

# Alpha Omicron Pi

*f r a t e r n i t y*  
— A O I I —

**For more information, please contact:**  
Mary Beth West, (865) 982-6626 or mb@marybethwest.com

**For Immediate Release:**  
July 7, 2006

## **AOII Announces Architect for \$3.5 Million Sorority House at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville** ***Knoxville's Cockrill Design & Planning to Begin Work Immediately***

*Knoxville, Tenn.* – The Corporation of Alpha Omicron Pi's 104-year-old Omicron Chapter at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville announced today its selection of Knoxville-based Cockrill Design & Planning as the architect of record for the sorority's \$3.5 million, 17,500-square-foot residential house of 55 beds, projected to be designed and built in 2007-08 on the UT campus.

AOII – which includes some 170 collegiate members at UT and nearly 2,100 alumnae – is one of 13 Panhellenic sororities at UT-Knoxville with initial plans to build individual houses on campus. The new sorority houses will replace the overcrowded UT Panhellenic Building facility, built in 1964, where all sorority groups have occupied non-residential meeting space for more than four decades.



***UT-Knoxville's current Panhellenic Building***  
*Photo available, courtesy of AOII*

Currently, UT is one of only two Southeastern Conference schools without sorority houses.

“We are delighted to begin working with Cockrill Design on a building project whose time has come at the University of Tennessee,” said Omicron Chapter alumna and Building Committee Chair Ann Wallace.

“The planning phase for new sorority facilities at UT has been more than a decade in progress,” Wallace said. “AOII enthusiastically welcomes this new stage of moving forward with the design process, particularly with an architect that offers significant experience working with UT, including successful work with another Greek organization.”

**-more-**

## 2-2-2 AOIHouse

Cockrill Design & Planning is an award-winning practice in the areas of architecture, planning and interior design. Among previous and existing design projects at the University of Tennessee, Cockrill currently works with the men's fraternity of Phi Delta Theta ( $\Phi\Delta\theta$ ) on a new chapter house to be located on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus. The Phi Delta Thetas have set sustainability as one of the primary goals for the house design.

A University of Tennessee-Knoxville Greek alumnus and LEED\* accredited professional, David Cockrill – president of Cockrill Design & Planning – brings extensive UT and State of Tennessee project experience to his role as the executive team leader for the AOII house project. As director of design and partner of Cockrill Design & Planning, Margaret Butler is an award-winning designer with considerable residential design expertise. Butler is also a UT Greek alumna and LEED accredited professional.

“We are excited to have this opportunity to work with AOII in designing a home that speaks to their values and leadership, both on campus and beyond,” Butler said. “Cockrill Design & Planning applauds AOII’s goals of attaining an environmentally sustainable design and providing a legacy of excellence for generations of young women.”

AOII’s Omicron Chapter plans to unveil Cockrill Design’s architectural renderings of the house on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2006, at a special event for alumnae, collegians, parents, donors and friends at UT’s University Club. The event will be the capstone of an AOII Alumnae Weekend Celebration that includes the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual AOII Barbecue on October 21 at UT’s Circle Park prior to the Alabama football game, raising funds for the sorority’s international philanthropy, Arthritis Research.

“Well-designed sorority houses will enhance the overall campus appeal of UT-Knoxville,” Wallace said. “We deeply appreciate the UT Administration’s efforts to balance the long-term planning needs of the University with the obvious benefits that a strong Greek community offers the UT system, both short-term and long-term, involving collegians and alumni alike.”

More information on AOII’s plans for a house on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus can be found at [www.omicronhouse.com](http://www.omicronhouse.com).

*\*The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. More information can be obtained from the U.S. Green Building Council, <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>.*

-more-

### 3-3-3 AOIHouse

#### **About AOII's Omicron Chapter:**

Founded in 1902, Omicron Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity stands as the oldest existing chapter of AOII in the world. AOII is one of the largest sororities in the UT Panhellenic system with approximately 170 members and currently holds the second-highest grade point average (GPA) in Panhellenic, with 3.28 on a 4.0 scale (Spring 2006).

In addition, Omicron Chapter manages one of the longest-running philanthropic events supporting Arthritis Research in the country, the AOII Barbecue, which raises thousands of dollars annually. Omicron Chapter is supported strongly by its local Knoxville Alumnae Chapter, which includes some 575 members throughout the Greater Knoxville area.

#### **About AOII International:**

Headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn., AOII was founded in 1897 at Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City. AOII has more than 126,000 initiated members in 179 collegiate chapters and 250 alumnae chapters across the United States and Canada. Alpha Omicron Pi is an international women's fraternity promoting friendship for a lifetime, inspiring academic excellence and lifelong learning, and developing leadership skills through service to the fraternity and community.

#### **About the UT Panhellenic System:**

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville's Panhellenic Council is the largest women's organization on the UT campus and serves as the governing body for 18 sororities: 14 National Panhellenic Conference Chapters, three National Pan-Hellenic Council Chapters, and one chapter of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations. Last year alone, Panhellenic sororities raised more than \$130,000 for charities in and around the Knoxville community and contributed more than 3,000 service hours. Panhellenic members constitute some 75 percent of leadership positions on the UT campus and hold an average GPA of 3.1/4.0.

#### **About Cockrill Design & Planning:**

Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, Cockrill Design & Planning, Inc. (CDP) is an award-winning design firm and provides planning, architectural, interior design, facility management and site development services for a wide variety of facilities. The firm meshes the variety of expertise available in a large firm with the passion and interest of a small office. CDP looks to associate with engineering professionals and consultants ideally suited for each project, while maintaining a focus in the disciplines of architecture, interiors and planning. CDP's experience includes the following project types: medical, housing, higher education and K-12, library, civic / public, office, retail, religious, laboratory, resort, restaurant, facility assessment, long range assessment / master planning, urban center and town planning.

# # #