



Theta Kite

Alpha Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta • Established at Purdue University in 1915 • Fall 2026

From Wind Farms to Power Plants: The Journey of Chloe Griskie

Growing up in Florida, **Chloe Griskie '20**, was strong in math, and engineering was familiar territory: both her father and grandfather were engineers. Her father encouraged her to explore Purdue's engineering program. She visited campus, fell in love with its red-brick, and knew she had found the right place.

After her freshman year in engineering, Chloe took an internship that would shape both her career and her perspective. The job required more than 80 hours a week on a wind farm in rural Oklahoma. After surviving that experience—and deciding that a little more variety would be welcome—Chloe changed direction during her sophomore year, moving into Purdue's construction management program with a minor in finance.

For her subsequent internships, Chloe returned to Florida, gaining experience in the luxury high-rise construction industry. The Purdue University Bower School of Construction Management later described her Purdue journey as “nothing short of remarkable,” noting that her “dedication, hard work, and exceptional skills have truly set her apart.”

Chloe's path to Theta was almost as un-



Chloe Griskie '20, is a Supply Chain Specialist at Kiewit in Macon, GA

conventional as her career path. She went through recruitment during COVID, when the entire process was conducted over Zoom. Without much guidance about what to expect—what to talk about and what to avoid—she found the experience challenging. Her roommate, however, approached recruitment with detailed notes on every house and somehow remembered some of Chloe's conversa-

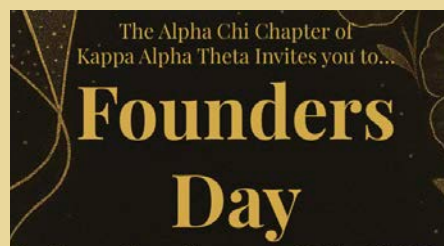
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Theta Garden Welcomes New Member
See page 4 for the complete story.



Founders Day is January 23, 2027
See announcement on page 8.



80th Birthdays and Friendships
Celebrated During Weekend at Purdue
Read the article on page 9.



The First Alpha Chi Theta: Lyla Vivian Marshall Harcoff

Determined and inspiring. These are the words that describe the first woman initiated into the Alpha Chi Chapter. Lyla Vivian Marshall was born in 1883 and grew up on a farm just north of Lafayette.

She entered Purdue University in the early 1900's, a time when women were strongly discouraged from pursuing higher education. Determined to get a college degree, Lyla graduated with the class of 1904, one of only 8 women in



Lyla Marshall Harcoff's painting "Five Roses" circa 1930s

a class of 230 students.

While a student at Purdue, Lyla joined Phi Lambda Psi, a small local sorority. It was the Phi Lambs, as the members called themselves, who petitioned Kappa Alpha Theta to establish a Theta chapter at Purdue. When their petition was accepted, Phi Lambs who had graduated were invited to return to campus (no matter what their age),

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Zoe Coulson Scholar Award Honors Theta with Most Improved GPA



Diya Ambat '24, Academic Development Director, awards the Zoe Coulson Scholar Award to Ella Crist '24

Zoe Coulson '51, would have celebrated her Theta initiation 75th anniversary at Founders Day in January, but she passed away in 2018. After her passing, the Alpha Chi Chapter Educational Education created the Zoe Coulson Scholar Award, which each semester honors the Theta with the most improved GPA.

For Spring 2026, **Ella Crist '24**, an elementary education major, has been named the recipient of the award. Congrats Ella!

Thetas Are Change Agents for Children



Part of our commitments as Thetas is to give back to our communities. One great way is to volunteer with CASA/GAL, which has been Kappa Alpha Theta's philanthropy for over three decades. You can give your time and love directly to foster children experiencing abuse and neglect by being their voice in the legal system.

Become a court-appointed advocate now! Visit CASA/GAL for more information. <https://nationalcasagal.org>



“The Great KATsby” Theme Welcomed 42 Members!

Lydia Anielak
Kansas City, MO

Kate Brady
Carmel, IN

Olivia Berzai
Indianapolis, IN

Lauren Bledsoe
Remington, IN

Kate Bulkeley
Westport, CT

Lydia Childs
Fishers, IN

Molly Connolly
Denver, CO

Claire DeFreese
Lafayette, IN

Giselle Effing
Noblesville, IN

Kiernan Fahey
Indianapolis, IN

Addison Fleming
Indianapolis, IN

Amanda Franklin
New York, NY

Allison Franz
Roseville, CA

Makayla Fritz
Schereville, IN

Kenna Garland
Washington, IL

Kyla Hochstetler
West Lafayette, IN

Bridget Hoffman
Houston, TX

Sydney Hollingsworth
Park Ridge, IL

Carley Hunter
Carmel, IN

Tate Inman
Zionsville, IN

Vandana Iyer
Hissbrough, NJ

Madalynn Johnson
Washington, IN

Julia Kleeman
Zionsville, IN

Madelyn Knies
Jasper, IN

Katherine Kroft
Excelsior, MN

Jenna Lally
LaGrange, IL

Sophia LaRocca
Greenwood, IN

Rylie LeVasseur
Wheaton, IL

Alyssa Maciel
Los Alamitos, NM

Jillian Marino
Bloomsbury, NJ

Reyna Maroni
Wheaton, IL

Hallie Miller
Carmel, IN

Marlee Phillips
Zionsville, IN

Gabriella Salem
Frankfort, IN

Mariah Schaefer
Ferdinand, IN

Elizabeth Tragesser
Indianapolis, IN

Zoie Warner
Jasper, IN

Emily Wendt
Indianapolis, IN

Carly White
Indianapolis, IN

Kiley Widish
Stoughton, WI

Katie Wilkinson
Virginia Beach, VA

Esther Wilson
Indianapolis, IN

Fall Semester Brings Game Days, Pumpkin Patch Trips and Time Spent Together Plus 42 new members!



Recruitment was a huge success with almost 1,000 women visiting Kappa Alpha Theta over three weekends. From work week fun to open house to philanthropy days to the final preferences rounds, the chapter's message was always "Think Theta"!

The Alpha Chi Thetas are so excited to be back for another wonderful semester in the peach palace! 607 N. Russell feels like home, and I am so incredibly blessed to share it with such amazing women. This house is full of an endless amount of joy, love, and intentionality and I cannot wait to share that with MC '26!

The first few weekends of this semester were jam-packed, as we prepared for recruitment and rushed 981 potential new members. Thanks to our lovely VP of Membership, **Vanessa Prodafikas '23**, and our amazing Recruitment Director, **Camryn McKinney '24**, primary recruitment went off without a hitch. I also want to thank our amazing executive recruitment board for all of their late nights and hard work put in to make recruitment successful. Our new girls ran home to the bid day theme "The Great KATs-by," planned by our VP of Education, **Meghan Haws '24**, and our New Member Director **Gabrielle Bestard '24**.

I'm extremely proud to announce that Theta tied for the highest spring GPA in

the Panhellenic Council! The Alpha Chi Thetas hold intellectual curiosity close to our hearts, as our house average GPA was a 3.55. We are so thankful to have a sisterhood that supports our academics and pushes each member to be their very best. Though we pour countless hours into our studies, we make time for many extracurriculars and service opportunities. In many of these organizations, Thetas serve as leaders. To highlight just two of our amazing leaders, **Reagan Koester '23** serves as the Purdue University Student Trustee, and **Katie Roskuski '23** serves as the Vice President of Operations for Purdue Panhellenic.

We cannot wait for the rest of the fall semester, as we have many exciting things planned. Our Fundraising Director, **Ella Henry '24**, is planning our second annual "Theta Pop" philanthropy event. We are looking forward to serving up sodas for CASA and spreading awareness of this wonderful organization. **MaryCate Munn '23** is planning an amazing dad's day celebration for November 7th. Shortly after, we look forward to having our

annual barn dance, planned by our Event Director, **Payton Bridge '24**.

The Alpha Chi Thetas are also looking forward to many more game days, pumpkin patch trips, and time spent together this fall. I'm so thankful to serve this sisterhood, as the women around me inspire me to be a better version of myself everyday. It's hard to believe that at the end of October I will be passing the torch to another Theta to lead the chapter. Serving as president has been the greatest joy of my college career thus far, and I can't wait for another Theta to feel that joy as well.

Our chapter would not be nearly as successful without the help from MumZ (**Rita Zawisza**), our Advisory Board Chair **Taylor Hoftiezer '15**, the FCB, the Educational Foundation, alumnae, and our active members who choose to think Theta everyday. I'm so excited to see what is in store for the semester!



TLAM,
Jessie Bradley '24
Chapter President

New “Girl with Kite” Sculpture Represents Thetas of All Generations

She is absolutely magnificent!

By Cindy Spradling Mendenhall '71
Chair, FCB Summer Projects Committee

Two years ago, the Alpha Chi Chapter Facility Corporation Board (FCB) began discussion on what to do with the failing stamped concrete on the north side of the house, next to the parking lot door, which is the most used entry into the house.

The suggestion was made that the concrete be removed and replaced with a softscape that would, over time, camouflage the big-boxed heat pumps installed to run the new HVAC system.

House Director, **Rita Zawisza**, suggested that they invite current Theta **Olivia May '23**, a landscape architecture major from Michigan, to make a plan for the space. Olivia happily complied and presented a rendering of plantings and recommendations to the board. (And, Olivia got class credit for her efforts!)

But...something was missing. What about a fountain or a sculpture?

We wondered if a girl flying a kite sculpture existed...if so, could we afford to purchase one?

Thanks to Google, three sculptures were listed: 1. A bronze waif with pigtails holding a trailing kite, listed in a museum's catalog for \$12,000. 2. Another museum acquisition who did not answer our call so we have no idea how much that one cost. 3. A beautiful patina'd bronze sculpture of a young girl with a pony tail, wearing a dress and running with a kite flying behind her.

The sculpture was in an antique store in Florida and Rita called the store owner and asked the magic question, “How much?”



“Girl with a Kite” is one of the newest members of Alpha Chi Chapter

“\$1,500,” replied the owner.

The longer the two of them spoke, it was discovered that the antique owners were from Champaign, IL, and fellow Big Ten'ers. Ironically, Rita and the owner know some of the same people – another small-world scenario. The store owner was so excited with the possibility of their “Girl with a Kite” going to Purdue that she requested a photo of the sculpture when it was installed.

The board approved the acquisition of the sculpture and plans were made to ship

it north. “Girl with a Kite” arrived in late April and was installed on her pedestal in the new softscape in August, in time to greet Thetas for recruitment work week.

As it turns out, this sculpture is so symbolic of what we represent as Thetas. To alumnae members, the girl represents the foundation laid by generations of Thetas who came before, women whose values, friendships, and accomplishments continue to shape the chapter today. The kite's string symbolizes the connection to that history

The girl, herself, represents current members, grounded in the traditions of Kappa Alpha Theta while actively participating and strengthening the sisterhood. Her act of holding and guiding the kite reflects the choices and contributions members make today.

And for future members, the kite about to soar into the open sky, can represent the possibilities ahead. Looking upward suggests ambition, hope and a willingness to dream beyond what exists now, symbolizing the future members who will carry the organization forward and take it to new heights.

Overall, our new sculpture expresses the idea that each generation of Kappa Alpha Theta members is connected to the one before it, lives out the values of our sisterhood in the present, and helps guide its future.

We hope each of you will get the opportunity to see “Girl with a Kite” in person. She is absolutely magnificent!

Help the FCB Name the Sculpture

“Girl with a Kite” does not yet have a name. Suggestions?

Send your entry by November 30, 2026, to Cindy Spradling Mendenhall at spradcj@sbcglobal.net.



Dedicated Alumnae Continue Strong Chapter Legacy

Thanks Summer Project Team for many years of service!

Students have returned to campus and have settled into a new academic year. The chapter is off to a strong start with their campus involvements and new member class. We are looking forward to all the accomplishments and memories this year will bring.

This summer marked a major milestone for our facility at 607 N. Russell, as the Facility Corporation (FCB) completed the final phase of the HVAC project that has been the focus of several summers of renovations and improvements. These upgrades will help ensure that our members can continue to enjoy a comfortable and welcoming home for years to come.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to **Cindy Spradling Mendenhall '71**, **Sarah McKinney Cantwell '71**, Rita Zawisza, House Director and **Jean Laurent McFarren '71**, for their dedication, leadership, and commitment to seeing this project through to completion. Their hard work has made a lasting impact on Alpha Chi.

The FCB has also enjoyed celebrating

the chapter's continued academic success. It has been wonderful to recognize the hard work and dedication our members demonstrate both inside and outside the classroom. We are incredibly proud of the chapter's achievements and look forward to supporting their continued growth.

As we begin a new year, we are looking for enthusiastic and engaged alumnae who are interested in volunteering with the FCB. New members are essential to continuing the strong legacy of support that has benefited generations of Alpha Chi members. Whether you have recently graduated, or have been an alumna for many years, we would love to connect with you and share how you can get involved. You need not live close to campus to participate.

We look forward to another fantastic year at Alpha Chi and are excited to see what this semester brings!



Loyally,
Kate Hanley '18
President, FCB

Are You Interested in Volunteering?



Join the FCB and be part of giving back to our chapter.

Board membership gives you many opportunities:

- Help college women manage their home
- Ensure the health and safety at 607 N. Russell
- Meet alumnae of all generations and build your Theta network

Contact Kate Hanley to hear details:
katehanley00@gmail.com

Generations of Thetas Preserve the Chapter House for the Future

In the early 1990s, the Alpha Chi chapter house at 607 Russell Street faced an important challenge: the house needed to increase its capacity from 64 to 100 residents to remain competitive. A \$2 million expansion was completed in 1992, but by the early 2000s, debt service on the construction loan was consuming a significant portion of the Facility Corporation Board's annual budget, leaving little funding for refurbishments and improvements.

Adding to the challenge was a \$1 million balloon payment due in 2015—the same year Alpha Chi would celebrate the 100th anniversary of the chapter's founding.

In 2012, Alpha Chi Thetas from across



A "mortgage burning" cake symbolized the culmination of a \$1.2 million fund-raising campaign

the generations came together to ensure the future of 607. Alumnae rallied to raise the funds needed to pay off the mortgage while also refurbishing much of the first floor and enhancing the house's educational spaces.

By the Centennial Celebration in May 2015, alumnae had contributed \$1.2 million, allowing the chapter to celebrate with a symbolic burning of the mortgage.

With that enormous financial burden lifted, the FCB was able to turn its attention to deferred improvements. That work reached another major milestone this summer with the completion of a five-year HVAC project.

Far more than simply adding air conditioning, the project required extensive upgrades to systems dating from both the original 1957 construction and the 1992 addition—including electrical, plumbing, and, as often happens with an older house, plenty of unexpected needs discovered along the way.

Today, 607 N. Russell has a completely new electrical system, full air conditioning, and a state-of-the-art boiler system—improvements that will serve generations of Thetas to come.

More than a house, 607 remains a place where generations of Alpha Chi Thetas are connected—by their memories, their friendships, and their commitment to leaving the chapter stronger for those who follow.

Where Are They Now? A look at the importance of scholarships to Thetas



Payton Swan Coffman and her family

The Educational Foundation awarded its first scholarships during the Centennial Celebration of the Alpha Chi Chapter in 2015. Since then, 159 deserving active Alpha Chi members have received scholarships for a total of \$172,000 in financial aid. Here are updates on two former scholarship recipients.

Payton Swan Coffman '12

Payton Swan '12, majored in Nursing at Purdue. After graduation, she was a nurse on the front lines of pediatric cardiology at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. She worked there for seven years, taking care of young heart patients and nursing them back to health. Currently, she is in her third year working as a postpartum nurse at St. Vincent Carmel.

In 2000, Payton married Nick Swan, a fifth grade math and science teacher. They live in Fishers, IN and have

When asked what the scholarship meant to her, Meridan replied,

"Everything! One of my goals at Purdue was to graduate debt-free, and the scholarships helped make that possible."

Meridan Eads '18



Meridan Eads

3 children: two daughters, a son and a golden retriever named Winnie.

Payton was one of the first four recipients of the Educational Foundation scholarships. When asked what the scholarship meant to her, Payton said, "My parents had three kids in college at the same time so receiving a scholarship was a great help financially. It also was so meaningful to me to be rewarded for my hard work and long hours of studying."

Meridan Eads '18

Meridan Eads '18, majored in Marketing and Finance at Purdue. After graduation, her career began - and is thriving - at Eli Lilly. She held various marketing roles at Lilly including market research, global marketing, and brand marketing. Recently, she was promoted to Associate Director of Healthcare Professional Marketing

on Lilly's priority dermatology brand, where she is responsible for the strategy and execution of brand marketing targeted to dermatologists.

An avid traveler, Meridan loves exploring new places and experiencing new cultures. A favorite tradition has become taking a trip every year to different countries with her Theta pledge sisters. So far, they've been to Spain, Italy, Greece, France, England, Ireland, Switzerland, Netherlands, and Japan. And they headed to Peru in September! "Traveling is a great way to stay connected with my best friends from my Theta pledge class," said Meridan.

Meridan received scholarships in 2020 and 2021. When asked what the scholarships meant to her, she replied, "Everything! One of my goals at Purdue was to graduate debt-free, and the scholarships helped make that possible."

Chapter's Cumulative GPA Outshines All Sororities and Fraternities

Every spring the Lafayette Alumnae Chapter honors the graduating seniors with a Senior Dessert at the chapter house. Alums provide a tasty dessert, a small gift, and a heartfelt welcome to the new alumnae members of our fraternity. This year the Ed Foundation joined the celebration by awarding Theta graduation stoles to each of the seniors. With the Theta crest on one side and the Greek letters on the other, the gold satin sashes stood out and were a lovely addition to senior pictures and graduation ceremonies.

In addition to granting scholarships to women who excel in scholarship, leadership and service, the Ed Foundation is continually looking for ways to enhance the educational experience of the women in the chapter. Last summer we upgraded the parlor so it was more "study friendly", and this summer we installed outlet ports under the study tables. As the members often study together, we purchased two large mounted white boards to make group study easier.

Alpha Chi Thetas have always excelled in scholarship, but today's actives are really setting a high bar. For last semester, with 140 members, their GPA was a 3.55 out of a 4.0 system. They tied with Kappa Kappa Gamma for the semester, but Theta's cumulative GPA is 3.54, putting them in first place among



May 2026 graduates show off their stoles from left, Paige Hackleman, Grace Goodman, Mimi Celi and Eliza Gaskill

all the fraternities and sororities.

Our annual appeal letter will be mailed in November. We hope alumnae everywhere will make a donation. Monetary gifts, whether large or small, will support the Ed Foundation and its mission to provide scholarships and awards for the girls and to make educational improvements in the chapter house.



Loyally,
Marilynn Bottomley
Dammon '66
President, Educational
Foundation



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 purduetheta@gmail.com with a date and time requested.



Follow the active chapter on Instagram: @purduetheta

Follow alumnae on Facebook: KAΘ - Alpha Chi Chapter



Alpha Chi Chapter
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION
Kappa Alpha Theta

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

The Alpha Chi Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization where donations are tax deductible.

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.

Class of 1989 Reunion News



Members of the Class of 1989 reunited this summer in South Haven, Michigan. Next year, they will be meeting in Hocking Hills, Ohio September 10-12.

Attending were, from left: Susan Singer Mc Crabb, Wendy Franklin Martin, Marie Barnet Berghult, Alex Pappas Cain, Katie Fisher Legge, Kristin Sal Powers, Laurie Valenta Gravanga, Angela Hale Morrow, Jackie Champagne Bradley, Amy Dunn Flores and Wendy Wolf Sauer.

The Alpha Chi Chapter of
Kappa Alpha Theta Invites you to...

Founders Day

Saturday, January 23th, 2027

11 Am EST | Luncheon and House Tours
12 PM EST | Founders Day Service (Zoom Available)

607 North Russell Street
West Lafayette, IN 47906

We will conduct Founders Day rituals and receive
chapter updates from Theta Alumnae and Collegians.

We will also recognize the following
Anniversary Thetas:

25 year (Class of 2002)
50 year (Class of 1977)
75 year (Class of 1951)

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
ctheoennes@kappaalphatheta.org.

Thank you!

Class of 1965: Our 80th Birthday Reunion

A recap of the reunion by attendees



Left to right: Linda Gennett Irmischer, Karen Edwards, Mary Jo Trimble Colton, Jeanne Beckstrand Oehm, Jenny Johnson Warden, Marta Mann Gerometta, Judy McConnell Henderson, Barbara Allen Berling, Louise Cummins Volpp, Nancy Niswander Conard, Marilynn Bottomley Dammon and Judy Bernet Evans

Twelve members of the Alpha Chi pledge class of 1965 gathered for three wonderful days at the Whittaker Inn in West Lafayette to celebrate a very special milestone - our 80th birthdays. More than a reunion, it was a chance to renew friendships that began over sixty years ago, to reminisce about the young women we once were, and to marvel at the many years and experiences that have since shaped our lives.

Together we toured the Purdue campus, which has grown and changed dramatically since our student days. Our first stop was the Theta house, a place filled with treasured memories of the years we lived, laughed, studied and grew up together. Although beautifully remodeled, there was something wonderfully familiar about being there again. As we shared lunch with the present-day college Thetas who now call the house home, we could almost hear the echoes of our own voices

and laughter from so many years ago.

Our tour continued with visits to Mackey Arena, the Purdue Football Performance Center, the beautiful Janick Horticulture Garden and the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Everywhere we went, we were reminded of how much Purdue has grown and changed - and yet how strongly our own memories remain rooted there.

Our three days together ended with a special dinner at the Lawrence Restaurant, where a birthday cake gave us all the perfect opportunity to sing "Happy Birthday" to one another and celebrate just how extraordinary it was that all twelve of us could gather at age 80.

Sixty years older, we remain connected by the friendships, laughter, traditions and precious memories that began in 1965 at 607 Russell Street and have stayed with us throughout our lives.



Remembering Sisters Who Have Recently Passed

Sarah Myers Conley

Initiated 1955

Deceased March 2026

Patricia Mann Duckworth

Initiated 1976

Deceased November 2025

STAY CONNECTED!



purduetheta@gmail.com



@purduetheta



KappaAlphaTheta-AlphaChiChapter

Lyla Vivian Marshall Harcoff

Continued from page 1

and become members of the Alpha Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta. Of the 16 Phi Lambs who returned, Lyla had been a member the longest and therefore was the first to be initiated on May 22, 1915.

It was at Purdue that Lyla discovered her passion in life was for art, and she made art a lifelong commitment. Following graduation, she studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Académie de Paris. In 1910, she worked for Marshall Fields painting fine china and decorative screens used as room dividers.

She took every opportunity, whether in the Midwest or abroad, to further her art education. Later she would say that Henri Matisse and Paul Cézanne were the artists who influenced her the most.

She embraced life and had a great sense of adventure. One summer she lived on a remote mesa with the sovereign Native American Hopi nation, sketching and painting the culture. When trying to return to Chicago, she was caught in a blizzard



Lyla Vivian Marshall Harcoff, Alpha Chi Chapter's first member was a nationally acclaimed artist, shown with her artwork "Five Roses" circa 1930s. Photo courtesy of Kappa Alpha Theta archives.

and survived the night by covering herself with her beautiful paintings.

In 1927, Lyla moved to Santa Barbara, CA, with her husband, Constantine Harcoff, and their daughter. In Santa Barbara, she purchased an old horse barn that she transformed into a home and studio, and with the studio and her wonderful talent, she became a very successful and nationally acclaimed

Arts & Crafts artist. Lyla also created custom pieces of furniture, jewelry, medallions and pottery.

Lyla died in 1956. Her early drawings have not survived, but many of her oil paintings, etching and drawings from the 1940s and 1950s are in private collections and occasionally can be found in exhibits.



The Kite Team

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Linda Markins Sorensen '60

Kate Hanley '18

Comments and suggestions, send to:
purduethetas@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 Alpha Chi Chapter.

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

Chloe Griskie

Continued from page 1

tions better than Chloe did.

By the final rounds, Chloe was considering dropping out of recruitment altogether. Her roommate reminded her how much she had enjoyed Theta and convinced her to continue. When Chloe received her bid, she knew she had made the right decision.

Looking back, Chloe says some of the most valuable lessons she gained from Theta have directly benefited her career.

“Rush has helped me beyond measure on the job,” Chloe says. “Talking with strangers, knowing what’s appropriate to talk about and when, reading body language, and knowing how to gauge conversations” are skills she uses every day.

Recruitment also taught her to pay attention to the details of a conversation. She learned to make notes immediately afterward so she could remember key details, impressions, and feelings.

“I never want to walk away from a conversation and the only thing that person has to say about me is, ‘She was nice,’” she explains. “I want people to feel like our conversation was important and worthwhile.”

Lessons That Go Beyond the Classroom

Living in the Theta house taught Chloe lessons that continue to influence both her life and her career. She learned the importance of surrounding herself with people who share similar goals and values. “It is easier to form good habits when your friends have similar goals—grades, gym, relationships, friendships, etc.,” she says.

The ability to be comfortable both working independently and as part of a team has served her well in construction, where large projects depend on hundreds or even thousands of people working together while individual responsibilities remain critical.

Building a Career in Construction

After graduation, Chloe joined Power



Chloe Griskie '20: “some of the most valuable lessons she gained from Theta have directly benefited her career”

Design, Inc. in St. Petersburg, Florida, as a Project Engineer. Her time with Power Design provided a unique opportunity to complete five rotations spanning Electrical Operations, Project Finance, IT Programs, Mechanical Field Operations, and Procurement. The experience gave her a broad perspective on the many disciplines involved in bringing a major construction project to life.

Today, Chloe is a Supply Chain Specialist at Kiewit in Macon, Georgia, working on the construction of a power plant. She enjoys the challenges of her work and, especially, the fact that no two days are alike. Her greatest satisfaction comes from watching something emerge from nothing as a project takes shape.

A project might begin with a workforce of just 300 people, but as construction progresses, that number can grow to 2,200. Chloe finds it incredibly rewarding to be part of that transformation.

Thriving in a Male-Dominated Industry

Chloe was one of the few women in her construction management classes at Purdue, and she now works in an industry that remains heavily male dominated. But she has never been one to shy away from a challenge.

As Chloe puts it, her combination of being “feisty” and a six-foot-tall blonde

make her hard to overlook!

One lesson she has learned in the field is that the stereotype of construction workers as grumpy old men may have some truth to it—but there is another side to the story. Many of the people she works with have daughters of their own and understand the challenges women can face in a traditionally male-dominated environment. They have often been willing to offer advice, assistance, and support.

A New Adventure in Georgia

When Chloe joined Kiewit in June, she moved to rural Georgia. Having already experienced the isolation of rural Oklahoma, she decided to approach this adventure differently.

This time, she brought along her fiancé—and his three brothers, all of whom are engineers at Kiewit!

From a Florida girl excited about Purdue to a construction professional working on major infrastructure projects, Chloe’s journey has been anything but conventional.

Her curiosity, resilience, communication skills, and willingness to take on challenges have helped her build a career that is quite literally about building things. And judging by the path she has taken, Chloe clearly wouldn’t have it any other way.

Theta Kite

Alpha Chi Facility Corporation

P.O. Box 2164

West Lafayette, IN 47996

Return Service Requested

Where Do Our Alumnae Live?

Every now and again, it's interesting to see where Alpha Chi alumnae live. The answer is - in 49 states (no... West Virginia), with most alumnae concentrated in the Indiana/Illinois/Ohio areas. Plus alumnae are in Puerto Rico, U.S. Armed Forces and in five countries: Australia, Canada, Italy, Latvia, Mexico and United Kingdom.

