Dear Sisters,

March is here and let us hope this month follows the adage, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb!” It has been a very hard winter here in the Midwest, but nothing compared to our neighbors on the East and West coasts. Our hearts go out to all of you who experienced more than your fair share, and let us rejoice in the advent of spring.

The Torch subscription campaign is progressing, although rather slowly. We have had nearly a thousand sisters sign up for subscriptions, but we need at least 5,000 subscriptions if we want to resume printing the Torch. If you have not yet subscribed, please consider doing so.

In other International news, conventions are just around the corner and we know all of you members are excited about the prospect of seeing your old and new friends again. They really are the lifeblood of our sorority and our wish is that those who want to are able to join in the fun. If you have not attended your state convention, try it! My friend, member Glenda Weed, of Florida Laureate Omega, Tampa, set out some years ago to attend a convention in each state and Canadian province, and her goal is coming to fruition. If you are fortunate enough to meet her at a convention, she will instantly become a new friend. Another one of our cherished members, Theresa Friburg, of California Xi Mu Gamma, Sonora also travels to as many conventions as she can, and her energy and positive attitude is inspiring.

So here is to having a super spring, a fun Founder’s Day, and last but not least, a terrific time at one of our many conventions.

Yours in Beta Sigma Phi,

Laurey Lummus
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**New Friendly Venture Chapters**

- Missouri Xi Eta Kappa, Carrollton
  - Illinois Beta Zeta Master, Elgin
  - Nevada Omicron Master, Elko
- California Laureate Kappa Phi, Garden Grove
- Missouri Preceptor Theta Eta, Independence
- Missouri Laureate Epsilon Tau, Poplar Bluff
- Renfrewshire Iota Master, Paisley (Scotland)

**SHARE OUR PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE**

- Georgia Alpha Zeta, Dacula
  By: Liana Hoffman & Preceptor Beta Epsilon

- Missouri Delta Alpha, Carrollton
  (Extreme Makeover)
  By: Missouri Xi Eta Kappa, Carrollton

- Queensland Alpha Beta, Brisbane
  By: Patricia Edwards & Xi Zeta
What Beta Sigma Phi Means to Me

By: Sheila Forbes
Colorado Xi Pi, Lamar

“One year ago we discovered that our 10-year-old daughter had a brain tumor. She was scheduled immediately for surgery to remove the tumor and before we even had a diagnosis, my wonderful sisters were already in action. Along with some friends, my sisters of Colorado Xi Pi, Lamar and our sister chapter Colorado Laureate Rho, Lamar had already started to plan and organize a chili supper, silent auction, and pie auction as a fundraiser to help our family with medical costs. They even enlisted a local Boy Scout Troop to help with the event. When we did get the incredibly difficult news that it was, in fact a malignant tumor, my sisters were once again there to support us.

My daughter and I had to stay in Denver while she underwent six weeks of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. My amazing sisters from Xi Pi and Laureate Rho brought meals to my husband and two boys while we were away. Our daughter is still undergoing chemotherapy treatments and my sisters still bring meals to our house to help out. It is such a simple thing, but it means so much to know that we have such an awesome support system in our community.

Beta Sigma Phi is more important to me than ever because of the friendships and sisterhood that it involves. My family now realizes how lucky we are to have these women in our lives and have promised to not complain about my once-a-month meetings any more!”

Members of Colorado Xi Pi, Lamar and Colorado Laureate Rho, Lamar at a chili supper fundraiser. A local Boy Scout troop also arrived and proved to be a big help at the event.
Rushing is not just for Ritual of Jewels’ Chapters…..

Exciting News for Gadsden, Alabama

Last fall, the members of Alabama Laureate Eta, Gadsden decided to reactivate an Exemplar chapter for the area. The idea began when a past member, Sharon Martin, returned to Gadsden and expressed an interest in joining sorority again. Laureate Eta was at their maximum capacity with twenty members at the time. Through their encouragement, Sharon Martin began entertaining the idea of starting another Beta Sigma Phi chapter. After a few gatherings with other inactive members and one eager prospective member, they reinstated the chapter name, Alabama Xi Alpha Pi, Gadsden, in November 2009.

Laureate Eta members held a lovely Pledge Ritual and Welcome Ritual for the new pledges. The new members of Xi Alpha Pi agreed to begin as a career chapter and elected new chapter officers. We are super pumped to announce that this chapter has recently added three more pledges to their roster, bringing their pledge total to four new pledges!

“It is said that happiness comes from within. That’s not entirely true: People’s happiest experiences tend to come from friends and family.”
~Author Unknown

Flash From the Past 1999

Speaking of Gadsden, Alabama members, check out this flash from the past. This same group of Beta Sigma Phi members were very active at the 1999 Alabama State Convention (seen in photo on left), as the “Second Hand Roses,” performing many popular tunes from the 50s. They were a hit from the very first song.

(left to right) Debbie Bradford, Sharron Yancy, Annette Barnett, Patsie Kendrick, Susan Davidson and Jean Thompson. Sadly, Annette Barnett passed away a year after this convention, but will be remembered forever for her heartwarming friendship and fun-loving antics. Her sorority sisters loved her so much, that they maintain a perpetual yellow rose on her grave site.
After being invited to attend a couple of meetings, two prospective members could not wait to give a resounding yes when asked if they would join Beta Sigma Phi. They were heartily welcomed by California Xi Beta Epsilon, Watsonville. The members soon held a potluck luncheon at an area beach before performing the Pledge Ritual for their new pledges. The Ritual was read while the ocean waves were heard in the background. What a great way to start new members in Beta Sigma Phi!

Welcome to Beta Sigma Phi (from left) new California Xi Beta Epsilon, Watsonville members Carmina Scott and Betty Fort.

Two Titusville, Florida chapters join forces for a successful rush.

Florida Xi Lambda Lambda, Titusville and Florida Alpha Gamma Eta, Titusville combined their smarts and rushing savvy and successfully added nine new pledges for their chapters. It only seemed fitting since Xi Lambda Lambda successfully Friendly Ventured Alpha Gamma Eta this past spring!

A joint Pledge Ritual was held at a magnificent outdoor pavilion in Titusville. The pavilion was beautifully decorated with black and yellow candles which were aglow as the pledges were escorted into the room.

Welcome these new Florida Xi Lambda Lambda, Titusville members!

There’s Nothing like a Good Girlfriend

When the chips are down, there’s nothing like a good girlfriend. A friend is someone who accepts you - warts, wrinkles, weight, and all - unconditionally. She will listen to you cry or complain and do her best to look out for your best interests. She supports you through thick and thin, but because there is mutual respect, she will not allow you to wallow in self-pity or manipulate her. She will encourage you to be your best and allow you the freedom to make your own choices.

All women are born with the need to communicate at a deeper level with their mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, cousins and other significant females in their lives. Wholesome friendships among women promote sound mental and emotional health. Friends remind us we are part of something greater than ourselves, a larger world, and the right friends keep us on track.

“Watts New in Rushing”

Is your chapter in a quandary for names for your next rushing event? Have everyone open their cell phones and collect names. Typically everyone has at least thirty contact names – how many have been overlooked for Beta Sigma Phi membership?

Does your chapter want to be featured? Send us your rush stories and pictures to include in future Torch publications and the new Beta Sigma Phi web page.
Carole Gariepy, member of British Columbia Epsilon Upsilon, Kelowna, took part in the longest cross-country Olympic Torch run in history on January 26, 2010. Carole ran – holding the Olympic Torch high – along a Canadian country road in the tiny town of Oyama – as her family, friends, two neighborhood schools and members of the community watched in amazement. The loudest voices yelling praises were of course, her Epsilon Upsilon sorority sisters, who ran alongside her and cheered her on!

Carole was chosen to run the Olympic Torch after writing a letter to the Olympic committee describing her past year’s increase in physical exercise and her pledge to support others in their quest for better health and fitness. Last year, Carole and several members of Epsilon Upsilon ran their first half-marathon. Three other members ran a full marathon! “Carole has encouraged many of us in sorority to become and stay more active,” says Epsilon Upsilon sister Eveline LeNoble.

Before the run, the chapter celebrated by attending a community pancake breakfast, with a member of Parliament, Ron Cannon, at a local community hall. “During the run, we cheered, hooted and hollered while Carole smiled and glowed like the Olympic Torch she carried. Carole says the best part of the event was the patriotism and positive energy in the air,” says Eveline. “Although we Canadians are normally a pretty reserved bunch!”
Following the Torch run, being the faithful sorority sisters that they are, they celebrated again – with a luncheon, laughter and love, as well as an Olympic Torch photo shoot.

“At our sorority meeting the next evening, we had a program on...you guessed it – the history and meaning of the Olympic Games. Carole’s participation in this event will be a great memory for all of us!”

Congratulations to all our sisters who participated in the Torch relay, and a big shout out to all the talented athletes throughout the world who participated in the 2010 Olympic Games.

**Fun Olympic Facts**

- The Olympic Games began in 776 B.C. in the sanctuary of Olympia in Greece, and were celebrated until 393 A.D., when an earthquake destroyed Olympia.

- The games were held at 4-year intervals; the first competition held was the 190-meter station race.

- Before competing, each athlete had to take an oath that he had been training for at least 10 months.

- Around 720 B.C., a longer 400-meter race was added; then, in 720 B.C., a 5 km race was added.

- The Torch Relay has the last runner carry the torch into the Olympic Stadium during the Opening Games.

- The Olympic Flame is lit from the torch and remains lit until the Closing Ceremony.

- The Torch Relay symbolizes the passing of Olympic traditions from one generation to another.

- The Olympic Flame originally represented the “endeavor for protection and struggle for victory,” now, it symbolizes “the light of spirit, knowledge and life.”
Connecticut Iota Master, Torrington recently had a very special celebration - a Citizen Roberta party. In December, 2009, chapter member Roberta Coe became a citizen of the United States! For Roberta, becoming a citizen of the United States was a big step. Her application for citizenship was followed by two interviews and several supporting documents. Once Roberta’s application was acknowledged, she was fingerprinted and asked to submit additional documentation. At the interviews, she was prepared to answer questions about her application and her background.

To prepare, Roberta had a sample list of 100 questions to study. Her Iota Master sisters quizzed her and in the process relearned a lot about our government that they had forgotten over the years. Roberta proudly answered every question correctly.

Iota Master sister, Barbara Pudlinski first met Roberta at a local gym. Barbara was discussing the chapter’s assignment for the City Council sponsored International Night Celebration. Iota Master was to make a Brazilian main dish and dessert that would feed 50 people. Overhearing the conversation, Roberta, who was born and raised in Brazil, immediately offered to shop and show the chapter how to prepare feijoada, a mixture of black beans, sausage and pork and brigadeiro, a simple Brazilian chocolate candy wrapped in green and yellow paper. “Her enthusiasm was contagious. She even attended the dinner and gave a talk on the traditional Brazilian dishes,” says Iota Master member Judy Romaniello.

Following shortly, Roberta proudly became a pledge of Iota Master. “Living throughout the world - Brazil, England, Denmark, Italy, Israel and the United States – and being fluent in several languages, she has brought a hands-on approach to our programs, especially this year as our “Passport to Adventure” is taking us to a different country at every meeting,” says Judy.

Roberta met her husband, Mike, in December, 1997 while visiting New York City with her mother and twin sister. She ventured off to visit the Museum of Modern Art where she met Mike. Discovering they were both architects, they soon became friends, visiting other New York museums. They lost contact after Roberta moved to Denmark in May, 1998, but connected again in early 1999 via the Internet. At this time, Roberta was living in England. Mike went to England, and proposed in October. Roberta came to Connecticut shortly thereafter, and they married outside the library by a huge stone with the inscription: “Once upon a time …”.

After this fairy tale beginning, they bought a lovely stone house in Torrington where they live and work as architects. And soon thereafter Roberta had another dream that was to come true – she wanted to become a naturalized citizen.

The Citizen Roberta party was held at member Delores Sawicki’s home and was very patriotically decorated. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by discussion of Roberta’s achievements, and the steps she has taken to become a citizen. Members enjoyed red, white and blue food, patriotic music and a sing-along.

“Iota Master sisters could not be prouder of their little sister,” exclaims Judy. And congratulations from all your Beta Sigma Phi sisters, Roberta!
We have had a fairly good response to the Torch subscription idea, but in order to meet our quota, we need many more subscriptions. For this reason, we have changed the deadline to April 30, 2010. Many of our members are giving the Torch to their sorority sisters as gifts, which is a great way to show support in Beta Sigma Phi and give a super gift.

Many members have inquired as to the frequency of the Torch. We are on schedule to print eight issues per year. We will continue to provide it online, but as was mentioned in the prior notice, we can offer a printed version only if members choose to subscribe for a yearly fee of $14.00. That will cover the cost of printing and mailing.

If you are interested in subscribing to a printed version of the Torch, please print and fill out the form below. We must reach a quota to print. If quota is not met, your money will be refunded. Credit cards preferred. US funds only, please.

Send orders to the International Office: DEADLINE April 30, 2010

Attn: Melissa Whited
1800 W. 91st Place
Kansas City, MO 64114

Name: ___________________________ Member Number: __________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State/Province, Country: __________________

Zip/Postal Code: __________________

Credit Card Number: ____________________ Expiration Date: ____________

3-4 Digit Security Code: _____________
Contest Entry Forms

Hurry! Photo and Poetry Contest Deadlines Are Around the Corner!

Send your entries to the attention of the appropriate contest:
Beta Sigma Phi International - PO Box 8500 - Kansas City MO 64114-0500
All entries become the property of International. International cannot be responsible for items lost in the mail.

Poetry and Photo Contest. . .

Entries must be postmarked May 1. No member may win first place in two consecutive years. Entries are non-returnable.

**Photo - What we need:** An original, unpublished, color or black and white photo, a min. of 3” x 5” size.
- The photo must be taken by a Beta Sigma Phi member in good standing. Your photo subject should be Beta Sigma Phi related in some way. One photo may be submitted per member. The entry form must be completed and taped to the back of the photo. See instructions below.

**PLEASE CLOSELY FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS - NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Poem - What we need:** An original, unpublished, typed poem written by a Beta Sigma Phi member in good standing. The poem may be of any theme and length. No more than three poems may be submitted by the same member. Each entry must include the author’s name, mailing address, chapter name, number and location.

Poetry or Photo Contest Entry

- Member’s Name: ____________________________ Member No.: ____________________________
- Chapter Name: ____________________________ Chapter No.: ____________________________
- Complete Address: ____________________________
- Short Description of Photo Subject: ____________________________

When sending a photo to the Torch, please follow these guidelines.

Make sure it is well lit, sharp, in focus, with a good contrast.

Feature photos must be a min. 4” x 6” and subject must fill 80% of the area.

Photos previously printed (ie. magazine, newspaper or a computer) will NOT be used.

**E-MAILS:** IBM format, 4” X 6”, 300 dpi. PhotoShop 6.0 tiff or eps format.

E-mail to: torch@betasigmaphi.org. State the photo subject’s name in the e-mail subject.

Poems, Photos, Zip discs, and CD’s submitted become the sole property of Beta Sigma Phi International.

Spring Parade of Legacies. . .

Legacy entries are excepted throughout the year. We are looking forward to seeing our latest Legacies!

**What we need:** A color photo, a min. of 3” X 5” in size, with a protective piece of cardboard inside the envelope. Please note: PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED. Tape the entry form to the back of the photo. See instructions below.

Please also write the name of the entry and date taken on the back of the photo near one corner.

Spring Parade of Legacies Entry

- Legacy’s Name: ____________________________ Legacy No.: ____________________________
- Sponsor’s Name: ____________________________ Member No.: ____________________________
- Sponsor’s Complete Address: ____________________________
- Tell us about your Legacy: ____________________________
“Share Our Passport to Adventure” has been a huge success as a theme, and our fabulous yearbooks prove it. Never before has passport and travel art proved to be so imaginative, and it appears the theme really gave a happy boost to program ideas. There is only one downside to reading and judging these fantastic yearbooks - extreme daydreaming and a quest to see the world will occur!

Yearbook Winners

Ritual of Jewels and Exemplar Division

This division’s first place winner was Florida Delta Delta, Tampa. This yearbook was compact yet chock full of any information a chapter member may want during the year. “Share Our Passport to Adventure” was used creatively in the yearbook, from vintage travel postcards to clever illustrations that accompany each activity. The color was dominant and eye-catching, with the same vibrant shades appearing throughout the book. The member’s bios were fascinating, you really get a feel for who each sister is after reading her profile. Close to perfection, this year’s winner gets an A+.

Preceptor, Laureate & Master Division

South Carolina Laureate Zeta, Charleston is this year’s winner of the Preceptor, Laureate & Master Division. The yearbook embraces the theme of adventure through its wonderful programs like “Let’s go Spelunking” and “We’re Going Lion Hunting” complete with references and Programs on the Shelf. The adventure continues with great socials such as “A Scavenger Hunt” and service projects such as “A Gift of Sight Program” and more. Numerous extras really give the yearbook an added flare of adventure complete with member business cards and address labels.
Georgia Xi Beta Xi, Dublin’s yearbook hits the nail on the head, effortlessly covering every required section in detail. The beginning of the yearbook shows separate photos of each chapter member, clad in matching t-shirts and holding passports. As the book progresses, you are privy to all the hard work that is undertaken by this chapter. Service projects are paramount to this group, with a different project for each month that sorority meets. Their programs are innovative and gel very nicely with this year’s theme. At the conclusion of this sorority year, these sisters will be seasoned armchair travelers, as each month boasts two travel programs.

Taking second place, North Carolina Laureate Iota, Raleigh really took this year’s theme to heart. Each member of the chapter is assigned a passport number and the theme echoes through every section. Starting off the book with darling illustrations of vintage airplanes flying over the world, it is delightful to read. This chapter believes in fun with a capital F, as you can see by their social calendar. The yearbook also features an added bonus in a “History and Honors” section which salutes those who have completed Rituals or were awarded other honors and sports a synopsis of every sorority year and its activities.
Honorable Mention

**Georgia Gamma Rho, Warner Robins** had fun this year with their yearbook, creating lots of little extras such as voting cards for different offices and honors. With quotes from such travelers as Daniel Boone and Sir Edmund Hilary, one really cannot wait to travel through this exciting sorority year. The yearbook is well laid out with a colorful calendar that prominently displays other countries the chapter will travel to through their programs. Accompanying each program are blank cards so that each program may be critiqued. It is surely a certainty that every program gets rave reviews.

Honorable Mention

**Preceptor, Laureate & Master Division**

**Texas Laureate Theta Pi, Katy** put their all into their excellent yearbook. With beautiful photographs of faraway places adorning the beginning of each section, this book draws the reader in, leaving no doubt as to how much sorority means to each member. The yearbook has an extensive Program on the Shelf section, which is always a convenience. This entry also details scheduled programs in a concise manner, leaving no stone unturned. Chapter members have surely enjoyed the year so far, and look forward to the remainder of this special year. Note to chapter: Continue having a blast!
Programs a La Carte

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101 Career and Marriage: Planning for Success
102 Learning: Career Preparation
104 Career Rewards: Attitudes, Planning and Achievement for Career Rewards
106 Life Management: Building a Successful Support System
108 Career and Life Planning: Marketing Yourself and Your Skills for the Job Market
110 Effectively Asserting Yourself
114 Entrepreneurship
116 Starting Your Own Home-Based Business
121 You and Your Environment: What Your Efforts can Accomplish
122 Getting Toxins Out of Your Home
124 You and Your Environment: Organic Gardening and Growing a Safe Garden
126 Environmental Benefits of Recycling

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1029 The Flat Walter Project
1031 Beta Sigma Phi Jeopardy

Program Order Form

• Circle the numbers of the programs you want on this order form.
• Please select no more than 18 programs.
• Only one order form per chapter.
• The chapter’s program chairperson retains a copy of your order.

Chapter Name
Chapter Number
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Member Number
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City, State, & Zip Code

101 102 104 106 108 110 114 116 121 122 124 126 204 207 208 214 215
217 218 219 222 223 224 226 228 231 232 233 301 303 306 307 310 311
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985 989 992 993 994 996 998 999 1000 1001 1019 1026 1028 1029 1031

Return to: Beta Sigma Phi International
PO Box 8500
Kansas City MO 64114-0500.
Programs

We have some fun new programs to share with you in this new year. Our chapters have broadened their horizons once again, learning and trying new and different things about the world, ourselves and most importantly, our wonderful sisters!

This year, Oregon Xi Beta Phi, Bend decided to try something new for a social and cultural program. “We found out that the U.S. Forest Service has a free program where individuals and groups can go snowshoeing for free at Mount Bachelor,” says Xi Beta Phi member Cyndi Fischer. “The weather was beautiful and we had a great time. President Carrie Christiansen was thrilled that we still had smiling faces when the hike was only half done!”

“Have You Had Your Veggies Today?”

South Carolina Laureate Rho, Greenville had a delicious idea for a program to go to an award-winning restaurant and judge for themselves. Member Linda Buchanan presented the history of the family-owned restaurant, talked about their motto, “Have You Had Your Veggies Today?” their famous homemade yeast roll logo and showed examples of their novel billboards. Linda then presented the hostess gift raffle of “To Die For” Peanut Butter Pie to chapter president Joyce Thornton. Members in this chapter say anyone, anywhere can use this as a template, just make a few changes by choosing your own local restaurant.
“Trip To Yellowknife”

**Nova Scotia Xi Kappa, Greenwood** members have been presenting excellent programs for years. They are known for their well-prepared briefings on interesting subjects. No one misses a program if they can help it, they are just too fascinating! Shown *(at left)* is Xi Kappa member Liz Tappen with visual aids and information on an exciting trip to Yellowknife. The poster shows a Cree Indian Prophecy with a profound environmental message:

*Only after the last tree had been cut down,*
*Only after the last river had been poisoned*
*Only after the last fish had been caught*
*Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten.*

“Contribution of Women to the Armed Forces”

Fellow **Nova Scotia Xi Kappa, Greenwood** member Nina Dandurand’s program was on the “Contribution of Women to the Armed Forces.” “I had two aunts who served during WWII. They were poster women for the war effort. One of my aunts was a model for the monument to women in the service,” says Nina. They were not allowed to say publicly that they are the ones in the monument, however, my aunt says “hello” to herself as she passes the monument and has a great laugh about it. The monument can be seen in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

“The Lives of the President’s Wives”

At the Beginning Day meeting of **Ohio Beta Upsilon Master, Toledo** in September of 2001, program chairman, Nancy Below, chose “The Lives of the President’s Wives” as their program theme. Nancy wore a period costume at the first program. The first year of this experience was so rewarding that for the next eight years their programs focused on the lives of all of the President’s wives. Each member took an active part in presenting programs. As an added bonus *(on left)* there was recently an exhibit of original and reproduction gowns worn by many of the President’s wives at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio.
“Protecting Yourself Against...Predators, Assault, Robbery, and Rape”

When several tragic incidents occurred in Xi Chi Theta’s hometown, of Yoakum, Texas, it was soon made known that all the crimes were against women. Being just weeks apart, the tragedies prompted Xi Chi Theta member Mela Walker to approach the local police department and engage a speaker for a program on “Protecting Yourself Against...Predators, Assault, Robbery, and Rape.”

The program was so informative that the chapter felt the need to share with the other women in the community, as no program like this had ever been held in the community. The town’s governing bodies agreed and joined forces with Xi Chi Theta to secure additional certified professionals.

Among other noted professionals, a specialist who deals with rape victims and with rape prevention was added to the night’s speakers. The program was a huge success with area women leaving more well-informed and with security tips to fend off future attacks.

“We wanted you to know that a small town sorority chapter like Xi Chi Theta can make a difference in the lives of women who are not members of our sorority. The gratefulness for our help has been communicated again and again by those who have never had an opportunity to live in large cities or had the opportunity afforded to them to learn how to protect themselves or the organizational means to coordinate and have professionals provide valuable information about protecting oneself,” says Mela and member Ann Seidenberger. “Taking the time to organize and engage those who do have the knowledge is a very worthwhile cause. The event was hailed as extremely beneficial to the women in the Yoakum community.”

Attendees of all ages were taught necessary skills at the much-needed and highly-attended program conceived and presented by Texas Xi Chi Theta, Yoakum.

Ohio Beta Upsilon Master, Toledo Nancy Below (right), who started the wonderful series of programs on the president’s wives. Nancy passed away suddenly in June of 2007, but the chapter continued her interesting historical program theme until its completion this past summer.
“Good Kitchen Witches and the Magic of Friendship”

“Bubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble, Fire Burn and Cauldron Bubble.” When you hear these words, you may envision a coven of pointy-hatted witches hovering over a steaming cauldron and stirring some loathsome concoction. But not the sisters of California Gamma Phi Master, San Fernando Valley. When they hover over a pot or bowl, their concoctions are imaginative and delicious. “And, we can assure you...pointy hats are not part of chapter attire,” write the Gamma Phi Master members.

The chapter’s program theme this year centers around “Good Kitchen Witches and the Magic of Friendship,” including the sharing that surrounds their culinary efforts. Their chapter programs involved herbs, with each member assigned an herb to study. During their program, each sister shared their new-found knowledge, and sometimes a tasty dish (the fennel cookies were divine) centered around that particular herb. This year’s programs have truly been ones they can sink their teeth into.

The chapter has another message they would like to send. “With regard to those wild rumors about chapter president, Leona Jones, cooking up black magic in her kitchen, disregard them. We are certain that it is the magical combination of a loving heart, a giving spirit, and a beautiful face that has resulted in Leona being given so many chapter awards this year!”

Fun Program On The Shelf

British Columbia Beta Theta Master, Sidney sent us a sketch of a recent fun program they put on to entertain three new members and a transferee. This program demonstrates that sorority is almost everywhere and wherever a member transfers she can surely find a fun chapter to join.

“Our chapter played this sorority game to help our new members learn about the history of some members in our chapter and let all of us get to know each other better,” says Beta Theta Master member Judi Warrington. Judi, with the help of chapter sister Margaret Wallace, outlines the program: Each member chooses a small gift from the table. We sit at a meal table and the gifts are strewn along the length of the table. Do not open the gift. One member begins, “When you hear LEFT pass your parcel to the left, we will remind you. When you hear RIGHT pass your parcel to the right, we will remind you. At the end when you hear the word END you may open your gift.

When you open your gift there are three choices

1. Keep what you have and it can be regifted to someone you know.
2. Trade with someone else or item in the basket of gifts.
3. Return to basket and it will be given to charity.

Then on the game goes until all the members know new facts about each other and all the gifts are dispersed. This usually works good around the holiday season. For the complete program, please call the Torch department at 816-444-6800 or email us at torch@betasigmaphi.org.

March 2010 The Torch 21
When Ohio Alpha Tau Master, Toledo member Pat Whaley and Karen Bitter, of Ohio Preceptor Beta Phi, Toledo, went to tour and to buy raffle tickets for their area’s St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital Dream Home Giveaway, they ended up having a nice visit with the tour guides about the campaign. Each year, the hospital and generous local partners help with the construction and promotion of the St. Jude Dream Home program. There is a Dream Home Giveaway every year and the lucky winner receives a home in the $300,000 - $700,000 range.

The guide explained that her organization could no longer provide tours of the houses because of time constraints. Karen and Pat got all the needed information and presented the project to the Toledo, Ohio City Council. “They thought it was a great project so they went back to their chapters, explained everything and we all voted to take on the project,” explains Kathy Binder of Ohio Alpha Tau Master, Toledo.

It was decided that Pat and Karen would be the co-chairs of the “St. Jude Dream House Campaign.” They got in touch with St. Jude’s Hospital, who were thrilled about the enthusiastic volunteers and the time commitment they accepted. A St. Jude’s representative said the hospital would be honored if the Toledo City Council would chair the event.

The new event chairmen began their mission visiting with representatives of St. Jude’s, which is located in Memphis, Tennessee. They also met with the home’s builder. An opportunity was also presented to meet with Danny Thomas’ cousin, who explained that Danny, founder of the hospital, was a Toledo native who still has a large family presence in the area. Danny got his start as a nightclub comedian and actor but was most well known for his television shows “Make Room For Daddy” and “The Danny Thomas Show.” There are many monuments to this larger-than-life entertainer in Ohio, including a beautiful park named for Mr. Thomas that graces the streets of the city.

When Mr. Thomas was a struggling performer, he asked St. Jude to “help me find my way in life, and I will build you a shrine.” In the next few years, his career flourished, and as he became an internationally known entertainer, he remembered his pledge to build a shrine to St. Jude. In the early 1950s, Danny Thomas began discussing with friends the form his promise would take, and gradually, the idea of a children’s hospital in Memphis, Tennessee began to take shape. Eventually, Mr. Thomas, and those who had helped him to support his dream, created a unique research hospital devoted to curing catastrophic diseases in children.

Beta Sigma Phi has long held the hospital in great esteem and St. Jude’s is an ongoing recipient of our Beta Sigma Phi International Endowment Fund, heartily recognized within sorority as a worthwhile cause. With their admiration for the
Volunteers

research hospital, coupled with a willingness to do the best that was in them, the six-month commitment was never a deterrent to the formidable group. Like other Beta Sigma Phi members, these members thrive on hard work and accomplishing goals. “St. Jude furnished the office and all the equipment, we supplied the manpower,” says Kathy. “Karen supervised the office and Pat did all the banking and scheduling of the Beta Sigma Phi sisters who appeared on TV and radio stations to raise money for the campaign. She also was busy with tour guides and their responsibilities, which included selling raffle tickets at the Dream Home.”

“The first home was in Perrysburg, Ohio,” says Kathy. A local fabric store and another business provided representatives that brought the cash, checks and credit card charges to the office.

All the hard work paid off. “We sold $607,300 on the first home and had put in 2,500 manhours,” says Kathy. The second home, also located in Perrysburg, was also a hugely successful venture. “It sold for $551,000 and we also had 2,500 manhours on this one.” says Kathy.

A tribute to Beta Sigma Phi, located in the marble foyer of St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

Congratulations, Toledo, Ohio City Council, on a job well done!
Arizona Xi Delta Omicron, Show Low has a history of successful fundraisers, so it was no surprise when the chapter held a yard sale which turned out to be a bonanza. With the proceeds from the sale, the chapter was able to donate substantial funds to a local charity, the Clothe-A-Child program. The first year the chapter was involved with the program, the organization was able to clothe almost 200 kids, with outfits totaling $100.00 each. Xi Delta Omicron has donated to this charity for the past four years.

Jamesville, North Carolina was the scene of the television show, “Extreme Make-Over.” North Carolina Kappa Lambda, Edenton helped financially and volunteered to feed the workers. Shown here are (from left) Linda Tiller with her daughter and granddaughter, both Legacies.

Alabama Omicron Master, Montgomery members delivered tons of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham. The monies from the tabs help those who are staying at the house while their loved ones are in the hospital.
Super Bowl Sunday is an annual social for Oregon Laureate Epsilon, Portland. They have a fun betting pool and the winner is the hostess for the next year. “Some people come and haven’t decided who they are going to cheer for until the game starts and it gets pretty noisy,” says Laureate Epsilon member Charlene Imholt. “Then after the game there is a big dinner and we start making plans for next year!”

Texas Laureate Alpha Alpha, Bryan has three members who serve as docents at the George Bush Library and Museum in College Station. Mary Smith, Sandra Wood, and Mary Dudek, who have a combined membership in Beta Sigma Phi of nearly 100 years, invite you to look them up on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday. “Our chapter members are fortunate to attend great programs at the facility provided by the Bush Foundation,” writes Sandra.

Boise Valley, Idaho City Council volunteered their services for the Special Olympics World Winter Games, with more than 2,000 athletes from 100 countries participating. The games, which were held in Boise, sponsored seven Olympic-type sporting events. Many members knitted blue and white scarves that were given to the participants and visitors. “Dignity, acceptance and the chance to reach one’s potential – these are human rights worth promoting for everyone,” write the members. “The goal of our City Council and our chapters is to promote cultural and social activities while making an impact in our community through service.”

British Columbia Laureate Gamma Chi, Penticton held a recent summer social at a member’s home. It was to celebrate summer, warmer weather and being together after the return of many “Snowbird” members. The dinner barbecue menu was fresh salmon on a cedar plank with many salads and deserts. Much socializing and eating was followed by a lawn ball game. For those of us who have been experiencing this long winter, it is good to know that yes, it will be warm again!
Welcome to LaLa Land!

Georgia Lambda Alpha, Newnan members are better known as the LaLas, full of pep and vigor, and they take this joie de vivre with them wherever they go. Lambda Alpha member Faye Holzaepfel found her inner LaLa after she had retired for the second time and found herself sorely lacking in fulfillment. “Then I met a wonderful lady named Gloria Ionta who literally changed my life forever,” says Faye. “She has been a Beta Sigma Phi sister for more than 20 years who introduced me to her sorority.”

Faye says one of the wisest choices she has ever made was to join with Gloria to start the new chapter, Georgia Lambda Alpha, Newnan. “It seems like yesterday we were celebrating our 1st birthday as a chapter on January 22, 2009, we are now 2 years old as of January 2010!” says Faye.

The chapter began with 10 members and have grown to 17 strong. They became a four-star chapter after they met all the criteria of the Yardstick, as well as completing a successful Friendly Venture and assisting in forming a younger sister chapter, Lambda Beta.

The fledging chapter has managed to make the past two years exciting and jam-packed with all sorts of cool activities. They hosted the City Council’s summer picnic as well as the Fall Festival, both were huge successes.

They eagerly became involved with area service projects such as the charity “The Welcome House,” which is home for abused women, the inspiring “Make a Wish Foundation”, and the Community Job Fair. They also hosted a garage sale with the donations going to Goodwill and donated hundreds of books to the Alabama Mobile Library for inner city kids.

“We have mixed socials every month, we have enjoyed each other’s company at clambakes, a Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville party, a St. Patrick’s beer tasting party, a Halloween costume party, a Super Bowl party and all holiday parties,” exclaims Faye. “We also went to the Savannah Convention and lived the motto “It’s Five O’clock Somewhere,” complete with parrothead hats and Hawaiian shirts.

The chapter began with a service project of sending monthly packages of needed items to our troops in Iraq. They also helped stock a local food bank with canned food donations. “We were especially pleased to be able to
write a generous check to the abused children foundation for shaken baby syndrome, along with writing checks to the American Heart Association, and a check to the Red Cross for the Haiti Relief Fund,” Faye reports, adding, “just last week we collected 20 brand new bath towels to be given to The Welcome House.”

The chapter was given a booth at their Town Square’s Market days, where they sold items monthly from April to December to raise money for their service projects. Faye does photography and member Lynne Akins bakes killer pound cakes to fund their “Cool Ties.” These are neck bands the chapter makes for the troops in Iraq to keep them cool in the desert. “People were buying them for the troops as well as for themselves to use here in Hotlanta!”

“We wanted to live our theme this year ‘Share Our Passport to Adventure’ so we organized a trip to a quaint village where we celebrated Oktoberfest, which turned out to be a fun getaway and pajama party weekend! Games were played, and there was plenty of dancing and bonding!”

When asked what was on the upcoming agenda for the LaLas, they write that they are participating in a breast cancer walk, and continuing to send boxes to the troops. “You will also see us every month at the Newnan Market Days, and to end our Passport to Adventure, we will be heading for the beach for another girls getaway,” they add.

“We will continue to make the world a better place for those less fortunate than us and to enhance our lives and share our friendships with each other and new gals that we meet, so we can welcome them to LaLa Land! So stay tuned!”

Can you say road trip!

Georgia Lambda Alpha, Newnan members learn to defend themselves!
**Free Information Flyers**
- Contest Rules
- Programs à la Carte
- Theme Art
- Bed & Breakfast Info.
- Scholarship Rules (deadline: January 31, 2011)
- Gift Selections

Check under the downloads section of www.BetaSigmaPhi.org for scholarship applications and more forms.

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  - children are also eligible.
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  - I’m ready to get started; send me the kit.

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  There is an easy way to print the following forms from the Internet. Just visit www.betajournal.com. Scroll down to the area called FILE CABINET and register. You can also email us at Rushing-FriendlyVenture@betasigmaphi.org to request any rushing material.

- **Legacy Membership**
- **Envoy Membership**

- **Rushing Supplies**
  - Application for membership (quantity________)
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  - Pledge Training Kit - (you can get a complete pledge training kit from Strawberry Patch by visiting www.betajournal.com.)
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28 March 2010 The Torch
California Xi Chi Nu, Escondido Welcomes a Transfer

California Xi Chi Nu, Escondido member Kathryn (Kat) Coverston, came to San Marcos, California for a brief stay to take care of her ailing mother. Sadly, her mother passed on shortly after Kathryn’s arrival, leaving an immense void and a big question. Should she move back to Northern California and look for work there or stay in her new home and look for work in San Marcos?

She decided to stay in San Marcos and also to transfer her Beta Sigma Phi membership to an area chapter. She attended the Beginning Day luncheon held by Hidden Valley Vista Area Council in Escondido and was immediately invited to visit various chapters. She joined Xi Chi Nu, and also enrolled at a local community college to take a course in the medical assistant field.

Recently, Kat read about a national contest in which AARP was inviting job seekers 50+ to share their vision of the perfect dream job. Contestants were asked to submit a brief essay about their dream job and Kat decided to accept the offer. Judges read over 7,200 essays and selected six winners. Kat was the sixth winner. The winners represented rural and urban communities. Their life experiences, while diverse, are illustrative of the common journeys and challenges that resonate with all job seekers over 50.

Kat’s new chapter is over the moon about their latest member. “Our Xi Chi Nu chapter is extremely proud of Kathryn. She is so enthusiastic and friendly,” writes the chapter.

Because We Love This Photo

Washington Epsilon Nu, Moses Lake members were happy to give back to a local school who is helping raise funds for Haitian earthquake victims. “We were able to donate enough money to provide three families in need with individual family water filters that will allow them to have clean water in their homes for the next 20-25 years,” says Epsilon Nu member Allison White.

(l-r) Washington Epsilon Nu, Moses Lake members Nikki Dart and Allison White. The handsome young man in the middle is Hunter White, first grade student and son of Allison.
Mini Gift Boxes. Suitable for holding pins, jewelry, and more, these 1 3/4” x 1 3/4” yellow boxes features black Greek letters in repeating pattern.

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Recognition Certificates. A long-stemmed rose and black lettering are featured on these 8 1/2” x 11” heavy-weight tan paper certificates. Chapter prints in the honor. Packages of 5.
No.937 [3oz].......$2.50
No.939 [2oz].......$2.25

Achievement Awards. Whatever the honor is, this 5” x 7” award certificate will work! Lettering in brown on heavy-weight cream paper and suitable for framing. Chapter prints in the message. Packages of 10.
No.939 [2oz].......$2.25

Recognition Pin. Ideal as a banquet favor or pledge gifts are these tiny gold finish pins (letters are 1/2” wide & crest is 3/8” high).
No.152 [.1oz]........$5.00
Letters
No.154 [.1oz]........$4.00
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Petite Friendship Brooch. A hidden ring allows you to wear it as a necklace, too! Brooch is 7/8” high and available in gold or silver finish.
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- Charge to My Credit Card:
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<th>Card Number</th>
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Words can be across, horizontal, backwards or diagonal


Word Scramble by: South Carolina Eta, Florence member Karen Pesta
(Answers in April 2010 Torch)