



Theta Kite

Alpha Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta • Established at Purdue University in 1915 • Fall 2025

Theta Undergraduate Tapped to Serve on Purdue University Board of Trustees

By Kay Kenady Sanger '62

Reagan Koester '23, was recently selected by the Indiana governor to serve a two-year Student Trustee term on the Purdue University Board of Trustees. A junior in the College of Agriculture, Reagan is studying agribusiness with a concentration in agribusiness management.

This appointment to the Board of Trustees is a high honor for an undergraduate student, and not the only one for Reagan. She has also received outstanding freshman and sophomore awards from the College of Agriculture and has served as a state ambassador for Indiana 4-H. In 2023, she was one of 12 students selected to lobby on Capitol Hill, representing National Ag Voices of the Future.



Reagan Koester '23

Among Reagan's many campus activities, she has served as president of the Purdue University Rising Professionals,

and served as a member of the Student Organization Grant Allocation Board and the Ag Week Task Force.

As the sole student member of the ten-member Board of Trustees, with full voting rights, Reagan will provide governance and strategic oversight of institutional initiatives and operations across the four Purdue campuses, which serve more than 100,000 students. The Board of Trustees provides input on strategic initiatives and the future of Purdue, advancing the land-grant mission: extension, academics, and research.

"Personally, I hope to bring unique perspectives to the board, whether through my lens as a student or growing up in the extension program," Reagan says. "Although I am a student, I will represent the

Continued on page 11.

Four Alpha Chi Thetas Honored as a Most Influential Alumni *Event part of Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life's 150th Anniversary*

Purdue's Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life's (FSCL) 150th anniversary culminated September 27 with an award ceremony honoring the 150 Most Influential Purdue Graduates. Attending were (left to right) award winner **Nancie Oxley '98**; **Linda Markins Sorensen '60**, founder of the Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Foundation; John Coulson, accepting the award for his late sister **Zoe Coulson '51**; award winner **Sheila Johnston Klinker '57** and **Marilynn Dammon Bottomley '66**, president of the Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Foundation.

This past summer, FSCL asked for nominations for the 150th most influential alumni and these four distinguished alumnae were recognized for their extraordinary contributions and achievements since leaving Purdue: **Dr. Jennie Tilt**,



From left, Nancie Oxley; Linda Markins Sorensen; John Coulson, Sheila Johnston Klinker and Marilynn Dammon Bottomley.

1915; Zoe Coulson '51; Sheila Johnston Klinker '57 and Nancie Oxley '98.

Read about their accomplishments on pages 4 and 5.

Recruitment, Fall Activities and Scholarship Headline Events at the Peach Palace



The recruitment team (pictured in white) worked all summer organizing work week and the various activities needed to get Thetas ready for recruitment. Bid Day brought 46 new members to 607 N. Russell!

Another wonderful, busy semester is underway at the Peach Palace! We just wrapped up recruitment season, welcoming 46 incredible new members to the Alpha Chi chapter! Our VP of Membership, **Leah Fry '22**, and Recruitment Director, **Vanessa Prodafikas '23**, worked so hard to make recruitment such a success! We've loved getting to know the new members already and can't wait to show them all the reasons we love being Alpha Chi Thetas!

The new girls ran home September 8th, celebrating with the theme "Drafted the Best," organized by our amazing VP of Education, **Emma Metzger '23**, and New Member Educator, **Hannah Barbee '23**. The countdown was on until MC'25's initiation on October 17.

The Alpha Chi chapter has stayed busy these past few months. The chapter was ranked 2nd in grades this past spring semester, with a cumulative GPA of 3.51! We continue to be

impressed by the dedication and hard work each member puts forth daily. Beyond academics, many members have taken part in study abroad programs and internships across the globe! Our girls are also heavily involved in numerous campus organizations, with many taking on leadership roles.

We looked forward to many exciting events this semester! On October 5th, Sisterhood Chair **Ella Riordan '23**, hosted a bouquet-making sisterhood event. Our Fall philanthropy event was October 6, with Fundraising Director **MaryCate Munn '23**, and VP of External Affairs **Stella Snook '23**, organizing a "dirty soda bar" fundraiser for CASA between pledge classes.

Notable fall events include our annual Dad's Day on November 7th and 8th, organized by Special Events Coordinator **Peyton Bean '22**, who is bringing back the "old-school" Dad's Day with two days of festivities!

We're also excited for the annual Barn Dance on November 15th, thanks to Event Director **Olivia May '23**, who has worked hard to make it an unforgettable night! Fall is always full of fun, and we're loving every moment.

I'm humbled to have received the opportunity to serve as Alpha Chi's Chapter President over the past year. It's been the greatest privilege. I'm so thankful for the endless support from MumZ (Rita Zawisza), Advisory Board Chairs, FCB, the Educational Foundation, alumnae, and most importantly, our active members, whom I would be lost without! I'm so excited to see what's in store for our chapter this next year!



Loyally,
Olivia Kinney '23
Chapter President

46 New Members Are Welcomed Home

With a Bid Day sports theme of “Drafted the Best,” 46 women opened bid cards on September 8th and made the run to 607 N. Russell where they were warmly welcomed into the Alpha Chi Chapter.

Alexa Ade <i>Carmel, IN</i>	Drew Engelman <i>Fort Wayne, IN</i>	Mia MacKinnon <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>		
Allison Antz <i>Sellersburg, IN</i>	Ella Gaerte <i>Carmel, IN</i>	Mia McNerney <i>Carmel, IN</i>		
Elyse Barajas <i>Carmel, IN</i>	Ella Gries <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Ripley Merritt <i>Fort Wayne, IN</i>		
Gracie Blake <i>Zionsville, IN</i>	Reagan Haines <i>Carmel, IN</i>	Isabella Minkler <i>Richmond, VA</i>		
Alana Bowman <i>Crawfordsville, IN</i>	Susan Hanley <i>Ankeny, IA</i>	Ashley Moseley <i>Lafayette, IN</i>		
Ella Bowman <i>Zionsville, IN</i>	Lindsey Hartwell <i>Columbus, IN</i>	Jeanette Murray <i>Noblesville, IN</i>	Mary Grace Rotter <i>Richmond, VA</i>	Ashley Sylvia <i>Brownsburg, IN</i>
Amelia Buckert <i>Chicago, IL</i>	Elise Herman <i>Fishers, IN</i>	Anne Noonig <i>Zionsville, IN</i>	Sasha Sallade <i>Palatine, IL</i>	Sara Zarse <i>Goodland, IN</i>
Sara Carmona <i>Bloomington, IN</i>	Grayson Hill <i>Fishers, IN</i>	Bridget O'Donnell <i>Overland Park, KS</i>	Brooklyn Schrage <i>Lafayette, IN</i>	Maci Zehner <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>
McKenna Carroll <i>Omaha, NE</i>	Molly Judy <i>Glenview, IL</i>	Taylor Pogemiller <i>Zionsville, IN</i>	Karis Shields <i>Noblesville, IN</i>	
Becca Copeland <i>Brownsburg, IN</i>	Maeve Kalesperis <i>Fortville, IN</i>	Luciana Raffin <i>Chesterton, IN</i>	Lilly Snider <i>Plainfield, IN</i>	
Ally Creecy <i>North Richland Hills, TX</i>	Ceci Klobuchar <i>Wilmette, IL</i>	Ava Rees <i>Jasper, IN</i>	Hannah Strange <i>Marion, IN</i>	
Charlotte DeCoursey <i>Zionsville, IN</i>	Kaitlyn Kuckkan <i>Lafayette, IN</i>	Grace Reiser <i>Pleasant Plains, IL</i>	Evie Sunderlin <i>Fort Wayne, IN</i>	



Zoe Coulson Scholar Award

Congratulations to **Ella Crist '24** (left), a sophomore, who received the Zoe Coulson Scholar Award from the Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Foundation for the most improved Spring 2025 GPA from Academic Development Director **Leah Hartwell '23** (right).

Zoe Coulson '51, was recognized this Fall as one the 150 Most Influential Graduates of Purdue. Her work as a trailblazer was an inspiration to many, especially women, who then followed her example and entered the job force after graduation. Zoe served on many corporate boards, was an editor of *Good Housekeeping* magazine and wrote two best-selling cookbooks.



Celebrating Alpha Chi Thetas Named as One of FSCL's 150 Most Influential Alumni

Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life (FSCL) was founded on Purdue's Campus 150 years ago and as part of the celebration, alumni were invited to nominate people who have achieved extraordinary contributions and achievements since leaving Purdue. Included are these remarkable members of Alpha Chi Chapter. Congratulations!

1915 Dr. Jennie Tilt Early Initiate of Kappa Alpha Theta, Professor, Nutritionist and Chemist



Dr. Jennie Tilt was born in 1887 and raised on a dairy farm in West Lafayette, the current site of Ross Ade Stadium. She attended Purdue and graduated with her first degree in Home Economics in 1907, then a Masters in 1910. For three years after graduation, she was an assistant in Purdue's Chemistry Department.

Jennie was a member of Phi Lambda Psi, the local Lafayette sorority which became Alpha Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta in April 1915. She was initiated in September of that same year.

Dr. Tilt had a long career in chemistry, specifically in nutritional values of fruits and vegetables. Through her work at Florida State College for Women, which became part of the University of Florida system in 1947, she established the Florida State Laboratory for Nutrition.

For decades it had been known that cit-

rus fruit helped prevent scurvy among sailors on long voyages. Few people thought of this in terms of the chemical factors involved and the word "vitamin" was just beginning to come into common use. Dr. Tilt helped perform related research in Fall 1924 on hydrogen ion concentration.

The project, which was the first vitamin research to be done on canned citrus, showed that the canning process actually increased the antiscorbutic potency rather than decreased it.

Dr. Tilt was very active in professional and women's organizations serving on the boards of many scientific and home economics organizations. She was president of the Florida branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). And she was a very loyal Theta, helping Kappa Alpha Theta win the establishment of Beta Nu Chapter at Florida State College in 1924.

1951 Zoe Coulson Trailblazer for Women in Business



Zoe Coulson was a Purdue alumna who became a successful leader in the U.S. food industry and was a trailblazer for women in business. She was the first female vice president of the Campbell Soup Company and the first female member of the Board of Directors for Rubbermaid Inc. As the first Food Editor for *Good Housekeeping* magazine, she wrote two best-selling cookbooks, one of which sold over 5 million copies.

Zoe grew up on a farm in Sullivan County, Indiana, and was very active in 4-H. She graduated from Purdue in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics and Education. While at Purdue, she was president of Duhme Residence Hall her freshman year, worked four years on the *Exponent* and became a senior editor, and was initiated into Alpha Chi Chapter where she was the house manager.

Zoe spoke across the U.S. on topics relating to food science, testified before Congressional committees on labels and packaging, and consulted about marketing in the U.S. She was named an Old Master and Distinguished Alumni by Purdue University and the Outstanding Hoosier in 1974 by Governor Otis Bowen.

While on campus in 1974, Zoe had dinner at the Theta house and during an after-dinner chat, Thetas were in awe listening to her talk about her work. Most in attendance had grown up with mothers who did not work outside the home, so to hear a Theta talk about her career was inspirational to many.

In each city where Zoe worked, she took time to mentor young Purdue graduates and her energy and initiative are hallmarks of her life, career and retirement. She said, "My community projects are quite fulfilling since I believe in helping others."

After she passed away in 2018, her brother donated her Theta pin and other Theta jewelry to the chapter. The Zoe Coulson Scholar Award was then established by the Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Foundation. Every semester, the Ed Foundation recognizes the woman with the most improved GPA.

1957 Sheila Johnston Klinker, Gamma/Butler Indiana House of Representatives



As a member of the Indiana House of Representatives for District 27 since 1982, Sheila Johnston Klinker is probably one of the most well-known people in the Lafayette area due in no small part to her service to the community, her interest in others and her commitment to making life better for the citizens of her district and the state.

Sheila initiated into Kappa Alpha Theta at Gamma/Butler but transferred to Purdue in her sophomore year. Lafayette Thetas are proud to call her one of their own and Purdue has benefited greatly from her service and her support.

As an undergrad she performed professionally and sang with the Purduettes. She has continued her association with PMO and supports them generously. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Education, then Master's in Education and Administration, she spent 34 years

teaching in Lafayette before beginning a second career in public service in the Indiana House of Representatives.

She has successfully combined her two professions—education with public service by serving on the Education Committee in the House of Representatives, among many other committees and responsibilities over the years.

The fraternity system has also benefited from Sheila's active support—she proudly tells people she is a Theta, she supports young people and encourages them to pursue the Greek system when they matriculate to college. Very often she promotes public service to young women she meets and suggests they not overlook it in their futures.

Sheila is extremely active in Lafayette and leads by example. She routinely supports organizations by donating her financial assistance, time and energy. She has served on numerous community boards and has received numerous awards.

1998 Nancie Oxley Vice President Winemaking, St. Julian Winery & Distillery



Nancie Oxley was a member of the 1998 pledge class and graduated with a BS in Food Manufacturing Operations in 2002. She assisted Dr. Richard Vine in making wine for Purdue's grape/wine research program and assisted with the Indy International Wine Competition. In Fall 2001, Nancie interned at Geyser Peak Winery in Sonoma, California.

Recognized as Michigan's first female winemaker, she joined St. Julian in 2002 as Assistant Winemaker, promoted to Head Winemaker in 2010 and to Vice

President in 2017. Her high energy and enthusiasm for winemaking is empowered by two postgraduate degrees in 2010, a Masters in Agribusiness Management from Purdue University and an MBA from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University.

In 2013, Nancie was awarded the Outstanding Food Science Alumni Award from Purdue University. Other notable awards are 2019 Fruit & Vegetable Grower's 40 Under 40 and 2019 Distinguished Agriculture Alumni Award from Purdue's College of Agriculture. Nancie's most prestigious honor was the title of Purdue University Old Master in 2022. Most recently, she was chosen as one of the 2023 Wine Industry Leaders by Wine Business Monthly, 2024 Bold Women in Business by Moody on the Market and Fox17 Person of the Month for July 2024 for her philanthropic commitment to the SuperHero Robbie Oxley Foundation.

Nancie is a guiding force behind the high standards and quality focused, world-class wines and spirits produced at St. Julian. Her outgoing and energetic nature, along with her positive attitude, have combined to make her a well-respected winemaker within the industry.

STAY CONNECTED!



purduetheta@gmail.com



@purduetheta



KappaAlphaTheta-AlphaChiChapter

Class of 1962 Recommends Reunions in West Lafayette

Reconnect with the past and celebrate Purdue's impressive success

By Kay Kenday Sanger '62

In September 2024, 16 members of the pledge class of 1962 met for a three-day reunion at Purdue. It was a joyous gathering of old friends who had graduated nearly 60 years ago. The reunion was planned by three members of the class who live in Indianapolis: **Karen Cromwell Blake, Jane Brosious Sweet and Kathy Stonehouse Poole**.

The three women created an event-packed experience that allowed the pledge sisters to visit old memories at Purdue and to marvel at how much the campus has changed. While they considered having the group stay at the large, centrally located Union Club Hotel Purdue (in the Purdue Memorial Union), they opted instead to stay at The Whittaker Inn, a boutique hotel located 20 minutes from the campus.

The inn was built in 2019 and is managed by Elizabeth and Andrew Whittaker, who graduated from the Purdue School of Hotel and Tourism Management. By buying out the 15-room inn for three days, pledge class members could each enjoy their own room, share private meals in the dining room prepared by the inn's staff, and meet each evening for a group discussion in the hotel's comfortable living room.

During the day, the group toured many of Purdue's new buildings and programs. On the first day, they enjoyed a two-hour tour of the campus onboard the Boilermaker Special. This iconic experience allowed them to see how much the now-majestic trees had grown since they were students and to marvel at impressive new buildings, flowering gardens and outdoor pianos that passing students could play.

The locomotive picked them up at the

1962

Theta house and returned them there for a delicious lunch in the newly redecorated dining room. The group then toured the entire house, chatting about the experience of sleeping in the dorm, sharing the study rooms, and parties in the basement. A highlight of the house visit was the chance to meet actives and share stories with them. As a heartwarming surprise, each of the visiting alums received a personal, hand-written letter from an active.

While the pledge class members were not charged for their lunch at the house, they offered instead to make a donation to the Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Foundation. (P.O. Box 3754, West Lafayette, IN 47996-3754)

Later in the day, the group toured the famous Mackey Arena and the impressive Football Performance Complex, with its multiple practice fields and huge exercise facilities.

Over the next two days, the group continued to tour the campus and to learn about Purdue's incredible growth and impressive programs. All of the facilities they toured were new since the pledge class members had graduated. Some of the tour highlights included:

- The Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Building tour, where students learn a subject that couldn't have been imagined in 1962, in a building filled with open spaces for collaboration.

Continued on page 11.

TOOLS FOR PLANNING A PURDUE REUNION

LODGING

Whittaker Inn
Union Club Hotel Purdue



RESTAURANTS

8Eleven Modern Bistro
Atlas Family Marketplace
Bistro 501
Boilerhouse Prime
The Bryant
East End Grill
Harry's Chocolate Shop
La Scala
McGraw's
Red 7
Triple XXX
Walt's
Whittaker Inn



CAMPUS TOURS & HIGHLIGHTS

Campus Tours
Boilermaker Special VII
Campus Tours



Campus Highlights
Daniels School of Business
Hotel & Tourism Management Center
Hall of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
Jules Janick Horticulture Garden
Mackey Arena and Football Performance Center
The Degas Collection

Places to Visit

Prophetstown State Park
Main Street Lafayette, including Two Tulips, a shop that sells Theta merchandise



KAPPA ALPHA THETA CHAPTER HOUSE

Contact House Director
Rita Zawisza: rzawisza@purdue.edu



Class of 1969 Combines In-Person Reunions and Weekly Zoom Chats

Members of the Class of 1969 saw other members at various events over the years, including weddings, the chapter's 75th anniversary, the grocery store, etc. An effort to hold in-person reunions began in 2023, 30 years after graduation when members met in Mesquite, Nevada, 80 miles north of Las Vegas. Seven other reunions have followed from South Carolina to the Midwest and Kentucky, with day trips to Purdue and the Theta house included in the Midwest trips.

All sisters with emails on file are invited and normally 9-14 people attend. They are usually organized by a group of sisters in the area of the reunion, but sometimes someone is adventurous enough to pick an area unfamiliar to all.

According to **Linda Weaver Roberts**, "One requirement is that we have a table big enough for all of us to sit around and just talk. Many things had been revealed: our favorite beauty item, iPhone app and Theta/Purdue memory."



The Class of 1969's first ever reunion was in 2003 at Mesquite, Nevada, where they lounged at the spa. Lower row from left: Kathy Walker Schniedwind, Linda Weaver Roberts, Elaine Rush Haehl, Mary Kay Grief French. Upper row from left: Jan Toth Allen, Julie Carlson Wright, Peggy Fawcett Edwards, Anne Littlefield Young, Katie Baugh Nielsen and Nancy Bange Kennedy.

When COVID hit, the class turned to Zoom and they continue to this day to chat every Thursday afternoon with anywhere from 4-8 people on a call.

Those attending never run out of things to talk about each week. Topics cover anything and everything! To catch up, they usually start with the health of sisters and families, always hoping for good

news. Conversations then go into movies, books, current events, travel, sports, fashion, old times back at Purdue, you name it.

Linda says, "We are thankful for the lasting friendships that started at the Theta house 55 years ago! Sometimes it's like we never left."

Class of 1971: From snail mail to email The chain letter that never ends

Carol Land McCarthy '71, was recording secretary for Alpha Chi Chapter during her sophomore year. Her responsibilities included submitting news about the chapter to the *Kappa Alpha Theta* magazine and creating the annual Kite newsletter to all Alpha Chi alumnae.

Before graduation, Carol decided to do a yearly pledge class newsletter to keep in touch, so she posted a notice on the bulletin board to leave an address if interested.

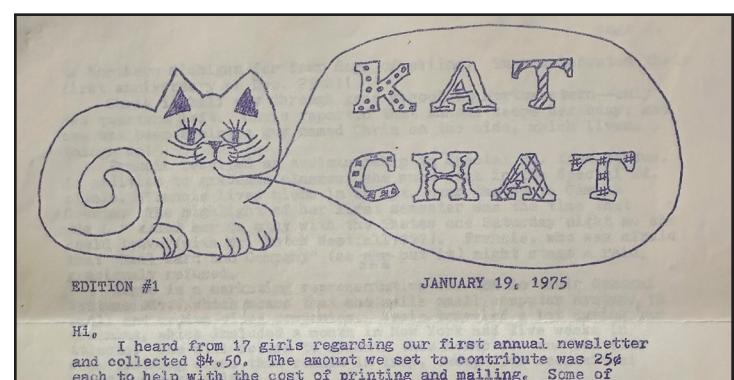
KAT CHAT was born in January 1975! Class news was mailed to her (yes, through the post office!) usually on a hand-written letter (typewriters were a luxury to some) with \$.25 for postage inside the envelope.

Carol typed the news on a special form and ran that 30 times through a mimeo-

graph machine (Google it if you are under 50). Soon **Joan Wheatley** offered to take over the job and over the years, others have taken their turn.

Eventually the newsletter was done on a copy machine, and when email began, the newsletter became electronic and included photos.

Says **Sarah McKinney Cantwell**, "It's been fun to read each year. Beginning with marriages, then career news, babies.....grandchildren, retirement.....now we just hope each year that all of us are aging gracefully and still healthy!" And **Cindy Spradling Mendenhall**

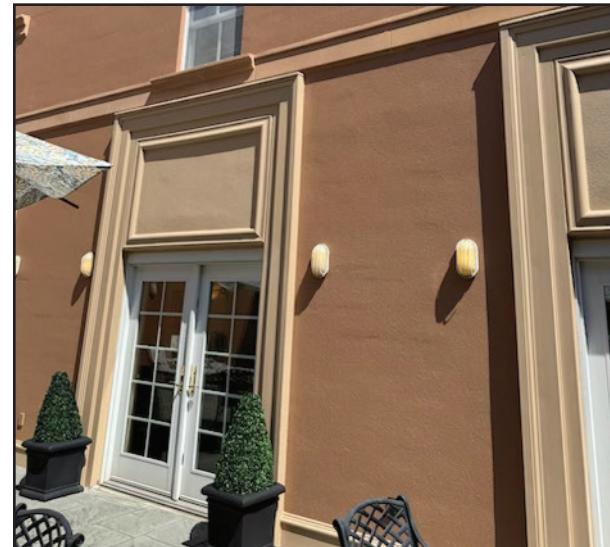


The Class of 1971's first issue of Kat Chat began in 1975 after graduation as a snail mail mimeographed newsletter.

adds, "The class of 1971 newsletter has been a great way to keep in touch with everyone. I strongly encourage each pledge class to do a newsletter to keep in touch."

Summer Work: Parlor Upgrade, Exterior Paint and Continuing HVAC Work

Three members join the Facility Corporation Board



Over the summer, the chapter house was power washed and received a fresh coat of paint

A new academic year is upon us, and with it, comes some new beginnings! We are so excited to serve as your new co-presidents for the upcoming year! We are **Megan Ricks '12** and **Kate Hanley '18**, and are thrilled for this opportunity and plan on leading the Facility Corporation Board with enthusiasm and dedication.

Our beloved chapter house received some wonderful updates over the summer. A huge shoutout to our Summer Projects team **Cindy Spradling Mendenhall '71**, and **Sarah McKinney Cantwell '71**, and **House Director Rita Zawisza** for overseeing those projects. The exterior of the house received a fresh coat of paint, re-

storing its charming facade. Inside, the parlor room has been transformed with beautiful new furniture, creating an even more welcoming and comfortable study space for group and individual studying.

Thank you to the generosity of our Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Foundation donors for making the parlor room/study transformation possible. We also made significant progress on our HVAC updates, with the first floor now enjoying enhanced climate control, a much needed improvement for those warm days!

Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome three exceptional new members to our Facility Corporation Board this September: **Holly Yusiewicz Hoke '17**,

Dr. Anne Moe Wilmore '87, and **Angela Hale Morrow '90**. Their expertise and passion for Kappa Alpha Theta will be invaluable as we continue to maintain and improve our cherished home. We are so excited for all that this new year holds!

Loyally,
Megan and Kate,
Co-Presidents



Help Us Reunite with “Lost” Thetas

We have a list of 175 Thetas who are marked “lost” in our database and are not receiving the Kite newsletter.

Please visit alphachithetas.org review the list of “lost” alumnae and let us know if you have a current address or email for anyone on the list.

Email information to **Cindy Shaffer Thoennes '79**, our chapter's Alumnae Contact Officer, at cthoennes@kappaalphatheta.org.

Thank you!

North Russell Street Parking Changes



Beginning July 28th, North Russell Street, and other streets on the “island,” started metered parking.

Please be aware of this change when you visit the chapter house, come to campus or attend a sporting event.

Documentary by Kay Kenady Sanger '62 on Amazon Prime

This Fall, **Kay Kenady Sanger '62**, and her husband Tom Sanger released their documentary "Athenia's Last Voyage" which tells the little-known story of the first ship sunk by Germany in the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II.

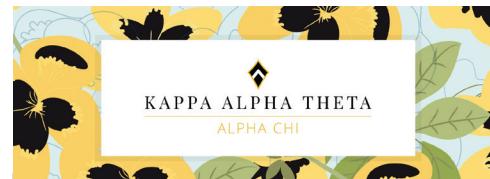
Tom wrote the excellent book "Without Warning" in 2017 from notes his



Kay Kenady Sanger and her husband Tom Sanger

grandmother wrote after surviving the torpedoing of the passenger ship by a Nazi U-boat in 1939. Kay and Tom spent seven years interviewing survivors of the sinking and this documentary tells their compelling stories.

"Athenia's Last Voyage" has won several film festival awards and is available for rent on Amazon Prime.



Remembering Sisters Who Have Recently Passed

Margaret Carter

Initiated 1952

Deceased May 2025

Suzanne Leaming Davis

Initiated 1957, Gamma Lambda/

Beloit College

Deceased July 2025

Meredith "Bee" Hunt Horner

Initiated 1951, Beta/Indiana

Deceased July 2025

Jane Connor King

Initiated 1959

Deceased April 2025

Marty Phillips Mead

Initiated 1950

Deceased August 2025

Essie Pastene

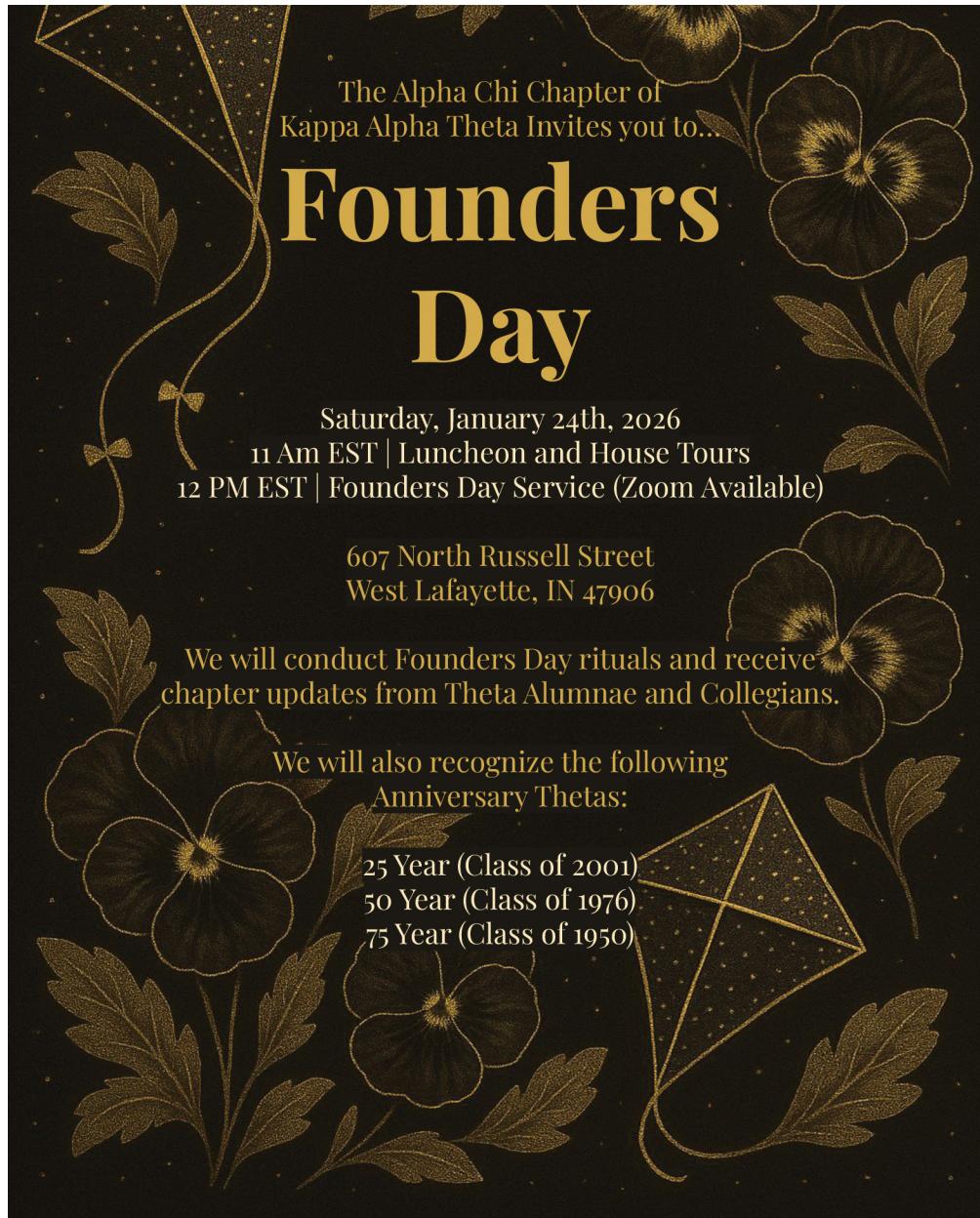
Initiated 1954

Deceased June 2025

Emily Lloyd Rockwood

Initiated 1941

Deceased March 2025



Upgrades to “Study Friendly” Parlor Made Through Donations



Summer upgrades included refreshing the parlor furniture with study areas conducive to group and individual study

Making educational improvements and upgrades in the chapter house is an important part of the Educational Foundation’s mission. In previous years, we purchased computers and printers, partnered with the FCB in upgrading the Wi-Fi throughout the house, and installed outlet ports under the tables in the library.

This summer we focused on making the parlor more ‘study friendly’. With 90 girls living in and a large recruitment class coming, additional study space was definitely needed. Thanks to **Mary Lincoln Campbell ‘64**, the parlor had been furnished with lovely, high end wicker furniture. We replaced a couple of the wicker pieces with new study tables and chairs. New cushions, lamps, and brighter lighting added to the upgrade. The generous donations from the **Pledge Class of ‘62** and **Marcia Erickson Weber ‘63**, helped to make it all possible.

At the annual meeting held in late Sep-

tember, we were very pleased to welcome **Julie Brant Gordon ‘00**, and **Katie Baugh Nielsen ‘69**, as new trustees of our board.

Like other not-for-profits, the Ed Foundation is dependent on donations. In November, **Jennifer Linstroth Mingo ‘93** and I will be sending an appeal letter to all alumnae. We’re hoping Alpha Chi Thetas everywhere will respond with a donation to support scholarships and educational improvements in the chapter house.

Your gift, whether large or small, will be appreciated, will be tax deductible, and will directly impact the lives of our chapter’s young women.



Loyally,
Marilynn Bottomley
Dammon ‘66
President

Spring 2025 Semester Educational Highlights

Congratulations once again to the chapter for their excellent academic results from Spring 2025 semester. Their 3.51 GPA placed them second by only .01 - it couldn’t get any closer than that.

The great news continues:

- 89 Thetas on the Deans’ lists (64%)
- 33 Thetas received a 4.0 (20%)



WAYS TO DONATE

Donate Online



Scan the QR code above or visit alphachithetas.org/donate

Mail a Check



Mail a check to Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Foundation,
PO Box 3754, West Lafayette, IN
47996-3754

Use Your RMD to Donate - It's a Win-Win



Many of us must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from our retirement accounts. Please consider a contribution from this source. The Alpha Chi Educational Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization where donations are tax deductible.

Class of 1962

Continued from page 6

- The Horticulture Building and Jules Janick Horticulture Garden, a mid-campus oasis that trains students to grow healthy vegetables and flowers for events.
- The Hotel & Tourism Management Training Laboratories in the Marriott Hall where students are trained in test kitchens and a restaurant to manage hotels and restaurants.
- The Daniels School of Business in the Krannert Building, where the group received a tour

and brief lecture about new initiatives at the respected school.

- The Degas Collection, a new exhibition of 74 bronze sculptures created by French impressionist Edgar Degas and donated to Purdue by an alumni. The exhibition is located at the Purdue Memorial Union, Room 231. The 1962 pledge class was fortunate to be there for the opening of this impressive exhibition.

On the last evening of the reunion, the pledge-class members had a pajama

party in the inn's comfortable living room to share memories and personal plans for the future.

The group agreed that it was extremely valuable to reunite at Purdue. Although they had enjoyed other wonderful reunions in recent years, in Florida, Oregon and South Carolina, all felt that it was valuable to return to Purdue to reconnect with the past and celebrate the university's impressive success. It inspired each of them to be personally grateful for the exceptional education and experiences they enjoyed at Purdue.

Reagan Koester

Continued from page 1

university as a whole, and I look forward to the next two years of serving on the board."

Reagan grew up on a grain and robotic-dairy operation in Southwestern Indiana and it was evident from an early age that she would pursue a career in the agriculture business. "Instead of playing teacher or with dolls, I always played business while growing up, eagerly looking to sell whatever products or services a young child could conjure up to my family members at home."

Reagan's background in agriculture also played a role in her being selected as an intern with both John Deere & Company and Corteva Agriscience. These internships allowed her to see two Fortune 500 companies in action and provided her with valuable insights into the agriculture industry, market trends, and R&D.

"My favorite part of the agriculture industry is the people who are part of it," Reagan says. "It truly is an industry-wide standard to look out for your neighbor and utilize teamwork for the

good of all."

In addition to her new role on the Board of Trustees this year, Reagan will continue to serve on the Student Life Advisory Board, a board of campus leaders who provide input on strategies to help improve the "student life experience" for all of the 55,000+ students on Purdue's West Lafayette campus. Last year, she served on the board with a fellow Theta, **Reagan Fahey '21**, who became a mentor and close friend.

Reagan views her many opportunities with a passion to give back. She has founded three charities: Ping Pong for Poverty, Hug Packs, and Glam and Grit for Foster Teens. They focus on two important aspects of her life: food insecurity and foster care. "Growing up in the agriculture industry, I value the mission of feeding all, including our own community," she says. "Having foster cousins, I saw the importance of showing support and providing joy for both foster parents and children."

While Reagan may start her agriculture

business career right after graduation in two years, she also is considering a law degree, with the goal of helping family businesses transfer from one generation to the next. Either way, her future will involve agriculture.

For the Theta chapter, Reagan has served as the Professional Development Director providing "Professional Pointers" each week and creating an in-house mentorship program to connect girls in varying pledge classes who have similar majors or career aspirations.

"I truly am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Kappa Alpha Theta," Reagan says. "For me, the most valuable aspect of being a Theta is the combined force of being supported and yet pushed to be the best version of myself. There are only a few days when I don't wake up to a sticky note of encouragement, a joke or simply a note that says, 'I am grateful for you!' I truly have found many life-long friends and future bridesmaids in the house!"



Theta Kite

Alpha Chi Facility Corporation
P.O. Box 2164
West Lafayette, IN 47996

Return Service Requested



Zoom Available for Pledge Class Reunions

The FCB's Zoom account is available to any pledge class or group of sisters who would like to hold an online reunion.

Email puruetheta@gmail.com with a date and time requested.



KAO

Follow the active chapter on Instagram: [@puruetheta](https://www.instagram.com/puruetheta)

Follow alumnae on Facebook: KAO - Alpha Chi Chapter



The Kite Team

Editor

Ann Fawcett Murphy '72

Featured Writer

Kay Kenady Sanger '62

Copy Editors

Linda Markins Sorensen '60
Peggy Fawcett Edwards '69

Advisors

Laura Hardy Noel '87
Stephanie Agan McNamara '95
Marilynn Bottomley Dammon '66
Linda Markins Sorensen '60
Kate Hanley '18

Comments and suggestions, send to:
puruethetas@gmail.com



Recent Grads: Keep in Touch

Update your emails and contact information!

When purdue.edu email addresses expire, we lose track of Thetas.

Please keep your email and addresses current so you can continue to get news about the AX chapter.

Submit change of contact information to **Cindy Shaffer Thoennes '79**, Alpha Chi Chapter Alumnae Contact Officer at cthoennes@kappaalphatheta.org.