Sigma Kappa Welcomes Three New Chapters
From THE EDITOR

Dear Sigma Kappa sisters,

Extension is arguably one of the most exciting, and most misunderstood, facets of our work here at national headquarters. While we would love to honor each new request to open a chapter at a certain campus or reopen a closed chapter, the actual process is quite complicated and necessitates a great deal of research and discussion about what is best for Sigma Kappa at the time.

That being said, fall 2014 was an excellent semester for Sigma Kappa in that we opened new chapters at three outstanding universities and welcomed hundreds of new sisters into the mystic bond. This growth is not slowing down, either – in fall 2015, Sigma Kappa expects to participate in not three, not four, but FIVE colonizations (learn more about these exciting upcoming events in the summer 2015 issue of the Sigma Kappa Triangle!)

In this issue, you’ll read about our three newest chapters from the leadership consultants who were there from the beginning. You’ll also hear some first-person accounts of the Regional Leadership Conferences and learn about an exciting new way to experience Sigma Kappa’s history. We here at NHQ are thrilled about Sigma Kappa’s exciting year of growth and hope that you are, too!

In Sigma Kappa,

Mallory Curtis Simmons

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On the Cover: Hundreds of new sisters were welcomed into Sigma Kappa in fall 2014 at Robert Morris University, University of Houston and Coastal Carolina University.
The cover of the Winter 2015 issue intrigued me. In my work leading a team for Teach For America in St. Louis (my adopted home), I spend a ton of time working with teachers on their own racial identity development. At Teach For America, we believe that who a teacher is, in their skin, directly impacts every decision that he or she makes in the classroom. Knowing who you are, how that drives the choices you make, and how the choices you make impact your students is the foundation of our work. We refer to that concept as consciousness.

So, of course, the fact that my sorority is taking on diversity is exciting to me!

I read the article closely, and one thing kind of struck me. Except for the profile of Lori S. White, most of the women profiled mentioned being accepted “as they were” or that their skin “wasn’t an issue.”

I find that really hard to believe. I am a white woman who has many black and multiracial colleagues and friends. One of the things I’ve learned from them is that their skin color is always an “issue.” There’s never a moment when it’s not. Knowing that and becoming comfortable with that (from both black and white people, in my case), is one very critical step in both racial identity development and consciousness.

I’m not saying that the women you profiled are lying. I’m suggesting that perhaps their reflections are partially rose colored. And, perhaps, their reflections are sending a subtle message that the concept of “color blindness” is somehow a goal. As if, if we are all very nice to each other, race won’t matter.

That concept, unfortunately, is riddled with white privilege. Over the past 11 years, since entering the field of education, I have become intimately familiar with just how much “blindness” and white privilege I carry.

This was always hard for me to accept. I grew up with very meager means, used tons of scholarships and financial aid to pay for college, and worked hard in part time and full time jobs since the age of 14. For those reasons, thinking of myself as “privileged” was a challenge. That is, until working with some very dear friends who shared stories of the way they must walk through the world, given the color of their skin. And it hit me: I never have to think twice about where I am, what I wear, what I say, or who I hang out with. My actions are never used to represent an entire group or race. I’m never followed in stores. It’s never assumed that I’m lost and in the wrong neighborhood. With a quick shower and a great outfit, I can be just about anyone I want to be.

That is privilege.

It is my sincerest hope that we develop programming and experiences that begin to expose our sisters to this privilege and to the process of building consciousness. We can set goals and talk about diversity (that’s a start!), but until we work within our chapters, we won’t see the true diversity we all seek.

— Abby Crawford, Kappa Eta, Texas Christian University

I read with interest the article “The ‘D’ Word: Diversity in Sorority Life” in Vol. 112 Issue 3. As a member of Sigma Kappa, Cornell University class of 1958, I find it interesting that there is no mention of our [Alpha Zeta] Chapter which in 1955 pledged a black woman, and outstanding person, Barbara C. Delany. At that time the national organization severed its affiliation with us and we became an independent sorority: Chi Gamma. Although we received support from Cornell University, we were unable to survive financially. Our group was strongly supportive of this decision and has maintained close ties over the years.

I would hope that you would make note of this history and inform your readers of this event.

— Patricia Thomson Herr, Alpha Zeta, Cornell University

Editor’s Note: The closing of the Cornell chapter was a very disappointing event in the Sorority’s history, and national council deeply regrets the decision made then. Since the article in the magazine was intended to be about how the Sorority is handling and improving the issue of diversity today, there was no discussion about including the events of the past in it. But we are grateful for this opportunity to educate our members about Sigma Kappa’s history while also appreciating how far we have come in regards to welcoming all members into our sisterhood.

I was, at first, shocked and then pleasantly surprised to read your piece in the winter issue of the Sigma Kappa Triangle addressing diversity. During my undergraduate days, in the early 1940’s, diversity was an issue that was not discussed. Of course, I believe we called it integration at that time. Xi Chapter would have been receptive to just this sort of information even in those days. I can recall the national concern over the activities at other universities where those students were wanting to be much more inclusive than permitted; and they eventually lost their charters as I recall.

I commend you for your forthright comments about the need for diversity in today’s society and for your direct approach to the issues involved.

— Betty Whitney Alderson, Xi, University of Kansas
Meg Dobson Russell, Alpha Epsilon, Iowa State University, has published her first book, a young adult mystery called “Chaos Theory.” Published under the pen name M. Evonne Dobson, “Chaos Theory” is about a 17-year-old science whiz named Kami who assembles a team of sleuths to find out who supplied her friend’s sister with the drugs that killed her. The trail leads all the way to a pharmaceutical company where Kami goes undercover as an intern and finds out she may not be the only one on the case. The fast-paced mystery explores Kami’s deep need to understand the chaotic lives of those around her and make sense of tragedy in her own life.

Meg lives on the prairie in Iowa with two horses and a Shetland Sheepdog. “Chaos Theory” is published by Poisoned Pen Press and can be found on amazon.com and poisonedpenpress.com/chaos-theory. Follow Meg on social media at facebook.com/mevonneDobson and @meg_evonne on Twitter.

Kristine Condon, Eta, Illinois Wesleyan University, has been selected as one of 60 teachers to attend the Supreme Court Summer Institute. The Supreme Court Summer Institute is open to teachers in the field of law-related and civic education. Kristine is one of only two community college faculty chosen to attend. At the June 13-17 session, she will study U.S. Supreme Court cases in detail and learn new teaching methods related to the court. Participants will visit the Supreme Court and attend a reception there as well.

Kristine is a professor at Kankakee Community College (KCC) in Kankakee, Illinois. She has also been the coordinator of the KCC Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies program since its inception in 2002. After graduating from IWU, she earned a master’s degree from Loyola University, Chicago and is now a doctoral candidate in community college leadership at National Louis University in Chicago. Kristine also holds two certificates from the Lawyer’s Assistant Program at Roosevelt University in Chicago. She previously worked as a deputy clerk for the Illinois Supreme Court and worked in the legal field for 15 years before becoming a full-time college professor.

Cheryl Stanton Bachelder, Tau, Indiana University, is the CEO of Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen. She has written a new book called “Dare to Serve: How to Drive Superior Results by Serving Others.” The book details how Cheryl turned a struggling franchise into an ever-growing company with increasing sales, profits and number of franchises. The secret, she says, is putting aside ego and self in favor of collaboration and team play. She and her team created a workplace where people were treated with respect and dignity, yet were also challenged to perform at the highest level. The book can be found on amazon.com and daretoserveleaders.com. The first chapter is available to download for free at daretoserveleaders.com.

Cheryl has held leadership positions with companies such as Yum Brands, Domino’s Pizza, RJR Nabisco, The Gillette Company and The Procter & Gamble Company. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration in Finance and Marketing from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Cheryl received the Colby Award, which recognizes Sigma Kappa members who have accomplished outstanding career achievements, in 2010.
Dear Sisters,

As more students are choosing to enhance their collegiate experience by seeking out opportunities for leadership, service and friendship, campuses across the country are being challenged to keep up with the continuous interest and growth in Greek life. Panhellenic extension gives campuses the ability to manage this growth.

The extension process is really an exciting one. Oftentimes, it’s fast-paced, highly competitive and requires an incredible amount of work, but it delivers some of the most rewarding and memorable experiences for those involved. The opportunity to help grow a Greek community and be a part of something new is truly special and unique.

We are often asked how the decision process works. As a member of the National Panhellenic Conference, we have strict guidelines we must adhere to regarding extension. In order to even begin talking with a prospective campus, we must receive written approval from the campus Panhellenic that a vote for extension has been taken and passed. Once we receive notification about which campuses are open for extension, we research the opportunity. There are many factors that influence the decision-making process, some of which include: campus location and academic reputation, student population and enrollment statistics, existing sorority membership and recruitment statistics, local alumnae interest and support, potential housing commitments, and existing extension commitments. Sigma Kappa’s national council is thoughtful and intentional about where and how we grow in order to maintain the high standards of our organization.

Over the past five years, Sigma Kappa has recruited nearly 1,000 colony members and installed 11 new chapters. Our growth has happened from coast to coast, in big cities and in small towns, on campuses ranging in size from 1,200 to 40,000 students. With every new campus comes excitement and energy, and you can read more about our most recent colonizations in this issue.

Looking forward, growth continues to be a priority, and the 2015-2016 academic year will be one for the history books. In the upcoming year, Sigma Kappa will be recolonizing four chapters and bringing Sigma Kappa to three new campuses. What an exciting year we have ahead of us! Be sure to stay connected to our historic year of growth by following us on Facebook. Details about each colonization, including ways for alumnae to be involved, will also be available at www.sigmakappa.org/Sigma_Kappa_Extension.

In Sigma Kappa,

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THE MEANING OF SERVICE
LOOKING BACK ON 31 YEARS OF ADVISING

By Summer Staub Rothrock, Gamma Upsilon, Features Editor

Sally Ann Yohn, Delta Pi, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, knows the true meaning of lifelong service. She has been a sister of Sigma Kappa for 40 years and has spent 31 of those years as an advisor for the Epsilon Delta Chapter at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Sally joined Sigma Kappa at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania with two other women and held the positions in the chapter of treasurer and rush chair, as it was called at the time. She then transferred from Lock Haven to Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania to finish her degree. This short time as a collegiate member started her journey of long-term service to the Sorority.

After college Sally began a career in early childhood education. Eight years after she graduated she saw an ad in the Sigma Kappa Triangle looking for advisors. She has been with Epsilon Delta ever since, having advised a variety of positions and has also been the only advisor for the chapter at times. Currently she serves as the advisor to the executive vice president, social chair, scholarship chair, and sisterhood chair on a board with four other advisors.

When asked why she volunteers for Sigma Kappa, her response was simple – “Because I love Sigma Kappa.” Sally loves the ritual and the values that are shared by all sisters. She has given a lot to the sorority and she says that being a longtime volunteer has given been beneficial to her also. She most enjoys getting to know “the kids,” as she calls them. She wants to help the collegians learn what Sigma Kappa means and how they can stay involved beyond undergraduate membership. She notes that advising helps to keep her young mentally. The women of Epsilon Delta gave Sally a picture frame with the words “Love, your kids” on it as just one of the ways they have expressed their gratitude for her.

With 40 years of membership Sally has seen Sigma Kappa and sorority life go through many changes, and although she notes that things are much different now than when she joined, she is also pleased with how sorority life has changed. Her vision for the future of sororities is that they will continue to be active on campuses, and hopefully reach beyond North America. She wants students on an international level to be able to experience the impact of sorority life.

Sally will be retiring from advising in December 2015, and at the time of this interview, she was planning on announcing her retirement to Epsilon Delta. Her retirement letter to the chapter includes a line which highlights that membership extends well beyond the collegiate chapter – “The guard on my badge says Delta Pi, but my heart says Epsilon Delta.” She will spend her retirement relaxing, focusing on health, and hopefully getting a puppy.
In the winter of 2015, over 1,400 collegiate executive council members, advisory board supervisors and national volunteers gathered in seven locations across the United States for Sigma Kappa Regional Leadership Conferences (RLCs). Starting in 2013 with just five members of each chapter attending, the RLCs expanded this year to include all 11 executive council positions for a weekend of intensive leadership development. By imparting a well-rounded understanding of how executive council members can succeed as individuals and as a team, the RLCs were the perfect kickoff to a year of success for our chapters.
RLC was an amazing experience for my chapter. It really strengthened our values and skills as a group. We brought new ideas and a new purpose back to our chapter, and we can already see the positive impact. Additionally, it was great to meet sisters from different colleges and connect with them.

– Sierra Windsor, vice president of membership, Alpha Gamma, Washington State University

As an advisory board supervisor (ABS), the regional leadership conference is one of my favorite events to attend on behalf of the chapter. I absolutely love watching the growth of the chapter leaders throughout the weekend. It is a great opportunity for the newly elected leaders to spend a weekend together getting to know each other better and also an otherwise unavailable opportunity to network with leaders in other chapters. Since RLC, many of my chapter officers continue to stay in contact with their peers to share ideas.

– Jaime Riley, advisory board supervisor, Theta Beta, The University of La Verne

RLC was not only a fun time to get to know other Sigma Kappas from across the nation, but it was an opportunity to truly grow as an individual and leader. From one-on-one meetings with advisors and mentors, to insights from leadership consultants, the weekend allowed for an exceptional amount of personal growth. It allowed Kappa Zeta’s executive council to begin our leadership with a strong, united, enthusiastic front.

– Brittany Crimmins, president, Kappa Zeta, Elon University

The RLC I attended for district 2 was an incredible experience. Through our leadership breakout sessions, as well as chapter individual sessions, I felt like there was always something new to learn from one another. I especially enjoyed meeting the other presidents from the area and staying in touch with them all. Overall, it was such a rewarding experience to meet our sisters from other schools and share our passion for leadership and our chapters.

– Maddy Bruffy, president, Beta Zeta, University of Maryland

As an ABS, I was inspired by my collegiate chapter’s openness to listen to ideas from other chapters and their dedication in formulating their action plan. Since RLC I have heard many chapter members reflect back to use their leadership and skills learned during that weekend. I am also excited that the ABS team now has a Facebook page where we are very active in asking and answering questions and sharing advice.

– Jennifer Helton, advisory board supervisor, Kappa Psi, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

The executive council of Beta Nu found RLC to be insightful and extremely helpful! RLC brought us clarification on all of our responsibilities in our respective positions, but also taught us how to work as a cohesive team instead of 11 individuals with different jobs. RLC was a great way for us to connect with sisters in other chapters, and since then, we have been bouncing ideas off of each other! We appreciate all of the help and encouragement we received from the sisters, advisors, volunteers and friends of Sigma Kappa during RLC.

– Lauren Bilgri, president, Beta Nu, Bradley University

As an ABS, I was inspired by my collegiate chapter’s openness to listen to ideas from other chapters and their dedication in formulating their action plan. Since RLC I have heard many chapter members reflect back to use their leadership and skills learned during that weekend. I am also excited that the ABS team now has a Facebook page where we are very active in asking and answering questions and sharing advice.

– Jennifer Helton, advisory board supervisor, Kappa Psi, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
The RLCs began with a kickoff session highlighting the structure and expectations of the weekend, followed by a discussion about Sigma Kappa’s values and how to make them the basis of every decision made in the chapter. Then, a leadership session focused on 10 characteristics unique to strong female leaders.

Throughout the weekend, attendees holding each executive council position were able to break out into small groups for more intensive training, position-specific discussions and idea sharing.

Large-group conversations on bystander behavior, risk management and goal setting also had attendees thinking big-picture about how to best help their chapters succeed. There was also a “choose your own learning” session during which attendees could review ritual, meet their national officers, participate in roundtable discussions, and get one-on-one coaching from mentors.

The RLCs gave attendees a chance to bond as an executive council, grow individually as leaders, and develop a greater sense of pride in their Sigma Kappa membership.
After attending RLC with the executive council from Kappa Beta, we were truly excited to bring home what we learned to the rest of the chapter. We even brought back the exercise where you rate your chapter and then discuss the reasons for your ratings. This exercise opened the chapter’s eyes to see where we excel and what we can improve on. The weekend truly amped us up as an executive council, and we are more than excited and prepared for the rest of our term!

– Monica Pilarski, vice president of communication, Kappa Beta, Grand Valley State University

One of the greatest things I learned from RLC is how to help others and their growth within Sigma Kappa. My executive council also came up with a great leadership motto to help us have a successful year, “Striving for the whole through scholarship, service, and leadership.” I learned so much, and was exposed to so many different ways to recruit and help grow this organization and raise its standards even more.

– Allison Werner, vice president of membership, Delta Nu, Longwood University

RLC was one of the best experiences I’ve had during my time in Sigma Kappa. It really renewed my love for this organization and all the amazing women who are not only a part of the Gamma Upsilon Chapter, but Sigma Kappa as a whole. Meeting all my sisters from other chapters and talking with the vice presidents of scholarship from across the district really helped me understand what I could do in my position to improve my chapter. I have implemented some new incentive programs and began making academics a priority for sisterhood.

– Shannon David, vice president of scholarship, Gamma Upsilon, California University of Pennsylvania

By communicating with other sisters in our district, we were able to discuss useful tips to ensure that the chapter runs smoothly and maintains Sigma Kappa’s values. As VPPS, I received two awesome philanthropy event ideas that helped our chapter to raise over $1,000 more than last year’s donation amount for the Sigma Kappa Foundation!

– Payton Helms, vice president of philanthropic service, Theta Alpha, Appalachian State University

After attending RLC in February, I grew immensely more confident in my role as president. Being able to meet with the other presidents from District 7 allowed me to learn from each one of them, and realize that there are many others going through the same things that my chapter and I are going through. I know that this weekend spent with sisters in the same roles as us greatly benefited our executive council, and allowed us to make connections with other Sigma Kappa chapters in our district.

– Nicole Stearns, president, Alpha Gamma, Washington State University

RLC was an outstanding experience. Our entire executive council grew closer as a result. Starting out on such a close level has made a great impact on the leadership in our chapter and got us off to a great start. As an individual I appreciated meeting all of the other Sigma Kappa women and learning from their chapter experiences. Our entire council received numerous ideas on how to improve our policies and procedures and I can’t wait to see how much more they learn in the years to follow.

– Emily Steinbach, president, Beta Omega, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Growth is always a goal for Sigma Kappa, and in the fall of 2014, we satisfied that goal by installing three new chapters, adding 231 members to our sisterhood. To introduce you to these new chapters and to illustrate the staggering amount of work that goes into a colonization, we asked the colony consultants for each of these campuses to give a behind-the-scenes account of the process from initial campus visit to Installation. These new chapters are sure to be a huge asset to Sigma Kappa, growing our sisterhood and keeping Sigma Kappa soaring.

By Madison Weissinger, Theta Omicron Leadership Consultant

Coastal Carolina is a dynamic university settled in Conway, South Carolina, not too far from the resort area of Myrtle Beach. With more than 9,900 undergraduate students, this beautiful university was founded in 1954 as Coastal Carolina Junior College and became independent in 1993. With a campus rich in tradition and in a gorgeous location, Sigma Kappa saw Coastal Carolina as the perfect place to grow. Last spring, the Coastal Carolina Panhellenic council voted to open for extension, thus inviting a new Panhellenic group to their Greek community. After making an on-campus presentation in April, Sigma Kappa was chosen to be the newest group to join the community.

Since I already knew about the upcoming colonizations from being an LC for a semester, I knew exactly where I wanted to be for the next year. I was instantly fascinated by Coastal Carolina’s community full of tradition and its beautiful location. When I found out I would be the Coastal Carolina colony consultant, I was ecstatic and emotional, to say the least. As a colony member of our Theta Omicron Chapter at Arizona State University, I was thrilled to be able to give the colony experience to the women of Coastal Carolina.

After an adventure-filled cross-country road trip from Phoenix to South Carolina, I arrived in Myrtle Beach on Aug. 16. It was quite a shock to experience the extreme Carolina humidity, but this West Coast gal quickly adapted and became a part of an East Coast world. The community was ready for Sigma Kappa and believed...
in what Sigma Kappa stands for. I fell in love with the campus and the people immediately.

Throughout the fall 2014 semester, several Sigma Kappa leadership consultants made monthly visits to campus. They handed out Sigma Kappa-branded giveaway items, started meeting potential new members, hosted information nights, and got everyone excited about Sigma Kappa. It was a quick four weeks but it was just the beginning for the Lambda Beta Chapter. It was a great experience being able to tell others why we love Sigma Kappa!

In late September, the colonization team arrived in Conway, ready to recruit the newest members of Sigma Kappa. The team, composed of national officers, Sorority staff members, and Sigma Kappa alumnae, hosted four days full of recruitment events on the Coastal Carolina campus. The team shared details about the sisterhood of Sigma Kappa through “Spirit Day with Sigma K” and provided insight on our philanthropies at the “#ENDALZ” event.

Area alumnae, members from the Panhellenic community, and chapter members of Kappa Pi, Clemson University, provided outstanding support throughout the colonization process. In addition to colonization events, the team members held one-on-one personal visits with all women interested in joining the new chapter. The response and interest from the Coastal Carolina community was outstanding! The team interviewed over 200 potential new members in just two days. At the conclusion of these four days in Conway, 124 very excited women received bids to join Sigma Kappa. After the new member ceremony, the entire colony class attended a Bid Day celebration hosted by the CCU Greek community, complete with posters, cheering and celebrating. It was truly moving seeing the support from the fraternities and sororities. They truly cared about the growth of Sigma Kappa and it was amazing to see their endless support.

Shortly before Initiation, the colony elected their first president, Taylor Long. Being the first leader of a colony class brought unique and exciting challenges. “I am so honored to be the first president for the chapter, and it has been incredibly rewarding so far,” said Taylor. “I have noticed such a big difference in myself since being in this position.”

On Nov. 17, 2014, 109 eager and excited women were initiated into the Lambda Beta Chapter, including seven mothers of colony members and two alumnae initiates. Taylor recalled, “It was amazing to be part of an Initiation that was presided over by the national president. I am so happy that the friends and family of my sisters could see all of our accomplishments.” After the initiation ceremony, family and friends gathered for an installation brunch in honor of the newly initiated Lambda Beta members.

On Feb. 6, 2015, during the Regional Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Lambda Beta received their charter. “So far the best part of being a part of Sigma Kappa was receiving our charter,” said Taylor. “It did not hit me until then that everyone’s hard work had paid off.” After receiving their charter, they jumped right into planning events. During the spring 2015 semester, the chapter participated in their first Greek Week, held a recruitment retreat, attended their first formal, and raised funds for Relay for Life. They were very excited for Greek Week and to perform their “Grease”-themed mock rock!

This is only the beginning of an exciting and unforgettable journey for Lambda Beta. Being part of the Lambda Beta colonization process was a remarkable experience. These women have truly made an everlasting impact on my life. I am honored to have been part of this journey and cannot wait to see what Lambda Beta accomplishes in the future.
Before starting this year as a colony consultant, I had never been to Pittsburgh, or even to the state of Pennsylvania! I had never heard of Robert Morris University (RMU), and had no idea what an adventure I was about to embark on. I did not yet understand just how amazing it would be to watch a brand new chapter of Sigma Kappa blossom from the very beginning.

On Aug. 16, I arrived on the hilly Robert Morris campus in Moon Township, Pennsylvania. In my first couple of days on campus, I quickly learned that students at RMU are intelligent, driven, innovative and hardworking, just like the school’s namesake. Founded in 1921, Robert Morris University prides itself on its values and the education provided to students through hands-on experiences and applied majors.

In the spring of 2014, Robert Morris Panhellenic voted to open for extension. Robert Morris seemed like the perfect place to start a new chapter of Sigma Kappa, and after a presentation on campus in March, Sigma Kappa was chosen to join the community!

I could not believe how excited members of other fraternities and sororities were to have Sigma Kappa on campus. They welcomed me with open arms and helped me learn everything I needed to know to launch a successful public relations campaign and recruit the best and brightest women at RMU.

For eight weeks, several other leadership consultants, Sorority staff members and volunteers assisted me with publicity at Robert Morris. We attended athletic events, campus welcome activities, and shadowed formal recruitment. Full campus PR began in September, when leadership consultant Bianca D’Alessio, Zeta Zeta, Babson College, joined me at RMU. We handed out Sigma Kappa giveaway items, hosted informational nights and met as many potential new members as we could. Bianca and I had a table in the busy Colonial Café on campus where we spread the word about Sigma Kappa and met potential new members for coffee.
Because formal recruitment was later into the fall semester, we had a chance to spend two whole months really getting to know the students at RMU. It was an exhausting eight weeks but could not have been more rewarding, especially when I finally got to welcome the amazing women I met during that time into our sisterhood.

In mid-October, leadership consultant Cossette Powley, Zeta Omicron, University of Arizona, arrived for the final phase of PR and for the week of colonization. The colonization team, made up of national officers and Sorority staff members, joined us to hand-select the newest members of Sigma Kappa. The team held one-on-one personal visits with each interested potential new member to share details about Sigma Kappa. In addition, we hosted a sisterhood night to get women in the spirit of Sigma Kappa and taught them about our philanthropies through “#ENDALZ.” Collegiate members from Duquesne University assisted in the process, and over 60 bids were extended on Bid Day.

After Bid Day, I began the next phase of the journey with the colony as I led them through their weekly Promise meetings. We had the exciting opportunity to pilot the revamped Promise program, and the new members loved learning about all aspects of Sigma Kappa through the meetings and their online modules. Throughout the rest of the semester, the colony attended a sisterhood retreat, held a semi-formal and a mixer with a fraternity, hosted a philanthropy event, and elected the first chapter officers.

The end of the semester came quickly, but it was such an exciting time as the colony members were initiated on Dec. 6, 2014. Past National President Laura Owsley, Alpha Chi, Georgetown College, presided over the ceremony.

“The best part of Initiation was definitely getting to bond with my sisters,” said Holly Goodwin, chapter president. “It was such an incredible experience, one that I’ll surely never forget.”

Fifty-seven members were initiated into the Lambda Gamma Chapter, including four mother initiates and one alumna initiate. One of the most special memories of that day was watching my own mother initiated into the chapter alongside the women I had come to know and love throughout the semester. The next day, the new chapter was honored at an Installation brunch with family, friends and supporters from the fraternity and sorority community at Robert Morris.

This semester, the Lambda Gamma Chapter has already hit the ground running. The chapter officers attended the Regional Leadership Conference in Greenwich, Connecticut, in January and returned to the chapter with exciting new ideas. The semester has been full of service events, social events and plenty of sisterhood bonding opportunities!

“Being a member of Sigma Kappa has really exceeded my expectations of being a part of a sorority,” said Holly. “I never realized how close you could get to a group of girls in such a short amount of time, and how much responsibility is really put on you as a member and a leader. I could not be more thankful for the experience I have been given with Sigma Kappa!”
Walking around the University of Houston, you cannot miss the amount of diversity. In the Student Center, it is not uncommon to hear people speaking at least four different languages—everything from Japanese to Hindi. The university is home to around 40,000 students from all over the world, many coming to eventually work in the prosperous oil and gas industry. Looking at the numbers, more than 56 percent of students identify ethnically as Hispanic, Asian American or African American. According to The Daily Cougar, “UH is ranked as the second most ethnically diverse major research university in the United States.”

When the extension team read about the University of Houston Panhellenic opening for extension, they saw an opportunity to join a growing and thriving fraternity and sorority community. While only 3 percent of students are currently Greek, the university has a strategic plan to increase that number in the coming years. After visiting the campus in March of 2014 and making a presentation, the extension team found out Sigma Kappa had been selected to colonize that fall.

During leadership consultant advanced training, we found out our assignments, and I was thrilled to be colonizing at the University of Houston. After joining Sigma Kappa as a colony member at Arizona State University, this felt like the perfect opportunity to give back to the women like the consultants did for us at ASU. I packed up my car, drove across the country and, upon arriving in Houston, was immediately welcomed by the phrases “yes, ma’am” and “hi, y’all.” I found out that southern hospitality is a real thing, and the Greek community was welcoming from the start.

Publicizing Sigma Kappa on campus would not have been possible without the team that flew in to spend weeks with me spreading the word about the upcoming colonization. We visited fraternity and sorority meetings, spoke to student leaders and university staff, overly caffeinated ourselves on countless coffee dates, and hosted information nights for potential new members. While my curly hair found itself in a ponytail everyday due to the Houston weather, even the 100 percent humidity and sporadic rain showers could not stop us from PR. We had the opportunity every day to tell the campus why we love Sigma Kappa and paint the campus lavender (no room for maroon here with Texas A&M as a rival!).

Two weeks after formal recruitment, it was time to start colonization. A team of national officers, national headquarters staff and even a member of national council came in for the weekend. We hosted three days of personal visits and two events in the evenings. The potential new members learned about the Sigma Kappa Foundation’s partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association during “#ENDALZ” and came up with future ideas for their first Ultra Violet campaign. On Cougar Red Friday, when the university wears red for the upcoming game day, we hosted “Spirit Day with Sigma K.” The event combined our UH spirit with our love of sisterhood, and members of the team shared their favorite Sigma Kappa sisterhood memories. Preference followed, and the next day, the team extended 75 bids to women. After our own Bid Day celebration with local alumnae, the UH Greek
community hosted a barbecue for us, to which members from all fraternities and sororities came to welcome our new members!

The new members’ journey in Sigma Kappa began with the Promise program, during which I led the women through new member meetings each week. Watching them discover connections with the history and values of the organization made me fall in love with Sigma Kappa even more. Our semester calendar was packed with events. At the first Walk to End Alzheimer’s, two new members raised more than $2,000 together, and the colony helped the local alumnae chapters surpass their fundraising goal. Other events included the first sisterhood retreat, Pearl Ball formal, homecoming and philanthropy events, and elections for the first executive council.

On Dec. 6, 2014, 66 women were initiated into the Lambda Delta Chapter of Sigma Kappa, including mother and alumnae initiates. National President Cheri Morrell De Jong, Epsilon Omega, California Polytechnic State University, presided over the ceremony. We were also lucky to have more than 30 alumnae drive in from all over the Houston area to support the women. Daniela Perez, Lambda Delta’s first president, recalls why this day was her favorite memory from the semester. “It was the day all of the women and I were officially bound together by a bond so deep that it shall never be broken. I was in such awe of what I had just witnessed, and the fact that we all went through it together at the same time made for such an unforgettable experience.” The following day, the new chapter celebrated with friends, family, local alumnae and members of the fraternity and sorority community at the Installation brunch. When the extension team revealed the eight-foot teal and lavender letters made with the help of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, it seemed as if the women in the room all gasped at once! As you can imagine, this commenced an hour-long photo shoot session.

At the Regional Leadership Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this January, the officers received the Lambda Delta charter from Cheri De Jong and National Vice President for Collegiate Chapters Carol Beth Ivory, Beta Epsilon, Louisiana Tech University. This semester, the women completed their first informal recruitment and welcomed new members into the chapter. They will be participating in the campus tradition called Frontier Fiesta, where they prepare a 30-minute variety show in partnership with a fraternity, and perform for crowds during the weekend event in March. Additionally, they had the opportunity to meet the author of “Still Alice,” Dr. Lisa Genova, when she came to the university to speak about her book and understanding Alzheimer’s disease.

As the Lambda Delta leadership consultant, it has been a privilege to work with the women over the course of the year. They have made Houston a new home away from home for me. While I am taking my pair of cowboy boots and newfound love of barbecue with me, it will be bittersweet to leave behind this group of incredible sisters who are destined to do great things for Sigma Kappa.
It is said that the importance of learning history is so we are not doomed to repeat the mistakes made in the past. But one could challenge that we learn history to celebrate accomplishments, build upon our solid foundation, and strive for the betterment of our Sorority. Up until now, having the ability to look back on our 140 years of Sigma Kappa has only been what we can read on the Sigma Kappa website, on the Internet (which may or may not be correct), or looking back in your own personal library of the Sigma Kappa Triangle. But all of that is about to change. With the click of a mouse, every sister will be able to access all of the issues of the Sigma Kappa Triangle throughout our history by visiting our new Sigma Kappa Triangle digital archive.

What a wonderful tool this history will be for our current collegians and alumnae alike. To know who you are, you need to know where you have been. What were the struggles of the day when the first issue was published in 1907? How similar are we to our first members, and how different have we become over the years?

Access for all sisters has been almost a year in the making. According to Director of Communication Mallory Curtis Simmons, Delta Delta, Central Michigan University, the process started in July 2014. Mallory mentioned that one of the perks of working at national headquarters is that she has unrestricted access to every issue of the Sigma Kappa Triangle, and she is excited to be able to extend that access to all sisters.

The archival undertaking is no small feat. The Sigma Kappa Triangle has been published for nearly 110 years, with more than 400 individual publications, totaling more than 29,000 pages of Sigma Kappa history to be preserved. The Sorority chose the production facility of NPC, Inc. Integrated Print & Digital Solutions, which uses Enivation® Scanning & Archiving technology. This process digitally preserves the entire collection of Sigma Kappa Triangle, from our first publication in 1907 to our most recent one. The team at NPC, Inc. recognizes the importance of preserving our history, but also in returning the original magazines back to national headquarters in the same condition in which they were received. “Our main goal is to make sure we’re sending our customers all of the information digitally.
that’s in each printed publication,” said Mark Whalen, a 15-year NPC, Inc. employee, and the current scanning and archiving team manager. Mark also mentioned, “Since we understand the importance of an organization’s printed history, we’re very careful to make sure we return all of the customer’s publications in the same shape as when we receive them.”

The process NPC, Inc. uses is more than taking the staples out and running the magazines through a scanner. First, NPC, Inc. handles the magazines in a low-traffic area of their secure facility. Second, high-resolution digital photography is used to digitize each printed publication before the scanning process begins. The third step is the actual scanning of the magazine. The scanning method that is used helps preserve the physical integrity of all our publications especially the centenarian issues. This scanning method helps to put as little stress as possible on the binding of each magazine. During and after the photographing, scanning and archiving process, the files are verified to safeguard that the pages being secured are both accurate and complete. Because a PDF file has been made for each magazine, a sister will now be able to go to the search engine on the website to investigate and retrieve all relevant historical information from articles of the Sigma Kappa Triangle.

While looking through the earliest issues, one can find many heartwarming and beautiful writings from our first members. The poem “Violets,” written by founder Louise Helen Coburn, is just one of the many treasures waiting to be unearthed in the new Sigma Kappa Triangle archive.

Please check out the complete Sigma Kappa Triangle archive at www.enivation.com/SigmaKappa

by Looking Back

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Violets

It was a bunch of violets,
In purple, proud array.
That on a lady’s Easter hat
Came gaily down Broadway.

It was a tuft of violets,
Deep in a forest nook,
That lifted up shy, dewy heads
Beside a pebbled brook.

Now if the lady’s violets
Were planted in the glen,
How soon would fade the tawdry things,
Under the mist and rain!

And on Broadway wild violets
Would quickly wilt and die;
One kind was made for the city street—
The other for God’s eye.

Louise Helen Coburn, Alpha, 1877
Collegiate HIGHLIGHTS

Collegiate Chapters: Different, Yet Much the Same

Sigma Kappa collegiate chapters have many things in common. They all celebrate our Founders’ Day in November, they hold fundraising activities to raise money for the Sigma Kappa Foundation and participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, they use Panhellenic procedures and some common themes for recruitment, and they put time and attention into building their bonds of sisterhood and growing their commitment to Sigma Kappa. But still, each chapter is unique. Sisterhood blooms in many ways, and our chapters and individual members are original and remarkable.

Delta Pi, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania

Lock Haven, Pennsylvania – The women of the Delta Pi Chapter had the pleasure of hosting their very own alcohol and substance abuse program last fall for the campus and community. Two guest speakers covered the topics of alcohol and substance abuse.

Dr. David Bower, a professor in the health science department at Lock Haven University, spoke on the consequences of drunk driving and shared his own personal story. He also shared a video about the real consequences of drinking and driving that showed how friends and loved ones are also affected. His story touched many, and he helped attendees understand the issue on a personal level. Dr. Bower delivered the message to “always have a plan.”

The second speaker, Cindy Merryman, is a police supervisor at the public safety office on the Lock Haven campus. She did a wonderful job addressing the issue of drunk driving by giving examples and statistics and discussing liquor law violations. She also discussed how alcohol and substance abuse can affect Lock Haven University and reviewed university policies on the issue and the safety precautions taken by law enforcement on campus.

After the speakers finished, chapter members and other attendees got to experience what it might be like to be under the influence. Law enforcement allowed them to use their beer goggles kit. Volunteers were given sobriety tests similar to those that an offender would receive before wearing the goggles and then again with the goggles on. The audience had a great time with this interactive activity, and it helped them to realize how much of an effect being under the influence can have. The chapter had a wonderful time organizing this event for the campus and community and was very impressed with the outcome.
Kappa Omicron, Florida International University

Miami, Florida – In November 2014, the sisters of Kappa Omicron held their third annual Date Dash social event at Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Florida. One hundred and twenty sisters attended the event, and they invited alumnae, Greek community members, friends and significant others to join. The group, consisting of 245 dashers in total, traveled from Miami to Orlando with spirits as high as they could be at 6 a.m.

Upon arriving at Islands of Adventure at 11 a.m., dashers immediately began running all over the park, from the Marvel Superhero Island to Jurassic Park to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. There was an abundance of sisterhood bonding with new initiates, initiated members and alumnae. For many, it was their first trip with their big sisters, little sisters and grand little/big sisters, and it provided many laughs, supportive pep talks on roller coasters, and photo opportunities.

The chapter’s social chair, sophomore Carolina Busse, organized the event. She said, “It was an awesome experience being able to plan Date Dash. I loved the Wizarding World of Harry Potter because I had never been, and I loved being able to spend time with my little sisters.”

The event was also an opportunity for sisters to give friends, family and significant others a peek into the sisterhood they love so dearly. Senior Melissa Rosado, vice president of philanthropic service, said, “My fiancé was finally able to understand why I put so much time and commitment into Sigma Kappa. He totally got why I love my sisters so much.”

The ladies of Kappa Omicron look forward to continuing the tradition of this extremely fun and highly anticipated annual social event.

Zeta Pi, Colorado School of Mines

Golden, Colorado – In the fall of 2013, Zeta Pi hosted a bone marrow drive through Delete Blood Cancer. The purpose of this drive was to register people for the list of national bone marrow donors. Little did the chapter know they would feel the effects of this drive so soon. Zeta Pi’s very own sister, Petra Atwood, was contacted only a year later to let her know that she was a match.

In her own words, this is why Petra chose to sign up and donate: “I wanted to sign up because it only took a cheek swab to see if you could potentially save someone’s life. The chances of being a match were so slim that I thought the least I could do is be one of the people on the registry. And I chose to donate because I had a chance to save someone’s life. If I could be the missing puzzle piece to them overcoming cancer, then that would be incredible and I couldn’t pass that opportunity up.”
As part of the process, Petra had to undergo tests to guarantee the matching system. When she was indeed a match, she flew all the way from Golden, Colorado, to Washington, D.C., to have the surgery needed to donate bone marrow.

The sisters at Zeta Pi could not be prouder of Petra. They are so excited that the chapter’s initiative to host a bone marrow drive has already helped save the life of someone with cancer. They hope the effects of their drive will be felt for years to come and that this is only the first of many opportunities they will have to spread Sigma Kappa’s love.

Epsilon Mu, University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri – This past summer, four members of Epsilon Mu traveled to Elena Maria, Nicaragua, with the University of Missouri’s Circle of Sisterhood to help break ground for a new girls’ school.

Members Sara Driscoll, Kelli Farlow, Madeleine Ptacin, Jordan Warren, and eight other women from various Panhellenic chapters made the trek on June 7, 2014. They spent a week working with buildOn, a nonprofit organization, to build the school.

The Circle of Sisterhood Foundation is a national nonprofit organization of sorority women who work to help girls and women gain access to education. Sorority women from the University of Missouri Panhellenic community helped raise the money to build this particular school through a 5K run, T-shirt sales and additional fundraisers. The school in Nicaragua was completed in September 2014 and includes two classrooms and two bathrooms. Classes began later that same month.

Sara said she wanted to go on the trek because she was tired of only appreciating causes, such as Circle of Sisterhood, and not actually doing anything to empower and contribute to them.

“I was tired of being passive in my appreciation for service,” she said. “I wanted to get my hands dirty and make something that I knew would have a positive impact on not only a community, but also on a future for that community.”

One of Madeleine’s favorite parts of the trip was being able to communicate with the host family and the community. “I’m a Spanish minor and I was the only one out of my roommates who spoke the language,” she said. “My confidence in the language grew immensely, which was a lot of fun for me.”

Kappa Omega, Northeastern University
Boston, Massachusetts – The start of Kappa Omega’s Inspiration Week was an exciting one. The chapter had the honor of co-hosting Miss America 2014 Nina Davuluri, Alpha Tau, Michigan State University. The event was co-hosted with the Northeastern University Asian American Center and Beta Chi Theta as part of their Asian American Heritage Week.
Nina spoke about her experiences as an Asian American, as a Sigma Kappa and as Miss America. She reiterated how important it is to explore your roots and be proud of who you are and where you come from. This resonated with Kappa Omega as one thing the chapter is most proud of is its diversity. Members have so much to learn from each other and those lessons only make the sisterhood stronger. It is important that members come together with a common understanding, or as Nina called it, “Circle of Unity.” Nina took questions and engaged the group in a candid, thought-provoking conversation.

As the first night of Inspiration Week, this was a very special event for Kappa Omega. It reminded initiated sisters to be proud of our sisterhood and the amazing personal growth and friendship it can foster. Nina made new members excited for Initiation, which took place later that week. As a Miss America, Nina embodies grace, self-confidence and class. She is an amazing role model for Sigma Kappa and women everywhere. Nina did a great job of building sisterhood in our chapter while also extending this pride and positive energy to other groups on campus. This event was a great way for Kappa Omega to positively influence the Northeastern University community.

Theta Omicron, Arizona State University

Tempe, Arizona – In October, the sisters of Theta Omicron hosted their first ever New Member Presents event. The formal dress occasion served to celebrate the new member class with the chapter and their guests, and helped sustain the excitement of being a new member between the excitement of Bid Day and the wait for Initiation morning. The theme was “American Dream,” with suggested attire being white for new members, blue for women who would be graduating that year, and red for all other sisters; the different colors showed the transition phases of a woman’s college career while uniting them in a theme as their Sigma Kappa sisterhood does.

It was a fun and memorable night, and helped incorporate the new class into the chapter and the greater Arizona State University and Greek community.

Between dinner and dancing, a ceremony took place to honor the soon-to-be initiated members. As the chapter’s vice president of new member education read each new member’s name aloud, the women were bestowed with a Sigma Kappa sash, flower, and personalized letter. Every big sister wrote their little sister a letter welcoming them to the sorority. It was a very special and personal touch, and the big sisters were able to express their joy of knowing them and bestowing advice about their own journey through the new member process in a lasting, concrete way. The theme and ceremony elevated the event beyond a typical date party, helped strengthen big-little bonds, and created a new tradition for Theta Omicron.
**Beta Zeta, University of Maryland**

College Park, Maryland – During the fall 2014 semester, the sisters of Beta Zeta participated in a scholarship competition. Organized in the spring by Vice President of Scholarship Lauren Gerber, the competition helped to raise chapter interest in academics over the year. Five teams competed all semester for a grand prize of a gift card to Starbucks or another local business.

Each of the teams represented one of the five founding members of Sigma Kappa. When forming the teams, Lauren took into account the majors, grade point averages, and chapter activity levels of the sisters of Beta Zeta.

Throughout the semester, sisters received points for earning an A on a paper, an exam or a major lab report. Sisters were also encouraged and rewarded for studying with another sister or for taking advantage of on-campus resources such as attending a professor’s office hours or going to the writing lab.

Not only were sisters rewarded for their achievements, they also enhanced chapter presence in the Panhellenic community. At a study night hosted by the University of Maryland Panhellenic Association, Beta Zeta had the most members in attendance and won the chapter $200 for academic use. With this prize, more merit-based programs were offered to sisters.

The sisters of Beta Zeta hope to continue this new tradition in scholarship, because a little healthy competition never hurt anyone…or their grades.

**Theta Beta, University of La Verne**

La Verne, California – The sisters of the Theta Beta Chapter always say recruitment season is 365 days a year, and that is exactly how the chapter is able to bring home new sisters every formal recruitment. With formal recruitment held in the spring, Theta Beta members have the opportunity to get to know potential new members throughout the fall semester, as opposed to only during the recruitment weekend.

Theta Beta reaches out to potential new members through classes and campus events and they have a creative recruitment tactic called pop-in events. Pop-in events invite potential new members to experience values and philanthropy in a casual lunch setting where they get to meet the sisters of Sigma Kappa, as well as create a fun craft to send to an organization in need.

Continuing Membership Chair Alyssa Navarro plans unique themes like “Sigma Kappaccino” and “Red, White and Bows” to make the pop-in events fun and colorful, allowing Sigma Kappa to stand out among all the sororities on
campus. “I love my position as continuing membership chair because it gives me a chance to come up with creative and fun events that act as both sisterhood and pre-recruitment activities. Throwing each pop-in is a group effort and requires the help of my committee and all of our chapter. It’s a chance for everyone to get together and have fun meeting new people,” said Alyssa.

During these events, Theta Beta sisters move around and have conversations with the women in an environment that creates a friendship first, and a deeper bond for the future. They can take pictures with the chapter’s cut out frames and painted letters and enjoy some homemade treats.

Theta Beta’s pop-in events aren’t only for potential new members — other students and faculty of the university are welcome to come see what the women of Sigma Kappa are all about. With these annual pop-in events, Theta Beta’s name continues to spread and the chapter grows with successful recruitment all year long.

Alpha Epsilon, Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa – Alpha Epsilon hosts an Ultra Violet fashion show each year. Fellow university students and family are all invited to attend the business-attire event. Sorority members wear black and purple to match the theme.

The night starts off with a silent auction with items donated by chapter members and the community. This year, a basketball signed by the head basketball coach, Fred Hoiberg, sold for $400! Local restaurants provide appetizers and sandwiches. After guests have had the opportunity to mingle and snack on the hors d’oeuvres, the fashion show begins. Alpha Epsilon members model clothing that has either been made by students or loaned from a local shop. This year, the event hosted two guest designers: Portobello Road and Nekia Marie Boutique. Both designers are from Ames, Iowa, where Iowa State University is located.

Three professors or local fashion enthusiasts judge the show. Once all of the models had walked the runway, the guest judges deliberated and announced the winners. Then, while still wearing their garment, each model holds a jar and asks attendees to put a slip of paper into the jar for their favorite outfit. After these votes are counted, the People’s Choice Award is announced. Through this event alone, the chapter was able to raise $2,024 for the Sigma Kappa Foundation.

Overall, the night is enjoyed by all ages for its class and sophistication. It is an event that can be tailored to fit the needs and personality of any Sigma Kappa chapter.
Collegiate HIGHLIGHTS

Epsilon Zeta, Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky – The sisters of the Epsilon Zeta Chapter implemented some small but impactful changes this past semester. One such change was creating a new chapter event: the new member progressive dinner. The day before new members made their lists of who they would want as their big sisters (used to help pair big sisters with little sisters), Epsilon Zeta had a progressive dinner. This gave new members a great opportunity to get to know the rest of the chapter members better and vice versa.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors each gathered at the residence of someone from their respective year and brought a certain kind of food, potluck-style (one group was assigned appetizers, one had main courses, and one had desserts). Vice President of New Member Education Ashley Vahrenhold joined the new members and escorted them on foot to the meeting place of each group. At each stop, new members spent 30 minutes mingling with their sisters and eating the course they had prepared. This event was a big hit with new members and older members alike and has already been deemed a new Epsilon Zeta tradition.

Delta Theta, Truman State University
Kirksville, Missouri – Delta Theta came up with an idea to raise awareness and money for their philanthropies in a fun and innovative way – by having a friendly competition.

Vice President of Philanthropic Service Emily Hahn came up with an idea that got the whole chapter involved and thinking about service in a whole new way. “I wanted to maximize participation and minimize the use of the philanthropy budget, so I decided to create focus groups in order to get more members actively involved by some friendly competition,” said Emily.

The competition was between each new member class in the sorority, and it required them to come up with a new way to raise money. The only restrictions were that they had to follow university and Sigma Kappa policies. The ways to raise money were up to each individual class. Some decided to donate money, while others decided to hold events.

The events included a bake sale, candy-grams and a casino night. So far, the chapter has raised around $500 for their philanthropies. The casino night, hosted by the fall 2012 new member class and co-hosted by the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, raised around $330 which was the most money raised at an event.

The judges, who included President Kim Carlton and VPPS Emily Hahn, looked for creativity of the event, attendance, and amount of money raised.

The overall goal of the program was to get all members actively involved with philanthropies and service. Sigma Kappa is proud to be an organization that focuses a great deal on service and philanthropy in addition to social aspects. Kim thinks the competition has a lot of potential to grow, and for Delta Theta’s first year, it was highly effective. Both Emily and Kim say it is an idea they hope will continue for many semesters to come.
Theta Tau, Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas – Covered in mud and sand, Kansas State’s Greek community came together in September 2014 to support the Theta Tau Chapter of Sigma Kappa at their annual MudBowl mud volleyball tournament. The tournament, held at Tuttle Creek, raises awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and funds for the Sigma Kappa Foundation.

Greek organizations from all across K-State’s campus form teams of six to play mud volleyball in the annual tournament. Many fraternities and all 12 sororities on K-State’s campus participated in the 2014 tournament. Some groups send several teams, increasing their chances of becoming the champions of MudBowl. Alpha Delta Pi took first place in the sorority bracket, while Beta Theta Pi took first in the fraternity bracket.

With such large participation, the chapter is able to raise an incredible amount of money to be donated to the Sigma Kappa Foundation. This year the MudBowl raised $8,228. Sigma Kappa’s mud volleyball tournament raises more money than any other single philanthropy event at K-State.

MudBowl also creates the opportunity for the members of the Theta Tau Chapter to demonstrate one of Sigma Kappa’s values. Service is extremely important to Sigma Kappa and its members. And MudBowl is just one of many ways that members show their love of philanthropic service throughout the school year.

The Theta Tau Chapter feels extremely fortunate to be able to hold a philanthropy event that brings K-State’s Greek community together, raises awareness for Alzheimer’s, raises funds for the Sigma Kappa Foundation, and demonstrates the value of service.

Delta Psi, Radford University
Radford, Virginia – In spring 2014, Delta Psi’s programming chair brought a Radford City police officer to an informal meeting to talk to the chapter about safety and the law. During her visit, the police officer mentioned that sisters could do a ride-along with a member of the Patrol Division of the Radford City Police Department if they desired. One member, Marissa Walker, took advantage of this opportunity and rode along with an officer. During her ride they explored Radford, gave out a speeding ticket, checked on a break-in alarm going off, and arrested two people for breaking their parole agreements. Because of Marissa’s experience, she feels more comfortable with the law and interacting with police.

Executive Vice President Holly Sheets says, “We want our sisters to feel safe contacting the police if needed. Although risk management is something we teach our sisters, it is extremely beneficial for us to have a personal experience with those who spend their lives protecting ours.”

Experiencing a ride along with an officer while on duty can help members better understand how the law helps college students, rather than harms them. Delta Psi is hopeful that more sisters in the chapter will take advantage of the ride-along opportunity, and they encourage other chapters to also participate in a ride-along with an officer in their city.
Your $30 contribution of national alumnae dues will have a profound impact on sisters’ lives.

1. **Support**
   the growth of your alumnae membership experience

2. **Advance**
   leadership training programs for all members

3. **Provide**
   new chapter and established chapter support

4. **Enhance**
   communication and technology initiatives

5. **Celebrate**
   your membership with a unique gift and a yearly subscription to the *Sigma Kappa Triangle*

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Thank you for joining with other sisters to help *Sigma Kappa* have a profound impact.

Pay your national alumnae dues at sigmakappa.org/Pay_National_Alumnae_Dues
Do you know a collegiate woman planning to participate in recruitment? If yes, you are encouraged to complete a Recruitment Introduction Form (RIF). The RIF is the Sorority’s tool designed to introduce women to Sigma Kappa before they go through recruitment. Filling out the RIF is a simple way to ensure a successful future for the Sorority. The RIF can be completed online at www.sigmakappa.org/Recruitment_Introduction_Form.

Below are answers to commonly asked questions to help get you started with the RIF process.

**Why are RIFs important to Sigma Kappa?**
Promoting Sigma Kappa to women prior to attending college provides our collegiate chapters an opportunity to be more competitive during recruitment. Additionally, it assists our collegiate chapters in making sound and informed membership selection decisions and allows alumnae to help in the recruitment process.

**Who can submit the RIF?**
Any initiated member of Sigma Kappa may submit the RIF.

**When do RIFs need to be submitted?**
The RIF can be submitted as soon as a collegiate woman decides to participate in the recruitment process. Ideally, the RIF should be submitted no later than one week prior to a chapter beginning recruitment.

**What happens with the information once it is submitted?**
Once submitted, the form and attachments will be at national headquarters. Within 48 hours of receipt, NHQ verifies specific information on the RIF and forwards it to the chapter vice president of membership, recruitment advisor and recruitment supervisor.

**How do I know the RIF was submitted successfully?**
When the form is successfully submitted, a message will appear on your screen thanking you for your submission. Until that message appears, please do not close the browser or click the back button. Clicking the back button will result in a failed submission of the form. The website may take up to several minutes for the information to process. You will also receive an automated email that your submission was successfully received.

**Do I complete the RIF for a legacy?**
Yes! Legacies are extremely important to Sigma Kappa. Completing the RIF assists our collegiate chapters in identifying legacies. In addition to completing the RIF, it is also suggested that legacies indicate their legacy status on the College Panhellenic recruitment registration.

**Who is a Sigma Kappa Legacy?**
Sigma Kappa considers a legacy to be the sister/stepsister, daughter/stepdaughter, granddaughter/stepgranddaughter, and niece/stepniece of a collegiate member or Sigma Kappa alumna. For more information on the Sigma Kappa Legacy Policy, please visit www.sigmakappa.org/LegacyPolicy.

If you still have questions about the RIF process or Sigma Kappa Legacy Policy, please contact Samantha Halsema, collegiate recruitment specialist, at shalsema@sigmakappa.org.

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**RECRUITMENT INTRODUCTION FORMS**
YOU CAN HELP OUR MEMBERSHIP GROW!

Do you know a collegiate woman planning to participate in recruitment? If yes, you are encouraged to complete a Recruitment Introduction Form (RIF). The RIF is the Sorority’s tool designed to introduce women to Sigma Kappa before they go through recruitment. Filling out the RIF is a simple way to ensure a successful future for the Sorority. The RIF can be completed online at www.sigmakappa.org/Recruitment_Introduction_Form.

Below are answers to commonly asked questions to help get you started with the RIF process.

**Why are RIFs important to Sigma Kappa?**
Promoting Sigma Kappa to women prior to attending college provides our collegiate chapters an opportunity to be more competitive during recruitment. Additionally, it assists our collegiate chapters in making sound and informed membership selection decisions and allows alumnae to help in the recruitment process.

**Who can submit the RIF?**
Any initiated member of Sigma Kappa may submit the RIF.

**When do RIFs need to be submitted?**
The RIF can be submitted as soon as a collegiate woman decides to participate in the recruitment process. Ideally, the RIF should be submitted no later than one week prior to a chapter beginning recruitment.

**What happens with the information once it is submitted?**
Once submitted, the form and attachments will be at national headquarters. Within 48 hours of receipt, NHQ verifies specific information on the RIF and forwards it to the chapter vice president of membership, recruitment advisor and recruitment supervisor.

**How do I know the RIF was submitted successfully?**
When the form is successfully submitted, a message will appear on your screen thanking you for your submission. Until that message appears, please do not close the browser or click the back button. Clicking the back button will result in a failed submission of the form. The website may take up to several minutes for the information to process. You will also receive an automated email that your submission was successfully received.

**Do I complete the RIF for a legacy?**
Yes! Legacies are extremely important to Sigma Kappa. Completing the RIF assists our collegiate chapters in identifying legacies. In addition to completing the RIF, it is also suggested that legacies indicate their legacy status on the College Panhellenic recruitment registration.

**Who is a Sigma Kappa Legacy?**
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If you still have questions about the RIF process or Sigma Kappa Legacy Policy, please contact Samantha Halsema, collegiate recruitment specialist, at shalsema@sigmakappa.org.

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**FILL OUT THE RECRUITMENT INTRODUCTION FORM ONLINE!**
www.sigmakappa.org/Recruitment_Introduction_Form
Like what you see? Check out the rest of our ΣΚ jewelry online!

www.collegejewelry.com

Summer Essentials
1. Central Florida – Sigma Kappa alumnae of Central Florida were busy helping their community by preparing dinner for parents of ill children at the Ronald McDonald House. Volunteers wore new aprons that were embroidered with Sigma Kappa and violets by Janice Stark Ferguson, Gamma Zeta, Northern Illinois University.

2. Las Vegas – In addition to bingo nights and marathons, the Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter participated in a Design and Wine class where sisters got to create their own paintings at an art studio.

3. Dallas – The Dallas alumnae pose for a quick photo after their March wine tasting event.
4. San Fernando Valley (CA) – The San Fernando Valley Alumnae Chapter celebrated Founders’ Day with a weekend of events, including a group dinner on Friday and the Founders’ Day Luncheon at Castaways Restaurant in Burbank, California, on Saturday, Nov. 2.

5. New York City – The New York City Alumnae Chapter showed their support for Alzheimer’s research at The Walk to End Alzheimer’s. The group raised $1,131.74 for the Walk.

6. Orange County (CA) – Orange County alumnae met for dinner at Don Jose’s Restaurant to honor Charlene Tichy Melrose, Alpha Gamma, Washington State University, for serving Orange County Alumnae as president for more than 11 years.
11. Greater New Orleans – Past president Leila Eddy, Delta Mu, Northwestern State University, and other members of the Greater New Orleans Alumnae Chapter had a great time at the annual holiday party held at The Roosevelt Hotel Fountain Lounge in New Orleans.
Thank You for Providing Life Saving Grants to Our Sisters in Need!

Sister to Sister Disaster Recovery Grants totaling $40,000 have been awarded to sisters facing financial distress due to U.S. Presidentially declared disasters, and $18,000 has been awarded from the Alumnae Heart Fund to sisters struggling with aging, medical, or other severe problems.

“This grant made the difference between being able to stay in our home and losing everything.”

“I feel very honored and blessed. This grant is the answer to my prayers, just when I thought there was no hope!”

All you have to do is call, and I’ll be there.
You’ve got a friend. — Carole King

Support sisters in need - give to the PULSE fund
www.sigmakappafoundation.org

What does your heart tell you to do?
IN Memoriam

Alpha, Colby College  
Natalie Cousens Dyer, no date available  
Ann Segrave Lieber, 11/6/2013

Delta, Boston University  
Patricia Cadigan Armstrong, 11/29/2014

Epsilon, Syracuse University  
Emily Kennedy Baker, 1/29/2015

Eta, Boston University  
Norma Fisher Corsello, 2/1/2013  
Phyllis Manning Neuman, 2/3/2013  
Margaret Davidson Watson, 1/30/2015

Theta, University of Illinois  
Evelyn Cook Balgrosky, 7/5/2007  
Ramona Sedlacek Johnson, 2/17/2015

Iota, University of Denver  
Judith Ehrlich Lilly, 10/23/2014

Lambda, University of California, Berkeley  
Beverly Rinker Burke, 3/7/2015

Mu, University of Washington  
Barbara Morgan Bedayan, 3/2/2015  
Janice Stryzen Nachtway, 2/9/2015  
Elaine Davis Parker, 1/15/2015

Tau, Indiana University  
Betty Newgent Bundy, 1/17/2015  
Jeanette Lagrange Kendall, 1/11/2015

Upsilon, Oregon State University  
Lorraine Folsom Robbins, 12/20/2014  
Joan Scott Wakefield, 2/1/2015

Psi, University of Wisconsin  
Francesca Axley, 9/4/2013

Omega, Florida State University  
Mary Jones Hargrove, 2/1/2015

Alpha Beta, University of Buffalo  
Patricia Lahan Parker, 1/18/2015  
Judith Fullenwider Rossman, no date available

Alpha Gamma, Washington State University  
Colleen Higgins Melendez, 12/19/2014

Alpha Delta, University of Tennessee  
Emily Kennedy Baker, 1/29/2015

Alpha Mu, University of Michigan  
May Robinson Hughes, 11/9/2014

Alpha Nu, University of Montana  
Genevieve Hamor Moholt, 1/29/2002

Alpha Tau, Michigan State University  
Jacquelynn Boersma VanDuren, 2/1/2015

Alpha Phi, University of Oregon  
Louise Carsillo Gillespie, 1/11/2015

Alpha Chi, Georgetown College  
Ruth Barnes Tucker, 12/1/2013

Alpha Omega, University of Alabama  
Mary Bolt Lloyd, 9/21/2014

Beta Theta, Marietta College  
Abbie Freedman, 3/27/2015

Beta Iota, Carnegie-Mellon University  
Marilyn Porter Carman, 2/1/2015

Beta Kappa, Colorado State University  
Dorothy Hansen Neet, 10/28/2012

Beta Lambda, Utah State University  
Shirleen Bramwell Lundahl, 2/20/2013

Beta Nu, Bradley University  
Beverly Dinger Herget, 1/23/2015

Beta Xi, University of Memphis  
Virginia Sansing Reid, 11/1/2014

Beta Tau, University of Florida  
Paige Simpson, 12/23/2004

Beta Upsilon, Ohio University  
Jane Schultz Somers, 1/14/2014

Beta Psi, San Diego State University  
Cecelia Cox Johnson, 2/4/2015

Beta Omega, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Betty Bilunas Corrigan, 2/8/2013

Gamma Alpha, University of Northern Colorado  
Arden Couper Adams, 2/18/2015

Gamma Beta, Western Michigan University  
Jane Bouwman Wierenga, 12/9/2014

Gamma Kappa, Southern Illinois University  

Gamma Mu, Eastern Illinois University  
Judith Hartmann Herzog, 2/20/2015

Gamma Xi, University of Illinois  
Sandra Senkbile Pine, 2/20/2015

Delta Iota, California State University, Chico  
Lois Garske Borgen, 2/1/2015

Delta Lambda, Wayne State University  
Betti D’Armond, 2/10/2015

Zeta Epsilon, California State University, Northridge  
Tina Bilezikjian, 2/22/2015

Theta Psi, The Pennsylvania State University  
Suzanne Weadon, 1/27/2015
Congratulations, Graduates!

Be sure to update your contact information at www.sigmakappa.org and stay connected to Sigma Kappa for a lifetime!