



# KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS

Leadership • Scholarship • Faith • Service

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## Introducing KGP's New Recording Secretary:

### Constance Olivia Harvey-Burwell

(St. Thomas University, FL, '17), Jackson, MS

We are excited to welcome **Constance Olivia Harvey-Burwell** to the KGP National Board as our new Recording Secretary. In addition to recording the proceedings and writing up minutes from convention business meetings and National Board meetings and teleconferences, Constance Olivia will also serve as a Cornaro Scholarship judge, which is part of the Recording Secretary's duties.

Constance Olivia Harvey-Burwell was inducted into KGP by St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Florida, where she received her Master of Science in Reading Education with a 3.9 GPA.



Constance Olivia Harvey-Burwell

A Mississippi native, Constance is a 20-year national education advocate, 20-year president and entrepreneur with The OLIVIA Group, LLC, 20-year education organizer with Slaughter Memorial Foundation, and Legacy Education and Community Empowerment Foundation, Inc., 15-year legal assistant, certified reading instructor, 4.0 Doctor of Education candidate, and homeschool mom. She volunteered to serve as Kappa's Recording Secretary to share her Christian faith and professional service with other committed scholars in KGP and values her nomination because of KGP's high standard of personal Christian excellence, service and scholarship.

As a W.K. Kellogg Fellow and Ford Foundation/New Voices Fellow, her admiration for education has taken her from working as the youngest permanent United States Congressional staffer on the Hill (JET, 2000); to state education organizer with Southern Echo, Inc.; to local education director with Legacy Education and Community Empowerment Foundation, Inc.; to graduate school; and to homeschool. She has worked with com-

*See Constance Olivia Harvey-Burwell Page 7*

## Announcing KGP's 44<sup>th</sup> National Convention

**University of Portland  
Portland, Oregon**

**Plan now to join us June 21-23, 2019!**

At the 2017 Convention in Philadelphia, a resolution passed that the next convention would be held in the Western Region. The University of Portland (UP) has been selected as the location for the 2019 Convention.

The University of Portland is a thriving community of more than 4,000 students from around the nation and the world, as well as over 1,000 faculty and staff. UP is located on a bluff in a residential neighborhood overlooking the Willamette River and the city of Portland.

Fr. Mark L. Poorman, CSC, began his tenure as University of Portland's 20<sup>th</sup> president in 2014. Since its inception in 1901, UP has been guided by the Congregation of Holy Cross, a Catholic order of priests and brothers. The founder of the order, Blessed Basil Moreau, CSC, said, "The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart." This commitment to educating the hands, heart

*See University of Portland Page 7*



**KGP National President Katie Pease** (St. Catherine University, MN, '10) and **Western Regent Jani MacGregor-Medeiros** (Holy Names University, CA, '83) visited the University of Portland in February to finalize its selection as the host campus for the 2019 National Convention.

## Affiliate Profile:

# St. Francis Xavier University

## Antigonish, Nova Scotia

*Editor's note:* Kappa has 143 affiliated colleges and universities scattered from coast to coast. Most of our affiliates are in the United States. Three are in Canada: Mount Saint Vincent University, Marianopolis College and St. Francis Xavier University.

by Cindy MacKenzie  
Manager of Media Relations  
St. Francis Xavier University

One of Canada's oldest and most prestigious universities, St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) is consistently ranked the best undergraduate university in Canada.

StFX offers undergraduates outstanding teaching, exceptional hands-on research experiences, the very best in a residential community, and unique leadership opportunities at home and abroad. StFX is also recognized around the world for its focus on leadership development and commitment to social justice and community development.

Our educational leadership model has developed prime ministers, premiers, Rhodes Scholars, scientists, religious and business leaders; all have received an exceptional education from StFX.

StFX promotes a commitment to academic excellence and personal development of its students. It's a place where students are encouraged to dream big, live and learn on a beautiful campus, and experience an outstanding support system. There is also an indescribable quality about living at StFX. Students develop an overwhelming sense of pride and belonging—some call it the X-factor.

Our close-knit residence environment is at the heart of the StFX experience. Students live and learn together in a thriving academic environment. They have a wide variety of fascinating programs to choose from in the fields of the arts, science and education and within the Gerald Schwartz School of Business and The Elizabeth and Thomas Rankin School of Nursing.

Our small class sizes coupled with full-time PhD faculty means professors recognize students' skills, challenge them to think critically and help them succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

StFX was the first university in Canada to have a formal service learning program. We are also home to the internationally-recognized Coady International Institute that works with partners around the world with a commitment to reducing poverty and transforming



societies through strengthening local economies, building resilient communities and promoting social accountability and good governance.

Our students leave as citizens of the world, equipped with vital leadership skills to lead in their chosen field. Our 45,000 alumni are a strong and engaged community and provide a valuable network for graduating students.

### The X-Ring

The St. Francis Xavier University ring, referred to as the X-Ring, is widely recognized throughout Canada and around the world.

The X-Ring has become a tangible symbol of the X-Spirit and the Xaverian Family. StFX graduates have distinguished themselves in all walks of life and wear their university ring with pride, demonstrating the influence of StFX throughout our region and in countries around the world.

The X-Ring was created during the Second World War. It is now copyrighted and it must be earned to be worn. Only a graduate of the university or a senior student is eligible to purchase the X-Ring. The first ring investiture ceremony took place in 1958. Reinstated in 1982, the ceremony is held every year on December 3 (the feast of St. Francis Xavier), StFX Day. It is regarded by StFX students as one of the most memorable occasions of their university careers.

### The President

Dr. Kent MacDonald is the StFX's president and vice chancellor. He brings almost two decades of experience working in higher education and a sense of what's

*See St. Francis Xavier University Page 6*



*From the National President*

# Spring: The Busy Season

*"If you watch how nature deals with adversity, continually renewing itself, you can't help but learn." - Bernie Siegel*

## Off to a Great Start

At the end of February, I found myself back home in Oregon, sharing a pint with other Kappas in a Portland tavern. We discussed our organization, our jobs, our contributions to society, and our relationships. I soaked up the fellowship of this time and left feeling more connected than ever to other members. I also left with a sense of budding excitement as this happy hour was in part a celebration of the tireless efforts by Western Regent **Jani MacGregor-Medeiros** to secure our 2019 National Convention location! I cannot wait to share all that the wonderful Pacific Northwest has to offer — University of Portland, we will see you soon!

## Supporting Kappa

Thank you to all of our members who responded to the rebilling notices and paid dues. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated as we strive to meet our financial goals for the fiscal year. Should you have questions regarding your dues payment status, please contact the National Office at [membership@kappagammapi.org](mailto:membership@kappagammapi.org).

## Welcoming the New

Currently, the National Office is receiving nominations from our affiliated colleges and universities. The caliber of these new nominees is inspiring, and we appreciate all the efforts of our affiliates in conducting the nomination process this year. Please take a moment to connect with the National Office to locate an affiliate near you. Then, as you are able, please join in the the celebrations of the 2018 nominees as they come together for induction and awards ceremonies.

## Looking Ahead

The National Board will gather in Cincinnati for its annual meeting during the last week of July. I am looking forward to a productive time together filled with meaningful conversation and action. I welcome your questions, thoughts and insights. If there is something that you would like to bring to the attention of the Board, please email me directly at [president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org) by July 1. We also welcome local Kappas to attend the meeting in a non-voting capacity and to join the National Board for dinner while we are in Cincinnati. Please contact the National Office at [kgp@kappagammapi.org](mailto:kgp@kappagammapi.org) for more details.



In faith and service,

**Katie Pease**

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

Kappa Gamma Pi National  
President

[president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org)



## KGP Leadership & Service Opportunities

We are currently looking for:

- A Kappa to serve as **Mississippi Regent**, providing support for Kappas and chapters in Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin.
- A **Long Range Planning Committee Chair** to help KGP plan for organizational change and our financial future.
- A **liaison for each of our college and university affiliates**—just one phone call or campus visit per year is required.
- **We also welcome emails and articles about your career, accomplishments and volunteer projects**—especially those related to our national service projects: alleviating hunger, promoting literacy and caring for the environment.

To learn more, please contact the National Office at [kgp@kappagammapi.org](mailto:kgp@kappagammapi.org).

## A Call to Music at Home and Abroad



by **Katelyn Wood Best**  
(Saint Mary's College, IN, '07)

I am an American musician and ethnomusicologist currently living in Switzerland with my husband Ryan who accepted a postdoctoral research position at the University of Zürich in 2016. In 2007, I graduated from Saint Mary's College, Indiana, with a bachelor of music in vocal performance and was nominated to Kappa Gamma Pi. In 2008, I pursued graduate studies at Florida State University (FSU) and in 2015 graduated with my PhD in ethnomusicology.

As an ethnomusicologist, I study the diverse ways music lives in culture. My work has led me to explore music in Deaf culture, a linguistic minority that uses sign language as its primary language. Within this context, my research examines ways Deaf musicians break down stereotypes of music and deafness. I have also conducted fieldwork in the United States on the role of music within the lives of resettled refugees, documenting ways music can provide a refuge in which to mitigate challenges of transitioning from one place to another.

My passion for music stems from its ability to bring individuals together, educate and bridge divisions within and across cultures. I have explored musical diversity as an instructor at FSU and as a performer in a number of different ensembles. I presently serve as chair for the Society for Ethnomusicology Disability and Deaf Studies Special Interest Group where I lead projects and facilitate discourse on research and access within and for disability and Deaf communities. While I have used performance, teaching and research to foster cultural appreciation and social engagement, it wasn't until I met my husband that I turned to composition as well.

Ryan and I met at FSU while attending graduate school and, even though we each performed locally in different bands, it wasn't until after we were married and moved into our first apartment together on the corner of Park Avenue and Franklin Boulevard that we decided to play music together and formed the singer-songwriter duo "Park and Franklin." Within the context of this duo, we each compose music separately but collaborate on performance arrangements. Through



these collaborations, I started to compose a series of songs that aim to address social disparities within contemporary culture. "A Winter Song for the Homeless," for instance, was composed to foster awareness of people who lack access to basic human needs and whose plight remains invisible to so many. "Our Shells on the Outside," which was written in response to the Charlottesville rally violence, aims to use music to remove judgements based on physical appearance. "Terra Libertatis," which builds from the foundation of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land," draws from American history to provide a diverse and varied picture of what it means to be American. "The Superheroes of This World" seeks to remind people of their ability to make a difference in the lives of others.

We each have our own stories and our own gifts that serve as unique manifestations of our faith. For me, music is my medium—one that provides a space in which to foster cultural appreciation, a diverse perspective and a richer understanding of human interaction.

To download a free MP3 of "Our Shells on the Outside" visit <https://www.reverbNation.com/parkfranklin> or for "The Life I Planned" visit <https://noisetrade.com/parkandfranklin/the-beautiful-unknown.5>



Katelyn Wood Best and her husband, Ryan, in Switzerland



*In Memoriam***Susan Stiller Lackey (University of Holy Cross, LA, '01)**

**Susan Lackey** served as an officer on the KGP National Board for many years, most recently as I Vice President. On February 21, while on a cruise with her husband, Milton, to Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Taipei and Hong Kong, Susan suffered a heart attack on an excursion to Wat Arun in Bangkok, Thailand.

**KGP Past President Kelly Haden** (University of Holy Cross, '98) learned of Susan's passing through mutual Holy Cross friends and emailed many Kappas with the sad news. Kelly's email noted:

"Susan's family spent most of the Mardi Gras season together this year. Milton and their daughter, Rhonda, were the King and Queen of the Krewe of Corps de Napoleon. Susan was so proud of them and was glowing the whole weekend. Her family was blessed to have that time together not knowing what was to come.

"Her Holy Cross family has suffered a great loss. It is through times like these that we recognize how blessed we are to have known such a wonderfully kind and giving person. She always looked out for me and I know she did the same for many others, never asking for anything in return."

***Tributes for Susan in other Kappa emails***

**Alene Finn Griffin** (Mount Saint Mary's University, CA, '66): "It was always a delight knowing Susan, and I will miss her. She had the most generous spirit and brought sunshine and kindness everywhere. Thank you for sharing this sad news. Susan and I were Facebook friends, and I was following her cruise and Mardi Gras activities. Her passing is stunning news, and I extend my heartfelt condolences to her family and will be sending along many prayers."

**Justyna Steuer Carlson** (Georgian Court University, NJ, '66): "Echoing our prayers for Susan and condolences to her family. I forwarded Kelly's email last night to [other Kappas including] Clare Ashe, Mary Alice McManus, Kathleen Lang and Mary Jo Rief and already this morning received a lovely reply from Clare. We all recall Susan's optimism in person and/or cheerfulness in photos in the Kappa NEWS."

**Pamela Wright Waitinas** (Notre Dame College, OH, '61): "This is so very sad. Susan was a remarkably kind and generous person. Both Kappa Gamma Pi and the Holy Cross community will miss her talents and efficiency tremendously. Milton and Susan loved to travel, especially in the Far East, so it is probably appropriate that this tragedy occurred on a favorite cruise. God bless her ... and her husband and family ... they will be in my prayers."

*Right: Susan and Kelly Haden at the 2017 Convention at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia last July*



*Left: With Ed Hosmer (Madonna University, MI, '02) at Chestnut Hill College*



*Peggy Finnigan Jessup (Madonna University, MI, '02) and Susan at the 2016 National Board meeting in New Orleans*

**Norma Whitehair Battle** (The Marymount College, KS, '67): "Dear Kappas, I am stunned. A sweet light has just gone out. I have always looked in the Kappa NEWS for Susan's picture or accounts of her activities. She will be so missed by all of us! ... Blessings to her family!"

**Jamie Asher** (University of Holy Cross, '05) "Susan and her husband Milton were dear friends. Susan and Kelly presented me with my Kappa honor cords at Our Lady of Holy Cross College many years ago. As many have expressed, this is a true loss and quite devastating news. The National Office has received an outpouring of love and support for Susan and her family and it is truly appreciated. It is inspiring to see how many people Susan has impacted. She will be greatly missed."

## Final Call for Input for the KGP National Board Meeting in Cincinnati this July



MOUNT ST. JOSEPH  
UNIVERSITY

The annual National Board Meeting is July 27-28, 2018. KGP National Officers and Regents will gather at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati. **Judy Gelwicks**, KGP Membership Secretary, is a '73 Kappa graduate of Mount St. Joseph University.

### Updating the KGP Constitution

In preparation for this meeting, the *ad hoc* Constitution Revisions Committee needs your input. Draft versions of the Constitution have been completed incorporating prior suggestions received and we are looking for additional suggestions for revisions.

All suggestions are welcome. Please submit your recommendations for changes by July 1 to **Susan Jaros** (Lourdes University, OH, '90) at [firstvp@kappagammapi.org](mailto:firstvp@kappagammapi.org). The text of the current KGP Constitution is available on the website at [www.kappagammapi.org](http://www.kappagammapi.org).

## St. Francis Xavier University from Page 2



important and what works in moving an institution forward. He completed his tenure at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario, as the 7<sup>th</sup> president of one of Canada's largest and most innovative polytechnic institutions.

Dr. MacDonald's research and earlier doctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania focused on higher education and in particular high-performing institutions and the impact of presidential leadership. He also holds a master's degree in education from StFX, an MBA from Université d'Ottawa, and a B.Sc. (physical education) from StFX.

While pursuing his doctoral studies, Dr. MacDonald worked with outstanding scholars and faculty considered among America's foremost thought leaders in higher education.

### Our History

StFX has a rich history. Founded in 1853, St. Francis Xavier has a long and proud tradition as one of Canada's oldest universities. At that time, StFX offered the only university-level education in the region and



partnered with the Roman Catholic diocese to maintain strict academic standards in order to provide the best education possible.

During the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, close to a million farmers, labourers and tradesmen came from the British Isles to the shores of Nova Scotia to seek a better life, joining the Acadians and Aboriginal peoples already settled here. Scottish Highlanders made up 67 percent of the StFX constituency, while Acadians, Irish, English and Aboriginal made up the rest.

### Motto

Our motto *Quaecumque Sunt Vera*, or "Whatever Things are True" perfectly captures our values of integrity, dignity, truth and respect for all.

### Location

StFX is located in the beautiful and historic town of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, a 15-minute drive from the ocean and the highlands and a two-hour drive to major urban centres. §



## University of Portland *from Page 1*

and mind are hallmarks of UP's belief in educating the whole person.

### National Recognition

For 23 consecutive years, UP has earned a top-10 ranking by *US News & World Report* in the "Regional Universities - West" classification. For six consecutive years, UP has been the top Oregon school in *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* annual ranking of best values in private universities. And for three consecutive years, *Bloomberg Businessweek* has named University of Portland the top school in Oregon for "return on investment" in a state-by-state ranking of schools providing graduates with the most return for the price of their education.

### Academics

University of Portland is Oregon's only comprehensive university with schools of business, education, engineering and nursing; a College of Arts and Sciences; and a graduate school. There are more than 40 undergraduate programs and 30 minors, as well as 18 graduate programs, and more than 1,300 courses. UP features small class settings (12:1 student-faculty ratio) and award-winning faculty. German professor Laura McLary was named the 2015 Oregon Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation and Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and the University was one of only 14 schools nationwide to be named a top producer of both student and faculty Fulbright awards in 2015-2016.

The University offers a rich resource for the community through educational opportunities, research and experts, in addition to a host of community offerings such as athletic events, cultural events, speakers and lectures.



### Student Life

Believing that education takes place both inside and outside the classroom, UP places a strong emphasis on residential living with 94 percent of freshmen and 57 percent of the total student body living in one of the University's 10 residence halls, including the newest hall, Lund Family Hall, which opened in fall 2016.

The University's commitment to an education outside the classroom means that UP offers a wide variety of extra-curricular programming, including an inclusive Campus Ministry program; local, national and international volunteer opportunities through the Moreau Center; fitness, intramurals and outdoor activities through the recreation services program in the Beauchamp Recreation and Wellness Center; and an active student government, Associated Students of the University of Portland.

### Athletics

The Portland Pilots are members of the West Coast Conference and compete at the NCAA Division 1 level. There are sixteen intercollegiate teams: baseball (M), basketball (MW), cross country (MW), rowing (W), soccer (MW), tennis (MW), indoor and outdoor track and field (MW), and indoor and beach volleyball (W).

### Alumni

UP students and alumni are resources for research, internships and full-time employment. More than half of University of Portland's 37,000 alumni reside in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. §

## Constance Olivia Harvey-Burwell

*from Page 1*

munities across the nation to improve education literacy in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Illinois and Rhode Island. Her education contributions include developing and leading community educational enrichment programs with a focus on reading remediation and youth leadership development.

A resident of Jackson, Mississippi, Constance is an active member of Christ the King Catholic Church. She is married to James, II, and they have a son, James, III; a miniature schnauzer, Icy-Pooh; and a goldfish, Leo. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially her mom and Godmothers. §

### Contributions to Kappa Gamma Pi

#### February 2018 - April 2018

*In memoriam ...*

**Joseph J. Costanza, Jr.**, father of National Office Assistant Donna Daigle and grandfather of Shannon Daigle Taranto (University of Holy Cross, LA, '02)

**Susan Stiller Lackey**, longtime National Board officer (University of Holy Cross, LA, '01), Gretna, LA

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.

# KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS



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SPRING 2018

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For current contact information for Chapter Presidents and Area Contacts,  
please see the CONTACT page on [www.kappagammapi.org](http://www.kappagammapi.org) or contact the  
National Office.

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## Honoring Saint Catherine Medal Recipients



Each year, KGP-affiliated colleges and universities present the Saint Catherine Medal for Student Achievement. At Dominican University in River Forest, IL, Areli Aragon received the 2018 medal from University President Donna Carroll at the "Service and Ministry" event on April 15.  
*Photo courtesy of Sister Jane Boland*