# Chevron

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

VOLUME 39 ◆ NUMBER 3

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

*by Andie Bowman,*
*National Membership Director*

Convention 2007 is just a few months away. So if you are looking forward to seeing other OPA sisters while visiting Jacksonville, Fla., then start planning to attend now.

## CONVENTION SCHEDULE

This year's Convention will start on Wednesday, July 25 with registration and a poolside kick-off, ice cream sundae party. Events will end on Saturday, July 28 at the Convention Celebration featuring dinner at the Charthouse followed by a dessert reception at the hotel.

Those in attendance, both actives and alumnae, will be busy with activities. Some highlights from the schedule include:

* Workshops on OPA basics, song/ceremonies and women's health topics
* Council meetings and meals
* District meetings and meals
* Elections for Vice President of Alumnae Relations, Vice President of Advancement Planning and Vice President of Finance

An Alumnae Recognition Luncheon will be held to help celebrate our 40th Anniversary. We hope many alumnae will come to share stories of our past and to see the amazing women who are leading OPA's present and future. Lisa Guest, the Vice President of Alumnae Relations, along with the Alumnae Board of Directors, is working on an exciting Alum Track for all the alumnae who join us. Anyone wanting to be an alumna delegate should contact Lisa Guest at alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registration can be done online at http://www.omegaphialpha.org. Those who register and pay by May 15 will receive a free T-shirt. Registration is open until June 15. Late registration is between June 16 and July 15. Registration will be closed after July 15. Our convention coordinator will need a final head count for various vendors; therefore, no one else can be added after this date.

The registration fee is $60 a person, Wednesday through Saturday, or $20 per day per person. This fee includes ice cream at the kick-off party along with breakfast for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Transportation to the hotel will be provided for those sisters who will be flying into Jacksonville. Hotel costs for the Wyndham on the Jacksonville Riverwalk will be $120 a night. Banquet will be $50 a person. Fees for other options will be shown on the registration form.

## CONVENTION HOTEL

Our home for Convention 2007 will be the Wyndham on the Jacksonville Riverwalk. It is 20 minutes from the airport and has recently been renovated. The hotel is on the Riverwalk of the St. John's River in downtown Jacksonville. It is across the river from Jacksonville's famous Landing, which is full of shops and restaurants. Hotel amenities include high speed internet access, hairdryers, daily newspapers, room service, an outdoor swimming pool and fitness center. To get free wireless internet access you can join

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

**Submissions:**
Articles for the Chevron are written by active sisters and alumnae. If you would like to submit a feature story about an alumna 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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Nichole Barnhart
sec@omegaphialpha.org
865-603-4130
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Maryville, TN 37801

# *President's Corner...*

Hello O-Phi-A Sisters,

What an amazing year this has been serving on the National Executive Board as National President. As you know, I am finishing out the third year of a three-year term, so my time serving in this capacity is abbreviated, but it has been a fun and rewarding experience. One I hope to experience again one day.

I, like many sisters, left school to pursue my career, my graduate degree, and my boyfriend, and I didn't stay actively involved as an alumna, but my mind would often drift to my days as an active, and the Chevron always seemed to find me wherever I happened to be. I would check out the Web site from time to time as well, and I always knew that I wanted to get back involved. It was through communication with Sarah VanDyke (Hatley, back in the days when I first knew her at Delta) that drew me back, and I am so grateful that she did.

It all started with an invitation to Convention 2004 in Nashville where Sarah explained to me if I ran for an office then part of my travel could be reimbursed. That sounded good to me, so I ran for membership director. I have seen OPA accomplish so much in just a few years: Vision 2010, induction of four new chapters, significant growth in the alumnae program and significant growth at the active level. Omega Phi Alpha stands for principles in which I have always believed, so seeing those principles spread through campuses nationwide is incredibly inspiring.

My hope is that this letter will serve as my personal invitation to you to get back involved in your sisterhood. Reconnect with a long lost sister and let her know the influence she has had on your life. Contact a chapter nearby and offer your support or assistance. Fill out an online interest survey at www.omegaphialpha.org, or maybe even consider taking on a national office or appointment. I would also love to see you all in Jacksonville this summer for our 40th anniversary. Consider serving as an alumna delegate or just come and hang out with us all.

Sincerely,

Amy McConnell

National President

*(continued from page 1)*

Wyndham ByRequest for free at Wyndham's website. The hotel has handicapped accessibility. Our meeting rooms will be on the first floor.

## PREPARING FOR CONVENTION

Local chapters, while electing officers in the spring, should consider whether its candidates for higher can attend Convention. All Convention delegates elected to attend by chapters should be prepared to attend business meetings and takes notes in order to share their knowledge from Convention with their chapter. Alum delegates should be prepared to also attend business meetings and workshops. Please pack business casual clothes for business meetings and your favorite OPA shirt for OPA Spirit day. Since our theme is "Service is Our Greatest Treasure" feel free to bring private related stuff too.

If possible all delegates should try to learn or refresh themselves on the basics of Robert's Rules of Order. A great book for this is The Complete Idiot's Guide to Robert's Rules by Nancy Sylvester. Our rules of the day will be presented at Convention in a workshop.

Delegates from local chapters should bring T-shirts from their chapter or school to give away as prizes. Chapters that want to sell any of their shirts at Rose Shop need to have their merchandise at Convention in the Rose Shop by Wednesday, July 25. They can be mailed to the hotel or come with the chapter's representatives. Delegates should also make sure they have a copy of their chapter's local Constitution with them.

If you are looking to run for a position on the NEB, then please reference the national Web site for the petition that you need to fill out. Candidates whose petitions are postmarked by July 1 will receive half of their travel expenses reimbursed. Those who are running for office should make flight arrangements to leave after noon on Sunday, July 29 so they will be available to attend their first NEB meeting and receive training. All completed petition packets and questions can be sent to Executive Secretary Nichole Barnhart at sec@omegaphialpha.org or 3814 Big Springs Rd Maryville, TN 37801.

## Classifieds

**OPA needs a Fundraising Chair.**

*The Fund Raising Chair coordinates fund-raising activity for Omega Phi Alpha sorority. She conducts the national fund-raiser, provides the chapters with fund-raising ideas and information and works with the VP of Communications to maintain fund-raising information on the sorority website. This position develops actual fund-raising activities; she does not generate donations and sponsorships. For more information or to apply contact Anita Landry, VP Advancement Planning (advancement@omegaphialpha.org).*

## FAST FACTS FOR CONVENTION 2007

**When:** July 25-28, 2007

**Where:** Wyndham on the Jacksonville Riverwalk
1515 Prudential Drive
Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

**Tel:** 904-396-5100

**Cost:** Convention Registration $60/person or $20/day
Banquet Dinner $50

**Room Rates:**
Single: $120/night Double: $60/night Triple: $40/night Quad: $30/night

**Banquet:** July 28
Dinner at the Charthouse, 5-7:30 p.m.
Dessert Reception/Awards at the hotel, 8:30-10:00

**Service Project:** Will be throughout Convention

**T-shirt:** (S-XL) $15.00 (2XL-3XL) $17
They will be very colorful. Most likely red shirts

*For more information go to www.omegaphialpha.org and click on "Convention" or on Facebook in the "OPA Convention 2007" group.*

*Hard copies of forms and other information are available from Stephanie Hallman, VP of Business Operations, at busops@omegaphialpha.org or Andrea Watson, convention coordinator, at convention@omegaphialpha.org.*

# Dollar General Honors *JULIE FILSON* With outstanding commitment To Community Award

*Editor's Note: This article was written by Emily S. Weiss, media relations manager, Dollar General Corp.*

GOODLETTSVILLE, Tenn. – Julie Filson, executive assistant at the Dollar General Store Support Center, recently received the company's Outstanding Commitment to Community award for her philanthropic efforts and commitment to serving others. Each day Dollar General's 63,000 employees live out the company's mission of "Serving Others," and Filson was one of the exemplary employees selected to receive this honor. Filson is an alumna of Epsilon Chapter, a former member of the National Executive Board and an organizer for the Nashville Area Alumnae Chapter, setting up projects for the American Red Cross, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Graceworks, Room at the Inn, Box Tops for Education, Campbell Soup Label program for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the greeting cards program for the mentally challenged. Filson is a volunteer with the Susan G. Komen Greater Nashville area affiliate. For the past two years, she has served on the Steering Committee for the Race for the Cure. In 2006, she held the community initiatives chair, responsible for promotion of education in the nine county service areas of the affiliate. She committed over 600 hours to this cause is already working on next year's event.

"Julie is most often described by her colleagues and friends as enthusiastic, loyal and very devoted. Her positive attitude is contagious and rubs off on anyone who has ever been around her." said Rhonda Taylor, deputy general counsel at Dollar General and Filson's co-worker. "Whatever the job or volunteer opportunity is, Julie puts all of her abilities, enthusiasm and dedication in to it."

Filson will receive a personalized award and a $2,500 grant will be given on her behalf to Komen Greater Nashville Race for the Cure. Nominations for the Outstanding Commitment to Community award were submitted by a wide array of people and Dollar General awarded one winner per each division and distribution center which had qualified nominations and one winner from the store support center. Eleven Dollar General employees and one employee group received the Outstanding Commitment to Community award.

Dollar General is a Fortune 500^® discount retailer with more than 8,300 neighborhood stores. In 2005, the company supported nonprofit organizations that helped more than 81,000 individuals take their first steps toward literacy, a general education diploma or English proficiency.

# Relay for Life: A Team Event to Fight Cancer

*by Lindsey Gomez, National Service Director*

With the arrival of spring marks the annual American Cancer Society event, Relay For Life. Relay for Life is an overnight event held around the world. Relay for Life has a three-purpose goal every year: it celebrates cancer survivors, it raises awareness of cancer and means of prevention, and it helps raise money for ongoing research and funding for programs associated with the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Gordy Klatt started this amazing program in 1985. Dr Klatt spent 24 hours circling the track of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash., and raised $27,000 for cancer research. Since then, the event has grown nationally and globally.

Having personally participated in Relay for Life for four years with Phi Chapter, I strongly encourage you to form a team, and devote your time (Relays take between 12 and 24 hours, depending on the community) to a great cause. For active chapters, this is a great time to hold a sisterhood retreat or a district rally. (There is a lot of down time between walking, which provides a great time for sisterhood bonding—invite your alums to participate as well.) For alums, this is a chance for you to get your friends, family, and fellow alum sisters in your area together for at least 12 memorable hours of service.

How can you participate in Relay for Life? Well there are multiple ways:

1. You can form a team;
2. You can donate or sponsor fellow sister;
3. You can volunteer at the event;
4. You can participate in survivorship activities.

For additional information regarding the event or finding a Relay for Life near your hometown, visit www.cancer.org/docroot/GI/gi_1.asp or type Relay for Life into the Google toolbar.

# Nu Holds Sucessful Rush

Pledges JoAnne and Melissa (center) joining us at TreesAtlanta.

*by Anne Wilhoite, Nu Chapter President*

In the past couple of years, Nu has made a strong expansions effort to help our chapter maintain sustainable growth. We more than doubled the size of our chapter when 25 new sisters joined in 2005-06. This successful recruitment dissolved our fears of losing most sisters when 14 of us plan to graduate this May. Still wanting to have more than 20 sisters in our chapter after this spring, we decided to heavily publicize rush.

Membership Director Swati Vishnubhakat led an enthusiastic rush committee. Laura Welborn helped organize some gorgeous yet simple fliers for us to distribute around campus, and Erin Walters organized the purchase of a large banner to hang outside of the Student Center. The banner was expensive, but we will be able to use it for years to come. As we did last year, we placed postcards with rush information in student mailboxes.

Instead of holding rush in the Student Center, we upgraded to a nicer suite in the Student Success Center overlooking the football field. On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, sisters brought in delicious Italian dishes like lasagna and baked ziti for the rushes to enjoy, as well as our signature sherbet fruit punch. We presented a PowerPoint and Swati talked about OPA in general and the pledging process. Officers talked about what each of the cardinal principles mean to us.

Nu alumna Chelsea Morrisey commented: “I was very impressed with rush this term. Every speaker was fun and professional, and really spoke to what OPA is all about.” Between each segment of our rush presentation, we took small breaks to work on a service project where we decorated Valentine’s Day cards for a local children’s hospital and to play a game.

Our rush was a great success, and we celebrated by inviting them to a dessert social on Friday night. On Saturday morning, two girls we had given bids to came to TreesAtlanta, an outdoor service project we do every semester. We pinned 10 pledges, and by the end of this spring we will have 15 wonderful new sisters to fill the shoes of our graduates. What’s even more important, our new pledges all seem to share the love of service that our sisters have, and our chapter will continue to grow with this spirit.

# Active Chapter Reports

## ALPHA CHAPTER

Greetings, lovely sisters, from Alpha Chapter. We have had an incredible year so far, and we do not plan on slowing down.

We welcomed a new and talented pledge class of nine sisters. Three of them have already stepped up to take positions on our executive board. One of our new sisters has even took it upon herself to make a Web site for the chapter. You can go to www.geocities.com/bgophia to see how we are doing.

We just found out that we were on the top of the Greek Report for last semester. We had the highest GPA on campus and continue to have the highest cumulative GPA. For these reasons we received an Academic Excellence Award during the Greek Awards ceremony in January.

The spring semester is now is full swing and we are in the process of initiating a new group of fabulous girls.

## GAMMA CHAPTER

Hello From Gamma Chapter

We have been really busy so far this semester and we are looking forward to a lot of events coming up.

One of our members found out about a school in West Virginia where the children are surrounded by coal trucks, so they have respiratory problems. Along with that they are beneath a dam that could break at any moment. Should it break, it is likely the children will be killed. Also the high school had to shut down, and the students must travel an hour and a half to get to school. Parents of these children have taken it upon themselves to raise money to build a school for the children. We have decided to help with this. We are thinking of creating penny wars at the local schools, and to donate the money to the school. If any of you would like to help with this effort, please let us know.

We will have two blood drives this semester. We helped with Pure Style, a fashion show to promote teens dressing modestly as well as fashionably. We will work with Relay for Life and Ronald McDonald House again this semester. We participated in KIAR, during which is record books we donate onto tapes and they are then donated to children.

We went 80s roller-skating, which was a lot of fun. A potluck dinner/movie night is coming up. We also want to attend a Piston's basketball game.

In an effort to relax before a stressful we of exams, we will have a pampering night. At the end of March is our formal. Wish Upon A Star is the theme and will we do a service project with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to go with our theme.

Seven girls were in our pledge class of seven girls. We have joined a service council at Eastern Michigan University. We wish everyone a wonderful semester.

## DELTA CHAPTER

Howdy from the Delta Chapter at Texas A&M University. We have gotten off to a great start for 2007. Our projects have already started, and we have more to come. We initiated 15 girls this semester, and all of them are super excited about Omega Phi Alpha. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a random act of kindness on campus, and handed out Hershey's Kisses to people, and also had a girl's night in, complete with pizza and chick flicks. We have planned a reception for our campus maintenance workers as another one of our random acts of kindness. To help out in our community this semester, we are helping with an elementary school fair, and also participating in The Big Event, which is a huge community-wide service project done by all of the student organizations on campus. We are also participating in Relay for Life, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House in Houston, helping with a health fair focusing on women's health on campus, and hosting a BBQ for MHMR. We also have some pretty exciting social events planned including a luncheon during our Parent's Weekend, a cookout at Lake Bryan, and a formal complete with casino games. Our fundraiser for the semester is a date auction followed by a paintball crush party. Our calendars are full, but that's the way we like it. We wish all of our sisters a fabulous semester.

## EPSILON CHAPTER

Epsilon Chapter is having a wonderful semester. We have six new pledges and our schedules are ever eventful with wonderful upcoming service projects.

On Valentine's Day, we attended "The Vagina Monologues" at the Campus Back Door Playhouse. This is an annual Valentine's production at various campus, community and professional theaters. The play's goal is to raise the awareness of violence against women and fight the injustice. All the proceeds made from the production are donated to the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Epsilon contributed $120 by buying 20 tickets to the event. We enjoyed it very much. The money collectively raised for TCADSV came to $3,000. It was very wonderful to have been involved and supportive of this event, not to mention one of the actresses was our sister.

We are currently planning our event Heart to Heart to raise heart health awareness. We will be holding events such as "Sing Your Heart Out" and "Wear Red Day." We are also planning on attending Relay for Life and have teams set up and ready to participate. It is pleasing to know how our sisters really want to support cancer victims. We are all very excited about these upcoming events and we know that our service will make our world and community a better place.

## NU CHAPTER

We have gotten off to a great start this semester! We had Rush in January and now have ten awesome new pledges.

They have really been participating a lot in our events and we love to see their smiling faces! Some service projects we have been working on are TreesAtlanta, visiting a children's hospital, park cleanups, Georgia Tech Women's Awareness Month and tutoring at a local middle school. At the beginning of March, we held a date auction fund raiser, which helped us raise almost $600! We also recently had a joint service project and pizza lunch with Alpha Chi Sigma, the honor chemistry fraternity. In the coming month we're looking forward to our sisterhood retreat, officer elections and lots more fun!

## OMNICRON CHAPTER

Trash was everywhere. Plastic. Bottles. Cans. You name it, and it could probably be found on the side of Highway 80. It's a pretty common sight for the residents of Shorter, AL. Sixty-five brightly dressed girls hauling 70 white trash bags, however, is not.

Omicron Chapter spent this semester's pledge retreat at a sister's home about 30 minutes from Auburn University. Located in the middle of nowhere, this enchanting get-away proved to be exactly what the Omicron Chapter needed to get away from the stress of classes and spend time getting to know each other. Even more importantly, it gave the sisters a chance to make a difference by picking up over 70 bags of trash for Adopt-A-Mile.

Along the way, a couple of sisters found a wounded dog and immediately fell in love with the creature. It didn't take long for them to load the boxer into a kennel and carry it to Auburn's Humane Shelter.

"We couldn't just leave it there," said senior Quinn McGill. "It looked so small and helpless. Those eyes called out for help. Who were we to refuse?"

They anxiously wait to find out how it is doing, and have hopes of giving it a permanent home.

Back in Auburn, Omicron is growing by leaps and bounds. It is amazing what this group is capable of doing with so many people. Recently, the sisters attended a scholarship dinner held at a local restaurant, Cajun Garden. The dinner had a Mardi Gras theme and raised over $250 in scholarship money for those members that needed assistance in paying active fees.

The personal closeness that can be seen in the Omicron Chapter is evident even in the selection of our service projects. Carol Cox has been a member since Fall 2005, and suggested a project that hit very close to home for her. Cox's family recently adopted an 18-month-old girl from the Addolum House. This house and its residents take in children whose parents are in prison or on trial. If the parent is willing to give up their rights, the child can be placed for adoption. Some children are not given that opportunity and spend years at the Addolum House. The Omicron Chapter had the opportunity to spend a day with these children and were humbled by the tender hearts they encountered.

Speaking of hearts, there were plenty of giving ones at this year's "Run for Ronnie". The event was once again held with Auburn's Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and the response for this year's run was astonishing. The T-shirt sales alone will go a long way in helping researchers find a cure for Alzheimer's.

"We thought last year's run was amazing," said sophomore Amanda McBride. "But we were able to make things run more smoothly this year, and I think that really made a difference."

With these projects and more, it has been a busy semester for the sisters of the Omicron Chapter. Between new members and new projects, we continue to thrive both on and off campus. We can't wait to see what next year brings.

## TAU CHAPTER

The sisters of Tau Chapter hope that your New Year has started off wonderfully. We held rush for two weeks at the end of January with a theme of Doublemint gum. The slogan read, "Double the service, double the fun!" We are looking forward to having a great pledge class of 13 this semester. We will be working with Boys and Girls Club, Soup Kitchen, SafePlace and other similar organizations in the Austin area. We hope everyone is having a great semester.

## UPSILON CHAPTER

The Upsilon Chapter has been working really hard to continue servicing our community. We took on many big projects that were very successful. One of our major service projects was the Christmas party that we threw at the local children's shelter. We each purchased a gift and gave them to the children. We celebrated this holiday with them because we wanted them to know that someone cares. Another project that we took on was collecting non-perishable items and designing valentine cards to send to the troops in Iraq. This was our way of letting them know that they are not forgotten and that we thank them for their hard work.

Our fundraising projects have also been going really well. Our main project was stadium clean up. We went out at one Sunday at 5:30 A.M. and cleaned the football stadium after a game. This project lasted until the late afternoon, but it was a complete success and totally worth our time. One of our upcoming fundraisers will be a carwash. We plan to donate some of the proceeds to the Cancer Society. We are also getting prepared to raise money for the Relay for Life. The chapter is looking forward to this event. We plan to stay up all night amongst others within the community giving support to survivors of cancer and remembering those who died of this disease.

# Active Chapter Reports

Our chapter also takes pride in the social events that we planned or are in the process of planning. For the Christmas holidays all the active members brought a potluck dish and invited family and friends. This was a social that gave our families the opportunity to learn more about the sorority and what their loved one has been dedicating their time to. We are in the process of planning a Mother's Day Luncheon for the month of April. Upsilon Chapter has achieved much within the community, and we are looking forward to many more things to improve our chapter.

## PSI CHAPTER

We have had an awesome semester so far. The new pledges just got through rush week, and all of the actives are really excited to get our littles involved with us. We have many service projects and socials already planned, and are looking forward to each one we have to complete. The officers have been doing a great job of setting goals for this semester that spell success. Some of the goals are to get a better feel of sisterhood and have the alumnae more involved with our projects. Hope everyone has a great rest of the semester.

## ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER

Hello girls from Alpha Gamma Chapter!

Our spring semester is off to a great start. We revised our chapter Constitution and our chapter was granted recognized status by Oklahoma State University. This means we are eligible to receive financial help from the university for projects, recruitment and other events. This will also create more awareness for our sorority on campus.

A few big projects for this semester are a Think Pink formal to benefit breast cancer research; a memorial 10K run, and an interactive self-defense seminar for our women's health project.

Care packages for soldiers, making pin boxes for the pledges and a game day with six nursing homes for rally, are a few of the other projects we are doing this semester.

We just recently had our Big/Little reveal which went great and we are very excited about our new pledge class and also very excited about hosting district rally this year. Hope everyone is having a great semester.

## ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER

Hello from Alpha Zeta Chapter!

We are looking forward to another semester of great service projects. We recently cleaned up the mile that our chapter adopted in front of KSU, and are excited about our sisterhood retreat next weekend, which will be attended by some of our sisters from Nu Chapter.

We are also looking forward to District 3's rally and formal and getting to spend time with sisters from other schools.

We are returning to some of our favorite projects this semester, including the Multiple Sclerosis Walk and local Special Olympics. In late April or May, we hope to sponsor an end-of-semester sports tournament to raise money for a women's health cause.

Good luck to all of our sisters in their projects and events.

# Featured Rose Shop Items

Looking for some new insignia items for yourself or maybe as a gift to another sister? Here are a few items that might interest you. You can get these from Insignia Coordinator, Patti Ramey (email her at insignia@omegaphialpha.org) any time of the year, or you can pick them up at Convention.

*Embroidered Purse with ribbon handle. Comes in light blue or Navy blue* **$15.00**

*OPA Insulated cup comes in blue color with gold printing of "Omega Phi Alpha"* **$3.00**

# Four Important Things to Include on Your Chapter Web site

*by Heather Pritchard, National Publicity Director*

**1)** Information about Rush – This is the most important thing you should put on your Web site. If you don't have anything else, have this. How else will your chapter grow if potential rushees don't know when you're taking in new members?

**2)** Photos – I decided to join OPA mainly because of the photos that were featured on my home chapter's Web site. Photos are the best way to show your spirit of service to the world.

**3)** Contact Information for Officers – Often times, other organizations on your campus might be interested in collaborating on events, whether they be service or social. Make sure that these other organizations have a way to contact you.

**4)** History of OPA and Your Chapter – Each chapter is unique, and it's great to read about how each chapter was formed. Appoint a chapter historian who can write and polish a chapter history. Add to it every so often when big things happen in your chapter.

*As always, feel free to direct any questions about your chapter Web site my way. I can be reached at publicity@omegaphialpha.org*

# Top Ten FUNDING TIPS

*by Patti Ramey, Insignia Coordinator*

This past summer at the amazing Convention in Hartford, I had the pleasure of seeing some chapters in a roundtable workshop about alternative funding for service projects and events. I have created a top-ten-pointers list for those not there.

**10.** Co-sponsor with other student organizations. Share the cost.

**9.** Itemize everything. Also having a running inventory of supplies. Do not buy napkins, trash bags and art supplies if they are already sitting in club storage or if members will donate them.

**8.** Use local businesses as support, no matter how little or big, if they can get advertising or free press they will help out. Also request this on official letterhead.

**7.** For every semester have detailed budget. Set aside unallocated funds for things that come up. USE YOUR NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT!

**6.** When working with non-profit agencies, you are the manpower. Ask them to help with things like supplies, advertising and transportation.

**5.** USE YOUR ALUMNAE. Ask them for both monetary and physical help. We are sisters.

**4.** Go through the national budget very closely. Have you been using all the assistance we can give you?

**3.** Ask district chapters to pair together and share the cost.

**2.** Use National Service Week/Fund-raising Week to do some focused fundraising.

**1.** You are a recognized student organization on your campus. If you are not asking for funding for programs/projects from student government, programming boards, offices and the residence hall association, start now!

And most of all do not forget to thank all who help with nice thank you notes.
See you in Jacksonville.

# From the Desk of the VP Alumnae Relations

*by Lisa Guest, VP Alumnae Relations*

This year has been a blur! I apologize for not submitting columns in the last two Chevrons. Although we have not submitted columns, the Alumnae Board of Directors has been hard at work preparing for our 40th anniversary and Convention 2007. I hope all alumnae will attend this very special convention. We have great plans in the works.

I look forward to inducting several diamonds into the Alumnae Society. All alumnae attending Convention who were activated prior to July 1967 will be eligible for the Diamond level. Diamonds are the top level alumnae can reach and recognizes your continued commitment to OPA's principles of friendship, leadership and service. I look forward to meeting many diamonds in Jacksonville, Fla.

If you have any ideas for the 40th anniversary, please email alumnae@omegaphialph.org. I look forward to incorporating your ideas into Convention 2007's alumnae track.

## 40th Anniversary Project

The ABoD and NEB would like to invite all alumnae, actives, and active chapters to contribute in the creation of a video scrapbook. You can submit pictures, remembrances, quotes, stores, articles and anything else you feel will provide a historical perspective, as well as showcase the past 40 years in OPA. The scrapbook will be a look back at OPA from the beginning through today, including the clothes, traditions, friendships cherished memories, etc.

I know for myself, returning to OPA in 2004 was a major shock. Many changes occurred since my active years in OPA. I pledged Mu Chapter in the Fall of 1983 and was a member of the first pledge class. During the past 24 years, the world has changed and change has become a way of life. Life is so fast paced now. Heck, I remember typing my term papers on a typewriter. Does that give you an idea of life during my college years? I love today's technology but I do miss the good ole days,

During Convention 2006, I was privileged to meet many Beta alums including Judy Acosta, Thea Moritz, Linda Terzian Cartiglia, and Bobbie Greene Miller. It was awesome to hear stories of their OPA experiences, especially OPA's beginnings, and to actually see the OPA memorabilia these ladies brought to convention shows how important OPA continues to be in their lives.

I hope alumnae attending Convention 2007 will bring along your own memorabilia. During Convention 2006, I think we all enjoyed the opportunity to view some of the first pledge books, Bobbie's pin, several of the first composites, etc. The 40th anniversary would be more special if alumnae are willing to share their memories, memorabilia, shirts, etc. It would be great to include an OPA through the years wardrobe show. Bobbie Greene Miller has already promised to wear her OPA jacket to Convention 2007.

## If you are interested in contributing items to the video scrapbook,

either email your items to alumnae@omegaphialpha.org or snail mail to P.O. Box 307, Iola, TX 77861 (mailing address) or 7944 CR 165, IOLA, TX 77861 (shipping address). Please include a note letting me know if you would like your items returned or if you would prefer to contribute your items to the archives in Bowling Green, Ohio after convention.

FYI…any items sent to the archives become permanent property of Omega Phi Alpha and cannot be removed from the archives. But at any time, arrangements can be made to view items stored in the archives, which is an awesome experience. The archives are in need of many types of memorabilia and important pictures, papers, etc. Bobbie Greene Miller sent a large packet of pictures, papers, etc to be included in the video scrapbook. Visiting the archives is an inspiring experience. There are no words to describe reading the minutes from the first several conventions.

## Convention 2007 Alumnae Delegates

Convention is as much for alumnae as for actives, especially our 40th anniversary. In Jacksonville, we will need 10 alumnae delegates. If you are interested in representing your fellow alums at Convention and having 50 percent of your travel reimbursed, email alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

## Alumnae Convention Coordinator and Convention 2007 Committee Members Needed

We are still in need of a Alumnae Convention Coordinator. If you are interested, please email alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

## Alumnae Cookbook Fundraiser

If you are interested in purchasing an alumnae cookbook, please go to our Web site, 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.

## VP of Alumnae Relations Future

My term ends at the conclusion of Convention 2007 and it is time to turn our thoughts to the future. With Pam McEwen at the helm, the next three years will be a time of growth, change and stability. I would love to serve another three years. But at this point, there are several issues preventing me from making the commitment. The main concern is my health. I have been diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and in fact have been suffering with this disorder for the past several years and did not realize it. This is a chronic illness and the only cure includes many lifestyle changes. This disorder severely affects your life and there are many days when I cannot even find the energy to get out of bed much less do anything else. The good news…I finally have a name for what I have been feeling and know what I need to do to make my life more normal.

Although I would love to continue in this office, I am not sure it is in the best interest of the alumnae organization. During the past three years, we have made much progress. But there is still much more to be done to move the alumnae organization to its rightful place within the sorority. Now is the time for alumnae to look into the future and give serious thought to running for vice president of alumnae relations. There are many alumnae who have the skills and ability to build upon the foundation of the past three years. I have enjoyed this time and have learned a lot. And, I have added many new skills to my resume'. One thing I can promise...this office is never boring.

Even if I am not the alumnae relations vice president, I hope to be a part of the ABoD for many years to come. So please give serious thought to running for this office. If you have questions or would just want to talk, feel free to call me at your convenience. I can be reached at (936) 394-2034 (home) or (979) 220-3220 (cell). I look forward to hearing from you.

OPA launches a forum just for our sisters.

www.omegaphialpha.org/forum

A place for sisters to keep in touch with OPA.

Come join our new forum and chat with old sisters and friends, share ideas among chapters, keep up to date on OPA activities, and network with sisters with careers in fields you might be interested in.

*be sure to read the registration guidelines so your membership will be processed quickly and smoothly.*

# Alumnae Updates

**Kimberly Salerno** (Delta) and her husband, Bryan had their first child, Nicholas in March 2006 and recently relocated to Little Rock, AR. Kim can be reached at kimdawn1999@yahoo.com.

**Erin (Fowler) Maupin** (Rho) recently married Nicholas F. Maupin of Brentwood TN. Erin and her husband live in Midway Park, NC. She is working for Agri Fuels and can be reached at erinsouthernbell02@yahoo.com.

**Angela (Bartel) Love** (Mu) currently lives in Murfreesboro, TN with her husband David Love. She works as a Speech Language Pathologist for the State of Tennessee, and is a member of the American Speech Language Hearing Association and the Tennessee Association of Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologist. Angela can be reached by email at opachick89@hotmail.com.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# National Calendar

## APRIL

| | |
|---|---|
| April 1: | Active and Pledge Fees and Transmittal Forms due |
| April 13-14: | Psi Chapter Relay for Life at TAMUCC |
| April 15: | Chapter reports and President's Council reports due |
| April 28: | Psi Chapter Adopt a Beach Clean Up |
| April 30: | Pledge Summary due 2 weeks before activation |

## MAY

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|---|---|
| May 1: | Outstanding Officer Award Forms due |
| May 5: | Psi Chapter Activation |
| May 15: | Chevron #4 deadline |

## JUNE

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|---|---|
| June 1: | CEP form, Alumnae Service Award nominations, annual chapter reports, SPRF and areas of service award forms, and annual financial report, due |
| June 15: | Susan Terzian Award Nominations due |

*(To add your events and activities please send to chevron@omegaphialpha.org with "Chevron Calendar" in the subject. Issue 4 will identify events and activities for July through September.)*