

# Chapter Spotlight

## Arkansas Iota Gamma, Ashdown

Things are hopping in **Ashdown, Arkansas**. A new chapter, **Iota Gamma**, is going full-tilt and is bursting at the seams with energy and enthusiasm for all things Beta Sigma Phi.

Their beginning was due to the hard efforts of **Arkansas Delta Xi, Crossett**. This Friendly Venture sprang from the efforts of Legacy and new member Donica Dodd Barger. She joined Delta Xi in 2000, and enjoyed her chapter life – it was the perfect fit. Until life interfered. It was 2004, and Ashdown, Arkansas was to be her new home.

When she realized the move to Ashdown was imminent, she knew she could not lose her connection to the great sisterhood. But Ashdown was far east of Crossett, hours away, near to the Oklahoma border. But not to worry, where there is a will, there is usually a sister, and she enlisted the help of two trusted allies in Delta Xi, her mother Judy Dodd, and friend Patricia Coody. They were by her side from start to finish for of this friendliest of ventures.

In April, Patricia, Judy and LaTisha Dodd joined the new chapter in order to perform the Pledge Ritual. The Ritual was conducted for six new pledges. Joining these pledges, only two weeks later, five other pledges took the Ritual. By the end of April, Iota Gamma was 12 members strong.

On May 31, 2008 the eleven new pledges engaged in their Ritual of Jewels, thus creating 12 members of Arkansas Iota Gamma, Ashdown. Judy and LaTisha Dodd were able to attend the Ritual in order to initiate the pledges.

After pledging, the newly minted members were intent on getting the ball rolling, and they did. The very same day they were initiated, the chapter held its first fundraising event. From the beginning the girls were excited



about raising money for the community. These girls worked hard to ensure the success of Iota Gamma from the beginning. On May 31, 2008, they held their first crawfish boil. It's name was a shoe-in for its success - "Who's Your Crawdad?" They were determined to raise money for the high school cheer squad – who no doubt designed a cheer especially for them. It might go something like this - I-O-T-A G-A-M-M-A Rocks,



## Rocks, Rocks!

Every aspect was covered. Member April Davis took care of the advertisements and member Stephanie Jones was in charge of the t-shirt design. Sisters Sherry Zeigler created the signs and posted fliers and Amanda Stuart got many new sponsors. Members Karen Steed and Melissa Kilgore took the time to organize the event as well as tend to miscellaneous duties required to conduct a fundraiser.

In addition to these tasks, all members took the time to sell, sell, sell. They all made sure to bring in ticket sales so the crawfish boil would be a success. All in all, the effort was not in vain, with their efforts raising \$1,700. They donated \$1,000 to the Ashdown cheerleaders, and placed the other \$700 in a scholarship fund for graduating seniors.

"With such great success in this fundraiser, we decided to quickly turn around and put on our next fundraiser, Battle of the Badges, for Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure," writes Donica. "We were able to donate \$400. With all that being said, we are now on our 2nd Annual Crawfish Boil Festival of Tails with high hopes of donating a scholarship of \$500 each to at least four college-bound students of Ashdown High School. Also, we donated \$250 to the Ashdown Touchdown Club to help support our Ashdown Football Team. Go Panthers!"

The chapter is also hard at work to initiate a Relay for Life in Ashdown. In the fall they will have their first Legacy Ritual for the many daughters in the group.

Social time is also a major goal of this fun-loving chapter. Their first Valentine's Banquet was held at a local eatery. In the words of one of the chapter members, "We got dressed up and had a blast celebrating Valentine's Day with our spouses and sisters!"



"And the crawfish boils are always a lot of fun. We had a great time serving, socializing, and of course, eating. The crawfish was delicious and we cannot wait until our next boil in May."

"Iota Gamma has many ideas for rush," says Donica. "We hope to bring our numbers to great heights. Many women have already approached us about joining this great sisterhood. We cannot wait to continue to spread the importance of Beta Sigma Phi to our community. Working for the community is important. Thank you Beta Sigma Phi for giving us the opportunity to do good."

