

Chevron

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

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Rockin' it in the Music City: Convention 2004

by Megan Crump,
Psi Chapter Active

Stepping off of the airplane into a city I had never thought I'd ever be going to, I could only imagine what was going to happen in Nashville during the middle of July. Joining Omega Phi Alpha a year ago was an important step in my life, and there I was, about to meet sisters from all over the country!

Riding through the city from the airport to the hotel, I saw things like the famous strip, Tootsie's, and even Centennial Park right across the street from our hotel! Omega Phi Alpha chose a beautiful city to host quite marvelous sisters – definitely different from the South Texas heat I'm used to!

Walking into the hotel, it was so awesome to see girls I'd never met before that wearing the same letters that I was. It was awesome to meet alumnae who even shared those same principles of friendship,

leadership, and service. The first night we were all there, everyone had a chance to relax from travel, and we had a basic kick-off meeting that Thursday evening. Actives and alumnae sat in groups and played icebreaker games. After introductions of the National Executive Board and the attending delegates from each chapter, sisters called it a night.

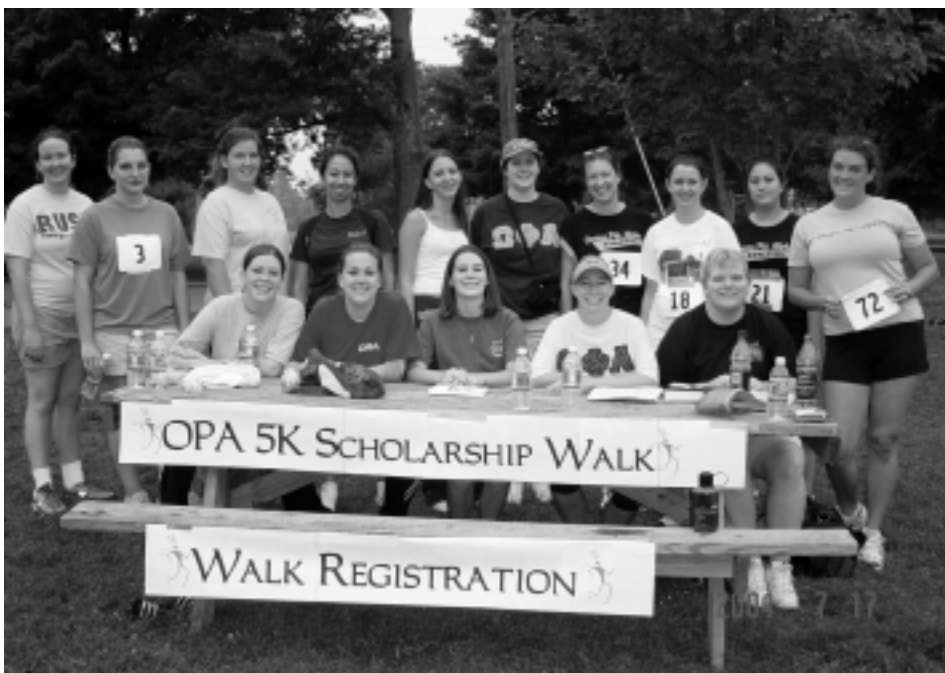
Business officially started on that Friday morning. Outgoing President Sarah VanDyke presided over convention business, and set it all in motion. Business continued every day from the mornings through the afternoons, leaving some free time in the evenings. Throughout the intensive meetings, actives and alumnae voted on numerous changes to the national constitution, budget revisions, NEB elections, and attended workshops on various topics. Business was sought out and conducted very professionally.

As an active sister who had never attended convention before, I learned so

much about the organization of Omega Phi Alpha. It was very interesting to see how the budget is put together, how elections are done, and even the simple fact of using Robert's Rules made it a professional atmosphere. It was great to meet the leaders of the organization and be able to voice our own concerns of our chapter. Simply learning the business side of Omega Phi Alpha helped me to fully understand my sorority even more.

The big service event that was planned out for the sisters to participate in was the Scholarship Trust 5K through the beautiful Centennial Park. Each of the chapters and alumnae were asked to raise money for this event before convention, and participating delegates, sisters, and alumnae all walked and ran for this cause. Although it was at 6 A.M., I did find it very refreshing and a fun service event to have at convention. Alumnae also participated in a special alumnae service project where they mulched and planted in the gardens of the Nashville Parks Arboretum.

Friendship wise, I found myself being able to talk to almost anyone in the room, simply because we shared a bond through Omega Phi Alpha. Call me corny, but it's true. I had such a great time meeting girls from all over the country, and it was so interesting to see how their chapters functioned in comparison with my home chapter, Psi. We also bonded and had a great time at a fashion show, starring the sisters of Omega Phi Alpha! The French Shoppe provided their store and beautiful clothing for a fun and entertaining show. Patti Ramey also gave an awesome speech, making us proud to be who we are, and a few awards were given, including an award to Rho Chapter for their dedication and persistence in helping out Mu Chapter in their time of need. Actives and alumnae also celebrated sisterhood through a barbeque lunch, which I might add was



After the Scholarship 5K, sisters gather for a picture in front of the registration table.

(Continued on page 6)

The Chevron is a quarterly newsletter produced for Omega Phi Alpha, National Service Sorority alumnae and active sisters.

National Executive Board Members

President - Leann Williams
VP Business Operations - Susie Larson
Executive Secretary - Anita Landry
VP Communications - Sarah VanDyke
VP Alumnae Relations - Lisa Guest
VP Leadership Development - Patti Ramey
VP Expansions - Ginger McGarity
VP Advancement - Sarah VanDyke
Membership Director - Amy McConnell
VP Finance - Pam McEwen

Chevron Editor: Sarah VanDyke

Layout and Design: Tim Hatley

Distribution:

The Chevron is mailed out four times a year to all alumnae and active OPA chapters. Distribution dates are as follows: November 1, January 1, April 1, and July 1.

Submissions:

Articles for the Chevron are written by active sisters and alumnae. If you have a feature story about an alumnae or special project happening at your chapter, please email it to:
chevron@omegaphialpha.org
Pictures may also be submitted in jpg or bmp format.

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To request a complete contact list of all sorority officers, appointments, and chapter addresses, please contact the National Executive Secretary:
Anita Landry
1917 Aymond Street
Eunice, LA 70535

Convention 2004 Award Winners

TRAVEL AWARDS

National Travel Award

Phi Chapter

Alumnae Travel Award - Chapter

Delta Chapter

Alumnae Travel Award - Individual

Lisa Guest (Mu)

ALUMNAE AWARDS

Alumnae Service Awards

Carol (Theilen) Elmquist
Kate (Rudd) LaCour
Patti Ramey

CHAPTER AWARDS

National Service Award:

(One paid delegate to next convention)
Delta Chapter

National Membership Award

Chi Chapter

Chapter Development Awards:

(\$150 each chapter)
Nu Chapter
Psi Chapter

New Chapter Builder Award:

Alpha Beta Chapter

Website Award

Epsilon Chapter

Editor's Note

You may notice some changes in the *Chevron* as we attempt to improve upon the professional look of our national publication. In this issue you will find that the full contact sheet has been removed and replaced by a smaller publication information section to allow more space for feature articles and sorority information. The contact sheet can still be obtained by contacting the National Executive Secretary.

Secondly, you will notice the chapter news section has been removed. Chapter reports will be placed in a new online chapter information publication. Moving chapter reports will allow us to distribute chapter information more timely, and it provides another

Scrapbook Award:

Rho Chapter

Service Area Awards:

(\$25 each)

University – Nu Chapter
Community – Gamma & Delta Chapter
Sisters – Rho Chapter
Nations – Chi Chapter
Permanent – Psi Chapter
President's – Epsilon Chapter

Chapter Excellence Program

Gold Seal

Nu
Psi

Silver Seal

Delta
Epsilon

Bronze Seal

Chi

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT IN SERVICE AWARDS TOP TEN

1. Melissa Keller (Psi) 130.5 hours
2. Stacey Keller (Psi) 121.17 hours
3. Leslie Blair (Delta) 107 hours
4. Kayleen Burns (Delta) 104.5 hours
5. Erica Gray (Psi) 96.67 hours
6. Olga Talip (Psi) 89.75 hours
7. Michele Payne (Psi) 89 hours
8. Erica Gutierrez (Psi) 87.75 hours
9. Mary Scheske (Delta) 84 hours
10. Jana Vaughan (Delta) 83 hours

source for the NEB to distribute official information to the chapters. The moving of chapter reports will also allow us to adjust the distribution schedule of the *Chevron* in the future to get post-convention information out sooner, and it will allow for additional larger feature articles. You will still be able to access chapter information via the chapter publication online, and in the future we hope to include an event calendar in the *Chevron* for chapters to post upcoming events for alumnae.

In Sisterhood,
Sarah VanDyke

2004 scholarship winners

by Radha Sathe,
Active Scholarship Trustee

OPA's scholarship fund traditionally awards two one-hundred dollar scholarships annually at national convention. This year was special in that we awarded these scholarships to three outstanding active sisters: Bethany Cray (Alpha Alpha), Megan Braemer (Alpha), and Linda Hanham (Delta). All of this year's applicants were very deserving of recognition, so we would like to say congratulations to everyone who applied. We are very proud and hope that everyone continues to be involved in OPA and live by our three cardinal principles.

Factors for the scholarship include basic facts such as cumulative GPA, enrollment status in school for the previous and

upcoming semesters, and number of academic years in OPA since pledgship. The application also asks for information based on OPA's cardinal principles: leadership positions inside and out of OPA, a definition of friendship in 5 sentences or less, three favorite types of service, and which cardinal principle has had the most effect on her personally since pledging OPA. The last question on the application looks at the more personal side of each applicant and asks why she joined OPA.

All three of this year's scholarship winners are doing well in school, have been in OPA for at least a year, and have held a variety of leadership positions. Their leadership experience has been from both OPA and other activities related to church, student support services, and campus involvement events. One interest-

ing thing in these applications was that each one of the scholarship winners named a different cardinal principle as having affected them the most since joining OPA, showing that all three of them are needed for a healthy sisterhood.

Scholarships have not been awarded the past few years because of a lack of funds and lack of interest from the active sisters. This year a big focus was put on the scholarship fund. The service project at convention was a very successful 5K walk to raise money for the scholarship trust. We received twelve wonderful applications from at least five different chapters this year. These scholarships will continue to be awarded to very deserving, hard-working active sisters for years to come. Once again, congratulations to Bethany, Megan, and Linda on a wonderful year.

President's project named "Support Your Sisterhood"

by Sarah VanDyke,
VP Communications
and VP Advancement Planning

Leann Williams took the podium at the Convention 2004 banquet shortly after being installed as the new National President. Leann shared her excitement, hopes and dreams for the future of the sorority. During Leann's speech she mentioned that she had served with six different presidents in her time in OPA, and had learned valuable lessons from each of them that she now takes with her into her presidency. She said that Kim Sawyers instilled in her the appreciation for order and rules. Ann DeMateo taught her that if you love OPA and have a great time, this will overcome any leadership short comings. Jan Titsworth showed her the importance of portraying a professional image. Kristen Brenner taught her to always value and focus on the chapters as they are where everything in OPA begins. Ginger McGarity taught her that the National President sets the direction for the National Executive Board, and it is OK to have a different opinion or be unpopular at times. Finally, Sarah

VanDyke showed her that it is acceptable to ask a great deal of OPA officers and leaders as long as you provide all the tools and support they need to be successful.

Next Leann turned her attention to some of the recent disturbing trends in OPA that she feels need to be addressed: "National focus seems to be turning away from the chapter support, and the service to our sisterhood appears to be weakening." Leann stated, "The chapters are where everything starts. If we do not have strong, thriving chapters, we do not have alumnae, money, and network. As a result of this, I want to turn our focus inward and make our National President project for 2004-2005 'Support your Sisterhood.'"

Leann identified three main areas of support for the sorority to focus on:

Emotional - show respect, courtesy, and encouragement to your fellow sisters. Respect their privacy and views. Be courteous at all times. Always encourage and support.

Time and Energy - Support the sisterhood by giving all you can in a positive way.

Money - Fundraisers, donations."

Finally, Leann additionally challenged the chapters to achieve the following over the next year:

- "Support your officers and officer transitions.
- Participate in district retreats and projects.
- Proactively help other chapters, especially those in need.
- Conduct fundraisers for the chapters and for the scholarship.
- Have ethics training classes and teamwork development.
- Implement sister-to-sister programs to help build up relationships and sisterhood.
- Find and engage alumnae."

Meet the new National Executive Board members

Lisa (Bell) Guest National Vice President Alumnae Relations

Lisa pledged Mu chapter in the fall of 1983. At the chapter level, she held the office of Fellowship Director and was very involved in helping Mu Chapter host the 1986 National Convention at MTSU. In May 1988, Lisa graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. After graduation, Lisa moved to Portland, Oregon to enjoy the beauty the Pacific Northwest offered and the unique opportunities available in her field of study. After 3 years in Oregon, Lisa returned to Texas.

In 1997 after 10+ years in the Social Work field, Lisa decided a change was needed, and thankfully she was given an opportunity that changed her life. With no experience as a Trainer or in the field of training and Development, Lisa was hired as the sole Regional Instructor for the Good Samaritan Campus in Cypress, Texas.

Lisa's boss and the entire Training Department were located in Watertown, Wisconsin. Needless to say, the training and mentoring Lisa received was limited. With no experience or background in training, Lisa often felt unprepared for her job. At that point, Lisa decided to pursue a master's degree. In 2003, Lisa graduated from the University of Houston with a Master of Science in Training and Development degree.

Lisa now has her own business, Maverick Instructional Services, which provides affordable health and safety courses in the communities near Iola, Texas.

Lisa and her husband, George were married in March 1997. In 2001, George retired from the Houston Police Department and he and Lisa now live on 46 acres in Iola, Texas. Lisa and George hope to adopt in the near future. But in the mean time, they share their lives with their 4-legged children, Bubba Jake, Mattea, and K'Bo.

For many years, Lisa has wanted to become involved in OPA and is very excited with the opportunity she has been given. Lisa looks forward to organizing and overseeing the massive project of



NEB members gather for a photo during their September retreat in Houston, TX. Back: Ginger, Lisa, Anita; middle: Pam, Susie, Leann, front: Amy, Sarah, Patti.

locating our alumnae. With more alumnae involvement in all levels of our organization, Lisa feels OPA will grow, develop stronger roots, and have many opportunities to share OPA's cardinal principles of Friendship, Leadership, and Service in the coming years.

Amy (Russell) McConnell National Membership Director

Amy is an alumnae of Delta chapter at Texas A & M University. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Houston. She currently resides in Katy, Texas with her husband Shannon and their two dogs Hooch and Shy Anne. She teaches integrated physics and chemistry at Cinco Ranch High School in Katy.

As the national membership director, Amy hopes to assist pledge educators in conducting successful rushes and help them to make pledge semesters an exciting and motivating time for future sisters of Omega Phi Alpha.

Anita Landry National Executive Secretary

Anita is delighted to have the opportunity to serve O Phi A in the capacity of National Secretary. In addition to compiling chapter newsletters, revising the constitution, and taking minutes, she was also appointed the Awards Chair and will chair the Vision 2010 Committee and Honorary Membership Committee. She will maintain the national calendar and see that it is disseminated to the appropriate individuals, send out all official sorority correspondence, serve on the Constitution Revisions Committee, answer all membership status questions, and serve on the committee that will update the LEAD Team handbooks.

A few more ways to service the chapters were identified early in her term. She will work on a flow chart of information that will graphically depict who receives what documentation or forms and when they should receive it, as well as sending out a disassociation report every semester.

Anita will also develop and provide secretary training at the chapter level and moderate all of our online communities. She would like to express to everyone that she has an "open-door" policy when it comes to OPA. Never hesitate to contact her!

From the desk of the VP Alumnae Relations

by Lisa Guest
VP Alumnae Relations

Convention 2004 has brought a new focus on the alumnae. This is a new beginning for all of us, and I want to say thank you for the opportunity to contribute in locating and reacquainting alumnae with OPA. To accomplish this task both actives and alumnae will need to work together.

After being elected to the NEB, I searched through MTSU mementoes seeking treasured OPA materials. I do not call myself a pack rat, but I definitely scrapbooked before scrapbooking was cool! After a fairly quick search, I located my Pledge Book and a very tattered blue folder with the Greek letters, of OPA across it –what I found was amazing.

I pledged in the fall of 1983, so needless to say there were many past Chevrons to read. Over the years OPA has experienced many changes, but has remained the same in many aspects. One thing that has not change is the desire to locate alumnae and rekindle their OPA spirit. Every year articles appear in the Chevron requesting information on lost alumnae. But yet, we are still searching with apparently little progress. Well ladies, this is a new beginning!

Since at least 1990, I have wanted to become involved in OPA in some way. But for whatever reasons, there has not been much response in my request for information. The alumnae section of the Chevron has many requests for this same information. Once we are no longer active members of our individual chapters, alumnae are anxious to know how they can best serve the overall organization. Many alumnae want to be contacted and pointed in the direction that will best serve the active chapters. I cannot say why alumnae were not utilized more in the past, but OPA is committed to our alumnae and we are focused on the future. During Convention 2004, this commitment was made very clear by both active and alumnae sisters.

At this past Convention delegates approved money in the 2004-2005 fiscal budget to conduct a project focused on locating and contacting lost alumnae. This project will be a major focus in the coming

year for DAA's, active chapters, and myself. Alumnae, be prepared to hear from your OPA sisters!

After being away form OPA for nearly 20 years, I am excited and dedicated to the task ahead. I hope all alumnae will see this as a new beginning and a time to reacquaint with OPA and her cardinal principles of friendship, leadership, and service.

Convention Overview

Alumnae delegates were unfortunately not recruited prior to Convention, so it was an effort to name the required alumnae delegates before the business meeting. Convention is as much for alumnae as it is for actives, and delegates are needed to represent and vote on issues important to alumnae. Without alumnae representation legislative polices and procedures may not reflect the concerns and needs of alumnae.

Convention 2004 focused more on workshops and sisterhood than on legislative business, but one relevant piece of legislation should be of interest to all alumnae. Delegates passed legislation that increases alumnae votes by 50%. This piece of legislation increased alumnae districts from 4 to 7, thereby providing

alumnae with 3 additional voting delegates needed for Convention 2005. Alumnae need to think ahead to Convention 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona as we will need a total of 9 voting delegates. If any alumnae are interested in attending convention, the national financial guidelines provide for 50% reimbursement of travel costs for delegates.

Convention 2004 provided alumnae with many opportunities for friendship, leadership, and service. Thursday, alumnae kicked off Convention with a service project at a local Nashville park. Friday provided bonding and sisterhood during the alumnae coffee/breakfast. Alumnae continued this bonding and sisterhood with an afternoon of pedicures, manicures, and other pampering before attending an evening fashion show at the French Shoppe on West Avenue. Both active and alumnae sisters graciously volunteered to model the clothing of her choice. After the fashion show, many alumnae continued sisterhood with an impromptu gathering.

Saturday morning Marlene Purdy, the outgoing VP Alumnae Relations met with alumnae to discuss issues relevant to

(Continued on page 6)



Alumnae in attendance at the Alumnae Business Meeting, Convention 2004

Convention 2005

Convention 2005 will be in Phoenix, AZ, July 20-24, 2005.

Watch the web for more information.

Alumnae News continued

and of interest to alumnae. During this meeting the discussion focused on ways to remain an active part of OPA. Alumnae discussed creating an alumnae packet and specific information to be included in this packet. All alumnae in attendance at the alumnae business meeting gathered for a group picture afterwards. Later, alumnae gathered for a session on alumnae support & communication. During the meeting, alumnae discussed issues concerning the best way to provide support to individual chapters, methods to keep the communication lines open between alumnae and actives, and locating lost alumnae.

At the end of the day, Ginger McGarity, VP Expansions led a senior ceremony for both old and new alumnae. This was a special ceremony for many of us who may have been away from OPA awhile or who may never have experienced this ceremony. It allowed individuals to renew and rededicate to OPA and her cardinal principles. Saturday evening, alumnae concluded Convention 2004 by attending Banquet with several alumnae receiving awards and special recognition.

The Chevron

The importance of alumnae is demonstrated by the *Chevron's* representation. 50% of the *Chevron* should include articles pertaining to or of importance to alumnae. This is one area that all alumnae need to take responsibility - any alumna interested in contributing to or writing an article for the *Chevron* should do so. This is a great way to remain involved in OPA. Active alumnae chapters should also submit articles and reports for each *Chevron*. This type of information would provide alumnae with a resource and an incentive to become involved in existing alumnae chapters or to start new alumnae chapters.

Rockin' continued

which I might add was much different from Texas barbeque!! It was a lot of fun to be able to socialize with the other chapter delegates outside of the business and service atmosphere. The actives and alumnae are such cool people.

To bring the awesome convention to a close, we all gathered together at the banquet on that Saturday night. Dinner was served and then awards were presented. Sisters celebrated their achievements from the school year, and cheered on their fellow chapters. After active chapters were awarded, alumnae and NEB members were also honored for their achievements and service to OPhiA. Thereafter, a "roast" was given to honor

outgoing President Sarah VanDyke, for her 5 years of service as the National President. Sarah had done a great deal for the sorority over the years, and sisters were able to express their appreciation to her. Finally, new National Executive Board members who were elected during the Convention 2004 were instilled by Sarah VanDyke, and she passed the gavel and Presidency onto Leann Williams.

In conclusion, Convention 2004 was definitely rockin'. I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent in Music City, and the time spent with sisters from all over the country. I had a great time meeting everyone and I can't wait to see you all next year!

Alumnae Chapter News

Omega Epsilon Chapter seeking more alums

by **Juanita Haggard,**
Sigma Alumna

Omega Epsilon, Chattanooga Area Alumnae Council, has started off their new year. We have had our first meeting and elected new officers. President-Nora Del Cul (Sigma), Service Director-Juanita Wade (Sigma), Secretary-Maria Price (Epsilon), and Treasurer-Carrie Mitchell (Epsilon). Our first project this year will be the Hike for Hunger on Sept. 18th. We helped Sigma during their rush week activities and were very excited about celebrating with the new pledges at Chuck E. Cheese's. We are still in the process of planning our activities for the year but we are really excited. Last year we helped Sigma with several of their service projects like Homeless for a Day, answering phones for the PBS fundraiser, and our own projects included Valentines for Marines in South Korea and collecting books for the Nehemiah Project. We have even more plans for this year, but we can't do it alone. So, we are asking for all interested alums in the area that want to get involved to contact us for some friendship, leadership, and service all with an alum twist. Please email Maria Price at

mailto:cosmo_hinkle@hotmail.com

Omega Theta - a new alumnae chapter in Louisiana

At Convention 2004, alumnae of Louisiana submitted a petition and were granted alumnae chapter status. The new chapter was named Omega Theta chapter. If you are interested in finding out more information about how to join this chapter, and what activities they have scheduled, contact Fumilayo Rita at (337) 269-1212 or by email at ophia_ull@hotmail.com.

Alumna Corner

Alumnae Updates

Chelsea Morrissey (Nu) writes that she is happy to announce to Nu alums that after 5 years of being an active sister, she is finally graduating in December '04. She asks all Nu alumnae to go to her Rose Night to celebrate with her and Nu, as well as catch up with some other Nu alums and meet Nu's wonderful active sisters. Please contact her if you can make it, she would love to see her sisters that she has not seen in awhile! You can contact her at: chels72881@yahoo.com. Chelsea currently lives in Smyrna, GA.

Michelle Helton (Mu) continues to be involved with Zeta society and Waters Foundation while finishing up school. She continues to look for ways to remain involved with OPA, and would like to announce that her son, Walker is almost a toddler now! Michelle can be reached at: shell86696@aol.com, and she continues to live in Murfreesboro, TN.

Sarah Chalmers (Gamma) is now in Hoboken, NJ working as a Stage Manager for Hoboken Children's Theatre. She can be reached at cuda37@Juno.com

Emily Johns (Phi) is living in Tempe, AZ and can be reached at marie1017@excite.com

Deborah Brown (Sigma) is currently living in Broomall, PA. She is working for CPE, Inc, and would like to announce that she recently married on May 22 '04. Deborah can be reached at debbs32@netzero.net

Carrie L. Johnson (Epsilon) lives in Lebanon, TN and works for Metro-Nashville Public Schools. She remains very involved through many professional organizations: MNEA, TEA, NEA, Phi Delta Kappa. She'd like to share with her sisters that she just finished her 17th year of teaching special education in Nashville. She's also on a team trying to bring the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme to Neely's Bend Middle School. In July she went to Atlanta for

training to become a certified IBMYP teacher. She spent the remainder of the summer at home with Annabelle, Maggie, & Oscar (her 4-legged children). Carrie can be reached at SPEDLADY@aol.com

Faithe Ferguson Wiseman (Epsilon/Mu) writes that she got a new job, bought a house and her Divorce is final! Faithe is a former OPA Regional Director and Chapter Assistance Director. She lives in Murfreesboro, TN and works for in computer support for Metro Nashville Gov. as a Criminal Court Clerk. Faithe can be reached at faithefull@comcast.net

Tricia Georgi Howard (Alpha) writes that she received a Master of Education degree in August '03, and is married to Scott and has two children-Brody 2, and Emerson 6 mos. Tricia lives in Walbridge, OH and works at St. Ursula Academy as a College Counselor. She also belongs to Ohio Association of College Admission Counseling. Tricia can be reached at georgihoward@wcnnet.org.

Paula Dinwiddie (Epsilon) lives in Alexandria, VA. She is the Director of Human Resources & Operations for USAC. Paula sings in the Washington Chorus, and belongs to several professional organizations: SHRM, NAFE, World at Work. Paula can be reached at pdinwiddie@hotmail.com.

Juanita Wade (Sigma) lives in Harrison,

TN. She currently works as a graduate assistant. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi and Eastern Star, and continues to volunteer time with the Girl Scouts. Juanita can be reached at OPHIAGIRL@YAHOO.COM.

Mindi L. DeShazo (Delta) resides in Temple, TX, and works as a Clinical Research Coordinator for Scott & White Hospital. She belongs to the Society of Clinical Research Associates, and volunteers her time as an advocate for Blood and Marrow Donor Education and Awareness, and with the American Heart Association. Mindi can be reached at mldeshazo@sbcglobal.net.

Kim Fowles (Kappa) lives in Merritt Island, FL and works as a Teacher for Brevard County Schools. She volunteers time tutoring, and belongs to NEA/AFT. Kim can be reached at MerrittKim11@aol.com.

Sarah Barber (Alpha Beta) lives in Henderson, TX and continues to volunteer her time with Habitat for Humanity. She recently received the honor of National Dean's List. Sarah can be reached at sarahmbarber@hotmail.com.

Kaleshia Brown (Alpha Beta) lives in Jackson, MS and is a Grad Student at USM. She is a member of the American Dietetic Association. Kaleshia can be reached at kaleshiabrown@hotmail.com.

Alumnae needed to help with national fundraiser

by Anita Landry, National Executive Secretary

This year's national fundraising project will involve actives and alumnae in an online selling campaign through the Sally Foster Company. We earn a 50% commission on the quality gift wrap and gourmet foods we sell through January 15, and all profits will go to defray the cost of convention hotel rooms in Arizona! Thus, both actives and alumnae can benefit and

are encouraged to attend convention. The top ten sellers, including alumnae, will get a convention banquet ticket and the convention t-shirt for free. Additionally, the chapters raising the most money will receive extra assistance for their delegates' travel costs to convention.

Please visit the OPA website for details on how to register to sell the Sally Foster products and help raise money, or to place a qualifying order towards your favorite chapter.

OMEGA PHI ALPHA
NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY
National Office
PO Box 757
Russells Point, OH 43348-0757

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Scholarship 5K Walk raises more than \$5,000

by Sarah VanDyke,
VP Communication
and VP Advancement Planning

The Scholarship 5K Walk was a great success and an enjoyable service project that allowed actives and alumnae attending convention, or not, to participate. Donations collected for the walk totaled \$4,196.69. With the national matching for chapter donations of \$1,451.69 the total raised for the Scholarship Trust comes to \$5,648.38. Way to go O Phi A Sisters!

31 sisters walked in the 5K, and some of them even chose to run. Additional sisters helped set up, register walkers, pass out water and cheer on walkers, and sisters not able to attend convention made donations. Overall it was a beautiful walk through Nashville's Centennial Park and the weather was perfect.

Thank you to all of the 5K donors for your charity and support of the Omega Phi Alpha Scholarship Trust

Leader Level

Epsilon Chapter
Nu Chapter
Phi Chapter
Psi Chapter
Alpha Beta Chapter
Lisa Guest
Pam McEwen
Ginger McGarity
Joe Ramey
Fumi Rita
Patricia Standard
Cindy Steen

Friend Level

Lisa Barcon

Service Level

Jeff Frazier
Tim & Katy Hatley
Cheryl Khan
Susie Larson
Amy McConnell
Winnie Ramey
Janice Wintermyer
May Jean York

Yellow Rose Level

Shirley & Garil Allerkamp
Mike & Maribel Goldschmidt
Erica Gutierrez
Rebekah Locke
Darla McAllister
Penny McCullough
Debra Ochoa
Nelda Payne
Marlene Purdy
Brent Scarpo
Jan Titsworth
Eric & Sarah VanDyke

Ophia Level

Cathy Griswold
Debbie Honeycutt
Joanne Huss
Kerry Kornacki
Sabrina Somerby
Janelle Tarpey
Carla Triplett
Joan VanDyke
Caroline Wooten

*Levels of support are: Ophia (\$0-24),
Yellow Rose (\$25-49), Service (\$50-74),
Friend (\$75-99), Leader (\$100 +)*