

**The period covered by this report is Jan. 1–Nov. 30, 2021.**

1. The chapter should approve the completed report and submit it by Nov. 30.
2. Keep the original copy for the Marshal/chapter Ritual and History Director's files.
3. Email one copy of this report and a copy of your chapter's annual newsletter to Kylie Smith, Archivist/Museum Director, at [ksmith@kappa.org](mailto:ksmith@kappa.org).
4. Email one copy of this report to the Ritual Adviser/Internal Affairs Adviser.
5. Email one copy of this report to your Ritual and History Specialist.

### **Chapter Summary**

Summarize the previous calendar year, scholarships, group honors/awards, Convention awards, traditions, special events, philanthropic involvement, chapter goals.

January, 2021 welcomed another virtual semester. From virtual recruitment to remote chapter, we spent a lot of time on zoom. Sisterhood events were no different, with a zoom vision board event kicking off the semester in January. We had a great virtual event in March where we did yoga to the Euphoria soundtrack. Then, in April, we had Kappa Kappa Quiz trivia night, also online. The competition was fierce even though the prize for winning was just bragging rights. We also re-instituted pledge-class sister dating to connect older and younger women, and some of our members made a slack channel bot to randomize a list of members, so each week everyone would be paired up with a new buddy for a coffee chat.

The fall semester saw us coming back together on campus, at least in part, and it was especially important to us that we made the effort to strengthen the sisterhood and create new bonds after being online for over a year. Our very first event of the year was our annual weekend sisterhood retreat, this time at Camp Frank A Day. We stayed in cabins together, roasted marshmallows, did team building, practiced our songs, became archery pros, and prepped for formal recruitment and a great semester ahead. In October, we had a murder mystery sisterhood event, where we worked together to solve a mystery while in costume and character. November consisted of a self-defense class, a Kappa Friendsgiving for our sisters remaining on campus over Thanksgiving break, and a pottery painting event.

We welcomed our Omicron class of 48 new members on October 28th, and conducted a primarily in-person new member semester, with weekly new member meetings to learn about our Chapter and get to know each other. We hosted an in-person New Member Retreat at a sister's house, where new members formed deeper relationships and got to interact with older members of the Chapter. The Omicrons participated in sister dating for the entire month of October, interacting with Potential Bigs who could serve as a mentor and resource to them. Sister dating culminated in Big-Little week, where the Omicrons received gifts and clues, and then participated in virtual Big-Little Reveal on November 11th.

Inspiration week took place November 14th to the 21st and sisterhood events such as pottery painting, chapter, and the Fireside Ceremony. Our chapter hosted a successful in-person

initiation on November 19th and 20th and initiated 48 new members into our chapter. We had both alumni and new members' parents participate in roles in the Red Room ceremony as well as the white room ceremony. The new members will participate in their first formal chapter on November 30th which is also when officer transitions will be held.

This past year, we were able to support all of our philanthropies and host some engaging service events. During the spring semester, philanthropy in Eta Omicron looked a bit different due to COVID-19. Our signature event was a search-and-find game that chapter members had the ability to complete either in their homes or around the city of Boston. We were able to raise around \$4,000 for Reading is Fundamental. During the fall semester, we decided to pursue Kappa's new mental health initiative by monetarily supporting Active Minds. A member with a mental health podcast hosted a forum talking about her experience with mental health stigma and awareness. Our fall event was Kappa Kickoff, a flag football tournament. All of the proceeds benefited Christopher's Haven, and we were able to raise about \$4,100! We were also able to host many service events, such as a clothing drive for the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights, co-host a blood drive and sponsor a donation drive for BayCove Human Services, which is a women's shelter that recently opened in Jamaica Plain.

One of the truest and most wonderful things about Kappa is the way our sisters show up for one another in times of need- and this was true throughout the year. Whether they were dropping off food to the person in quarantine, helping each other find housing and co-ops from different states, being there and supporting when someone needed a listening ear, or even just sending a text to a sister to check in, the women of Eta Omicron once again showed the strength of our sisterhood through the warmth, genuine kindness, and love our members have for their sisters.

### **Chapter Philanthropy**

What local organization does the chapter support and why?

Eta Omicron supports Christopher's Haven, a home away from home for children battling cancer in the Boston area. Boston is a medical hub, so people travel from all over the country to be treated in hospitals here. Boston is also an extremely expensive city to live in, so Christopher's Haven aims to take some stress off of families who travel to Boston for pediatric cancer treatment by providing them with a free and comfortable place to stay.

This year, we fundraised for Christopher's Haven through our signature event, Kappa Kickoff. Kappa Kickoff was a fun flag football tournament in which the whole Northeastern community got involved! We were able to raise \$4,100 for Christopher's Haven! Under non-COVID circumstances, we would visit the Haven on a biweekly basis and play with the kids as well as assist the parents in whatever they may need. Being able to support Christopher's Haven through both fundraising and participating in hands-on service regularly has made this non-profit a great match for us to work with as our local philanthropy, so we hope to return to the Haven in-person in the upcoming year!

How did the chapter support Kappa's philanthropy?

This year, we supported Kappa's philanthropy through numerous fundraisers at local restaurants and at a local nail salon, and a percentage of the proceeds from our Spring signature event went towards the Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

How did your chapter include diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in your programming this year? (e.g., adding a DEI officer, philanthropy events, social media awareness campaign, chapter training, etc.).

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair provided members with an anonymous feedback form to provide suggestions, comments and concerns regarding diversity and inclusion efforts within the chapter. With the responses provided from this form, the DEI Chair and committee could foster conversations and implement changes regarding areas of improvement within the chapter. In preparation for formal recruitment, the DEI Chair administered an implicit bias training to educate the chapter on the characteristics of implicit bias and microaggressions, as well as how to cultivate an inclusive recruitment experience. The Eta Omicron Chapter formally installed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair as a Chapter Council position. The appointed chair will now hold the year-long position in order to implement educational programming to promote inclusiveness and open conversations, as well as serve as a reliable, safe source for all members.

### **Operating in a Pandemic**

How did your chapter operations **change due to COVID-19** (e.g., how did it affect recruitment, initiation, etc. Were events/activities held virtually?). Share what you have done this year.

COVID-19 definitely required a lot of adjustment and change on our parts in regard to traditional, social, and panhellenic events. For spring 2021, all of our events were entirely virtual—initiation, recruitment, big/little reveal, etc. Our Standards and Events team worked especially hard to still host virtual events that were both safe and engaging for the entire chapter to enjoy. We also held virtual competitions and wellness conversations to allow newer members to bond with and keep in contact with other members in the chapter.

As for the fall 2021 semester, we had to completely readjust back to in person, while also keeping COVID conscious. For all indoor events, we required that women always wore masks. As for outdoor events, they had the choice to keep it on or take it off (we always made sure to follow the Massachusetts guidelines). For events such as semi-formal and megasocials, we required that women must show proof of a negative COVID test from within at least three days prior to the event. If people chose to bring dates, they were also required to show proof of a negative test, regardless if they went to Northeastern or not.

**Photographs**

Are there any interesting photos from this year to share? e.g., screenshots of virtual meetings, pictures of chapter events that followed all public health guidelines (mask wearing, physical distancing, etc), pictures of masks, drive-thru bid days, etc.



Date read to the chapter and approved by a chapter vote: November 21, 2021

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Signature