THE ‘D’ WORD
DIVERSITY IN SORORITY LIFE
Dear Sigma Kappa sisters,

Diversity can be a touchy subject to discuss, especially regarding higher education and fraternal organizations. On one hand, the country’s population is changing rapidly, and our organizations and institutions would do well to mirror those changes to stay relevant. On the other hand, it is hard to bring up diversity without getting into the topics of tokenism and quotas and “reverse discrimination.” Still, every time I see another headline about a fraternity or sorority holding a party with a questionable theme or dressing up in offensive costumes, I can’t help but think having more diversity and differing viewpoints in our groups would do everyone some good.

In this edition of the Sigma Kappa Triangle, we will be taking a look at some of the issues faced by higher education institutions and fraternal organizations with regards to diversity. We also hear from some diverse Sigma Kappas about their sorority experiences.

It’s true, diversity can be a touchy subject. But it is one we cannot push to the back burner, especially with everything happening in the world today. By making diversity a priority in our chapters and our lives, we can keep our organization moving forward for years to come.

In Sigma Kappa,

Mallory Curtis Simmons, Delta Delta
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FEATURES

Advancing the Sorority Experience
At 2014’s National Panhellenic Conference annual meeting, attendees learned, networked, laughed and celebrated as they conducted the business of the NPC.

The “D” Word: Diversity in Sorority Life
Diversity can be a contentious topic in the fraternity and sorority world, but it is healthy and necessary to keep our organizations relevant and moving forward.

The Heart of a Home
The sisters of the Kappa Xi Chapter at the University of Nevada, Reno, celebrated the opening of their brand new house in October.

Member Spotlights
Learn about two alumnae who have done remarkable things with their lives by turning their passions into careers.

IN EVERY ISSUE

From the Editor
From the Desk Of
What’s Happening
Voices Strong
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Alumnae Highlights
In Memoriam

On the Cover: Thousands of women with different backgrounds and viewpoints make up the whole of Sigma Kappa.
Dear Sisters,

When asked about their choice to join a sorority, I’ve heard many Sigma Kappa sisters say they didn’t view themselves as “the typical sorority girl.” This begs the question, what is typical? What vision comes to mind when this phrase is being used? Whatever images appeared in our sisters’ heads, they couldn’t identify with. And odds are, a great number of other women feel the same way.

So how does a “non-typical” sorority woman find her place in Sigma Kappa? There’s an old adage that says, “People don’t join organizations. People join people.” Chances are you joined Sigma Kappa because you felt at home amongst her members. You knew you could be yourself and were accepted for who you are. And when did you start to feel at home? When you started to bond and form friendships. You made a connection.

Having a diverse sisterhood creates an environment where more potential new members have the opportunity to make that connection with an initiated member. It would be hard to feel welcome in a group that all looked and acted the same if you didn’t fit their mold. Getting women to join your collegiate or alumnae chapter is so much easier when you can make that connection. When you discover you have something in common, the conversation flows and fast friendships can form.

I am proud of Sigma Kappa’s diverse membership, but prouder still that we all live by our values of friendship, service, loyalty and personal growth. Many roads lead to those values, so no matter our race, background or religion, we all found our home in Sigma Kappa and now share a common bond; that Mystic Bond. I’m honored to be a member of an organization who embraces diversity and recognizes its importance to sharing our sisterhood.

In Sigma Kappa,

Mary Ellen Evans Elkins, Gamma Lambda
National Vice President for Membership
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In December of 2014, Sigma Kappa national headquarters moved into its new home at 695 Pro-Med Lane, Suite 300 in Carmel, Indiana. Located approximately 10 minutes north of NHQ's previous location in Indianapolis, the new building provides more space for Sigma Kappa Sorority, Foundation and National Housing Corporation to conduct business and house ever-growing numbers of staff.

Many considerations were taken into account to choose the perfect location for Sigma Kappa headquarters, including room to grow; the look and layout of the building; safety and security; accessibility to hotels, restaurants and the airport; and the strategic partners in the area. Along with upgraded technology and more collaboration space, the new building will have plenty of room for new staff to be added and has the advantage of proximity to numerous amenities in the area.

The decision to move away from Founders Road was not taken lightly, and many months of looking strategically at different buildings in various parts of town led to the choice of 695 Pro-Med Lane. We are confident that this new location will serve Sigma Kappa well as its home for many years to come.

Renovations are currently in progress to get the building into its completed state. Projected date of completion will be the summer of 2015. Visitors are welcome before then, however, it will not likely be in its final form. For more information, including frequently asked questions, please visit www.sigmakappa.org/FAQs_about_NHQ_Move.
Voices STRONG

Dr. Tisa Johnson Mason, Ed.D., CAE, Epsilon Kappa, Transylvania University, has been named president of Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota. Previously, Tisa served as vice president for student affairs at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, dean of student life at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Whitewater, Wisconsin, and as executive director of Sigma Kappa Sorority and Foundation.

Committee chair Kirsten Diederich stated in a news release, “The board is pleased to appoint such an innovative leader as Dr. Mason to serve as the president of Valley City State University. Her dedication to students and creative leadership style make her uniquely qualified to lead an institution focused on flexible, accessible and innovative programs like VCSU.”

Tisa holds a Doctor of Education degree in higher education from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia; a Master of Science in Education from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology/anthropology from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky.

Engy Albasel Neville, Theta Beta, University of La Verne, recently published her first novel. The book, “A Leap in Time,” is a time-travel romance about a woman who is accidentally transported to ancient Pompeii. The morning after hanging an antique painting, Lexi Carter notices strange noises in her living room. She impulsively touches the painting and is sucked into the world of ancient Pompeii. Lexi meets Marcus, a Roman Adonis, who occupies her every thought, and sends her senses into a tailspin. She must choose between two worlds, her modern day Los Angeles or ancient Pompeii, with the man who captured her heart and soul.

Engy is a working mom, a brand consultant professional with 15 years’ experience managing brand initiatives for fortune 500 companies, a certified yoga teacher, and an aspiring amateur chef. “A Leap in Time” is available on amazon.com.

Melia Coury, Theta Omicron, Arizona State University, was named 2014-2015 Fiesta Bowl Queen. The Fiesta Bowl Queen and Court act as official spokespersons for the Fiesta Bowl’s events, Board of Directors, Committee, volunteers, staff and sponsors. They attend events such as the VIZIO Fiesta Bowl, the National Bank of Arizona Fiesta Bowl Parade and various other Fiesta Bowl community events.

Melia is a senior at Arizona State University Barrett Honors College majoring in marketing and design management with a minor in dance and an international business certificate. She is the activities chairman of Order of Omega, social chairman of Sigma Kappa, vice president of Golden Z Club, a dance mentor at Barrett Honors College TICKET (Transforming and Inspiring Creative Kids in Educational Theater), and a member of Signature Models and Talent. After graduation, Melia plans to earn her graduate degree in anthropology and doctorate in marketing and aspires to work in the business industry.
One of the best things about sisterhood is that no matter how much time passes, sisters can pick up right where they left off as if it were yesterday. The women of Zeta Epsilon, California State University Northridge, prove this fact every year at their annual reunions.

In 2009, Cal State Northridge held their 50th anniversary celebration. Even though the university has not had a Sigma Kappa chapter since the 1990s, about 15 Sigma Kappas attended, some of whom had not seen each other for 30 years. The sisters spent the weekend catching up, sharing memories, laughing, singing and talking until the wee hours of the morning. After that weekend, they decided to begin an annual tradition of getting together in the summer for a Beach Bash at the Hermosa Beach home of Jodeen Von Meade. Over time, the group had grown through Facebook and word of mouth to around 30 members. Debra Evans Jarrett gave herself the title of “cruise director” and searched for new sisters to add to the annual events and kept surprising the group with sisters, including members now living abroad and all over the country.

Debra says, “Laughing was the basis of the whole event. We all brought photo albums, shared funny photos, and told stories of things to reminisce about.” This year, the group had their sixth annual Beach Bash at which Debra put together a slide show of photos from college and from the previous reunions. They also obtained a recording of “Sigma Kappa We’ve a Song to Sing” from national headquarters and recorded themselves singing along.

In addition to the Beach Bashes, they have also had five winter getaways in Las Vegas. They wear letters as often as they can at these reunions, and this year in Vegas, two young Sigma Kappas from Alabama stopped them and asked if they could get their picture taken together. Debra recalls, “We felt honored, and of course we could have birthed these young women – some of us are older than their parents – but we stood tall and proud, wrinkles and all, to take a photo with them.”

These reunions are proof that sisterhood persists through time, distance and stages of life. It has now been 35 years since many of these sisters were initiated, and their friendships are stronger than ever. Explains Debra, “We all agree that friendships from college days are irreplaceable. We have found that we help each other now with our kids going to college and going through recruitment, divorces, relocating, helping our sisters’ Girl Scout troops with projects, lunches, concerts, birthdays, loss of family members, even recommending doctors for our ailing bodies. We truly are friends for a lifetime. Sisterhood never dies – in fact, it becomes cherished even more.”
The Path Forward: Where Are We Now?

In 2012, Sigma Kappa set out an ambitious five-year strategic plan to ensure the growth, viability, relevance and stability of our organization. Three years later, Sigma Kappa has made huge strides in many areas including programming, extension, communication, structure and education. Below are just some of the achievements Sigma Kappa has made in the past year to keep our sorority on The Path Forward.

Sigma Kappa’s new organizational structure went into effect on Jan. 1, adding several new chapter-focused volunteers. This new organizational structure will ensure that collegiate and alumnae chapters have more specialized attention and our national officers have more focused responsibilities.

4 New Chapters 5 Upcoming Colonizations 280 Colony Members Initiated

![Map showing new chapters and colonizations](image)
Collegiate officers, advisors and national volunteers were trained through seven Regional Leadership Conferences this winter.

Made possible through a grant from the Sigma Kappa Foundation, all 11 executive council officers and advisory board supervisors from each chapter were trained on leadership skills development, conflict resolution, bystander behavior, risk management and more.

**SKILLab**

Since its launch in November, more than 1,200 members have accessed SKILLab’s online learning and officer training modules.

In January, the Sorority began electronic collegiate chapter reporting through online platform SmarterSelect. This allows officers to update their reports throughout the year and eliminates the need for paper reports and emailing attachments.

This spring, the organization will complete a digital archiving project of the Sigma Kappa Triangle. Every issue, starting with the first issue in 1907, will be available online in a searchable, interactive database. Members will be able to search by date, topic, even name. Learn more about this exciting project in the Spring 2015 Sigma Kappa Triangle!

New staff positions have been added to Sigma Kappa Sorority, Foundation and National Housing Corporation in the past year.

This summer, more than 250 Sigma Kappa volunteers will be trained at a national volunteer development weekend in Dallas, the first of its kind for Sigma Kappa.

The Sigma Kappa Foundation, National Housing Corporation and Sorority continue to collaborate, including holding two joint board meetings.
Many women live like it’s a dress rehearsal.

Ladies, the curtain is up and you’re on.

— Mikki Taylor, Editor-at-Large, Essence Magazine

Sigma Kappa’s leadership programs put members center stage.

Support leadership development - give to the PULSE fund today at [www.sigmakappafoundation.org/givenow](http://www.sigmakappafoundation.org/givenow)

what does your heart tell you to do?
Q: When is International Badge Day this year?
A: Monday, March 2

Q: Who started this tradition?
A: The creation of this event was the idea of a sorority woman. In the spring 1996 issue of Alpha Sigma Alpha’s “The Phoenix,” Nora M. Ten Broeck wrote an article titled: “A Simple Solution — Wear Your Membership Badge Today.” The article described her personal experience of wearing her sorority pin to work one day.

Q: How can I participate?
A: Whether you’re an alumna or a collegian, you can join us in the celebration. Organize an event for your colleagues, encourage your chapter sisters to wear their badges, or ask your mayor to issue a proclamation in recognition of International Badge Day.

Q: When did International Badge Day start?
A: The celebration to honor sisterhood was started in 1997 by the National Panhellenic Conference. The date is recognized during March, which is also National Women’s History Month and set aside for International Women’s Day. The inaugural campaign was titled: “It’s as Simple as Wearing your Pin … With Pride.”
National Panhellenic Conference delegations and staff, joined by the inter/national presidents and executive directors of NPC’s member organizations, gathered Oct. 24-26 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel for the 2014 annual meeting. Participants reflected on the accomplishments of the previous year and made decisions to advance the sorority experience. They also enjoyed seeing longtime Panhellenic friends and making new ones, and were inspired and educated by guest speakers.

The annual meeting started with an afternoon town hall session dedicated to trends in higher education and a preview of proposed NPC legislation. After dinner, 2013-15 NPC Chairman Jean M. Mrasek, Chi Omega, officially opened the meeting at the first business session. She recognized guests from the St. Louis Alumnae Panhellenic Association, including her mother, and from several area College...
Panhellenics. Vice Chairman Donna King, Sigma Kappa, presented retiring delegation members with the NPC Certificate of Service. Mrasek then gave the state of NPC address, which highlighted the initiatives and achievements of the past year and plans for the year ahead. The evening continued with voting on legislation and ended with a newcomers’ reception and a reception for sponsors, executive directors and inter/national presidents.

Saturday, Oct. 25, began with breakfast meetings for committees, presidents and executive directors. Throughout the day, delegation members participated in Panhellenics training and discussion while the presidents and executive directors met within their perspective tracks, and everyone was allotted time to visit the 35 vendor exhibits. Delegates voted on the remaining legislative proposals, and eight organizations made special presentations. Several of the presentations were in honor or memory of women who have given notable service to the fraternal world.

NPC hosted its first chapter management summit in conjunction with the annual meeting, with more than 60 professionals and volunteers who serve the collegiate sector for the 26 inter/national organizations attending. Although most of the summit’s program took place on Sunday, participants were invited to attend Saturday’s closing business session, and by dinner all had arrived in force to connect with their sisters and Panhellenic counterparts.

All present had the treat of hearing dinner speaker Patti Johnson, CEO and founder of PeopleResults. Her message, “What’s your wave?” captured the common characteristics of those who effect change, and she challenged the audience to conquer personal fears in the interest of positive action. Each attendee received her book “Make Waves: Be the One to Start Change at Work and in Life.” An evening town hall meeting started with a brief report from NPC Foundation Chairman Janet Dodson, Alpha Sigma Tau. The rest of the session focused on two recent
research projects that point empirically to the value of sorority membership. Although the speakers commented humorously about scheduling two statisticians after dinner, their presentations were lively.

First, Brandon Busteed, executive director of Gallup Education, discussed the 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index study of almost 30,000 college graduates, which showed a correlation between sorority and fraternity affiliation and subsequent workplace engagement, sense of purpose, loyalty to one’s alma mater, attachment to one’s community, and physical and financial well-being. Next, Patrick Biddix, Ph.D., spoke about “Sorority Membership and Educational Outcomes: Results of a National Study,” which positively correlates sorority membership to several measures of college/university student retention.

Inter/national presidents and the NPC board of directors met on Sunday morning, but for most participants the meeting ended with Saturday’s dessert reception. The gathering was literally and figuratively bittersweet as Panhellenic friends from across North America enjoyed a final time together for the year, prepared to part, and looked forward to working in concert to advance the sorority experience in the year to come.
The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) is the umbrella organization representing the 26 inter/national sororities. Each inter/national organization hosts a delegation consisting of a delegate, three alternate delegates, and the inter/national president. In October, the NPC family gathers at the NPC annual meeting to conduct conference business, participate in advanced training, and gain better understanding of trends in higher education.

In preparation for the annual meeting, the Vice Chairman works in partnership with members of the NPC leadership team to prepare a robust meeting agenda. Highlights this year included NPC Bylaws revisions, review of the five-year strategic plan, and the opportunity to learn more about the most recent NPC research initiatives from key researchers.

Delegation members value time spent together at the annual meeting to expand their Panhellenic knowledge, but even more importantly, they value time spent with Panhellenic friends. Chairman Jean Mrasek frequently refers to the unique friendships we are afforded in NPC as “friendships beyond badges” with a common goal of working as a coalition of women to further the sorority experience.

This year, the Sigma Kappa Panhellenic team (delegation members, Panhellenic district coordinators and staff) experienced the NPC annual meeting first hand, as they gathered for a face-to-face team meeting the same weekend. For me personally, it was very exciting to share the work of NPC with our own team of national volunteers and staff.

I encourage you to learn more about the National Panhellenic Conference and to seek out engagement in your local Panhellenic Community, be it on a college campus, alumnae Panhellenic, or in your community. For more information, visit the Sigma Kappa website at www.sigmakappa.org/Sigma_Kappa_and_NPC.
THE “D” WORD
DIVERSITY IN SORORITY LIFE

By Dana Covitz Hackley, Beta Zeta, Lead Features Editor

diverse [di’vers, dī] adjective
showing a great deal of variety; very different.
Diversity continues to be a hot topic and pointed discussion within universities, fraternity/sorority communities, and the world in general. As recently as January, the Academy Awards has received criticism for lack of diversity within its nominees. In 2013, The University of Alabama student newspaper published an account of African American students being denied access to historically white sororities. After the publication made national news, the University of Alabama student government passed a resolution in April (after a previous resolution failed to garner enough votes) supporting the integration of sororities and fraternities. The issue has been around for many years and will continue to be. It is important that we, as Sigma Kappa members, have a frank discussion about diversity while embracing and encouraging it in our own chapters in order to remain relevant.

Sigma Kappa adopted the following statement as an amendment to our Constitution at the 2008 convention: “Sigma Kappa Sorority values individuality and diversity in her membership. In furtherance of our purpose and in our membership selection practices, we recognize the importance of each individual member within an atmosphere of care, respect and tolerance.” Sigma Kappa’s statement is one of general inclusiveness in keeping with our purpose and values. It is clear, though, that discussing diversity and the role it plays in sorority life can often be precarious.

“We’re always hesitant to talk about [diversity], but I think we ought to talk about it more. The reality is that the campuses where historically white sororities are located are campuses where certainly the percentage of diversity has gone up tremendously. And yet, our organizations have grudgingly followed suit with them,” acknowledged Dr. Ronald Binder, associate dean of students at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and past president of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors. Dr. Binder, who is also co-chair of the Fraternity and Sorority Knowledge Community for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, admits the issue is often a taboo subject, but believes fraternal organizations need to take an authentic look at how their organizations are perceived.

“If you look at [fraternity and sorority] demographics, they pretty clearly show that in terms of racial, ethnic, religious, and other forms of diversity, yes, there’s no question about it, not only is there a perception [of lacking diversity], but the perception is a reality.”

Making Strides Toward Diversity

The situation at the University of Alabama is just one example of how fraternity and sorority life has suffered negative publicity relating to diversity in the past few years. But although negative stories are the only ones being reported on by the media, there has been a lot of progress made by individual fraternity/sorority communities to educate their members on the issue.

The Ohio State University recently enacted a Diversity Commitment Standard for its fraternities and sororities, featuring standards of excellence, chapter diversity programs, the Intergroup Dialogue Program, the Vice President of Student Life Diversity Retreat, and the Great Operations Officer Transition Conference. The vision of this initiative is to infuse diversity education into all facets of the university’s work with fraternities and sororities. The plan was recognized with the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors Diversity Initiative Award.
In fall 2014, The University of Houston created the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) and appointed Niya Blair, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, as its director. One of the objectives of the CDI is to partner with student organizations to provide education in areas of diversity and inclusion.

**Diversity Enrollment by the Numbers**

More good news: the population of college students in general is becoming much more diverse.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, between 2000 and 2012, the enrollment of people age 25 and older in college increased 35 percent. During the same time period, full-time enrollment decreased 3 percent, while part-time enrollment increased slightly. The percentage of American college students who are white has also been decreasing, while the percentages of students who are black or Hispanic have been increasing.

In 2012, 60 percent of college students were white, compared with 71 percent in 2000. Between 2000 and 2012, the percentage of students who were black rose from 12 to 15 percent and the percentage who were Hispanic rose from 10 percent to 15 percent. About 3 percent of students were of two or more races in 2012.

The trend is predicted to continue. Between 2007 and 2018, university enrollment is projected to increase substantially for minority students: 4 percent for students who are white; 26 percent for students who are black; 38 percent for students who are Hispanic; 29 percent for students who are Asian or Pacific Islander; 32 percent for students who are American Indian or Alaska Native; and 14 percent for students who are nonresident aliens.

Additionally, during the 2008-09 academic year, colleges reported enrolling approximately 707,000 students with disabilities, and in 2007-08, about 4 percent of all undergraduates were veterans or military service members.

The image of the traditional college student is changing, but are fraternities and sororities evolving as well?
Sigma Kappa’s Diverse Membership

Sigma Kappa Sorority embraces new members of all backgrounds. Our own Founders brought diversity to Colby by virtue of being the only women on an all-male campus. It’s hard to believe that any of them would not have embraced the brightest, most genuine, most caring members no matter their differences.

For our chapters, diversity is much more than a formality.

Maria Paula Murillo, Kappa Omicron, Florida International University, was born in Costa Rica. She shared, “Personally, I have never felt discriminated against by being Latina and not being a U.S. citizen. I may even say that being an international student has worked towards my advantage because it’s always a great conversation starter, especially during recruitment.”

Vanessa Kaye Parada, Delta Nu, Longwood University, who is Asian and Hispanic, agrees. “I never think that I look different than my sisters in any way. We are all Sigma Kappas, and they treat me no differently.”

While Sigma Kappa evokes Christian ideals, members of all faiths are welcome. “When I went through formal recruitment, I told myself from day one that I was going to keep an open mind. The more that I met girls from other organizations, the more I realized that I wanted to be a part of a group of girls that were not stereotyped by their religion. I wanted to surround myself with a group of well-rounded, diverse young women, and I knew Sigma Kappa was going to be able to offer me that,” said Jewish sister and past Chapter President Marisa Meyerowitz, Epsilon Epsilon, University of Georgia.

Hadiyah Saleem, Delta Nu, Longwood University, felt the same way. “When I went to every other sorority

Projected Increases in College Enrollment, 2007-2018

- White: 38%
- Non-Resident Alien: 32%
- Black: 29%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 26%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 14%
- Hispanic: 4%
I didn’t feel as if I was being 100% authentic. Sigma Kappa accepted me for who I was and made me feel their love for each other and what it truly means to have a sisterhood and that Mystic Bond.”

Chinese-American sister Jessica Yu, Epsilon Lambda, California State University, Sacramento, also has a disability. She acknowledges, “When I first joined Sigma Kappa I was really surprised how different all my sisters were and how accepting and open they are to new people. Being legally blind, I was scared at first and shy because I didn’t want to be judged. But when I became a part of Sigma Kappa, everyone was more than willing to get to know me.”

Kayla Harris, Gamma Kappa, Southern Illinois University, has a military background and found that the Sorority embraced her career path. “Their bond reminded me of what I had with other women in the Army. These women would hold me accountable for mistakes, celebrate my accomplishments, and care for my overall well-being if I ever needed it. That is what I was looking for in a sisterhood, and I saw glimpses of it at recruitment and knew that I wanted to be a part of it.”

Alumna Marisa Wilkes, Theta Iota, State University of New York at Fredonia, who is African American and Hispanic, recalls a similar experience when she went through recruitment. “When I walked into the room of my first recruitment event it was like I found my home. The women in the room did not seem to have a problem with who I was – they accepted me for me. It didn’t matter that I was African American or Hispanic, it just mattered that I was nice and personable. Now that I am an alumna, I have developed an even greater love for Sigma Kappa and no one at any time has ever made me feel different.”

Marisa also thinks more diverse students would join fraternities and sororities if they had more exposure to them early on, before they come to campus or even in high school. “If alumni groups could present to high schools in different areas, maybe then all students would know how many options are out there and what they can offer.”

Cultural Interest Greek Organizations

In the 1900s, minority groups began founding their own fraternities and sororities. From 1906 to 1922, eight of the nine African-American Greek organizations that make up today’s National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) were founded. In 1916, the first Asian fraternity, Rho Psi, was founded at Cornell University, while the first Hispanic fraternity, Phi Iota Alpha, was founded at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1931. These cultural interest Greek organizations have dramatically increased in numbers since.

According to Dr. Binder, “The growth area for fraternities and sororities has been what I call in the multicultural area, and I don’t just mean the historically Black or historically Latino groups. We have seen a whole host of groups come up. Asian sororities, Native American sororities, multicultural sororities – we’ve seen a lot of those. What I will tell you is that in terms of percentage of population, it’s still a very small population.”

Jessica Yu explains why she didn’t seek out one of these organizations. “Sigma Kappa goes further than just focusing on the tradition or culture we were founded upon...Sigma Kappa is not a cookie cutter organization full of the same girls. We have a collection of many different women in various shapes and sizes.”

Vanessa Parada expands on that thought. “Diversity comes in many shapes and forms, not just skin color. I look for sisters with different backgrounds, ambitions, and who embody our core values. If you just aim for ethnic diversity, then you aren’t getting the kind of diversity that your organization needs.”
RACE IN AMERICA

• For years, the Census Bureau has forecast that the U.S. will have a majority-minority population by 2043. Whites remain the nation’s largest racial group, but their birth rate is declining; meanwhile, non-white Latinos have already surpassed African Americans as the nation’s largest minority.

• According to the National Center for Education Statistics, this year marks the first time the total percentage of minority public grade-school students (Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and Native Americans) combined is larger than the percentage of whites.

• National Center for Education Statistics data show more African Americans are attending college than ever—34 percent in 2012, the most recent year available.

• Nearly 3 million more people will be enrolled in American colleges and universities in 2022 than were enrolled in 2012, according to the Department of Education.

Although Sigma Kappa has made great progress in regards to diversity, we, and the rest of the fraternity/sorority community, have a long way to go. “There are some that would say we’ve come a long way, and then there are others that would say it is 2015 and we need to get with the times. I just think we just need to do a better job of being more proactive with our groups in terms of saying you need to step up your game, and that requires a concerted effort by the campuses, the advisors, and certainly by the national organizations to promote that,” contends Dr. Binder.

He continues, “The question we have to ask ourselves is always, ‘Are we being relevant?’”

Vanessa sums it up best: “Your cultural background doesn’t define your worthiness or your values. I found a group of beautiful and wonderful women who hold all the core values and beliefs I do. They are so different from me, yet so much the same in many ways. When I am with my sisters, I do not see any color difference – all I see is maroon and lavender.”
The Kappa Xi Chapter was founded at the University of Nevada, Reno on Dec. 2, 2006. When the chapter was founded, the sisters met in classrooms on campus. They never used their lack of a house as an excuse for not striving for excellence. Kappa Xi started winning different Panhellenic awards as early as 2007 and was awarded chapter of the year in 2012, just six short years after colonization. The chapter rented a house from Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity from 2008 to the spring of 2013. The sisters were thankful to the brothers of ATO, but at the same time dreamed of having their own home. In December 2013, those dreams started becoming a reality. The chapter had found a permanent home.

Corporation board member Meagan McLane, Kappa Xi, was excited to share the processes of finding the house and renovating. She recalled that the board worked closely with the National Housing Corporation, especially Roxanne Evans Jamison, Delta Tau, University of Central Arkansas, corporation coordinator; Jodi Bouwman Powers, Kappa Beta, Grand Valley State University, finance coordinator; and Jaclynn Treat, Beta Tau, University of Florida, coordinator of housing renovations. The team looked at four houses, and there were many details taken into account when looking for the perfect house: location, size, quality of the structure and budget. Kappa Xi received the financing for the purchase and renovation of the house from the NHC. Meagan stated that the house that was decided on had what they wanted for the chapter. She said they used “the structure of the house as bones and everything else was renovated.” The sisters will be enjoying new windows, carpets, hardwood floors and a kitchen with granite countertops and new appliances. As an added bonus, the house director now has her own space and bathroom.
What turns a regular house into a home? What is the difference between the two? A house is a building; it has walls, floors, rooms, but nothing that distinguishes it is something special. A home has a heartbeat, laughter, love. A home is where family comes together to celebrate accomplishments, cry about disappointments, and solve problems. The heartbeat of a home is its family. The women of Kappa Xi are the heartbeat of their new home.

The Heart of a Home

By Ashley Lowe Nance, Theta Xi, Features Editor

The outside of the house was given a fresh coat of paint and new landscaping. Meagan revealed they hired a local artist to paint the Sigma Kappa coat-of-arms in the entryway, giving it the perfect touch to welcome the sisters home. The renovations were officially finished in time for the Kappa Xi Chapter to start the fall 2014 semester and to hold recruitment in their new house.

To kick the semester off with a bang, the Kappa Xi sisters held a grand opening event along with a ribbon cutting and open house. It was a beautiful August afternoon and there were many smiles from collegians and alumnae. For those alumnae who were part of the chapter from its colonization, this day was one full of excitement. Kappa Xi alumnae, parents, friends, family and the Greek community were invited to the event and were able to come inside and view the new house.

Current Kappa Xi President Katelyn Miller said that if she could describe the new Sigma Kappa house in one word, it would be “welcoming.” When asked her favorite part, Katelyn said, “My favorite, along with everyone else’s, is the living room.” She said there is a comfy couch and television, and it is the area where the sisters spend time together watching TV, Netflix and sporting events and is “a great way to hang out in one area.” Memories on top of memories will be made inside the new house.

For the 28 sisters who live in the house, and the entire chapter who call the Kappa Xi house home, these years will be just the beginning of wonderful memories and sisterhood. It will be a place of joy, celebration, refuge and most of all, love. They will be starting new traditions while living out the old ones that have defined our sisterhood for 140 years. As Mother Teresa said, “Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do…but how much love we put in that action.”
MEMBERspotlight

From Page to Screen
Alumna's Book Being Turned into Show for Amazon

Five years ago, Cindy Westerhoff Callahan, Theta Kappa, University of Southern California, was a recreational writer with an idea for a book about a young girl’s secret cooking club. Today, she is a best-selling author with five published middle-grade novels and an Amazon Instant Video pilot based on one of those books.

Cindy has been a writer her whole life, writing her first play – a sequel to “Grease” – at 9 years old. She went to college for film writing, but decided she didn’t have the resources or experience to break into the business at that time. She pursued a career in the pharmaceutical field, got married and had three children. After the birth of her third child, she got back into creative writing as a way to have an activity just for her and get some time to herself. One day, her daughter and two of her friends were baking in the kitchen when Cindy got the idea for a book about a young girl who starts a secret cooking club. Cindy says, “As I was working through the questions of, ‘Why is it secret?’ and ‘What is secret about it?’ the idea of the recipes being magic came to me.”

In 2010, Cindy wrote “Just Add Magic,” which was published through Simon and Schuster. After parting ways with her literary agent, she found herself in possession of all the rights to the book, including film, TV and foreign publishing rights. Cindy recalled, “I had no idea what to do with these rights, but I always had higher hopes for the book than just being a book.” Around that time, she reconnected with her college roommate who was working as a writer for an animated series. Cindy told her about the book, and her roommate offered to connect her with a film agent. She had a short conversation with the agent and sent her the book. “I didn’t hear anything from the agent for a long time, but then one day, she called and said she wanted to represent the book. Within a very short amount of time, she had sold the options to Amazon.”

During the development process for the pilot, Cindy was involved as a consultant, meaning they brought her on at various points throughout the process including during screenwriter selection. She and her daughter also got to fly out to the set and watch the filming of the pilot. Remarked Cindy, “I was taken aback at how many people are involved in filming – everyone from the actors and directors and camera operators to the security guards and craft services people and parking attendants. I couldn’t believe how many people were there because of this idea I had that was only in my head at one time. It was a really amazing feeling.”

The pilot debuted on Amazon Instant Video on Jan. 15. Based on number of views and viewer feedback, it could be greenlit for an entire series. Amazon Prime members can watch the pilot and leave a review at www.amazon.com.

Connect with Cindy via social media at www.facebook.com/cindycallaghanauthor and twitter.com/CindyCallaghan.
For many American 23-year-olds, daily life consists of waking up in a city apartment, driving or taking the subway to a job in an office building, meeting friends for drinks, watching TV or Netflix, and going to bed. For Jessa Herron, Beta Theta, Marietta College, daily life includes waking up in a national park, taking a riverboat to her job managing volunteers and teaching English, spotting hippos and elephants, learning from animal-researcher friends, and being lulled to sleep by the hooting of monkeys. Jessa currently lives in Malawi and works as the International Volunteer Coordinator for H.E.L.P. Malawi, a non-profit organization that helps children in rural Malawi access quality education.

H.E.L.P. Malawi’s volunteers spend a minimum of three months living and working at Nanthomba Primary School either tutoring/teaching English classes or volunteering at Nandumbo Health Center. Jessa helps manage these volunteers and Nanthomba’s afterschool programs. These programs include English, tailoring, computers, band and eco-club. Jessa became involved with H.E.L.P. in the summer of 2012 through a Sigma Kappa sister who suggested she apply for an internship. Two years later, she heard that their Malawi-based International Volunteer Coordinator position was soon to become vacant, so she applied and was hired. She says, “I am so happy I sent the right email at the right time telling them I was interested. Because I had already worked for them and had shown a passion for African development, they hired me right away! I have been living in Malawi since August 2014.”

Jessa and the rest of the H.E.L.P. volunteers live at Mvuu Camp within Liwonde National Park. She has also made friends of the wildlife researchers that live in the park studying African bats, hyenas and rhinos. She exclaims, “It is surely always an adventure living within a national park!” On weekends, she travels into the local villages or to one of Malawi’s tourist destinations including Lake Malawi.

During her time in Malawi, Jessa hopes to develop both professionally and personally. She shares, “On a professional level, I hope to learn a lot about non-profit management, which is especially hard when you are managing and working with people from so many different cultures. Personally, I hope to learn a lot about myself and grow as a person. Africa definitely has a unique way of challenging you every day and I am learning how to stay focused on H.E.L.P. Malawi’s mission to help children in the most impoverished regions of Africa.”

She finishes by saying, “If there is anything this experience has taught me, it is that as long as I continue to work hard, I can do whatever I set my mind to.”
By the time you are reading this magazine, the movie “Still Alice” will have played in theaters across the country, and perhaps have won a few Oscars. How coincidental that this movie about a woman with early onset Alzheimer’s comes at a time when our Sorority is about to enter a new phase in our relationship with this dreaded disease and also with the Alzheimer’s Association.

Sigma Kappa is the lead organization in sponsoring the Alzheimer’s Association Women’s Initiative program, created to engage one million women in the fight against this awful disease. As women, we are disproportionately affected by Alzheimer’s. In fact, of the five million Americans living with Alzheimer’s, two-thirds are women and 60 percent of the caregivers for dementia are also women.

That is why our Foundation decided to take a very big step and provide the first $1 million gift to a research effort focused on the disease’s impact on women, which was announced at convention last year. It is a big and important commitment by our Sorority!

Sigma Kappa, as you know, is not new to the war against Alzheimer’s. We have been in the trenches for 30 years. In fact, since 1984, we have contributed almost $3 million to the cause, which includes almost $1 million to help fund 60 research projects across the country, many at universities with Sigma Kappa chapters and many to female researchers. WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

And now with this new commitment to the Alzheimer’s Association’s Women’s Initiative, we have an opportunity to create a lasting legacy of support. That is why at convention I told my late mother-in-law’s story and issued a challenge to all Sigma Kappas, their families and friends that if we can raise $500,000 by our 2016 convention, I will match it dollar for dollar getting us to our $1 million goal ahead of schedule.

I am happy to report we are well on our way. Since convention, we have received approximately $225,000 in gifts and pledges from individuals, as well as from the sale of Sigma Kappa pearl earrings featured in the ad in this Sigma Kappa Triangle. Sigma Kappa collegiate and alumnae chapters across the country are also working hard in so many innovative ways to help meet this challenge (see next page).

The bottom line is that every dollar counts, whether it’s $10 or $100,000, and working together as these sisters are doing will make it happen faster. Alzheimer’s disease is taking lives, destroying families, and costing this country $100 billion dollars each year that could be used for so many other problems facing our nation. We are almost half way there, and we have a little over a year before convention. Please help us make this happen by visiting the Sigma Kappa Foundation website (www.sigmakappafoundation.org) and giving today.

We can do this! I know we can. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love in Sigma Kappa,

Carolyn Caudell Tieger, Epsilon Epsilon Sigma Kappa Foundation Trustee

Alzheimer’s Challenge Update: Your Work for Alzheimer’s Disease Matters!
Our Chapters are up to the Challenge

Southwest Florida (SWFL) Alumnae Chapter is raising funds for the Alzheimer’s Challenge through Violet Lottos and jewelry sales. At Violet Lottos, chapter members contribute baskets or bags of goodies and members pay a dollar per ticket for a drawing on the basket(s) of their choice. Beta Upsilon, Ohio University, alumna Donna VanHoose’s daughter Allie donated the proceeds of her jewelry sales for a total of $300 to date. SWFL members have other events scheduled, including a luncheon auction and a “March Madness” fundraiser. The members are determined to raise at least $1,000, a goal the Foundation is hoping that other alumnae chapters across the country will embrace. Just think…if 100 alumnae chapters raised $1,000 each, we would have $100,000 for the challenge.

Alumna Lauren Kelley, Epsilon Epsilon, University of Georgia, and her mother hosted an event before the holidays that was attended by 125 women who purchased handmade knit items where a portion of the proceeds went to the challenge. Lauren and her mom raised $600 in this one event and recruited attendees to spread the word about Sigma Kappa and our efforts.

In January, collegian Monica Razniewski, Mu, University of Washington, orchestrated the Strut to END ALZ, a fashion show and silent auction. One hundred percent of proceeds from ticket sales and the auction were donated to the challenge.

when you purchase these classic 8mm pearl earrings for $59...

$60 will go to Sigma Kappa Foundation’s new $1 million commitment to the Alzheimer’s Association Women’s Research Initiative

Pearls for the Planet will donate $30 for every pair sold. And a generous Sigma Kappa has pledged a $30 match.

Pearls for the Planet.com

Pearls For The Planet is the philanthropic division of Love The Pearls, Inc.
1. Member **Doris Brengel Larson**, Beta Delta, University of Miami, knitted 400 caps for newborn babies. The idea came when the chapter toured a Florida hospital and Dorrie asked what she could do to help.

2. Central Iowa alumnae helped welcome the new members of Alpha Epsilon, Iowa State University, at their sisterhood retreat pool party. **Andrea Goerndt Masteller**, Alpha Epsilon, posed for a picture with her daughter, **Kara Masteller**, a new member.

3. The Buffalo Alumnae Chapter teamed up with the Theta Iota Chapter, State University of New York, Fredonia, for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s at the Buffalo Zoo. The alumnae team raised a record high of $2,155.

4. Baltimore alumnae held a fundraiser at the local Greene Turtle sports bar to raise funds for their Walk to End Alzheimer’s team. Alumnae shared appetizers, enjoyed a drink, and even played trivia to make it a great night!

5. Chicago West Towns alumnae, along with the collegians of the Zeta Iota Chapter, Elmhurst College, participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Chicago at Montrose Harbor.
7. The Knoxville Alumnae Chapter hosted a senior tea for the graduating Alpha Delta, University of Tennessee, seniors.
8. The North Harris County Alumnae Chapter met for dinner and drinks at El Tiempo Restaurant in September.

10. The Fort Worth/Arlington Alumnae Chapter held a brunch on Sept. 6, 2014, at Mimi’s Cafe in Fort Worth. This was a membership drive event to encourage new alumnae in the area to meet the chapter.

11. Philadelphia alumnae presented a Founders’ Day bingo game using Sigma Kappa facts and history.

12. The women of the Spirit of Saint Louis Alumnae Chapter celebrated the wedding of Alexandra Tucci Heck, Kappa Theta, Saint Louis University, on Sept. 20, 2014. The photographer for the wedding was Ashley Pickett Fisher, Kappa Theta, Saint Louis University.

13. Kay Wetzel Leavens, Eta, Illinois Wesleyan University, surrounded by the 2015 Royal Court of the Rose Parade in Pasadena. Kay assists her husband Mark Leavens, Chairman of the Tournament of Roses Queen and Court Committee, in his duties with the Royal Court selection and attendance of events, functions and appearances.

15. The West Orange County Alumnae Chapter’s fall open house event began with a twist. Alumnae brought photos of their early Sigma Kappa years or of a meaningful event. Photos/articles spanned 50 years from 1964-2014.


17. Sierra Nevada alumnae gathered in Sparks, Nevada on Sept. 27, 2014, for the annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

18. The San Fernando Valley Alumnae Chapter held a brunch on Jan. 26, 2014, recognizing 25- and 50- year members. Twenty-five-year recipients were Nicole Swirsky, Zeta Epsilon, California State University, Northridge, and Carin Kosberg Schachat, Zeta Epsilon, California State University, Northridge, and 50-year recipients were Lia Wright Osborne, Beta Theta, Marietta College, and Carole Day Kral, Beta Kappa, Colorado State University.

19. One of the favorite meetings for Wichita Falls alumnae is wine tasting, presented in September by “The Wine Guy.”
Sigma Kappa Sorority lost a dedicated lifelong member on Nov. 23, 2014, with the passing of Eleanor Dygert Haddon, Phi, University of Rhode Island. Eleanor served as national president from 1974-1976. Eleanor passed on her 99th birthday surrounded by family. Eleanor’s loving spirit and continued passion for Sigma Kappa will be greatly missed.

Initiated into the Phi Chapter in 1934, Eleanor was a member of Sigma Kappa for over 80 years. She was a collegiate province officer for 30 years before being elected to national council in 1968. She served as national vice president for alumnae from 1968-74, national president from 1974-76, and national vice president for alumnae from 1976-78. During her term as national president, she presided over the Centennial Convention in Waterville, Maine in 1974.

“Eleanor was one of the most dedicated Sigma Kappas I have ever met. Throughout her entire life, she was always so proud of being a Sigma Kappa and of her service to the organization,” remarked National President Cheri Morrell De Jong, Epsilon Omega, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Eleanor was married to William P. Haddon and had three children, nine grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She loved to travel and arranged many trips for the seniors in her community. She especially loved cruises, taking 53 of them in her later years. In addition to Sigma Kappa, Eleanor was involved in the Gloria Chapter of Eastern Star, the Women of the Moose in Ortley Beach, the Board of Trustees for the Ocean Beach and Bay Club, and wrote a column in the “Ocean Beach News.”

After her time on national council, Eleanor continued to stay active in the business of the Sorority. She was a regular participant at national convention and had the pleasure of seeing both of her daughters, Trudie Haddon Wanchow, Tau, Indiana University, and Sharon Haddon Andelora, Alpha Lambda, Adelphi University, initiated into Sigma Kappa as alumnae initiates and her granddaughters, Sally Wanchow Brown, Gamma Eta, Ball State University, and Wendy Dorner Pursell, Zeta Upsilon, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, initiated as collegiate members.

Her daughter Trudie shared, “She followed Sigma Kappa wherever it went. It was part of her life. Working with people, meeting new people, and working with the collegians were some of her passions.”
Sigma Kappa is excited to announce the official launch of our new online learning system, called SKILLab: Sigma Kappa’s Interactive Learning Lab.

Here members will find a variety of resources, training courses and more meant to increase their skills and knowledge about their officer position, volunteer role, or Sigma Kappa Sorority as an organization. For our members, SKILLab is available wherever they are – on their computer, on their tablet or on their mobile phone!

In this initial launch, all executive council officers have a dedicated course in SKILLab to help them prepare for their role. In addition, the updated Promise program for new members contains interactive online modules housed in SKILLab.

The Promise program for new members is currently being piloted by a select number of collegiate chapters and will be launched with all collegiate chapters in the fall of 2015. Additional modules will be posted in the upcoming months for alumnae chapter officers, collegiate committee chairmen, and national volunteers. This menu of courses will continue to expand as needs are identified for members at all levels of the organization.

President
Executive Vice President
Vice President of Programming
Vice President of New Member Education
Vice President of Membership
Vice President of Alumnae Relations
Vice President of Scholarship
Vice President of Philanthropic Service
Vice President of Communication
Vice President of Finance
Panhellenic Delegate

If you have any questions about SKILLab please contact Mary Phillips, director of educational programs, at mphillips@sigmakappa.org.
In MEMORIAM

Zeta, The George Washington University
Barbara Longaker Hahn
October 14, 2014

Eta, Illinois Wesleyan University
Jean Daniel Ziegler
October 21, 2014

Theta, University of Illinois
Lois Johnson Brockmeier
September 25, 2014

Iota, University of Denver
Joanne Carr
December 31, 2013
Dorothy Lawrence Eklund
April 02, 2014
Barbara Lloyd Fritts
September 09, 2011
Cherie Graves
August 08, 2014
Edla Josephine Wilson Johnson
October 02, 2014

Mu, University of Washington
Marcia Anderson Mallory
November 01, 2013

Xi, University of Kansas
Dorothy Bublitz Opfer
November 01, 2013

Upsilon, Oregon State University
Helen Starkey Glass
May 14, 2014
Marie Rietmann
September 29, 2014

Phi, University of Rhode Island
Eleanor Dygert Haddon
November 23, 2014
Christine Bills Whitaker
August 27, 2014

Alpha Epsilon, Iowa State University
Donna Atteber
November 03, 2014
Wanda Collins Morse
August 01, 2012

Alpha Theta, University of Louisville
Martha Aulbach Graw
October 30, 2014
Julia Stiglitz Willey
November 18, 2014

Alpha Lambda, Adelphi University
Marilyn Ruser Jedrey
November 01, 2014
Dorothy Potts Lincoln
December 02, 2014

Alpha Mu, University of Michigan
Joan Taylor
October 01, 2012

Alpha Nu, University of Montana
Rose Shaughnessy Gran
October 14, 2014

Alpha Tau, Michigan State University
Barbara Tucker Bazely
October 28, 2014
Elizabeth Butler Billington
September 19, 2014

Alpha Phi, University of Oregon
Mary Mercier Drew
February 10, 2013
Donna Neville Hand
January 01, 2013
Kay Josselyn O’Dea
March 03, 2012
Marguerite Wittwer Wright
May 31, 2013

Alpha Chi, Georgetown College
Barbara Brooks Grace
November 06, 2014

Beta Epsilon, Louisiana Tech University
Betsy McGuire Teuton
October 14, 2014

Beta Theta, Marietta College
Audrey Bauerband Weber
September 01, 2014

Beta Nu, Bradley University
Dorothy Cowperthwaite Coffman
November 14, 2014
Gretchen Rettinger Jungst
September 18, 2014

Beta Xi, University of Memphis
Virginia Milan Allen
December 01, 2014

Beta Rho, San Jose State University
Kathryn Stephens Speer
August 01, 2014

Beta Psi, San Diego State University
Margaret Noon Hines
October 30, 2014

Gamma Beta, Western Michigan University
Marjorie Gerke MacDonald
February 16, 2014

Gamma Epsilon, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Roseann Pelliccione Chiodo
June 17, 2014

Gamma Eta, Ball State University
Julia Findley Carter
November 03, 2014

Gamma Theta, California State University, Long Beach
Mary Ann Conner Enault
November 19, 2014
Janet Anderson Hammel
October 03, 2014

Gamma Kappa, Southern Illinois University
Janet Ernst Stobart
October 28, 2014
Kay Bethel Weeks
October 17, 2012

Gamma Mu, Eastern Illinois University
Laura Yaxley Hughes
November 03, 2014

Gamma Tau, Midwestern State University
Geraldine Muck Dauten
December 01, 2014

Delta Lambda, Wayne State University
Pamela Andrews Masters
November 24, 2014

Delta Nu, Longwood University
Jacqueline Leath Blencowe
August 24, 2014

Delta Omicron, Fort Hays State University
Gail Murray Wickham
April 01, 2013

Zeta Kappa, Angelo State University
Mary Blair Farris
November 26, 2014

Theta Nu, Baylor University
Shannon Pratt Gleditsch
November 17, 2014
Stay Cozy with Sigma Kappa

To see more products, please go to our website, www.greek21.com. 10% off all orders until March 31, 2015. Use code "AP10%" at check out.

www.sigmakappa.org/shop
IT’S ON US is a cultural movement aimed at fundamentally shifting the way we think about sexual assault.

IT’S ON US is a rallying cry inviting everyone to step up and realize that the solution begins with us. It’s a declaration that sexual assault is not only a crime committed by a perpetrator against a victim, but a societal problem in which all of us have a role to play. We are reframing sexual assault in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it. We are asking everyone to create an environment, be it a dorm room, a party, a club or a sports team, or the greater college campus, where sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported. Raising awareness. Holding ourselves and each other accountable. Looking out for someone who cannot consent.

IT’S ON US. All of us.

THE FACTS

ONLY 13% of rape survivors report assault

1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted in college

40% of survivors fear reprisal by their attacker

8 in 10 victims knew their attacker

IT’S ON US is meant to create a cultural shift in the way we think about, talk about and act around sexual assault by doing 2 things:

1. Establishing a sense of OWNERSHIP over the problem, among everyone

2. Providing tips, tools and inspiration to EMPOWER everyone to make a difference, everyday