The Tribute to Jack Ross

Inside P.6

Tribute to Jack Ross

September - October 2010
Dear Sisters,

Hope you like the newest Torch. The paper is much better, so this should stop any rips in your issue. We would like you to know that you are still encouraged to subscribe to the Torch. No matter what time during the year you subscribe, you will still get seven issues. Having a magazine that is on better paper makes us even more proud that we are once again able to print the Torch. You can subscribe either by calling us or go to the website and click on Torch Subscription Form.

This issue is always a poignant one to write. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and along with the wearing of pink ribbons and the tremendous service projects that our members work on, there are reminders of those we lost. One such sister was Annet Gamet, daughter of Nebraska Preceptor Epsilon, Gering member Barb Vogel.

Annet fought a valiant fight with ovarian cancer, a cancer commonly aligned with breast cancer. Barb, along with the help of Laura Ross Wingfield, came up with the concept of the Beta Sigma Phi breast and ovarian cancer pin. Cancer has touched the life of everyone, and is a word no one ever wants to hear.

This sorority year we are so amped about the new theme “New Paths To Friendship.” From the emails and letters we have received, our members also like the theme. We will be highlighting different chapters and how they are using the theme this year, so please send the Torch your ideas and plans. There are all sorts of fun things we can do to implement this year’s theme, all the while following a new path to friendship.

As was noted in the August Torch, we lost our first member, Helen Klover Pepper on June 27, 2010. Helen was much-loved and a great inspiration not only to other Beta Sigma Phi members, but all that knew her in the small town of Abilene, Kansas. I was fortunate enough to be able to spend an afternoon with her Kansas Alpha, Abilene chapter, and it was one of the biggest thrills I have experienced working at International. Laura Ross Wingfield and I were also able to go to Abilene and be with Helen on Founder’s Day, 2009. She will be lovingly remembered and forever missed. I stated in the article in the August Torch that the wonderful journey with Helen began at the Mayflower Hotel. It was, of course, the Sunflower Hotel. It was a slip of the hand, not of the heart.

Here’s to another great year in sorority!

Laurey Lummus
Torch Editor
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Beta Sigma Phi’s Laura Ross Wingfield reflects on her father and the gentle, compassionate and brave legacy he left for all those that loved him.

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We salute our members and their participation in the war against cancer.

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Presenting our best and brightest!

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On the Cover
Meet Miss Caroline Cannon, sponsored by Arkansas Beta Alpha, Mena member Gretchen Cannon. “Caroline loves playing with her two older brothers but most of all, sitting in her Daddy’s lap.”

[Editor’s Note: We love her little red boots!]
Conventions

2010

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Welcome These New Chapters

Arizona Laureate Gamma Alpha, Casa Grande
British Columbia Beta Xi Master, Williams Lake
California Laureate Lambda Alpha, Mckinleyville
Florida Laureate Zeta Psi, Saint Petersburg
Iowa Alpha Tau Master, Glenwood
Michigan Beta Alpha Master, Flint
New Brunswick iota Master, Petitcodiac
North Carolina Xi Epsilon Beta, Winston Salem
Ohio Laureate Epsilon Mu, West Chester
Ontario Gamma Omega Master, Niagara Falls
Victory Nu Master, Melbourne

New Friendly Venture Chapters

2011

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California Omega Delta, Lakeside (Chapter in a Box)
By: Tina Villalobos

Online Xi
By: Karen Ing, Arlene Fox, and Dianne Kent

Ontario Nu Theta, Markham
By: Heather Millar and Laureate Beta Omicron

Texas Kappa Tau, San Antonio
By: Clair Bradshaw and Alamo City Council
What Beta Sigma Phi Means to Me

Home Away From Home
By Beverly Lynn Eckardt
of Ohio Laureate Pi, Mansfield

This past December my German Shepherd dog, who was to be treated for bone cancer, and myself ventured to Palmdale, California. My first decision was to find the Chamber of Commerce. The chamber has listings of all the area groups, activities, etc.

Beta Sigma Phi was listed as having a chapter in the area. Upon contacting Council president Barbara Chase, I was invited to attend a meeting of her chapter called Laureate Gamma Nu. The eight-member-strong chapter members are truly sisters. They embraced me, including me in the regular meetings and socials. They were and continue to be, a lifeline.

I call this my adopt-a-chapter. Each and every sister truly holds up to the adage, ‘I am Thy Sister,’ and they are there for you, in both good and bad times and true to the meaning of what Beta Sigma Phi is about. My adopt-a-chapter members keep in constant contact.

We celebrated Fat Tuesday-Mardi Gras Days at sister Mary Ellen Barker’s home, and our Valentine Queen, Linda Dent, was honored during a brunch at a local country club. She can really get me laughing and her Georgia peach accent was precious. Kathy Johnson is always available to pick me up for meetings. I learned new recipes at Sue Treadway’s home and experienced my first mimosa at a meeting in the home of Barbara Chase. Alana Wilson is so very welcoming and keeps me updated. Let’s not forget Debbie Rees! What a traveler!

I want to honor all my adopt-a-chapter members and I am so blessed that God has put them in my life and I thank Beta Sigma Phi for having been formed. Any sister can travel anywhere in the United States and they will find other sisters with similar interests. Hopefully, they too, will be blessed to meet and be welcomed and find a special adopt-a-chapter like my sisters in Laureate Gamma Nu.”
I can honestly say, my father was the best man I have ever known. When I met my husband, I compared him to my father and they had many things in common that let me know he was as well, a good man. Dad was slow to anger and quick to forgive, he was loyal to a fault and the most loving man. My husband was always grateful that he loved him from the very beginning.

Dad and I had many interests in common and I was proud to teach him to watercolor but a bit miffed that he became better than me at it. Might have been all the practice. If you travel to Harbour Island in the Bahamas, it is likely you will see his portraits of the people all over the island. They knew that if he took a photo of their child, he would paint them and give the parents the painting, so it was no surprise parents were happy to have him take their pictures. Many members also have copies of paintings he did, he would give them out to anyone who asked.
I was particularly lucky because I worked with him daily from right before I turned 25 until a few years ago when he was no longer able to come to work due to his illness, although he would visit us from time to time. Most of that time he was just one door down from me so that I could go sit and talk with him at any time. When I got diabetes, I went to him, when I was planning on marrying, my husband went to him. Dad was always there for us in times of trouble and joy. It feels like I should be turning to him now for solace and I know he is close by, still offering his love. He taught me everything I know about our organization and more than that, he taught me how wonderful the sisters are.

I could go on for hours about all my memories of Dad, of his stories, of his sayings, of his hugs. My husband reminds me often when I am like my mother, and that is true, I do take after her in many ways, but Dad made me the person I am. The only thing he didn’t affect directly is my no longer being shy, that was the Beta Sigma Phis, but he’s the one who made me give speeches in front of them, so he was certainly part of it. Although Dad was the most loving man, he had a seam of melancholy but it only made his feelings all the more poignant and special. I am more the eternal optimist but I did learn how to treat...
people from my father as well as my mother. He loved people and never met a stranger. I think that came from his father and perhaps from my mother as well.

I know that I have only lost the physical presence of my father, he is still with all of us he loved but he is also with those he loved who went before. I am happy in the thought that he will be there to greet me when it is my time. I see him riding the tall grass in heaven on his favorite horse, Ali Pasha with his Dad on his favorite horse, Little Man. His Mom waiting for them when they return.

When I read the book "To Kill a Mockingbird," Atticus Finch made me think of my father, when the movie was made, I thought Gregory Peck looked like my dad and it only reinforced my feelings. He was the kind of man who could inspire such a character. I will always know that he loved me and I loved him with all my heart. It is a blessing to go through life never doubting that your parents love you, even when you wonder how they could, but we have never doubted that of either of my parents. But the love we really never doubted was of my mother and father for each other. My father told us often that Mother was the most beautiful girl in the world and he believed it with all his heart. He was a man of his time, so he was old fashioned in his views of family, but he loved my mother with
all his heart and soul and expected us to show her respect at all times. Luckily, it was easy to both love and respect both my parents.

I am grateful that I got a time to adjust to not having Dad down the hall. But it’s hard passing his office and knowing he won’t be in again, even for a visit. But I know he is with us in spirit and his love for us will continue always. I have always loved meeting members who knew my Grandfather, now I’ll love meeting those who knew my Dad. He was one of a kind and the best Dad ever.

Dad, I love you, I miss you and you will always be my judge of whether someone is a good man or not.

_____________________

I Will Rouse The Dawn II

Like Jew dispersed and then returned to home,  
In Israel’s solemn plains we now can stand;  
Returned and never more the world to roam,  
Each standing firm on soil of promised land.

The soil that God to each of us has loaned,  
As stage to hold our heart’s most sacred play,  
Supports in us the triumphs never known  
By those who see us prisoned in this clay.

To each of us the Lord has loaned a land,  
To love and hold and there in peace to grow;  
Not made of rock, or loam, or desert sand,  
That hearts alone may someday come to know.

And in this land, before my soul is gone,  
I will arise, and I will rouse the dawn.

By: John Joseph “Jack” Ross
Members get on the “New Paths of Friendship”

Ontario Laureate Delta Rho, Hamilton member Janice Graham formed a committee of enthusiastic members from the Hamilton, Ontario Area City Council. The group of 10 named the committee, “Let’s promote Beta Sigma Phi in Hamilton.” They challenged themselves to think outside the box and at the end of their first meeting they had twelve ideas.

They decided visibility was the most important thing for sorority. The question was then posed as to how this could be accomplished. They had noticed that the Hamilton public buses include advertising on them and travel all around the city. They contacted the bus company and arranged to have a Beta Sigma Phi sign placed on the back of a bus anytime there is not a paid advertiser. Since the buses always change routes, the sign is literally seen all around the city and typically never in the same location on consecutive days. The City Council membership thought it was a great idea and approved the bus sign and also voted to have a Beta Sigma Phi banner made to use at their annual yard sales, bake sales, and to carry in the parades.

In addition, the committee decided to add fliers to the local “Welcome Wagon,” plus maintain a web site for all Council activities and participate in local parades, walk-a-thons and volunteering.

To help fund these creative ideas, the Council voted to budget $500 for annual rushing events. A raffle basket at their annual potluck dinner will assist in filling their coffers.

The Council has also been working on the member at large listing to be sure everyone from the last fifteen years is invited to attend a tea, dinner or mixer to reacquaint them with sorority sisters and events. Their first event was a garden party scheduled for September.

Janice states, “We have learned that we couldn’t just sit back and wait for sisters to arrive at our front door. We have to be out on the street and meet them head on and invite them into this wonderful friendship group.”
Angeline Overholt of **Ontario Alpha Delta Master, Hamilton** shares that, “Beta Sigma Phi has always been an important part of my life and while I enjoy my chapter, City Council has always been the bigger picture of Beta Sigma Phi. You meet and get to know more sisters in the city and get to promote our wonderful organization to a larger audience.

It is so exciting to watch for the bus sign as we travel around the city. Our Council has been a coordinating body and we have worked on having more harmony and communication among our chapters.

Janice and I will be manning a booth at our local mall handing out Beta Sigma Phi brochures to interested women and hopefully sparking their interest in our group. I have also sent out a newsletter to each chapter encouraging them to give time to man the mall booth and assist in the committee. I enjoy doing a newsletter every year before Beginning Day for the chapters.”

Making their presence known at a local mall are **Ontario Laureate Beta Upsilon, Hamilton** member Michelle McHale and Arlene Hamilton, of **Ontario Preceptor Gamma Eta, Hamilton**.

### Amarillo, Texas City Council

The members of the **Amarillo, Texas City Council** have been on the path to attracting new sisters since they launched their Council web page to draw interest in sorority. They also fortified getting the word out about Beta Sigma Phi by having hand bills printed to go in an advertising mailer that will soon reach more than 9,000 businesses.

They will hold a college rush event at a major Texas university this month with an informational table set up with both Legacies and members sharing the positive attributes of our sisterhood. They are very excited about the event, with a unified front ready to chant the battle cry of, “Today’s gonna be a good day!”

They agree that sharing sorority starts with being visible and all the current members are being encouraged to wear their sorority items as much as possible.
Congratulations to our Top Rushing Chapters

Jan. 21, 2010 through May 31, 2010

**Added 11 pledges**
Georgia Kappa Beta, Douglas

**Added 10 pledges**
Colorado Xi Epsilon Alpha, Paonia

**Added 9 pledges**
Missouri Delta Alpha, Carrollton
Texas Beta Theta Omega, El Campo

**Added 8 pledges**
Missouri Gamma Mu, Nevada
Texas Xi Nu Phi, Cuero

**Added 7 pledges**
Australia Epsilon, Brisbane
Michigan Alpha, Lake Isabella
Montana Alpha Upsilon, Polson
Montana Beta Omicron, Red Lodge
Nebraska Alpha Omega, Nebraska City
Texas Eta Rho, Center

**Added 6 pledges**
Mexico Zeta, Bucerias Nayarit
Arkansas Eta Mu, De Queen
Florida Mu Omega, Perry
Florida Alpha Delta Alpha, N. Fort Myers
Georgia Delta Sigma, Statesboro

**Added 5 pledges**
Kansas Rho Eta, Wellington
Texas Xi Delta Gamma, Dalhart

**Added 5 pledges**
Mexico Zeta, La Cruz
Alberta Gamma Xi, Nanton Ontario
Ontario Alpha Upsilon, Fort Frances
Manitoba Xi Delta, Portage
California Xi Pi Delta, Burlingame
Georgia Kappa Alpha, Blairsville
Indiana Preceptor Beta Sigma, Nineveh

Iowa Xi Eta Sigma, Gowrie
Iowa Theta Iota, Cherokee
Massachusetts Delta Omicron, Winchendon
Missouri Kappa Lambda, N. Kansas City
Missouri Alpha Eta Gamma, Washington
New Jersey Laureate Nu, Toms River

Oklahoma Eta Zeta, Ponca City
Texas Xi Alpha Epsilon Nu, Madisonville
Texas Beta Gamma Psi, Kilgore
Texas Theta Upsilon, Brady
Washington Laureate Alpha Lambda, Cheney
Wisconsin Epsilon Zeta, Madison
4 Star Chapter List
2009 – 2010

★★★★ Arkansas Xi Delta Beta, Pine Bluff
★★★★ California Laureate Gamma Lambda, Bakersfield
★★★★ Colorado Laureate Beta Mu, Hotchkiss
★★★★ Florida Alpha Delta Alpha, North Fort Myers
★★★★ Florida Alpha Gamma Delta, North Fort Myers
★★★★ Florida Alpha Gamma Nu, North Fort Myers
★★★★ Florida Laureate Zeta Omicron, The Villages
★★★★ Florida Xi Delta Delta, Tampa
★★★★ Georgia Beta Alpha, Gainsville
★★★★ Georgia Preceptor Beta Epsilon, Lawrenceville
★★★★ Indiana Laureate Beta Upsilon, Hartford City
★★★★ Iowa Nu Beta, State Center
★★★★ Kansas Preceptor Zeta, Marysville
★★★★ Louisiana Beta Master, New orleans
★★★★ Missouri Preceptor Alpha Epsilon, Lake Winnebago
★★★★ Missouri Xi Eta Kappa, Carrollton
★★★★ Montana Preceptor Lambda, Glasgow
★★★★ Montana Xi Kappa, Glasgow
★★★★ Ohio Xi Zeta Omicron, Crooksville
★★★★ Oklahoma Beta Omicron, Lawton
★★★★ Online Eta
★★★★ Tennessee Iota Tau, Knoxville

City Councils who Helped start a Friendly Venture Chapter
★★★★ Michigan City Council, Grand Rapids

International 4 Star Chapters
★★★★ British Columbia Xi Epsilon Eta, Clearwater
★★★★ Queensland Xi Zeta, Brisbane
Legacies

Rylee A. Breese
Sponsor: Georgia Kappa Tau, Covington member Dena Breese
“Rylee is seven years old and is such a great girl! She loves to play soccer, swim, and play outside with her dog, Leo. She is an absolute delight!”

Alekksis Katherine Bicart
Sponsor: Idaho Delta Epsilon, Twin Falls member Rebekka Bicart
“Alekksis loves playing with her bear.”

Cassidy McBroom Faulkner
Sponsor: North Carolina Laureate Mu, Raleigh member Edna C.
“Penny” Faulkner
“Cassidy is so kind and sweet to everyone.”

Ryleigh Dale and Jaime Carolyn Nicole Lavigne
Sponsor: Ontario Lambda and Laureate Delta Psi, Kingston members Melanie Lavigne and Dianne Sykes
“Ryleigh and Jaime are such precious little girls.”

Abbey Allred
Sponsor: Utah Xi Eta, Ogden member Nancy A. Wold
“Abbey is very sweet and a vision in white.”

Sarah Diane Kennedy
Sponsor: North Carolina Preceptor Beta Delta, Kingston member Linda S. Dawson
“Sarah is the cutest little red head in pink.”

Ashley Kaye Dold
Sponsor: Texas Preceptor Kappa Nu, San Antonio member Mary Dold
“Ashley is very sweet, she’s a little shining star.”

Marie Therese Bucher
Sponsor: North Dakota Preceptor Mu, Williston member Denise Bucher
“Her miniature dachshund, Rudy, is her best friend.”

September/October 2010 The Torch
Rylee A. Breese
Sponsor: Georgia Kappa Tau, Covington member Dena Breese
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Marie Therese Bucher
Sponsor: North Dakota Preceptor Mu, Williston member Denise Bucher
"Her miniature dachshund, Rudy, is her best friend."
Courtney McDaniel
Sponsor: Arkansas Beta Alpha, Mena member Wendy McDaniel
“Courtney loves to twirl her baton, play her flute, and play many sports.”

Camila Mendez
Sponsor: Texas Beta Theta Iota, Rio Grande City member Diana Robles-Mendez
“Camila is a precious, happy girl and twin to her brother Sebastian.”

Sarah Nicole Verbeck
Sponsor: Virginia Xi Delta Upsilon, Hampton member Christy Verbeck
“Sarah is a delight to know and a lot of fun.”

Caroline Wilson
Sponsor: Florida Alpha Gamma Master, St. Petersburg member Gloria Wilson
“Caroline was born on Founder’s Day 2007 and was enrolled when she was 22 hours old.”
Hannah Noelle Skinner  
Sponsor: North Carolina Preceptor Xi, Raleigh member Barbara Fussell  
“Hannah has lots of friends and loves school.”

Emma Josephine Wright  
Sponsor: Georgia Lambda Alpha, Newnan member Gloria O. Ionta  
“Emma is a true Legacy. Her mother and grandmother are both active members of Beta Sigma Phi.”

Kylee Albigail Taylor  
Sponsor: Virginia Preceptor Beta, Hopewell member Janelle Taylor  
“Kylee loves to dress up and dance, she is a true Beta Sigma Phi Legacy.”

Natalia June Verdi  
Sponsor: California Laureate Theta Phi, Ontario member Jill Donahue-Hopson  
“Natalia is a 4th generation Beta Sigma Phi.”
Briianika Willow Howe
Sponsor: California Gamma Sigma Master, Sacramento member Sally Seaman
“Breezy always steals the show with her belly-dancing.”

Autumn Ivy Howe
Sponsor: California Gamma Sigma Master, Sacramento member Sally Seaman
“Autumn loves art, drama, choir and is a budding clothing designer.”

Samantha and Jessica Martinez
Sponsor: California Preceptor Eta Rho, Costa Mesa member Johanna Higley
“Samantha and Jessica are sisters and best buddies.”

Abigail Paige Paul
Sponsor: Missouri Preceptor Alpha Tau, Independence member Clara Higgins
“Abigail is bubbly, she loves acting, basketball and swimming.”
Fiona Barker
Sponsor: Texas Beta Epsilon Psi, Arlington member Heather Barker
“Fiona loves music so she’s taking choir, and she also writes.”

Marin, Macy and Morgan Vonder Haar
Sponsor: California Preceptor Kappa Epsilon, Santa Rosa member Dorothy Vonder Haar
“These three cuties love each other very much.”

Erin Blach, Jenna Kidwell, and Jessica Heitt
Sponsor: Nevada Xi Alpha Omicron, Elko
“Erin and Jessica really look up to Jenna.”

(Back row l-r) Erica Marie Rowe and Fiona Michelle Taylor, (Front row l-r) Aria Lei Mitchell and Olivia Emmaline Taylor
Sponsor: Idaho Upsilon Master, Boise
“All of this group cannot wait to grow up and be Beta Sigma Phi members.”
“Truman has inspired our chapter with his bravery, his strong faith and his love of life and family. We want to share his incredible story, so you too, can see what a wonderful, remarkable and courageous boy he is at age nine,” exclaims Pat Tiffin of Oklahoma Preceptor Gamma Rho, Owasso. The Truman she speaks of became their yearly service project, one that has seen the chapter members, along with Truman’s family, fight for his chance to grow up.

Truman’s journey began in April 2009. Truman began limping with his right leg and complaining of leg pain. He played baseball, but it was difficult to run and taking Tylenol didn’t seem to help. Truman was taken to his pediatrician and thus began the journey.

A pathology report confirmed the cancer, osteosarcoma, the sixth leading cancer in children under age 15. The survival rate for osteosarcoma has greatly improved to 68%.

It took several months of therapy before Truman was well enough to undergo surgery. On October 29th, 2009, Truman underwent an above the knee amputation at a well-known cancer hospital in Houston, Texas. According to Pat, this decision was reached after many, many intensive hours of research, many hours of prayer and consultation and meeting living examples of rotationplasty, limb salvage and amputation. “As hard as this decision was, as dramatic of a change as this was, Truman’s parents, along with their son, felt the amputation offered the best long term quality of life,” says Pat.

After the surgery, Truman will have four more complete rounds of chemotherapy. The oncology specialist will be doing close analysis of his blood, heart, kidneys, liver and lungs. He will have various scans and test to watch for signs of recurrence and to ensure his other organs aren’t suffering any damage. Truman has endured and adjusted to his different life. Truman is quite the trooper, and fights very hard to continue to conquer his disease. His family says that he will need the strength to meet new challenges, like adjusting to his prosthetic leg.

“Two of my sorority sisters and I were able to contact his mother to arrange a meeting with the family. Our chapter donated gasoline cards, favorite restaurant cards, an amputee bear from build-a-bear, prayers, money, rally meets, special events and loyal support,” says Pat.

“Truman has his very own team that supports and admires him, the team is called ‘Team Truman’ and it is easy to see why my chapter chose Truman for our service award. He is an inspiration to all of us. Truman is surrounded by a very loving family, loyal friends and supporters. When we come to the end of his journey and the DISEASE has been DEFEATED!!!!!!!!!!!! There will be a huge party of CELEBRATION.................oh what a wonderful day to look forward to,” says Pat.
When it comes to making things beautiful, **Ontario Xi Epsilon Mu, Harrow** has always had quite the knack for makeovers. Which is why they eagerly joined in on the drive to keep their area beautiful by adopting a garden as a service project. Xi Epsilon Mu member Anne Marontate is a representative on the local beautification committee. When she mentioned the idea to the group they were ready – with spades! The beautification committee is working with the Communities in Bloom program to encourage residents to become interested in enhancing their surroundings and their communities.

“The garden is on a public right-of-way beside a historical cemetery in Colchester near Lake Erie,” writes Xi Epsilon Mu member Ruth Molzan. “When the snow was gone in April, we toured the area and began our plans to improve it. The garden was cleaned up, shaped and prepared, and was planted with various perennials donated by members along with annuals donated by a local nursery.”

There is now a sign posted at the garden’s entrance reading: “Garden Adopted by **Xi Epsilon Mu, Beta Sigma Phi**.” The garden earned good reviews for both the sisters and their Beta Sigma Phi chapter. The local newspapers published an article along with a photo about the garden.

More good news came when the judges from the Communities in Bloom program visited the Harrow-Colchester area. “The judges were impressed by the work that we had done and the deputy-mayor also congratulated us on our efforts. We will continue to maintain the garden throughout the growing season and are formulating plans to further improve the area,” Ruth adds.

“We like calling each other ‘Best Buds,’ it can refer to the flowers and also to us since we share wonderful friendships in Beta Sigma Phi.”

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**Best Buds**

The chapter decked out in their Beta Sigma Phi shirts and ready to plant annuals donated by a local nursery.

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*Before and - After Beautification*
Tennessee Laureate Alpha Gamma, Knoxville celebrated Halloween with a party at the home of member Carla Moore.

It was a Halloween setting! There were spiders and webs everywhere. A life-size butler and mummy greeted everyone at the door. Frightful tombstones made everyone laugh, Doug Under, Fester N. Rott and Ben Better were some of the “deceased.” Members dined on pretend delicacies such as rolled body parts, shredded bones, several eyeballs, chilled brain salad and a blood and guts dip. Everyone participated in a game of charades with Halloween movies as subjects. Some were brave enough for tarot card readings. “Skelly Awards” were given for the most original, scary and cute costumes. A hair-raising time was had by all!

October is a busy month for Illinois Sigma Mu, Golconda (below). Golconda is a small town of 850 in southern Illinois, with four active chapters. “Each year on the second Sunday of October we turn the courtyard into a Fall Festival,” writes Sigma Mu member Deborah Lane. “Members provide the primary food booths with food, pop and water. The Fall Festival is our one big money making project for the year. This year we decided to use a hobo party theme. We all dressed in our best ‘rags’ to attend the affair.” She continues, “Since it was raining buckets, our hostesses prepared chili and potato corn chowder. Upon arriving we were handed our hobo bundle. Tied in a farmer’s hankie we found our eating utensils - a mason jar, silverware, and a napkin. After a beautiful singing duet from two of our sisters we told stories of our encounters with hobos.”

Beverly George formerly of Pennsylvania Zeta Master, Carlisle now member of Washington Laureate Beta Eta, Bellingham has Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and a team of around 200 people walked in the Harrisburg Walk for ALS in May 2009. Beverly's Bunch as they are called, raised $12,000 for ALS.

Illinois Sigma Mu, Golconda members at their annual Fall Festival.
Online Beta
On July 15, 2010, online sisters attended a barbecue in the back yard of Oregon Iota Master, Salem and Online Beta member Loretta Craford’s home. Sisters from several online chapters met for the first time. To quote Loretta, “After the barbecue, we had a work session and decorated purple t-shirts with yellow roses, and the words Online Beta. At the Oregon convention, we competed with many other groups in the ‘Unit Dress’ competition. We entered the ballroom single file, with our right hand resting on the shoulder of the person ahead of us, with Julia Gibson, member of Online Beta, leading us with her laptop computer extended in front of her. We were all connected! We ended up winning 1st place in the competition. The prize was $50 that we decided to donate to the Beta Sigma Phi International Disaster Fund.”

Members of Louisiana Laureate Alpha, New Orleans participated in the tradition of making cookies for the annual St. Joseph altar at a local church. St. Joseph altars began as a custom brought to New Orleans by Sicilian immigrants. The Sicilians began praying to St. Joseph and begged for his intercession to their plights. In return, they promised to celebrate his feast day by having special altars abundant in food that would be shared with all people rich and poor, as their thanksgiving to him.

(l-r) The three sisters in the picture are members of Pennsylvania Zeta Master, Carlisle Pat Beittel, Beverly George now a member of Washington Laureate Beta Eta, Bellingham, and Joan Suders of Pennsylvania Laureate Epsilon Rho, Carlisle.

Announcement: Look for new Pen Pal information in the November 2010 Torch.
In July of 2009, Idaho Laureate Alpha Epsilon, Bonner’s Ferry member Kathy Olsen lost her life to cancer. Kathy loved flowers and as a tribute to her, her sisters all met at a local flower farm, each with a vase in hand. “We then all took a class on flower arranging,” writes Laureate Alpha Epsilon member Irma Clark. “We had hoped to do this when Kathy was alive but changes happened too fast. We were all given a balloon by our sister Donna Irons, and stood in a circle and released them at the same time, in Kathy’s honor.”

Penticton, British Columbia chapters Zeta Master and Laureate Tau make comfort pillows to distribute to the mastectomy patients at their local hospital. The word has spread just how much the pillows are loved, and the chapter has made more than 100 pillows thus far in their ongoing project.

Another Canadian chapter, Saskatchewan Beta Omicron, Regina, participates every year in the Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS). “It allows family and friends to join together and walk to raise money for cancer research,” writes Beta Omicron member Kathy Magnien. Members from Beta Omicron spent many hours walking the relay course. “It was a beautiful evening highlighted by the lighted luminaries. We thought the event was touching and personal, allowing us to bond with our fellow members.”
Beta Sigma Phi Sisters Work to Combat Cancer

British Columbia Laureate Phi, Victoria members are seen here finishing the annual Run for the Cure. This year’s run was in honor of member Jill Krauel (with pink t-shirt), who is fighting breast cancer. “She was with us every step of the way,” writes Laureate Phi member Janet Tweed.

Sisters from California Laureate Gamma Xi, Napa honored their sister, Ria Donald-Johnson, who lost her struggle with cancer, by inviting other Napa chapters to join with them to present a fashion show with the proceeds going to cancer research. The members went to a secondhand shop which is run by the local branch of the ACS and with their help purchased outfits to model in the show. A luncheon in her honor was also planned after the show, with all Beta Sigma Phi area members and their guests invited to attend. “We wanted to demonstrate our loss by actively doing something to fight the reason she had left us,” writes Laureate Gamma Xi member Carol Lander. “We were able to give tribute to our dear friend who lost her life to this insidious disease.” The chapter was able to donate hundreds of dollars in Ria’s name.

Florida Xi Nu Sigma, Avon Park sponsored the Relay for Life survivor’s luncheon held at a local high school football field. “We had ten of our members there, two of them survivors and one who is still battling the disease,” says Xi Nu Sigma member Karen Tifft. With friends such as these, her support is guaranteed.
Birds of a feather flocked together at a cancer awareness event in Lubbock, Texas. Lubbock chapter Xi Xi Tau displayed one of many artistically-altered pink flamingos at the event. Their version was given the fabulous name of Fantasia Flamingo. “The faux flamingos were glitzed and glamored up in celebration of the goodwill event and each bird was sold during a silent auction,” notes Xi Xi Tau member Kathy Kuper. “The auction raised more than $6,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation and raised breast cancer awareness to a new level.” The goal, to ruffle some feathers while supporting the fight for a cure, was accomplished. Good work, sisters!

Georgia Laureate Alpha Kappa, Peachtree City recently made a comfy quilt for member Joy Eidson, to take with her when she has her chemotherapy appointments, a traumatic time for anyone. Chapter members selected the fabric and each member signed a block on the quilt. “We hope the quilt will keep her warm and let her know how much we care,” writes Laureate Alpha Kappa member Carolyn Tomlin.

Arizona Laureate Beta Theta, Sierra Vista members recognized that along with all the other steps involved with cancer treatment, that the cost of gasoline really adds up. With this in mind, the chapter initiated a transportation foundation to help with the costs incurred by patients. The foundation was created in 2008 and the chapter has been able to help many patients and has given out close to $2,000 in gas cards. It is nice to know our chapters are all so thoughtful.

(on right) The chapter is shown with local cancer physician.

We would like to thank all our chapters who participate in cancer awareness fundraising. Always keep in mind that you, our members, have directly made masterful strides in the war on cancer.
HURRY!!!
Deadline rapidly approaching!

Please send your entries to the appropriate contest, c/o The Torch, Beta Sigma Phi International, P.O. Box 8500, Kansas City, MO 64114-0500.

All entries become the property of Beta Sigma Phi International and cannot be returned. International cannot be responsible for items lost or damaged in the mail.

2011 Valentine Contest
Deadline: November 1, 2010.
Please submit a quality photo. Photos should be crisp, clear and in color. No digital/E-mailed photos will be accepted. Most important:
Please attach the entry form to the back of the photo. Please include a short biography of your chapter’s valentine sweetheart.

This section must be completed for consideration

NO E-MAILED PHOTOS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Yearbook Contest
Deadline: November 15, 2010
Your entry should be the one your chapter uses during the current sorority year. Entries should bear the name and address of the yearbook committee chairperson and the name, number and location of the chapter. Yearbook covers are not judged. Points the judges consider include the following:

Year Score Sheet

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<th>Possible points</th>
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<td>Program assignments (more than one member), resources, presentations, innovations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Originality (use of theme, creativity, attractiveness)</td>
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<td>Outline main social activities</td>
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<td>Outline main ways-and-means projects</td>
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<td>Outline main service projects</td>
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<td>Usefulness, organization, neatness</td>
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<td>Concise, clearly outlined plans</td>
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<td>Chapter Roster</td>
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<td>Officer’s names</td>
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<td>Committees (chairpersons included)</td>
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Men in Liberal, Kansas struggled to fit into high heels, pantyhose and other tight female garments to raise the public’s awareness of breast cancer, which affects primarily women.

“It started this past summer when a woman in a neighboring town asked our chapter to assist in a Relay for Life fundraiser,” says Hailey Donaldson of Kansas Sigma Chi, Liberal. The event involved good-natured men dressing like their better-halves in the form of a fashion show. “Each ‘woman’ had a handbag and tips were placed in your favorite models’s purse,” Hailey continues.

“After attending the show and doing hair and make-up for all the contestants and helping with the runway show our chapter decided this was the most fun we had ever had at a fundraiser and if we had the chance we would love to sponsor one.”

Not long after the successful fashion show, a dear friend of many of the chapter members was sent to a Houston hospital for cancer treatment. The chapter immediately knew how they would help out the friend and her family – another fashion show, of course! “We knew it was the perfect time to put on such an event. So we started collecting clothes from garage sales and anyone we could get them from,” says Hailey.

According to the chapter members, the men were a little less enthusiastic. But as you know by now, Beta Sigma Phi sisters can be quite persuasive, and by the time the event came around there were twice as many model-wannabes than were needed. But true to the spirit of their chapter, they figured the more the merrier! “We had such an outpouring from our fellow sisters and community with donations of make-up, clothing and music. Even the building we held our event in was donated to us. We were truly blessed,” exclaims Hailey.

The day of the event the chapters put out 200 chairs and by the time the show started, there was nothing but standing room only. As Hailey noted, in a small town like Liberal, Kansas, this was a very big deal.

Twenty-five model-men, resplendent in their coifs, heels and outfits, took to the runway. Their outfits ran the gamut from sportswear to evening wear, and even a few celebrities popped up, namely Marilyn Monroe and Patsy Cline. They even welcomed Dorothy & Toto - which makes sense! This is Kansas!
Because We Love This Photo

Happy Halloween, to our Beta Sigma Phi sisters around the globe!

International would like to give a big shout-out to Carolyn Ward of Online Theta for the trinket boxes she lovingly crocheted for every Beta Sigma Phi employee (plus extras)! Carolyn was going to bring them to us from Arkansas but life (car trouble) intervened. Thanks, Carolyn, we love them!

“Needless to say fun was had by all in attendance,” reports Hailey. “We raised more than $4,000 and were able to buy a TV for our local cancer center and donate to our friend’s trip to Houston for medical care.”

“As my chapter’s president this year, I could not be prouder,” says Hailey. “This is only our second year as a chapter. We were a Friendly Venture who just started last fall. We have already been asked to make our ‘Cancer is a Drag’ fundraiser a yearly occurrence! So to anyone looking for a not so normal FUNdraiser, this is the one!”
Micro Plus Blue Jacket
featuring Beta Sigma Phi in navy blue.
No. 1903 (M) [15oz]..............$32.00
No. 1904 (L)/[15oz]..............$32.00
No. 1905 (XL)/[16oz]............$32.00
No. 1906 (XXL)/[17oz]..........$33.00
No. 1907 (3XL)/[17oz].........$34.00

Black Sweatpants.
Black with “Beta Sigma Phi” down the leg in white.
No. 1938 (S)/[15oz]..............$22.00
No. 1939 (M)/[17oz]..............$22.00
No. 1940 (L)/[19oz]..............$22.00
No. 1941 (XL)/[21oz]............$22.00
No. 1942 (XXL)/[22oz].........$24.00

Chapter Receipt Book. Never lose track of incoming payments or outgoing payments again with this 25-page, carbon-copying receipt book. Great ideal gift for your chapter’s treasurer.
No. 221 [3oz]...................$2.50     No. 223 [8oz]...................$6.00
For one     For three

Secret Sister Cards. Surprise your Secret Sister throughout the year. Set of 12 colorful cards; 9 special cards with messages and 3 blank all-occasion cards.
No. 307 [5oz].................$8.00

In Good Taste Cookbook
224 page “Best of the Best Collection” of recipes from Beta Sigma Phi
No. 427 [17oz]..............$9.95

Party Book. This book contains hundreds of party ideas from sorority members.
No. 426 [14oz]...............$14.95

Official Notebook. This burgundy 3-ring binder features the words “Beta Sigma Phi” in white script on the cover and Life, Learning, and Friendship printed on the spine. 10” x 11 1/2”.
No. 1162 [12.2oz]...$7.50

Mini Notebook. Just like the official notebook only smaller in size! This 6” x 9” 3-ring binder is great for yearbooks.
No. 1161 [10.3oz]...$6.50

Yellow Sister Mugs 15oz.
Yellow with greek letters printed on both sides.
No. 1124 [15oz]...$6.50

Gift items for Sept./Oct. 2010
**THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER GIFTS!**

PHONE: 1-800-821-3989
8:30 am - 5 pm CST M-F
MAIL: Beta Sigma Phi Gifts
PO Box 8500 Kansas City MO 64114-0500
ONLINE
www.betasigmaphi.org/gifts

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**PAYMENT METHOD:**

- [ ] Check or Money Order Enclosed
- **[ ] Payment in U.S. Dollars Only -**
- [ ] Charge to My Credit Card:
  - [ ] Visa
  - [ ] Mastercard
  - [ ] Discover
  - [ ] American Express

**Credit Card Account Number:**

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**SHIP TO:**

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: ____________________________________________
State/Province: ________________ Zip: ___________
Daytime Phone: ________________________________

Shipping and handling is now calculated by weight. If paying by check or money order, call International for shipping and handling charges.

**For Office Use Only:**

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**NOTICE:** PLEASE CHECK ORDERS PROMPTLY. NO RETURNS OR ADJUSTMENTS AFTER 90 DAYS.

Prices are in effect from August 1, 2010 until July 31, 2011.

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**ADDRESS CHANGES**

Please complete the information below in ink. Allow one month for processing.

Name: ____________________________________________
Member Number: __________________________________
New Address: ______________________________________
E-Mail Address: ____________________________________
City: ____________________________________________
State/Province, Country: ____________________________
Zip/Postal Code: _________________________________
Phone Number: ( ______ ) __________________________
Husband's Name: _________________________________
Name of Most Recent Chapter: ______________________
Chapter Number: _________________________________

Relocating to another City? [ ] I would like to be contacted for a new chapter affiliation.

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September/October 2010 *The Torch* 31
Throughout this sorority year we will be highlighting this year’s theme - New Paths to Friendship - by sharing submissions from our sisters. We welcome your thoughts on your own new path to friendship. Please send them care of The Torch, 1800 W. 91st Place, Kansas City, Mo 64114 or email them to us at torch@betasigmaphi.org

New Paths to Friendship
By Texas Preceptor Eta Chi, Houston member Vickie Buschke

Once there was a woman named Vickie who was wandering through her paths of life with no actual plans. She had her small circle of friends but just knew there had to be something more out there. Through her small circle of friends, she learned of an organization that brought women together through life, learning and friendship. When approached about this wonderful new path, she became anxious to know more.

This path led her to a meeting with some wonderful women who had known each other for many, many years, and seemed to still enjoy each other’s company. During this meeting, she met Laurie, a mother of a small daughter, Angelica, and a native of Houston. Vickie’s friendship circle grew to include Laurie. Soon four women, Connie, Beth, Laurie and Vickie formed a new circle of friends.

“Along our path as a circle of friends, we have also had the privilege of knowing several other ladies who joined us for short times. We’ll always be grateful for the short time their paths joined ours.

As the months and years passed, other friends joined our circle.

From varied backgrounds and faraway places, our paths have joined and made us friends. This path we travel has been filled with joy, tragedy, thrills and never ending love. I am so looking forward to what the future brings for us.”