

# the Key

Spring 2026  
KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA



PAGE 28

## Star Power

Meet **Michelle Munson**  
and her fellow 2026  
Alumnae Achievement  
Award honorees



# 1954

**ALL ABOARD!**

Convention camaraderie was in the air for transportation committee members back in 1954. Still today, no matter the mode of transportation you use, getting together with sisters always brings a smile.

“If I had to describe the ‘Survivor’ experience in three words, they would be adventure, vulnerability, and discovery. And that goes for both the players and the crew.”

—Ariel Blandford, USC (Calif.)

# Spring

2026

## FEATURES

### Survivor Secrets

BY SOPHIE WILLIAMS

**16** Two Kappas—one participant, one producer—give a behind-the-palms look into the world of “Survivor” and what life on the island is truly like.

### A Towering History

BY DR. MARY OSBORNE

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### Star Power

BY BARBARA STAMBAUGH

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COVER: MERCEDES DEBELLARD



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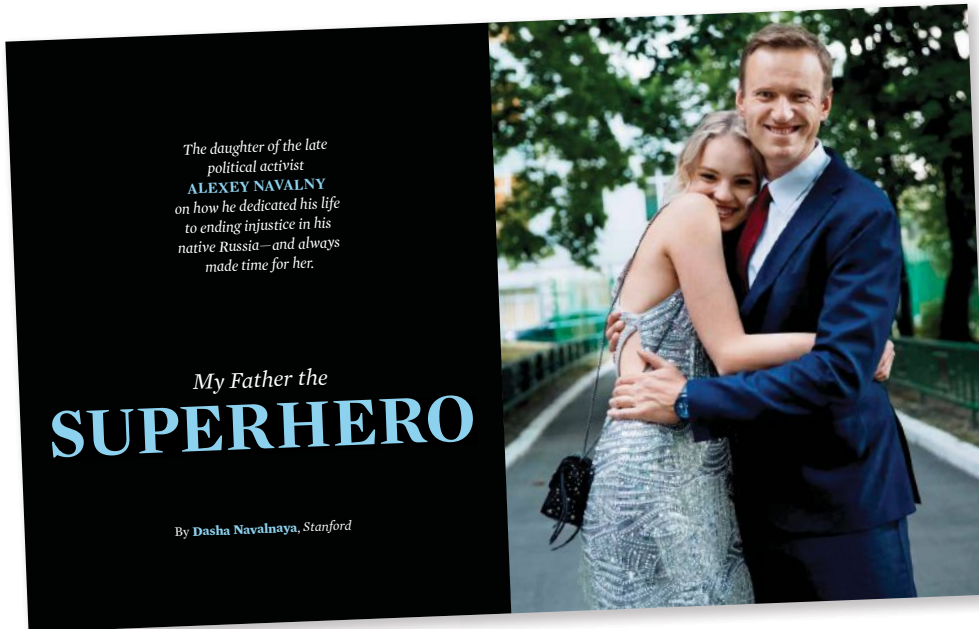
Drop the beat! The iconic Kappa Rappers transport us to the early 2000s with the internet sensation we’ve never forgotten. Their BTS story is one for the ages.

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FROM TOP: COURTESY ARIEL BLANFORD; MERCEDES DEBELLARD; MERCEDES DEBELLARD



## Support for Dasha

**Alexey Navalny** was recently in the news again as sources in the UK, Sweden, France, Germany, and the Netherlands confirmed he was poisoned with a lethal toxin, epibatidine, which is a toxin found in poison

dart frogs in South America. Several readers wrote in regarding Dasha Navalnaya’s moving essay about her late father.

“Dasha, your father was truly an amazing, brave man and an inspiration to so many of us. I am proud to call you a fellow Kappa and also to know your Daddy was a ‘Kappa Daddy.’ Thank you for your essay, Dasha. We will all help keep his memory alive. May it always be a blessing to you!”

–**Carrie McCannell-Scruggs**, Florida State

### Sending Love

Hi Kappas. I’m Corinne Star. I was initiated in 1946 after World War II. All my darling friends remain my Kappa friends for years...all my best friends have

been Kappas. And I love receiving *The Key*. It reminds me of what a wonderful group of wonderful Kappas we’ve all had over the years. Thank you for sending me *The Key*. Love you all.

–**Corinne Gaupel Starkweather**, UCLA

### Kudos, The Key

We just got your most recent magazine—looks amazing! Kudos to that team on the layout and content. This one pulled me in to read!

–message from an **NPC partner organization**

### Dede’s Story

In fall 2025, Trial by Fire, *The Key* provided a great story of tragedy & resilience.

–**Albuquerque Alumnae Association** via Instagram

### Hoots & Salutes

Thank you so much for including me in the latest issue of *The Key*. I’ve received a few messages from Kappas in journalism around the country, which has been really meaningful.

–**Wren Woodson**, Northwestern

### Cover to Cover

Super issue. Just read it cover to cover. It keeps getting better & better. Great job!

–**Ann Graham Schnaedter**, Missouri

*Know a sister who deserves a Key Achievements shoutout. Drop us a message at [thekey@kappa.org](mailto:thekey@kappa.org).*

Volume 142, No. 1  
Spring 2026

*The Key* is the first college women’s fraternity magazine, published continuously since 1882.

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*The Key* (ISSN 1063-4665) is published by the Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity and Foundation, 6640 Riverside Drive, Suite 200, Dublin, Ohio 43017. Printed in the United States of America, copyright Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity 2016. Subscription price is \$3.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Key*

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# Kappa Is It

CUE THE KAPPA RAP

**I**F YOU'VE HEARD THE KAPPA RAP ("KAPPA RAP 2" ON YOUTUBE), it'll be stuck in your head for weeks. Among Kappa circles, the rap was our first modern viral moment. **Hannah Lee, Shelley Keller Zych** and **Katie Whitmire Keil**, all *Baylor*, are back with the Kappa tune on their minds.

The trio appeared in the *Baylor Lariat* in 2026, and Kappas may have seen them on TikTok. The song definitely has a moment every recruitment season. Check out the backstory and what they are up to now on Page 9.

That earworm sets the tone for an issue full of Kappas making themselves heard. It's time to celebrate one of our most beloved treasures: Kappa's Alumnae Achievement Awards. Few moments in the biennium bring me as much pride as introducing these honorees in the magazine. Reading their stories this spring, I was struck by how differently each woman defines success—and how consistently they all credit the people who believed in them along the way.

And because Kappa stories show up in the most unexpected places, this issue also takes you to Fiji. In "Two Sides of the Torch," we go behind the scenes of "Survivor" with two sisters on opposite sides of the camera—**Ariel Blandford**, *USC (Calif)*, a producer who got her start as a Kappa Leadership Consultant, and **Sophie Segreti**, *Washington*

*Univ. (St. Louis)*, a Season 49 contestant who made it to the final seven.

There's a quiet thread running through this issue: women building things for women. Nowhere is it more vivid than in "Building for the Future." **Dr. Mary Osborne**, *Monmouth*, tells the history of New York City's Beekman Tower. Originally the Panhellenic Tower, the 26-story Art Deco landmark opened in 1928 as a residence and professional clubhouse for sorority alumnae arriving in the city for work—the vision of suffragist **Emily Eaton Hepburn**, *St. Lawrence*, who marched alongside Carrie Chapman Catt and later broke a glass ceiling on Wall Street. And the best part: The building still stands. Pair Mary's article with the NYC travel piece from Key Chairman **Laura Vinci O'Neill**, *Kansas*, (Page 12) and you have a ready-made New York day.

Through the Keyhole brings exciting news, too: A true digital transformation is underway. The MyKappa portal is designed to support our growing membership of more than 242,000 living sisters. By the time our next issue

lands in late fall, the portal will be live. In the meantime, you can preview what's coming at [kappa.org/mykappa](http://kappa.org/mykappa).

In this issue, you'll also meet Kappa's newly elected Fraternity Council and District Directors. These remarkable volunteers will be installed at the 76th Biennial Convention in Orlando, Florida, this June, and the Fraternity is fortunate to have them stepping into leadership roles.

Speaking of leadership, in this issue's ReMix column, we sit down with two volunteers whose stories reflect the wonderful range of women who give of their time and talents to mentor their sisters.

With Convention on the horizon and MyKappa around the corner, it's a season of milestones for our sisterhood. From Emily Eaton Hepburn's vision in 1928 to the volunteers leading us into Convention this June, the same truth runs through every page: When women build for women, Kappa endures.

*Kristin*

—**Kristin Sangid**, EDITOR



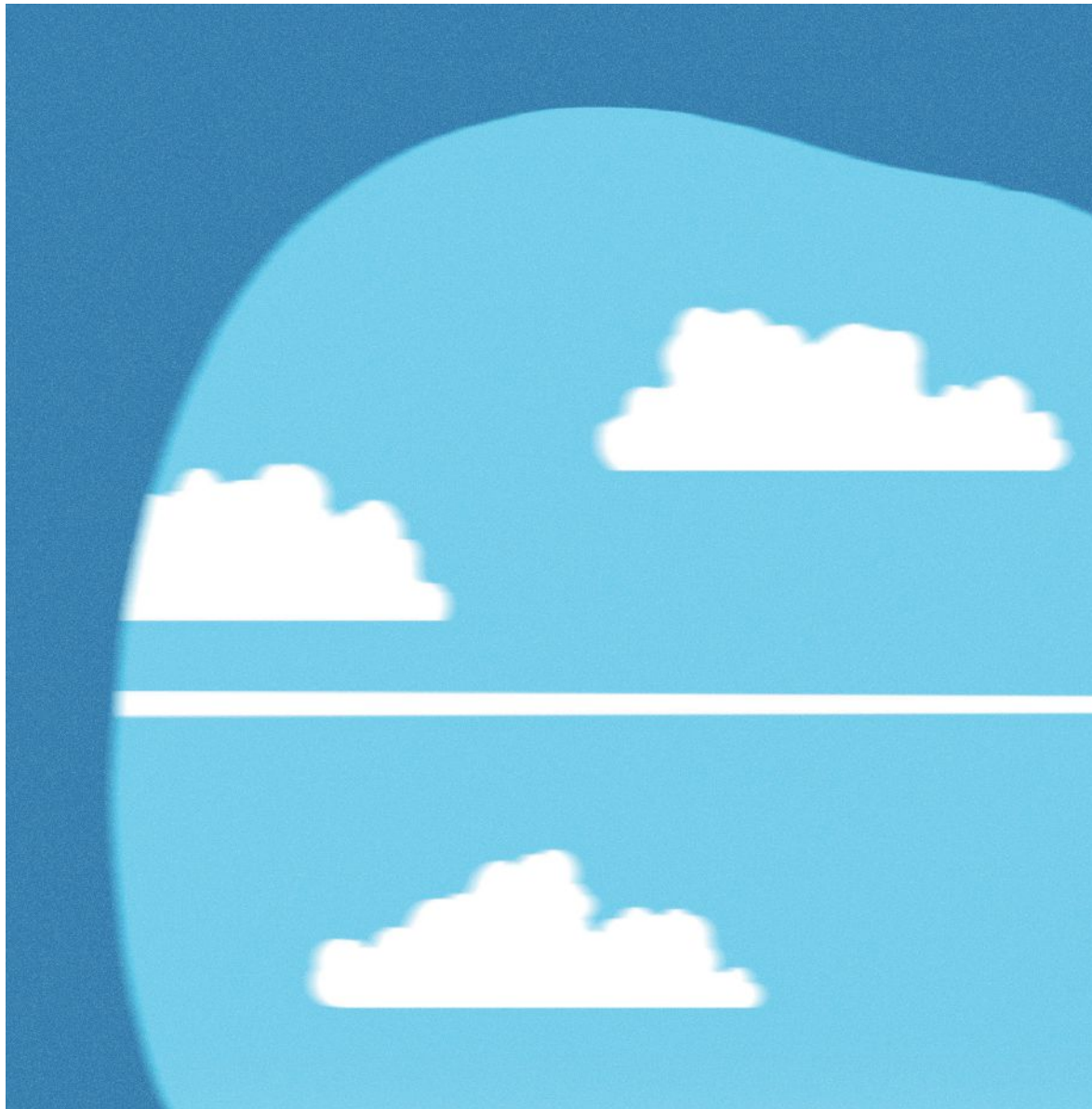
## RAISING HOPE

Former Kappa Headquarters staffers **Ashley Gilbert Moyer**, *Purdue*, and **Allie DeFries**, *Denison*, reunited for a good cause supporting cancer research. A cancer survivor, Allie answered the call when Ashley invited her to speak at a black-tie fundraiser gala, Harvest of Hope, in Columbus, Ohio. As Allie shared her story of treatment at Ohio State, "You could have heard a pin drop," Ashley recalls. The gala benefited The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute.

COURTESY ASHLEY MOYER

“I have this  
achiever thing.  
I feel called  
to help.”

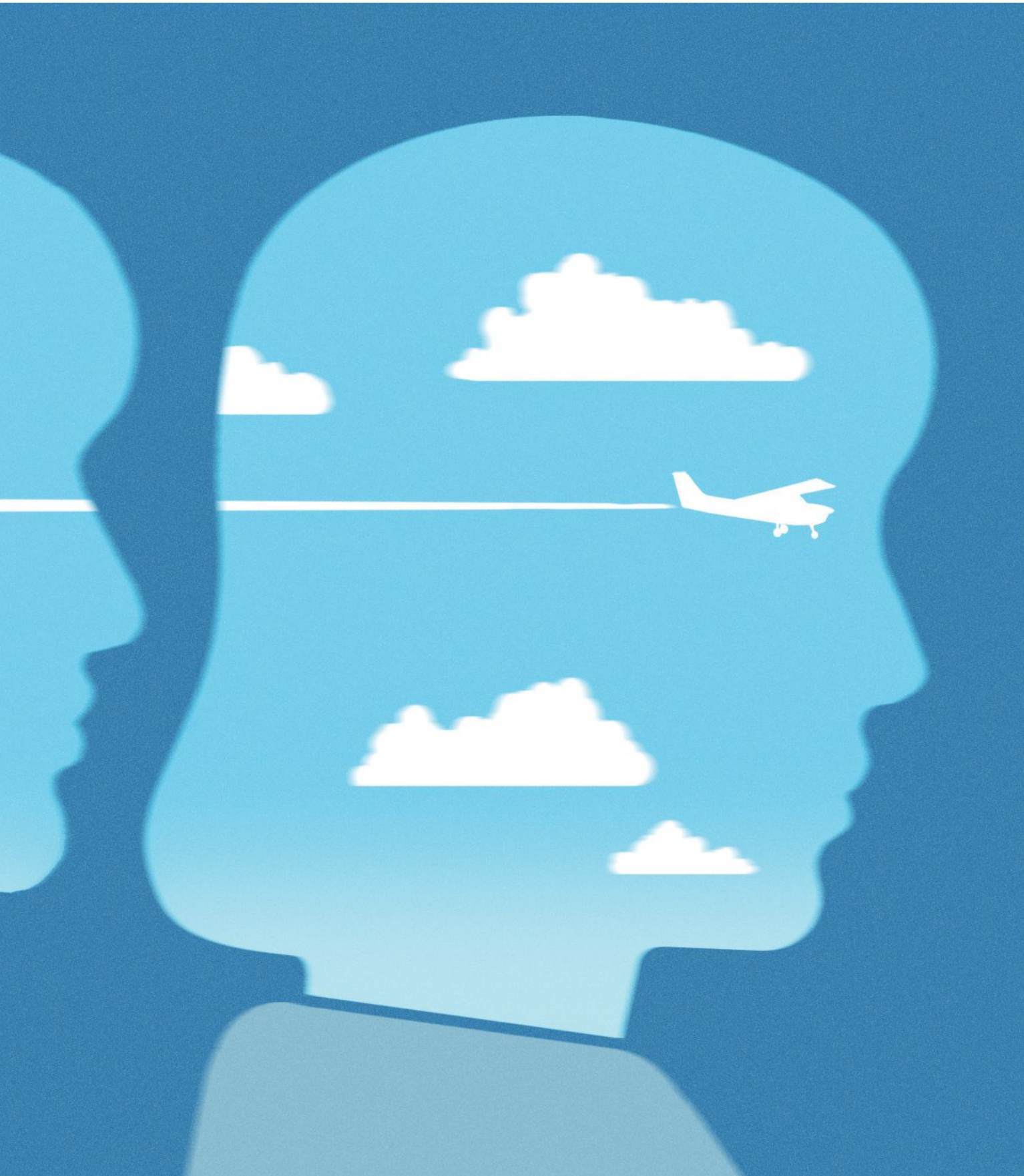
—**Andrea Bertin  
Ratfield**, *Miami*  
HOPE FILLED CAFÉ



THE  
**mix**



DAN PAGE





## A Pilot's Passion Project

Andrea Bertin Ratfield has gone from commercial airline pilot to entrepreneur building hope for others.



DELTA PILOT'S CAFÉ OFFERS HOPE, JOBS FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

**D**ELTA AIR LINES PILOT CAPT. ANDREA BERTIN Ratfield, *Miami*, is not daunted by a long, obstacle-filled journey to get to her destination. After all, women represent only 6% of the total pilot population. But her latest project may be her most personal challenge yet—and have the biggest impact on her community.

COURTESY ANDREA RATFIELD (4)



The Hope Filled Café, a nonprofit Andrea founded in 2023 in Orono, Minnesota, is designed to employ young people with autism and cognitive disabilities—a population with a daunting 85% unemployment rate. Hope is an acronym for the mission: helping others and promoting employment.

“In our community, there are not many places to hang out,” Andrea said of her Minneapolis suburb. She envisions the Hope Filled Café as a gelato/pastry shop that will provide both jobs and social connections for the disabled community.

Currently operating in the form of a mobile cafe, the business model is inspired by Eric Ries’ *The Lean Startup*, she says.

The mobile version allows them to test the community’s reception and manage costs while providing a safe space for teens like her son Hunter, who was diagnosed with autism at 18 months, she says. Her other son, Colton, also helps with the mobile cafe, which serves smoothies, coffees and sweet treats.

A California native, Andrea moved all over the country before putting herself through college at the University of Miami in Florida, getting degrees in broadcast journalism and criminology. But after graduating—and realizing the fields weren’t really for her—she took a job as a flight attendant to pay her bills.

After becoming lead flight attendant, she was routinely

# Sunrise to Sunset

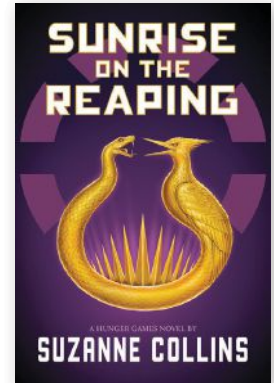
Books—across genres—to read from the break of day ’til the stars come out



## Atmosphere

BY TAYLOR JENKINS REID

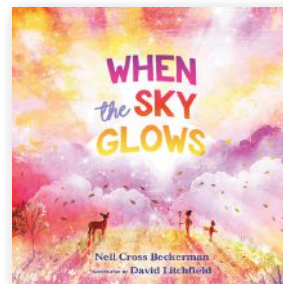
Follow along in this gripping historical novel as NASA’s first female astronauts navigate challenges among the stars.



## Sunrise on the Reaping

BY SUZANNE COLLINS

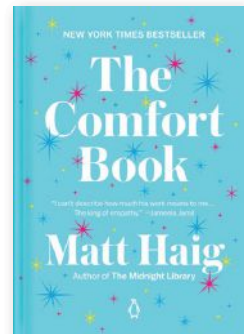
This prequel thrusts you into the harrowing 50th Hunger Games experience of Haymitch Abernathy.



## When the Sky Glows

WRITTEN BY NELL CROSS BECKERMAN  
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID LITCHFIELD

Kids and grown-ups alike will delight in this picture book exploring the beauty of glowing skies through vivid descriptions and illustrations.



## The Comfort Book

BY MATT HAIG

Start or end your day with reflections and anecdotes to bring a sense of calm. Prioritize your mental health with this collection’s focus on acceptance, gratitude, and embracing hope.



seated up front, leading to her curiosity about the planes. She peppered the pilots with questions about how they operated. “I was going to figure out how to fly these planes,” Andrea says.

That determination led to flight school—and later being rehired by the same airline where she has served for nearly 20 years.

Philanthropy started early in her career. “I have this achiever thing. I feel called to help,” Andrea says. So, she pushed for the first maternity policy and nursing leave for female pilots and then founded a Facebook group and nonprofit for female pilots called Female Aviators Sticking Together (FAST). That group has grown to 17,000 members and continues to support women pilots in advancing their careers.

Andrea also supported the special needs community by leading tours at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport for families of children with disabilities, a program that has continued for 13 years. Navigating MSP tours lead families through the airport and onto the plane so they can experience all the sights and sounds in a pre-travel setting that’s not so

“Those funds also supported a number of the behind-the-scenes operational needs that make everything possible, including rent for the mobile venue, licensing, county and state inspections, insurance, and other startup requirements.”

stress-filled and overwhelming.

“The tours allow families with autism to alleviate their anxiety about travel,” she says of the monthly program that has grown a large following.

But what she saw by connecting with these families struck her.

“Families would cycle through. You could see the desperation of giving them skills, desperate to give their children something to do,” she says.

“With Hunter and leading tours with families with special needs, that’s where a shift happened for me,” the single mom says. As kids age, they have fewer opportunities. Many lose the bulk of their critical support services at the age of 22, leaving them isolated, alone, and without opportunities.

Andrea has a master’s degree in transformational leadership development as well as a Ph.D. in organization, management and leadership with an

emphasis in entrepreneurship and quickly put those degrees to work to develop the Hope Filled Café game plan.

In 2024, the nonprofit raised about \$75,000, which helped them design and build their sensory-friendly mobile venue, Andrea says. Andrea and her team continue to raise awareness and funds, with a dream that includes eventually opening a brick-and-mortar location.

This June, the Special Olympics USA Games will be held at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities, and Hope Filled Café plans to be there, filling smoothie orders and providing a model for the possibilities of employment and inclusion for the disabled community.

“It’s us not talking about it, but showing it,” Andrea says.

Find out more about the Hope Filled Café and check out its merchandise at [hopefilledcafe.org](http://hopefilledcafe.org).

—**Jodi Noding**, Florida

COURTESY ANDREA RATHFIELD

# The Kappa Rap

HOW A DORM ROOM PROJECT BECAME A MILLENNIAL LEGACY

**B**ACK IN 2009, **HANNAH LEE** AND HER NEW MEMBER class sisters **Shelley Keller Zych** and **Katie Whitmire Keil** made a Kappa rap video to screen during Recruitment. They wrote the song in a dorm room, scribbling lyrics on neon pink paper while Shelley

created original audio loops on GarageBand. They recruited an Alpha Tau Omega brother Bailey Eubanks to create a music video on campus. The video was a success within their chapter, so they made a second Kappa rap in 2010.

“We were just really excited to make a bigger, better song,” Hannah says. The result is an upbeat pop track with catchy, tongue-in-cheek lyrics like *Blue is our color / And blue is our other color*. The song encouraged

the potential new members to go Kappa: *Make this your place, make us your plan*.

In January 2011, Eubanks uploaded the “Kappa Rap 2” video to a YouTube account showcasing his video production work.



“Going viral was not on our radar at all,” recalls Hannah Lee, Baylor.

“I think what keeps us coming back to each other is the three of us really make each other laugh, and we aren’t afraid to pursue some wild ideas that most of our other friends wouldn’t care to.”

Katie, Shelley and Hannah gathered in New York for a reunion recently.



And then it was everywhere. *It’s the rappa rappa jamma / from the Kappa Kappa Gamma.*

The video was reposted on the front page of Total Frat Move, a then-popular site about Greek life. Comedy Central and *Seventeen Magazine* picked it up. Comments poured in on YouTube.

“It was overwhelming in the digital world, and in real life it was a bit crazy,” Katie says. “On campus, every time we went somewhere, on spring break, people were stopping us everywhere. Every job I’ve had, people know about it.”

At the time, there was no such thing as TikTok. Long before most people owned a smartphone, the idea of college students going “viral” was completely novel. “This video was just a cool tool for Recruitment;

it wasn’t about publicity,” Eubanks says.

Though there was plenty of positive commentary, the group remembers criticisms too. “There were a bunch of dudes objectifying us in the comments, and I hated that,” Hannah recalls. Shelley and Katie say commenters disparaged them for taking Greek life “too seriously”—even though the song, made in good fun, is just one of many playful creations the trio created together.

For Hannah, Katie and Shelley, “This is just three girls that were best friends, and we were having a really fun time doing something goofy,” Katie says.

*Cute and intellectual / These girls are exceptional / In everything, we dominate / So Kappa’s what I nominate.*

The trio graduated in 2012 and remain close.

Hannah went on to receive an MFA in painting from the New York Academy of Art, and paints and sells work in New York City. She also works with artists with developmental disabilities at LAND Studio & Gallery, and hosts live event painting.

Shelley’s professional journey took her from pursuing a film industry job in L.A., to working at a criminal defense law firm in Austin, Texas, to a role as development coordinator for the Baylor Bear Foundation, to an e-commerce role at Magnolia. Now she’s living in Texas and is a stay-at-home mom to three daughters—“the hardest job yet, but the most fulfilling,” she says.

Katie also lives in Texas. She has spent 15 years working in public relations, influencer marketing, and brand marketing for companies like Kendra Scott, Outdoor Voices, Magnolia, and Sunday Riley. Today, Katie’s the vice president of marketing for Nēmah, a mom-and-baby-focused skin care brand. She’s also a mom to two children, and hopes her daughter will be a Kappa one day.

The trio’s friendship has lived on. “I think what keeps us coming back to each other is the three of us really make each other laugh, and we aren’t afraid to pursue some wild ideas that most of our other friends wouldn’t care to. From making the Kappa rap to venturing out to L.A. and New York, we all have a desire to do things out of the ordinary, and I think that bonds us,” Shelley says.

*We’ve got it all right here / Just want to make it clear / that never whatsoever could I / have chosen something better.*

Today, the rap has had a resurgence on TikTok, where one creator called it “a critical piece in Greek millennial history.”

— **Nina Bahadur**, Princeton

# Kappa Kandy

SWEET SELECTIONS FOR SISTERS EVERYWHERE



## Hat Trick

Beat the heat (and rep KKG) by topping your noggin with a cool cap. // [thekappacollection.com](http://thekappacollection.com) // \$24



## Hydration Station

The ultimate sidekick (hello, flip top!) for water whenever you need it. // [elloproducts.com](http://elloproducts.com) // \$28



## Battery Boost

This pocket-sized power bank gives your phone an oversized charge. // [gonimble.com](http://gonimble.com) // \$60



## Grab and Go

Store your phone, wallet, snacks, and much more in tidy compartments with this Kappa-made tote. // [grandirbags.com](http://grandirbags.com) // \$100

COURTESY: THE KAPPA COLLECTION; ELLO; GRANDIR; AND NIMBLE

LIKE A LOCAL  
**NYC**

Get ready to take a bite out of the Big Apple. We've got a jam-packed itinerary for spending 24 hours in Lower Manhattan with local guide **Laura Vinci O'Neill, Kansas.**



**8 a.m.**

Start your day off exploring the historic, quiet **Stone Street** and walk the cobblestone alley up to **Leo's Bagels**. You'll wait in line for a top-rate bagel (the city sandwich is a bacon, egg, and cheese) and then head down to the **Staten Island Ferry**. The orange boats run every 30 minutes and gets you the best (and free!) views of the **Statue of Liberty**. As soon as you dock in Staten Island, you can loop around and reboard back to Manhattan.

**10:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a breezy stroll along the waterfront on the **Hudson River Greenway** on NYC's west side and pass by favorites including **Brookfield Place**, **City Vineyard**, and **Little Island**. Grab a bench and take in the runners and the city dogs.



**Noon**

Break off to the west side into the **West Village**. Get lost in the tree-lined streets, pop into any random coffee shop, or spend a few hours at **The Whitney** ogling classic American art. Recommendations for brunch include **Buvette** or **Via Carota**—might be smart to call ahead for a reservation.



**WISE OWL TIP**

Don't try to overschedule your NYC day. Part of the fun is walking around and uncovering hole-in-the-wall places. Give yourself plenty of downtime; the city can be overwhelming. And don't be afraid to ask for directions—contrary to our reputation, New Yorkers are some of the nicest people around!



ALAMY PHOTOS



### 7 p.m.

Venture back to Lower Manhattan and check out the **South Street Seaport**. From quaint shops, including **McNally Jackson Books** and **Funny Face Bakery**, to delicious bites, you can have a relaxing evening in the nautical neighborhood. Visit **Jeremy's Ale House** for a game-day vibe or **Dorlan's Tavern** for seafood. Watch the sun set behind the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges from the **Pier 15** benches. Now that's what I call a great local NYC day.



FAR RIGHT, COURTESY LAURA VINCI O'NEILL



### 3 p.m.

Head north on **7th Avenue** to the **Flatiron** neighborhood and spend your afternoon hazy in **Madison Square Park**. Taste a sweet treat at the original **Shake Shack** or across the street at **Eataly**.



Laura Vinci O'Neill, *Kansas*, serves as Chairman of *The Key* Editorial Board and has lived and worked in NYC for 12 years.



# Ask Clara

ADVICE FOR ANY OCCASION

Clara Pierce, Ohio State, was Executive Secretary of Kappa Kappa Gamma from 1929 to 1969. She urged members to “aspire nobly ... adventure daringly ... but serve humbly.”

**Dear Clara:** I love summertime, but it does seem to fill up quickly with celebrations and soirees. While I enjoy a good party, sometimes I just want to relax at home. How do I politely decline some of the party invites coming my way this season? —Partied Out

**Dear Partied Out,**

I love summertime, too! And when it comes to RSVPing, a warm, honest approach always works best: “Thank you so much for thinking of me. I will have to miss this soiree because I am trying to keep my summer schedule lighter this year.” No elaborate explanation needed. You could also offer to grab tea/coffee soon since you can’t make the party. This shows you cherish and value their friendship without overcommitting.

Remember, protecting your downtime isn’t selfish—it’s necessary. Good hosts understand that “no” doesn’t mean “never,” and true friends respect your boundaries.

**Dear Clara,**  
**Recently I’ve felt the call to use some of my spare time to give back and get more involved with my community. But there are so many worthy causes and organizations out there. How can I decide where to volunteer my time?**  
—Confused Contributor

**Dear Contributor,**

I love your desire to give back! Start by asking yourself: What causes genuinely move me? What skills do I already have that could help others? Where would my presence make a real difference? Try volunteering at two or three places before you fully commit. You’ll realize where you feel energized. And don’t overthink it. Any volunteer work creates a positive impact, and you can always pivot. The important thing is starting somewhere rather than waiting for the “perfect” opportunity to reveal itself to you. P.S. ...You can always get involved with Kappa if you aren’t already (wink, wink!). Visit [kappa.org/volunteer](http://kappa.org/volunteer).

**Dear Clara,**  
**It’s time for me to downsize, but I feel completely overwhelmed by the idea. I don’t want to burden my children, but I also have a hard time parting with things. Can you offer any advice for tackling this endeavor?**  
—Overwhelmed Organizer

**Dear Organizer,**

It is definitely a big task. So, start small—one drawer or one shelf at a time—so you build momentum without exhaustion. Set aside 30 minutes every day. (Maybe even set a timer!) Sort items into clear categories: keep, donate, offer to family, discard. For sentimental items, take photos before letting go—you’ll preserve the memory without the clutter. And consider inviting your children to choose what they’d like now, rather than guessing. Many prefer fewer meaningful items over inheriting everything later. Most importantly, remember your memories live in you, not your possessions. Keeping less often makes enjoying what remains fuller. If it’s truly overwhelming, a professional organizer can help without judgment.

{ Have a question for Clara? [thekey@kappa.org](mailto:thekey@kappa.org) }

JONATHAN BARTLETT



In 1954, a black bear captivated Convention-goers in Alberta, Canada.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Beary Memorable


In 1934, Convention found its way to the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park—and with it came an unexpected mascot. While we love our owls, a bear came to symbolize this particular gathering. Attendees marked their luggage (arriving via train) with these tags. They also collected this bear pin as a memento of their time in America’s first national park. Wild enough, in 1954, near Jasper Park Lodge in Alberta, Canada, it seems a black bear tried to attend Convention! Imagine peeping a black bear just outside a bus packed full of Kappa sisters. The women in this photo seem unfazed!

—By **Kylie Towers Smith**, Simpson



A luggage tag (top) and bear pin (below) from General Convention in 1934 at Yellowstone National Park.





A producer and a contestant offer a behind-the-scenes look at one of television's most demanding stages. From the challenges to game strategy, two Kappas reveal how sisterhood, storytelling, and sheer grit shape the world of "Survivor."

Interviews by  
**Sophie Williams**

# Two Sides of



of the Torch

**F**or most viewers, “Survivor” is a spectacle: blazing torches, hidden idols, and impossible challenges. For **Sophie Segreti**, *Washington Univ. (St. Louis)*, it was a childhood dream realized in real time. For **Ariel Blandford**, *USC (Calif.)*, it’s an eight-year career spent capturing the moment when strategy, emotion, and endurance collide. Though they play very different roles in the same global phenomenon, both women trace their confidence, creativity, and competitive spirit back to Kappa—proof that the skills built in college can be carried with you all the way to a Fijian beach.



## The Survivor: Sophie Segreti

Sophie appeared as a contestant on Season 49 of “Survivor” (after being selected as an alternate for Season 48) and hung on until the final seven when she was shockingly eliminated. Today, she works in product strategy and operations for YouTube, but she remains incredibly grateful for the experiences she had while competing in Fiji. Experiences she said were physically demanding, but also fun.

### What first drew you to “Survivor”—not just as a show, but as a world you wanted to be part of?

The challenges. I am a competitive person through and through, and I remember as a child watching players win individual immunity and thinking I wanted that glory! To experience that magic of winning individual immunity twice as an adult was truly a dream come true.

### What’s something you think Kappas would be surprised to learn about life on the island?

You don’t brush your teeth. “Survivor” is the real deal. We don’t have toothbrushes or toothpaste, and we are roughing it out there. Everyone assumes not brushing would destroy our dental hygiene, but—and my dentist confirmed this—we aren’t eating enough while on the island to build up any plaque.

### What’s your personal “Survivor superpower”—the skill you relied on most in your role?

In real life, my superpower is my ability to read and connect with people. On the show, boy, did I put that to the test. It’s much harder to read people in a game where everyone is an excellent

liar and manipulator. But in day-to-day life, my ability to read the room gets me far.

### The island teaches everyone something. What’s the biggest lesson it taught you?

Just how mentally tough I am. I am an emotional person—and I’m proud of it!—and I rely on my family and friends for support through difficult times. But on the island, it is just you. I learned I can make it through tough times on my own with mental strength.

### What’s the most unexpected way your Kappa experience has helped you survive or succeed in the world of “Survivor”?

Learning how to dress in theme. From Recruitment to formals, we had themed dressing out the wazoo in Kappa. When I got my yellow tribe color assignment and had no yellow in my closet, I immediately pulled upon years of sorority-themed parties and went to work. The result is that now yellow is my favorite color, and I had the best wardrobe on Season 49!

### What item from real life did you miss the most on the island? And what surprised you by how little you missed it?

I missed music so much! I love listening to music—Spotify is my most used app by far. Even with being on “Survivor,” I listened to 76,000 minutes of music in 2025. Interestingly, I found I didn’t miss my phone at all. It was so lovely to have a full digital detox, and I wish I could take a month-long break from my phone more often.

### Favorite island snack you’ve discovered?

Breadfruit. When cooked right, this massive starchy fruit tastes like



My favorite moment that appeared on the show was when I attributed my first individual immunity win to my mom. She is my role model and my hero and I am so glad that moment made the edit so she could see it.

Sophie is proud of how she competed on Season 49. Whether taking on challenges like diving underwater (left) or interacting with fellow contestants and host Jeff Probst (below), it's an experience she says she'll never forget.

a yam or potato. It was the closest thing to a real carb we got on the island, and damn was it good.

**What are you most proud of from your time on the show?**

Winning the first individual immunity challenge! I was a college athlete, so competition is in my blood and so to win the very first individual immunity challenge meant the world to me.

**Do you have a favorite moment that appeared on the show? And one that didn't make it on screen?**

My favorite moment that appeared on the show was when I attributed my first individual immunity win to my mom. She is my role model and my hero and I am so glad that moment made the edit so she could see it. And it's not necessarily my favorite moment, but I wish they had shown me eating the fruit reward. I ate the whole buffalo of the fruit reward. I ate banana peels and orange peels—I let nothing go to waste. The internet loved roasting me for criticizing the fruit reward, but while I still maintain that was a lame reward, I ate every piece of it!

**Is there anything you can share from the participant perspective that happened behind the scenes that readers might find really interesting or surprising?**

There are no secret granola bars! Everyone assumes there is food off screen but "Survivor" is the real deal. You are legitimately starving. On off-screen days, we ate about half a coconut per person. Some castaways didn't like coconut, so they went over a week without any food.

**What has life been like since being on the show? Do you get recognized? Do you have any desire to appear in front of the**



**camera again, or have you mostly returned to day-to-day life?**

It's 80% normal life (back to my day job in corporate America) and 20% a taste of fame! I get recognized on the subway, which is always fun—as a "Survivor" fan myself, I love meeting fellow fans! I'd love to play "Survivor" again—but I think the most fun part was being on the beach in Fiji, not the airing of the show. It's a trip to be on national TV but there is no control over the edit!

## The Producer: Ariel Blandford

Ariel first joined “Survivor” for Season 37, as a Dream Teamer. “Essentially, the Dream Team members test the challenges before the contestants to make sure they aren’t too hard or too easy for them,” she says. “It was the best job ever, and I was in the best shape of my life running through the obstacle courses and carrying gear through the jungle.” Ariel said she grew up on the show from there, eventually joining the producing team, where she just helped finish filming Season 50 in Fiji.

### What first drew you to “Survivor”—not just as a show, but as a world you wanted to be part of?

I grew up on the outskirts of a small town, and being active and outside has always been important to me. Then I attended the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where I developed an interest in documentary filmmaking. So, working on “Survivor” sounded like the perfect combination of those two passions: “Making TV in a jungle and testing challenges in the pouring rain? That sounds like a dream!” But now, after eight years on the show, it’s about telling stories of people redefining their impossible. Players come on with an idea of how they will play, and oftentimes they surpass those expectations or surprise themselves in unexpected ways. They’re living their dream and being part of telling that story is really something special.

### If you had to describe the “Survivor” experience in three words, what would they be?

If I had to describe the “Survivor” experience in three words, they would be adventure, vulnerability, and discovery. And that goes for both the players and the crew.



### What’s your personal “Survivor” superpower—the skill you rely on most in your role?

It’s easy to get swept up in the speed of being on set. As a segment producer, you quickly become a master of multitasking. Imagine listening to radio chatter in one ear, flipping through six different contestant conversations in the other, and relaying critical information to the person right in front of you, all while directing cameras, tracking game strategy, and following the stories. Being able to keep your cool—while still having fun with your team amid the chaos—is crucial.

### The island teaches everyone something. What’s the biggest lesson it taught you?

This is a big question. I was 24 when I joined the show, so I’ve really



## Changing the Script

When I was a kid, I knew I wanted to work in film, but I didn’t have any exposure to what it looked like. So, I wanted to make something that provided access for kids with dreams of being filmmakers. While working on “Survivor,” I created the *Women of Survivor* book series. These books celebrate the hard-working women of the “Survivor” crew while also explaining what it takes to make a show like “Survivor” possible. Through this project, I got to know women from many

different departments, women I never would have crossed paths with in my role as segment producer. It helped me find a community of women supporting women at work, something I had appreciated during my time in Kappa in college. It’s also been so special to have families reach out to me and say, “I gave my kid a copy of *Women of Survivor* and they read it cover to cover in one sitting. Now they want to be a filmmaker.” To me, that is everything. —Ariel

FROM TOP: ROB VOETS; COURTESY ARIEL BLANDFORD



The crew itself is several hundred people. It's pretty crazy how much infrastructure goes into making the show.

Ariel and fellow producers grab a selfie on the barge for the opening sequence of Season 50.

grown up working on it. I owe my entire career to “Survivor” and to the friends who have become family along the way. I’d say the biggest lesson is, put simply, be a good person. When you’re living on a tiny island with your coworkers for months at a time, you must rely on each other. Supporting and looking out for each other becomes essential to our success.

The crew itself is several hundred people. It’s pretty crazy how much infrastructure goes into making the show. We have our home island for the crew, which is complete with catering, laundry, bikes, transport, a dive shop, carpentry, art, housekeeping, medical offices, etc. It’s essentially a small town that is built up and taken down every year. And keep in mind, it’s an island in the middle of the ocean, so everything has to be brought in by boat.

#### What’s the most unexpected way your Kappa experience has helped you succeed in the world of “Survivor”?

I’m not kidding when I say that in every job I’ve had since graduating, I’ve encountered another Kappa. And that’s been such a fun surprise I never expected would happen. My first job after my year as a Leadership Consultant for Kappa Headquarters was at Open Road Entertainment, where I was mentored by **Kasey Waterman, Arizona State**. When I worked on “The Bachelor” franchise, **Stephanie Blackwell, Colorado**, and I climbed up together. Now on “Survivor,” I’ve had the opportunity to see other Kappas grow, like **Charlee Palmer, UC Davis**, who was on Dream Team for Seasons 45 through 48. It’s been such a cool connection to have over the years. No matter how far away from home I might be, when I meet another Kappa on set, I immediately feel familiar with them and that makes a world of difference.

#### How do you walk the line between crafting compelling television and letting the game unfold naturally?

Our job on the crew is to be flies on the wall; sometimes it feels like we’re Jane Goodall. Since we never know what’s going to happen in

the game, we have to be prepared for anything. As a segment producer, that means having plans A, B, C, and D, depending entirely on how the players choose to play. Anticipating and being ready for every possible outcome is probably the most important skill I’ve gained from working as a segment producer.

#### What’s your favorite part of watching contestants discover twists or challenges you helped create?

The “Survivor” crew loves the game just as much as the players do. When something new is added to the game, something the team has poured a lot of time and energy into, it’s so cool to watch the players discover it and then figure out how to use it for their game. We never know how something is going to play out and that’s the magic of it. When idols and advantages are found, and we’re ducking in the bushes watching it happen—my heart is racing too because we know it’s going to be a big “Survivor” moment.

#### What has it been like to see the show gain such a strong following and passionate fandom?

It’s funny, once I started working on the show it felt like everyone around me was quietly a “Survivor” fan. People I’d known for years would confess to me that they were lifelong viewers and knew everything there was to know about the show. It’s been such a special way to connect with people. Before my dad passed, he and my mom watched every week and asked me every question possible about each episode. It became, and still is, an important weekly talking point for us. I also got my boyfriend, Connor, into it, which made it even more special. In 2025, he came to visit me at the end of Season 49. We had the best time. He got to test challenges, watch Tribal Councils, and take bumpy boat rides from island to island. Then, just before he was about to leave, he was hired on to the Dream Team for Season 50. It was so special to have him there with me as a member of the crew and experience this whole other side of my life with him. 🚣‍♀️

COURTESY ARIEL BLANDFORD

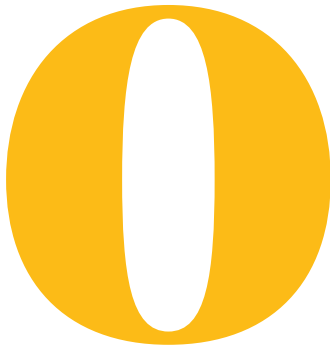
Nearly a century ago, the **Beekman Tower** in New York City represented a bold experiment—one where sorority women not only carved out a place to live, but where they also built a community during a time of transition.

BY DR. MARY OSBORNE, *Monmouth*





**B**uilding for  
the Future



**O**N THE CORNER OF FIRST AVENUE and East 49th Street in Manhattan sits a building whose triangular design sets it apart from the surrounding structures. Nearby skyscrapers dwarf it, but the Beekman Tower remains a testament to the neighborhood's entry into the modern age. Architectural aficionados will immediately recognize its style as Art Deco. The façade's geometric ornamentation and corner mosaic suggest glam-

our and luxury in a space now defined by convenience and practicality. These days, the Beekman spends its time as a Wyndham hotel, but it began its life guided by women who were responding to post-war societal changes during the 1920s.

The end of World War I in 1918 had forced many women from their jobs as men returned home. Those in clerical roles remained, and post-war years saw enterprising young women abandoning their small, rural communities to seek higher education and later clerical roles in metropolises like New York.

The opportunities felt endless, but the absence of reputable, affordable accommodation was a concern. A considerable number of these young women ventured from home for the first time. The dangers represented by the urban jungle of New York might have been mythical, but the fear was real. Many of these college graduates had belonged to Greek-letter organizations, and alumnae pondered how to improve this situation. Out of those concerns—and out of a belief in women's collective strength—the New York Chapter of the Panhellenic Association imagined something radical for its time: a nonsectarian residence created by women, for women, that would function as both home and professional clubhouse. The idea had precedent: In 1860, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) opened a boarding house for women students, teachers, and workers. But the Panhellenic Association's project would offer more than shelter; it would also offer

The groundbreaking of Beekman Tower took place on Nov. 13, 1927. It was a distinctive, modern building at the time of its construction in the 1920s. Admired for its Art Deco style, the original Panhellenic House was a haven for young professional women filling a need for housing for young, single women moving to New York City looking to enter the workforce.

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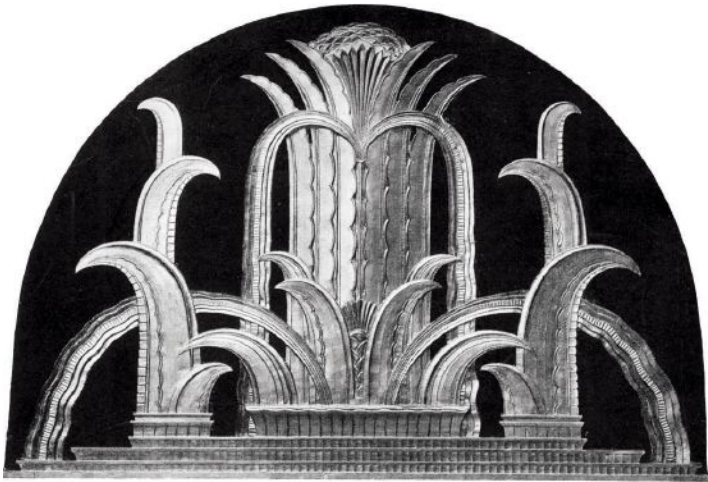
**A Residence for Women**  
On aristocratic Beekman Hill, overlooking East River—New York's only club-hotel for college women also is available to non-college women at surprisingly reasonable rates.  
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“A glorious house on a glorious site; its lightness and brightness, its harmony and beauty bring forth in the girls a very real feeling of buoyancy and satisfaction...there is a homelike happy atmosphere within which helps to bring a softness to the first loneliness of the big city.”

death of her husband in 1922 caused Emily to pour her energies into other pursuits as she envisioned the equivalent of a male clubhouse for sorority alumnae. Her version would help the next generation of working women surmount professional barriers. In 1926, Emily became the majority stockholder in the New York Panhellenic Association. Her choice of site—Beekman Hill—was transformative. Then a working-class area dotted with slaughterhouses, it would, in time, become one of Manhattan’s most elegant neighborhoods.

Emily purchased property at First Avenue and Mitchell Place and hired John Mead Howells as the architect. Howells incorporated



social spaces, dining rooms, and an atmosphere of refinement that affirmed women’s right to belong in the city’s professional class.

Unfortunately, the progress on the building stalled around 1926 until a formidable champion stepped forward: **Emily Eaton Hepburn, St. Lawrence**. A patron of New York organizations, a trustee of her alma mater, and a suffragist, Emily had acquired influence through her marriage to A. Barton Hepburn, the chairman and president of Chase National Bank. She had witnessed the challenges young women faced as they tried to acclimate to Manhattan. The ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 and the



## A Seat at the Desk

New technologies, labor shortages, and corporate growth drew young women into clerical work—offering security and upward mobility, even as the office reinforced old ideas about gender and value.

In 1910, women composed about 20% of the labor force, and a decade later, this figure remained

stable. The percentage of women in clerical positions, however, jumped from 8.9% in 1910 to 19.2%. Two reasons for the spike: a post-war economic boom and the formation of large corporations. Previously, men had dominated the clerical profession, but the war and subsequent boom caused a labor shortage. In addition, the introduction of new technologies, such as the Dictaphone, meant managers could save money by paying staff less. Some skills, such as typing and stenography, had long been associated with women. Managers preferred them for their perceived dexterity. Despite the lack of parity, clerical work attracted women for its job security, stable pay, and opportunity for promotion.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHEW/SHORPY.COM; THIS SPREAD: FROM LEFT: COURTESY KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA; COURTESY MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK (3); ALAMY PHOTOS

## The Patroness

**Emily Eaton Hepburn**, *St. Lawrence*, also patronized the New York Botanical Garden and American Museum of Natural History in addition to serving as a trustee of her alma mater, where she donated funds for a new chemistry building. Emily developed an impressive network during her days as a suffragist. She marched in parades with Carrie Chapman Catt, a member of Pi Beta Phi. She hosted rallies and meetings and traveled around New York to raise awareness of the need for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. After Beekman Tower was finished, she went on to break a



glass ceiling in banking in 1930—what *The Wall Street Journal* referred to as “the first Wall Street woman bank director.” In 1931, Emily commissioned a nearby apartment building, this one deemed 2 Beekman Place, moving into the penthouse apartment to live out her days as the “Grand Old Lady of Beekman Hill.”

## Notable Residents

Old issues of *The Key* noted these residents of Beekman Tower.

### **Janet Frasier** *Oregon*

Janet initiated into Kappa in 1918. After earning a B.A. in 1921, she taught history in Oregon. In 1926, she visited New York and later became a secretary to the president of a Wall Street corporation. She married Clayton R. Slawter, a naval architect for the federal government, in 1934.

### **Gertrude Cosgrove** *Missouri*

Gertrude initially pursued a

career in teaching. For a little over a decade, she worked at the Semple School for Girls, a private academy, where she taught English. She switched careers in the 1930s and became a bank clerk. She remained active in the League of Women Voters until her death in 1944.

### **Margaret Austin** *St. Lawrence*

Born in Quebec, Margaret grew up in Canton, New York. She taught in the New York public schools before accepting a position at the Punahou School in Hawaii.

### **Eleanor Shenehon** *Minnesota*

The daughter of Kappa's third Grand President, **Kate Bird**

**Cross Shenehon**, *Minnesota*, Eleanor served as an executive secretary in a department of the Rockefeller Foundation. The foundation helped establish the Peking Union Medical College, where Eleanor worked from 1930 to 1932. She also authored several papers as the director of community service for the American Social Hygiene Association.

### **Mary Patchin** *Illinois*

Mary worked at Barnard College as a representative for the YWCA. In 1918, she was serving as the placement secretary for the Intercollegiate Bureau of Operations, and by 1939, she had been appointed the district superintendent of the New York

state unemployment insurance office. She also possibly owned and operated a dress shop in the Panhellenic Tower.

### **Elizabeth Gilfillan** *Cornell*

Elizabeth originally aspired to be a physician and joined the same class as **Mary M. Crawford**, *Cornell*, who later became the first medical director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Elizabeth, however, gradually realized she did not want to work in the medical field. She supported herself as a pianist instead before launching several “second acts” as an entertainer and amateur writer. Her remarkable life was featured on “What’s My Line?” in 1952.

elements from Chicago's Tribune Tower and from the American Radiator Building in Manhattan into his design for the Panhellenic Tower. Workers broke ground on Nov. 13, 1927, and fundraising for the tower took five years. Emily remained involved in all aspects of design and construction, including interior decoration. She allegedly ordered "the beds made shorter to fit the average woman" and nixed carpeting the floors.

The 26-story Panhellenic Tower opened in October 1928 as allegedly the only woman-owned and -managed hotel in New York. The interior borrowed heavily from Art Deco motifs. Plum tones and amber wood in the lobby greeted those entering the building. An article that ran in *The Key* in February 1929 said, "A glorious house on a glorious site; its lightness and brightness, its harmony and beauty bring forth in the girls a very real feeling of buoyancy and satisfaction," and went on to say, "There is a homelike happy atmosphere within which helps to bring a softness to the first loneliness of the big city."

The volatile economy did little to support the lofty vision for the tower. The Great Depression forced difficult compromises: Men were admitted as guests. Alcohol was served. These pragmatic decisions ensured the tower's survival, actually turning a profit and becoming financially stable in the 1940s. Advertisements ran regularly in *The Key*, inviting Kappas visiting New York City to stay at Beekman Tower. In 1964, the Panhellenic Association sold the building, which was renamed the Beekman Hotel and, decades later, acquired by Wyndham.

Its truest legacy, however, lives in the women who passed through its doors. In addition to Emily, early Kappa residents of the building were educators, civil servants, musicians, and international professionals—women building lives that would have been far less accessible a generation earlier.

In 1955, then 90-year-old Emily was profiled in the *New York Times*. While slowing down, she still sat on Beekman Tower board



meetings and attended City History Club meetings. "This Vermonter who adopted New York, built Beekman Tower and 2 Beekman Place back in the '20s, when no other real estate man would risk money in that dead-end area. On spring and summer evenings, when the rivers are liquid gold plate, Emily Hepburn sits in her roof garden, misty-eyed and dreamy, knowing afresh the glittering wonder of the city coming alight as the sun goes down. Then she is a white-haired dowager queen surveying her eight million subjects—scurrying ants on the pavement, under her tower." ❦



FROM LEFT: COURTESY THE OPHELIA LOUNGE; UNKNOWN

## Visit Beekman Tower

We suggest adding a stop to your Visit NYC itinerary: Nearly 100 years after its grand opening, Kappas can step inside this NYC landmark. Not only does Beekman Tower have a rich historical connection to Kappa, but it has also spent a century presiding over Midtown Manhattan with

quiet elegance. Now a hotel, the bones of the space remain mostly unchanged, offering visitors the opportunity to walk the same halls sorority sisters inhabited decades ago. Don't miss a stop at Ophelia Lounge NYC. It offers views of the Manhattan skyline, as well as Brooklyn and the East River. Sip a crafted cocktail, grab something to eat, and soak in the vibes of the wraparound terrace. You'll be transported to a classic lounge of the gilded 1920s and 30s.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY

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2026

# Alumnae Achievement Awards

BY

Barbara  
Stambaugh

## **High honors require high achievement.**

The Kappas being honored with the 2026 Alumnae Achievement Award have certainly reached great heights. You might think of them when turning the pages of a book, playing another record on the turntable, or putting a fresh set of sheets on the bed. Or you might hear of them taking to the stage, transmitting information through cyberspace, or leading the next generation of students. In big and small ways, these Kappas are impacting everyday lives all across the globe. Blazing trails. Inspiring respect. Fostering connection. Building knowledge. Standing for truth. Sustaining optimism. Ideals we can all aspire to.

# Cyber-Innovator

**Michelle Munson**, *Kansas State*

**M**ichelle Munson, *Kansas State*, solves modern problems. Every time you stream a movie or watch a live game, chances are you're seeing her work. An engineer and entrepreneur, Michelle has earned 14 U.S. patents, a Technology & Engineering Emmy Award, and numerous honors for innovations that have changed how large-scale digital content moves across the internet. The first company she founded, Aspera, developed software that allows massive files—often film and television content—to transfer with

unprecedented speed and reliability. Acquired by IBM in 2014, Aspera is a cornerstone of modern media workflows, supporting industries that depend on moving huge amounts of data securely and efficiently. Today, Michelle is the founder and CEO of Eluvio, a company that is again revolutionizing video hosting and streaming. “The forces reshaping technology are tectonic,” she says, driven by massive investment in digital infrastructure and the rapid acceleration of artificial intelligence. Eluvio’s Content Fabric, a next-generation cloud and distribution network, combines efficiency, quality, and security to meet the scale of

modern media demands. “The first and most important thing is the combination of efficiency and quality,” Michelle says. “It’s a very high-quality experience—the picture, the streaming, and what the user actually sees.” Depending on the use case, she says, Eluvio’s approach can be 10 to 100 times more efficient than traditional video distribution, with major implications for cost, energy use, and sustainability. Eluvio’s clients include some of the biggest names in entertainment and media—Sony, Amazon Studios, MGM, NBC’s Peacock, Meta, Microsoft, and Red Bull Entertainment—and the platform has powered major live-streamed events, from NBA games to performances by the Black Eyed Peas. Trust is equally central to Michelle’s vision: The architecture allows content to be cryptographically verified, ensuring it comes from its stated

source. In an era of AI-generated content and deepfakes, Michelle calls provenance “a very big deal” for audiences and creators alike, protecting the integrity and value of digital media. Family, faith, education, and community are important to Michelle. A lifelong learner, she calls education “the foundation of everything” and credits her parents for inspiring her confidence. Her late father “never doubted or put limits on what I would do,” while her mother, Deanna, is “the epitome of a woman breaking boundaries.” Michelle’s undergraduate years at Kansas State University further developed her leadership through Kappa, building on her childhood experiences in 4-H, where she continues to volunteer as a robotics mentor. She says mentoring the next generation of technologists is one of the most rewarding parts of her work.

Today, Michelle balances leading a rapidly growing technology company with one of her most cherished roles: being the mother of two sons. Her advice to those starting their careers: “Go after your goals. Do exactly what you’re interested in, but to the highest degree. It’s a superpower everybody has.”



**“The first and most important thing is the combination of efficiency and quality. It’s a very high-quality experience—the picture, the streaming, and what the user actually sees.”**

**“They knew you when you were just figuring out who you were. That root of sisterhood doesn’t end when you graduate.”**



## Historic Timeless Women

**Fiona Davis, *William & Mary***

**F**iona Davis, *William & Mary*, brings New York City’s landmark buildings to life as richly imagined worlds where women’s stories take center stage. Her bestselling novels, set in places like Grand Central Terminal and the New York Public Library, connect historical struggles with contemporary ones. And they focus on women—many of whom are midlife or beyond—coming into their own.

Fiona first came to New York as an actress, and that experience continues to shape her

writing. “There was so much about acting that slid very easily into writing,” she says. “You’re reading plays, which is basically reading dialogue. You learn what makes a line sing—and what makes it clunky.” Today, she reads her drafts aloud, fine-tuning rhythm and voice until every character has a distinct presence. “If the dialogue doesn’t work, nothing else will,” she says.

Her interest in historical places began in childhood on trips with her family to England. Wandering castles and ruins, she imagined life from every perspective. “I was always fascinated by the servants,”

Fiona recalls. “Being a small cog in this huge machine—and what their point of view might have been.” That curiosity drives her novels, where she shines a light on women whose stories history may have forgotten, from illustrators and models to the wives of building superintendents. As well as penning her own novels, she was recently asked by the American Girl company to write an adult novel for their iconic doll Samantha, about the character as a 25-year-old. *Samantha: The Next Chapter* will be released this fall.

Since publishing her first novel in 2017, Fiona has released

eight well-researched books, translated into more than 20 languages. Readers quickly embraced her work, and recognition sometimes has come in uniquely New York ways. “A woman came up to me in the subway and asked if I was Fiona Davis,” she laughs. “My boyfriend said, ‘Oh, you’re finally subway famous.’ That’s a special level of famous.”

Her latest book, *The Stolen Queen*, is set at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and features a 60-year-old protagonist who moves from invisible to fully seen. “It’s about time we were the heroines,” Fiona says, reflecting on her decision to center women in her stories who are a bit older. “It’s a Cinderella story, no matter what age the woman is. Not that a man saves her, but that she undergoes a transformation during the course of the novel.”

In 2020, Fiona was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, and writing remains her refuge. When she’s fully immersed, “my symptoms just fall away. So, I have to keep writing.” In the midst of that work, she also advocates for research, has participated in clinical trials, and co-created a biweekly Zoom support group for women with Parkinson’s. “There’s power in the number of voices who stand up and say, ‘This is happening, and we need to do something about it,’” she says. Fiona also treasures lifelong friendships from her college years. “They knew you when you were just figuring out who you were. That root of sisterhood doesn’t end when you graduate.”

# From Google to Gold

**Caren Kelleher, Emory**

When **Caren Kelleher, Emory**, talks about vinyl, it's clear she's not just selling records—she's preserving a culture, an economy, and an experience. From *Paste Magazine* to Google, and now the presses of Gold Rush Vinyl and Austin's Waterloo Records, Caren has spent her career bringing together music, technology, and entrepreneurship to empower independent artists and reshape the way they connect with fans.

After starting in music journalism and band management, Caren joined Google, where she helped launch Google Music and Google Play and later became head of music app partnerships, managing key relationships with platforms like Spotify and Shazam. She recalls a moment that crystallized her future: "I put up slides showing that 100 vinyl records sold is equivalent to about two million YouTube streams in revenue earned by the artist."

Around the same time, she learned that the existing vinyl-pressing plants were too busy with major artists to serve an independent artist's need for a smaller production run, leaving the artists she worked with without a place to get vinyl made. It was a gap that sparked her entrepreneurial vision, showing her how technology could meet artistry in new ways.

So, in 2017, Caren founded Gold Rush Vinyl, creating a record-pressing plant designed to serve musicians—especially independent artists—efficiently while maintaining craftsmanship. She streamlined production using automation and AI, explored innovations like 24-karat gold records, and

even found ways to ethically repurpose waste.

Today, vinyl remains central to her mission—not just financially, but culturally. "Owning vinyl signals that you have a connection to the artist," she says. It offers fans a tangible, immersive experience in an age of digital fatigue, from liner notes to album artwork. For Caren, physical music is a way to slow down, to create moments that feel deliberate and personal.

In 2025, Caren and a partner acquired Waterloo Records, Austin's iconic music store. Moving it to a larger location allowed her to implement new

initiatives—a podcast studio, a gold record plating room, a beer and wine bar—while respecting its 43-year legacy. The store has seen a 15% sales increase, renewed community energy, and has become a hub for music lovers of all ages.

Her business approach is rooted in curiosity, empowerment, and balance. "Effective leadership means being comfortable giving away control to your people, making sure they feel supported and can run with it." She nurtures young talent through mentorship

and internships, including her work with The Lemon-Aid Project founded by **Katie Eller Murray, Emory**, which encourages children to explore entrepreneurship and philanthropy. Plus, Caren takes pride in mentoring young women in music and tech who might otherwise struggle to find guidance in these industries.

Caren's advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is: Don't wait until you feel fully ready. "Life is short. There's a big world out there—why wouldn't we want to at least try?"

**"Life is short. There's a big world out there—why wouldn't we want to at least try?"**





**“Once we learned there was another way to do this, we knew we had to take it.”**

## Woven With Purpose

**Missy Tullis Tannen, Vanderbilt**

**M**any people never give their bed sheets a second thought. **Missy Tullis Tannen, Vanderbilt**, did—and once she started asking questions, she couldn't stop. “Sheets are something everyone uses,” she says. “But when you ask where they come from and how they're made, you realize how much impact they can have.”

The belief that beauty and responsibility should never be separated became the foundation of Boll & Branch, the Fair Trade Certified luxury bedding company Missy co-founded with

her husband, Scott. It is also a consistent thread in a career defined by thoughtful design, ethical leadership, and a deeply human approach to business. Today, Boll & Branch is a brand with revenues exceeding \$100 million, yet its growth has remained stitched to the values that inspired it from the beginning.

Missy's path to entrepreneurship began in the classroom. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, she trained as an educator and spent five years teaching elementary school. “I loved teaching through making things,” she recalls. “I was never

someone who could just open a textbook and follow it. I wanted students to experience learning—to have those ‘aha’ moments.”

That instinct—to understand people and design around their needs—now shapes her work as Boll & Branch's chief designer. Missy brings together her love of math, science, and aesthetics to engineer fabrics with intention. “It's like a big problem-solving project,” she explains. “You play with cotton quality, yarn size, and construction. Cotton can be crisp or drapey or incredibly soft—it all depends on the choices you make.”

As she and Scott researched the bedding industry, they encountered unsettling realities: chemical-intensive cotton farming, unsafe working conditions, and deep financial strain on growers. “Once we learned there was another way to do this,” Missy says, “we knew we had to take it.” Boll & Branch committed early to organic cotton, ethical manufacturing, and full transparency, becoming the first Fair Trade Certified home textiles brand.

And that commitment continues. Less than 1% of the world's cotton meets Boll & Branch's standards. The company plans production more than a year in advance to give farmers and factory partners stability and fair wages. “We now have a responsibility,” Missy says, “to our partners, their families, and the communities that make our products possible.”

Care and connection extend to customers as well. Inspired by the concept of “unreasonable hospitality,” Boll & Branch emphasizes empathy and attentiveness. “Comfort isn't just physical,” Missy notes. “It's emotional, too.”

A third-generation Kappa, Missy credits her sisterhood with supporting Boll & Branch in its earliest days. “My Kappa sisters were some of the first people sharing our story,” she says. “That belief stayed with me.”

More than a decade later, Missy still designs with those women in mind—her grandmother, her mother, her daughters, and her sisters. “It started small and sweet,” she says. “And even as we've grown, that's still the heart of it.”

# Lessons From the Stage

**Michele Pawk, *Allegheny***

**M**ichele Pawk, *Allegheny*, has a career marked by the highest honors in her profession, including a Tony Award for “Hollywood Arms,” Obie and Lucille Lortel Awards, and multiple Drama Desk nominations. She’s currently starring on Broadway with Jonathan Groff in the new musical “Just in Time,” a jukebox show based on the life and music of Bobby Darin.

Yet when Michele reflects on her work, she doesn’t point first to awards or marquee roles—but to presence, generosity, and the artists she has shared the stage with. “At this time in my life, I am thinking about legacy and value,” she says. What rises most clearly is gratitude: for the chance to work alongside artists who influenced not just her craft, but also her way of being in the world—Hal Prince, Stephen Sondheim, Carol Burnett. “I learned from them,” Michele says, “and hopefully I’m passing that on.”

Theater, her first and enduring love, demands that kind of attentiveness. Unlike film or television, it exists only in the present tense. Each performance is shaped by the audience, the actors, the air in the room. Michele’s theatrical journey has included iconic parts, from Madame Morrible in “Wicked” to roles in “Chicago,” “Hairspray,” “Cabaret,” “Mamma Mia!,” and “A Little Night Music.”

“It’s happening in that moment and that moment only,” Michele says of live theater. “It will be different tomorrow night.” That immediacy continues to sustain her as she balances “Just in Time” with other pursuits, like teaching

theatre at Wagner College.

In recent years, she has found herself drawn less by individual roles and more by collaborators—directors, playwrights, fellow actors—especially those she trusts. Reuniting with Groff, whom she describes as “open, curious, and full of heart,” was a chance she couldn’t pass up. “Some people perform generosity,” she notes. “Jonathan just is.”

That emphasis on generosity also defines her leadership. Theater is pressure-filled and increasingly unforgiving in the age of social media, and Michele believes the most

important lessons aren’t delivered in speeches, but in behavior: staying calm in tech, remaining collaborative when tempers flare, and modeling kindness when stress is high. “The best lessons,” she says, “are learned just by doing.”

Her definition of success has shifted over time. Now it includes quiet joys: hikes in the woods, time with her husband and son, and a life balanced beyond an industry that “will

never take care of you.” The arts, she observes, may not always feed you financially, “but they will most often feed your soul.”

That grounding stretches back decades to her Kappa Kappa Gamma experience at Allegheny College. “We pick up exactly where we left off,” she says of lifelong friendships. For Michele, that continuity—like her work—is another moment worth being fully present for.

**“At this time in my life, I am thinking about legacy and value.”**





**“The question of who gets to decide a people’s destiny goes to the very heart of decisions communities make for themselves.”**

## Trailblazer, Mentor, Adventurer

**Stacy Leeds, Washington Univ. (St. Louis)**

**S**tacy Leeds, Washington Univ. (St. Louis), has spent her career breaking new ground.

She was the first Indigenous woman to serve as a law school dean, leading the University of Arkansas School of Law from 2011 to 2018. She also served as Willard H. Pedrick Dean and Regents Professor at Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, where she continued to mentor the next generation of leaders. This July, she’ll step into her next role, as the 22nd president of the University of Tulsa.

Her commitment to Indigenous communities grew from firsthand experience. Growing up in Oklahoma during a period of tribal governance rebuilding, Stacy witnessed the urgent need for skilled leaders who could navigate increasingly complex legal and policy issues. “The question of who gets to decide a people’s destiny goes to the very heart of decisions communities make for themselves,” she reflects. That realization guided her to law school—and, with the encouragement of mentors, eventually to higher education, where she found a way to amplify her impact. “I’m

very focused on the students and the next generation of leaders that will help the communities I work in,” she says.

Stacy’s work also includes cofounding the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative and serving as president of the Native American Agriculture Fund, a trust supporting Native farmers and ranchers. She served as a Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice and recently served two terms as a member of the inaugural board of directors for the Foundation for America’s Public Lands.

A two-sport NCAA athlete and Muskogee Athletics Hall of

Fame inductee, Stacy still runs marathons, plays pickup basketball, hikes, and scuba dives. She credits athletics not only with teaching discipline and perseverance but also with shaping how she works with others. Stacy is a strong advocate for team-based experiences, noting that the lessons learned through sports—shared goals, trust, and persistence—carry directly into how she approaches leadership, problem-solving, and collaboration with colleagues. “There’s not a day in my life that the lessons that I learn from sports don’t carry over,” she says. “If you’re not balanced, doing anything at a high level becomes that much more complicated.”

Stacy’s collegiate Kappa experience also left a lasting mark. “Greek life was another part of inclusion, not exclusion,” she says. “It created lifelong connections and broadened the diversity of friendships I held—connections that have carried forward in every city and professional chapter of my life.”

For young leaders, Stacy offers this advice: “Keep a very open mind about what potential friendships, opportunities, and adventures might look like. Lives can be that much more fulfilling in ways that you might not have imagined.” **—**





PIECES OF A WHOLE

## Pottery in Motion

Jennifer Prichard, *Texas*,  
takes ceramics to new spaces

By Steve Wilson

SOME SAY ART IS A CONVERSATION between the artist and the viewer. Others say conversation itself is an art form. Either way, ceramicist **Jennifer Prichard**, *Texas*, has all bases covered. Her style of talking mirrors her work: organic, filling a room, flowing in many directions at once.

In the first few minutes of a chat at Jennifer's Austin home/studio, her thoughts run from proper kiln temperatures to her Dallas childhood in a creative household to clay-coloring techniques to Olympic breakdancing. She covers a lot of ground but pulls it all together with seamless ease. Her art speaks the same way, uniting several points into a greater whole.

"I love patterns," she says. "Even if it seems random, I like to organize everything in its place."

Jennifer creates fluid ceramic installations that transform spaces with hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miniature sculptures. Barnacle-like shapes on the walls, ceilings, and columns of a seafood restaurant. Mossy tubules clinging to the outside of a coastal home. Silvery-gray "craters" lining the stairway of a moon-viewing tower. Other pieces may evoke wildflower groves, butterfly swarms, or mushroom colonies. She crafts each individual ceramic form by hand, assuring no two are alike. When grouped together, these abstract structures make patterns that change as light passes through the room and over the surrounding landscape. No one viewing is ever the same, not unlike the natural world.

"My work is about beauty in nature and the organization of it

COURTESY, JENNIFER PRICHARD



# Through the Keyhole



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Kappa volunteers with heart

## It's Well

Are you a champion  
for mental health and  
well-being? Tell us  
about it!

[thekey@kappa.org](mailto:thekey@kappa.org)

all,” she says. “There’s no inner meaning, like the concept of a tortured childhood, or the plight of barnacles.”

Jennifer has brought her unique approach to homes, restaurants, offices, and other places across the country as an in-demand artist-for-hire. Her husband, lawyer Hunt Andre, handles the business side of things, and regularly jumps in to help her at the potter’s wheel when needed. He promptly answers random questions she calls out to him in the next room over, such as, “How many projects do we have going on right now?” And the equally important follow-up, “When are they due?”

The two met in New York City during the early aughts, a phase when Jennifer was growing disenchanted with the art world. “Artists don’t take ceramics as seriously as painting

and sculpture,” she says. “In the art world, there’s this kind of, ‘If it’s only about beauty, it can’t be good art.’”

Admittedly, Jennifer wasn’t so keen on ceramics herself at first. Though determined to become an artist since childhood, she initially focused on painting at the University of Texas at Austin. But after rounding out her electives with a couple of ceramics classes, she was hooked.

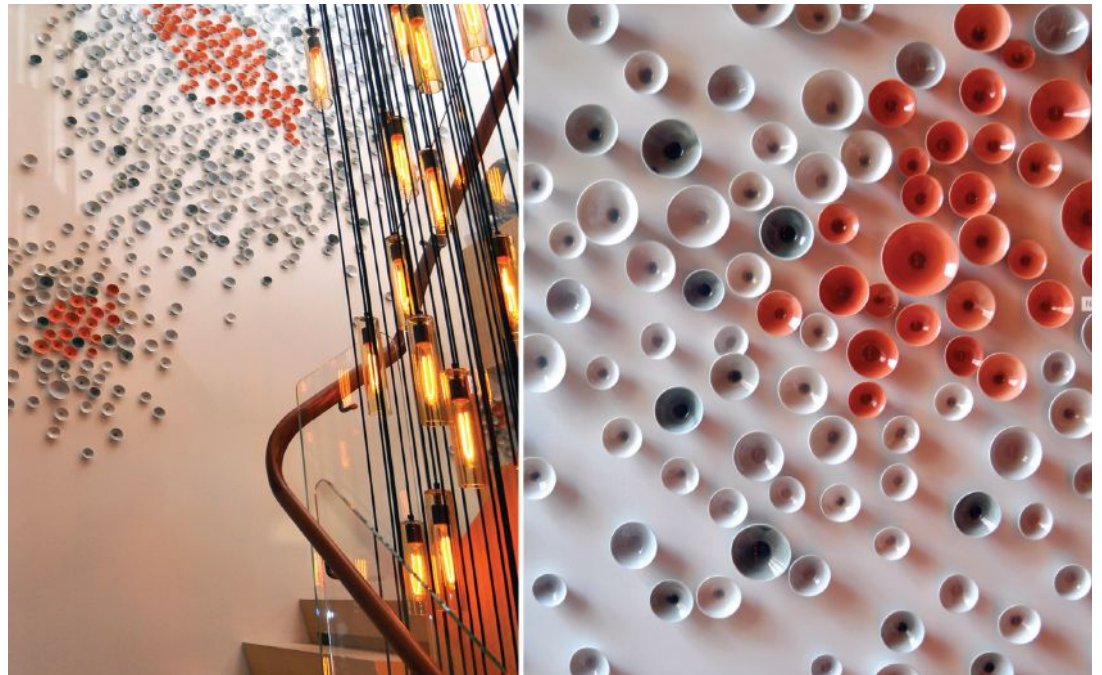
“I love the three-dimensionality of it and the hands-on nature of it,” she says. “I’m also a little bit of a clean freak and an organizer, so the messiness of it all feels like something a little bit forbidden. That’s enticing.”

Up and switching mediums wasn’t an easy decision. Nor was choosing to pursue art as a career after college. Thankfully, Jennifer had the emotional support of her family and sisters



COURTESY: JENNIFER PRICHARD





in Kappa. “It made me feel like I had a family (at school), somebody to watch out for me.”

With only a few credits left to graduate, Jennifer moved back home to Dallas to help her parents with their fledgling restaurant. She started a custom ceramic mug business on the side and eventually finished her college hours. Along the way, she did an internship with a found-object artist, who helped inspire her to enroll at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Up to this point, Jennifer had leaned toward single, often sizable ceramic pieces imbued with intricate colors and patterns. Though impressive, they were hard to move around, and always in danger of breaking apart. Then, at a random campus art show, she saw an artist who spread textures across a wall. The approach flip-flopped the way she thought about ceramics. “I was like, why don’t I do that? And so, I did away with the totem sculptures and put the patterns and textures on the walls.”

After moving to New York City, Jennifer displayed her

“I love the three-dimensionality of it and the hands-on nature of it,” she says. “I’m also a little bit of a clean freak and an organizer, so the messiness of it all feels like something a little bit forbidden. That’s enticing.”

work in galleries and solo shows but found her most appreciative audience in more openly commercial settings like the International Contemporary Furniture Fair. There she found designers and architects eager to get her installations into the spaces they were building. Ever since, she’s enjoyed a steady stream of commissions that have seen her through relocating to Austin and raising a daughter to adulthood.

She and Hunt have traveled all over to visit the structures clients are so eager to have her transform. She puts in the hours feeling out every inch and discussing possibilities back and forth with all interested parties. Only then, after they agree on the same vision, does she start rolling clay. “The more commercial installations are great, but with the residential projects,

you know it’s going to be more loved because it’s going to be part of their home,” she says.

In all that time, Jennifer hasn’t lost her love of the craft. She still makes each individual piece of every work by hand and speaks with reverence of the colorful custom glazes she can summon from powder and fire. She’s just as happy to hang the finished product herself as she is to map out where each bit will go for an on-site crew to follow. Neither does she mind that the start-to-finish can take months, if not years. It’s a decent trade-off, she notes, for the relative lack of clutter she has to deal with, a rarity for most artists. “I have a friend who paints and has so many paintings in his two-bedroom apartment,” she says. “I get commissions, so I really don’t have any extra work lying around.”

# IN brief



Members of **Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Tennessee**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Mental Health Milestone

FIVE YEARS AGO, KAPPA COMMITTED to supporting mental health and well-being. We are proud to work alongside incredible partners that help us bring more awareness and funding to this important work. I am so impressed with these partners: Active Minds, the

Jed Foundation, Mental Health America, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the National Eating Disorders Association, and Jack.org, and look forward to our continued partnership with them in the years to come.

Our chapters, alumnae associations, and members have

stepped up again and again over the past five years. **Together, we have helped dedicate \$5 million to support mental health and well-being initiatives.**

It has been such a delight to watch chapters enthusiastically host fundraising events on campuses from coast to coast. I love

seeing our alumnae associations come up with creative gatherings that support this philanthropic cause as well. And we continue to hear from members who say how much it means to them that Kappa as an organization knows the importance of caring for our mental health and well-being.

I'd like to thank our Philanthropy Committee, led by **Lisa Buda Breen, UCLA**, for its work in advancing Kappa's mental health mission. Lisa writes, "Our members' passion for advancing mental health and well-being has transformed this initiative into something truly powerful. By channeling the collective strength of Kappa, we're not only raising critical funds for our partners, but we're also fostering meaningful service and helping move the conversation around mental health forward in a lasting way."

I look forward to continuing our compassionate, authentic, and respectful partnership on mental health and well-being. Together we are making a tremendous difference.

## DUBLIN, OHIO

### New Officers

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA IS PLEASED to announce the election of officers, including President: **Elizabeth Bailey, Mississippi**; Treasurer: **Erin Balint Hogue, North Texas**; Vice Presidents: **Chelsea Bellew, Denison**; **Robyn Oates Brock, Tennessee**; **Sandra "Sam" Laich Fetcho, Illinois Wesleyan**; and **Suzanne Dalton Kearins, Missouri**. District Directors: **Fiona McCracken Allen, Texas A&M**; **Barbara Baer, Oregon**; **Emily Fetcho Barclay, Butler**; **Meg Butler, North Carolina**; **Katie Edmiston, Colorado State**; **Mary Campbell Ford, West Virginia**; **Julie**

COURTESY EPSILON LAMBDA CHAPTER

**VanDyke Gicewicz**, Michigan State; **Kailey Hulick**, Iowa State; **Emily Logue**, Central Florida; **Hannah Meehan**, Utah; **Susie Orr**, West Virginia; **Leslie Day Porter**, Arkansas; **Gracie Rice**, LSU; and **Lauren Creger Veillette**, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. These individuals will be installed at Kappa's 76th Biennial Convention, June 25–27, in Orlando, Florida.

## Kappa's Tech Upgrade

IN THE COMING MONTHS, KAPPA will launch a new portal for our membership. Members are the heart of everything we do, and the new MyKappa portal will enhance our communications and operations with you. Watch for updates in the weeks and months to come as the official launch approaches. You'll be able to log in, update your address, access Kappa resources, and much more.



### MILAN/CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, ITALY

## Olympic Shoutout

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA CONGRATULATES EILEEN GU, *STANFORD*, and **Emma Gatcliffe**, *St. Lawrence*, on their recent participation in the 2026 Winter Olympics. After a record-setting participation in the 2022 Winter Olympics, Eileen, representing China, returned to the games in 2026. She won gold in women's halfpipe and two additional silver medals in big air and slopestyle, setting the Olympic medal record in freestyle skiing, and surpassing all previous competitors regardless of gender. Emma made her Olympic debut, representing Trinidad and Tobago in alpine skiing, and making history as the first woman to represent the country in a Winter Olympic Games.

Emma Gatcliffe (above) and Eileen Gu competed in the 2026 Winter Olympics.



### EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

## Leading Alumna

CONGRATULATIONS TO **Candy Kaelin Deemer**, *Northwestern*, on her appointment as chair of the Northwestern University Alumni Regents. Candy will help advance Northwestern's strategic vision and alumni engagement efforts.

### MONMOUTH, ILLINOIS

## Hall of Fame Alumna

KRISTIN WHITVER FOUTS, *Monmouth*, was recently inducted into Monmouth College's Fraternity and Sorority

Hall of Fame. Kristin, a 2003 Monmouth graduate, is now the director of education and chapter development for Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. She pledged Kappa during her sophomore year at Monmouth and was later named Greek Woman of the Year as a senior. "I love my

career because of the difference I can make, member by member. I'm eternally grateful that I said 'Yes' to Monmouth College and 'Yes' to Kappa Kappa Gamma." We congratulate Kristin and thank her for her continued leadership at the national level for Greek life.

# Key

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Calli Boudreaux

**LSU.** Making history (or should we say her-story) as a member of the first all-female bench of the Baton Rouge City Court. Calli was elected as a City Court judge and was surrounded by Kappas on the day of her investiture. Fun fact: She chose blue and blue as her campaign colors because of the important part Kappa played on her journey to the bench.

### Jennifer Whitfield Heyer

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN.**

Jennifer has had a fulfilling nursing career. She co-founded the Southwest Georgia Nurse Honor Guard and serves as the board of directors chair and state coordinator for the Georgia Nurse Honor Guard, a nonprofit honoring those who have dedicated their lives to nursing. Through this national, state, and local organization, Jennifer and other nurses perform the Nightingale Tribute and Last Call of Duty at the funeral, memorial, or graveside service of a deceased nurse.

### Susan "Sue" Moffitt Deigan

**ST. LAWRENCE.** It began in 2016, when Sue was giving her dog bone broth to help him live a longer, healthier life. Nearly a decade later, Sue is transforming

Brutus Broth, her family-owned dog food brand, into a market leader. She's bringing it to retailers nationwide to improve longevity for dogs everywhere. She and her sister/co-founder were recognized for their success on the Inc. Female Founders 500 list. Talk about a tail of success!

### Gabriela Gironas

**MARIST.** Selected as a 2025–26 Obama Foundation Leader, Gabriela is one of the 101 changemakers brought together to create inclusive, equitable communities. Gabriela's work in fields ranging from the music and creator industries to local government and mentoring has shown them the impact of collective action. During the six-month program, Gabriela cultivated a community where values-based leadership thrived. They gained knowledge to bring to their day-to-day roles at Wasserman and the Recording Academy's Los Angeles Chapter Board.

### Susan "Sue" Altenbern Eisaguirre

**COLORADO COLLEGE.**

Nature is nurturing. As founder of the NatureTrack Foundation, Sue is on a mission to foster a lifelong fascination with nature in others. Her three-pillar nonprofit serves and connects people of all ages



FASHIONABLE DEBUT

**CAROLINA LANSING**

CHAPMAN

Paris, the city of dreams and haute couture. Also the home of the Le Bal des Débutantes, the invite-only ball for women from notable families. Le Bal empowers women with a modern debut, rooted in timeless legacy. Carolina, granddaughter of designer Carolina Herrera, wore a stunning gown to honor her grandmother's label for a night steeped in tradition and style. Carolina was proud to carry Kappa's values with her during such a memorable experience.

COURTESY CAROLINA LANSING

across California's central coast. Programs offer joyful discovery of the natural world, helping people fall in love with the beautiful sights near and far while encouraging them to protect it.

### Lynn Twitty Burwell

**MISSISSIPPI STATE.** The maroon and white roots run deep. Following in her father's footsteps, Lynn became the national president of the Mississippi State Alumni Association, making history as it was the first time two generations of one family held the role. Her service began as a student and has continued ever since—bridging generations and fostering connections to her alma mater so alumni can rediscover what makes Mississippi State so special.

### Caitlin Mulrine

**DENISON.** One of Caitlin's professional accomplishments includes collaborating with HealthCare Access Maryland's (HCAM) federal, state, and foundation partners to develop and fund a program offering comprehensive community support to those in need. Thanks to her work as vice president for development and strategic partnerships, HCAM now provides expanded access to health care and behavioral health services to justice-involved individuals in the community.

### Melanie Wadden Van Dusen

**VIRGINIA TECH.** Sports have always been a part of Melanie's life. She officiated basketball games growing up, interned at Octagon—a leading global sports agency—and now serves as executive vice president, co-head of sports at Berk Communications. She's become a key player in the industry. Some of her work includes launching and leading

external communications for the NFL's social justice initiative Inspire Change as well as supporting the Washington Commanders' name change and rebrand. She was recognized on PR Week's 40 Under 40 list.

### Dana Freedman Walden

**USC (CALIF).** As Disney's first President and chief creative officer, Dana is ready to foster new creative endeavors as she builds upon the magical Disney legacy. In her previous role as co-chairman of Disney Entertainment, Dana led the global, award-winning entertainment media, news, content, and streaming businesses. With creativity at the heart of everything Disney does, Dana is just the person to help the story unfold.

### Susan McDannold Benigas

**TULSA.** Susan's career has been filled with exceptional dedication, leadership, and service to improving patient outcomes through lifestyle medicine advancements. As CEO, she's led the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) through a period of growth and immense impact and will continue to unite her staff in addressing the nation's pressing health issues. Susan was awarded the American Medical Association's Medical Executive Meritorious Achievement Award.

### Abby Meyers

**DARTMOUTH.** A partner at Bain Capital Ventures, Abby works with founders in the application software and AI space, helping Series B+ companies find success on their journey. With a research-based approach and the drive to deeply understand businesses, Abby and the companies she works with have reached a unicorn level of success. During her time at Bain,

YES, CHEF

**HAYLEY MATSON-MATHES**

KANSAS STATE

With a passion for food and community that began at a young age, Hayley's culinary dreams took her around the world. And for more than 20 years, she's served as the executive director of the Hawaiian Culinary Education Foundation (HCEF), which elevates the Hawaiian culinary education and professional experience. Her work and dedication to culinary education landed her the Les Dames d'Escoffier International Woman of Purpose Award in partnership with YETI. This award allows her to expand HCEF's programs and access.



she deployed more than \$190 million across six companies. Abby also landed a spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in the venture capital category.

### Eleisha Eagle

**WASHINGTON UNIV. (ST. LOUIS).** The sky is blue, the Earth is green, and Eleisha is helping to keep it clean. She and her co-founder started SHIFT, a store offering eco-conscious goods and services based on low-impact living. She aims to educate the community on the benefits of reusing and recycling. When Eleisha was named as a 2025 Tory Burch Foundation Fellow, she joined a select group of 50 female entrepreneurs making an impact.

### Nisha Phatak CARNEGIE MELLON.

Co-founder and CEO at Lion Pose, Nisha is changing the game in science-backed skin care. Lion Pose is raising the bar when it comes to clinical testing by including more skin types, tones, and textures. When most brands don't do clinical testing, Lion Pose spends over \$50,000 to ensure products are effective and safe. Nisha was instrumental in getting Lion Pose into Sephora stores. She was honored by Inc. on the Female Founders 500 list.

### Lisa Wasmuth Bodell

**MICHIGAN.** As founder and CEO of FutureThink, Lisa is helping build and foster human skills—like leadership,

critical thinking, and innovative problem solving—that AI and other technology can't replicate. These human skills have a competitive edge in today's world. FutureThink's mission is to turn skills into habits that create change, and Lisa strives to help others unlock their potential. She was recognized for her work on the Inc. Female Founders 500 list.

### Rebecca Ridenour Ottinger

**TENNESSEE.** As an influential voice in radio, it's no surprise Rebecca was inducted into the Arizona Media Association Hall of Fame. After working on top-rated shows for 15 years, she moved on to conquer the afternoon news anchor role at KTAR,

a legacy radio station with 100 years of history. Rebecca may be Phoenix's longest-running on-air female news anchor in city history—no small feat!

### Athena Doshi

**UC SAN DIEGO.** Athena turns blueprints into reality, implementing AI solutions along the way. In 2024, she founded ExactRx, a company working with clinicians at surgery centers and hospitals. Athena's goal? To reduce denials and delays to care with offline-capable AI that creates documentation bundles. These autonomous checklists merge rules engines, document intelligence, and vision-language models that save time and money for ExactRx's clients.



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## Leadership Academy

SEPT. 24–27, 2026

Roll up your sleeping bag, lace up your hiking shoes, and spend a few days in the woods with your Kappa sisters. You'll develop leadership skills while building lasting bonds at the 26th annual Leadership Academy weekend at Camp Widjiwagan just outside of Nashville, Tennessee. For more, visit [kappa.org/events](http://kappa.org/events).

## Write a Reference

To recommend a potential new member, simply submit an online reference. (First, be sure you are in good standing by paying your annual dues.) References are sent directly to the chapter via the online system. After you log in, navigate to [kappa.org/references](http://kappa.org/references). Tip: A reference helps introduce a woman to Kappa, but after that, it's up to the potential new member and the chapter to decide the best fit.

## Add to cart!

Kappa is excited to launch a dedicated Amazon Storefront. Check it out at



[www.amazon.com/kappakappagamma](http://www.amazon.com/kappakappagamma)

## Call for Volunteers

Remember the volunteers who made your Kappa experience special? Now, it's your turn. Join Team Kappa as a Content Specialist, adviser, or House Board member. It really only requires a few hours of your time per week. Visit [kappa.org/volunteer](http://kappa.org/volunteer) to fill out the Volunteer Interest Form today. (Tip: Turn to remix on Page 48 to get inspiration from two current volunteers.)

MAKE A

# note

## World Mental Health Day

OCT. 10, 2026

Join us in planning ahead for **World Mental Health Day** by sharing your ideas for supporting causes that advance mental health and well-being. Drop us a message at [thekey@kappa.org](mailto:thekey@kappa.org) or at [kappa.org/contact-us](http://kappa.org/contact-us).



## Congratulations, Graduates!

Hats off to the class of 2026! You should be so proud of yourselves. Make sure **The Key** finds you during this next phase by updating your address. You can find your local alumnae association with this tool:

[kappa.org/alumnae-association-locator](http://kappa.org/alumnae-association-locator)



# IN memoriam

## Alabama, University of

Clark, Joan Lunsford, '60, d. 8/25  
Poynor, Carol Perkins, '58, d. 11/25  
Rast, Minnie Hayes, '42, d. 7/25  
Ray, Jane Hain, '47, d. 9/25  
Turner, Brenda Morrow, '66, d. 6/25

## Allegheny College

Arther, Shirley Mertz, '53, d. 7/25  
Carman-Baldus, Joyce Conley, '55, d. 10/24  
Jennett-Katherine, Nova Brown, '60, d. 9/25  
Semler, Lois Balkey, '50, d. 10/22

## Arizona State University

Walton, Meredith Johnson, '70, d. 8/25

## Arizona, University of

Drachman, Sally Spaid, '52, d. 7/25  
Nastro, Joan Cooper, '57, d. 10/25

## Arkansas, University of

Allen, Nancy Gordon, '63, d. 6/24  
Anderson, Margaret Wood, '52, d. 12/22  
Blevins, Nancy Harris, '51, d. 1/25  
Cawthon, Elizabeth Bowers, '51, d. 1/22  
Davis, Mary Nicholson, '43, d. 9/22  
Drerup, Peggy Garrett, '51, d. 3/22  
Ebrite, Carol Miller, '62, d. 8/25  
Gwin, Elizabeth Logan, '57, d. 4/20  
Hadden, Jane Patton, '52, d. 3/25  
Hitch, Shirley Hardy, '53, d. 12/24  
Hughes, Ellen, '51, d. 7/25  
Landes, Helen Williams, '46, d. 1/21  
Lee, Arleen Risley, '74, d. 5/25  
Malcom, Catherine Walker, '74, d. 11/24  
Manatt, Patricia Simpson, '54, d. 5/25  
Rosenbaum, Martha Harris, '59, d. 6/25  
Rutherford, Sterling Cooley, '53, d. 10/21  
Selig, Helen Boyd, '55, d. 2/22  
Smith, Patty Payne, '58, d. 9/25  
Strohm, Judy Huddleston, '60, d. 2/24  
Tiemann, Virginia, '47, d. 6/25  
Troxell, JoBelle Barron, '46, d. 2/23  
Wright, Peggy Franks, '53, d. 12/24

## Auburn University

Blanchard, Deborah Marcum, '73, d. 6/24  
Colclough, Stephanie Strickland, '93, d. 10/25

## Baylor University

Nash, Anedith Bond, '79, d. 7/20  
Patterson, Jeannie Koonce, '77, d. 10/25  
Powell, Sue Burton, '77, d. 7/25  
Ward, Janet Todd, '82, d. 5/25

## \* Boston University

Burkhardt, Barbara Holman, '55, d. 9/25  
Hamlin, Yvonne Franz, '50, d. 12/23

## British Columbia, Univ. of

Peckham, Carol Potter, '51, d. 2/23

## Bucknell University

Geary, Sarah Rex, '80, d. 4/25  
Reddington, Linda, '86, d. 10/25

## Butler University

Moeller, Carol King, '67, d. 10/25  
Wolfe, Susan Cox, '51, d. 3/25

## California State University, Northridge

Smith, Laurel Nuss, '74, d. 7/25

## California State University, Fresno

Lange, Caroline Coffelt, '65, d. 7/25  
Renna, Marilyn Gage, '56, d. 10/24  
Stewart, Suzanne Carroll, '60, d. 6/25  
Thuesen, Geraldine Carroll, '58, d. 5/25

## California, U. of, Berkeley

Fairchild, Joann Moore, '57, d. 5/25  
Grady, Sandra Diepenbrock, '51, d. 6/25  
Higson, Eleanor Jessen, '46, d. 5/24  
Rhodes, Sandra Smith, '58, d. 6/25

## California, U. of, Davis

Weber, Mary Ann, '83, d. 12/24

## \* California, U. of, Irvine

Nicholson, Mallory, '88, d. 6/25

## Carnegie Mellon University

Burchard, Betsy Suesserott, '54, d. 12/24

## Cincinnati, University of

Driscoll, Leanne, '79, d. 5/25  
Horner, Jane Finlay, '56, d. 1/25  
Maroney, Lavonne Charbonneau, '57, d. 7/25  
Merten, Marjorie Evans, '46, d. 4/25  
Rice, Patricia Pease, '50, d. 3/25

## Clemson University

Edwards, Diana Ball, '70, d. 12/24

## \* Colorado College

Crews, Ann Hanson, '55, d. 8/25  
Igyarto, Sara Farrell, '62, d. 4/24

## Colorado State University

Kreps, Kathy Hoflund, '56, d. 6/25  
McIntosh, Jeanette, '56, d. 5/25  
Wise, Mary Sheldon, '58, d. 6/24

## Colorado, University of

Baldwin, Margaret Kirkham, '56, d. 7/25  
Goodnight, Anne Price, '56, d. 6/25  
McNeal, Harriet, '47, d. 4/24  
Sorensen, Nancy Voltz, '59, d. 9/25

## \* Connecticut, University of

Card, Louise Priest, '53, d. 8/25  
Hallgren, Audrey Case, '56, d. 5/22  
Webb, Laurine Hoaglund, '52, d. 9/25

## Cornell University

Christie, Mimi Danzig, '48, d. 9/25  
Hyman, Julia, '17, d. 7/25  
Risch, Martha Coler, '46, d. 9/25  
Schenkar, Sandra Ford, '64, d. 9/25

## Denison University

Bennett, Maggie Harbaugh, '50, d. 3/22  
Hall, Barbara, '66, d. 12/24  
Kelly, Barbara Black, '52, d. 7/25  
Metcalf, Cynthia Ackerman, '54, d. 7/25  
Schmidt, Susan Cobourn, '62, d. 1/25  
Turner, Faythe Duffy, '57, d. 9/24

## DePauw University

Killham, Sue Sutter, '55, d. 1/20  
McAfee, Joan Drompp, '47, d. 5/25  
Mottaz, Dorothy Elfgren, '52, d. 2/21

## Drake University

Adkins, Mary Norman, '47, d. 8/25  
Dittmar, Barbara Blue, '47, d. 4/24  
Hier, Marjorie Snyder, '51, d. 4/25

Kerlin, Marcy, '59, d. 4/25  
Ward, Carole Shoemaker, '56, d. 6/25  
Wright, Betty Glines, '48, d. 8/23

## Durham, North Carolina, Delta Beta

Brueggemann, Margaret, '55, d. 5/23  
Garber, Renee Herman, '00, d. 7/25  
Mumford, Emily Petersen, '49, d. 7/25

## Emory University

Read, Jean Loemker, '63, d. 11/25

## George Washington University

Jones, Catherine Coates, '50, d. 12/22  
Watts, Martie Cherry, '45, d. 2/25

## Georgia Southern University

Elliott, Charlotte Armstrong, '96, d. 7/25

## Hillsdale College

Crowell, Karen Katzenmeyer, '59, d. 10/25  
Pearson, Kaye Slaker, '61, d. 6/25

## Idaho, University of

Blake, Diane Fawson, '60, d. 9/25  
Burke, Julia Orcutt, '57, d. 6/25  
Fender, Laurie Mathisen, '73, d. 9/25  
Zanot, JoAn Ward, '58, d. 2/25

## Illinois State University

Bieri, Olivia, '23, d. 6/25

## Illinois Wesleyan University

O'Hearn, Sally Ransdell, '57, d. 1/24

## Illinois, University of

Dohren, Sue Spangler, '67, d. 10/25  
Gaschler, Jean McQuaid, '51, d. 8/25  
Schwartz, Nancy Nelson, '48, d. 10/25  
Shirk, Linda Sternberg, '65, d. 9/25

## Indiana University

Winterberg, Juliet Bergevin, '58, d. 5/25

## Iowa State University

Baughman, Pat Ruse, '49, d. 5/22  
Coldren, Mary Farmer Sine, '60, d. 10/25  
Madsen, Juliana Criley, '57, d. 1/25  
Saxerud, Marilyn Dahlby, '51, d. 12/24  
Sayers, Nancy Combs, '52, d. 12/24  
Shaw, Colleen Wood, '51, d. 6/25  
Young, Jane Weeks, '49, d. 6/25

## Iowa, University of

Abbott, Ronna Panek, '61, d. 4/25  
Bernstein, Alice Dalbey, '52, d. 9/25  
Feddersen, Ann Mercer, '43, d. 8/25  
Foster, Charlotte Capen, '48, d. 6/21  
Judisch, Sue Hacker, '58, d. 11/23  
McKay, Donna McMahon, '53, d. 1/25  
Olson, Mary Reger, '50, d. 10/22  
Ryden, Ann McLaughlin, '56, d. 10/25  
Seibert, Sandra, '55, d. 1/24  
Spachman, Carol Smith, '59, d. 8/25

## Kansas State University

Brende, Jacqueline Kellogg, '60, d. 8/22  
Burdorf, Sue Parker, '54, d. 6/25  
Butler, Karen Burtis, '54, d. 5/25  
Converse, Patricia Warnick, '48, d. 11/22  
Copher, Meg, '10, d. 5/25  
Dennis, Mary Lynne Deewall, '55, d. 9/25  
Engelhardt, Barbara Baker, '47, d. 10/22  
Jones, Mary Callahan, '51, d. 7/25  
Knight, Heather Downs, '89, d. 11/24  
McCully, Judith Deewall, '55, d. 5/24

Mollett, Mary Jane Marts, '46, d. 5/23  
Reitz, Virginia Haas, '53, d. 9/25  
Shaffer, June Lowrey, '44, d. 5/25  
Shideler, Marcia Gadberry, '65, d. 3/24  
Smith, Jennifer Litchfield, '79, d. 3/23  
Stackhouse, Sally Isham, '61, d. 2/23  
Wolflington, Melanie, '01, d. 9/25

## Kansas, University of

Brinigar, Marianne Crosby, '49, d. 9/25  
Cooley, Lela Raines, '53, d. 10/25  
Deweese, Junette Viola, '62, d. 8/24  
Divich, Sue Miller, '54, d. 12/24  
Dunn, Wee Barbee, '46, d. 1/25  
Engleman, Mary Beth Dodge, '39, d. 6/21  
Field, JoAnn Straube, '55, d. 9/25  
Grimes, Mary Ann Deschner, '50, d. 1/25  
Martell, Sally Anderson, '56, d. 11/22  
Padgett, Sue Summerville, '54, d. 4/23  
Rose, Martha Lawrence, '51, d. 9/25  
Van Noy, Gina, '03, d. 9/25  
Werner, Nancy Kauffman, '59, d. 12/23  
Wilkinson, Marianne Anderson, '55, d. 11/22  
Zagar, Sandy Lee, '59, d. 8/24

## Kentucky, University of

de Movellan, Lucy Milward, '61, d. 8/25  
Henderson, Ambie Markolf, '63, d. 7/25  
McCord, Betty Brook Fulton, '44, d. 4/25  
Rodes, Lucy Ware, '54, d. 8/25  
Wheeler, Liz Wallace, '76, d. 7/25

## Lafayette College

McLaughlin, Maureen Kelly, '81, d. 9/25



## Badge Disposition

Kappa badges are often found in estate sales, pawn shops, and online auction sites because relatives may not know what to do with a deceased's membership badge. To ensure your badge's safekeeping, use the Badge Disposition Form found in the resources section of the Kappa website.

**Louisiana State University**

Boesch, Mary Bratton, '73, d. 9/25  
Guercio, Ann LeBlanc, '75, d. 7/25  
McCollam, Hope Joffrion, '47, d. 11/24  
Thompson, Katie Steinmann, '68, d. 5/25

**\* Maryland, University of**

Carson, Kay Cross, '54, d. 11/24  
Martz, Jean Winebrenner, '46, d. 5/25

**Massachusetts, University of**

Murphy, Sheila Scott, '55, d. 5/25  
Rose, Julie Henchey, '78, d. 12/24  
Von Holt, Lael Powers, '47, d. 2/23

**McGill University**

McBride, Mollie, '53, d. 8/24

**Miami University**

Lau, Bonnie Dumars, '59, d. 10/25  
Moll, Catherine Councill, '51, d. 6/25  
Snider, Rebecca Bender, '59, d. 8/25

**Miami, University of**

Cerruti, Charlotte Motsett, '62, d. 5/25

**Michigan State University**

DeVries, Carol VanLoo, '54, d. 5/25  
Dornback, Ann Hayden, '50, d. 1/23  
Priest, Constance Rhodes, '56, d. 2/25  
Schamb, Susanne Kern, '46, d. 6/25  
Werback, Ellen Pierson, '45, d. 5/25  
Zegart, Margaret Kettunen, '45, d. 7/25

**Michigan, University of**

Addington, Liz Freeman, '74, d. 6/25  
Duffield, Darrell Flint, '50, d. 8/25  
Langhaug, Jean Fishack, '57, d. 3/25  
Rand, Janet Joyce, '56, d. 10/25  
Rinne, Mary Johns, '59, d. 10/25  
Stewart, Cynthia Clark, '59, d. 5/25  
\* Middlebury College  
Sheild, Jean Jordan, '40, d. 7/25

**Minnesota, University of**

Bridgham, Dorothy Hartwell, '51, d. 2/25  
Fleming, Weslyn Concidine, '61, d. 5/25  
Pudvan, Joan Hunter, '51, d. 8/23

**Mississippi, University of**

Bracken, Agnes Candler, '79, d. 8/25  
Kinsey, Betty Culpepper, '57, d. 7/25

**Missouri, University of**

Carl, Marianne Keens, '59, d. 9/25  
James, Josephine Denty, '56, d. 6/24  
Kaul, Nancy Poteet, '41, d. 8/23  
Kirkpatrick, Vicky Denny, '55, d. 4/25  
Koch, Katherine Young, '51, d. 10/21  
Kruse Barrett, Elizabeth Harris, '57, d. 11/25  
Phelps, Carolyn Beindiek, '59, d. 3/23  
Pribyl, Linda Johnson, '67, d. 3/23  
Shutz, Susanne, '56, d. 5/25  
Syberg, Meg Moedritzer, '81, d. 5/25  
Wilson, Mimi Brown, '53, d. 8/25

**Monmouth College**

Johnson, Barbara Watt, '49, d. 9/25

**\* Montana, University of**

Donlan, Juliette Deschamps, '60, d. 3/23  
Kennedy, Ailene Lauo, '50, d. 2/25  
Okaya, Patricia Fraher, '51, d. 7/25  
Slattery, Teddi Haggarty, '50, d. 10/21

**Nebraska, University of**

Andersen, Marian Battey, '47, d. 4/22  
Christensen, Carol Asbury, '55, d. 6/21  
Gilmore, Shirley Evans, '50, d. 5/24  
Hudmon, Annabelle Welch, '56, d. 9/25  
Moore, Harriet Rogers, '59, d. 4/20  
Morrow, Anne Desmond, '55, d. 8/25  
Neely, Nancee Peterson, '51, d. 3/23  
Norvell, Susan Crooker, '60, d. 6/25  
Pansing, Jennifer Inman, '64, d. 5/25  
Rasmussen, Connie, '63, d. 4/22  
Simpson, Janet, '72, d. 11/24  
Smith, Jane Crooker, '59, d. 6/24  
Waldie, Barbara Waldron, '47, d. 8/25  
Willour, Mary Lou Horchem, '57, d. 10/22  
Woodward, Pam Bremer, '54, d. 9/25

**New Mexico, University of**

Horton, Rebecca, '58, d. 10/25  
Nixon, Janet Sutton, '57, d. 8/25  
Pino, Mandy Manda, '43, d. 12/24

**\* North Carolina, University of**

Hammitt, Elizabeth Fleming, '59, d. 10/25

**\* North Dakota State University**

Andrews, Mary Willming, '48, d. 7/20  
Maetzold, Gloria Mickelson, '58, d. 6/24  
Moe, Carol Stensland, '53, d. 10/25  
Quam, Carol Prichard, '45, d. 12/20  
Thene, Barbara Fiedler, '62, d. 8/22  
Watkins, Helen Larson, '53, d. 11/20

**Northwestern University**

Bell, Bonnie Kalaher, '62, d. 7/24  
Carson, Margaret Roberts, '51, d. 6/25  
Eaton, Georgann Morsell, '44, d. 4/25  
Godfrey, Janis Baliman, '46, d. 11/20  
Keenan, Priscilla Gates, '46, d. 2/25  
Marshall, Mary Markley, '55, d. 4/25  
Peters, Jane Savidge, '48, d. 12/20  
Roper, Ingrid, '89, d. 8/24  
Smith, Jean Coates, '56, d. 9/25  
Stevens, Marjorie Graham, '62, d. 4/23

**Ohio State University**

Dodd, Rose Corbin, '49, d. 3/25  
Finkbine, Ellen Williams, '66, d. 5/25  
Havens, Sally Luethi, '47, d. 9/25  
McLamb, Bette Harvey, '54, d. 6/25

**Ohio Wesleyan University**

Kruder, Susan Bruggemeier, '50, d. 12/23  
Reece, Cynthia, '46, d. 3/23

**Oklahoma State University**

Farrell, Judy Hayden, '57, d. 4/23  
Griggs, Darlene Tillman, '52, d. 5/24  
Inhofe, Kay Kirkpatrick, '56, d. 3/25  
Lewis, Jean Barnett, '52, d. 3/24  
Pardee, Marilyn, '67, d. 7/24  
Romine, Sammie Lewis, '64, d. 5/25  
Smith, Diane Staffelbach, '49, d. 1/23

**Oklahoma, University of**

Burtis, Kay Kaiser, '57, d. 6/25  
Chesnut, Susan, '68, d. 1/24

**Oregon State University**

Kaseberg, Sheryl Woods, '56, d. 6/25  
Reimers, Janet Nelson, '56, d. 2/25  
Romine, Ramona Moore, '53, d. 2/25  
Weitzman, Verle Pilling, '56, d. 9/25

**Oregon, University of**

Crumpacker, Ann Winkler, '43, d. 9/25  
Farrens, Theresa Rittenour, '63, d. 3/25  
Janz, Marilyn Hillman, '49, d. 8/25

**Pennsylvania State University**

Dickson, Buckets Buck, '56, d. 7/25  
Johnson, Pat Stuart, '56, d. 6/25  
Wischum, Erinn, '00, d. 6/25

**\* Pennsylvania, University of**

Harvey, Elizabeth Raney, '50, d. 6/24  
McMullin, Sandra Keefe, '59, d. 10/25

**Pittsburgh, University of**

Kelley, Shirley Kaiser, '53, d. 8/25

**Purdue University**

Ingold, Rosemary Gass, '46, d. 2/23  
Melchior, Gretchen Hurd, '70, d. 6/24  
Nickles, Karen Kleine, '59, d. 8/25  
Schwartz, Anne Lieske, '49, d. 6/22

**\* Rollins College**

Draughon, Mary, '51, d. 10/24

**\* San Jose State University**

Browning, Susan Brueckner, '58, d. 10/21  
Taylor, Carol Davis, '62, d. 5/25

**Southern California, U. of**

Wallace, Lee Kraemer, '48, d. 7/25

**Southern Methodist University**

Reynolds, Ora Cox, '40, d. 8/25  
Van Amburgh, Amy, '81, d. 7/25

**St. Lawrence University**

Hiller, Ruth Reeves, '55, d. 12/24

**Texas A&M University**

Grothues, Jennifer Patrick, '94, d. 5/25

**Texas Christian University**

Chalk, Sarah Slay, '55, d. 9/25  
Douthit, Jeanene Charles, '58, d. 9/25  
Glass, Marilyn Woodson, '61, d. 5/25  
Hodges, Ann Scarborough, '58, d. 7/25  
Reasoner, Jackie Fermaud, '59, d. 9/25

**Texas Tech University**

Fairchild, Joanne Wagner, '69, d. 6/23  
Glazener, Eleanor Forgey, '56, d. 10/25  
Hamm, Peggy Brown, '56, d. 6/25  
Lind, Patricia Pinson, '69, d. 9/25

**Texas, University of**

Carlson, Anne Spence, '62, d. 9/25  
Corbo, Linda Stevenson, '58, d. 8/25  
Reed, Jane Curtin, '41, d. 8/25  
Shallenberger, Anne McCullough, '60, d. 8/25  
Watson, Beverly Johnson, '44, d. 5/25

**Toronto, University of**

Regier, Susan Ross, '50, d. 4/25

**Tulane University**

Moore, Dorothy Heaslip, '55, d. 8/23  
Nelson, Sara Hall, '50, d. 6/23

**Tulsa, University of**

Clark, Jean Coulter, '47, d. 1/23  
Daniel, Nancy Teale, '54, d. 4/25  
Moult, Jane Wiles, '48, d. 7/23

**Utah, University of**

Heitzman, Marilyn Stayner, '45, d. 8/25  
Keating, Sydna Jensen, '58, d. 5/25  
Riggs, Ann Adams, '53, d. 6/25

**Washington State University**

Juris, Mary-Ellen Henry, '46, d. 5/25

**Washington University**

Bebee, Joan Lamothe, '50, d. 2/24  
Brown, Joyce Stocker, '66, d. 2/22  
Gable, Jackie Cannon, '44, d. 8/25  
Jaeger, Donna, '69, d. 8/25  
Korrell, Phyllis, '65, d. 8/20  
Mayer, Susan Goodson, '59, d. 4/25  
McCluskey, Joan Ford, '59, d. 7/23  
Miller, Cynthia, '52, d. 7/24  
Peters, GeeGee Smith, '62, d. 7/25  
Renz, Marlene Hebler, '53, d. 1/25  
Shaw, Cynthia Hein, '54, d. 2/24  
Stoltman, Mary Shofstall, '42, d. 8/25  
Voorhees, Sue Ittner, '48, d. 4/25  
Williamson, Jane, '55, d. 9/25  
Woods, Mary Bemis, '51, d. 2/24

**Washington, University of**

Higgins, Jean Smith, '45, d. 7/25  
Horton, Ann, '70, d. 2/25  
Mefford, Rebecca Rumsey, '72, d. 10/25  
Paine, Elizabeth Mullan, '58, d. 12/24  
Speidel, Julie, '60, d. 5/25  
Swanson, Leann Saar, '63, d. 7/25  
Wilson, Lynn Williams, '64, d. 10/25  
Woodworth, Judith Fetterolf, '58, d. 6/25

**West Virginia University**

Driscoll, Joan Barton, '49, d. 6/25  
Hart, Sallie Witschey, '65, d. 10/25  
Rice, Nancy VanGilst, '61, d. 5/25

**Westminster College**

Wright, Becky, '92, d. 4/25

**Whitman College**

Meade, Mary Evelyn Dean, '53, d. 8/25  
Leitch, Mary Crouter, '53, d. 9/24

**William & Mary, College of**

Adams, Mary "Tuga" Wilson, '46, d. 8/25  
Bates, Audrey Doll, '49, d. 10/25  
Day, Elizabeth Mitchell, '57, d. 10/25  
Gamage, Stewart, '69, d. 3/24  
Gleeson, Betty Groocour, '44, d. 7/25  
Karlin, Sharon Moore, '71, d. 2/20  
Linkenauger, Virginia Cottrell, '50, d. 9/25  
Roe, Juanita Benton, '71, d. 1/15

**Wisconsin, University of**

Bertel, Barbara Andrews, '49, d. 8/25  
Cavanaugh, Alice Deimling, '54, d. 4/25

**Wyoming, University of**

Connell, Linda Pummill, '60, d. 9/25  
Ellis, Jackie Nott, '50, d. 8/25

*\* Indicates inactive chapters.  
These names were submitted to Kappa  
Headquarters between June 1, 2025,  
and Nov. 30, 2025.*

# remix

## Vibrant Volunteers

**Iliana Garcia Gilbert**

NEW MEXICO, CONVENTION COMMITTEE  
AND LEAD COMMITTEE MEMBER



**Elizabeth Barnhart**

WEST VIRGINIA,  
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Kappa. They give with gratitude investing in the growth of others and inspiring positive change. We asked two volunteers with over 10 years of experience to share their perspective on volunteer life—from the connections they’ve built to celebrating the difference they’re making. While Iliana and Elizabeth came to their roles with different backgrounds, both agree that anyone can find fulfillment in volunteering with Kappa.

<p><b>As a volunteer,</b> I enjoy being a listener, connector, and supporter.</p>	<p><b>What’s your volunteer style?</b></p>	<p><b>My style for anything</b> I do is “grab life by the horns.”</p>
<p><b>To create the same sense</b> of belonging, confidence, and lifelong support Kappa gave me so every member feels seen, empowered, and inspired to grow into the best version of herself.</p>	<p><b>What impact do you hope to make?</b></p>	<p><b>Making people feel</b> as special as they are! Updating Kappa’s public relations materials and processes has been huge for me, and it will have a huge impact, too.</p>
<p><b>It’s allowed me</b> to connect with women beyond my chapter. They have become an integral part of who I am as a person and Kappa. These important and special friendships are something I am forever grateful for.</p>	<p><b>How has this role deepened your connections?</b></p>	<p><b>Volunteering brings</b> “it’s not four years, it’s for life” to action! Through connections with others, the bond has strengthened and evolved. Kappa has been able to grow with me.</p>
<p><b>The ability to work</b> with women from all walks of life and to build strong relationships and create long-lasting bonds.</p>	<p><b>Skills gained?</b></p>	<p><b>Soft skills</b>—taking time to get to know people on a deeper level to help them grow and be confident in their positions.</p>
<p><b>Having an open mind</b> and a growth mindset will allow us to see that we are more capable than we think. Kappa provides training to help us be more prepared for our roles.</p>	<p><b>Advice for those thinking of getting involved?</b></p>	<p><b>Everyone starts</b> somewhere! If you have the will, you will find the way. The technical knowledge will come with time; the eagerness at the start is enough!</p>

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**Prost.**  
*Salute.*  
**Santé.**

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