

Chevron



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

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Expansion Update: O Phi A Adds Three New Active Chapters

by Ginger McGarity, VP Expansions

Omega Phi Alpha's number of active chapters finally broke the '20' mark this spring as the sorority added new chapters in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana.

Alpha Delta Chapter was inducted on April 8 at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga. Lindsey Rozier, a Georgia Southern student who had been in the process of pledging a Panhellenic sorority when that chapter suddenly went inactive on the Georgia Southern campus, led the colonization efforts. Disillusioned by this unexpected turn of events but still seeking a sisterhood, Lindsey recalled a conversation she had had over the summer with a close high school friend, a friend who was now a sister at Omicron Chapter of Omega Phi Alpha. Lindsey researched OPA and decided it was exactly the sorority she was looking for. Lindsey's enthusiasm quickly spread to other students at Georgia Southern, and the interest group was recognized as a colony in late October 2005.

The Alpha Delta Chapter's colonization was unique in OPA's history for two reasons. Among the 17 charter members who completed all the requirements and were inducted as lifetime

members, four of them are men. Although Omega Phi Alpha has had male members before, this represents the first time that men participated in the colonization of a new chapter. The four "mister sisters" help form a rich, diverse tapestry in this new chapter, and continue to contribute their enthusiasm and talents to the chapter's success.



"Alpha Epsilon Chapter, at their induction on June 11"

The other unique feature about Alpha Delta is that they were permitted to recruit their first pledge class before they had completed their charter requirements. National Vice President of Expansions Ginger McGarity consulted with National Membership Director Amy McConnell, and they both agreed that taking a pledge class would be a good opportunity for critical skill development while the group was still a colony. Ginger made the final decision, based on the progress the group had

made by the beginning of the spring semester. The fledgling chapter's Alpha pledge class hosted their big sisters to a reception following the chapter induction ceremony in the Georgia Southern student center.

Omega Phi Alpha grew again when it welcomed Alpha Theta Chapter at Pennsylvania State University on May 6. The interest group at Penn State had existed as a local service sorority

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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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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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337-550-9373
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President's Corner...

by Susie Larson, National President

I hope you have made plans to attend Convention 2006, Service in the City, in Hartford, CT, July 19-23. We have many great workshops planned, as well as many sisterhood activities. Beta alum Ann DeMatteo, a Connecticut resident, is working on our service project for this year.

As I have mentioned previously, we will hold elections at Convention for the following positions:

President Elect – 1-year term, 3-year term as President

President – 1 year remaining

Vice President of Business Operations – 3-year term

Executive Secretary – 2-year term

Membership Director – 2-year term

Vice President of Advancement Planning – 1 year remaining

Petitions for office are accepted anytime during Convention; however, you will not be reimbursed for travel, if you didn't submit your petition by June 30.

Please remember that we have many appointed positions as well, so there is always a way for any OPA alum to continue to serve. Please contact me or any member of the National Executive Board for more information.

Also, I would like to mention that our former national president, Karen Sawyers, lost her mother in May. The National Board sent yellow roses for Karen, but in the spirit of sisterhood, she gave them to the ladies that were Karen's mother's friends at her assisted living facility.

I have enjoyed serving as interim President and "VP of BO," as I have coined the phrase, for the last three years. I will not be running for any elected office this year. My family has asked and needs me at this time. I thank all my sisters for helping me through this difficult decision.

I hope to see many of you in Hartford soon.

THANK YOU!

by Pamela McEwen, VP Finance

Like many organizations, OPA depends on the contributions of alumnae and other interested parties to help us to accomplish our goals. Every time that we conduct a project, we depend on others who contribute space, supplies, time, ideas, advertising and other items to make our projects possible. We also depend on those who contribute money to help us to accomplish friendship, leadership and service projects at various campuses across the country. We want to take this opportunity to publicly thank those people who supported OPA in fiscal year 2005:

We recognize five levels of contributors: Friend, up to \$25; Leader, \$26-\$99; Service, \$100 to \$299; Benefactor, \$300 to \$999, and Patron, \$1,000 plus. Many of the following individuals also support OPA with their time, talent and their ideas. We appreciate the contributions of each of them.

Your contributions are needed. For information, contact finance@omegaphialpha.org.

FRIEND

Allerkamp, Shirley
CW Sales
Girl Scouts
Goldschmidt, Mike & Maribel
Griswold, Cathy
Honeycutt, Debbie
Huss, Joanne
Kornacki, Kerry
Locke, Rebekah
McAlister, Darla
McCullough, Penny
Morgan, Lindsey
Ochoa, Debra
Purdy, Marlene
Ramey Patti
Scarpo, Brent
Tarpey, Janelle
Titworth, Jan
Triplett, Carla
VanDyke, Sarah & Eric

VanDyke, Joan & John

Williams, Kelli
Wooten, Caroline

LEADER

Barcon, Lisa
Coggins, Bonnie
Frazier, Jeff
Gonzalez, R.
Cutierey, Erica
Hatley, Tilmon & Kathleen
Khan, Cheryl
Larson, Susie
Maciel, Su
Payne, Nelda
Powell, Chrissy
Ramey, Winnie
Salas, JD
Somerby, Sabrina
Wintermyer, Janice
York, May Jean

SERVICE

Bodenger, Melissa
Davis, Erin
Greenwood Optimist Club
Guest, Lisa
Halls Paint & Body
McConnell, Amy
McGarity, Ginger
ita, Fumi
Standard, Patricia
Steen, Cindy

BENEFACTOR

Auburn University
BG University Student
Government
BG Parents' Advisory Council
McEwen, Pamela
Newman Center
Ramey, Joe
TAMU Co-op

National News

Expansion Update (continued from page 1)

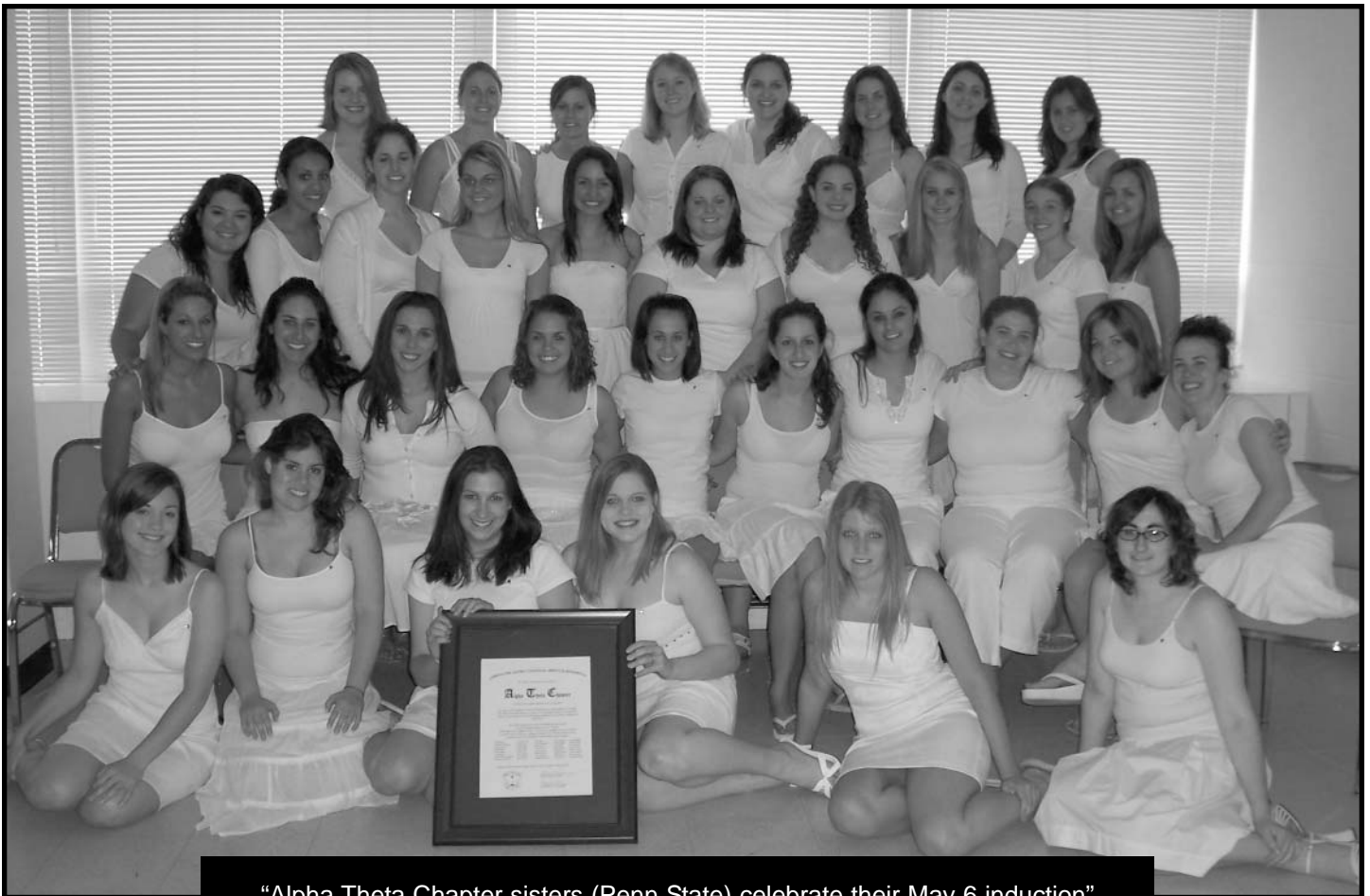
named Theta Alpha Pi for about 10 years before contacting

Omega Phi Alpha with questions about national affiliation. Due to a change in policy at Penn State, all local sororities were being asked to affiliate with a national organization, merge with one of the existing social sorority chapters on campus, or disband. An exhaustive Internet search led the Theta Alpha Pi sisters to OPA... and the rest is history.

been working together as a thriving campus group for a long time, the Penn State Colony didn't go through the "getting to know you" and organizational confusion that is typical for most new colonies. Instead, they dove right into the charter requirements and were able to complete them quickly. They were officially recognized as a colony on Dec. 16, and had completed their charter requirements by the end of April. They were given the Greek name "Alpha Theta" to honor the heritage of their previous life under the Theta Alpha Pi name.

petitions and gives them Title IX exemption, but does not require them to participate in the standard Panhellenic recruitment activities. Per Ginger, these 40 new sisters have a great deal to contribute, both to Omega Phi Alpha and to their Panhellenic Council!

The third and final chapter to be inducted this year was Alpha Epsilon Chapter, welcomed on June 11 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La. Upsilon alumna Tekoah "Koah" Bellazar founded the interest group after she enrolled at Southeastern Louisiana U and



"Alpha Theta Chapter sisters (Penn State) celebrate their May 6 induction"

The cultural 'fit' between the local service sorority and Omega Phi Alpha was remarkably good right from the start. They have very strong ties of sisterhood, based upon a solid foundation and commitment to service. Because they had

The sisters of Alpha Theta Chapter are now associate members of the Penn State Panhellenic Council. Membership at this level provides them the opportunity to participate in all Panhellenic activities like Greek Week and Homecoming com-

discovered that she really missed the sisterhood she had experienced at Upsilon. She used Facebook to recruit other like-minded students in her school before classes ever started last summer.

National News

Then Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the entire region. The university was thrown into disarray for weeks as area residents struggled to pull their lives together and track down loved ones who were missing. Throughout the aftermath of Katrina, this strong-willed group of ladies hung together and kept pushing forward, even more determined to establish a chapter of Omega Phi Alpha on their campus. Little things became unforeseeable barriers, like the delay in the mail system in Louisiana that added over a week to the delivery of their peti-

tion for colonization. The colony was formally recognized on Nov. 6, and the 19 charter members of Alpha Epsilon Chapter were inducted on June 11.

In addition to the three new chapters, Omega Phi Alpha has another colony actively working toward its charter at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. The KSU Colony is midway between OPA's Nu Chapter and Sigma Chapter, and is brimming over with enthusiasm. They have already met their service requirements, the most rigorous of the

colonization requirements, and have scheduled their colony retreat in August right before school starts. Like the charter group at Alpha Delta, the KSU Colony will take their first pledge class this fall, although the colony probably won't be inducted until midway through the semester.

All three new chapters and the KSU Colony will be sending multiple delegates to this summer's Convention in Hartford, CT.



"Alpha Delta Chapter (Georgia Southern) strengthened their bonds in a teamwork web challenge at their Nov 2005 colony retreat"



"Alpha Epsilon Chapter (Southeastern Louisiana) braved a multitude of western Louisiana insects at their colony retreat in February"



"Some of the founding mothers from Alpha Delta Chapter (Lindsey Rozier, Alecia Greer, and Dawn Wilson) celebrate their April induction on the Georgia Southern campus"

Active Chapter Reports

DELTA CHAPTER

Howdy from Delta Chapter!

We have wrapped up our incredibly successful Spring '06 semester, and are ready for the summer. Our projects went very well, and our formal was awesome!

We were extremely happy with the outcome of our first Date Auction fundraiser, and we hope to plan a second one next year.

A few of our members are excited about making the journey to National Convention this summer.

Now that we are all done with finals, we can finally sit back and breathe and reflect on the wonderful 2005-06 year that we had. Our chapter has grown a lot thanks to the wonderful recruiting job of our membership director. We look forward to a great summer and can't wait to start the next school year full of service projects, socials and the opportunity to recruit more wonderful girls.

We wish all of you the very best.

RHO CHAPTER

Hello ladies of OPA,

Another semester has ended here on the hill. We hate to say goodbye to our sisters once again. We have 13 girls graduating or transferring. We welcomed nine pledges this semester and two big brothers, and are excited for all of them.

We have been very busy this semester. We have helped with the local Refugee Center answering phones and doing office work. We volunteered with Salvation Army and Special

Olympics. Special Olympics was a lot of fun and some of us stayed after the events to help them dance. Those kids loved to dance. We also helped with a local school and their after-school program. We also held a Easter egg hunt for the kids. We had formal two weeks ago. It was a lot of fun dancing the night away with our sisters. We were glad to have the national president, Susie Larson, and our traveling leadership consultant, Holly Cole. We hope you ladies enjoyed formal. It was a pleasure to have you with us.

Three of our ladies traveled to Penn State which is over 12 hours away. They helped this chapter colonize. They played games to teach them about our history and taught them some of our songs.

We want to thank our ladies for doing this and welcome Penn State to OPA. This girls had a lot of fun and made new friendships. Hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer.

TAU CHAPTER

Hi from Tau Chapter!

This past semester was busy but extremely successful. For rush, we chose an "I Love OPA" theme similar to "I Love N.Y." We held one informational session, one social, and one service event. In the end, eight pledges were activated at the end of April and they will definitely be beneficial to Omega Phi Alpha.

Tau Chapter was also very excited to hold a few extremely fun social events this semester. One of them was called Screw Your Sister -- a date dash -- and was held in March at Austin Park and Pizza which

is a huge entertainment facility.

We also participated in many service projects. Some of the weekly projects were Hearthouse, Boys and Girls Club and Soup Kitchen. We also helped out various organizations with their respective events throughout the semester.

All in all, Tau Chapter had a great year.

PSI CHAPTER

The end of the semester has been great. We have activated our pledges and they all can't wait for the start of the next semester. With activation comes graduation and we have had to say goodbye to some of our sisters. Our goal for the upcoming semester is to get the alumnae more involved in all that we do. We have also elected new officers for the new semester and hope that all of them we do a wonderful job in guiding us to success. We hope that everyone has a safe and wonderful summer!

Alumnae Updates

Lesley (Dawson) Calvelage (Alpha) resides in Bluffton, OH. She is a nurse at St. Rita's Medical Center and continues to participate in DGR for Dance Marathon with her chapter. Lesley married on May 20, 2006, and can be reached at lescalvelage@hotmail.com.

From the Desk of the VP Alumnae Relations

by Lisa Guest, VP Alumnae Relations

With Convention 2006 fast approaching, the alumnae organization is preparing to make this convention the best ever for alums. Since this is not a business convention, the focus will be fun and sisterhood. Many informative workshops will be offered and a great deal of fun will be on the agenda. Alumnae who can attend, should begin making travel plans now. Do not miss out on the fun Hartford and Convention 2006 have to offer.

I would like to extend a special invitation to all Beta alums, and any other alums living in the area, to attend Convention 2006. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet with the sisters who laid the foundation for the national organization. What an awesome opportunity!

During Convention 2006, the second induction of alumnae into the National Alumnae Society will take place. Alums meeting the 10-year and 25-year marks for longevity will be inducted into either the Topaz or Sapphire Societies, respec-

tively. With convention so close to OPA's roots and beginnings, I hope to induct many alumnae into the Sapphire Society. The tentative date for the society induction is Friday, July 21. If you have questions or need further information, I can be reached at alumnae@omegaphialpha.org or (936) 394-2034.

I hope to see many alumnae at Convention 2006. It will be an awesome experience and one not to be missed. See you in Hartford!

Constitution Revisions

1. Article IV, Section 3, Clause 1 – deleted current wording and replace with

“Director of alumnae activities – appointed in compliance with procedures in the national handbook to serve a one year term.

Reason to change: The DAA position does not actually “advise” anyone and it does not serve only at the district level, as implied with the old name. The name “director of alumnae activities” is a more accurate reflection of what this position actually does. The change also clarifies the length of the term and the method of selection – but refers to the actual procedures in the handbook.

Note: passage of this amendment will require that the name *district alumnae advisor* be changed to *director of alumnae activities* throughout the constitution and by-laws.

Submitted by: Pamela McEwen

By-Law Revisions

1. Article IV, Section 18 – re-write to say

The directors of alumnae activities coordinate alumnae activity within their assigned district. They serve as the liaison between their district and the Alumnae Board of Directors. They encourage and participate in local, district and national level activities for alumnae. They perform the duties for the position as prescribed in the national handbook.

Reason to change: This mirrors the new job description – and also references the national handbook for the detail job duties – eliminating the need to have that in the by-laws.

Submitted by: Pamela McEwen

2. Article 8, Section 4, Points 2 and 3:

****Currently Reads:**

“[The chapter Standards Board] shall meet with members who do not comply with the standards of Omega Phi Alpha and may recommend a suspended status after reviewing the incident.”

****Change to read:**

Strike from National Constitution OR add a new suspended status to Article 3

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NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Revisions

****Rationale:**

Earlier in the Constitution, the only statuses discussed are: pledge, active, LOA, alum, and disassociated. These two standards need to be aligned so that Standards Boards aren't granting a phantom status to active members.

Submitted by: Emily Rice, Rho chapter

Substantive Proposals

- 1. I move that the sorority consider business at national convention each year as needed, rescinding the previous legislation to limit business to every other year.**

Reason to change:

- * Non-business years have ended up with a significant amount of business that was deemed essential – I doubt that the delegates that attended thought they were at a "non-business" convention.
- * Business years resulted in a convention schedule that was so crowded that delegates found it hard to properly consider all the matters before them.
- * It has resulted in the need to either defer matters for a full year – or consider matters in 2 different years because it was necessary to limit the legislation that was proposed in non-business years.
- * We appear to have business that needs to deal with every year – and we really don't need to put things off for a whole year just because it is a non-business year.

Submitted by: Pamela McEwen

- 2. I move that we adopt the Alumnae Organization Procedures (see attachment) that define the organization of the alumnae program, and its officers.**

Reason: We have not previously had the alumnae program defined and the procedures support polices in the constitution and by-laws.

Submitted by: Pamela McEwen

- 3. I move that we adopt the job description and job duties for the directors of alumnae activities.** (Attachments can be reviewed at www.omegaphialpha.org in the convention section.)

Reason: We have not previously had the DAA position defined and the procedures support polices in the constitution and by-laws.

Submitted by: Pamela McEwen