

September Newsletter

Chi Omega Alumnae Chapter of Indianapolis

www.chiomega.com/alumnae/indychio

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"The Hoot" - from our President, Pamela Quintana

I'll be honest: I sat there completely stunned by what she had said. I'll get to who "she" is and what she said in a second. First, you need some background. Ten years ago, I was a senior in college and living in the Chi Omega House on the campus of New Mexico State University. I had already finished two years on the Exec Board, in which you were required to live in the House. We also finally had enough members in our chapter to fill the house, so older members could move out. I didn't. I lived in the House my whole college career minus my first semester when I wasn't yet a Chi O. I lived in the same room all nine semesters, although with different girls. I loved living in the House, and as a Senior, I found myself surrounded by sisters 4-5 years younger than me. There's kind of a big gap between a 23-year-old and 18-year-olds. So life was usually pretty amusing, both for them and me!

I remember when Kim Chapin pledged Chi Omega. Not because I rushed her - I was downstairs strategically matching potential new members with current members with the hope that we would meet quota, but more so that we would get a good group of women to pass the Chi Omega flame to. Kim was in one of the last fall pledge classes that I matched. She was dedicated to school and to Chi Omega. She liked to have fun and had a lot of interests. At one point she lived across the hall from me, so we ran in to each other frequently - usually frantically running to class via the emergency staircase located just outside our doors (which was a big no-no!). Kim was especially interesting to talk to because she and I share quite a few similar qualities: we are both strong willed, analytical, independent thinkers. Certainly when we get an idea in our heads, it is pretty difficult to persuade us otherwise. She had a great love and devotion to her mother, who was battling cancer at the time.

Writing this transports me back to a time where it was perfectly normal to sit in the hallway outside our rooms or on the stairs of our split level house, and talk for hours about everything and nothing. Don't worry - we used the living room, dining room, and especially the study room to share our life stories, and the little bits of wisdom that we were gathering as collegians. I'm sure you have similar memories from your collegiate days!

In our meetings, we had an opportunity to share something inspirational or motivational. I gave frequent talks, but the one that I loved the most was a story my father once told me when I was about 12. Now keep in mind, he was trying to make a point about getting involved in activities to a 'tween who basically thought he doesn't get me, he just doesn't understand, and he certainly has never gone through what I'm going through!! Isn't it funny how you get wisdom and perspective over the years! So the story: he said, "Pam, life is like a shopping mall, and you are the cart. So sometimes you go into a store, and you find a few things that you like, they fit just right, and the price is good. Sometimes you go into a store, and you find a bunch of things, but they don't fit, or you don't like them. Sometime you go into a store, and you can't find what you are looking for. Sometimes you go into a store, and everything you want will cost you everything you have, and you have to decide how much you really want it. Sometimes you go into a store, and you what you want, you get a really good deal on it! As you go through the mall, and in and out of all these stores, you put what you get in your cart. And at the end of the mall(which was symbolic for the end of life), everything you have in your cart is yours to keep. Now wouldn't it be a shame if you got to the end of the mall with an empty cart?"

The semester before I graduated, Kim's mother passed away from cancer. Her life was celebrated and honored in a beautiful funeral Mass in Alamogordo, about an hour from school. Many of the sisters in my chapter went to support Kim, and provide her with our prayers and love. As I walked up to her to give her a hug, and express my condolences, she grabbed my hand and said, "You are going to laugh when I give me talk." I thought, well, that's a strange reaction for me to have, but okay, and I smiled and gave her another hug.

Kim did get up to talk about her mother. She talked about her mother's grace, her courage and strength, and how she learned many great things about her mother through her battle with cancer. Then she said, "A wise owl once told me that life was like a shopping mall, and I was like the cart." My eye's met Kim's in that moment. My roommate squeezed my hand, and the hand of the sister sitting next to her, and quickly our whole group was holding hands and crying. With grace, Kim went on to tell the rest of the story, and recounted how she knew her mother was in the best store of all.

To hear a story you have told someone else, recounted back to you is humbling and it's like hearing the story for the first time. Never in my life had I imagined that someone was paying that much attention to what I said. This experience always makes me realize the great honor and opportunity I have to share an experience, advice, or some little pearl of wisdom with others. It also makes me incredibly grateful to be part of the Chi Omega Sisterhood that values all women, is dedicated to integrity and character, and provides continuous opportunity for Sisters to grow as collegians and alumnae.

This was one of the most memorable events in my life as a Chi Omega. I made a lifelong connection to a great woman and a wonderful friend. I'm sure you have great stories like this too, which I'd love to hear. Feel free to write me about them at angelfire1299@yahoo.com. In the meantime, make sure to check out our Oct. 14 event at Sarah Hayden's home. It is a Connection Event. What is a Connection Event? Well, this one is a covered dish dinner, but it's an opportunity for you to make some connections of your own as a part of the Indianapolis Alumnae Chapter. Come meet the fabulous women that make up the Chapter in a relaxing and fun environment! Don't know anyone? Don't worry! I know that you'll quickly make connections and some amazing friends - for life.

Remember, All We Need Is YOU!

Loyally in Chi Omega,
Pam

New Member Party a great success

We want to thank everyone who came to the New Member Party on Sept. 9. It was great seeing everyone and meeting some new faces. We hope you enjoyed the evening, and for those who are new to the group, we hope you continue to attend throughout the year!

Like we said at the party, we have a lot of great activities planned for the year, as well as great causes to help. All of the generous donations to the Ronald McDonald House were greatly appreciated, and we hope that spirit continues! We donated more than \$200 worth of items to the Ronald McDonald House and were able to cover many of the items on their wish list.

Pictures from the event will be posted on the website. Be sure to check them out!

October covered dish dinner

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next event on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m., which will be held at Sarah Hayden's house in Fishers. Because this is a covered dish dinner, each member is encouraged to bring one of the following:

- A salad or vegetable dish (we need four or five)
- A starch - potatoes, pasta salad, etc. (we need four or five)
- Rolls of some sort
- A dessert (we need four or five)
- Beverages (soda, water, tea, etc.)

Sarah is providing the main dishes, which are assorted grilled meats.

As our event community service/charity tie-in, we are collecting items for Gleaners Community Food Bank in Indianapolis. Please bring canned and/or nonperishable food items. Gleaners is specifically looking for beef stew, tuna, and other canned meats; macaroni and cheese and other boxed dinners; cans of soup; cans of vegetables; 100 percent juices; peanut butter; applesauce and canned fruits. We will donate the items on behalf of our alumnae group. For more information on Gleaners, visit www.gcfb.org.

If you plan on attending the covered dish dinner, RSVP to Sarah at sarah_hayden02@hotmail.com by Oct 7 and include what you plan to bring. Sarah's house is located at 13051 Coyote Run Court in Fishers.

Upcoming events

- We Make a Difference - Members will participate in a Request-A-Thon to benefit Make-A-Wish of Indiana on Nov. 20 and 21.
- Chi Omega is Fun! - Jan. 13, 2009, wine tasting event at Easley Winery. More details to come.
- We Invite You to Connect - March 10, 2009, spa night at Evolve Salon on Mass. Ave. More details to come.

It's time to renew your membership!

We are now in the middle of our 2008 membership drive. In August, you should have received a postcard with our 2008-2009 event schedule, as well as information on ways to renew your membership. There are four ways to renew:

- **Online, both membership form and payment:** Visit our [Web site](#) and scroll down to the "Join" section. There, you will find the links to fill out your membership form and pay online via PayPal.
- **Online, membership form; payment, USPS mail:** Visit our [Web site](#) and scroll down to the "Join" section. There, you will find the link to fill out your membership form online. You can mail your payment via check to membership chair Annie Tetrick at 1020 N. New Jersey Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
- **Online, downloadable membership form; payment, USPS:** Visit our [Web site](#) and scroll down to the "Join" section. There, you will find a link to a PDF of the membership form that you can download and send along with your payment via check to Annie Tetrick at 1020 N. New Jersey Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
- **USPS:** To have a membership form mailed to you, contact Annie Tetrick at 765.860.4917 or anne.tetrick@comcast.net. She will mail the form to you, and you can mail it back to her along with your payment via check to 1020 N. New Jersey Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

General membership questions? Contact membership chair Annie Tetrick at 765.860.4917 or anne.tetrick@comcast.net.

Don't forget to vote for your favorite alumnae Web site

Help our chapter win a contest sponsored by Chi Omega Nationals for Favorite Alumnae Chapter. Click [here](#) and vote for the Indianapolis chapter. You may vote as many times as you like until Sept. 30, so click often!

Calling Make-A-Wish volunteers for November

Thank you to Pam Quintana, Cara Gray, Andrea Farmer, Erica Wassel, Cindy Cade, Sarah Wareham, Angela Gibbs, Donna Meek and Suzanne O'Conner for donating your time and talent to the Make-A-Wish Request-A-Thon. Our volunteers will be answering phones and entering information and pledged donations into a computer from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20. Training will be provided prior to the session.

If you won't be able to make it between 6 and 8 p.m., please don't hesitate to get involved with the Request-a-Thon in another way. You can volunteer your time during another time slot (it runs 36 hours!) or call in to make a donation. All of these donations will go toward granting the wishes of children. If you have questions or would like more information about Make-A-Wish, contact Eva Jansen at evamjansen@yahoo.com.

Additional information about Make-A-Wish and Chi Omega's involvement has been posted on our website (www.chiomega.com/alumnae/indychio).

Board member position available: Panhellenic Delegate

Our alumnae chapter needs a member to fill the spot of the non-voting Panhellenic delegate. This member **MUST** be available to attend monthly meetings that are held during daytime hours. If you're interested, contact President Pam Quintana at angelfire1299@yahoo.com.

We need Party Chairs!

We are still looking for party chairs! If you want to get involved with our alumnae chapter without a huge time commitment, this is what you've been looking for! Contact Abby Rardin at abbyrardin@hotmail.com for more information.

A big thank you to Cindy Cade who has volunteered to be a party chair!

Call for RIFs. Do you know these ladies?

Do you know any of these ladies?

- Mallory Brandenburg, Northern Kentucky University (originally from Lawrenceburg, Ind.)
- Rachel Chrzan, Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers
- Spenser Georgi, Hamilton Heights High School, Cicero, Ind.
- Nicole Kleopfer, Northern Kentucky University (originally from West Harrison, Ind.)
- Meredith Stanley, Brebeuf Jesuit High School, Indianapolis

If so, please take a few minutes to fill out a Recruitment Information Form (RIF) and mail it to Jen Hockemeyer at 4750 Mallard View Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46226. Questions? Contact Jen at jenren435@hotmail.com or 317.538.3917.

Upsilon Lambda needs advisors!

The Upsilon Lambda chapter at Hanover College is looking for "a few good women" to serve as advisors. At this time, the chapter has openings for a social advisor and an esoteric advisor. Other advisory positions are also available, so if you're interested in another position, that advisor may be willing to switch.

Here are the expectations for advisors:

- Attend three meetings per year (the fall and spring meetings are at Hanover, the summer meeting is either in Columbus or Indianapolis).
- Work with your assigned chapter officer via E-mail/phone and assist them in planning three social events each year
- Attend chapter meetings each semester or call-in via conference call
- Attend events associated with your position (i.e. social events if you are the social advisor, initiation if you are the esoteric advisor, etc.) or find substitutes if you are unable to do so
- Attend other meetings (slating, elections, by-law revisions) and other events (initiation, recruitment) when available.
- Communicate with advisory board members via E-mail

According to Heather McDonald, Upsilon Lambda New Member Advisor and Southeastern Indiana Alumnae Chapter President, Upsilon Lambda is a great chapter, having won multiple Awards of Achievement and Excellence, as well as the Pearl Award, during their 21-year history. Upsilon Lambda has also won a variety of awards at Hanover and is acknowledged as being a campus leader in every area. Upsilon Lambda also treats advisors well! Advisors attend Convention and Firesides, with all expenses paid by the chapter. In addition, advisors are welcome to attend chapter events, parties and dinners whenever they are able to do so. The chapter has a great, although incomplete, advisory board and would love to have new faces join.

You do not need to be an Upsilon Lambda alumnae to serve as an advisor. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Heather McDonald at 812.344.4606 or h-mcdonald@sbcglobal.net.

Executive board member spotlight: Abby Rardin, Vice President

- College, year initiated:
 - o Hanover College, 2000
- Current job:
 - o Software Engineer - Hendricks Regional Health, Danville
- Why did you join Chi Omega?
 - o At first, it was for purely social reasons! Hanover College is very small and I saw Greek life as the social scene. During recruitment and the initiation process, I realized it was more about friendship and that these girls would be my support system during college and for life.
- Favorite Chi Omega memory?
 - o I cannot name just one memory. But I always loved coming back to the house after class and all the great talks we would have. I think we talked about everything and nothing...usually at the same time.
- Why did you join the alumnae chapter?
 - o Again, the social aspect appealed to me and brought me to the first few meetings.
- What does your role as Vice President entail?
 - o I am in charge of programming for the group. I work with party chairs to select events, locations and work out the details. I stay connected with the party chairs and make sure they have everything they need from exec to do what they need to do. I also communicate the schedule information to the newsletter and webmaster chairs.
- Hobbies?
 - o Since I bought a home about a year ago, I really enjoy digging around in the garden and watching a lot of HGTV. I love to read and have stacks of books and magazines all over the place.
- Favorite thing to do in Indianapolis?
 - o I like going to different wineries around the city and state. I am looking forward to going to Easley's in January and recommend Simmons Winery in Columbus. I would also have to say anything that lets me spend time with my boyfriend and his son. Things I always took for granted about Indianapolis seem more interesting from the perspective of a 4-year old.

New member spotlight: Amy Chamness

- College, year initiated:
 - o Hanover College, April 2002
- Current job:
 - o Program Coordinator for the Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics at Clarian Health. I coordinate various activities for the center, including the Fairbanks Ethics Lecture Series, I assist with research projects and publications, update our Web site (www.fairbankscenter.org), and offer general support to our faculty.
- Why did you join Chi Omega?
 - o I knew that I was interested in the Greek System by watching the experiences of my brother and sister-in-law (also a Chi O) when they were in school. Upon meeting several of my sisters in the first semester at school, I knew without hesitation that Chi O was my house of choice. They were a bunch of caring, fun-loving, down to earth girls that I was proud to call my sisters.
- Favorite Chi Omega memory?

- Besides the warm fuzzy memories of my initiation, third party rush events, and the bonding events with my sisters, my favorite Chi Omega memory involves a prank, and more specifically the night we conducted a raid on our own house. The fraternities had been in a raiding storm during the time period, and everyone in our house was paranoid that we were going to be next. There was a group of about six of us that suffered from chronic insomnia due to studying, and decided at about 3 a.m. one weeknight that it would be brilliant to do a raid on our own house. We hid our composite, took a string of Christmas lights used for rush parties and strung underwear from about every girl in the house on it down the middle of the second floor hallway, and just caused other general chaos. There were numerous times that we just fell down from laughing so hard, and I'm surprised we didn't wake everyone in the rack-room/cold dorm above. People spent a couple days trying to figure out which house had raided us before we confessed at chapter the next Monday. Generally, I think most people in the house found it entertaining, I only remember having to apologize to a couple of sisters. But the memories of causing chaos with my sisters, trying to stifle the giggles, trying to figure out where to hide a 3x4' composite, etc. at three in the morning will live on forever.
- Why did you join the alumnae chapter?
 - I joined the alumnae chapter not only to reconnect with other sisters from my chapter in the area, but to hopefully meet some new friends and acquaintances along the way. It's amazing in today's world of work, relationships, and obligations how easy it is to lose touch with people, and with your own social life
- Hobbies?
 - I'm an avid reader. I love the outdoors, and I love escaping out of the metro area to go camping, kayaking and hiking whenever weather and time permit. I also have a 3-year-old Miniature Schnauzer named Bentley who by default of his high-maintenance personality has become a hobby.
- Favorite thing to do in Indianapolis?
 - I love exploring the fun little shops on Mass Ave and Broad Ripple. I enjoy meandering through the art fairs and festivals when they are in town, and I can spend the entire length of opening hours staring at the exhibits in the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Also, most forms of live music, from no-name bands to big shows can keep me fully entertained.

White Carnation sponsors

If you're interested in becoming a 2008-2009 White Carnation sponsor, contact membership chair Annie Tetrick at 765.860.4917 or anne.tetrick@comcast.net.

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8250 N. Haverstick Road, Ste. 100

Indianapolis, IN 46240

Office: (317) 259-8600

E-mail: Kelley@LewisTeamHomes.com

Web site: www.LewisTeamHomes.com

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