

A Vision for the '90s

New President Calls for Betterment of OPA

Janice Becker Titsworth was installed as Omega Phi Alpha's 15th national president at Convention '91 at the University of Bridgeport. She announced cultural diversity as the 1991-92 national president's project. Here are excerpts from her banquet address, A Vision for the '90s, as well as an explanation on the president's project.

"Many changes have taken place in my life recently, the most significant of which was my marriage in June. As part of our preparation, my husband and I were assigned to a sponsor couple through our church. Ron and Maryann had just celebrated their silver wedding anniversary and seemed just as in love, maybe more so, as Jim and I. Curious, we asked them how they managed to remain together for so many years. Their secret was to set aside time each New Year's Day to answer three questions:

"Who are we?

"Where are we going?

"How do we get there?



P.T. Barnum amid Convention '91 attendees

"Their advice to us was to answer those same questions and not be afraid to change the plan as we traveled through our life. Two months later, as I began to prepare myself to lead OPA, I found myself thinking of that couple. I realized that in order to move forward we needed to ask ourselves the same questions. . . I wish I had a crystal ball to answer the final question. But I don't. I only have this kaleidoscope. When I look inside, I see how easy it is to change things.

"What can we change to make us a stronger, more respected organization?

"There are no easy answers. But there are three essential elements if we are to succeed:

1. We must all be proud to represent OPA and instill that pride in our chapters.
2. We must all communicate with one another. That means returning phone calls promptly, calling or writing board members or committee members with ideas, sending in reports and dues on time and sharing ideas with our sister chapters.
3. We must all get excited about OPA's future! It's easy to rest on our laurels and say that we gave 10,000 hours of our time this year or that we've grown three times in 25 years. . .

"As we approach our silver anniversary, I'd like all of us to look into the kaleidoscope and discover what we can change to make OPA better.

"One of the privileges of being elected to this office, besides being able to address the convention delegation, is choosing a project worthy of national participation. With this in mind, I considered many of the challenges facing us nationwide—even worldwide—today.

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In the Beginning. . .

Potential of Humorous, Intelligent Leader Never Known

by Ann DeMatteo

Editor's note: This is the first installment of In the Beginning. . . stories on the people and actions of the past that shaped Omega Phi Alpha's future. In an effort to promote 25 years of excellence in OPA, each issue of the Chevron will contain an historical article. This article will highlight the life of Susan Terzian and the early years of OPA as a national sorority. Any suggestions or contributions to this column may be mailed to Ann DeMatteo, publications editor.

The family and friends of the late Susan Terzian still ache over the death of Omega Phi Alpha's second national president, a witty, vibrant, intelligent leader whose life was cut short by a drunk driver on November 15, 1968.

"One of the things I miss most, besides Susan herself, and Linda missing her only sibling, is the potential she had," said her mother Roxy Terzian. "She never got to enjoy the fruits of her labor."

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Spotlight on Cultural Diversity

Something to Think About

by Corina Rodriguez-Garcia

I have an assignment for you: define "American culture."

What does it mean to be "American?" Is it really hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet? Or is it perhaps pizza, chocolate and BMW? Is it tougher to define than you thought?

I would guess that sisters from the East and those from the South would have definitions that would almost seem diametrically opposed. Are you beginning to see the potential for diversity?

Now try to define culture. According to Webster, culture is the "customary beliefs, social forms and material traits of a racial, religious or social group." Simplified, culture includes the aspects of ethnic background, race, religion, gender and socio-economic class. Therefore, as women, we are not only inherently different from men, but culturally different as well. It's not so hard to believe, is it?

So let's think about culture some more and expand on the gender aspect. Think about your experience

as a woman. As a woman, socialized by an American culture that is dominated by men, have you ever felt any negativity toward you just because you were a woman? Would you be angry if you were asked to be "less of a woman" so that you could "fit" into a "man's world?" Do you think you have as much to offer as a man? Do you dislike being identified with respect to your sex and not your other qualities and abilities? These questions may sound very simplistic, but here's my point: Take the gender aspect and replace it with the aspect of your choice. Change woman/man to Anglo or Hispanic, Catholic or Jewish, native or immigrant, rich or poor. And don't stop there. Remember that each person is an individual, unique from all others, who ideally should not be categorized.

Think about it.

Diversity is defined as "the condition of being different." I challenge all of you to define cultural diversity as the CELEBRATION of being different. Now go find ways to celebrate!

Vision *continued from page 1*

"In Los Angeles, a black man was savagely beaten by white police officers while others watched. A few months later, an incident eerily similar occurred in Fort Worth.

"In many cities around the United States, groups of young, white males called skinheads threaten Jewish communities.

"In Germany, groups of young men operating under principles akin to the Hitler youth of the 1930s and '40s attack foreigners, especially blacks.

"I'm sure you've all heard that it seems as if we are revisiting the '60s. Reflecting on the civil rights focus and the racial issues of today, it seems as though more than just fashion is returning to those times. That thought scares me. . .

"Each of us is a unique individual with so many diverse gifts and talents. Think of how boring and ineffective our sisterhood would be if we all had the same hair style, if we all said 'you

guys' or 'y'all,' and if we were all followers with no one to lead or vice versa. Our country would be just as listless without the patchwork of perspectives brought by blacks, gays, Hispanics, Asians, native Americans, northerners and southerners.

"With this thought in mind, I'd like all of us to concentrate on tearing down the walls of discrimination that seem to be getting stronger again. This year, let's put the spotlight on cultural diversity, learning and appreciating how our differences can complement each other. . .

"Each of you is special. But so is the black man in Los Angeles, the Jewish community in the Midwest and the student from Thailand in your finance class. My challenge to all of us is this: 'To be brave enough to set the example and reach out to sincerely understand and appreciate those people who are different from ourselves.'"

President's Project 1991-92 Cultural Diversity

by Jan Titsworth

Here are some ideas on what active and alumnae chapters can do to promote the national president's project. If you have questions on the project, please contact Corina Rodriguez-Garcia, national vice president.

- Assist at an English as a Second Language laboratory at a local school.
- Promote Black History Month in February. Check with local museums and/or libraries to see if they need assistance with events/displays/exhibits.
- Organize a social activity with the foreign student's club. Ask them to provide a traditional snack from their homeland. You bring something "American."
- Ask a prominent minority leader in your area—a professor, television anchor or city councilman—to address one of your meetings. Suggest that his or her talk focus on the challenges that he or she have faced in business because of race and how they feel those challenges can be overcome.
- Hold a birthday party for Martin Luther King Jr. around his birthday. Choose a predominantly white school and address who he was and what he did.
- Contact the singles group at a local synagogue and celebrate Hanukkah with them. Participate in the lighting of the menorah and share any ethnic foods they may prepare. In the spring, assist in preparing and sharing the seder (Passover) meal with that group.
- Find out if there are foreign exchange students enrolled at the local high school. Ask those students to speak to the chapter about their homeland and about their impressions of the United States. Then, treat them for ice cream/Cokes/pizza afterwards.
- Contact your advisor or the dean of students to find out if your college/university has a sister campus abroad. Become pen pals with students at that campus.

Convention '91 Filled with Fun and Work

by Ann DeMatteo

Motivation and problem-solving topped the list of workshops that were presented at Convention 1991.

Convention was held July 29 to August 4 at Beta Chapter. About 30 national officers, actives and alumnae attended the convention at the University of Bridgeport.

The delegates bonded quickly during a July 30 trip to New York City hosted by Beta sisters, some of whom met them at Grand Central Station. Sisters who arrived later in the week were easily accepted into the group and jelled as one chapter.

By Wednesday afternoon, the convention was on a roll, and the workshops and business meetings began.

Several important pieces of legislation were approved and are outlined on page 10 under *Legislative News*.

Jan Titsworth, national vice president, reported that under her aegis the 1990-91 national fund raiser, Argus posters, was successful, as was participation in the year's national president's project, the environment. The delegates discussed better guidelines for the waiver of dues, fines and fees.

The convention also accepted a report from Long-Range Planning Committee Chair Karen Knoppow. Karen reported that the committee and others who offered input had a lot of interesting ideas about OPA's future. For more information on how to become involved with the committee, contact Karen. Her address and phone numbers are on the back of the *Chevron*.

Chapter presidents promised to

communicate with each other during President's Council.

For the second year in a row, two convention bids were submitted—one from Alpha Chapter and one from Epsilon Chapter. After two excellent presentations, the delegates chose Epsilon Chapter for the 25th anniversary convention in 1992.

Workshops centered on ways to help the chapters, so the first workshop was a round-robin during which officers met in small groups with sisters to talk about their jobs and what is expected from chapters.

Motivation, team-building, rush and how to hold elections were topics of separate workshops as was problem-solving. Workshop organizer Ginger McGarity put together situations about membership and interpersonal problems that chapters would have and had sisters act them out with really neat props.

The alumnae workshop on Saturday morning generated many ideas on how actives and alumnae should communicate. Several area Beta alums attended.

Food also was a convention highlight, with delegates Wednesday night taking a trip to New Haven and the famous Sally's Pizza. Magnifico! An impromptu tour of Yale University took delegates to the Boola Boola Shop where delegates went crazy and bought lots of Yale paraphernalia and shirts to take home.

Delegates also got to see Bridgeport's popular Captain's Cove restaurant and ate a beautiful meal at the banquet at the Grotto in Fairfield.



T.J. Roland, Beta Convention Chair, receives the OPA Spirit Award.

Banquet was the best and there was not a dry eye in the house.

Outgoing National President Ann DeMatteo presented Convention Chair T.J. Roland with the new OPA Spirit Award, a Raggedy Ann. Ann also gave gifts of appreciation to members of the Connecticut Alumnae Chapter, Beta Chapter and the National Executive Board.

T.J. and Beta sisters Lauren Regan, Alexandria Brault and Audra Heseltine presented funny awards to the convention attendees and also gave special thanks to T.J. who is transferring and will not be part of Beta this year.

"It's a great send-off and a wonderful way to leave," T.J. remarked, thanking everyone for the gifts and for coming to the convention.

Before installing Jan as national president, Ann reflected on her life in OPA, giving thanks to her predecessors at Beta for instilling a love of the sorority. She said she reached her presidential goals of making all active sisters feel they are part of the sorority and could talk to the NEB; bringing more alums and students into the committee process; motivating sisters to care about OPA and having lots of fun.

She urged everyone to stay involved and fulfill the vows they took when they became lifetime members.

Ann pointed out that Jan first became involved on a national level at Convention '86 at U.B. as a delegate from Delta Chapter and was honored to be passing the gavel to Jan at Beta, her home chapter.

Ann noted that the new NEB was a good combination of new board members with enthusiasm and old alumnae with experience and perspective.

"With this combination, and the influx of alums and actives on national committees, we will go far," Ann said.



Beta sisters receive the National Service Award from Jan Titsworth, second from right.

Long-Range Planning Committee Wants Your Input

The purpose of the committee is to bring active sisters and alumnae together to chart the course of the sorority for the year 2000 and beyond. We have already been working together to come up with a plan of action. We would like input from each of you. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and mail your responses to Karen Knoppow, 28669 Lowell Court North, Southfield, MI 48076. (Please use another sheet if necessary.)

1. Where would you like to see the sorority in terms of size and recognition by the year 2000?

2. We have tripled in size since 1967. Do you want to see the sorority triple in size again by the year 2015? Or would you like to see rapid or slower growth during this time period?

3. If you had the power and resources to change one thing about the way Omega Phi Alpha functions, what would it be?

4. If you had the finances to purchase one item that would help OPA build a stronger sorority, what would that item be and how would we use it?

5. If you could add to or subtract an officer from the NEB, what would that office and its responsibilities be?

6. How can we improve communications between the NEB and chapters?
Chapters and chapters?

From the President's Desk

Long-Range Planning for Our Future

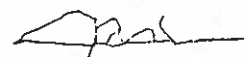
Those of you who attended Convention '91 may remember my kaleidoscope. As it sits on my desk, it's a daily reminder of the challenges I face personally and that we face as a sisterhood. Seeing it there keeps me motivated to find ways to change and enhance Omega Phi Alpha.

As we step further into the '90s and get closer each day to our silver anniversary, we must develop the blueprint for OPA's future. Remaining a viable organization takes a lot of advance planning. Growing larger and stronger takes even more.

Each of us has vested a lot of our hearts and our time as active sisters and for many, as active alums. Our willingness to share our talents wholeheartedly proves that OPA is something we believe in and hope to share with our daughters some day. Since we have given so much to shape OPA's past, isn't it only fair to take some time to shape OPA's future?

As you browse through this issue of the *Chevron*, take a moment to complete the Long-Range Planning Committee questionnaire on this page. Your input is invaluable to the committee, the National Executive Board and all our future sisters. And in the *Yellow Rose* section, please feel free to fill out the survey on how to create the ultimate convention. Thanks in advance for sharing your vision of Omega Phi Alpha.

In sisterhood and service,



Jan Becker Titsworth

The Yellow Rose

National Alumnae Update

Volume 13, Number 1

ΩΦΑ

Words from the Alumnae Administrator

I would like to make this fall and the rest of the year the time for changes in the way we, as alumnae, view the sorority, and the way we are viewed by active chapters, the National Executive Board and outsiders. I would like to see an increase in alumnae chapters and more active communication and participation among our active chapters and alumnae.

One of the concerns expressed at the convention was the image that OPA portrays to a sister. Should this image be the same for active chapters and alumnae? If not, what changes can be made so that OPA is appealing to both actives and alumnae? I will be working on contacting organizations that have successful alumnae programs to find ideas that might also work for our organization. What suggestions do you have? As an alumna, what do you most want to see from the sorority, and what types of help would you be most willing to offer? I would love to know your suggestions and/or concerns. Just contact

me at the telephone number or address listed on the back of the *Chevron*.

As we prepare for our silver anniversary, I would like to see our alumnae become a more vital part of the organization. To help me with my goals this year are three returning board members and one new member. Their key responsibilities are as follows:

Lesley Peterson, elected for first time at Convention '91, will work with Atlanta area alumnae in trying to establish a local alumnae chapter. She is a former Nu Chapter president.

Connie Greathouse, a former Kappa sister and former Connecticut Alumnae Chapter member now living in Ohio, will contact alumnae in the Great Lakes area about their interest in forming a Great Lakes area alumnae chapter.

Erienne Cooper, formerly of Beta Chapter and currently a member of the Connecticut Alumnae Chapter, will work with all the active chapters in trying to help them establish better record-keeping

and encourage them to share ideas about how to keep sisters involved even after they are no longer "active" sisters.

Thelma Riehle, who graduated from Alpha Chapter, will work with alumnae in the California area to find out the changes they would like to see in Omega Phi Alpha. She will also be trying to help locate some of the lost alumnae from our defunct chapters.

If you have any questions about any of the alumnae board members' particular functions, or if you have information or input that you feel might help them, please give them or me a call at the telephone numbers or addresses listed on the back of the *Chevron*.

Working together, we can continue to build and shape this great sorority to survive into the future. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in service,
Shirley Shurling
Alumnae Administrator

Where are They Now?

This new section lists alumnae for whom we have no current address. If you know anything about them, please let Shirley Shurling know. If you live in or near the vicinity of her college campus, try the alumnae association of the school and see if they have any address for her and forward it to the alumnae administrator.

This month we are looking for:

Colleen Beathard—Delta
Susan Barnes—Zeta
Janet Galaway—Zeta
Debbie F. Gray—Beta
Ellen H. LeClair—Lambda
Elizabeth Bennett—Eta
Brenda Brachman—Alpha
Peggy Brooks—Epsilon
JoAnne Flax—Gamma

Riehle Re-elected

Re-elected to the Alumnae Board is Thelma Riehle who grew up in Edgerton, OH. She attended Bowling Green State University, majored in elementary education, minored in health and physical education and graduated in 1967 as an Alpha alum. In 1973, Thelma graduated from St. Frances College in Fort Wayne, IN, with a master's in education.

She taught fourth grade for 13 years in Cooney, OH. Later, Thelma relocated to California and expanded her horizons in different areas. She has been in the LA Leggers running group, participated in a lot of volunteer programs, has played for the Marching Handball Choir and runs marathons. Kappa Chapter cheered her on during the Columbus Marathon in 1990. Thelma is a mail-handler in the Van Nuys Postal Service and participates in women's support groups.



Thelma Riehle volunteers at the U.S. Olympic Festival held in Los Angeles.

This is Thelma's second year on the alumnae board, and she is looking forward to serving as a link between alumnae and the NEB in trying to find lost OPA members to attend the silver anniversary convention next year. She is interested in keeping the past a part of OPA as a link to the future growth of the organization.

CAC Survives Convention Ordeal

by Thea Moritz

The Connecticut Alumnae Chapter (CAC) breathes a huge sigh of relief now that Convention '91 is over. Many a late night was spent at the University of Bridgeport prior to the start of the big week, planning, making decorations and stuffing packets.

We had two fund-raising raffles at the convention Rose Shop. One was a basket with soap and hand towels. The other was a surprise raffle—a set of wine glasses. Both were awarded at the banquet. We made \$32.

One significant activity CAC has accomplished after the convention is see Michael Bolton in concert on August 22 when our governor declared that day as Michael Bolton Day (he is from New Haven, CT). Others saw Anne Murray on August 31. Karaoke continues.

We plan to meet in October to conduct a post-mortem meeting on the convention, visit Beta during their fall rush/pledging period, possibly look into starting a colony and doing some service projects.

TAC Maps Out Fall

by Corina Rodriguez-Garcia

The Texas Alumnae Chapter (TAC) met on August 17 at Jamie Hopmann's apartment and held its first meeting for the fall. In attendance were Mary Morrison, Annette Kristek, Pamela Mudd and Corina Rodriguez-Garcia. We enjoyed an evening of stimulating OPA conversation, good food and a few rousing board games.

The following officers were elected: Mary Morrison, president; Jamie Hopmann, vice president; Pamela Mudd, treasurer; Corina Rodriguez-Garcia, secretary and Annette Kristek, social secretary. Other members are Judy Cooper and Ramya Natarajan. Corina then gave a brief report of the outcome and activities associated with Convention '91 at Beta Chapter.

Fall service projects will include working at the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon branch here in Houston, helping at the AIDS Walkathon in November and selling MD Anderson Christmas Cards in December. Also, we plan to keep in contact with Delta and Zeta chapters and lend our assistance in any way possible. We've got a busy schedule planned and are looking forward to many rewarding fellowship and service experiences.

Help Create the Ultimate Convention

We want the convention to meet your needs as alumnae. To do that, we need feedback from every single sister. Please take a moment to jot down your thoughts. How can we entice you to attend Convention '92, which will celebrate 25 Years of Excellence? Please return this survey to National President Jan Titsworth, whose address is listed on the back of the *Chevron*.

Would you be willing to take time off from work to come to the convention?

How many days? *yes* (5)

Would you attend the convention if it were held

on a college campus?

☒ yes

☐ no

in a hotel/conference center?

☐ yes

☒ no

at a retreat center

☒ yes

☐ no

other (please specify)

Of the choices above, which would you rank as your first choice? *#3*

When is the best time of year for you to attend the convention?

☐ summer, right after school ends

☐ summer, right before school begins

☐ summer, any time

☒ winter break

☒ spring break

Would you come to the convention if

it were 5-7 days long

☒ yes

☐ no

it were 3-4 days long

☒ yes

☐ no

it were held Friday-Sunday

☒ yes

☐ no

Would you be willing to participate in a career seminar for the active sisters during the convention? *yes*

Should sightseeing activities such as a trip to an amusement park or a local historical site be on the agenda? *as time permits*

Should some separate workshops specifically geared toward alumnae be scheduled? What topics of interest should be covered? *No*

Have you ever attended an OPA convention?
If yes, how many?

☒ yes

☐ no

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Chapter Reports



Alpha

During the summer Alpha Chapter was busy preparing a bid for Convention '92 and getting everything together for this year's convention in Bridgeport. A committee of Deb Kendig, Jen Gilbert, Melissa Welker, Jamie Watkins, Julie Nieset and Sue Vopicka collected lots of ideas for Convention '92 in Bowling Green. Many Alpha sisters remained in Bowling Green this summer and tried to keep in contact. Summer newsletters were sent to all the sisters in order to get ideas for the fall semester. We are planning a date party at Cedar Point with APO the second weekend in September. We hope to have a great fall semester. Get psyched!

Beta

Beta Chapter is psyched for an awesome school year. Our new officers are organized and really excited for our plans that lie ahead. With a successful convention under our belt, we want to especially thank T.J. Roland and Erienne Cooper for all of their hard work. Good work everyone! We learned a lot and had a blast. We hope that everyone who attended agrees! Our trip to New York City was great! Many new friends were made as we pounded the city sidewalks. We wish everyone the best of luck during the year. Hey, y'all—yee-haw!

Delta

Delta Chapter activated 10 new sisters last spring. Things have been going a lot better, and we look forward to more involvement next year. We also inducted our new officers at our banquet. They are: Michelle Stolarz, president; Amy Brown, first vice president; Sandra Gonzales, second vice president; Ann Marie Walsh, treasurer; Angie Tieken, secretary; Christy Mackin, social secretary and Stacy Prince, pledgemaster. We are looking forward to rush in the fall and a great year! Whoop!

Epsilon

Epsilon Chapter activated nine sisters on April 7, 1991. We held our annual Yellow Rose Affair on April 13, 1991 in Sweetwater, TN. The 1991-92 officers were installed at the formal. They are: Tiffani Gardner, president; Alicia McClanahan, first vice president; Carey Andre, second vice president; Karla Underwood, recording secretary;

Angel Brooks, corresponding secretary; Christy Melton, alumnae secretary; Cindy Sells, treasurer; Angie Young, historian; Tammy Capps, parliamentarian; Christy Rittenberry, chaplain; Tina Shands, expansions; Christy Carter, fellowship and Jenny Smith, fund raising. We held a Founder's Day picnic at Hidden Hollow Park before the spring semester ended. On June 22 we had our annual summer picnic and had a blast. Carey and Tiffani were appointed to attend the week-long event at Beta Chapter in August.

Kappa

Kappa Chapter started classes on August 26 with 10 active sisters. Our first meeting was held on September 2 where President Sheri Hottinger discussed Convention '91.

It is possible that Capital University will ban fall pledging because of hazing problems on campus. Several groups have been put on probation or lost their charters. This spring, however, looks promising for Kappa membership because there were more than 400 new students this fall. More than half are freshmen women.

Most of the sisters will be working at the Columbus Marathon at the end of September. We participated last year and plan to make it a tradition. In the spring, we will be walking in the Super Cities walk for multiple sclerosis.

Our social chair, Sue Welch, is planning an activity for everyone. She will be getting her ideas from a grab bag placed outside her door where each sister can contribute. We are enthusiastic this year and hope to make Kappa grow into a more influential group on campus.

Kappa hopes to get together with alumnae from the Columbus area, including Connie Greathouse and Barb Schmidt.

Nu

Summer has been very exciting in Atlanta. Besides the usual attractions of malls, the Underground, Stone Mountain, and many others, OPA at Georgia Tech has been active. Our first meetings of the summer quarter were spent getting our convention delegates ready for the trip to Beta Chapter. We also designated a fall rush committee to begin plans for rushing new women.

Kristin Hancock, treasurer, and Becky Castleberry, vice president, were

1991-92 NEB Liaisons

Alpha—Karen Knoppow
Beta—Jan Tittsworth
Delta—Corina Rodriguez-Garcia
Epsilon—Leann Williams
Zeta—Corina Rodriguez-Garcia
Kappa—Deb Kendig
Mu—Ginger McGarity
Nu—Ann DeMatteo
Xi—Shirley Shurling

Sister Chapters

Alpha—Xi
Epsilon—Mu
Delta—Zeta
Alpha—Beta—Kappa

our official convention delegates. Leann Williams, president, also attended as national executive secretary. All three women came back brimming with exciting new ideas. Some of them include a new way of recording service hours borrowed from Delta, some rush ideas borrowed from Epsilon, the plan for a joint formal with Xi Chapter, and most importantly, a better understanding of how the national organization works. We will keep you informed on how these changes work out.

Our pledgemaster, Benita Yang, has set rush dates for October 7-8. We hope to attract at least 25 new women to Nu Chapter. A special treat for the pledges has been planned. We will take them to Lake Lanier for pledge pinning along with their big sisters. We have rented a big building and hope to have 50 more girls there in sleeping bags from Saturday morning, October 12, until Sunday afternoon. It will be a bonding experience, to say the least! More news later.

Xi

Delegates Amy Smallwood and Christi Williams attended the convention at Beta Chapter over the summer. They had a great time!

Spring pledges were activated on August 15 at rush retreat, and new officers were inducted.

Rush is set for September 10-11 with our theme being "Paintin' the Town OPA-Style." We are hoping for a great rush and have been preparing for advertisement and the actual parties.

We look forward to the new school year.

Welcome to the National Executive Board

New National Executive Board members were elected at Convention '91. Continuing on the board in new capacities are Corina Rodriguez-Garcia (vice president) and Ann DeMatteo (publications editor). Joining returning members, Shirley Shurling (alumnae administrator), Leann Ellis (executive secretary) and Ginger McGarity (expansions director) are:

Jan Titsworth, President



Serving as OPA's national president for 1991-93 is Jan Becker Titsworth. Jan most recently served as national vice president, providing service project ideas and guiding chapters through local constitutional revisions.

Jan was a member of the Alpha Gamma pledge class at Delta in 1984. On the local level, she served as pledge class president, sunshine girl and first vice president-administration, until graduating from Texas A&M University in 1987. Jan went on to receive a master's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame de Lac in 1989.

As assistant product manager for Burlington Northern Railroad, Jan analyzes the sugar and molasses markets in North America and develops transportation rates to move those commodities throughout the country. Jan is also actively involved in BN's Community Service Committee and Adopt-a-School program.

During her term as president, Jan hopes to develop a concrete leadership development program for chapter use. Most immediately, she is focusing on improving the quality of our national convention and building sisterhood and stronger chapters through regional retreats.

Karen Knoppow, Treasurer



Karen Knoppow pledged Omega Phi Alpha at Gamma Chapter in the spring of 1969. As an active, Karen held several chapter offices including president. After graduating from Eastern Michigan State University, Karen became involved in OPA on a national level. During the 1970s, she was vice president, publications secretary and alumnae administrator.

Professionally, Karen has been a middle school math teacher at Hally Open Middle School in Detroit for the past 20 years. Her students have won back-to-back national math championships.

Deb Kendig, Membership Director



Deb Kendig, the new national membership director, is originally from Niagara Falls, NY, but has lived in Solon, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, most of her life. She graduated from Solon High School in 1987 and now is majoring in social work at Bowling Green State University. She plans to graduate in May 1992 and may go on to pursue a master's degree in counseling and college student development at Ohio State University.

After being extremely active in Rainbow Girls, a Masonic youth service organization, Deb missed being involved in a service-related group and was very excited when she heard about Omega Phi Alpha. She pledged Alpha Chapter in the spring of her freshman year and has gone on to serve as the chapter's corresponding secretary, first vice president and president. She was appointed to the sorority's Long-Range Planning Committee last year.

In addition, she is vice president-initiation of Mortar Board, an active national senior honorary, and was a resident advisor for two years.

She is excited to be membership director and believes her experience in rebuilding Alpha's membership will be an asset to this office. She is looking forward to working with each chapter in order to help them strengthen or stabilize their membership or in helping any way she can. She wants to hear from all of you by telephone or writing. Her address and number are listed on the back of the *Chevron*.

National Calendar

November

First full week is National Service Week

November 1

Active and pledge fees (first term) due to national treasurer from quarter and semester schools

November 15

Yellow Rose deadline #2 to alumnae administrator

December 1

Chevron deadline #2 to publications editor

December 15

Midyear reports due from all chapters to national president

December 31

Activation fees (first term) due to national treasurer

National pledge tests due to membership director

January

Midyear meeting for NEB (open to all members)

Beginning

continued from page 1

Known as "Terz" among friends, Susan was a mover and shaker among the group of sisters who participated in the historic decisions that brought three diverse groups into one sisterhood on June 15, 1967.

"There was a lot of effort put into it," Roxy Terzian said.

Roxy surmises that Susan must have authored the words to the national song with some help from others because she was so proud of them.

Roxy need not leave her living room to be reminded of the tune, *Edelweiss*. Her other daughter, Linda Terzian Cartiglia, a Beta alum, once took a trip overseas and brought back a beautiful music box table that plays the song.

And notes Susan scribbled in a Bowling Green State University notebook her mother had stashed away showed she may have authored all or some of the national pledge test, and had a hand in combining the local constitutions of Alpha, Beta and Gamma chapters into one constitution national organization could live with.

Susan never wanted to join a social sorority, but Roxy remembers the first time Susan told her about Omega Phi Alpha.

"It's a service sorority, and they want so much to help," Roxy recalls as the reason why Susan wanted to join OPA.

Susan was always willing to lend a hand, her mother said. In 1968, two fellow biology majors were in the hospital following a car accident. Susan visited the hospital they were staying in daily and even received permission to write papers for them so that they could graduate.

On November 15, 1968, Beta sisters called Susan to help with a project. Despite that she had a "funny feeling" and did not want to go out, Susan went anyway, because the sisters needed her to help on a project for three area hospitals.

A car driven by a Beta sister, Carol Sever, was at Park and University Avenues when a drunk driver, traveling at 60 mph, drove through a red light, crossed over the line and hit the Sever vehicle. Carol and four other students in the car were injured. Susan, in typical form, attended to their needs

OPA Boasts Fantastic Spring 1991 Membership Drive

Alpha

Kerri Baumgartner
Stacey Berchtold
Barb Brdicka
Amy Jo Brimmer
Traci Buehler
Lauren Cannistrano
Jennifer Carmona
Diana Case
Tracy Collette
Jeannine Cutcher
Julianne Demma
Anna Destazio
Michelle Devine
Jill Evans
Sheila Heishman
Erin Holman
Jennifer Horner
Patricia Jasinski
Emmy Keppler
Sonja Latin
Cheri Leibel
Alecia Lipscomb
Sue Lorah
Autumn Marson
Megan McManamon
Lynn Murphy
Joan Patterson
Susan Richardson
Kelly Shimko
Ruth Sholtis
Kelly Smith
Tara Stubbs

Tina Swearengin
Tracy Urbauer
Tarla Wardlaw
Andrea Weeks
Amy Woeste
Darla Your

Beta

Edna Barretto
Alexandria Brault
Nuala Curran
Lynda D'Amico
Jean-Marie Kay
Danielle Moreau
Nirma Perez
Lisa Pinto
Angelica Reyes
Kimberly Umland
Elisabeth Wolff

Delta

Steffani Bosson
Mickie Cleveland
Selena Colquitt
Genevieve Davis
Sarah Hartman
Gretchen Kelly
Michele Parker
Rebecca Phillips
Jennifer Romanyak
Amy Stanford

Epsilon

Christie Candra
Gina Delaney
Vicki Etherton
Jennifer Jones
Michelle Ott
Jo Ann Ramsey
Renée Ruelle
Nicole Wormsley
Sherri Jones

Kappa

Amy Eberhard
Sandi Huitger

Nu

Allison Burrows
Jessica Carrillo
Donna Dennis
Rhonda Huddleston
Milene Juliao
Audrey Kayne
Jennifer McEwen
Carrie Panyik
Lisa Roethe
Heather Stehman
Cecelia Vinson

Xi

Linda Hodges
Amy Miller
Laura Viguet

after the accident, walking them to the ambulance and the like.

She died from a skull fracture five days later.

To this day, Roxy and her sister, Rose Gadikian, with whom she lives in Milford, CT, feel connected to OPA.



Roxy saves any OPA correspondence she receives, along with information about the winners of the Susan Terzian Scholarship at the University of Bridgeport. Set up after Susan's death, the scholarship is given to OPA sisters who qualify. In the event there are none, then the scholarship goes to a female biology student.

OPA is still a part of Roxy Terzian's life. . . from the photos of Susan, Linda and Linda's family that decorate her home, to the 1968 Omega Phi Alpha mug on the top bookshelf, to the honorary membership certificate she received from Beta Chapter.

Holding back tears, Roxy Terzian says, "If OPA were given up, then everything that Susan did would be in vain. OPA was such an integral part of Susan's life that I feel sharing in its continuation is sharing in the continuation of Susan's endeavors."

Susan Terzian, graduation 1968

Legislative News

by Jan Titsworth

The business meetings at Convention '91 were a hotbed of debate, with delegates discussing issues that would shape the future of OPA.

The following is a brief recap of legislation that was approved:

- Provisions for removal of lifetime membership and the return of activation fees were established. If a sister leaves the organization in poor standing, the chapter executive board has the right to request removal of her name from the lifetime membership roster. A three-fourths vote of the National Executive Board is required to do so. Any member losing such privileges may regain them by petitioning the NEB. A three-fourths vote of the NEB, Alumnae Board and chapters is then taken.
 - A three-person Chapter Assistance Committee was established to aid chapters exhibiting outlined distress signals. The purpose of the committee is to work closely with chapters on conditional status and provide guidance to those chapters on the brink of such status. The committee is comprised of three alumnae, who may call upon active sisters for assistance as needed.
 - The process for requesting represented active alumnae status was clarified. To attain represented active alumnae status, alumnae chapters must submit a letter documenting completion of criteria to the alumnae administrator. The documentation is subject to NEB review and majority approval.
 - The deadline for the submission of constitutional revisions was changed to March 1 to allow for the distribution of the proposed legislation to all chapters by April 1 of each year.
 - A minimum requirement of two service projects per semester was instated for all active chapters.
 - A drug and alcohol policy was adopted for the national organization. It reads, "Omega Phi Alpha complies with all federal, state, local and university policies regarding the illegal use, possession and distribution of drugs and alcohol."
- If you have any questions regarding this legislation, please feel free to contact Jan Titsworth or Corina Rodriguez-Garcia.

Awards Presented at Convention '91

National Service Award

Beta Chapter

National Membership Award

Kappa Chapter

National Travel Award

Nu Chapter

Alumnae Travel Award—Chapter

Alpha Chapter

Alumnae Travel Award—Individual

Thelma Riehle

Display Award

Alpha Chapter

Epsilon Chapter

Chapter Excellence Program

Gold

Nu Chapter

Epsilon Chapter

Silver

Alpha Chapter

Individual Achievement in Service Awards

Alpha Chapter

Kerri Beany (131.5)

Lori Cary (1070)

Julie Nieset (101)

Joyce Slouffman (100)

Melissa Welker (124)

Beta Chapter

Audra Heseltine (312)

Deana Murtha (311)

Noelle Pyznar (126)

Lauren Regan (126.5)

Tricia Roland (113.5)

Delta Chapter

Ramya Natarajan (104.5)

Nancy Person (134.5)

Stacy Prince (118.5)

Michelle Stolarz (116)

Dawn Berube (117.5)

Tara Decur (118)

Sandra Garza (109.5)

Nikki Leech (122)

Epsilon Chapter

Carey Andre (153)

Kristen Brenner (245)

Tammy Capps (146)

Christy Carter (120.5)

Lori Cassell (193)

Julie Filson (190.5)

Tiffani Gardner (183)

Leslie Goforth (131.5)

Sherrie Howard (460)

Alicia McLanahan (243.5)

Marcy McCormick (279)

Chelle Ray (270.5)

Christy Rittenberry (147)

Jenny Smith (249.5)

Townley Smoak (109.5)

Karla Underwood (185.5)

Wendy Warren (200)

Nu Chapter

Amy Baker (148.5)

Lisa Baron (135.5)

Becky Castleberry (252.5)

Kristin Hancock (177.5)

Karen Owen (185)

Lesley Peterson (143.5)

Leann Williams (187)

Top Ten IAS

1. Sherrie Howard, *Epsilon*

2. Audra Heseltine, *Beta*

3. Deana Murtha, *Beta*

4. Marcy McCormick, *Epsilon*

5. Chelle Ray, *Epsilon*

6. Becky Castleberry, *Nu*

7. Jenny Smith, *Epsilon*

8. Kristen Brenner, *Epsilon*

9. Alicia McLanahan, *Epsilon*

10. Wendy Warren, *Epsilon*

Congratulations to all the winners!

Rose Shop Profits Up

by Judy Acosta

Once again, the Rose Shop at the convention was a great success with sales totaling \$858, an increase over last year.

An appealing variety of items were available, and everyone seemed to agree that the Shop is a fun way to obtain OPA memorabilia for themselves and others as well as to generate income.

In addition to the standard items that national has been selling, this year's popular items included: OPA chalkboards, candlestick holders, magnets, picture frames, sachets and Raggedy Ann key rings. Of course, the convention t-shirt representing the Barnum and Beta Circus theme was a big hit. Two raffle drawings were also held at the Rose Shop.

The sales breakdown was:

National	\$ 408.00
Alpha Chapter	17.50
Beta Chapter	350.25
Connecticut Alumnae Chapter	54.00
Epsilon Chapter	.75
Nu Chapter	2.50
Ginger McGarity	25.00

For those of you who didn't come to the convention, a limited supply of the Barnum and Beta Circus t-shirts are still available. The t-shirts are white with small blue lettering and a logo on the front and a circus drawing on the back. Great as nightwear! Sizes: large and extra large. Price: \$12 each plus \$1 postage.

The banquet gift, a lovely glass carafe with a blue type and rose design, can also still be ordered at \$5 each plus \$1 postage.

Order both a t-shirt and carafe and save \$1 in postage. Send your orders to Lauren Regan, 328A Barnum Hall, 150 Marina Park Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604-5698. Make checks out to *Omega Phi Alpha*.

Chapters and alumnae should consider participating in the Rose Shop next year by sending delegates to Convention '92 at Epsilon Chapter in Cookeville, TN, with practical OPA items which reflect the sisterhood of *Omega Phi Alpha*.

Making OPA items together is just one of many fun things you can do to build chapter bonds.

Freebies

Christi W. (Xi)—Road trip! (Now that I'm 21! Ha)—*Love ya, Amy*

Ginger—Thanks for all your help with service hours and answering all my questions at Convention '91!—*OPA Love, Melissa (Alpha)*

Delta—All right! The new year is here! Bring in those pledges! 1991-92 will be the best. Whoop!—*Stacy*

Corina—Clap, clap, clap. We love you.—*NEB*

ALERT!—Oops, must have been the dinner "buns"...

Convention '91 delegates—You were great! Remember to maintain those bonds in writing and calling each other through the year.—*Love, your ex-Mother*

Sally C.—Good luck with your kids! I'm thinking of you! How many lesson plans do you have to write tonight?—*Corina*

Jan—Oscar is sitting next to Michael Bolton on shelf above fireplace in living room. He's very happy.

Boochie—I miss you!!—*B.W.*

Gail Turner—How about thinking of traveling down to Epsilon for the 25th anniversary convention and bringing along some of the former Theta sisters?—*Thelma*

Hey, Lisa—Hope the year goes great. We're finally seniors!!—*Love, Andy*

Former members of Eta, Iota and Lambda—How about spreading the word to attend the silver anniversary OPA convention?—*Thelma*

Beta, Delta, Epsilon, Nu delegates—It was fun meeting you in August. Keep coming back to conventions and support the spirit of OPA.—*Thelma*

Jamie H.—What would I do without you?—*Corina*

Mu and Zeta members—I missed seeing you at convention. Hope to see you at the next one.—*Thelma*

CAC—Thanks for your help with Convention! You kept me semi-sane!—*Love & OPA, T.J.*

Renée—Where the hell are you? What's new at the Point? Did you get your cup?—*Love, ex-roomie Ann*

Kim Clark—Great to have a sister closer to where I live. Keep in touch and good luck in your recruiting in CA.—*Thelma*

'91 delegates—Thanks for the best convention and best times ever! Good luck.—*Love and OPA, T.J.*

Pamela McEwen—Thanks for all your help. It was great meeting you for breakfast when you were in Detroit.—*Karen*

Audra, T.J. and all the Beta women—Thanks for all your hard work and your great hospitality!—*Corina*

Cassie—I don't have two roommates. So, you need to come visit me! I'm glad you came to my party. I've missed our chats.—*Gooberhead*

Nu Chapter—Come to Athens! You are all welcome! I have plenty of floor space!—*Leigh*

Judy Acosta—Thanks for getting the sweet corn to take in my suitcase back to California from the convention. It was real sweet.—*Thelma*

Thea—Thanks for your words of wisdom before the convention. It was great meeting you. Long live the Karaoke.—*Karen*

Beta—I'm gonna miss you guys lots! Don't forget me!—*Love & OPA, T.J.*

Cheryl Roberts—Start saving your pennies now! I want to see you in Cookeville.—*Karen*
Ditto.—*The Catatonic Wonder*

Cheryl—Convention '92 is at Epsilon. Start making plans.—*Judy*

Ibid.—*The Catatonic Wonder*

Alpha Chapter—I look forward to working with you this year.—*Karen*

Mary M.—Handbook hell lives. Your copy to mark up will be delivered Pony Express. Congrats on the TAC presidency.—*Love, OPA high priestess from hell*

Deb K.—Congrats! You'll make a great membership director!—*Corina*

Leann—Are you in this time zone?—*Judy*

Alpha delegates—Glad to see you at convention. It might be that I will be seeing your chapter sooner than you think.—*Thelma*

Stacy P.—You did a great job representing Delta at convention! Whoop!—*Corina*

Ann—Thanks for two years as president.—*Judy*

Xi delegates—Thanks for coming to convention and representing one of our newer chapters.—*Thelma*

Katrina B.—Keep that OPA spirit up!—*Corina*

NEB—I'm psyched about this year. ... thanks for all of your support and help!—*Deb*

Kappa—I'm looking forward to getting together soon. ... call me!—*Deb, your NEB liaison*

Jill—Congratulations on being appointed national fund raising chair. I know you'll do a great job!—*Love, Deb*

Chapters—Good luck this year!—*Alpha*

Convention '91 delegates—Keep in touch. I am looking forward to hearing from you all!—*Jen, Alpha Chapter*

Alpha—Looking forward to another great semester!—*Jen*

August 22—Several OPA sisters sighted at Bolton concert. He's fine, thank you.

Audie—We did it. It's over. I love you!—*T.J.*

Paula—Congratulations on your engagement!—*Love your roomie, Jen*

Karen Knoppow—Neat to see you at convention. Let's see how many former Gammas can attend the next convention Can't wait until you get your toll-free number.—*Thelma*

Attention Treasurers

Don't forget that November 1 is the deadline for active and pledge dues to be turned into the national treasurer. Activation fees deadline is December 31.

Please call the national treasurer at her 1-800 number (listed on the back of the *Chevron*) if you think you'll be late.

NEB—Best of luck to the new officers.—*Alpha*

Big Susie—Congratulations on your engagement. Let's make this semester the best yet.—*Li'l Jen*

Ann—Thanks for returning me from the dead.—*Karen*

Beta—Thanks for a great convention. All your hard work really paid off!—*Alpha*

Thelma—How was that Connecticut corn on the cob?—*Judy*

Zeta babes—Thinking of you! Call me if you need anything!—*Corina*

Erienne Cooper—It was great seeing you at convention. Thanks for everything!—*Love, Deb*

Shirley—Hope you made it to the shower on Sunday. Thanks for your help with the Rose Shop.—*Judy*

Jan T.—Does this make you the new Queen? Is Jim the King? Good luck!—*Corina*

Sheri H.—Here's rooting for you to take back lots of ideas for your chapter from convention.—*Thelma*

Thea and Ann—Bon voyage! Now remember, we all expect you to come back speaking fluent German!—*Judy*

Please paws for a moment of silence for Missy DeMatteo-Whitworth who left Earth the week of Hurricane Bob. She leaves a sister, Scruffy Ann, her parents Ann and Bob, and her aunties Judy, Thea and Renée.

To cousins Lassie Acosta and Heinz Moritz—How about a game of Scrabble or Hide 'n Seek?—*Love, Scruffy Ann DeMatteo-Whitworth*

Rachael—Welcome back, girl! Let's party!!—*Jen*

Karaokaholic—So much for Karaoke as the president's project.—*Karaokaholic*

Nu pledges—Welcome to OPA!—*Benita*

Thanks to all the Beta sisters for hauling us around!—*Love, Becky and Kristin*

Kerri at Alpha—How's it goin' roomie? Had a great time at convention.—*Kristin, Nu*

Audra—How's Ollie?—*Kristin, Nu*

Nu Chapter—Get ready for a great fall quarter! Congrats to all the new pledges.—*Love, Katie N.*

Karen—It's now 10:45!—*Judy*

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REMINDER
Deadline for the
winter Chevron is
December 1.
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Thanks!

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