

Fran Bender Rushing

Fran Bender Rushing pledged Chi Omega on the University of Chattanooga campus in the fall of 1965 and was initiated the following February. While an undergraduate, Fran served as Rush Chair, GTB, and GH. Following graduation, she remained active in Chi Omega, attending alumnae meetings, participating in fundraising for the alumni group, and serving as an advisor to Delta Alpha for 30 years.

Fran has attended numerous Chi Omega Conventions, serving as a representative from Delta Alpha as well as serving on many convention teams by assisting with registrations, initiations, and convention special guests.

For many years, Fran served on the Mary Love Collins and Elizabeth Carmichael Orman Scholarship selection committees. She now chairs the National Scholarship Program for the Chi Omega Foundation, which offers numerous scholarships for both graduate and undergraduate students across the country.

While participating in Chi Omega through the years, Fran taught in the English Department at UTC. She retired in 2014 after a forty-four year career as a teacher and administrator.

Several years ago, someone asked Fran if she was still a Chi Omega advisor. Of course, she responded that she was, and the person replied, "Haven't you gotten over that yet?" She said, "I don't think that a person ever 'gets over' something that she loves and has meant so much to her life. I have countless Chi Omega friends all over the country who have enriched my life and made me a better person. The ideals of the Fraternity have certainly influenced my life positively. I have learned more from Chi Omega about leadership and the intangibles of life than I have in any other group, including professional ones. These principles have stood the test of time in my life, and I cannot imagine my life without Chi Omega and its enduring friendships."