

The Chevron

OMEGA PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY • WWW.OMEGAPHIALPHA.ORG

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Chicago, OPA's kind of town

BY ANN DEMATTEO

From the Hard Rock Café, to the Cheesecake Factory, to city blocks, Navy Pier, and the Radisson Hotel and Suites, Omega Phi Alpha took Chicago by storm from July 17 to 21, 2002.

Sisters and alumnae from all parts of the country attended the annual convention, over which National President Sarah VanDyke officiated.

To celebrate their arrival, attendees enjoyed a pool party at the hotel. It was the start of a four-day journey of friendship, leadership and service.

Sisters met in a large conference room in the Radisson, complete with an overhead projector and screen, flip charts and a microphone to facilitate business. Outgoing vice president Sabrina Somerby, filling in for former national secretary Nikki Sprowl, took notes on a laptop computer while the business meetings took place. Other rooms in the hotel were used for the Rose Shop and workshop space.

Sisters also got a chance to see the "real" Chicago on July 19 when they



National officers hold candles after their induction by National President Sarah VanDyke (left).

visited Gill Park, part of the Chicago Park District.

Sisters cleaned up park areas in and around Gill Park and planted flowers as part of the annual convention service project.

"It's great," Psi Chapter's Melissa Keller said while working at nearby Kelly Park. "This weather is so much better than in Texas."

"I hope I'm not destroying their garden," said Rosa Deluke, also of Psi.

"You guys were great. You did a great job," park Supervisor Robert Geraghty said to sisters following the two-hour cleanup. "This is something that wouldn't ordinarily get done."

Plenty of workshops also were held that served as brainstorming sessions for actives and alums alike.

Alumnae talked about how to find service projects outside of the local chapter, what types of service alumnae sisters do at home, and suggestions on how to find things to do.

Chapters also talked about what they do to raise money, and how they involve alums in alumnae teas, barbe-

Newsflash!

We have a new colony! On September 16, Ginger McGarity accepted a petition for colonization from an interested group at the University of Mississippi (otherwise known as 'Ole Miss'). The colony was founded by Lindsay Haskins, a sister of Epsilon Chapter who transferred to Ole Miss this year. The colony has more than 30 prospective members listed on its petition and conducted its first service project on Sept 20. This is an extremely organized, energetic group, and we can already tell they will be a great asset to Omega Phi Alpha.

cues and other events. But, sisters noted that alums don't always attend. Suggestions that were given were to recognize what alums do, put together an "alumnae track" for the event or put the name of a chapter contact person in the *Chevron*. Pam McEwen said alums could help chapters if chapters told alums what they needed, and sisters responded that chapters need money and job leads. Sisters said they would enjoy visits from alums and seeing pictures of their kids. They would like to coordinate projects with alumnae chapters. The OPA Web site, chapter guest books on the Web site and the Yahoo groups message board also are ways to stay in touch.

Constitutional and Bylaws revisions took place, and there was a review of

Save the Date!

**Convention 2003
July 30–August 2 • Atlanta, GA
Renaissance Waverly Hotel**

Spouse/family activities will be planned, so it is perfect for alumnae to turn into a family vacation! Registration details will be announced soon.

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Convention Legislation Review

The main thrust of the legislative action taken at Convention 2002 was to bring the Constitution and Bylaws in line with the five-year plan.

Because we were delayed in the implementation of the fund-raising portion of the plan, we could not institute the paid administrative assistant position and eliminated for this year the offices the staff person would cover. The offices of treasurer, secretary, data base administrator and vice president of service were going to be eliminated because the staff person would be in place and overseen by vice president of business operations. But because funds are not in place, the plan had to be delayed a year.

As a result, the National Executive Board will have the following officers this year: president; executive vice president; executive secretary; treasurer; vice president, communications; vice president, alumnae relations; membership director; vice president, leadership development; vice president, expansions; database administrator, and vice president, advancement planning.

Delegates at Convention 2003 will elect the following officers to the NEB: president, president-elect, vice president, business operations; vice president, communications; vice president, alumnae relations; vice president, leadership development; vice president, expansions; vice president, advancement planning; executive vice president, executive secretary and database administrator.

The article dealing with meetings was changed to read that the location of national conventions will be determined at midyear convention, 1½ years prior to convention by a majority vote of the National Executive Board.

In the bylaws category, it was noted that elected officers shall attend midyear and national convention and shall submit annual and midyear reports. The section dealing with national officers being evaluated at midyear was struck. President Sarah VanDyke said the procedure isn't ready to be used as an evaluation tool.

The duties of executive secretary were amended. The secretary will no

longer have to keep a national scrapbook or maintain a local or national history. The president will appoint someone to fill those tasks.

With regard to the national permanent project, mental health, and the national president's project, the delegation amended the bylaws so that each chapter would have to complete two projects for each cause in a school year.

The role of the Traveling Leadership Consultant was outlined in Article IV, Section 16. It says that the Traveling Leadership Consultants, or TLC's, shall actively serve the training needs of chapters in their districts. They will deliver workshops at district rallies, assist with officer transition and attend chapter level events. They will attend a national training session annually and they will submit a written report at midyear and at the end of the year.

The National Display Award, one of the major national awards of the past, was eliminated and replaced with a National Website Award and a National Scrapbook Award. The rationale was that scrapbooks are much easier to travel with than displays, and that Websites are a wonderful, useful tool to be acknowledged in the sorority.

The national jersey issue was settled, after much consternation at Convention 2000 and 2001. Even though an official design has been adopted, it doesn't mean that sisters can't wear other designs.

The design can be on a T-shirt, jersey or sweatshirt, and can be incorporated with chapter information. The "official" design should be a navy shirt adorned with the sorority's Greek letters. The letters should be fabric with stitched edges. The letters should be in baby blue in the foreground and gold in the background.

Thanks to Mu sister Yashica Robinson, we have the first-ever national hand signal. Only active sisters are to know its meaning, but the signal can be used in front of pledges, who will learn what it means at activation. Sisters will hold up the three fingers of their left hand closely together over their heart, pointing straight up.



Sisters dig Chicago, as you can see by the way they're putting in some elbow grease at the national convention service project at Kelly and Gill Parks near Wrigley Field.

Looking for Knoxville-area Alums

My name is Jill Whittington, and I am a Nu alum living in Knoxville, TN. I am looking for other alumnae in the Knoxville / east Tennessee area. I'm interested in starting an alumnae organization if there is enough interest, but right now I'm just looking for some local sisters. I also would like Knoxville sisters to contact me. Phone 865-984-7705 or e-mail: Jill.Whittington@alcoa.com.

If there is interest in an expansion at UT Knoxville, Maryville College, or any of the other local colleges, I would be thrilled to help.

OPA, it's a family affair

BY ANN DEMATTEO

In Omega Phi Alpha, we are all sisters, but at Convention 2002, we got to meet real family members of sisters, and hope that the trend persists as OPA continues to have its summer meeting in cities rather than college campuses.

This summer, we got to meet Penny and Kathryn McCullough, the sister and niece of National Treasurer Pamela McEwen. Helping to set up the Rose Shop with daughter Kelly Myers was her mother, Sarah Myers. Keith Clyne, husband of Vice President, Expansions, Ginger McGarity, entertained daughter Kinsey when Ginger was in meetings.

Matt Kornacki, the husband of Kerry Kornacki, who served as convention coordinator, was around and about, as was Bill Randall, husband of Lara Randall and a longtime Omega Man and APO brother at Auburn University.

Maura Landry, sister of Anita Landry, traveled to Chi-Town from Louisiana.

"Today I walked to the end of creation," Maura said while sitting in the lobby outside the banquet room at the Radisson.

"We got a flat tire changed and then went to the Sears Tower. We had stuffed pizza for lunch, then went to Navy Pier," Penny McCullough said.

Penny McCullough said that when



Family members were happy to be at Convention 2002. L-R: Maura Landry, Bill Randall, Matt Kornacki, Penny McCullough, Kathryn McCullough. Seated: Keith Clyne and Kinsey Clyne

OPA holds conventions in spots like Chicago, it could be a time for a family vacation.

"I came here because I've been here before," said Kelly's mom, Sarah. "I wanted to show her places."

"I'm planning to come next year and see the sights," said Matt Kornacki, who married Gamma sister Kerry in April.

And if Bill Randall has anything to say about it, there will be lots of things for the family members of sisters to do at future conventions.

"I was helping out behind the scenes this year. I judged the chapter displays, took pictures and hauled luggage all over the place," said Bill, who is already thinking about planning a "family track" for relatives who join sisters when they attend Convention 2003 in Georgia.

Money matters

We are looking for a sister to serve the sorority as a financial advisor.

This person should have expertise in investing, to look at our assets and make recommendations to maximize our earnings. If you have these qualifications and are willing and able to serve as the national financial advisor (or know someone who does), contact:

**Pamela McEwen
108 Bluewater Circle
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 360-9060
mcewenpamela@aol.com**



Kelly Myers and her mother, Sarah, share a special moment at the Saturday evening banquet.

Visit chapter Web sites or online chat

Alpha—http://www.geocities.com/ophia_bg/
Delta—<http://stuact.tamu.edu/stuorgs/opa/>
Mu—<http://www.geocities.com/omegaphialphamu>
Nu—<http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/opa/>
Omicron—http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/omega_phi_alpha/
Rho—<http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Org/Student/OPA/>
Sigma—http://www.geocities.com/utc_ophia
Phi—<http://www.ophia.org>
Upsilon—<http://www.louisiana.edu/Student/Organizations/OPhiA/>

To join OPA's Yahoo group list serve, visit:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/omegaphialpha/join>

What did you like best about Convention 2002?



Nu—Chelsea Morrisey, Cara Jones, Radha Sathe, Ashley Smith. “The people. Meeting new people from the different chapters.”



Sigma—Kelly Johnston, Amy Greer. “We really liked hearing everyone’s ideas and input and the people we met.”



Rho—Bridget Bailey, Megan Zerhusen, Sara Gouedy. “We learned to mulch.”



Omicron—Catherine Buck, Stephanie Uptain. “Learning new stuff and being able to take the information back.”



Delta—Brooke Williams, Megan Wood. “Lot of fun walking around the streets of the city. It’s been great getting to know each other.”



Alpha Alpha—Janice Wintermyer, April Azzarello. “We really liked just meeting everyone from around the country.”



Chi—Kira Wood, Tracy Cameron. “The friendships that we’ll continue to have.”



Psi—Melissa Keller, Rosa Deluke. “Getting lost in Chicago...running after the bus.”



Tau—Amu Patel, Vaishali Patel. “The workshop discussion on diversifying our membership, hosted by Nu.”



Gamma—Angela Gordon. “Doing the service project was fun. I like pulling weeds.”



Phi—Jeanine Cali, Susie Nicholson, Becky Clark, Jennifer Jaeger, Ashley Foret. “Meeting new people, the service project, getting new ideas for fund-raisers.”



Epsilon—Stephanie Hallman, Robin Bragg, Christy Jones. “Getting advice from alums and the service project. It was a good overview of everything we stand for.”



Mu—Yashica Robinson. “It was a learning experience, yet a vacation.”

Convention 2002 Award Winners

TRAVEL AWARDS

National Travel Award

Phi

Alumnae Travel—Individual

Ann DeMatteo

Alumnae Travel Award—Chapter

Chi Chapter

CHAPTER AWARDS

Chapter Excellence Program

Gold Seal

Epsilon

Tau

Silver Seal

Nu

Bronze Seal

Delta

Rho

Chi

Sisterhood Award Program

Silver Seal

Epsilon

Bronze Seal

Nu

Sigma

National Service Award

Chi Chapter

Areas of Service Awards

University Community

Nu Chapter—American Red Cross Fund-raising.

Community-At-Large

Chi Chapter—Teddi Bear Ball for Huggable Heroes

Members-At-Large

Nu Chapter—Rose Nite

Nations of the World

Chi Chapter—Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Permanent Project

Chi Chapter—“Make a Difference Day”

President's Project

Chi Chapter—Fund-raiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital

National Membership Award

Rho Chapter

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OFFICERS

Outstanding Chapter Presidents

Megan Zerhusen, Rho Chapter
Chelsea Morrisey, Nu Chapter
Heather Maxwell, Epsilon Chapter

Outstanding Service Officer

Bridget Bailey, Rho Chapter

Outstanding Membership Officer

Amber Braden, Rho Chapter

National Display Award

Tau Chapter

Miss Congeniality

April Azzarello

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE AWARDS TOP 20*

Nicole Leaverton, Rho Chapter, 70.5 hours
Bridget Bailey, Rho Chapter, 61 hours
Michelle Blackburn, Rho Chapter, 61 hours
Rashmi Rampuria, Tau Chapter, 58.5 hours
Nicole Gott, Sigma Chapter, 58.5 hours
Kelly Johnston, Sigma Chapter, 55 hours
Jennifer Thompson, Delta Chapter, 53.5 hours
Samantha Haycraft, Rho Chapter, 51 hours
Mary Varnell, Sigma Chapter, 51 hours
Dedrah Lafitte, Delta Chapter, 49 hours
Jennifer Weihert, Chi Chapter, 47 hours
Robin Hart, Sigma Chapter, 46 hours
Chelsea Morrisey, Nu Chapter, 45.5 hours
Laura Jones, Alpha Alpha Chapter, 43 hours
Shannon Collins, Rho Chapter, 43 hours
Amber Braden, Rho Chapter, 42.5 hours
Nora DeCul, Sigma Chapter, 42 hours
Lisset Carranza, Psi Chapter, 41.5 hours
Elida Lugo, Psi Chapter, 41 hours
Kristen Hart, Sigma Chapter, 39 hours

Top Five Chapters in Service

Rho Chapter, 44.22 hours per sister
Sigma Chapter, 40.44 hours per sister
Psi Chapter, 32.55 hours per sister
Alpha Alpha Chapter, 31.48 hours per sister
Tau Chapter, 29.86 hours per sister

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Amanda Leigh Dodsen, Omicron
Fumilayo DeCarvalho Rita, Upsilon

**IAS criteria has changed resulting in fewer hours being counted than in the past, when the award went to individuals with more than 100 hours.*

VanDyke tops in field

National President Sarah VanDyke has not only been viewed as a leader by Omega Phi Alpha, but by the Duval County Public Schools as well.

Sarah was selected as the 2001-2002 Teacher of the Year for the Beulah Beal Young Parents Center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Beulah Beal is a school for parenting and pregnant teenagers. The public school typically serves girls from grades six through 12, with an occasional boy or two, Sarah said.

“Our students come to us voluntarily while they're pregnant, and stay as long as they want, but usually no more than two school years. They then transfer back to their home school,” she said.

The students receive the same credit and meet the same standards as they would in their home school. The school provides a safe environment for the girls to continue their education and receive academic support as well as prenatal and parenting education.

While she was Teacher of the Year, she taught sixth- and seventh-grade math; eighth grade pre-algebra; ninth-grade algebra I and creative writing.

She was the sponsor for the school yearbook, served as the chairwoman for the school improvement committee, and was the department chairwoman for middle school math. Sarah taught at Beulah Beal from March 1999 until June 2002.

Sarah holds a B.S. in interdisciplinary studies with a minor in mathematics from Texas A&M University. She holds certifications to teach elementary and middle school math in Texas and Florida.

Convention 2002 continued from page 1

the five-year plan, "Vision 2005," and our goals.

Former National President Ginger McGarity and Sarah VanDyke described the new national structure.

"It has two main thrusts—that there will be more face-to-face service to the chapters, and that the board will be repositioned from (concentrating on) tasks" to focusing on strategic planning, Ginger said.

To accomplish the goal, district levels have been developed more fully, tactical roles on the NEB are being phased out and new roles have been created.

"One thing that's new is the past national president has official duties, to develop leadership," said Ginger, who is filling that role now.

The vice president of advancement planning will focus on the fund raising to pay for a future staff person, while the vice president for leadership development would train the traveling leadership consultants to be the "face of OPA" for actives.

The vice president of business operations will start next year. She would preside in the absence of the president and will oversee the business aspects of the sorority.

During the business meeting, it was moved that Omega Chapter at Rutgers University be declared defunct because of its inability to pay \$10,000 liability insurance coverage required by the state of New Jersey.

Alpha Chapter was placed on conditional status because members have not attended two consecutive national conventions. The chapter must follow a mandated assistance plan and will have one vote at convention next year.

Upsilon was placed on conditional status and will be placed on a chapter assistance plan.

Renee Gordon, outgoing membership director, announced that there were 157 pledges in the fall and 70 in the spring.

Marlene Purdy, vice president, alumnae relations, announced that anyone who has old OPA records in their homes could send them to her for storage in the national storage room in Bowling Green, Ohio.

In speaking to everyone during the Saturday night banquet at the hotel, Sarah VanDyke said there are two people who were so important in making convention "fabulous."

"We couldn't have had convention without her," Sarah said of Convention Coordinator Kerry Oldenburg Kornacki.

Sabrina, too, wore many hats at this convention, from her own vice president of service duties, to filling in as secretary and treasurer. The convention could not have gone smoothly without her, Sarah said.

She also gave kudos to her "mentor," Ginger, who supported her as immediate past president, and in the past wrote her a reference for graduate school, a testament to the networking and professional opportunities the sorority provides.

In Sarah's address to the group, she wanted to review why she joined OPA, and why she continues to be active, since people who are not sisters often ask why she is still involved.

While a new active, Sarah was elected by Delta to attend Convention 1995 in Georgia Tech in Atlanta, where she met Lara Aldrich from Omicron and Bill Randall, who later became Lara's husband.

She also talked about the friendship that "never began" but just always was with Sabrina, and with Anita Landry, who has been a "big friend to me all these years."

She's been asked why she stays, and the response is, "Why not?"

"The sorority has done so much for me, that I owe so much back. Every day, I continue to grow."

Sarah announced that this year's president's project would be Girl Scouts of the USA, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

Winners for various awards were announced. Sabrina said that active chapters provided 5,514.5 hours of service this year, a figure that would have paid \$30,329.75 to someone working minimum wage.

Marlene announced that the District Alumnae Advisor for the Midwest is Kelly Myers and Cindy Steen will handle the Northeast.

Sarah inaugurated the new officers, Erin Stiers, executive secretary; Leann Williams, executive vice



Officers in the Bill Randall Fan Club are, L to R, Sarah VanDyke, Lara Randall and Sabrina Somerby.

president; Pamela McEwen, treasurer; Kerry Kornacki, membership director; Patti Ramey, vice president, leadership development; Jan Titsworth, vice president, advancement planning; Ginger McGarity, vice president, expansions, and vice president, communications, and Chelsea Morrissey, database administrator. Marlene Purdy renewed her oath as vice president, alumnae relations.

Earlier, chapters appointed their Active District Officers. Stephanie Hallman of Epsilon, Bridget Bailey of Rho and Carmen Lindy of Mu were named for Epsilon, Mu and Rho in the areas of leadership, friendship and service respectively. For Nu Sigma and Chi, Tracy Cameron from Chi will handle leadership; Ashley Smith of Nu will be the service rep, and Kelly Johnston of Sigma will be friendship.

Catherine Buck of Omicron will be the service ADO for Omicron and Upsilon. Two other ADO's still need to be announced.

At Delta, Tau and Psi, Melissa Keller of Psi will be leadership; Amu Patel of Tau will be friendship, and Megan Wood of Delta will be service. Out in Arizona, the chapters of Phi and Alpha Alpha will have Ashley Foret of Phi in the leadership area; Becky Clark of Phi for friendship and Tessa Childers of Alpha Alpha for service.

Sarah appointed Sabrina to be coordinator of convention 2004 and Melonie to be chapter fund-raising advisor.

Chapter Reports

SIGMA

Now that summer break is over, it is good to be back at school and to spend time with sorority sisters again. We just finished with rush and have seven new pledges. Our upcoming events and activities include: cooking dinner at the Ronald McDonald House on Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18; a retreat on Sept. 27 and 28 at Fall Creek Falls, which sounds like it will be a lot of fun, and the Alzheimer's Walk on Oct. 19. We will serve as chaperones at a Girl Scout dance on Dec. 6 and we also have Founder's Day scheduled for Dec. 7.

PHI

Service for the fall has had a great start. We took two trips to the United Methodist Outreach Ministries, one as an executive board to help in child-care, and the other as a chapter to paint the facility. We also have begun to prepare for our upcoming projects by attending a Girl Scout troop leader meeting and an AIDS Walk team captain's meeting. Our planned projects include La Mesita (a local homeless shelter), a neighborhood cleanup, Ronald McDonald House, the Diabetes Walk, the Race for the Cure, and the Arizona Opera. The service committee has also begun planning our bi-annual Girl Scout Badge Day in November. Local Girl Scout troops of every level are very excited that Omega Phi Alpha has made them its national president's project this year.

Phi Chapter will donate \$1,000 to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The funds were raised last spring.

We are already starting our major fall fund raiser, working the concessions stand at the Cardinals football games. In addition, the fundraising committee will work hard to find opportunities for OPA to earn money to cover the budget and be able to put on great service projects.

Everything with rush is running smoothly this semester. A group of amazing women came to our information sessions, and we are looking forward to getting to know them better. Pledge installation was on Sept. 20.

So far, the sisterhood committee planned a fiesta as our September social. On Oct. 5 and 6, the district

rally with our sisters from Northern Arizona University was held. It concluded with the diabetes walk. One of the main goals this semester is to strengthen our bonds as sisters for the better of our sorority.

Phi Chapter was fortunate enough to win the Travel Award at convention due to our large representation to learn more about the organization and the fundamental aspects of it.

NU

Nu Chapter started off the year with a bang. We may be a small chapter, but we are getting busy and getting things done. We have an office in the Student Services Building that we share with the College Democrats, so we have some storage space and a place for office hours.

For our service to the university community, we are leaving food out at different places around campus every two weeks with a sign saying for people to eat it courtesy of OPA. For the university, we handed out cards with a happy saying on them on Sept. 11. We requested that whoever received the card add a nice saying on the back and pass it on. These cards were just meant to brighten up the gloomy day. For service to the sisters, we have decided to focus on our alumnae. One night of rush we had a service night, and we made paper flowers. Then, the next Monday, we had dinner with our alumnae as well as the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter, and we brought the flowers to them. Everyone enjoyed the alumnae/active mingling, and some recent Nu alumnae got a chance to meet members of the Atlanta alumnae chapter and hopefully become involved with them. We hope to be able to do more with our alumnae as the semester continues. For our service to the community, we have already started an ongoing project of helping maintain trails and cleaning up at Fort Yargo State Park.

We are planing to do something on campus for National Service Week. On Oct. 5, we participated in Hands On Atlanta Day. On Oct. 19, we worked on Teambuzz, a campus-wide service project that benefits the Atlanta community. On Halloween, we are trick-or-treating for UNICEF. We look forward to continuing the quilting we started last spring with some older women at a local commu-

nity center. We are also looking forward to working with a troop of Girl Scouts after we do our training.

A sister retreat on Sept. 13 gave us a chance to re-bond and grow closer to each other. We had rush, and it's looking like we are going to have a small pledge class again this semester, but they are awesome women. We look forward to working with them.

Alumnae Questionnaire

Please fill out so we know what's new with you! (You may use another sheet)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Current occupation/employer _____

Professional memberships _____

Volunteer services/activities _____

Awards/honors _____

Local chapter activities _____

Regional/national activities _____

Other items of interest/family info _____

Please return to: Marlene Purdy
617 Lafayette Boulevard, Bowling
Green, OH 43402; or e-mail:
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