

CHI OMEGA

FRATERNITY *Flourish.*

Chi Omega Houston Alumnae Newsletter

May 2014

Chi Omega Kaleidoscope



With Chi Omega Kaleidoscope coming up on **October 29, 2014** at the **River Oaks Country Club**, we want you to get to know our sister, and keynote speaker, **Christine Brennan!**

In addition to being a Chi Omega sister from the Xi chapter, Christine is a USA Today columnist, ESPN commentator, an ABC News correspondent, and a nationally known speaker. She is also known for her compelling and best-selling book, **The Best Seat in the House: A Father and Daughter's Journey Through Sports**. We are so excited to welcome Christine this October, and hear her fascinating message!

Chi Omega Kaleidoscope serves as the fundraising arm for the Houston Alumnae Association, and is the outlet in which we are able to serve our community.

Kaleidoscope has taken on many forms and dates back several years. In 2004, Kaleidoscope transformed into a biennial luncheon, and has featured many riveting speakers including Former First Lady, Barbara Bush; Navy SEAL, Marcus Luttrell; *Catch Me If You Can's* Frank Abagnale; actress and comedian, Allie Wentworth; and now, Christine Brennan.

The purpose of our event is to cultivate a spirit of sisterhood while raising money for our incredible beneficiaries: The Center, Scholarships, and The Chi Omega Foundation. Our charities thrive because of your support. It is because of your involvement, as well as generous gifts, that many people in very different arenas are able to benefit. Chi Omega has given each of us so much. It shaped our time as collegiate ladies, and is something that we each find special enough to still be involved in today. Chi Omega Kaleidoscope is a perfect way to give back, serve our community, and keep the women of our organization flourishing!



A Symphony of Sisterhood at Chi O Convention



Sisters, we are **SO EXCITED** to announce the 2014 Supreme Governing Council Model Initiates who will be initiated at Convention in Orlando this summer! Houstonians **Isabelle Graham** from the Xi Kappa Chapter at Texas A&M University and **Forrest Ellis Millard** from the Psi Chapter at the University of Arkansas will receive this honor! Both young ladies have a strong Chi Omega family history and both of their mothers were also National Model Initiates.

Isabelle's mother is Cyndi Penberthy Graham (Iota); aunt is Rebecca Penberthy Clark (Iota); grandmother is Saranne "Punky" Bowker Penberthy (Iota Alpha) and great-grandmother is Winnie Hopkins Bowker (Psi). Punky Penberthy served on the Governing Council as National Treasurer. Winnie Bowker also served on the Governing Council for twenty-two years in the roles of National Treasurer and National President and acted as President of the Chi Omega Foundation, ultimately receiving the President's Award for Distinguished Service.

Ellis' mother is Ellen Stephens Millard (Tau Theta); aunt is Anne Stephens Lloyd (Lambda Gamma); grandmother is Mary Gardner (Psi); and great-aunt is Susan Lesh Chadick (Psi). She is also related to Founder Jobelle Holcombe (Psi) and is named for her great-great-grandmother Forrest Ellis Gardner (Psi). Ellis will be moving into the Chi O house this fall and living in a room her grandmother once lived in.

The Houston-area Chi Os are thrilled for Isabelle and Ellis and congratulate them on this magnificent honor. Convention 2014 will be held June 25-29, 2014 at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes Resort in Orlando, Florida. All sisters and their spouses and guests are invited to attend as alumnae-at-large. The event will be full of fun, friendship, and Sisterhood, and attendees will see the importance of a lifetime impact and commitment to Chi Omega. Register at everyday.chiomega.com/events.aspx.



Forrest Ellis Millard (top)
Isabelle Graham (bottom)



Letter from Our President

Dear Chi Omega Sisters:

This has been a wonderful year for Chi Omega in terms of new experiences and opportunities to expand our horizons. Thank you to all the ladies in the Alumnae Association who have made this year an extraordinary time of sisterhood.

Thank you to Lou Thompson Black for her leadership in chairing the first Houston area regional session of the Nancy Walton Laurie Leadership Institute in March. Fifty-six alumnae and actives gathered for a marvelous day, learning from each other and about our own visions and strengths. Thank you again to all the alumnae who donate to the Foundation each year, as your donations made this event possible. We sincerely hope to have another session in the not too distant future.

Thank you to Debbie Bennett Dugger and her committee for the lovely Eleusinian Banquet at the Junior League in April, and to Janet Rhodes Jones for her leadership on the Scholarship Committee. Great job, ladies! There is truly special bonding that happens when you gather together to remember the joys of sisterhood, honor 50, 60 and 70 year alumnae and recognize outstanding actives with leadership awards and scholarship announcements. Congratulations to our 19 Houston actives for being awarded scholarships, which were announced at their chapter Eleusinian Banquets. Thank you all for your donations to our Scholarship Fund, which made these possible.

Congratulations to Drue Terry DaSilva, our 2013-14 Woman of the Year! Drue is an amazing sister, serving Chi Omega faithfully for twenty-plus years, on the collegiate, local and national level. We are very proud of you, Drue.

Thank you to Geyer Wise Dybesland and her recruitment team who are working tirelessly and diligently to process the hundreds of RIFs and LOS that have been sent in. Thank you to all of you who have participated in order to provide our chapters the information they need to continue to make Chi Omega the best national fraternity for women.

Congratulations to Cathy Coers Frank and Polly Cox Kent for receiving Citation Awards from HAPA for their meritorious service this year. The HAPF Luncheon on May 1 was a lovely time to celebrate the accomplishments of Greek sisterhood across Houston, and the HAPF scholarship winners, two of whom are Chi Omegas this year.

I hope to see you at Cinco de Chi O on Tuesday May 6, at 6:30 p.m., as the Night Owls gather at Berryhill in the Galleria, and at Chow Omega on Wednesday, May 7 at 11:30 a.m., at the Café Express in Uptown Park. Please join us, bring a friend and enjoy the opportunity to renew friendships with your Houston area sisters. We've added one more item to the calendar – the book club will meet on June 10 at Barbe Boland Bozeman's home to discuss Sue Monk Kidds' new bestseller, The Invention of Wings. I encourage you to come for a relaxed summer-time evening of lively discussion!

Sisterhood News



Cathy Coers Frank (right) and **Drue Terry DaSilva** (left) (Psi Zetas) show their Chi O pride at the UH Alumni Association's 60th Annual Awards Gala.

Heidi Novosad Allen (Psi Zeta) gave birth to Olivia Allen on March 14; **Susan Dill Patterson** (Epsilon Zeta) gave birth to David Charles Patterson on April 21 and **Ally Butler Hilsher** (Sigma Epsilon) gave birth to Charlotte Paige Hilsher on April 28.

Trang Do Stark (Psi Zeta) cut 14 inches of her hair to make her 3rd donation in the past 10 years to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a partnership between the American Cancer Society and Pantene who provides the funds to turn this hair into free, real-hair wigs for women with cancer.

Condolences to **Linda Bush Burdine** (Epsilon Delta) on the loss of her father, Harry Harmon Bush.

Andy Horne, husband of **Sylvia Pool Horne** (Upsilon Zeta) has written the first book Mixed Company in the Decent Men book series. He has held book signings around town. You can find more info at www.AndyHorneBooks.com.

Polly Cox Kent (Rho Epsilon) and **Cathy Coers Frank** (Psi Zeta) were named as 2014 Citation Members by the Houston Alumnae Panhellenic Association in recognition of their continuous, outstanding and unselfish service to HAPA.

If any of you may be interested in serving on the board or committees next year, we would love to hear from you. Please email our President Elect, Jo Williams Crake, at crakefamily@comcast.net to let her know of your interest.

It has been my honor and joy to have the opportunity to serve you. All that has been accomplished this year was the work of our enthusiastic and very capable board who love to support Chi Omega. I am so thrilled to see my friend and sister Jo Crake become President and know that she also welcomes your suggestions for service or social activities we can do, or interest groups you would like to see started, as together we will make it happen.

Faithfully yours in Chi Omega,



Sally Sellers Reed

Sally Sellers Reed
Theta Kappa 1977
President@ChiOmegaHouston.com

Nancy Walton Laurie Leadership Institute of Chi Omega Regional Session in Houston



The Nancy Walton Laurie Leadership Institute of Chi Omega is a distinguished program designed to engage alumnae and collegiate members in leadership training that is both insightful and inspiring. The Laurie Leadership Institute, supported by a grant from the Chi Omega Foundation, provides educational sessions on a variety of topics. Chi Omega offers The Laurie Leadership Institute training in a variety of ways including a Flagship weekend at the Executive Headquarters and leadership programming at national meetings. Each year, the Laurie Leadership Institute takes the programming on the road by traveling to major U.S. cities. Both alumnae and collegians are invited to attend these regional workshops providing a truly intergenerational experience. A regional session gives members the opportunity to grow professionally while networking with Sisters from their area.

On March 29, 2014, Houston hosted a regional session of the Nancy Walton Laurie Leadership Institute, chaired by Lou Thompson Black (Rho Epsilon). Approximately 50 alumnae and collegians attended the session, which took place at The Forest Club. The session topic presented was titled *Chi Omega's Brand of Leadership: Competence, Compassion, Courage, Commitment*. This program was made available to Houston due to our group's generous gift to the Chi Omega Foundation through our Kaleidoscope fundraising efforts. The session was a great success in which alumnae and collegians learned and experienced alike.

Congratulations to the 2014-2015 Executive Board

Jo Williams Crake (Phi Gamma)	President
Melissa Claybrook DeLaGarza (Psi Zeta)	President-Elect
Sally Sellers Reed (Theta Kappa)	Immediate Past President
Melissa Claybrook DeLaGarza (Psi Zeta)	VP, Kaleidoscope
Geyer Wise Dybesland (Rho)	VP, Recruitment
Dawn Ogletree Murphy (Kappa Zeta)	Secretary
Margaret Hobokan Wallace Brown (Psi Zeta)	Treasurer
Lou Thompson Black (Rho Epsilon)	Membership Chair
Taylor Hodges Thompson (Theta Lambda)	Communications Chair

Upcoming Events

All events can be found at
www.ChiOmegaHouston.com

May 6th

Night Owls

Cinco de Chi O

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Berryhill Galleria
1717 Post Oak Blvd.
Houston, TX 77056

May 7th

Chow Omega

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Café Express Uptown Park
1101 Uptown Park Blvd.
Houston, TX 77056

May 14th

Kaleidoscope Board Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Center
3550 W. Dallas Street
XO Board Room, 2nd Floor
Houston, TX 77019

June 10th

Chi O Book Club

7 – 8:30 p.m.

The Invention of Wings

at the home of Barbe Bozeman
14819 Broadgreen
Houston, TX 77079



Debbie Bennett Dugger (Kappa Zeta)

Eleusinian Banquet

What a special night! Houston-area Chi Omegas celebrated our beloved Fraternity's 119th birthday at the beautiful Eleusinian Banquet on April 3rd at the Junior League! It is hard to believe Chi Omega has grown so much since our special founding day in 1895 at the University of Arkansas. The five founders would be so proud! The banquet was expertly planned by Debbie Bennett Dugger (Kappa Zeta) and her committee and enjoyed immensely by the over 125 women in attendance.

The night was full of celebration and sisterhood. Alumnae expressed respect and gratitude for our ten 50 & 60 year members and listened to their favorite sorority memories and a few of their accomplishments. Chi Os enthusiastically accepted next year's slate of officers for the Houston Alumnae Association Board and chose Drue Terry DaSilva as the "Woman of the Year".

Chi Omega showed our strong commitment to education by awarding many deserving recipients scholarships totaling \$16,500 from the Houston Alumnae Association, \$1,500 from the Mother's Club and \$1,000 from the Psi Zeta House Corporation.

Alumnae honored the 18 graduating seniors of Psi Zeta and gave them a framed copy of our beloved *Symphony*. Psi Zeta selected recipients of the *Ferne Storm Symphony Award*, *Loyalty Award*, *Womanly Always Award*, *Scholarship Before Social Award*, *Speaks Kindly Award*, and the *Lovable Award*. The *Psi Zeta Foundation Ambassador Scholarship* winner was also named.

The Eleusinian Banquet provides a delightful bonding experience each year. It reminds us of why we joined and allows us to celebrate the wonderful traditions of being a Chi Omega.



Taylor Hodges Thompson (Theta Lambda); Margie Baldwin Esse (Iota Alpha); Melissa Claybrook DeLaGarza (Psi Zeta)



Drue Terry DaSilva (Psi Zeta) and Mona Barron (Epsilon Gamma)



Ladies of Psi Zeta

Psi Zeta



The **Psi Zetas** have had an incredible year at the University of Houston!

The chapter numbers in the 70s and is the largest sorority at UH. The actives have been studying hard, winning awards across campus and working diligently to support a number of philanthropic efforts.

In January, the Psi Zetas won the most awards at the Fraternal Excellence Program, a Panhellenic night of celebration which recognizes Greek organizations in various categories at the University of Houston. They also raised \$9,987 for Make-A-Wish while also earning the highest GPA on campus!



During this spring's Frontier Fiesta, the Psi Zetas won First Front, Best Script, Most Cougar Spirit, 1st Place Variety Show and the Joe Koppel Award, awarded to the best overall show. Frontier Fiesta, a UH variety show around since the 1940s, once attracted Hollywood stars such as Humphrey Bogart, James Garner, Anne Baxter, Kenny Rogers, and Patsy Swayze. *Life* magazine once dubbed it, "The Greatest College Show on Earth".

The ladies had a great time at the Eleusinian Banquet, taking home meaningful awards and several Houston Alumnae Association scholarships. The Psi Zetas held a wonderful Chi O Carnival at The Center on April 6th. Clients and caregivers were able to enjoy a variety of carnival style games and interact with Chi O volunteers. The Sisters made sure each resident went home a winner! **UH XO's, we are proud of you!**

Honor a Special Chi Omega Today Sisters Honoring Sisters

In honor of Chi Omega's 119th anniversary, the Chi Omega Foundation is making it easy for you to reach out to your Chi Omega Sisters and thank them for the impact they have had on your life. The giving program, *Sisters Honoring Sisters*, allows you to search for and make a \$10 gift in honor of a selected Sister. They will then send her a thoughtful message from you.

What a perfect opportunity to reconnect with a Big, Little, or other Sister from your chapter, or to show your appreciation of any treasured Chi Omega! Your gift will provide educational and leadership programs that ensure Chi Omegas grow and thrive.

***I am a Chi Omega. I lead. I serve. I give.
Make your gift today!***

<https://www.pursuant8.com/chiomega/2014/s2s/index.php?sid=TPG+AU812CEF>

Hoot Hoot!! Did You Know?

Chi Omega is the largest sorority in the National Panhellenic Conference, with over 328,000 initiated members and 178 collegiate chapters.

Chi Omega has a record number of collegians right now - nearly 25,000!

Chi Omega has over 237,000 living alumnae and 241 alumnae chapters, providing members with Sisterhood opportunities for a lifetime.

