

President's Welcome!

Sisters – I hope you have enjoyed your summer picnics, vacations, fun in the sun and watching the amazing Olympic athletes. I look forward to greeting you all again this Fall as we come back together to renew our bonds of friendship. This summer's Convention not only brought about change in our leadership and our logo, but also a refreshed sense of sisterhood and purpose. Locally, we have added members to our executive board who are ready to take on their roles to serve our chapter! This year we will undertake a fundraising campaign to aid Delta in the replenishment of initiation equipment, we will support Kappa Nu through their recruitment and we will continue to meet as a group of women who are Real, Strong and ready to be of Service to our community. What role does Chi Chi play for you? Is it the opportunity for leadership within a group, the opportunity to continue learning, the vehicle to guide you toward service to others or simply the way you continue friendships? Please make a renewed commitment to Chi Chi by attending at least one of the fun events we have planned this fall to help us continue to be relevant in your life! As always we are looking for your input and feedback. If you'd like to get involved in any way, please let us know. I look forward to seeing each of you in the near future!

Loyally, *Lisa Pierce*

2008 - 2010

Executive Board Members

President

Lisa Pierce (412)487-7417

VP Programming

Gina Anetakis (412)512-6850

VP Membership Development

Tayra Pagac (412)318-2136

Treasurer

Melissa Stupka (412)491-7521

Communications Chair

Lori Koerbel (412)720-9604

Panhellenic Delegate

Rebecca Jamrozik (330)518-4353



Magnificent Milestones!



Please join us in congratulating the following women of the Greater Pittsburgh Area who are celebrating special milestones within Alpha Chi Omega in 2008. We hope to honor each of these Alpha Chi's for their magnificent milestones at our October 15th Founders' Day Dinner.

FYI: Headquarters is rolling out a new 60 year pin and ceremony this Fall which has not be available before. If you've passed your 60th year, you are eligible to purchase the pin and take part in the ceremony on Founders' Day. Please contact Lisa at (412)487-7417 or lisamariepierce@hotmail.com if you do not appear on the list and are celebrating this year or have celebrated one of these milestones recently and would like to be recognized.

60 Year Sisters (1948 Initiation Year)

Virginia Plavetich, Alpha Sigma Chapter
Martha Dickinson, Delta Chapter
Alice Demmler, Delta Chapter

25 Year Sisters (1983 Initiation Year)

Donna Lawicki-Theodotou, Epsilon Kappa Chapter
Amy Elias, Beta Mu Chapter
Lisa Silverman, Beta Mu Chapter
Sharon Brodman, Delta Chapter
Lisa Cheroch, Delta Chapter
Pamela Leibensperger, Eta Chapter
Lori DeCello, Zeta Tau Chapter
Melinda Ziegler, Gamma Rho Chapter

50 Year Sisters (1958 Initiation Year)

Martha Ball, Alpha Sigma Chapter
Patricia Duvall, Gamma Omicron Chapter
Patricia James, Delta Chapter

Amy Speas, Gamma Theta Chapter
Beth Stutzman, Beta Mu Chapter
Judith Kunkle, Beta Mu Chapter
Rachel Allen, Delta Chapter
Karen Gladden, Delta Chapter
JoBeth Kaplan, Alpha Eta Chapter
Brenda Torrey, Delta Mu Chapter
Jeannette Kolmen, Alpha Mu Chapter





2008 Convention Highlights

The 2008 National Convention was held at the Fairmont Princess Hotel in Scottsdale, AZ in the heat of July. Not only was the weather hot, but so were the topics covered at this year's convention. Here is a brief summary of some of the business reviewed by the Convention Delegation.

2008-2010 National Council was elected as follows:

- National President** – Marsha King Grady
- National Vice President** – Diane Wilson Blackwelder
- National Vice President** – Angela Costley Harris
- National Vice President** – Lee Bradford Lucas
- National Vice President** – Suzie McClendon Symcox
- National Vice President** – Mary McMurtry Winkler



- You may have noticed a new logo (above). The new branding and marketing initiative was unveiled to keep Alpha Chi Omega relevant and competitive in today's sorority market. We are **REAL. STRONG. WOMEN.** And we're proud of it!
- We are a growing group of women: one new collegiate chapter and six new alumnae chapters were seated at this year's convention.
- Donna Smith Chereck, outgoing National President, stressed the "Five Rs" – Relevance, Recruit, Retain, Reputation and Resources as being the guidelines to ensure AXO will be able to celebrate another 123 successful years.
- The AXO Foundation awarded \$125,000 in scholarships for 2008-2009 and almost \$11,000 for member assistance grants. Another major campaign is in the works and a pilot program that includes adding two collegians to the Foundation Board of Trustee will be forthcoming.
- The AXO Life Loyal program was also unveiled at Convention. Life Loyal Alpha Chi Omega is a group of sisters of all ages who choose to continue to take advantage of their Alpha Chi Omega membership and stay connected to our sisterhood long after their college years. In addition to using membership fees to enhance and support services for our membership, a large majority of the revenue is being invested in an endowment fund for the perpetuation and enhancement of The Lyre. Alpha Chi Omega expects wide support of this program because it helps take the increasingly difficult burden of paying for The Lyre off the shoulders of collegiate members and allows Alpha Chi to invest in meaningful and exciting magazine enhancements. **www.lifeloyalaxo.org**
- The NHC reported involvement with 78 properties in 30 states which encompasses \$21 million in total assets. During the previous two fiscal years 25 chapters had NHC funded projects completed, including both Delta and Kappa Nu. The Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee is making a difference and is close to having the Collegiate Infrastructure and Housing Act (CHIA) passed through Congress this year. CHIA would allow fraternity and sorority foundations to make tax-deductible financial contributions for infrastructure improvements to meeting and dining areas in chapter houses in the same way that the tax code currently allows colleges and universities to use tax-deductible contributions to improve university-owned student housing on campus. Please log on **www.fraternalcaucus.com** to register and contact your local Senators and Representatives to encourage them to support this Act.
- And last, but certainly not least: Chi Chi's own Jennifer Daurora was named the 2008 Outstanding Young Alumna!
Congratulations Jen and thank you for all of your dedication to Alpha Chi Omega.

For more information about this year's convention, contact Lisa Pierce at (412)487-7417 or lisamariepierce@hotmail.com

How can your Sisters help you?

Urban Mommies: Urban Mommies is the city's premier mom's outing program that takes moms on exclusive, privately-led museum tours, historical neighborhood and gallery walks and other cultural adventures throughout Pittsburgh -- along with their baby. Whether it is exploring the grandeur of Heinz Hall, tasting handmade chocolates in the Strip District or seeing the hottest Shadyside artist in action, our stroller-friendly tours will teach you something new, bring variety to your week and introduce you to a fun group of moms.

Contact: Sheila Solomon, *Gamma Theta* at (412) 551-6400 | www.urban-mommies.com

MommyMixer: Frazzled moms, rejoice! Founded in Austin, Texas in 2003, MommyMixer® connects busy families in need of part-time babysitting with high-quality college students. At last MommyMixer has arrived in Pittsburgh! Each hour-long Mixer, allows moms to personally interview a number of candidates and leave with an A+ list of potential babysitters. Many candidates are not only used for babysitting, but also act as family-assistants: running errands, helping with organization, planning and producing birthday parties, etc. Mixers are a time efficient, cost effective alternative to part-time nanny placement services, answering classified ads or using online sitter database services. Whether you need help 20 hours a week or if you just need an occasional babysitter on hand for a quick break, MommyMixer can connect you to our exclusive network of great sitter candidates who want to help you and your family.

Contact: Sheila Solomon, *Gamma Theta* at pittsburgh@mommymixer.com

Blair's Books About You: Heather and her mother, Judy, have a passion for reading and they love to share that passion with children. It's so important to teach our children the love of reading from an early age. And what better way to do that than to make that child a part of the story! Our books make your child the star of their own story. Whether they want to be a ballerina, a fireman, or a choo-choo train, they can include their hometown, friends' names and many other things.

Contact: Heather [Blair] Leopardi, *Kappa Nu* at (412) 973-3264 | www.blairsbooks.com

DELTA CHAPTER

Allegheny College

The Delta Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega has had a busy spring semester! We've hosted and were involved in several events around campus, some of which include: IMPACT AXO, S.A.M.S. (Students Against Multiple Sclerosis), Relay for Life (for the American Cancer Society), Apple Pie for Alpha Chi, and The Phi Psi / Alpha Chi Volleyball Tournament (to raise funds for the women's shelter in Meadville for our philanthropy).

The Delta Chapter was chosen to be one of the chapter participants of IMPACT AXO. It was a program designed to help chapters of AXO all around the country to build unity within the chapter and to help make the chapter run smoother. The sisters of Delta took full advantage of the program and are currently utilizing the techniques gained from the program to help improve our chapter.

This Spring's recruitment was a HUGE success for our chapter. We brought in and initiated 23 wonderful new sisters on March 13th, 2008. We also had 24 seniors graduate this spring, one of which was the valedictorian of the Allegheny College Class of 2008 (Kristen Khor)!!!

KAPPA NU CHAPTER

Carnegie Mellon University

Kappa Nu Chapter at Carnegie Mellon University enjoyed a very successful Spring semester. We were able to recruit seven wonderful new women through informal recruitment, bringing our chapter total to 18 members. The spring was busy for the women of Kappa Nu. We participated in Greek Sing performing a 13-minute rendition of "The Blues Brothers" with Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and raising over \$1,100 for the Gilda's Club. Kappa Nu paired with the women of the Society of Women engineers to build "The Great Barrier Reef" for our Spring Carnival booth, and won the third-place trophy! At the end of the year, the chapter sent off it's seven graduating seniors.

This Fall, the 11 women returning to the chapter are looking forward to a successful formal membership recruitment from September 11th-15th. After recruitment, the chapter will be hosting it's annual "Apple Pie with Alpha Chi," where we invite professors and administrators to celebrate academic achievements with us. Kappa Nu also hopes to paint Carnegie Mellon's fence to raise awareness of campus about domestic violence during the month of October. We are looking forward to a fantastic semester!

Friendship

Chance made us Sisters...

...but our hearts have made us friends.

This story was contributed by: [Rebecca Jamrozik](#)

While at Ohio State, I had the opportunity to help my chapter advisor send out a mailing for our 75th Anniversary. I noticed that one of the addresses was from Margaret Lanpher Lyon who joined in '23, which meant that this particular sister joined the sorority the year we were founded at OSU! So while all my sisters packed up for spring break trips to Key West and Mexico, I took a trip of my own to a retirement home to visit Margaret who was 97 years-old!

I remember being a bit nervous to meet Margaret that first time. What was I as a 19 year-old going to have in common with her? It was the sisterhood of Alpha Chi. This first visit became one of countless visits over the course of two years. Soon Margaret began to have all Alpha Chi Omega sisters in the retirement home meet with me on my visits. We used to joke around that we had quorum for a chapter meeting! I even found out that one of the sisters was my grandma's gym teacher when my grandma was in high school.

At the age of 96, Lyon was recognized as a 75-year member of Alpha Chi Omega with a ceremony and a badge to honor her unique achievement. Lyon was an inspiration to all Alpha Chi members, and life experiences serve as a living testimony that sisterhood in Alpha Chi Omega offers experience for a lifetime, according to the 75-year ceremony.

During one of my Christmas time visits to the retirement home, we exchanged gifts to each other. Margaret carefully wrapped up her sorority lyre badge from 1923 and gave it to me in what was a very special moment between sisters of different generations. As you can imagine, that is my most cherished memory within Alpha Chi Omega.

Margaret passed away on September 23, 2000, and I had the privilege of speaking at her funeral. I was able to tell a roomful of people how much Margaret meant to me and how much she was part of my life experience. As a Greek Advisor, I tell Margaret's story often and keep an article I wrote about her in 2001 by my office door in hopes that it will inspire my college students to meet some of their older alumni. Now every time I pin her badge over my heart, I look forward to the moment when I might pin her badge on one of her legacies.

What does it mean to you? Sisterhood

This story was contributed by: [Lisa Pierce](#)

I've always been a bit envious of my mother. She is one of 11 children, 7 of whom are girls! She is always talking about one of her sisters and the phone conversation they had or the lunch they shared. So you can imagine that having only one brother, five years my junior, I longed for a female with whom I could share my most secret thoughts and dreams, my excitement and my tears or just a three hour phone call. When I set off to Allegheny College in the fall of 1995, I went with my best friend and subsequent four-year college roommate, Mia. Mia was the closest thing I had to a sister through high school and our first semester at Allegheny. Imagine my surprise when I learned about sorority life! This was relatively a foreign concept to me. Not many members of my extended family had been college educated prior to my going, and those that had been were not members of Greek life. The thought intrigued me enough to sign up for formal recruitment. I had no idea how taking that step in Round 1 of recruitment week would change the rest of my life. After a bit of debate I decided upon Alpha Chi Omega and they chose me as well. On "Run Out" day I was suddenly blessed with 22 of my very own sisters (including Mia) and 40 or so 'big sisters'. This was more than I could believe! Over the years we've certainly had our share of excitement and tears and we've shared more than just our dreams; we've shared our lives with each other. Alpha Chi Omega gave me what my family couldn't and that was a home away from home with real sisters and all. I love so many of those women more than I could have ever expected. They have become of me my definition of friendship!

FALL 2008 Events Calendar

Please RSVP to chichiexo@yahoo.com or to Gina at (412)512-6850

Thursday, September 4: Soergel's Orchards | 2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA – 6:00 pm

We're trying something new for our kickoff meeting. Meet with us under the pavilion as we reconnect with each other after a long summer's hiatus with a light dinner and browsing the wine shop, gift barn and all Soergel's has to offer. **RSVP by Friday, August 29.** Please bring your old cell phones to donate to Victims of Domestic Violence.

September 11 – September 14: CMU Formal Member Recruitment | Kappa Nu House, Margaret Morrison Apartments

Please consider supporting our collegians as they embark on the most important part of their future, recruitment. Alumnae support will be needed each day to aid with refreshments and tallying. Please contact Jen Daurora at daurorj@hotmail.com or (412)977-8868 if you are able to assist any of these days.

Wednesday, October 15: Annual Founder's Day Dinner | Pittsburgh Athletic Association, Oakland – 6:30 pm

Please join us for wonderful dinner and evening full of conversation and friendship. We will be reminded of the ritual upon which our Fraternity is founded by celebrating the Formal chapter ceremonies. Additionally we will have a recap of Convention and we will honor any guests in attendance celebrating their 25th, 50th or 60th year as an Alpha Chi Omega. This event is open to AXO sisters only. Advance reservations and payment are required; *please see enclosed form.*

Saturday, October 25: Trax Farms | 528 Trax Road, Finleyville, PA – 10:30 am Meet by the Pile of Pumpkins

Fun for the whole family! Scenic Hayrides, food booths, pony rides, candy and caramel apples, cornstalk and cornfield maze, and apple sampling. Mountains of pumpkins at the market or take a hayride to the pumpkin patch and cornfield maze. Many tasty treats! There is a lot to see and savor at Trax Farms!!! **DON'T FORGET YOUR CAMERA!!!** We'll start with a group photo and then the day is yours to roam the farm. **RSVP by Wednesday, October 22.**

Thursday, November 6: Glass Making Demonstration and Potluck Dinner | Home of Heather Roman, Mt. Lebanon

Please join us for a Chi Chi first as we watch one of our very own sisters provide us with a glass making demonstration. Please bring a dish to share with all as we will have a traditional potluck style dinner. Handmade glass will be available for purchase just in time for the holiday season! **RSVP by Monday, November 3 and note which dish you will bring.**

Thursday, November 19: Wine and Tapas Happy Hour | Ibiza, 2224 East Carson Street – 6:30 pm

Please join us for a purely social gathering to unwind after a day at the office. Look for the red carnation on the table to signify other AXO's attending this event. **RSVP by Wednesday, November 18.** Friends welcome.

Monday, December 8: Holiday Party and Ornament Exchange | Home of Gina Anetakis, Wexford – 7:00 pm

Chi Chi will once again host our traditional holiday meeting complete with the fun-filled ornament exchange. If you'd like to participate, please bring one wrapped ornament to exchange with a sister. Appetizers and desserts will be served. We also need co-hostesses. **RSVP by December 3.** Contact Gina if you can help gumpella@wcbllaw.net or (412)512-6850.

Spring 2009 events to look forward to...

January – Expand our Horizons with Greek Food Night at Little Athens Restaurant

February – Celebrate MacDowell Month with a trip to CMU's theatre

and learn to be an even better cook with our trip to CRATE in Greentree

March 2nd – Celebrate Hera Day with a volunteer project at the Women's Center & Shelter

March 21st – Pittsburgh Alumnae Panhellenic Benefit at Churchill Valley Country Club

April – Meeting at the home of Peggy Robinette

May – Zoo Outing and Hall of Commitment Ceremonies



Alpha Chi Omega



Questions about the newsletter?

Contact Lori Koerbel at loralie@alumni.cmu.edu

RENEW YOUR BONDS TO

Alpha Chi Omega

BECOME A CHI CHI MEMBER

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Chapter: _____

Initiation Year: _____

2008 – 2009 ANNUAL DUES

Basic Membership Levels

Advanced Giving Levels**

Chapter Membership – \$30

Carnation Membership – \$40

50 Year+ Membership – \$25

Pearl Membership – \$50

Recent Graduate Membership – *Free*

Lyre Membership – \$100

Free membership applies to your first year as a Chi Chi member for those who graduated in 2007 or 2008

***Carnation, Pearl & Lyre Memberships will be acknowledged in the directory and at special events, such as Founders' Day. Proceeds will go directly to Chi Chi's ability to assist the Greater Pittsburgh Women's Center and Shelter through projects and grants and will support the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation.*

Please circle your choice of membership level and fill in the amount below.

FOUNDERS' DAY DINNER

Dinner for non-paid Chi Chi members: \$32

Dinner for paid Chi Chi members: \$30

*** Dues must be paid by October 15 for discount*

Please indicate your meal preference: Salmon Chicken

YES! I would like to sponsor a collegian for the Founders' Day dinner (\$30)

***Whether you can attend the dinner or not, please consider sponsoring a local Alpha Chi collegian so that she may join current Sisters and Alpha Chi Alumnae at this very special event.*

2008 – 2009 Dues: _____

Mail this form and payment to:

Founders' Day Dinner: _____

Chi Chi of Alpha Chi Omega

Sponsor a Collegian: _____

C/O Melissa Stupka

5525 Covode Street #3

Total Enclosed: _____

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Together let us seek the heights.