

# Rubies & Pearls

## Chapter Officers

- Laura Eppes  
President
- Tracy Pearson  
Treasurer
- Amy Crew  
Corresponding  
Secretary/  
Philanthropy
- Sabrina Dotson  
Social Chair

The Birmingham Area Alumnae Chapter [Birminghamaoiialum@yahoo.com](mailto:Birminghamaoiialum@yahoo.com)

## A Quick Note from the President

We are approaching the end of our first year after reorganizing the chapter. I am very, very proud of how far we have come in such a short time frame. We were on the verge of being shut down this time last year. Now I am very happy to report that we went from no members to 17 dues paying members and have achieved Gold Level on our Standards of Excellence report. This would not have been possible without the efforts of some amazing sisters. I know that this chapter is capable of incredible things and I hope that we will continue to grow and flourish over the years. The only way that this will happen is if more people are willing to get involved. The chapter can very quickly go down hill - I think we have already seen how that can happen. We are very lucky to live in area that has 3 collegiate chapters. This gives us a great opportunity to reach out to them so that when they graduate they will transition into alum status smoothly. I want and for see

only good things for us in the future and in order to achieve that we all have to continue to come together and work hard. Being a part of an alumnae chapter really is such a great experience to connect with women you may never have met otherwise. If you have any suggestions or would like to help in any way please contact us at [birminghamaoiialum@yahoo.com](mailto:birminghamaoiialum@yahoo.com)

We now have a new website that we invite everyone to visit [www.aoiibham.com](http://www.aoiibham.com) There you will be able to read about upcoming events, read this newsletter, view the scrapbook, or even pay your dues online! Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions.



## Philanthropy



The Arthritis Walk took place on Saturday May 13, 2006 at Brookwood Village. As a team, Rubies and Pearls, we raised \$630.00. I want to give a special thanks to those who participated: Amy Crew, her fiancé Nick Netherland, Laura Eppes, her husband Rich Eppes, Tracy Pearson, and Carrie Thompson. We are looking forward to more events with the Arthritis Foundation. We hope more sisters will join us for the Jingle Bell Run in December.

### inCircle



inCircle is Alpha Omicron Pi's private online network that was launched on April 26 and offers a great way to keep in touch with sisters all over the world. Within this website sisters can come together to find jobs, employees or just to chat about the topics that interest them most. With over 4,000 AOII's as members this network is a fantastic way to create new friendships and enhance existing ones. You can log onto [www.incircle.alphaomicronpi.org](http://www.incircle.alphaomicronpi.org) and set up your profile and start chatting today! Join thousands of sisters worldwide and discover the things that you have in common, including AOII!

### AOII Day

We are trying to get a group of sisters together that are willing to offer their services to put together an AOII Day for this fall. This project has great potential for a fantastic event. BUT, we can't do it alone. We need volunteers that can be committed to ensuring that this event is a success. AOII Day will offer our alumnae chapter a great opportunity to have the collegiate chapters in the area come together for a day of sisterhood and fun. We have had several sisters offer to serve on this committee but we always encourage others to join us.

## A Note from the Treasurer

It's that time of year again! Please pay your dues as soon as you can or after you have attended three Alumnae gatherings. Dues are once again 50.00 this year (amount is less if you are a recent grad or a Life Loyal member-see below).

What do you do with my 50.00 you ask? Well...here's the breakdown:

16.00-annual alumnae operating fee  
7.00-annual education and training fee  
2.00-archival presentation fee



That is a total of 25.00 per member that we pay straight to HQ yearly.

\*\*Are you a recent graduate? You may deduct 25.00 from your dues thanks to HQ who pays your first year international dues!!

\*\*Are you a member of Life Loyal? You may deduct 16.00 from your dues!!

SO-that now leaves 25.00 per person that is left for the chapter to go into our operating fund which we use to pay various expenses such as meeting space rental and food and drink at various gatherings. We also use these funds to donate to charitable endeavors. This year HQ has advised all alum chapters to budget an additional 100.00 for a new edition of the Ritual Book and Ritual Education Manual and 30.00 for a new edition of the governing documents of AOII.

Please make your dues checks payable to AOII and give to Tracy or Laura, or if you would like to mail it in, please send to: Tracy Pearson, 244 Nottingham Drive, Calera, AL 35040.

So what's up with this Life Loyal thing I keep hearing about??? Here is Tracy's summary:

HQ has announced this new program to ensure funding for the To Dragma and lessen the financial burden on collegiate chapters. I know everyone remembers being told at initiation they would have a lifetime subscription to the To Dragma, but times have changed and its just not economically feasible anymore. I personally have friends in other panhellenic sororities and their organizations went to this sort of set up a few years ago, so AOII's Life Loyal is nothing new.

If you continue to be a dues paying member of your alumnae group, however, you will continue to receive your lifetime subscription to the To Dragma without having to join Life Loyal. You can also purchase a yearly subscription beginning in 2007 if you choose not to do either of the above.

Life Loyal is a one time payment of 299.00 or you can pay this amount over a span of a few months.

If you still don't get it, please go to [www.lifeloyal.org](http://www.lifeloyal.org) for further information.




## **Announcements**

Angela (Outlaw) House (Gamma Delta) and her husband, Seth, welcome their first child, a girl, on May 10, 2006. Ella Katherine weighed in at 7lbs and 13 ounces.

Tracy (Lynch) Pearson (Gamma Delta) and her husband, Todd, are expecting their first child this October. It's a Boy!!!

Amy Crew (Sigma Delta) announces her engagement to Dr. Nick Netherland. The couple plans to marry January 6, 2007.

Virginia Hornbuckle (Gamma Delta) has opened her own business. Delicious is open Monday through Saturday from 10-6:30. They do caterings, office lunches, personal chef, and meals to go. They are located on Cahaba Heights road across the street from Satterfield's.



Virginia Hornbuckle  
**969-1170**  
Fax 969-1120  
3160 Cahaba Heights Rd.  
Personal Chef Service • Catering  
Meals to Go • Box Lunches

## **Collegiate Corner**

We want to extend Congratulations to the area collegiates who were recently alumned. The new alumnae from Birmingham Southern are:

Amanda Brothers  
Jessy Clements  
Megan White  
Christine Rauch  
Emily Duggan  
Meredith Hanson  
Melinda Hill

Marianne Jones  
Katherine Katz  
Johanna Litkenhous  
Amanda Dean  
Meg Spain  
Ashton Thompson  
Cathryn Shinkle



The new alumnae from UAB are:

Ashley Uhrich  
Elizabeth Brazelton  
Megan Castleman  
Heather Cumbie  
Lindsey Plott  
Ashley McCary  
Kassie Price  
Abbey Sheffield  
Kayla Pope  
Rachel Ceasar

We also want to thank Samford University for inviting us to their Alumning Ritual. We congratulate all of these ladies and wish them well in their future endeavors.

**Any ideas, complaints, or suggestions? Would you like your email address removed from our distribution list? Want to volunteer to help out with AOII Day? Email us at [birminghamaoiialum@yahoo.com](mailto:birminghamaoiialum@yahoo.com). We would love to hear from you!**

