

Golden

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2022



From our National President

I am beyond honored to be serving as National President for Omega Phi Alpha during this inaugural edition of The Golden Chevron! The past couple of years have been significant in their impact on our world, our lives, and our sorority. We have had to learn to adapt and mold to quickly changing norms to continue thriving as an organization.

I am impressed with the work the Board of Directors has done and the innovative thinking our members continue to strive for. All this effort is reflected in OPA meeting our pre-pandemic recruitment numbers, the lowest number of LOA and dissociations in years, establishing a national partnership with RAINN, and working to balance the focus of business at convention and add more sisterhood and social events, all while decreasing the cost incurred by the sorority.

One of the things that makes Omega Phi Alpha so unique is our commitment to service. We believe in supporting each other, our communities, our nation, and our world by dedicating our time, resources, and talents. As National President, I have the privilege of witnessing the work of OPA from a global perspective, and the magnitude of the impact we are having is truly inspiring!

We are working to increase chapter health support by the addition of a Chapter Health Manager and adding a third Chapter Health Specialist to the team this fall. The intention is to continuously improve resources available to chapters, increase one-on-one attention for chapters, and encourage chapter development and success. Additionally, we have set the following goals:

- » Increase active membership to 1,200 by the end of Spring 2023
- » Improve the quality of service provided by chapters and members
- » Increasing the number of chapter planned service projects and ensure all projects fit into the intention of each area of service

Most excitedly, we will be having the greatest expansion effort yet, inducting FIVE new chapters of Omega Phi Alpha! Big and spectacular things are happening within our wonderful sorority.

Like our beloved bee mascot, the hive only thrives when there's equality, teamwork, respect, and love. We are a network of busy little bees. We may not look the same, we may have different political ideologies, we may have different religious beliefs... but united we make a thriving, powerful buzz that vibrates across the nation and the world.



A black, cursive handwritten signature that reads "Brittany Thornton".

Brittany Thornton

National President, 2021-2023

Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority

Welcome to the Golden Chevron, the newest publication from Omega Phi Alpha! The Golden Chevron is our biennial Convention publication celebrating national sorority achievements, spotlighting active and alumni members, and highlighting our chapters' year-in-review in their own words. Expanding on our usual State of the Sorority information presented at Convention, we are thrilled to share this compilation of information from our sisterhood offering a glimpse into the life of our sorority, from actives to alumni, from individuals to the Foundation!

Thank you so much to all individuals and chapters who submitted member spotlights, chapter highlights, and other content to our inaugural edition of the Golden Chevron. And a HUGE rose twirl goes to our Communications Director, Kasey Stevens (Phi), who made the Golden Chevron vision a reality, lending her creative skills to the concept, creation, layout, and full graphic design of this snapshot of Friendship, Leadership, and Service.

- Nanda Jayaseelan (Chi), VP Communications -



Table of Contents

State of the Sorority.....	6
Service	7
Collegiate Membership	9
Expansions.....	11
Alumni Membership	12
Finances	14
Member Engagement	15
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	16
Leadership Development	19
National Partnerships.....	20
Merchandise.....	21
Events.....	22
Member Spotlights.....	24
2021-2022 Graduates.....	25
Alumni Society Inductees	27
Operational Leadership Team	28
Board of Directors.....	29
Notable Alumni.....	30
Bless Our Sisters Forever	31
Foundation.....	33
The Omega Phi Alpha Foundation.....	34
Chapter Highlights.....	36
2021-2022 Awards	47
Service Awards.....	48
Chapter Awards.....	48
Chapter Officer Awards.....	49
Individual Awards.....	49



State of the Sorority

Service

Impact

We are committed to creating valuable, meaningful, and impactful opportunities for all Omega Phi Alpha chapters and members through our six areas of service. Our collegiate members completed 21,380 hours of service in the Spring 2022 semester. This equates to \$315,285 of potential labor costs at a living wage of \$15 per hour.

The chapter with the highest number of service hours was Alpha Rho at Virginia Tech with almost 2200 hours of service. We had 9 other chapters complete over 1000 hours of service.

Two members completed over 100 service hours from chapter planned service projects:

Megan Shoop
(Alpha Iota)
106.50 service hours

Laura Holified
(Alpha Nu)
103 service hours

Twenty two members completed over 50 service hours from chapter planned service projects:

Dylan Stabbe	Katie Vaughn	Rachel Craighead	Grace Allyson
Jaden Mullins	Parker Hall	Stephenie Tucker	Katelyn Lam
Whitney DAttilio	Erin Crotty	Emma Vermillion	Maily Angibaud
Aranza Milo	Katelyn Kiser	Tanya Chavarria	Rachel Black
Caz Bilbrey	Brooke Peck	Holly Wagner	
Lisbeth Rodriguez	Sophia Knudsen	Jazz Flores	

President's Project

Our members dedicate time and effort to support a focused area of service that is designated annually by the national president.

The project for the 2021-2022 academic year was Erasing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.

When healthcare providers treat every patient the way they would care for themselves, each individual receives the highest level of care and attention. Typically, this is easy to do for providers. A patient comes to see them, they see themselves or their loved ones in them, and care for them accordingly. Unfortunately, when providers have patients who don't look like them, this rule can easily fall to the wayside, and quality of care diminishes quickly.

The term "health disparities" is often defined as a difference in which disadvantaged social groups,

such as the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, women, and other groups who persistently experience social disadvantage or discrimination, systemically experience worse health or greater risks than more advantaged social groups.

Chapters were encouraged to raise awareness, starting right on their campuses and in their communities where the caregivers, politicians, and leaders of the future are being formed, in order to lead the way in creating a culture of change. They were encouraged to plan projects to support medical students of color, clinics in underserved areas, and to host letter writing events to legislatures to address ethnic and racial bias in healthcare.

Members completed **102 hours of service** in honor of the president's project this semester.

Permanent Project

Our members champion psychological and emotional well-being for all through partnerships with national organizations or projects that address underlying issues impacting a person’s mental health.

Members completed **112.50 hours of service** in the area of mental health this semester.

Chapters completed projects such as a Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training, suicide awareness events on campus, resiliency workshops, uplifting sticky notes and cards for members of the sorority and community, and worked with the organization More Love Letters.

University Community

Our active members are dedicated to giving back to the community that is preparing them for their post-college ambitions by recognizing the efforts and needs of the university, the faculty, the staff, and fellow students.

Members completed **156.50 hours of service** in the university community this semester.

Chapters served the university community through projects such as a blood drive, campus cleanup, The Rock Project, and Valentine’s cards to faculty and staff.

Community-at-Large

Our members recognize the significance of their communities and strive to make a positive and meaningful impact.

Members completed **336.50 hours of service** in the community this semester.

Chapters completed projects to benefit the community such as Relay for Life, canned food drives for local food banks, humane society volunteer days, winter kits for the homeless, and volunteering at or collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Members of the Sorority

Our members deeply value their sisterhood and strive to serve each other, both active and alumni, through meaningful, uplifting activities and sincere, steadfast support.

Members completed **141.50 hours of service** in the members of the sorority this semester.

Chapters completed projects such as traditions, ceremonies, and ritual workshops, self defense classes, and engaging alumni and actives with a book club.

Nations of the World

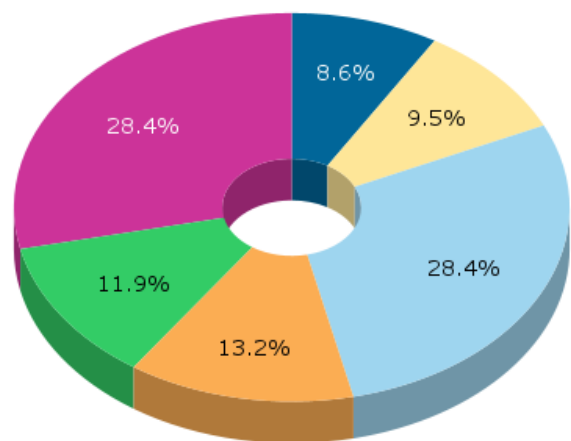
Our members take action through service on issues that impact humanity across the globe.

Members completed **337.50 hours of service** in the nations of the world this semester.

Chapters completed projects such as donation drives for I Support the Girls, fundraisers and awareness campaigns for Save the Children, and did charity miles in support of international organizations.

2021-2022 Service Hours

- President's Project
- Community-at-Large
- Members of the Sorority
- Permanent Project
- University Community
- Nations of the World

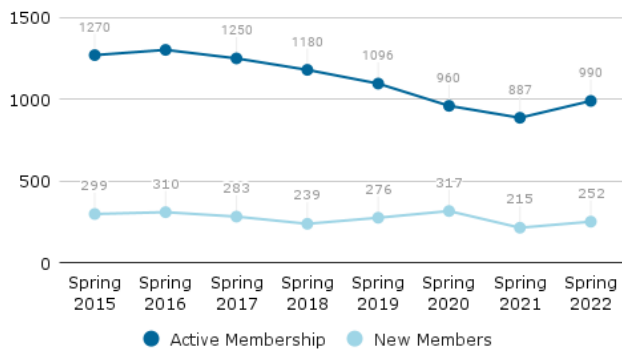


Collegiate Membership

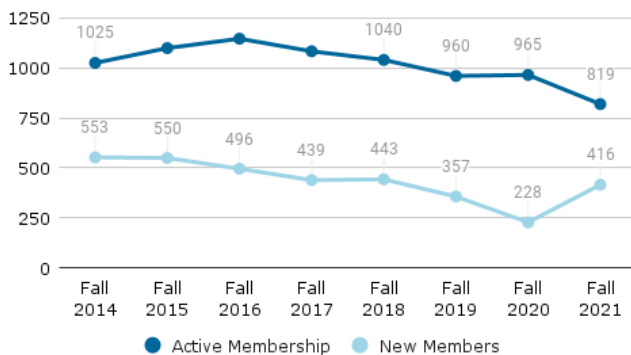
New Member Data

After many semesters of declining or flat membership levels, the sorority has made an effort to set intentional recruitment goals for each chapter, each semester and provide additional support, resources, and training to increase collegiate membership.

Spring Membership 2014 - 2022



Fall Membership 2014 - 2021



PNM to Activation Rates

One of the strategic goals set by the Board of Directors this year was to gather data and information on PNM activation rates to help ensure that all people interested in Omega Phi Alpha have the resources and support needed to activate as collegiate members.

The number of bids extended has been collected for many years, but was never used to compare against actual activation numbers. With the help of our National Office Administrator, we were able to compile this information and have a historical view of our PNM Activation Rates by chapter and semester.

Bids Accepted vs. PNM Activated

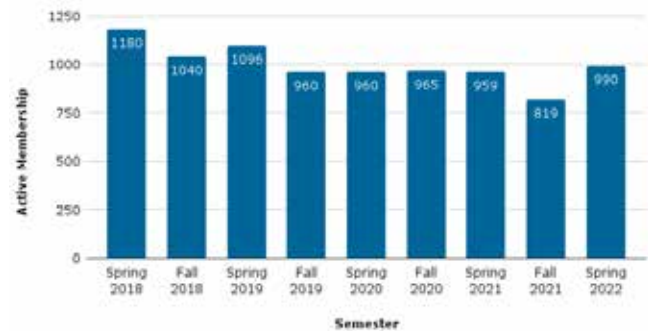


Our next goal is to dive deeper into these findings and gather additional information from chapters to determine what causes a low activation rate and how we can help support chapters to increase their activation rates.

Active Member Data

The COVID-19 pandemic proved challenging for chapters to engage and retain members, but we are excited to report our membership is at its highest level since Spring 2019.

Active Membership 2018-Present



Recruitment

Selective recruitment is an objective process to maintain a manageable level of chapter membership. Selective recruitment can generally be defined as extending bids to a select number of individuals to comprise a new member class, or that a chapter may not extend bids to all students that express interest in becoming a member.

In 2019, over 50% of our chapters were participating in selective recruitment.

After the Board of Directors re-evaluated our Core Values in early 2020, the Collegiate Membership Team worked to bust myths about non-selective recruitment and encourage our chapters to adopt recruitment strategies and practices that align with the sorority's values. As of Spring 2022, 93% of active chapters have adopted non-selective recruitment inline with our core values, while only two chapters continue to participate in selective recruitment.

Prior to the start of each semester, each chapter receives communication from the membership team with a recruitment goal based on previous recruitment trends in that semester and the overall goal that the sorority hopes to increase membership by 15% year over year. To help achieve these goals, the membership team supports and assists chapters throughout their recruitment period with additional resources and funds available for all chapters.

Additionally, in 2021 the membership team released new recruitment theme packages as



part of the ongoing recruitment theme library project. This project aims to provide pre-designed recruitment themes to chapters, including all of the digital and print assets associated with the themes, to make their recruitment a success. So far, we have launched a bee theme and a space theme and look forward to adding more in the next year!

OPA 101

With the launch of OPAportal powered by GreekTrack as the sorority's new database came the launch of an online learning platform.

Noticing discrepancies and a gap of knowledge in certain areas, the collegiate membership team felt that standardizing the information was essential to ensure all members are receiving the same information with the same delivery and this platform enables us to create a standardized, one size fits all OPA 101 new member education experience.

Available to all initiated new members, OPA 101 is now an asynchronous course that includes printed lessons, pre-recorded lessons, study guides, and quizzes. This allows every new member, regardless of chapter affiliation, to receive exactly the same engaging education about Omega Phi Alpha.

It is important that Omega Phi Alpha has knowledgeable members as they transition into active and then alumni members and potentially become leaders at both the local and national levels. Additionally, having this course on OPAportal that each member completes independently allows for chapters to optimize their time during new member meetings and focus more on sisterhood and service.

Fall 2021

13 chapters utilized
OPA 101

Spring 2022

18 chapters utilized
OPA 101

All prospective new chapters will use OPA 101 on OPAportal for their new member education over the next few months. We also expect to have 90% of our chapters using this resource by the end of the upcoming academic year.

Expansions

Our national expansions team has been actively working with interest groups across the country to establish prospective new chapters of Omega Phi Alpha. For the first time, the expansions team utilized the power of social media to recruit prospective new members. Corey Goodburn, Expansions Coordinator, established a process that included creating instagram accounts for universities which we were interested in expanding to and running ads for those accounts. Additionally, the expansions team worked with both the University of North Carolina and Duke University to publish articles about Omega Phi Alpha in the student newspapers, advertise on their website, and through their email list.

If you're unaware of how the expansions process works, after the interest group receives university recognition, they must recruit at least 25 students to be a part of their group. Then, interest groups submit individual and group petitions to the Omega Phi Alpha expansions team to be considered an official prospective new chapter of Omega Phi Alpha.

We are happy to report that our instagram efforts were the most successful and led us to form three prospective new chapters!

In March and April 2022, Omega Phi Alpha accepted petitions for expansion from the following universities:

- » Auburn University (re-founding of Omicron chapter)
- » University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- » University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

UNFAMILIAR WITH OUR EXPANSIONS LANGUAGE?

We ask that you adopt our new terminology because language is so important!

- » Colonist → Prospective New Member
- » Colony → Prospective New Chapter
- » Colonization → Expansion

From there, the expansions group will complete a series of individual and group requirements to help sustain a flourishing chapter for future generations of OPA members. An expansions group won't be an active chapter of Omega Phi Alpha until their chapter induction, which is typically 3-12 months after the expansions team accepts their petitions.

We also have two interest groups:

- » Binghamton University
- » Marshall University

All alumni and actives are invited to attend chapter inductions.

We are very excited to be in this high stage of growth for our national organization. We can all agree that more people should have the opportunity to experience the joys and wonders of Omega Phi Alpha.



Alumni Membership

New Alumni Regions

The sorority Board of Directors and Operational Leadership Team recognizes the need to continue to encourage sisterhood and service as alumni and plan to do that through alumni regions.

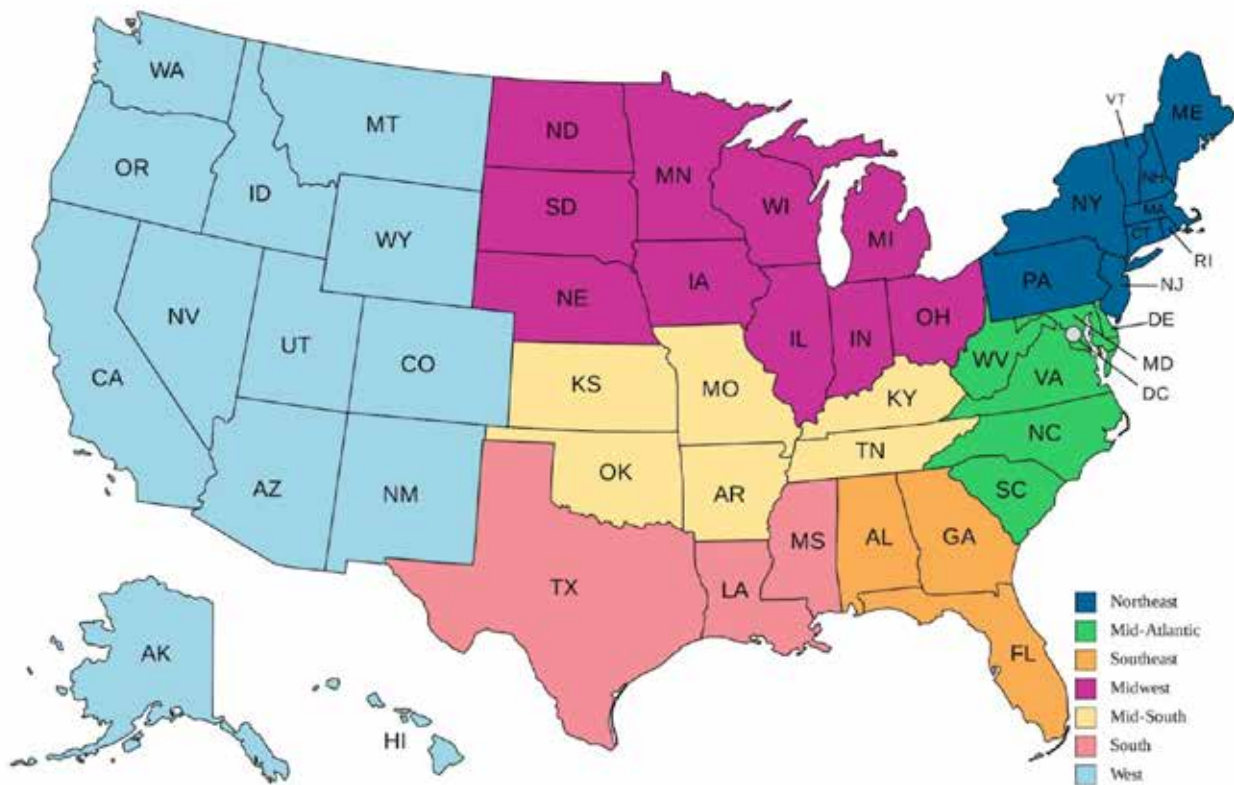
With the elimination of alumni chapters, we are refocusing on alumni engagement through regions. With only 4 regions (East, South, Midwest, and West), there are thousands of alumni in each region. The regions are also very spread out and make regional gatherings nearly impossible.

In 2022, the Board of Directors decided to redistribute alumni regions based on the number of alumni residing in a geographical area to make them smaller and more accessible to encourage more engagement, much like alumni chapters were doing. As we've built our proficiency in

hosting virtual gatherings over the past two years, we would love to see alumni connect virtually nationally or regionally, in addition to in-person events. Our Alumni Engagement Coordinator will work to encourage regional alumni gatherings.

Additionally, we will encourage collegiate chapters to include alumni in their region in all district-level activities to promote deeper sisterhood among the generations. Because there may be multiple districts in one alumni region, alumni will have the opportunity to engage in the district that is nearest to their location. All members can also subscribe to emails on OPAportal for their region.

The new alumni regions are pictured below.





Alumni Chapters

When the alumni associations were dissolved around 20 years ago, Omega Phi Alpha developed a process for creating alumni chapters. However, and unfortunately, the steps needed to ensure that they report all activity under our group tax exemption were not completed.

We've spent the past few years debating the best path forward for our alumni chapters, and we must consider the requirements necessary to maintain our group exemption.

Our initial plan was to formalize alumni chapters and their requirements much like active chapters. This plan would have required that alumni chapters elect officers, open bank accounts, implement meeting requirements, service hour requirements, and collect dues on behalf of the alumni chapter and national organization.

However, it has become clear that this is not a viable solution for us to move forward with at this time due to resources, sustainability, and member feedback.

As part of the Member Engagement Survey last year, feedback highlighted that many alumni members don't understand the purpose of alumni chapters, do not wish to participate in them, and/or have not been able to connect with the one in their area over the last several years.

Out of the current list of alumni chapters (including provisional), only 3 are what we would consider "active." Many of them have struggled with participation (even prior to the COVID-19



pandemic) and identifying alumni to become leaders of these groups.

We understand that some alumni chapters are better organized than others but ultimately, the Board of Directors feels that sisterhood is much more important than getting into the logistics of forming official alumni chapters following the criteria required by regulations.

Soon, we will no longer recognize any alumni chapters of Omega Phi Alpha. We will begin the process of making alumni chapters in OPAportal inactive and work to assign alumni to their respective regions instead.

Those who are associated with current alumni chapters are welcome to continue to organize as a local group, but these groups will not be recognized as and cannot refer to themselves as a chapter of Omega Phi Alpha.

We encourage members to continue the traditions that they've established as alumni and consider inviting folks from their entire region to participate.



Finances

Collegiate members are the only paying members of the organization. Once members become alumni, there are no dues or fees associated with maintaining membership in Omega Phi Alpha. The last national dues increase was implemented in 2020. Collegiate members often ask, “what do my dues pay for?” and transparency in sharing a budget, financial reports, and a simplified version of what dues pay for is important to the national organization.

As of June 2022, the chart below represents what our actual expenses were in each of the 5 major categories.

Administration	\$52,520.14
Operations	\$59,898.90
Communications	\$2,464.04
Chapter Operations & Support	\$19,257.99
National Events	\$2,019.00
TOTAL	\$136,120.07
Per member spend	\$120.46

Administration covers the Managing Director, National Office Administrator, and the expenses associated with the Board of Directors. Operating expenses include insurance, OPAportal, tax services, bookkeeping services and all other required services for functional operation of the organization. Insurance alone costs the organization about \$23 per active member. OPAportal costs about \$20 per active member. Chapter operations and support includes all leadership, service, and friendship expenses. It also includes the Chapter Health support team and chapter support budgets (often related to CSC or CHS traveling to a chapter).

In order to be more aligned with our core values and strategic goals going forward, the Board of Directors made the decision in 2021 to reorganize the budget. Members should expect to see higher budgets for and expenditures associated with chapter operations and support. We hope to use a higher percentage of member dues to funnel resources and assistance directly back to the chapters and members.



Member Engagement

Fall 2021 Engagement Survey

As a member organization, we rely heavily on member feedback to improve the experience of all of our lifetime members. In Fall 2021, the Operational Leadership Team launched an in depth Member Engagement Survey to all members. The goal of the survey was to understand how members are and want to be engaging with the sorority and offered the opportunity for members to provide candid feedback and input.

The survey garnered over 1,000 responses, which is a HUGE level of engagement from our members equating to around 14% engagement.

The information gathered from the survey was compiled and used by the Operational Leadership Team to ensure we provide the best programming, events, content and communication we can for our members.

One takeaway was the desire for regular communication from the national organization which has been provided via written blogs on the sorority website, videos posted on our YouTube channel, a regular monthly Chevron e-newsletter, and via all social channels. With networking opportunities and professional development as the top two choices for what would drive people to volunteer for the national organization, the leadership team was offered a 3 part DiSC leadership training in Spring 2022. Additionally, the events planning team used the information to plan specific leadership and sisterhood events at the upcoming National Convention and the alumni team used the information to plan virtual sisterhood events such as trivia, craft chats, and virtual happy hours. Many other engagement events were planned through the past academic year for active and alumni members based on the results of the survey.

Beyond specific events, the national team and Board of Directors used the information gathered to make some constitutional amendment proposals to align with feedback from our members.

Member Pulse Surveys (MPS)

Another initiative we launched in 2021 and plan to complete every 6 months, is a survey of all members' satisfaction with their membership in Omega Phi Alpha through what we're calling member pulse surveys (MPS). The MPS is based on a Net Promoter Score survey, which asks members how likely they are to recommend membership in Omega Phi Alpha to their friends, family and others. There are also some key, short feedback questions that accompany the rating that give quick feedback to the Operational Leadership Team on member satisfaction and easy fixes that can be made to improve satisfaction across the organization.

The first pulse survey went out in December 2021 and resulted in a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 39, which is considered "great" on the NPS scale.

The second pulse survey was distributed in June 2022 and resulted in an NPS score of 78 (an increase of 39 points), which is considered "excellent" on the NPS scale.



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

DEI Consulting

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR PURPOSE

In June 2020, in the wake of the George Floyd murder and the Black Lives Matter movement, Omega Phi Alpha committed to doing better in living out our core value of diversity and inclusion. The Board of Directors and national leadership team know that the diversity of our members and the communities we serve must be reflected in every aspect of our organization.

OUR APPROACH

With feedback from our members, we created a new position on our national team and created a Request for Proposal (RFP) for engaging an outside DEI expert to evaluate the current state of diversity and inclusion within the sorORITY. Jessica Sharp of Sharp Brain Consulting was selected to support this initiative.

Throughout 2020 and early 2021, Jessica engaged in the organizational audit by creating a survey to gauge member's feelings on diversity and inclusion within Omega Phi Alpha that was made available to all members on OPAportal and communicated via email and social media over the course of a few months. We received 238 responses to the survey. Additionally, Jessica held focus groups for actives and alumni to share their experiences with Jessica in more detail which 21 members participated in.

Jessica joined several Diversity and Inclusion Committee meetings to share her perspective and offer guidance. She also presented information to the Board of Directors and answered their questions about the future of diversity and inclusion within the organization. Jessica assisted with position descriptions and other items to ensure they met the spirit of diversity and inclusion.

ADDITIONAL EFFORTS

During this time, the Board of Directors worked together to define Omega Phi Alpha's core values and make clear what they mean to the organization.

The defining statement for the core value of diversity and inclusion is: "We embrace the diversity of our members through a spirit of inclusion. We believe there is strength in diversity and we value the individual differences, experiences, and viewpoints that both make us unique and challenge us. We strive to create an accessible and welcoming space for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, abilities and appearances, religions, and other identities."

The communications team made Anti-Discrimination and Allyship Resources available to all members of the organization and continues to accept submissions to this list. Additionally, the communications team worked to gather diverse voices to contribute to the blog on topics that we haven't addressed in the past including inclusion



RESULTS OF ORGANIZATIONAL AUDIT

In June 2021, Jessica Sharp prepared her findings and recommendations based on survey results, focus group interactions, and conversations with both the D&I committee and the Board of Directors.

Demographics

- Not very racially diverse, but there is a strong LGBTQ+ presence
- Difficulty in recruiting members of color

Alumni

- Feel disconnected, ignored, and not communicated with.
- There is a strong desire for training and engagement opportunities.

National team

- Actives want more support from the National Team particularly around DEI.
- Actives wish the National Team encouraged chapters to have conversations about DEI.
- Members not in a leadership role do not feel connected to the National Team.

Sister

- No perceived issue with using the term "Sister".

Social media

- Desire for DEI to be highlighted more on social media

Race issues

- There still seem to be issues related to race among members in various chapters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Increased diversity and inclusion training sessions offered to members

Diversity and inclusion resources shared with members

Find ways to engage alumni in a more meaningful way

Hire more staff members to support volunteers and the board with goal of increased engagement

as it relates to mental health, accessibility, accommodations, and autism. We encourage our members to submit a blog post on any diversity, equity, and inclusion topic.

FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

Based on her findings, the sorority decided to move forward with forming a full Diversity and Inclusion team at the national level. The positions that make up this team are as follows:

- » Diversity and Inclusion Director
- » Accessibility and Accommodations Coordinator
- » Chapter Diversity Coordinator
- » Diversity and Inclusion Engagement Coordinator

This team is currently working on actions related to the recommendations that came from the Sharp Brain Consulting report including the ability to submit a request anonymously to the national team for an accommodation, creating a toolkit for chapters to begin and sustain dialogue

equity and actions that chapters can take to make their spaces more inclusive, and distributing information about allyship and advocacy.

We have plans to incorporate more diversity training over the next year and a half with both our team of leaders and hiring facilitators/trainers. Additionally, the Board of Directors allocated funds to hire two Chapter Health Specialists in June to support chapters in need of immediate additional assistance. This effort has proven to be very successful and will continue through December 2023.

National DEI Efforts

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Accessibility and Accommodations Coordinator, Nicki Kozub, has been working to create resources for members to ensure that all events are accessible and any potential new members or members have access to request accommodations.

In February 2021, the Board of Directors approved a new Accessibility and Accommodations Policy. This policy is intended to ensure compliance with all applicable sorority policies, constitution, and bylaws.

In addition to the new policy, Nicki has created an avenue for all members who need accommodations to request them through the national organization in the event that a member doesn't feel comfortable going to their chapter

leaders or haven't been able to receive the accommodations they need.

To further assist chapters in ensuring inclusivity, Nicki has developed a document for disability best practices. This document is intended to provide all members and chapters of the sorority with the information they need to ensure they are operating within the set policies and best practices for accommodating members with disabilities. It also includes tips for discussing disabilities and ensuring that all member's needs are addressed.

Additionally, with Nicki's assistance, the sorority offered an Ableism on College Campuses workshop in Spring 2022 and will offer a Disability Ally training in Fall 2022.

CHAPTER DEI HIGHLIGHTS

Rho Chapter partnered with Sigma Gamma Rho, a historically all African American sorority and international collegiate and non-profit community service organization to develop a book drive for a local middle school that was hit hard by the Bowling Green tornadoes in December 2021. They placed an emphasis on both age-appropriate books but also books that featured diversity/written by diverse authors. They were able to give over 125 books to the school before the end of the semester!

Alpha Iota collected and donated menstrual hygiene products and new to gently used bras to "I Support the Girls" as part of a Nations of the World service project. "I Support the Girls" fosters equity for those experiencing homelessness and impoverishment in the U.S. and globally by providing these basic necessities to those who might lack access or cannot afford it. Donating these items helped recipients reduce the need to choose between buying their next meal, missing school or job interviews due to a lack of access or inability to afford these items. It was a very successful project!

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Diversity and Inclusion team is committed to offering training opportunities to our members. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the team anticipates offering the below:

- » **Queer Inclusivity Training:** Designed to support members in being more queer inclusive both inside and outside of the sorority. Content will be shaped by the input of LGBTQ+ members of the sorority. Participants will begin to develop an understanding of heteronormativity and the impact of binary thinking, have opportunities to apply their learnings, and come away with clear ways they can be more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community members and leadership.
- » **Disability Ally Training:** This training will teach members strategies to create environments that are friendly to individuals with disabilities. Participants will also learn ways to support individuals as they navigate existing systems.
- » **Accessibility and Accommodations Training:** Based on feedback from prior training, members shared that combating ableism on campus was a challenge as they were unsure how to create accessible, inclusive spaces, and accommodate disabilities. Attendees will receive information they need to ensure that any event is accessible to all members and their guests.

Leadership Development

Our Leadership Development Program consists of a series of workshops created for 2 audiences - actives and alumni. Each audience's track has the same structure, but the content of each module is adjusted to best suit a member's status. Modules are small activities like watching a short video, reading through the 1967 Chevron, or planning a service project! Each workshop has roughly 10 modules and is based on one of the core values.

Our six core values - sisterhood, leadership, education, diversity and inclusion, traditions and service - are brought into our everyday lives through these fun, informative and thought-provoking workshops.

This asynchronous program has been live on OPAportal for 1 year now, and 22 chapters have participated! Some chapters choose to complete this as a group, spreading out its completion throughout the course of a semester, while others have gone to complete it in one day because that worked best for them.




We'd like to give a shout out to Alpha Xi, who had 20 sisters start and finish the Leadership Development Program in the fall!

Members from active and alumni chapters who have completed the program have received a badge award on OPAportal and special recognition for their chapter.







DID YOU KNOW...?

Omega Phi Alpha utilizes 9 colors, each with their own significance to our organization, with names relevant to our mission, values, and heritage.

Primary Colors

Color Name	Color	Meaning
Service		Dark blue symbolizing service
Friendship		Light blue symbolizing friendship
Leadership		Golden yellow symbolizing leadership

Secondary Colors

Color Name	Color	Meaning
Honeycomb		Amber orange. A honeycomb symbolizes the power of teamwork and is formed through the fusion of multiple chevrons.
Scouts Green		Traditional green. Scouts green references our heritage as many of our early members were former Girl Scouts or Campfire Girls.
Sisterhood		Vibrant fuchsia. Sisterhood portrays our uniqueness in accepting all backgrounds and identities, making us stand out among organizations.
Bowling Green		Pale green. Bowling Green is inspired by Bowling Green University where the idea for Omega Phi Alpha first sprouted.
Ann's Rose		Passionate pink. Named for Ann DeMatteo, longtime board member and namesake of the Ann DeMatteo Alumni Service Award.
Diamonds		Light gray. Diamonds signifies our Diamond Alumni Society as well as the forever-lasting legacy of our organization and service.

National Partnerships

On November 1, 2021 we announced a new philanthropic partnership with RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. As a national service sorority, we are excited to promote service to the members of the sorority, university community, and community at large through this partnership.

"As an organization that is truly committed to creating impactful community service and educational opportunities for our members, we are thrilled to partner with RAINN," says Alyssa Bernhardt, Managing Director of Omega Phi Alpha. "This partnership will educate our

members about sexual violence awareness and prevention and create opportunities for our members to spread awareness on their college campuses and beyond."

RAINN's other engagements with college communities include an annual day of awareness and education during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM), RAINN Day. RAINN provided information and resources for our chapters to use during SAAPM and a toolkit for hosting a RAINN Day event.

"RAINN is excited to launch this partnership with Omega Phi Alpha in an effort to raise awareness about sexual violence on college campuses and increase support for campus survivors," said Julia George, RAINN development director.

In the Spring 2022 semester, Omega chapter honored RAINN Day by hosting an awareness and speaker event on campus. There were 3 speakers that were all survivors of sexual assault who shared their stories. The chapter service director invited many different Greek life organizations, as well as left it open to anyone on campus that wanted to come. The event had about 70 attendees including many members of Alpha Chi Omega. When asked about the event, Omega member Samantha Spaccavento shared, "I think the best part of the event was when we did a Q&A at the end, it allowed for a very open discussion. I was so happy to facilitate this event and to have a space for us to be educated. The speakers were amazing and we all learned so much from them."

NATIONAL SERVICE WEEK

For the first time in five years, Omega Phi Alpha celebrated National Service Week (NSW) the first full week of November as an organization.

Following the announcement of our philanthropic partnership with RAINN, we announced that the theme of our National Service Week was sexual assault awareness and prevention and we encouraged all of our chapters to plan service projects that aligned with this theme and partnership.

We previously partnered with RAINN in April 2021 for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and hosted speakers to share their experience with campus sexual assault and resources that they've found.

Our chapters and members were encouraged to spread awareness about rape, incest, and sexual assault during national service week.

Sample projects included awareness campaigns on campus and donations drives for RAINN.

As a national organization, we planned events for all members during NSW including a screening and discussion of Athlete A.

RAINN

+



OMEGA PHI ALPHA

Merchandise

Merch Madness

In 2021, the communications team launched a “March Madness” themed competition on social media aimed at driving member engagement. The contest was revived in 2022 and featured 16 chapters. In the end, Alpha Omicron Chapter won the competition with their “Honey, I’m Home” themed shirt for Fall 2021 Bid Day.

New Merchandise Vendor

In 2020, Omega Phi Alpha re-launched its Rose Shop online merch store with the help of an external partner. After 2 years with this partner, the Board of Directors decided to find a new store partner and selected our current licensing partner, Affinity Licensing, to establish a Merchandise Marketplace that will be known as Shop OPhiA.

Shop OPhiA will feature products from all licensed vendors who seek to sell directly to our members. The direct integration with Affinity will also streamline licensing, product additions and royalties Omega Phi Alpha receives from vendors utilizing our trademarks on merchandise.



Events

Alpha Sigma Founders' Day

Written by Catherine Ferrell (Alpha Gamma)

The first weekend of April, I had the honor of attending Alpha Sigma chapter's 1 year anniversary celebrations on campus at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. On my flight to Norfolk from Orlando, I thought back to what these sisters have achieved over the past year. They were able to start a new chapter of Omega Phi Alpha during a global pandemic, with all of their meetings being virtual for the first year and a half. It's only been in the past academic year that they've been able to finally meet in person. And here they are, a year later, still spreading the cardinal principles of friendship, leadership, and service.

I arrived Friday morning, not sure what my weekend was going to entail. I joined up with Corey Goodburn (Alpha Kappa), Tessy Loew and Nicole Vile from Alpha Sigma. We enjoyed a tour of campus and lunch at a local joint, Perfectly Frank. Even though we got caught in the rain, we still had a blast! We spent the evening in downtown Norfolk, not too far from where we had Convention in 2019.

Saturday, we met at the Webb Center on Campus. There we had sisters from Chi, Alpha Gamma, Alpha Kappa, Alpha Pi, Alpha Iota, and of course, Alpha Sigma. I was amazed by how many Alpha Iota sisters showed up - they road tripped it all the way from Maryland! It was inspiring to see so many sisters who wanted to celebrate Omega Phi Alpha's newest chapter. We wrote letters to read in 10 years time, and helped clean up an alternative school not too far from campus. After lunch, we spent time exploring campus while taking hilarious pictures as a sisterhood scavenger hunt. We discovered some differences between chapters when we went over songs and chants; it was cool to hear the variations that each chapter has come up with.

We were finally able to give the Alpha Sigma sisters the in-person induction ceremony that they would've gotten a year ago if it weren't for COVID-19. It was still as poignant as any other induction ceremony I've attended. Our weekend wrapped up with spending time with each other on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Overall, I'm excited to see the future of Alpha Sigma over the next few years. They've persevered where many would have failed. I see a bright future for OPhiA through the sisters of Alpha Sigma.

Azalea District Summit

Written by Sydney Masih (Alpha Zeta)

The Azalea District, consisting of the Nu and Alpha Zeta chapters, held a district summit on April 2, 2022. To encourage connection with members of each chapter, all of the sisters in attendance were seated at tables with sisters from both chapters. We started with chapter connections as a method for sisters to discuss the differences between their chapters and gather inspiration for future service and sisterhood events.

For our service project, the sisters split up into groups and worked on making rope dog toys and dog tie blankets out of old t-shirts and fabric material. We chose this project because currently we have the highest rate of animals in shelters in years, leading to overcrowding and lack of resources for the animals. We were able to make a couple of boxes full of toys that we donated to our local animal shelter in Kennesaw!

Finally, for our sisterhood event, each table competed in a Just Dance competition between all the other sisters. This demonstrated leadership and friendship as sisters had to work together to pick a song and arrange who was going to do what part in the Just Dance routine. Overall, the district summit was extremely successful and both chapters enjoyed getting to know each other and growing in our friendship, service, and leadership.



Member Spotlights

2021-2022 Graduates

DELTA

Amanda Cornell



Ana Viera
Arie Sallie-Schmidt
Becky Philip
Cecilia Cano
Katie Caudill
Kennedy Kesterson
Leonni Avalos
Paola Ontiveros
Sara Martinez
Seher Patel



Sierra Brown
Sydney Weber
Vivi Del Toro

MU

Allie Collins
Lindseyn Carr

NU

Briana Anderson
Amanda Foulkes
Madeleine Ling

RHO

Amy Pence
Blair Emmick
Bryanna Imel
Emilee Marshall
Emma Koerner
Hayleigh Shelton
Katt Howard
Kendall Clemons
Kristen Boone
Lydia Proffitt
Maddie Cravens



Madison Limlingan
Paxton Vaughn
Sara Powell
Sofia Diaz Buezo



TAU

Suvi Bhalgat

PHI

Alexa Hager
Alyssa Strunk

Ashley Zubiarte
Hannah Bowman



Kristina Jacobson
Mastaani Qureshi
Rachel Eder
Rachel Miserlian
Rebecca Gandolfi
Taylor Gibbons

CHI

Brianna Pendergraft
Emma Gerraughty
Kelly Zhang

OMEGA

Dana Fine

ALPHA ALPHA

Bella Silver



Carley Astraus
Heather Gallegos
Kylee Musslewhite
Madison Heck

**List pulled from OPAportal and is reported by chapter as of June 28, 2022*

ALPHA GAMMA

Dani Harrison



Presli Hasbrouck

ALPHA IOTA

Cat Garcia
Erika Kaschak
Francesca Circosta



Kaliam White
Kamiya Britton
Tamia Brice

ALPHA LAMBDA

Brandi Rollins
Claudia Sutton
Emma Fazio
Erin Gniewek
Katie Norton
Lauren Griffin
Maggie Leybourne
Micala Merino
Sarah Choffin
Sarah Sinawi
Sophie Moffatt
Sydney Johnson
Taylor Love

ALPHA NU

Mani Wilson

ALPHA XI

Jacklyn Silkes

Jamie Thiesfeld
Lindsay Brenner



Mackenzie Bock
Mary Rosenfeld
Veronica Konarzewski
Yvanna Checo Camacho

ALPHA PI

Alea Goodman
Alyssa Niedjeicki
Anna Kurnot
Cait Bengel
Emily Robinson
Jillian Catalano
Joanna Switala
Julia Deutsch



Katie Carnefix
Kristin Betts
Laura Rabel



Maggie Bennett

Margaret Craw
Maria Amber



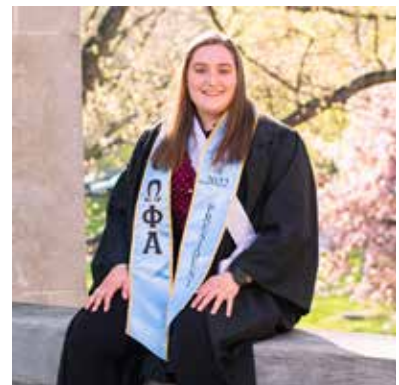
Maria Stasko
Mononita Khan
Nay Pacheco Sanchez
Paige Lang

ALPHA RHO

Abby Brown
Caroline Dishner
Cat Villiott
Jenna Sims
Kaya Holmes
Kayla Frink
Kylie Arthur
Lily Fitzgerald
Liza Lawhon



Maddy Altobelli
Makenzie Reid
Mercedes Samaniego
Molly Metzler
Riley Meyers



*List pulled from OPAportal and is reported by chapter as of June 28, 2022

Alumni Society Inductees

These Alumni will be inducted into the Alumni Societies at Convention 2022.

Sapphire

Genevieve Davis (Delta)

Nanda Jayaseelan (Chi)

Mindi McBroom (Delta)

Laureen Pellegrino (Nu)

Traci Pollock (Delta)

Sarah VanDyke (Delta)

Topaz

Laura Craig (Alpha)

Cassidy Edenborough (Alpha Gamma)

Catherine Ferrell (Alpha Gamma)

Crystal Genter (Alpha)

Megan Gonzales (Alpha Gamma)

Christy Redeaux (Upsilon)

Leslie Steyer (Alpha Gamma)

Alexa Tavasci (Alpha Alpha)

Brittany Thornton (Alpha Kappa)

Paulina Zawisza (Gamma)

The alumni society program, unveiled at Convention 2005, is Omega Phi Alpha's way to recognize and honor those alumni sisters who continue to live the cardinal principles each day of their lives, years after their formal initiation into the sorority.

The alumni society induction is performed at every national convention.

Created by Susan Terzian Award recipients Sheila Beazley Bush Driller (Epsilon) and Ann DeMatteo (Beta), the alumni society induction ceremony is conducted to honor members who have reached milestone anniversaries of their activation date—when they became sisters.

Celebrating from their activation date recognizes their lifelong membership in Omega Phi Alpha, by including years of active collegiate membership as well as years of alum membership.

Topaz

10 years

Sapphire

25 years

Diamond

40 years



Operational Leadership Team

Omega Phi Alpha exists thanks to the lifetime members who volunteer their time and talents to keep the organization going. For over 50 years, the day-to-day operations of Omega Phi Alpha were run by volunteer leaders from within the organization and our part-time contracted national office administrator. In the past two years, we have added more contracted staff including a Managing Director, two Chapter Health Specialists, and a bookkeeper. Even with the additional paid contractors, the progress the sorority has made has been reliant on our volunteers.

When asked what their favorite part of volunteering with Omega Phi Alpha is, members of the OLT said the following:

- » Meeting new sisters from other chapters
- » Being able to make a difference
- » Building our sisterhood through innovative ideas
- » Affecting change across the organization
- » Learning from others
- » Using professional expertise to help sisters and the organization
- » Collaborating with other sisters

We should take time to recognize those who have volunteered on the Operational Leadership Team with the national organization over the past year.

Abigail Gillin, Alpha Lambda
 April Carroll, Mu
 Ashley Brady, Nu
 Ashley Dussault, Phi
 Cecylia Jandura, Phi
 Corey Goodburn, Alpha Kappa
 Crystal Genter, Alpha
 Desiree Provost, Upsilon
 Dorothy Adu, Nu
 EmmaLee Herlocher, Gamma
 Esther Blue de Avalos, Phi
 Haylee McGeorge, Alpha Rho
 Jasmine Smith, Alpha Alpha

Jenna Zielinski, Omega
 Jessica Toms, Phi
 Jordan Polk, Alpha Nu
 Juanita Wade, Sigma
 Julia Bosco, Alpha Alpha
 Kaitlyn Ennis, Alpha Omicron
 Kasey Stevens, Phi
 Katie Garcia, Phi
 Kay Kress, Alpha
 Kristen Brightwell, Alpha Xi
 Laura Craig, Alpha
 Lorie Berta, Epsilon
 Maria Robles, Omicron
 Marissa Hickel, Alpha Nu
 Maya Stokes, Alpha Zeta
 Meaghan Martin, Alpha Rho
 Melanie Avila, Alpha Xi
 Melissa Stevko, Alpha Nu
 Michelle Le, Alpha Pi
 Morgan Taylor, Sigma
 Nicki Kozub, Epsilon
 Paulina Zawisza, Gamma
 Penny Guiles, Chi
 Rachael Pearson, Alpha Alpha

Radha Manthe, Nu
 Samantha Booth, Omega
 Samantha Gillies, Alpha Nu
 Samanta Miguez Tolliver, Alpha Iota
 Sandy Chen, Phi
 Sara McAllister, Nu
 Sarah Lewis, Omega
 Sarah Waller Morrill, Alpha Gamma
 Serena Lobo, Phi
 Shannon Davis, Alpha Pi
 Suzanne Jennings, Alpha
 Tara Engelken, Omega and Chi
 Veronica Wynn, Alpha Epsilon



Board of Directors

In addition to the Operational Leadership Team, the Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority Board of Directors is also made up of volunteers.

They work to ensure that the sorority has strategic goals that align with our values, mission, and purpose. Many of them also provide one-on-one guidance and support to members of the OLT and contracted staff. They deserve to be recognized for their service and contributions to the progress of the sorority.



Brittany Thornton
(Alpha Kappa)
National President



Nanda Jayaseelan
(Chi)
VP Communications



Alexa Tavasci
(Alpha Alpha)
VP Finance



Megan Sheppard
(Alpha Iota)
VP Programs



Aly English
(Alpha Kappa)
VP Lifetime Membership



As Managing Director, I am endlessly grateful for the selfless contributions of each individual who volunteers time whether on a regular basis or on a specific project. I quite literally could not be successful in this position without each and every one of you... I hope you all feel valued and appreciated every day of the year.

Alyssa Bernhardt
(Alpha Zeta)
Managing Director

Notable Alumni

Over the course of the year, we've been able to shine a light on some of our outstanding alumni in a new "Alumni Spotlights" blog feature. Alumni Engagement Coordinator, Julia Bosco (Alpha Alpha) personally interviewed each of these alumni and wrote fabulous Q&A articles. Below is just a sampling of the alumni spotlighted.

Trista Guzman Glover



Trista Guzman Glover is an alum of Phi Chapter at Arizona State University (2008-2010).

She earned a Bachelor's degree in political science and a Master's degree in public administration. She has served in leadership roles within her chapter and on the national team and continues to serve as a member of the Omega Iota alumni chapter.

She's currently a candidate for City Council in Mesa, Arizona, and will be up for election this coming fall.

There is a general theme of service that I've taken from OPA into my career. That's who I am as a giving person. I would also say that the relationships I made have influenced me, you know I like to say "I came for the service and stayed for the sisterhood." I have so many sisters that support me and genuinely care about me which really keeps me going. Regardless of how active I am in OPA, I know these people will always be there for me. I really thrive on seeing other people succeed and I want to see people succeed so that's really how OPA has influenced me.

Becky Beaver



Becky Beaver is an alum of Alpha Zeta chapter at Kennesaw State University (2016-2017).

She earned a Bachelor's degree in communications and women/gender studies and is planning to apply for law school.

She is currently working as chief of staff to a state representative in Georgia and an advocate for public policy on the local level.

My time in OPA has really impacted my career in politics. OPA made me realize that I wanted to serve which inspired me to get more involved in politics post-graduation. My sisters joined me in activism activities such as the Women's March in 2016 which helped me stay on my toes and remain involved. I'm not sure I would have gone this route in my career had I not had such positive influences from my sisters around me in my final year of college so I'm really grateful for that. Additionally, I had lots of diverse sisters with different viewpoints than me, so it helped me learn how to work with others that were different from me. Something I took away from that is that people may vote or act differently from me, but that's okay because they are still people and should be treated as such at the end of the day.

Jenna Zielinski



Jenna Zielinski is an alum of the Omega Chapter at Rutgers University (2015-2018).

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Dance and a Master's degree in Dance Education while there. She is currently working as a performer on the Trolls Live tour.

Jenna loves getting to share her passion with people from all over!

OPA has allowed me to have a life outside of my career. It's also the people I've met and those connections along with the leadership aspect of things. The leadership skills I've gained are just invaluable.

Tessa Duvall



Tessa Duvall is an alum of the Rho Chapter at Western Kentucky University (2010-2013).

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and loves sharing her passion with the world every day as an investigative reporter.

Tessa is an advocate for human rights and works diligently to make change happen in her community.

OPA is where I met some of my best friends to this day. It's the women who are consistent in my life and support me no matter what. That support system is everything and I can always count on them even when I'm far away. Also, being in OPA taught me the importance of being plugged into the community. It's all about giving back to others wherever you are. It's about being part of something bigger than yourself which is how it relates to my career as a journalist. I actively work at contributing to my community every day as a result of being in OPA, so I'll always appreciate that.

Bless Our Sisters Forever

Every convention, we take time to remember those who have passed since our last meeting.



Jan (Schnack) Sedory
Alpha



Carah (Wright) Howell
Omicron



Hillary Herskowitz
Omega



Rebecca Trageser
Alpha Iota



Foundation

The Omega Phi Alpha Foundation

About the Foundation

Established in 2019 as a 501c(3) organization, the Omega Phi Alpha Foundation provides a means for members of Omega Phi Alpha, their families and other community members to further the sorority's mission through tax-deductible gifts. Funds received are used to further the mission of Omega Phi Alpha in multiple ways:

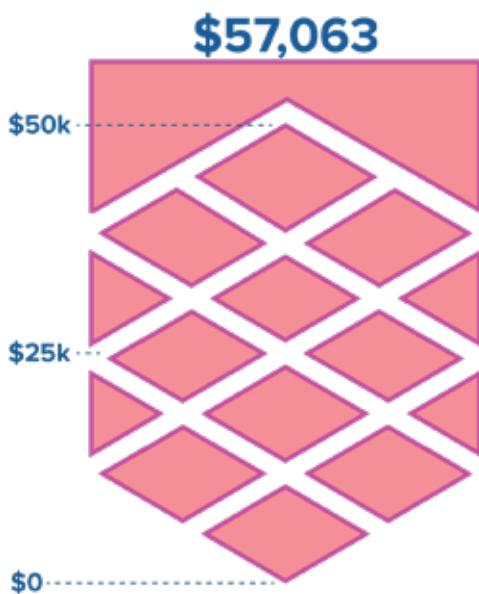
- » Underwriting national initiatives that align with the leadership development and service priorities defined by the sorority Board of Directors
- » Supporting leadership workshops and events for actives and alumni
- » Providing grants that enable individual chapters to enhance existing service projects or embark on new ones
- » Awarding scholarships to both actives and alumni to further their education and leadership capacity through the Pamela McCullough McEwen Memorial Scholarship

2021 Fundraising Campaigns

Thanks to the vision and generous commitment of our Founders' Circle members and Inaugural Donors, the Foundation raised over \$50,000 through this one-time, inaugural campaign to establish the Foundation and cultivate its ongoing operation.

Ongoing, annual fundraising campaigns are essential to augmenting these funds and providing perpetual support for the sorority's mission.

The Foundation launched two such campaigns in 2021, engaging dozens of additional donors. Founders' Day raised \$943 and Giving Tuesday raised \$858.



Thanks to the generosity of its donors, the Foundation was able to support a number of initiatives during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

CHAPTER SERVICE SUPPORT

Following the launch of our Chapter Service Grants in 2021, we awarded a \$500 grant to Alpha Lambda chapter to hold their annual Outrace the Stigma 5K in support of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



The Foundational also matched the sorority's chapter service grant for the winner of the national Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities project and awarded a \$350 service grant to an additional chapter.

SORORITY INITIATIVE SUPPORT

In November 2021, all members of Alpha Xi chapter attended a leadership training, facilitated by Amaris Vicari of The Beneficial Element, developing skills for communicating positively, managing big feelings, and building camaraderie in challenging times. After a funding request was submitted to the Foundation based on a national initiative to improve chapter health, the Foundation sponsored the \$1,800 cost of this training. Following the positive feedback from this training, the Foundation is looking forward to providing this type of experience to other chapters in the future.

All Convention 2022 attendees will receive a copy of Dare to Lead by Brene Brown, providing an ongoing resource to build upon the workshop presented at Convention.

The Foundation continues to sponsor multiple technology platforms (Zoom, Google Workspace, Canva) used by the Operational Leadership Team in support of the sorority's mission.



Jacquelyn Guthrie
(Phi)



Eleanor Kim
(Omega)



Taylor Outler
(Chi)



Ashley Whitworth Fellers
(Chi)

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Omega Phi Alpha Foundation welcomes the new members of our Board of Directors. All members begin their terms in 2022 and will serve either 1- or 2-year terms.

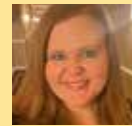
Terms ending 2023



Leann Williams
(Nu)



Susie Larson
(Mu)



Penny Guiles
(Chi)

Terms ending 2024



Sarah VanDyke
(Delta)



Sara Voris
(Chi)



Trista Guzman Glover
(Phi)

SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Pamela McCullough McEwen Memorial Scholarship was awarded to four members of the sorority, doubling the number of annual awards made in the past.

Congratulations to actives Jacquelyn Guthrie (Phi) and Eleanor Kim (Omega) and alumni Taylor Outler (Chi), Ashley Whitworth Fellers (Chi) for being this year's recipients (pictured below).

Chapter Highlights



Alpha

Bowling Green State University

This school year, our sisters welcomed twenty-two new members. We hosted many sisterhood events such as Mom/Dad's Day, canvas painting, trivia night, karaoke, formal, and more! BGSU Fraternity Sorority Life awarded our chapter an award for academic excellence, and other members were recognized for their efforts in Greek Life. We had several successful fundraisers and philanthropy events. In the spring, we raised \$552 for NAMI and completed 441 service hours!



Epsilon

Tennessee Tech University

We started our 2021-2022 year with fall recruitment where we welcomed 24 new active members with many service projects and sisterhood events in the midst. These include the homecoming Alum luncheon which was attended by 12 of our alum, working with the women of living ministries, and our holiday themed charity days events. During our spring semester we participated in several events including sisterhood field day, collecting supplies for the women's drive, and helping out at the Remote Area Medical clinic. We also welcomed 4 new active members into our chapter. We ended our year by saying goodbye to our 3 graduating actives.

Rho

Western Kentucky University

The Rho Chapter of Omega Phi Alpha had an incredibly successful academic year! Throughout each of our cardinal principles, our sisters have flourished as our chapter has grown.

Some of our greatest accomplishments this year were the success of our Fall and Spring Philanthropies.

For our Fall Philanthropy, Serving up Hope, we raised 3,000 dollars more than in our previous year for the Hope Heart Institute.

In the Spring we began a new fundraiser for the Saint Baldricks Foundation, OPA Cupcake Wars! This fundraiser was a major success and was able to bring the Bowling Green Kentucky Community together to raise awareness for childhood cancer.

Our sisters also received the honor of earning the highest overall active member GPA in WKU's Panhellenic organizations both for the Fall and Spring Semester.

We are so proud of our chapter and cannot wait to see what we will accomplish this upcoming academic year!





Alpha Theta

Pennsylvania State University

This year we really wanted to focus on regaining the sisterhood we had before the pandemic so we made sure to plan events such as tailgates, parents weekend, sisterhood dates, formals, and service events where our sisters could bond. We also focused on growing our chapter at Penn State by getting more involved on campus with THON, homecoming, PanPal events, and service on campus.

Alpha Omicron

University of Florida

Alpha Omicron has grown in numbers and in friendship this 2022-2023 school year. Our amazing executive board and chair positions have continuously worked hard on finding new and gratifying service opportunities as well as curating fun sisterhood activities.

From Alachua Academy to GRACE marketplace, adopting a street, fundraising, and Dance Marathon, to movie nights, karaoke nights, sewing classes, and mental health walks, our chapter has amassed 1,121 service hours in total.

We are so excited to see what Alpha Omicron can accomplish this upcoming year!



Our newest classes of the 2021-2022 school year!





Alpha Pi

West Virginia University

The 2021-2022 academic year proved strong for the Alpha Pi Chapter. We welcomed 33 new sisters to our chapter excited to continue our love of service.

- We have over 60 active sisters in our organization. This year notably,
- Fall 2021: Our "Anti-Hazing Week" service project, led by Lindsey Long, won the 2020-2021 University Community Area of Service Award
- Spring 2022: At the WVU Greek Awards banquet we received four awards; The Arista Award of Distinction, Chapter President of the Year - Alexa Forbes, Chapter Officer of the Year - Lindsey Long (Service Advisor), and Council Officer of the Year - Anna Kurnot



Alpha Rho

Virginia Tech

The Alpha Rho chapter was excited to have an in-person year together after being virtual. Our sisters participated in many service, sisterhood, and membership events this year. Some of our most popular events among sisters were our Philanthropy supporting the Autism Society of Central Virginia, Fall Photoshoot, Homecoming, snow tubing, and a murder mystery party.

Sisterhood

NU

This year at our sisterhood retreat we participated in CluedUp, a detective scavenger hunt game that took us in teams around the city of Atlanta. It was great to get a chance to work together as well as to have a bit of competitive fun!

ALPHA ALPHA

Our sisterhood retreats and laser tag nights were a hit! We solved one of those cold case games at retreat and did some bonding exercises.

ALPHA PI

We hosted the inaugural friends and family day picnic where sisters and their families brought recipes for a potluck lunch and participated in a cornhole tournament. This was a great opportunity for sisters to include their families in sorority activities!

ALPHA XI

We had a talent show and award ceremony with superlatives.

Fundraising

ALPHA ALPHA

We hosted a field day on campus for students and at a bowling alley that raised more money than our food fundraisers. Field day and bowling were over \$200 and the fundraisers both raised in the high \$100s.

Alpha Rho

The Grilled Cheese booth that we did was our most successful because we did not need a minimum and most of it was profit. We raised over \$250 during that event.

ALPHA IOTA

We raffled away a \$250 Yeti cooler. Tickets were \$10 and could be sold to anyone. We made a net profit of \$700 for the chapter.

Membership

ALPHA IOTA

The “Build-a-Bear” recruitment week event for children at a local hospital was very successful and showcased OPA well!

Alumni

PHI

We have communicated over the Omega Iota Alumni Facebook group often, creating events and inviting alumni to come. Another way that we have reached out to alumni is through text messages and Facebook Messenger. This has allowed direct communication and has created more of a personal involvement between Active and Alumni members. Additionally, we hosted an event called the Alumni Job Fair, and extended this opportunity to members outside of Phi Chapter. This generated more interest, and we had many alum volunteer to come and help out.

Global Pandemic

GAMMA ADAPTS AMIDST UNIVERSITY RESTRICTIONS

Written by Maisy Seale, Chapter President

Gamma chapter has faced many challenges during the pandemic. Eastern Michigan University’s guidelines for the pandemic made it impossible for members to meet in person for almost two whole years. This led to a decrease in chapter morale during the Fall 2021 semester. Our executive board had our President, Secretary, and both Service Directors at the time resign from their officer positions. The members who stayed were driven to keep the Gamma chapter alive.

The Treasurer from the Fall 2021 semester was elected the new President of the Gamma Chapter and as her first act ran elections for the following positions: Treasurer, Service Director, Secretary, Social Chair, Fundraising Chair, Formal Chair, Mental Health Chair, PR Chair, and Chapter Standards Board members. After elections and

the end of the Fall 2021 semester the Gamma Chapter to join the Chapter Health Specialist Program. By joining the program, Gamma Chapter gained much appreciated assistance from the national team with an assigned Chapter Health Specialist, Stormy Scott.

As new officers, we worked hard to learn our new positions through our officer training session with Stormy. We updated our officer manuals with current up to date information and we started to have weekly in person meetings. Our meetings dedicated a lot of time to planning sisterhood events in order to improve our chapter morale. In March, we hosted our first post pandemic formal that our members got to attend. This was the first formal for all but one member.

After a semester of hard work and bonding, we ended the school year with a retreat to a house by Lake Michigan. We had unforgettable memories there! We can definitely say that our chapter is the closest it has been in recent years. We all went through a lot, but we have confidence that we will have a great recruitment in the Fall 2022 semester and will continue with the positive culture that was created this past semester.

Ukraine

ALPHA IOTA SUPPORTS UKRAINE

Our members are always asking for chapter updates and service success stories so we are excited to bring an update about the winner of our \$350 service grant for the pop tab project competition.

Alpha Iota Chapter at Notre Dame of Maryland University was awarded \$350 to use towards a future service project and they put these funds to quick use and hosted a fundraiser for NOVA Ukraine and IFAW.

The chapter has been very successful with raffle fundraisers in the past, so they knew that doing another raffle would be their best option for raising a large amount of money. The sisters were responsible for selling tickets to anyone they knew. Tickets could be purchased \$1 for 1, \$5 for 6, and \$10 for 12. As a chapter, they raised almost \$1,250 from the sale of raffle tickets. The chapter



service director works for a law firm in the area who promised to match whatever they raised, which resulted in a grand total of \$2,488.

As a small chapter at a small university, Alpha Iota tries to keep their membership dues low and plan service projects that can be completed without the use of monetary funds. Receiving the service grant from the sorority allowed them to offer a great prize and decorate their space with Ukrainian flags for the cause.

The chapter reports that doing something for Ukraine for their nations of the world project was super important to all of the members and they are happy that they could create this large of an impact as a small chapter!

OMEGA RAISES AWARENESS OF WAR IN UKRAINE

Omega Chapter hosted two events to bring awareness of the history of Ukraine. The first event was a viewing of the documentary titled “War in Europe - Drama in Ukraine.” Service director, Samantha shared, “this allowed our sisters, including myself, to get a good background education on the matter as I believe it came as a shock to many of us.”

The second event was an educational event with a speaker from the Rutgers University Ukraine club. The speaker shared the important history and current events of the situation, as well as some personal experiences. The members of the chapter shared that this was a valuable event for the sisters that were able to attend and was very informative. The chapter service team believes that education is the first step to making a change so that is why they planned such beneficial awareness events for the members of their chapter.



2021-2022 Awards

Service Awards

Area of Service Awards

- » **University Community:**
Alpha Pi, “Sexual Assault Awareness”
- » **Community at Large:**
Alpha Pi, “Winter Kits and Blankets for the Homeless”
- » **Members of the Sorority:**
Omega, “Paper Bag Workshops”
Alpha Kappa, “Career Center Workshops”
- » **Nations of the World:**
Omega, “Ukraine Awareness”
- » **Permanent Project:**
Alpha Pi, “Suicide Awareness”
- » **President’s Project:**
Alpha Pi, “OPhiA March Madness for a Midwife of Color”

National Service Award

This award recognizes great achievement in performing service projects and confers the sorority’s most distinguished annual honor for an active collegiate chapter.

- » **National Service Award:**
Alpha Rho



Chapter Awards

National Membership Award

This award recognizes the chapter that has the greatest proportionate increase in membership during the year.

- » **National Membership Award:**
Chi



Chapter Excellence Program

This program recognizes excellence in chapter management and leadership, as well as consistent involvement in service and sisterhood activities during the year

- » **Bronze Seal:** Gamma
- » **Silver Seal:** Alpha Pi
- » **Gold Seal:** Omega, Rho

Chapter Officer Awards



The outstanding chapter officer awards are leadership awards given to any members who focus on what their yearly duties are and complete all the mandated tasks throughout the year by their designated time frames.

- » **President:**
Alexa Forbes (Alpha Pi)
- » **Vice President:**
Anna Kurnot (Alpha Pi)
- » **Secretary:**
Shari Javines (Omega)
- » **Treasurer:**
Alex Boulton (Gamma)
- » **Sisterhood Officer:**
Arielle Yu (Omega)
Sydney Wentz (Alpha Pi)
- » **Service Director:**
Lindsey Long (Alpha Pi)
Emily Herron (Alpha Pi)
Samantha Spaccavento (Omega)
Eleanor Kim (Omega)
- » **Membership Director:**
Do Linda Scott (Omega)
Krystal Pritchett (Alpha)
- » **Alumni Liaison:**
Grace Maragos (Alpha)
Kiran Jagtiani (Omega)

Individual Awards

Innovator Award

The Innovator Award is a new award this year to recognize outstanding out of the box thinking by individuals and chapters. These members are being recognized for doing things a little differently that have a big impact on the life of our sorority.

- » **Corey Goodburn**
 - » For creating a social media strategic plan for expanding Omega Phi Alpha to new chapters. This plan offered specific content and tasks aimed at recruiting new members. The execution of this plan allowed the expansions team to grow 5 interest groups and declare three new prospective chapters of Omega Phi Alpha.
 - » Corey has also trained existing chapters on this strategy and provided social media templates for their execution of the plan. Chapters have reported that this has been a huge success.
- » **Taylor Outler**
 - » For establishing new resources in the form of monthly training for chapter officers and members. Taylor created a 10-month plan (aligned with the academic year) of trainings focused around recruitment, DEI, chapter morale, chapter wellness, and service.
 - » Additionally, Taylor has introduced new ideas for planning toolkits and has been vital in the planning of the upcoming Officer Leadership Academy.
- » **Alpha Mu Chapter**
 - » For establishing budgeting and fundraising practices that allow the chapter to lower local dues to make the organization more accessible to all people. As of Spring 2022 semester, Alpha Mu's local dues are \$10 per semester. This is \$40 less than the next chapter local dues.

Susan Terzian Award

The Susan Terzian Award is Omega Phi Alpha's highest honor. The purpose of the award is to recognize a very special achievement above what is considered excellent. Unanimous approval of the Board of Directors is required to earn this award.



The 2022 Susan Terzian Award has been awarded to Alexa Forbes (Alpha Pi).

Alexa joined Omega Phi Alpha at West Virginia University in Fall of 2018 and has served in numerous leadership roles including Fundraising Chair, Membership Director and Chapter President. Under her direction, Alpha Pi Chapter has grown to its highest membership ever, even amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic. Alexa planned and executed two fully virtual recruitments and recruited over 40 members to join the chapter. While serving as President of Alpha Pi, Alexa created a new position of Leadership Chair to increase the leadership development opportunities within the chapter. She stressed the importance of sisters taking initiative and becoming strong leaders.

Alexa has led multiple service projects and has completed over 300 hours of service through Omega Phi Alpha planned projects. Some of her service efforts include Winter Kits and Blankets for the Homeless in Spring 2022, organizing Bipolar Awareness Week in Spring 2021, and a 5K fundraising event for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center in Fall 2020. Alexa has developed strong community and organizational partnerships in the Morgantown community and has engaged other organizations on campus in service projects to expand the impact of Omega Phi Alpha.

Alexa's fellow Alpha Pi sisters shared that she cultivated a positive environment within the chapter by deeply valuing sister's opinions and willingness to speak up. Alexa always ensured that a sister's hard work and dedication to the chapter never went unnoticed. Alexa's hard work earned her the President of the Year Award from the WVU Center for Fraternal Values and Leadership Center.

Beyond her chapter activities, Alexa served as an active member of the National Standards Board and has recently joined the Operational Leadership Team.

Emerging Leader Award

This award recognizes individual members of the Omega Phi Alpha community that are the leaders of tomorrow. They show promise and dedication and are eager to pursue friendship, leadership and community service opportunities in their chapter, council, and beyond.

The 2022 Emerging Leader Award has been awarded to Emily Herron (Alpha Pi).

Emily joined Alpha Pi Chapter of Omega Phi Alpha in Fall 2021. After recruitment, Emily immediately showed her dedication and willingness to be involved by serving as a committee leader for the new member class' Drunk Driving Awareness and Prevention project. Emily served as Alpha Pi's Service Director in Spring 2022. Once hearing about the open position for service director, immediately sprang to action. Service Director is a very important position in our chapter and often has an intense workload. Emily never let that stop her from running for the position, and as service director she has worked hard to accommodate and serve the sisters to the best of her ability.

Emily has grown as a leader, constantly tries to be an effective and transparent communicator, is open to criticism and advice from sisters, and works hard to make all sisters feel included and valued in the sorority. Emily is extremely dedicated to making each service project meaningful and impactful, and she has truly blossomed into a fantastic leader in our organization and in the community she works in.





OMEGA PHI ALPHA