



KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS

Leadership • Scholarship • Faith • Service

www.kappagammapi.org

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Conventions Offer an Opportunity for Growth

By Kelly Haden

(University of Holy Cross, LA, '98), Metairie, LA
National President 2013-2017

As the final year of my term as Past President begins, I decided to take some time to reflect on how Kappa Gamma Pi has helped me grow. As a national leader, I want to leave you with some thoughts that will encourage you to identify what you might want your Kappa experience to look like. The best way to do this is to tell you a story – my story.

Join us for
KGP's 44th National Convention!

June 21-23, 2019
University of Portland
Portland, Oregon

Twenty years ago, I graduated with a degree in accounting. About a month before graduation, I received an invitation from the Holy Cross faculty to be inducted to Kappa Gamma Pi. I was a little shocked at first. I was a good student, but not as good as some of the people

who were graduating with me. I was a leader in our college chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity, but other than that I really didn't do much in the way of extracurricular activities due to working full-time while going to school. Just to be sure it wasn't a mistake, I checked with Dean **James Rabalais** (University of Holy Cross '94) and he assured me it was real. What I didn't realize at that time was that graduating students were nominated to membership in Kappa Gamma Pi because they represented the values of scholarship, leadership, faith and service. Students were nominated for who they are, what they do, and how well they do it.

I accepted the nomination, attended the induction and proudly wore my honor cords at graduation. But it didn't stop there. After graduation, I joined the college alumni association and served on the alumni board. Through my volunteer activities, I met other Kappas and agreed to serve on the board of the local chapter. I helped plan the next induction and a few activities. I was often

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**Best wishes for a blessed Christmas!
– from the KGP National Board, Regents
and National Office Staff!**

May your holidays be joyful and may 2019
bring you health, peace and happiness.

Introducing KGP's New Recording Secretary:

Elizabeth Valentin

**(Albertus Magnus College, CT, '15)
Manchester, CT**

Hello, everyone,

I am so excited to join the National Board as the new KGP Recording Secretary! I am committed to serving on the National Board and look forward to meeting and building meaningful relationships with as many Kappas as possible.

I was born and raised in Connecticut and I currently live in Manchester with my wonderful husband Nelson and my two amazing sons, Caesar and Julian. Some of my favorite things to do are enjoying the beauty around us and capturing those moments with pictures. I also love exploring and going to the beach, especially in the warm summer months.



Elizabeth Valentin

I always strive to be the best person I can be and to always try to do the right thing. I am passionate about helping others and empowering others to find their voice and live in the moment. I have been a youth educator at Saint Bridget Church in the past as well as a mentor at Our Lady of Fatima to encourage young teenage parents to stay in school and continue their educations. My passion truly is continuing to grow as a person, both personally and professionally, and reflecting on life as well as fostering relationships.

See Elizabeth Valentin Page 7

Things You May Not Know about Kappa Gamma Pi

By **Rena Oswald**
(Our Lady of the Lake University, TX, '04)
Houston, TX, Plains Regent

In the early 2000s, I was fortunate to have a boss and mentor who encouraged me to pursue a graduate degree. He also arranged for the tuition to be paid by our employer. I attended a weekend program at the Houston campus of Our Lady of the Lake University, which is based in San Antonio. I have always believed education is essential. This opportunity changed my life for the better in several ways. One of the ways was that I was nominated to Kappa Gamma Pi.

When I completed my master's degree in May of 2004, I was interested in any visual element that would distinguish me from the sea of black robes at graduation. I joined a sociology honor society called Alpha Kappa Delta and was nominated for induction into Kappa Gamma Pi. This gave me two sets of honor cords to wear over my regalia!

At the time, however, I had no idea I was one of a select group of graduates exhibiting academic excellence and leadership. Nationwide, there were 1,111 nominees to Kappa Gamma Pi the year I completed by degree. My experience in Kappa has presented opportunities to lead a group to consensus, present information to my peers, make new friends, and expand my knowledge and understanding. The KGP mission statement includes the following: "to awaken a spirit of Christian leadership." Being a Kappa and a member of the National Board has awakened my spirit of Christian leadership. I feel blessed.

Today, there are nearly 59,000 Kappas in the U.S. and internationally. Once you are inducted into KGP, you remain a Kappa for life. This is true even if you forget to pay your dues. Kappa Gamma Pi awards scholarships for graduate study or professional education each year. There are so many opportunities to be involved. Someone told me very early in my career that just being a member of an organization is not enough. They said you have to get involved.

My path to becoming the Plains Regent began as a Cornaro Scholarship judge. When Teresa Bosh who was II Vice President called to ask if I would be interested in judging the scholarship entries, she told me it was a two-year commitment. I said "yes." Reading all those entries was absolutely inspirational. At the same time, it made me feel like I needed to do more with my life. We had a couple of conference calls with the other judges. Everyone was great about providing tips and advice.



KGP Gathering in Houston. At a Kappa Meet and Greet on August 30 at The Dogwood in Houston were KGP Executive Director Jamie Asher, Plains Regent Rena Oswald and Rena's daughter, Regan.

After my two-year commitment as a scholarship judge, the Plains Regent position became available when the Kappa serving in that role was appointed III Vice President by the National Board. Currently, I am organizing a get-together of Kappas in the greater Houston area. Your dues, which are only \$50 per year, contribute to Kappa's annual budget and defray some of the cost for us to meet face-to-face.

Every two years KGP has a national convention. It is a big deal! The 44th KGP National Convention will take place next June in Portland, Oregon. I will be there, along with the other Regents and National Board members. We will meet to discuss financial business, constitution revisions and other business of the organization. I invite you to join us! §



We want to hear about your career, your achievements, your volunteer service projects—pretty much whatever you would like to share to build connections with other Kappas. You can submit articles and photos for the *NEWS* by emailing NEWSeditor@kappagammapi.org and announcements and notes for posting on Kappa's Facebook page by emailing kgp@kappagammapi.org.

Announcing the 2019 Cornaro Scholarship Opportunity

By **Betsy Shortle** (Ursuline College, OH, '88)
 II Vice President
 Cornaro Scholarship Committee Chair



Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia

Kappa Gamma Pi is very pleased to sponsor the 2019 Cornaro Scholarship. The Cornaro Scholarship is named for Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, the first woman in the world to receive a university degree of any kind. Elena Cornaro was a member of a noble Venetian family and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1678 from the University of Padua, Italy.

This scholarship is available only to Kappas to advance their academic and professional careers via a graduate degree or professional program.

To be eligible for the scholarship, one must be a member of Kappa Gamma Pi, be a current dues payer, and have already been accepted into an accredited graduate or professional program.

The scholarship is competitive and based on criteria that demonstrate the applicant's embodiment of the Kappa motto: *Faith and Service*. Recipients also exemplify the values of volunteer work, leadership, academic excellence and well-defined career aspirations. With the support of our Kappa members, this scholarship has been awarded every year since 1985!

For 2019, one scholarship of \$7,500 will be awarded. The application deadline is April 20, 2019. To access the 2019 Cornaro Scholarship for Graduate Studies Application and the Frequently Asked Questions, please visit our website at www.kappagammapi.org and click on *Awards*, then *Cornaro Scholarship*.

From the National President

A Very Merry Christmas to All!

Best Wishes for the Holidays and the New Year

The holidays are indeed the busy season! Thanksgiving comes and then it's full speed ahead to Christmas. With only 33 days in between the holidays, it's easy to get swept away in the chaos. I know my schedule is super full and I am sure many of you can relate.

During this busy time of year, I want to take pause to thank each of you for your continued commitment to Kappa Gamma Pi and our collective mission. Through social media, email and phone calls, I have been inspired by all of the talents our group possesses. The spirit of service and the level of excellence that so many Kappas demonstrate inspire me to persevere, even when the days get long and the road seems rough.

In the spirit of connection, I do hope that I will see many of you at the upcoming National Convention in Portland, Oregon, June 21-23, 2019. As a former Oregonian, I cannot wait to head back to the Pacific Northwest to share this time with the National Board and all of you!

Please continue to watch for updates about the convention in the *NEWS*, and know that I am planning for our time together to be productive and meaningful!

In Faith and Service,

Katie Pease

St. Catherine University,
 St. Paul, MN, '10

Kappa Gamma Pi National
 President

president@kappagammapi.org



KGP Service Opportunities

We are currently looking for:

- A Kappa to serve as **Regent for the Eastern region** to provide support for Kappas and chapters in East Coast states.
- A **liaison for each of our college and university affiliates**—just one phone call or campus visit per year is required.

To learn more, please contact the National Office at kgp@kappagammapi.org.

Portland Convention Planning



Thank You! to the Kappas Serving on Temporary Committees for the 2019 National Convention

Event logistics, program development, financial calculations, liturgy planning — the decisions and details that go into planning a convention are many and varied. We are very grateful for the time, talent and leadership of these members.

Convention Committee

Chair: Western Regent **Jani MacGregor-Medeiros** (Holy Names University, CA, '83)

Portland-area Kappas: We need you! The 2019 Convention will be a great event and we need assistance in many areas. There's a job that's just perfect for YOU! To volunteer, please contact Jani at western@kappagammapi.org.

National Awards Committee

Chair: I Vice President **Susan Smith Jaros** (Lourdes University, OH, '90) — Need two additional members, one from the Portland area and one from the Philadelphia area, site of the previous convention. fristop@kappagammapi.org

Budget Committee

Chair: Treasurer **Ed Hosmer** (Madonna University, MI, '02) — Together with National President **Katie Pease** (St. Catherine University, MN, '10) and Executive Director **Jamie Asher** (University of Holy Cross, LA, '05), the committee needs two additional members. treasurer@kappagammapi.org

Resolutions Committee

Chair: II Vice President **Betsy Shortle** (Ursuline College, OH, '88) — Need four additional members, one from each of the four regions. cornaro@kappagammapi.org

Nominating Committee

Chair: **Alene Finn Griffin** (Mount Saint Mary's University, CA, '66), KGP National President 2005-09 — Need four additional members, one from each of the four regions. The Nominating Committee will put together the slate of officers for 2019-2021.

Members interested in serving on the National Board are encouraged to submit their own names to the Nominating Committee for consideration, especially if they are members-at-large, living in non-chapter areas of the country.

Please contact the National Office at kgp@kappagammapi.org for more information. For the latest convention details, please visit www.kappagammapi.org and click on *About KGP*, then *Conventions*.

Thank you for your emails, letters and notes on dues envelopes!

Email us at service@kappagammapi.org to share your service activities, what your nomination to Kappa has meant to you, and your call to service.

Patricia Coyne (Mount St. Joseph University, OH, '83) of Erlanger, KY: "I am inspired by the articles in the NEWS. I am a volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages, a Fair Trade retailer, and a member of St. Vincent de Paul."

Catherine Bugner Noga (Ohio Dominican University, OH, '64) of Middleburg Heights, OH: "For 35 years I have coordinated the RCIA process for my parish. I also have co-facilitated a grief support group for eight years. We have more than 200 participants."

Virginia Curry (The College of White Plains, NY, '59) of Valhalla, NY: "I'm retired now but I was a public school teacher and a lawyer for the U.S. EPA. Now I coordinate the eucharistic ministers for our local nursing home."

Justin Desjardins (Salve Regina University, RI, '04) of Vancouver, WA: "Service helps me connect with others in the greater community for the greater good."

Mary Piskorik Babcock (Misericordia University, PA, '62) of Laurel Run, PA: "I serve the people in my neighborhood by visits to the sick and providing transportation as needed."

Sister Madonna Clare Adams (St. Catherine University, MN, '73) of Whittier, CA: "As a member of a cloistered order, my service has been in liturgy, and in later years teaching philosophy. I tutor ESL students and minister in a hospital chaplain's office."

Geraldine Biggs McGrath (Mount Saint Mary's University, CA, '51) of Granada Hills, CA: "I've met faith- and service-oriented individuals who care about the future for families and also love a good laugh!"

Julie Jirik Balamut (St. Catherine University, MN, '80) of Saint Paul, MN: "I have always been honored to be chosen for nomination to KGP all those years ago."

Virginia Curran Rederer, Ph.D. (College of Mount Saint Vincent, NY, '55) of Buchanan, NY: "The newsletter is a good reminder of the call to service. I'm always impressed by how much Kappas are doing. It is an inspiration to me."

Danny R. Zimmerman, Ph.D. (Gannon University, PA, '92) of Saint Davids, PA: "I feel privileged to be a member of KGP and have shared my experience with many others, particularly in business and academia. It has provided me the opportunity to help community service-oriented organizations and programs. Thank you for all your time and effort with the newsletter!"

KΓΠ Kudos

Editor's note: Congratulations to **Carmel M. Walter** (Madonna University, MI, '87) on the publication of her new book, *The Caterpillar and the Black Cherry Tree*.

By **Carmel M. Walter** (Madonna University, MI, '87)
Milford, NJ

I was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland. In 1987, I received my bachelor's degree from Madonna University. The time I spent at Madonna University was some of the happiest and most rewarding time of my life. I felt privileged to be a student at this excellent university. I attribute the success of having my children's literary nonfiction picture book, *The Caterpillar and the Black Cherry Tree*, published, in large part, to the exceptional education I received from the highly skilled, professional and caring faculty at Madonna University. Moreover, I felt both honored and privileged to be nominated to Kappa Gamma Pi.

The Caterpillar and the Black Cherry Tree represents my best effort to enhance what the reader age 5 and up may already know about the process of metamorphosis of the butterfly; and more especially, given the increasing catastrophic effects of climate change on the earth's ecosystem and our lives, it represents my hope to try to encourage an appreciation for the rich and interdependent relationship between plant life and caterpillar, and that splendid insect called the butterfly.

The current significant scientific consensus is climate change is real, and most global warming, in recent decades, is primarily a result of human activity. Conse-

quently, in an effort to avert climate disaster, Pope Francis has expressed the urgent need to rapidly transition to clean fuels. While our Holy Father's warning is ignored or denied by many naysayers, it certainly is being taken very seriously by dedicated educators and leaders such as the Felician Sisters of Madonna University. The Felician Sisters' commendable ongoing nationwide solar power project continues to exemplify what can be accomplished when we concentrate our efforts to tackle climate change.

**"A nation that destroys
its soils destroys
itself."**

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Kappa author Carmel M. Walter holding a copy of her book with her grandchildren Liam, Ashlyn and Declan at the Statue of Liberty.

The purpose of this nonfiction picture book is to share the biology of a butterfly's life cycle while encouraging an appreciation for the interdependent relationships in the ecosystem that hold life together.

For more information about Carmel's book, please visit www.covenantbooks.com.

New Orleans Kappas



In New Orleans: Kappas attended a University of Holy Cross alumni event in September. L-R: New Orleans Chapter members **Keith Taranto** (University of Holy Cross, LA, '06), **Shannon Daigle Taranto** '02 and KGP Executive Director **Jamie Asher** '05.



New Mississippi Regent!

National Board announcement: We are pleased to announce that **Henrietta Okoro, HHCJ** (College of Saint Mary, NE, '12), recently joined the National Board to serve as Mississippi Regent. A native of Nigeria, Sister Henrietta now lives in Pearland, Texas. Look for a profile of Sr. Henrietta in the next issue of the *NEWS*. And come meet her in person at the 2019 National Convention in Portland next June!

Do we have your preferred email address?

If you would like to update the address at which you receive emails from KGP, please send a quick email to **Judy Gelwicks**, KGP Membership Secretary, at membership@kappagammapi.org. Also, please be sure to add this email address as a contact in your Address Book to ensure that messages from Kappa reach your inbox.



Convention Growth Opportunities *from page 1*

discouraged when we would plan something and only a few people would show up, but I quickly realized that this is what happens after you graduate. I didn't let that discourage me from trying. I knew something good would result from my efforts.

I started receiving the *KGP NEWS* in the fall of 1998 after I graduated. Kappa has a convention in the odd-numbered years, so the first issues I received were filled with details about the National Convention that would be held the following June at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. I wanted to attend, but couldn't do it financially. But a thought occurred to me – maybe Kappa would like to have a convention in New Orleans. It is a fun place to visit and there is a lot to do here. I knew from my work on the Holy Cross alumni board that the college would work with us. So I brought the idea to the New Orleans Chapter president and KGP's campus contact. The initial concern was that no one from our chapter had ever attended a KGP convention. We agreed that I would ask the National Office what was involved before we made a final decision.

I contacted the National Office and spoke to Membership Secretary Pamela Wright Waitinas (Notre Dame College, OH, '61). She was thrilled to hear that we were interested in hosting a convention in New Orleans. After our call, I reported back to the chapter and we decided that we could do this. I had many conversations with Pam over the next two years. She guided me through every aspect of the convention, which included the planning for meals, housing, speakers, the Mass and the banquet.

In 2001, the New Orleans Chapter hosted its first KGP Convention. The first Kappa to arrive was Judy Gelwicks (Mount St. Joseph University, OH, '73). She was attending a trade show prior to the Kappa convention so she was in town a few days earlier than everyone else. We met for dinner one evening and she shared her Kappa story with me. I think this was when I first started to realize what it means to be a Kappa. The full realization became apparent when I met Pam Waitinas and members of the National Board. I had something in common with these wonderful, inspiring people – we were all Kappas, we were all recognized as leaders in scholarship, faith and service.

This experience put me on a new path – to become a leader, both inside and outside the organization. I stayed involved at the local level and eventually became president of the New Orleans Chapter. In 2005, I attended the National Convention and Board Meeting in Cleveland, and it was there that I began my first term

on the National Board. I honestly did not know what I was doing, but with the help of the other Board members I found my way.

I came home from that Convention with a new sense of purpose. I was excited and full of ideas on how to move the organization forward, both locally and nationally. There was so much to do, but having ideas is the starting point.

Then Hurricane Katrina happened. August 29, 2005, is a day the people of New Orleans will never forget. I was lucky – I did not lose my property, but most everyone who lived in New Orleans at that time was affected in some way. We were displaced and without power for weeks. Many areas did not have cell service, so communication was difficult. This was before social media and texting were options. Imagine not knowing if your friends and family members made it to safe ground.

It is during a time like this that you find out who your friends are. Before Kappa, my friends consisted of people from my childhood, high school and college days. Because of Kappa, my friends list increased exponentially by including friends from around the country. Once my cell service returned, I received phone calls DAILY from various members of the Board, people I met at the Convention and the National Office. They wanted to know what they could do to help.

My time on the National Board has been consistent since 2005, except for a short sabbatical in 2009. I have served as a Regent, III Vice President, I Vice President, President and now Past President. As I write this story, I am reminded of how much I have grown as a person and as a leader. I may not have always done the popular thing or made all the right decisions, but it is through the process that you learn lessons and become better and stronger for it.

Since my induction, I have found love, married that love, passed the CPA exam, obtained a master's degree in tax accounting, been recognized nationally for my leadership in the accounting industry, served on boards and committees for professional societies, and risen to a high level of management in my career. I serve as a coach and mentor, especially to young female accountants.



Kelly Haden



Convention Opportunities

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The friends that I have made through my involvement in Kappa have helped to shape who I am as a person and as a professional. I have found mentors, both personal and professional, in this organization. It is my hope that you allow your membership to work for you as it has worked for me. And to think that it all started with attending a convention. §

Elizabeth Valentin from page 1

I am a very spiritual and positive person and that is one of the reasons that I chose a Catholic college to pursue my education. I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT. It is a faith-based college and it fosters spirituality and relationships with God. As a Catholic woman, it was important to me to go to a college that had high ethical values and was extremely diverse. Albertus Magnus College promotes empowerment, diverse beliefs and world views, and that was the key reason that it was my college of choice. I have been a Kappa since 2015 and I feel very fortunate and blessed to be part of this organization. I am excited to have the opportunity to volunteer my time and meet great people within Kappa. I look forward to continuing this journey for many more years to come. §

Reminder: Have you paid your dues?

The KGP national dues billing envelope was enclosed in the August/September *NEWS*, and our website now offers the convenience of paying your dues online.

Thank you to those who have already renewed their financial support for Kappa—we appreciate your generosity!

We also **appreciate** all those who have made gifts to support the Cornaro Scholarship Fund!

Cornaro Scholarship Fund Contributions September - November 2018

In memoriam ...

Teresa Groth Hoffman, niece of *NEWS* Editor Anne Dunlap-Kahren (Holy Names University, CA, '88), Sacramento, CA

Dr. Fred Dominic Hunker, brother of Past President Mary Jo Hunker Rief (Duchesne College, NE, '64), Gaylord, MI

Your contribution in celebration of a special anniversary or jubilee or in memory of a deceased person is appreciated. Please send donations to the KGP National Office. A letter acknowledging your gift will be sent to the honoree or to the family of the deceased.

• KGP NATIONAL OFFICERS •

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II VICE PRESIDENT **Betsy Shortle** (Ursuline College, OH, '88), North Myrtle Beach, SC, cornaro@kappagammapi.org
III VICE PRESIDENT *Contact the National Office.*
RECORDING SECRETARY **Elizabeth Valentin** (Albertus Magnus College, CT, '15), Manchester, CT, recordingsec@kappagammapi.org
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