

PRESS RELEASE

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Chi Upsilon Sigma's Omega Alpha Graduate Chapter Celebrates 5 Years of Dedication



Monday, July 16th, 2007, Philadelphia, P.A. –

The Omega Alpha Graduate Chapter of Corazones Unidos Siempre, Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc. celebrates 5 years of dedication as a reputable graduate chapter.

Recognized in June of 2002, Omega Alpha was the first established graduate chapter of Chi Upsilon Sigma. The founding members (pictured to the left) are Jeannine Burton, Katherine Santiago-Young, Jennifer Melendez, Cristina McKenzie and Tessy Infante. Over the past 5 years, the graduate chapter has

branded itself within the sorority and within the local Philadelphia community.

Omega Alpha has recently been recognized with Chi Upsilon Sigma's "Graduate Chapter of the Year Award" (March 2007) and the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations' (NALFO) "Graduate Chapter of the Year Award" (October 2006). The hard work, dedication and contributions of its members and supporters were celebrated on Sunday July 15th at Edgmont Country Club in Edgmont, P.A. It was a celebratory event which included acknowledgment of Omega Alpha's founding members, chapter accomplishments, milestone events and supporters. Special additions included guest speaker, Jasmine Melendez, and vocalist, Cristina Colon, both of whom are area alumni sisters.

Some highlights over the past 5 years include:

- Annual community service participation in the Atlantic City Arthritis Walk with Founding Mother Maricel Rivera, the Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and the Annual Philadelphia AIDS Walk;
- Creation of the Annual Book Scholarship which is awarded to a parent teen high school graduate who is pursuing a degree in higher education;
- Campaigning "Change for Change" which helped to raise funds for the Annual Book Scholarship with the purpose of collecting "change" to help the chapter make a "change" in a young woman's life;
- Created a relationship with Congreso's Alcanza program and ELECT/CTC, both of which are teen pregnancy support programs;
- Donation of Kaplan S.A.T. Preparation Books that were distributed to 19 Philadelphia high schools;
- Hosted a "Stereotypes and Misconceptions" workshop in addition to a "Career Panel" discussion, both of which were aimed to assist high school parents or expecting parents in discussing the realities of life, sharing triumph stories and offering assistance to make their dreams more of a reality; and
- Created and hosted "Soror Saturdays" which is a monthly gathering of Sisters, family or friends in the Philadelphia area to promote unity and sisterhood.

The graduate chapter is dedicated to giving back to the sorority and the community at large. The past 5 years have set a solid foundation of what this graduate chapter has to offer and the difference they can make.