Dear Members,

Beginning Day is approaching once again. I am glad that we are able to print this Torch. We prefer to print but when we can’t, we will put it on line for download. Even when we print, we will still put it on the website for download. This will allow the foreign chapters to at least check it out sooner than the mail would allow.

That brings up another change to look forward to. We have finally brought the website in house. Our IT folks are doing a great job with the website, programming for our membership system and taking care of all our computer needs. The new bulletin board has been a hit, it is much easier to use. We hope to add all kinds of new services but the one we really are working on is the gift pages. We have switched our service for charge cards online to a better one but that also has taken some time. We are checking to be sure it works, too late to find out after we go live! Keep an eye on the site for new stuff as we get things going. We have a place to take your ideas as well. I already have lots to get them started.

We hope this is all a start for new fun things for the organization and a time of growth and new experiences for all of us. It’s a hard economic time for everyone, we thank those paid up members who were able to send a donation to help at this time and for those who could not, we understand and thank you for just being there.

If I ever doubted the strength of our organization, the breast cancer that struck a young member I brought into my chapter reminded me. The prayer list online, all my chapter sisters and Dana-Farber’s excellent doctors ready to give advice, proved it to me again. Thank you to those of you have offered prayers.

Also, please send us your email addresses, if you have not already. Thanks.

Laura

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Beta Sigma Phi is an international women’s friendship network. It also provides educational programs to its members and opportunities for service to others. We are women of all ages, interests, and educational and economic backgrounds, and are the largest organization of our kind in the world. For Beta Sigma Phi membership information call:
1-888-BETA-2B1(238-2221)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Laura’s Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Conventions/New Chapters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rushing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Beginning Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>T-Shirt Contest News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chatter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Best Program Contest Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Poetry Contest Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Photo Contest Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>What Beta Sigma Phi Means to Me</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Section**

2009-2010 Gift Selections

- ON THE COVER -
Turn to page 14 to find out about this awesome photo!
Welcome These New Chapters

Alberta Chi Master, Calgary
Arizona Alpha Pi Master, Phoenix
Arizona Laureate Beta Omega, Glendale
British Columbia Beta Kappa Master, Vernon
British Columbia Beta Lambda Master, Delta
British Columbia Beta Theta Master, Sidney
California Delta Xi Delta, Windsor
California Epsilon Delta Master, Visalia
Florida Gamma Alpha Master, Orlando
Florida Gamma Beta Master, Ocala
Florida Laureate Zeta Upsilon, Jacksonville
Georgia Laureate Alpha Kappa, Peachtree City
Iowa Alpha Rho Master, Corydon
Iowa Alpha Sigma Master, Creston
Kansas Laureate Gamma iota, Columbus
Manitoba Gamma Master, Brandon
Michigan Alpha Chi Master, Grand Rapids
Missouri Beta Sigma Master, Keytesville
Missouri Preceptor Theta Zeta, Salisbury
Nebraska Psi Master, Lincoln
New Brunswick Eta Master, Rothesay
New York Omicron Master, Rochester

New Chapters Cont...

Ontario Gamma Sigma Master, Mississauga
Ontario Gamma Tau Master, Peterborough
Ontario Laureate Epsilon Tau, Oshawa
Ontario Laureate Epsilon Xi, Cobourg
Texas Epsilon Epsilon Master, Plainview
Virginia Laureate Beta Pi, Pulaski
Washington Beta Iota Master, Spokane
Washington Preceptor Delta Zeta, Bellevue
Washington Theta Omicron, Port Orchard
Wisconsin Alpha Epsilon, Oshkosh

New Friendly Venture Chapters

Alabama Theta Beta, Florence
BY: Andria Miller
California Delta Sigma, Visalia
BY: Xi Zeta Epsilon
Colorado Kappa Omicron, Castle Rock
BY: Pat Nohavec-Fink
Florida Gamma Alpha, Tampa
BY: Darcy Carson and Darcel S.
Indiana Beta Rho, Hartford City
BY: Laureate Beta Upsilon
Missouri Alpha Eta Zeta, Nevada
BY: Preceptor Psi
Nevada Alpha Theta, Fallon
BY: Debra Smotherman
Nevada Beta Omicron, Las Vegas
BY: Xi Pi
North Carolina Kappa Rho, Fayetteville
BY: Gamma Psi
Oklahoma Omicron Nu, Oklahoma City
BY: Shauna Owens
Ontario Delta Theta, Toronto
BY: Toronto City Council
Texas Beta Delta Omega, Johnson City
(Chapter In A Box)
BY: Ruby Weeks
Texas Beta Lambda Phi, Houston
BY: Southwest Houston City Council
Virginia Kappa Tau, Manassas
(Chapter In A Box)
BY: Amanda Davis
There’s a new Friendly Venture Chapter in town to Share our Passport to Adventure.

Texas Beta Lambda Phi, Houston was recently organized by the Friendly Venture committee of the Southwest Houston, Texas City Council. Beta Lambda Phi member Jill Coble writes that the two members who helped to organize Beta Lambda Phi were Shirley Hyatt and Duang Putnam of Texas Preceptor Nu, Houston.

“Our goal was to hold monthly events to introduce members to Beta Sigma Phi. Our events included a Mexican Fiesta, a Wine and Cheese Soiree, a Friendship Salad Dinner, a “Bowlarama” Bowling Event, a Girl’s Night Out, a Valentine’s Party and a St. Patrick’s Day Party. At each of these events, we shared how we became Beta Sigma Phi members, what Beta Sigma Phi means to each of us and the important role it has played in each of our lives,” says Jill.

“Patricia Benavides, of Texas Xi Phi Gamma, Houston designed business cards and a Southwest Houston City Council brochure which we use not only at our rush events, but also have available as we pursue members at various venues. The Friendly Venture Committee is constantly on the “look-out” for potential Beta Sigma Phi members,” adds Jill.

The majority of Beta Lambda Phi members did not know each other prior to the chapter being formed. The new chapter members come from a variety of backgrounds, all having careers which include marketing, hotel management, sales, school administration and the medical field. And one member will be starting the career of “motherhood” as the first baby to the group arrives in November.

Beta Lambda Phi will “Share our Passport to Adventure” throughout the year as they incorporate the theme in their monthly meeting activities, socials and entertaining another Southwest Houston City Council Chapter. The entire chapter will be serving on a council event planned for October, and two of the members have joined the Friendly Venture committee.

The Friendly Venture Committee is already in pursuit of creating additional Friendly Venture chapters and have set a goal to add two or three new chapters to the Southwest Houston City Council this year. The next event planned is an “Ice Cream Soiree with a Little Bit of Bubbly,” the end of July. In addition, one idea the chapter is pursuing is to work with one of the local junior colleges and participate during registration by having Beta Sigma Phi information available.

“I think the number one thing to remember from any rush event is to never feel discouraged. As we formed this new chapter, there may have just been one or two people attend an event but those one or two people may have friends to include in future events,” says Jill. “I can truly say that the committee always walks away from any event feeling as if it were a success.”
Beginning Day holds the promise of a new sorority year, with all the fun that goes along with a new beginning. That is not to forget the many hours our sisters put in with their worthy service projects. They just manage to always have a good time doing it! Read about how our sisters got back in the groove after a long, hot summer. Looks like everyone is ready to Share Our Passport to Adventure!

Beginning Day holds a special meaning to all Beta Sigma Phi sisters, but sisters of California Gamma Delta Master, Merced got to add the word Weekend after Beginning! Three sisters who have beach homes in Monterey Bay invited their sisters, their spouses and guests to join them for a three-day, two-night stay to begin the new year. And just like that – everyone agreed! “We all appreciated the respite from the heat in the (San Joaquin) valley,” says member Doreen Crawford. “We enjoyed many hours together playing golf, shopping and relaxing!”

Paying homage to Olympic history, Tennessee Xi Delta Omicron, Smyrna celebrated Beginning Day by preparing dishes using recipes from several countries that were participating in the Olympics. “We enjoyed the experience of tasting new flavors and trying new recipes,” writes Xi Delta Omicron member Karen Vaughan. “Following lunch, the games began as we competed for the gold, silver and bronze medals.” The rigorous games included “Drop the Clothes Pin in a Jar”, “Bocce Ball” and “The String Relay.”

Beginning Day for Oregon Iota Master, Salem was a great time for the members to catch up on what the summer brought their way. The guest was Specialist Danielle Poindexter, for the Oregon National Guard. Danielle is the granddaughter of Iota Master member Loretta Craford. Danielle recounted to the group what her experiences were in Iraq. She told of the appreciation the soldiers had for all the care packages they receive, including from Iota Master, who had the company as a service project. Danielle noted the items at the top of any wish list were baby wipes, snack foods, laundry soap, and Crystal Light in the individual serving size. “She really let us know what it was like being a female soldier on the front lines,” says Loretta. The soldiers are so grateful for anything that is sent to them. We had time to ask questions, and we all learned what our soldiers are doing to help in Iraqi Freedom.”

Joan Brichford, Lori Sadler and Pat Shimko of Ohio Preceptor Zeta Pi, Madison had a surprise for their sisters on Beginning Day when they greeted them with “Dancing Queen”, the rousing tune from the 70s band, ABBA. With their matching outfits and purple boas, they were a sight to behold!

Elsewhere in the Buckeye State, members from Ohio Preceptor Eta Gamma,

Guest Danielle Poindexter for Oregon Iota Master, Salem’s Beginning Day
West Chester celebrated their Beginning Day by creating ice cream sundaes for all to enjoy. After the delicious treats, members drew numbers, which matched bags that contained special gifts donated by sisters. The social was held on a Sunday afternoon, lending itself to the catchy name “Sundaes on Sunday.”

Beginning Day in Red Deer, Alberta sees members of Preceptor Phi reunite after a long summer by joining together at a local lake and campground. The members enjoyed a cruise on the lake on a beautiful summer evening, in member Lexy Fisher’s luxury boat. Following the marvelous cruise, everyone gathered at a local cafe for a fish and chips dinner.

Members of Montana Preceptor Alpha Alpha, Billings got in the pirate spirit with their Beginning Day festivities. Their photo captions read, “Perky Preceptor Alpha Alpha pace plank; poised to partake in pink-power party!”

Ohio Preceptor Zeta Pi, Madison’s Beginning Day surprise

Ohio Preceptor Eta Gamma, West Chester’s Beginning Day

Montana Preceptor Alpha Alpha, Billings have pirate spirit

Alberta members of Preceptor Phi, Red Deer

T-Shirt Contest Winners

The T-Shirt contest was a big success! We had many entries, and we did not want to choose just a few winners. So we are starting with two, with more winners to come. Check out the new Gift Selections, page 6, to see the first two selections. We think they fit our sisters to a T!
For the 15th year, in honor of February being Child Passenger Safety Month, New Jersey Xi Beta Pi, No Cape May donated three infant car seats to a local medical center. These go to new mothers who cannot afford to purchase one. Way to go, sisters!

Missouri Preceptor Lambda Kappa, Wellington hosts an annual Friendship Banquet. “This year we decided to have a Pay it Back theme. We invited our family and friends, had a meal and invited a speaker,” says Preceptor Lambda Kappa member Cheryl Daro, “but instead of giving Secret Sister gifts we each made a donation to the charity of their choice. Also, instead of take home gifts we made a donation to the speaker’s charity, House of Hope. In addition, rather than games or door prizes, donations were

Members of the San Gabriel Valley, California Area Council recycle in a fun way! Council member Kathi Edstrom of California Preceptor Beta Kappa, Alhambra declared the theme for the year to be “Believe in the Magic of Oz”. Collections include toilet tissue rolls for the local zoo, plastic bags for a local food bank and school, and aluminum pop tops for Ronald McDonald House. California, San Gabriel Valley Council is Toto-ly Oz-some!

Birmingham, Alabama members from Xi Beta Pi have an ongoing service project collecting stuffed bears for “Bear Hugs for Haley,” named after a precious child who lost her life from cancer at age 10. On the date of her birthday her parents deliver the bears to area children’s hospitals for patients. The chapter has collected more than 500 bears for this project.
made to various charities in the name of the winners. It was a wonderful night. I hope more chapters have a “Pay It Back” banquet and this idea spreads!”

Beta Sigma Phi’s annual tulip sale was a great success this year for chapters in Hamilton, Montana. A program director of an after school program accepted the donation of more than $2,000 from Shirley Abel of Montana Laureate Nu, Hamilton. The donation will be used for scholarships so that every student who wishes to is able to attend the summer program.

Ontario City Council, Brantford, held their 4th annual Games and Card Party “Spring Thaw” in late March. Proceeds from this event go to support the local hospice, which does such wonderful work for the community. This year the donation was $1,800, and the support is greatly appreciated by the facility. “Everyone had a good time, and loves to help the hospice. The attendance has grown each year,” says Arl Kish of Ontario Preceptor Alpha Zeta, Brantford.

Our Beta Sigma Phi members, originally from the same chapter in Bismarck, North Dakota were recently reunited at a wedding. The wedding was that of North Dakota Laureate Theta, Bismarck member (third from left) Dolores Gausvik’s daughter Robyn (front), a Legacy member. “We reminisced about each of our children’s weddings and the fun time all of us had throughout the years attending them,” said Dolores, of the sisters she had the good fortune to see after many years apart. A beautiful day, all the way around!

British Columbia Beta Master, Comox Valley with the assistance of British Columbia Alpha Beta Master, Comox Valley conducted a “Friendship Night” attended by all chapters. Eighty members were able to attend. A wonderful evening of rousing songs was enjoyed by all in attendance. The great time was followed by delicious refreshments, supplied by all the chapters!

Delaware Laureate Gamma, Dover celebrated the 4th of July with a fun-filled covered dish breakfast, at the home of member Jean Peters. Patriotism filled the air and a great time was had by all!
The 2009 program submissions were excellent, but we have selected three that we hope will peak your chapter’s interest. These programs will be added to the Programs a la Carte, which is available under our “Downloads” link on our homepage or by contacting International. Complete program details will be included in the program ordered.

1st Place
# 1031
Beta Sigma Phi Jeopardy
By Sarah Iwinski of Nevada Lambda, Boulder City

The remake of the “Jeopardy” game was designed to be fun and to help learn about Beta Sigma Phi. Nevada Lambda, Boulder City had several new members and many were not familiar with the terminology or the history of Beta Sigma Phi. The board was made on poster board with various topics including Back to Basics, Hey Lady Officer, Sitcoms, Mix It Up, Programs and Events. The chapter split up into teams and each team would pick a category. The categories would have clues such as “What Month are Elections Held,” or “Collects Dues and Fees.” Sarah also added some categories that included ingredients of mixed drinks and characters of sitcoms. This allowed the newer members to feel involved and they were able to also answer questions. Two members volunteered to keep track of who answered first, and the team with the most money at the end of the game won a prize. It was very exciting and all members got involved so it was also extremely competitive! The older members were refreshed on some information and the new members learned about Beta Sigma Phi.
**Contest**

2nd Place
#780

**A Taste of Italy**
By Lillian Allen of Maine Delta Master, Sanford

For this program, everyone was delighted to benefit from the good taste of the Italians!

“During the winter months, many of our Life Members retreat to a warmer climate, and consequently, those who remain in hearty states need to find ways to continue the enthusiasm and group participation of our chapter. What better way to do this than to get together for a social and cultural evening with our husbands!” surmised Lillian Allen of Maine Delta Master, Sanford.

“For the program, the stage was set with Italian themed decorations filling the room. The Italian flag was also prominently displayed on my front door, greeting everyone in for a fun filled evening. The tables were set with the same color theme and all of us dressed with either a red, white, or green top with our jeans. Everything was about Italy, the hors d’oeuvres, dinner, wine and dessert were all very authentic and all home made. History on a famous Italian landmark, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, was also given.

“What is really great about an evening like this is that we can thoroughly appreciate Beta Sigma Phi, and the reasons it gives us to get together, to be ingenious, and to have fun all while learning and benefiting from each others experiences,” writes Lillian.

Honorable Mention - #233

**Aprons Tie Us To Memories**
By Colleen Liebhart of Missouri Preceptor Eta Kappa, Kirksville

Pictured are Missouri Preceptor Eta Kappa, Kirksville members (l-r Phyllis Brummitt, Debbie Rice and Judy Summers) modeling aprons for the program “Aprons Tie Us To Memories.” Member Colleen Liebhart shared her apron collection and described styles of aprons through the decades as they reflected the culture of the time. Aprons have regained popularity by the younger cooks as they once were in the 1940s and 1950s.

Aprons tie us to memories….such as:
When the smell of bread baking was enjoyed in the home and not just in the grocery store.
When families sat down together at a meal for more than just holidays.
When milk was delivered to the door and was the only beverage offered at a meal.
When Grandma put her pies on the counter to cool – not on the counter to thaw, and when fast food meant “leftovers!”
It is time again for a sorority favorite - our poetry contest. It is also a favorite to judge, reading all the thoughtful and witty entries from our members. We hope you enjoy reading these as much as we did. And many thanks to all our sisters who submitted these heartfelt poems. We appreciate you!

1st
"The Reflection in the Mirror"

I walked pass the mirror,
My reflection I didn’t see,
As I glanced at the image,
It glanced back at me.

It looked quiet familiar,
Someone I once knew well.
I took a moment to reflect
And my heart began to swell.

The years were younger than I remembered,
The hair with a little show of gray,
The lips full with an upward curve,
I remembered them well that way.

The years had not yet befallen.
The lines were faint and few
But the reflection in the mirror,
Was someone I well knew.

When I began to focus,
The tears began to fall
For the reflection in the mirror,
Was now only a picture on the wall.

A memory in my heart,
A warm hug I miss so much.
For the reflection in the mirror
Was my mother’s loving touch.

Barbara Perkins
Florida Preceptor Chi, Tallahassee

2nd
"Share My Journey"

In the element of transition
Whose shadowed paths are sensitive
I find myself with a muddled mind.

The journey is well underway
Gathering knowledge every day
I search for clarity.

To a destination I never planned to travel
A mystery continues to unravel
Crossing the borders into the unknown.

My vocabulary, words once soft spoken and tender
To oncology, chemo and radiation must surrender
In “medicalisms” and candid cancer talk.

My heart sings with optimism, the love of life
I have the will to fight the good fight
In God I will place my trust.

Marilyn Harris
Missouri Alpha Delta Omicron,
Bonne Terre

3rd
"Friend"

“Friend” is such a little word,
six letters written down.
Just one syllable when heard,
classified a simple noun.

“Friend” is such a lovely word,
honest, kind and true.
Six letters of encouragement,
for surely friends are heaven-sent,
like you.

Sherry Geer Guralnick
California Laureate Phi, San Diego
“Quiet Rewards”

The stream is swift and cold
Falling snowflakes fill the brisk air
The mountains stand as sentinels
The quietness is everywhere

I’m alone in thought
My emotions swell
I realize you’re gone
Your life’s journey done

The realization sets in
Your existence has ended
Fond memories remain
You’ve gained the reward

I’m surrounded by your legacy
We know your pain is gone
You have been taken home
To be the Lord’s very own.

Rozanne Worrell
Wyoming Xi Alpha Eta, Torrington
“Circle of Friends” • Erica Wolterman
Iowa Pi Tau, Marion

“The snowfall that canceled our meeting” • Arlene Burton
Washington
Laureate Beta Omega, Port Orchard
“Giraffe checking out Beta Sigma Phi members at a local wildlife park”

Charlann Kable
Louisiana Laureate Alpha, New Orleans

“Beta Butterfly”
Eileen Hanson
Minnesota Epsilon Master, Duluth
My Beta Sigma Phi sisters mean the world to me. In October of 2005, a tornado hit our home and destroyed all the inside. We moved out into a motel for three months. Our furniture and most of the things in the house survived, but the house had to be gutted and redone.

I was home by myself with my little Italian greyhound, Princess. Ronnie, my husband, was on his way home from out of town, and didn’t know anything until he saw the damage and all the cars at the house.

My sorority sisters got the word and they were there to help in whatever we needed. In the three months that our home was being repaired, my sisters in my chapter, as well as other seven area chapters, came to our rescue. They brought food to the motel, gave us gift certificates and had us over to eat at their homes. We got a lot of cards and telephone calls, which meant so much.

Then, one night at a regular meeting, my wonderful sisters gave me a “Food Pounding” to restock my pantry. That was the most wonderful surprise that I could have had. My Beta Sigma Phi sisters are always there for any problems that any of us have. There is nothing like Beta Sigma Phi!