



Kappa Kappa Gamma

Tradition of Leadership

Historically Speaking.....

Kay Smith Larson, History Chairman 2002-2008

August 2008

What are your memories of the 2008 General Convention? To follow up on the June 2008 issue of *Historically Speaking* that shared memories from Conventions past, here are impressions from the 2008 Convention.

“It was wonderful to attend Convention for the first time. The opportunity to witness how the Fraternity functions on the international level was a true learning experience. It is easy, from an undergraduate perspective, to become so consumed in what is going on in your own chapter that you often pay little attention to how the Fraternity as a whole operates. I looked forward to the dinners each night. These were great fun because I always managed to find a friend to sit with and always left having made new friends. My favorite dinner was probably the Candlelight Banquet the last night. It was fun to have an opportunity to dress up and there was such a great feeling of unity. Witnessing so many women participate in the closing ritual was truly something special. There is also an indescribable energy in the air during the week of Convention. So much business is conducted, so many exciting plans are made and so many people are there to meet. It is truly an inspiring event to attend and makes you ever the more proud to be a Kappa.” Kimberly Taft, *North Carolina*

“Going to Convention for the first time was an amazing experience. I had heard that attending Convention helped strengthen pride in Kappa, but until I experienced it myself I had no idea to what extent. One of my favorite memories was being able to represent my chapter in the flag ceremony the first night. I felt very proud to carry my chapter’s flag across the stage and seeing the rest of the chapters represented allowed me to fully grasp just how big our organization is and how meaningful it is to so many women. Although I have a lot of pride in Kappa as an organization, I am also very proud of my chapter. During the Presidents Dinner, it was an honor to be able to introduce the former Fraternity President from our chapter to the Convention. What a great feeling to know that she, just like I, lived in the Beta Pi house and experienced some very similar things during her time as an active member. Her story about her ‘career’ as a Kappa truly inspired me and made me really believe that anything is possible. It was a great pleasure to spend time with her at Convention, and I can't wait to share these memories with the rest of my Beta Pi sisters.” Cami Jared, *Washington*

“My first Convention was unlike anything I could've imagined. I was so excited that I got to go with three other girls from my school. Not only did I become closer to them, I met so many other Kappa women who had great ideas and wonderful personalities. There were so many things I won't forget from Convention, such as the Candlelight Banquet and the gorgeous Memorial Service. Being with a thousand other Kappas was overwhelming, but so special. I can't wait to go back in two years!” Sarah Black, *Butler*

“I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to attend Convention for the first time in June. The actives and alumnae I met were such an inspiration. Several alumnae from my chapter received their 50-year pin at Convention. Attending the ceremony was very special to me. I could see that, after all of these years, these women continue to exhibit true bonds of sisterhood. They made me very proud to be a Kappa. I think that Convention is an event every Kappa should experience at least once. It is a wonderful way to learn more about Kappa and bond with sisters.” Faith Holland, *Syracuse*

“Ever since I was a little girl, I have been surrounded by keys, fleur-de-lis, the letters KKG, Athena and, of course, the wise old owl. I also remember my Mom going to and from Kappa Convention. She was always so excited to reunite with all of her Kappa sisters in order to learn more about Kappa Kappa Gamma and how to improve upon this wonderful organization. After every Convention she would return home a better Kappa and with lots of KKG memorabilia for me. She started preparing me for Recruitment at a very early age. For the first time this year, I was able to experience Kappa Convention for myself, and I can honestly say that it was one of the most inspiring five days of my life. I knew Kappa was big, but I had no idea how big it actually is! I loved every single day and tried to soak up as much Kappa knowledge as I could to take back to my sisters in the Gamma Phi Chapter at SMU. Some highlights of my time at Convention include carrying the Panhellenic flag in the opening and closing ceremonies, watching our chapter

President accept the Panhellenic Award on behalf of our chapter, learning about Kappa's history in the Heritage Museum, becoming an undergraduate member of Keepers of the Key (I'm on the look out, girls!), performing Kappa rituals with more than 1,000 sisters, shopping in the Blue Owl Boutique and, of course, most importantly being able to finally experience this with my mom! I am so proud to be a loyal member of Kappa Kappa Gamma! Words cannot express my love and gratitude for those fine women who came before me to make this organization so successful. I plan to give back to Kappa Kappa Gamma as much as it is given to my mom and me. I can't wait to go back to Phoenix in 2010!" Lizzie Weeks, SMU

"From the Province Dinner and Parade of Flags to the Candlelight Banquet, it was a grand once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. The opportunity to be with a close Kappa personal friend the first evening was a gift for both of us. She was unable to attend the full Convention. The brief time we enjoyed was highlighted by laughter at the one-baked-potato salad bar dinner. I walked to the first dinner with a Kappa who introduced herself and said, 'I'll be speaking to you for 45 minutes tonight.' This foreshadowed many happy and unexpected meetings with most of the outstanding and inspirational Convention speakers and participants. The week was filled with meetings filled with information, friendship and generous activities. The events were enhanced by beautiful centerpieces and many clever souvenirs. The entire environment encouraged us to reach out to one another to exchange ideas, share memories and become acquainted with other Kappas. In my case, I enjoyed being with dear Kappa friends I had known at different times and places earlier in my life: Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois and New Jersey. It was great fun to reflect with them on mutual friends, locations and events. These connections happened to me several times and enriched the Convention for me. Over and over, I heard that Kappa was founded in Monmouth, Illinois, and remembered that Monmouth was my father's college; it was where I visited my grandparents as a young girl. One of my favorite activities was to honor several Kappa friends who were unable to attend the Convention by giving a donation to the Foundation in their names. Their return letters of appreciation were filled with news and updates of their lives. The enthusiasm, knowledge and smiles I experienced at Convention will be with me and sustain me with insight during my future involvement with all Kappas. Being with strong and inspiring women in an organization so generous with opportunities to grow in leadership and increase my social network is a lifelong achievement." Jan Johnson Dawson, *Desert Alumnae Association*

"Convention is a time to recharge my Kappa batteries. This was the third Convention I've attended. Each biennium, I look forward to the opportunity to spend time solely on Kappa and the reminder of our shared values as Kappa women. But most of all, I love reconnecting with other women who I have met along my Kappa journey, and wonder who I'm going to meet next that I will add to my Kappa connections. Convention is a reunion of sorts where I can reconnect with women who have influenced me: women who are now Fraternity officers whom I met while advising Epsilon Iota; girls who I bonded with at Leadership Academy this past fall, trying to complete the spider web challenge in pouring rain; other women from my now-closed chapter that have taken on leadership roles within our organization, be it at the local, province or regional level. Looking around at women of all generations, of all shapes and sizes, who travel from near and far to focus on our Fraternity, it amazes me at what motivated, driven and talented women can accomplish every two years. Convention reminds me that Kappa is always growing and ever-changing. As our roots stay strong and ground our values, leaders within our organization continue to cycle through and add to our greatness, demonstrating a link between generations with an eye toward the future. Convention proves that Kappa Kappa Gamma is a living, dynamic organization for today's woman." Carrie Wigton, *Seattle Alumnae Association*

Plan to attend the 68th General Convention

June 23-27, 2010,

at the historic

Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix

Enjoy an experience of a lifetime and create your own memories!