

Greek Life 411

Order of Omega Elects New Leadership

The Omega Zeta Chapter of Order of Omega met on Thursday evening, February 2nd, to elect the leadership of this newly re-chartered organization.

Congratulations to the following Greek leaders elected to the Executive Board:

Morgan Sell (Pi Kappa Phi), President

Heather Mahurin (Kappa Kappa Gamma), Vice President for Programming

Gabby Leon (Phi Mu), Vice President for Membership

Ernesto Pedron (Pi Kappa Phi), Treasurer

Annie Edmonds (Sigma Gamma Rho), Secretary

The Order of Omega was founded at the University of Miami in 1959 to recognize those fraternity men and women who have attained a high standard of leadership in interfraternity activities in order to encourage them to continue along this line and to inspire others to strive for similar conspicuous attainment. The Order brings together members of the faculty, alumni, and student members of the institution's fraternities and sororities on a basis of mutual interest, understanding and helpfulness and is intended to help create an atmosphere where ideas and issues can be discussed openly across Greek lines and to help work out solutions.

Applications for membership in the Omega Zeta Chapter will be available in the OSFA and online beginning February 24, 2006.

Office of Sorority & Fraternity Affairs (OSFA), University of Florida

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Upcoming Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Friday, February 3	Step Afrika (BHM Event)	9:00pm	Rion Ballroom, JW RU
Saturday, Feb 4	Dance Marathon 5K Miracle Run	9:00am	Turlington Plaza



Our website is a great resource for calendar dates!

You may now find a list of Florida Greek events...updated daily!

Check out www.greeks.ufl.edu.

Tip of the Week...Service:

Learn to use Service-Learning Pro! This online database (brought to us by our friends at UF's Center for Leadership & Service) is a great way to search for service opportunities, sign up for projects, and track members' hours. Check it out at <http://uf.servicelearningpro.com>.

The CLS will provide an optional training session on the program (specially for Greeks) on Thursday, February 16th at 6:00pm in Weil Hall, room 410.

Campus Chatter:

Take Me Out to the Ballgame...

An new idea for service is sweeping the Florida Greek system!

The following chapters have agreed to sponsor and/or coach a youth baseball team this spring through the City of Gainesville's Department of Recreation:

Chi Phi

Delta Tau Delta

Kappa Sigma

Lambda Chi Alpha

Phi Delta Theta

Phi Sigma Kappa

Pi Kappa Alpha

Pi Kappa Phi

Sigma Chi

Theta Chi

Stay tuned for details on games and good luck to all of the teams!

Volunteers are still needed.

If you are interested in learning how your organization may become involved, please contact Chris Breen at:

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Follow-Up: "Around the Nation"

The Houston Chronicle
January 27, 2006

UT fraternity is being sued; Family of student who died of acute alcohol poisoning hopes more deaths can be prevented

By DALE LEZON, Staff

The family of a student who died of alcohol poisoning last month is accusing his University of Texas fraternity of encouraging him to drink excessively and then failing to get medical aid after he lost consciousness.

Khongsavay and Soukha Phoummarath, parents of Phanta "Jack" Phoummarath, filed a lawsuit in Houston on Thursday against the fraternity and some of its members.

"The most important thing for the family, for wanting to do this, is that we don't want any family to go through what we have had to go through,"

said Marion Phoummarath, 25, the student's sister.

Named in the lawsuit are Lambda Phi Epsilon National Fraternity Inc. and its Zeta chapter in Austin. Also named are several members of that

chapter, including Benny Chan, its president at the time of Phoummarath's death.

Phoummarath, an 18-year-old freshman from Houston, was found dead on Dec. 10 at the fraternity's off-campus house. He had gone there the previous night for a party honoring new members, and the family contends that other members and fraternity officers encouraged the new members to drink as much alcohol as possible.

Travis County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Roberto Bayardo ruled that Phoummarath died of acute alcohol poisoning.

The university banned the Asian-American-interest fraternity for six years after a UT investigation found evidence of hazing on the night of the party. The fraternity was not a sanctioned fraternity in the university's official Greek system.

The family's lawsuit contends that after encouraging Phoummarath to drink large amounts of alcohol at the party, fraternity members neglected to get medical help after finding him unconscious.

Chan declined to comment. The fraternity's national office could not be reached Thursday.

Family members said they hope the lawsuit helps to stop student groups from encouraging illegal drinking.

Although a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission official said this week that Phoummarath had a blood-alcohol level of 0.50, Bayardo said that number actually reflected the level of alcohol in the teen's urine. He said the blood-alcohol level would be slightly below that, but he could not disclose the exact figure or other details until law enforcement officials finish investigating. The state of Texas recognizes a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 as the legal limit for driving a motor vehicle.

The lawsuit does not specify a dollar amount, but asks for damages because of Phoummarath's physical pain, suffering and mental anguish before his death. It also requests damages resulting from loss of companionship and for medical and funeral expenses.

Correction

Please excuse the mistake in last week's edition.

The Black History Month event sponsored by Sigma Lambda Beta was reported incorrectly. The event will be a Superbowl Party. It will take place on Sunday, February 5th at 5:00pm at the Stoneridge Apartment Clubhouse. This event is co-sponsored by Gamma Sigma Sigma.

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