

The Hoot



Spring 2009

Support Needed from Every Alumna to Complete Renovations

Make a Pledge Today and Double Your Gift
with Our Dollar-for-Dollar Match

Campaign Status At-a-Glance

\$538,350

total commitments

1,323

Kappa Chapter alumnae
and undergraduates

394

total contributors

\$4,940

challenge contributors

(As of May 11, 2009)

We wish you could all see firsthand the transformation that has been taking place these past four summers with the \$538,350 raised in our *Building on a Tradition of Excellence* campaign. But since photographs are the next best thing, go to www.chiomegaunl.com/alumnae to see the impact your contributions have already made. We are so very appreciative of our loyal Sisters who have participated in the restoration of the Chapter House with their financial contributions. In the February *Hoot*, we announced the exciting news of a group of Chi Omega alumnae issuing a matching challenge grant to their Sisters. As we move into the final phase of our campaign, this means every dollar received by September 30 will be matched up to \$100,000. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

Currently, over one-fourth of our alumnae have contributed to the campaign. This is a good participation rate! However, our renovation cannot be completed without the help of every alumna. We ask everyone to contribute what you can to make the campaign a success. A pledge of \$500 over five years is less than \$2 a week.

For a sister who was initiated in the 1970s it works out to about \$14 for every year since you pledged Chi O. A small group of sisters before us built Kappa Chapter, now it is time for us to step forward and maintain our legacy. Please fill out the enclosed pledge card and send it in today!

This is an investment in the future of Chi Omega. To stay strong we have to update the house. The following renovations will complete our to-do list:

- New bedroom furniture with individual study space for every girl
- New boiler to replace our original 84-year-old boiler
- Install a bathroom in the basement of the new addition; presently members must ascend two sets of stairs to reach a bathroom
- Replace wood trim in the addition to match the original house and rework closets to make them more space efficient
- Resurface and stripe parking lot
- Establish an endowment fund at the UNL Foundation for future needs

This challenge grant will help make these final needs a reality and successfully complete our capital campaign. The upgrades will improve the learning environment, safety, and aesthetics of Kappa Chapter. We ask you to contribute and provide your active support in order for Chi Omega to remain competitive with the sororities and other housing options at UNL.

In the countdown to September, your help is necessary to meet the challenge grant and campaign goal. Thank you for your loyalty to and support of Chi Omega.

Loyally in XΩ,

Carla Tortora Hartsell '61

Campaign Co-Chairman

(719) 597-1080

clth@comcast.net

Holly Acklie Ostergard '77

Campaign Co-Chairman

(402) 489-0071

haostergard@hotmail.com

Alumnae Invited to Challenge Grant Celebration at Chapter House on September 12

Book your flight, get ready for a road trip, and mark it on your calendar because Kappa Chapter is hosting an all-alumnae and family **challenge grant celebration** on Saturday, September 12! Spend the weekend in Lincoln to help us celebrate the successful match of our \$100,000 challenge grant, take in the Nebraska vs. Arkansas State football game, and share our renovated Chi O Chapter House with your family. Plans are in the works for an open house on Saturday. If you would like to help with the planning or have questions, e-mail **Carla Tortora Hartsell '61** at clth@comcast.net.

Alumnae Reconnect at 106th Eleusinia

Kappa Chapter celebrated our 106th Eleusinia in style at the Nebraska Club in Lincoln. High above the city and overlooking picturesque landscapes, the weather was crazy (tornado warnings, lightning, and a rain-bow!), but alumnae and active members had a delightful evening of sisterhood.

Following the traditional candle ceremony, alumnae President **Jill Kruger Brown '00** and President-Elect **Tabitha Fix '03** gave a warm welcome to 189 Chi Omegas, including more than 50 alumnae in attendance. Members of the honored reunion classes were presented with flowers, beginning with **Jean Carnahan Davie '39** of the 70-year class.

Vice President for Scholarship **Meghan Rihaneck '08** presented awards to New Member Scholarship winner **Liz Korus '09**, Sophomore Scholarship winner **Jenna Rickstrew '08**, and Pearl of Inspiration winners **Sammi Mosier '07**, **Lindsay Calhoon '06**, and **Steph Sutton '07**. During the cocktail reception alumnae and actives bid on numerous items in the silent auction, which raised over \$1,000 in support of these scholarships.

Chapter President **Allison Potter '07** shared a glowing report of Kappa Chapter's successes this year (read more in her report on page 3), and Jill shared the alumnae group's recent activities and those to come. Regional Director **Rebecca Glab Batcheller, Eta Beta '98**, offered her con-

gratulations to the Chapter and reminded us that we are Chi Omegas for a lifetime.

We proudly welcomed **Jane Hirt '86**, managing editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, who spoke of events leading to her recent promotion and the current challenge for the newspaper industry to reinvent itself to be successful. She encouraged us to take risks, to appreciate that failure often precedes success, and to recognize that all of our experiences and friendships help shape who we become.

Pat Johnson Wallingford '59 shared highlights of the weekend for the 50-year honorees, including **Judy Bruce Anderson**, **Marty Fritz Owens**, **Kathy Snyder McMillan**, **Laurie Wurst Thomsen**, and **Betty Condon Luce**. Sisters from the 1960-62 pledge classes joined them for cocktails and dinner Friday evening, followed by

brunch and a tour of the Chi Omega house on Saturday.

The official Eleusinia celebration closed with an enormous friendship circle, but many alumnae enjoyed reconnecting with sisters deep into the "shades" of the evening.



Members of the 1959 pledge class were honored at Eleusinia on April 4 as 50-year members of Chi Omega.



Attendees from the 20-year reunion class.



A group of alumnae from the '80s reminisce after Eleusinia events in Lincoln on April 4.

Omega Chapter

Inez Zeman '30, April 15, 2009

Harriett Stearns Doyle '37, November 2008

Dolores Blair Stearns '43

Alumnae Update

Stacey Bisson Henning '85 and husband Steve of Pacific Palisades, CA, welcomed son Christopher James on August 15, 2008.

Wendi Kroll Weaver '88 and husband Curtis of Kennesaw, GA, welcomed son Coen Lucas on March 21, 2009.

Lisa Kriz Zulkoski '88 and husband Mark of Omaha welcomed their third child, Sophia Grace, on April 4, 2009, just in time for Eleusinia. Lisa still found time for a reminder call to pick up flowers!

Carrie Curtis Boes '89 and husband Chris of Rochester, MN, welcomed daughter Louisa Catherine on January 16, 2009. She is loved by brother Samuel (8) and sister Sophie (5).

Dawn Winscot Gonzales '89 was promoted to vice president, director of marketing, at Centris Federal Credit Union in Omaha.

Andrea Woodburn Blaine '92 and husband Chris of Omaha welcomed twin boys, Dawson and Gavin, on December 4, 2008. They join brothers Benjamin and William.

Emily Bischoff Smith '94, husband Matt, and their son Grant proudly announce the birth of Benjamin (Ben) Charles on March 3, 2009, in Columbia, MO.

Laura James Rothe '95 and husband Vincent welcomed daughter Evangeline on February 4, 2009.

Katie Kastanek Spohn '98 and husband Scott welcomed son Jacob on February 9, 2009, in Friend, NE.

Sarah Butler '00 and Jeremy Smith were married on December 28, 2008, in Lincoln. Sarah works in the UNL Admissions office and Jeremy teaches at Southwest High School.

Stephanie Duncan Higley '00 and husband John welcomed son Jack Duncan on October 15, 2008.

Chi Omega Earns Highest Grades Among Greek Sororities

Collegians Active in Campus Leadership

Happy spring from Chi Omega! You can tell spring has finally arrived at the Chi Omega house. Flip-flops and sundresses are starting to find their way out of closets, and love is in the air.

This is especially evident this year with eight new engagements. Congratulations to **Steff Graff '06**, **Amy Kastanek '06**, **Meagan Laflin '07**, **Katie Safarik '06**, **Lindsay Calhoun '06**, **Alex Moustakes '06**, **Lauren Jeffery '07**, and **Dani Schoettger '07!**

In January we invited 31 new members to be initiated into our sisterhood. This March we matched mother/daughter duos with fun facts submitted at this year's Mom's Day brunch planned by Sisterhood Chairman **Amanda Byleen '07**. Amanda also planned Sibling's Day to finish off the semester with a Husker baseball game and tailgate.

On the academic front, our semester G.P.A. was an impressive 3.62, once again ranking Chi Omega first among Greek sororities. We were pleased to have **Amanda Byleen**, **Kristin Cochran '07**, **Kayla Rubenthaler '07**, **Sammi**



Megan Collins '07 after Innocents Society Tackling.



Sarah Finnegan '09, Liz Sutton '09, Lauren Barry '09, Hilary Haddorf '09, and Kristin Cochran '07 represent Chi Omega at an intramural soccer game.



Philanthropy Chairman Kayla Rubenthaler '07 presents a check to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Mosier '07 and **Laura Maricle '07** selected to be members of Mortar Board honorary and **Megan Collins '07** and **Steph Sutton '07** tackled into Innocents Society. Megan Collins was also elected student body president and is well on her way to impacting the UNL campus with the CONNECT party.

Keeping with our academic reputation, Social Chairman **Lakelyn Hogan '08** planned a well-attended nerd party and a sensational western-themed Chi-O-Te Ugly date party for the fall. Philanthropy Chairman **Kayla Rubenthaler '07** pulled off another successful year of Candy Grams and presented a \$3,175 check to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We're also very proud that 10 Chi Omega actives ran the Lincoln half-marathon in May.

With finals week approaching, many Kappa sisters have already lined up prestigious jobs and internships for the summer, including a public relations position at ABC, a job in Singapore with Cappela Hotel and Resort, medical school at UNMC, and working for the Department of Defense.

As the new executive team settles into place, we often marvel at the integrity and caliber of the women that compose this Chapter. Rest assured that the women of Kappa Chapter remain sincere, classy, dedicated, and compassionate, and we strive to uphold the name of Chi Omega.



Loyally,
Allison Potter '07
Chapter President
alpott3@gmail.com

Loyal Sisters Donate \$538,350 to the Building on a Tradition of Excellence Campaign

We would like to thank the generous alumnae of Kappa Chapter for your contributions to the *Building on a Tradition of Excellence* Campaign. To date, 394 Chi Omega Sisters have donated \$538,350 to the Chapter. Below are the women who have given to our cause since the last issue of *The Hoot* was published on February 9. To see a complete list of generous contributors, please visit www.chiomegaunl.com.

Kappa Society (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Gwen Grafft Graves '61
In memory of
Nancy Foreman

Sisterhood Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Mary Graham Claybaugh '47
Joyce Prchal '583
In memory of
Nancy Foreman

Phyllis Elliott Tegtman '58

Pat Johnson Wallingford '59

In memory of

Nancy Foreman

Mary Swanson Pack '62

In memory of

Nancy Foreman

Judi Mason Stohlmann '62

In memory of

Nancy Foreman and

Jan Pitsch

Sue Frederick Dobrunick '74

Catherine Kreid Maude '76

In honor of

Mary Gattis Kreid

Connell Family Gift

Camilla Connell

Svoboda '62

Janet Connell Ehlers '64

Owl Society (\$500 to \$999)

Katie Kerr

Jan Kauffelt Love '59

In memory of

Nancy Foreman

Sarah Davie Riehl '62

In memory of

Nancy Foreman

Lynn Schnegelberger

Haecker '84

480 N. 16th Society (Up to \$499)

Jo Kroeger McGurk '54

In honor of

the Pledge Class of 1954

Karen Schuster Nelson '57

Kari Keating Anderson '59

In memory of

Nancy Foreman

Becky Schnieder Dubas '60

In memory of

Nancy Foreman

Merri Allen Vinton '61

In memory of

Nancy Foreman

Betty Reinhart Gesell '78

Jan Smith Roberts '79

Becky Dubas Balfany '84

Brandie Sheffield Giffin '85

Stacey Duncan Evert '98

www.ChiOmegaUNL.com

Please remember to check the Kappa Chapter Web site often for news and calendar updates. Update your address and share your personal news, too! Address changes and news may also be mailed to **Jill Kruger Brown '00** at 1745 Annette Lane, Lincoln, NE 68512. You can also join the "Kappa Chapter, Chi Omega Alumnae" group on Facebook.



**Kappa Chapter of Chi Omega
Alumnae Membership**

Chapter membership dues provide support for alumnae activities including Senior Dessert, Cinco de ChiO monthly events, Eleusinia, and Sunday with Santa, and www.chiomegaunl.com/alumnae.
Membership includes an annual subscription to the Hoot.

Name _____

Class Yr _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Email _____

To save trees and further stretch our alumnae budget, please only send me the electronic Hoot.

News for Hoot _____

Membership Dues

Annual \$30 • Cardinal \$40

Straw \$50 • Pearl \$60 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please return this form with your check (payable to Kappa Chapter) to Treasurer Amy From Knut '90, 3440 Casa Grande Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516.

Chi Omega • University of Nebraska

The Hoot



**Kappa Chapter of
Chi Omega**

P.O. Box 6203
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Attention:

This newsletter is intended for Chi Omega alumnae and parents. If your daughter is still attending the University of Nebraska, she will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If she is no longer in school, please send us her permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

Alumnae Calendar

CINCO DE CHI O

Join us on the fifth of every month for Happy Hour from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Check www.chiomegaunl.com for updates!

June 5 Venue Lounge,
70th & Pioneers in Lincoln

August 5 Grata
27th & Yankee Hill Rd.
in Lincoln

September 5 Old Chicago Downtown
826 P Street in Lincoln

August 16 **Alumnae Recruitment Party**
5 p.m. Chi Omega
Chapter House

September 12 **Campaign Challenge
Celebration**
UNL vs. Arkansas State

September 26 **Homecoming**
UNL vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

To suggest an alumnae event or if you have questions, please contact **Tabitha Fix '03** at tabithafix@gmail.com or (402) 429-1474.

Molly Finkner Gray '00 and husband Kevin of Omaha proudly announce the delivery of daughter Sydney Michelle on March 12, 2009, by Molly's sister Amie Jorgensen, M.D.

Katie Fischer Sitzman '00 and husband Eric of Lincoln welcomed daughter Morgan Jane on December 9, 2008.

Tessa Nelson Wells '00 and husband Nate welcomed Andrew (Drew) Austin on September 23, 2008.

Emily Salstrand '00 and David Downs of Arvada, CO, were married on October 25, 2008 and honeymooned in the Dominican Republic. She is a sonographer at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Carly Wendt '00 moved to New York City with her boyfriend Peter and works as a corporate governance administrator for Hess Corporation, a global energy company.

Sisters **Anna Manning '03** and **Maria Manning '05** ran the Lincoln half-marathon with an organization called Team in Training in honor of **Jenny Hansen '03**. Jenny was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma on March 9, 2006, just before her 24th birthday. She completed nine months of chemotherapy and radiation therapy and is currently in remission. <http://pages.teamintraining.org/ne/lincoln09/manning>

Kristine Tewes Sewell '03, Mrs. Capital City, competed for the crown of Mrs. Nebraska on April 25, 2009, at Elkhorn High School. The Mrs. Nebraska pageant celebrates married women and is the state preliminary competition to Mrs. America. Kristine won the interview round and placed second runner-up.

Amberly Thomas '04 and Ryan Austad were married on January 10, 2009, in Columbus, NE. They honeymooned in Jamaica and reside in Omaha.