

# OMICRON-PSI E-NEWSLETTER

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## THE BIRTH OF A NEW CHAPTER

There are times when you just want to close the books and throw them window! But the reason we don't is our commitment and obligation to defeat our ignorance. We work and toil to complete those assignments, because we know that the education is more than a mere piece of parchment, but an accumulation of knowledge that makes a statement—I've committed myself to life-long learning, and have reached a higher plane of education. Life-long learning allows us to truly appreciate the arts and sciences of our past and present—Our true humanity.

Recently, I was warmly invited to open a chapter of this society in the UK, for American, non-traditional students. I struggled to establish a name that's descriptive and precise. Finally, after much debate and consultation, our identity emerged: "Airmen Committed to Educational Excel-

lence (ACEE) United Kingdom Chapter—Omicron Psi". It's important we not only focus on academic excellence, but setting a standard and example for others to follow, of selfless giving and be-



nevolence to those who are less fortunate. Who are we? We are those in uniform and US civilians in service to America. Profoundly, we who seek academic excellence can unify to make a proactive difference and positive influence in our community. We all share this common thread of service to our community, and this is just one of many ways we can use our education to help others and give something back. I hope to make a real impact with some of the finest professionals

who've sworn an oath to our chapter.

The way ahead for our chapter is one of infancy, but we will grow exponentially—Just watch and see! We have plans to develop leaders and fine examples of mentors—people for children to emulate. Our communities will benefit with the added help of our chapter volunteers, our "Psi-ACEE Warriors". As the chapter founder and President, I'm committed to integrity and honor, educational excellence, and duty to community service. Our chapter goals and objectives are summed up by just one question: *What are we doing today, to make someone's "tomorrow" better?*

—Richard P. Hughes  
President,  
Omicron-Psi  
ACEE Chapter UK

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### Special Point of Interest

- Omicron-Psi has a new Web Site.
- Omicron-Psi has created a new member certificate.
- Membership dues now include honor cords.
- All newsletters will be quarterly with news updates on the web site.

### 2003 Scholarship Recipients

Joshua Lemmens—University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Cheryl Miller—Dallas Christian College

Jennifer Demers—University of Nevada, Las Vegas

## WHAT MAKES A PERSON GREAT BY JOSHUA LEMMENS

Greatness is perhaps the most subjective classification of a person. To what and to whose standards do we hold a person's character, accomplishments, and sacrifice? Just as society evolves and changes so do the tenets it holds. Take military service, for example. Many Americans during World War I immigrated to Canada to join the military to fight a noble cause because their own country opted for isolationism. Were they heroes? Were their sacrifices a measure of "greatness?" The GI's returning from the Vietnam conflict certainly weren't embraced and heralded in the streets like their WWII forefathers on VE Day, 1945. So, society is fickle in granting this esteem.

Is greatness then reserved to larger-than-life media figures? Is it an accolade given solely to contemporary cult heroes of sport, politics, and entertainment then? Is one's service to home, God, and community a measure of that achievement? We honor mayors, church leaders, teachers, and scholars, rightfully. Our culture cherishes prizes for achievement at all levels, from local school spelling bees to the Nobel Peace Prize. These laurels are assigned on a global stage to those of great skill, character, merit, impact, or sacrifice; all are hallmarks of a society devoted to cultivating greatness.

Few people garner the global label

of greatness comparable to Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Michael Jordan, The Beatles, or Bill Gates, icons of their respective fields. Why are these figures great? Because they have all moved us, impacted our hearts, minds, and souls like few have. The rare, the beautiful, the powerful, and life changing; that is what they have done and who they are. Anyone can have that effect, at a level where it is most powerful and af-

*"..If each of us came out of ourselves to adopt a cause and commit to making a difference, not in our lives, but in the lives of others, our world, and each of us in turn, would be ...*

fecting: Individually, one person to another. It must begin there first.

As a society can we begin to solve world issues like global warming, pollution, overpopulation, tyranny, and injustice when at home we cannot even put litter in a garbage can? We simply will not recycled our own household wastes, and we, by our own inaction, decide not to get involved in our city, state, and national politics. We are a society of "Free Riders." We sign up for membership in interest groups, political parties, petitions, lobbying organizations, anything that doesn't require us to personally get in-

involved. Instead of marching in the streets protesting the war in Iraq, citizens went online to a site linked to the White House to "protest!" We want to have our say and an impact on our world, surely. And we all want to, "Save the Whales." Everyone wants to achieve some level of greatness, yes. However, if we can get away with it we will invest the *least* amount of our personal time, effort, and resources to that end.

"Greatness" is personal sacrifice (be it time, effort, or money), to positively affect another person, culture, or cause. Greatness is not getting that promotion at work, having six pack abs., or being elected prom queen. It requires coming out of your personal comfort zone, taking risks, accepting challenges, daring to stand up for what you believe in. Something seemingly as simple as volunteering at an AIDS hospice, homeless shelter, or tutoring at an inner-city school can have great effect. Do these things not with the mindset of getting recognized for your service, but rather because your personal commitment and selfless effort is reward enough. If each of us came out of ourselves to adopt a cause and commit to making a positive difference, *not* in our lives, but in the lives of others, our world, and each of us in turn, would be *Great*.

### Joshua E. Lemmens

*Joshua holds a 3.8 GPA at the University of Nevada Las Vegas*

*His college/community activities include:*

*Coaching junior tennis at Boys and Girls Club*

*Recycling program at Starbucks*

*AIDS hospice volunteer-donator*



### Scholarship Tips

When filling out a scholarship application please include the name and address of your College or University. Do not however place your name or College/University on the actual essay. Scholarships are solely based on the essay and complete anonymity is required.

# Welcome New Chapters

We are privileged to introduce to you our newest Omicron-Psi Chapters

Augusta State University

UCLA

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Airman Committed to Excellence in Education (A.C.E.E.) United Kingdom Chapter

Please feel free to welcome the new chapters. We are always here to help with any questions for problems. We know that the new web site has many tools that one can use for your college, but learning new things takes a little bit of time. We have designed this web site to be user friendly so log on and click away.

## National Omicron-Psi Honor Society Board members

Brenda York - Montana State University

John Watkins - California University of PA

Brenda Martin - Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary

Kelly Kehlbeck - University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Denise AlMahdi-Jejula - North Park University

David Wood - Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne

Judith McManamy - University of New England

Karen (Toni) Preston - Wilberforce University

Carolyn Gregg - Tusculum College

Secretary

Diana Maunu - Omicron-Psi Founder

President

## WHAT IS INCLUDED WITH OMICRON-PSI MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues for both the Silver Program and the Gold Program remain at \$35.00. With membership the following items are included:

- Membership Pin
- Membership Certificate
- Graduation Honor Cords

Student Plaques may be purchased online at [www.omicron-psi.org](http://www.omicron-psi.org).



## The Message Box

Now you can send a message to your students by logging in on [www.omicronpsi.com](http://www.omicronpsi.com) and clicking on edit. Scroll down to find a message box. Anything that you type here will show up under your University/College info for your student to see. Here you can put dates for deadlines and induction ceremonies. If you are handling applications on campus only, let your students know who they can contact and where they can pick up an application.

Remember only advisors can approve members applications both online and on campus. Online just log in and approve. By clicking on the name of the applicant you will see all their application information. Just copy for your records.

You can always call for any help at 605-329-2496 or email us at [omicron@hdc.net](mailto:omicron@hdc.net).



Stop and Smell the Flowers

## HONOR KEY



Can be purchased online at [www.omicron-psi.org](http://www.omicron-psi.org)

This honor Key comes in:

- Tie Tac
- Pin
- 10KT Necklace
- Charm

## NATIONAL OMICRON-PSI HONOR SOCIETY

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### *WE ARE NOT JUST ANOTHER HONOR SOCIETY*

Omicron-Psi members are dedicated to becoming active participants in community activities. We recognize the need to reach out and make the difference in our homes and neighborhoods. As members we continually press on towards a higher purpose. That purpose is one that lies outside of ourselves and reaches into the depths of others. Too many in our society have taken a non-involvement nap yet awoken just long enough to complain about the environment in which they are a part of. We assess the needs of our environment and take an active position in helping others. It is important to become part of the solution, to remain inactive is to remain part of the problem.

Always keep in mind that Omicron-Psi stands for honor, honesty, integrity and service. As an Omicron-Psi Chapter you are dedicating yourself to continually encourage your chapter members to live by Omicron-Psi standards of conduct in every aspect of their lives.

Be dedicated to become the example for future generations.

We are on the Web.  
[www.omicronpsi.com](http://www.omicronpsi.com)

## *God Bless America*



Omicron-Psi symbolizes honor and service. We want to take this opportunity to let our service men and women know that we stand behind you and appreciate your service for our country and for the people you are liberating in Iraq. You are all truly heroes and fulfill all Omicron-Psi requirements for service honors. Our prayers are with you for your safety and speedy return home. May God truly bless you and your families.