



*Beta Sigma Phi Ottawa
Chapter Chatter
December 2005 Edition*

Beta Eta Master

We had a **WEDDING IN JULY!** Yes! A Master Chapter had two wonderful people who tied the knot on July 29th, 2005: **Marie Balfour and John Stevens.** The following day at Marie's home there was a **GARDEN PARTY** which guests and her Sorority Sisters attended. It was a glorious day, the flowers were beautiful and the Bride was radiant, the Groom was in rare form. We are so happy for both of them and they make a lovely couple. It goes without saying all her Sisters wished them a lot of luck and much happiness. Seniors have more fun than you think!...

We held our Beginning Day at the home of Margaret Burman in the form of a BBQ and Pool Party. Margaret had a hard act to follow after the July Wedding of Marie Balfour. However, Margaret managed to pull it off with a wonderful day and a Potluck dinner, which everyone enjoyed.

Our first meeting of November, we had a wonderful program on The War Years. Margaret Burman's father kept a day-to-day account of what went on during the war years in a diary, which Margaret shared with us. Her husband's grandfather sent home letters while he was in occupied France, which she read to us. They were very interesting, and made us feel that we had the news first hand from the front lines. This brought so much of the horror and devastation of The War home to us.

As our Service Projects, we have monthly Birthday Parties at the Perley Lodge and many of our members do their own volunteer work at Lynwood Lodge, and St. Patrick's Home. (Sisters giving loving Service in their Communities.) We support the MS Xmas Party every year and donate monies for the MS party punch.

Socials: We attended the Pref. Tea, and look forward to the Founder's Day Banquet where once again we will enjoy intermingling with our Sisters city-wide. We are gearing up for our Christmas Party at Algonquin College where we will enjoy good food and sharing the gifts of Sisterhood. Our Secret Sisters Christmas gifts will be opened after our appetites are satisfied.

We hope that all our Sisters frolicked in the sun this summer. We had an extraordinarily warm summer. We hope you laid back and kicked off your shoes and took time to smell the

roses. The cold weather will soon be upon us and Christmas is just around the corner. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year with hope in our hearts that love will abide throughout the world.. As Tiny Tim observed***GODBLESS US EVERYONE*** *Respectfully Submitted by: Joan Carroll- Watts*



Laureate Phi

Laureate Phi has had a wonderful beginning to our Sorority year 05-06. Several of our Sisters gathered to do the National Ovarian Cancer Association (NOCA) walk in early September with the "Helen's Journey" team. Also, we have been fortunate to have Rushed 2 new members last spring and one more new Pledge at Beginning Day. So, our Beginning Day saw us holding a beautiful outdoor Ritual Event - 2 Ritual of Jewels and one Pledge Ritual. The day was gorgeous and the patio was festooned with rose petals, striking white tablecloth with the BSP Banner, silver dishes for the pins, yellow roses, and candles in our wonderful Jewel colours. For us Laureates it was a little like going down Memory Lane since it's been quite some time since reading and hearing those two Rituals.

Our first Program of the year introduced a "theme" since we will be doing a "Laureate Phi Calendar Girl" production. Each month the sister/s doing the Program will create their unique photo page for a full blown Calendar for the year 06-07. Our thinking caps are now firmly planted on our heads and true creativity is coming to the fore. We eagerly look forward to each month's Program.

We've got our Yearbook chocked full of interesting events and outings - next one will be a Christmas outing to view the lights on Parliament Hill. We wish all of our Ottawa Sisters a wonderful Christmas Season and a blessed New Year in 2006. ***Respectfully submitted, Diane I. Dean, President.***



Zeta

Well, this has been a busy year full of positive changes for the ladies of Zeta. We would like to congratulate some of our members who have progressed on to Exemplar and are happy to announce that we have welcomed three new ladies to our chapter; Jen Allen, Kerry Keirstead and Leigh Mitchener and one new member; Leigh Johnson, in September. All the ladies have been a welcome addition to the group and we look forward to lots of fun times.

Speaking of fun times, this summer we kept our Zeta connections alive by hosting a couple of mid summer BBQs. It was a great way to keep in touch and up to date with our sisters during the hiatus from meetings. Plus, any excuse to have a BBQ..

As you may know, our chapter last year decided to make the transition from a Career to a Traditional chapter. The transition is working out well, having the two meetings a month has made it easier to keep in touch with all the ladies. It also means that we have had the opportunity for twice as many programs, and there have been some interesting ones on such differing topics as Japan, body cleansing, and pumpkin pie.

The Chapter has also kept busy with fund raising and service activities. Recently, the chapter held a bowl-a-thon for Kim's Hope, a charity for a young woman with breast cancer. We are proud to report that not only did we meet our target while having a great time; we surpassed it by over \$300! As well, the chapter has been busy making perogies and getting our Purdy's chocolate orders in for Christmas time.

This has also been an exciting time for many of our sisters personally too. We are happy to report that two of our ladies are deep in the midst of planning their weddings while another member is expecting her first child in the springtime! Over the summer, one of our ladies, Johanna, welcomed her second baby. It must be catching because in the last month both Laura and Kerry have announced that they will also be adding to their households in the New Year! We hope that all the other chapters are having as much fun as we are and look forward to meeting with you all at the inter-chapter functions!! ***Respectfully submitted by: Jennifer Hand***



Beta Rho Master

We are using the International Theme, "The Good, the True, The Beautiful" as our theme for the year. Programs so far this year have been on the *beautiful* cathedral at Aachen, Germany, our *good* retiring Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson, the *good* experiences a member had as President of her business association, and the *good, true and beautiful* guide dogs for the blind. We are looking to more interesting and creative programs using this theme.

Our first social was *Beautiful Beginnings*, at which we all dressed up, including hats and gloves, for a delicious Beginning Day luncheon. Our fall mixed social, *The Good Old Days*, featured a scavenger hunt and comfort foods, including shepherd's pie and ice cream sundaes. We are looking forward to our *Good Old Fashioned Christmas* mixed social and our ladies social, *Good Food, True Friends, Beautiful Thoughts*.

On the service scene we are focusing on Cornerstone, a women's shelter, this year. In October we had a food drive to provide needed ingredients for Christmas baking. In November we had a winter clothing drive. For Christmas we are preparing gift bags of toiletries for the residents, as well as a couple of small personal gifts. As always, we will donate money towards talking books for the blind. ***Respectfully submitted by: Wendy Russell***



Sigma

This has been a busy fall for Sigma. We began our year with a High Tea; it was a great chance to catch up after the summer. Our committees had been busily planning events during the summer so we have had many things to participate in.

At the beginning of October there was a hike in the Gatineaus, the day was perfect for hiking and a picnic lunch. Our Halloween Rush party was a “spooktacular” time. Everyone attended in costume, there were lots of laughs, wonderful Halloween treats made by our sisters and we had some fun decorating Halloween themed cookies.

Our programs have been very informative this fall. We have learned about the Autumnal Equinox and Mabon, hurricanes, Halloween its history and customs, stress and how to deal with it and did a really great crossword puzzle on the Beta Sigma Phi colours and degrees.

Always looking for new ways to fundraise, Sigma had their first Open House on October 30th. Representatives from Epicure, Avon and Tupperware were invited with a portion of the proceeds going to our various charitable endeavors. It was a great success! We have recently invited a new member to join us and look forward to showing her all the great things Beta Sigma Phi has to offer. ***Respectfully submitted by: Lesley Malcolm.***



Preceptor Alpha Eta

Preceptor Alpha Eta has had a busy year so far. We kept in touch during the summer at two BBQ's, one at Bonnie Von Wurden's and the other at Joanne Heinbuch's lovely cottage in the Gatineau's.

Beginning day saw a number of us at the Pompeii Exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Civilization followed by brunch at The Courtyard restaurant in the market. Our latest mixed social outing was to the Rideau Carleton Racetrack for a buffet dinner, where some lucky sorority sisters were last seen near the slot machines jangling cups full of tokens!

We've had some interesting programs this year, during which we heard about the Shirley E. Greenberg Women's Health Centre, learned about the history of apples, and had a travelogue of a trip to Eastern Europe. We are happy to welcome two new members to our chapter - Jill Cooke and Liz Steeves. ***Respectfully submitted by: Lois Feinholz***



Preceptor Alpha Theta

All Aboard !! Preceptor Alpha Theta organized a very successful shopping bus trip to Montreal on November 5, 2005. Cheryl Elford had the lead in organizing this event and she did a fabulous job. The shopping was great, funds were raised for the Shirley E. Greenberg Health Centre, and the camaraderie was the best ! Thanks to everyone who supported this event; we are considering organizing another shopping trip so stay tuned..

Another highlight of our year to-date was the crafting of our annual donation to the May Court Club Trees and Treasures fund raising event. This year we donated a beautiful Christmas table centrepiece entitled "Santa's Little Helper", thanks to the talents of Pat Ellis Cheryl Elford, and Doris Whitson. If you happen to be at the Rideau Centre before Dec 04, 2005, drop over to the west concourse to check out our entry and buy a ticket for a very worthy cause.

In other news, the chapter has lost a few members due to re- location, and leave-of-absence so we are actively rushing again. We were pleased to have Karen Little visit the chapter at our last meeting and we hope to entertain other prospective members in the months ahead.

Marilou Rooke had the pleasure of pouring at the Preferential Tea this year. It was a very enjoyable afternoon thanks to a lot of hard work by the organizers and caterers. Our members also enjoyed the Fall Dinner and are now looking forward to a mixed Christmas Dinner at Capone's and ladies Christmas Brunch at Prime 360 (formerly Noah's).

We wish all of our sisters a safe and happy holiday season.. *Respectfully submitted by: Marilou Rooke.*



*May you have the gladness of Christmas
Which is Hope;
The Heart of Christmas,
Which is Love; and,
The Spirit of Christmas,
Which is Joy and Peace.*

Merry Christmas !!



In Memoriam

Laureate Beta Chapter

On September 28th of this year, Laureate Beta members and so many other Sorority Sisters were shocked to learn of the death of one of our own – Pam Chapatis. Pam was one of many who have been struck by cancer. From the onset of her symptoms in August to her death about four weeks later, the shock and the swiftness of this disease sent us all reeling. As her sisters in Laureate Beta chapter were preparing to rally around and assist her through her treatments and time of trial, we learned that she had indeed succumbed – a fact that we still find difficult to take in.

Many will remember Pam as a tall, beautiful, full-of-life and talented woman who loved to laugh and get involved in her many interests and activities. Over the years Pam was a dedicated and very active member of Beta Sigma Phi. Most notable perhaps was the way in which she and Wayne Jarvis organized our Sorority Convention here in Ottawa. It was a huge success – well attended and appreciated. This was due in large part to their tireless effort, organizational skills and ability to delegate.

We in Laureate Beta Chapter will remember her with fondness and are grateful for her time with us. Many thanks for the cards and notes of condolence sent to us from other chapters. They were much appreciated. *Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen O'Shea, President*

*Loving and kind in all her ways,
Upright and just, to the end of her days;
Sincere and true in her heart and mind.
Beautiful memories she left behind.*

Rest in Peace