Welcome and Thank You for your interest in UCO’s Funeral Service news letter THE VIGIL brought to you by the members of Sigma Phi Sigma Gamma chapter. THE VIGIL is a bi-yearly news letter that will be distributed each Spring and Fall semester. THE VIGIL will be a vehicle in which we will bring to you information and news geared toward the Funeral Service Industry, Department News / Faculty Spotlights, Announcements of awards and graduations of UCO’s Funeral Service students, and fun activities. With that being said, I would like to give you an idea of who we are and what we stand for as a whole.

WHO WE ARE

Sigma Phi Sigma is a national funeral service fraternity dedicated to enhancing the education, along with the support and dedication of the Funeral Service Faculty, of funeral service practitioners. The Gamma Chapter was formally recognized at the University of Central Oklahoma on October 22, 1970, five years after Sigma Phi Sigma became a recognized business fraternity at Southern Illinois University. We are one of eighteen affiliated chapters.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

1. Promote professionalism by providing opportunities for the development of leadership and a climate for exchange of professional concepts, ethics, and ideals.
2. Educate the public concerning the funeral profession and increase the public’s appreciation of the profession by advocating participation in community service projects.
3. Encourage fellowship between students, faculty, and business entities.
4. Aid students in their academic endeavors through educational opportunities, speakers, or other tools with the goal of exceeding National/State Board Exam(s) standards.
5. Provide members various tools to advance their career goals and to assist them in securing a position with a funeral service provider.

2011-2012 ΣΦΣ OFFICERS

Left to Right: Jonathan Olson (UCOSA Representative), Rich Bowers (Vice President), Adam Scott (Secretary/Parliamentarian), Maura Edwards (President), Carolyn Smith (Treasurer) and Grant Mowery (Public Relations).
Updates:

Last semester the Funeral Service program took a trip to Batesville Casket Company in Batesville Indiana. What an experience that was! First off Jawacdhah resort supplied a place for us to stay. Beautiful grounds and a great restaurant which would rival any five star establishment. The lodge would rival any luxury home with a grand fireplace and a staff that really takes care of you. The tour at Batesville Casket Company was energetic and we even got to participate in the making of an interior by creating tufts in material used for the head panel. The Batesville tour included lunch that would challenge the hungriest of eaters. We look forward to returning again for another tour.

Recently we volunteered for the UCO Presidents Christmas Party and had a blast sponsoring children from local grade schools. This years attendance eclipsed last years by hundreds of volunteers and hope next years is just as fun.

Social events: We have scouted out the UCO Outdoor Recreation Center, met for a few Bowling events and have a trip to Pierce Chemical coming up. A laser tag event is in the works along with a volunteer opportunity at a retirement center with a whole host of other fun activities for the future!
Sigma Phi Sigma also volunteered along with FOX 25’s Jeff George news and friends to help last spring’s tornado victims clean up and reorganize their lives.

We have new t-shirts available. Order one for yourself and a friend. Only $15.00 funeralservice@uco.edu or 405-974-5001
April Showers Bring May flowers
By Rich Bowers

With the weather a little warmer than usual (80° today), it feels like spring is in the air and it’s only the first day of March. One can’t help notice all the plants that are blooming, the trees, flowers, everywhere there are signs of spring. Being in funeral service we handle a lot of flowers from many different shops. I often wondered what was involved with this part of the business so I thought “why not head to a local flower shop and see how it works”. A few blocks later I found myself at TONY FOSS FLOWERS on North May Avenue in Oklahoma City, which has been in the same spot for 21 years. As you walk through the blue doors you can’t help but notice the use of color throughout the shop, on the walls, in the flower arrangements, appearing in the art work and in the large all glass walk-in cooler. I made my way to the newly expanded area of the flower shop and found myself face to face with the “Fabulous Tony Foss”. I introduced myself and we sat down at a counter of brushed stainless steel. After a brief explanation for my visit we both settled into a fascinating conversation. We talked about how he got started in the flower business. (Tony) “I’ve just always–always loved flowers, mowing the grass, all that, even as a child…. but, my profession, and I still kinda keep my fingers in it, is hair dressing…so I bought a small cooler (for flowers) and put it in my hair shop”. That’s how he came to be the florist he is today. So I asked Tony about his style and what it is that makes someone say “Ohh… that’s a Tony Foss piece.” (Tony) “Well, I’m pretty well known for tropical flowers and over the top show business type things. When I first started I wanted to do pretty flowers but I wanted to do something that I would like to see in my house and so that’s what I built a business on, you know, a little bit showy, a little bit edgy. That’s my signature”. Then I asked Tony to finish this line. “Roses are red, Violets are blue”… (Tony) “To show love, these are for you.”
Now being here on a funeral service basis, I asked Tony if he would ever consider putting a shop in a funeral home.

(Tony) “Yes I would, and the reason I would open a shop or have an area dedicated to funeral services is to educate and to change the thought of the funeral flower. It doesn't have to be so somber. It can be fun, bright, and cheery to celebrate the life.”

Tony noted he has noticed a slight decline in the use of funeral sprays, which is still tried and true, but pointed out the use of more glass vases. Next I asked Tony about the types of flowers used in different seasons.

(Tony) “The tropical is more for a ‘look’. A more seasonal thing would be....Holland flowers like lilies, roses and daffodils for the summer and more of a hydrangea and roses theme for the winter time. For fall and spring bouquets...an arrangement of things you would find in your yard like lilies, daffodils and hyacinth. Fall colors are more of the browns and oranges”.

Tony’s shop started getting busy so it was time to wrap things up. I shook his hand and thanked him for his time. Before I left Tony wanted to show me a gift he had received. It was a large crystal paperweight that was inscribed with these words, “When only fabulous will do”. As I left, I reflected on those words. I thought about the struggles we face in life and the rewards we reap, the families we love and care for and the friends we cherish and keep. Just keep in mind when things get tough, much like the blooming flowers and blossoming trees all around us, life really is pretty fabulous.
Calendar of events

March
7th, Sigma Phi Sigma Meeting and Eat at Johnnie’s!
8th, Day Trip to Pierce Chemical Co.

April
4th, Sigma Phi Sigma Meeting, and Eat at Johnnie’s!
16th – 18, Oklahoma Funeral Directors Convention

Johnnie’s Burger Bar

Don’t forget to visit your local Johnnie’s Charcoal Broiler every first Wednesday of the month and help support the Funeral Service Program at UCO.

Just mention Sigma Phi Sigma, Funeral Service when you place your order and we will receive a portion of the proceeds. Thank you for your support!
Congratulations

Our most recent Graduates!

Spring 2011
Autumn Green Bachelor’s Degree
Kathleen Kantor Bachelor’s Degree
Amanda Kendrick Bachelor’s Degree
Stephanie Parks Bachelor’s Degree
Ryan Tomlin Certificate

Summer 2011
Kentrell Brown Bachelor’s Degree
Nichole Minst Bachelor’s Degree
Lucia Dickinson Bachelor’s Degree
Sammy Flores Bachelor’s Degree
Sheri Francis Bachelor’s Degree
Rusty Garrett Bachelor’s Degree
Michael Isaacs Bachelor’s Degree
Latoria Johnson Bachelor’s Degree

Fall 2011
James Gaskell Bachelor’s Degree
Dave Ramirez Bachelor’s Degree
Amy McAfee Certificate
Janna Beth Clinton Bachelor’s Degree
Mortuary Science Puzzle
Adam Scott

A collection of terms relating to the scientific side of the funeral service profession. Good luck!

Across
1. Complete removal of an eyeball, as for donation
2. The cause of true tissue gas
3. Father of modern embalming
4. Sodium salts of this are effective at combining with calcium ions to prevent coagulation
5. The single most important factor in the initiation of decomposition
6. Stomach purge has this appearance
7. This moldable substance can be used to restore damaged facial features
8. This type of needle has an eye in it which could be used for passing ligatures around a vessel
9. In this type of postmortem temperature elevation
10. Polymer used in "dusting" body walls and viscera
11. A jagged tear in the skin
12. This nitrogenous waste eliminated from cells of the body is converted from the more toxic ammonia
13. Fluid in the abdominal cavity
14. Humectants are intended to counteract this process
15. Toxic heavy metal used often in early embalming solutions
16. The physiologic, or natural, death of cells as they complete their life cycle
17. When subcutaneous, it means odorless gas or air in the tissues

Down
1. Risk to the explorers of bat caves
2. The most reliable sign of death
3. Its arch is the center of arterial solution distribution in embalming
4. Formaldehyde reacts with these to produce cross-linkages
5. When these parts stop working properly to produce insulin, diabetes results
6. The continuation of this by cells after death may result
7. Adding this to an embalming solution helps it pass through cell membranes more easily
8. Perfuming agent that smells like almonds. Has a nice ring to it
9. Phase of rigor mortis that happens twice
10. Failure of the embalmer to remove as much blood as possible from the body can result in this color
11. Movement of fluid into dependent portions of the body
12. Creates a vacuum when water is run through its mechanism
13. Alkaline amines with a foul odor, e.g., putrescine
14. This type of injection involves drainage from a different location than the injection