

THE HOOT

JUNE 27-29, 2024 | VOLUME L



AN INVITATION TO DREAM

Welcome to Phoenix, the vibrant heart of the desert. Kappas arrived for our 75th Biennial Convention at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa ready to stroll together under vast, sunny skies by day and gather under glittering stars each night. It was the perfect setting for reconnecting with sisters, creating new friendships, and expanding the horizons of our dreams.

We're in our Convention era and there's no denying that our Diamond Jubilee Convention was a dream come true. A weekend spent with sisters from near and far, where dreams are bold and everything is blue and blue. And it all began with the time-honored tradition of Parade of Flags, cheers from the crowd, and a moment to honor our former Fraternity Presidents.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Kristin Sangid, *Georgia Southern*

Madison Sykes Stone, *Loyola*

Cailin Heidelberg, *Central Florida*

Beth Uphoff Black, *Illinois Wesleyan*

Photography by Lisa Link, *Vanderbilt*, of KPL Photography

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

Planning and executing Convention takes a village. Convention Chair **Collett Rangitsch**, *Wyoming*; Convention Vice Chair **Cori Woods**, *Richmond*; and the Valley of the Sun Alumnae Association partnered with Kappa staff and volunteers to bring every Kappa's Convention dreams to life this year.



HOOT AND STYLE

Dreamy details found in The Kappa Shop, Blue Owl Boutique, and Marketplace



IN LOVING MEMORY

Kappas gathered on Friday morning at the Memorial Service to honor sisters who died during the biennium. This touching tribute has been held at every Convention since the early 1900s.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Kappas traveled through time to experience previous Conventions while making history at our Diamond Jubilee Convention. Imagine a pop-up Stewart House Museum, treasured Kappa artifacts, and so much more!



PURSUING BOLD DREAMS

AN EXCERPT FROM THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE OF MARY PAT ROONEY, *DRAKE*

For nearly 154 years, our beloved Fraternity has offered members the opportunity to learn, grow, and lead while providing support and grace when things go sideways. Life is not perfect, and the sisterhood and love found in Kappa Kappa Gamma sustain us through those times.

The moments, the relationships, and the lessons learned in Kappa truly illustrated the value of our sisterhood. Kappa is always here, in ways big and small. It is constant and loyal, kind and generous, bold and forward-thinking. Kappa is varied, diverse, and complex. It is not just an organization, not just a set of bylaws or a collection of history books, but a living, breathing being created and nurtured by each of us. It is ours to shape, mold, and sustain. We each endeavor to do our little perfectly in support of our mission, bringing our own experiences and talents to the table. That is the power of our sisterhood — it is a fabric of the past, present, and future woven together — extending across generations of women.

During the spring of 2022, I wrote down this reminder: “We are at an inflection point. We must choose to move forward boldly — together.” Over the past biennium, Fraternity Council has done just that. We reviewed our strategic plan, remaining committed to member experience, sustainable growth, and building our infrastructure. We believe they are paramount to the continued vitality of Kappa.

To move Kappa forward, we worked through an extensive prioritization process with Kappa’s

many boards, staff and volunteers, using multiple data sources including our collegiate member survey. The results led to our strategic priorities — Blueprint 2.0 — focused on collegiate member retention; alumna engagement; workforce management; diversity, equity, inclusion; and operations. We are investing in the future of Kappa, ensuring meaningful experiences for current members and preserving Greek life on campuses across North America.

We have chosen to move forward boldly and together. We continue to lead with our values, even when it is challenging. They bring us back to what is most important — each other and the sisterhood we share.

As Brene Brown said, “Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.” The last two years have required us to reflect on our core values. We have faced internal and external challenges, harsh words, and harassment. Fraternity Council consistently took action to ensure the safety of our members, staff, and the viability of our organization. In the face of these excruciating circumstances, we never gave up on Kappa.

If you leave this 75th Biennial Convention with just one message on your heart and in your mind, please let it be this: Never give up on the good, the true, the beautiful. Never give up on Kappa Kappa Gamma. And, under no circumstances, ever give up on yourself.



MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

**AMONG SISTERS FOR A LIFETIME,
KAPPA'S STORY UNFOLDS BENEATH
SKIES AND SEAS OF BLUE. THERE TO
SUPPORT US AT EVERY STEP OF THE
WAY IS THE KAPPA FOUNDATION.**

RELAX, REFRESH, REVIVE

The Relax and Recharge Lounge, sponsored by the Kappa Foundation, offered members a space to embrace tranquility and, most importantly, take a moment for themselves. The spa vibes proved very popular.

IT'S A WRAP

Kappas were spotted visiting the Tribute Table all weekend long – honoring a sister and helping the Foundation unlock their matching gift opportunity. **Teresa Shaw, South Carolina**, pledged to match all gifts made at Convention, up to \$75,000. Kappas showed up for the challenge! Thanks to Teresa's generous gift and the donations made at the Tribute Table, the Kappa Foundation raised \$82,650. Your commitment today paves the way for the Kappas of tomorrow, and we are so very grateful to create a bolder and brighter future for our sisterhood. Thank you!



CONVENTION KEYNOTE: **WRAPPED**

ADVERSITY AND RESILIENCE SPEAKER

Many of us can't wait to see what our Spotify Wrapped has in store at the end of each year. We can't wait to find out who our top artist was, which song we had on repeat, and how many hours of Taylor Swift we listened to. What if we received a wrap-up of our thoughts for the year? Keynote speaker Jasmine Williams asked attendees what that wrapped version might look like. Would it lean toward more positive or negative thoughts?

Williams knows what it's like to have negative thoughts playing on repeat. During her first semester of college, she received news that changed her life: Her older brother died of an asthma attack. As Williams navigated her grief, she found a lasting sisterhood with her roommates. When Williams returned to campus, she was fortunate to find free counseling support provided by her university. Williams' therapist helped her switch perspectives and taught her how to associate positive thoughts and feelings when it came to her brother's memory. This technique was pivotal in pulling her out of her grief.

Together, we were reminded that the 6,000+ thoughts we have each day have a deep impact on our mental health. It can be positive or negative. It's up to us. We have the power to change our mindset and hit pause on the negative playlist we may have on repeat. Ask yourself: What do you want to see on your 2024 Thoughts Wrapped?



A FORCE FOR GOOD

LOYALTY AWARD

BY BETH UPHOFF BLACK, *ILLINOIS WESLEYAN*

Let's say we tasked artificial intelligence with constructing a perfect Loyalty Award recipient. We'd ask for them to be kind, tenacious, generous, willing, and above all, loyal. The 2024 recipient of Kappa's highest honor, **Collett Beers Rangitsch**, *Wyoming*, embodies all of those qualities plus many more.

Collett was initiated at Gamma Omicron Chapter, *Wyoming*, in 1983, where she served as Assistant Social Chair and Marshal — two roles that would uniquely position her for a future appointment as General Convention Chair. Twenty-eight years later, her daughter, **Sara Rangitsch Vosler**, was initiated at Epsilon Delta Chapter, *Arizona State*, and subsequently affiliated with Gamma Omicron Chapter at Wyoming.

Since serving as the Cheyenne Alumnae Association Reference Chairman in 1995, Collett has continuously volunteered countless hours for the Fraternity. She has been a Province Director of Chapters, Fraternity Council Assistant, Regional Director of Chapters, Director of Chapters, Director of Standards, and member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation Board of Trustees. Collett is currently serving her fourth term as General Convention Chair. In addition, Collett has held multiple officer positions in her local alumnae association and is a highly respected leader within the National Panhellenic Conference, where she brings vast knowledge and experience to the Release Figure Methodology team and to the campuses at which she serves as an Area Adviser. She approaches every situation with a keen sense of fairness and empathy, and those with the privilege of working with her appreciate her candor and kindness.

Collett's volunteer service also extends to her community where she is a member of the W-HEEL organization for Cheyenne Frontier Days, serving on the parades committee and assisting with the Governor's Art Show. She is a member of PEO International women's organization, provides meals for Lasagna Love, and is a beloved substitute teacher in the Cheyenne school district. In her "spare" time, Collett is an avid reader who is always willing to talk about books and trade literary recommendations.

Family is of the utmost importance to Collett. In addition to their daughter, Sara, she and her husband, Mark, have two sons: Paul and Kurt. Perhaps her greatest passion though is her role as "Coco" to her three grandchildren — Trigger (12), Rogen (10), and Camilla (1) — who will soon be joined by another grandson within the next month.

Among her Kappa friends, Collett is known for her compassion, sense of humor and efficiency. When faced with a daunting project or one of life's challenges, she is always the first person to raise her hand to help with her legendary organizational skills and ability to rally everyone around a common cause.

A humble leader who prefers to work behind the scenes, Collett has approached each of her Kappa roles with grace and dignity. She joins all the previous Loyalty Award recipients as a living embodiment of our Fraternity's ideals and values.



BYLAWS AND *STANDING RULES*

The business of Convention included voting on proposed amendments to the Fraternity *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules*, presented by Bylaws Chairman **Carmen Crocker Mincy**, Vermont. The *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* amendments were sent to the membership on March 20 and included 29 total proposed amendments.

Many of the proposed amendments included adjustments for clarity, including the removal of the expired provisos and modifications to wording for consistency. Substantive changes include:

- Moving the deadline to submit amendments to the Fraternity documents from mid-December to Nov. 1 prior to a Convention.
- Moving the “Amendment of *Standing Rules*” from the Fraternity *Standing Rules* to the Fraternity *Bylaws*.
- Enabling the Bylaws Committee to correct typographical and technical errors in the Fraternity documents to ensure accuracy and readability of the published documents.
- Refining the process for the request for resignation or removal of certain volunteer positions.
- Instituting a stepwise process for withdrawal of an alumnae association charter.
- Refining and clarifying the Fraternity standards process.
- Revising wording for the annual per capita fee evaluation for clarity.
- Refining the Leadership Selection and Leadership Selection Committee process.
- Adapting the Fraternity election process to better meet the needs of elections being conducted prior to a Convention.
- Requiring that chapters receive permission prior to using the “all-in-one” initiation ceremony.

These newly amended documents took effect at the end of Convention. They will be available on the Kappa website in the coming weeks.

2024 RESOLUTIONS

- To develop a system for celebrating individual, chapter, and alumnae association achievements, including regular and ongoing opportunities for recognition that are shared across multiple platforms.
- The Leadership Selection Committee defines campaigning and develops expectations for how members should conduct themselves during the election process.
- To evaluate the technology needs of our chapters and alumnae associations and look for a tool or set of tools that better serve them.
- The facilities team investigates methods to increase financial literacy, volunteer education, and financial solvency in House Boards.



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HONORING THEIR IMPACT

KAPPA'S 2024 ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONORS FOUR CHANGEMAKERS WHO INSPIRE WOMEN TO DREAM BIG

The first Alumnae Achievement Awards were presented at Convention in 1946. This year, we honored four trailblazers whose stories inspire others. They're changing the landscape of the military, the American education system, the television industry, and the world of competitive hot air ballooning. During the Alumnae Achievement Award panel, Kappas heard their stories of sisterhood as well as how they stay motivated and inspired in their fields.



JODY DANIELS

CARNEGIE MELLON

*Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General,
U.S. Army Reserve Command*

Jody encourages her soldiers to tell their stories, pursue their dreams, and "be all you can be." She's passionate about making an impact in her job and using her role wisely.



HOLLY PFEIFER

SIMPSON

Champion hot air balloon pilot

Holly was inspired by a strong and competitive female pilot and hopes to inspire others to join the field as well. Together, they will celebrate one another's wins.



MARGIE MORENO

UCLA

Senior Vice President Current Programming at Warner Brothers

Throughout her career, Margie has been intentional about embracing discomfort so she can continue learning and growing. "When you're uncomfortable, inspiration and opportunities arise," she says.



ELISA VILLANUEVA BEARD

DEPAUW

CEO at Teach For America

Kappa's tagline — Dream Boldly. Live Fully. — resonates with Elisa and the work she's championing at Teach For America. "We need more people who have the courage to swim upstream," she says.



SATURDAYS ARE FOR SISTERHOOD

THERE'S MAGIC WITHIN KAPPA

Convention attendees got a special taste of that magic during the Sisterhood Saturday activities. Kappas experienced our beautiful ritual at the Model Initiation Ceremony and found moments for self-care by planting succulents, creating their own essential oil blend, or putting totes together to promote mental health and well-being in the community.

Members supported Kappa's philanthropic mission to pursue lives fully lived as they compiled mental health and well-being kits for Ryan House, founded by **Holly Cotter, Arizona**. When Holly's son, Ryan, was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, the family was fortunate to find palliative care in England, where they lived at the time. When they returned to the United States, they secured community partnerships and funding to create Ryan House, where children and their families can receive 24/7 care as they navigate life-limiting conditions or end-of-life care journeys. Local Valley of the Sun alumnae association members delivered the kits to the community organizations after Convention.



TO ME, FROM ME



"The Key to Calm" is perfect for philanthropy round during Recruitment, new member gifts, or alumnae association activities. Order sets of 10 for \$50 plus shipping at bit.ly/keytocalm.



"How Kappas Say I Love You" shirts can be purchased at thekappacollection.com.

2024-26

FRATERNITY OFFICERS

On Saturday, June 29, the new Fraternity Council officers and District Directors were installed. Our new leaders were elected by voting delegates during the 2024 Fraternity officer and District Director election, which took place in April. These dedicated Kappas bring years of experience and knowledge to their new roles. Together, they'll strengthen the future of Kappa and, as always, inspire us to dream boldly and live fully.

PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Bailey, *Mississippi*

VICE PRESIDENTS

Nancy Dennis Campbell, *Florida State*

Jessica Coffield, *UC Riverside*

TREASURER

Kyle Donnelly, *UC Riverside*

Sandra "Sam" Laich Fetcho, *Illinois Wesleyan*

Barb Adams Goettelman, *Syracuse*



DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Fiona McCracken Allen, *Texas A&M*

Emily Fetcho Barclay, *Butler*

Chelsea Bellew, *Denison*

Amy Moore Collins, *Mississippi*

Mary Campbell Ford, *West Virginia*

Mary Ferguson Hendrick, *Oklahoma*

Kailey Hulick, *Iowa State*

Casie Lindsly, *Emory*

Emily Logue, *Central Florida*

Susie Orr, *West Virginia*

Alyssa Bernauer Parietti, *Santa Clara*

Holly Sullivan Proffitt, *Westminster*

Amy Hernandez Riesinger, *Georgia Southern*

Elizabeth "Liz" Wong, *Waterloo*



BOLD BY NUMBER

140
CHAPTER FLAGS

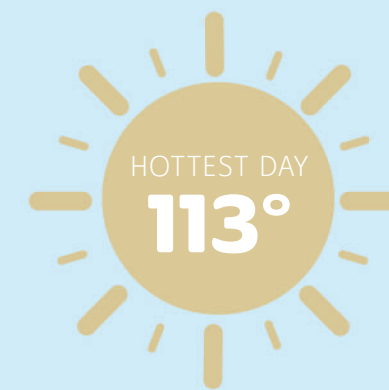


500 MENTAL HEALTH
TOTES CREATED



190 MILES WALKED BY THE
STAGING COMMITTEE

75 KAPPA
CONVENTIONS



30 CONVENTIONS ATTENDED BY
JEAN SCHIMDT, MIAMI, (OH)

47
LOCAL KAPPAS
IN ATTENDANCE

GO FORTH AND DREAM **BOLDLY**

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

There was no better way to wrap up a beautiful weekend in Kappaland than with the beloved Candlelight Dinner. "History has shown time and time again that dreams do come true, so why not dream with daring, with an adventurous spirit, in vivid, bold color, with a gutsy attitude? Dream that united, we can make a difference! Dream, the future is bold," said Convention Toastmistress **Carol George Sanders**, *Cal State Northridge*.

After a dinner of filet and seafood risotto, we honored and thanked the Fraternity Council members who completed their term of service this weekend – **Maria Brown**, *Valparaiso*; **Elizabeth "Liz" Wong**, *Waterloo*; and **Mary Pat Rooney**, *Drake*, who passed the Fraternity jewelry to **Elizabeth Bailey**, *Mississippi*.

As we prepare to embark on a new biennium under our new Fraternity Council's leadership, we know that as long as we nurture our well-being and share in the loyalty and friendship of our sisterhood, we'll always be able to expand the horizons of our dreams.

Until next time, Kappas.



the magic of kappa

Convention 2026 is headed to the happiest and most magical place on earth. We'll see you at Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, An Official Walt Disney World® Hotel, in Orlando, Florida, for Kappa's 76th Biennial Convention.

Save the date: June 25–27





DREAM

THE FUTURE IS BOLD

KAPPA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CONVENTION

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