



KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS

Leadership • Scholarship • Faith • Service

www.kappagammapi.org

Founded 1926

Summer 2021 • Volume 91 • Number 3

*Celebrating
95 years!
1926-2021*

Kappa Holds Virtual National Convention

Kappa's first virtual convention was a great success! This was the 45th National Convention with KGP well on its way to celebrating 100 years of Faith and Service. The business meeting took place on Friday June 11 with Convention events on Saturday June 12.

Keynote address topic for convention was "God being in Control: Embracing Change and Transformation" presented by Elvia Aguilar. During this presentation we had the opportunity to discuss how the pandemic has changed our perspectives on how we live our lives and the decisions we make. The pandemic took away and altered many of our regular activities as we could not be in person with one another; however, it has helped many of us recognize that we all have choices. We have choices when it comes to our schedules, where we volunteer, our career paths, and so much more. It is very easy to burn ourselves out when we are saying yes to everything so it is important that we are able to adjust, prioritize, be flexible, and also take care of ourselves.

Renae Rainman (*Our Lady of the Lake University, TX, '04*) presented Elvia with the KGP 2021 Faith and Service Award. This award is given to an individual who shows leadership in local and national affairs. The Faith and Service Award is a long-standing tradition and has been awarded every two years at convention

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I Vice President Renae Rainman and President Susan Jaros during the presentation of the 2021 Faith and Service Award.

KGP Awards 2021 Faith and Service Award to Elvia Aguilar

At each biennial National Convention, Kappa Gamma Pi presents the Faith and Service Award to an outstanding non-Kappa who exemplifies leadership in local or national church or secular affairs.

The recipient of the Faith and Service Award for 2021 is Elvia Aguilar from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where she is the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations. Elvia was able to attend the virtual convention via Zoom and was the Keynote speaker talking on "God is in Control: Embracing Change and Transformation."



Elvia and her dad, Eloy, handing out Christmas presents.

Elvia Aguilar is originally from McAllen in the Rio Grande Valley in the deep south of Texas. She credits her parents for showing her how to prioritize the

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Register now to join us virtually for our **Fall Lecture Series** on October 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm EDT. Dr. Louise Prochaska (*Notre Dame College, OH, '94*) will discuss the topic "Science and Spirituality of Happiness." It's free for dues-paying members!

A zoom link will be sent upon registration.

To Register:
visit <http://bit.ly/KGPFall21>

Faith & Service from page 1

things that matter the most – God, family and friends, and service to the community. Elvia was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish which later became San Juan Diego Holy Family parish in Corpus Christi. From a young age, faith and public service were instilled in Elvia by her parents, Eloy and Josefina. Elvia and her dad would write letters to companies to donate toys to give out presents to children in their community. Her dad would dress up as Santa and she would help him pass out the gifts. Growing up Elvia did not have a lot but she and her family always made it a priority to give back to their community. Elvia would also dress up as a clown which was a fun thing to do on weekends for different parties and events which helped her family make ends meet.

The desire Elvia had as a young girl to serve her community has continued into adulthood, becoming an integral part of her life today. She graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. In 2017, she earned her Master's in Public Administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Aguilar's career is centered on public service and has led her to be a journalist, public relations consultant, marketing director and currently assistant director of alumni relations for a university. She is the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where she oversees the Austin, Houston and San Antonio Islander Alumni Chapters and the Islander Mentorship Program.

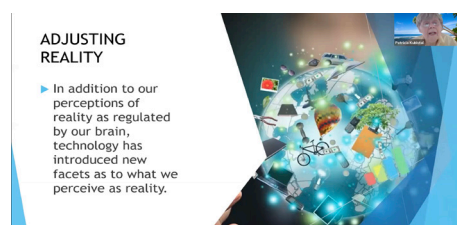
Elvia's job is to keep the family of Islanders connected with the Island University. She is always looking for ways to build bridges and connect current students to the more than 50,000 Islander Alumni. The pandemic allowed her to get creative when it came to connecting students and alumni. In many ways the pandemic has opened doors for this program as they have started connecting people via Zoom so she is no longer restricted by geographical areas and can get more students and alumni involved.

In addition, Elvia has served on various community boards including the Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse-Coastal Bend, the American Advertising Federation-Corpus Christi, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times Hispanic Advisory Committee, The Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, Visit Corpus Christi and numerous other organizations. She currently is a member of Leadership Corpus Christi Class '49.§

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since 1963. Elvia received a monetary gift to be used to better her community and an organization of her choice.

Kappa Patricia B. Kubistal, Ph. D. (*Loyola University, IL, '59*), Long Range Planning Chair, also presented at convention on the topic of "Why We Believe Fake News and Other Things." Her presentation makes you think about how we determine what is true and what is not when it comes to the media we consume. Social media has amplified toxic misinformation on an unprecedented scale. By the end of her talk you can conclude that the quality of information we consume is only as good as the source of the material.



PowerPoint slide from Pat Kubistal's presentation at Convention.

Past President Katie Pease (*St. Catherine University, MN, '10*) shared a video special tribute to all deceased Kappas. In closing, Kappas shared memories and experiences with other convention participants from around the country.§



Various KGP members at first virtual National Convention.

Did You Know?

In the 95 years of its history, Kappa has inducted over 60,000 members from affiliated colleges and universities across the country.

October Service Challenge

Service is a cornerstone of the work Kappa does as an organization. Each October we issue a service challenge for our members to positively impact their communities with their talents and skills. Share your service projects for this year's October Service Challenge and beyond! Please email us at newseditor@kappagammapi.org so we can report the great work you are doing in your communities!§



2022 Cornaro Scholarship

Kappa Gamma Pi is pleased to sponsor the 2022 Cornaro Scholarship. 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 the applicants must demonstrate 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.

The submission deadline for applications and letters of reference is April 20, 2022. To access the 2022 Cornaro Scholarship for Graduate Studies Application and Frequently Asked Questions, please login to KGP Engage by visiting <https://engage.kappagammapi.org>. §

In Loving Memory

- Phyllis Marie Cleary (*Spalding University, KY, '93*)
- Julie Costello (*Chestnut Hill College, PA, '01*)
- Theola Jones (*Madonna University, MI, '89*)
- Shirley E. Smith (*Seattle University, WA, '57*)



If you know anyone who has passed on please send an email to admin@kappagammapi.org. §

A Message from KGP's National President

I look forward to my second term as your National President. The past two years have been challenging, but many changes were needed as Kappa celebrates 95 years and looks forward to 100 years! A heartfelt welcome to our new and returning National Board members. Your hard work and dedication are appreciated. One of my goals is to support and increase the number of our affiliates. I encourage you to contact your alma mater and reach out to the National Office to explore ways that you can support and engage with our affiliates. COVID-19 has been tough on everyone, especially our affiliates and their students.

Please review the Convention Recap in this issue and be proud of your Kappa organization. Our first evening virtual National Business meeting was successful with a packed agenda. Many important items were discussed and voted on by those delegates in attendance. I encourage you to review our newly revised 2021 Constitution that is posted on the website. Two Cornaro scholarships as well as the Faith and Leadership Award were awarded to some phenomenal individuals. Also, for your convenience, taped sessions of the convention speakers are available on the website.

I hope many of you can join us for our next lecture on October 20 at 7:00 pm EDT with Dr. Prochaska (*Notre Dame College, OH, '94*). She is a Kappa and the session promises to be enlightening and well worth the time.

Keep up your good work in your communities and continue to live out the Kappa mission of faith, leadership and service. §

In Faith and Service,

Susan (Sue) Smith Jaros

Lourdes University, Ohio, '90

Kappa Gamma Pi National President

president@kappagammapi.org



President Sue Jaros (R) volunteering to make perogi at her church.

Our 2021 Cornaro Scholars!

The Cornaro Scholarship is a prestigious scholarship only available to Kappa members for use toward graduate expenses at an accredited university. The Cornaro Scholarship Committee selected two recipients this year: Colleen Traub (*Marywood University, PA, '14*) and Corina Martinez (*University of San Diego, CA, '21*).

2021 Cornaro Scholar Colleen Traub is from Connecticut. She earned a bachelor's degree from Marywood University in nursing. During her undergraduate studies she was on the Dean's list and received the Presidential Award all four years. Colleen was inducted into a number of honor societies including Kappa Gamma Pi, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, and Delta Epsilon Sigma. She also received the Barbara Stratton Nursing Award her senior year. She will pursue her degree in Midwifery and Nurse Practitioner from Yale University.

Colleen has widespread volunteer work and leadership experience as she shared in her Cornaro application.

She has dedicated herself to the community around her – friends, neighbors, and the marginalized who have shared their struggles and needs with her. The last six years, she has been involved in Mercy Volunteer Corps as a volunteer nurse in Guyana and as a support person to the volunteers in national placement sites. Colleen volunteers with Malta House of Care, a free mobile medical clinic in the Hartford, Connecticut area. She felt called to the US-Mexico border and flew to El Paso, Texas to work with Annunciation House to provide urgent medical care to refugees. During the pandemic in New York City, she was working on the front lines as a visiting nurse as well as volunteering at a food pantry.

Colleen believes that both our work and leadership must be community-focused. She strives to connect to the people she is leading, representing, and serving. She has been able to live out this value by living full-time in a community called Benincasa, which is

a Catholic community for those seeking housing and justice-focused service who live together. In this setting, residents are dedicated to living in community with those on the margins by offering a room to someone in need of housing, welcoming visitors and organizers, and engaging in social justice efforts for collective liberation. She serves as a leader in hospitality for

the organization, coordinating housing and supporting their transition to their new living space. In addition, she acted as a representative on the East Harlem Community Health Committee where she works alongside community leaders and activists to advocate for better access to healthcare.

She shared in her application her career successes thus far as well as her aspirations for the future. Colleen has been working as a registered nurse for the past seven years in a variety of settings, from assisting women in labor in Guyana to being a visiting nurse in crowded apartments in East Harlem, New York City. She is dedicated to providing compassionate care for those in their most vulnerable moments. She will

be studying at Yale University to gain the skills and knowledge needed to provide healthcare to women in low resource communities. She feels called to pursue a dual degree in women's health and midwifery so she can offer community birthing expertise and the full lifespan primary care for women. Colleen plans to connect with Mercy Hospital in Guyana to build an exchange program to promote equitable educational opportunities to lead to safer healthcare for pregnant women. In this program, nurses and midwives in the US will have the chance to learn from healthcare providers and participate in trainings to learn about fetal heart monitoring for high risk pregnancies. §



Colleen Traub

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24

Our 2021 Cornaro Scholars!

The second Cornaro Scholar for 2021 is Corina Martinez from San Diego, CA. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of San Diego in Political Science and Theology and Religious Studies. During her undergraduate studies she received the University Ministry Servant Leader award her senior year. She was inducted into a number of honor societies including Kappa Gamma Pi, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, Theta Alpha Kappa, and Mortar Board National College Senior Honors Society. She will be pursuing her degree in Law from the University of San Diego.

Corina has extensive volunteer work and leadership experience as she shared in her scholarship application.

She was heavily involved in university ministry at the University of San Diego. Corina served in liturgical ministry as a eucharistic minister and continues to serve whenever invited to do so. She also was involved in Students for Life, an organization dedicated to recognizing the dignity of all human life through education and service. She was a part of the leadership team and later served as the president of the organization. As president, she facilitated general body and leadership meetings and planned events and service projects. Some service projects include making baby blankets and supply baskets for mothers in need, serving at Rachel's Shelter, writing letters to essential workers and isolated individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was a member of the Alcala Club and served at some of the university ministry's most significant events such as the annual Welcome Mass, Baccalaureate Mass, Red Mass for the School of Law, and the opening of the Mission and Ministry Center. She was a member of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán and served on the executive board as the secretary. Corina also participated in new student onboarding efforts during the summer of 2020 as a member of the OLE.



Corina Martinez

Corina is serving as a volunteer intern at Catholic Charities Immigrant Services in San Diego. This opportunity has helped her learn about immigration law while conducting research and translating materials for asylum cases. She started working at Catholic Charities in-person in November 2019. Fortunately, most of her work can be completed remotely. She

is able to translate documents and create training materials from home and connect with clients to fill out naturalization questionnaires via Zoom.

Corina shared in her application her aspirations for the future. She participated in Mock Trials in high school which sparked her interest in law. She decided to pursue a major in political science to gain exposure to law. Her liberation theology class was the most impactful as she learned about the lived experiences of marginalized communities and their theological interpretations of scripture and tradition. In this course, she read *Globalizing Liberation Theology: The American Context and Coda* by Ivan Petrella. This article praises liberation theologians for listening to the vulnerable and

amplifying their voices but questions whether that is enough to bring about justice in a suffering community. Petrella argues it is important to occasionally untangle liberation from theology and acknowledging that liberation request action which may be accomplished better through other disciplines. She found this message to be incredibly compelling and something that she intends to devote her life to through a career in law. §

“With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand.”

Psalm 78:72

Meet Our New National Board Members!

The National Board is a great way to get involved in KGP on the National level. We would like to welcome two new board members, Alicia Tait (*Benedictine University, IL, '04*) and Leonard Bissa (*University of the Incarnate Word, TX, '20*).

Alicia Tait was born in Melrose Park, IL and grew up in the west suburbs of Chicago. She attended the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign where she received two degrees: Bachelor of Music in 1985 and Master of Music in 1986 both in oboe performance. She even started a Doctor of Musical Arts degree there before she was offered the opportunity to attend The Juilliard School in New York City where she



Alicia Tait

completed the DMA degree with a focus on English horn performance which she completed in 1990 and was the first woman to do so there.

Alicia currently works at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX where she is the inaugural director of the Center for Catholic Studies and a tenured Professor of

Music. She was initially brought to the university to help create the Center but she also teaches in the music department and the core. She plans to continue her career path in Catholic higher education, particularly in administration.

She was introduced to Kappa through Fr. David Turner, OSB, her mentor and friend from Benedictine University and monastic community member of St. Procopius Abbey. Fr. David nominated her as a faculty member and administrator to the Kappa family. He saw her passion for the gifts that the faith and Church brings to the academy through education, mentorship, spirituality and faith practice. Since Alicia was already advanced in her education her challenges and joys have stemmed from her desire to learn more about Catholic higher education and what it has to offer its students, faculty, and staff above and beyond secular education and how to share it with others. This desire has not diminished for her after 20+ years in Catholic higher education; if anything it has only intensified.

Music has been where much of Alicia's volunteering takes place as she considers this to be her greatest gift she can offer others. She performs for her Church for special occasions, fundraisers, or spiritually uplifting experiences for others. She has also performed benefit concerts for various organizations and assisted others in planning similar events. These opportunities to volunteer have become the best way for Alicia to communicate not only good music-making but gratitude to the Lord for allowing her to express Him to others through it.

One of her goals is to complete a book she has been working on about the Blessed Virgin Mary for many years. The book incorporates three parts – the Marian teachings of the Church, her pilgrimage memoirs from her visits to Marian

shrines around the world, and recordings of the newly commissioned pieces in her honor.

Leonard Bissa was born in Hammond, IN, but was raised in Ormond Beach, FL. Leonard attended the American Military University for his Associates of Arts in 2017, University of the Incarnate Word for his Bachelor's of Science for Health Science where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2019, and he earned his Master's in Administration-Health Care Administration concentration with distinction from The University of the Incarnate Word in 2020.

Leonard is currently stationed in Millington, Tennessee where he works for Navy Personnel Command working with approximately 4,000 active duty and reserve nurses in the Navy. He writes orders for the active duty portion to over 250 different Navy locations around the globe. He is involved in meeting the needs of service members with the Navy's requirements and leveraging them against the limitations per their policies. Service members are transferring to new duty stations every month so Leonard's work is a continual and nonstop process. His work entails having an in-depth knowledge of the software used to write orders, the codes used to input, authorize, and change data, in addition to what is and is not authorized. In addition, he communicates directly with constituents, primarily those new to the Navy, and helps answer any questions they have about allowances, locations, time tables, and what codes and acronyms mean, and more.

Over the years, Leonard has volunteered in a number of different capacities, all of which have led to learning experiences. He has volunteered with animal adoption which helped to nurture and grow his compassion and empathy for others. Volunteering for several years as "in race" medical personnel helped him to be more cognizant of what struggles the people around him are able to cope with, and when they are not able to so he can lend a hand if necessary. Years of volunteering to teach Chinese martial arts helped him to learn different communication methods and teaching styles to account for various learning styles, and to identify the difference between "incorrect" and "as correct as possible within one's ability."

His goal is to remain in the Naval service for 20+ years. While he has missed the opportunity to commission as an officer he is still excited to strive towards senior enlisted leadership. He has explored different schools to earn his doctorate in health care administration but enrollment would depend upon where he is stationed. In the meantime, he is exploring a possible second Master's degree. Ultimately, he is prioritizing making it possible for his wife to focus on her education while he focuses on the Navy and taking the lead as much as he can raising their two children. §



Leonard Bissa

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TREASURER

PROFIT & LOSS

Statement of Income, Expenses and Net Assets for the
Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2021

INCOME

Member Dues.....	\$37,680
Nomination Fees.....	\$29,300
Convention/National Board.....	\$1,602
Sale of Promotional Items.....	\$8,741
Lifetime Dues.....	\$450
Investment Income.....	\$4,681
Other Income.....	\$51
TOTAL REVENUE.....	\$82,505

EXPENSES

Executive Secretary.....	\$30,000
Publication (Editor, printing, postage).....	\$20,472
Website.....	\$2,700
Promotional Item Purchases.....	\$6,543
National Office Expenses.....	\$2,148
Professional and Bank Fees.....	\$3,933
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$2,565
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$68,361
Net Operating Revenue.....	\$14,144

OTHER REVENUES

Realized Gain/Loss on the Sale of Investments.....	(\$5,894)
Scholarship Donations.....	\$7,789
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES.....	\$1,895

OTHER EXPENDITURES

Cornaro Scholarship Awards.....	\$10,000
TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES.....	\$10,000
TOTAL NET INCOME.....	\$6,039

BALANCE SHEET

Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets	
General Funds Checking.....	\$48,995
Money Market.....	\$44,128
Investments - Securities.....	\$168,524
Accounts Receivable.....	\$5,510
Petty Cash.....	\$200
Total Current Assets.....	\$267,357

Total Assets.....\$267,357

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

SBA PPP.....	\$1,737
Payroll Liabilities.....	\$1,839
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES.....	\$3,576
Long-Term Liabilities	
Deferred Lifetime Dues Revenue.....	\$6,650
TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES.....	\$6,650

Total Liabilities.....\$10,226

Equity

Gain on Investments.....	\$34,619
Fund Balance - Prior Year.....	\$216,472
Net Income - FY 2020-21.....	\$6,040
Total Equity.....	\$257,131

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS.....\$267,357

Looking to Support Kappa?

Are you an Amazon shopper? We ask that you consider defaulting to smile.amazon.com when you are shopping and selecting KGP as your charity of choice. By using KGP's special link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1752086> - a percentage of qualified purchases will be donated to KGP. Shopping through Kappa's special link does not cost you anything.

We ask you to consider supporting Kappa in this unique way to help support our organization with purchases you already are making!\$



KGP National Board

• NATIONAL OFFICERS •

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Summer 2021

Reminder: Have You Paid Your Dues? 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 48183-1959**. Your dues payment via credit card can also be made online at www.kappagammapi.org.

National Dues for the June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022 fiscal year US \$50.

Cornaro Scholarship Donation _____ Total Enclosed _____

Credit/debit card number _____ Security Code _____

Expiration date _____ Name as it appears on card _____

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

Name _____

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What has your nomination to KGP meant to you? Tell us about your volunteer endeavors and call to service.
