

VIRTUAL DISPATCH

International is pleased to report that **Florida Preceptor Eta Phi, Melbourne** and **Online Alpha** member Irene Jarvis has consented to be our roving reporter for the online chapters. She is quite the news hound – she manages to get news from all over the world, and never even has to leave her desk! She has generously collected these first hand accounts from many of our online chapters. These are such busy chapters that we cannot possibly detail their most recent ramblings in one story – so stay tuned. Irene will be back in the August *Torch*.

“It is with great honor and pride that I am able to be your reporter for Online adventures. I was one of the very first members who worked very hard to make this venture a reality. There were many hills and valleys to cross, but we stood strong and knew with our joint ventures and strengths we could make it happen. Just look at all the talents we have discovered to accomplish what we thought we could be.

Each chapter is different in it’s structure thus making us unique and self-satisfying,” says Irene.

Send questions to VirtualNewsline@aol.com (Irene Jarvis) Submit articles to http://www.beta-journal.com/torch_articles.htm (direct link to Irene Jarvis)

ONLINE LEGACY ALPHA (First Legacy Online Chapter)

“The 1st Legacy chapter of its kind was built - thanks in part to Karen Ing and Irene Jarvis **Online Legacy Alpha** was formed in 2004. The chapter is currently monitored and guided by Charlene Gibson of Oregon and Karen Ing of Texas. The official colors are: All the colors of the rainbow and mascot is the angel. Officers are in place to help make chapter decisions along with committee chairs. They do not have all the duties and obligations as an adult chapter. They chat and exchange messages on a secured server and web site just built for them. Ages range from 8 to 15 years old.

Their last service project was to help the children overseas by sending small stuffed animals to them. At Christmas, 10 members exchanged Christmas gifts by mail. This month, they plan to have an online tea and decide what fun project they will complete during the summer months.”

ONLINE THETA

“Online chapters are a new and wonderful dimension to Beta Sigma Phi. In addition to making chapter participation available to members at large, these chapters allow us to explore the fellowship of sisters across the continent and internationally. Our chapter has members from Florida to Alaska and Canada.

Charter members who were there from the early days and remember the struggles to get members and keep conversations going. Nowadays, that’s hardly a problem! Besides our monthly meeting week, sisters post to share stories, recipes, and personal updates. Many of our sisters have traveled across continents to visit other sisters.

If you’d like to join this worthwhile effort, you can check it out at http://www.thebreast/cancer_site.com All the other sites have tabs from this page and you can support as many or as few as you like. There’s no cost and as you can see, you’ll make a difference.

Come visit Online Theta at our web page www.geocities.com/unicorn3212000.”

ONLINE ETA

“The programs for the chapter are rotated on a volunteer basis by the members. These programs range from histories of holidays to reviewing our own Rituals and guidelines.

The chapter was started by two members and has grown to over 32 active online members. Members are from as far away as Australia and as

close as Canada and our own United States. We are a very versatile group with so many wonderful, wonderful stories and support for one another to share.

Instead of having Secret Sisters, we have Beta Buddies! We exchange cards and support for one another throughout the year. Our chapter has all the regular officers as a land chapter.

The basic philosophy of Online Eta is very simple:

1. We are an extension of Beta Sigma Phi.
2. Strive to agree as much as possible by e-mail and see this as a way of conducting business and extending the friendship network.
3. This is a part of the future of Beta Sigma Phi Sisterhood.

In the year 2003-2004 the interactive Virtual Yearbook distribution to members was launched. We would like all our sisters to come and visit us on the web page at www.dreamwater/women/oleta."

THE LAUNCHING OF OUR ONLINE CYBER COUNCIL

"An Online Cyber Council was the brain child of Barbara Hill, of **Online Beta** now deceased, and Kandy Lewis of **Washington Alpha Master, Longview** and **Online Beta**. After much discussion Barb suggested that all the online chapters be contacted to see if they were willing to meet and figure out the workings of an Online Cyber Council. Many of the meetings were done trying to get everyone's e-mail address put into a message. Finally, we started using Yahoo Groups and each member was invited to join so we didn't have to recall all the e-mail addresses.

It took many meetings to hear ideas and find the right wording to explain exactly what a Cyber Council would do. Each aspect of the bylaws and formation of the council was addressed. The purpose was finally hammered out as the following:

The Council is to coordinate and disseminate communications among online chapters, International and all online sisters. This involves information concerning online groups, online gatherings, land conventions, information to assist groups with programs, projects and any events or matters of concern pertaining to Beta Sigma Phi.

The Council is to provide a link for transferring sisters, members at large, or sisters who are traveling and wish to meet other sisters while doing so."

APRIL UPDATE ON CYBER COUNCIL

"We have two or three representatives from each of the 10 chapters that are a part of Cyber Council. That way we are able to get a lot of feed back on how other chapters are run and what different social and service projects they do. We are always here to help any chapter that has questions or problems that may come up. We work with International when needed to get answers or problems solved.

This year we discussed how the chapters were conducting pledge training and how they were getting new members. There was a lot of excitement, and lots of information we can now use to help online chapters to progress in sorority. I want to wish all the new officers much success and fun during the new sorority year."

ONLINE BETA

"Our program for April was about computer tips and tricks. Lots of useful info and links, such as "Time for an update? Scrub your old data." "Is my favorite Website safe?" "The text is TOO SMALL!!" And last but not least, "How do I translate a foreign language online?"

We also had some thought-provoking discussions on tattoos and piercings, and on whether or not anyone has had a lifetime dream come true?

April saw many pictures of grandbabies, children, legacies, and scary weather formations (tornadoes and hail). We sent prayers and blew bubbles of good wishes for doctor's visits and surgeries for sisters and their families. We sent birthday and anniversary and special day greetings.

And we all agreed that spring couldn't come soon enough!

Next month look for news on more online Chapters.