



the Key

150th Anniversary
KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

Welcome

150TH

ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE



INSIDE: 150 KAPPAS WHO DARED

02 | Trailblazing 52 | Optimism

These barrier-breakers waved a banner that said: Change is on the horizon.

An unmatched ability to see and achieve greatness defined these women.

20 | Truth 66 | Respect

Truth-tellers challenged Hitler, fought censorship, made a presidential run and won a Pulitzer prize.

Through service to others, these women showed how to see the good in everyone.

36 | Connection 82 | Knowledge

Whether making Disney dreams come true or funding Facebook, Kappas created connection.

From chocolate to breaking codes, these Kappas turned knowledge into action.

KAPPA ARCHIVES

A Continued Usefulness and Prosperity

150 YEARS AND WOMEN THAT DEFINED AN ERA

UPON THE LONG-AWAITED PUBLICATION OF KAPPA'S 1930 history, the last two living Founders wished for Kappa a "continued usefulness and prosperity." In the strange world that has been 2020, my own wish is no different.

The 1930 *History of Kappa Kappa Gamma* wasn't published until 1932. Likewise, this Sesquicentennial issue of *The Key* met a delay.

This issue should have been in Kappa hands in June for the kickoff of our 150th anniversary, beginning with Convention in Boca Raton, Florida. But in light of COVID-19, the Fraternity pivoted to a virtual business meeting hosted on the technology platforms Zoom and Whova. It was disappointing not to gather in person to distribute our Sesquicentennial issue, but we made the safer choice to hold a virtual election of officers. On a bright note, the virtual event made attendance more feasible and held the promise of making future Conventions more accessible. Lemonade from lemons, as they say.

In this special double issue, six bold words—Trailblazing, Truth, Connection, Optimism, Respect and Knowledge—define

150 Kappas who dared to dream boldly and live fully. From six college students who founded Kappa in 1870 to members who continue to innovate and advocate, this issue is an homage to those who inspire us.

As we echo our Founders' hope for a continued usefulness and prosperity, my hope is this: that you will be inspired by the Kappas on these pages. That you will see yourself in their courage and their kindness. That you will continue your own engagement with Kappa, or rekindle the bond you may have lost. And that you will pay your \$25 dues—through your local alumnae association or at kappa.org/dues—and/or make a donation to the Foundation. Creating, printing, and mailing *The Key* does not come without considerable cost. Nor does running an international Fraternity. Your commitment to Kappa—in word and in deed—helps to drive the future of our sisterhood.

It's been our aim to connect members since 1882 when **Tade Hartsuff Kuhns, Butler**, and **Minnetta Taylor, DePauw**, suggested a magazine and Minnetta became its first editor. As a modern editorial board, we wondered how we'd measure up to these powerhouse predecessors. We didn't want to rehash history, so we decided to do what we do best: Tell our members' stories.

This issue is not a *mission accomplie*. We know our members have stories to tell. So, consider this a starting point, an opportunity to start a conversation about who you'd like to see in the pages of your magazine. Tell us which stories you loved (and why). And tell us what you'd like to see in future issues. Here's to usefulness, prosperity and another bold 150 years.

Kristin

—Kristin Sangid, EDITOR

theKey

Volume 137, No. 1
Fall 2020

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

Editor

Kristin Johnson Sangid,
Georgia Southern

Associate Editor

Kristen Desmond LeFevre, *Indiana*

Contributing Editors

Melisse Campbell, *Mississippi*
Stacy Warren Flannery, *Drake*
Katie Mills Giorgio, *Drake*
Jodi Noding, *Florida*
Kait Smith Lanthier, *Marist*
Laura Vinci, *Kansas*

Editorial Board Chairman

Judy Stewart Ducate, *Texas Tech*

Executive Director

Kari Kittrell Poole

Director of Marketing and Communications

Ashley Gilbert Moyer, *Purdue*

Copy Editor

Cailin Cooney, *Central Florida*

Design

Em Dash

Printed by

Lane Press

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*, 6640 Riverside Drive, Suite 200, Dublin, Ohio, 43017

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA HEADQUARTERS

6640 Riverside Drive, Suite 200
Dublin, Ohio 43017

Phone: 866-554-1870 (866-KKG-1870)

Email Kappa: kkghq@kappa.org
Email The Key: thekey@kappa.org

To change your address or stop receiving *The Key*, email kkghq@kappa.org or call the number above. Please include full name.



facebook.com/kappakappagamma
facebook.com/thekeymagazine
twitter.com/kappakappagamma
linkedin.com
Keyword: Kappa Kappa Gamma
www.kappa.org



MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C022085

Trailblazing

Illustration by **BIJOU KARMAN**

INITIATED 1999

DYNAMIC DUCHESS

An actress whose professional career started in 2002 on soap opera “General Hospital,” **Rachel “Meghan” Markle**, *Northwestern*, landed her breakout role as Rachel Zane on the television drama “Suits.”

But in 2018, she became a worldwide sensation as the Duchess of Sussex—a title conferred upon her by Great Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II when Meghan married Prince Harry, the monarch’s grandson. Their union made Meghan the first American—and the first woman of color—to marry into Great Britain’s royal family.

An outspoken feminist, Meghan has used her role to advocate for gender equality and social justice. “Women don’t need to find their voice,” she told guests of The Royal Foundation in 2019. “They need to feel empowered to use it and people need to be encouraged to listen.”

As a guest editor for the September 2019 issue of *British Vogue*, Meghan highlighted the works of women whom she described as “forces for change.” “For this issue, I imagined, why would we swim in the shallow end of the pool when we could go to the deep end?” Meghan wrote in her editor’s letter. “A metaphor for life, as well as for this issue. Let’s be braver. Let’s go a bit deeper.”

—**KRISTEN DESMOND LEFEVRE**, *Indiana*



INITIATED 1976



RISK TAKER

**Virginia
"Ginni"
Rometty**
Northwestern

Ginni Rometty—

IBM's first female CEO (2012–20)—says that women who aim to succeed to the highest levels—regardless of their business sector—need to "accept risk, aim big and never let anyone else tell you what's possible." It's a lesson Ginni learned early in her career. When a manager wanted to promote her, she hesitated because she thought she needed more time to be ready. Even though she didn't feel prepared, she returned to work the next day and accepted the job.

"I learned that growth and comfort never coexist," Ginni says. "It's the same for people, countries and companies. Ask yourself when you learn the most? I guarantee it's when you felt at risk."

—KRISTEN DESMOND
LEFEVRE, *Indiana*

Alice and
Pete Dye



INITIATED 1945

Queen of the Greens

Alice O'Neal Dye was the driving force behind some of the most iconic golf courses

By **Ann Graham Schnaedter**, *Missouri*

KOWN AS THE "first lady of golf architecture," **Alice O'Neal Dye, Rollins,** and her husband, Paul "Pete" Dye, designed and built some of the world's most famous golf courses—including TPC Sawgrass, Whistling Straits, PGA West, Crooked Stick Golf Club, and the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island.

Alice began playing golf at age 11 and was a formidable competitor throughout her life, winning 11 Indianapolis titles, 11 state titles (nine in Indiana and three in Florida), and 50 amateur

championships. She won two United States Golf Association senior championships, two Canadian senior championships, and a gold medal in golf at the Senior Olympics. She led a victorious 1970 Curtis Cup team and served as captain of the 1992 World Cup team.

At Rollins College, Alice was a pre-med student and captain of the women's golf team. She also played on the men's squad, where she met Pete. "I drew amoebas in class and they eventually became designs for golf greens," she once joked. They married in 1950, the beginning of a partnership that spawned



OUR HISTORY



< **1853** Monmouth College opens as a co-educational institution of higher education.



< **1857** Monmouth's first literary and debate society for women—Amateurs des Belles Lettres (A.B.L.)—is founded.

nearly 130 important golf courses across North America.

Alice is credited for designing one of golf's most iconic holes—the island green par-3, 17th hole, at TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course. As crews were bulldozing around a green and taking sand to use elsewhere, Pete realized he was left with a huge pit with no place for a green to go. Stumped, Pete went to Alice with his dilemma. “Well, you’ve taken all the sand out,” she said. “Make a lake and just leave the green on sand out there.” Today, Alice’s island green continues to intimidate and delight the world’s best golfers.

Alice’s influence on Dye course designs was omnipresent. When she and Pete were building the Ocean Course at Kiawah, she persuaded her husband to raise the fairways. “I can’t see the ocean on the back nine,” she told Pete, as related by *The New York Times*. “I don’t just want to hear it; I want to see it.” Pete agreed, raising the fairways by 6 feet.

Determined to make golf more inclusive, Alice developed and promoted the two-tee system, which created forward tees that better accommodate the different skill sets of women golfers. She has often been called “the patron saint of the forward tee.”

When she was elected as the first woman president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1997, there were whispers of discontent. Some preferred to keep the status quo of the old boys’ club. But as Alice walked to the stage to be installed, Pete—who had already served a one-year term as ASGCA president in 1988—quieted those complaints, shouting

from the audience, “You know, this is the second time she’s done this!”

Serving as the first female director of the PGA of America in 1999 was less of a struggle. “It was a wonderful experience,” Alice said later in life. “When they asked me to serve, I didn’t think about being the first woman, but of course, I was. I felt, at the time, that it didn’t occur to the PGA about how many women players they had. The PGA ... had a lot of courage to invite me to come on that board.” In 2004, the PGA honored Alice as its first lady of golf.

In the last interview Alice gave—at 92 to *Golf Digest*—she was asked if she’d ever wanted to design a course by herself, from start to finish. “I’ve already done that,” she said, referring to Maple Creek Golf and Country Club Hills in her hometown of Indianapolis. Completed in 1961, the course was billed as Pete’s first 18-hole design, but it was Alice who spearheaded the project. While Pete was chasing work across the Midwest, Alice was on site, handling the government negotiations, bank loans and construction supervision. She deferred to Pete only in the contouring of the course’s greens. Still, upon completion of the course, the press referred to her as Mrs. Paul Dye, Jr.

But the couple knew better. In his memoir, *Bury Me in a Pot Bunker*, Pete wrote, “Alice may have taken a back seat to whatever publicity I’ve had over the last 30 years, but everyone in the golf industry knows how important her contributions have been since she has such an intuition for what makes a golf course challenging but playable.”



INITIATED 1950

KEEPING CAMPUS SAFE

When **Constance “Connie” Benjamin Clery**, *Massachusetts*, and her husband, Howard, returned from vacation April 5, 1986, police cars waited in their driveway. Officers delivered the shocking news that their 19-year-old daughter, **Jeanne**, had been sexually assaulted and murdered in her dorm at *Lehigh University*.

As the circumstances surrounding Jeanne’s death emerged, the Clerys learned that 38 violent crimes had occurred on campus in the three years prior. “If Jeanne had known about the history of violent crime, she might still be alive today,” Connie and Howard wrote in a 2003 op-ed for the *Harvard Crimson*. They also learned about security lapses that may have contributed: The perpetrator, a student, entered Jeanne’s dorm through doors that had been propped open by pizza boxes.

To advocate for safe campuses, the Clerys founded the Clery Center and began to draft legislation. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Clery Act, requiring colleges and universities receiving federal funding to collect and publish data about crimes on campus.” Connie says Jeanne would be pleased. “She would be so thrilled that so many lives were being saved as a result.” —**NINA BAHADUR**, *Princeton*



< **1867** Mary Louise “Lou” Bennett and Hannah Jeannette “Jennie” Boyd enroll at Monmouth College and later join A.B.L.



< **1868** Mary “Minnie” Moore Stewart enrolls at Monmouth College and joins A.B.L.

Jean Bartel, Miss America 1943, proposed a scholarship for contestants.

Jean pitched the idea of scholarships for contestants and was instrumental in convincing the Miss America organization to make the shift.



INITIATED 1942

Crowning Glory

Jean Bartel took Miss America from a beauty pageant to a scholarship program

By **Judy Stewart Ducate**, *Texas Tech*

WHEN **JEAN Bartel**, *UCLA*, entered the 1943 Miss America pageant as the

reigning Miss California, she hoped it would help launch a career on Broadway. She'd heard a Broadway director was a competition judge and she aimed to wow him as her ticket

to stardom. An accomplished soprano, Jean's performance helped her clinch the crown.

As Miss America, Jean set out on a tour of the United States. But before she left Atlantic

KAPPA ARCHIVES



< **1869** Anna Elizabeth Willits and Susan "Sue" Burley Walker enroll at Monmouth College.

1870 Lou Bennett and Jennie Boyd meet on a bridge and conceive the idea for Kappa Kappa Gamma.



< **1870** Martha Louisa "Lou" Stevenson enrolls at Monmouth College.

City, New Jersey, she refused to model in the bathing suit photo opportunity for Catalina Swimwear—a major pageant sponsor. “I never intended to be a pinup,” Jean told the Los Angeles Times. “I only use a bathing suit to go swimming in.” (Catalina Swimwear responded by dumping the event and starting the Miss USA pageant.)

The first Miss America to win the title as a collegian, Jean visited campuses and heard young women express interest in pageants that awarded higher education opportunities. Jean pitched the idea of scholarships for contestants and was instrumental in convincing the organization to make the shift. Today, Miss America is the world’s largest provider of scholarships for women.

Crowned during WWII, Jean promoted war bonds and sold more Series E bonds in 1943 than any other U.S. citizen, totaling over \$2.5 million. Over 80% of them were sold to women. In a 1943 interview with The Associated Press, Jean noted she was most successful when pitching sales to women since “men usually ask their wives before they spend money.”

Musical theater was Jean’s passion. After her reign, offers came from movie studios and male suitors. But Jean turned down both, calling them “comical.” She held out for musical opportunities. Broadway came calling and Jean landed roles in 1946’s “The Desert Song” and 1952’s “Of Thee I Sing.”

On or off stage, Jean was more than a powerful songstress with a megawatt smile. She not only made the most of her opportunities, she redefined them.



INITIATED 2007

ONE GOAL IN MIND

“People always ask, ‘What’s your favorite win?’” Soccer phenomenon **Kelley O’Hara**, *Stanford*, told ESPN in 2019. “That’s like asking somebody to name their favorite child. They’re all awesome. I love them all the same but differently.”

Kelley sat down with ESPN in 2019 to offer insights on what it feels like to be a FIFA World Cup champion. She’s well-versed on the subject, having competed in the event with the U.S. Women’s National Team three times—taking home a silver in 2011 and golds in 2015 and 2019. Her trophy case includes a coveted Hermann Trophy from her days as a forward on Stanford’s soccer team in 2009, and an Olympic gold medal from the 2012 London Games.

Aside from her athletic prowess, Kelley is an advocate of equal pay for women athletes, looking to level the financial playing field in women’s professional soccer. She admits that the sport is not as glorious as it looks on TV. “From everyone’s perspective from the outside, they look in and see us just win game after game. No one sees how hard it really is,” she says. “The nerves and weight of expectation is not always enjoyable.” Then Kelley’s trademark grin sneaks across her face. “But it’s worth it.”

—**STACY WARREN FLANNERY**, *Drake*

INITIATED 1951



SHE’S THE MAN

Jane Cahill Pfeiffer
Maryland

Jane started her

career at IBM in 1955 as a systems engineer trainee, and her leadership impressed IBM Chairman Thomas Watson, Jr. Jane represented IBM as the first female White House fellow in 1966 and was picked by President Johnson as one of 18 up-and-coming leaders in business, research, and engineering. By 1972, she was promoted to IBM’s vice president of communications and government relations. In 1978, Jane became NBC’s first female chairman, the highest-ranking woman in broadcasting. The “man” part of her title never bothered her. “I think ‘chairman’ is a great term. I wouldn’t want to change it,” she said. “Besides, I have more important work to do.”

—**STACY FLANNERY**,
Drake

1870 Lou Bennett and Jennie Boyd ask Minnie Stewart and Sue Walker to join them in forming a women’s fraternity. Later, they ask Anna Willits and Lou Stevenson to join.

1870 The first business meeting to discuss the badge and select a jeweler is held at Anna Willits’ home.

1870 At a cost of \$5 each, 12 badges are ordered from a Pittsburgh jeweler called Stevenson’s.



INITIATED 1931

Winging It

June Braun Bent *helped the Allies soar to new heights during WWII*

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

“We proved women could be taught to fly the same as men.”

JUNE BRAUN BENT, *Drake*, had been working as a legal secretary in Des Moines, Iowa, when she decided her life could use a little excitement. Years earlier, she’d loaned money to a cousin who worked at a local flight school. She phoned him one day in 1941 with a bold idea: He could repay his debt by setting her up with flying lessons.

“They called me the flying secretary,” she said in a 2009 interview with the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*.

But that didn’t deter June from using her new piloting skills to help win World War II. June had just 35 hours of cockpit time and one solo flight to her name, but she was chosen as one the 1,101 women selected from a pool of

nearly 25,000 applicants to be Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs)—the first women ever to fly U.S. military aircraft, flying noncombat missions from 1943–44.

Assigned to an airbase in Sweetwater, Texas, June began advanced instrument training. When a new aircraft needed a test flight or an older plane had to be checked after repair work, she took to the cockpit. Whether it was a fighter jet, a cargo plane or a B-26 Marauder—known as the “widow-maker” due to its reputation for crashing on take-off—WASPs like June made sure each airplane was safe enough for male pilots to use in overseas combat. “It was like being a guinea pig,” she said. “That was part of the fun.”

In a 2010 interview with *The Key*, June revealed that she

and her fellow WASPs flew dozens of 15- to 20-minute test flights each day, troubleshooting and reporting any service needs to the crews on the ground. “You did it every day, like pounding a typewriter,” she said. “You just took your turn and tested the plane.”

June says servicemen on base didn’t know how to handle the WASPs. Sometimes, they were unsure of the correct protocol on whether or not to salute a woman. Other times, they made crude remarks. June says she was too busy to care. “We proved women could be taught to fly the same as men,” she said.

Many women lost their husbands during World War II; June found hers. Jack Bent was a fighter pilot who had just returned from flying combat missions in North Africa. He

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY



< **1870** Alpha’s charter is signed in the parlor of Minnie Stewart’s house.

1870 Six Founders are initiated into Kappa Kappa Gamma.



< **1870** Now celebrated as Founders Day, the Founders wear their golden key badges to chapel at Monmouth College for the first time on October 13th.

noticed June while she was sitting with a friend at an air force base in Merced, California. “He asked, ‘May I sit with you?’” June recalled.

Nearly three months later—in July of 1944—they were married in their uniforms at the chapel on base. “I didn’t have any civilian clothes with me,” June recalled. The first thing she did on her honeymoon was buy a purple suit, a matching hat and black suede sandals.

WASPs were considered civilians even though they had similar training as the male cadets they served alongside. They received none of the benefits due to other U.S. service members. Thirty-eight WASPs were killed in service. Each of their families had to pay to bring their bodies home for burial. No flags were draped over their coffins.

As World War II began to wind down, the WASP program was officially canceled in December 1944. June and her band of female flyers were released from duty. They had to pay their own bus fare home.

WASPs weren’t recognized as U.S. veterans until 1977. But in March 2010, this group of brave women was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest accolade a U.S. civilian can receive.

June—at age 92—was on hand to receive her medal alongside 200 fellow WASPs and their families. “Nobody thought about awards when we were doing this,” June said as she clutched a framed photograph of her friend Doris Duncan Muise, who died in WASP service. “We just thought about the feeling of being able to fly those great airplanes.”



INITIATED 1899

JAILED FOR FREEDOM

An advocate for the right for women to vote, **Amelia “Mimi” Himes Walker, Swarthmore**, joined the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage in 1913 and marched in its inaugural suffrage parade. By 1916, she joined the National Woman’s Party, arguing for a constitutional amendment to give women the right to vote on the federal level.

July 15, 1917, Mimi was arrested while protesting in front of the White House. She and her fellow suffragists, known as the “Silent Sentinels,” used banners to ask, “Mr. President How Long Must Women Wait for their Liberty?” Mimi defended the Silent Sentinels: “President Wilson said in 1915 that he believed in woman suffrage. We are only asking him, by the silent appeal of our banners, to convert his words into deeds.” Mimi was sent to the Occoquan Workhouse for 60 days when she refused to pay the \$25 fine after her arrest.

After the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote, Mimi continued her work. “One joins the National Woman’s Party because one has a firm belief in equality of rights for human beings,” she wrote in December 1944 article in *The Key*. Mimi was rarely seen without her “Jailed for Freedom” pin—crafted in the shape of a prison door with a heart-shaped lock.

—FRAN BECQUE

INITIATED 1969



BEAUTY BOSS

Thia Breen

Minnesota

Starting at a

department store makeup counter, Thia worked her way to the top of the corporate beauty business.

But it all started when her first job at Dayton’s department store (now Macy’s) was downsized. “There was an opening in cosmetics, and since I was newly unemployed, I threw my hat in the ring,” she says.

When a manager asked Thia what she knew about cosmetics, she told him, “I can learn everything I have to know in three months.” In 2009, Thia was named the first president of Estée Lauder North America. She was promoted to president of Estée Lauder Americas and head of Global Business Development in 2012—overseeing more than 30 individual brands. “I loved the beauty business from the minute I got into it,” she says of her more than 40 years in the industry.

—LAURA VINCI, *Kansas*

1871 Adopting a Grand Chapter form of government, Alpha Chapter serves as the first Grand Chapter.

1871 Beta Chapter is founded at St. Mary’s Seminary.

1871 Sue Walker leaves Monmouth College before graduation, becoming Kappa’s first alumna member.



Florence, seated in the front row (in plaid), was the delegate from Eta Chapter, *Wisconsin*, to the 1882 Convention.



INITIATED 1881

Rock Solid

*The pioneering work of geologist **Florence Bascom** has stood the test of time, helping modern scientists understand what lies beneath*

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

“I have considerable pride in the fact that some of the best work done in geology today by women, ranking with that done by men, has been done by my students.”

GEOSCIENCE PIONEER **Florence Bascom**, *Wisconsin*, saw more than the surface of a place. Her trail-blazing work in the field of petrography—a branch of geology dedicated to the description and classification of rocks—gave science a clear understanding of the origins and formation of the Appalachian Mountains, not to mention a set of geologically accurate maps covering a good portion of the United States.

Because of Florence, we know what lies beneath. Her work was so respected by her colleagues that, in 1906, the not-entirely-accurately named *American Men of Science* rated her among the U.S.’s top 100 geologists—a field that clearly wasn’t ready for Florence.

Florence attended the University of Wisconsin at the age of 15 in 1877. It was a time when male and female students couldn’t visit the school library on the same days and when women could only enter a classroom after

the men had been seated. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1882, a Bachelor of Science in 1884, and a Master of Science in geology in 1887.

After working as a college professor, Florence returned to school at Johns Hopkins University. Despite being forced to sit behind a screen during lectures (so as not to distract her male counterparts), in 1893, Florence became the first woman to be granted a Ph.D.—in any field—from Johns Hopkins.

Florence was the first woman

BRYN MAWR KAPPA ARCHIVES (3)



< **1872** Gamma Chapter is founded at Smithsonian College. Delta Chapter is founded at Indiana University. Ritual and bylaws are recorded in Delta’s Red Book.

1872 Minnie Stewart, Jennie Boyd and Lou Bennett graduate from Monmouth College.

1873 Epsilon Chapter is founded at Illinois Wesleyan University.

to be elected a fellow of the Geological Society of America in 1894. By 1896, the U.S. Geological Survey appointed her as the first woman assistant geologist on its staff. She was assigned to research the mid-Atlantic Piedmont area of the U.S. and spent summers on horseback, collecting specimens and mapping the geological underpinnings of the region. Her findings are still used by geologists working to explain how mountains and other geological formations developed in the region.

Florence founded the

department of geology at Bryn Mawr College in 1901. When she arrived on campus, there were no geology facilities—not a library, nor laboratory, nor specimens. She scrounged and supplied everything she needed to build her program. Still, Florence managed to train the most American women geologists working in the world at that time. By 1937, eight out of 11 of the women named fellows of the Geological Society of America claimed Florence as their mentor. Later editions of

American Men of Science (the magazine stuck with that title until 1971) included many of her female students—women she actively recruited into the study of geology. “I have always claimed there was no merit in being the only one of a kind,” Florence wrote in a 1931 letter discussing her students’ prowess. “I have considerable pride in the fact that some of the best work done in geology today by women, ranking with that done by men, has been done by my students.”

INITIATED 1891



CURRENT EVENTS

**Jessica
Garretson
Finch
Cosgrave**

Barnard

When Jessica

taught the Greek language near the turn of the 19th century, a student threw her textbook in protest to the outdated topic. It was a seminal moment for Jessica, who felt college prepared her to do little more than teach Greek. “I lectured in drawing rooms to give the lazy rich current history in a capsule,” she told the Louisville, Courier Journal in 1943. Jessica opened the Finch School in 1900 and the Lenox School in 1916 in New York City. On a mission to teach women “current events”—a term she’s widely credited for creating—her schools prepared students for careers, social activism and leadership, not to be “idle fashionable women.”

—TARA MCANDREW,
Illinois Wesleyan

INITIATED 1939

MAKING THE CUT

Golfer Patty Berg, Minnesota, had a rule she lived by: “Don’t think you really win until you live up to that high thing within you that makes you do your best, no matter what.”

Her “best” set a high bar. After a spectacular amateur career in which she won 29 titles, Patty turned pro in 1940. In all, she won 60 professional events with 15 major titles—including the first U.S. Women’s Open (1946), the Western Open, and the Titleholders. Patty still holds the record for the most major tournament wins by a female golfer. Though she continued competing until she was 62 years old, hip replacement surgery finally ended her competitive career in 1980.

No figure in women’s golf spanned as many eras or did as much for golf as Patty. While her ferocity as a player was well-known, she also performed in over 16,000 exhibitions and clinics known as the “Patty Berg Hit Parade.”

As one of the driving forces in the growth of women’s golf in the mid-20th century, Patty remained a lifelong ambassador for the game she loved. A founding member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), Patty served as the organization’s first president in 1950. She was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1951, was one of six original inductees into the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional Hall of Fame in 2000, and received the Bob Jones Award—the highest award given by the USGA—in 1963.

—JUDY STEWART DUCATE, *Texas Tech*



Patty Berg led Wilson Sporting Goods’ golf clinics known as the “Patty Berg Hit Parade.”

< **1874** Anna Willits and Martha Louisa Stevenson graduate from Monmouth College.

1874 Monmouth College bans fraternities. Alpha Chapter begins operating in secret.

1874 Zeta Chapter is founded at Rockford Female Seminary.

1875 Eta Chapter is founded at the University of Wisconsin. Iota Chapter is founded at DePauw University. Theta Chapter is founded at the University of Missouri.





INITIATED 1890

COOL CUSTOMER

Bacterial chemist and refrigeration engineer **Mary Engle Pennington, Pennsylvania**, proved that foods can stay fresh for long periods of time when kept at a constant low temperature.

In 1905, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USDA) commissioner Harvey Wiley hired Mary to lead his Food Research Lab. When Mary realized that the Civil Service exam she'd need to take to land the job barred female applicants, she registered under the gender-neutral name, "M.E. Pennington."

By 1908, Mary was the first female lab chief of the USDA's food safety laboratory, developing the first set of standards for refrigerated railcars. During World War I, she oversaw the inspection of 40,000 railcars that would be used to deliver food to the U.S. Army. Only 3,000 of them were deemed suitable to keep food safe, and she was awarded a Notable Service Medal by President Herbert Hoover.

In a 1940 interview with the Detroit Free Press, a reporter asked Mary, "Why aren't there more women chemists? Does it take a man's mind to succeed in this science?"

"Nonsense," Mary replied. There's no such thing as a 'man's mind.'"

—**KRISTEN DESMOND LEFEVRE, Indiana**

INITIATED 1896

Daring Delegate

*Whether in a classroom or at the United Nations, **Virginia Gildersleeve** saw that women had a seat at the table*

By **Kristin Sangid, Georgia Southern**

VIRGINIA Crocheron Gildersleeve, *Barnard*, has been called the first lady of academia.

Her alma mater, Barnard College, opened to women in a plain brownstone on Madison Avenue in New York City in 1889. Virginia graduated first in her class of 1899, of which she had been class president, with a degree in English. She went on to complete a master's degree in 1900 and her Ph.D. in 1908, both from Columbia University.

In 1911, Virginia was teaching English at Columbia when she was offered the position as Barnard's dean. She was reluctant at first to leave the co-educational environment at Columbia to go to Barnard, which was Columbia's college for women. Columbia's President, Nicholas Butler, convinced the 33-year-old Virginia to take the position, promising her full professorship.

Even though she had been reluctant, at Barnard Virginia found a purpose and a passion that kept her in the role for 36 years. Barnard faculty Joseph Gerard Brennan recalled, "Miss Gildersleeve was Barnard." After her time as dean, the position title changed to president.

When Virginia graduated with a degree in English, teaching was one of few professions available to women. In 1900, 88% of Barnard graduates were teachers. Over the course of her career, Virginia sought to advance professional work opportunities for women.

Barnard's secretary and assistant to the dean, **Katherine Doty, Barnard**, class of 1901, was appointed by Virginia to run the Barnard College Occupation Bureau, which provided vocational information to its students and alumnae, of which Ms. Doty meticulously maintained addresses and professional information on alumnae. Companies, the government and the military called upon Barnard for recommendations of women to fill positions.

Besides academia and women's vocation, Virginia had a keen interest in international affairs. In the lead-up to World War I, she led Columbia University's Committee on Women's War Work. As World War II approached, she continued that work.

"It seemed as if Hitler were about to plunge Europe into war and I ... was profoundly distressed," wrote Virginia, an adviser to women graduate

CHERONG-AH HWANG

1876 Beta Gamma Chapter is founded at Wooster College.

1876 Kappa's first Convention is held in Greencastle, Indiana.

1877 Lambda Chapter is founded at the University of Akron.



Dean Gildersleeve quietly but doggedly advocated for women's opportunities in graduate and professional schools and vocational roles. She cut a striking figure with a penchant for fancy hats.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Virginia set to work drafting the structure, powers and functions of the ECOSOC, which she valued as the body charged with “doing things, rather than preventing things from being done.”

Her work on the charter included words of hope for people around the world: “higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.” Beyond her work on the ECOSOC, Virginia persuaded her fellow delegates to adopt the following aim for the United Nations: “fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women.”

The clause had lofty and benevolent aspirations for human welfare and lasting peace. It set a precedent for women's work, aligned with goals she'd promoted doggedly in academia.

“I felt that we ought to do something about it. I was intensely interested in the problem and the enormous contribution that women might make.”

students at Columbia. “I felt that we ought to do something about it. I was intensely interested in the problem ... and the enormous contribution that women might make.”

In February 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt named Virginia to the U.S. delegation to write the United Nations charter. She was the only woman

delegate at the U.N.'s Charter meeting in San Francisco in April 1945 and one of only four women to sign the U.N. Charter in June 1945.

The key postwar commission had two directives: Prevent future wars by creating a Security Council and promote global human welfare by establishing the United Nations

INITIATED 1985



POWER PLAYER

Gretchen
Carlson
Stanford

Gretchen Carlson

spent over a decade as a journalist before becoming an icon and #MeToo advocate. In 2016, the former Miss America and former “Fox & Friends” co-host filed a sexual harassment suit against Fox News’ CEO, Roger Ailes, who later resigned. Gretchen told The New York Times, “I wanted to stand up for other women who maybe faced similar circumstances.” Gretchen’s 2017 New York Times’ bestseller, *Be Fierce: Stop Harassment and Take Your Power Back*, tells the stories of women who have experienced sexual harassment.

“When one person has immense courage, it can be passed along,” she says.

—KRISTEN DESMOND LEFEVRE, *Indiana*

KAPPA ARCHIVES (2); COURTESY GRETCHEN CARLSON



< **1878** Convention is held in Bloomington, Illinois. The first known photograph is taken as five delegates head home.

1878 Mu Chapter is founded at Butler University.



< **1879** The Grand Seal of Kappa Kappa Gamma is issued by Epsilon Chapter, *Illinois Wesleyan*.

INITIATED 1985



MARCHING
DOUBLE-TIME

Jane Swift

Trinity

True to what her

mother told the Boston Globe, Jane is a woman who can do “two times as much as anyone else in half the time.” In 1991,

Jane was the youngest woman elected to the Massachusetts Senate.

By 1998, she was elected lieutenant governor.

When Gov. Paul Cellucci was named U.S. ambassador to Canada in 2001, Jane became the youngest female governor in U.S. history. She was also

the first governor to give birth in office—to twins—causing a media sensation. In 2019, Jane took the helm of technology nonprofit organization LearnLaunch. “At the core of our country’s promise of opportunity is our commitment to a high quality public education,” Jane says.

“It’s an issue of fundamental fairness.”

—ANN GRAHAM
SCHNAEDTER, *Missouri*



INITIATED 1900

Strong Medicine

*Pioneering surgeon **Mary Crawford Schuster**
put her life on the line to save lives*

By **Dr. Mary Osborne**, *Monmouth*

MARY Crawford Schuster, *Cornell*, described reaching the coast of France in 1914 as “the most wonderful day and night” of her life. The only woman contract surgeon assigned to the American Ambulance Hospital during World War I, Mary made history—first as an ambulance surgeon and later as a pioneer in industrial medicine.

When Mary graduated from Cornell University in 1904 and subsequently entered its medical program, there were only eight other women in her class. Mary worked hard, but as she later admitted, “I wasn’t an outstanding scholar ... I didn’t make any honors in scholarship, but I got through.” She received her M.D. in 1907.

Mary aspired to be a surgeon and join an ambulance service. Hospitals made it difficult for women physicians to secure positions, but Mary refused to

compromise. Most internships stipulated that applicants must be men. Noting that Brooklyn’s Williamsburg Hospital left off that requirement in its ad, Mary applied. She received the highest grade out of 35 applicants on her entrance exam.

She took a post as Brooklyn’s first female ambulance surgeon, with one catch: She had to furnish her own uniforms (since the only available alternates were made for men). She went on her first ambulance call

1879 Nu Chapter is founded at Franklin College.

1880 Total Membership: 333. Chapters—14; Alumnae Associations—0.

1880 Four chapters are founded: Omicron, *Simpson*; Chi, *Minnesota*; Pi, *UC Berkeley*; and Rho, *Ohio Wesleyan*.

in May 1908 by horse-drawn ambulance. During her stint with the ambulance service, Mary treated burns, broken bones, and other injuries, sometimes risking her health and safety for her patients. She was bitten several times and nearly choked to death. Still, Mary worked her way up the ladder at Williamsburg Hospital, rising to the rank of house surgeon, supervising three male physicians.

Mary was eager to participate in relief efforts when World War I began in 1914. Though she was determined to go to France, the Allied armies refused to accept women physicians in their ranks. When New York City socialite Anna Gould, the

“I wasn’t an outstanding scholar ... I didn’t make any honors in scholarship, but I got through.”

Duchess of Talleyrand, pledged \$1,000 to send six surgeons to France, Mary applied for the funding. The selection committee chose her as one of the six—and the only woman.

Administrators initially turned Mary away when she arrived at the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris. After proving herself useful as an anesthetist, the staff surgeons

gave her charge of four hospital wards, each containing between 20 and 40 wounded men.

After a year overseas, Mary returned to New York, where she volunteered with the American Women’s Hospitals. Once the United States entered the war in 1917, she established and directed the medical department at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. She devoted the next 30 years to the field of industrial medicine—supervising the health of the bank employees and overseeing sanitary conditions in its cafeteria and dining room. By the time she retired in 1949, the medical department she directed was caring for a workforce of 4,600.

INITIATED 1917



SERVING HUMBLY

Clara O. Pierce
Ohio State

Without Clara,

Kappa’s history would read much differently. Thanks to her business acumen, Kappa went from a small home-based operation to a national business headquartered in central Ohio.

With poise and determination, she helped secure Kappa’s future—keeping the books as Treasurer, overseeing legal incorporation, filing for nonprofit status, and trademarking the Greek letters KKG. She suggested bonding chapter bank accounts, saving the organization from the 1929 stock market crash. Under Clara, Kappa saw a world of possibilities. When she retired in 1969, Kappa had grown from 16,000 members to over 82,000. Fifty-eight chapters became 94 chapters. Clara lived to “aspire nobly ... adventure daringly ... but serve humbly.”

—EMILY BENCH



Dr. Crawford with her patients

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS: KAPPA ARCHIVES



< **1881** Convention is held in Bloomington, Indiana. Delegates adopt a Grand Council form of government. **Tade Hartsuff, Butler**, is elected as the Fraternity’s first Grand President.

1881 Three chapters are founded: Tau, *Lasell*; Kappa, *Hillsdale*, and Beta Beta, *St. Lawrence*.

INITIATED 1966



SWIMMING UPSTREAM

**Donna
de Varona
Pinto**
UCLA

At 13, Donna was the youngest member of the U.S. swimming team at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. In 1964, she won two gold medals and set a record in the women's 400-meter individual relay in Tokyo. At 17, Donna held 18 world records and The Associated Press had named her its Female Athlete of the Year in 1964. At the time, collegiate sports for women were rare and Donna was left without a swimming program. She told ABC's Wide World of Sports, "I can't bear to quit my sport. But I could if I knew I could be near it, and I'd like to work with your announcers to cover the events." Donna became the first female sports broadcaster on network TV. In 1974, she co-founded the Women in Sports Foundation to open up opportunities on the educational level.
—MADISON SYKES, *Loyola*



INITIATED 1931

Catch Her if You Can

*After surviving a plane crash, Olympian
Elizabeth "Betty" Robinson Schwartz, Northwestern,
pulled off one of the greatest comebacks of all time*

By **Katie Mills Giorgio**, *Drake*

BETTY WAS THE first American woman to win an Olympic medal in track and field. A track coach at Chicago's

Thornton Township High School was riding a train that Betty was running to catch. (And catch it she did.)

Back at school, he asked the 16-year-old to run 50 yards,

and Betty's track career was launched. "I had no idea that women even ran then," she told the Los Angeles Times in 1984.

Three weeks later, Betty

FROM LEFT: KAPPA ARCHIVES; CENTRAL PRESS/HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



< **1882** The first women's fraternity magazine, *The Golden Key*, is published.

1882 Four chapters are founded: Upsilon, Northwestern; Beta Zeta, Iowa; Phi, Boston; and Xi, Adrian.



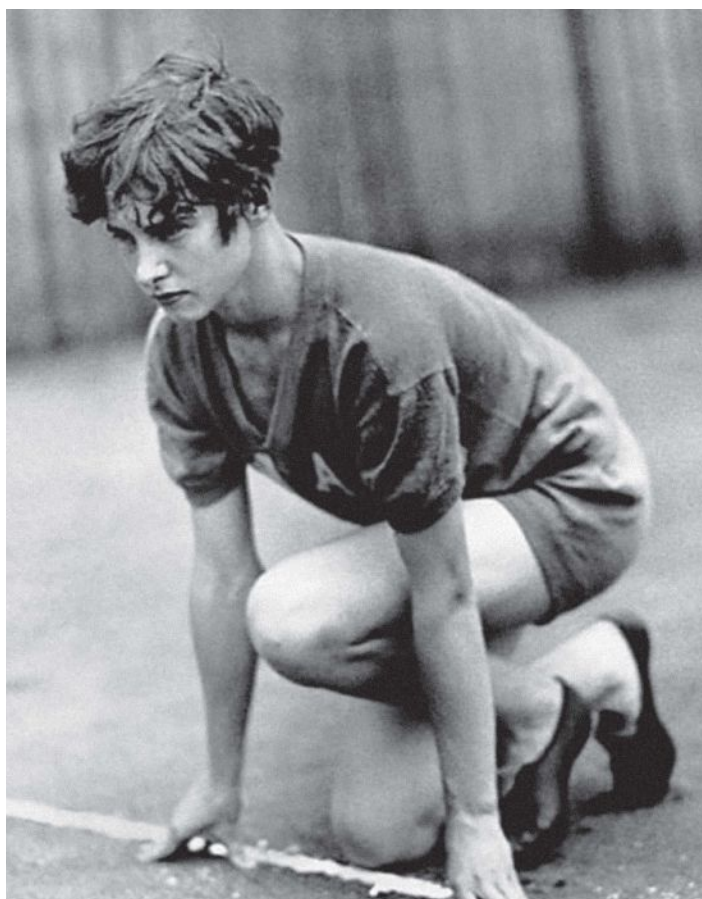
< **1882** Convention is held in Madison, Wisconsin.

American athlete Betty Robinson (second from left) wins the final of the women's 100 Metres event during the Olympic Games, Amsterdam 1928.



ran her first official race—a regional meet where she finished just behind the 100-meter U.S. record holder. Her second race was at the Chicago-area Olympic trials, where she equaled the world 100-meter record of 12.0 seconds. At her third meet—the U. S. final trials—she finished second, making the 1928 Olympic team.

The 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam were the first time women were allowed to compete, a controversial decision. Betty took the gold medal in the 100-meter with a time of 12.2 seconds. The Associated Press



“Bobbed hair flying to the breezes, the Chicago girl sped down the straightaway flashing a great closing spurt to beat the Canadian favorite, Fanny Rosenfeld, by 2 feet.”

wrote: “Bobbed hair flying to the breezes, the Chicago girl sped down the straightaway flashing a great closing spurt to beat the Canadian favorite, Fanny Rosenfeld, by 2 feet.” Betty is the youngest athlete to win Olympic gold in the 100-meter race.

Betty continued running at Northwestern University, where

she became its first woman to receive a varsity letter.

In 1931, Betty nearly died in a biplane crash. She suffered head injuries, broken limbs, and missed the 1932 Olympics.

Three years later, she made a comeback. In 1936, she qualified for the 1936 Olympics as the third leg of the 4x100 relay team that captured a gold medal.

INITIATED 1910



HOLDING COURT

Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman

UC Berkeley

Hazel was the West

Coast girl whose infectious attitude, skilled chop shots, and net attacks took the East Coast game of tennis by storm. From 1902–54, Hazel ruled tennis. After having her first child, Hazel’s husband encouraged her to return to the courts—something no female tennis player had done before. She went on to win a Wimbledon championship, an Olympic title and was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. In 1919, Hazel created the Wightman Cup—an international women’s tournament held between the United States and Great Britain. She told *The Boston Globe* that she valued the “wonderful rivalry filled with good sportsmanship” that her tournament offered.

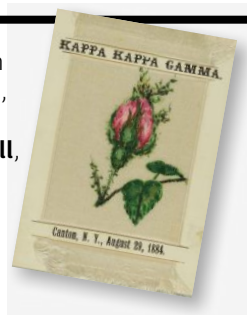
—MADISON SYKES, *Loyola*

FROM LEFT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; KAPPA ARCHIVES

1883 Three chapters are founded: Beta Tau, *Syracuse*; Psi, *Cornell*; and Omega, *Kansas*.



< **1884** Convention is held in Canton, New York. **Charlotte Barrell**, *Boston*, is elected Grand President.



1884 Sigma Chapter is founded at the University of Nebraska. Alpha Chapter officially closes after secretly operating for a decade.

INITIATED 2009



ROCKING THE BOAT
Elle Logan
Stanford

“When I got to high school, I didn’t even know what rowing was,” says three-time Olympic gold medalist Eleanor “Elle” Logan. The sport first piqued her interest during the 2004 Olympics.

“Things evolved from there,” she says. Elle was admitted to Stanford on a crew scholarship, where coaches honed her natural athletic abilities. In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, she won a gold medal in the women’s eight event. In the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, Elle added two more gold medals to her collection. She’s a World Champion too—with gold medals in the women’s eight (2010, 2011 and 2014), and silver medals in the women’s four (2009) and the women’s pair (2015). After she retired from the sport, she was named the Pac-12’s Rower of the Century in 2017.

—**NINA BAHADUR**,
Princeton

INITIATED 1894

A Doctor Defying the Odds

She was barred, bullied, and harassed. But against all odds, Emily Dunning Barringer persisted in becoming a surgeon

By **Meg Butler**, North Carolina

A DISTINGUISHED expert in gynecology and the world’s first female ambulance physician and surgeon, **Emily Dunning Barringer**, Cornell, was not the kind of woman who let “no” stop her from achieving her goals.

After graduating from medical school in 1901, Emily took examinations in 1902 for a residency program at the Gouverneur Hospital in New York. Emily told the New York Tribune in 1915, “Just two or three days before the examination, I received word from the hospital that if by any chance I should win a position, I should not be allowed to hold it.” She earned the second-highest score of those who completed the exams, but Emily was not offered a spot in the program.

When Emily put Gouverneur Hospital under the public spotlight with support from local religious and political leaders, the hospital reversed its decision—making Emily not only the first woman ever accepted for post-graduate surgical training at a hospital but also Gouverneur Hospital’s first



Emily Dunning Barringer in the back of a horse-drawn ambulance

female medical resident and ambulance physician in 1903. “I had to admit that there was no precedent,” Emily said, “But

then that was just the situation I wanted to remedy.”

Fellow doctors tried to stand in her way, saying a woman

1885 Beta Rho Chapter is founded at the University of Cincinnati.



< **1886** Convention is held in Akron, Ohio.

U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE; CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

wouldn't be able to handle the rough rides in the horse-drawn ambulances. But on her first ride, Emily refused help climbing into the ambulance. From then on, her work earned the respect of city police and firefighters as well as nurses and patients.

Still, she experienced harassment from fellow residents and physicians. Sometimes they assigned her the most difficult on-call schedules and ward duties. Other times, they went into unnecessarily graphic details of sexual assault cases to try to make her uncomfortable. But Emily persevered and finished her residency in 1904 and landed a job as a

gynecologist at the New York Polyclinic Hospital and as an attending surgeon at the New York Infirmary for Women and Children.

She developed a special interest in studying and treating sexually transmitted infections, and she published her extensive research in a number of scholarly journals. As an expert in surgical interventions for women's health issues, Emily soon became the director of gynecology at Brooklyn's Kingston Avenue Hospital.

Emily was a champion of a woman's right to serve her country as a medical professional in the military. During WWI, she raised funds to send ambulances to serve troops overseas. By

WWII, Emily had more political clout, having been elected president of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) in 1941. She met with President Roosevelt on behalf of the AMWA and lobbied Congress to allow women physicians to join the Army and Navy Reserve Corps. Her campaign led to the passing of the Sparkman Act of 1943, giving women physicians the right to receive commissions in all branches of the armed forces.

For her lifetime of work in advancing women's medicine, Emily received the 1954 Elizabeth Blackwell Citation, an award for scientific work in honor of the first female doctor in America.

"I had to admit that there was no precedent," Emily said, "But then that was just the situation I wanted to remedy."

INITIATED 1870

FEARLESS FOUNDER



Mary Louise "Lou" Bennett entered Monmouth College in 1867 as a sub-freshman and, in 1869, she joined Amateurs des Belles Lettres (A.B.L.)—Monmouth College's first literary society for women.

Lou had a reputation for being helpful and was an active debater in A.B.L. Still, she felt the group lacked a certain something. She longed for a new group "not only for literary work, but also for social development."

"On a little wooden bridge spanning a small stream that flows through the northeastern corner of the campus, two college girls one day held a schoolgirls' conversation out of which grew the Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity." That's how Thomas H. McMichael, president of Monmouth College 1903–36, described Kappa's earliest days. It was the late 1860s and that now-famous conversation between Lou and co-Founder Hannah Jennette "Jennie" Boyd was the beginning of something big.

"The world seemed to be moving too slowly and nothing short of a Greek-letter fraternity ... would satisfy us," Lou wrote. Lou graduated from Monmouth with a Bachelor of Arts in 1872, and later earned a master's degree. She taught in local schools before marrying Rev. Joseph Boyd, brother of co-Founder, Hannah Jeannette "Jennie" Boyd. Lou attended the reinstallation of Alpha Chapter in 1934 and lived until the age of 94.

—KYLIE TOWERS SMITH, *Simpson*



1888 Convention is > held in Minneapolis.

< **Kate Bird**
Minnesota, is elected
Grand President.



1888 Gamma Rho Chapter is founded at Allegheny College. Beta Nu Chapter is founded at the Ohio State University.

Truth

Illustration by **BIJOU KARMAN**

INITIATED 1963

WRITING LIFE STORIES

MAUREEN ORTH, *UC Berkeley*, has a slogan on her website: “It’s a wonderful life.” One look at her career and it’s easy to see why she might feel that way.

She’s interviewed the likes of Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, and Taylor Swift. And she’s also interviewed world leaders like Vladimir Putin, Margaret Thatcher, and Angela Merkel.

Maureen admits that she fell into a career as a journalist, becoming one of the first female writers at *Newsweek*. She has worked as a senior editor at *New York* and *New West* magazines, a contributing editor at *Vogue*, a columnist for *New York Woman*, a network correspondent for NBC News, and a special correspondent for *Vanity Fair*—a role she still fills today.

Never afraid to tackle a tough story, Maureen wrote investigative pieces regarding the allegations of sexual abuse by Michael Jackson and child abuse by Woody Allen. “From the unrest of the 1960s to the turbulence of today’s world, I feel blessed that, throughout my life and travels—including more than a few into uncharted territory—I have had family, friends and faith to support me,” Maureen says. “It’s been a wonderful life!”

—**KATIE MILLS GIORGIO**, *Drake*



INITIATED 1987



BRAIN TRUST

Katherine Sloan Snedaker

Kansas

Despite the fact that women get concussions at higher rates than men and suffer more severe and persistent symptoms, little is known about concussions in women. Founder and executive director of Pink Concussions, Katherine advocates for research, awareness and improved medical care for women with concussions and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). "If concussion is the invisible injury," Katherine says, "Then females are the invisible population within that injury." What began as a website offering a clearinghouse of information has become a worldwide effort to bring new awareness and research to what Katherine calls #pinkTBI.

—KRISTEN DESMOND LEFEVRE, *Indiana*



Ashley Judd addresses a crowd at the Women's March in March 2017.

INITIATED 1987

An Act to Follow

Onscreen and off, actress and activist Ashley Judd defines her own roles

By Kait Smith Lanthier, *Marist*

FOR AN ACTRESS, there's something to be said for being just as recognizable for your work off screen as you are for your roles on screen.

That's **Ashley Judd**, *Kentucky*. She's an actress and an advocate—and it's hard to say which is her strongest suit. Luckily, Ashley doesn't see it as an either/or choice.

Over the course of Ashley's

three-decade career, she's been cast as the leading lady in films we love, earning Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. But, she wants her voice to be used for more than reciting lines on screens big and small. In her

CHRIS SØRENSEN; PAUL MORICI / GETTY CONTRIBUTOR

OUR HISTORY

1890 Total Membership: 1,658. Number of Chapters—24. Number of Alumnae Associations—0.



< **1890** Convention is held in Bloomington, Illinois. Delegates adopt the fleur-de-lis as the flower and the sapphire as the jewel. The official colors are reaffirmed as light and dark blue. **Evelyn Wight**, *St. Lawrence*, is elected Grand President.

1890 Beta Alpha Chapter, *Pennsylvania*, and Beta Delta Chapter, *Michigan*, are founded.

memoir, *All That Is Bitter and Sweet*, Ashley details her desire to bring a voice to the voiceless. For more than a decade, she's been a dedicated humanitarian, championing gender equality as well as the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls.

That humanitarian work includes serving as the Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Population Fund, meeting with women and girls in Jordan, Turkey, Ukraine and Bangladesh. As a Global Ambassador for YouthAIDS, Ashley has traveled to countries affected by illness and poverty. She works with Women for Women International to help women to rebuild their lives after war and Equality Now, protecting the human rights of women and girls globally.

Ashley has always seen herself as an activist, but it wasn't until she came forward with allegations of sexual harassment against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein that the rest of the world started to see her that way as well. In 2017, Ashley was one of the first women to publicly accuse Weinstein of sexual harassment and the first to go on record with reporters working on a New York Times story that ignited the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements.

Ashley says she's hopeful that her story—combined with the stories of other women who have faced similar violence—will finally change abuses of power in Hollywood and beyond. "This is the moment," she told Diane Sawyer in an ABC News interview in 2017. "If we want it to be the moment, it will for sure be the moment."



INITIATED 1966

SEEING THE GLASS CEILING

When **Marilyn Downey Loden**, *Syracuse*, worked at AT&T in the 1970s, she suspected the reason she and her female colleagues were being paid 20% less than their male counterparts had nothing to do with performance. "There was something in the atmosphere that was holding women back," she says.

At that time, there was no term to describe the invisible barriers women face. That is, until Marilyn coined a new term: the "glass ceiling." When Marilyn spoke on a panel at the 1978 Women's Exposition in New York, using the phrase to explain what she thought was the reason women were being held back in the workplace, it lit a spark.

"All the other women talked about was self-image and how that kept them from being successful," Marilyn says. "By the time it was my turn, I decided I needed to say something different."

Today, Marilyn helps companies address diversity and equity in the C-suite. The term she coined continues to dominate headlines more than 40 years later.

Still, she hopes the issue becomes obsolete. "I'm continuing to learn that being quiet and letting things go by doesn't change anything," she says. "It just means the problems persist."

—EMILY BENCH

INITIATED 1931



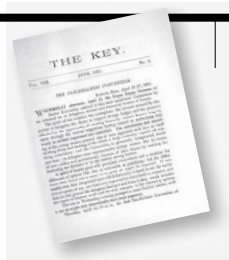
AN ARMY OF ONE

Emily Gorman Cornell

Emily was working

as a teacher when she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II. That act of service started a military career that lasted 24 years, including achieving the rank of colonel and serving as the director of the United States Women's Army Corps (WAC). When Emily joined the corps, there were only four jobs open to women. While at the helm of the organization—and as an adviser to the Joint Chiefs of Staff—she opened hundreds of positions to women and advocated for military housing that provided the security and privacy needed by female soldiers. After her return to civilian life in 1966, Emily was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

—FRAN BECQUE



< **1891** Kappa invites representatives from six other sororities to meet for the first Panhellenic Convention in Boston.

1891 Beta Epsilon Chapter is founded at Barnard College.



< **1892** Convention is held in Indianapolis. **Emily Bright**, *Boston*, is elected Grand President.

INITIATED 1897



SUPPORTING SUFFRAGE

Alice Duer Miller

Barnard

Alice studied

mathematics and astronomy in the 1890s. But to help pay for her education, she wrote stories and essays for *Harper's Magazine* and *Scribner's Magazine*. Her work sold so well that she devoted herself to it full time. Her support for women's right to vote influenced

her writing. Alice's column, "Are Women People?" appeared in the *New York Tribune* from 1913–17, addressing gender inequality at a time when many saw women as second-class citizens.

Alice wrote over 25 novels, but she was best known for her poetry and Hollywood scripts. In 1940, her play "The White Cliffs" sold over 700,000 copies. As a film, it grossed over \$6 million and received a 1942 Academy Award nomination.

—MARY E. OSBORNE,
Monmouth

INITIATED 1916

Using Words to Change the World

Nora Waln used words to show the world humanity's best and worst qualities

By Kristen Desmond LeFevre, Indiana

NORA WALN Osland-Hill, Swarthmore, couldn't help herself. If there was a story to be told—particularly one that no one else was willing to tell—the bestselling writer and journalist was on it. Nora covered cultures, conflicts and cruelty with unparalleled empathy and accuracy. Along the way, she witnessed (and reported on) history in the making ... and not all of it was comfortable.

Inspired by a family trading connection that her Quaker ancestors had established with a Chinese family during the early 19th century, Nora left college in 1920 and set out for China. What began as a childhood fascination evolved into 12 years living as an expat with the Lin family. She was the first foreigner to set foot in the Lin home in more than 650 years. In her acclaimed 1933 memoir, *House of Exile*, she gave Western readers a view of post-Qing dynasty culture and customs, offering exquisite details of everyday life in a Chinese household.

In 1934, Nora moved to Germany with her husband, George Edward Osland-Hill.

To a girl who grew up in Pennsylvania Dutch country, the country's customs made their new home feel familiar. But something was brewing that increasingly unnerved Nora: the rise of Nazism. Raised a pacifist, she was friendly with those who were in support of the Nazis and those who were not.

She hoped the divisiveness would blow over. But while attending a Christmas Eve

appealed to Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler, who told her, "You never wrote such a manuscript. You must have dreamed it."

After being deported to England, Nora rewrote the manuscript from memory, publishing *Reaching for the Stars* in 1939. Nora mailed a copy to Himmler, inscribed with the words, "I have dreamed another dream."

When the Reichstag learned what she was writing, the manuscript she'd been working on disappeared from her home.

dinner at an aristocratic family's chateau, she began to realize that might not be possible when the butler abruptly refused to serve the meal. His reason? There was a Jewish person present among the guests.

Nora could no longer stay quiet, and she became one of the first journalists to report on the spread of Nazism. When the Reichstag learned what she was writing, the manuscript she'd been working on disappeared from her home. Incensed, she

Himmler was enraged. Though Nora had not used anyone's real name, the Gestapo quickly figured out the identities of the people in her book. Two boys that Nora and George had befriended were killed. Seven children of Nora's friends were arrested and placed in "protective custody." In her later writings, Nora admitted that taunting Himmler "was a foolhardy thing to do. I shall never cease blaming myself."

Nora traveled to Germany to

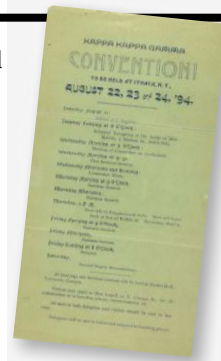
THIS PAGE: KAPPA ARCHIVES; FACING PAGE FROM LEFT: KAPPA ARCHIVES; JASON DOLY/THE RECORDER

1892 Beta Eta Chapter is founded at Stanford University.

1893 Beta Iota Chapter is founded at Swarthmore College.



< **1894** Convention is held in Ithaca, New York. **Kate Sharp**, *Northwestern*, is elected Grand President.



meet with Himmler, offering herself as a substitute hostage. He agreed under two conditions: She'd be required to remove all political criticisms from her book, and she'd need to remain in Germany and work as a pro-Nazi writer. Nora refused, telling Himmler before she returned to England, "Words live longer than we do." She

later learned that a full third of her 300 anti-Nazi friends were murdered by Hitler's regime.

Although she was invited to speak at Kappa's 1940 Convention, Nora was unable to obtain a travel visa. Then-editor of *The Key*, **Helen Bower, Michigan**, suggested the creation of a charitable fund—the Nora Waln Fund for Refugee

Children. The fund would be seeded by money that had been pre-budgeted for Nora's travel arrangements and matched with donations from Kappas across North America. The funds would be distributed by Nora to the families of children who had been bombed out of their homes during WWII. The project became a Fraternity-wide cause, and money poured in. Helen notified Nora of the fund by cable with this message: "Be of good cheer. Do what you can to help those near you. We will fill your hands."

Because of her willingness to cover stories that most writers shied away from, Nora found consistent work after the war as a writer for *Atlantic Monthly*. On an assignment to Scandinavia in 1945, Nora witnessed the destruction left behind after the occupation of Hitler's army, including destitute mothers wrapping their babies in newspaper for swaddling clothes. Incensed, Nora again relied on the help of her Kappa sisters to clothe these tiniest of war survivors. American and Canadian Kappas answered her call, creating and shipping 5,000 infant layettes to the war-ravaged country. For her efforts, the government of Norway awarded Nora the King Haakon VII Freedom Cross.

Nora continued her work as a journalist into the 1960s as one of the few correspondents who reported during the Korean War from Communist China and Mongolia. Ever a teller of human stories both brutal and beautiful, no matter where her work took her, Nora dared to speak while others were silent.

INITIATED 1970



LEGAL EAGLE

M. Margaret McKeown

Wyoming

As a judge on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, M. Margaret McKeown, *Wyoming*, is known as one of the country's leading legal minds. But to her clerks, she's simply known as "M3." Appointed to the bench by President Bill Clinton in 1998, Margaret is recognized for her work on judicial ethics, gender issues, and international law. When #MeToo hit the judiciary, Margaret was chosen to lead a key committee on workplace environments, and Chief Justice John Roberts named her to the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group. In 2019, Margaret received the American Bar Association's prestigious John Marshall Award for her impact on the U.S. justice system.

—JUDY DUCATE,
Texas Tech



Entering East Berlin in 1961

< **1894** Designed by **Carla Fisk**, *Northwestern*, the Sigma within the Delta is adopted as a symbol and signature of the Fraternity.



< **1896** Convention is held in Evanston, Illinois. **Bertha Richmond**, *Boston*, is elected Grand President.

1898 Convention is held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

INITIATED 1992



BREAKING BARRIERS

**Susan
Harrell
Black**
Florida State

When Susan Harrell

Black was an aspiring lawyer, she was advised against going into the field. "You'll change your mind," a law dean told her. If she had listened to him, she may have had an entirely different career path. Today, Susan is a senior circuit judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, nominated to the post by President George H.W. Bush in 1992. In nearly 50 years on the bench, Susan has been a part of life-changing legislation and has made history as Florida's first female federal judge. "I enjoyed the courtroom," Susan says. "I enjoyed the entire process. And I more than enjoyed a trial when I had two really good attorneys."

—EMILY BENCH

INITIATED 1982

Talent in Spades

Kate Spade built a fashion empire around clothes and accessories that made shoppers smile

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

KATE BROSDNAHAN **Valentine Spade**, *Kansas*, was more than a fashion designer. Sure, her handbags are immediately identifiable on the arms of the women who carry them—distinctive for their modern, sleek look, pops of color and utilitarian shapes. But beyond her iconic bags, Kate was a fashion talent with an eye for items that simply made women feel happy, pretty and powerful. The *New York Times* described buying a Kate Spade handbag as "a coming-of-age ritual for a generation of American women." And so it was. Her designs weren't just wearable status symbols: They were joy taking the form of fashion. Season after season, she served up irreverent, modern-vintage accessories that made consumers smile—and helped define the look of an era in the process. "Even if it's the simplest shoe, it has to have something that says, 'Oh, I have to have you,'" she told CNBC's "SquawkBox" in 2016.

After working as a temp in odd jobs across New York City in the mid-1980s, Kate scored an editorial position at *Mademoiselle*, eventually becoming the fashion magazine's senior fashion editor and head of accessories. At the

prompting of her then-boyfriend, Andy Spade, in 1991, Kate began designing her own line of handbags, constructing her boxy prototypes out of heavy paper and Scotch tape.

The new brand was known as Kate Spade New York—a

mashup of Kate's first name and Andy's last name. Along with two other business partners, they launched their first collection in 1993 and opened their first boutique in Manhattan's SoHo neighborhood not long afterward. Soon, Kate Spade



JOSHUA GLOBE

1899 Beta Lambda Chapter is founded at the University of Illinois.

1900 Total Membership: 3,428. Number of Chapters—28. Number of Alumnae Associations—7.



< **1900** Convention is held in Columbus, Ohio. **Jean Penfield**, *DePauw*, is elected Grand President.



products were featured in luxury stores like Barney's, Bloomingdale's, Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus. As the popularity of Kate's bags grew, so did her company, which expanded into a veritable accessories empire—offering a range of products from eye-wear to shoes to housewares and paper goods. She shared her personal style and philosophies in three books: *Manners*, *Occasions*, and *Style*. In many ways, she was a brand visionary, building what ended up becoming a lifestyle brand—before the term “lifestyle brand” was even coined.

In 1995, Kate was honored by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) with a Rising Talent Award. Two years later, she was named the CFDA's

away from the spotlight, Kate launched luxury accessories brand Frances Valentine in 2015—a business she founded with her best friend from college because the pair missed wearing the kind of cheeky-but-chic accessories they used to produce together at Kate Spade New York. “Our customer is someone who has a very personal sense of style and is really buying what they like,” she says in a video interview posted to the Frances Valentine website in 2017. “I think that's always who I've spoken to and I think that's who's always been attracted to my designs.” Never one to do things halfway, Kate legally changed her name to Kate Valentine Spade in 2016 to distinguish her second act from her first.

“I hope that people remember me not just as a good businesswoman but as a great friend—and a heck of a lot of fun.”

Accessory Designer of the Year. She was named best accessories designer at the Accessories Council's ACE Awards in 1999, the same year she and her partners sold a portion of their shares of Kate Spade New York to the Neiman Marcus Group. The year before, her eponymous brand had garnered \$28 million in sales with 450 stores worldwide. Kate remained an active, creative force within the brand she built. But in 2006, she and her partners sold their remaining shares to Neiman Marcus Group for a reported \$93 million.

After nearly a decade of time spent with her family

Kate's death in 2018 sent shock waves through the world of fashion. Designers, critics and consumers alike mourned the loss of a woman whose sunny designs and effervescent personality had lit up catwalks and lives. That's just who Kate was. “If you're as honest and fair as you can be, not only in business but in life, things will work out,” she told *Glamour* in 2002 after the magazine honored her as one of its Women of the Year. “I hope that people remember me not just as a good businesswoman but as a great friend—and a heck of a lot of fun.”

With a nose for hard news, Nancy Dickerson turned down offers to cover traditional women's fare.



INITIATED 1947

NOTABLE NEWSWOMAN

One of the first female faces of television news, **Nancy Hanschman Dickerson**, *Wisconsin*, moved from the Midwest to Washington, D.C., in the 1950s to pursue a career in broadcast journalism. Although Nancy was offered a job as the editor of the women's section at the *Washington Daily News*, she turned it down. “It seemed outlandish to try to change the world by writing shopping and food columns,” she wrote in her 1976 memoir, *Among Those Present*.

She landed a job as a correspondent at CBS News, covering topics deemed characteristically “male” for that time—the Middle East, the tumultuous presidential election of 1960, the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the Watergate scandal. At NBC News, Nancy covered the White House. In 1960, she became the first female correspondent on the floor of a political convention. “I think my job is the most fascinating one in the world,” she told the *New York Daily News* in 1965.

“I wouldn't swap it for anything else.” —**EMILY BENCH**

KAPPA ARCHIVES

1901 Beta Mu Chapter is founded at the University of Colorado.

1902 Beta Xi Chapter is founded at the University of Texas.



< **1902** Convention is held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. **May Westermann**, *Nebraska*, is elected Grand President.



Audiences have tuned in to Jane Pauley's news broadcasts since 1972.

INITIATED 1969

Morning Maker

For nearly five decades, Jane Pauley has been the face of morning news

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

SUNDAY MORNING IS A time for rituals. For some, it's a morning jog or a yoga session. For others, it's attending a worship service. But for news junkies, it's curling

up on the couch with a mug of coffee to watch **Jane Pauley**, *Indiana*, at the helm of "Sunday Morning"—the CBS program that has dominated Sunday morning television ratings since 1979.

Today, Jane is a broadcast news icon and an Emmy-winner. But she got her start doing TV news—first in her hometown of Indianapolis and later as Chicago's first female news anchor. In 1976, Jane was tapped

CAIT OPPERMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDFUX

1904 Beta Omicron Chapter is founded at Tulane University.



< **1904** Convention is held in Columbia, Missouri. **Elmie Warner**, *Akron*, is elected Grand President.

1905 Beta Pi Chapter is founded at the University of Washington. Beta Sigma Chapter is founded at Adelphi University.

to co-host NBC's "Today Show." She was just 25 years old.

After 13 years on the "Today Show," Jane left the program in 1989. Where Jane went, audiences followed, including programs like "Real Life With Jane Pauley" and "Dateline NBC." But in 2001, her life changed. To combat a life-threatening case of hives, she was prescribed a high dose of steroids, triggering episodes of mania and depression. Doctors diagnosed Jane with bipolar disorder.

"It unmasked what doctors described as a genetic vulnerability to a mood disorder," Jane explained on "CBS This Morning" in 2019. "By that time, I was in pretty deep trouble."

Jane took time off, stepping out of the public eye to focus on her health. She followed her doctor's advice on what medicines to take, but she shrugged off the story he suggested she tell people to avoid becoming tabloid fodder.

"I experienced what stigma was that day. Day one: When I realized that my doctor was giving me a cover story to tell employers that I was being treated for a thyroid disorder, which was true, but it wasn't the whole truth," she said.

Since her diagnosis, Jane has become a vocal advocate for mental health issues. In 2009, she opened Indiana's Jane Pauley Community Health Center, helping underserved patients get mental health care and support.

Advocacy helps her to stay positive, Jane says, but maintaining her medications is imperative. "It is what has enabled me to be productive.



Since my diagnosis, I had a daytime show, I wrote two books ... and now I'm on 'Sunday Morning.' The best part of my life happened after the worst diagnosis of my life."

Jane began her CBS "Sunday Morning" hosting gig in 2016. Presenting stories with a nimble blend of factual and folksy, she says the show offers an antidote to the negative headlines and gloom-and-doom coverage that tend to dominate today's 24-hour cable news cycle.

Jane says she relishes finding the human stories that lie beneath the headlines—whether she's interviewing Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg or singer/songwriter James Taylor. "There are the gotta-ask questions on your list as a journalist," she says. "But I'm after more than that. I'm after the human story. I'm after the life. I'm after the connection. These are the things that make someone a person."

After years honing her craft, Jane says having the confidence to do things her way results in a unique brand of storytelling that audiences respond to. "Nobody looks through the prism quite like I do," she says.



INITIATED 1973

WAR CRIME CRUSADER

Nancy Paterson, Miami (Ohio), prosecuted domestic and international crimes—both as a New York assistant district attorney and as a prosecutor for the United Nations' war crimes tribunal.

In 1994, as the chief strategist for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Nancy wrote the indictment for then-Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. It was the first indictment for war crimes against a sitting head of state.

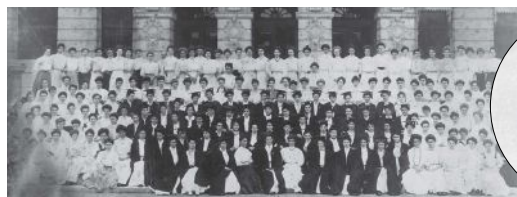
Nearly 100,000 people were killed and thousands of women were raped in the Bosnian-Herzegovinan conflict. Nancy gathered enough evidence through interviews to prosecute Milosevic, who died in prison before his trial ended.

After leaving the U.N., Nancy joined the World Bank, consulted for the Department of Institutional Integrity, and served as counsel to the Federal Reserve's board of governors.

But her work in the Balkans never left her. "On one level, you think, I am doing this from a professional standpoint. Then, these are men, women and children," she told *The Guardian* in 2001. "I remember going down the steps to a cellar in which 19 women and children had been burned; there was a child's slipper burned on the step. These things you remember."

—MEG BUTLER, *North Carolina*

1906 Beta Upsilon Chapter is founded at West Virginia University.



< **1906** Convention is held in Madison, Wisconsin. **Mary Griffith, Pennsylvania**, is elected Grand President.

INITIATED 1990



FOOD FIGHTER

Robyn McCord O'Brien

Washington & Lee

During a breakfast of waffles, yogurt and eggs, Robyn was horrified as her youngest daughter's face swelled from an allergic reaction. Her daughter survived, but since then, Robyn's goal has been making safe food accessible. Dubbed "food's Erin Brockovich" by the New York Times, Robyn created the Allergy Kids Foundation. She's a bestselling author, speaker, and strategist on cleaning up the food supply. Co-founder of rePlant Capital, Robyn works with suppliers and policymakers to create a smarter food system. "Courage is contagious," she says. "Be brave enough to speak the truth and others will do the same."

—MELISSA PRICE,
Florida State



INITIATED 2010

Songbird

Kirstin Maldonado *is an a capella chart topper*

By **Rachel B. Levin**

WHEN MEZZO-soprano **Kirstin Maldonado**, *Oklahoma*,

joined four high school friends in forming an a cappella singing group in the summer of 2011, she didn't have any grand ambitions. Sure, the ultimate goal

"The path that I had planned out for myself was kind of thrown off-kilter, obviously in a really great way."

of the group—Pentatonix—was to compete in the third season of NBC's television show "The Sing-Off." But for Kirstin—then 19 and fresh off her first year in college—the contest seemed like little more than a group bonding experience. When the show wrapped, she figured the group would go its separate ways and she'd return to college to study musical theater.

But Pentatonix proved to have electrifying chemistry, and they scored the show's championship title. A month after the competition, she put school on hold indefinitely, moved to Los Angeles, and joined her fellow Pentatonix members in a quest to see how far the group could go.

Since then, Kirstin and Pentatonix have parlayed their win on "The Sing-Off" into something rare for an a cappella group: They've become bona fide pop stars, building an early following by putting out cover songs and medleys on their YouTube channel, which has garnered over 17 million subscribers and 4 billion views to date. Online buzz led to a contract with RCA Records in 2014. They've now recorded

FROM LEFT: COURTESY ROBYNMCORB.COM; KATIE LEVINE



< **1908:** Convention is held in Meadville, Pennsylvania. **Edith Stoner**, *Missouri*, is elected Grand President.

1909 Beta Phi Chapter is founded at the University of Montana.

1910 Total Membership: 5,786. Number of Chapters—37. Number of Alumnae Associations—20

10 albums (2014's "That's Christmas to Me" went double platinum) and toured the world several times over, picking up three Grammys along the way. The quintet has racked up eight top 10 titles on the Billboard 200, including a pair of chart-toppers.

Even amid astonishing success, Kirstin talks about her experience as a member of Pentatonix as more of a fabulous detour than a final destination. "The path that I had planned out for myself was kind of thrown off-kilter, obviously in a really great way," she says. Since Pentatonix took off, she's often struggled to harmonize two dissonant realities: her utter delight at the group's incredible opportunities and the difficulty of holding onto her own "voice" as a young woman maturing in the spotlight.

With the songs "Water" and "Take Me Home" on Pentatonix's fourth studio album, Kirstin has scored her first songwriting credits—something she wants to continue to pursue. The success of Pentatonix also has given Kirstin options to explore various side projects as a solo artist. In 2017, she released her debut EP "L O V E." She also returned to her musical theater roots the same year with a Broadway debut as Lauren in the musical "Kinky Boots." With a Tony Award-winning score by pop hit-maker Cyndi Lauper and a script by Tony-winning actor and writer Harvey Fierstein, Kirstin says the experience was a thrill. "It was such a dream come true ... I hope to go back and do it (again) at some point," she says.



INITIATED 1960

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

Phyllis Eason Galanti, William & Mary, had always been shy—until her husband, U.S. Naval Lt. Cmdr. Paul Galanti, was captured during the Vietnam War in 1966.

She learned that Paul was being held prisoner, but she didn't learn much more. Phyllis—like other family members of prisoners of war (POW) and soldiers missing in action (MIA)—became frustrated with the lack of information. Together, they formed the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Phyllis became its chairman, leaving her shy personality behind.

"We're mad and we want the whole world to be mad," Phyllis told the Richmond Times-Dispatch in 1969. "We want people in other countries to be enraged about North Vietnam's violation of the Geneva Accords on the treatment of prisoners."

Phyllis initiated the "Write Hanoi" campaign that resulted in over 750,000 letters sent to the North Vietnamese government. She met with North Vietnamese and American leaders, appealed to the United Nations, and raised awareness on national media programs.

In 1973, Paul was released from six and a half years in captivity. "I think our group of MIA and POW wives changed history," Phyllis later told the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. "Never before have the wives of military men taken a stand like we did publicly."

—TARA MCCLELLAN MCANDREW, *Illinois Wesleyan*

INITIATED 1967



AIRTIME ANGEL

Kate Jackson
Mississippi

A TV mainstay in

the 1970s and 1980s, Kate was one-third of pop culture's famous trio, "Charlie's Angels." Kate portrayed Sabrina Duncan with wit and intelligence. Contract disputes led to Kate's departure but delivered her to the mid-1980s hit "Scarecrow and Mrs. King," a series she acted in and produced. While filming, Kate dreamed that something was wrong with her body. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987, and again in 1989, undergoing successful treatment. As an advocate for early screening, "Listen with your ears, but hear with your heart," proves to be her mantra even today.

— STACY FLANNERY,
Drake

1910 Beta Chi Chapter is founded at the University of Kentucky.



< **1910** Convention is held in Bloomington, Indiana. **Florence Roth, Michigan**, is elected Grand President.



< **1911** The Coat-of-Arms design is approved by Grand Council.

INITIATED 1929

STANDING AGAINST CENSORSHIP

Emily Wheelock Reed, *Indiana*, grew up a voracious reader. Upon finishing her college degrees, she worked in libraries from Michigan to Hawaii to Louisiana, and taught library science at the University of Florida.

Emily was the director of the Alabama Public Library Service Division in 1957 when her acquisition of Garth Williams' *The Rabbits' Wedding*—an illustrated children's picture book—put her at odds with state legislators and segregationists.

The Rabbits' Wedding depicts a marriage between a white rabbit and a black rabbit. The White Citizens' Council of Alabama attacked the book as “communistic” and for promoting racial integration.

Emily refused to remove the book from the library and defended her position during legislative hearings. “We have had difficulty with the book, but we have not lost our integrity,” Emily said in her testimony. “A library must be a repository of all sides of a question.” To protect the book, Emily placed it on the “by request only” shelf. Her refusal to ban it angered segregationists, but Emily stood firm.

In 2000, the American Library Association honored Emily, ensuring her legacy of anti-censorship will live on.

—**KATIE MILLS GIORGIO**, *Drake*



INITIATED 1971

Makeup Maven

A cosmetics calling for beauty-biz icon **Robin Burns-McNeill**

By **Emily Bench**



BEAUTY, IT'S SAID, runs skin deep. But to get to the top of the game in the cutthroat beauty business, your skin has to be thicker than most. Just ask **Robin Burns-McNeill**, *Syracuse*. She's a beauty industry legend who is chairwoman and co-founder of Batallure

Beauty—a consulting firm that helps brands like Christian Louboutin, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Kohls successfully expand their reach into the cosmetics and fragrance markets. But over the course of her cosmetics career, Robin has been at the helm of some of the top beauty brands in the world, including stints as the

KAPPA ARCHIVES: COURTESY OF BALLATLURE BEAUTY

1911 Beta Psi Chapter is founded at the University of Toronto—the first Kappa chapter established outside of the United States.



< **1912** Convention is held in Evanston, Illinois. **Eva Powell**, *UC Berkeley*, is elected Grand President.



president and CEO of Calvin Klein Cosmetics, president and CEO of Victoria's Secret Beauty Company, and president and CEO of Estée Lauder—North America's largest manufacturer of department store cosmetics.

So where did she develop the grit and gumption to climb to the top of the beauty biz? Robin credits her upbringing in Cripple Creek, Colorado—a gold mining town gone bust, where her mode of transportation to school was a horse.

Dubbed a “frontier girl” by close friends, Robin grew up with a single mom who taught her how to be independent at a young age—encouraging her to land her first job at the fresh age of 13.

After college, Robin moved to New York City and was hired into the executive training program at Bloomingdale's—working 10-hour days, seven days a week—as a buyer in the home furnishings department. Eventually, she got

up the nerve to ask her boss if she could try something new. He suggested Robin try her hand at the men's fragrance counter.

“I knew nothing about cosmetics, but I loved it,” Robin told the Chicago Tribune. “In cosmetics, I was like a kid in a candy store. I loved the creativity required to build a successful campaign.”

Her passion and determination quickly gave Robin the opportunity to rise through the ranks, and soon she was hired as head of the beauty department at Bloomingdale's. She left retail behind in 1983 and took a position with Calvin Klein, where she worked her way up to becoming president at age 30.

It was a time of struggle for Calvin Klein. But, in her seven years at the helm, Robin helped grow the company from \$6 million a year in sales to \$600 million. Beyond revenues, Robin's leadership resulted in the creation and promotion of some of the most iconic products

in the beauty industry, including the wildly popular Eternity and Obsession fragrance lines.

Robin says her success has come by never taking no for an answer. “If you run up against an obstacle, don't make the

“In cosmetics, I was like a kid in a candy store. I loved the creativity required to build a successful campaign.”

mistake of accepting the first ‘no’ that you hear. Find another way to achieve the result you're after,” she said. “If you're passionate enough, you'll succeed.”

She's all beauty and business at work, but she keeps it simple at home. Robin says her own beauty routine isn't fussy. She admits to taking just 10 to 15 minutes to apply her makeup.

“I spend more time drying my hair every morning,” she says.



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

INITIATED 1948

TURNING TRAGEDY INTO TREASURE

In the years that followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, **Lindalyn Bennett Adams, SMU**, was troubled as she watched the site morph into a tourist trap.

When the longtime Dallas resident was asked to help preserve the area, she rose to the challenge. As chairman of the Dallas County Historical Commission, Lindalyn spearheaded efforts, with little money, to preserve the Texas School Book Depository building where assassin Lee Harvey Oswald positioned himself and Dealey Plaza where Kennedy was shot. Lindalyn's work helped establish the Sixth Floor Museum, which chronicles the history of the assassination and attracts 450,000 visitors annually.

—**JUDY DUCATE**, *Texas Tech*

1913 Beta Omega Chapter is founded at the University of Oregon.



< **1914** The Sigma within the Delta symbol is adopted as the new member pin.

1914 Beta Theta Chapter is founded at the University of Oklahoma.

INITIATED 1955



**FIGHTING FOR
FASD FAIRNESS**

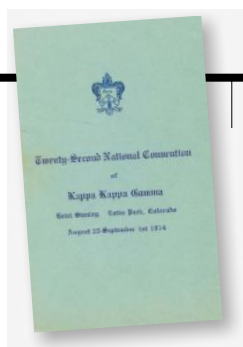
Kathryn "Kay" Kelly

LSU

As a probation

officer in the 1970s, Kay noticed that people with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) were charged with crimes at a high frequency. "I was amazed by the lack of knowledge about this disability," she says. Now the project director of FASD Legal Issues Resource Center at the University of Washington, Kay has influenced courts to recognize FASD as a form of brain damage. "Everybody with this disease has brain damage. And their judgment is flawed because of that brain damage," she explains. "Unless we do a better job of educating court professionals and modify our strategies, this population is always going to fail."

—KRISTEN LEFEBRE,
Indiana



< **1914** Convention is held in Estes Park, Colorado.

INITIATED 1985

POTUS Potential

*A senator who advocates for women and families, **Kirsten Gillibrand** made an Oval Office run during the 2020 primaries*

By **Kait Smith Lanthier**, Marist

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY A Kappa runs for president of the United States. It's not every four years, either.

In reality, it's not ever. Until 2019. In more than 200 years, not a single one of the nation's 45 presidents have been women, let alone members of Kappa.

Kirsten Gillibrand, *Dartmouth*, had hoped to change that.

Kirsten was one of six women in a field of more than 20 Democratic candidates seeking the 2020 party nomination. Though she decided to leave the race, the fact of the matter is: She tried. That's something worth celebrating.

Kirsten's career as an elected official began in 2006 when she won a House of Representatives seat as a Democrat in a traditionally Republican region of upstate New York. In 2009, she was appointed to the Senate. She won reelection in 2012 with 72% of the vote, the largest victory margin for a New York candidate.

Throughout her career, Kirsten has been an advocate for women and families, leading the fight for paid family leave and advocating for sexual assault survivors—especially those in the military and on college campuses. She helped lead the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" and has

been a supporter of "Medicare for All" since 2006. She helped pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and is leading the charge to extend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund that would aid emergency responders

While she did not emerge as the Democratic challenger, her path inspires us. To think bigger and more boldly. To get involved. To make ourselves heard.

She wrote in her 2014 memoir, "If women in all stages of life don't get involved and fight



Kirsten Gillibrand (far right) poses with supporters during the official kick-off rally of her campaign for U.S. president on March 24, 2019, in New York.

and other victims of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks.

Beyond her legislative accomplishments, Kirsten brings a sense of confidence, bravery and self to her office. She doesn't neglect her role as a mother. She regularly invites followers behind the scenes of her morning workout routine on Instagram. She's real—as real as any candidate can be.

for what we want, plans will be made that we may not like, and it'll be our own damned fault. I think about this every day. It's true at every level, from the Capitol to your city's town hall to your neighborhood school. We need to participate, and we need to be heard. Our lives, our communities, and our world will be better for it."

JOHANNES EISELE/APP VIA GETTY IMAGES

1916 Beta Kappa Chapter is founded at the University of Idaho. Gamma Alpha Chapter is founded at Kansas State University.

INITIATED 1971



INVESTIGATIVE
JOURNALIST

**Erin
Moriarty**
Ohio State

A nine-time Emmy winner, Erin has reported on tough topics like DNA evidence in death-row cases, abortion, conversion therapy for LGBTQ people, and battered women's syndrome.

Drawing on her legal training, Erin's focus is often on murder trials and prosecutions gone awry. "Those really are the kinds of cases that keep me keep doing what I do," she says.

In 2005, Erin began covering the case of Ryan Ferguson, a Missouri man convicted of murder. Her reporting spurred new testimony and a new attorney to take the case. The verdict was vacated in 2013, after Ferguson spent a decade in prison. "I'll go to my grave feeling so good about that," she says.

—KRISTEN LEFEVRE,
Indiana



INITIATED 1982

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

"As soon as I understood that books were manufactured objects and not magical emanations issuing directly from Oz or whatever, I started trying to illustrate my own books on stapled construction paper," **Donna Tartt**, *Mississippi*, told *Town & Country* in 2013.

Donna's English professors at the University of Mississippi encouraged her to enroll in a graduate-level short story course. Writer and editor Willie Morris advised her to transfer to Bennington College.

In 1992, Donna's first novel, *The Secret History*, spent 13 weeks on The New York Times' bestseller list. *The Little Friend* followed in 2002. In 2014, Donna's third novel, *The Goldfinch*, won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and the Pulitzer Prize. That year, Donna made *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People."

Donna's writing process is literary legend. She is said to research extensively and prefer writing in longhand. "You're building layer upon layer; it's like a Chinese lacquer box," she told NPR in 2002. "All your experience just kind of accumulates, and the novel takes a richness of its own simply because it has the weight of all those years that one's put into it."

—KATIE MILLS GIORGIO, *Drake*

INITIATED 1870



KAPPA'S FIRST
CAREER WOMAN

**Hannah
Jeannette
"Jennie"
Boyd**
Monmouth

Jennie entered

Monmouth College in 1867 and joined A.B.L.

in 1869. At 20 years old, she was the oldest Founder. She is listed on the Kappa roster as Alpha 2. Described as the "balance wheel" of the group with "a keen and analytical mind," Jennie was Alpha Chapter's

first recording secretary, presiding over the meeting where badges were first ordered from Stevenson's Jewelers in Pittsburgh. She is credited with selecting the duo of blues as the colors. After graduating with a B.A. in 1872 and an M.A. in 1875, Jennie became Kappa's first career woman, working as a teacher in Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and South Carolina.

— KYLIE TOWERS SMITH,
Simpson



< **1916** Convention is held in Ithaca, New York. **Lydia Kolbe**, *Akron*, is elected Grand President.

1918 Gamma Beta Chapter is founded at the University of New Mexico. Gamma Gamma Chapter is founded at Whitman College.

1919 Gamma Delta Chapter is founded at Purdue University. Gamma Epsilon Chapter is founded at the University of Pittsburgh.

Connection

Illustrations by **BIJOU KARMAN**



INITIATED 2008

THE DATING DISRUPTOR

Call **WHITNEY WOLFE HERD**, *SMU*, a busy bee. She's the founder and CEO of Bumble, a social and dating application boasting 50 million users, and valued at \$3 billion.

Whitney's message of empowerment echoes throughout her brand. On the app, women make the first move. Billboards for Bumble read: "Be the CEO your parents always wanted you to marry." It's Whitney's mission to put power into the hands of women in the world of dating (and beyond).

Her mission stems, in part, from personal experiences. Two years after co-founding Tinder—a competitor dating app—she filed a lawsuit against the company alleging sexual harassment and discrimination. Her public departure made Whitney the target of hateful online posts. But that energy fueled her return to the dating app space and Whitney's decision to start Bumble. That's a decision we can all swipe right on. —**KAIT SMITH LANTHIER**, *Marist*



INITIATED 1970



DESIGN DARLING

Carolynne
Smith
Roehm

Washington
Univ. (St. Louis)

A rhinestone tiara purchased for \$7 from Sears cemented Carolynne's fashion dreams. Later, she'd have a Manolo Blahnik shoe named after her and be dubbed "the ultimate tastemaker" by Bill Blass. After working alongside Oscar de la Renta for 10 years, Carolynne launched her own fashion line in 1985. As the president of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, she collaborated with co-chairs Donna Karan and Anna Wintour on the first Seventh on Sale—raising over \$4 million for HIV/AIDS research. Carolynne is a staple in design culture—styling books, clothing, accessories, fragrance, interiors, and linens. Not a bad return on a 7-year old's accessory splurge.

— KATIE MILLS GIORGIO,
Drake

INITIATED 1915

Magazine Maven

Beatrice Blackmar Gould made *Ladies' Home Journal* a journalistic powerhouse

By Kristen Desmond LeFevre, Indiana

DESPITE DEGREES in journalism from the University of Iowa and Columbia University, **Beatrice Blackmar Gould**, Iowa, started out like many a cub reporter: on a lowly beat with low pay. For Beatrice, it was the Ottumwa Courier, where she wrote obituaries for \$8 a week in the early 1920s.

She married her college sweetheart and fellow journalist Bruce Gould in 1923. They moved to New York City with dreams of becoming a famous playwriting team but found their success writing for newspapers—Beatrice at the New York World and Bruce at the New York Sun. In 1927, while editing "women's news," Beatrice gave birth to the couple's daughter. Already established as a writer, Beatrice continued to write for major magazines like *Cosmopolitan*, *Vanity Fair*, and the *Saturday Evening Post*.

During the Great Depression, Beatrice and Bruce found work at Curtis Publishing Company's *Ladies' Home Journal*—a magazine that, despite being America's top magazine for women, was suffering a decline in readership. Their ideas reinvigorated the *Journal* and they were promoted to co-editors in

1935. Beatrice wrote later that it took some persuading for her to accept the job. "If I could have chosen my own pattern, I would have stayed at home until our daughter was older," she admitted. "But ... it was then that opportunity offered." An early

pioneer as a mother balancing a high-profile career, Beatrice worked in the *Journal's* New York office three days a week and out of her home office the other two days.

Even though they were hired as equals, Beatrice received



CINDY ORH/GETTY IMAGES; KAPPA ARCHIVES

OUR HISTORY

1920 Total Membership: 9,921. Number of Chapters—48; Number of Alumnae Associations—39.



< **1920** Kappa marks 50 years with its Golden Jubilee.

1920 Gamma Zeta Chapter is founded at the University of Arizona. Gamma Eta Chapter is founded at Washington State University.

Even though they were hired as equals, Beatrice received a \$5,000 yearly salary while Bruce earned \$20,000.

a \$5,000 yearly salary while Bruce earned \$20,000. Still, they hired ambitious and talented female writers and editors in an era when employers openly discriminated against married women in the workplace (and often banned them from employment altogether). As one of only 100 American women granted U.S. military press credentials to cover WWII overseas, Beatrice used her voice to advocate for women's continued employment in a peacetime economy—when men would return from the war front to reclaim the jobs that women had filled in their absence. It was arguably the most progressively feminist major publication in circulation in its day.

Beatrice and Bruce's success at the *Journal* was based on their high regard for women. They elevated the magazine and its readership by doing what Beatrice called "editing up"—publishing in-depth, analytical coverage of politics and international relations—subjects usually ignored by women's magazines. Audiences responded. In the 32 years the Goulds edited the *Journal*, its circulation tripled to 7.5 million, becoming the most profitable magazine the world had ever seen.



INITIATED 1992

SKIN CARE STARTUP

When **Nyakio "Kio" Grieco, Oklahoma**, was 8 years old, the first-generation Kenyan American learned a skin care recipe from her grandmother. A coffee farmer in Kenya, Kio's grandmother boiled coffee beans and added oil to make a facial scrub with energizing and antioxidant properties.

In 2002, Kio set out to recreate her grandmother's formula for her new skin care line. Kio's curiosity drove her to expand her knowledge of global heritage skin care, and by 2017, Nyakio brand skin care launched at Ulta Beauty with masks, scrubs and cleansing balms.

As her brand has been embraced by celebrities, Kio has remained committed to empowering women who toil out of the limelight. Nyakio's shea and African black soap is sourced from a women's co-op in a West African village, and product sales help the women become self-sustaining. The company recently introduced a water irrigation system into the village so the girls could attend school rather than spend their days fetching water.

"My hopes are that as the brand continues to grow, it also helps these women all over the world," says Kio. "I'm very conscious about moving the needle to make the world a better place."

—RACHEL B. LEVIN

INITIATED 1882



PANHELLENIC
POWERHOUSE

Emily Eaton Hepburn

St. Lawrence

In the early 1920s,

sorority women who came to New York City in search of a job struggled to find affordable and safe housing. To ease the transition, the National Panhellenic Conference proposed a building that could house up to 400 women. A suffragist and social activist, Emily developed what came to be known as the

Panhellenic House, a residential hotel with meeting spaces for sorority women to gather. Emily purchased the property at First Avenue and Mitchell Place, spearheaded a stock sale for funding, chose an architect and watched the building rise 26 stories. As the majority shareholder, she invested more than \$200,000 of her own money (about \$3 million today). Called Beekman Tower, the house Emily built is now a popular midtown hotel.

—FRAN BECQUE

< **1920** Convention is held in Mackinac Island, Michigan. **Sarah Rowe, Northwestern**, is elected Grand President.

1921 Gamma Theta Chapter is founded at Drake University. Gamma Iota Chapter is founded at Washington University in St. Louis.



INITIATED 2006



DEAL INFLUENCER

**Amber
Venz Box**
SMU

Influencer is now

a career choice. But when Amber launched rewardStyle in 2011, the term didn't exist. Now it feels like influencers are all that matters in the world of digital marketing. When Amber developed rewardStyle.com, it was the only platform offering a simple way to monetize blog posts. An Instagram-friendly version—@liketoknow.it—allows followers to shop and search products styled on, by, and for real people. Fast forward to 1 million brand partners, a stable of 50,000 top-tier influencers, and a whopping \$1 billion in online sales, rewardStyle is the world leader of influential inspiration.

—STACY FLANNERY,
Drake



INITIATED 2006

Lighting the Way

Anna Stork *flips the switch on seeing in the dark*

By **Katie Mills Giorgio**, *Drake*

IN A WORLD WHERE ONE out of every six people lacks access to stable electricity, **Anna Stork**, *Dartmouth*, is shining a light on humanitarian aid as the co-inventor of LuminAID, a portable, inflatable, solar-powered lantern.

Moved by the global

response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Anna and fellow design student Andrea Sreshta wondered what happened when the sun went down and Haitians living without power, water and shelter were also without light. Together, they came up with a prototype for a small

inflatable, solar-powered light source that could help in disaster relief efforts or be used for outdoor recreation.

To raise the capital needed to go from prototype to product, the pair created a crowdfunding campaign to raise \$10,000 in 40 days. By day seven, the fledgling company had already met its

COURTESY AMBER VENZ BOX; TRACY POWELL



< **1922** Convention is held in Glacier National Park, Montana. Delegates vote to change the "Grand" prefix to "National" for Fraternity officers and Council members, and establish a Central Office, the first women's fraternity to do so.

May Westermann, *Nebraska*, is elected President 20 years after her first term.

1922 The Rose McGill Fund is established.

1922 Della Lawrence Burt, *Texas*, is hired as Executive Secretary, Kappa's first full-time staff member. The first Central Office is located in her home in Bryan, Texas.

\$10,000 goal. By day 40, it had raised \$51,000 from people in more than 25 countries.

When Anna and Sreshta found themselves in the middle of an 8.9 magnitude earthquake on a trip to Japan in 2011, they saw firsthand how a crisis—including the loss of electric power—can affect people’s lives. Anna says the experience gave them renewed motivation to take LuminAID to the next level.

That opportunity came in 2015 when Anna and Sreshta appeared on MSNBC’s “Shark Tank.” They received offers from all five venture capitalists on the show’s panel and accepted Mark Cuban’s investment of \$200,000 in exchange for 15% equity in their company. Anna says Cuban really saw the product’s potential. “He encouraged us to push the boundary with innovations in design and to think about what’s next for disaster relief aid,” she explains.

“What’s next” includes an expanded line of lanterns and a new solar charger category. Today, the company’s products have been used in relief efforts during Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Typhoon Haiyan in Southeast Asia in 2013, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, Hurricane Maria in 2017, and the Syrian refugee crisis in 2018. Through the company’s “Give Light, Get Light” program, more than 50,000 solar lanterns and chargers have been donated to families in need in more than 100 countries around the world.

“It is always amazing to see images of the lights being used in different countries,” Anna says.

Not bad for a company that started with one bright idea.



INITIATED 1936

MOON MAPPER

July 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon. Watching from Houston’s space center was **Mareta West, Oklahoma**, the astogeologist who pinpointed for NASA the spot where the fragile lunar lander known as “Eagle” touched down on the moon in 1969.

Mareta got her start in the petroleum oil industry in the 1940s as the first female consulting geologist in the Oklahoma City area. By 1960, she moved to Arizona, working as the first woman in the state hired by the United States Geological Survey, and was soon transferred to their astogeology division, which led to her work with NASA, mapping the moon landing and future lunar missions.

In 1973, she told *The Key*, “I had the good fortune to be involved in the mapping of the site chosen for the first landing, Apollo 11. I favor, without reservation, the American effort in space. Science inherently cannot be immobilized. If we do not go forward, we shall be left behind.”

Mareta’s sister Lorene told a local newspaper, “I think it’s marvelous for women to have such an exciting part in a space program.” When asked if Mareta would be willing to fly to the moon herself, Lorene responded enthusiastically, “Yes, I think she would go.”

She got her chance, albeit posthumously. In 1998, the Celestis Memorial Spaceflights company attempted to launch Mareta’s ashes into space on the first and second commercial attempts at lunar burial. —MEG BUTLER, *North Carolina*

INITIATED 1955



TRUE NORTH
TRIED-AND-TRUE

Barbara
Leamen
McDougall

Toronto

A member of

Canada’s Parliament from 1984–93, Barbara helped save millions of dollars in pensions and served as secretary of state for external affairs, minister of employment and immigration, minister of state for privatization and regulatory affairs, and minister of state for finance. After she retired from politics in 1993, Barbara was the public governor of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

In 2000, she was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada. “It’s a country with big freedoms,” she wrote in a 2014 piece for *The Globe and Mail*. A proud Canadian, she says: “Freedom of movement, freedom of political choice, freedom of religion, freedom from arbitrary persecution.”

—SUSAN JOHNSTON
TAYLOR

1923 Gamma Kappa Chapter is founded at the College of William & Mary. Gamma Lambda Chapter is founded at Middlebury College.

1924 Gamma Mu Chapter is founded at Oregon State University.



< **1924** Convention is held in Lake of Bays, Ontario.

INITIATED 1879



DRAMA QUEEN

**Laura
Dainty
Pelham**
Franklin

An elocutionist and actress, Laura joined Nu Chapter in 1879 when she was invited to a literary performance and was initiated that evening. With a passion for reform, Laura joined the women's club movement and volunteered at Chicago's Hull House, a settlement house founded by Jane Addams in 1889. Hull House provided housing, health care and services to immigrants. When Laura's husband died, she moved into Hull House and directed the Hull House Players from 1900 until her death in 1924. Called one of the most innovative forces in American theatre, Hull House Players was the first community theatre and a forerunner to the Little Theatre movement.

The popular amateur group received international acclaim.

—KRISTIN SANGID,
Georgia Southern

INITIATED 1951

Illustration Icon

Nancy Burkert's technique for her famous children's illustrations: *Treat them like adults*

By Dan Morrell

IN HIGH SCHOOL, NANCY Ekholm Burkert, Wisconsin—one of the world's most acclaimed children's book illustrators—wrote her first “book” as part of a ninth-grade civics class assignment that asked students what they might want to do in life. A voracious reader, she thought she might like to write and illustrate books. She turned in an illustrated story about a caterpillar that didn't want to turn into a butterfly.

After studying fine art in college and graduate school, Nancy—in need of some income—returned to the idea first generated in that ninth-grade assignment. “I have always loved illustrated books,” she says. She sent a pitch to publishing giant Knopf—a story called “Jefferson Brady and the Aerial Lady,” which imagined what happens to kites when they get lost in the sky. But that project was put on hold when Nancy was selected to illustrate a new book by Roald Dahl.

James and the Giant Peach was Dahl's first big foray into children's literature, years before *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *Matilda* would cement his legacy. Up to that point, the English author was known for his adult fiction,



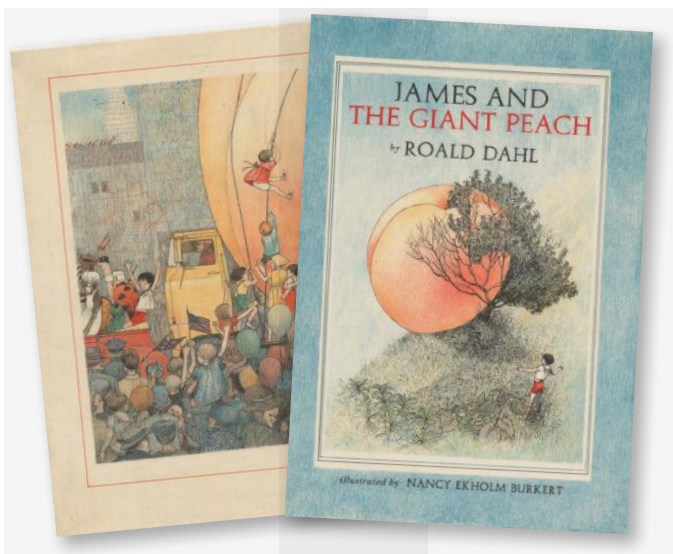
KAPPA ARCHIVES; COURTESY THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

1925 Gamma Nu Chapter is founded at the University of Arkansas. Gamma Xi Chapter is founded at the University of California, Los Angeles.



< **1926** Convention is held in Oakland, California. **Georgia Lloyd-Jones**, Wisconsin, is elected National President.

1927 Gamma Omicron Chapter is founded at the University of Wyoming. Gamma Pi Chapter is founded at the University of Alabama.



much of it the murder mystery variety. But in his correspondence, Dahl portrayed no unease about working with a relatively unknown illustrator. In an August 1960 letter, Dahl responded to his editor's suggestion of Nancy for the book decisively: "I agree with you completely. Nancy Burkert is our illustrator."

After *James and the Giant Peach* was released in 1961, Nancy illustrated Hans Christian Andersen's *The Nightingale*, which tells the story of a Chinese emperor who is saved by a songbird, and put her stylistic evolution on display. In 1973, her work on *Snow White* was recognized with both a Caldecott honor (the "runner-up" to the Caldecott Medal) and a "notable book" distinction from *The New York Times*.

After years of illustrating the works of others, Nancy eventually returned to the promise of her original Knopf pitch, writing and illustrating her own book. The result, *Valentine and Orson*, was released in 1989. A decade and a half later, Nancy became the second-ever exhibitor at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture

Book Art, following *Where the Wild Things Are* author and illustrator Maurice Sendak.

Though stylistic preferences have evolved and topics have changed during her more than five decades of work, Nancy's approach has never wavered. "This may sound very strange, but I don't think too much about the child. I'm thinking about the story and how to illuminate it. ... Let the chips fall where they may with the readership. Otherwise, you might begin to talk down or be too accommodating to what is supposed to be what children want."

Besides, cartoons simply aren't part of who Nancy is as an artist. "I think if children aren't helped to know the difference between a maple leaf and an oak leaf, they're not going to be all that interested in conservation or the love of differentiation and uniqueness and biodiversity, and all those good things," says Nancy. And children deserve a challenge. "It's that same attitude across the board: They will learn and have what we give them," she says. "We are the ones who mustn't underestimate them."

Emmy-winning writers Madelyn Pugh and Bob Carroll wrote all episodes of "I Love Lucy."



INITIATED 1939

SITCOM SCRIBE

Madelyn Pugh Davis, Indiana, wrote her first play at age 10 and wrote for the school paper. Her mother insisted she learn to type as a backup. But when she graduated from college with a journalism degree in 1942, Madelyn found work writing for radio. She moved to Los Angeles and took a job at CBS. "Girl writer" was emblazoned on the back of her chair at CBS, but Madelyn didn't let the fact that she was the only female staff writer bother her.

In 1951, Madelyn and Bob Carroll were co-writing the radio show "My Favorite Husband" when CBS decided to transform it into a live-recorded sitcom that would become the "I Love Lucy" show. Madelyn and Carroll wrote the pilot and the next 179 episodes, earning two Emmys. Madelyn was the typist of the writing duo and she tried all of the skits before pitching them to Ball. "The great thing about Lucy, besides her marvelous comic talents, was that she would do anything you wrote," Madelyn told *USA Today* in 2011. But Ball was quick to credit her writers. "I am not funny. My writers were funny," she told *Rolling Stone* in 1983. Lucy attended Kappa's 1960 Convention when Madelyn received an Alumnae Achievement Award.

—KRISTIN SANGID, *Georgia Southern*

1928 The Co-Organizer Program (now known as Leadership Consultants) is created.

1928 Gamma Sigma Chapter is founded at the University of Manitoba.



< **1928** Convention is held in Breezy Point, Minnesota.

INITIATED 1916



CRITIC'S CHOICE

**Helen
Bower**

Michigan

Helen joined the staff of the Detroit Free Press in 1914 after writing about how modern girls had to choose between career and marriage. Helen worked her way up and, after working as a feature writer and drama and art editor, she landed the role of movie critic in 1947. For 20 years, Helen regaled readers with sharp, witty commentary of the silver screen. "I honestly get the feeling every time I see a screening that I've never seen a movie before," she said. But her enthusiasm never clouded her ability to write about it honestly. "She was a good friend of the movies," said one theater owner. "But that doesn't mean she wasn't honest and let the chips fall."

—JODI NODING, *Florida*



Two weeks before the 1955 opening of Disneyland, Ruth Shellhorn Kueser confers with Walt Disney.

INITIATED 1928

Changing the Landscape

Ruth Shellhorn Kueser helped build the world's most famous mouse house

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

IF YOU'RE ONE OF THE over 730 million visitors to Disneyland since it opened on July 17, 1955, you have experienced the work of **Ruth Shellhorn Kueser**, *Oregon State*.

A transfer student, Ruth studied horticulture, engineering, design and regional planning at Cornell University in the 1930s. After six years of study, she had earned more than enough credits to receive her bachelor's degree, but the dean deemed women unfit to handle the

heavy workload and did not permit her to take her final course. When Ruth's petitions were ignored, she figured she'd give it another shot the following year. But amid the Great Depression, Ruth's family lacked the money for her to complete her degree. Ruth returned to her native Los Angeles and opened a landscape design practice.

Her big break came during a collaboration with architect Welton Becket. Ruth's novel use of palm trees, glossy foliage, and lush plantings at Becket's

malls gave customers the feeling of being on vacation. Her work captured the essence of Southern California living.

When Walt Disney called Becket for advice on hiring landscape architects for Disneyland, Becket advised him to hire "Shellhorn, and only Shellhorn."

Just four months away from opening day, Disneyland was still 60 acres of dirt, a dry river trench, and a handful of unfinished buildings. Disney had established Tomorrowland, Fantasyland, Adventureland,

HARRY KUESER/COURTESY OF KELLY COMRAS

1929 Clara O. Pierce, *Ohio State*, is named Executive Secretary. The Fraternity's Central Office is moved to Columbus, Ohio.

1929 Six chapters are founded: Gamma Tau, *North Dakota State*; Gamma Upsilon, *British Columbia*; Gamma Phi, *SMU*; Gamma Chi, *George Washington*; Gamma Psi, *Maryland*; and Gamma Omega, *Denison*.

Frontierland, and Main Street U.S.A., but he had no strategy to connect them coherently.

When Disney called Ruth, she told him, “I don’t do amusement parks.” Still, she took the meeting, where she agreed to design the park’s pedestrian plan, including the plantings around Sleeping Beauty Castle and the landscape for the Town Square, Main Street and the Plaza Hub.

Disney wanted to build a Victorian bandstand in the center of Town Square. Feeling it would obscure the view of Sleeping Beauty Castle, Ruth suggested a flagpole instead. Disney started construction of the bandstand anyway but soon realized that Ruth was right. He ordered its demolition and

replaced it with a flagpole. From then on, he trusted Ruth completely. When Disney toured the progress each Saturday, she was the only woman who walked alongside him. Everyone else on the creative team was a man.

Ruth’s previous projects had been installed in exacting detail but at Disneyland, plants and landscape grades were eyeballed into place instead of being staked out according to approved designs.

On March 27, Ruth wrote in her diary: “I’m really scared about Disneyland. ... So much I don’t know and trying to design and not being sure I’m on the right track.” Soon, Ruth was making regular trips to Anaheim to supervise. The men

on the site called her “Mother Shellhorn,” chastising her as a stickler for details. In the last 10 days of construction, Ruth kneeled in the dirt to plant seedlings herself.

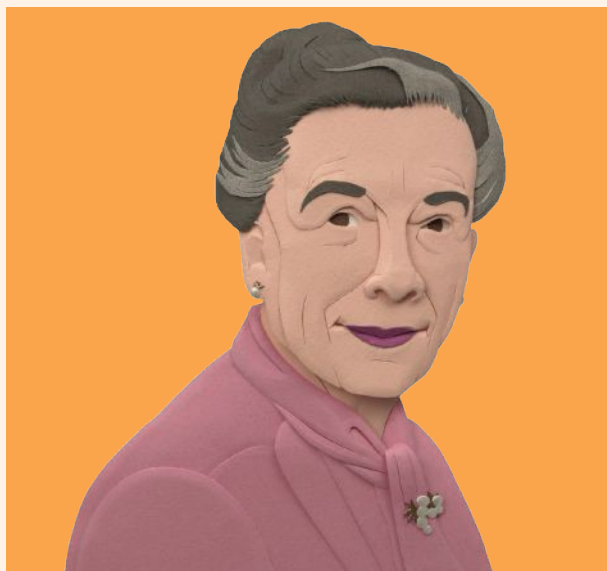
After her work at Disneyland, the Los Angeles Times named Ruth the “Woman of the Year” in 1955.

Years later—with a portfolio spanning nearly 60 years and 400 projects—it was discovered that Ruth had enough credits to satisfy graduation requirements at Cornell in architecture and landscape architecture. In 2005, Cornell presented two diplomas to Ruth. She wrote that those diplomas—which she hung on the wall of her studio—“were the most dear to her heart.”

When Disney toured the progress each Saturday, she was the only woman who walked alongside him. Everyone else on the creative team was a man.

INITIATED 1940

LOW PRICE LEADER



CHEONG-AH HWANG

When Helen Robson Walton, Oklahoma, and her husband, Sam, opened a Ben Franklin “five-and-dime” in the cotton and railroad town of Newport, Arkansas, in 1945, they had to borrow \$25,000 from Helen’s father. But Sam and Helen made the money back—taking profits from \$72,000 to \$250,000 in five years. The couple relocated to Bentonville, Arkansas, where they opened Walton’s 5 & 10 in 1950, eventually expanding to 15 locations. Ben Franklin’s executives scoffed at Sam’s idea for a discount store that sold more for less, so Sam and Helen opened Walmart Discount City in nearby Rogers, Arkansas, in 1962. Today, Walmart is worth an estimated \$386 billion with over 11,000 stores.

Sam called Helen one of his keenest business advisers, crediting her with creating Walmart’s employee profit-sharing plan. “It gives everybody a sense that they are part of the company,” Helen said. In 1970, she instituted the Walmart Foundation Associate’s Scholarship Program to help associates and their children to pursue higher education. In 2019 alone, the fund awarded scholarships worth over \$4 million.

Helen used the fortune she and Sam built to improve the lives of others—including their employees. A favorite saying was tacked up on her desk, continually reminding Helen of the value of philanthropy. It read: “It is not what you gather in life, it’s what you scatter in life that tells the kind of life you have lived.” Hers was a life well-scattered.

—LAURA VINCI, *Kansas*

1930 Total Membership: 17,726. Number of Chapters—68; Number of Alumnae Associations—83.



< **1930** Convention is held in Mackinac Island, Michigan. Delegates vote to reinstate the “Grand” prefix to the titles of Fraternity officers and Council officers. **Florence Meyers, Drake,** is elected Grand President. **Alice Barney, Minnesota,** is appointed Grand President after Florence Meyers resigns.

INITIATED 1970



FROM FEAR TO FREEDOM

Rosemary Dunaway Tribble

Texas

As a lifelong advocate

for victims of sexual assault, Rosemary has helped heal her own wounds. She was working as a local talk show host in Richmond, Virginia, when she was raped at gunpoint in 1975. "It changed my life forever,"

Rosemary says.

In 2011, she founded the Fear2Freedom Foundation, which provides clothing and toiletry kits so victims have something to wear when their clothes are entered into police evidence. More than 24,000 kits have been distributed across six states, 33 universities, and 90 hospitals. "I've always said that I wanted to be a voice for the voiceless," Rosemary says. "If I can do that, I feel like that is the greatest service that I can provide others."

—ANN SCHNAEDTER,
Missouri

INITIATED 1879

Grand Ideas

At age 22,
Tade Hartsuff Kuhns
transformed
Kappa Kappa Gamma

By **Kristin Sangid**,
Georgia Southern

IN 1879, **TADE HARTSUFF (Kuhns)** transferred from an all-girls college to Butler University because it was co-educational. Butler was only the third American university that offered the same education to men and women, something Tade's father felt was important.

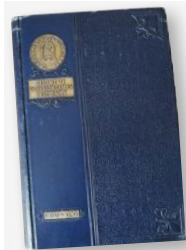
When Tade arrived at Butler, she had no familiarity with Greek-letter organizations. But that soon changed. "I was predisposed in favor of Kappa Kappa Gamma largely because the opposition had tried to exact from me a promise not to join any other than their particular sorority," she wrote in 1881.

It was fortuitous for Kappa that Tade joined the young Mu Chapter. The Fraternity was only 9 years old when Tade initiated in fall 1879. Tade's natural leadership embodied a great awakening, both for Tade and for Kappa. Tade's ideas would change the trajectory of the organization forever.

The following year, Mu Chapter sent a delegate to Kappa's national Convention



1930 Four chapters are founded: Delta Alpha, *Penn State*; Delta Beta, *Duke*; Delta Gamma, *Michigan State*; and Delta Delta, *McGill*.



< **1932** *The History of Kappa Kappa Gamma, 1870-1930* is published, the Fraternity's first complete history.



< **1932** Convention is held in Swampscott, Massachusetts. **Alice Barney**, *Minnesota*, is elected Grand President.

in 1880 in Madison, Wisconsin. Apparently the event had been canceled without adequate notice to all chapters, so a handful of delegates showed up, but there was no Convention. Tade was already frustrated by a seeming lack of structure in the organization. The failure of the 1880 Convention to materialize sparked in Tade a resolve to implement change.

At the time, the Grand Chapter system was in place, whereby the president of the Grand Chapter served as the Fraternity President. For 11 years, this system rotated from Alpha Chapter, *Monmouth*, to Delta Chapter, *Indiana*, and then to Epsilon Chapter, *Illinois Wesleyan*. It is a testament to these early leaders that the organization survived at all.

The Grand Chapter oversaw expansion and general business. But it wasn't just Tade who recognized this system was not sustainable for a growing organization. At the 1881 Convention in Bloomington, Indiana, Tade proposed the Council form of government. The plan was adapted from Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, which had implemented it the previous year.

Not only was Tade's proposal approved, she was elected Kappa's first Grand President. Beginning her senior year in college, she served as Grand President until 1884, during which time eight new chapters were established and Kappa published the first women's fraternity magazine.

Tade believed in the "grand possibilities of our Fraternity as a whole," and led Kappa Kappa Gamma to implement a structure that enabled it to thrive.

INITIATED 1999

SWINGING FOR THE FENCES

Racquel Russell, Miami, was playing outside at a relative's house in the Bronx, when an uncle called her in to watch C-SPAN. Carol Moseley Braun, the first female African American senator, was addressing the U.S. Senate, asking legislators to discontinue a 95-year-old federal patent on a United Daughters of the Confederacy insignia featuring the Confederate flag. The moment inspired Racquel to work toward a political career.

"I just thought that was the coolest thing I have ever seen," she says. "Everyone's perspective and experience matters, and without Carol Moseley Braun, they would just continue renewing the patent with unanimous consent. She gave voice to a group of people who have been voiceless."

Racquel has served as an adviser to Sens. Bob Graham and Tom Carper before working as deputy assistant to President Barack Obama. "You can't map out that you want to work for the president of the United States in the White House," she says. "But that occurred—and it was pretty amazing at the time."

As the vice president of government relations and public affairs at Zillow Group, Racquel says her day-to-day in the private sector is similar to politics, even if the topics and issues at hand are different. One of the changes she has embraced: Realizing it was acceptable, or even encouraged, to fail. "Taking big swings and failing is OK," she says. "If you're not failing, you're not trying hard enough." —NINA BAHADUR, *Princeton*



INITIATED 1886



**SPEAKING OUT
FOR SUFFRAGE**

**Eliza
"Jean"
Penfield
DePauw**

Jean won the 1892

Interstate Oratorical Contest in Minneapolis against 30,000 students representing 63 colleges in 10 states. Her oratory gifts helped lead Kappa into the new century as the Fraternity's Grand President (1900–02), and its Panhellenic Delegate (1904). Jean co-founded the Woman's Suffrage Party of Greater New York. In 1912, the Sacramento Bee called her advocacy "tireless," adding, "Every year she goes before the New York Legislature and argues on behalf of equal suffrage."

Every year she suffers repulse, only to return to her work with redoubled energy." Alongside Pi Beta Phi's Carrie Chapman Catt, Jean helped establish the League of Women Voters in 1920. —KYLIE SMITH, *Simpson*

1932 Delta Epsilon Chapter is founded at Rollins College. Delta Zeta Chapter is founded at Colorado College. Delta Eta Chapter is founded at the University of Utah.



< **1933 Eleanor Bennet, UC Berkeley**, is appointed Grand President after the sudden death of Alice Barney.

1933 Delta Theta Chapter is founded at Goucher College.

INITIATED 1958

EXHIBITING HERSTORY

Edith “Edie” Petersilia Mayo, *George Washington*, curator emerita of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History, is changing how we think about women’s history. As a leading historian of the women’s suffrage movement, she’s transforming the way women are portrayed in history, ensuring their stories are accessible and included as a part of America’s narrative.

Beyond her groundbreaking Smithsonian exhibits, Edie led the development of “Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business” for the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. The exhibit was the first (and maybe still the only) comprehensive history of women in business.

In August 2020, Edie’s latest project was unveiled in Occoquan, Virginia. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial was dedicated on the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment. The monument’s location is the former site of the Occoquan Workhouse, where suffragists were imprisoned for demonstrating in Washington, D.C., in support of women’s right to vote.

Her tip: “Show up. Be recognized. Speak up for yourself ... and watch out for your sisters.” —**MELISSA PRICE**, *Florida State*



INITIATED 2002

Down for the Struggle

For **Rosita Najmi**, the fight against global poverty is personal

By **Laura Vinci**, *Kansas*

LIKE MANY OF US, THE earliest memories of **Rosita Najmi**, *Wake Forest*, are of her family. But for Rosita, those memories reflect a refugee experience. As religious refugees persecuted for their Baha’i faith, Rosita, her mother and her siblings came to the

U.S. from Iran in 1984 with three suitcases and \$3,000. “At a tender age, I began to understand what it means to struggle,” Rosita wrote in an essay for Harvard Business School, where she earned an MBA in 2009.

Stateside, Rosita learned English, started public school and began to navigate her place

CHENG-AH HWANG, COURTESY ROSITA NAJMI



< **1934** Alpha Chapter is re-established at Monmouth College.



< **1934** Convention is held in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

in her new country. She recalls her family's daily financial difficulties with painful clarity.

"I have a personal relationship with poverty," Rosita says. It's a relationship that has led to a commitment to social equity, economic development, and justice for the poor and vulnerable.

As a senior program officer for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)—the world's largest private foundation with a trust endowment of \$46.8 billion—Rosita works to bring her commitment to fruition. With a focus on extreme poverty, Rosita serves over 700 million people worldwide living on less than \$2 per day, creating influence and providing financial assistance to increase access

to financial services for the world's poorest populations.

It's a job that has its challenges and its rewards. "These are people without IDs, people that don't yet exist to their governments," Rosita explains. "They are contributing to their households, their communities, and their economies, but because they're in the informal system, they don't count." She says that helping poor people join the formal system brings with it a host of empowerment. "Once a person gets an ID, they exist. They count," she says. "That ID becomes a passport not only to the financial system but also the ability to participate in society."

Leading a \$10 million

portfolio, Rosita makes grants and partnerships on behalf of BMGF to create sustainable programs that help poor people enroll in formal financial services—collaborating with governments, nongovernmental organizations, private sector companies, and multilateral groups like the G7 and G20.

Rosita says it's not about the titles or the high-powered contacts. It's about a refugee girl and her family starting over—and those who are in the same shoes she once wore. "There's a certain justice issue about how long the poor have to wait to be able to graduate out of poverty. I've felt that myself," she says. Behind every project is a human heart. That's my bottom line."

"There's a certain justice issue about how long the poor have to wait to be able to graduate out of poverty. I've felt that myself."

INITIATED 1870

PREEMINENT PRESIDENT



KAPPA ARCHIVES

Founder **Minnie Stewart's** family moved to Monmouth in 1861 when she was 9 years old. In 1865, they built a home across from Monmouth College, where Minnie entered as a sub-freshman. She joined A.B.L. in 1868.

Suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton gave a speech called "Our Young Girls" at Monmouth's Union Hall in December 1869. It is said that Minnie attended the event, where Stanton urged the development of women's abilities.

Perhaps moved by Stanton, Minnie met with fellow A.B.L. members Lou Bennett and Jennie Boyd to discuss founding what Lou called "something new"—an organization they considered to be the first fraternity for women.

Minnie served as Kappa Kappa Gamma's first President, presiding over the first Initiation held April 1, 1870. She is listed on Kappa's permanent membership roll as Alpha 3 and is credited with selecting the iris as the Fraternity's flower.

After graduating from Monmouth College in 1872 with a Bachelor of Science, Minnie taught at Monmouth public schools and later became a high school principal in Florida—earning a salary higher than most of her male contemporaries. The home her parents built in Monmouth is now The Stewart House Museum, owned and operated by the Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation.

— **KYLIE TOWERS SMITH**, *Simpson*



< **1935** Passing of the Light ceremony is initiated by **Charlotte Barrell Ware**, *Boston*.



< **1935** **Helen Andres**, *Washington*, is appointed Grand President upon the resignation of Eleanor Bennet.

1935 Delta Iota Chapter is founded at Louisiana State University.

Editor Extraordinaire

Minnetta Taylor established the first college women's fraternal magazine

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, Indiana



“Next to having no Convention or a poor one, the greatest fraternity calamity is to have no publication or a poor one.”

AS DELEGATES to Kappa's 1881 Convention, **Minnetta Taylor**, *DePauw*, and **Tade Hartsuff Kuhns**, *Butler*, had an idea. Several of the men's fraternities were publishing magazines. If Kappa was to be the equal of those organizations, why not start a magazine?

“We both believed with all our hearts and minds and souls in the new woman and her future. Could the Fraternity be for that? Could *The Key* help that?” Minnetta wrote in 1898.

The pair agreed it could, rallying their fellow delegates to appoint a magazine committee. Minnetta was chosen as the editor.

“That was really the forge of where *The Key* was hammered out of shapeless metal. After that, everything was a matter of detail,” Minnetta wrote.

But the details were tricky: To pay for the publication, delegates voted to assess each chapter \$5. With only 16 chapters (three of which were in “perilous” financial circumstances), that amounted to \$65 to finance a quarterly 60-page magazine. But the budget wasn't going to stand in Minnetta's way. “There was no force on Earth except death that could have stopped *The*

Key,” she wrote. “Death itself could not; for love is stronger than death.”

Minnetta hadn't seen any other fraternity magazines until an 1881 trip to an Indianapolis printer, where she spied *The Crescent* of Delta Tau Delta atop a table of samples.

Although magazine committee member **Louise Landers**

Neff, *Butler*, had told Minnetta that *The Key* should strive to resemble *The Crescent*, Minnetta disagreed. “I shocked her by saying I had never heard of, much less seen, a magazine that I wished to make one like,” she later wrote.

The inaugural issue of *The Key*—the first women's college fraternity magazine ever



KAPPA ARCHIVES: CORY KLEIN PHOTOGRAPHY



< **1936** Convention is held in Montebello, Quebec. **Rhea Shryock**, *Pennsylvania*, is elected Grand President.

1936 Undergraduate scholarships are established.

published—appeared in May of 1882. Minnetta was the singular force that made the magazine happen. When an issue was two weeks late because the printer claimed his staff was sick, Minnetta was unmoved. “I wrote him that if I did not receive the books the next day, I would take my medicines with me and be their physician,” she later recounted. The magazines came on the early train the following day.

After producing 12 issues, Minnetta asked to resign as editor at the 1884 Convention. After no one agreed to take over for her, she continued in her role until Phi Chapter, *Boston*, accepted editorship in 1886. But it was Minnetta’s enduring vision about the purpose and value of *The Key* that set the standard for what is today the longest continuously published women’s college fraternity magazine.

“One who takes much interest in Fraternity affairs soon discovers that the magazine is one of the most important factors in fraternity growth and consolidation,” Minnetta wrote in 1886. “It brings in the leading ideas of the best fraternities, it unites and disciplines the chapters, it expresses the fraternity policy, it determines the fraternity’s general rank. Next to having no Convention or a poor one, the greatest fraternity calamity is to have no publication or a poor one. There is scarcely any fraternity of any importance at all that does not now have its publication, and the better the publication, the better the fraternity as a rule. The care of its magazine is something Kappa Kappa Gamma cannot afford to neglect.”



INITIATED 1934

POETIC LICENSE

Encouraged that she might be able to make it as a writer after she sold a few poems, **Phyllis McGinley, Utah**, moved to New York City. She published poems in *The Atlantic* and *The New Yorker*. In 1961, she won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for her book *Times Three: Selected Verse from Three Decades*. It was the first time that the prize had been given for “light verse.”

Phyllis championed being a housewife and mother. Her 1964 essay collection, *Sixpence in Her Shoe*, was viewed as a response to the second-wave feminism embodied by Betty Friedan’s *Feminine Mystique* (1963). Her writing and opinions sparked debate, landing her on the cover of *Time* in 1965. Phyllis was a progressive social democrat, but she believed you could be a feminist and a mother or housewife.

Phyllis’s goal was not the destruction of the working woman, but the elevation of the homemaker and mother. She advocated for respecting mothers as people with legitimate life goals: “Love with a casual touch never says, ‘My children are my life,’” she wrote. “That mother makes a life of her own which is full enough and rewarding enough to sustain her.”

—KATIE MILLS GIORGIO, *Drake*

INITIATED 1990



MARKETING MAVEN

Carolyn Everson

Villanova

As vice president

of global marketing solutions at Facebook, Carolyn coordinates seven million advertising partners. Named “40 Under 40” twice and listed annually on “AdWeek 50” since 2013, it wasn’t always easy. While an MBA student at Harvard, Carolyn co-founded *pets.com* which she says “defined the internet boom and bust.” When revenues crashed, Carolyn was fired. “It’s become a badge of honor in Silicon Valley to have gotten fired from my own tech startup,” she told *Business Insider* in 2019. “Careers aren’t always up and to the right. When you have major failures, they teach you a lot about resiliency.” In 2011, she joined Facebook, which makes nearly 99% of its revenue from the marketing and advertising that Carolyn oversees.

—LAURA VINCI, *Kansas*

KAPPA ARCHIVES: TREY HOLLAND



< **1938** An alumna clubhouse called Boyd Hearthstone opens in Winter Park, Florida.

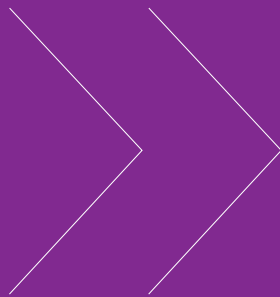


< **1938** Convention is held in Hot Springs, Virginia.

1938 Delta Kappa Chapter is founded at the University of Miami.

Optimism

Illustration by **BIJOU KARMAN**



INITIATED 1995

THE FUTURE IS ACCESSIBLE

For architect **Georgia LaNasa**, *LSU*, accessible design is a blueprint for the future, especially for the one in four people who have a disability.

Georgia was paralyzed by a spinal stroke in high school. When she went to *LSU* in 1994, the campus renovated the sidewalks for wheelchair access. But she wasn't able to live in the two-story Kappa house. Now, Georgia ensures that her designs and spaces are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA.)

In the 30 years since the ADA was enacted, Georgia has seen progress. But she finds shortcomings: a restaurant without an accessible bathroom or a sidewalk without curb cutouts. "It can be frustrating," she says. While it's something that able-bodied people don't necessarily have to think of, she told the Baton Rouge *inRegister*, Georgia makes sure accessibility isn't an afterthought.

When asked what accessible building she's most excited about, it's the new *LSU* Kappa house. Her favorite feature? The elevator.

—**KRISTIN SANGID**, *Georgia Southern*



INITIATED 1937



DETERMINED DOCTOR

Marguerite "Peggy" Hill

Toronto

As a young doctor,

Peggy was told by a supervisor: "I don't like working with women. They cry." "He learned that I didn't cry," she wrote in her biography, *A Life of Teaching and Healing*. During WWI, Peggy served as a psychologist in the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Later, she attended medical school at the University of Toronto. Graduating at the top of her class, Peggy became the first female chief medical resident at Toronto General Hospital and the second-ever female physician-in-chief of medicine at Women's College Hospital. Her pioneering work spearheaded the establishment of a rape and sexual assault center and the first birth control center in Toronto. In 1994, she was named to the Order of Canada.

—EMILY BENCH

INITIATED 1901

Engineered Justice

After nearly a century, all-around barrier breaker
Nora Stanton Blatch Barney gets her due

By Kristen Desmond LeFevre, Indiana

SHE WAS THE FIRST American woman to earn a degree in civil engineering and the first female member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). But in 1916, **Nora Stanton Blatch Barney, Cornell**, was stripped of her membership because of her gender—a wrong that took 99 years to make right.

As the granddaughter of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Nora was raised with high expectations for abolishing gender barriers. In her memoirs, Nora recounts how, in 1902, she sat at her ailing grandmother's bedside, promising to carry on the fight for women's equality.

Nora was just 19 then, a math whiz planning to study civil engineering at Cornell University. She sought to immerse herself in a course of study that no other women dared to pursue—and civil engineering "was the most male-dominated field" Nora could find. Upon reviewing her application, the dean of Cornell's engineering department ordered professors to make Nora's entrance exams harder than usual. "The plan failed utterly," the Pittsburgh Press reported. "Miss Blatch entered with as good a record

as any of the men in her class. ... She is the equal, at least, of any of her engineer classmates."

On her graduation day in 1905, Nora made her way toward the stage to the sound of her all-male classmates stomping their feet—a ruckus Nora

chalked up to boyish taunts. But when Cornell's president honored Nora by bowing to her as she crossed the stage to collect her groundbreaking diploma (cum laude, no less), the crowd went silent. "I started back to my seat fully expecting another



THE MISS MARGARET ROBINS ARCHIVES OF WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL; KAPPA ARCHIVES

OUR HISTORY

1940 Total Membership: 29,689. Number of Chapters—74; Number of Alumnae Associations—124.



< **1940** Convention is held in Sun Valley, Idaho. Delegates vote to drop "Grand" as a prefix to Fraternity Council officers' titles. **Elizabeth Schofield, Butler**, is elected President.

1940 Delta Lambda Chapter is founded at Miami University (Ohio).

demonstration of *tramp, tramp*,” Nora wrote later, “but complete silence reigned.”

After graduation, ASCE inducted Nora as a junior member—its first female member. She took a job designing steel bridges in New York and New Jersey for the American Bridge Company and later worked on subway tunnels and key upgrades to the Catskill Aqueduct for the New York City Board of Water Supply.

Nora was 23 years old and living in a New York City apartment when she met inventor Lee de Forest—the self-styled “father of radio” who lived in the same building. Restless in her job, Nora was determined to become proficient in de Forest’s field of electrical engineering. She enrolled in graduate-level electrical engineering courses at Columbia University and worked in de Forest’s laboratory.

In 1908, Nora and de Forest married. But soon after their wedding, Nora’s desire to supervise operations on de Forest’s factory floor became the source of arguments that found no resolution. Although she was pregnant at the time, Nora moved out of their marital home in 1909. When Nora sued de Forest for divorce in 1910, he told the *New York Times* that their marriage had failed because Nora was “all mentality and calculating ambition,” and that she tried to “fill man’s place, to surpass him in his own sphere.” The story’s headline read: “Warns Wives of Careers.” Their divorce was final in 1912.

Newly single (and a single mother), Nora worked as an engineer and drafter for the Radley Steel Construction

Company, designing high-rise buildings, factories, and schools in New York City. Her devotion to civil engineering was matched only by her passion for the women’s suffrage movement. She campaigned tirelessly for the cause, succeeding her mother, Harriot Stanton Blatch, in 1915 as president of the Women’s Political Union.

Although the suffrage movement was making strides for women’s equality, there was backlash, too. The ASCE began to strictly limit its membership to men only. Once Nora turned 32 years old—the ASCE’s upper age limit for junior members—her membership was terminated. Nora petitioned the ASCE to reconsider, but her request was denied. When she challenged her dismissal in court, the ASCE prevailed and the decision was upheld on subsequent appeal to the New York Supreme Court.

It took almost a century, but in October 2015, the ASCE executive committee realized the error of its past ways when it voted to posthumously advance Nora to the rank of ASCE Fellow—a prestigious honor held by fewer than 3% of the society’s members, reserved for those who have “developed creative solutions that change lives around the world.”

Today, the freshmen class of Cornell’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering is 48% female. Women represent 17% of all U.S. civil engineers, and the ASCE boasts more than 20,000 female members. And Nora—who more than fulfilled the promise she made as a teenager to her grandmother—was the first of them all.



INITIATED 1972

REACHING ACROSS THE AISLE

U.S. senator for West Virginia, **Shelley Moore Capito, Duke**, majored in zoology before switching career tracks. “My joke is, it prepared me to work in the biggest zoo in America,” she says.

A Republican, Shelley was elected to the Senate in 2014. She was the first woman in her state elected to the post, but she didn’t come to the job without experience, having served in the West Virginia House of Delegates and the U.S. House of Representatives. Shelley serves on U.S. Senate Committees on Environment and Public Works; Commerce, Science, & Transportation; Appropriations; and Rules and Administration. “A lot of what I work on on the legislative side is economic divides and inequities of urban versus rural America,” she says. “Broadband deployment, economic development, 5G deployment—all of these things will be deployed in the urban areas before they come to rural America. Health access is another great example of where rural America struggles.”

Working across the aisle is crucial, she says. “Democrat and Republican women work pretty well together.” We don’t always agree, but we have developed these personal relationships that go to our benefit when we want to sponsor each other’s bills or help someone get something across the finish line.”

—NINA BAHADUR, *Princeton*

CHEONG-AH HWANG



< **1942** Convention is held in Montebello, Quebec.

1942 Delta Mu Chapter is founded at the University of Connecticut. Delta Nu Chapter is founded at the University of Massachusetts.



< **1944** Convention is canceled due to World War II. An Officers’ Conference is held instead. **Ruth Seacrest, Nebraska**, is appointed President.

INITIATED 1870



BADGE BEARER

Anna Willits

Monmouth

Born May 22, 1853, in Monmouth, Illinois, Anna Elizabeth Willits entered Monmouth College in 1869. She was a sub-freshman when she helped found Kappa. Many early Fraternity meetings were held in Anna's home, where the design of the badge was determined. According to legend, it was Anna's mother who suggested a key because it "usually stands for something secret." Anna later confirmed her mother suggested it but that the Founders designed it, including the placement of the two sets of Greek letters. After Alpha Chapter closed, Anna served as an adviser to the local sorority Kappa Alpha Sigma, which formed at Monmouth. Her granddaughter, Frances Pattee, *Monmouth*, was initiated with Anna's badge when the chapter was re-established in 1934.

— **KYLIE TOWERS SMITH**, *Simpson*



INITIATED 1951

Writing Against the Rules

Writer Ann Thayer Weldy told stories that society had kept in the closet

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

FOR AN ENTIRE generation, the series of books known as *The Beebo Brinker Chronicles*, penned by **Ann Thayer Weldy**, *Illinois*—also known as Ann Bannon—gave American readers their first titles that featured

women loving women.

Although Ann says she realized she was a lesbian in college, she married a man when she was 22. It was the 1950s, a time of repression for people who did not identify as heterosexual. "There were so many aspects of life that were just not able to be

discussed in those days,"

Ann says. "But through pulp paperbacks, all kinds of voices were being heard. And one of them was the voice of the LGBTQ community."

As a way to explore her own sexuality, Ann wrote her first novel, *Odd Girl Out*. It became

KAPPA ARCHIVES

1944 Delta Xi Chapter is founded at Carnegie Mellon University.



< 1946 Convention is held in Mackinac Island, Michigan.



< 1946 Alumnae Achievement Awards are presented for the first time.

the second best-selling original paperback of 1957. Four more books followed, printed cheaply and sold for 25 cents from kiosks in train stations, newsstands and pharmacies.

Ann's characters had a sense of belonging—something she wanted too. “There was no one to talk to about those kinds of feelings. These were the days when to be LGBT was to be someone with an illness,” she says. “I was really kind of desperate to get some of the things that had been consuming me for a long time down on paper.”

By her fifth book in 1962, Ann felt the series had run its course. She earned a doctorate in linguistics from Stanford University and worked as a professor and ultimately as associate dean at California State University, Sacramento.

Ann tried to make her marriage work for 27 years but it ended in the 1980s, about the same time her books were republished. Perhaps because she had used a pen name, Ann was mostly unaware of the impact of her books. Today, they are standards in women's and LGBTQ studies courses.

Ann was named an LGBTQ Icon by the Equality Forum in 2012 and has been recognized by the Lambda Literary Foundation for pioneering LGBTQ literature. The enduring popularity of her books—and their lasting impact on lesbian identity—has earned Ann the title “Queen of Lesbian Pulp Fiction.”

Her work helped to end the isolation and ignorance that had kept generations of gay women in emotional prisons, paving the way for the next wave of lesbian readers and writers.



INITIATED 1920

FOUNDATION INSPIRATION

Rose McGill joined Beta Psi Chapter, *Toronto*, in 1920, but financial difficulties forced her to withdraw. But Rose's ties to her Kappa sisters remained strong. They were devastated when she developed tuberculosis and was confined to a hospital bed at Muskoka Sanatorium in Gravenhurst, Ontario, for nearly five years.

An orphan, Rose had no way to pay her medical bills. Chapter members stepped in to help, but Rose's expenses piled up. In 1922, Beta Psi Chapter urged Fraternity-wide support. They voted to establish the Rose McGill fund—with an initial balance of \$600. Soon, Kappas across North America were donating money for Rose's care.

“Rose would have been a public charity case had not the spirit of true sisterhood shown itself in concrete form,” **Marion Ackley**, *Michigan*, Rose McGill Chairman (1924–38), wrote. “It was only her appreciation for Kappa's love and her strong will to regain her health that carried her on for several years when doctors said she could not live another month.” With the support of her sisters, Rose was kept in comfort until her death in August 1927.

Now 93 years later, Rose McGill Grants sustain Rose's legacy by providing financial assistance in times of need. In 2019, the Foundation awarded over \$330,000 to 44 collegians and 64 alumnae. It stands as a testament to the power of sisters helping sisters.

—MAGGIE SIMS COONS, *Hillsdale*

INITIATED 1973



TRIPLE THREAT

Hollis Stacy

Rollins

Tiger Woods may

have been the first golfer to win three consecutive

U.S. Junior Amateur titles (1991–93), but

Hollis accomplished the same feat in the

U.S. Girls' Juniors more than two decades earlier

(1969–71)—and at age 15. The middle child of

10 children—several of whom were highly

ranked golfers themselves—Hollis says her

drive to “never want to lose” was a natural out-

growth of sibling rivalry. After turning pro at age

20, Hollis won the U.S. Women's Open three

times (1977, 1978 and 1984). After recovering

from a back injury she sustained during a car

accident in 1988, Hollis returned to the LPGA in

1989 with four top-five finishes. She retired in

2000 and was inducted into the World Golf Hall

of Fame in 2012.

—ANN SCHNAEDTER,

Missouri

KAPPA ARCHIVES

1946 Delta Omicron Chapter is founded at Iowa State University. Delta Pi Chapter is founded at the University of Tulsa.

1947 Three chapters are founded: Delta Rho, *Mississippi*; Delta Sigma, *Oklahoma State*; and Delta Tau, *USC (Calif.)*.



< **1948** Convention is held in Sun Valley, Idaho. **Helena Ege**, *Pittsburgh*, is elected President.





INITIATED 1957

FUNNY BUSINESS

Few comedy writers can go from behind the page to acting on stage, but **Ann Elder, DePauw**, did just that in the 1960s and 1970s.

As a copy writer for an ad agency, Ann's funny commercials set her apart in the corporate writer's room. After work, she honed her comedy skills as a member of Chicago's storied Second City improvisation group. Ann eventually moved to Hollywood, where she wrote for comedians and commercials. Her experience at The Second City opened doors that led to small parts on TV—an early stint included playing a person with a terminal disease on "Ben Casey." More upbeat roles followed in shows like "Wild Wild West" and "McHale's Navy."

A big break came when Dan Rowan and Dick Martin hired Ann to write for "Laugh In." When Goldie Hawn left the show, they hired Ann to replace her for three seasons.

Ann returned to writing when actress Mitzi Gaynor asked her to write her NBC specials in the 1960s. She wrote for variety shows and sitcoms, including "Mama's Family," "Get Smart," and "The Smothers Brothers Show." In the 1970s came the Lily Tomlin specials that earned Ann two Emmys.

Today, Ann co-hosts a radio show about movies and hosts benefit shows for organizations close to her heart.

—**ANN GRAHAM SCHNAEDTER, Missouri**



INITIATED 1882

A Real Lifesaver

Armed only with a lantern and determination, **Kate Shelley** saved 200 people aboard a train bound for disaster

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre, Indiana**

KATE SHELLEY, *Simpson*, and her family lived in poverty. From their house in Boone County, Iowa, they could see the railroad bridge spanning nearby Honey Creek—a tributary of the Des Moines River. The noise of trains crossing back and forth marked the days and nights of Kate's childhood.

Heavy rains during the summer of 1881 swelled the Des Moines River until it was ready to burst. On July 6, 15-year-old Kate watched as a thunderstorm pushed Honey Creek over its banks, the water level rising at 6 inches per hour. When Kate heard a shriek of metal and a hiss of steam in the distance around 11 p.m., she realized the railroad bridge had given out with a train on the tracks.

Kate knew the train schedule by heart, and she knew an

eastbound passenger train was on its way to cross the now-downed bridge. Determined to do something to save the people on board, Kate grabbed a lantern and made her way into the rainy night.

When she reached the site of the bridge, what she saw startled her: a gaping hole in the middle of the bridge. A pusher locomotive that had been sent from the nearby Moingona Depot to test track conditions lay 25 feet below in the churning water. Spotting two crew members clutching trees on the bank, Kate shouted to them that she would get help. But first, she'd have to cross the nearby Des Moines River trestle—a 500-foot-long bridge so high and dangerous that to discourage people from walking across it, the railroad company had removed much of the planking. Kate's writings recount that she

THIS PAGE: CHEONG-AH HWANG; KAPPA ARCHIVES FACING PAGE: MARGO MORITZ; COURTESY IBM

1948 Delta Upsilon Chapter is founded at the University of Georgia. Delta Phi Chapter is founded at Bucknell University.



< **1949** The 50-year pins are first awarded to alumnae.

1949 Delta Chi Chapter is founded at San Jose State University.

1950 Total Membership: 44,664. Number of Chapters—82; Number of Alumnae Associations—212.

crawled the span of the bridge on her hands and knees, nails and rusty spikes digging into her flesh as the storm raged around her. When rain doused the fire in her lantern, she pushed forward with only lightning to light her way.

Back on land, Kate ran to the Moingona Depot, sobbing out the news of the downed bridge and train to the station crew. Kate's memoirs say that she heard someone snort, "The girl is crazy." But the station agent recognized Kate and heeded her warning. A whistle was sounded to alert the town, and the passenger train

was halted in its tracks with 200 people aboard. Kate led a team of men back to the crash site, where two of the four crew members were rescued.

News of Kate's bravery spread nationwide. Poems and songs were composed in her honor. To show their thanks, passengers took up a collection of several hundred dollars for her. When the Chicago and North Western Railway built a new steel bridge in 1901, they named it the Boone Viaduct, but people quickly nicknamed it the Kate Shelley Bridge—at that time, the first bridge in the U.S. to be named

after a woman. In 2009, the Union Pacific Railroad built a second viaduct alongside the old one and officially named it the Kate Shelley Bridge.

After completing college (partly made possible by the donations she received), Kate worked for the Chicago and North Western Railway as the station agent for the Moingona Depot. In 1956—42 years after her death—the railway industry placed a bronze plaque at Kate's grave. It reads: "Hers is a deed bound for legend—a story to be told until the last order fades and the last rail rusts."

INITIATED 1934



BLUE CHIP
BREAKTHROUGH

Ruth Leach
Amonette

UC Berkeley

Fresh out of college

in 1939, Ruth took a temporary job with IBM. But after four years of working her way up, Ruth was elected vice president of IBM in 1943—the first female executive in the company's history. She was only 27 years old. IBM chairman Thomas Watson said Ruth's promotion recognized the "important part which women are playing in IBM's operations." His support didn't shield Ruth from the resentment of those who felt that women were landing high-level jobs because so many men were drafted during WWII. To combat those sentiments, Ruth committed to the selection and training of hundreds of female employees during her tenure at IBM.

—JUDY DUCATE,
Texas Tech

INITIATED 1986

THIRST QUENCHER

"What does it really take to be unstoppable?" That's the question Hint Inc. founder and CEO Kara Goldin, Arizona State, poses at the beginning of each episode of her podcast, "Unstoppable with Kara Goldin."

The early 2000s were a time of change for Kara. She had just left a stressful position as an executive at AOL, and her expectations to deliver at work came at the cost of her health. So Kara began exercising and watching what she ate. To curb cravings of sweets, she downed diet soda after diet soda. While the calories on the cans read "zero," Kara wondered whether the chemicals and artificial sweeteners could be wreaking havoc on her body. But when she switched to water, she found its lack of flavor boring.

That's when Kara began to add fresh fruit like strawberries and pineapple to her water pitchers. Eventually, her creations evolved into Hint Inc., a retail leader in the flavored water market since 2005. The company has since expanded into sunscreen, too, featuring the same essences from its flagship water products. With Kara's insightful leadership and an estimated \$100 million in sales last year, Hint Inc. proves to be a brand that truly embodies Kara's favorite adjective: *unstoppable*.

—STACY FLANNERY, Drake



< **1950** Convention is held in Murray Bay, Quebec.



< **1951** 530 East Town Street in Columbus, Ohio, is purchased as the site of Fraternity Headquarters, making Kappa the first women's fraternity to establish a permanent Headquarters building.

INITIATED 1882



MILKING IT

Charlotte Barrell Ware

Boston

Charlotte served as

Kappa's second Grand President (1884-88). She was also a pioneering dairywoman who worked to ensure the safety of commercial milk. When

Charlotte received a Jersey calf as a wedding present in 1905, she and her husband, Robert, opened Warelands Dairy Farm in Norfolk, Massachusetts. The dairy produced the first certified milk in New England and their innovative dairy school taught farmers and health practitioners how to safely produce and bottle certified milk.

Previously, hundreds of thousands of people died annually of tubercular milk disease, so the impact was immeasurable. Charlotte revolutionized dairy practices, including the safe interstate transport of milk.

—MADISON SYKES, *Loyola*



INITIATED 1927

Surviving Hollywood

A USO tour during WWII nearly cost **Jane Froman** her life

By **Ann Graham Schnaedter**, *Missouri*

ALTHOUGH **JANE Froman**, *Missouri*, worked for more than 30 years as a singer and actress—earning three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—it was a tragic airplane crash that cemented her legacy in show business.

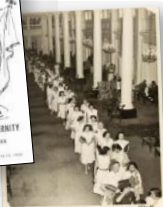
During childhood, Jane developed a stutter. It was

always present except for when she sang, so her mother enrolled the 6-year-old in singing lessons. After years of study, Jane's vocal talents landed her several radio gigs. She worked as a singer in New York City before moving to Hollywood in the early 1930s, where movie bosses noticed her exceptional voice. Jane began to land roles in films, but due to her

persistent stutter, her acting career was short-lived. Still, she was in high demand as a singer on the radio, on Broadway, and as a recording artist.

As the U.S. entered WWII, Jane was one of the first performers to entertain troops through the USO. On a USO trip to Europe in 1943, Jane's plane crashed into a river near Lisbon, Portugal, killing 24 of

KAPPA ARCHIVES: STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI



< **1952** Convention is held in Hot Springs, Virginia. **Edith Crabtree, Wooster**, is elected President.

1953 Delta Psi Chapter is founded at Texas Tech University.



< **1954** Convention is held in Jasper Park, Alberta.

the 38 passengers aboard. Both of her legs were broken and badly cut, several of her ribs were dislocated, her right arm was fractured, and she was thrown from the aircraft into the river.

"When I came to the surface," she told the Los Angeles Times in 1943, "I tried to swim and then I saw the head of somebody, to whom I called, 'Who's there?'" Co-pilot John C. Burn called back to Jane. Although he'd broken his back in two places, Burn helped Jane stay afloat on a piece of debris. They hung on until a Portuguese ship plucked them from the water.

Doctors told Jane she'd need to have her right leg amputated. She refused, and less than a year after the accident, she made her Broadway comeback in a wheelchair. In 1945, she returned to USO duty, entertaining 300,000 troops while wearing a 35-pound cast and relying on crutches to perform 95 shows over three straight months.

Once she returned stateside, Jane and Burn reunited and married in 1948. The love story spawned by a plane crash inspired the 1952 movie "With a Song in My Heart." Although the Oscar-nominated film starred Susan Hayward, Jane's vocal recordings made up the film's soundtrack and became a bestselling album.

Despite 39 operations and bone grafts for her injuries, Jane struggled with chronic pain and relied on a leg brace for the rest of her life. She retired from show business in 1962 as one of America's best-loved performers—not only for her vocal talents but for her grit in overcoming devastating obstacles.



INITIATED 1924

HOLDING COURT

The greatest female tennis player of the 20 century, **Helen Wills Moody-Roarke, UC Berkeley**, was given a racket by her father when she turned 8. She channeled champion William "Little Bill" Johnston. As she swung into the ball, she would chant, "Now I'm Johnston, now I'm Johnston."

It was unconventional, but it worked. In 1921, Helen won the U.S. girls' singles championship and repeated the feat the following year. She practiced against men to hone her craft. For eight years (1926–34), she was unstoppable, winning every set in 158 consecutive matches of singles play.

Awards filled her trophy cases. From 1923–39, Helen captured four French Championship singles titles, becoming the first American woman to win the French Open. She won the U.S. Open seven times and Wimbledon eight times. Her Wimbledon record held for 52 years until Martina Navratilova surpassed it with a ninth Wimbledon win in 1990.

In doubles, Helen won 10 major championships: four at the U.S. Open, three at Wimbledon, and two at the French Championship. She won two gold medals (singles and doubles) at the 1924 Olympics. In 1928, she became the first woman to win three majors in a year.

—KATIE MILLS GIORGIO, *Drake*

INITIATED 1990



PROMISE KEEPER

**Nicole
Moretti
Hockley**

Trinity

On Dec. 14, 2012,

Nicole sent her two sons, 6 and 4, to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. But only one son came home. Dylan was killed in his classroom during a school shooting that left 20 children and six employees dead.

Since then, Nicole co-founded Sandy Hook Promise in 2013 to prevent gun violence. "This is my mission," she says. "This is the only way that I know how to honor my son and prevent these things from happening." Sandy Hook Promise's "Know the Signs" programs have served 15,000 schools and trained 7.5 million people on how to identify, intervene and help at-risk individuals.

—DANIEL MORRELL

1954 Delta Omega Chapter is founded at California State University, Fresno.

1955: Epsilon Alpha Chapter is founded at Texas Christian University.



< **1956** Convention is held in Swampscott, Massachusetts. **Eleanore Campbell, Colorado**, is elected President.

1956 Epsilon Beta Chapter is founded at Colorado State University.



INITIATED 1998



STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Lilliana Vazquez

George Washington

Emmy-winner

Lilliana Vazquez is at the pinnacle of pop culture reporting, from the runway to the red carpet. Lilliana launched her media career with her bargain-hunting blog Cheap-Chicas.com. The success of her savvy advice paved the way for her first book, *The Cheap Chica's Guide to Style: Secrets to Shopping Cheap and Looking Chic*. Books, blogs, and Lilliana's bubbly persona led her to grander gigs, including a co-anchor of E! networks' morning show, a lifestyle contributor for NBC's "TODAY," a style curator for retail giant Kohl's, and a correspondent for "Access Daily" and "Access Hollywood." As a Latinx woman, Lilliana takes her role-model status to heart, inspiring others to lean in to professional roles involving television and fashion.

—STACY FLANNERY, *Drake*



INITIATED 1889

Dinosaur Hunter

Mignon Talbot followed a hunch and found a new dinosaur species

By Kristen Desmond LeFevre, *Indiana*

Podokesaurus Holyokensis ("swift-footed lizard from Holyoke")

roamed the Connecticut Valley in the early Jurassic Period 190 to 174 million years ago, leaving footprints in the soft, reddish mud that hardened to sandstone.

In the mid-1800s, paleontologists began to study mysterious foot-long, three-toed tracks preserved in area rocks. Expeditions had turned up slabs of sandstone embedded with prehistoric bones and fragments. But until 1910, no one had found a dinosaur skeleton in the area despite efforts by well-known men in paleontology. Instead, the discovery was made by a woman with a keen eye.

A professor of geology at Mount Holyoke College, *Ohio*

State, earned a Ph.D. from Yale in 1904 and became the first female member of the



Paleontological Society. On the day she discovered a new species of dinosaur, Mignon was on a walk with her sister, **Ellen Talbot**, *Cornell*.

"It was pure accident,"

Mignon wrote. At the base of a nearby gravel pit, a streak of white caught her eye. "I was pretty sure it was only a pick mark, but I went down to see." It turned out to be a bone, including vertebrae and ribs.

Mignon returned with a crew of workmen. "Another piece of sandstone was lying near the one where the fossil was," she recounted. "I asked the men to turn it over, and there was the rest of the fossil, almost complete excepting its head."

Further inspection revealed a species the size of a large house cat with formidable claws, a supple neck, a slender torso, and an elongated tail.

Mignon's discovery came when women's paleontological pursuit was perceived by some as a hobby. It provided a counterargument worth preserving.

KAPPA ARCHIVES: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, VOLUME 31, JUNE, 1941 (2)



< **1958** Convention is held in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania. The first Loyalty Award is given.

1958 Epsilon Gamma Chapter is founded at the University of North Carolina.

1959 Epsilon Delta Chapter is founded at Arizona State. Epsilon Epsilon Chapter is founded at Emory University.

1960 Total Membership: 62,863. Number of Chapters—88; Number of Alumnae Associations—259.



INITIATED 1940



STAR POWER

**Sarah Lee
Lippincott
Zimmermann**
Pennsylvania

The sky was not the limit for astronomer Sarah Lippincott Zimmermann, director of the Sproul Observatory at Swarthmore College. Sarah specialized in astrometry: the measurements, positions and movements of stars and other celestial bodies in relation to each other. The purpose? To search for new stars and exoplanets that orbit a star in a galaxy outside the Milky Way. Sarah's methods advanced the known universe by identifying systems of two or more stars that orbit around a common center. Her calculations of Ross 614 were critical to locate the system's secondary star. "If science is to progress," Sarah said, "you have to put yourself out on a limb."

—MEG BUTLER,
North Carolina

INITIATED 2012

PICPING A WINNER

Entrepreneurs find inspiration everywhere. **Emily Levy, Babson**, found hers in a sock.

As a sophomore in college, Emily was diagnosed with chronic neurological Lyme disease. A peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC line)—essentially a long-term IV—was inserted into her arm for treatment. To protect the tubing, she wore a cut-up sock on her arm.

A sock on her arm during Kappa meetings. During class. While out on dates. The sock served as a physical reminder of her illness. A slight pull or tug to the sock would jeopardize the PICC line. But she didn't let the diagnosis or the unsightly sock slow her down.

Instead, she turned illness into opportunity.

Emily developed the PICCPerfect PICC line cover, a stylish, functional accessory that led to the development of MightyWell, a line of medical accessories that offers strength, confidence and mobility. As founder, CEO and self-proclaimed "professional patient," Emily aspires to make MightyWell the Under Armour of the medical community.

Among the pitch competitions and funding she's won: \$250,000 from Breakaway Ventures, an investment from Tim Draper of Draper Associates, and completion of the Cartier Women's Initiative, an international business competition that aims to encourage women entrepreneurs to solve global challenges. All this while managing a chronic illness. She's a patient. She's a boss. She's on a mission to change how the world thinks about illness. And she's doing a mighty well job.

—KAIT SMITH LANTHIER, *Marist*



INITIATED 1992



CYCLING SENSATION

**Kristin
Armstrong
Savola**
Idaho

Kristin is the most decorated U.S. women's cyclist in history, but she started out as a triathlete. After being diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the hips at age 32, Kristin turned to cycling at a stage in life when many athletes are retiring. She's the only female U.S. athlete to win the same event in three consecutive Summer Olympics—taking the gold medal in the time trial event in 2008, 2012 and 2016. When Kristin won her last medal just one day shy of her 43rd birthday, she told NPR, "I think that for so long we've been told that we should be finished at a certain age. And I think that there's a lot of athletes out there that are actually showing that that's not true."

—SARAH KROPP
WALTHER, *Allegheny*

KAPPA ARCHIVES; WEBB CHAPPELL; COURTESY KRISTIN ARMSTRONG SAVOLA



< **1960** Convention is held in Coronado, California. **Mary Whitney, Cincinnati**, is elected President.



1961 Epsilon Zeta Chapter is founded at Florida State University.



< **1962** Convention is held in Asheville, North Carolina.

INITIATED 1949



HOLLYWOOD
GOLDEN GIRL

Virginia
"Gena"
Rowlands
Wisconsin

When director Nick

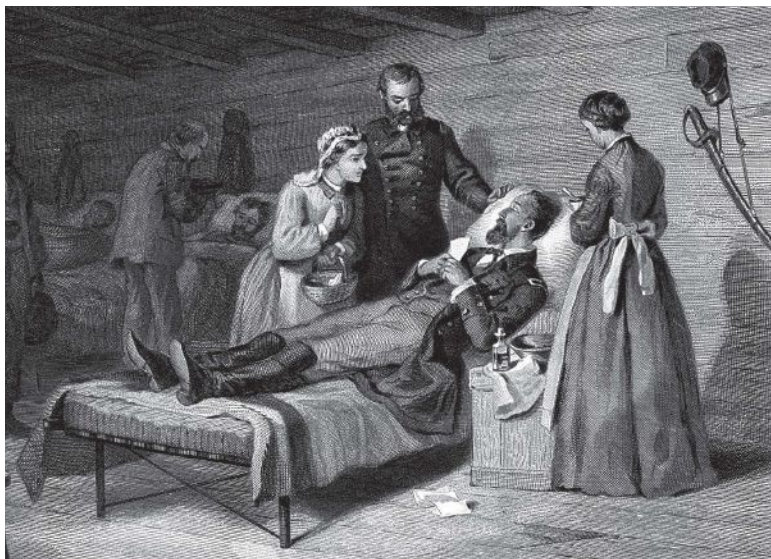
Cassavetes shot "The Notebook," he asked his mother, Gena, to reshoot a difficult scene in her role as Allie Calhoun.

Gena agreed to the re-shoot: "Son, I can do anything." That's been the theme of Gena's six decades of work.

She collaborated on 10 feature films with her late husband, actor director screenwriter John Cassavetes. Since then, she's starred in films and television shows like "The Skeleton Key" (2005), "Numb3rs" (2006), "Broken English" (2007), "Monk" (2009), and "NCIS" (2011).

The four-time Emmy and two-time Golden Globe winner was nominated twice for an Academy Award and received an honorary Oscar in 2015.

—STACY FLANNERY,
Drake



INITIATED 1879

Life-Changing Lecturer

Mary Rice Livermore *used words to move society forward*

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

MARY RICE **Livermore**, *DePauw*, trained to be a teacher. But

while working as a tutor on a Virginia tobacco plantation in 1839, she witnessed the brutality of slavery. By the time she returned home to New England, Mary had become an abolitionist and a human rights activist.

Mary moved with her children and husband, Daniel, to Chicago in 1857, where they established a reform-centered Universalist newspaper, the New Covenant, that published abolitionist voices and furthered the cause against slavery.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Mary was at the forefront of the Union's volunteer efforts. She spearheaded support efforts for solidier relief through the U.S. Sanitary Commission (USSC), singlehandedly securing donors for two-thirds of the USSC's supplies and funding. In one year, she raised \$86,000 for the Union effort—amounting to over \$20 million today.

By 1865, the war was over. The slaves were freed. And Mary felt it was time for women to make a difference ... but first they'd need the right to vote. "I became aware that a large portion of the nation's work was badly done, or not done

at all, because woman was not recognized as a factor in the political world," she wrote in her memoir. "Men and women should stand shoulder to shoulder, equal before the law."

In 1868, she organized the first woman suffrage convention held in Chicago, and launched *The Agitator*, a suffragist newspaper, that later merged with the like-minded *Woman's Journal*.

When Mary moved back to New England, she successfully merged the paper with the *Woman's Journal* and served as president of three suffrage groups—the American, New England, and Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Associations.

COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; KAPPA ARCHIVES (3)

1963 Epsilon Eta Chapter is founded at Auburn University. Epsilon Theta Chapter is founded at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



< 1964 Convention is held in Sun Valley, Idaho. **Frances Alexander**, *DePauw*, is elected President.



< 1966 Convention is held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

In 1870, she was tapped to join the prestigious Boston Lyceum Bureau's lecture circuit, featuring speakers Frederick Douglass, Mark Twain and Susan B. Anthony. Daniel encouraged his wife to seize the opportunity. "It is preposterous for you to continue baking and brewing, making and mending, sweeping, dusting, and laundering when work of a better and higher order seeks you," she recalled him saying.

Mary took his advice and for nearly 25 years she brought audiences a message of social

change. In "Concerning Husbands and Wives," she presented marriage as a partnership between equals. In "The Battle of Life," she encouraged people to strive for a more equitable society. In "What Shall We Do With Our Daughters," she challenged listeners to give young women a chance to blaze new trails. Her lectures made her one of the most popular and highly paid orators in America, earning her the nickname, "Queen of the Platform."

After a lecture in Greencastle, Indiana, in 1879, Mary was

invited to join Kappa Kappa Gamma. An unidentified Iota Chapter member wrote in *The Key*, "It was with much trepidation we met her at the appointed time for the initiation... After the initiatory service she talked to us in an earnest, loving manner ... urging us to be women in the highest sense of the word. Every one of us, I am sure, left the room feeling that she had had a glimpse into a stronger life, and inspired with a determination to make her influence felt for good in the world."

INITIATED 1904



MAKING (AIR) WAVES

Margaret Cuthbert

Cornell

When Margaret began her career in radio in 1925, the medium was in its infancy. Margaret's programming was so popular that people bought radios to listen to the shows she produced. Margaret got her start at WEA, a station that came to be known as NBC. As the director of women's and children's programming, she brought women's voices to the air—once hosting 17 women from 17 countries. During the Great Depression, Margaret hosted luminaries like Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. Fan mail revealed the hope her programs provided during hard times. As described by *The New York Times*, Margaret rose from "receptionist, program arranger, announcer and maid of all work" to executive.

—ANN SCHNAEDTER, *Missouri*

INITIATED 1947

MATCH POINT



The good news was that doctors were able to save her leg. The bad news for **Doris Hart, Miami**—who was only 10 years old—was that the osteomyelitis would leave her with weakness, pain, and possibly paralysis.

Doris' hospital room overlooked tennis courts and, as she recovered, she watched people volley and serve. After being discharged, her brother, Bud, helped her learn to play. Little did he know that the girl who almost lost her leg would be a top tennis player by 16.

Despite weakness in her leg, Doris won 325 titles. She was the first player to clinch a "box set"—winning every possible title (singles, doubles, and mixed doubles) from all four Grand Slam events (Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open). Only two other players—Margaret Court and Martina Navratilova—have achieved this feat. Doris' biggest triumph, however, came in 1951 at Wimbledon, where—because of rain delays—she competed in and won all three championships in a single day: first in singles (against doubles partner, Shirley Fry), then in women's doubles (with Fry by her side), and finally, in mixed doubles.

Doris played smarter not harder. She developed and honed her drop shot endlessly. From behind the baseline, she floated winners over the net. "I'd be criticized when it didn't work," Doris told *The Associated Press* in 2004. "I can remember losing matches, and people would come up to me and say, 'Girl, do you know how many times you missed that drop shot?' And I'd say, 'Thank you.' But I knew I had to do it. That's what would win for me."

—MADISON SYKES, *Loyola*

1966 Epsilon Iota Chapter is founded at the University of Puget Sound.

1967 Epsilon Kappa Chapter is founded at the University of South Carolina. Epsilon Lambda Chapter is founded at the University of Tennessee.



< **1968** Convention is held in Columbus, Ohio. **Louise Barbeck, SMU**, is elected President.



Respect

Illustration by **BIJOU KARMAN**



INITIATED 1991

PRIDE OF A NATION

As the first woman to serve as a Cherokee Nation Supreme Court justice, **STACY LEEDS**, *Washington Univ. (St. Louis)*, says that most people lack a full understanding of how tribal governments function.

“Tribal judiciary systems are different but familiar to most people,” she says. “We have modern governments and institutions the way everyone else does.”

In addition to leading her nation’s supreme court, Stacy is the vice chancellor for economic development, dean emeritus, and professor of law at the University of Arkansas School of Law. “When I was shifting my career focus to go into law teaching, a lot of what informed that decision was the invisibility, the lack of native professors, or native women, teaching in law schools,” she says. “There was only one other native woman who was teaching at a U.S. law school when I began. There’s still a small handful, but they’re scattered. I knew very early on how powerful just my mere presence in law school or in front of a classroom just was, to change the dynamic.”

—**NINA BAHADUR**, *Princeton*



Anna Crosslin at a press conference in September 2015 where the International Institute announced that Syrian refugees are welcome in St. Louis.

“I saw the challenges that my mother faced earlier on—just being able to be integrated in the community. I wanted to be able to help ease that transition for others.”



INITIATED 1969

Warm Welcome

Anna Crosslin helps refugees find homes—and acceptance—when they seek asylum in the U.S.

By **Nina Bahadur**, Princeton

IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT **Anna Crosslin**, Washington Univ. (St. Louis), has done a little bit of everything in her 42 years at the International Institute of St. Louis (IISTL)—an organization that provides programming for immigrants and asylum-seekers. “When we started resettling refugees, I would get on my hands and

knees in the apartments and scrub the floors with the volunteers,” she explains. Today, as CEO and president, Anna focuses on raising community awareness. “And after 42 years here, I sign all the checks,” she says, laughing.

When Anna started working for IISTL in 1978, it was a small volunteer-driven organization, with nine staff members

working with an annual budget of \$120,000. Today, IISTL has a staff of 90. Its \$7.5 million annual budget serves 6,500 clients from over 80 countries. “We help these newcomers through whatever phase they may be in,” Anna says.

Anna’s inspiration to help immigrants comes for her own multicultural upbringing. “I’m half Japanese and I was born in

WAYNE CROSSLIN/INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

OUR HISTORY

1970 Total Membership: 85,091. Number of Chapters—93; Number of Alumnae Associations—287.



< **1970** Kappa celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.



< **1970** Convention is held in French Lick, Indiana.

Tokyo. My mother is a Japanese immigrant and my father was a member of the U.S. Air Force. He was a language specialist who spoke Russian and Japanese. He met my mother on leave during the Korean War,” Anna says. “I saw the challenges that my mother faced earlier on—just being able to be integrated in the community ... I wanted to be able to help ease that transition for others.”

Easing the transition means countering anti-immigrant sentiments that perpetuate stereotypes. She works to build inclusive and mutually respectful relationships between newcomers and established community members.

“If you look at history, in almost every period, there was some newcomer group being disparaged by the people who were already here,” Anna says. “But now, with the internet and the advent of 24/7 cable ... people who might have a negative feeling can align themselves with other people and organizations in a way they couldn’t before. It becomes a movement.”

Anna sees her work at IISTL—beyond welcoming and integrating newcomers both socially and economically into the larger St. Louis community—as vital to reminding people about the importance of fostering diversity and inclusion.

“We live very siloed lives, and we live around a lot of people who are like us,” she says. “Too few people have the experience of getting to know someone who is not like them. If you begin to see some of the world through their eyes, you can create a larger family for yourself than the one you had before.”

INITIATED 1990

THE GROUNDED ACTRESS

With a body of work in film and television that spans 35 years, **Annabeth Gish, Duke**, chooses roles that keep her grounded amid the challenges of working in a high-profile industry.

She regularly forgoes the Hollywood party circuit for her couch, volunteers at her sons’ school, and serves on the board of the Unusual Suspects, a nonprofit organization that teaches underserved and at-risk youth how to write and perform their own stories. “I don’t have the chromosome that is: ‘I will be famous no matter what.’ I need the grounding of my family and my heart,” Annabeth says.

It’s Annabeth’s real-deal demeanor that has made her so appealing in girl-next-door roles like the 1980s cult chick flicks “Mystic Pizza” and “Shag.” More recently, it’s what makes the edgier, darker characters she’s played on television shows—from “X-Files” to “Sons of Anarchy”—so relatable. Annabeth seeks to play characters that “show imperfections as a reflection of real womanhood,” she says. “It is healing when other women know that they’re not alone in their failure, flaw, or addiction.”

If there’s any character that she feels the most similar to, it’s Monica Reyes in “X-Files.” “She’s an open-minded seeker,” Annabeth says of the character. “I think those are good adjectives for me.”

—RACHEL B. LEVIN



INITIATED 1967



THE PROMISE OF
POLITICS

**Beverly
“Bev” Eaves
Perdue**
Kentucky

The first female governor of North Carolina (2009-12), Bev started her political career in the state’s House of Representatives in 1987. As a state senator from 1991–2001, she served as the first female chief budget writer. Elected lieutenant governor in 2000, Bev cast the tie-breaking vote to create the state’s education lottery. In 2018, she was appointed as the first woman chair of the National Assessment Governing Board—a nonpartisan panel that tracks U.S. student achievement. Bev hopes her work will help “ensure that all students, regardless of geography or circumstance, have access to a great education that prepares them for the jobs of tomorrow.”

—JODI NODING, *Florida*

CHEONG-AH HWANG, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

1970 Epsilon Mu Chapter is founded at Clemson University.



< **1972** Convention is held in Hollywood, Florida. **Marion Graham, Montana**, is elected President.



< **1973** Member records are computerized for the first time

INITIATED 1979



MAKING BANK

**Kathleen
"Katie"
Taylor**
Toronto

The first woman to lead a major Canadian bank, Katie has served as the chair of the board of the Royal Bank of Canada since 2014. Named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network, Katie developed her business acumen during 25 years working for Four Seasons Hotels, where she led the company during a period of rapid global expansion, eventually becoming the CEO. "I learned quickly in my career that you can't count on things to materialize on their own. You must go out and make them happen," she told the 2019 graduates of her alma mater in a commencement address. "Seize the opportunities that lie ahead of you."
— **KRISTEN DESMOND LEFEVRE**, *Indiana*

INITIATED 1988

BRICK BY BRICK

Anytime **Elizabeth Hausler**, *Illinois*, kneels in the soil, layering brick on top of brick, she's sure to get noticed. "I'd always run bricklaying competitions with the guys on my team. They'd laugh once they realized I was pretty good at it," Elizabeth says. "And then they'd want to beat me."

Elizabeth learned brickwork from her father, a Chicago-area master bricklayer. She figures she's laid about 360,000 bricks in her career so far ... and she's rarely lost a challenge.

She founded BuildChange in 2004, after an earthquake shook the foundation of a town in India. Just like laying a foundation of strong brick, her organization began rebuilding lives. Since then, BuildChange has responded to 29 natural disasters and built over 61,500 homes and schools.

"We are putting the homeowner in the driver's seat and addressing finance and policy solutions to big issues," she says, explaining that she thinks about redesign holistically, taking local culture, climate needs and accessibility into consideration in each job BuildChange takes on.

"The best part of it all is seeing homeowners be transformed," Elizabeth says. "It's amazing to see them moving past the trauma, and getting back to a normal life."

—**EMILY BENCH**



INITIATED 1887



PANHELLENIC PROWESS

**Evelyn
"Lucy"
Wight Allan**
St. Lawrence

When Lucy attended Convention in 1890, she did not plan to return to college as Kappa's fourth Grand President. But her mastery of parliamentary law and debate was so impressive that her election was all but a foregone conclusion. During her presidency, the first Panhellenic Convention convened in Boston in 1891. Lucy represented Kappa at that meeting, and was elected the first Panhellenic President. In 1892, Lucy decided to attend graduate school at Stanford University. In 1908, she was hired as Stanford's first Dean of Women. Lucy developed safe campus housing for women, established a women's clubhouse, created an emergency loan fund for women—each the first of their kind.
—**KAY SMITH LARSON**, *Washington*

ALTA PARTNERS; AUTODESK, INC.; KAPPA ARCHIVES

1973 Epsilon Nu Chapter is founded at Vanderbilt University.



< **1974** Convention is held in Columbus, Ohio.

1974 Epsilon Xi Chapter is founded at California State University, Northridge.

1975 Epsilon Omicron Chapter is founded at the University of California, Davis.



INITIATED 1884

Rousing the Republic

Julia Ward Howe *wielded the pen to advance social reforms we still enjoy today*

By **Kylie Towers Smith**, *Simpson*

“MRS. JULIA Ward Howe has conferred upon us the high honor of becoming a member of our chapter,” the sisters of Phi Chapter at Boston University wrote in a December 1884 letter

to *The Key*—describing how one of the most famous women in America joined Kappa Kappa Gamma.

There is no question that the young women of Phi Chapter knew who they were inviting into their midst. Honorary membership was offered by

She preferred writing and socializing. Julia struggled her entire life to balance a sense of “poetic indulgence and an abiding fear of frivolity.”

10 chapters to 28 women from 1874–84. The category was reserved for “ladies who have made progress worthy of note in some department of science, literature or art.” The Fraternity was young and, in the absence of older and wiser alumnae, offering key honorary memberships helped to fill the gap.

A skilled poet, Julia traveled in social circles that included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. In 1861, she wrote her most famous poem, “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” set to the already famous song “John Brown’s Body.” First published by *The Atlantic* for the sum of \$4, the Union Army quickly adopted it as its unofficial song, making her one of the most recognized women in America at the time.

Julia devoted her life to writing and to the causes of her favorite movements. She was a staunch abolitionist, a supporter of women’s voting rights, and an advocate for prison reform and international peace.

In 1872, she penned the Mother’s Day Proclamation and initiated Mother’s Peace Day, the forerunner of Mother’s Day. In 1881, she was elected president of the Association for the Advancement of Women. In 1890, she helped found the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, and in 1908 she was the

first woman to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Biographers have noted that Julia’s writing and social activism were greatly shaped by her wealthy upbringing and her difficult married life. Her husband, Samuel Gridley Howe, valued the solitude of his studies and wanted Julia to be content with homemaking. She preferred writing and socializing. Julia struggled her entire life to balance a sense of “poetic indulgence and an abiding fear of frivolity.” That she would have an appreciation for an organization of college women is a testament to the reputation of Kappa Kappa Gamma and the decidedly unfrivolous nature of our sisterhood.

Unlike many of the other honorary members who rarely participated in the activities of the Fraternity, Julia visited with the women at Phi Chapter and even wrote a poem for the Convention of 1890. The very first photographic illustration ever used in *The Key*—included in the September 1890 issue—was Julia’s portrait.

After she died of pneumonia in 1910 at the age of 91, Julia was eulogized as the “Queen of America” and the “Dearest Old Lady in America” before more than 4,000 mourners sang the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” at her memorial service, held in Boston’s Symphony Hall.

KAPPA ARCHIVES



< **1976** Convention is held in Coronado, California. **Jean Wells, Georgia**, is elected President.

1976 Epsilon Pi Chapter is founded at the University of California, Riverside. Epsilon Rho Chapter is founded at Texas A&M. Epsilon Sigma Chapter is founded at the University of Virginia.

1977 Epsilon Tau Chapter is founded at Mississippi State University. Epsilon Upsilon Chapter is founded at Baylor University.

INITIATED 1989

Leading by Serving

For **Anna Maria Chávez**, serving others is a path to joy

By **Nina Bahadur**, Princeton

“Lead a life of purpose and invest your time in something you’re passionate about.”

“**I** GREW UP IN A FAMILY of public servants, community activists, people who were very focused on giving back,” says **Anna Maria Chávez**, *Yale*. “Volunteerism was not optional in my family; it was just something we did on nights and weekends.” After law school, Anna Maria stayed true to her

plan to be an advocate. “Law to me was an avenue to make sure I was advocating for the interests of others,” she says. She served as counsel to the Federal Highway Administration, as an attorney adviser in the Office of the Counsel to President Bill Clinton, and as a director of intergovernmental affairs for Janet Napolitano.

Anna Maria was named CEO of Girls Scouts of the USA—the first CEO woman of color in its history. In 2016, she was recognized by *Fortune* as one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders, cited for her vision and creativity to revitalize the Girl Scouts’ brand for a new century.

After leading the National Council on Aging—which



COURTESY ANNA MARIA CHAVEZ



< **1978** Convention is held at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

1978 Three chapters are founded: Epsilon Phi, *Florida*; Epsilon Chi, *Dartmouth*; and Epsilon Psi, *UC Santa Barbara*.

1979 Epsilon Omega Chapter is founded at Dickinson College.

helps Americans navigate the challenges of growing older—in 2020, Anna Maria became the executive director and CEO of the National School Boards Association. She works to ensure equitable public education for almost 50 million public schoolchildren.

“Women I mentor are always asking me, ‘How did you choose to do what you did and how did you know you were on the right path?’” she says, adding that she responds: “Don’t replicate someone else’s path, because that’s not what brings joy.”

“I followed my passions,” she says—referring to public service and women’s leadership. And she says her path has brought her great joy.

“I love the fact that my career has been all about service to others,” Anna Maria says. “I’m 52 and I started my community service when I was 5. I would say to anyone thinking about the next step in their career: Lead a life of purpose and invest your time in something you’re passionate about.”

She urges it’s never too early or too late to engage in public service or to shift career goals to align with your interests.

“A common theme I’ve seen, for people who are leading a life of passion and purpose, is they have been able to really live day to day being cognizant of how they are a positive influence and providing an impact,” Anna Maria says. “They have not missed the opportunities today to make a positive impact on others—and they are bringing people along with them. I think that’s success, that’s making a difference, and that’s what aging well means.”



INITIATED 1942

BLOODLINES

As the director of the Hemophilia Treatment Center at Orthopaedic Hospital in Los Angeles from 1970–88, **Shelby Dietrich Rector, Michigan**, pioneered an innovative team concept approach to patient care. Her work helped establish the norm of treating hemophilia patients with blood concentrate—a blood-based clotting agent—in the late 1960s.

But when HIV entered the U.S. blood supply in the early 1980s, Shelby’s patients were at great threat as large numbers of them began contracting HIV through blood concentrate. In 1983, Shelby was appointed director of the World Hemophilia AIDS Center, where she developed tests and procedures to make the blood supply safe.

“Those years remain in my memory as very black years,” she told an Irish Times reporter in 2001. “We no longer knew that we were doing the best for the patient, and as the months went on the uncertainty simply grew.” That uncertainty eased in 1984, when heat-treated blood concentrate was proven to be effective in protecting the blood supply and the patients who relied upon it.

—MEG BUTLER, *North Carolina*

INITIATED 1938



**SPECIAL NEEDS,
SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

Lois Winter Lloyd

Monmouth

Drawing on her

experience as a mother and a teacher, Lois knew something wasn’t right when her daughter, Patricia, couldn’t sit up on her own. Doctors diagnosed severe mental disabilities and recommended institutionalizing Patricia. But Lois was determined to care for Patricia the same way she cared for her other children. When the public school refused to enroll Patricia, Lois started a school in the basement of her Evanston, Illinois, home. In 1949, Lois founded the North Shore Association for Retarded Children to connect developmentally disabled children with education and training. Now known as Shore Community Services, it provides services to over 300 people annually.

—MARY OSBORNE, *Monmouth*

1980 Total Membership: 110,135. Number of Chapters—107; Number of Alumnae Associations—321.



< **1980** Convention is held in Palm Beach, Florida. **Sally Nitschke, Ohio State**, is elected President.

1980 Four chapters are founded: Zeta Alpha, *Babson*; Zeta Beta, *Lafayette*; Zeta Gamma, *Centre*; and Zeta Delta, *Vermont*.

1981 Zeta Epsilon is founded at Lawrence University.

INITIATED 1979



SERVING THE SPECTRUM

**Denise
Dreiseszun
Resnik**

Arizona State

When her son, Matt, was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in 1994, Denise used her C-suite skills to advocate for people with autism. Searching for a place where Matt and others on the spectrum could access living and learning opportunities beyond traditional institutionalized homes, Denise founded First Place AZ in 2013. It focuses on independent apartment-style housing for people with neurodiverse abilities. Built in 2018, the 81,000-square-foot, \$15.4 million residential property is home to 32 people. “I do it for two reasons: love and fear,” Denise says. “Love for my son ... and fear that if I don’t protect and advocate for Matt and people like him, then who will?”

—EMILY BENCH

INITIATED 1987

MAKING A HOUSE INTO A HAVEN

In 2001, when doctors diagnosed her son, Ryan, with spinal muscular atrophy, **Holly Busche Cottor**, *Arizona*, knew it meant that Ryan was unlikely to live to see his second birthday.

“Driven to the brink of depression from sleep deprivation,” Holly says her family needed help. They were living in Oxford, England, at the time and a therapist referred them to an organization providing pediatric hospice care and respite care. Holly says it was “a lifeline of support.”

When they returned to the U.S. in 2003, the Cottors couldn’t find comparable care, so they decided to create it themselves. After seven years of fundraising, they opened Ryan House in Phoenix in 2010.

Ryan House offers both hospice care and respite care—which allows families to recharge their own batteries while leaving their children in the capable hands of skilled health care workers. Holly calls her work “heart-swelling.” The people she works with have become like family—a family that in 2018 helped her grieve Ryan’s death—at age 17.

Bright colors and a home-like atmosphere make Ryan House anything but depressing. “What people need to see and hear is that this is so much about living,” Holly says.

—SUSAN LORIMOR



INITIATED 1965



WORLD CLASS

**Mary
Carlin Yates**

Oregon State

As a young woman studying in Japan and France, Mary knew that living abroad was something she’d like to do full time. “I thought I’d better be serious and take the foreign service exam,” she says. Mary’s 31-year career with the U.S. Department of State took her across the globe—from Korea to the Philippines to the Congo. She served as ambassador to Burundi and Ghana, charge d’affaires to Sudan, and special assistant to President Obama on the National Security Council.

“I always advise everyone that at some point in their life, they should consider public service,” Mary says. “Consider doing something for your city, your state, your country so you have an understanding of this greater body you’re a part of.”

—NINA BAHADUR, *Princeton*

COURTESY OF DENISE RESNIK / FIRST PLACE AZ; CHRON-AM HWANG; EA PHOTOGRAPHY



< **1982** Convention is held in Columbus, Ohio.



< **1982** *The Key* celebrates 100 years of publication.

1982 Four chapters are founded: Zeta Zeta, *Westminster*; Zeta Eta, *UC Irvine*; Zeta Theta, *Trinity*; and Zeta Iota, *Villanova*.



INITIATED 1880

Leading Lady

The first first lady to have a college degree, Lucy Webb Hayes was known for more than just her lemonade

By **Kylie Towers Smith**, *Simpson*

LUCY WEBB Hayes, Ohio Wesleyan, who was married to U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes—is likely

the most famous honorary member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Lucy took an active interest in her husband's career. When Hayes served in the U.S. Congress, Lucy worked for

“Women’s minds are as strong as a man’s,” she wrote in her memoirs. “Equal in all things and superior in some.”

the welfare of children and veterans. During his tenure as governor of Ohio, she secured funding for an orphanage for the children of Civil War veterans. “Women’s minds are as strong as man’s,” she wrote in her memoirs. “Equal in all things and superior in some.”

It has long been said that well-known suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton helped inspire the Founders of Kappa Kappa Gamma to form a society of their own after she spoke in Monmouth, Illinois, in 1869. So it is surprising that neither Lucy nor her husband supported women’s suffrage—though it does explain their less than favorable reception of Elizabeth Cady Stanton when she visited the White House to ask for support for her cause.

Despite the Hayes’ tumultuous start in the White House after the contentious presidential election of 1876, Lucy—who was the first wife of a U.S. president to earn a college degree—won over the American public with her experience as a nurse during the Civil War, her charm and intellect, and her exceptional gifts as a political partner to her husband.

While some historians have referred to her as “Lemonade Lucy,” the nickname was not used during her lifetime. But, because of her husband’s decision to ban alcohol from the White House in an effort to

keep fellow Republicans from shifting their support to the Prohibition Party—along with Lucy’s support of the temperance movement—the nickname stuck. “It is a great mistake to suppose that I desire to dictate my views to others in this matter of the use of wine and such drinks,” she wrote. “I do not use them myself ... but I have no thought of shunning those who think and act differently.”

Lucy was the first wife of a U.S. president to be widely referred to as the first lady by the press, after a writer used the term in a column in a New York magazine, *The Independent*, in 1877. Lucy’s appearance in the press was unprecedented for the time—perhaps owing to the number of female journalists who devoted a large portion of their coverage to her.

Unfazed, Lucy wrote, “Sometimes I feel a little worried ... this press and annoyance going on. I keep myself outwardly very calm, but inwardly there is a burning venom and wrath all under a smiling or pleasant exterior.”

After Lucy’s death in 1889 at 57 years old, her Kappa membership badge was donated to the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of American History, where it is frequently displayed in exhibits showcasing the dresses and jewelry of America’s first ladies.

KAPPA ARCHIVES

1983 Zeta Kappa Chapter is founded at Bowling Green University.



< **1984** Convention is held in Scottsdale, Arizona. **Marian Williams**, *Missouri*, is elected President.

1984 Zeta Lambda Chapter is founded at Washington & Jefferson College.

1985 Zeta Mu Chapter is founded at Virginia Tech University. Zeta Nu Chapter is founded at the University of California, San Diego.



INITIATED 1967

HEARING HELPER

When **Ruth Johnson Holden**, *Penn State*, was training to be a speech-language pathologist in the 1960s, it was typical for hearing-impaired children to be separated from their families to attend special schools. Ruth had other ideas.

After establishing the first school-based speech and hearing program in rural Pennsylvania, Ruth began tinkering with devices that might help deaf children. With input from her husband, Scott (an engineer), she invented the Phonic Ear—a hearing aid offering an FM frequency and featuring a rechargeable battery.

More inventions followed—16 in all. The Phonic Mirror was a lighter-weight version of a portable tape recorder with an automatic speech playback acoustically designed for stutterers—allowing people with speech impairments to hear their sounds quickly without having to repeatedly rewind. The Binaural Speech Trainer gave patients the ability to hear both correct and incorrect speech simultaneously. The Automatic Computer revolutionized hearing aid testing.

Because of the dramatic progress of patients using the Phonic Ear, in 1972 Ruth lobbied the Federal Communications Commission to designate an FM frequency range—MHz 72–76—for people who use hearing aids. Following Ruth's lead, more than 50 countries now use similar frequencies for adaptive technologies.

—**ANN GRAHAM SCHNAEDTER**, *Missouri*

INITIATED 1974

Cancer Crusader

Deborah “Debbie” Oates Erwin *paves the way for culturally sensitive cancer screenings for people of color*

By **Susan Lorimor**

AS CO-FOUNDER OF the National Witness Project, **Deborah “Debbie” Oates Erwin**, *Arkansas*, is working to eradicate race-based health disparities.

A medical anthropologist, Debbie helped the American Cancer Society evaluate free screening mammography during a 1980's study conducted in Stephens, Arkansas. At a time when Black people represented about 27% of the state's population, she discovered that only two of the more than 1,000 women who were screened were Black.

The research Debbie had done for her doctoral dissertation had already shown her that Blacks, Hispanics and members of other minority groups experienced higher rates of cancer and that these populations had lower survival rates once diagnosed with cancer. As a research associate at the University of Arkansas, she'd seen Black women coming into the hospital with large tumors because their cancers had advanced before they were detected.

The trends—and the

tragedies behind them—bothered Debbie. “There’s always the tendency to blame the victim,” she says. “I was thinking, ‘You know, there’s some reason. People don’t want to be sick. There’s some issue going on.’”

To understand the issue, Debbie conducted focus groups with Black women. In the safe space she provided, they shared their stories, telling Debbie about the cultural differences that led them to avoid even talking about cancer—let alone having access to information on the importance of screenings—and a general mistrust in the medical system as a whole. For many, it came down to money and social circumstance.

Debbie took what she'd learned—the focus group findings and her years of hands-on medical research—and founded the National Witness Project in 1990. The community-based program works to increase awareness of the importance of cancer screening among black women—empowering them to share their breast cancer experiences with others and highlighting the need

CHERONG-AH HWANG



< **1986** Convention is held in Philadelphia.

1987 Zeta Xi Chapter is founded at Yale University. Zeta Omicron is founded at Richmond College. Zeta Pi Chapter is founded at the College of Idaho.



< **1988** The Minnie Stewart Foundation is created to raise the funds needed to purchase Minnie Stewart's home.

for screenings.

“One message we often hear is that everything causes cancer and you can’t do anything about it,” Debbie told *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution*. “The Witness Project is important because it offers direct education from trusted messengers. The similarity of the women telling the stories to the women they’re talking to is extremely important. It’s like it can happen to me.”

The project has since been replicated at more than 30 institutions in 22 states and has added advocacy for cervical cancer screenings to its messaging—using the personal stories of breast and cervical cancer

survivors to give “witness” about their experiences.

Since many of the barriers to cancer screening are similar for Black women and Hispanic/Latina women, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation gave Debbie a grant to develop her now-familiar model in a new community with programming that teaches Hispanic/Latina women to tell their stories and gives them the tools to be advocates for one another.

“The survivor is such a credible witness,” Debbie says. “They’re a resource for saying: You need to get screened. You need to find your cancer early. You need to get assertive.”

“The survivor is such a credible witness. They’re a resource for saying: You need to get screened. You need to find your cancer early. You need to get assertive.”



Debbie (far left) receives Kappa's Alumnae Achievement Award in 2008.

Debbie advocates for health care access and screening for minority and underserved populations.



KAPPA ARCHIVES (2); COURTESY HOLLY JACKSON



INITIATED 1999

OVER THE WALL

On a bitterly cold November day in Cleveland, **Holly Apple Jackson**, Akron, was running errands when she noticed a group of kids and an adult wearing flip-flops without socks. They didn’t have gloves, hats or coats. They looked cold. Hungry. Isolated.

Holly knew the look—and what it feels like—because she was there once—homeless and feeling alone. “I know what it’s like,” she says. “I know how hard it is to humble yourself. You don’t want to ask for help for fear of rejection or judgments.”

To pay it forward, Holly began tying zip-close bags of socks, mittens, and hygiene items to a chain-link fence at the Lorain, Ohio, police department in 2018. A sign invited people to take anything they might need.

What started as a single wall soon became a mission—known as Walls of Love—which has installed over 500 walls in 110 neighborhoods, serving more than 70,000 people to date. “I want people to know that there are others that truly care,” Holly says. “I strive to make the world better one person at a time.”

—LEAH BOGDAN DECESARE, *Syracuse*



< **1988** Convention is held in Boca Raton, Florida. **Kay Larson**, Washington, is elected President.

1988 Zeta Rho Chapter is founded at Colgate University.

1989 The Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation is incorporated, featuring four funds: Heritage Museum, Rose McGill, Students’ Aid and the Educational Fund.

1989 Zeta Sigma Chapter is founded at the University of North Texas. Zeta Tau Chapter is founded at Washington and Lee University.

INITIATED 1886



STOPPING SLUMLORDS

**Emily
Bright
Burnham**
Boston

After serving Kappa as Grand President from 1892–94, Emily pursued a new passion: Boston’s North End slums. Her work on the Morton Street Improvement Project—called “one of the best pieces of work done in the city”—took on powerful landlords to remove a slum where more than 1,400 people lived on a 2-acre plot. In 1929, she was named chairman of the Massachusetts Civic League’s Housing Committee—charged with overseeing state housing legislation. In a time when women were criticized for pursuing non-domestic activities, Emily told *The Key*, “I am really more domestic than the average. Bread is still baked in my house and floor polish is made from a family recipe.”

—KRISTEN DESMOND
LEFEVRE, *Indiana*

INITIATED 1886

Creating Community

Social reformer **Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch’s**
legacy lives on in the communities she built

By **Dr. Mary Osborne**, *Monmouth*

BORN INTO A FAMILY that assisted runaway slaves during the Civil War, **Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch**, *Boston*, was committed to social injustice reform.

Chief among Mary’s passions were settlement houses. Established in poor urban areas, these communities aimed to improve living conditions by bringing society together. Middle-class volunteers lived among their poor counterparts, bridging gaps in understanding and economics.

By the late 1890s, Mary began volunteering at the College Settlement, a Jewish community in New York City’s Lower East Side. She learned Yiddish and studied local politics to make her assimilation into the neighborhood as seamless as possible. “We got along famously, and the friendships formed then have never been broken,” she wrote in her memoir, *Neighborhood: My Story of Greenwich House*.

Still, she dreamed of establishing a settlement of her own. “It must be a group of friends, who, together with the neighbors, would through a common experience build up common enthusiasms for common



1990 Total Membership: 146,626. Number of Chapters—120; Number of Alumnae Associations—352.

1990 Zeta Upsilon Chapter is founded at Georgia Southern University.



< **1990** Convention is held in Dallas.



projects,” Mary wrote.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1902, Greenwich House opened in Manhattan’s West Village, with Mary as its director. Located in a former longshoreman’s bunkhouse, Greenwich House was set in the middle of New York City’s most congested neighborhood, where Italian and Irish immigrants crowded into homes that often lacked running water. Greenwich House fostered a sense of community among its residents—offering a kindergarten, infant wellness clinics, a library, language and cooking classes, a music school, a pottery school, and clubs.

At Greenwich House, Mary was determined to break the tradition of wealthy volunteers

“In a world of disillusionment, even the smallest centers of hope are to be cherished.”

helping from afar. “I had seen the charitable approach to social problems and found it wanting,” she wrote. “If social improvements are to be undertaken by one class on behalf of another, no permanent changes are likely to be effected. The participation by all concerned is necessary for sound improvements.” Doubling down on her commitment to building community and affecting change, Mary moved into in the neighborhood with her husband and young family.

In her annual report of 1924,

Mary wrote, “The heart of Greenwich House is the belief in the possibility of all human life that is worthwhile, and all its work is only an evidence of that faith. In a world of disillusionment, even the smallest centers of hope are to be cherished.”

More than 100 years after founding Greenwich House, Mary’s legacy lives on. Today, Greenwich House still serves as a community hub and is a force for education, service and health programs.

INITIATED 1957



HAVING A BALL

Judy Ade Levering

Northwestern

As the first woman to serve as president of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), in 1999 Judy’s vision was one of accessibility and inclusion. She played a major role in naming the USTA’s National Tennis Center in honor of Arthur Ashe, the first and only African-American man to win the U.S. Open, Wimbledon and the Australian Open. In 2001, she established the USTA Foundation, which offers tennis programs to 200,000 children in underserved communities. “Tennis reinforces the lessons taught in schools, from learning to lose to developing mental strategies for success,” she says. “It opens the doors to new acquaintances, job opportunities and respect from others.”

—CASEY GALASSO, *Marist*

INITIATED 1870

MISCHIEF MAKER



When **Susan “Sue” Burley Walker, Monmouth**, was just 8 years old, her parents moved from Cameron, Marshall County, Virginia, (now West Virginia) to Monmouth, Illinois. Her family’s home was the site of Alpha Chapter’s first Initiation on April 1, 1870.

Sue entered Monmouth College in 1869 as a sub-freshman. She followed the college’s scientific course of study. Sue was 15 years old in March 1870 when she was “drawn in” (as Lou Bennett described it) by Kappa’s original organizers. She is listed in the chapter rolls as Alpha 5.

Unable to sign Alpha’s charter, Sue was absent because she was needed at home to help her mother during a formal dinner party.

Sue was considered the mischief-maker of Alpha Chapter. In a 1929 letter, Lou Stevenson wrote that it was fitting that Sue was sworn in on April 1, 1870—April Fools’ Day, describing “a near riot” over a prank that Sue and Minnie had cooked up, which had “all six of them shaking in their shoes.”

Sue left Monmouth College in 1871 before completing her degree. She is considered the Fraternity’s first alumna member, and, at age 42, she was the first Founder to pass away.

—KYLIE TOWERS SMITH, *Simpson*

KAPPA ARCHIVES (3); NEW YORK DAILY NEWS ARCHIVE / CONTRIBUTOR

1991 Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation of Canada is founded.

1992 Zeta Phi Chapter is founded at Princeton University.



< **1992** Convention is held in Scottsdale, Arizona. **J.J. Wales, Ohio State**, is elected President.

1993 Zeta Chi Chapter is founded at Marist College. Zeta Psi Chapter is founded at Wake Forest University.

INITIATED 1894

Culturally Curious

*A pioneering anthropologist, **Elsie Clews Parsons** challenged the status quo*

By **Kristin Sangid**, *Georgia Southern*

HER CLOTHES were often as colorful as her personality and ideas. Considered ahead of her time, even by those working in the new field of anthropology, no one knew quite what to make of **Elsie Clews Parsons, Barnard**. But by her death in 1941, she was the first woman president of the American Anthropological Association and an expert in Native American and African cultures.

A pioneering feminist, Elsie was born in 1874 into New York society. From early on, Elsie saw things differently. She often negotiated with her mother, who had traditional expectations, like tending to social engagements. Elsie enrolled at Barnard in 1892 over her mother's objection. When she wanted to travel but her mother required her presence at home, Elsie agreed to stay in New York if she could pursue a master's degree at Columbia University. She did just that and also completed a doctorate.

Elsie was influenced at Columbia by Franklin Giddings, the first full-time professor

of sociology in America. Elsie became an assistant and lecturer under Giddings, who espoused theories of individualism that defined Elsie's work throughout her career.

Although she married and had six children, Elsie challenged Victorian norms. She worked outside of the home and in 1906, just three years into her marriage to congressman Herbert Parsons, she published *The Family*, a book that argued for trial marriage and divorce by mutual agreement instead of by proving adultery, abuse or abandonment. A scandal ensued—harming Herbert's political career—so she published her next two books under a pen name.

In 1929, when Elsie asked why women were not admitted to a field school in New Mexico, Alfred Kidder, the leading archaeologist of the time, wrote, "A young woman because of the likelihood of her marriage, is an unreliable element to build into the foundation of a staff structure."

Elsie became known for funding anthropological studies and supporting other women in her field.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/COURTESY PARSONS FAMILY; FACING PAGE: CHEONG-AH HWANG; KAPPA ARCHIVES



1994 Zeta Omega Chapter is founded at University of Waterloo. Eta Alpha Chapter is founded at Furman University.



< **1994** Convention is held in Atlanta.

1996 Eta Beta Chapter is founded at Pepperdine University.



< **1996** Convention is held in Tampa, Florida. **Cathy Carswell, Illinois Wesleyan**, is elected President.



INITIATED 2000

“IT GIRL” AND INFLUENCER

Sophia Bush, USC (Calif.), has had a long streak as an “it” girl for good reason. Her big break came in the mid-2000s, starring in “National Lampoon’s Van Wilder,” followed by a nine-season run on “One Tree Hill.” But Sophia’s real fire comes from her advocacy work.

From fighting for environmental issues to co-founding the Time’s Up movement, Sophia is an active voice on social media. During the 2016 presidential election, she teamed up to form I am a voter™, a nonpartisan civic engagement organization. *Glamour* made her a global ambassador to its “Girl Project,” an initiative that addresses the issues that prevent women around the world from graduating from high school. Sophia received the Nelson Mandela Changemaker Award in 2018.

In her podcast *Work in Progress*, Sophia features people who inspire her, diving deep into how they got where they are, and where they think they are still going. Guests have ranged from Gloria Steinem and Henry Winkler to former U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power and Katie Couric. Each episode centers around Sophia’s enduring message: “We are all allowed be both a masterpiece and a work in progress at the same time.”—**STACY FLANNERY, Drake**

INITIATED 1967



EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

Robin Wright

Michigan

Robin, whose byline

has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *The New Yorker* and the *Los Angeles Times*, among others—has reported from 140 countries. In 1976, she narrowly escaped an assignment with her life. “I had been one of some two dozen people—out of over 300—who survived a battle during the Angolan Civil War,” Robin wrote in *The New Yorker*. “I had fled on a little tugboat across the Congo River.” Despite the danger, she’s become a mouthpiece for accountability, which she says is biggest accomplishment of all. “I’ve experienced the sweep of history from flying on Air Force One to go to Vietnam, to interviewing Nelson Mandela,” she says. “I’ve gotten to be an eyewitness the greatest historical events in my lifetime.”

—EMILY BENCH

1997 Eta Gamma Chapter is founded at University of San Diego.

1998 Eta Delta Chapter is founded at Valparaiso University.



< **1998** Convention is held in Scottsdale, Arizona.

1999 Eta Epsilon Chapter is founded at Johns Hopkins University.

Know ledge

Illustration by **BIJOU KARMAN**



INITIATED 1991

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Even as a child, **Debra “Deb” Houry**, *Emory*, envisioned herself in a white coat and stethoscope. So it’s fitting that she works as the director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—leading research programs to prevent injuries from things like opioid abuse, suicide, partner violence, and childhood trauma.

Deb says that if doctors aren’t armed with up-to-date solutions backed by science, many patients will seek potentially dangerous remedies from less-than-credible sources or not seek help at all.

“Communities and states must increase efforts to implement evidence-based programs and policies to prevent injuries and violence,” she said in a NCIPC press release. It’s the key, Deb said, “To reduce not only the pain and suffering of people, but the considerable costs to society.”
— **MADISON SYKES**, *Loyola*



INITIATED 1911

REPRODUCTIVE RESEARCHER

In 1935, reproductive biologist **Gertrude Van Wagenen**, Iowa, began research on reproduction and contraception using a colony of rhesus monkeys at Yale School of Medicine's department of obstetrics and gynecology.

Gertrude recorded data on 1,261 monkeys, including 600 live births across 15 generations. To learn more about what a successful pregnancy needs and how it can be disrupted, she and her team exposed the colony to a variety of hormones and other compounds.

Her research led to a major discovery in the late 1960s: the development of the "morning after pill." Gertrude's studies uncovered estrogen compounds that can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the womb if taken within three days of conception. The pill offered the first method of birth control—other than abortion—for use after intercourse, and it wasn't without controversy.

The pill was hailed by some as a breakthrough and others as an abomination. While other countries readily adopted this new use of estrogen—a hormone already available in other medications—American pharmaceutical companies were barred from producing and selling the pill in the United States until 1998.

—KATIE MILLS GIORGIO, *Drake*



INITIATED 1920

Knocking Their Socks Off

Sarah "Sally" Gibson Blanding was the first female president of Vassar College

By **Fran Becque**

WHEN SARAH "Sally" Gibson Blanding, Kentucky, realized her family didn't have the money she'd need to study medicine, she took out a loan to complete a two-year course for physical education teachers.

In 1919, she was offered several high school teaching jobs. But when the University of Kentucky offered Sally a position at half the going rate, she saw an opportunity to negotiate. "I would be interested in your job if you would allow me to

go to college at the same time," she recalled in an oral history. Kentucky agreed, and Sally took courses between 8 a.m. and noon, and taught physical education from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Upon graduation, she was asked to join the faculty as acting dean of women. "Gracious, I couldn't think of anything worse," Sally replied. Still, she agreed to help her colleagues out. At age 24, she was the youngest college dean in the U.S.

Despite her initial reservations, Sally soon realized she loved working as a dean. "But I knew that the so-called

KAPPA ARCHIVES (2)

OUR HISTORY

2000 Total Membership: 188,390. Number of Chapters—127; Number of Alumnae Associations—390.



< **2000** Convention is held in Palm Desert, California. **Ann Truesdell**, *Ohio Wesleyan*, is elected President.



2001 Eta Zeta Chapter is founded at John Carroll University.

academic faculty didn't have much respect for people's minds who taught in physical education," she said. Sally borrowed money again, this time to earn a master's degree in political science from Columbia University.

With her new credentials in hand, Sally returned to the University of Kentucky as dean of women and professor of political science and to her family's farming roots, living on a tobacco farm she purchased near campus.

She left Lexington for Cornell University in 1941 to become dean of the College of Home Economics. When Sally's request for \$75,000 was cut from the New York state budget, she called the governor to tell him: "In Kentucky, we shoot people for this." He promised to restore the funds to the budget immediately, but Cornell's president was irate that Sally had gone over his head.

Five years later, she was named the first female president of Vassar College. During her tenure, she raised \$25 million in nine years, tripling Vassar's endowment.

Sarah was awarded 18 honorary degrees. A residence hall at Kentucky and endowed chairs at Cornell and Vassar are named for her. But Sally is perhaps best remembered for being strict but reasonable, espousing an approach that valued growth over punishment—especially as times and fashions changed on campus. "I do remember that when socks came in—socks for women ... I just didn't like it much," she recalled. "We decided we would ban socks. After a semester, I think, we thought how stupid this is? Let them wear socks!"



INITIATED 1962

ACCIDENTAL CHEMIST

Susan Serota Taylor, Wisconsin, is one of America's most distinguished chemists. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Susan's career, however, is that she never intended to have it in the first place.

Susan's plans to study medicine were put on hold after her senior year in college when her then-fiancé, Palmer Taylor, accepted a job at the National Institutes of Health. Susan hadn't applied to any medical schools in the area, so she enrolled in a doctoral program in physiological chemistry at Johns Hopkins University. "Things don't happen necessarily how you plan them," she says.

After earning her Ph.D. in 1968, Susan still planned to pursue medicine, but serendipity intervened again. Taylor, now her husband, was invited to study molecular pharmacology at England's University of Cambridge. Susan joined him and was accepted to a postdoctoral fellowship in protein chemistry.

That's when Susan fell in love with proteins. In 1991, her lab at the University of California, San Diego solved the structure of a protein kinase—a tiny molecule that helps regulate essential functions in every cell of the body. Since then, her groundbreaking work on the chemical structure and function of kinases has laid the foundation for drug research on diseases ranging from cancer to Alzheimer's.

— RACHEL B. LEVIN

INITIATED 1917



RULE-KEEPER

Rheva Ott Shryock
Pennsylvania

The last of Kappa's

Grand Presidents (1936–40), Rheva was an authority on parliamentary procedure. At the 1938 General Convention, Rheva convinced the Fraternity to drop "Grand" from her title. It may seem like a small change, but it required extensive revisions to the Fraternity *Bylaws*, sparking in her a lifelong love of parliamentary law. Her deep knowledge of the subject put her in demand as a parliamentarian for organizations, including Kappa Kappa Gamma, the National Panhellenic Conference, the American Association of University Women, the American Association of University Professors, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, and the 1976 convention of the National Organization of Women.

—KAY SMITH LARSON,
Washington



< **2002** Convention is held in Orlando, Florida.

2002 Eta Eta Chapter is founded at the University of Central Florida.

2003 Eta Theta Chapter is founded at Harvard University.

INITIATED 1896



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Ohio State

On a trip to Rome in

1912, author and educator Dorothy Canfield Fisher visited a series of schools established by Dr. Maria Montessori. She observed the program's multi-age classrooms and was fascinated by the way the children worked at their own pace and connected with nature. Dorothy was so impressed by the child-centered method that she translated Montessori's books into English and wrote her own titles, including *A Montessori Mother*, a primer that explained the Montessori Method of education to Americans. She is credited with bringing the Montessori Method to the U.S., which today boasts over 4,500 affiliated schools.

—MEG BUTLER,
North Carolina



INITIATED 1941

Making the Music

The first woman to direct the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Margaret Hillis was a podium powerhouse

By Kristen Desmond LeFevre, Indiana

MARGARET HILLIS, Indiana, was 5 years old when she began to study music.

First, there was the piano. Later, there were woodwinds, brass, and a double bass. But, by the age of 8, she knew: The only musical implement she wanted to hold in her hand was a conductor's baton.

"The orchestra was my great love," Margaret told music

journalist Bruce Duffie in a 1986 interview. "But in 1947, a woman conductor? No way."

Margaret—who founded the Chicago Symphony Chorus in 1957—says she got into the orchestral field "through the back door" as a choral conductor. "I wanted to prove that a chorus could be as good as an orchestra," she said.

In 1950, Margaret founded the New York Concert Choir

(NYCC)—a group that caught the attention of the conductor and maestro of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), Fritz Reiner, who convinced the CSO's board of trustees to hire Margaret and her choir to perform during the 1955–56 season. The resulting collaboration was a hit. The NYCC was rehired for the following season. However, Reiner wanted to up the ante—planning to perform

KAPPA ARCHIVES; ROSENTHAL ARCHIVES/CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



< **2004** The first Leadership Academy is held.



< **2004** Convention is held in Kansas City, Missouri. **Priscilla Gerde**, Purdue, is elected President.

2005 Eta Iota Chapter is founded at Creighton University.

Giuseppe Verdi's "Messa da Requiem." When he ran the idea by Margaret, she told him she'd need double the voices to do the piece justice. "It would simply be too expensive," she told him.

Reiner returned to the CSO trustees, pleading with them to fund a permanent CSO chorus with Margaret at the helm, insisting that "there will be no chorus unless Miss Hillis herself is the director." Nearly 100 voices strong, Margaret's Chicago Symphony Chorus began rehearsals in October 1957.

Just one month later, the ensemble made its debut backed by the full orchestra. Reiner led the group first, but after intermission, Margaret took the podium, becoming the first woman to conduct the CSO.

Within a decade, Margaret had established the Chicago Symphony Chorus as one of the finest professional choirs in the U.S. She led the group for 37 years and amassed an impressive discography, including nine Grammy Awards for best choral performance.

Despite entering the orchestral world through the so-called back door of choral conducting, Margaret took the baton to conduct major orchestras beyond the CSO—including the National Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Oregon Symphony and the Minnesota Orchestra.

One of her most dramatic moments at the podium came by accident. At a 1977 Carnegie Hall concert, conductor

Sir Georg Solti became ill. Margaret was tapped to lead the CSO in Gustav Mahler's "Symphony No. 8"—a piece famously nicknamed "the Symphony of a Thousand" because it requires an enlarged orchestra, a double chorus, eight vocal soloists and a children's chorus.

By the time the curtain rose, Margaret—with just hours to study the piece—had completely memorized the symphony. At the end of the 80-minute performance, she received a standing ovation. Asked about the feat by The New York Times, Margaret was all confidence. "All I did was my job," she said. "There's only one woman I know who could never be a symphony conductor, and that's the Venus de Milo."

INITIATED 1927



NAVAL KNOW-HOW

Mary Sproul

George Washington

After completing a master's degree in biology, Mary conducted research on blood plasma, focusing on efficient and safe storage of donated blood. In 1942, she tried to join the U.S.

Navy's newly formed WAVES. But the surgeon general told Mary he could not spare her. Later that year, she commissioned as a lieutenant and continued her work in blood research.

By 1950, she became the Navy's first female medical officer. As a commander during the Korean War, she flew to combat zones to oversee shipments of blood and collaborated with top U.S. doctors to improve the transport of whole blood in plastic because it's light weight.

After the war, Mary worked to develop frozen blood products.

Her research is still cited today.

— KRISTIN SANGID, Georgia Southern

Agriculture and the food industry contribute more than \$1.5 trillion to the U.S. economy. That's one-sixth of the gross national product, accounting for 17% of the nation's jobs. With only a seven-day supply of meat in the supply chain at any one time, a viral or bacterial threat to livestock would quickly escalate into empty store shelves. Enter **Martha "Marty" Vanier**, *Kansas State*, director of the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center (NABC), who has made it her life's work to keep such a scenario from happening.

Marty is the senior program manager for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, where she and her team conduct research, develop vaccines, and provide diagnostic tools to protect against threats to the food supply.

Marty says it's only natural that she was drawn to her career path. "Growing up in Kansas was critically important to shaping my life and career," she says. "I was always interested in ranching and production operations, which gave me valuable knowledge about on-the-ground issues." —STACY FLANNERY, *Drake*



INITIATED 1975

FOOD CHAIN CHAMPION

FROM LEFT: CLAIRE GENO; KAPPA ARCHIVES



< **2006** Convention is held in Salt Lake City. **Denise Rugani**, *UC Davis*, is elected President.

2007 Eta Kappa Chapter is founded at Knox College. Eta Lambda Chapter is founded at Loyola University Chicago. Eta Mu Chapter is founded at the University of California, Santa Cruz.



< **2008** Convention is held in Phoenix.

INITIATED 1992



SWEET TOOTH

**Katrina
Markoff**
Vanderbilt

After moving to Paris

to study culinary arts at Le Cordon Bleu, Katrina Markoff, founder of Vosges Haut-Chocolat, set out on a world tour.

As she followed her palate across cultures and countries, Katrina discovered chocolate as a powerful medium. "Chocolate is so versatile," she told the *Robb Report*. "It can range in its applications from bitter to savory to sweet and beyond." Today, her brand—named one of National Geographic's Top Ten Chocolatiers in the World—boasts four Chicago-based stores offering hand-crafted chocolates that are organic and sustainably produced. "I've always said it's the most powerful word in the food dictionary because when you say 'chocolate,' people always gasp," she says.

—MADISON SYKES, *Loyola*

2009 Eta Nu Chapter is founded at Santa Clara. Eta Xi Chapter is founded at the University of California, Merced.

2010 Total Membership: 233,990. Number of Chapters—136; Number of Alumnae Associations—424.



< **2010** Convention is held in Phoenix. **Julie Leshay**, *Colorado College*, is elected President.

INITIATED 1948

Successful Second Act

Anthropologist and archeologist **Jane Stevenson Day** on-ramped her way to become the first female chief curator of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

By **Meg Butler**, North Carolina

JANE STEVENSON DAY, *Colorado College*, was the first female chief curator of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Her path was anything but standard: Instead of starting out as a student, she started out as a volunteer.

As a mother of four daughters, Jane hadn't pursued a career outside the home while her children were young. But as they grew, her volunteer work at the museum began to pique her interest, and she eventually began taking classes in anthropology. As an older woman who had not been part of the "working world," Jane had difficulty being accepted to a graduate program. And once she was accepted—at the University of Colorado—she had to drive 70 miles round trip each day from her home to attend classes.

Jane finished her doctorate in 1984, specializing in the Mesoamerican studies of the ancient New World with an emphasis on the art and archaeology of Costa Rica. After several trips to do field research in Costa Rica, Jane landed back where she'd started: the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in 1985.

But this time, she was doing more than showing tourists

around the exhibit halls—not to mention being paid for her services. Jane worked her way up from part-time curator to full-time curator, and a few years later, she was promoted



to chief curator. Of key importance to Jane was immersing the museum's visitors in a setting or a culture.

Perhaps Jane's best-known project was a 1992 exhibit called "Aztec: The World of Moctezuma," curated from items loaned by the Templo Mayor Museum and the Mexican National Museum of Anthropology—both in Mexico City—and the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The exhibit

was the world's largest exhibition of Aztec treasures, revealing important clues about the people who inhabited the Valley of Mexico more than 500 years earlier. Jane designed the exhibit to make visitors feel like part of ancient Aztec society by having them figuratively walk from the outskirts of Tenochtitlan to the town center at the Templo Mayor.

"Previous exhibits of Aztec artifacts have focused on aesthetic value alone," Jane told The Associated Press. "No other exhibit has placed the objects in their cultural context." Spread an impressive 35,000 square feet and featuring over 300 objects, "Aztec" was seen by over 720,000 people.

Jane retired in 1995 as chief curator emerita, but she continued her involvement with the museum, helping with its travel program, lectures and continuing education program.

She also consulted as a curator for other museums and continued to lecture, research and write while encouraging mothers looking for a second act after raising children—always noting their maturity and the wealth of skills they acquired in their roles as mothers, household managers and volunteers.

FROM LEFT: VOSGES HAUT-CHOCOLAT; DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

INITIATED 2019



PAST MASTER

**Kristen
Gwinn-
Becker**

Alpha Iota

Kristen is on a

mission to save history—and to give it a future. Most historical resources are housed in libraries and archives. Even those that are digitized aren't easy to use. "If it isn't accessible," Kristen says, "it's as good as lost."

That's why she founded HistoryIT in 2008, creating digital archives backed by elaborate search architectures that make materials discoverable. Kristen's firm has digitized the archives of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and Kappa Kappa Gamma—just to name two notable clients. "What we're building is big," she says.

"We want to be the Google of history."

—KRISTEN DESMOND
LEFEVRE, *Indiana*

INITIATED 1911

CHARGING FORWARD

The first woman to earn a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1919, **Edith Clarke, Wisconsin**, worked as a licensed professional engineer among all-male colleagues at General Electric, where she specialized in electric power.

As America expanded west, longer transmission lines meant system instability. Mathematical models of the day only applied to small systems, but Edith developed a technique that could analyze larger systems. Her breakthroughs contributed to GE's effort to build the first transcontinental telephone line from New York to California. Her patented Clarke Calculator enabled engineers to solve quickly and accurately analyze power grid data—a key step in developing and building the smart grid technology we rely on today.

In 1948, Edith was the first female fellow elected to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. She retired from GE and took a teaching position at the University of Texas, becoming the first female engineering professor in the U.S. "There is no demand for women engineers, as such, as there are for women doctors," she told *The Daily Texan*. "But there's always a demand for anyone who can do a good piece of work."

—MADISON SYKES, *Loyola*



INITIATED 1896



THOROUGHLY MODERN
FIRST LADY

**Lou Henry
Hoover**
Stanford

When Lou Henry

Hoover became first lady of the United States in 1929, the expectations were clear: be unseen, unheard and uninvolved. Instead, Lou modernized the role. The first first lady to speak on the radio, her radio broadcasts from 1929–33 advocated for volunteerism and discussed her support of the Girl Scouts, an organization that she had served as president from 1922–25 and 1935–37. A strong advocate of universal suffrage—ratified nine years before her husband took office—Lou urged women to exercise their right to vote. "Bad men are elected by good women who stay at home from the polls on Election Day," she said in one of her public broadcasts.

—TARA MCCLELLAN
MCANDREW,
Illinois Wesleyan

FROM TOP: KAPPA ARCHIVES; CHEONG-AH HWANG

2010 Eta Omicron Chapter is founded at Northeastern University.

2011 Eta Pi Chapter is founded at New York University.



< **2012** Convention is held in Jacksonville, Florida.

INITIATED 1885

CHANGING GEARS

Since she was a young girl, **Catherine “Kate” Gleason, Cornell**, was fascinated by machines. She was 11 years old when her brother, Tom, died of typhoid fever, and she stepped in to help run her family’s gear-cutting company.

Kate had little patience for society’s disapproval, writing in her memoirs: “Girls were not considered as valuable as boys; so I always jumped from a little higher barn and vaulted a taller fence than did my boy playmates, just to prove that I was as good.”

Susan B. Anthony gave Kate some advice: “Any advertising is good,” Anthony told her. “Get praise if possible, blame if you have to. But never stop being talked about.”

In 1884, Kate became the first woman to study engineering at Cornell. She went to work for Ingle Machine Co. and when it fell into financial trouble, Kate became the first woman appointed as a bankruptcy receiver. She turned the company around, making it profitable in 18 months. In 1918, she was elected president of the First National Bank of East Rochester—the first woman (without the benefit of family ties) to head a national bank.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers made Kate its first woman member, named an engineering school for her (the first named for a woman), and created an award in her honor.

—**TARA MCCLELLAN MCANDREW**, *Illinois Wesleyan*



INITIATED 1904

Linguist with a Lasting Impact

Louise Pound was a scholar, an athlete, and a woman ahead of her time

By **Katie Mills Giorgio**, *Drake*

A DISTINGUISHED scholar of linguistics and literature, **Louise Pound, Nebraska**, made America a subject worth studying. She spent her life researching American folklore, folk songs, dialects and popular language.

Her work helped to reveal the diverse sources of America’s language and legends. She was the first serious scholar to reject and disprove that American culture was Anglo-Saxon in

origin and not uniquely created by a broader patchwork of merging cultures. For Louise, the American language was a living, breathing thing. She viewed American culture as something woven together from conflicting ethnic, national and regional cultures.

One of her closest friends was famed writer Willa Cather. The two women often wrote together and shared the belief that people in general—and in their view, Americans in particular—create

KAPPA ARCHIVES (2)

2013 Kappa creates its first social media account (Facebook).

2013 Five chapters are founded: Eta Rho, *Cal Poly*, *San Luis Obispo*; Eta Sigma, *Chapman*; Eta Tau, *Georgetown*; Eta Upsilon, *Wichita State*; and Eta Phi, *Elmhurst*.



< **2014** Convention is held in Houston. **Beth Black**, *Illinois Wesleyan*, is elected President.

their stories and their lives by drawing on the cultural materials around them.

When Louise decided to pursue a Ph.D. in 1900, she was unable to secure a place in an American postgraduate program due to her gender. Instead, she went abroad, obtaining her Ph.D. in philological studies at Germany's Heidelberg University in less than a year.

After receiving her Ph.D., Louise returned to the University of Nebraska and worked as a professor in the English department for 50 years. She led courses in American literature, contemporary English, and comparative literature, seeking to pass on her love for language to her students, whom she treated as the children she never had.

In 1955, she was elected the first

woman president of the Modern Language Association, the most esteemed professional association in the United States for scholars of language and literature.

But Louise wasn't all brains and no brawn. In fact, she is widely hailed as Nebraska's first sportswoman. In 1890, Louise won the Lincoln, Nebraska, city tennis championship. Wearing an ankle-length skirt (but forgoing the customary corset), she captured the university's men's singles and doubles titles in both 1891 and 1892—the only female in Nebraska history to receive a men's varsity letter.

In 1897, Louise was rated the top tennis player in the country when she won the Women's Western Championship, beating both the Canadian and U.S. champions. But tennis

wasn't the only sport Louise excelled at. She played center in Nebraska's first women's basketball game in 1898 and later managed the team until the university abolished women's athletics in 1908. She was a cyclist, a figure skater and a skier. In 1915, she returned to tennis to win a major doubles championship at age 43. The next year, she switched to golf, winning the first Nebraska women's golf championship.

Always eager to challenge social norms—on the athletic field or in the world of academia—Louise changed America's views on women, academics, sports and—as the first academic to recognize American English as a distinct language from the Queen's English—even itself.

INITIATED 1921



THE WHOLE SMEAR

Marion Hilliard

Toronto

In 1928, Marion

became the third Canadian woman to become a member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

She set up a general practice in Toronto while also working at nearby Women's College Hospital. Known for lecturing openly about sex education, when she addressed the women of Victoria

College, one of them fainted at her feet. Marion propped her up and demanded, "Well, do you want to hear it from me or from some man?"

In 1947, Marion was appointed head of gynecology and obstetrics at Women's College Hospital. There, she helped develop a key test still in use worldwide today: the pap smear, a first-of-its-kind method for detecting early symptoms of cervical cancer.

—KRISTEN DESMOND LEFEVRE, *Indiana*

INITIATED 1870

SOCIAL BUTTERFLY



FROM LEFT: KAPPA ARCHIVES; WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL

When **Martha Louisa "Lou" Stevenson** began her studies at Monmouth College, she was the equivalent of a high school senior. It is said that she was asked to join Kappa because she "put up" for the other Founders during an A.B.L. debate.

Lou was initiated at 15 years old. She is listed on Kappa's membership roll as Alpha 6. Lou was not present at the signing of Alpha Chapter's charter. It was a stormy night, and when Lou could not find her galoshes, her mother forbade her from leaving the house for fear she would ruin her shoes.

Kappa's first Event Chairman, Lou's home was the site of Kappa's first social, held on Halloween 1872. She also hosted a meeting where the Founders discussed ordering badges, later recounting how they moved the meeting to the nearby croquet grounds because of boys eavesdropping near an open window.

Lou's autograph book, titled *Album of Memory*, is the only written document to survive from Alpha Chapter's early years. In 1932, she lamented the lack of records regarding Kappa's founding. She wrote, "Forty years is a long time to remember what did not seem so very important at that time."

—KYLIE TOWERS SMITH, *Simpson*

< **2014** Fraternity Council creates a Loyalty Award pin to be given to honored recipients.



< **2016** Convention is held in San Diego.

2016 Eta Chi Chapter is founded at North Carolina State University.

INITIATED 1942



ABOVE PAR

Peggy Kirk Bell
Rollins

Peggy was hardly

a natural golfer. The first three balls she hit landed in the woods. But by the 1940s, Peggy played on the ladies' amateur tour and turned pro when the Ladies Professional Golf Association was founded in 1950. With her husband, Warren "Bullet" Bell, Peggy bought North Carolina's Pine Needles golf course. When Bullet urged her to give a lesson to a woman who had inquired, Peggy snapped, "I don't teach, I play!" But he persisted, saying, "You know more than she does." That was the beginning of Peggy's Golfari programs that focused on teaching golf to women. "Connecting with people and their excitement about the game keeps me excited," Peggy told *Golf Magazine* in 2012. "It's amazing where golf takes you."

—JUDY DUCATE,
Texas Tech

INITIATED 1947

Sentinel for SIDS

Mary Shuham Dore turned family tragedy into a triumph for parents and babies everywhere

By **Kristen Desmond LeFevre**, *Indiana*

DOCTORS couldn't give **Mary Shuham Dore**, *Whitman*, a clear picture of what had happened when her three-month-old daughter, Christine, died in 1961. At first, they told Mary that Christine had died from acute pneumonitis—an inflammation of lung tissue.

But Mary simply couldn't accept that answer. Her daughter had never shown signs of breathing trouble and hadn't even had a cough before she died. Eventually, the coroner told Mary something shocking: Her daughter didn't have pneumonitis, but it was medically preferable to record it that way as opposed to calling it "crib death," the common term at the time for unexplainable deaths of babies. The coroner revealed that he understood Mary's pain. He and his wife had lost a child to crib death just a few years earlier.

A week after the funeral, Mary received a sympathy card from a woman who had seen Christine's obituary. Her own infant son had suddenly died on the same day as Christine. His cause of death was also listed as acute pneumonitis.

Mary wanted answers—not just for what happened to Christine, but for all the babies who had died similar deaths and for all the parents

left wondering why. Combing the obituaries in newspapers published across the Seattle area, Mary looked for entries of unexplained infant deaths and soon learned that between 30 and 50 cases of crib death happened in the area annually.

But Mary's fact-finding mission was about more than just data. Each time she found a new obituary, Mary would track down the family's phone number and call them to lend support. She wanted them to know they were not alone and that they were not responsible for the deaths of their children.

From data to dollars, Mary

decided it was time to do something. "We were in a situation where these sudden unexplained deaths had been occurring ... yet no one was doing any research," Mary said in an interview with her alma mater in 2007. "People would talk about pneumonia and polio, but people avoided talking about sudden unexplained infant death."

Harnessing the power of her husband's influence as a former state legislator and state Supreme Court Justice, Mary used the channels available to her to begin pestering politicians to take action.

Today, what was once called crib death is known as Sudden



KAPPA ARCHIVES (2)

2017 Eta Psi Chapter is founded at Pfeiffer University.



< **2018** Fraternity Headquarters moves to Bridge Park in Dublin, Ohio.



< **2018** Convention is held in Denver. **Gail Owen**, *Monmouth*, is elected President.

Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)—the sudden death of an infant that cannot be explained by any other cause. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, SIDS is one of the leading causes of death in infants one month to 12 months old.

Mary's efforts singlehandedly triggered renewed medical interest in crib death. She pushed for legislation to establish a central location where all victims could be autopsied. She raised money to support research, including the work of Dr. J. Bruce Beckwith, who ultimately identified SIDS. She established the SIDS Foundation of Washington and helped make the Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center the largest SIDS research center in the world.

But no matter how widespread her campaign, Mary always saw her work as a grassroots effort. She was often seen around Seattle in her blue station wagon, placing empty soda cans wrapped with labels that read, "Help for the Research of SIDS." She'd leave them at grocery stores for customers to drop in coins, sending her five children in to collect the filled cans and replace them with empty ones in memory of Christine. She continued to scour the obituaries for victims of SIDS, reaching out to their families, until her passing in 2007.

The Fred H. and Mary S. Dore Charitable Foundation continues to fund SIDS research. "I most want the babies to be accounted for," Mary said. "Every death must be looked at. Parents cannot recover without knowing why. It's so important that each occurrence is properly handled and classified."

KAPPA ARCHIVES (2)

INITIATED 1939

CODE BREAKER



WWII cryptographers like **Frances Steen Josephson**, *Goucher*, were key to deciphering the intelligence communications systems used by the Germans and the Japanese. In 1942, Frances accepted a commission as a U.S. Navy ensign and joined the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES).

Frances cracked a Japanese code that allowed U.S. intelligence services to decipher messages containing the location of Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who had organized the attack on Pearl Harbor. U.S. fighters used the information from the intercepted communications to shoot down Admiral Yamamoto's plane.

During her service, Frances learned about a Japanese message outlining an impending attack on a Pacific-based ship where her brother served as captain. The code was deciphered but delivered too late. Her brother's ship was hit and sunk, but he was one of the few on board to survive.

Frances rose through the WAVES' ranks—from ensign to watch officer to lieutenant. The code name her cryptographer counterpart in the United Kingdom used for Frances was "Pretty Weather." She requested that the Navy train her to fly planes, but when her request was denied, she took lessons to get her pilot's license on her own.

After the war, Frances continued work in communications intelligence in Washington, D.C., and later at the naval air base in Jacksonville, Florida. Still, she kept her roles as a cryptographer a secret. In fact, her first husband died without knowing anything about it. Her son learned the truth only in 1992 when the Navy declassified the mission. In 2004, the Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association recognized her contributions at a ceremony in Charleston, South Carolina.

— MEG BUTLER, *North Carolina*

INITIATED 1962



ABOVE THE INFLUENCE

Sharon Carlson Wilsnack

Kansas State

Curious about the

impact of alcohol on women, Sharon discovered that the data focused on men. In 1981, she wrote the first book about women and alcohol. "It was groundbreaking for the time saying: Maybe women drink and maybe some of them drink too much and maybe we should study them," she says. As a distinguished professor of clinical neuroscience at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Sharon has uncovered that women are at higher risk for the behavioral and physiological consequences of excessive drinking. "Which is not to say women shouldn't drink at all," she explains, "but we need to be aware of gender differences." —SUSAN JOHNSTON TAYLOR

2018 Four chapters are founded: Eta Omega, *Binghamton*; Theta Alpha, *Southern Illinois University Edwardsville*; Theta Beta, *Illinois State*; and Theta Gamma, *Long Island University, Post*.



< **2019** The **Minnie Stewart Van**, a mobile museum, brings Kappa and women's history across North America. Alpha Iota Chapter is founded for alumna initiates.

INITIATED 1974

IT'S ALL IN YOUR GENES

Geneticist **Cynthia Casson Morton**, *William & Mary*, was inspired in seventh-grade when she wrote a research paper on twins. “That really opened that discipline to me,” she says.

The structure of the human genome has been a major focus of Cynthia’s career. As the director of cytogenetics at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and a Harvard Medical School professor, she’s the principal researcher on a project known as SEQaBOO—short for “sequencing a baby for optimal outcome.”

Newborn screenings detect a baby’s ability to hear, but they don’t account for each baby’s unique genetic makeup, which may affect how well a therapy or strategy works. SEQaBOO is the first-of-its-kind whole-genome sequencing for newborns who do not pass their hearing screen. “We want all babies who have genetic deafness to get as early a diagnosis as possible so they can be optimally managed,” Cynthia says.

Around 150 genes are known to contribute to hearing loss, but Cynthia says as many as 800 more might play a role. If SEQaBOO can identify the genes during a critical window when the brain’s speech and language center is developing rapidly, it could help doctors refine care and lead to improved outcomes for hearing-impaired infants.

—SUSAN JOHNSTON TAYLOR



INITIATED 1962

Outstanding Enologist

Acclaimed winemaker **Zelma Reed Long** is most at home among vines and varietals

By **Kelly Matyas Magyarics**, Pittsburgh

MISS Oblivious. That’s the moniker given to **Zelma**

Reed Long, Oregon State, by her co-workers at Simi Winery. But it’s a nickname that belies its meaning. Zelma, the first woman to hold a senior management position in a California winery, refuses to allow the industry’s sexism to impede her work. “Once a rapport was established and the male wine-maker realized I was sharp and passionate and curious, the deep conversations began and gender faded away,” Zelma explains.

Zelma is a female pioneer in California wine. After graduating from Oregon State in 1965 and a brief stint as a dietitian, she set off in pursuit of a master’s degree in enology and viticulture at the University of California, Davis—widely regarded as the most renowned winemaking program in the U.S. But she left to work the harvest at Napa’s Robert Mondavi Winery, where she ascended to the role of chief enologist and crafted wine for the legendary figure

for a decade. “He showed the American public that wine is a culture,” Zelma says. “It is meant to be enjoyed with food ... and is as artistic an achievement as beautiful music or art.” (For her own part, Zelma enjoys a chardonnay with soy sauce-glazed salmon or a concentrated cabernet alongside seared duck breast.)

After Mondavi, Zelma served as vice president and then president of Simi Winery, planting new vineyards and instituting innovative cellar techniques.

In the 1990s, Zelma founded the American Vineyard Foundation to research enology and viticulture, turning her gaze to the potential in other global wine regions beyond California. Along with husband Philip Freese—himself a professional viticulturist—Zelma established Vilafonté Wine Estate in Paarl, South Africa. The duo set aside two decades to find a site whose ancient soils and marine microclimate would result in amazing Bordeaux-style red blends. Their 2006 Series C received a trophy from the 2019 Six Nations Wine Challenge.

CHERONG-AH HWANG

2020 Total Membership: 298,773. Number of Chapters—145. Number of Alumnae Associations—439.

2020 Theta Delta is founded at Seton Hall University.



< **2020** Convention is canceled due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, an online General Convention Virtual Business Meeting is held.

With influence in California wines and South African wines, Zelma splits her time between Sonoma County and the South African Cape. She says the American wine industry has gone from being an “amusing curiosity” to a world leader in the span of 30 to 40 years—and notes that factors including climate change and consolidation will continue to affect the industry.

But—despite her years of working with the stuff—she’s still awestruck by wine’s almost mystical nature, as grapes express terroir and continue to evolve for years in the bottle. “Working with grapes to bring out their best, to tease it out, is like working with small children to facilitate their growth as individuals,” she says. “It is magical.”



KAPPA ARCHIVES; JOY LEIGHTON



INITIATED 1966

OCEAN CRUSADER

Marine ecologist and environmental scientist, **Jane Lubchenco**, *Colorado College*, has been nicknamed the “bionic woman of good science” for her extensive research on biodiversity, rocky seashore ecology, and the human impact on the ocean.

Jane served as the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and became the first female administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In this role, she managed the cleanup of the 2010 Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and implemented a congressional mandate to end overfishing in U.S. waters. In 2014, she became the U.S. State Department’s first Science Envoy for the Ocean, serving as a science diplomat to China, Indonesia, South Africa, Mauritius, and the Seychelles.

Today, Jane is a distinguished professor and marine studies adviser to the president at Oregon State University. Her research has evolved from identifying the basic patterns of the oceans to studying how people can be better stewards of them. “Both social and ecological systems can change rapidly, and that gives me hope we can fix the problems,” she told *Hakai Magazine* in 2020. “It’s a constant dance between urgency and hope.”

—RACHEL B. LEVIN



< **2020** Virtual Initiations are held for the first time for chapters with spring 2020 Initiations.



< **2020** A Sesquicentennial celebration began with the virtual business meeting and continued through Founders Day 2020. Happy 150!

DREAM BOLDLY. LIVE FULLY. Celebrate Kappa.



Shop the Sesquicentennial Collection.

PRICES STARTING AT \$25.

HJGreek.com || 1.800.451.3304

Use promo code: **KKG150** for **FREE STANDARD SHIPPING**
(Valid through December 31, 2020)

A. Bracelet, #9618B | B. Two-tone Charm, #2466 | C. Antique Plain Badge, #0119 | D. Plain Rose Gold Badge, #0100
E. Rose Gold Badge with enamel letters, #0101 | F. Rose Gold Pearl Badge, #0102 | G. Rose Gold Pearl Badge with enamel letters, #0107 | H. Sapphire Badge, #0123 | I. Double Sapphire Badge, #0120 | J. Plain Badge with enamel letters, #0125
K. Sapphire and Aqua Badge, #0122 | L. Double Aqua Badge, #0121 | M. Plain Badge with enamel center, #0124
N. Coat-of-Arms Ring, #0020AQ | O. Signature Ring, #0325 | P. Holiday Ornament, #0150

EVERY KAPPA CHAPTER PLAYS A PART IN HISTORY



HISTORYIT CAN HELP YOU SAVE YOUR PLACE IN KAPPA HISTORY!

Kappa Kappa Gamma's Digital Archive is complete and available to be seen, remembered and be an inspiration to future generations. Now, it's your turn to make your Kappa Chapter a part of it all!

Visit www.historyit.com/chapters for more information.



kappa.historyit.com

SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES

AND MEMBER DEATHS TO:

Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity
6640 Riverside Drive, Suite 200
Dublin, Ohio 43017

PHONE: (866) 554-1870

EMAIL: KKGHQ@KAPPA.ORG

Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 2614

Columbus, OH

Together

we have the greatest impact

Join other Kappas in unlocking a \$150,000 gift to the Kappa Foundation.

Be a part of Kappa's Founders Day Giving Challenge and help inspire positive change, create a long-lasting impact, and fulfill the ever-evolving needs of Kappas and women around the world ... for the next 150 years!

Oct. 11–13, 2020 | kappa.org/givingchallenge

