

Chevron



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

VOLUME 38 ♦ NUMBER 2

Convention 2006
Hartford, Connecticut
New England's Rising Star



☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Hartford, Connecticut will host Convention 2006. Tentative dates are July 19 to 23. Hartford has many other attractions, so you may want to come early or stay late to visit New England's Rising Star.

Hartford is located along the Connecticut River, which makes its way up from Long Island Sound, just a two-hour drive from New York or Boston. The Bradley International Airport is just minutes from the Capitol City and the region is part of the Amtrak system as well.

Hartford is full of history, with collections of more than 150 years at the Connecticut Historical Society Museum, the homes of Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Hartford is also full of good food with over 30 four-star restaurants.

Please join us and become one of Omega Phi Alpha's Rising Stars in Hartford, CT for the annual Omega Phi Alpha Convention.

If you are interested in helping with the coordination of Convention 2006, please contact Myrinda Grantham, convention@omegaphialpha.org. If you are an alumna and would like to attend Convention, please contact Lisa Guest at alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

I look forward to seeing you in Hartford.

Susie Larson

President/VP of Business Operations

From the Editor

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

National Executive Board Members

Interim President - Susie Larson
VP Business Operations - Susie Larson
Executive Secretary - Anita Landry
VP Communications - Sarah VanDyke
VP Alumnae Relations - Lisa Guest
VP Leadership Development - Heather Harmon
VP Expansions - Ginger McGarity
VP Advancement - Vacant
Membership Director - Amy McConnell
VP Finance - Pam McEwen

Chevron Editors

Chevron Editor - Anne Ries
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: October 1, January 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.

National Office Mailing Address:

Omega Phi Alpha
National Office
P.O. Box 757
Russells Point, OH 43348-0757

Official National Website:

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 Executive Secretary:

Anita Landry
1917 Aymond Street
Eunice, LA 70535
337-550-9373
sec@omegaphialpha.org

Dear Sisters,

Dear Sisters,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. I wish it could have lasted longer, but a new year and a new semester awaits us! That means fresh beginnings and more opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

We all know what happens to New Year resolutions, or at least I know what happens to mine. About the end of January my promise to work out more fades into thoughts of Godiva chocolates on Valentine's Day. So instead of making resolutions and promises - do something! Isn't Omega Phi Alpha about doing service? Then instead of just pledging to volunteer more, make it happen. Participate in a walk-a-thon, volunteer at a soup kitchen, or even plan a leadership event for your local OPA chapter. As long as our sisters, pledges, and alumnae are still active - no matter where you are - the purpose and goals of Omega Phi Alpha will thrive.

I have a wonderful time serving as the editor of the Chevron, but unfortunately this will be my last issue as a part of its team. I just completed my first semester in the MA of English program at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi and earned a 4.0! (Yeah!) But between spending hours researching and working, I have had very little free time to help the Chevron flourish, as it should. I would like to sincerely thank the whole Chevron team - especially Sarah Van Dyke and Shelley Lai - for the exceptional effort they have put into creating such a strong newsletter. I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Chevron over the last couple of months - we could not have done it without you! I will miss being a part of such a great network, but I am also excited about the great opportunities ahead.

Love Always,

Anne Ries

Jill Whittington



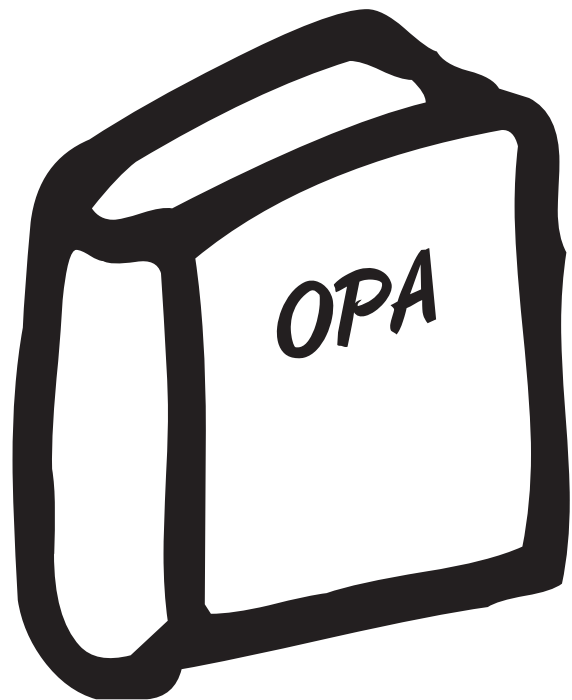
To Serve as Chairperson for the Annual Literacy Council Fundraiser

by Jill Whittington and Lisa Guest

Jill Whittington has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Literacy Council of Bowie/Miller Counties. The council is one of hundreds of Literacy Councils around the country that are organized through adult education programs. As a board member, Jill is one of 40 members responsible for the fundraising, management and charitable administration of the council. The Literacy Council is a 100 percent non-profit organization focused on advancing literacy through literacy tutoring for adults, English as a Second Language tutoring, and correctional rehabilitational tutoring. The local Literacy Council, which makes up the counties of Bowie, Texas, and Miller, Ark., received national accreditation from the Literacy Volunteers of America. More than 200 volunteer tutors from the council help about 1,000 students each year. In our local area approximately 30 percent of the population has only a Level 1 out of 5 literacy level. Low literacy skills are directly related to higher rates of poverty, unemployment, public assistance and incarceration.

This year, Jill is the chairperson of the council's largest annual fundraiser, a charity dinner, silent auction, and spelling bee with corporate sponsored teams and prizes. Local businesses donate everything from the location and food to cash and team sponsorships. Please support Jill in this endeavor by giving a monetary donation OR donating *anything* the council can sell in the silent auction. In the past,

items such as a mink coat as well as gift baskets including gift certificates for dinner and a movie have been available. Homemade arts and crafts are always a big draw. Imagine the fun a chapter could have while making a basket of homemade Christmas ornaments or a handmade quilt to donate to the auction. For more information about the Literacy Council and/or making a donation, please contact Jill Whittington at 903-223-0251 or at jrtwhittington@yahoo.com



Active Chapter Reports

EPSILON CHAPTER

Hello from Epsilon Chapter. By the time everyone reads this, we will have just wrapped up the semester. This semester went very well with service projects and other events. Our alumnae are always very active, but some of them made an extra effort to support us during Homecoming Week. We really appreciated all the help that we could get, not to mention that we were just excited to see all of our alums.

Homecoming Week was also when we held our annual alumnae tea. Since it was done on Homecoming it gave a lot of the alumnae more than one reason to come to Tennessee Tech. The tea was very successful because we had such a good turnout. We have a tea-type get together every semester for our alumnae, but we are thinking of changing things a little bit for next semester, maybe to a picnic setting. We are planning to have either an alumnae tea or picnic around the last week of March or the first week of April. We will be sending out more information to our alumnae as the date gets closer. We hope everyone had as productive a semester as we did, and good luck next semester.

GAMMA CHAPTER

by Courtney Lehmann, Gamma Chapter

Hello ladies from Gamma Chapter! We have been quite busy for the past couple of months. We planned our annual district rally with Alpha Chapter, which was scheduled in our hometown of Ysilanti for Nov. 20. We are set to do two service projects. We will begin with a "Rake and Run" around town, then come back to campus and make fleece blankets for newborns at one of our local hospitals. We are all excited about seeing our Alpha sisters again. We had such a blast last year. Service projects have kept us busy too. Gamma has been doing the usual volunteering at Saline Library and Ronald McDonald House. When Saline Library

had its annual Harry Potter Party, we helped the children make magical clocks that show where each of the family members are and cheered them on as they played "Pin the Tail on Dudley." For Halloween, collected money for UNICEF in Ypsilanti and raised over \$300. We have also been helping out at the Children's Institute located on EMU's campus with organizing the storage rooms and taking care of the children.

Gamma would like everyone to know that our new local chapter mascot is the mitten, since we are in the state of Michigan. And, we added a friendship requirement to our local constitution. Every sister is required to attend at least three hours of social/sisterhood activities. We hope the holidays were safe and fun for everyone.

NU CHAPTER

by Ashley Ryan and Cassie Pease

Nu Chapter had a big change this semester due to the large pledge class we recruited. Nu has been hard at work trying to overcome the difficulties of doubling in size next semester. One of the ways in which we have adapted to a larger group is by the addition of the Xi family. Another important part of adapting to a larger chapter is to delegate responsibilities among a larger group of people. We have achieved this initiative by forming more committees and creating more chairs and co-chairs. We also feel that we will create a stronger and more unified chapter by suspending Spring rush until Fall 2007. Although Nu Chapter has taken a proactive approach to shaping the dynamics of our chapter, there are always unexpected consequences of change. Nu did not realize the tremendous impact of our pledges' un-ending enthusiasm for service.

SIGMA CHAPTER

We have stayed busy at Sigma Chapter this semester. Over the past two months

we've sold Krispy Kreme donuts for a fundraiser, painted at the Chattanooga Rescue Mission, held a retreat, had Big/Little Reveal, planned Founders' Day, worked in a greenhouse at a school for children with learning disabilities, and knitted and crocheted scarves for the homeless. By the time you read this we will have activated our pledges (they both passed their Pledge Test!), held Founders' Day, contributed to Operation Christmas Child, and spent a day volunteering at Habitat for Humanity. We wish to congratulate Mary Varnell, who will be graduating from UTC in December and will be going to graduate school at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in the spring. We hope the rest of you are doing well.

Love in OPhiA, Sigma

TAU CHAPTER

Hey ladies! Wow, has it been an eventful semester so far!! We have been very very busy with service projects, socials and pledging. National Service Week, Nov. 7-12, was incredible. We set up two tables every day at two different campus locations for education awareness, as well as to collect school supply items which were donated to Austin ISD school district. The service projects focused on that week were Heart House, which was our permanent project this semester, which is a nonprofit after-school organization, Girl Start, which is also a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping girls learn all their opportunities, as well as tutoring at elementary schools. The projects were especially fun and enjoyable because the kids there are so great. We have had many socials as well, including a big sis/little sis event at Chuck E. Cheese's, a get-together at a cute café in downtown, potluck dinner, movie and game night, as well as an alumnae social. Pledging is going great

Active Chapter Reports

and we are really excited about all of the 17 wonderful girls who are all so hard-working.

PHI CHAPTER

by Megan Wede, Secretary Phi Chapter

Hello from sunny Arizona!

The girls of Phi Chapter have been very busy. We are all very excited about and proud to announce that we have 13 pledges. This semester the girls of Phi put on another very successful Girl Scout Try-It Day where we helped 40 Brownies earn two Try-Its in careers and manners. We were also lucky enough to participate in the Rock-n-Roll Paintathon where we spent the day painting an elderly woman's home. We helped educate students on campus about AIDS on World AIDS Day. There have also been plenty of social events this semester from self-defense classes to Sex and The City nights. The Phi sisters are also happy to announce that we joined the Panhellenic Council at Arizona State, which we feel will open us up to new friends and amazing opportunities.

CHI CHAPTER

Chi Chapter is looking forward to winding down the semester and spending time with our loved ones over the holidays, before jumping into a new semester. We recently activated 10 new members and look forward to their contributions to our chapter. They have great ideas and we are all excited about working together. We enjoyed getting to know our newest sisters, as well as strengthening our bonds with the previously activated ones, on our sisterhood retreat. We spent a weekend on the Isle of Palms, off the coast of Charleston, S.C. We got a lot accomplished and still had time to play on the beach!

Service-wise, we are winding things down for the semester. Most of us are

currently volunteering at the 21st Annual Carolina/Clemson Blood Battle, either donating blood or assisting the doctors and nurses with the largest blood drive in the Southeast. We also volunteered our time at the Harvest Hope Food Bank. We enjoyed helping them sort and package food for those who need it, especially around this time of year. We are continuing our visits at the Palmetto Children's Hospital and are putting together boxes for the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation: Christmas Child. Our Reach Out & Read Book Drive was a great success. A lot of local community members were glad to donate new or gently used children's books so the program volunteers would have books to read to children as they waited in hospital and doctor waiting rooms. The program also allows each child to take home a new book after every doctor visit.

We hope everyone is doing well and is looking forward to the holiday season. You'll hear from us via snail mail after January.

ALPHA ALPHA CHAPTER

Howdy from the Alpha Alpha Chapter. Can you believe that the semester is almost over? Time flies when you are having fun and working hard. We sent our Furby, "Alfie," to other chapters as a service-to-the-sisters project. He was nominated as our District 6 mascot over the summer at Convention, and in spirit of sending out sisterly love around, he is making his way through the mail and y'all should be seeing him over the next few weeks.

As one of the pledges' projects, there was a pledge/active retreat, a fun overnight event for all of us to hang out together and for pledges to get to know active sisters. We spent the night running around town doing picture scavenger hunts, graffiti parties and a few crazy games of Twister (We've got a lively bunch of pledges.)

We volunteered at the United Way Craft Fair for a few days, helping put together the raffle as we did last year. We recently adopted a third grade teacher, and helped with her reading groups for a few hours, and are acting as pen pals with another elementary school class..

We recently finished our mental health project, in which we cheered on a local high school's volleyball team. Signs, cheers, spirit bags and all; they loved us cheering for them, and we just loved cheering for them. We had a great time attending the games, and the girls were very thankful for the support.

For Halloween we went trick or treating for canned food and are extending that project into volunteering at one of the local food banks for a week. Our pledges just took their national test and were activated on Dec. 4.

UPSILON CHAPTER

The sisters of the Upsilon Chapter, have been doing various service projects, such as: helping the victims of the hurricane at the Cajundome, serving food at St. Joseph's Diner and tutoring throughout the semester at a local high school. We trick-or-treated for canned goods, which were used to make Thanksgiving baskets for a needy family. We also participated in a cleanup of our university's football stadium, and made dessert baskets to show appreciation to our custodians.

We have been doing well with service projects and sisterhood projects, which were successful in helping us grow closer and experience the true meaning of sisterhood. We now have 23 new active members, the biggest addition our chapter has had in a long time. Overall, we have been doing really well. The fall semester was a very productive one.

President's Corner...

Greetings from Nashville. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as interim president for the remaining year. As you may know, Leann Williams had to resign in October due to health reasons. The National Executive Board elected me to fill the president's position until we hold an election at Convention in Hartford, CT this summer.

At Convention this summer we will have the following elected positions vacant:

- President-Elect – 1-year term, 3-year term as president
- President – 1-year term
- Vice President of Business Operations – 3-year term
- Executive Secretary – 2-year term
- Membership Director – 2-year term
- Vice President of Advancement Planning – 3-year term

In addition to the elected positions, there are many appointed positions, so there is always a way for any OPA alum to continue to serve. Please contact any member of the National Executive Board for more information.

The National President's Project for this year is education, and Omega Phi Alpha is helping in a big way. The NEB, with delegation approval, voted to match and double any contributions up to \$5,000 to be used to help the Katrina Hurricane Relief. The money will be used to fund education projects, such as rebuilding a library, buying text books, or buying building supplies.

One of my goals as interim president is to maintain healthy chapters and provide them support. I encourage all alumnae to continue to support their chapters in any way they can, whether by donations, helping with service or fundraising projects, or just by sending them encouragement.

I look forward to serving as your president for the remaining year.

Love in OPA,

Susie Larson

President/VP of Business Operations

OMEGA PHI ALPHA SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

by Jill Whittington and Lisa Guest

OPA's Scholarship Trust has been awarding scholarships to deserving OPA sisters annually since 1997. The number and the size of the awards are based on the interest earned on donations made to the Omega Phi Alpha Scholarship Trust. Your chapter can help to increase the awards by holding fundraising activities for the trust.

The scholarship is a cash award that may be used to support tuition, fees, books or living expenses. To be eligible for the scholarship, a sister must:

- ✓ be a lifetime member;
- ✓ have paid national dues, or had her dues waived by local and national;
- ✓ be enrolled and in good standing with the chapter and the college/university.

The scholarship applications are evaluated based on attributes such as grade point average, enrollment status in school for the previous and upcoming semesters and number of academic years in OPA since becoming a lifetime member. The applicant is also asked to write about the cardinal principles and why she joined OPA.

Scholarship applications are sent to each chapter president annually, or are available on the national Web site. The deadline for filing is March 1. Now is the time to plan to apply for the 2006 scholarships that will be awarded at Convention in Hartford.

FOCUSED EXPANSIONS STRATEGY PAYS OFF IN TWO NEW COLONIES

by Ginger McGarity

When we describe Omega Phi Alpha as a national organization, many people commonly start with "We have 17 active chapters spread across a dozen states...." Well, don't get too used to quoting that statistic because it's going to change very soon. O Phi A is growing again! The sorority now has active colonies at Georgia Southern University and Southeastern Louisiana University. In addition, VP Expansion Ginger McGarity is working closely with interest groups at Kennesaw State University in north Georgia, and at Penn State.

Following an expansions strategy developed last year, Ginger's first focus was to revamp the expansion section of the national Web site to better reflect our expansions policy and procedures. Nu active Heather Pritchard developed the design of the new web pages, using content that Ginger had developed previously. The new pages flash pictures of O Phi A sisters from several different chapters. Take a look and see if you see yourself there. The new expansions pages, coupled with a more prominent link on the OPA home page, has really generated more interest in our organization this year.

Another key point of the expansions strategy is to focus our efforts on middle-sized to large public universities. The larger schools have a bigger pool of potential members to draw upon, and O Phi A has traditionally been more successful at that type of school. Occasionally this means that O Phi A declines an expansions opportunity when

interest is extended from a very small school, and that's tough. We'd love to be able to extend the hand of sisterhood to every campus across the country, but at this stage in our national development we have to be careful how we expend our limited resources. Maybe a decade from now we'll be able to cast a wider, more inclusive net.

An important feature in the expansions strategy is to build strong bonds between the colony and the rest of the sorority. Toward that goal, we are leveraging active and alumnae around the country to serve as long-distance big sisters to the colonists. In addition, colonies are being incorporated into district events at an earlier stage, and are encouraged to interact with the leaders of active chapters through the online councils that are in place.

In addition to developing new interest groups from "scratch," O Phi A's expansions strategy positions the sorority to reach out to local sororities and offer affiliation at a national level. The interest group at Penn State is a prime example, having existed on their campus for the last 10 years. It's not clear yet whether this group will turn into a colony (and eventually a chapter) but Ginger firmly believes that local sororities can bring a wealth of ideas into the national organization.

Sisters who have suggestions or questions about Omega Phi Alpha's expansions efforts should contact Ginger McGarity, Vice President of Expansions, at expansions@omegaphialpha.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON GEORGIA SOUTHERN COLONY

The Georgia Southern University Colony was founded by Lindsey Rozier. Disillusioned and disappointed when the Panhellenic sorority she was pledging suddenly went inactive, Lindsey fell into conversation with a close high school friend who now attends Auburn University, and who is an active sister at O Phi A's Omicron Chapter. Excited to learn about this new kind of sorority with a heavy emphasis on community service, Lindsey immediately started researching further. The Nu Chapter Web site convinced her that she needed to start a chapter of O Phi A at GSU.

Lindsey leveraged the Facebook Web site and her personal contacts around campus to quickly build a strong interest group on campus. The GSU Colony's Petition for Colonization was accepted on Halloween. They have 22 active members and have already completed two of their pledge quizzes and two colony-sponsored service projects. Their big sisters are from Chi and Nu chapters, with a few area alumnae to round things out. VPE Ginger McGarity flew to south Georgia to lead their colonization retreat in mid-November.

Georgia Southern University is in Statesboro, Ga, not far from the historic coastal city of Savannah. The colony can be reached by email at GSU@omegaphialpha.org.

continued on page 12

2005-2006 DISTRICT ALUMNAE ADVISORS

KEISHA GIBSON

District 1

Keisha is a "Metro" Atlanta native and a proud Georgia Tech grad (Go Jackets!). Last year, Keisha's textile engineering degree helped her land a job with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. So, Keisha moved to Metro D.C. to begin her first full-time job, working as a patent examiner. Keisha's move to DC/VA has been an adventure.

Keisha has been involved in community service for as long as she can remember, thanks to the 4-H program, Girl Scouts and a variety of other youth organizations. When Keisha arrived at Tech, she was lucky enough to meet Chelsea Morrissey, who convinced her to rush OPA, a move that would allow Keisha to continue serving her community for the remainder of her college years.

As alumnae advisor for District 1, Keisha is looking forward to helping the sorority reconnect with its lost alumnae. Keisha feels locating alumnae is very important to the continued development of our organization. She believes alumnae possess a wealth of knowledge and resources that shouldn't be overlooked. Wish us luck in our quest to find your fellow sisters living around the country and the world.

JULIA TIMMONS

District 2 East

Julia was an active at Sigma Chapter for two years. Julia graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in May 2004 with a B.A. in history. Julia's concentration was in African-American Studies with an emphasis in the Civil Rights Movement between 1919-1981. Julia is attending the Nashville School of Law. If Julia survives the rigorous course work, she will graduate in May of 2009. Julia works at Blue Cross Blue Shield of TN.

Julia has numerous hobbies and interests. She loves music and even participated in the marching band through college. Julia enjoys opera and musicals, and is current-

ly hooked on "Wicked" and "Boy from Oz." Julia also enjoys photography, and actually worked in photo labs and in photography until she graduated from college. She has a working darkroom at home and occasionally shoots weddings and special events. Julia enjoys science fiction and fantasy books, and is stuck on the Harry Potter series and anything by Kim Williams.

AMY MITCHELL

District 2 Kentucky

Amy (Whitacre) Mitchell is also serving as Rho's chapter alumnae advisor. Amy graduated from Western Kentucky in May 2003 with a double major in history and social studies. Amy works for Warren County Public Schools. Amy and her husband, Owen, just celebrated their 1-year anniversary. Amy and Owen have an 11-month-old, 75-lb. yellow lab named Finnigan.

As an active at Rho, Amy was historian, secretary and president. Amy attended Convention 2001 in San Antonio and had a great time, so she is really looking forward to Convention this year. Amy loves to travel. Amy and Owen went to Ireland in June and had an awesome time. Amy also likes to read, paint, cook, garden and take pictures. As a DAA/CAA, Amy hopes to help Rho locate its lost alumnae and to plan an alumnae reunion for sometime this spring. Amy also cannot wait for the new Harry Potter movie to come out. Amy is really looking forward to working with everyone and is excited about this project.

PAMELA MCEWEN

District 2 West

Pam pledged Epsilon Chapter in 1973 when she was a junior at Tennessee Tech and OPA first became active there. Because Pam was an upper classman trying to graduate and working full time, she did not have time to serve as an officer. About seven years after graduation, Pam

decided to get active on a national level and served on the Alumnae Board of Directors for a year. The following year, Pam ran for the first of several terms as treasurer. After serving four years as treasurer, Pam was alumnae administrator for two years. She flip-flopped between the two jobs a couple of times.

Pam has also served on the alumnae board, as the alumnae scholarship trustee and as the sorority's financial advisor, and has served in either an elected or appointed capacity on and off since 1982.

Pam has thoroughly enjoyed her role, whatever it was, because of the wonderful women she has been able to work with over the years.

Professionally, Pam is a public accountant and is the chief financial officer for a mid-sized governmental agency with a budget of about \$9 million. Pam is responsible for accounting, budgeting and financial management for the agency. Pam has worked her way up in local government for over 25 years. Among her successes is the implementation of a government-wide financial management system and a grant-tracking method.

Pam is divorced with no children. She lives with her sister and their three cats in Nashville. Pam stays in close touch with her father and five siblings. Her mother has passed away. Pam recently became a great aunt. Pam's interests are playing duplicate bridge (someday, she plans to become a Life Master); reading (Stephen King; Anne Rice; spook books); and a craft called "plastic craft" – sort of like needle point for the sight-impaired.

ERIN VALENTINO

District 3

Erin lives in the Atlanta area, where she works as an office manager for a hospital police department. Erin graduated from Western Kentucky University in May of last year with a bachelor's in psychology and sociology. Erin hopes to start graduate school in forensic psychology or law

school or both next year, after which she plans to become an FBI agent.

Erin has always been involved in some sort of service organization. She was a Girl Scout and then was part of a Masonic youth organization. While at Rho Chapter, Erin served as communications director and service co-chair.

Erin's hobbies include reading and writing. Erin hopes to someday be a published author. Erin is really excited about being involved with OPA on a national level and eager to get to know you all.

District 4 – vacant

District 5 – vacant

District 6 – vacant

KERRY KORNACKI

District 7

Kerry Kornacki (Oldenburg) is a Gamma Chapter alumna. Kerry has served in many local positions, a few appointments and a national position. Kerry teaches severely emotionally impaired students in a day treatment program. Kerry is attend-

ing graduate school pursuing her master's in reading and has only five classes left.

Kerry has a 20-month-old daughter that is the apple of her eye even through all her temper tantrums. Kerry has been married just over three years to a wonderful husband and father, Matt. Kerry is a Sunday school teacher. Kerry conducts events for the local science Olympiad and is working with alumnae to continue success with the Omega Beta Chapter.

CHELSEA MORRISEY

Young Alum Leader

Chelsea Morrisey is a Nu alumna. As an active sister, Chelsea held offices including president, vice president, sisterhood chair and national database administrator. Chelsea's favorite service project was a scholar lock-in where Nu tutored high school students to help prepare them for their graduation exam. As an alum, Chelsea is Nu Chapter's alumnae advisor and coordinator of Omega Gamma (Atlanta Alums).

Chelsea was the District 3 alumnae advisor last year and has been appointed as

Young Alumnae Leader this year.

Chelsea was attracted to being a Young Alumnae Leader after seeing this position in another organization. As actives continue to become alumnae, it is important for OPA to stay in touch with them and keep them involved. Chelsea encourages young alums to send her input and she will also actively seek it during this year.

Chelsea is a software engineer for a custom software engineering company in Atlanta, TechDiscovery. Chelsea graduated with a B.S. in computer science and a minor in business from Georgia Tech. Chelsea serves as a member of the GT College of Computing Alumni Council.

Chelsea loves to volunteer with teenagers and is involved with the Girl Scouts of Northwest Georgia, where she is developing a technology program geared at 11- to 14-year-old girls, which she hopes will encourage more women to consider joining the technology industry. Chelsea also enjoys scrapbooking and photography.

JUANITA WADE – Alumnae Secretary

District 3 News

Greetings from District 3. The principles of friendship, leadership and service are alive and well this semester with all three chapters exceedingly involved in all aspects of OPA. As individual chapters, Mu, Rho and Epsilon have had unique projects going on all semester. For Service to the Sisters, the Mu sisters celebrated an early Thanksgiving dinner with each other. They also ushered in a great new fall pledge class. Epsilon's ladies have had a very busy fall as well. Congratulations go out to them, and the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon, for receiving second place overall in Tennessee Tech's homecoming celebration. Within the celebration was a canned food drive, which goes to help the unprivileged citizens of the Upper Cumberland Region. The Epsilon sisters had a tremendously successful trick-or-treat for cans drive. Sisters to the North at Rho Chapter had their Founder's Celebration on Nov.19. They are also collecting teddy bears during

the gala to benefit children of fire-related accidents.

The district rally was a huge success and definitely one of the highlights of the semester. The sisters came in from Cookeville, Bowling Green and Murfreesboro to gather at the Zoo for Ghouls at Grassmere. We got to act like kids once more by dressing up and working with the zoo to entertain the kids that visited the zoo after hours. Vanessa Laffoon and Susan Taylor organized the event and showed off what great ADO's we are proud to have within the district. The sisters were happy to have Heather Harmon, vice president, leadership development, National President Susie Larson and Alumnae Vice President Lisa Guest along for the day to share in the fun. As the TLC for District 2, I am extremely proud of the work that all of the ladies have done this semester. I love getting to visit all of the chapters and see how friendship, lead-

ership and service are still alive today. District 2 will be working on projects through the holidays and we are all looking forward to a great spring filled with projects before we head to Connecticut for Convention.

District 5 News

*Sarah M. Barber, AB
smbarber@ou.edu*

Howdy and greetings from District 5. My name is Sarah Barber, and I am the new TLC for District 5. I am an alum of Alpha Beta, and I'm super excited to be working with a new district. Since I am still new to District 5, I am still making contact with all the chapters and getting up-to-date with everything going on. A district rally is being planned and Delta, along with the other chapters, are finishing up with their service projects for the semester. I look forward to working with everyone.

Alumnae Corner

From the Desk of the VP Alumnae Relations

by Lisa Guest, VP Alumnae Relations

Calling ALL alumnae! We need your input, thoughts and opinions. During the October retreat for district alumnae advisors, each DAA selected a project and will spend the next few months working with alumnae and active sisters to build the foundation needed for each project. I encourage all alumnae to contact your district alumnae advisor or me to let your voice be heard.

Alum Questionnaires

The alumnae questionnaire from the winter 2004 Chevron is available online. I would like to encourage alumnae who have not completed the questionnaire to please do so. Your input and opinions are important in planning for the future of the national alumnae program. The questionnaire can be found by visiting <http://omegaphialpha.org/feedback.html>.

Chapter Alumnae Advisors Needed

Chapters are still in need of alumnae advisors, those who will assist active chapters with minor issues and problems on the local level, provide guidance, support and continuity to chapter officers and lead workshops, as needed. Alums interested in serving a local chapter in

this capacity must live close enough to attend active meetings on a regular basis. If you are interested in this position or would like more information, email alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

2005-06 District Alumnae Advisors Needed

DAA's are needed for District 4 (Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida / Upsilon, Alpha Beta, and Omicron) and District 5 (Texas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska).

If you are interested in this position read on DAAs assist in locating missing alums, work with alums to establish new alumnae organizations, encourage alum participation in sorority activities including attendance and participation at the national Convention, plan activities for alumnae, attend national Convention, work with alums to organize alumnae activities and workshops during district rallies, encourage alums to attend and participate in district rallies, serve as a resource and contact for alumnae, develop relationships with traveling leadership consultants, chapter alumnae advisors, and active chapters, and work on various committees and alum projects.

If you are interested in becoming a District Alumnae Advisor or have questions, please send an email to alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

Alumnae Cookbook Fundraiser

The Alumnae Cookbook fundraiser is in full swing. Cookbooks can be ordered by either visiting 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. Please make checks and money orders payable to "Omega Phi Alpha" and mail to Lisa Guest at P.O. Box 307, Iola, TX 77861.

Convention 2006 Update

I encourage all alumnae to begin to make plans to attend Convention 2006 in Hartford, Connecticut.

For now, I encourage all alumnae to make contact with the national organization, local chapters, other alumnae, alumnae chapters, the DAA's, or myself. This is your alumnae program and we need to hear from you. We cannot build the alumnae organization without your input, views, and voice.

District Alumnae Advisors Needed Immediately for the following Districts:

District 2 West – West Tennessee and Kentucky/Epsilon and Rho

District 4 – Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida/Upsilon,
Alpha Beta, and Omicron

If interested in serving as a DAA, please contact Lisa Guest at alumnae@omegaphialpha.org.

Alumnae Cookbook Fundraiser

Alumnae Cookbooks cost \$10.00 each plus \$3.50 shipping. Orders of more than 20 cookbooks require additional shipping charges. Mail checks or money orders, payable to Omega Phi Alpha to:

Lisa Guest
P.O. Box 307
Iola, TX 77861

Cookbooks can also be ordered by visiting the online Rose Shop at www.omegaphialpha.org.

Alumnae Cookbook Fundraiser Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Alumnae Cookbooks cost \$10 each + \$3.50 shipping. Orders of more than 20 cookbooks require additional shipping charges.

Cookbooks \$10 each x _____

= \$ _____

Shipping charge per order

= \$ _____

Total cost

= \$ _____

Mail checks or money orders to:

Lisa Guest

Payable to Omega Phi Alpha

P.O. Box 307

Iola, TX 77861

Cookbooks can also be ordered by visiting www.omegaphialpha.org.

Alumnae Updates

Kelly (Story) Wade (Gamma) married in August 2004. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University in December 2004 with a B.S. in elementary education with an endorsement in early childhood education. She is a preschool teacher at Paddock Elementary in Milan, MI, and lives in Ann Arbor, MI with her husband, Aaron. Kelly continues OPA's principle of service by participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Milan and Making Strides for Breast Cancer in Ann Arbor. She can be reached at curly-sue@sbcglobal.net.

T.C. (Kennedy) Baur (Delta) married Mike Baur on Dec. 3. She and Mike live in Hawaii, where she is teaching for the military school system. She misses all of her OPhiA sisters, but is hoping to get more involved again when they move back

to Texas in 2008. She can be reached at teecelvesmike@gmail.com

Andrea (Figg) Watson (Epsilon) got married on Sept. 24. The values and beliefs of OPA have led her to her career. She now works for Community Options, Inc., a nonprofit organization that assists adults with disabilities. Andrea lives in Cookeville, TN and can be reached at AMFigg21@tntech.edu.

Stephanie (Phee) Mayer (Phi) just started her first job working at Berkshire Violence Prevention Center as a community outreach educator in Massachusetts. She will be giving presentations in high schools on relationship violence and sexual assault. She will also be facilitating groups of high school students and better educating the youth of America.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Continued...

Focused Expansions (continued from page 7)

SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA COLONY

After being very active in O Phi A, it's almost impossible to imagine being in college without it. That's exactly what Upsilon alumna Takoah Bellazer faced when she enrolled at Southeastern Louisiana University this summer. So, even before she started classes, Koah contacted VPE Ginger McGarity to discuss the steps in starting a new chapter there. Koah recruited almost a dozen interested students right away by using the Facebook Web site to generate interest and spread the word.

Then Hurricane Katrina hit the South Louisiana area where Koah goes to school. After several weeks of chaos and horror (including the impact of Hurricane Rita), things finally settled down into a new definition of "normal." The interest group at SELU started recruiting again. By mid-October they had 21 members in their interest group and submitted their Petition for Colonization, which took 12 days to get to VPE Ginger McGarity, probably due to the continued disruption to the Louisiana mail system from the two natural disasters earlier this fall. Ginger accepted the petition on Nov 5.

Southeastern Louisiana University is in Hammond, La., about an hour from the historic cosmopolitan city of New Orleans. The colony is tentatively planning its colonization retreat for mid-February, but is facing a huge challenge finding a location since most sleepover sites are still filled with people who were displaced by the hurricanes. Sisters with suggestions for the retreat (or anything else) can reach the SELU Colony at SELU@omegaphialpha.org.