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“By developing a sense of leadership and commitment to change, the Greek systems across the nation hold the key to the future. Order of Omega gives undergraduates a chance to develop personally, professionally, and as leaders on campus.”

Arizona State student named to Order of Omega board

Jenny Holsman has been named the student member of the National Order of Omega Board of Directors. Jenny, whose term began in July 1999, replaces Andrea Stenger, a recent graduate of Dartmouth College.

An Arizona State University senior, she was instrumental in re-establishing the Arizona State chapter.

A member of Alpha Phi, she has served as its director of scholarship, Greek Caucus representative, and Standards Board representative. She has also served as Panhellenic president and vice president of administration.

Currently, Jenny is president of the Associated Students of Arizona State University (student government). She is a founder of the Women's Coalition, a delegate on the Commission on the Status of Women, a delegate of the ASU Student Affairs Committee, Women in Leadership president, and ASU cheerleader. Andrea is majoring in Political Science with minors in Women's Studies and English.

Jenny thinks that the major issues facing the Greek systems across the country include the disbanding of national organizations due to poor choices made by undergraduate students.

“Whether the issue relates to drugs and alcohol, hazing, out of control parties or little emphasis placed upon academics and leadership values, the



problems are quite apparent. Order of Omega has three aspects that make up its purpose statement that could potentially solve these issues.”

“By developing a sense of leadership and commitment to change, the Greek systems across the nation hold the key to the future. Order of Omega gives undergraduate students a chance to develop personally, professionally, and as leaders on campus.

The organization steers students in a positive direction that could potentially take the social aspects of the Greek community and place a lower emphasis on them.”

“The issues of today's society are very different from the issues faced in past. Thus, active participation in leadership and academic programs are greatly needed to develop a positive support system for students to use as a stepping stone to the real world. My greatest fear is that a lack of interest in developmental programs could mean losing national organizations that hold high ideals for its members.”

“The experience that I have had as a Greek student is one that I will take with me for the rest of my life. I would not be the person that I am today without my Greek experience. I want to ensure that these organizations continue to exist for undergraduate students forever.”

Chapter Trends

-all the best ideas and news from Order of Omega chapters around the country

North Dakota State University

The Epsilon Phi Chapter began a busy year with our annual Chili Feed in the fall for all Greeks. We had a “Best Tasting Chili” contest and a guest speaker on the benefits of being in a Greek organization.

Later in the semester, we sold bags of popcorn in our student union to raise money for the United Way. This was a great chapter project. This year, PHC

and IFC asked our members to present a workshop on scholarship at the New Members’ Retreat, which is held each fall for all new pledges.

Finally, towards the end of the semester, we initiated 15 members, helping to make Epsilon Phi even stronger.

-Submitted by Johanna Stoakes

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Our chapter created “The Giving Tree” program in the spirit of the holidays. Individuals and organizations bought and decorated ornaments, bows, and stars to adorn a tree in the University Center. The proceeds bought gifts for a first grade class in Milwaukee’s inner city.

Last year, the program continued under a local sorority, Alpha Sigma, which raised about \$900 to buy most of the items the kids asked for in their letters to Santa. The first graders were truly touched by the giving spirit. Their letters asked for one toy, but all of them also made requests for beloved siblings, relatives, and parents. More than one

asked for a home and food for their families.

Alpha Sigma and the Whitewater community responded to this project to help these children and their families.

Each child received toys, clothes, and a fresh ham, at-cost from Pick-n-Save Grocery Store, for their family. Coats, hats, and gloves, donated by our ROTC, were also available for the students and some of their parents and siblings.

“The Giving Tree” gave many families a brighter holiday. Our chapter is grateful to Alpha Sigma and the Whitewater community for helping to continue the program.

-Submitted by Jacqueline Dethloff

Mary Balfour Van Zandt and Angel Nosser of Mississippi State University.

Mississippi State University

On April 7, Mary Balfour Van Zandt, a Zeta Tau Alpha, was honored with the first Angel Nosser Greek Spirit Award. She was chosen from 2,000 Greeks to become the first recipient of this honor. Our chapter extends our congratulations to her. This award is given to the MSU Greek student, who exemplifies outstanding Greek spirit and truly represents what Greek Life is about.

Angel Nosser, the Assistant Director of Student Life, served MSU for four years. She was advisor for PHC, Cheerleading Camp, and most importantly, Dance Marathon. Through

Angel’s influence, Mary Balfour has achieved many goals. Besides becoming a strong Greek Community leader, Mary was involved in this year’s Dance Marathon which raised \$30,000—double the amount of last year.

Therefore, it was very fitting for her to receive this award, which was created because Angel is leaving for a Greek Life job at Florida State University. The chapter wanted to honor their advisor of three years, who was beneficial in re-chartering the dormant chapter in 1995.

Denison University

The first Greek Excellence Awards were held on April 20 during Greek Week. We developed awards to recognize those who truly embody the ideals and excellence of Greek life. Awards include Greek Scholar of the

Year, Chapter President of the Year, Fraternal Leader Award, Chapter Excellence Award, Chapter Scholarship Award, Campus Spirit Award, among others.

-Submitted by Sarah Compher

Ashland University

The University of Denver

University of Akron

North Carolina State University

“The chapter is planning an all-campus service project, the ‘Never Give Up’ softball tournament, which will open Greek Week.”

Otterbein College

Our chapter co-sponsored a Halloween Party with Community Care. We asked the sorority suites to hand out our candy to the trick-or-treaters. For Homecoming, we set up a Greek memorabilia table for Ashland alumni.

Lastly, we put a lot of time into planning a spaghetti dinner for the Greek community to benefit a scholarship for an outstanding new member of our Greek system.

-Submitted by Jessica Stephenson

The Omega Lambda Chapter has undergone a complete revitalization in the last two years. At the beginning of the last academic year, membership was two. This year, we are pleased to report 22 members. Since then, the group has co-sponsored the Greek Man and Woman awards and developed the *Bridge Project* philanthropy, which distributes Easter/Passover baskets to Denver-area disadvantaged children. We will continue this philanthropy in April.

Since our rebirth, the chapter has become a visible presence on campus and member selection continues to be

extremely competitive. Not only is the chapter highly representative of campus leadership, academic achievement, and community involvement, but it also hosts activities like ice skating trips and banquets for its members.

We congratulate our Vice President, Matthew G. Randolph of Theta Chi, on receiving an Undergraduate National Scholarship and our advisor, Sadie M. Chase, for receiving the National Order of Omega William J. Brennan Graduate Assistant Fellowship Award.

-Submitted by Greg Luttrell

We co-sponsored AKRON IMPACT, an intensive leadership program offered by the National Interfraternity Council to develop Greek student leadership, with

PHC and IFC. The conference was held at Oglebay Park in Oglebay, West Virginia from January 8-10.

-Submitted by Alyssa Shreiner

The Lambda Upsilon Chapter has been very busy since the end of last semester. After initiating 18 members and successfully holding the Greek Awards ceremony during Greek Week, the chapter began preparing for an exciting fall semester. At the awards ceremony, our former advisor Brooklyn Gainey was named the recipient of the Vision Award.

This fall, 37 members were inducted, after a large decline in membership following May graduation. A new program honoring Greek leaders, the Greek Leader of the Month Program, was instituted this fall. Omega members, Martha Goldfinch of Sigma Kappa, Linda Lawson of Alpha Delta Pi, and

Leigh Ann Edwards of Zeta Tau Alpha, were recognized for their leadership in the Greek community. At Homecoming halftime, two chapter members were given the NCSU's highest honor, the Leader of the Pack title. This competitive scholarship is based on extensive criteria including a student body vote.

Next spring, the chapter will do an all-campus service project, the “Never Give Up” softball tournament, which will kick off Greek Week. All proceeds will be donated to the V Foundation, created in honor of the late NCSU basketball coach, Jim Valvano. The foundation benefits cancer research.

Our Chapter is reorganizing as it has not existed on campus in the last few years. Members are currently making Greeks and the campus community aware of Order of Omega. We are planning for a

speaker on hazing during pledging, an all-pledge walk-a-thon for the United Way, and a Greek Week event co-sponsored with PHC and IFC.

-Submitted by Audria Stout

Involving faculty in advising an Order of Omega chapter

*-by Joseph Kicklighter,
Delta Kappa Chapter-
Auburn University
Faculty Advisor*

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to an
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It seems like just last week that Ben Robuck, a Lambda Chi Alpha chapter leader at Auburn, invited me to a weekend lunch. Naively assuming we were there to discuss life and our respective academic and physical states, I was surprised to hear my host had become a member of a national honor society, the Order of Omega.

This society had recently established a chapter at Auburn, and my friend had subsequently been elected president of the fledgling group. Still suspecting nothing, I congratulated him and his fellow inductees for their singular honor and opportunity.

As it turned out, our lunch would extend long past dessert. I soon learned he was not telling me about this newly formed Delta Kappa chapter of the Order of Omega for my idle information, but rather to get me involved with the group as their faculty advisor. He worked with great determination to get me to accept (and I had pretty much agreed by the end of my second cup of coffee).

How glad I am that I received this special opportunity those fifteen years ago! Advising a Greek leadership honor society has been a wonderful opportunity for me in a number of special ways.

First, as someone who teaches the history courses required of all students in a large state university, I have had the opportunity to interact academically with many students who have gone on to become Greek leaders.

I strongly felt that this organization would provide me with the opportunity to interact with many of these outstanding students in an inter-fraternal setting. As it has turned out, often my students in these lower level courses turned up two years later as inductees, obviously having realized the goals that

they had set for themselves in their fraternities and sororities.

Second, as a fraternity adviser and who currently works with the Inter Fraternity Council judicial court, advising this group exposes me to many different Greek experiences and issues.

In 1984-1985, I advised the chapter leaders to make our meetings at least partially educational in nature. I have always found most attractive our group's opportunities to discuss a variety of Greek-oriented issues, to hear speakers representing various Greek interests, and to meet and work with students in whom so much trust, honor, and responsibility have been placed.

With a general meeting of members every other week and a meeting attended by our officers and committee heads on alternate weeks, the organization has never proven a burden or caused me excessive work. Rather, it has always been a pleasure to meet with the officers who are often associated with PHC and IFC. This keeps our organization well connected to those two very important ones.

We annually hold a joint Scholarship Awards banquet with IFC and PHC during Greek Week and work on other activities that provide the positive Greek experience all of us associated with fraternities and sororities.

Being an advisor of a chapter for some 15 years has proven to be a wonderfully enriching experience, and I recommend it enthusiastically to anyone who wants to work with student leaders of the highest caliber.

-Joseph Kicklighter is a professor of History at Auburn University, and the advisor to the Delta Kappa chapter of Order of Omega at Auburn since 1984.

