OMEGA PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY

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THE CHEVRON

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ALPHA BETA INDUCTION AT OLE MISS!!

By Ginger McGarity

On Jan. 25, 2003, Omega Phi Alpha stretched its boundaries to another state by bringing Alpha Beta Chapter into the fold. Alpha Beta becomes the 16th active chapter in Omega Phi Alpha, and the first in the state of Mississippi.

The induction ritual was the final step of a journey that began last spring when Epsilon sister Lindsay Haskins contacted Adrienne Grubic, former vice president -- expansions, asking for information on starting a new chapter at Ole Miss. Lindsay was planning to transfer to the Oxford, Mississippi, campus the following semester, but was reluctant to leave behind her new sisters at Epsilon Chapter at Tennessee Tech.

Perhaps there is a genetic predisposition toward O Phi A colonization in the Haskins family. Lindsay's father was an APO brother at Tennessee Tech who played a critical role in the founding of Epsilon Chapter in the 1970s.

Beginning in August, Lindsay worked closely with Ginger McGarity, the new vice president -- expansions, to spread the word about O Phi A at Ole Miss. By late September, the group petitioned for official recognition as a colony of Omega Phi Alpha.

At that point, the colony began working on charter requirements. Colonists drafted a local constitution, elected officers, and secured a faculty advisor. They outlined a budget, earned $250 in a fundraiser, and planned their first rush in great detail.

But, true to O Phi A form, the most stringent requirement was related to service. During the fall term, the fledgling group organized and implemented six service projects, each with a participation rate of greater than 75 percent. Their projects included an outdoor landscaping project at a local school, game outings to a nursing home, helping out at the humane society, and an ongoing mentoring project with elementary age children in their community.

Like pledges nationwide, these colonist also had to prove their knowledge of O Phi A policies and history by taking a series of pledge quizzes and passing the national test. After some serious study time together at the colonization retreat in November, all colonists passed the national test on the first try.

In December, the group submitted its application for charter, which was approved by Ginger.

The Jan. 25 induction weekend had a strong showing of support from O Phi A actives and alumnae in nearby states. Active sisters from Nu, Omicron, Sigma, and Rho chapters had been serving as long-distance big sisters to the colonists and made the road trip to Oxford to finally meet their new sisters in person.

See Alpha, page 7

With convention just around the corner, Omega Phi Alpha is looking for a few good women to fill positions on the National Executive Board. Two positions will be open this year: National President and Vice President of Business Operations.

Please see the website for more details!

IT'S COMING!!

Want to receive the Chevron online? More details coming soon!

OPHIA MOVES CAREERS
BY LEANN WILLIAMS

Many sisters, both active and alumna, have not realized the powerful potential that Omega Phi Alpha can offer them in a job search and on their resumes. OPA can be a valuable tool to active sisters through networking, leadership potential, and extracurricular activities. It can be beneficial to alumnae through networking, job experience, leadership development, and many other ways. Several actives and alumnae have benefited directly from the opportunities OPA has given them in the last few years. Chanda Glover, a Nu chapter active, was searching for a summer internship when she received an e-mail from a recent graduate of Georgia Tech and OPA alumna, Jill Whittington. Jill let the chapter know that the company she had gone to work for, ALCOA, was searching for an intern in the material science field, which was Chanda's major.

for an intern in the material science field, which was Chanda's major. Chanda applied and got the internship. She may never have known of the opportunity if not for the alumna. Jill was glad to have helped out and added that she "wished she could have actually done more to help her get the job

See Careers, page 7

CHAPTER REPORTS

Alpha Alpha Chapter

This semester's rush theme was "Winter Wonderland." During rush week we had many get-togethers to find out more about the girls who were interested. They came to our game night and our interview night. As the service project we had our Girl Scout Day. We had five different crafts for the Girl Scouts to do. They were split up into groups according to age and each group had OPA girls to lead them around. We had around 40 Girl Scouts from kindergarten through sixth grade. The younger ones were quite a handful, but everyone who participated that day had a blast. On Jan. 31st we had our initiation ceremony for nine new pledges. They are enthusiastic, motivated, and willing who all portray our three cardinal principles. We are looking forward to an amazing service-filled semester. We hope everyone else has had a start to a great semester too.

Delta Chapter

The Delta Girls sure have covered much uncharted territory this year, and we have had a blast doing it too. Doing Trick-or-Treat for Cans on Halloween is an awesome event and we highly recommend it to everyone as a very effective and fun project. On Dec.7 we held a formal with the Marines in the local area as a benefit for their own Toys-for-Tots program. It was the first Toys-for-Tots drive ever held at Texas A&M University and we hope to make it an annual event which will keep getting bigger and better every year. It was a big success and we had many Alumnae in attendance too! We have also been very successful this year in bringing all the girls together as sisters. We once were just an organization of cliques, but that is quickly fading away. Some girls attribute it to the new hour scheme where we now have to do all our hours with other sisters as a major project rather than having "outside hours" just to make up a quota. This new method has proved to be working well for us. On another happy note, we have had a whole lot of girls get engaged recently. 5 Ring-Passes since September! (Guess those crush and date parties have been working out...) The rest of us wish them all the very best of luck and happiness in the future!! Looking ahead, this semester has many things happening. We are most excited about our main event: Date Auction. As always, anyone and everyone in the eastern Central Texas area on the last week in April is more than welcome to come by, say hi, and participate in the Auction, or just come and watch some crazy college kids battle it out and having fun. One thing is for sure, it promises to be an explosively good time for everyone! And finally, may 2003 be a very prosperous and enjoyable year to all our OPA sisters everywhere!

Chi Chapter

Sisters from Chi report they had 12 actives and 11 pledges in the fall. The chapter hosted a Teddy Bear Ball, Martin Luther King Day of Service and Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF. In the area of fellowship, Chi had a spaghetti night before a weekly meeting and got together before a home football game. In terms of alumnae involvement, the chapter e-mails alumnae about events and invites them to participate. Alumnae members who are graduate students still on campus are personally invited to events. Chi held spring rush from Feb. 4 to 6, and expects to elect new officers around April 15.

Nu Chapter

Greetings from Nu Chapter. Spring classes started Jan. 6, and we welcomed two pledges from last semester and welcomed two sisters back to active status, bringing our active total

have improved slightly on our pledge class of two from last semester. We welcome these girls to our OPA sisterhood and are very excited to work with and get to know them. Our service plans include planting trees with Trees Atlanta, doing work at Fort Yargo State Park, going quilting, working with a local Girl Scout troop, continuing our Random Buzz Bites, helping out at a food bank, and working with our alumnae. We are again planning to work with other organizations on campus, including Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the College Democrats. Plans for formal and our Founder's Day celebration are in the works. We will be 15 this April! We are also looking forward to a possible road trip to visit Omicron Chapter and seeing Chi and Sigma chapters at our district retreat. Three of our sisters have formed an OPA step team, and will perform on March 15. Four of our sisters went out to 'Ole Miss' for Alpha Beta Chapter's induction. They had a wonderful trip, and the whole chapter joins them in sending congratulations and warm wishes to our new sisters at the University of Mississippi.

Epsilon Chapter

Service for the spring has had a great start. We visited the Cedar Hills Retirement Home to deliver Valentine's Day cards to the elderly on Jan. 28. The cards add a special touch to their everyday lives. We also have begun to prepare for our upcoming projects, which include: volunteering at the Humane Society, serving dinner at the Dismas House, working with structured athletics and planning our annual Girl Scout Badge Day. Everything with Rush last fall went as planned. We activated six new members. Spring Rush Week was Jan. 21 to Jan 23. This year's theme was "Ophia's Winter Wonderland. Seven young women accepted bids and were installed as pledges Jan. 27. Everyone is excited about having little sisters and walking with them as they journey through their pledgeship. Our upcoming sisterhood events include a March 28-29 retreat and a Mother/ Daughter Tea on April 27. Our theme this year will be a little different. It will be a baby shower theme, and gives from sisters and their mothers will be donated to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. The sister retreat will hopefully give us insight and a chance to re-bond and grow closer. Last semester we held an Alumnae Tea, which gave the past and most recent alumnae a chance to come out and visit with old sisters and to meet new faces. We hope to be able to do more with our alumnae as the new semester continues. The fund-raising committee has been working hard to find opportunities for the chapter to earn money to be able to hold great service projects. A new idea has been evolved, and that is a Valentine's Fundraiser. We sold candy grams to students on campus and had a drawing for door prizes. We have received many donations of support from the community, such as free haircuts, free tanning and gift certificates. Epsilon Chapter wishes all chapters good luck with their upcoming projects and sisterhood functions because those are always the best times!!

Sigma Chapter

The Spring semester has been going very well for us. We started out the semester will a two week rush and went great. We have five new girls that are pledging this semester. Currently, we are working on the Heifer Project that will continue until February 24th. That is where we donate money to buy an animal for a family in another country. We have made Valentine cards that we will be sending to a nursing home. We are also having secret Val Pal's this week and a Valentine Party on Feb. 14th. We went and helped out with the Habitat for Humanity and it went so well that we are going back. We are also looking forward to District Retreat in March at Ft. Yargo. We are very excited to be having Big/Lil Revealing on Feb. 20th. It should be very exciting. We have been very busy with all of our projects and they have all been fun.

Phi Chapter

Phi Chapter is looking forward to another great semester of service. In addition to our monthly visits at La Mesita Transitional Shelter, we will be working with Ronald McDonald House, St. Mary's Food Bank, St. Vincent De Paul, and in the campus-wide MLK Jr. Day of Service. Also on the agenda for the spring is another Fabulous Girl Scout Badge Day and the annual Devils in Disguise. We will also be participating in Relay for Life for the second year and hope to raise a large sum of money to contribute to breast cancer research. In April we will hold our annual formal/benefit with this year's theme being "A Night in the Orient". We hope the benefit will be as successful or more than the last ones have been. In February our chapter will participate in a low-ropes course to build communication and group cohesiveness. This has achieved a sense of trust and a sense of true sisterhood in the past and therefore we believe that this will strengthen our bonds once more. We set many goals for ourselves at our last retreat, and look forward to achieving them and setting new ones at an upcoming chapter retreat.

Rho Chapter

Just barely into the spring semester, Rho Chapter is on a roll. We just finished a very successful rush week, with almost 20 new pledges to proudly add to the roster. Planning for our service projects is already under way. Rho will definitely be busy this semester, participating in projects that range from Girl Scout Badge Day to Campus Awareness Events and caring for mental health patients. We are also very excited about starting to raise money for one of our main projects for the semester, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Rho is also preparing for one of our largest events, our second annual "Selling Out and Getting Bought" Date Auction fundraiser. With community wide sponsors and participants from campus-wide Greek affiliates, the auction was a great success. Overall, Rho is going, and growing strong.

Our continuous growth has us excited and hopeful. We know that with each new member we not only get a new sister, but we get an even greater capability to serve as well.

Tau Chapter

Tau Chaper inducted five new actives in December, and Spring 2003 was off to a hectic start. During the weeks of Jan. 16 and Jan. 24, we had rush information tables and we also had two informational sessions. On Jan. 24, we had our first social of the semester at Hard Rock Cafe. We invited the rushes to Hard Rock, as well as to a Jan. 26 service project so that they could get to know our actives better. We worked with the Special Olympics at a local bowling alley. Our actives had to watch over the participants playing and encourage them to play well. It was filled with fun and amusement and it also gave the rushes a good taste of what our service projects were like. We had a Greenhouse project on Feb. 8 and in the future will have a district retreat with the Corpus Christi and College Station chapters of Texas. This semester our focus will also be in trying to find projects we have not done before such as working more with an animal shelter and tutoring elementary children.

CARDINAL PRINCIPLES RULE AT CONVENTION 2003!

By Sarah VanDyke and Jan Titsworth

Friendship, Leadership, and Service. Convention 2003 will focus on all three of our cardinal principles. Save the date and make plans to head to Atlanta, Georgia for this year's national convention, July 30 to Aug. 2.

Friendship – The theme this year will be the sprit of teambuilding. Teamwork is very important to the success of our chapters and a valuable skill in the professional work place. We will have sisterhood activities and workshop topics to encourage and enhance teambuilding.

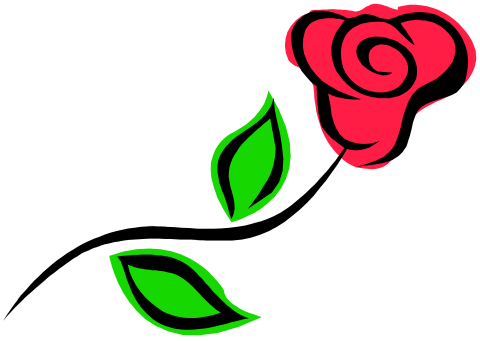
Leadership – The theme this year will be career-building. We will have a career fair for actives and alumnae to participate in, share knowledge, and gain invaluable insight into different professions. We will also have several workshops to enhance this career-building concept. Topics for workshops will include resume writing, portfolios, interviewing, and how OPA assists in career searching. Alumnae, your special insight is especially needed in this regard, and we hope many of you will want to get involved. Please contact Marlene Purdy to see how your skills and experiences can be included in a workshop or roundtable discussion.

Service – This year's president's project is Girl Scouts of the USA, so to end this year on the right foot we will be hosting a badge day with Girl Scout troops in Atlanta as our service project. Join us as actives and alums board a bus for the Georgia Tech campus, where we will also enjoy some sisterhood moments in addition to our convention service project.

Activities for Family Members -- We will be offering an exciting new element to our convention programming this year We will have a family track full of activities for spouses and other family members traveling with you. Be sure to check our website for more information about those exciting plans.

OPA sisters will stay in style at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. The hotel has been undergoing a complete renovation, and we will be among the first groups to experience its "brand new" look. Be sure to bring your swimsuits – there is an indoor heated pool – and fitness buffs can take advantage of the health club. Several spa services are offered on site for those who would like to indulge in a little luxury! The Waverly is adjacent to The Galleria boutique mall with a food court and a few restaurants with table seating. The hotel is also connected by skybridge to the Cobb County Convention Center and a regional mall with many department stores and other shops. Several other restaurants are just a short walk away.

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan a family vacation this year to take in the sights of Atlanta, Georgia, and participate at Convention 2003. For more information and to register online, visit and click on the "Convention 2003" button. If you do not have Internet access and would like a registration form mailed to you, please call Jan Titsworth at (817) 656-2766.



ALUMS WILL SERVE OPA AT CONVENTION 2003

Alums will play a special role at the upcoming National Convention. Part of the program being planned is a job fair. A representative from the Georgia Tech career center will present information on resumes, portfolios and interviewing. Tips on how to use Omega Phi Alpha on your resume and in your interviews will covered. During the job fair, alumnae will share their expertise in a variety of career fields. Those fields that we hope to have covered are education, social services, marketing and public relations, engineering, health careers/nursing, science and technology, the arts, legal services, computers, entrepreneurship, and more. What is needed are sisters from each of these fields to share their expertise. If you would be willing to be part of this very important program and the 2003 Convention, please contact Vice President-Alumnae Relations Marlene Purdy at: maplap@wcnet.org.

DISTRICT ALUMNAE ADVISORS NEEDED

If you would like to become more actively involved with Omega Phi Alpha but do not have the time to hold a national office, consider becoming a District Alumnae Advisor. These alumnae sisters support and assist the TLCs. While they would not need to attend the active chapter retreats, they would assist in finding alums to help with the retreats and provide ideas. They primarily serve as resource for the TLCs. While we had been unable to fill two of the slots this year, through publicizing the positions, we hope to have all on board immediately following the convention. Since this is an appointed position, anyone interested needs to contact Vice President-Alumnae Relations Marlene Purdy at: maplap@wcnet.org.

CONVENTION 2003 SCHEDULE

Convention 2003
Wednesday, July 30

5 – 6:45 p.m.	NEB meeting and dinner
7 – 10 p.m.	Welcome and Convention Kickoff

Thursday July 31

8 – 9 a.m.	Chapter introductions
9 – 10:30 a.m.	Business
10:30 – 11 a.m.	Break/ Rose shop
11 a.m. - noon	Budget Workshop
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Parliamentary Procedure at-a-glance & Legislation Workshop
2:30 – 3 p.m.	Break/ Rose shop
3 – 5 p.m.	Business
5 – 5:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Activity
5:30 – 6 p.m.	Break/ Rose shop
6 – 8 p.m.	Council Dinner
	President's Council
	Service Council
	Membership Council
8:15 p.m.	NEB meeting

Friday Aug 1

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Business
9:30 – 10 a.m.	Break/ Rose shop
10 a.m. – noon.	Career Breakout Workshops & TLC Training
Noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch at the hotel
1 – 2:30 p.m.	Business
2:30 – 3 p.m.	Break/ Rose shop
3 – 4 p.m.	Career Fair
4 – 5 p.m.	Candidate's Forum
5 – 5:30 p.m.	Sisterhood activity
5:30 – 6 p.m.	Break/ Rose shop
6 – 8 p.m.	District Dinners

Saturday Aug. 2

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	NEB breakfast meeting
8:30 – 10 a.m.	Business
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Service Project, Lunch & Sisterhood Activity
3 – 5 p.m.	Concurrent Workshops
5 – 7 p.m.	Personal Time
7 p.m. – 1 a.m.	Banquet/ Convention Recap/ Officer Installation

OPA Will Help YOU Get To Convention This Summer!!

by Ginger McGarity

Have you been thinking about running for a national office, but are a little hesitant about it? Don't be! O Phi A is so eager to get our alumnae involved again, that we will pay part of your cost to attend convention if you run for a national office! Here's how it works. If you file your petition to run for a position on the National Executive Board at least three weeks before the start of the National Convention, you are eligible to be reimbursed for one half of your travel expenses to attend Convention. That's all there is to it! Just file your petition as a candidate and make your travel plans. You can even file the petition online at www.omegaphialpha.org. While you are at Convention, you should submit your voucher and a copy of your receipts to be reimbursed. Funds permitting, you will have the reimbursement check before you leave Convention, even if you don't win the office you were seeking. Why is O Phi A making this offer? Because we need to draw upon the valuable skills that are out there in our alumnae population. Plus, we know how difficult it can be to volunteer for a leadership role when you've been "out of the loop" for a while. WE NEED YOU, so we want to make it easy for you to come back and offer your services. Keep in mind that this reimbursement cannot be combined with any other reimbursement you may be entitled to. For instance, current NEB members, District Alumnae Advisors, and alumnae voting delegates are already entitled to travel reimbursements for attending Convention. This cannot be combined with or added to those reimbursements. Also, if you withdraw your name as a candidate for national office prior to the election, you will lose the right to be reimbursed. See the convention section of O Phi A's national website (www.omegaphialpha.org) for more details about running for the national executive board.

Convention 2003 Fast Facts
July 30 to. Aug. 2

Delegate's Fee $45 (actives/ alums)

Includes: continental breakfast Thurs. – Sat., lunch and dinner on Fri., transportation to/from service & sisterhood events

NEW this year! Planned spouse/family activities

See website for activities and costs!!

Banquet

Saturday, Aug.2

7:00pm (double check Sarah's schedule)

Renaissance Waverly Hotel

Tickets: $40

Accommodations: Renaissance Waverly Hotel

Quad occupancy $44/night (tax included)

Triple occupancy $59/night (tax included)

Double occupancy $88/night (tax included)

Single occupancy $176/night (tax included)

For more information go to : www.omegaphialpha.org

Click on "Convention 2003"

NEW!! Register online through OPA website -credit card payment available through Pay Pal (transaction fee applies)

Hard copy registration forms also available! Contact Jan Titsworth at (817) 656-2766 or jan@resultspm.com

ALUMNAE NEWS

ALUMNAE UPDATES
After a long drought, we are again receiving updates on our sisters' lives. Keep the information coming! – Marlene Purdy, vice president, alumnae relations

Liz Glazener (Phi) lives in San Francisco where she is employed as an escrow assistant by Old Republic Title Company.

Susan Lynn Dawley (Chi) lives in Lancaster, SC where she works at two jobs. Her fulltime employment is with the Industrial Distribution Group (IDG) at Duracell. Part time she is a pharmacy associate with Eckerd Drug #1162.

Chris Sliffe Lyons (Alpha '92) is living in Jacksonville NC with her husband Alan and daughters Hanna and Kelly. She is a stay–at-home mom and a volunteer. She is a co-leader for Girl Scouts, a soccer mom, and active PTO member. In addition, she is a room mom, helping the teachers in her daughters' classrooms. She is excited about getting involved in Omega Phi Alpha again after returning to the U.S. from Okinawa, Japan, where she was the committee chair for their base's eleven Girl Scout troops.

Patty Palko Drexler (Epsilon) and her husband Rob joyfully announce the arrival of new baby Max born on July 22. Weighing in at 9lbs 6 oz, he joins siblings Madison, age 6 and Will, age 3. A third sibling Gabriela is deceased. Patti lives in Nashville TN.

Su Maciel (Chi) lives in Miami Beach FL where she is a registered nurse for Dr. Brandt. She continues to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and Walk for Cystic Fibrosis. She speaks glowingly about the diversity of the Miami-Dade community (asking us to consider Miami for a convention).

Leann Williams (Nu) is our new Executive Vice President. Married to Scott Williams for 13 years, they have three sons Ryan, 7, Carter, 5, and Grant, 2. They live in Dalton, GA, where Leann works as a substitute teacher for the Whitfield County schools. In her spare time (?) she is volunteer publicity director for the American Heart Association where she was the highest fundraiser for the American Heart Walk 2002.

Becky Duckro (Alpha/Honorary) recently had her first book *The Last Coffin* published. The mystery was set in Hilton Head, SC where she had resided part-time. She lives in Bowling Green where she taught for 29 years prior to retirement.

Kimberly Schaffer Faraci (Beta) resides in Plainview, NY, where she is an elementary teacher. She has volunteered for three months each of the past two years to work on an Anti Graffiti Art Contest where they have won first prize both years. She has had 28 published ideas in the Mailbox Magazine (for teachers) and has just written a book that she is trying to get published.

Danielle Burkin (Alpha) lives with her husband, Donald, and daughter, Hope, in Perrysburg, OH. Hope has been diagnosed with a rare and lethal disease, Fanconi Anemia (FA). An inherited genetic disorder that primarily affects children by severely attacking their bone marrow, there is no known cure. The family is actively involved in fundraising efforts for the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, Inc.

KNOXVILLE ALUMNAE CHAPTER ORGANIZING

Jill Whittington, a 1998 alumnae of Nu Chapter who is living in the Knoxville area, reports that she and several sisters have taken the first step in creating an alumnae chapter in the Knoxville area. An organizational/get-to-know-you meeting has been held. There are 15 sisters interested, and there are at least 50 other sisters in the area. The group plans to present a petition for alumnae chapter status to national by Convention 2003.

The group has already decided on some service projects, Jill said. Alumnae will collect labels from two manufacturers and donate them to a local school. Campbell's has done "Labels for Education" for many years. They grant points to schools toward the "purchase" of equipment through its catalog. General Mills has the "Box Tops for Education" program through which the company donates $.10 per box top to schools to use as they see fit. We have selected Alcoa Elementary School as our benefactor. We would love to get the support of sisters from around the country to help make this a big success. If you have a local school that benefits from this program - GREAT! Continue to support them. But if you or your chapter does not already collect these labels for another school and would like to help support our new organization, we would love to receive your labels. These companies are willing to give away the money and supplies to anyone who asks for them. I have attached the company links below. Here they list the participating products, rules, etc.

If interested, contact www.boxtops4education.com or www.labelsforeducation.com.

If you choose to help us, labels can be forwarded to me at 1328 Perkins St., Alcoa, TN 37701. I can be reached at 865-984-7705 if there are any questions.

Also, you can help recruit sisters for our alumnae chapter. We'd love to have them! So, if you know of any sisters in the Knoxville area or if you have recent/future graduates heading to the Knoxville area, please pass along my contact information to them.

ALPHA

National Executive Vice President Leann Williams led a workshop about O Phi A's national service program and awards, and National Treasurer Pamela McEwen led the participants in an overview of their new financial obligations as an arm of the sorority.

The colonists and their visiting big sisters got a chance to burn off some energy by running around the campus in an O Phi A scavenger hunt. They showed off their creativity by bringing back items that represented our cardinal principles, men, women, as well as random other items (like items with foreign writing or items borrowed from an alumna).

Later that night, National President Sarah VanDyke and Ginger led the colonists through the formal induction ceremony. Sarah solemnly declared the Alpha Beta Chapter active on the campus of the University of Mississippi. After the 17 colonists repeated the membership oath, they were declared lifetime members in Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority.

After the excitement of the induction ritual itself, the 36 OPA sisters in attendance retired to a local restaurant to celebrate together. The national organization gave the new chapter several gifts, including a framed charter, an engraved gavel, a lace tablecloth, and a packet of pledge pins. Alpha Chapter sent a blue tablecloth, Nu Chapter gave a silver candelabra, and Epsilon Chapter sent a big blue banner. Convention Coordinator 2004 Sabrina Somerby gave the new chapter a scrapbook kit, pointing out that they are eligible to compete for the national scrapbook award this summer. Webmaster Lara Randall gave the group its official chapter ledger, complete with an engraved nameplate. Sarah gave the new chapter two big Rubbermaid storage containers to help them stay organized. Pamela made a donation to Alpha Beta's savings account held by national, hoping to encourage a strong Convention attendance this summer.

The charter sisters of Alpha Beta Chapter are Courtney Bounds, Laura Boyd, Amanda Bullard, Kacey Cole, Nicole Dauzat, Sarah Evans, Emily Farmer, Myrinda Grantham, Lindsay Haskins, Candis Higginbotham, Autumn Huk, Julie Kincaide, Alyssa Kuhnle, Jessica Mason, Erica Paschall, Lauren Scott, and Sarah Strzalka.

The following alumnae and active sisters participated in the induction weekend: Sarah VanDyke, Leann Williams, Ginger McGarity, Pamela McEwen, Chelsea Morrisey, Sabrina Somerby, Lara Randall, AnaLisa Cuifettili, Nora DelCul, Mary Varnell, Cara Jones, Radha Sathe, Lynn Dudash, Bridget Bailey, Susan Vaughn, Shannon Collins, Erin Valentino, Yvonne Corpus, Kate Jostworth, Kristen Walker, Kim Koehler, and Jessica Smith.

CAREERS

than just tell her about it." And, she said she would always keep the chapter informed of opportunities when they come available.

Many alumnae have benefited from OPA in job searches as well. Former National President Jan Titsworth landed a job as a dean with a major Texas University mainly because of the leadership experience she gained as a local and national officer of OPA.

Former national officer Lara Randall got her current job in communications based largely on her experience in OPA as our national communications director and webmaster. Also, our current National Treasurer, Pamela McEwen, was promoted to a higher rank in the Nashville government and credits that promotion mainly to her extensive experience in OPA and the awards she has been bestowed.

I, personally, have had OPA move my career along. I was sitting in an interview for a job as regional publicity director for the American Heart Association and was asked about OPA on my resume. I told them that OPA was "a national service organization dedicated to promoting a program of service to young, college women and hoping that the program of service stays a part of their lives and continues to focus them on service as they go out into the world to make it a better place." They were so impressed that I was a national officer of this great organization that they offered me the position on the spot.

OPA can also be a valuable tool for interviewing in this new climate of behavioral situation interviews. An interviewer might ask you a question like: "Tell me a time when you were coordinating a project and the others involved did not fulfill their responsibilities. What did you do?" Well, anyone in OPA can come up with a great example for this one.

In a recent job interview, current national officer Ginger McGarity crafted answers in about half the questions she was asked using examples from her OPA experiences. She also landed the job.

In conclusion, both actives and alumnae need to be aware that OPA can be a wonderful tool to use on resumes, in interviews, and in networking. To further this end, the National Executive Board has focused a large part of Convention 2003 on jobs and careers. There will be a workshop on how to use OPA on your resume. There will be a career fair involving many alumnae from many different job areas. And, there will be a large contingent of alumnae available at convention for some serious networking possibilities. So, make your plans to attend now and remember to start using OPA as a way to market yourself for the future.