



# KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS

*Leadership • Scholarship • Faith • Service*

[www.kappagammapi.org](http://www.kappagammapi.org)



**Founded 1926**

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## New Board Member!

Colleen Weaver (*Lourdes University, OH, '14*) is the newest member of the KGP National Board and will serve as the III Vice President through 2027. Colleen has enjoyed being a Kappa since her induction ceremony in 2014, following her graduation from Lourdes University with a Master of Organizational Leadership. She also graduated with a Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree from Lourdes majoring in Natural Science and Psychology. Lourdes University is going to be closing at the end of this academic year and Colleen is saddened by the loss of this amazing



*Colleen Weaver*

college. Lourdes provided not only a strong academic background for her, but also provided a foundation of faith and community. Lourdes had a feeling of caring and family at its roots and will be greatly missed. In addition to attending Lourdes, Colleen also furthered her Catholic education by receiving a Professional Certificate in Management

from the University of Notre Dame. These educational experiences based on Catholic principles were extremely important in shaping Colleen's dedication to ethics, fairness, and kindness in both her personal and professional lives.

Colleen's professional background is mainly in the environmental field. Over the past 30+ years, she was employed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Northwest District Office in Bowling Green, Ohio. Her career at Ohio EPA was in the area of environmental compliance, enforcement, permitting, and remediation within the RCRA (hazardous waste management) and CERCLA (environmental remediation) programs. Although mainly regulatory in nature, these programs also included things like educational

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## Kappa's Legacy

Kappa Gamma Pi has a long history of excellence thanks to the incredible members who helped to shape KGP into the organization it is today. In honor of Kappa's centennial, we invited Past Presidents and Cornaro Scholars to contribute a personal reflection for the *NEWS*.

### National Past Presidents

*Theresa Rush Woo (Holy Names University, CA, '85)*

I have many fond memories when I was Kappa Gamma Pi National President from 2001-2005. One particular memory was my visit to Portland, Oregon. We wanted to meet to see if there was an interest for increased Kappa participation such as forming a chapter. The Oregon KGP members were so warm and friendly. They provided a tour of the lovely Marylhurst University grounds and hosted a luncheon. I was impressed with their creative thinking by opening a Continuing Care Retirement Community call Mary's Woods on the grounds in 2001 due to their decreasing university enrollment. Unfortunately, Marylhurst University closed during the summer of 2018, and Mary's Woods celebrated their 25th anniversary of serving the retirement community on February 6, 2026. To this day, I will remember the kindness of the Oregon Kappas.



*Theresa Rush Woo and her husband Stephen at the 2005 National Convention at Ursuline College in Cleveland, Ohio.*

*Alene Finn Griffin (Mount St. Mary's University, CA, '66)*

Hello, Kappas! As I remember my twelve years on the Kappa Gamma Pi National Board, I am filled with gratitude. I am grateful for the honor of serving our organization as Third and First Vice President, Pre-

*See Legacy page 2*

## Legacy from page 1

sident and Past President. The years weren't always easy, but I treasure my journey.

I am grateful to the wonderful National Board Officers who served with me (too many to name) and for the enduring friendships we share. The National Office Staff, led by Pam and Bill Waitinas, was amazing. They always exceeded my expectations.

The National Board Meetings and Conventions were the highlights of each year. During my presidency, they were held at Benedictine University, Holy Names University, University of St. Mary, and the University of Holy Cross. Each time the local Kappas welcomed me warmly and were great hosts. My endearing thanks to Fr. David Turner (RIP) and Norma Battle for their leadership in hosting National Board Meetings along with the San Francisco East Bay Chapter and the New Orleans Chapter for their outstanding Conventions!

We continued the transition to electronic communication and supported chapters as well as Kappas at Large. There was almost daily work, but through it all, I felt blessed having opportunities to live a life of faith and service. Those opportunities gave me a wealth of experience and memories helping to shape the person I am today.

It was rewarding to interact with Kappas from each region of the United States and abroad. When we gathered, we were enriched and enjoyed fun times like eating regional foods, wearing boas in New Orleans and red shoes in Kansas City. Those were the days... plenty of hard work sprinkled with friendship and fun!

The "KGP 80th Anniversary Booklet" was published during my presidency in 2006. It was enlightening to



(Above): Kappas wearing red shoes in Kansas City at the 2008 National Board Meeting.



(Below): Celebrating at the 2009 Convention in New Orleans were Scott and Alene Griffin and Pam and Bill Waitinas. Pamela Wright Waitinas (Notre Dame College, OH, '61) served KGP in critical roles: as National Office coordinator, membership secretary, and as editor of the NEWS for 45 years.

look back through the years and then work toward achieving one hundred years for our organization. Now, let's celebrate the 100th Anniversary and look forward to what lies ahead! Congratulations, Kappas!

### Cornaro Scholar

**Chris M. Wood, OP, RN, PhD, GNP** (Holy Names University, CA, '87)

When I received the Cornaro Scholarship in 1991, I had no idea about what the future held. I looked forward

to starting the UCSF MS Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist track with a view to moving into the doctoral program. Both of those happened, but what followed has been anything but planned.

Since completing graduate studies, I worked on the Nun Study at the University of Kentucky, taught undergraduate and

graduate students in California, Indiana, and Michigan, helped inaugurate a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner program (completing my own post-master's GNP), did eldercare consulting for religious congregations, and worked in my community's care center. In the midst of my eldercare consulting, in 2002, I transferred from the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary California province to the Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids.

Currently, I am an adjunct faculty at Grand Rapids Community College, also providing transportation and healthcare advocacy for our sisters in assisted living. While active as a liturgical musician for our on-campus Sunday Assembly, I am co-convenor of the Care of Sisters group of Dominican Sisters from 14 collaborating congregations.

Reflecting on the passage of many years, I will always be grateful for the assistance of the Cornaro Scholarship at the start of my graduate studies. §



*Sporting colorful boas at the 2009 Convention at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans (L to R): Pat Baumgarten, Alene Finn Griffin, Kate Coulihan Ficke, Teresa Bosh, Mary Alice Studebaker McManus, Carla Naranjo, Ellen Hunley, and Peggy Finnigan-Jessup.*



*At the 2011 Convention at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois (L to R): Bonnie Gentilia, Joanne Rouzan Driscoll, Teresa Bosh, Pat Baumgarten, Catherine Wright-Volante, Iris Smalenberg, Judy Gelwicks, Gail Schaefer, and Peggy Finnigan-Jessup.*

***A Franciscan Benediction***

May God bless you with discomfort  
 At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships  
 So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
 At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
 So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
 To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger,  
 and war,  
 So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them  
 and  
 To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
 To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
 So that you can do what others claim cannot be done,  
 To bring justice and kindness to all our children and  
 the poor.

# ***A Message from KGP's National President***

**Welcome, new III Vice President!**

I am excited to welcome **Colleen Weaver** (*Lourdes University, OH, '14*) as Kappa's new III Vice President. In this role, Colleen will work with the other National Officers and serve as a contact person assisting KGP Chapters, College Liaisons, and Members-at-Large (Kappas who do not reside within the geographical area covered by a chapter). I look forward to working with Colleen and am confident that she will be a fabulous addition to the National Board.

**Kappa Gamma Pi 100**

In June, KGP will mark its centenary - a milestone that would undoubtedly have delighted our organization's founding members.

**Join us on Saturday, June 27, 2026, for a virtual event celebrating Kappa's centennial year!**

10:00 a.m. PT | 1:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

Register here: <https://bit.ly/KGP100YEARS>

This two-hour event will include a Kappa Sharing session featuring KGP Past Presidents recounting some of their favorite stories about Kappa Conventions and their service on the National Board. Be a part of this conversation with Kappas from coast to coast and across generations. I invite you to join us and welcome your ideas and suggestions for this special gathering.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we celebrate Kappa's legacy of recognizing academic excellence and an abiding commitment to faith and look forward to highlighting future leadership and the ongoing service of members. The support of Kappas is essential to everything we do. And we are always grateful.

Thank you for all the ways you further KGP's mission: by supporting Kappa by paying dues or donating to the Cornaro Scholarship Fund, by participating in volunteer activities, by your leadership and contributions in your community.

In Faith and Service,

*Anne Dunlap Kahren*



**Anne Dunlap-Kahren**  
 Holy Names University, CA, '88  
 Kappa Gamma Pi National President  
[president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org)

# Kappa Gamma Pi History

Kappa Gamma Pi's legacy is deeply rooted in the organization's tradition of academic excellence, service, leadership, and strong Catholic values. KGP was established to recognize outstanding academic distinction and strong moral character among graduates of Catholic colleges and universities. The society has grown into a network of individuals who are committed to faith, integrity, and community impact. The following timeline outlines significant moments and achievements in shaping KGP's development. Kappa members continue to lead with purpose in their careers and personal lives.

## 1926

June 30, 1926: Kappa Gamma Pi was founded in Louisville, Kentucky, by the Conference of Catholic Colleges for Women of the National Catholic Educational Association.

## 1927-29

1927, 1928, and 1929 Charter members were selected by their colleges.



## 1929

This photo was taken in 1929 at the first National Congress - before they were called Conventions - at Seton Hill College (now Seton Hill University and an inactive affiliate) in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. At that time, Kappa had 29 affiliated colleges and 346 elected members from the graduating classes of 1927-1929.

Rev. Francis V. Corcoran, CM, co-founder of KGP with Sister Josephine Rosaire Rea, SC, is seated in the middle of the group, first row. Sister Josephine Rosaire is not pictured, at the time, most nuns declined to be photographed. The woman seated at the left of Father Corcoran in the photo (his right) is Cecil Mary Ronan Kennedy, the first National President of KGP. She was a 1929 graduate of Marygrove College, Detroit, Michigan - a brand-new nominee at the time and elected at the Seton Hill Congress.

It was at this 1929 Congress that the official name Kappa Gamma Pi was adopted. Delegates also chose *Faith and Service* as their motto and began to organize the society on both national and local levels.



## 1932

This photo was taken in June 1932 at the regional meeting of Kappa Gamma Pi held at Colton Manor in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

New York, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia Chapters sent representatives. The chapters gave reports on their programs and members suggested further KGP activities. The recommendations included the formation of current events groups, poetry clubs and other literary groups, and the collection of books and magazines for distribution in hospitals. They urged more publicity to rouse undergraduate interest on campus ('twas ever thus!'), and the publication of a national KGP directory and a periodical to be the official communication channel for the society.



## 1951

25th Anniversary Luncheon - Cleveland, Ohio, during the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Meeting - L to R: Maria Mizer Miller, Cleveland Chapter President; Msgr. Robert Navin, president of affiliate St. John's College; Margaret Mealey, San Francisco Kappa and longtime executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Women; Msgr. Clarence Elwell, superintendent of Cleveland Catholic Schools; Catherine Rohan Eigel, Saint Louis Kappa and KGP National President.



**1955**

29th Anniversary Luncheon, Atlantic City, New Jersey, during the NCEA Convention. A sea of black-and-white habits! For many years anniversary luncheons were sponsored by KGP during National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) conventions to bring the administrators of affiliated colleges together to meet KGP officers.

**1956**

Kappa affiliates begin awarding the Saint Catherine Medal for Student Achievement in honor of KGP's patron saint, Saint Catherine of Alexandria.



**1962**

Davenport, Iowa, Chapter Kappas sponsored an "Instant College" as a stimulus to post-collegiate intellectual activity. L to R: Joan Marie McNamara Resnick, Marilyn Stutz Bulat, Rose Mary Lane Spaeth, and Rita Lerch Lyons.

**1963**

KGP presents the first Faith and Service Award and appoints its first National Executive Secretary.

**1967**

Membership is extended to members of religious orders and to those of various faith commitments.

**1981**

Membership is extended to eligible male graduates.

**1985**

Kappa begins awarding the Cornaro Scholarship, named for Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, the first woman ever to earn a university degree.

**1989**

Nomination by affiliated colleges and universities of former honor graduates who were ineligible for membership at the time of their graduation is approved. Membership is extended to graduates of post-graduate divisions of affiliated institutions.

**1993**

Membership is extended to include nomination of one administrator from each affiliate per year.

**1995**

KGP purchases its first computer.

**2000**

KGP launches its first website: [www.kappagammapi.org](http://www.kappagammapi.org).

**2013**

Hilbert College in Hamburg, New York, becomes Kappa's 143rd affiliated institution.

KGP launches its updated website with a members-only portal that links to the KGP database.

**2023**

KGP hosts its first *hybrid* convention in Detroit and on-line via Zoom. (The 2021 Convention was 100% virtual due to the Coronavirus pandemic.)

**Today**

Over 55,000 graduates of 143 Catholic institutions have become KGP members over the last 100 years. Kappas reside in all 50 states, and in 90 countries around the world.

## Board Member *from page 1*

outreach, public meetings, community involvement, and collaboration with other governmental agencies. Colleen began her career at Ohio EPA as an inspector in 1991 and retired as a manager in 2022.

Since retiring, Colleen remains connected to environmental work by volunteering with the Toledo Area Metroparks, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium, and the Environmental Protection Network. Her activities at these organizations range from education of the public and providing technical assistance for environmental issues to stream quality sampling and wildlife monitoring. Colleen was drawn to volunteering her time with KGP because of its motto of *Faith and Service* that encourages members to strive for a high standard of Christian excellence in leadership and contributions to the community. She is looking forward to collaborating with the members of the KGP National Board on future endeavors.

Colleen resides in Waterville, Ohio, with her husband, Bill, and their daughter, Elizabeth, who is a junior at the University of Toledo majoring in Environmental Studies.

In her free time, Colleen likes to travel with her family throughout the Midwest and Southeast. Her favorite destinations are Mackinac Island, Michigan, and the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. She also has a wide range of other hobbies such as watching F1 motor sports, Detroit baseball, and Notre Dame football; attending horse events; drawing and nature photography. §

## 2026 Cornaro Scholarship Judges

Thank you to the Kappas who volunteered to serve as judges for the 2026 Cornaro Scholarship.

**Janine Bamberger** (*Mount Mary University, WI, '81*)

**John Casey** (*St. Thomas University, FL, '23*)

**Kate Ficke** (*Dominican University, IL, '75*)

**Luonna Lancaster** (*Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, IN, '21*)

**Nancy Richards** (*Ursuline College, OH, '77*)

**Michelle Tressel** (*Fontbonne University, MO, '80*)

**Colleen Weaver** (*Lourdes University, OH, '14*)

If you would like to serve as a Cornaro judge for 2027, please reach out to II Vice President **Dr. Carl Cain** at [cornaro@kappagammapi.org](mailto:cornaro@kappagammapi.org).



## Celebrating Kappa's Centennial

### Kappa Gamma Pi 100

Join us on Saturday, June 27, 2026, for a virtual event celebrating Kappa's centennial year!

10:00 a.m. PT | 1:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

Register here: <https://bit.ly/KGP100YEARS>

### Celebrating 100 Years of *Faith and Service*

This two-hour event will commemorate a centenary of Kappa history and our society's legacy of recognizing academic excellence and commitment to faith and service. A Kappa Sharing session will feature some KGP Past Presidents and Cornaro Scholars recounting their favorite stories about Kappa Conventions, their service on the National Board, and how the Cornaro Scholarship helped them get to where they are today. We'll spotlight a few of Kappa's charter affiliated colleges and universities. Plus, we'll take a quick look at where KGP is heading and our ongoing mission.

*Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society, exemplifies excellence in leadership, scholarship, faith, and service.*

Join us on June 27 to be a part of this conversation with Kappas from coast to coast and across generations. We invite all Kappas to join us for this special event and welcome your ideas and suggestions for this notable gathering.

## 2024-2025 Saint Catherine Medal Recipients

The Saint Catherine Medal for Student Achievement was awarded to the following students at KGP-affiliated colleges and universities during the 2024-2025 academic year. Presentation is made to a student who has achieved special recognition, served the college in an extraordinary manner or has the best record of progressive achievement.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Barry University, Miami, Florida<br><i>Imani McClammy</i>               | St. Catherine University, Saint Paul, MN<br><i>Meredith Toussaint</i>      |
| Caldwell University, Caldwell, NJ<br><i>Kristina Hilla</i>              | St. Edwards University, Austin, TX<br><i>Josie Lopez-Corona</i>            |
| Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA<br><i>Ashley Janai Martinez</i> | <i>Sarah Calvin</i>  |
| College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE<br><i>Autumn Neale</i>                 | University of San Diego, San Diego, CA<br><i>Xitlali P. Pedraza-Payta</i>  |
| <i>Kaitlin Smith</i>  | University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX<br><i>Brendan Barber</i> |
| Dominican University, River Forest, IL<br><i>Marwa Abdullah</i>         | <i>Emily Learning</i>  |
| Fontbonne University, St. Louis, MO<br><i>Ian Hugo Steinkamp</i>        | <i>Eric Pineda</i>   |
| Gannon University, Erie, PA<br><i>Elsa Pearl Lieb</i>                   | <i>Jocelyn Reyes</i>   |
| Marywood University, Scranton, PA<br><i>Meilei C. Cianfrocco</i>        | <i>Julianie Gonzalez</i>   |
|   | <i>Marissa Rodriguez</i>   |
|   | <i>Olovia Towers</i>   |
|   | Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, OH<br><i>Alejandra Gonzales</i>             |

KGP affiliates have awarded the Saint Catherine Medal since 1956. Medals may be given on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Institutions may award medals for different schools or divisions.

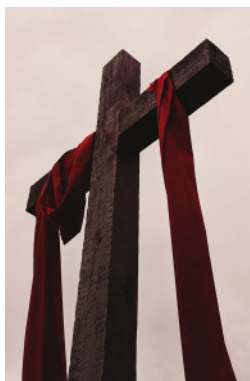
If your college is not included on this list, please contact the KGP National Office for information. You may sponsor the award at your own *alma mater* or at any other affiliate. Four Kappas currently sponsor the medal at their *alma maters*, and KGP sponsors this award at the colleges of deceased KGP National Presidents.

### In Loving Memory

*In memoriam..*

- **Sr. Miriam Joseph Reinhardt, IHM** (*Marywood College, PA, '51*)
- **Jane Romatowski, Ed D** (*Marygrove College, MI, '53*)
- **Karen Kahles Rosen** (*Mount St. Joseph, OH, '73*)
- **Lucy Schneider** (*Marymount College, VA, '48*)

If you know of a Kappa who has passed on, please send an email to [admin@kappagammapi.org](mailto:admin@kappagammapi.org).



### KGP National Board

- PRESIDENT Anne Dunlap-Kahren** (*Holy Names University, CA, '88*), Sacramento, CA, [president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org)
- I VICE PRESIDENT Dr. David W. Seeger** (*Lourdes University, OH, '05*), Maumee, OH, [firstvp@kappagammapi.org](mailto:firstvp@kappagammapi.org)
- II VICE PRESIDENT Dr. Carl Cain** (*Niagara University, NY, '06*), Niagara Falls, NY, [cornaro@kappagammapi.org](mailto:cornaro@kappagammapi.org)
- III VICE PRESIDENT Colleen Weaver** (*Lourdes University, OH, '14*) Waterville, OH, [thirdvp@kappagammapi.org](mailto:thirdvp@kappagammapi.org)
- RECORDING SECRETARY Kate Ficke** (*Dominican University, IL, '75*), Huntley, IL, [recordingsec@kappagammapi.org](mailto:recordingsec@kappagammapi.org)
- TREASURER Anne F. Simon** (*D'Youville University, NY, '94*), Buffalo, NY, [treasurer@kappagammapi.org](mailto:treasurer@kappagammapi.org)

# KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS



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Spring 2026

## 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 <https://engage.kappagammapi.org>.

National Dues for the June 1, 2026 - May 31, 2027 fiscal year US \$50.

Cornaro Scholarship Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit/debit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Tell us about your current volunteer endeavors.

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