

# Chevron



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

VOLUME 40 ♦ NUMBER 4

## Founder's Day Banquet – A Night with Nu Chapter at Georgia Tech

*Laura Welborn, Nu chapter sister*



*Nu chapter actives and alumnae gather to celebrate their chapter's 20th anniversary.*

Spring brought great things for Nu Chapter – new service projects, rafting trips, family events, scavenger hunts and activation night. But one of the most new and exciting events was our 20th anniversary celebration. On April 25, all of the active sisters, seven alumnae and several pledges gathered together at a local venue in Atlanta for a delicious catered meal along with presentations, awards, singing and cake. The banquet was the capstone event to the 80's party, campus tour and service projects that were part of the Founder's Day weekend.

We started off the night with mixing and mingling and capturing smiles on the camera. Dinner was served once we had all arrived and we continued the stories and conversations with our sisters. After dinner President Diane Basirico presented the new things and spoke of traditions that we have done over the past year. Our sisterhood

chair, Rebecca Condon, showed us pictures from Nu's sisterhood events over the year – the sisterhood retreats, sports games and movie nights spent together. Emily Britt, our service director, reviewed the new and continuing projects we served in this year and revealed our total service hours for the year: over 2,500!

After a few more presentations, we awarded our Outstanding Alum for the year, Jessica Calhoun, and a Friendship, Leadership, and Service award for several ladies who exemplified these principles. OPA themed gifts were handed to all of our lovely alumnae who attended. So when all words had been spoken, pictures had been taken and cake finished off to the last bite, we joined, hand over hand, in a circle of remembrance to tradition – singing the National song and pumping our fists to the OPhiA chant. It was quite a night that recognized each part of our beloved past, present and future chapter.

# From the President

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

## **National Executive Board Members**

*President* - Pamela McEwen

*VP Business Operations* - Stephanie Hallman

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## **Chevron Editors**

*Chevron Editor* - Sarah VanDyke

*Copy Editor* - Ann DeMatteo

*Layout Editor* - Shelley Lai

## **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](mailto:chevron@omegaphialpha.org). Pictures may also be submitted in jpg or bmp format.

## **National Office Mailing Address:**

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## **Official National Website:**

[www.omegaphialpha.org](http://www.omegaphialpha.org)

## **Complete Sorority Contact List:**

To request a complete contact list of all sorority officers, appointments, and chapter addresses, please contact the National VP Administration:

Nichole Barnhart

[sec@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:sec@omegaphialpha.org)

# President's Corner...

*by Pamela McEwen, National President*

**CONGRATULATIONS** graduates and everyone who is leaving active status. **WELCOME** to the next phase of your life as an OPA - being an alumna.

OPA alumnae demonstrate the values that they learned as actives in many ways:

- It should not surprise you to learn that many OPA alums have jobs in service professions: medicine, teaching, social services, etc.
- OPA alums serve (their community, church, sorority, etc) in volunteer efforts - and the lessons learned as an active OPA are put to use in these efforts.

There are several ways that OPA alumnae can continue to stay involved with OPA (for more information contact [alumnae@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:alumnae@omegaphialpha.org)):

- OPA alums can continue to participate with and support their local chapters. Your role will change - and you will need to step back from the day-to-day operations - but active chapters need the support of their alumnae.
- OPA alums can participate in an alumnae chapter. There may be one in the city that you live in. If not, you can start one. Alumnae chapters allow alumnae from an area to pursue the principles of OPA as a group.
- OPA alums can participate with the national organization, as a district or national officer, serving on a committee, accepting an appointed position. Like most sororities, OPA relies on volunteers to donate their time and their talents to administer the organization.
- OPA alums can attend national Convention. Even if you are not able to be involved with OPA any other time of the year, Convention is the perfect place to connect with other alumnae with similar interests. Convention is your time to combine a good time with getting back in touch with OPA. Convention this year is a great vacation opportunity. Denver and surrounding areas have many things to see and do. Plan to come a day early (or stay late); contact [convention@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:convention@omegaphialpha.org) for all the attractions that are close by. To register go to [www.omegaphialpha.org](http://www.omegaphialpha.org)

## CONVENTION

by Julie Hollis, National Convention Coordinator

The 2008 OPA Convention is just around the corner! The site for this year's OPA convention is Denver, Co., known as the Mile High City and the Gateway to the West. The state of Colorado and the Denver area are steeped in history. Here are some fun facts about the area, thanks to the Metro Denver Visitors and Convention Bureau's Web site at [www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org)

- Denver is one of the few cities in history that was not built on a road, railroad, lake or navigable river or body of water when it was founded. It just so happened to be where the first few flakes of gold were found in 1858.
- Denver is home to eight professional sports teams, including the Denver Broncos, Colorado Rockies and the Colorado Avalanche.
- There were originally three separate towns (with three separate names) in the area where Denver now sits.
- The dome of the State Capitol in Denver is covered with 200 ounces of 24K gold. But the real priceless material is inside the building, where the wainscoting is made of Colorado onyx, a rare stone found near Beulah, Co. The entire world's supply was used in this building and no more has ever been found

Get ready to have a rockin' time at this year's Convention with the great activities, programs, meetings and our amazing location in Westminster. There will be many beneficial workshops and programs during Convention, as well as informative business meetings and the election of new NEB officers. The service project on Saturday, July 19, will be conducted with the MaxFund, a no-kill animal shelter operating in Denver. The free time will be a great opportunity to take advantage of the beautiful scenery and offerings of Denver and the surrounding area.

See you in Denver!

## Sister Updates

**Shelley Lai** (Tau), Chevron's Layout Editor, is living in Austin, TX and is currently seeking for a new job as an Magazine Art Director. She can be reached at [shllylai@gmail.com](mailto:shllylai@gmail.com) for her resume, and [www.shllylai.dotphoto.com](http://www.shllylai.dotphoto.com) for work samples.

**Lisa McLin** (Delta) was engaged on Dec. 25, 2007 and has plans to wed on Sept. 13, 2008. Lisa is living in Nashville, TN and can be reached at [lisa\\_mclin@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa_mclin@yahoo.com).

**Lesley "Dawson" Calvelage** (Alpha) and her husband Brent celebrated the birth of their daughter, Ava Rose, on Nov. 30, 2007. Ava Rose weighed 6.4 pounds and was 19.25 inches long. Lesley is an R.N. at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, OH. Send notes of congratulations to Lesley and Brent at [lescalvelage@hotmail.com](mailto:lescalvelage@hotmail.com).

**Leigh Ann Wilson** (Xi) works as a graduate student, historian and writer. Leigh Ann is a member of Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society, Toastmasters International and volunteers with National Exchange Club. She has finished all but her dissertation for her Ph.D. in history at the University of Memphis. You can reach Leigh Ann at [lawilson@memphis.edu](mailto:lawilson@memphis.edu)

**Mishaun Mabry** (Alpha Zeta) is engaged to Brian Arrington as of April 30. Brian proposed at the park where the couple first said, "I love you." The two have tentative plans to wed on Oct. 17, 2009.

**Danielle Joerger** (Alpha Zeta) and Rick Sasser were engaged on March 10. They plan to hold their wedding in Macon, GA on Aug. 2.

## From the Desk of the VP Alumnae Relations

*by Chelsea Morrisey, National VP Alumnae Relations*

### Milestones of Life, Shared by Sisters

As life goes on, we each hit different milestones in our lives. With each of these milestones, there are those who share our happiness with us. Some milestones remain etched in our minds forever, while others fade away and silently help shape our lives.

The beauty of the journey of life is that we each take a different amount of time to cross these mile markers. As actives, we shared the milestone of graduation with each other. Before we graduated, we saw our older sisters graduate. Then it was our turn to leave school and join the “real world,” with younger sisters looking up to us as we completed our time in college. Graduation was a big step to take, and our sisters were present-- in person or in spirit-- to take this step with each of us.

We were able to share some milestones, such as engagements, with our sisters while we were active. Thus, for many O-Phi-As, such moments may not come until after we have graduated and become alumnae. Nevertheless, the news is just as exciting and just as important to share with our sisters. Many alums want to share their news but, after years out of school and miles apart from sisters active long ago, it becomes harder to stay in touch. As a result, we have a lifetime of great moments to catch up on when we next see each other.

I reflect on life's milestones today since I have recently reached one. My latest milestone is marrying my wonderful husband. It was a day of celebration that we are thankful to have shared with our family, friends and of course, my O-Phi-A sisters. Over the years, my sisters were there for many things for me. I am thrilled to have had two sisters standing in my wedding and a number of them as guests to witness the event. Also, I have been able to witness my sisters' weddings, as well as hear news of new jobs, engagements, graduate degrees, and babies, and I'm excited to hear about all of them. We may not live near each other but our lives continue; we can still catch up and share in life's milestones.

If you have a milestone in your life that you would like to inform your sisters of, Omega Phi Alpha can help you announce your news. Simply submit an Alumna Update via the national Web site. These updates appear in the Chevron each quarter. Tell us about your new job, new move, new relationship -- whatever you would like other sisters to know about! Whether you have news that just happened or news that has happened since you have gone alum, submit your update. A more interactive way of announcing and discussing your milestones is on the online forum ([www.omegaphialpha.org/forum](http://www.omegaphialpha.org/forum)). Here you can also read posts from other sisters who are trying to reach out to you!

Take a minute today to contact sisters about your latest happenings and to ask them about theirs.

## Announcements

### Alumnae Delegates 2008

- D1- Available
- D2- Elizabeth Anderson
- D3- Juanita Wade
- D4- Available
- D5- Available
- D6- Available
- D7- Lynn Dudash
- D8- Erin Gatlin-Martin
- At-Large - Deanna Hunter
- At-Large - Available

Positions marked as "available" are being filled on a first-come, first-served basis as of the first day past the original application deadline until the first day of Convention. Applications can be found on the national Web site or by emailing the VPAR ([alumnae@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:alumnae@omegaphialpha.org)). Alumnae delegates represent alumnae from the district they live in and vote on sorority business items during Convention.

### Memories from founding mothers

Are you a founding mother? If you helped establish an active chapter of Omega Phi Alpha, please share your memories of colonization on the Omega Phi Alpha forum online. A number of past colonists have posted. Go read what they have to say.

### New Volunteer Coordinator appointed

Please welcome Laureen (Hobbs) Pellegrino as our new Volunteer Coordinator on the Alumnae Board of Directors. She was active at Nu Chapter from 1992-1994 and currently lives in District 1. She will be helping those sisters find appointed positions within OPA where they are interested in donating their time and efforts.

### Alumnae Society Inductions - this could be your year!

Has it been 10 or more years since you have been activated into Omega Phi Alpha? If so, you are eligible to be inducted into an Alumnae Society this year. Alumnae Societies recognize your longevity in this organization. Plan on attending Convention 2008 in Denver this year to be inducted! Please contact the VPAR at [alumnae@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:alumnae@omegaphialpha.org) for more information.

### Alums in service careers

We are looking for alums who have service-related careers who would be willing to discuss the impact OPA has had on their career choices. Please contact the VPAR at [alumnae@omegaphialpha.org](mailto:alumnae@omegaphialpha.org) with your story.

Nu Chapter's Founder's Day Weekend was covered in Buzzwords, an official online publication of Georgia Tech's. To view the article, "Omega Phi Alpha celebrates anniversary," visit <http://gtalumni.org/buzzwords/may08/article544.html>.

The D1 service project is accepting greeting cards and gift cards for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through July 31, 2008. This project is sponsored by D1 but open to all sisters. All materials will be sent as a gift from Omega Phi Alpha to St. Jude on Sept. 1, 2008.

Gift cards should come from the following establishments: Walmart, Target, Kmart, Gap, Gap Kids, Old Navy, Toys R Us, or Blockbuster. Be sure include the amount of the gift card with the gift card.

Please send all materials to the D1 DAA:  
Kristen Walker  
12569 Summit Manor Driv, Apt. 203  
Fairfax, VA 22033

If you have questions, contact Kristen via email ([auburnyellowrose@yahoo.com](mailto:auburnyellowrose@yahoo.com)) or the forum (private message).

## Alumnae Board of Directors

### BOARD CHAIR

VP of Alumnae Relations: Chelsea Navo (Nu)

### COMMUNICATIONS

Alumnae Secretary - Juanita Wade (Sigma)  
Alumnae Networking Chair - Julia Timmons (Sigma)  
Volunteer Coordinator - Laureen Pellegrino (Nu)  
Alumnae Publications Director- Keshia Gibson (Nu)

### ORGANIZATIONS

Chapters  
Alumnae Chapter Expansions Director - Erin Gatlin-Martin (Nu)  
Chapter Alumnae Liaison Director - Phee Mayer (Phi)

### Districts

DAA D1- Kristen Walker (Omicron)  
DAA D2- Jamie Fuller (Mu)

DAA D3- Juanita Wade (Sigma)  
DAA D4- Rashida Henry (Upsilon)  
DAA D5- Vacant  
DAA D6- Janice Wintermyer (Alpha Alpha)  
DAA D7- Vacant  
DAA D8- Ferheen Ahmed (Alpha Zeta)

### SISTERHOOD

Young Alumnae Leader - Chanda Glover (Nu)  
Golden Ophia Leadership Director - Louise Matoax (Mu)  
Alumnae Convention Coordinator - Megan Johnston (Alpha Alpha)

### TRADITIONS

Historian - Vacant  
Alumnae Search Coordinator - Lisa Guest (Mu)  
Alumnae Fundraising Chair - Susan Crook (Chi)  
Alumnae Pin - Ginger McGarity (Nu)

# Active Chapter Reports

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## ALPHA CHAPTER

Hello from Bowling Green! Alpha Chapter held its second annual dive-in in April. Along with Sigma Lambda Gamma, we had a beach-themed pool party. It was a fun-filled evening of swimming, food, and games. We charged a \$5 donation at the door and all the money was donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. We met a lot of great people from our fellow Greek organizations and look forward to more collaboration next year! We also held elections and have begun planning for the upcoming year. We compiled a list of goals for next year and can't wait to get started.

## NU CHAPTER

As another year ended for Nu Chapter, we were just as active as ever. While we worked together on a wide range of service, fundraising and social projects, the pinnacle was our 20th Founder's Day celebration.

To prepare for its success, we sent invitations to all the alumnae we were able to contact, and we raised money through a date auction. Sisters were auctioned with gift certificates donated by local restaurants and other merchants. They all went on a large group date to a local restaurant a few days after the auction. Since our Founder's Day this year was such a big deal, we supplemented the funds we raised from the date auction with several themed bake sales that all did relatively well.

To celebrate our 20th anniversary, we planned an entire weekend of events that included an 80s party, service projects, a campus tour, a catered banquet and a brunch where we talked about where we are as a chapter now, how we might want to change, and old and new traditions. Many alumnae

attended the events and it turned out to be a very successful weekend.

We did many service projects in recent months, including the rotational projects we attend every few weeks. This semester, some of our rotational projects were Medshare, where we help to package medical equipment for underprivileged countries; the Atlanta Community Food Bank; tutoring at Inman Middle School, helping people make paper on tours at the Paper Science museum on campus, and helping with activities for children at Rainbow Village. We participated in the Women's Awareness Month projects in our neighboring communities, which were hosted by a great group of women on our campus. During Georgia Tech Beautification Day, we helped spread pine straw and plant flowers to beautify our campus.

Our sisterhood events were a lot of fun. We had another overnight sisterhood retreat that allowed a lot of our chapter to get to know each other better. We attended our district formal hosted by Auburn, where we had a lot of fun dancing and socializing. We had a very exciting "mocktail" mixer with Alpha Phi Omega and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our brother fraternity better. We held a photo scavenger hunt and socialization time for our pledges and actives to spend some quality time together and as always, each of our families planned events to accomplish the same. Amidst all of these events, we also had a skating night, a movie night, a bowling night, and an exciting weekend of camping followed by whitewater rafting.

And last but certainly not least, we initiated five amazing new girls this semester. They brainstormed some excellent pledge class projects that were quite different than the projects our chapter is accustomed to, so we are excited to welcome them and help us keep moving forward.

## OMICRON CHAPTER

Hey Ladies! Hello from Auburn, Al. This semester has been a great one for Omicron! We held very successful service projects including a sickle cell trait testing at the health fair and a benefit run for the Alzheimer's Foundation. Our voting delegates are very excited about Convention in Denver. Our elections went well and Elise McClanahan is Omicron's new president. We have already begun to plan for the fall with possible activities including an active versus alumnae flag football game, a great rush and creative service projects.

## SIGMA CHAPTER

This past semester, Sigma Chapter looked into new methods of fundraising. We have signed up to participate with moolah.com and online surveys. The points earned from both will be turned into cash that will aid us in sending two sisters to Convention this summer.

Sigma completed its share of service projects for the semester. Because our Habitat for Humanity efforts ended up being rained out, we picked a Saturday to clean Coolage Park. We picked up garbage and cigarette butts from the pathways, flowerbeds and the small creek near the bike path. We also wrote letters to other chapters, collected school supplies for Operation Iraqi Children, and worked with our college women's center for the Taking Back the Night project, among others.

We hosted our alumnae event in mid-April. Sisters and alumnae met at the Chuck E. Cheese's in Hendersonville to hang out, eat pizza and catch up on how things were going with everyone. We inducted one new active sister.

# Active Chapter Reports

## TAU CHAPTER

Another great semester has come to an end. This past semester, we crossed the Alpha Alpha Class made up of 11 fantastic girls. With the closing of a year full of fun, service, and memories, we have eight girls leaving us and we wish them the best!



*OPhiA and APhiA at our 'Don't Forget the Lyrics' game night for AIDS Week.*

We ended the semester with great service projects at Boys and Girls Club, Soup Kitchen and Heart House. We, in conjunction with Alpha Phi Alpha, raised over \$1,000 with a "Who gives a buck?" campaign during AIDS Awareness week in April. These proceeds will go to "Keep a Child Alive" and each dollar will help children in Africa receive the retrovirus cocktail they need to fight AIDS.

We topped off the end of the year with formal. The theme was "Come Fly With Us." Everyone looked great and had a blast dancing and eating.

Tau Chapter had a truly successful and fun-filled year, and we hope everyone has a safe and fun summer.

## UPSILON CHAPTER

This semester has been quite a productive one. With our newly amended Constitution we are ready to bring in the new academic year. Over the course of the semester we have had many successful service and sisterhood projects. We worked on the TRASH BASH sponsored by the Lafayette Consolidated Government and made sex education packets for Acadiana Cares, as well as other projects. We had a pool party, a cocktail party where we invited dates, a sisterhood workshop and also a pot luck which we turned into a BBQ in the park. We invited our moms to a Mother's Day activity. We fed and entertained them and performed a special dance, and also sent them away with a little gift. A Summer Fundraising Committee will help in jumpstarting the chapter's account. Also in the summer we will participate in the university's Student Organization Expo, which will be held during the freshman orientation sessions. And we will pass out Popsicles to students when we sponsor a "Campus Cool Down" day during the summer session. A good number of our members are graduating between spring and fall. We are so proud them. We have held our elections and we are looking forward to the new E-board and all the ideas that they have for the upcoming semester. We wish other chapters a great summer and look forward to hearing from you next semester.

## ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER

Members of Alpha Gamma Chapter chose the Remember the Ten Memorial Run as their university service project. The fund from the 5K and 10K runs assist the psychology center at Oklahoma State University. The run remembers the OSU basketball players, coaches and fans whose lives were lost in an airplane crash. Alpha Gamma members assisted in numerous ways to help make the event a success. Sisters marked the route, handed out water, directed traffic, ran in the race and helped with registration. All volun-

teers received a T-shirt for their help. This is the second year for the event, and it is also the second time we helped out.

## ALPHA THETA CHAPTER

Alpha Theta Chapter at Penn State has initiated its newest members, the Omega class. We are happy to welcome Leah Shapiro, Kristen Sewell, Katie Hop, Danielle Armena, and Judy Grudzinski into our sisterhood. In April, we received some awards through the Greek community on campus. Our chapter won the Distinguished Community Service Award and was recognized as a Chapter of Excellence. Only two organizations from each of the four councils were named chapters of excellence this year which makes it a great honor to receive. We had a very successful year and want to wish everyone a fantastic summer.

## ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER

The sisters of Alpha Zeta have been busily filling the end of the semester with projects and events. On April 19, we walked with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and raised several hundred dollars to find a cure. Later that night we celebrated a fun and productive semester at our spring formal and awards banquet. We also prepared care packages for soldiers serving overseas and finished our firefighter project cooking and delivering meals to local fire departments. Alpha Zeta is proud to welcome nine new sisters who were initiated on April 26. We look forward to a new year of service and leadership with our new executive board members: Amy Moore, president; Heather Johnson, vice president; Chelsea Nelson, secretary; Kim Farlow, treasurer; AshLeigh Smith, service director; Jessica Roper, sisterhood chair, and Erica Fey, membership director. Have a safe and fun summer girls!

**OMEGA PHI ALPHA**  
**NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY**  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# *National Calendar*

## JULY

July 16-20: National Convention in Denver, CO.



## 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](mailto:chevron@omegaphialpha.org) with "Chevron Calendar" in the subject. Issue 1 for 2008-09 will identify events and activities from October through December).*