

# the Key

Fall 2025

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

PAGE 28

## Extra Credit in Style

*A collegiate Kappa  
makes her way in  
the fashion world*







# 2004

## LOOKING BACK

These trailblazing members attended Kappa's Leadership Academy pilot program. In 2025, the program celebrated 20 years around the campfire, marking the tradition that has shaped generations of leaders.





FROM TOP: COURTESY KITTY HEATON; COURTESY DASHA NAVALNAYA; KIRSTEN MICCOLI



ON PAGE 24

“My father was a man of courage. He was fearless because he understood the importance of his fight for democracy, transparency, and truth.”

—Dasha Navalnaya, *Stanford*

# Fall

2025, Volume 141, No. 2

## FEATURES

### Life Lessons at Sea

BY DAN MORRELL

**18** Kitty Heaton and her family traveled the world by sailboat—twice. Step aboard for a glimpse into her life-changing adventures.



### Father Hero

BY DASHA NAVALNAYA

**24** Dasha's father was a champion of civil liberties in their native Russia. She looks back on his legacy and what it means to be his daughter.



### Fashionably Early

BY BARBARA STAMBAUGH

**28** Emily Brown founded Maren Made in high school. Now a college senior, she's preparing for her next act as an entrepreneur.



COVER: KIRSTEN MICCOLI; WARDROBE STYLING BY KELSEY OENICK W/ LAB ARTISTS; HAIR/MAKEUP BY ALISA RADOI W/ LAB ARTISTS

## IN EVERY ISSUE

**2 Feedback**  
**3 Letter From the Editor**

**4 The Mix**  
Get outside and see how Kim Murphy leads a preschool where Mother Nature runs the classroom.

Boot, scoot, and boogie your way into Nashville, as a local guide shows sisters Music City's greatest hits.

Pull up a courtside seat to see how Mary-Carter Eggert supports the Tennessee Men's Basketball team on and off the court.

**35 Through the Keyhole**  
Wildfires destroyed Dede Kennedy's home. Learn how her positive attitude—and the Kappa Foundation—are helping her rebuild.

**40 In Brief**  
**42 Key Achievements**  
**45 Make a Note**  
**46 In Memoriam**  
**48 Remix**

## FEEDBACK



## Wise Tales

We had a lovely gathering with author **Fiona Davis**, *William & Mary*, when she came to speak at a luncheon in New Jersey and share her latest novel. At the book-signing table, we were able to get a group photo of

Northern New Jersey Kappas with Fiona. We were thrilled when she put on the owl jeweled pin we brought to her on behalf of our group. It was magical that it matched her dress perfectly!

—**Gretchen Morrison**,  
Miami

### Game Changer

Thank you for covering women's sports in the last issue. Many of my friends and my stepdaughter are Kappa sisters. We were excited to see Rough & Tumble featured in the article about **Rachel Quon** and **Kelley O'Hara**, *Stanford*. Rough & Tumble Pub in Seattle is the first in the world built for equality in sports viewing

and one of the first to prioritize women's sports. We have a wonderful close partnership with Just Women's Sports. Plus, the photographer who snapped those photos (Jane G Photography) happens to be one of the best women's sports photographers in the world.

—**Jen Barnes**

### Still Swooning

I so appreciate receiving *The Key* all of these years. It is and has become an incredible magazine, filled with excellent information and interesting stories! The artwork and photography are just beautiful. So proud of you and being a Kappa!!

—**Carol Bragdon**, Tennessee

## The Key Spotlight

Wesley Allsbrook's illustration in the fall 2024 issue was selected for the *American Illustration* book. *The Key* was also honored to receive a first-place Critic's Choice award for Magazine Design from the Fraternity Communications Association for "Chief Among Them" in the fall 2024 issue.

## Oops, Our Bad

Faith Cosior listed on Page 43 of the spring 2025 issue is not a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. *The Key* apologizes for this error.

theKey

Volume 141, No. 2  
Fall 2025

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

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# The Seeds We Plant

COURAGE TAKES ROOT

**A**S THIS ISSUE CAME TOGETHER, I KEPT THINKING about the seeds we plant: the choices, connections, and acts of courage that take root long after we make them. I also kept thinking about who plants with us. For Kappas, it can be a sister who says, “You’ve got this.” Because often, confidence isn’t something you’re born with—it’s something someone encourages you to grow.

For **Emily Brown**, *Purdue*, it began in a basement closet during high school. With equal parts curiosity and conviction, she turned free afternoons into Maren Made, a thriving fashion brand, before she ever crossed the graduation stage. Hers is the spark of youth—proof that courage can look like saying yes to your own ideas.

**Mary-Carter Kniffen Eggert**, *Tennessee*, channels that same confidence from the sidelines. As director of operations for the University of Tennessee men’s basketball program, she leads with both hustle and heart in a male-dominated field. The writer for this piece, **Caroline Washnock Stevens**, *Centre*, is Kappa Headquarters’ Director of Data Strategy. Her “other duties as assigned” include running the office’s March Madness brackets, so she was up for the job!

**Kim Pedersen Murphy**, *Penn State*, built a preschool where nature is the classroom. Our associate editor, **Katie Mills**

**Giorgio**, *Drake*, a nature lover herself, wrote Kim’s story, and you can feel the kinship in every paragraph. Kim reminds us that the best learning happens through wonder—that children who love the earth will grow up to protect it. In her work, seeds of curiosity become seeds of conservation.

Sailor and storyteller **Kitty Heaton Kuhner**, *Missouri*, has circled the globe twice, guided by patience, humor, and trust—the kind of navigation that feels spiritual as much as nautical.

And then there’s **Dede Kennedy-Simington**, *Oregon*. After losing her home to wildfire, she shows us the tender work of replanting. Supported by her Kappa sisters and the Kappa Foundation, she teaches that hope isn’t naïve—it’s necessary. Each time I read her story I find something new to admire: her grace, her grit, and her refusal to let loss have the last word.

In a special reprint, **Dasha Navalnaya**, *Stanford*, writes about

her late father, Alexey Navalny, and the courage that defined his life. “He planted a seed of hope in all of us,” she writes—a line that feels like the heartbeat of this issue. It’s what Mary-Carter does in every game-day detail. What Kim does in a forest classroom. What Emily does when she builds a brand. What Kitty discovered on the open ocean. What Dede models in the aftermath of loss.

Taken together, these stories trace the full circle—from the first spark of possibility to the quiet wisdom that comes from living with purpose. Each woman reminds us that what we nurture in others—confidence, compassion, courage—will bloom long after we’re gone.

We’d love to hear about the sisters who planted something lasting in you. Drop us a line at [thekey@kkg.org](mailto:thekey@kkg.org).

*Kristin*

—**Kristin Sangid**, EDITOR



MY FIRST LADY  
MEET UP

**Susan “Susie”  
Lallathin Dolibois**,

*Miami (Ohio)*, worked as a staff member for First Lady Pat Nixon. When she heard about a book event for *The Mysterious Mrs. Nixon: The Life and Times of Washington’s Most Private First Lady* by Heath Hardage Lee at the National First Ladies Library & Museum in Canton, Ohio, Susie planned to attend. There she met **Stephanie Bohnak**, *Akron*, who works as the museum’s director of education and curatorial services. The two were thrilled to learn they are both Kappas and shared a secret handshake.

“Our preschoolers really kind of own the park. They hike all over. They know what an invasive species is. Truly, they have a real appreciation for nature and the world around us.”

—Kim Pedersen  
Murphy, Penn State  
BERKS NATURE PRESCHOOL



THE  
**mix**

BERKS NATURE







# Nature + Nurture

A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PUTS DOWN ROOTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

A GROUP OF 4-YEAR-OLDS GATHERS AROUND A SMALL puddle and watches as their teacher takes a water sample. They talk about how the puddle came to be and what might live in it. Soon, the children are exploring other puddles. They are smiling and laughing and are covered in mud.

Welcome to Berks Nature Preschool—located in Reading, Pennsylvania—where young learners (ages 3 to 5) spend their day exploring the natural world while growing their own social-emotional and kindergarten-readiness skills.

“They have had experiences like watching a snapping turtle lay her eggs and then watching the eggs hatch. They’ve watched a snake eat a frog. And they know the heron that lives in the park. It’s pretty amazing how aware they are of their surroundings.”

That’s from **Kim Pedersen**

**Murphy**, *Penn State*, who helped launch the program in 2018 as president of Berks Nature, the conservation organization that operates the preschool.

“I believe, and certainly research shows, it’s important for kids to have unstructured free play,” Kim says. “It is where



Surrounded by 100 acres of natural landscape, students at Berks Nature Preschool attend Monday through Friday (rain, snow, or shine!) for inquiry-based learning and hands-on discovery in the natural world.

BERKS NATURE (2)



they learn to take risks; it's where they learn to negotiate; it's where they learn how to problem-solve. Our program certainly has a curriculum, and it is kindergarten preparatory, but we can accomplish that while our students are outside 75% of the day."

Nature preschool programs have sprung up as parents and educators look to battle "nature deficit disorder," a term coined by Richard Louv to describe the growing concern that children are spending less time in nature—a trend that poses a threat to their well-being and development. On average, children in the U.S. spend just 1% of their time outdoors in unstructured play.

Kim said the statistic gave her team at Berks Nature pause as they thought about their mission to grow the next generation of conservationists. The idea for Berks Nature Preschool was planted.

Since opening, over 300 children have attended, exploring in two natural playgrounds and the adjacent 100-acre park in sunny weather, rain, even snow. "There are tree stumps to climb on and sticks and rocks they can pick up and move. There's an area where they can dig," says Kim. "Our preschoolers really kind of own the park. They hike all over. They know what an invasive species is. Truly, they have a real appreciation for nature and the world around us."

The fully licensed program annually achieves the highest four-star rating from Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development. The curriculum just happens to be driven by their outdoor surroundings and discoveries. Finding a caterpillar can reorganize a whole morning's lesson as teachers lean into the students' curiosity, for example.



Watching preschoolers grow and change along with the seasons is a fitting part of Kim's legacy. "I've always had a soft spot for children and education, particularly early learning," she says, noting her undergraduate degree in elementary education. "It's funny because when I was at Penn State, my close roommates and friends always said, 'You're going to have Miss Kimmy's fun school someday.'"

Thinking back on her collegiate days, Kim has fond appreciation for her Kappa sisters. "I never felt like there was judgment about what I chose to do. There was just love and support," she says. "I am still friends with those sisters and correspond with or see them when we go back to Penn State."

Kim's career has included teaching at preschools and kindergartens in England and the U.S., working for the Girl Scouts, and working in public relations and fundraising and then later as the director of development at Penn State.

As for what's next, Kim is planning her upcoming retirement and looking forward to more time with her family. And she will leave knowing the preschool will continue to nurture respect for nature in the next generation. "We know through research on environmental conservation education that people protect what they love, and they love what they have had a chance to bond with," Kim says. The muddy preschool faces are natural proof.

—By **Katie Mills Giorgio**,  
Drake

"I was a first-class Girl Scout. I've always been interested in the outdoors. And, as I look to my retirement, one of the things that I'm most proud of is creating this preschool."

Kim has worked for Berks Nature for 21 years, leading not only the creation of the Nature Preschool but also working with her staff and board on land conservation, watershed restoration, trail creation and maintenance, urban gardens, and environmental education for all ages.

LIKE A LOCAL

# Nashville

Pack your bags, grab your cowgirl hat, and come along as **Lisa Link**, Auburn, takes us on an insider's exploration of Music City.



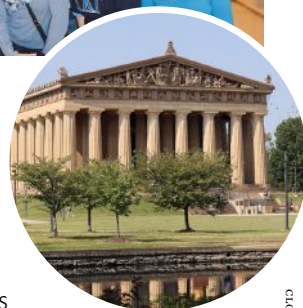
## Printer's Alley

Once a printing district, **Printer's Alley** now pulses with neon lights, live blues, and jazz. Catch a set at **Skull's Rainbow Room**, sip creative cocktails, or swing by **The Filling Station**—a cozy bar and bottle shop full of character.



## Centennial Park

Home to a full-scale replica of the Parthenon (complete with a towering **42-foot statue of Athena**), Centennial Park offers walking trails, Lake Watauga, and historical monuments. It's right across from Vanderbilt's beautiful campus and an easy walk to the Kappa house. Stay at the **Graduate Hotel**, featuring a Dolly Parton-inspired rooftop bar and restaurant.



## East Nashville

Just across the Cumberland River, this creative hub has an eclectic vibe and a strong sense of community. Grab a burger and shake at **The Pharmacy**, or visit **Mas Tacos Por Favor**, which got high praise from "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." Stay nearby at the **Gallatin Hotel**: Colorful and Instagram-worthy. Or check into **The Russell**: A former church with a gorgeous stained glass window and free snacks. Staying at these hotels helps support local nonprofits serving the unhoused.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LISA LINK/RED PHOTOGRAPHY; @SAVANNAH/LAUREN PHOTOGRAPHY; JENNIFER WRIGHT/ALAMY PHOTOS



## 12 South

A walkable, trendy neighborhood perfect for brunch, shopping, and people-watching. Try **Buttermilk Ranch's** biscuits or the 100-layer donuts at **Five Daughters Bakery** (get the mini!).



Lisa, a longtime Kappa volunteer and local photographer, is the President of the Nashville Alumnae Association and a Ritual and History Specialist.

## Marathon Village

Stop by this renovated auto factory turned shopping and creative space. Browse local artisan shops like **Bang Candy**, local jewelers, and other Music City merch vendors.



## Broadway

The heart of Nashville: live music, rooftop bars, neon signs, and electric energy you can't miss. Stop by **Tootsie's Orchid Lounge** for classic OG honky-tonk and a rooftop view. At **Boot Country**, buy one pair of boots, get two free—yes, really. Rock and roll your way into the **Johnny Cash Museum**, featuring the most comprehensive Cash collection in the world. Hidden under the museum via a secret door and tunnel is **House of Cards**—a unique venue for world-class magic shows, rare collectibles, and elegant vibes. Then cross the street to make your own **Goo Goo Cluster**, a special treat invented in Nashville.

## South of Broadway

SoBro is home to the **Listening Room Café** (like the Bluebird Café but easier to get into.) Hear incredible songwriters perform acoustic sets—some behind the biggest hits, others the next stars in the making. Grab drinks and apps at **The Goat**, which has a great happy hour menu. Order the firecracker shrimp or farmhouse tots. Yum!



## Worth the Drive

### Loveless Café

For biscuits, preserves, and authentic Southern hospitality, this legendary spot is just a short trip from town.

### Downtown Franklin

Stroll brick-lined sidewalks, shop charming

boutiques, enjoy local eats, and soak up 19th-century architecture in one of Tennessee's most beautiful small towns.

### True South Farm

A 40-minute drive will bring you to this unique farm where you can meet and interact with Highland cows. Book a night to stay on the farm.



## Our Offices

"This is your office, and we want you to feel a part of it. You are most welcome to come at all times and do not hesitate to call upon us for any information or assistance that we may be able to render."

-Clara O. Pierce, *Ohio State*, Executive Secretary, 1929-69

### Glitz and Gold

This sparkling 1870s electrified chandelier once hung in the dining room of Kappa's Heritage Museum. The bronze plaques below welcomed many visitors to Kappa Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, for decades.

### Be Seated

Dinner is served! This ivory china dishware set features an image of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Coat-of-Arms. It was presented to the Fraternity by J.O. Pollack and Co. in the 1930s.



## HISTORY

# Stamped and Sealed

Archival objects from Kappa's early office days remind members of the business operations behind the bonds of sisterhood.

### Just Our Type

Clara Pierce, *Ohio State*, who served as Kappa's Executive Secretary from 1929–69, often worked on this 1938 L.C. Smith typewriter—a popular model from the 1930s–50s. Known to be a sturdy, inexpensive workhorse, it's a fitting symbol of our longest-serving executive's keen financial sense and exceptional business acumen.



### It's Official

Early efforts were made to streamline and “professionalize” Kappa work, including using this embosser on important documents like our membership certificates and charters.

Clara O. Pierce

Della Burt

### What's In a Name

Before Kappa's membership roll was digitized, a physical card for every member—like Founders Jennie Boyd and Lou Bennett Boyd—was kept on file in a bank of metal boxes.

From the gallery wall at  
Kappa Headquarters



Dec. 14, 2024. Director of Basketball Operations Mary-Carter Eggert and guard Jordan Gainey of the Tennessee Volunteers after the game between the Illinois Fighting Illini and the Tennessee Volunteers at State Farm Center in Champaign, Illinois

# The Heart Behind the Hustle

MARY-CARTER EGGERT KEEPS TENNESSEE MEN'S BASKETBALL SHOOTING  
FOR SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE COURT

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE'S MEN'S BASKETBALL team has seen buckets of success on the court in recent years: They've secured back-to-back NCAA Tournament Elite Eight appearances and were the 2024 SEC regular-season champs.

ANDREW FERGUSON/TENNESSEE ATHLETICS





And **Mary-Carter Kniffen Eggert**, *Tennessee*, has been courtside for it all.

Mary-Carter works as the director of basketball operations for the Tennessee Vols. While the coaches and team get things done on the court, Mary-Carter ensures they keep rolling while off the court.

Now in her 11th year, Mary-Carter is one of the few women holding such a role among NCAA Division I men's basketball programs. "A lot of directors of ops on other campuses and other programs are coaches. It's really nice in our program that we have one person solely dedicated to everything other than basketball." She focuses on

keeping the program well organized and running efficiently while connecting its student-athletes with the resources they need to be successful.

Mary-Carter grounds her role in the recognition that her players carry a heavier workload than the average college student. Describing herself as a "mama bear," she is involved in nearly every aspect of college life, from getting them to campus—including helping international players through the visa process—to showing them how to find their classes and get a parking pass. During the season, she also manages the team's travel logistics—particularly complicated come tournament time, when she and the team will not find out where (or if) they're playing their next game until the buzzer sounds. Though not in charge of recruiting, Mary-Carter helps coordinate visits, adding her flair and what she calls her "sparkles" to these key experiences for future seasons' recruits.

Mary-Carter's career path began as an undergraduate at Tennessee. She volunteered with a variety of athletic groups, starting with event management at football games before moving into media relations, where she worked with the football and rowing teams, handling interviews and the rise of social media. This led to a full-time media relations role and organizing one of the largest fan engagement events in the country: the Big Orange Caravan.

The Big Orange Caravan features the head football coach and the men's and women's head basketball coaches traveling the state to interact with fans, hold Q&A sessions, hype the upcoming seasons, and sign autographs. During the Caravan's stop in Nashville in spring 2015, Mary-Carter caught the attention of men's basketball coach Rick Barnes.

Barnes needed to hire someone to replace his retiring director of basketball operations. During the Nashville Caravan stop, an

## BOOKS

# Marvelous Magazines

Niche magazines you didn't know you needed in your life—and on your coffee table.



## Kazoo

The magazine our younger selves would have loved.

A quarterly magazine celebrating girls (ages 5 to 12) for being strong, smart, fierce, and, above all, true to themselves.



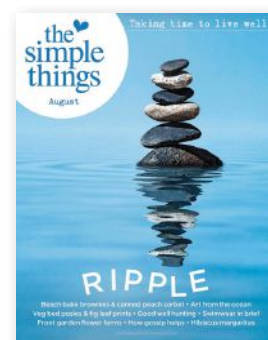
## Cherry Bombe

Another quarterly magazine, this one celebrates women and food. Insightful interviews pair well with delectable dishes (and drool-worthy photos).



## Uppercase

Also quarterly, inside these pages, you'll find colorful inspiration for the creative and curious; an eclectic mix of craft, design, typography, and illustration.



## The Simple Things

This monthly magazine features small ways to live well, encouraging you to slow down, connect with friends, and make the most of right where you are.



unrelenting downpour caught the group as they were about to head back to Knoxville. After waiting in vain for the rain to slow down, Mary-Carter led the group in a mad dash for their cars. As she closed Barnes' door, he asked if everyone was accounted for. In heels and a dress, Mary-Carter sprinted from car to car to ensure the entire group made it. As Coach Barnes tells it, it was that hustle—despite quipping that she had forgotten umbrellas as she returned drenched from head to toe—that convinced him he'd found his new director.

It is that hustle combined

with care for others' well-being that helps Mary-Carter keep the Vols operating with military precision. She focuses on managing everything off-court, ensuring the players "only have to worry about basketball."

Reflecting on her status as one of the few women managing men's sports teams, Mary-Carter remembers thinking: "I had no idea girls could do that ... [but] there's no reason why we can't." She hopes her experience can lead to more opportunities for women in similar roles. She puts this into action by hiring female student managers within the

Tennessee program and making time to meet with female managers of other teams before games. She draws upon her early days in the job, noting that "I would have much rather have known what I was doing ... than kind of have to figure it out on my feet."

To women looking at sports management as a career, Mary-Carter's advice is to get involved in as many opportunities as possible, from volunteering at sports events to activities outside of the sports realm. "I think building relationships with different types of people is super beneficial because you learn how to deal with all different types of personalities," she says.

"And let your work do the talking for you." As her rain-soaked audition proved, people take notice of hustle—and hustle leads to opportunities.

Mary-Carter served as chapter President of Epsilon Lambda Chapter, *Tennessee*, which still shapes how she shows up as a leader and professional. She draws upon the lessons she learned there to navigate hard conversations while intentionally taking time throughout her day to get to know the people around her, helping her collaborate more effectively down the line.

While little can beat the feeling of a Vols win, Mary-Carter says seeing the team bonding off-court brings her so much joy. As the team arrived back on campus to start another school year, she planned team-building activities for them, like bowling and paintball. "Those are my favorite experiences, because that's what I pour my heart and soul into for their overall college experience. I can't control what happens on the court and how many times coach yells at them, but I can impact everything else."

—By **Caroline Stevens**,  
Centre

Guard Jahmai Mashack and Mary-Carter Eggert during the game between the Alabama Crimson Tide and the Tennessee Volunteers at Food City Center in Knoxville, Tennessee





# Kappa Kandy

SWEET SELECTIONS FOR SISTERS EVERYWHERE



## Pack In, Pack Out

Carry everything you need for an adventurous day outdoors.  
// [cotopaxi.com](http://cotopaxi.com) // \$90



## Steady Goes It

Add stability on the trail with these packable, lightweight trekking poles. // [rei.com](http://rei.com) // \$119



## Piggies in a Blanket

Be ready for extra miles by slipping into ultralight hiking socks.  
// [darntough.com](http://darntough.com) // \$25



## Aid First

This kit keeps you prepared for any trail bumps and bruises.  
// [getwelly.com](http://getwelly.com) // \$18

COURTESY: COTOPAXI; REI; DARN TOUGH; WELLY





# 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:** As a freshman in college, how can I stay true to myself on social media and resist the pressure to compare myself to others, especially when it seems like everyone is showcasing their best lives and achievements online?

—*Digital Authenticity*

**Dear Authenticity,**

It's natural to feel the weight of social media, especially when everyone is posting their highlight reels. So, how do you start staying true to yourself online? Curate your feed: Follow accounts that inspire and uplift you and unfollow those that trigger feelings of inadequacy. Practice mindfulness and try journaling your feelings. Embrace authenticity by sharing your true self, including your wins and challenging moments. Take social media breaks as needed. Lastly, remember to surround yourself with supportive friends IRL. Our in-person connections matter so much more than what appears online.

**Dear Clara,**

**I struggle to advocate for myself and assert my needs and boundaries—both at work and in my personal life. I often find myself saying “yes” when I’m overwhelmed or agreeing to plans, even when I know I want to stay home. How can I advocate for myself without feeling guilty? How can I set and maintain boundaries?**

—**Boundary Seeker**

**Dear Boundary Seeker,**

Pat yourself on the back because it's great you're looking to advocate for yourself. Start using “I” statements when expressing your needs, such as “I feel overwhelmed with my current workload.” This focuses on your feelings without placing blame elsewhere. Take time for self-reflection. When you know your values, you'll be empowered to make decisions that align. It may be tough at first, but try communicating what you need. Be clear with others. They can't read your mind. That leads us to setting clear boundaries that protect your peace. Define what's acceptable for you in different situations and communicate boundaries to those around you.

True friends and colleagues will respect your needs.

**Dear Clara,**

**I'm struggling to find a job in my desired field. My close loved ones are starting to get impatient. I can tell they are frustrated, even though I'm doing everything I can and am stalking LinkedIn regularly. Should I take any job available or keep holding out for something in my industry?**

—**Surviving, Not Thriving**

**Dear Surviving,**

The job search can be daunting, but don't lose heart. While it's admirable to aim for your dream field, there's value in gaining work experience that may further your career in unexpected ways. A temporary position can provide financial stability, teach transferable skills, and potentially lead to new opportunities. You don't have to abandon your aspirations completely. Consider taking a job to support yourself while continuing the search, networking, and perhaps freelancing in your desired field. Remember, one job doesn't define your entire career. Stay open to possibilities, keep refining your skills, and trust that with persistence and flexibility, you'll find your path.



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

JONATHAN BARTLETT





FROM THE ARCHIVES

## A Mystic Connection

Camp Mystic holds a special place in the hearts of many Kappas. The camp and Kappa have longstanding ties, intertwined over generations. Owner and executive director **Twetty Albritton Eastland**, *Texas*, has been at the helm of the camp for decades, touching the lives of thousands of campers and counselors. For many campers, those bonds of friendship were the start of a lifetime of connection that continued with sisters in Kappa. The flooding that devastated Camp Mystic and the surrounding area still weigh so heavy on many, but we lean on our sisterhood and continue to hold those impacted by this heartbreaking disaster in our hearts.

—By **Kylie Towers Smith**, Simpson

Kappas on staff at Camp Mystic in Hunt, Texas, in 1982. Front row: Cindy Emerson and Cathy Mueller, *Texas A&M*; Sheri Shelby, *SMU*; Ro Humphreys, *LSU*, and Laura Beth Warren, *Vanderbilt*; (second row) Ann Stacy Eastland and Twetty Albritton Eastland, *Texas*; Fay Broun and Nancy Broun Bates, *Texas A&M*; and Sarah Warren, *Texas*. Not pictured are Lauren Fagan, *Oklahoma*; Kimberly Gabriel, *Baylor*; Nikki Bryant, *Texas A&M*; Lynn Harris, *Texas*; and Julie Massey, *Texas*.









# The Long Way

**Kitty Heaton Kuhner**, *Missouri*, and Scott Kuhner sailed around the world twice—once as a couple and later as a family of four. Here they offer scenes from their voyages and reflect on the lessons from their life at sea.

**BY DAN MORRELL**



## LIFE AT SEA

**Kitty:** To me, the nicest thing about going on your own boat is you're taking your home with you.

We'd often meet people ashore. They were delighted to come on board our boat and see us. Back then, there weren't that many people doing it.

**Scott:** I remember when we crossed the Pacific and got into French Polynesia. As we anchored in one of the big bays, there was this beautiful rainbow. It was like God saying, "Welcome."

**Kitty:** If we were going to, say, move to one of the places where we stopped, I think I would've liked Australia. We actually worked in Sydney, Australia, on the first trip; Scott was working for a bank. And back then you had to wear a suit and a tie. So, we brought the boat into a dock. And I couldn't believe it—he



**When Kathleen "Kitty" Heaton Kuhner, a schoolteacher, married Scott Kuhner, a securities analyst, in 1969 after just six weeks of courtship, circumnavigating the globe wasn't in their immediate plans.**

"I never told Kitty we were going to sail around the world," Scott says, "as much as I told her that I wanted to do some ocean sailing." Kitty—who had never sailed before she met Scott but was quickly taken by the experience—was more than willing. "He wasn't going to drag me out there if I didn't like it, that's for sure," she laughs. Two years later, and after some shorter sails, they both quit their jobs, adding the finishing touches to their refitted 30-foot *Bebinka* (Russian for "little baby"), and left their life in Connecticut behind.

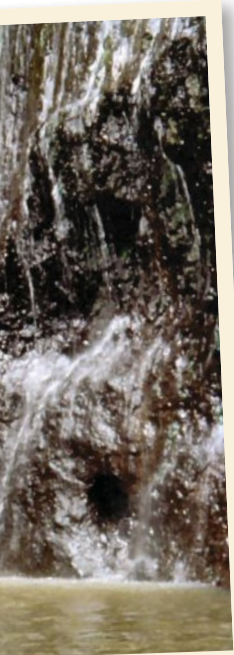
What followed was a 32,000-mile odyssey across oceans and five continents—Panama, the Galapagos, Fiji, Madagascar, South Africa—and back home again, all while using only the stars to guide them (something they practiced at the planetarium before setting sail) in those pre-GPS days. They crossed the Pacific, survived a hurricane, and anchored in remote bays to watch whales and meet the locals. They passed through the Panama Canal, hopped through the islands of the South Pacific, and stopped in South Africa for a safari. They returned home in 1975, and settled into conventional life, with Scott receiving three job offers after a story ran in *The New York Times* that detailed their journey upon their return. ("I think they were impressed that we had the wherewithal, gumption, and drive to sail around the world," he says.)

But ultimately, the ocean's call was too compelling to ignore. In 1987, now with two boys aged 9 and 11 in tow, they embarked on a second voyage. Their second trip spanned more than three and a half years, again covered more than 30,000 miles, and saw them face everything from dodging mast-threatening lightning storms to tense confrontations with masked pirates (who were ultimately subdued with Coca-Cola and cigarettes).

But life at sea, say Kitty and Scott, was mostly a fantastic adventure—and one they dutifully documented and preserved with hundreds of photos.







The family quickly made friends at ports. "We were taking our home with us," says Kitty. "And so we would invite people over all the time." "And on the second trip, when we came back," says Scott, "some of the people remembered us very well. Which was wonderful."



**Scott:** There were times when we'd get to a place and we'd recognize a boat, because most of us were basically sailing to a lot of the same places. On our first trip, we met Roger and Sheila in St. Thomas.

**Kitty:** They had sailed down from Canada, and they were on their way home to South Africa.

**Scott:** And we became friends

with them, and we kind of "buddy-boated" along the way to South Africa. And we used to be able to communicate with a short-wave radio.

**Kitty:** You could hear boats from far away with that radio. ... We built a community.

**Scott:** The first scary experience—a really bad one—was on our last leg of our first trip,



got dressed up every day, except for Fridays, because he said, "I have to get my suit cleaned once a week."

**Scott:** I started casual Fridays.

**Scott:** There was a big waterfall behind our friends Danielle and Antoinette's house [in French Polynesia]—one of the tallest, straight-down waterfalls in the world. We'd walk all the way up there in our bathing suits just to jump in and take a bath in the fresh water.

We went back to their house 16 years later on our second trip, and as we're walking up the path, Antoinette comes out and

says, "Kitty! Kitty!" She runs down and gives her a big hug. It was a wonderful story.

**Kitty:** If we were at anchor, it was a little easier to cook breakfast and everything else than if we were at sea. We did eat three meals a day, no matter where we were. If we were anchored near a village, we'd go ashore.

I can swim, mind you, but I wasn't a swimmer like Scott. He would swim out and take a spear and get a little fish and bring it back to cook.

**Scott:** I'd often come back with lobster.





The boys' onboard education entailed more than books. "The kids made friends with local kids and learned about the local society and local culture and how people lived—which I thought was very worthwhile," says Kitty. Both returned to their school systems, graduated in the top 5% of their class, and went on to attend Ivy League colleges.

halfway between Cape Hatteras and Bermuda. We got caught in a hurricane. There were huge waves. We just kind of rolled off—fell off—the wave, and when we hit the bottom of the trough, it blew the main hatch off and blew the grab rails off. And when she righted, there was water down below, almost up to our knees. I mean, we were close to sinking.

**Kitty:** We were so lucky to still be attached to the boat.

**Scott:** I told Kitty that I had the most efficient bilge pump in the world: a frightened woman with a bucket. She was bailing out from ...

**Kitty:** ... I was bailing out from down below—all the way up to what had been the main hatch, which was now gone.

**Scott:** And then we limped our way all the way back up to Manhattan. ... We got the boat all

fixed up and turned around and sailed back to the Virgin Islands. You know, get back on the horse. And then we came back, got jobs, and started a family. And that led us on to the second trip.

## FAMILY TIME

**Kitty:** On the trip with the kids, I had a regular galley. I had a stove top on the first trip, but no refrigeration and no ice—and everything was warm. But we didn't want to do that with the kids, so we made sure we had put a little refrigerator in there, and that was a big help. Then we could buy things frozen at a store and stick them in the freezer. However, you did have to run the engine a couple times a day to keep the freezer frozen. You learn these things as you go along.

For birthday parties, I'd just bake a cake or something. Or I'd buy a cake ashore, preferably.

**Kitty:** The boys would invite everybody out to the boat to play Legos.

**Scott:** The thing that was great was that the kids made friends with local kids and they learned

about the local society and local culture and how people lived, etc., which I thought was very worthwhile.

We'd come to an anchorage, and there'd be some other boats, and the first thing the kids







## WORKING TOGETHER

**Scott:** Never yell. And if you don't agree with the other person, instead of yelling, you say, "Listen, I have a better idea. What if we did it this way?" In other words, always be polite and willing to talk it through, so that you come to a mutual agreement on what to do. That, I would definitely say, is important for a couple sailing.

**Kitty:** You can have disagreements, but on a ship that small, there's nowhere to run. So you learn to communicate. And our boys learned that too—how to really talk and listen.



You can read more about Kitty and Scott's high-seas adventures in their two books: *The Voyage of Bebinka* (2020) and *The Great Escape* (2021), both available on Amazon. ➔

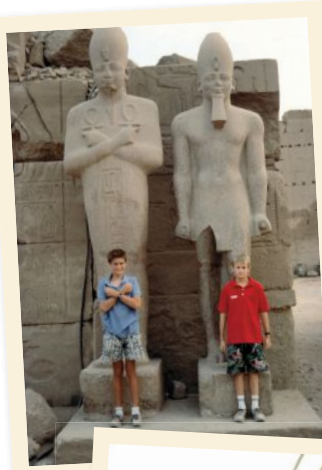
would do was to look to see if there were kids on any of the other boats. And if there were, they'd get in the dinghy, ride over, and invite them back over to our boat. And they were very quick at making friends—both with other cruising kids, but also with the locals.

**Kitty:** We didn't do schoolwork if there were something more interesting to do ashore, because that to us was their best education.

Showing the kids that there's more to the world than just your home—your neighborhood—that was so important to us.

And one of the good things too, coming from the Norwalk, Connecticut, school system, was that Norwalk is a very diverse school system—and diversity is the real world. The kids were used to being around kids who didn't look like them, and they didn't give it a moment's thought. They just got in the dinghy, went ashore, and met kids and had fun.

**Scott:** "[Our son] Spencer loved being at sea. Later in life, he started delivering boats, then founded Kuhner Yachting Services. He's almost always gone at sea, and he loves it.





*The daughter of the late  
political activist  
**ALEXEY NAVALNY**  
on how he dedicated his life  
to ending injustice in his  
native Russia—and always  
made time for her.*

*My Father the*  
**SUPERHERO**

By **Dasha Navalnaya**, *Stanford*





# One of the earliest times I remember

realizing the significance of my dad's political work was when the police first raided our apartment in Moscow in 2011. I was 10 years old. I distinctly recall getting a text message from my mom, Yulia, while waiting for the bus at school. She said, "Don't freak out. There are police officers in our house. Come home as soon as you can and try to hide your electronics." In Russia, the police officers who conduct politically motivated raids hunt primarily for phones and laptops, even those belonging to children. This is done to complicate and slow down the person's political work; in reality, these raids really more closely resemble robberies.

As I stepped into our hallway, I was "welcomed" by two masked policemen guarding the door. It looked like a hurricane had swept through our home. There were books and papers all over the floor. The furniture had been moved or flipped over. DVDs were scattered across the living room. People were running around. There was even a search dog sniffing through our belongings.

The confusion, fear, anxiety, and helplessness I felt were overwhelming. My dad was talking with his attorneys, while my mom and brother, Zakhar, who was then 3, sat on the couch. The best plan my panicked 10-year-old brain could devise was to shove my laptop under my school uniform. Then, I quietly sat and read by my mom's side. The entire time, my dad was calm and collected, joking with us about school or our favorite TV shows to make me and my brother feel safe and comfortable. That's what he did.

I always considered my dad a superhero: big and strong, intelligent and charismatic, hardworking and resilient. He had an unbreakable moral compass and little patience for injustice. My father was a man of courage. He was fearless because he understood the importance of his fight—for democracy, transparency, and truth. He was an attorney who hated corruption and devoted his life to combating it in Russia. He sued state-owned companies for embezzlement, organized investigations to uncover misconduct, and even ran in various elections—and protested fraudulent results—because corruption in Russia is what has supported the current regime, and a change of power is necessary to defeat it.

On Feb. 16, I woke up to the news I had long feared most: that my dad, my superhero, had died in prison. My family and I—along with so many others—are still processing this devastating loss.

Because of his work, my father was constantly being arrested and



Dasha values the time she spent with father Alexey Navalny, mother Yulia Navalnaya, and younger brother Zakhar Navalny. The memories they made together—whether in the park, touring museums, or riding the subway—are something Dasha continues to cherish.

threatened. During his presidential campaign in Moscow in 2017, someone threw green antiseptic dye in his face. Even though he was rushed to the hospital, he still showed up for his weekly Thursday YouTube live broadcast, on which he would report what was going on politically within Russia, despite almost losing his sight. Before that, in 2013, he ran for mayor of Moscow.

Looking back, I see how he started to change the political landscape in Russia. My father firmly believed in the power of collective action. One of his most famous chants at rallies was "We are the power here." My dad wasn't allowed to promote his campaign on billboards or TV, so together with a small group of volunteers, he traveled to public squares in Moscow and spoke to local residents. He made me realize that politics is not about boring old men on TV but drive, energy, and a sincere desire to improve people's lives.

Despite all the work, travel, and arrests, my dad always had time for me and my brother. He attended our first day of school, was there for our family dinners, and always made time to help us with our homework. I remember once, when we went to Austria during a school break, my dad sat us both down and announced that each of us had to pick a painting by the Renaissance artist Pieter Bruegel in an exhibition at the Kunsthistorisches Museum and give a tour-guide-like detailed explanation about it during our visit.

PREVIOUS SPREAD AND THIS PAGE: COURTESY DASHA NAVALNAYA (2) : FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NIKOLAY YINOKUROV/ALAMY LIVE NEWS; EDEN BRETZ / ALAMY; COURTESY DASHA NAVALNAYA





*My dad loved his country—so much that he gave his life for it. And until the day he was killed, he lived and stood by his convictions.*



A couple of days before my high school graduation in 2019, my dad got arrested at a rally. I was devastated. Thankfully, he was released a day before the ceremony—and then got arrested again almost immediately after. He fought to build a better country, thought about global problems, and was ready to sacrifice everything for Russia, but taking his kids to the movies was no less of an important task. For him, work and family weren't mutually exclusive.

In 2020, my dad was poisoned with the military nerve agent Novichok. After recuperating in Germany, he returned to Russia in 2021, despite knowing he would be targeted for accusing the Kremlin of organizing the attack. He flew back on Jan. 17 and got arrested at passport control. In 2023, he was sentenced to 19 years in prison for extremism.

After that, the only way I could communicate with my dad was through letters. Every one felt like a breath of fresh air. He would ask me about my university courses and friends and for my input on things like AI and pickleball. He also sent me book recommendations and asked for mine. My dad felt strongly about answering as many of the letters he received as possible, and to this day, people on social media post responses they received from him.

My dad loved his country—so much that he gave his life for it. And until the day he was killed, he lived and stood by his convictions. He believed that truth and knowledge are power, that you can achieve anything by working hard, and that giving up is never an option.

Now, I can so clearly see all these traits in myself, my family, and the millions of people in Russia and around the world whose lives my father touched. My dad was just one person, but he planted a seed of hope in all of us. —

*This essay originally ran in Harper's Bazaar on June 11, 2024. It is reprinted here with permission from the author.*



THE STUDENT BEHIND

# Maren Made

How Purdue senior **Emily Brown**  
turned a basement hobby  
into a thriving fashion business—  
all before graduation.

BY BARBARA STAMBAUGH

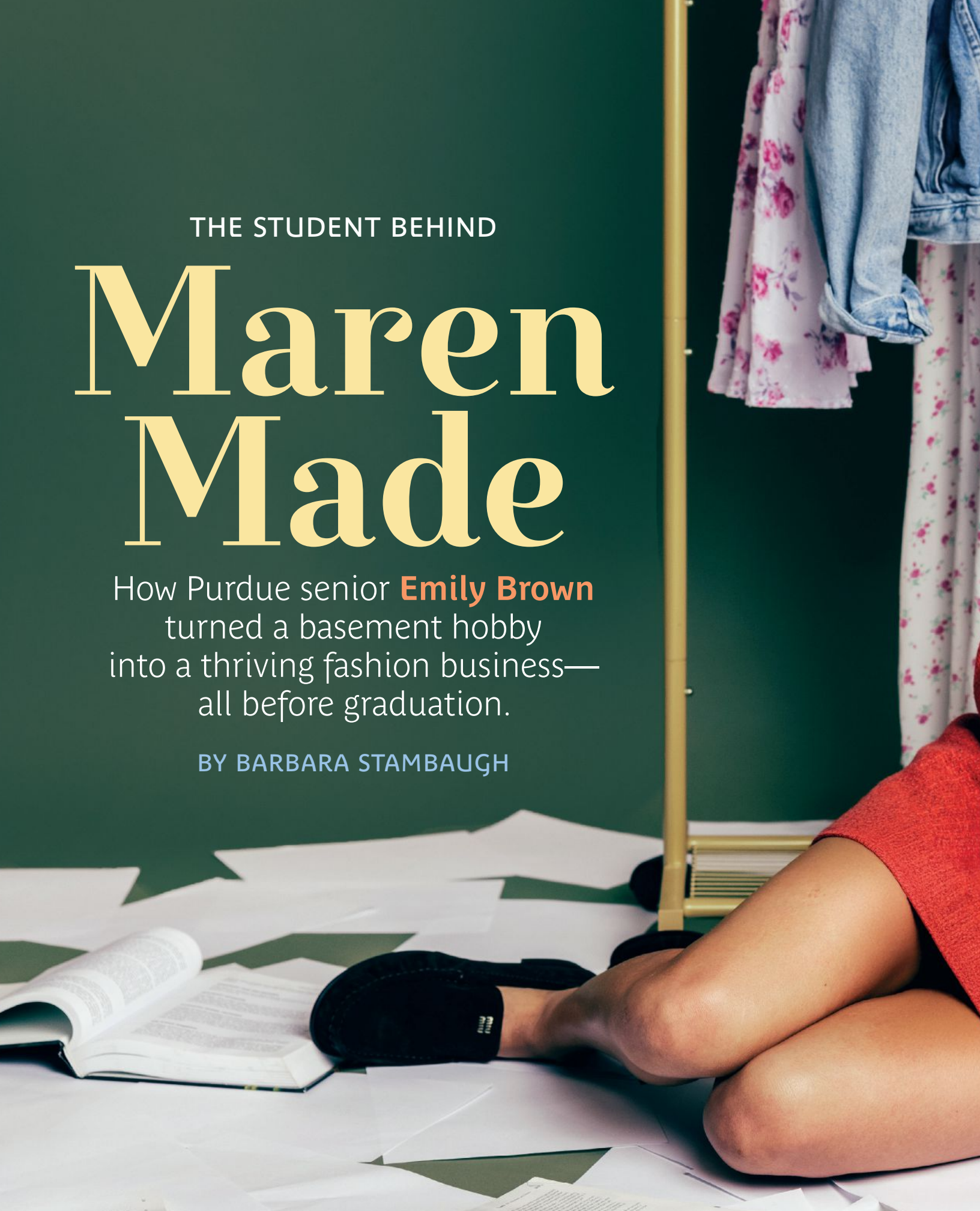






PHOTO BY  
**Kirsten Miccoli**

WARDROBE STYLING BY  
Kelsey Oenick/Lab Artists

HAIR & MAKEUP BY  
Alisa Radoi/Lab Artists



# At 16, most high schoolers are worried about prom

and how to survive pre-calc. Emily Brown, *Purdue*, may have worried about those things, too, but she also was quite busy launching a company.

What began in a basement coat closet during the peak of the pandemic, selling a limited group of garments by promoting them on TikTok and Instagram, has grown five years later into Maren Made, a full-blown clothing label that now boasts not only a successful online presence but also a brick-and-mortar store in Indianapolis' upscale Fashion Mall at Keystone and an international customer base of college women and young professionals.

Now 21, Emily is a senior at Purdue University and has become a standout voice in a new generation of entrepreneurs. Her path was shaped in unexpected ways in perhaps unexpected spots—barns and boardrooms and busy afternoons creating the content to share her wares.

## A Stitch of an Idea

"I was a 4-H girl growing up," she explains. "I showed animals for 10 years. It taught me about working hard and how to take care of something beyond myself."

When COVID-19 sent her high school classes online, Emily found herself with empty afternoons. Her father, a business owner himself, gave her one rule: From 3 to 7 p.m., she had to be doing something productive.

That rule sparked a question: What could she create that was fully her own? The answer arrived via a video of another young woman running her own online boutique. "The second I saw it, I knew," Emily recalls. "I thought: This is it. This is what I want to do."

So Emily began doing hours of research to build her company, learning about everything from online marketing to customer acquisition to how to file quarterly taxes.

To be fair, the idea wasn't entirely out of the blue. Her father had long been planting seeds of self-determination in her mind. "I know who you are as a person and how you work," he told her. "You are going to do best working for yourself." Still, launching a business as a teenager was no small leap. Emily used her savings from several summers of babysitting, dog walking, and working at the local country club—and poured every cent into Maren Made.

Within her first year, she had amassed 20,000 customers.

## From Boutique to Brand

Today, Maren Made has a brand identity Emily describes as preppy, chic, and classy.

"Maren gives college women and young professionals effortless ways to look put together," she explains. "It's curated campus-to-city fashion." For Emily, that means clothing that is intentionally styled to work seamlessly for both college life and outings in the city. "It's polished but practical," she says, "pieces that transition from class to coffee shops, study sessions to dinners, and tailgates to downtown nights, all with a trend-forward touch. It's really important for me that clothes help you feel sure of yourself."

Though she started with wholesale, Emily now designs about 50% of her inventory, working directly with manufacturers to bring her



COURTESY EMILY BROWN





Emily's Kappa experience and Kappa sisters have both shaped and supported her journey as a fashion entrepreneur. Plus, she's learning to balance school, work, and a robust social life as she prepares for graduation in the spring. Opposite page: Emily's dad, here with her for Kappa Dad's Weekend at Purdue, is the number one supporter of Emily chasing big dreams.



creative vision to life. She's especially drawn to unique statement pieces, often inspired by her travels.

"I love simple neutrals, but I also think it's important to have bold pieces—the ones that make people stop and say, 'Where'd you get that?'"

For Emily, Maren Made is more than stylish clothes—it's a brand built on three pillars: confidence, accessibility (Maren Made began with everything priced under \$35 because Emily was determined to make fashion feel within reach for her generation), and community. "The right outfit changes how someone walks into a room. That ripple effect is bigger than fashion," she says. "And it's not just about selling clothes. It's about fostering connections. It's about shaping how big moments feel—interviews, internships, nights out with friends."

These values also reflect her personal journey, which is appropriate since "Maren" is her middle name. "When I started Maren Made, I wasn't very confident in myself. I didn't have that many friends. I had time to pursue this, and I had drive. Now I'm the most confident I've ever been."

## The Leap to Brick-and-Mortar

After experimenting with a shared boutique concept in Lafayette, Indiana, where Maren Made and 11 other small clothing designers had individual "shops" under one roof, Emily made a bold move at just 18 years old: She decided to purchase the whole business and began managing it.

**"When I started Maren Made, I wasn't very confident in myself. I didn't have that many friends. I had time to pursue this, and I had drive. Now I'm the most confident I've ever been."**

"I learned a lot, and it was a great experience, but ultimately, I knew I wanted to focus on Maren Made," she says. "One of the bigger challenges was trying to find a brick-and-mortar location that appealed to me because I either wanted to go big or go home."

It took a year, but she landed her dream location: the Fashion Mall at Keystone in Indianapolis.

Opening a physical storefront brought new challenges—chief among them: the hiring process. "I was either hiring people my own age or 10 years older. It can be a struggle at first to be taken seriously when you're the one doing the interviews," she admits.

But Emily figured it out. "I got good at asking questions and knowing who would be a good fit. The right experience is needed, but I learned to see potential in people, even if they didn't have a lot of experience. Everybody has to start somewhere."





## “Blue and Blue Looks Good on You”

While Maren Made offers every shade, these pieces shine in true Kappa style.

From top left: Crisp stripes and an easy fit make the **Relaxed Fit Vertical Stripe Button-Up Shirt** a campus-to-career staple. Tailored lines meet soft movement in the **On Point Skirt**. The **Denim Bustier Top with Zipper** adds structure and a

modern edge. Smocked, ruffled, and made for sunshine, the **Sleeveless Smocked Mini Dress** brings a playful touch. The **Felia Sweater** drapes softly for effortless chic, while the **Echo Sweater** delivers ribbed texture and relaxed confidence.











From appearances on live morning shows to show off the season's latest looks, to taking the leap from not only offering online sales but also opening a Maren Made storefront, Emily has grown as a business owner and as a young woman hoping to inspire others.



## Lessons Along the Way and Saying Yes

Today, Emily doesn't shy away from talking about the hard parts. For example, there are some pressures related to being a public-facing entrepreneur in the age of social media.

"Sometimes I'm out with friends, and people will come up to ask if I'm the owner of Maren Made. It always surprises me. It's flattering, but it also reminds me that people are watching."

She views that as a responsibility. "If this is the person I want to

"Sometimes I'm out with friends, and people will come up to ask if I'm the owner of Maren Made. It always surprises me. It's flattering, but it also reminds me that people are watching."

be, I have to do things that align with that. It's not always easy, but it's worth it."

One of her biggest personal growth moments came when she was asked by one of her professors at Purdue, Terry Robertson-Smith, to come in and speak to an entrepreneurship class.

"I hated public speaking," Emily laughs. "But I told myself, 'You're never going to get better at this if you don't try.' So, I said yes. I did it a few times. And it was a game changer."

Afterward, students reached out to tell her how much her story inspired them. "Some asked to grab coffee and learn more. It was the first time I saw the effect of just being willing to speak up."

For young women hoping to launch their own ventures, Emily has this advice: "Be willing to take the risk. So many people are scared of what others will think. Don't wait for someone else to give you permission. You should start projects. You should launch ideas. Walk into rooms where you feel like you don't belong. Confidence is built through doing—not waiting."

## The Next Look

Now, as Emily edges closer to completing her undergraduate degree in organizational leadership with a certificate in entrepreneurship, she is splitting her time between college, running Maren Made, and working in operations and marketing for her father's company, which does behavioral analytic assessments on athletes.

"I like learning how to work in a more corporate setting. I want all the experience I can get."

Looking ahead, she wants to continue that and also sees herself moving to a bigger city—possibly New York—while continuing to scale Maren Made into a lifestyle brand. "I want it to be the go-to for young women navigating college, their first jobs, social events, and internships. Everything from game day to graduation."

And if she could choose just one person to dress?


"Sofia Richie Grainge," Emily says. "She's elegant and also has this preppy style in the classiest way. I think a lot of young women look up to her."

What makes Emily's journey so compelling isn't just her company's extraordinary origins or its fast success. It's her clarity of purpose.

For her, fashion is a vehicle for identity, expression, and empowerment. Self-assuredness is at the core of everything she's working to build in her business—and her own life.

"People sometimes mistake confidence for arrogance. If someone is proud of the person they are and willing to put themselves out there, I don't think that should be viewed as a negative."

It's about being sure of who you are—and letting that show, she says. With Maren Made, Emily isn't just selling clothes. She's building a brand that helps young women walk into the room, shoulders back, head high.

And she's only just getting started. 







## REBUILDING

# Trial by Fire

Dede Kennedy-Simington reflects on the fire that took her family's home and how Kappa and giving back have helped her rise from the ashes.

By Elline Lipkin

ON THE NIGHT OF JAN. 7, 2025, **Dierdre “Dede” Kennedy-Simington**, Oregon, was out to dinner with her husband, Mark Simington, and her mother-in-law. They wanted to enjoy a nice meal while escaping the fierce Santa Ana gusts outside.

Soon, a flood of texts started pinging their phones. A spark had ignited in the mountains near where they lived.

They immediately headed back to their Altadena, California, house of 28 years. They wove up side streets to avoid a downhill stampede of evacuating cars. The power was already out. They had to use their phone flashlights to pluck cherished portraits off the walls, empty drawerfuls of precious photographs, and gather what important papers they could. By the minute, it was becoming clear they were in an increasingly serious situation. The Eaton fire was moving fast.

As they set out to flee, they discovered one of their cars

wouldn't start. “In the middle of a windstorm, we had to jump a car!” Dede says with a smile, though she remembers her adrenaline coursing. They finally left, never realizing it would be the last time they were inside the home where they raised their two children, now young adults.

After a fitful night at her mother-in-law's home, Dede received a call from a neighbor that “turned her veins to ice.” Their house was on fire.

Later that morning, after snaking their way back up side streets, Dede, Mark, and their kids faced the unimaginable: The fire had reached their block somewhere between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning. A film crew was on their street and interviewed them standing in front of their still-burning home.

While her family put their arms around each other's shoulders, Mark commented that the most important thing was that they were safe. The



COURTESY DEDE KENNEDY-SIMINGTON



# Through the Keyhole



## 40 IN BRIEF

Leadership at all levels

## 42 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Kappas unlock success

## 45 MAKE A NOTE

It's time to plan for  
Convention 2026!

## 46 IN MEMORIAM

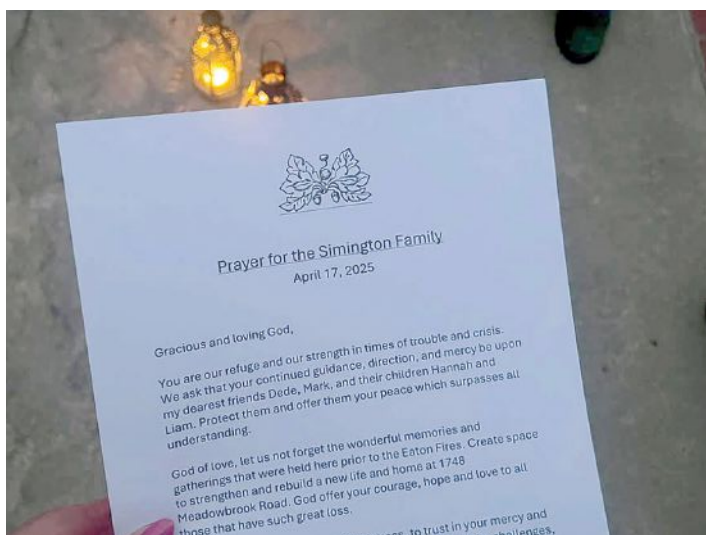
## 48 REMIX

At your doorstep: Kappas  
make deliveries happen

## Kappa Keepsake

Share a photo from  
your Kappa era:  
[thekey@kappa.org](mailto:thekey@kappa.org)





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Samaritan's Purse volunteers helped Dede and her family sift through the rubble; Dede's home was a complete loss but she found the third band of her wedding rings among the ashes; Dede and firefighters shared emotional moments after the fire; a grant from the Kappa Foundation helped Dede with work clothes for a conference; despite her own loss, Dede found comfort volunteering to help other victims of the wildfires; a letter from friends helped Dede and her family find hope.

clip was syndicated. “I quite literally had friends and family all around the country bursting into tears because they saw this horrifying footage,” says Dede. “The roof had already collapsed, and we stood there watching our house burn.”

Another weave of arms—visible and invisible—has surrounded them since, extending support to a family that has valued community and service highly. Dede remembers, “Both of my parents were active volunteers throughout their lives” in Pasadena and Altadena. “My daughter understood that as a core value and said, ‘Mom,

we’ve got to go and volunteer.’” Despite their own shock, later that day, Dede and her daughter went to the Pasadena Convention Center, which served as a central recovery hub, and served meals, sorted clothes, and brought food to evacuees. Calls began pouring in to Dede from friends offering them places to stay, financial help, and moral support.

Among those friends were her Kappa sisters. Dede lights up recalling how, after she arrived at the University of Oregon knowing no one, she decided to go through Recruitment. She found the absolute “right fit for

me” with “girls who are still my friends to this day,” mentioning that their “Kappa crew” had recently spent a weekend in the desert. “We’re planning our next get-together already,” she says and always looks forward to reunions at the Kappa house in Oregon before school starts. “We stay in the house,” Dede says, “and it’s just hilarious. Because the stories all come out and the songs and singing and then the pranks and shenanigans just jump off. It’s so great.” Joining a sorority was a pivotal decision for her, she says, and her Kappa sisters have been a source of lifelong support.

Shortly after the fire, Dede connected with the Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation. While speaking to a Kappa team member, Dede describes a conversation that helped her realize she needed to accept that she is in a “season of receiving,” not something she has been comfortable with. Dede notes how powerful it was to receive a Rose McGill Grant as she and her family dealt with their tragedy.

Dede runs a health insurance agency, focusing on employer-sponsored benefits. She works with employers and corporations doing strategic planning, negotiation, and implementation



alongside employee communications and support. She serves on the board of her trade association, whose national conference is held every February. As president of the Los Angeles chapter, and with the support of colleagues, Dede knew she wanted to attend despite having just gone through the fire. The timing of the Rose McGill Grant was perfect, she says, in that she needed to rebuild a professional wardrobe, acquire new luggage, and gather the

things that would make her feel confident while in Washington, D.C., to advocate for health benefits for employees, with a particular emphasis on mental health.

With a smile and tears, Dede mentions the “dark humor” that has pulled her family through the last several months. She recalls her daughter saying, “You’re not going to have to worry about that broken oven anymore,” because I had been literally envisioning a kitchen


“You have to constantly remind yourself, live and let live. And look for the joy. If there’s not joy there, get through it quickly, and find some joy.”



remodel. And then it became OK, God overshot the mark. I was just talking about a remodel, not a full house.”

But her family is rebuilding. “...Our architect is my best friend since I was 2 years old,” Dede says, mentioning how, as kids, they would draw houses and then furnish them with pictures from the Sears catalog. “We were little girls drawing pictures of houses; now we get to sit in our 60s and draw pictures of houses. They’re just going to be a little more detailed now.” It’s another full-circle moment of giving and receiving.

“Look for the good and the

God,” a friend advised her. “You have to constantly remind yourself, live and let live. And look for the joy. If there’s not joy there, get through it quickly, and find some joy,” Dede says, mentioning an incredible road trip she took this summer with friends that ended at the 60th anniversary of the Grateful Dead in San Francisco. “I’m in awe of life most days,” she writes in a social media update, and despite the long road ahead, those glimmering moments of connection and hope, which rebound from the care and love she has poured into friends and family, are what lead her forward. 



# IN brief



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Leadership Academy: A Transformative Journey

TWELVE YEARS AGO, I STOOD AT the edge of my comfort zone, staring down a trust fall.

As a risk management professional, I knew exactly how many things could go wrong. But there

I was at Leadership Academy, surrounded by my Kappa sisters, about to lean backward and trust completely. That moment changed everything.

Leadership Academy isn't

just another program—it's pure transformation. When I attended as a council member in 2013, I thought I was there to observe. Instead, I discovered one of Kappa's greatest gifts to

our members, made possible through our Foundation's generous support.

The trust fall became my breakthrough. In my journal that night, I wrote: "I need to take risks, trust others, and be willing to try again. I don't need to feel like I have to do things on my own." That realization didn't stay at Leadership Academy—it followed me home, into boardrooms, through challenges, and across every leadership role since.

"I need to take risks, trust others, and be willing to try again. I don't need to feel like I have to do things on my own." That realization didn't stay at Leadership Academy—it followed me home, into boardrooms, through challenges, and across every leadership role since.

Now, whenever I face something that pushes my boundaries, I remember that moment. The circle of sisters supporting me. The leap of faith that landed safely. The reminder that I can do anything.

Leadership Academy has been creating these pivotal moments for 20 years. The question isn't whether you need leadership development—it's whether you're ready to invest in becoming your best self.

Your sisters are waiting around the campfire. Your leadership journey is calling. Will you answer?

For more info on leadership development opportunities, contact the Education and Training Department at [education@kappa.org](mailto:education@kappa.org).





CARMEL, INDIANA

## Panhellenic Appointment

Kappa Kappa Gamma is proud to announce that Mary Pat Rooney, *Drake*, has been appointed to the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) Board of Directors for the 2025–27 term. She joins six fellow directors in guiding the strategic direction of NPC, the umbrella organization representing 26 national and international sororities.

The NPC Board of Directors plays a critical role in advancing the sorority experience through leadership, policy development, and organizational oversight. Mary Pat's appointment reflects her longstanding dedication to the Panhellenic community and her proven commitment to collaboration, service, and the values that unite all member organizations.

Kappa Kappa Gamma is honored to have Mary Pat represent our organization at the highest level of NPC leadership and congratulates her on this appointment.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

## Panhellenic Award

Kappa Kappa Gamma congratulates Marian Klingbeil Williams, *Missouri*, on receiving the National Panhellenic Conference's Distinguished Service Award.

Marian has dedicated more than three decades to advancing the sorority experience through her leadership and service to the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). From her start as an NPC delegate in 1991 to serving as chair of the NPC Board of Directors during the 1999 general session and serving as one of the original incorporators of the NPC Foundation, her contributions have left a lasting impact. This recognition reflects a lifetime of commitment, integrity, and visionary leadership. Please join us in congratulating Marian on this well-deserved honor.

DUBLIN, OHIO

## Welcome, Leadership Consultants

These seven Kappas will complete more than 200 visits this academic year! Welcome to the Leadership Consultants: (from left to right, below) Anabelle Dillard, *Whitman*; Lauren Theisen, *Drake*; Cat Chadwick, *Virginia Tech*; Jessica Rodgers, *Florida State*; Rowan Dawson, *Butler*; Sara Khouzam, *Loyola*; and Mary Elizabeth Sherling, *Auburn*.

DUBLIN, OHIO

## Board of Trustees

The Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to the Board

of Trustees. The Foundation welcomes Michelle Jackson, *Miami*, who is senior vice president and private wealth adviser at Capital Group Private Client Services. She is joined by Amelia McCormick, *Kansas State*, senior vice president of program development and delivery at Decker Communications.

WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

## Influential Alumnae

The Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life Community at Purdue University is celebrating its 150th anniversary. In honor of this milestone, a list of the 150 Most Influential Purdue Alumni was created. We are pleased to see two members of Kappa Kappa Gamma make the list. Congratulations to Pris Gerde and Alicia Schulhof on this honor.





# key

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Lisa Belcher

**ARIZONA.** An independent filmmaker, Lisa directed the psychological thriller “House of Abraham,” which hit theaters in June. The award-winning director and producer founded Jump Rock Pictures. The film tackles themes mainstream studios may overlook.

### Paige Hansen

**MISSOURI.** Paige pitched BAM, America’s first organic buckwheat milk, on ABC’s “Shark Tank” in March. She founded BAM to share the gluten-free, antioxidant-packed, low-glycemic alternative to traditional dairy and grain-based milks. Learn more at bamisbetter.com or find it at Whole Foods Market, Target, and other key retailers.

### Amanda Lowe

**TULSA.** Rah, rah for Amanda, who was named Kappa’s 2025 Woman of the Year for Tulsa Area Alumnae Panhellenic. Each year, the Panhellenic groups in Tulsa name an alumna to represent their sorority and honor the spirit of sisterhood. Delta Pi Chapter and the Tulsa Alumnae Association celebrated Amanda’s contributions together.

### Neah McMeen

**KANSAS.** This rising star is someone to watch in the

country music scene. With a powerful voice and relatable lyrics, it’s no surprise she signed with PLA Media. “Music has the power to bring people together,” says Neah, adding that she’s excited to continue making connections through music. Follow her music career at neahmcmeen.com.

### Kristen Knox

**DEPAUW.** Kristen published her first children’s book, *Diary of a Tall Girl*. Navigating the challenges of being a tall woman can be tough, but Kristen feels it’s important to learn how to grow into yourself and never shrink to fit in. Her book helps young girls accept their unique differences, build confidence, and ultimately embrace who they are.

### Ashlee Heiligman

**NORTH TEXAS.** Ashlee serves as the executive director of Global Child Advocates (GCA) and co-founder of Sojourn Studio. GCA strengthens children’s safety and protection to prevent child abuse, trafficking, and exploitation. The Sojourn Studio is a sustainable social enterprise empowering women. It creates dignified work for teen girls and female survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, or poverty, helping them earn extra income and unlock opportunities.



EMMY HONOR  
**WREN WOODSON**  
NORTHWESTERN

Wren has worked as an associate producer at “60 Minutes” for five years. She recently won an Emmy for her piece “The Hostage Story” in the Outstanding Edited Interview category in 2024. Wren and a colleague also recently launched a podcast, NEWSGIRLS, with weekly episodes covering topical, engaging, credible news stories geared toward Gen Z and Millennial audiences.

WREN WOODSON





WESTERN ARTISANS

**GRACIE PHILLIPS AND MOLLY JOHNSON**

OKLAHOMA

When Gracie and Molly met freshman year, they bonded quickly over their love of making jewelry. By sophomore year, they were launching their business: Sage and Stone Jewels. Their line features leather and Western-inspired statement pieces and works in various gemstones, unique fabrics, and metals. They hosted their first pop-up during Parents Weekend and continue to use Kappa sisters as photo shoot models. The duo is participating in the OU Startup Accelerator program. See their pieces at [www.sageandstonejewels.com](http://www.sageandstonejewels.com)

published her 15th and final novel, *Fair Haven*, in spring 2025. Set in a small town in the mid-1990s, the story follows the mystery of a neighbor's electrocution. Laury is also the author of many short stories and volumes of poetry.

**Michele Pawk**

**ALLEGHENY.** Michele joined the cast of the Broadway show

"Just In Time." "There's no one like her," says co-star Jonathan Groff. As a seasoned Broadway and off-Broadway star, Michele has received the Featured Actress Tony, Lucille Lortel, Astaire, and Obie Awards. Her recent Broadway appearance was as Madame Morrible in "Wicked." Michele retired this year from her faculty role in the performing arts department at Wagner College.



NAVAL NURSING AWARD

**KIM SHAUGHNESSY-GRANGER**

VILLANOVA

Kim, a U.S. Navy captain, director of Naval Health Clinic Annapolis and commanding officer of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Annapolis, received the Villanova M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's Distinguished Leadership in Nursing Practice Award at the college's 34th Annual Mass and Alumni Awards Ceremony. She was honored for her professional achievements, exceptional leadership, and dedication to nursing.

**Tiffany Abell Tauscheck**

**DRAKE.** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce selected Tiffany to serve on the Committee of 100 as Iowa's sole representative. Business Record also voted her Best Up-and-Coming Business Leader in 2024. Tiffany is passionate about creating connections between all areas of Des Moines—rural, suburban, and urban—because she knows they're stronger together. Tiffany serves as president and CEO of Greater Des Moines Partnership.

**Kenzie Bay**

**WHITMAN.** Kenzie received the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, awarded to 37 students in the U.S. Her research focuses on access to prehospital care in remote and under-resourced communities in Nepal, Tanzania, and Thailand. Kenzie started the first-responders club on Whitman's campus and plans to attend medical school after her fellowship.

**Laury Egan**

**CARNEGIE MELLON.** Laury



### Sharon Baker

**NORTHWESTERN.** Sharon has written her first children's book, *Where's the Magic?* The book follows a cat named Sage and his mentors as he seeks happiness and success. Sharon's name may sound familiar as she's written several essays for *The Key*.

### Arti Hirani

**FLORIDA.** Arti serves as president of The Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar. Her theme for the year, "Open for Opportunity," is rooted in the idea that while licensure marks the beginning of a legal career, true success depends on access—to employment, mentorship, and the kinds of opportunities that help new lawyers thrive.



INSPIRING AUTHOR

**CAROL GREER DODDS**

TEXAS

Carol has served in collegiate ministry since 1985 in Colorado, Costa Rica and Texas. She contributed to *BEYOND: Create a Life You Love After 50, 60, 70 and More*, offering over 300 questions for purposeful living in later life. Her Kappa sisters joined her at the book launch party earlier this year.



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# THE MAGIC OF SISTERHOOD

Find Your Moment

JUNE 25–27, 2026

Mark your calendar for the **76th Biennial Convention** at the Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek. Convention is where Kappas come together to inspire action, celebrate our everlasting sisterhood, and dream boldly for the future.

More details coming soon!



## Cover Your Assets

Stay savvy and stylish on the go. Clear bags shouldn't mean showing your contents to spectators. CYA Bags by Linda Weisbrodt Drinkwine, *Miami (Ohio)* meet clear bag policy rules when entering venues. [shopcya.com](https://shopcya.com)

## Scholarship Applications

NOVEMBER 2025

Kappa scholarships support your academic dreams. The Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation awards scholarships to undergraduate and graduate members. Applications open in November. Learn more at [kappa.org/foundation/scholarships](https://kappa.org/foundation/scholarships).

## Who's Counting?

Gamma Nu Chapter, *Arkansas*, and Iota Chapter, *DePauw*, are! They celebrated 100 years and 150 years of Kappa tradition in October 2025. Congrats!



# MAKE A note



## Happy Birthday, Kappa!

We've turned 155! We hope you grabbed your keys and fleurs-de-lis as we celebrated all the ideals we were founded on. We want to see your **Founders Day celebrations!** Send your snapshots to [socialmedia@kappa.org](mailto:socialmedia@kappa.org).

## Fleurishing Fun

WINTER/SPRING 2025–26

Everyone's favorite virtual events for alumnae are back!

Have fun with sisters while learning everything from financial wellness to negotiating a salary to floral arranging, sketch night, and more. For more info, visit [kappa.org/events](https://kappa.org/events).





# IN memoriam

## **\* Adelphi College**

Livingston, Pamela, '49, d. 11/24

## **\* Akron, University of**

Hershberger, Isabel Hopkins, '40, d. 7/22

Neely, Patricia Hays, '47, d. 3/23

## **Alabama, University of**

Drennen, Elizabeth Bryan, '49, d. 4/25

Lewis, Lucinda White, '64, d. 2/25

Logsdon, Carrie Jackson, '71, d. 1/25

Morrison, Olivia Macon, '54, d. 1/25

## **Allegheny College**

Conaway, Rosanne Johnston, '55, d. 1/25

Gettman, Barbara Manning, '47, d. 2/25

Neubert, Nancy, '81, d. 4/25

## **Arizona, University of**

Compogiannis, Anne Pomeroy, '50, d. 4/25

Kinney, Nancy, '47, d. 1/25

Steelman, Priss Rissler, '60, d. 1/25

Von Isser, Aldine Sinclair, '51, d. 4/25

## **Arkansas, University of**

Broach, Joy Cox, '55, d. 1/25

Gammill, Anna Rudder, '61, d. 3/25

Hearnsburger, Joan Lafferty, '69, d. 5/25

Mix, Constance Shaddox, '53, d. 3/25

Morgan, Mary Sloan, '56, d. 3/25

Wisener, Mary Reaves, '69, d. 11/24

## **Auburn University**

Schmitt, Susan Frech, '66, d. 2/25

## **Butler University**

Kramer, Meme Melick, '58, d. 1/25

Laverty, Gloria Lofquist, '58, d. 11/24

Macurda, Evelyn Anderson, '55, d. 1/25

Render, Mary Jane Allison, '62, d. 3/25

Shepherd, Sheryl, '64, d. 12/24

## **Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo**

DeChalk, Christina, '22, d. 1/25

## **California, U. of, Berkeley**

Breiholz, Sylvia Spridgen, '56, d. 1/25

## **California, U. of, Davis**

Heidi Rauscher Troutman, '83, d. 1/25

## **California, U. of, Los Angeles**

Falk, Tamey Taylor, '81, d. 3/25

## **California, U. of, Riverside**

Kirkman, Debra Dietrich, '76, d. 4/25

## **Carnegie Mellon University**

Arnold, Laura Ehni, '49, d. 3/25

Bell, Carol Fanger, '69, d. 4/25

Stewart, Mary Lou Maurhoff, '52, d. 4/25

## **Centre College**

Grider, Roxanne, '87, d. 2/25

## **Cincinnati, University of**

Jones, Penny Fitzpatrick, '62, d. 2/25

Livingston, Janet Strosnider, '53, d. 2/25

Sefton, Diane Lewis, '65, d. 2/25

## **\* Colorado College**

Kreidle, Renee Vigil, '79, d. 11/24

## **Colorado, University of**

Lindquist, Gayla McRae, '62, d. 1/25

Symons, Cle Cervi, '53, d. 12/24

## **Cornell University**

Cox, Judy Reamer, '58, d. 1/25

Lutz, Jan Charles, '54, d. 1/25

## **Denison University**

Hetherington, Margery Lawrence, '45, d. 12/24

Mehnert, Martha Casey, '61, d. 12/24

Newcomb, Joyce Staley, '51, d. 1/25

## **DePauw University**

Davis, Joanne Trees, '49, d. 4/25

Johnstone, Helen Gloyd, '58, d. 3/25

Richards, Sarah Marks, '61, d. 1/25

Rucker, Carol Wischmeyer, '52, d. 1/25

Traynor, Olivia, '12, d. 12/23

## **Drake University**

Lundbeck, Florence Woods, '54, d. 2/25

Segneri, Cynthia Templin, '61, d. 11/24

Spiker, Mary Beth Mouritsen, '55, d. 11/24

## **Emory University**

Bomford, Anne, '63, d. 8/24

Hagan, Cathryn Wilbourn, '81, d. 3/25

Von Hohenleiten, Cynthia, '77, d. 2/25

## **Georgia, University of**

Hedgepeth, Laura Anderson, '58, d. 1/25

Heyward, Mana Sanchez, '53, d. 3/25

Link, Susan Sevier, '62, d. 2/25

Maier, Alden Morris, '64, d. 2/25

Wilkie, Jacquelyn Grigsby, '52, d. 2/25

## **Idaho, University of**

Johnson, Carmelyn McMahon, '48, d. 5/25

Marineau, Judith Stubbs, '59, d. 3/25

Strohecker, Jane Fields, '57, d. 1/25

## **Illinois Wesleyan University**

Brown, Irmalee Lewis, '44, d. 2/25

Schelkopf, Nancy Greene, '57, d. 11/24

Tolson, Patricia Macy, '54, d. 11/24

## **Illinois, University of**

Neary, Sally Barton, '55, d. 2/25

## **Indiana University**

Carlson, Marsha Mackanos, '56, d. 2/25

Kirsch, Genevieve Moody, '46, d. 1/25

Riggs, Eleanor Cox, '52, d. 12/24

## **Iowa, University of**

Anderson, Jan Walter, '55, d. 3/25

Blunk, June Thomas, '75, d. 4/25

## **Kansas, University of**

Aikins, Mary Ainsworth, '45, d. 3/25

Chalfant, Julia Rayl, '58, d. 4/25

Hanna, Adelaide Schutz, '50, d. 3/25

Stutz, Janet Mangan, '58, d. 10/24

## **Kentucky, University of**

Bushong, Linda Nalbach, '58, d. 3/25

Kessinger, Martha Bishop, '48, d. 5/25

King, Frances Lawton, '43, d. 5/25

Park, Lucy Blanton, '55, d. 2/25

Plattner, Elissa May, '55, d. 4/25

## **Louisiana State University**

Abadie, Sallye Stevens, '63, d. 1/25

Craft, Charlotte Parham, '60, d. 1/25

Craig, Elizabeth Jarrell, '68, d. 1/25

Henderson, Connie, '68, d. 1/25

## **\* Manitoba, University of**

Martin, Shelagh Morrison, '51, d. 3/25

## **Massachusetts, University of**

Barker, Elaine Chomyn, '60, d. 4/25

## **McGill University**

Miller, Mary Fisher, '46, d. 1/24

## **Miami University**

Baines, Janet Crawford, '50, d. 12/24

Bowers, Marjorie Foster, '59, d. 12/24

Connor, Clare Hartwick, '58, d. 1/25

Heath, Sally Owens, '54, d. 2/25

## **\* Miami, University of**

Brown, Linda Dunn, '70, d. 4/25

Collins, Diana Ware, '52, d. 2/25

Sims, Patty Moorman, '76, d. 3/25

## **Michigan State University**

Acker, Glenda Beard, '74, d. 4/24

Bell, Mozelle Sawyer, '46, d. 3/25

McNitt, Judith Anderson, '56, d. 3/25

Van Domelen, Nancy Vogelsang, '52, d. 2/25

## **Michigan, University of**

Beach, Jill Predmore, '51, d. 3/25

Teninga, Nancy Neumann, '45, d. 3/25

Wendt, Kathleen Strobl, '92, d. 9/24

## **\* Middlebury College**

Welsh, Barbara Grigg, '44, d. 3/25

## **Minnesota, University of**

Boies, Sheila McCarthy, '54, d. 3/25

## **\* Mississippi State University**

Smith, Julie Paul, '77, d. 11/24

## **Mississippi, University of**

Lanaux, Mary Cairns, '59, d. 4/25

## **Missouri, University of**

Johnson, Sara Miller, '54, d. 1/25

Logan, Sally Dielmann, '78, d. 2/25

Osterloh, Carol Leber, '55, d. 4/25

Seigfreid, Kitty Flowers, '49, d. 4/25

Shackelford, Helen Haigh, '50, d. 1/25

Wilson, Helen Wells, '48, d. 3/25

## **Monmouth College**

Engers, Carolyn Tomazic, '53, d. 12/24

McKay, Ruth Goss, '54, d. 3/25

## **\* Montana, University of**

Burgess, Donna Kelly, '45, d. 1/25

## **Nebraska, University of**

Carter, Mary Knorr, '54, d. 3/25

Chapman, Alison Faulkner, '52, d. 3/25

Skinner, Kay Swoboda, '60, d. 1/25

## **New Mexico, University of**

Hudgens, Gayle, '60, d. 11/24

## **\* North Carolina, University of**

Jackson, Carolyn Brauch, '64, d. 3/25

## **\* North Dakota State University**

Kierscht, Marcia Selland, '58, d. 4/25

Law, Margaret Armstrong, '49, d. 2/25

Smith, Nancy Atkinson, '58, d. 3/25

## **Northwestern University**

Germain, Phillis Otto, '45, d. 7/14

Lewis, Melanie, '76, d. 9/24

Pepper, Roxelyn Miller, '50, d. 12/24

## **Ohio State University**

Rogers, Virginia Luscombe, '51, d. 1/25

Starlin, Sarah, '81, d. 12/24

## **Ohio Wesleyan University**

Fleming, Joyce, '62, d. 2/25

Hevel, Margaret Crawford, '52, d. 11/24

Huhn, Barb Rossiter, '58, d. 11/24

Simpson, Patricia James, '51, d. 4/25

## **Oklahoma State University**

Collier, Joyce Flikkema, '49, d. 1/25

Fisher, Elizabeth Rixleben, '50, d. 5/20

Halley, Dorothy Cesar, '57, d. 1/25

Heavner, Mary Towers, '51, d. 2/25

Smart, Marilyn Reeves, '54, d. 3/25

Strong, Beverly Allen, '53, d. 2/25

Welker, Joy Collins, '54, d. 1/24

Wing, Gayle Meixner, '63, d. 3/25

## **Oklahoma, University of**

Adams, Pamela McCaskill, '65, d. 2/25

Blankenship, Libby Warren, '48, d. 4/25

Field, Virginia Dyniewicz, '55, d. 3/25

Lafitte, Jahn York, '75, d. 5/25

Larsen, Brenda Simms, '58, d. 12/24

McCraw, Katherine, '65, d. 12/24

Pearson, Karen Boggs, '60, d. 1/25

Riesen, Marian Coffey, '53, d. 2/25

Sapper, Lelia Matthews, '40, d. 1/25

Taggart, Sydney Shaffer, '52, d. 11/24

## **Oregon State University**

Allemann, Mary Ann Rands, '51, d. 2/25

Elgin, Phyllis MacGregor, '45, d. 12/24

Hoff, Kate Johnson, '58, d. 3/25

Mikesell, Molly Edick, '56, d. 3/25

Thompson, Jane Parks, '62, d. 12/24



## **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.



**Oregon, University of**

Nill, Sally Crawford, '54, d. 2/25

**\* Pennsylvania, University of**

Carmine, Katharyn Freeman, '48, d. 1/25

**Purdue University**

Crook, Virginia Robinson, '47, d. 4/25  
Loeffler, Carol Hirsch, '53, d. 4/24

**\* Rollins College**

McIntosh, Cornelia Ladd, '55, d. 3/25

**Southern Methodist University**

Couch, Beth, '70, d. 11/24  
Fisher, Barbara Russell, '52, d. 3/25  
Foster, Joan Slaughter, '49, d. 3/25  
Locke, Gloria Swarts, '50, d. 2/25  
Montgomery, Ruth Ann Rogers, '48, d. 4/25

O'Hara, Sterling Oles, '06, d. 4/25

Potts, Patsie Northcutt, '48, d. 4/25  
Young, Sally Holland, '68, d. 1/25

**St. Lawrence University**

Olney, Alicia Mahoney, '55, d. 11/24

**Tennessee, University of**

Catterton, Julie Noland, '76, d. 11/24

**Texas Christian University**

Ament, Linda Ley, '61, d. 12/24  
Burdette, Patricia Brown, '57, d. 2/25  
Corbin, Dorothy Wofford, '56, d. 3/23  
Matteson, Annette Dickerson, '85, d. 4/25  
Paschal, Betty Piper, '56, d. 1/25

**Texas Tech University**

Griggs, Connie Coleman, '57, d. 11/24  
Preston, Elouida Thomas, '54, d. 12/24  
Shinn, Patsy Harris, '53, d. 1/25

**Texas, University of**

Ehrhart, Sally McGinley, '49, d. 4/25  
Hill, Becky Jones, '79, d. 1/25  
Hulsey, Isabelle Brown, '53, d. 1/25  
Jones, Julia Moore, '56, d. 4/25  
Lacy, Amy Wheeler, '82, d. 12/24

**Tulsa, University of**

James, Judy Culp, '56, d. 4/25

O'Banion, Marilyn, '50, d. 12/21

**Utah, University of**

Adams, Barbara Nelson, '59, d. 1/25  
Beck, Verlene Hayward, '52, d. 1/25  
Billings, Judith Mitchell, '62, d. 4/25  
Foulger, Rhea Smurthwaite, '50, d. 5/25  
Huntsman, Kalli Berrett, '87, d. 3/25  
Morris, Carlyle Olsen, '54, d. 12/24

**Vanderbilt University**

Gose, Linda Abernathy, '82, d. 12/09  
Santisievan, Camila, '96, d. 7/14

**Washington State University**

McDonald, Judith Sorensen, '58, d. 11/24

**Washington University**

Busse, Marty Glass, '46, d. 12/24  
Wulfmeyer, Mary Gray, '52, d. 2/25

**Washington, University of**

Cory, Kay Chamberlin, '53, d. 9/24  
Hensey, Ann Funk, '52, d. 2/25  
House, Lynn Thomas, '59, d. 8/24  
Jolly, Pedie Howard, '56, d. 2/25

**West Virginia University**

Holcomb, Barbara Boggs, '47, d. 4/25  
McCoy, Joyce McDermott, '60, d. 3/25

**Whitman College**

Green, B.Z. Fenton, '55, d. 1/25

**William & Mary, College of**

Cashore, Cynthia Harris, '62, d. 4/25  
Fricke, Nancy Walton, '49, d. 5/21  
Hissey, Laurie McAvoy, '79, d. 1/25  
Martling, Elle Lundberg, '53, d. 11/24  
Weisser, Marcia Silfen, '52, d. 3/25

**Wisconsin, University of**

Campbell, Mary White, '56, d. 3/25

**Wyoming, University of**

Alsop, Ann Rhein, '56, d. 9/24  
Porter, Nona Reed, '48, d. 2/25

\* Indicates inactive chapters

*These names were submitted to  
Kappa Headquarters from Dec. 31,  
2024–May 31, 2025.*

# THE MAGIC OF SISTERHOOD

*Welcome to Kappaland! Golden keys unlock castles. Wise owls share stories  
of sisterhood. Kappa connections bloom like fleur-de-lis.*

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA'S  
76<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION

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[kappa.org/convention](https://kappa.org/convention)



# remix

Special Delivery

These dynamic Kappas found their calling at the innovative intersection of lifestyle and commerce. From curating the perfect wardrobe rotation to crafting meal experiences for busy lives, their work redefines how we approach everyday moments. We caught up with these modern women to explore how they've built careers around making life more accessible, sustainable, and fun—one subscription at a time.

Madeline Mencil Jerge  
NYU, PRODUCT & MENU ENABLEMENT  
AT HELLOFRESH

FACING OFF

Kevan Carroll  
UCLA, SENIOR BUSINESS  
ANALYST AT NUULY

<p><b>I was inspired</b> by the idea of changing the way people eat! Prior to this, I worked in banking, and I wanted to work for a physical product that was touching people’s lives.</p>	<p><b>Why work in direct-to-consumer service?</b></p>	<p><b>I’ve always been fascinated</b> by consumer behavior... there’s something exciting about working for a company people in my own circle are already talking about—it feels both personal and impactful.</p>
<p><b>I like being able to see</b> the impact of our new product launches; knowing anyone in America can experience exactly what we worked so hard to build makes it worth it.</p>	<p><b>Favorite thing about your job?</b></p>	<p><b>The people</b>—both the team I work with every day and the subscribers who continue to grow with and love Nuuly. It’s rewarding to know we’re building something meaningful together.</p>
<p><b>Consumers want more flavor!</b> The home-cooking space is no longer built off the same few meals you know how to cook from childhood.</p>	<p><b>Most exciting industry change in the last five years?</b></p>	<p><b>Renting has redefined</b> fashion’s relationship with responsibility. It’s not just about sourcing differently—it’s about changing consumer habits and proving sustainability can be built into everyday choices.</p>
<p><b>Integrating technology</b> into the home-cooking experience! People feel a sense of pride in being able to cook a fresh meal for their families.</p>	<p><b>What will define the industry’s next five years?</b></p>	<p><b>AI will completely transform</b> retail in ways we’re only beginning to imagine! We’re just scratching the surface of how AI can make retail smarter, faster, and more customer-centric.</p>
<p><b>The new meals</b> from HelloFresh, especially when we have a new ingredient, like lamb chops!</p>	<p><b>Fave thing to have delivered?</b></p>	<p><b>My Nuuly</b> each month!</p>



# SOMETHING NEW, BORROWED, BLUE, AND BUBBLY.

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sparkle to your big day.

[thefleurnapa.com](http://thefleurnapa.com)



Mackenzie Welsh, Butler, was  
surrounded by Kappa sisters on  
her wedding day in Dec. 2024.

Photo by: Danielle Harris  
Photography

*the fleur*  
— NAPA VALLEY —



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