



*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council*

August 2011

The Bustle

President's Message

Dear Sisters,

We begin with a sad note at the passing of Gwen Vanzant. Many of you attended the wonderful memorial service. Although I was not privileged to know her as well or long as some, I marveled at the love for her from those in ALL chapters and the deep devotion from her own chapter, it was clear that this was a blessed lady.

I received so many nice notes as Ellie and I decided to re-schedule the Summer Social...that too was a labor of love and we considered it an honor to celebrate the life of this special lady.

The social will be re-scheduled at a later date, Ellie has already gone "creative" on me...so we'll still have a beautiful time...TOGETHER!

Coming up too is the annual Pres/VP/Chairperson's luncheon...those invited have already gotten their invitations....add to that, the upcoming Open Meeting planned with an "Over the top" setting by Melinda Montgomery and her hard-working committee. Look at your calendars and make it happen!!!

The summer is fast coming to a "hot end!" Start thinking about how many of you can join us when we return to the Oasis in September. I promise a good time, good food and a "neat" door prize. I endeavor to keep the meeting short enough to get you home early. I always leave with such a good feeling...

Let's pray for rain, for the health of all our sisters, and enough love and friendship to last a life time!!! God Bless Friends!

I am thy sister,
Carolyn

HOLA MI HERMANAS!

The Open Meeting Committee is working hard to plan a fun event for everyone. We hope that you will make plans to attend. All of the details can be found inside this month's issue. If you have questions, please feel free to email me.

In order to make this a successful RUSHING event which is our goal, we need YOU! We need each of you to think of someone you can invite to share the experience with and help "Spread the Word of Beta Sigma Phi".

*Let the Fiesta begin!
Yo soy tu hermana, Melinda*

**SWHCC
Service Project:
Oasis Assisted
Living Center**

*Thanks to all for their
commitment to bring-
ing a smile to the faces
of the "seniors"!*

Happy Birthday!

**Carolyn Meeks
Jeanne Peltier
Bridget Helfrich
Susan Fontenot
Jan Girndt
Elaine Burton
Nina Coltharp
Erica Bowman
Bobbie Viles**



Beta Lambda Phi

"Beat the heat" was the theme for BLP during the hot month of July with several members travelling to cooler (mostly!) locations and attending the chapter's pool party. Kelly and her new husband, Stuart, spent the Fourth of July weekend relaxing in the sun, fishing, and bike riding in Hilton Head, SC. They also just settled on a new home in Oak Forest and will be moving in on August 12 after some remodeling and renovations are completed.

Amy Okie took another trip to Louisiana to visit her family, and Kimberly visited her in-laws in Richmond, VA for a week.

Congratulations to Lesley on winning not one, but TWO trips for outstanding per-

formance from her medical sales company. She and her husband, Edward, will travel to Hawaii and Cabo San Lucas over the next two months to relax at all-inclusive resorts.

Amy Whitley just returned from a trip "down under." She traveled with a group of students to Australia for 12 days to learn about the country's role in the global business environment at the University of Melbourne. After exploring Melbourne, they traveled to Sydney for a few days, then up to Cairns where they visited the rainforest village of Kuranda and sailed to the Great Barrier Reef. Amy's favorite parts were climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge and getting to hold a koala bear!

Submitted by Kimberly Smith

Congrats to Erica for winning the BLP Yardstick contest. She had the most points for attending chapter, council, and international sorority functions. We are proud to have Erica in our chapter and representing BLP at so many events.

The July chapter meeting was hosted by Kimberly at her home, as well as the social event - a pool party attended by Kelly, Amy O. and Lesley. We enjoyed fruity wine spritzers and ice cream; the perfect combination for a hot day.

Enjoy the rest of the summer... we look forward to seeing you all at the next council meeting!



Friendly Venture Report

Submitted by Duang Putnam

"SHARE THE GIFT OF BETA SIGMA PHI WITH OTHERS!"

As the new council year starts in September, the Friendly Venture Committee will be adding a new twist to our recruiting efforts. We feel that in the past, potential BSP members have been lost due to the length of time it has taken to gather enough prospective members to form a new Friendly Venture Chapter. Our thought is to allow these people to join an established chapter and thus start enjoying the many benefits from being a Beta Sigma Phi member. Later if there is interest a new chapter can be formed. At present time, we have two chapters who have agreed to this process. It would be great if other chapters would also like to help us out. Please contact Duang, Shirley or Jill if your chapter would like to learn more about how you can help.

The purpose of Friendly Venture will not change. We will still be hosting events and continuing our goal of looking for BSP members.

In addition we have contacted and received from international a list of prospective members in our area, Sugar Land, Katy, Missouri City and Richmond/Rosenberg. The membership chairman and F/V committee will be following up with these ladies and encourage them to visit our council.

Preceptor Nu

Okay, I admit it, I'm sitting here watching America's Got Talent and praying for rain!!! Larry starts his 41 treatments tomorrow so we're thinking positive and feeling the love and prayers from all of you...THANKS!

The heat has served to make the month be lazy with not too much happening. At our last meeting, which was at Jan's house, the sisters welcomed, with the ritual, Deb Bray. She is, as I have mentioned, a wonderful addition. The group discussed and looked forward to the cultural events, planned by Judy Stover. The next event will be an exhibit of the works of Marvin Zindler...sounds great!

Beginning day will be August 20th with a great time planned by all. Rushing is also on the agenda for the year with all the PN ladies focusing on adding to the already "stellar" group.

Shirley's mom is now home and truly glad

to be there. She has had a long hard road to travel but a wonderful family to support her all the way. I know Shirley appreciates all your thoughts and prayers.

Also, recovering at home is the PN Woman of the Year...Ruth Mayson. Ruth had gall bladder surgery and is recovering at her daughter Danna's house. This does slow down the big move into Del Webb. Remember, I told you, Lois and Guy, Ruth and Sam and Carolyn and Roy are brightening the streets of Sweetgrass!!! Did I tell yall that the "Best Frito Pie" in this part of Texas is at the Flying Pig next door to Del Webb in the Ft. Bend Country Club.

On a sadder note, it was so sad to hear that the beautiful Gwen Vanzant lost her courageous battle with cancer. For those who attended the memorial, once again, there was the evidence of the attributes of sisterhood. Folks from almost every chapter attended...and were nostalgic about her contributions to BSP. I wasn't here then,

Submitted by Carolyn Meeks

but I hear she was an excellent board officer...Let's hope we are all remembered with such loving memories.

Time to close, hug your kids, take care of each other and please come back next month...

God Bless Friends



Please help welcome Preceptor Nu's newest member, Deb Bray, to the Southwest Houston City Council. We are excited to have her join in on all the fun!



**"A sister is a gift to the heart,
a friend to the spirit,
a golden thread to the meaning of life."**

Preceptor Laureate Beta Lambda

Submitted by Terry Colley

Carole Sandoval traveled to Austin with teenage granddaughters, McKenna and Lacey, for a tour of "Carole's Austin". First stop was the South Congress bridge for the evening bat sighting...and what a site to see - the largest urban bat colony in North America, estimated to be over 750,000 this time of the year. Next a visit to the Bob Bullock Texas State Museum, Zilker Park, Barton Creek Mall, Peter Pan golf...in Austin since 1943...UT Campus highlights, South Congress food trucks, dinner overlooking Lady Bird Lake, and a Duck Tour! All in 3 fun filled, memory making days.

Mary Horton reports that her grandson, MJ, has been accepted at the University of Houston for their Accounting Masters program. He received his Bachelors from Texas Tech.

Barbara and John Hobbs' son, Mark, from South Carolina, came in for a short visit in late June. They attended two Astros' games, including one that Barbara won't forget. She was hit by a foul ball off the bat of Astros' first baseman, Brett Wal-

lace. She suffered no broken bones in either leg, but she did have a bad contusion below her right knee. She gave the ball to her son, Mark. Their granddaughter, Brace Mosby, is in Kansas City, Missouri for a week of ballet and choreography training.

Carol Sherwood has had a busy fun summer, but no trips. She is having a "staycation".

Grace Wallace is now at the Heartland Health Care Center at 2929 Woodland Park Drive, Houston, 77082. She is slowly recovering and receiving therapy after breaking her leg two weeks ago.

Joyce Frank is moving the last weekend of July to the South Grand apartments in Richmond. She will be closer to her family. She has been involved with her grandchildren with their FFA progress shows. Christopher showed his steer and pig and Anna showed her pig and goat. They are getting ready for the Fort Bend County Fair the end of September.

Winona and Marvin returned from the trip in the North Atlantic and two days later went to Ft. Worth to watch their Grandson play in the State Championship "7on7" football playoffs. St. Thomas only won 1 game and lost 2 in 1st tier, but won all of the 2nd tier. They had 5 games in this weather and we viewed one game at 107 degrees - Oh me! Winona's brother gave them a tour of the Engineering labs at TCU. Never seen anything like them. They have the 3D printer that you place a 3D drawing in and a manufactured product comes out completely finished. It can have moveable parts. Incredible.

Sue McPherson had special guests visiting with her the weekend of July 22 and 23rd. Her daughter Sandra Smith, granddaughter Whitney Urquhart, and Julia Smith (Zach's wife) and the most important one of all is the new 2 month old great grandson, Anderson Corley Smith.. They spent 2 days with Sue and it was all very enjoyable.

A Tribute to Gwen Vanzant

Submitted by Terry Colley

Gwen Vanzant, our sister in PLBL for 17 years, bravely fought a battle with cancer for 2-1/2 years. Gwen's faith, determination, and drive to help others in this fight was unsurpassed. The PLBL sisters will remember Gwen's behind the scene work as her creative nature was a strength that all of us appreciated. She represented our chapter on the Sweetheart Ball and Founder's Day committees. All chapters benefited from Gwen's insight as she faithfully served SWHCC.

Beta Sigma Phi is a part of Gwen's family with her daughter, Ruth, in a local chapter and her sister, Terry active in a chapter in Knoxville, Tennessee. Gwen is also survived by her two loving granddaughters, Taylor and Madison who were blessed to have seen creativity in beautiful dresses and costumes sewn by a very dedicated grandmother.

Gwen loved the sisterhood she found in PLBL and was an active member as long as her health permitted. Each PLBL member has been gifted with bracelets & earrings made by Gwen and numerous secret sisters have other gifts of her handiwork. Gwen will be remembered with the BSP Memoriam at our Beginning Day gathering in August. Top of Form
Bottom of Form

Thank you to all the SWHCC members who attended the Memorial Service for our sister. Once again you proved that our sisterhood is what makes our sorority special. We appreciated that you honored Gwen by postponing the social so everyone could attend the services. Joyce Frank said that some of her favorite memories of Gwen are the trips we went on with PLBL and others just the two of them went on. "We were very different in personality but we able to be the best of friends." Terry remembers Gwen as a quiet, dignified lady and a wonderful asset to our chapter. We will miss her very much!



Remembering Gwen...



It's Fiesta Time!

Open Meeting
“Spread the Word of
Beta Sigma Phi...Fiesta Style”
Saturday, October 8, 2011
6:00 - 10 pm
Old South Plantation

Mexican Buffet with all the trimmings
dessert, water/tea/margarita punch
\$23.00/person
Otherwise BYOB
Spouses and Guest welcomed
“Remember It's Rushing Time”

Dress: Casual Fiesta Flair

RSVP: Susan Fontenot
By September 23
23230 Willow Canyon Dr.
Katy, TX 77494

Cake Auction

Door Prizes

Ways & Means

Music and Dancing

Open Meeting

Old South Plantation 5227 Skinner Lane Richmond, Texas 77406



Directions:

From Katy: Take TX-99 S/Grand Pkwy to West Bellfort Street turn right and proceed to Skinner Ln. turn right. Old South will be on the left side of the road.

From 59: Take TX-99 N/Grand Parkway to West Bellfort Street turn left and proceed to Skinner Ln. turn right. Old South will be on the left side of the road.

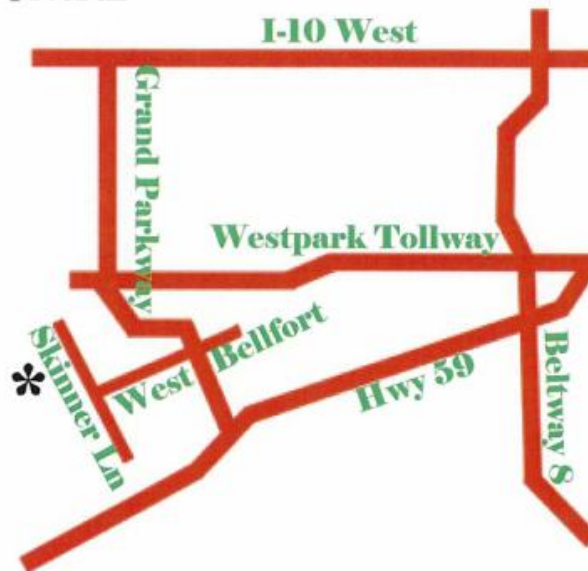
Look for the balloons.

Cake Auction:

“Fiesta de Abuela” whip up a bonita creation from grandma’s recipe. Each Chapter is responsible for bringing a homemade cake from an old recipe for the cake auction. Proceeds will go towards Council. Decorate the cake with Mexican flair and to entice bidders include a note card with a brief explanation of where you got the recipe and why you chose it.

Way & Means:

Chapters are welcome to participate in the Market Place. Set-up will start at 5:30 p.m. Chapter will need to supply their own table. Contact Kim Butner at 281-392-3667 to reserve space.



Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Jill Coble

The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to look for ways to promote Southwest Houston Beta Sigma Phi Council.

Last year, members from the SWHCC worked the Houston PBS pledge drive. What a great opportunity to get the BSP name out in the public. Once again, PBS has been contacted and we are waiting on another opportunity to work an upcoming drive. If you would like to volunteer to work the pledge drive, please send an email to me, jcoble3930@gmail.com. We will need approximately 20 volunteers and the list will be based upon the order received.

How about submitting an article in your neighborhood publication? The PR Committee has the perfect article already written so contact me and I would be glad to email to you.

Would you like to purchase one of the black Beta Sigma Phi t-shirts that we wore last year on Houston PBS? We are now taking orders. Approximate cost will be around \$22 to \$25. If you would like to order a t-shirt, please let me know and also please tell me your size. Once I have received all orders, I will let everyone know the cost prior to ordering. Deadline for ordering is August 27.

Well, let's see how many have made it this far in reading the PR article. Send me an email and tell me you read the article. Be the 10th person to email me and win a lucky prize to be awarded at the September council meeting.

As the year goes on, we will be looking for other opportunities to get the BSP name out in the public. If you have an idea, please share with me.

Xi Eta Epsilon

XEE extends summer greetings to all. Hope you are staying as cool as possible.

Last Saturday morning we all surprised Bobbie with breakfast. We prearranged to have the front door left unlocked. We quietly entered and silently tip-toed up the stairs, then some people had a disagreement as to where her bedroom was – after deciding it was down the hall a bit – we continued down and met her head on coming out of her bedroom to see what the commotion was and why the dogs were cutting up so. I do not know who

was more surprised - her or us. After much screaming and laughing we all enjoyed mimosas and a wonderful breakfast. Thank you Bobbie for being you – we love you girl.

Please keep Sheila and her father in your prayers. He is not doing very well and is now in Hospice. This is a painful and trying time for Sheila as she deals with her father's illness.

The XEE girls are still scattered all over the countryside with summer vacations,

Submitted by Shirley Grass

visiting family and friends, and entertaining out of town guests. We are enjoying our summer but will be happy when things settle down a bit in September.

Our hearts are broken with the passing of Gwen Vanzant. She was a true Beta Sigma Phi in all aspects of her life. We will never forget her thoughtfulness and her sweet smile. We want Preceptor Laureate Beta Lambda and Gwen's family to know they are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Xi Phi Gamma

The XPG sisters jazzed up July with a social event on July 9. The evening began with dinner at Spaghetti Western, a fun, unique restaurant decorated with movie posters from the 1960-1975 era when European Film production companies made Western films financed by Italian companies. Movie critics were not a fan of the films but the movies had lots of devotees and followers. The cuisine is very good and blends a unique Italian theme to a Texan palate with offerings like Italian Nachos, Southwestern Lasagna and Tombstone Chicken. There are also plenty of classic Italian faves like spaghetti, pizza and calzones. One can also get home cooked classics like meatloaf and fried catfish.

Following dinner the group gathered at

Stages Repertory Theater to absorb The Great American Trailer Park Musical. The play was set in Armadillo Acres, one of Florida's most exclusive trailer parks. A new tenant moves in, and creates havoc for the regular residents. She's a stripper on the run and comes between regular resident, agoraphobic Jeannie, and her toll-booth collector husband. The four double-wide divas take the attendees on a rollicking musical journey through bad perms, no-good men, too-tight clothes, and a kidnapped baby.

Following the play, the sisters gathered at the back of Jill's Lexus in the parking lot, to partake of Boone's Farm wine and Raspberry Zingers, with Pink Flamingo toothpick art AND napkins in a hilarious XPG tailgate party. Thanks to Jill for a

Submitted by Sandy Dickey

great ending to a super event!

Congratulations to our sister Dianne Eldridge on successfully completing her Masters degree through the University of Texas MBA program. She's worked hard for the last 2 years with a full-time job, school, and family. We're so proud of her and look forward to seeing more of her now that she has finished school.

In August, XPG officers will gather for chapter planning. Our Kick-Off event is scheduled at Your Cup of Tea and Collectibles to begin the new chapter year. We wish our fellow sisters fun in the sun (and air conditioning!!) for the rest of these lazy, hazy summer days!

Xi Alpha Zeta

Submitted by **Nina Coltharp**

XAZ is having a fabulous fun summer – starting off with our very successful annual summer luncheon! We thank all our sisters in SWHCC for making it such a beautiful event. We will have several wonderful service projects that will benefit from everyone’s generosity with our raffles at the luncheon. We will keep you posted on which charities we get involved with this year. A special “Thank You” to Shirley Hyatt who made a nice contribution when she was unable to attend – what a generous gift to our sisterhood.

At the end of June, several sisters flew to the Jersey Shore to spend some relaxing days with our fellow sister, Donna. This just may become an annual summer trip

for XAZ!!! Thank you, thank you to Donna and Rich for opening up your beautiful home to our sisters.

In July, we celebrated our sisters’ birthday meeting at Nina’s new home. We always enjoy surprises and boy did some of our sisters get silly with their birthday surprises! We also had great food and a special punch that helped turn the evening into lots of laughter!!! AND, Miriam surprised Debbie with a beautiful Military quilt that she made for her son-in-law who is stationed in Japan – thank you Miriam!!!

On a sad note, we had six sisters who attended the beautiful Memorial Service

for Gwen Vanzant. What a dear sister to all in SWHCC. Gwen volunteered her time and talents in a quiet way, always getting the job done on time! Gwen will always be remembered for her generous and loving way that she shared with her BSP sisters – she will be missed. We also thank the family for sharing Gwen’s jewelry with our sisters.

We look forward to a super year with Carolyn as our leader in SWHCC and Rita as our new chapter President! Stay cool and keep praying for RAIN!!!



*Girls just want to have fun....!
From Jersey Shore to birthdays and beyond!*



“Our Colors of Tradition”

(cont'd from last month)

Speech presented by Marilyn Ross at the Washington State Convention

The color **yellow** comes next. The yellow of our Flame is **Vision** ... "Which gives courage enthusiasm by the lifting of self out of self, the seeing by self beyond self, that attribute which is 'the perception of things hoped for, the assurance of things not seen.'"

Our yellow colored traditions number 5.

1. Knowing and understanding our Greek letters. (Bios, Sophia, Philos are the Greek components to Life, Learning and Friendship. The first letters of these three Greek words are Beta, Sigma and Phi.)
2. Rushing - It takes vision to look ahead and plan for the future.
3. As Membership Chairman, the chapter Vice President reports the suggested goal for adding new members on or before the second meeting in September and the second meeting in February, prior to International Rush months. Hers is the most important committee in the chapter and she is to report at every meeting.
4. Beginning Day - is our traditional opening of fall meetings; BSP's rally day!
5. Chapter yearbooks - outline events scheduled through the year; and contain essential member information.

We highlight our friends with Vision when we know what they meant, not what they said; when we know how great their love, though not spoken.

To succeed and accomplish what we want in BSP, regardless of the activity or endeavor, and to make our chapter the one everyone wants to belong to, we need Vision!

Our Founder's Vision is being fulfilled here this weekend, at this moment.

We need insight to recognize the BEST in others and in ourselves!

We need the yellow color of Vision to take a chance!

*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council*

For more information:

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Motto:
Life, Learning,
Friendship

BΣΦ



Executive Board

<i>President</i>	<i>Carolyn Meeks, PN</i>
<i>President Elect</i>	<i>Melinda Montgomery, XPG</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Erica Galvan, BLP</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Patricia Benavides, XPG</i>
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	<i>Rita Mayo, XAZ</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Barbara Hupe, XEE</i>
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	<i>Duang Putnam, PN</i>

"People ask why I am in a sorority and I try to explain all the things a sorority is that they cannot see. A sorority is more than letters on a sweatshirt, I say. More than traditional songs, a gold pin, rituals, and obligation, or a way of life. A sorority is learning about people, a sorority is giving without expecting a return. A sorority is earning respect from others, as well as for yourself. A sorority will not solve all your problems. But I have made good friends and found confidence there to help me take life one step at a time." - anonymous

Sometimes we stand outside life

Waiting for a door to open to us
Hoping the person behind that door
Will let us in and be our friend
I was once on the outside
Until a door opened to me and
Behind it I found not only a
Friend, but a new world- a sisterhood-
Now I stand behind that door- on the inside
Helping to open it for someone else
Who stands where I once stood.

~ Linda Parks

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