

Chevron



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

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CONVENTION 2006: Same Service, Different City

by Myrinda Grantham, Convention 2006 Coordinator

If last year was a business year, this year was a “workshop year” at OPA Convention.

Convention kicked off on Wednesday night with an insightful presentation called “Mama D” from Patti Ramey. This presentation taught us that no matter how little you have, you can always help someone else. We then had a visit from the Greater Hartford Jaycees, a service group in town, to tell us what our service project would entail on Saturday. Thursday morning kicked off with a visit from Kay Kress, OPA’s legal adviser, who educated our attendees on policy and answered some questions. This was a day filled with exciting and interesting learning opportunities in the form of workshops. A very important announcement was made toward the close of business that day which re-drew some district lines in the Southeastern United States and then the delegates were sent off to have dinner in their new districts.

Friday was consumed with more workshops where sisters were able to learn about how to build sisterhood and teamwork. Lunch was provided at the hotel, where the delegation was joined by several Beta Chapter alumnae and keynote speaker Linda Terzian Cartiglia. Linda, Susan Terzian’s sister, gripped our group with stories from her past and with her amazing poetry. There was a moment when Linda had been speaking for less than two minutes, when I looked around the room and realized that there truly was not a dry eye in the place. The Beta alumnae also brought with them old composites, pledge books, and other paraphernalia. It was a great experience to look back on their past and see ours in it as well.

Saturday’s main focus was service. The women of OPA truly made us proud as they weeded flower beds, sang songs, raked, played games, and did all the other things that great OPA sisters do. Four groups went out into the community, three of them working hands-on with residents in nursing homes and a shelter, and the fourth group doing manual labor cleaning up a park adjacent to the Hartford Hilton where Convention was held. I personally received thanks from several hotel employees including our fantastic convention service manager. The park is between the Hilton’s employee parking lot and the hotel, so the staff is excited to have something nice to walk past. Getting out into the community to do service was a goal of many of the attendees, so it was nice to see it come to fruition with such positive results.

Saturday evening was delightful. Banquet was quite a treat! The food and the company were both excellent and the presenters kept a smile on our faces for the entire show. Patti’s slideshow featuring photos from our attendees’ travels was a highlight. Leaving Convention on Sunday was an experience much akin to going off to college... you know great things await you when you arrive (back home) but you just don’t want to leave your friends. This year, just like every other, I met the most amazing women. I am really thankful that OPA is in my life and yours and I can’t wait to see you all in Jacksonville in Summer 2007! Hotty Toddy, Y’all!

Service from Start to Finish

by Ann DeMatteo, Chevron Copy Editor

The day started with service and ended with service rewards during the National Convention Celebration on July 22 in Hartford, Conn.

Outgoing National President Susie Larson commented on the enthusiasm for service that was displayed during the “Partnership for Service Day” that was organized by the Greater Hartford Jaycees and Beta alumna Ann DeMatteo for Omega Phi Alpha and the Jaycees. Sisters and Jaycees, as well as Miss Connecticut 2006 Heidi Alice Voight, visited four locations in the Hartford area and either cleaned up or entertained.

Susie noted that Kenneth H. Kennedy Jr., the Hartford councilman who attended the kick-off and read a proclamation from Mayor Eddie Perez, was floored by the enthusiasm and dedication to service as well.

As a small token of the appreciation of OPA, Jaycees Community Development Vice President Marianne Cavalieri and “Partnership for Service” Chairperson Lisa Moriarty were invited to the banquet. Susie presented them with the proclamation from Mayor Perez that named July 22 as OPA/Jaycees service day in Hartford. She also presented them with a cooler with an AM/FM radio that was donated by Beta alumna Ronnie Nelson.

Awards were handed out and Lisa Guest, Vice President of Alumnae Relations, recognized alumnae in attendance.

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

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Pictures may also be submitted in jpg or bmp format.

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OPA Business in the Heart of Hartford's Business District

by Anita Landry, VP Advancement Planning

Although this year's Convention in Hartford was designated as a "non-business" year, we still managed to work our way through quite a bit of legislation. In fact, OPA came full circle when the delegation decided that we would, once again, consider business every year, regardless of whether or not it was considered essential. This will allow every year's Convention schedule to reflect a good mix of both social engagements and the official business of our sorority. Plans are already underway to make our 40th anniversary Convention celebration in Jacksonville, Fla., next year the best yet, and we certainly hope that you will join us.

Spirits were high as we were finally able to acknowledge 20 active chapters, a goal we've dreamed of for years. Our colony from Kennesaw State University in Georgia was able to send six representatives, another first for Omega Phi Alpha. Wonderful workshops were interspersed with chapter introductions, Rose Shop visits and business. We were honored to have Linda Terzian Cartiglia, sister of the late Suzan Terzian, speak at a special luncheon. Her words were wise and inspirational and, needless to say, there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

In Hartford, our alumnae organization really began to take shape as legislation passed defining roles and opportunities available for sisters at every level of the organization. The Alumnae Board of Directors, given its detailed definition of expectations of members as well as the written account of how it will function as a whole, will, no doubt, thrive. Alumnae can look forward to hearing communications from their District Alumnae Advisors, and we encourage you to take an active role in this facet of our sorority.

Elections brought many new faces to the National Executive Board and welcomed some returning officers to new positions. Please join me in welcoming Amy McConnell, Delta alumna, who will be finishing the current term as President. Pamela McEwen, Epsilon alumna, was elected as the next National President, serving this year as President-Elect. She will take over the presidency in 2007. Anita Landry of Upsilon Chapter will be returning to the board as Vice President of Advancement Planning. Stephanie Hallman, Nichole Barnhart, and Andie Bowman, all from Epsilon Chapter, will be serving as Vice President of Business Operations, National Executive Secretary and National Membership Director, respectively. Please join us in welcoming them as they begin their first year on the NEB.

Our Convention banquet was held at the downtown Hilton, where we were staying. The food was phenomenal and the company, even better. Once again, the evening was spent celebrating our sisterhood and awarding the valiant efforts of our sisters. In her inaugural speech, Amy McConnell announced this year's president's project as Women's Health. She urged all of us to serve as support for our sisters who are struggling with addictions to things such as nicotine or alcohol, and reminded the delegation that Breast Cancer Awareness Month is October. Attendees left inspired by the task at hand, ready to promote a cause close to their hearts.

Convention 2006 Awards

by Heather Harmon, National Awards Chair

The annual awards ceremony rolled through Convention banquet and provided several opportunities for chapters and sisters to highlight their hard work and dedication to OPA over the past academic year. Every year, OPA donates money to chapters with the most innovative service project in each respective category. In addition to service, chapters have the opportunity to win \$150 for the Chapter Development Award.

A committee reviews all award applications and determines the judging criteria. Each chapter that submits required paperwork for any award in the award manual is acknowledged and awarded at Convention. This year, we awarded more than \$800 to chapters in honor of their hard work and determination. Keep up the fantastic work and we will see you next year in Jacksonville.

Lindsey Gomez (Service Director) and Heather Harmon (Awards Chair)

aka "The Dog and Pony Show"

Congratulations to the following members and chapters.

SERVICE AWARDS:

Service to the University – Delta Chapter

Service to the Members of the Sorority – Rho Chapter

President's Project – Phi Chapter

National Service Award – Gamma Chapter

Service to the Community-at-Large – Gamma Chapter

Service to the Nations of the World – Gamma Chapter

Permanent Project – Omicron Chapter

TOP 10 SERVICE AWARD WINNERS:

1. Whitney Mattingly (Rho) – 184 hours

2. Amanda Lowery (Nu) – 154.2 hours

3. Cheryl Norris (Rho) – 129 hours

4. Suzanne Sweeney (Gamma) – 125 hours

5. Deanna Hunter (Epsilon) – 114.98 hours

6. Michele Barcey (Gamma) – 110 hours

7. Maureen Olmstead (Gamma) – 109.5 hours

8. Laura Baxter (Rho) – 102 hours

9. Megan Sheppard (Nu) – 101 hours

10. Vanessa Laffoon (Epsilon) – 99.25 hours

CHAPTER AWARDS:

Chapter Development Award – Epsilon, Rho and Nu chapters

National Membership Award – Mu Chapter

Chapter Excellence Program ~ Gold Seal - Nu, Epsilon, Rho and Phi chapters

Chapter Excellence Program ~ Silver Seal - Alpha Alpha, Psi, Gamma and Delta chapters

Chapter Excellence Program ~ Bronze Seal - Mu Chapter

National Scrapbook Award – Epsilon Chapter

National Website Award – Phi and Nu chapters

National Travel Award – Kennesaw State University Colony

Outstanding Chapter President - Erin Fowler – Rho, Kristen Allen – Chapter, Jennifer Minnow – Nu and Lindsey Gomez – Phi

Outstanding Chapter Vice President - Shawna Priest – Epsilon, Liz Graham – Rho, Laura Zilverberg – Phi and Anne Wilhoite – Nu

Outstanding Chapter Service Officer - Jenny Nordhoff – Mu, Tina Shantz – Alpha Alpha, Andie Bowman – Epsilon,
Susan Taylor – Epsilon, Lauren Sanchez – Rho, Amanda Lowry – Nu and Laura Zilverberg – Phi

Outstanding Chapter Treasurer - Frances M. Gann – Rho, Angie Tinsley – Epsilon, and Sanjana Susan Mammen – Nu

Outstanding Chapter Secretary - Candice Duncan – Rho, Amber Flatt – Epsilon, Ashley Ryan – Nu, Megan Wede – Phi

Outstanding Chapter Membership Officer - Megan Johnston – Alpha Alpha, Nicole Barnhart – Epsilon,
Chelsea Bishop – Delta, Sammi Snodgrass – Rho, Tracy Welch – Nu and Jessica Farkash – Phi

ALUMNAE AWARDS

Alumna Travel Award – Pamela McEwen

Convention 2006

HERE'S PAM, WILL TRAVEL

by Julia Timmons, ABoD, Alumnae Networking

Pamela McEwen, this year's recipient of the Alumnae Travel Award, has spent many years as a dedicated member of Omega Phi Alpha. In the past year, she not only served as our Vice President of Finance, but also as DAA for District Two. Pam has remained committed to the sorority and has received many honors, including the Susan Terzian Award, for her exceptional hard work and leadership. She has been an inspiration to many women in our group and has been a shining example of an OPA sister.

Pam pledged Epsilon Chapter at Tennessee Technological University in 1973 in her junior year. She returned to OPA seven years after graduation to serve on the Alumnae Board of Directors, and then was National Treasurer for four years. After that, she served as Alumnae Administrator, and then returned as Treasurer. Over the past 25 years, she has served on a national level for all but four.

Pam works as the Chief Financial Officer for a governmental agency. Pam has worked for local government for over 25 years, starting out as an entry-level auditor to the position she now holds. Since beginning there, she has performed a variety of duties. From her own admission, OPA has given her a variety of opportunities to expand her knowledge base and to help her career.

At National Convention 2006 in Hartford, Pam was elected as President-Elect. With her vast experience, Pam will continue to be an excellent leader for the years ahead. Until she becomes President next year, she will continue as Vice President of Finance.

Pam lives in Nashville with her sister and three cats. Her interests outside of OPA include bridge, reading, and crafts.

Alumnae Service Award

by Julia Timmons, ABoD, Alumnae Networking

We always want to recognize alumnae who continue to perform service, but no one was nominated to receive an Alumnae Service Award at the 2006 National Convention.

Just like the lottery, if you don't play, you won't win, so consider this a request to turn in nominations for the award.

The Alumnae Service Award is given out annually to Alumnae who have shown great dedication to serving in various organizations and in her community. Nominations come from within the sorority, and any sister who is deemed worthy by the selection panel could receive this honor.

If you would like to nominate a sister for this award, please send it to the VP of Alumnae Relations, Lisa Guest. All nomination forms must be in by Convention 2007 in order for the award to be presented in front of the delegation.

Service From Start (continued from page 1)

Susie was presented with the gift of a pewter golf bowl and yellow and light blue golf balls, as well as a president's gavel, which was handed to new National President Amy McConnell.

Amy, the outgoing National Membership Director, decided she wanted to fill out the last year of Leann Williams' presidency, and was elected to do so. When Leann resigned in the fall of 2005, Susie filled in. Amy thanked Susie for taking over the responsibility of President while still serving as Vice President of Business Operations.

"I thank everyone for their acceptance and love. It's so exciting to see what's happening here. You have great enthusiasm and great spirit," she said to the group, which was gathered in a banquet room at the Hartford Hilton.

Amy said it is exciting to be a part of Omega Phi Alpha at a time when we are growing in so many directions. "I truly believe the women (and men) of this organization change our world on a daily basis."

Amy said that we are lucky that we are women born in America, where the life expectancy is 80.1 years. "We live a life of service and we are blessed to live long, rich lives helping others."

Amy announced that Women's Health would be the president's project for 2006-07 because not everyone is as fortunate as women in America. In some places, women only live to be in their 40s and 50s.

Amy encourages sisters to "think broadly" because it is "awe-inspiring imagining what we can accomplish throughout the course of our lives."

"You can serve the women of your campus," she said.

Cardiovascular disease is the biggest killer for women and we can celebrate "Go Red for Women" month in February.

October is breast cancer awareness month and we can participate in Races for the Cure. We can educate ourselves about what female life expectancy rates are in other countries and find a way to help those women too.

Primarily, though, Amy wants us to take care of ourselves.

She asked sisters, for example, to make it a goal to cut down on tobacco and alcohol, "to help yourself so you can live a rich, long life."

Whether it's past or present in OPA, we are one

by Ann DeMatteo,
Chevron Copy Editor and Beta alumna

The past met the present and joined as one when a Beta alumna with a legacy spoke at the Friday luncheon during the 2006 annual National Convention in Hartford, CT.

Tears flowed as Linda Terzian Cartiglia, Beta class of '72, spoke of the early history of Omega Phi Alpha and the involvement of her late sister, second National President Susan Terzian, Beta '68.

Other Beta alumnae also attended the luncheon were Thea Moritz, Beta '81, Ann DeMatteo, Beta '78, Judy Grella Acosta, Beta '77 and Bobbie Green Miller, Beta '70, who attended with Linda and shared memories of Susan with alumnae and actives. After the luncheon, National President Susie Larson and National Vice President of Alumnae Relations Lisa Guest inducted Thea, Judy, Bobbie and Linda into the Alumnae Society.

Linda, an independent executive senior sales director with Mary Kay, said that the life of Susan, her only sibling, was "snuffed out far too prematurely and far too senselessly." Susan, who had already graduated University of Bridgeport with a biology degree and was working at Yale-New Haven Hospital in research with premature babies, had worked on a service project with Beta sisters. They were riding in a car that was hit by a drunk driver who had a weapon in the car. Susan was thrown from the car on impact. Even to her last conscious minute, she attempted to help her OPA sisters and was the only one of five who walked herself into the hospital after offering assistance to others, Linda said. She died five days later from brain injuries.

"As the first born, and 3 ½ years my senior, Susan blazed the path for me, my big sister role model. Although she only stood at 5 feet tall, she watched out for

me, protected and defended me and took her job quite seriously. In fact, she took all relationships in her life quite seriously. She was an amazing and loyal friend, always there to lend an ear and offer a helping hand," Linda said. "She loved life and when she believed in a cause, she was purposeful and passionate. She hated injustices of any kind – and like many sensitive caring young people, she wanted to make a difference... I can remember hours and hours of study and discussion of DNA. She loved learning. She could also get quite philosophical. And to that mix we add a fabulous sense of humor. She was really very funny and just loved to make people laugh. She had a way of lighting up a room when she entered."

OPA became Susan's passion when she joined. "From local Beta President to National President, she would journey, working tirelessly and with conviction," Linda said.

After Susan died, Linda said she spent her spare time writing poetry, attempting to make some sense of it all. "I'd sit by her grave leaning against a tall oak tree, pouring my heart onto paper," said Linda, who was a freshman at the University of Bridgeport then.

"I refused to believe that Susan's life was in vain. And it didn't take long to know that it wasn't. She left a legacy. I am part of her legacy. My children are part of it. And so are each of you," she said, as convention attendees started to cry.

"Every time you put a smile on someone's face or offer a helping hand in service, you pass on her legacy and give meaning to her short life. Every time you present an award in her name, you help to make sense of it all. Every time you enlist others to do the same by pledging OPA, you pass the torch and keep the flame burning. And for that, I thank you from the bottom of a very grateful heart," Linda said.

Although Linda has not been an active part of OPA for more than 30 years, "OPA is still in me. And always will be. It's not by accident that my professional life with Mary Kay aligns so closely with OPA. A company built on the golden rule with what we call "Go Give spirit" as our cornerstone... The founder of our company, Mary Kay Ash, was a true visionary who wanted to make a difference and blazed a trail for countless women to follow. I like to think of Susan in the same way. Although without notoriety, I believe that her life, in some small way, has made a difference in the lives of others," Linda said.

Linda said that Susan's legacy lives on in her three children. "My first-born daughter, her namesake, Susan Terzian Cartiglia, is truly the most amazing young woman I know. Brilliant, passionate, loving, caring...with a desire to change the world. She does the name proud!"

Linda, upon attending Convention, was impressed that OPA keeps Susan's memory alive by offering the Susan Terzian Award, the sorority's highest honor, which is given to sisters who go above and beyond the call of duty. Beta Chapter was the first to receive the award in 1978 because of an outstanding increase in membership. The University of Bridgeport also offered a scholarship in Susan's name to either an OPA sister or a biology major.

"Thank you, OPA sisters, for honoring my sister. I do believe that when God closes a door, he opens a window. Thank you for being that window and providing a window of opportunity to pass on the spirit of service. Know that in the whole scheme of things, and when life as we know it is over, the most important thing we leave behind is a small piece of our heart. Continue to be a pillar of strength and a beacon of light to all you meet."

continued next page

Focus on Service

(continued from previous page)

“A year after Susan died, I sat by her grave and wrote this poem to my Mom. I’d like to close with it. Mom (Roxy Terzian, also a benefactor for Beta Chapter) took her journey home five years ago, and amidst all of my sadness and grief, I shed a tear of happiness, knowing that after 30 long years, she would once again be united with Susan.”

Four seasons now have passed you by

The worlds revolved the sun.

As winter’s dark clouds fill the sky

Remembrance of the sorrow gone.

But the sorrow of then

Is the sorrow of now

And this sorrow forever shall be

And your bleeding heart

Enchained in it, shall never again be free.

So shed your tears and let them dry

And shed them once again.

But through it all give thought to her

And smile in the end.

For she loved with a love

That was pure and true.

And her heart was forever gay

And now, as she glances

Down on you,

Don’t let it be said to say

That her life was spent

In futility

And after her few gifted years

*That the only things she left behind
were unhappiness and tears.*

Run. Walk. Get Inspired.

by Lindsey Gomez, National Service Director

Hello Everybody. Who’s ready for service?

This Chevron’s feature is centered on a service project for both actives and alumnae to participate throughout the nation, the 23rd annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Nancy Brinker started the Komen Race for the Cure in 1983. The first run was held in Texas with 800 participants. Today, more than 1 million people participate in this event year round, and you could be one of them. Today, the Komen Race for the Cure, a 5-mile walk or run, depending on your athletic preference, holds the title of the largest walk/run in the world.

So, what is the purpose of the Komen Race for the Cure? Well, the answer to that question is three-fold. First, this race is meant to be a fundraiser for breast cancer research. Second, the race is a chance for breast cancers survivors to join together and celebrate their recovery. Finally, the race allows members of the community to remember those who lost their battle with breast cancer.

With the history and purpose of the Komen Race for the Cure, I bet you are wondering how you can get involved. There are many ways and opportunities to participate in the race. The website Komen.org provides all the ways you can get involved. You can choose to run or walk the race, make a donation to the cause or sponsor a fellow sister. You can also volunteer the day of event.

I hope that many of you will look into this project and find a location near you to participate in the 23rd annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

If you do, we’d love for you to share your story and pictures from your experience.

OPA helps Katrina Relief Effort

by Pamela McEwen, Vice President Finance

The devastation of the Katrina hurricane directly affected lives of people in Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as the ripple effects that were felt across the entire nation. The sisters of Omega Phi Alpha wanted to help. Our sisters throughout the country participated in relief efforts that aided Katrina refugees. In addition, we collected \$1,000 that was matched with \$2,000 from the national treasury. This money, with interest earned, was donated to Kelsie’s Books.

Kelsie’s Books was started by 11-year-old Kelsie Buckley to raise at least \$10,000 for each of the seven libraries in Mississippi that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. This project was consistent with education, the National President’s project for 2005-06, and we know that our donation will have a profound impact. We thank all of the sisters who donated to this fund to allow us to offer our support in true OPA spirit.

2005-06 SERVICE AWARDS

by Lindsey Gomez, National Service Director

We had a lot of great candidates for the 2005-06 service awards. I want to thank everyone for submitting the awards forms, and also congratulate the winners. Here they are.

Service to the University community: *Gamma Chapter*

The sisters of Gamma participated in a service project called, "Beyond Words", where they designed a room that demonstrated the injustice of inaccessibility. They helped run the project, assisted in clean-up and set up and hosted their own site, which involved a large oversized toilet to represent dwarfism.

Service to the Nations of the World: *Gamma Chapter*

"Supplies for Liberia," completed by Gamma chapter this spring, involved collecting personal hygiene products such toothbrushes and toothpaste, to create hygiene kits. They brought all the kits to an alumna sister who is affiliated with the church making the donations.

Service to the University Community: *Delta Chapter*

Delta completed random acts of kindness for their university project. They made goodie bags for their bus drivers; helped with a campus clean up for the maintenance staff and held a reception to show their appreciation to the maintenance staff.

Service to the Members of the Sorority: *Rho Chapter*

Rho worked hard both spring and fall semesters to pull off an amazingly successful alumnae luncheon. They made contacts and invitations in the fall and met with sisters, past and present, in the spring.

President's Project: *Phi Chapter*

Phi participated in HIV/AIDS education in the fall and spring. They participated in a campus-wide World AIDS Day, passing out ribbons and statistics about the disease to fellow students, staff and faculty. They also sponsored safer sex kits and a speaker who came to campus.

Permanent Project: *Omicron Chapter*

Omicron helped host the first annual "Run for Ronnie," a benefit for the Alzheimer's Association. Working with a campus fraternity, Omicron raise more than \$2,000 for the charity.

The National Service Award: *Gamma Chapter*

Gamma earned this year's highest service honor. Members completed more than 1,600 hours of service over the school term in a wide range of interesting, important and inspirational projects.

Congratulations to all the chapters that won awards this year.

Snapshots of Service in Connecticut



OPA sisters work with Jaycee volunteers to beautify St. Elizabeth's shelter.



Preparing care packages of donated toiletries for shelter residents.



OPA sisters help Jaycee volunteers change the look of Chelsea's Place.



Miss Connecticut, OPA sisters, and Jaycees volunteers entertaining the elderly at Haven Health Center in West Hartford.



OPA sisters work hand in hand with Jaycee volunteers to clean up Wexford Park.



OPA sisters sort clothing at St. Elizabeth's shelter.

President's Corner...

Howdy O-Phi-A Sisters!

My name is Amy McConnell, and I will be serving as National President for this final year of a three-year term. I am very excited about all of the plans we have for the sorority, and I am looking forward to being a part of a team that will make things happen.

To all of the active sisters: Good luck this coming year! You are making a difference in lives every day either through participating in service projects or through recruiting new members into the organization. O-Phi-A is a life changing experience...it will change your life, and you will change lives by being a part of it.

To all of our alumnae: We have a growing alumnae program and numerous opportunities for you to get involved. I encourage each one of you to give back to OPA in whatever way that you can, either through your time, monetary support or participation in local and national events. We need you!

We are planning an exciting time for Convention '07 in Jacksonville, Fla. It will be our 40th anniversary, so you KNOW it will be a big to-do. We hope to see you there.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this great organization in this capacity. I will do my very best to keep us moving in the right direction.

Your sister in service,

Amy McConnell

National President

Omega Phi Alpha Scholarship Trust

by Pamela McEwen, Vice President of Finance

OPA's Scholarship Trust awards scholarships annually to deserving OPA sisters. We plan to award the 2006 scholarships before the end of this school year. The number and the size of the awards, given since 1997, are based on the interest earned on donations made to the Omega Phi Alpha Scholarship Trust. Your chapter can help to increase the awards by holding fundraising activities for the Trust.

The Omega Phi Alpha Scholarship is a cash award that may be used to support tuition, fees, books or living expenses. To be eligible for the scholarship, a sister must:

- * have completed her time as a pledge;
- * have paid national dues or had her dues waived by local and national;
- * be enrolled and in good standing with the chapter and the college/university;

The scholarship applications are evaluated based on attributes such as grade point average, enrollment status in school for the previous and upcoming semesters, and number of academic years in OPA since being a pledge. The applicant is also asked to write about the cardinal principles and why she joined OPA.

Each year, scholarship applications are sent to each chapter president. The application also is available on the National Web site. The application deadline is March 1. The scholarships will be awarded at Convention 2007 in Jacksonville, Fla. Plan now to send in your application.

Meet the New NEB



Nichole Barnhart, National Executive Secretary

Nichole recently graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a bachelor's degree in biology. At Epsilon Chapter, she held the offices of Fellowship Director, Service Director and Membership Director. She ran cross-country and track for Tech and after a period of not exercising at all, decided to pick it back up. She is looking for biological research jobs in the San Francisco area and is applying to the UCSF graduate program for Fall 2007. Her interests include running, reading novels, facebook and myspace and OPA, of course. "I am really excited about my position as National Executive Secretary and being active in OPA as an alumna," Nichole said.



Andie Bowman, National Membership Director

Andie pledged Epsilon Chapter in Spring 2003. As a member of the Beta Kappa pledge class, she served as chaplain and secretary. Immediately after becoming active, she attended her first National Convention in 2003 in Atlanta. Convention made a lasting impression and she has attended ever since.

As an active sister, Andie had three little sisters and held the offices of ADO for District 2, publicity chair, fellowship chair, membership director and service director.

Believing that her time and talents would greater benefit her chapter, she decided to go alum for the spring semester prior to her May 2006 graduation. She then served as Epsilon's CAA and worked hard to gain alumnae support for the chapter. She created a Web site for Epsilon alumnae and encouraged them to help out the chapter in any way possible. Her efforts proved successful; a thoughtful alum donated a very nice Nikon digital camera to Epsilon.

At Convention 2005 in Phoenix she decided that she wanted to take her role in Omega Phi Alpha to the next level. After talking to Amy McConnell she discovered that running for National Membership Director was for her. She loved educating pledges and wanted the opportunity to help other chapter membership directors have a rewarding and successful term. She is very honored to have been elected to the post this year. "I hope in my term to create and share helpful tools to local membership directors. My main focus will be to help the chapters to successfully transfer their pledges into informed actives," Andie said.

She also wants to keep pledge and pledge ed handbooks current and user friendly and encourage communication between the local and national levels. She is also excited about the opportunity to have input with the NEB to shape the future of the sorority.

Andie is working in Cumming, GA at a building supply company, installing a new computer system. She graduated in May 2006 with a degree in communication with a focus in English/journalism. Andie just got a Pomeranian named Georgia Peach.



Stephanie Hallman, Vice President Business Operations

Stephanie is 24 years old and was born and raised in Nashville. She moved to Cookeville, TN in 2000 to attend Tennessee Tech as a chemical engineering major. She soon realized that she needed something in college to keep her involved and to give her a break from massive amounts of schoolwork. She joined OPA in spring 2001 and loved it. She was treasurer in 2001-02 and service director the following year. "I would not trade my years in OPA for anything," she said.

Stephanie graduated from Tech in Spring 2005 with a B.S. in chemical engineering but decided it wasn't what she really wanted to do, so she returned to school to obtain a master's as a curriculum and instruction major to get certified to teach chemistry. "I am so excited and so much happier than I was as an engineer," she said.

Stephanie loves music and movies. As far as music goes, she mostly likes rock and alternative. With movies, it's all comedies, especially Will Ferrell's. She is a huge Jack Johnson fan as well. She has seen Talladega Night 3 times. She has two wonderful puppies, Ernie and Harley, that she loves to death, even though they haven't quite mastered the arts of pooping outside yet.

"I am honored to have been elected the V.P. of Business Operations and hope that I live up to everyone's expectations," she said. Those with questions, comments, or concerns should email her at SMHallman21@tntech.edu. "I have a lot of learning and growing to do in this position and would love feedback from sisters about Convention or anything else."

Lost Alumnae

by Keshia Gibson, DAA District 1

Not only did this year's Convention see the appearance of three new chapters and one new colony into the Omega Phi Alpha sisterhood, but it also marked the return of a few Beta alumnae, including Linda Terzian Cartiglia and Bobbie Green Miller. Linda and Bobbie were among the alumnae in attendance to share the history of Beta Chapter at the University of Bridgeport with all Convention participants.

Although currently defunct, Beta Chapter played a prominent role in Omega Phi Alpha during the sorority's early years. In 1978, Beta Chapter became the first recipient of the sorority's highest honor, the Susan Terzian Award. The award's namesake, Susan Terzian, was also a Beta alumna who was chapter president then OPA's second national president.

Linda, the younger sister of Susan, shared her and her sister's stories and experiences of O-Phi-A with the delegation. Linda also spoke of the sister she gained in Bobbie Green Miller through her involvement in OPA. Bobbie was also the first recipient of a University of Bridgeport scholarship given in Susan's name.

During the Alumnae Society Induction ceremony, Bobbie said that OPA had remained a part of her life, even though she had been away from it so long. Through her job as a high school counselor, she is able to continue in a life of service helping others.

Linda and Bobbie were only two of several alumnae present at Convention to share their history and talents with their more recent sisters in Omega Phi Alpha. As our sorority continues to grow, we hope that the number of alumnae who reconnect with OPA will also grow. As a result, the sorority's foundation will strengthen to support its successes in chapter growth and expansion.

Alumnae Updates

Bekah (Williams) Rubio (Rho), her husband Eric and daughter Kaitlynn, welcomed a second daughter, Kaylee Arica on April 27. She was 7lbs., 7oz., 19 1/2 inches long. Bekah lives in Lehigh Acres, FL and works as a childcare teacher. She can be contacted by email at omegaphial-phabek@aol.com

Nora Del Cul (Sigma) graduated on Aug. 13 from UTC with a master's degree in criminal justice. She lives in Oak Ridge, TN and can be reached at slothslayer@yahoo.com.

Crystal (Whitmire) Rau (Psi) recently married and got a new job with Simwey Financial Group. She now lives in Phoenix, AZ and can be contacted at crystalin07@yahoo.com.

Michele Helton (Mu) is a florist at Kroger and a Mary Kay consultant. She remains involved with the Jackson Exchange Club and lives in Humboldt, TN. You can reach Michele via email at shell86696@aol.com.

Sarah (Hatley) VanDyke (Delta) graduated in May with a master's degree in public administration. Her husband, Eric, got out of the Navy at the end of May and they along with their two daughters moved this summer to Peoria, IL. Sarah currently works from home as a digital designer. She volunteers at her daughter's school and as a Brownie Girl Scout Leader, as well as in addition to continuing to serve on the NEB for OPA. You can contact Sarah at sarah96@aggienetwork.com.

From the Desk of the VP Alumnae Relations

by Lisa Guest, VP Alumnae Relations

I would like to thank all alumnae who attended Convention 2006 in Hartford, CT. It was great to put faces with the many alumnae I communicated with throughout the year and to get to know each of you on a more personal level. I hope to continue this trend at Convention 2007 in Jacksonville, Fla.

One of my goals for 2005-2006 was to increase alumnae attendance in Hartford by 20%. Unfortunately, this goal was not accomplished. But more new alumnae attended Convention 2006 than in previous years. So, I see that as a great accomplishment for the national and alumnae organization.

Now is the time to begin making plans to attend Convention 2007, which will mark our 40th anniversary. Convention 2007's Jacksonville location should be very appealing for alumnae who would like to combine a family vacation with OPA's anniversary. Jacksonville will offer many activities for family members, as well as both active and alumnae sisters. The NEB is already working to make the 40th anniversary a very special experience for all who attend.

If you have any ideas for the 40th anniversary, please email alumnae@omegaphialph.org I would love to share your ideas and look forward to incorporating them into the Convention's alumnae track.

“Lost” Beta Alums Attend Convention 2006

Convention 2006 offered an awesome experience...the attendance of Barbara (Bobbie) Greene Miller and Linda Terzian Cartiglia. And meeting both ladies was incredible, not only for myself, but for many other alums and actives as well. Until now, both were considered “lost” alumnae.

During OPA's beginning, the alumnae organization did not exist and therefore there was no lifetime fee paid prior to activation. When the alumnae organization was formed, many Beta alums did not join and did not pay the membership fee. Because of this situation, many Beta alums are not listed in our national database and are considered “lost alumnae”.

Meeting Bobbie and Linda was an awesome experience, especially hearing their stories of OPA's beginning. About a year ago, I visited the archives and was awed to read the minutes from the first several conventions. But there are no words to describe the feeling of meeting alumnae who played a crucial role in OPA's beginning. It was an awesome experience to see that not only myself, but many other alumnae felt this way.

Other Beta alums attending Convention 2006 were Thea Moritz, Judy Acosta, and Ann DeMatteo. These ladies brought a lot of OPA memorabilia, including composites, pledge books, pictures, and a very large paddle. Bobbie wore her active pin and promised to wear her OPA jacket to Convention 2007!

To witness how important OPA continues to mean to these alumnae, after so many years, and to glimpse how each has carried OPA's lessons and principles into their adult lives, makes all the work that goes into this office and into the Alumnae Board of Directors worth it. Each of these ladies expressed interest in working with the ABoD during the upcoming year. I look forward to working with each of them, and all alumnae, to ensure as many alumnae as possible attend the 40th anniversary in Jacksonville.

Convention 2006 Alumnae Delegates

Convention is as much for alumnae as for actives, and because of the ladies list-

ed below the alumnae organization made great strides forward. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following alumnae for serving as delegates and ensuring the voice of the alumnae organization and all alumnae were part of the decision making process during Convention 2006:

District 1 – Ann DeMatteo (Beta)
District 2 – Nichole Barnhart (Epsilon)
District 3 – Heather Pritchard (Nu)
District 4 – Anita Landry (Upsilon)
District 5 – Amy McConnell (Delta)
District 6 – Lisa Barcon (Alpha Alpha)
District 7 – Lynn Dudash (Nu)
At-Large – Chelsea Morrissey (Nu) and
Andie Bowman (Epsilon)

Alumnae Board of Directors (ABoD)

During Convention 2007, the delegation approved the formation of an Alumnae Board of Directors. For many, the ABoD may be an old concept, but much thought and discussion went into the planning and formation of the new “ABoD.” The ABoD will consist of specific jobs/positions, which will be ongoing, as well as special projects to be completed annually.

2006 legislation approved several of the ABoD positions and several more positions have been added to ensure its effectiveness. Additional legislation will be introduced at Convention 2007 to add offices deemed essential to the ABoD's efficiency and success.

The names and chapters for each ABoD appointment are included, as well as the vacant positions.

Alumnae Publications Director – Sara James (Psi)

Alumnae Convention Coordinator – vacant

Chapter Alumnae Liaison Director – Stephanie Mayer (Phi)

Alumnae Networking - Julia Timmons (Sigma)
Golden Ophia Leadership Director – Pam McEwen (Epsilon)

Golden Ophia Convention 2007 Activities Coordinator – Judy Acosta (Beta)

Alumnae Web Director – Heather Pritchard (Nu)

Alumnae Chapter Expansions Director – Erin Gatlin (Nu)

Alumnae Secretary – vacant

Traveling Ophia Project Coordinator (special project) – vacant

40th Anniversary Historian Project (special project) – vacant

Alumnae Pin Design Project Coordinators (special project) – Lisa Barcon (Alpha Alpha) / Thea Moritz (Beta)

D1 Director of Alumnae Activities – Keshia Gibson (Nu)

D2 Director of Alumnae Activities – Amy Mitchell (Rho)

D3 Director of Alumnae Activities – vacant

D4 Director of Alumnae Activities – vacant

D5 Director of Alumnae Activities – vacant

D6 Director of Alumnae Activities – Nancy York (Phi)

D7 Director of Alumnae Activities – Courtney Eighney (Gamma)

D8 Director of Alumnae Activities – vacant

If you are interested in one of the vacant positions listed above or would like more information, email alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

Alumnae Convention Coordinator and Convention 2007 Committee Members Needed

It will take many alumnae working together to ensure the 40th anniversary is a special experience. I am seeking a lot of alumnae to volunteer for the Convention 2007 Alumnae Track/Planning Committee. An Alumnae Convention Coordinator will be needed, as well as alumnae to serve as committee heads and committee members. If you are unable to attend convention, you can volunteer for a committee position and accomplish two tasks in one...take part in the planning process, which will serve

your alumnae sisters and give back to the national organization with your time.

40th Anniversary Project

With Convention 2007 marking OPA's 40th anniversary, it should be very special for all attendees. The ABoD would like to invite all alumnae to help in creating a video scrapbook and similar projects. All alumnae can contribute to this project by contributing pictures, stories, memories, etc. With 40 years of history, it will take input from many alumnae and resources. If you would like additional information or would to participate in this project, please email alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

Alumnae Cookbook Fundraiser

If you are interested in purchasing an alumnae cookbook, please visit our website, www.omegaphialpha.org or send an email to alumnae@omegaphialpha.org. Cookbooks cost \$10 each plus \$3.50 per order for shipping. Orders of more than 20 cookbooks require additional shipping charges. Checks or money orders can be mailed to: P.O. Box 307, Iola, TX 77861.

2006 Alumnae Society Induction

During Convention 2006, the second Alumnae Society Induction was conducted and this year all inductees were Sapphires, with several nearing the Diamond level. The ceremony followed Linda Terzian Cartiglia's speech and was a remarkable conclusion to the luncheon.

2006 inductees were all Beta alums and included, Judy Acosta, Thea Moritz, Linda Terzian Cartiglia and Bobbie Greene Miller. Congratulations to each of these ladies. I look forward to 2007 and the induction of alumnae into the Diamond level. What a way to celebrate OPA's 40th anniversary.

Monthly Email Newsletter

With the creation of the ABoD and the many changes that are occurring within the alumnae organization, an email newsletter has been created. Last Spring and prior to Convention, three newsletters were emailed. Many of the email addresses in our national database are

old. If you have not received an email newsletter and would like to, you can either update your mailing information on our national Web site or send an email to alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

If you would like to include information, articles, etc. in the newsletter or have comments or suggestions, send an email to Sara James, Alumnae Publications Director, at snjyellow@lycos.com.

2006-2007

The upcoming year will be busy and the ABoD is already hard at work. Eight ABoD members attended our Fall Meeting last month in Nashville. The meeting was very successful and many plans are in the works.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all ABoD members for volunteering their time and energy to ensure the upcoming year is successful. I know you will make my last year in office remarkable.

I would also like to thank Pam McEwen for attending our meeting and lending her support, encouragement, and vast knowledge to the alumnae organization. During my term in office, Pam has been a rare resource in providing historical information, as well as her guidance in building the current alumnae organization.

This is the last year of my term, which means it is time to turn our thoughts to the future. I am torn about the future. Part of me wants to continue in this office to ensure the progress that has been made continues into the future. But I also feel, another alumna should be given an opportunity to leave her own mark on this office and the alumnae organization. So now is the time for all alumnae to look into the future and give serious thought to running for VP of Alumnae Relations. I guarantee it will be an awesome experience. Even if I decide to not seek another term in office, it does not mean I will not be a part of the alumnae organization. I hope to have a position on the ABoD for many years to come.

The ABoD needs your help to ensure this year is successful and your voice is heard. Please send us an email or call with your opinions, suggestions, comments, etc. We look forward to hearing from you.

Alumnae Bios

Julia Timmons

ABoD, Alumnae Networking

Julia Timmons pledged Sigma Chapter at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in Fall 1999. She served as insignia coordinator, corresponding secretary and historian before becoming an alumna in 2001. After several years away from the sorority, she returned in February 2005 as the DAA for District 2. In August 2005, she became president of Omega Epsilon, Chattanooga's Alumnae Chapter. Julia will be serving as the alumnae networking assistant for this year.

Julia received her B.A. in history in May 2004 from UTC. She works for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee and is attending the Nashville School of Law. She is involved with Chattanooga CARES, an AIDS organization in Chattanooga and the local Girl Scout Council. Julia spends her free time doing homework and indulging in her love of reading. As a collector of antique books, Julia boasts a pretty large library.

Chelsea Morrisey

Young Alumnae Leader

Chelsea Morrisey pledged Nu Chapter in the fall of 1999. She has held several local and national positions, including Nu Chapter President and National Database Administrator. Her love of community service started when she became a Girl Scout 20 years ago. As Young Alumnae Leader, she wants to continue to support the sisterhood in transforming actives to alumnae. She currently lives in Sandy Springs, GA and is working as a software engineer.

Keshia Gibson

DDA for District 1

Keshia is returning as DAA for District 1 2006-07.

She's a Metro Atlanta native and a proud Georgia Tech grad. She is a full-time patent examiner for the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in Metro D.C.

In what spare time she digs up, she enjoys cooking or looking for new restaurants to try. She loves to eat.

Keshia has been involved in community service for as long as she can remember, thanks to 4-H, Girl Scouts, and other youth organizations. She joined Omega Phi Alpha as a sophomore. "Through OPA, I was able to continue serving my community while also befriending some incredible females," Keshia said.

As DAA for District 1, she is looking forward to helping the sorority reconnect with its lost alumnae. "The process has gone slower than I had hoped, but I am optimistic that things will pick up this year," she said. "Eventually, I would like to work with chapters directly in locating their alums. Until that time, start searches of your own, or keep up the ones you have."

Alumnae Questionnaire

For the past few years, the alumnae board has had a program that focused on younger alumnae. Providing graduating seniors with information on ways to stay involved and helping the sorority to meet the needs of those alumnae. They are called the Young Alumnae – headed by the Young Alumnae leader who holds an appointed position on the Alumnae Board.

It has been proposed that we expand this concept to focus on alumnae who have moved out of the “young” alumnae category. Using the same basic formula, the goal would be to meet the needs of other alumnae groups and to provide them with ways to get involved with and contribute to OPA.

In order to come up with the best program design, we need your help. Please answer the following questions. We don't want to limit your input to the questions below, so if you have additional thoughts or ideas on the topic, please email alumnae@omegaphialpha.org. **Please return your survey responses to Pamela McEwen, 108 Bluewater Circle, Nashville, TN 37217. This survey can also be found online at www.omegaphialpha.org**

1. I think it is a good idea to have programs that focus on specific groups of alumnae.

* Yes.

* No. I like the idea of focusing on different needs, but I don't think we need a formal program set up for them.

2. I think we should have the following number of programs:

* 1 is enough, the Young Alumnae.

* We should have 2, the Young Alumnae and one another for other alumnae.

* We should have as many groups as are determined to have a significant number of members.

* Other suggestions: _____

3. The name “Golden Ophia’s” has been proposed for the name of the program for the other group.

* I like the name for the other group.

* Other suggestions: _____

4. It has been proposed that we develop the groups based on interest that alumnae share. If we have interest groups, what groups do you think would be successful?

* I think interest groups are a good idea.

* I don't think that interest groups are a good idea.

* I would suggest the following interest groups: _____

5. It has been proposed that we develop groups by geographical areas, but not alumnae chapters.

* I think that geographical area groups are a good idea.

* I don't think we need regional groups. We already have alumnae chapters to meet that need.

6. Below is a list of activities that have been proposed for the interest groups and their leader (an appointed position that would be on the alumnae board). Please check the ones that you think should be assigned to the group(s):

* Coordinating the Alumnae Society induction each year at Convention.

* Seeking out alumnae who are eligible for society induction and inviting them to Convention.

* Providing information to alumnae on ways to stay involved with chapters, districts or the national organization.

* Coordinating activities at Convention for interested alumnae groups. (This would vary depending on the interest groups that were established.)

* Serving as a point of contact in each major metropolitan area to provide alumnae contact information and to network alumnae activity.

* Other (please describe): _____

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Announcements / Classifieds

SEEKING FORMER WILDCATS

Pamela Mudd Conlan is looking for all Westchester High School alumni. If you are a former Wildcat, please visit www.WestchesterWildcats.com or send an email to Alumni@Wranglerettes.com.

WRITERS NEEDED

Looking for sisters interested in writing stories for the Chevron. Contact VP Communications, Sarah VanDyke at comm@omegaphialpha.org for more information.

LEADERSHIP CONSULTANTS NEEDED

VP Leadership Development, Heather Harmon is looking for a couple energetic women to fill **Traveling Leadership Consultant positions for District 3 and 8**. District 3 includes Sigma, Nu, Omicron, and the KSU colony. District 8 includes Chi and Alpha Delta. Members must be alumnae in good standing and have great communication skills and able to travel (if needed). Contact Heather at leadership@omegaphialpha.org for more information or to apply.

ALUMNAE POSITIONS

Many Alumnae positions are vacant; Contact VP Alumnae Relations, Lisa Guest at alumnae@omegaphialpha.org if you're interested or what to know more.

ABoD

- Alumnae Convention Coordinator
- Golden Ophia Leadership Director
- Alumnae Secretary
- Traveling Ophia Project Coordinator (special project)
- 40th Anniversary Historian Project

Director of Alumnae Activities for Districts, 3, 4, 5 and 8