Newsletter

Spring 2025 Edition

Letter from The President

Sisters,

The alumnae chapter officers and I are excited about the year that is ahead of us.

Some of our alumnae chapter sisters were able to attend the Everlasting Houston event on March 1, 2025. Please enjoy the photos that are included in this newsletter.

We have our first alumnae chapter sisterhood event scheduled for late March, followed by a variety of sisterhood and philanthropy events for the next several months. We hope that our sisters will be able to attend the events!

The OA Chapter completed the spring recruitment process and the chapter welcomed 12 new members. We are proud of the hard work that the chapter put forward which paid off with the chapter meeting total!

Finally, our newsletter focus this quarter is on Panhellenic Association of San Antonio (PASA) and the upcoming Scholarship Luncheon, which will be held on May 10, 2025. Cyndi Munch, PASA Alternate Delegate, authored a wonderful article that is included in this newsletter. Please take a minute to read about everything PASA.

With Spring just around the corner, I wish you the beauty of the season. Take time to smell the Killarney Roses!

DZLAM,

Norma Jean Giffin

Upcoming Events

March 23-Spring into Spring Brunch @ Max and Louie's 10:00 AM

March 25-Creed Workshop @ St Mary's University Founders Hall 1st Floor Conference Room 6:30 PM

April 5-Alum Brunch @ St Mary's University Founders Hall 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
April 5 - Cards of Joy Philanthropy Event (during Alum Brunch)

April 15-Remembering our Ritual @ St Mary's University Bourdeax Lounge 6:30 PM

April 24 - Bingo Night Sisterhood Event @ Golden Bingo Family, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

May - Better Speech and Hearing Month

May 10 - PASA Luncheon @ Anne Marie's Catering 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

June 14th-Volunteer Philanthropy Event @ San Antonio Food Bank 9:00 - 11:30 AM

DELTA ZETA

Sharing Panhellenic – Here in San Antonio!

Tricia really made this!

Okay, let's get in a nostalgic mood. Recently I received a box in the mail – so exciting. My talented pledge daughter, Tricia, made a wood carving of the cutest turtle for me. Our only visit in 2024 was Christmas cards but I called Tricia last weekend and we had the best, long, memory driven visit! It has been so long since we were all together in chapter, Tricia and I had to work as a team to remember some names and share updates of college friends.

It is my wonderful Delta Zeta experience in college that makes me always want to meet new friends who share the girl-group sorority experience. I did serve a term as Panhellenic delegate in college, but it was Elsie McTee who some years back brought me into the alumnae Panhellenic fold here in San Antonio. I would love to share the alumnae Panhellenic friendships with my San Antonio sisters as Elsie did for me. It could be at a Panhellenic Assoc. of San Antonio (PASA) meeting – at the Recruitment Forum in the spring - at the scholarship luncheon in May – at the girls' night out this summer – and/or the Christmas coffee with Blue Santa (SAPD) at a member's home next December.

So what should you know about PASA? Here we go!

- There are 5 business meetings a year on the first Thursday of October, November, February, March and April. The meetings are one to one & a half hours beginning at 9:45 and we have been meeting at a local church.
- There is a Recruitment Forum in the spring (usually late February, early March) to share information on the recruitment experience and to offer support if RIFs are needed for any/all sororities on the chosen college campus.
- **COMING UP! The annual scholarship luncheon – Saturday, May 10th from 11:00 to 1:00 at Anne Marie's**

It's a Sorori-Tea ~ Mother/Daughter Tea ~ For Everybod-Tea

Tickets $55 ~ reach out to me, cyndi.munch@gmail.com with any questions.

If your daughter, sister, niece, friend attended high school in Bexar County and is currently in a sorority, please reach out to me for the link to the scholarship application.

Each year, at the May luncheon, PASA presents the Merit Award to a San Antonian who has given graciously to her sorority, her Panhellenic (any location), and her community. Do you have a nominee? Nomination deadline ~ April 15th.

I wish I knew more about each of my sister's interests; opportunities to visit with your chapter sisters here locally; and, who among you have daughter's making plans for college. It would be so great to receive a note from you at the above e-mail. And especially I hope for the opportunity to offer more information about the connection with women from all of the Panhellenic groups who share career, family, travel, hobby, community service and memories so beautifully.

Cyndi Munch, SA DZ Alumnae Alternate Delegate to PASA

Sisters Attend Everlasting Houston Event

The San Antonio Alumnae Chapter was well represented at the recent Everlasting Houston event, held on March 1, 2025. Everlasting is a one-day experience filled with inspiring speakers, personal development opportunities and the opportunity to grow and connect with other Delta Zeta alumnae and collegiate members. Cathy Painter, DZ National President, Lorrie Tijerina, Savannah Smith, Valerie Cobos and Afton Smith-Esparza attended the event.

Cathy kicked off the event with a welcome message, served as one of the multigenerational panelists, and closed the event. Lorrie and Afton were recognized for their membership anniversaries. Savannah and Valerie were recognized as sisters who have been nationally recognized as 35 Under 35. Valerie also presented "Extending our Circle: 1902 Alumnae Initiation Initiative".

Thank you all for being such wonderful role models for our chapter!

Omicron Alpha Updates

Congratulations to the Omicron Alpha Chapter for another successful Formal Recruitment! They welcomed 12 new members to the Spring 2025 class in February.

The Open House theme for the first round of parties was Delta Zeta Airlines. They wore matching shirts and pink scarves as the flight attendants for the evening. Decorations included blow up airplanes, and they had a great time getting to know the PNMs (potential new members).

The second round of parties was focused on our philanthropy for Hearing and Speech. They had the room decorated in all things pink and shared about the Starkey Hearing Foundation.

Preference was an incredibly special night as a few of the seniors shared their memories about their time in chapter. The night ended with a rose and wishing well as always.

A few weeks later, OA hosted their first programming event of the semester with Bradley Freeman Jr. as the guest speaker. Bradley is one of the primary puppeteers on Sesame Street and a puppeteer with the Disney Muppets. They had fun learning a little about the behind-the-scenes magic of puppets.

OA is now back from Spring Break, and they have another big event for which they are preparing. All alumnae are invited to the annual Alum Brunch on Saturday, April 5th at 11am in the Founders 1st floor conference room. They really enjoy getting to know alumnae and hearing all about our DZ memories. Be on the lookout for a reminder and any updates on social media and the website.

Thank you for all your support for our collegiate sisters! They really appreciate it! Keep an eye out for any other announcements that are emailed to you and posted on social media platforms.

Lorrie Tijerina Named Foundation Trustee

For 25 years, Lorrie has been a guiding force for Delta Zeta women, including 10 years as College Chapter Director for Omicron Alpha at St. Mary's University. She has also shared her expertise as a Day of Giving Ambassador, National New Member Education Chairman, Founders Day Challenge Co-Chair, and more.

With a passion for education and community engagement, Lorrie is a strong advocate for the Foundation's mission to create lasting impact. We're excited for her leadership on the Board of Trustees!

Congratulations Lorrie!

Congratulations To Our Basket Raffle Winners!

On March 1, 2025, our Fundraising Chair, Susan Gargotta, drew the names of the winners of our Spring gift basket fundraiser.

Congratulations to Lori Bergstrom and Catherine Sales! We hope that you enjoy your baskets! Thank you to those that participated in the fundraiser.

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2025 San Antonio Alumnae Chapter Officers

President: Norma Jean Giffin

VP of Programs: Yovhany Ortiz

VP of Membership: Michele Schuchert

VP of Collegiate Relations: Monica Rodriguez Harness

Secretary: Emilia McGarity

Treasurer: Afton Smith-Esparza

Panhellenic Delegate: Lisa Branam

Panhellenic Alternate: Cyndi Munch

Philanthropy Chairwoman: Anna-Melissa Cavazos

Ways and Means Chairwoman: Susan Gargotta

Sunshine Chair: Diana Sarfin

Website Administrator: Michelle Saenz

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