

Sisters Gather Around Jacksonville in 2004 for Dinners, Games, and More!

Jacksonville Sigma Sisters were busy gathering for a variety of events from hockey to BUNCO to eating out at Bucca di Beppo! Here's a recap of what we've been up to the last several months.... If you haven't joined us yet, come on out! There's no such thing as strangers, only sisters you haven't met!



The annual kick-off dinner at Olive Garden.

January 2004 meant kicking off the new year with a dinner and planning session at The Olive Garden.

In February, we tried something a little bit different... hockey (as spectators that is) at a Jacksonville Barracudas game. Sisters and their fami-



A Sunday afternoon at a Barracudas Hockey Game was February's activity.

lies enjoyed food, fun and an exciting game that the home-team won! Sisters also gathered for an informal dinner and newsletter folding at Atlanta Bread Company in February.

In March, Sigma sisters co-hosted the St. Patrick's Day themed Jacksonville Alumane Panhellenic Association Meeting. We also gathered for another painting session at Pottery Works coming up with even more creative works than last time! Our artistic skills are really getting polished.

continued on page 2



Inside This Issue

Alumnae Accomplishments & News	Page 2
A Sister's Adventure in Russia	Page 2
Convention Update/Chapter Awards	Page 3
Beta Tau Update	Page 3
JAPA News	Page 3
Memory Walk/Mark Your Calendars	Page 4



Have You Joined JAPA Yet?

Carol Taylor was recently elected as JAPA membership co-chair and is now encouraging all Sigma Sisters to become involved in this worthwhile Panhellenic Association. The sorority spirit and great friends, the ser-

vice projects and scholarship program all make it a valuable addition to your schedule.

You're welcome to attend the next meeting at the Haskell Bldg. downtown... You'll have a great time meet-

ing new friends, and you'll be a great addition to a growing group of women who care about one another and our young college-minded youth. See you there. Call Carol Taylor at 705- 4171 for time and directions.

Recent Alumnae Activities

continued from page 1



Newsletter Folding at Atlanta Bread

April was time to finally try dinner at Bucca di Beppo at "The Pope's Table." Definitely a place to gather to celebrate Italian style with lots



The 2nd Annual Pottery Night

of food! We had a strong turnout and enjoyed sampling the various items on the menu.



Becky Patel and Anne Weeks at a JAPA meeting.

May was time once again for sisterhood and BUNCO at the home of Trista Wallace. Lots of fun was had by all. We think we got the hang of it now! We also brought items to donate to the Salvation Army.

In June, Sigmas gathered at the lovely home of Hilary Hinds for a Southern Living at Home party. We got to see all sorts of neat décor and accessories along with sampling some wonderful hors d'oeuvres. At the end of June we also squeezed in more fun with movie night in San Marco.

A Sister's Adventure in Russia

Virginia Hash serves as a volunteer professor working under the auspices of the University of Northern Iowa and the American Council of Teachers of Russian. She recently returned from her annual trip to Russia and had this to share:

"I taught 5th year and graduate level students enrolled at St. Petersburg State University and also The Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia. I also conducted a number of seminars for faculty at both universities.

While there, I was able to attend a number of operas, ballets, Philharmonic concerts, museum opening

exhibits plus being invited to several homes for dinners. As a general rule, foreigners are NOT invited to the homes of Russians until they really know and feel comfortable with them...I have been teaching in St. Petersburg for the past eight years!!!

But a real "downer" was the stealing of my billfold shortly after I had arrived. Yes, if you have read that pickpockets, muggers, and robbers are prevalent in the large Russian cities (St. P's population if over 6 million), believe it. It is true! Nevertheless, the city is a fascinating place and each year, I learn so much more about Russian culture than I teach about American culture."

Alumnae News & Accomplishments

Virginia Hash recently received the 2003-04 Senior Volunteer for the Year at Doctors Inlet Elementary School and a Certificate of Achievement from the Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association for 1541 hours of volunteer service from June 2003 to May 2004.

Anne Weeks was named the 2003-2004 JAPA Hellenic Jewel Winner for her hard work and dedication to Panhellenic.

Trista Wallace, APR was recently nominated to serve on the Florida Public Relations Association executive committee as VP Communications as well as the Jacksonville Chapter board of directors as VP Accreditation/Certification.

Member Birthdays

Bet Lentz - July 22
 Carol Taylor - July 29
 Anne Weeks - Sept. 7
 Virginia Hash - Sept. 23
 Jennifer Kresge - Sept. 26
 Becky Patel - Oct. 12
 Cara Ameer - Oct. 13
 Trista Wallace - Nov. 14
 Missy Stover - Nov. 16
 Hope Diamantis - Dec. 6
 Mary Alice Marley - Dec. 11
 Britta Fortson - Dec. 12
 Donna Wagoner - March 13
 Cindy Atnip - March 24
 Kirsten Tesdall - May 8
 Jennifer Lisella-Marcellus - June 7
 Hilary Hinds - June 25

Convention Update . . . Chapter Receives 2 Awards!

Becky Patel recently attended the Annual Sigma Kappa National Convention and had a wonderful time meeting new sisters and reconnecting with old. There were quite a few Omegas and Beta Tau alumnae in attendance. In fact, a Beta Tau, was awarded the Colby Award. Three Beta Tau collegians were also in attendance. A new National Council was elected, Amendments were

voted on, and new NPC rules were reviewed.

Now to the important news! We were awarded with 2 Honorable Mention Awards. There are only a few Alumnae Awards and they award 3 Honorable Mentions and 1 winner in each category. Considering that fact, and that there are more than 100 Alumnae Chapters, receiving an Honorable Mention is quite a big deal. It is also important to note that we were the only Florida Chapter recognized.

tional organization, alumnae chapter, assigned collegiate chapter, other alumnae chapters, philanthropy, gerontology, Alzheimer's disease, inspirational items and is presented in a professional manner.

A special Thank You to **Donna and Trista** for their hard work on the newsletters over the past 2 years.

We were also recognized with an **Honorable Mention for the Elizabeth Gorham Hoag Award** - Recognizes the most outstanding alumnae chapter not in a college community.

The winner of this one was the European Alumnae Chapter, but I am told it was very close. So, we have something to strive for at the next Convention in Virginia!

JAPA News

The Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association recently elected officers for the 2004 term.

4 Sigma Kappa's were chosen to hold the following offices: Hope Diamantis - Community Service Chair; Becky Patel - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Scholarship Committee; Carol Taylor - Membership Co-Chair; and Anne Weeks - Lunch Bunch Chairman, Membership Committee. Congratulations to all and thanks for your service!

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm (note time change) beginning in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next Lunch Bunch will be held at the Mudville Grille on Wed., July 21 at 11am.

Sigma Kappa will host the February 8th Meeting. We are responsible for the drinks/ice, paper products and decorations.

We were rewarded an **Honorable Mention for the most Outstanding Newsletter Award** - Awarded to the chapter that best meets the following criteria: original title, distributes one or more issues annually, utilizes graphics and headlines to enhance effectiveness, includes news of the na-

Beta Tau Update

This spring semester was busy for the sisters at Beta Tau.

To celebrate Dance Marathon, Beta Tau planned a couple of events to bring sisters and alumnae together. On Saturday, March 27th the chapter held a sister/alumnae picnic at a local park. Events included a park clean-up to benefit the Inherit the Earth project, a catered picnic lunch, and a Sisterhood Sleepover that night.

Hearts and Doves Formal 2004 was held on April 16, 2004 at the Belleview Biltmore Resort and Spa in Clearwater.

The Chapter initiated their spring bid class on April 2nd and held a Grab-A-Date picnic at Lake Wauburg the next day.

FALL RECRUITMENT

Mock Recruitment will be held August 14, 2004 from 12-5pm. Contact Stephanie Yao at stephies@ufl.edu or 352-256-3463.

If you are interested in purchasing flowers for recruitment, please contact Stephanie Yao at stephies@ufl.edu or 352-256-3463.

Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter

Sigma Kappa Sorority
c/o Becky Patel
1958 Birch Run East
Orange Park, FL 32073

If you're interested in officially joining the Jacksonville Sigma Kappa Alumnae Chapter, or being added to our email list, please contact Becky Patel at REBABAY@aol.com.

2004 Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter Board

President - Becky Patel
Vice President of Membership - Hilary Hinds
Vice President of Programming - Cara Ameer

Corresponding Secretary - Trista Wallace, APR
Recording Secretary - Missy Stover
Vice President of Finance - Charlotte Ostrout

Alumnae Panhellenic Delegate - Anne Weeks
Alumnae / Collegiate Liason - Donna Wagoner
Foundation Chairman - Kirsten Tesdall

Memory Walk 2004

The Alzheimer's Association of Central and North Florida now offers personal fundraising web pages!

If you're raising money as a team or as an individual, this will increase your fund raising levels from before. The idea is to send to all of your email contacts and ask each of them to send to their email contacts - before you know if, you've got donations coming in from all over the place!

Go to www.justgiving.com/alzfla to create your own page and start collecting donations.

Mark Your Calendar: Fall 2004 Activities

July 27th - 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Skating Night - at Skateworld on Emerson & I-95. Cost is \$6.50 and includes ice skating, inline skating and skate rental. Family & Friends are welcome. RSVP to Bet Lentz at bettiger@att.net or 904-230-9431.

August (week of the 16th -20th)

Bowling Night - Exact day TBD. RSVP to Hilary Hinds at hhipvb@aol.com or 904-280-4658.

September 15th - 6:30 pm

Happy Hour and Dinner @ Dave and Buster's. RSVP to Donna Wagoner at donnawagoner@bellsouth.net or 904-215-9931.

October 16th

Memory Walk - RSVP to Becky Patel at REBABAY@aol.com or 904-276-1763.

November 6th (tentative)

Founder's Day Tea - Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island. RSVP to Cara Ameer at cameer@comcast.net or 904-230-0295.

December 2nd - 6:30 pm

Holiday Party and Chinese Gift Exchange - Cara Ameer's. RSVP to Cara Ameer at cameer@comcast.net or 904-230-0295.

