



KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS

Leadership • Scholarship • Faith • Service

www.kappagammapi.org

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Introducing the New KGP Executive Secretary: Michelle Chesney

Michelle Chesney resides in Trenton, a small suburban community on the outskirts of Detroit, Michigan with her husband Terry. She and her husband have a blended family of five adult children, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

She loves to travel. Currently, she only has six more states to check off and then she will have visited all 50 states! She has not done much international travel yet but it is on her bucket list. Africa and Greece are on her 'must visit' places before she leaves this earth. She enjoys spending time with all her kids, reading and the beach...she really loves the beach!



Michelle Chesney

During college, Michelle studied business administration, information technology (IT), and accounting. As an adult, Michelle's curiosity and desire to learn has not wavered. She studies aromatherapy and herbalism. Michelle is certified in reflexology, hypnotherapy and basic neuro linguistic programming (NLP). She has a passion for technology but when she needs some time away from it, she enjoys formulating and creat-

ing her own personal organic skin care products as well as making herbal remedies, infusions, tonics, and teas, plus all things pertaining to essential oil.

Michelle brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role as Executive Secretary. Prior to working with Kappa, she has worked in several different occupations including experience in non-profit organizations giving her a wide range of information and experience to pull from to contribute and help improve the organization. For the last 22+ years her full-time job has been the Executive Assistant for the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union. Her duties and responsibilities in this position are very similar to her new role with Kappa. Michelle has experience with collecting dues, newsletters, websites, databases, planning meetings and conventions,

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Kappa is Leaping Into the Future

By Michelle Chesney



The previous Kappa Gamma Pi website and membership database was functional and has worked for the organization in the past; however, the Board discussed options to bring KGP into the future and ensure the organization's longevity. Our KGP President, Susan Jaros, proposed a website redesign that would propel KGP forward and allow our organization's leaders and members to better connect. The Board voted on, and approved, not only a website redesign, but also a complete change to the membership database. Michelle Chesney, our new Executive Secretary as of October 2019, has taken on this project with enthusiasm and has been working tirelessly on the new technology to ensure it serves Kappa's needs.

Kappa Gamma Pi is pleased to announce the introduction of KGP Engage.

If we have your email address, you have already been introduced via email (it may say Union Track - that's the company that designed this for us) to this new online platform and several of you have accepted the invitation to 'engage' with us. Thank you! Are you

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Thank you to all the members who renewed their financial support of Kappa — we appreciate your generosity!

Lenten Reflection

Lent is a forty-day period of time where we are called to fast and resist temptation. During this period, we reflect on the things that are truly important in life. This time allows us to take time to cut out the luxuries and frills of life and get back to the basics through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In our always-on consumerism world it is easy for us to get sucked in the instant-gratification society we are surrounded by. Lent is a time when we are called to simplify our lives through self-denial and purification.

This year we are asked to retreat into the wilderness with Jesus. Jesus spent forty days in the desert being tempted by the devil. In order to resist temptation Jesus prayed to God for strength. During this Lenten season, we are asked to do the same by turning to God for strength while we face our temptations and overcome them through self-denial. We must reflect on the depths of our temptations and work to overcome them so that we may find our way back to Christ.

May God bless you this Lenten season.



Share Your Service

Faith and service is a part of Kappa Gamma Pi's motto. What causes do you devote your time and talents to?



KGP's national service projects are promoting literacy, caring for the environment, and alleviating hunger. *January is Braille Literacy Month.*

We would love to hear about the volunteer work you pursue. Please send us an email at service@kappagammapi.org or mail your information to the National Office.

We will be sharing more service stories in future NEWS issues and would love to showcase the work you are doing.

Announcing the 2020 Cornaro Scholarship Opportunity



Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia

Kappa Gamma Pi is pleased to sponsor the 2020 Cornaro Scholarship. The Cornaro Scholarship was established in 1985. The scholarship is named after 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 exclusive to Kappa Gamma Pi members and allows them the opportunity to advance their academic and professional careers by pursuing a graduate degree or professional program. In order 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 the criteria that the applicants demonstrate and how they embody the Kappa motto: *Faith and Service*. Recipients must also exemplify the values of volunteer work, leadership, academic excellence and well-defined career aspirations.

With the support of Kappa members, KGP has awarded \$239,020 in scholarships to 92 deserving Kappas since 1985! All Cornaro Scholarship Fund contributions are tax deductible. Thank you to all who donate to the Cornaro Fund each year. We appreciate your generosity.

For 2020, two scholarships of \$5,000 will be awarded. The deadline for returning applications and letters of reference is April 20, 2020. To access the 2020 Cornaro Scholarship for Graduate Studies Application and Frequently Asked Questions, please login to KGP Engage by visiting <https://engage.kappagammapi.org>. §

Cornaro Scholarship Fund Contributions

Education is an important component of Kappa Gamma Pi's mission and our members. As an organization, KGP is fortunate to have a healthy scholarship fund from the generous donations of our members who see the value in an education. As a result of this scholarship fund KGP is able to provide Cornaro Scholarships to deserving individuals who are pursuing their higher education. We all understand how expensive education can be and this scholarship allows for some of this burden to be alleviated.



We understand this is a financial decision and we would like to thank everyone who has made the decision to contribute to the scholarship fund. Your contribution in celebration of a special anniversary or jubilee or in memory of deceased individual is appreciated. Please send donations to the new KGP National Office. A letter acknowledging your gift will be sent to the honoree or to the family of the deceased. We encourage anyone who is considering contributing to the scholarship fund to reflect and see if it is what you are called to do.

THANK YOU to all of you who have so generously donated to the Cornaro Scholarship Fund.

Mass Celebration



Kappa's Chaplain, Reverend David Turner, O.S.B., Ph.D., D.Min. (Benedictine University, IL, '94) at St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, IL, celebrated the Mass of Remembrance for all Kappa members gone before us on November 25, which is the feast of our patroness, Saint Catherine of Alexandria.

And on January 4, Father Turner celebrated a Mass for all living Kappa members on the feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of both the first Catholic school in the nation and the first American congregation of religious sisters, the Sisters of Charity.

Thank you, Father Turner, for celebrating these Masses in honor of Kappa members.

A Message from KGP's National President

I hope this message finds you well and the holidays were an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, celebrate and reflect on your blessings, recharge, and set goals for this new year.

"A ship is safe as long as it sits in the harbor, but that's not what ships are made for. Your life will be comfortable as long as you remain where you are. Change and growth take courage." - Allen Hunt
Nine Words

2020 is going to be a big year for Kappa and I felt this quote from Allen Hunt was appropriate, pertinent, and encapsulated all the changes the organization has been seeing recently. Our National Office has now relocated to Trenton, MI. Our new Executive Secretary, Michelle Chesney, has jumped into her new position with both feet and has adjusted to her new job and responsibilities well. She has very quickly become a critical member of our team and has been very busy working on the design and development of the new communication platform (website and database) all while maintaining the daily operations of the home office.

We have switched vendors for our NEWS printing and found a printer who is responsive to our needs and deadlines. The new Editor of the NEWS, Madison Denton, is well on her way and is doing a great job. Our Kappa Board has been very busy participating in conference calls and board meetings. Their support and guidance along with their suggestions have been instrumental in the success of all these upcoming changes. Finally, preparations are under way to move all the file cabinets with Kappa's historical documents and past issues of the NEWS for storage. We will have more details on the moving and storage of these Kappa documents as they are confirmed.

Kappa is experiencing a lot of changes this year that I am very excited about. These changes will help to bring Kappa into the future and ensure our longevity as an organization. Be sure to check out the new website and take advantage of the changes and enhanced functionality. I am confident these changes will provide the potential for growth!



In Faith and Service,

Susan (Sue) Smith Jaros

Lourdes University, Ohio, '90
Kappa Gamma Pi National
President

president@kappagammapi.org

...and the Old Ones Shall Dream Dreams

By Sister Mary Grenough (Spalding University, KY '56)

At 82 years old I do not mind saying I am "old." At this point in my life it surprised me to realize I had a significant dream hidden in my subconscious. This dream surfaced when my brother Vince, his wife, Pat, and my sister Millie came to visit Myanmar in March of 2015. My brother Vince asked, "Mary, do you have any dream you would like to fulfill before leaving Myanmar and returning to the States?" It took a little time but it eventually came to me. The next day I told Vince, "Yes, I do have a dream. It is to start a pilot program for community-based family health. One of its goals would be to provide pre-natal care to mothers including blood testing to prevent the transmission of HIV to their infants as well as to meet many basic needs."

This idea became known as "Mary's Dream." My siblings shared this idea with family and friends when they returned to the States and donations were promised. In July, a friend from Slovenia, Uros, visited the slum area where we wanted to start and they offered to pay half of the salary for new staff needed. This is when "Mary's Dream" really started. Yangon is an industrial zone that attracts many people whose homes

and livelihoods were devastated by the typhoon of 2008. These individuals were landless and without basic education. They came seeking jobs, educa-



The reality of the living situations in Yangon.

tion, and health facilities. If they were able to find employment, the pay did not meet basic needs. The area does not have the infrastructure for sanitation and clean water.

The area we started in consisted of 328 households. Our newly hired nurse-midwife, Monica, began holding meetings in the houses of people who had already begun requesting and receiving help from us for urgent medical and surgical needs. Monica began to hold a "clinic" in the small house giving free examinations, basic medicines, and referrals for hospital care or surgery. Our first target was pregnant mothers. In the first two months, 105 people came for consultation and help. Monica took each visit as an opportunity to educate the individuals. She got post-



Monica teaching a group of women about basic health care.

ers and shared with everyone the basics of how our bodies work, health conditions, causes of sickness, and the importance of nutrition and sanitation. After a few weeks she began to teach them how

to use basic medical equipment like blood pressure and testing equipment, weighing scales, thermometers, and how to examine a pregnant woman. She emphasized the importance of pre-natal check-ups. The mothers brought their babies and sometimes the husbands would come too.

The people were told this was a *community* program and they needed volunteers who would learn how to examine, treat and refer people who needed special tests, hospitalization or surgery. Several volunteers were found including a Buddhist nun caring for 17 orphan girls whose parents had perished in the 2008 Nargis Typhoon. Another volunteer, Faustina, is a mother of two who had previously been a volunteer with World Vision Organization. They were able to send Faustina to a six week Community Development Program on a scholarship. She gained a basic understanding of community work. Of the 26 participants from all over the country, Faustina received first prize for her plan for a micro-savings project. We are currently waiting for the delivery of the prize - 150,000 Myanmar Kyats to start the plan. 150,000 Myanmar Kyats equates to about \$150 US. While waiting for the prize money, much has to be done to prepare the community and decide who would be entrusted to receive the grant.

Workshops continued regularly with an average of 35 attendants. The people are eager to learn and have gradually lost their fear of going to the clinic and hospital. They discovered they could improve their nutrition by proper use of inexpensive and available vegetables, etc. and practicing basic cleanliness. Before this program, when they went to the hospital they were shouted at and criticized for waiting too long before coming to the doctor or because they could not pay for the services. One woman had such a large goiter she could hardly talk or breathe and for six years she had not gone to her check-ups or receive treatment because she could not afford it.

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Dream Dreams

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After 6 months, eight people had been referred for urgently needed surgery and medical treatment. Two people were found to be HIV+ and started treatment. A new mother and baby with Hepatitis B were treated and cured. After the first six months, Monica had conducted 253 consultations for 190 people from 328 families. Ten of these patients urgently needed surgery. Four pregnant women needed surgery; the total cost for the Caesarian Sections and treatment for eclampsia was less than \$500 US. Without treatment and surgery, the mothers and babies would have died. 53 women came for pre-natal care and education. Of these 53 women, 80% needed treatment or surgery before or during delivery.

Another achievement was referring a six-year-old boy to the orthopedic hospital. He had fallen from a tree and was suffering in bed for two weeks unable to walk and was not getting better. His grandfather brought him to Monica and took him to the hospital. He had a dislocated hip! A quick adjustment by the skilled doctor put his hip back in place and he was walking and running after a week.

But how do we make this program community based?

The health education and care program was going



Our first group of volunteers.

well but we needed it to become a *community* program. For 60+ years, people had been arrested for gathering and discussing issues in groups of more than five. Fear and distrust were as palpable as was the obvious need for help. After months of working with the residents much trust was developed. We agreed the next step was for leaders to be named and agree to come for a meeting to talk about community interest and government responsibility in the program. The local government leaders already aware of the program, fully supported it. The next step was to check if community members agreed with the suggested volunteer leaders, they did.

These leaders held meetings in their areas and explained they would like to conduct a survey to discover the details concerning family situations, concerns and needs. A survey was done by the leaders. By this time people were so interested they answered the questions freely being assured the information was only to be used for the family health program.

The filled-in forms were checked and collated. Of the 328 households, surveys were completed in 233 households. But when the results were examined we realized the volunteers needed to have training before administering the survey. The questions concerning family planning gave us the first clue. The question, "do you know about family planning?" 192 household heads answered yes and 30 answered no. "Do you use family planning?" 196 replied yes and 27 answered no. We had to dig deeper. What do they mean by family planning? What methods do they use? By family planning they meant the couple talk together before living together and discussed how many children they can support, how much income they will need and what kind of housing, nothing about methods. And families were obviously unplanned.

"Do you have a sanitary toilet?" was another question. It was explained that to be a sanitary toilet it would either have water for flushing or a cover so flies and insects could not enter. Of the households visited, 234 answered yes and six said no. From our many visits to the homes, we had yet to find one sanitary toilet. We are learning. At least good relationships now exist and more are interested in the family health program. Replies to the questions on education were more realistic. Only 45 preschool age children were in school, 186 were not. For primary level (6-10 years old), 96 were enrolled and 126 were not enrolled. Intermediate level was even worse, only 38 were enrolled and 182 were not. For high school, 29 were enrolled and 185 were not. This is in Yangon, the country's largest city, not a distant mountain village.

Ninety-one of the families said their joint family income was not enough to meet daily needs. One hundred thirty households could not afford to buy safe drinking water. There is no access to safer city water in this area, even for bathing, cooking or cleaning.

Keep on keeping on...

The parents were at least eager for more education. They were asked who would be willing to become health educators and workers. They would need workshop trainings to do this. 30 signed up! Monica and Faustina worked together on this training. In the process, they would learn how to interview patients, check their symptoms, check blood pressure, temperature, pulse, respiration, listen to breathing sounds, fetal heart sounds, and to give needed advice about care, referrals and other situations. Twelve families were chosen to participate in the micro-finance savings program. They started saving 3,000 kyats per month, about \$3 US.

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Chapter News: Toledo Chapter



Annette Fink sharing her expertise.

We are very lucky to have two talented Kappa members in the Toledo Chapter, Annette Fink (Lourdes University, OH, '13) and Sister Jane Mary Sorosiak (Mary Manse College, OH, '53). Annette Fink started her journey by doing an independent study with Sister Jane Mary. After the completion of her independent study Annette continued to volunteer her time with Sister until she started creating her own murals. Annette and Sister Jane Mary have been working together and creating incredible murals in the Toledo area and other areas. Their main goal with their murals is to bring beauty into a space.

At the September meeting for the Toledo Chapter Annette took us through the process of making a mural The Alverno Way. Annette and Sister Jane Mary start every mural with a sketch. A sketch can take weeks of tweaking before it is ready to become a mural. Once they are happy with their sketch they will enlarge the sketch to full-scale and number each piece. After the pieces are numbered they roll out the clay and trace their design into the wet slab. The pieces are then cut out and modeled. After the pieces are modeled they are dried and become greenware. The greenware is then fired and become bisque pieces that are ready to be glazed. Glaze is a powder form of glass that is applied to each piece that melts to the piece when fired. After many coats of glaze (typically 3-5 coats) the bisque pieces are ready for a second firing in the kiln. Once the pieces are high fired and cooled the pieces are ready to be taken out of the kiln, laid out and then packed up. The final step is the installation process. There are many volunteers who help to complete the mural installation process.



Greenware pieces ready to be glazed.



Greenware pieces receiving 3-5 coats of glaze.

On August 10th, 2019 the Toledo Chapter went on a "mural crawl" where we visited some of the beautiful murals that Annette Fink has designed and created.



Mural crawl with Toledo Kappas & Guests.

Annette would like to eventually have the entire wall be a mural in the future and she is very close to achieving that goal. She has created murals that were specifically created for educational purposes. One mural was created to identify birds that are specific to the area.

These murals are definitely more vibrant and lively in person. Seeing these murals gave us such an appreciation for what Annette is doing for the community. Understanding the entire process that Annette shared with us makes these murals all the more incredible. §



This is one of Annette and Sister Jane Mary's murals located in Downtown Toledo.

We want to hear from you!



All of our Kappa members are incredibly talented and doing great things both in their communities and professionally and we want to hear about it! Please send us an email about what you and your local members have been up to at newseditor@kappagammapi.org. We would love to be able to feature you in a future newsletter!

Executive Secretary Michelle Chesney

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etc. She has extensive technical and computer experience that will help move Kappa forward.

During her time with the MPFFU, Michelle has helped to implement many of the newer technologies to make the management of their large membership database more organized and efficient to use. By utilizing cloud-based systems, the data is not limited to just one individual or to one computer at one location. She also incorporated cost savings efficiencies by utilizing software designed to handle electronic invoicing and electronic payments made by their membership. Michelle believes that it is important to maintain accurate membership records in order to ensure all members are receiving the communications sent out by the organization, both physical mailings as well as digital.

Michelle welcomes the opportunity to work with us and looks forward to engaging with Kappa members well into the future. She considers herself to be very fortunate, because she loves what she does so it never feels like she's really 'working.'§

Dream Dreams

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"Mary's Dream" was published in 2015 as a short story in a book published by a Yangon-based International Women's group. The dream continues to come true as three other community-based family health programs have been started. For me, a dream is beginning to come true, and life is starting to change for many in the area. I am excited that husbands and wives are able to discuss sexuality together, in mixed groups, and especially discussing gender issues and rights! Now the children are learning to understand and appreciate their bodies and relationships.

Sister Mary Grenough lived in and served Myanmar from 2006 until 2016. Her initial activity there was with the Myanmar Catholic HIV/AIDS Network (MCHAN), a national organization she helped to start in 2007. Before coming to Myanmar, she worked in the Philippines where she helped to start community-based health programs. The priority activities of the Myanmar Catholic HIV/AIDS Network are to educate people concerning HIV/AIDS and human sexuality with focus on overcoming discrimination, promoting local centers for education and care of people with and affected by HIV/AIDS regardless of religious or ethnic origins. The community-based family health program was started as a pilot project to encourage programs to be started in other places.§

Leaping Into the Future

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missing out because we don't have an email address for you?

Send Michelle an email or give her a call and she will get your information updated so that you too can 'engage' with us.

You may be wondering 'what exactly is KGP Engage?' The quick answer is that it's our new membership database. *But it's so much more...*

KGP Engage is our new online communication platform, that's both a website and a membership portal. It offers increased functionality designed to help you, our members, maintain control over your profile, communication preferences and make your dues paying easier and more efficient. We now have the ability to generate a dues billing so you can just login to your account and easily pay using a credit card, a debit card or ACH directly from your checking account. No more need for envelopes, checks or stamps...unless you prefer mailing a check. That's ok too.

With the secured mobile platform KGP Engage you can also manage dues payments and charitable transactions through your smartphone with speed and peace of mind.

KGP Engage is accessible anywhere at any time.

- The platform can be accessed by mobile phone, tablet, laptop, or PC.
- KGP Engage is a cloud-based system that can be securely accessed at anytime from anywhere.
- The platform has role-based security that allows for custom tools and views for KGP leaders.
- The system boasts a robust set of communication tools including SMS texts, online surveys, and social media-driven member feedback.

Visit <https://engage.kappagammapi.org> and register for your user account today!

Have you liked us on Facebook yet? Check us out there too!

If you have any questions, comments or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Chesney by phone: 734.393.1222 or by email: admin@kappagammapi.org.

We look forward to getting feedback from you.

How can we be of better service to you?§

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Winter 2020

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KAPPA GAMMA PI NATIONAL DUES PAYMENT FORM

To renew your financial support for Kappa, please complete the form below, photocopy or mail this section (including your name and address information printed above) with your check made payable to KAPPA GAMMA PI to **1651 Kingsway Court, Suite E, Trenton, MI 4818-1959**. Your dues payment via credit card can also be made online at www.kappagammapi.org.

National Dues for the June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020 fiscal year US \$50 or Lifetime Dues Payment US \$750.

Cornaro Scholarship Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

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Please indicate any name or address changes here. To ensure that you receive KGP emails and the eNEWS, please provide your email address.

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