

Chevron

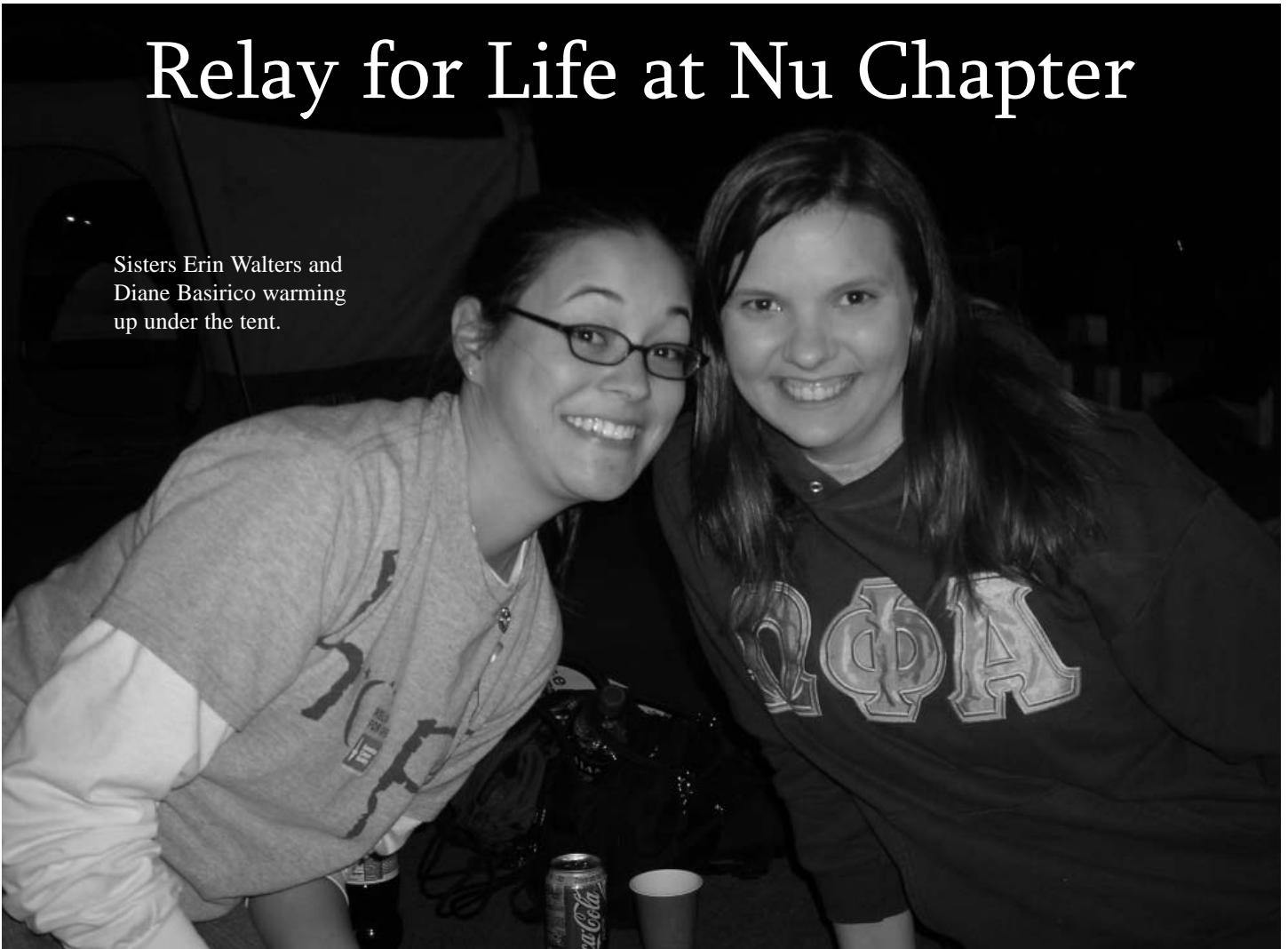


OMEGA PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY ♦ WWW.OMEGAPHIALPHA.ORG

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Relay for Life at Nu Chapter

Sisters Erin Walters and Diane Basirico warming up under the tent.



by Anne Wilhoite, Nu Chapter President

On Friday, April 13, some lucky sisters at Nu Chapter had the opportunity to participate as a team at Georgia Tech's Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. I have participated on a Relay team with OPA twice now, and it is one of the projects I most look forward to each year. The project started months ago when our team leader, Emily Rombach, rallied us behind the cause and convinced 13 girls to join the OPA team. We raised funds individually by e-mailing our friends and families, and we also held a bake sale at the event. Our service director, Diane Basirico, had each of the sisters make ribbons that represented various types of cancer. The pledges were eager to help too. They researched the types of cancer our ribbons represented and printed out information cards. We put the ribbons and the cards together on our bake sale's table, and participants were intrigued by the information we presented.

(continued on page 3)

From the President

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
3814 Big Springs Rd.
Maryville, TN 37801

President's Corner...

Dear Sisters in Service,

This will be my last letter to you as National President as the three-year term has come to an end. I cannot fully explain how great an experience this has been. I thank everybody for their support and encouragement, and I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I hope I have the privilege to do it again one day. This experience has committed me to lifelong service to our sisterhood in any capacity...big or small.

You can also support the organization in big and small ways as well. I hope you will consider reconnecting with OPA if you have not, and if you are involved, reach out and bring someone new to your next meeting or function. There is plenty to be done, and the returns are numerous.

I wish the best of luck to the newest members and returning members of the National Executive Board. The future is bright for OPA!

Love in O-Phi-A,

Amy McConnell,

National President

Featured Rose Shop Items



Looking for a unique way to package your OPA gift? How about an OPA cloth embroidered gift bag?

These OPA cloth gift bags are yellow with navy blue lettering, and are \$3.00.

Order yours today from Patti Ramey, National Insignia Director (insignia@omegaphialpha.org) or pick them up at the Rose Shop during Convention.

Chapter Feature



The ribbons and information cards we prepared for our table

(continued from page 1)

The night began with a moving and motivating opening ceremony where we heard stories from cancer survivors and learned that the campus had already raised \$43,000! The survivors made the first enthusiastic lap around our Campus Recreation Center's field to officially begin the relay. The sisters took turns walking in pairs. When we weren't walking, we enjoyed visiting the various fundraisers around the field, listening to the live music from campus performers, playing board games and bonding.



Sisters prepare for our bake sale and a long night of walking.



Sisters Laura Welborn and Sarah Colvin got pretty tired!

At midnight, we paused to light the luminaries and listen to poems written by people who had lost their battles to cancer. We all gathered to reflect on lost loved ones and those suffering, and walked a silent lap to commemorate them. After the sullen memorial, we were ready to walk through the rest of the night with the hope of a cure as our driving force.



MENTORING

by Lindsey Gomez, National Service Director

*TO THE WORLD, YOU MAY JUST BE SOMEBODY.
BUT TO SOMEBODY, YOU MAY JUST MIGHT BE THE WORLD. ~ UNKNOWN*

Take service to another level, become a mentor. Build a special relationship at work, in the community, at school or even in a different state.

Why be a mentor? The world is competitive; sometimes it's easy to get lost and all a person needs is a little guidance, wisdom and advice. Mentors provide a special friendship, which can help one who is being mentored in a number of different situations. Your voice can help someone learn and grow as an individual.

Ways that you can join to become a mentor:

- * **The Boys and Girls Club--www.bgca.org;**
- * **Big Brothers Big Sisters --BigBrothersBigSisters.org/Volunteer;**
- * **Mentor --<http://www.mentoring.org/> (provides a list of organizations to join in a given state);**
- * **Your job – is there a mentorship program already? If not, think about starting one yourself;**
- * **Your school – there are always great opportunities to be a mentor to fellow students.**

Check online at your school's Web site.

Have ideas for the “area of service” section in the Chevron? Email your ideas to Service@omegaphialpha.org

Members Learn Safety Tips

by Jill Sharp, Alpha Gamma secretary

As part of our Women's Health Project, the members of the Alpha Gamma Chapter at Oklahoma State University brought an OSU police officer to campus for an interactive workshop on safety. We organized, promoted and attended the event. The police officer demonstrated with volunteers from the audience, proper techniques of what to do when one feels in danger. We learned specific ways to escape from unsafe people from a variety of dangerous situations.

The police officer opened the interactive session with alarming facts and statistics about safety. The officer also had each person in attendance program the OSU police department phone number into her cell phone. The officer informed us that this simple measure could be very useful if one ever felt in danger.

The event concluded with an interactive group demonstration with the techniques learned from the officer. Those in attendance performed the stances and kicks learned from the officer. We were very happy with this project, and we were glad that we could provide this service to our members and the university.

Active Chapter Reports

EPSILON CHAPTER

Hello to all you gorgeous ladies! We hope that you all are having a great start to your wonderful Summer Vacations. We encourage everyone to keep up with each other and plan fantastic sisterhood events to keep in contact over the break. Also, take advantage of as many service opportunities as possible.

Epsilon Chapter is very happy to note that this year was very successful. To wrap up this year, we participated in the Relay for Life event on campus where we raised \$1,499. We had so much fun and the TTU Campus Relay for Life was very successful as a whole. We are also planning on having a few sisterhood retreats over the summer at the lake.

We have new officers and we are all very excited about our new responsibilities. We hope to see you all at Convention and good luck, sisters.

TAU CHAPTER

Another great semester has come to an end, and we're lucky to have had such great experiences together. We recently activated 13 wonderful girls and are excited to see how each of them will contribute to the sorority. With the end of the year comes graduation, and unfortunately, 19 of our sisters are leaving us. We wish them the best of luck in everything they do.

We finished up the semester with several projects, including Heart House, Boys and Girls Club and Soup Kitchen. Our sisters also volunteered at the 20th Anniversary SafePlace Walk, which benefited SafePlace and Saheli, organizations that help to end domestic violence.

Our year ended on a fun note, formal! The theme was "Parisian Nights" and everyone looked beautiful. We all had a great time dancing, eating and looking back on a great, amazing year. We wish everyone a safe and fun summer!

UPSILON CHAPTER

Our chapter has serviced the community in many ways this semester. We participated in a toy donation for the Faith House, a shelter for women and children in domestic situations. We also held district rally with other chapters. This was a lot of fun and we had the opportunity to complete service projects such as cleaning an old nursing home out to make it into a shelter to service those with AIDS. At district rally we held our annual Founder's Day Banquet. We also had the opportunity to have Amy McConnell, national president, to hang out with us and speak at one of the seminars that we had about leadership. This sorority has been working really hard and we are constantly searching for different ways to serve our community.

For fundraising projects we held a car-wash and donated the proceeds to the American Cancer Society. We also held an auction on campus and donated those proceeds to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. We also raised money for Relay for Life. Upsilon takes pride in raising money to help those in need.

PSI CHAPTER

We have finished our spring semester and are ready for summer break. With the sisters who are staying in town for summer, we are planning to do some fundraising and many service projects to still get our name out in the community.

When the fall comes, we will be getting ready for rush week and recruiting new girls to rush and become a great group of pledges. Activation just happened last weekend, and we are excited for the new actives. One of our new actives will be attending Convention along with our new president. Each one of us are excited for them to return with great ideas for our chapter.

Next school year will be exciting with new ideas, leadership projects, wonderful new sisters and the new officers.

ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER

Greetings Omega Phi Alpha sisters from the great state of Oklahoma!

The Alpha Gamma Chapter at Oklahoma State University ended a very successful spring semester. We activated 14 new members, completed service projects, elected officers and enjoyed each other's fellowship at social events. Additionally, several of our members comprised a Relay for Life team, where they raised money for cancer research. We celebrated our mothers with Mom's Day activities, focused around the theme of "Taste the Tradition." Each mother/daughter duo had the opportunity to enter a dessert baking contest. We also celebrated our seniors with a graduation barbecue. We are working on a cookbook for one of our fundraisers.

We revamped our officer positions, adding additional offices in order to continue to grow and achieve more. We now have two officers in charge of service projects. We are excited about the upcoming school year.

COMING HOME TO OPHI A

by Elizabeth Anderson, Mu Chapter alumna

It has been said that you can't go home again. I am attempting to find out if you can. I'm returning to Omega Phi Alpha after a lengthy hiatus to see if I can recapture that OPhiA spirit that I had in abundance as an active member so many years ago.

In other words, this is my homecoming. So far, it feels pretty good.

My name is Elizabeth Anderson and I am a Mu Chapter alum. I had been tempted to reconnect with Omega Phi Alpha for several years before finally taking the plunge and making the commitment to get involved again through the forum. Now I am returning to our dear sorority in the form of your newest friendly neighborhood Chevron staff writer. My assignments? To delve into the scintillating world of alumnae and write about topics that you, the definitive Omega Phi Alpha, want to read. In order to do this effectively, I need to hear from the best that OPhiA has to offer. I need to hear from YOU!

Alumnae spotlights are great, and I plan to write as many as I can, but I don't want to stop there. I want to touch on topics that affect us in our everyday lives and write about issues that make us think not just about Omega Phi Alpha and service, but life. Trust me, I can write on just about any topic.

First, allow me to share a little bit about myself. I graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in December of 1998 with a B.S. in Elementary Education, K-8. I taught for seven years while attending graduate school part time for

my master's degree. I graduated with honors with an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction at Austin Peay State University (incidentally, a very good place for an Omega Phi Alpha chapter) in Clarksville, Tenn., in December of 2006 and recently moved to Nashville. I am currently taking a break from teaching, but I plan to return to the classroom in the near future. Meanwhile, I've semi-returned to MTSU to work on a second masters degree, this one in history, in preparation for a Ph.D. program. I hope to be a history professor sometime before I qualify for Social Security.

Now that you've met me, I want to meet you! Are you interested in sharing your bio and latest accom-

plishments with your fellow sisters since leaving college? Let me know and I will feature you in an article. Do you know of service projects that would be good for working women and busy moms to get involved with? Drop me a line and I'll write about them. Maybe there is a topic you would like to see discussed in an upcoming issue. Talk to me and make it happen!

I'll be looking forward to hearing from you. There is so much to talk about and I am ready to get started. Call me, e-mail me, send me a paper airplane -- whatever it takes. Remember, this is your Chevron. Own it!

As for coming home to Omega Phi Alpha, give it a try if you haven't already. The door is open and the welcome mat is laid out for your arrival. I'll leave the light on for you!

(Elizabeth Anderson can be reached at idgie33@hotmail.com)

Alumnae Update

Crystal McClurkin Russell (Omicron) currently lives in Pell City, AL and works as a Fitness Specialist for Lakeshore Foundation. She is a member of the Aquatic Exercise Association. Crystal and her husband Alan welcomed their baby, Morgan on 1-1-07. You can reach Crystal at crystalr@lakeshore.org.

In Memory

of Amy Daley



by Kerry Kornacki, Gamma Alumna

Amy Daley was a wonderful sister, friend, strong leader, and alumna of Gamma chapter. On April 27, 2007 tragedy struck and took our sister from us. Amy Louise Daley was shot and killed by her husband just outside her home in Winter Haven, Florida.

Amy dedicated her life to helping those that couldn't get the help they needed. While living in Florida, she worked as a child protection social worker for the state and later as an Autistic schoolteacher in an elementary classroom. She always had time to help others become the true person they could be – she always believed in everyone.

Among all of the things that Amy was, she was mostly a best friend to me. When I learned of her passing, I was torn apart and knew I had to do something extra special. I had to help Amy's memory, work and love for others live on even though she couldn't. Therefore, I have begun working on the Amy Daley Scholarship for outstanding leaders. This scholarship will help embrace all of the things that Amy truly loved, cared about, and dedicated her life to. Helping others become a great leader was one of her top priorities. In conversations with friends and family who knew Amy, I recalled the time when Amy came into a chapter executive board meeting and told us that we needed to add a leadership requirement to our active chapter requirements. We all looked at her and told her to go for it, so she did! She developed a requirement that all sisters had to fulfill every year in order to remain active at Gamma chapter. Gamma chapter was the first chapter within the sorority to develop and implement a leadership requirement and it was all due to Amy's vision and dedication.

To remember Amy and honor her work, we are creating the Amy Daley Scholarship, which will support outstanding leaders within Omega Phi Alpha. While legislation and legalities are in the works, anyone wishing to support this new scholarship can begin to donate to the scholarship fund now. Please send your donations to:

Omega Phi Alpha

C/O Pam McEwen

108 Bluewater Circle

Nashville, TN 37217

In the memo part of the check please write "Amy Daley Scholarship fund."

We have lost a great sister, but most importantly a dear friend to many sisters over the years. Please consider helping us keep her heart and spirit alive by making a donation. We hope to award the first scholarship at the 2008 Convention.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

National Calendar

JULY

July 14: GNAAC event at 4:30 PM in Centennial Park- Large shelter, Nashville, TN

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Sept 15: Submit Chapter Officer list, Chapter newsletter #1 due, President's Council Report due, Chapter Development award form due

(To add your events and activities, please email them to chevron@omegaphialpha.org with "Chevron Calendar" in the subject. Issue 1 for 2007-08 will identify events and activities for October through December.)