSI MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues for both the Silver Program and the Gold Program remain at \$35.00. With membership the following items are included:

Membership Pin

Membership Certificate

Graduation Honor Cords

Student Plaques may be purchased online at www.omicron-psi.org.



The Message Box

Now you can send a message to your students by logging in on www.omicronpsi.com and clicking on edit. Scroll down to find a message box. Anything that you type here will show up under your University/College info for your student to see. Here you can put dates for deadlines and induction ceremonies. If you are handling applications on campus only, let your students know who they can contact and where they can pick up an application.

Remember only advisors can approve members applicants either online and/or on campus. With online access just log in and approve. By clicking on the name of the applicant at this time you will see their application with all their information. Just copy for your records.

If you have questions, you can contact us by phone at 417-543-3788 or email us at info@omicronpsi.com

HONOR KEY



Can be purchased online at www.omicron-psi.org

This honor Key comes in:

Tie Tac

Pin

10KT Necklace

Charm

NATIONAL OMICRON-PSI HONOR

1415 Ruth St N
St. Paul, MN 55119

Phone: 1-417-543-3788
Email: info@omicronpsi.com



WE ARE NOT JUST ANOTHER HONOR SOCIETY

Omicron-Psi members are dedicated to becoming active participants in community activities. We recognize the need to reach out and make the difference in our homes and neighborhoods. As members we continually press on towards a higher purpose. That purpose is one that lies outside of ourselves and reaches into the depths of others. Too many in our society have taken a non-involvement nap yet awoken just long enough to complain about the environment in which they are a part of. We assess the needs of our environment and take an active position in helping others. It is important to become part of the solution, to remain inactive is to remain part of the problem.

Always keep in mind that Omicron-Psi stands for honor, honesty, integrity and service. As an Omicron-Psi Chapter you are dedicating yourself to continually encourage your chapter members to live by Omicron-Psi standards of conduct in every aspect of their lives.

Be dedicated to become the example for future generations.

Thank you for
visiting us on the
web!



God Bless America

Omicron-Psi symbolizes honor and service. We want to take this opportunity to let our service men and women know that we stand behind you and appreciate your service for our country and for the people you are liberating in Iraq. You are all truly heroes and fulfill all Omicron-Psi requirements for service honors. Our prayers are with you for your safety and speedy return home. May God truly bless you and your families.