

Celebrating a Century of ΑΔΠ Sisterhood – A Recap of the Reunion



On the weekend of June 20 – 22, 2014, Baton Rouge was taken by storm as nearly 200 Alpha Delta Pi's from Omega Chapter roared into town to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the chapter's founding at LSU. In short, the centennial celebration was *phenomenal*. The turnout of Omega sisters was overwhelming! The Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel was taken over by ΑΔΠ's and the lobby echoed of Omegas shouting with glee each time a sister arrived. This scene reminded us of Bid Day, as we waited for new sisters to get off the bus at our chapter house, such a joyous moment!

The Friday welcome reception was packed with more than 210 Omegas and guests. The two hours passed much too quickly! The rest of Friday evening was left open so that sisters could spend time visiting on a smaller scale. You could walk down the hall on any floor of the hotel and there were ΑΔΠ footprints everywhere. You could hear a roomful of Omegas singing ΑΔΠ songs, groups of sisters reminiscing about their collegiate days went well into the night, even an ΑΔΠ paddle hung on the door of a hotel room.

On Saturday, the Centennial Celebration Luncheon began with a social time where the 188 attendees continued to visit with sisters, and peruse the extensive displays of Omega memorabilia. The formal luncheon program began with the singing of *Pass It On*. Denise White McLaurine welcomed all the Omegas and distinguished guests and stated that the goal of the reunion weekend was to re-ignite our love of ΑΔΠ and our Omega sisters. The luncheon program provided a full day of events including:

- ◆ Singing many of our favorite ΑΔΠ songs led by Dinah Curole Bradford, Becky Eymard, and Jonni deLassus Lopez.
- ◆ 60-year, 50-year and 25-year membership ceremonies for 180 Omega sisters were conducted by Tammie Pinkston and Malette Dowling Reed. We were very honored with the presence of five Omega alumnae who have been ΑΔΠ members for 60 plus years.
- ◆ A memorial ceremony for our Omega sisters who are no longer with us was led by Jamie Onstot Tharpe, Malette Dowling Reed and Denise White McLaurine.
- ◆ A video slideshow depicting Omegas and Omega events over the years, as well as a moving video tribute of Omega history was produced by Evelyn Garvey and Susan Dyer Crawford.
- ◆ A fascinating recount of Omega history dating back to the inception of the chapter was given by Carolyn Booker.
- ◆ A video message from Angela Guillory, Associate Dean of Students and Director of LSU Greek Life, updated us on the LSU Panhellenic groups and the service projects fostered by the LSU Greeks.
- ◆ A trivia game and recognition of the eldest Omega in attendance, the youngest Omega in attendance, the Omega who had traveled the farthest, the sister who had traveled the shortest distance, etc. Awards and prizes were announced by Sue Wade Rotolo.
- ◆ Denise White McLaurine recognized the 13 former chapter presidents and seven Dorothy Shaw Leadership Award recipients who were in attendance at the Centennial Celebration.
- ◆ Keynote speaker, Tammie Pinkston, International President of Alpha Delta Pi, provided a historical overview of world events and Omega Chapter events since the installation of our chapter. Ms. Pinkston explained the recolonization process to Omega alumnae. In closing, Ms. Pinkston encouraged Omega alumnae to look to the future and to be prepared for when the opportunity to recolonize comes about for Omega Chapter.
- ◆ Stacy Bruton, International VP of Collegiate Chapters of ΑΔΠ, updated Omega alumnae on the collegiate ΑΔΠ chapters nationwide and the Louisiana chapters, specifically. Mrs. Bruton provided information on the recolonization of Epsilon Chapter at Tulane in 2013, the great things the Delta Eta Chapter at McNeese are doing, and the upcoming colonization at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Mrs. Bruton encouraged everyone to become involved with one of these chapters whether it is through their time, talent or support.
- ◆ Jennifer Webb, Executive Director of the Alpha Delta Pi Foundation, discussed ways Omega alumnae can provide make a lasting contribution to Alpha Delta Pi. Mrs. Webb also announced that the Alpha Delta Pi Foundation will make a contribution to LSU in honor of the Centennial Celebration of Omega Chapter.
- ◆ During the Centennial Celebration, the Omega alumnae conducted two fundraisers by raffling an ΑΔΠ badge and selling Diamonds for Omegas. Alumnae purchased more than 250 diamonds to honor or memorialize their Omega sisters. These two fundraisers raised \$1,740 to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater New Orleans.

Following the luncheon, we conducted Jewel Degree ceremonies for 60 Omegas initiated between 1946 and 1984. Then everyone headed over to the former chapter house for a chance to recall cherished times spent in the ΑΔΠ House. A group photo was taken in front of the house, just like old times! On Saturday evening, groups of ADPI's fanned out across Baton Rouge for dinner and more chances to catch up with sisters.

The Centennial Celebration came to a close on Sunday morning as we gathered for coffee and pastries at the Fare Thee Well Send Off. It was a bittersweet time as everyone said their goodbyes and promised that the Omegas will do this again very soon.

The reunion was a resounding success, and even though it has come and gone, we plan to keep the lines of communication open to keep everyone apprised of updates on Omega chapter and its sisters!

The Omega spirit was definitely re-kindled! There is much excitement for ΑΔΠ as sisters are reaching out to join their local alumnae associations, vowing to assist with recruitment at McNeese, Tulane and the colonization efforts this fall at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette. **But above all else, the Omegas in attendance came away with a resolve to do whatever it takes to see that Omega chapter is re-colonized at LSU.**





Omega Chapter Planning Committee and Alpha Delta Pi International Officers

L-R: Janice Mire Carter '80; Karen Gaupp-Wozniak '77; Kathy Nolen Wiesner - District Team Director - District 5; Sue Wade Rotolo '76; Jennifer Polley Webb - Executive Director, Alpha Delta Pi Foundation; Malette Dowling Reed '80; Stacy DeMartini Bruton - International Vice President of Collegiate Chapters; Robin Griffin Hill '80; Tammie Pinkston - International President; Melinda Hammons Robert '79; Denise White McLaurine '80; Dinah Curole Bradford '68; Carolyn Booker '80; Barbara Coldwell Daigle '79; and Ellen Ferris '79.

Many of the reunion photos are courtesy of Kim Blanchard Comeaux '83. You can view all of Kim's photos, along with some from Kathy Farrell Hogan '82 on Kim's website: <http://kimcomeauxphotos.com/ADPi>. The photos are sized for 4 x 6 prints.

Evelyn Garvey '75 and Susan Dyer Crawford '76 produced two amazing videos of Omega chapter memories. The videos have been uploaded to YouTube for your viewing pleasure.

Susan's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN0gagA7498>

Evelyn's video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qh00_vF-OKo&feature=youtu.be

Thank you Kim, Kathy, Evelyn and Susan for all your efforts in making the reunion memorable!



Following the luncheon, everyone headed over to the former chapter house. Many thanks to Natalie Natal Tatje, '83, for sponsoring the open house and refreshments. Many stories of fun times spent in the sorority house were re-told. Several of the sisters posed for another memorable group shot in front of the house. The Omegas are still a great looking group of awesome women!



60-Year Members Recognized

The following Omegas were recognized during the 60-year membership ceremony for their decades long membership in Alpha Delta Pi. Picture left to right:

- ◆ Cynthia Gallent Morris '51 [63 years]
- ◆ Janet Quinn Rhorer '42 [72 years]
- ◆ Shirley Thomas Jewell '51 [63 years]
- ◆ Argiro Louchis Morgan '52 [62 years]
- ◆ Pat Folse Druhan '46 [68 years]

What an honor it was to meet these amazing women.

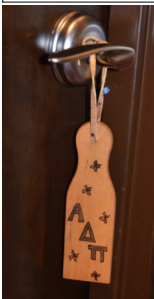
Accomplished Omega Alumnae

The sisters of Omega chapter include several notable women, among them are the following accomplished alumnae:

- ◆ Clift Martin '14 - First Female Graduate of LSU Law School
- ◆ Mary Coleman Herget, Honorary '16 - Dean of Women at LSU
- ◆ Doris Broussard Bentley, PhD, '36 - Department Chair at UL - Lafayette
- ◆ Jewel De Grummond Delaune '42 - Author and College Professor
- ◆ Argiro Louchis Morgan, PhD '52 - Educator, Librarian and 2014 Recipient of the American Library Association Trustee Citation
- ◆ Sheila Lytle Moore, MD, '57 - Medical Director Emeritus of St. Jude Baton Rouge Affiliate Clinic
- ◆ Addie Tureau Ruey '67 - International Banking Executive and Consultant
- ◆ Dinah Curole Bradford '68 - Papal Medal *Benemerenti* Recipient
- ◆ Susan Ellaby Fowler '71 - Educator and 2011 Recipient of *The Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award
- ◆ Brenda S. Kinard, MD '74 - Physician and one of the first female urologists in US
- ◆ Karlynn Peltz O'Shaughnessy '76 - Brigadier General U.S. Army, Retired

Biographies of our accomplished Omega alumnae can be found on the Omega reunion website:

www.omegacentennial.weebly.com



LOUISIANA ΑΔΠΙ CHAPTER RECRUITMENT

As many of you may have already heard, ADPi will be colonizing a chapter at UL-Lafayette this fall! The dates for recruitment for the UL-L colony will be September 8th through 12th, with Bid day on the 12th.

Alumnae volunteers are needed to help with the recruitment process. Specifically volunteers are needed on these dates:

- ◆ The informational session on **Monday evening 9/8.**
- ◆ Philanthropy Night on **Wednesday 9/10.**
- ◆ The Alpha ceremony and bid day activities on **Friday 9/12.**
- ◆ Installation Weekend will be **November 8-9**, and the colony will need lots of help running the initiation ceremonies.

All questions and interested contacts should go thru Marsha Williams Mouser, the Province Director. Marsha's email address is marshaw09@hotmail.com; mailing address is 716 Kirby Lane, Lake Charles LA 70601 and cellphone is (337)348-9978.

Also, Delta Eta Chapter at McNeese rush dates are August 27 through August 31. Epsilon Chapter at Tulane rush dates are January 9 to January 18, 2015.

GET INVOLVED WITH AN ΑΔΠΙ ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Are you missing the close friendships and special memories you made while an Alpha Delta Pi collegian? Would you like to reconnect with sisters to share past memories and make new friendships? The Alpha Delta Pi website provides resources on locating an alumnae association in your area. Here is a link to the alumnae association locator on the ADPi website:

www.alphadeltapi.org/learnaboutadpi/associationstates.asp

Here is information on alumnae associations in Louisiana:

[New Orleans Alumnae Association](#)

2125 Killington Drive · Harvey, LA 70058

nolaadpialum@gmail.com

[Baton Rouge Alumnae Association](#)

546-A S. Flannery Rd · Baton Rouge, LA 70815

[Lake Charles Alumnae Association](#)

P.O. Box 1411 · Lake Charles, LA 70602

Are you in an area with no alumnae association nearby? Starting an association is easier than you think! And there are sisters available to offer their help. It only takes five members to start an association. New and reorganizing associations receive assistance from their district alumnae team and from Executive Office.

More information is available on starting an association in the *Pride Online* at www.alphadeltapi.org.

Be sure to check out the Omega Reunion website, which is packed with many more details than we could fit into this newsletter. We will keep the website up indefinitely so that we may continue to update the Omega sisters on developments and news related to Omega chapter and its sisters. Presently you can find:

- ◆ An enjoyable recount of Omega's history dating from 1914 through the mid 1960's as compiled by Carolyn Booker
- ◆ A listing of the 258 Diamonds for Omegas donated in honor/memory of our Alpha Delta Pi Sisters.
- ◆ Several photos from the reunion events, with more to be added in the future!

50 Year Members Join the Diamond Circle of Alpha Delta Pi

During the luncheon, fourteen Omega sisters were recognized for 50 plus years of membership in Alpha Delta Pi:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Patricia Parr Sedlin 1956 | Mary Linda Francis 1959 | Kay Sneve Sonnier 1962 |
| Sophie Cassidy Gibson 1957 | Carole Lemoine Tilley 1959 | Marcia Crews Tait 1962 |
| Barbara Russell Smith 1957 | Yvette Bergeron Winston 1960 | Joan Bellamy Blecha 1964 |
| Janelle Ducote Couvillon 1958 | Anne Dunn 1961 | Shirley Pearce Smith 1964 |
| Eva Mae Stokes Spence 1958 | Marian Crews Schreiber 1962 | |

