

# KEYping Up with Kappa



FALL

2024

## REFLECTING ON A SEMESTER OF SUCCESS

### Chapter Highlights

I am filled with immense pride and gratitude reflecting on my experience as chapter president as the end of my term approaches. This journey has been nothing short of transformative for me and our chapter.

It has brought me so much joy to lead over 450 amazing women, which includes our chapter council of 23 executive board members, seven of whom are vice presidents. Leading a group of talented, driven, and passionate women has taught me priceless lessons in leadership, resilience, and teamwork. We navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and fostered a community of support and sisterhood. Here are a few highlights from our semester:

#### We welcomed 157 members into our chapter during recruitment.

The collaboration of our recruitment director, vice president of membership, and chapter council members was phenomenal. From Work Week events to practice recruitment to navigating Philanthropy Round, Sisterhood Round, and Preference, where four seniors got to share meaningful stories with potential new members, it has been such an incredible bonding experience for our chapter. We even had 10 members serve as recruitment counselors through Panhellenic: **Addy Heaphy '22, Grace Fajardo '22, Hailey Manning '22, Kailey Knox '22, Katie Sheldrick '22, Katherine Drennan '22, Maggie Chipley '22, Sarah Dillon '22, Sarah Moua '22, and Sidney Gudger '22.**

We raised over \$32,000 for the **Michael J. Fox Foundation**, which is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through an aggressively funded research agenda and ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with Parkinson's today. We raised these funds via our annual Hoops for Hope philanthropy event.

**Gamma Zeta was named the sorority chapter with the highest overall GPA** for fall 2023 and spring 2024. We continue to prioritize our academic support in the chapter!

We partnered with **Greek Street Vintage**, a vintage clothing market that hold their events on our sorority property monthly. Part of the proceeds they earn goes straight toward our philanthropy.

We held our first-ever **All-Greek Seminar** at the Student Union. This was a mental health seminar falling right before finals week to help cope with stress. Our guest speaker from the university spoke about the Power of Perspective and discovering how one's perspective impacts coping and problem-solving. We focused our theme on mental health; we wanted the Greek life community to learn more about mental health and the resources available on campus.

We can't wait to finish 2024 strong and look forward to what 2025 has in store!



Loyally,  
**Sasha Sanderson '21**  
Chapter President



*Big/Little reveal was a success! The bonds that have been created will last a lifetime. Pictured: Bri Browning '23 and Lainey Maas '24.*



*Gamma Zeta kicked off fall with a sisterhood day at the pumpkin patch! This was a great way for the new members to get to know everyone.*



*Senior Preference marks a meaningful milestone, as our seniors celebrate the end of a chapter and the lasting bonds of sisterhood. Here's to the journey ahead. Pictured: Payton Jundt '21 and Grace Emery '21.*



# Focused on Philanthropy

## WAYS WE'VE GIVEN BACK THIS YEAR

**G**amma Zeta Chapter has shown outstanding philanthropic contributions throughout the past year. As a chapter, we strive to give back to our community both locally and nationally, and we look forward to these events each year.

In December 2023, we hosted Krispy Kreme with KKG, where we raised money for the JED Foundation, an organization focused on promoting mental health for teens and young adults. At these events, we sell tickets to our friends and have a huge get-together in our parking lot. We get to raise money for an amazing cause while hanging out with our sisters.

In the spring, as a special experience for Kappa, we open the floor to all members to present a philanthropy that is important and speaks to them. After careful consideration and many heartwarming presentations, we then vote on which philanthropy we will choose to raise money for that spring. In April 2024, we sponsored The Michael J. Fox Foundation in honor of a member's father. We raised over \$32,000 to help the foundation work to find a cure for Parkinson's disease. We raised the money through Hoops for Hope, which is an 800-person 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament. Every Kappa gets to coach a team—and it is unbelievably fun!

We also host several pop-up events that give back to our overall philanthropy, Mental Health and Well-being, throughout the year. We've hosted eight pop-up events this year called Greek Street Vintage, where we collaborate with second-hand shoppers around the city to create a thrifting pop-up event. Every time they come to Kappa, they donate a percentage of their profits back to our philanthropy and have raised over \$3,500 to help raise awareness for Mental Health and Well-being.



*KKG is proud to report we've raised over \$3,500 to support our philanthropy, Mental Health and Well-being, through multiple fun events this year.*

We show strong involvement within our philanthropy, and we strive every day to find new ways to continue to raise money and bring awareness to the organizations we love.



Loyally,  
**Brooklyn Soto '23**  
Philanthropy Director



## Celebrating Academic Achievements

### How We Support Our Members

**Gamma Zeta Chapter has had an amazing year, and everyone has shown outstanding growth in their academic journeys.**

In fall 2023, Gamma Zeta tied for the highest GPA out of the Panhellenic community. In spring 2024, we received the highest GPA out of all chapters in our community.

As a chapter, we received a 3.6 GPA last semester, which was an increase of 0.11 from the previous semester. We also had the biggest increase in GPA among all other chapters, including 142 4.0s!

To celebrate these achievements, at the beginning of my term in January, we brought Insomnia Cookies. During Work Week, we had the opportunity to bring Kona Ice in to celebrate this massive success.

To ensure we are continuously striving to be our best, we have a program called the Academic Progress Plan, where the academic team provides individualized academic assistance to any member who needs support. After we welcome new members in the fall, we do Mid-Semester Grade Reports with every new member and all members on APP. I have a team of academic coordinators who each meet with multiple members during one week of the semester to talk about their academic journey thus far. With every sister, we help them calculate their grades and check in to see if they need any additional support that we can provide.

Academics are so important to our chapter. We are constantly striving to promote standards and assist members in their academic development. This has been such a memorable year for Gamma Zeta, and I hope we continue along this wonderful path!



Loyally,  
**Sam Landy '22**  
Academic Director

# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**Tate Abbinante** | Naperville, IL  
**EJ Adams** | Columbus, OH  
**Grace Adkins** | Columbus, OH  
**Lucy Alcock** | Kansas City, MO  
**Gabriella Ananias** | Needham, MA  
**Remi Bachrach** | Haworth, NJ  
**Ellie Baldanza** | Ladue, MO  
**Nora Bartholomew\*** | Vail, AZ  
 (Sister **Emma '22**)  
**Erin Becker** | Ottertail, MN  
**Sarah Bell** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Ava Borngesser** | Macomb, MI  
**Dylan Bronstein** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Samantha Bylak** | Springdale, AR  
**Tabitha Campbell** | San Antonio, TX  
**Katherine Carnal\*** | Phoenix, AZ  
 (Sister **Grace '22**)  
**Arden Carnes** | Portland, OR  
**Lexi Carter** | San Francisco, CA  
**Azera Chmait** | Yakima, WA  
**Maci Churchill** | West Linn, OR  
**Delaney Cornell\*** | La Verne, CA  
 (Mother **Leigh Cornell, Delta Tau '94**)  
**Avery Dardar** | Madisonville, LA  
**Peyton Darling** | Camas, WA  
**Paige Dawson** | Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
**Brielle DeFreitas** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Jacky Doneva** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Ella Douglas** | Boulder City, NV  
**Lauren Edmark** | Portland, OR  
**Savannah Ellison** | San Rafael, CA  
**Madison Emanuel** | San Francisco, CA  
**Ashley Eng** | Bellevue, WA  
**Emily Entes** | Delray Beach, FL  
**Charlee Epstein** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Angelica Estrada** | Antioch, CA  
**Devin Ewald** | Parker, CO  
**Elly Fahey** | Novato, CA  
**Ava Fleisig** | Atlanta, GA  
**Laney Fletcher** | Villa Park, CA  
**Catelyn Franks** | Tampa, FL  
**Isabella Gallant** | Toronto, Canada  
**Sally Gerigk** | Beaverton, OR  
**Lauren Giannola** | Great Falls, VA  
**Natalie Golden\*** | Scottsdale, AZ  
 (Sister **Grace '22**)  
**Ava Gorder** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Blake Greenberg** | Margate City, NJ  
**Hannah Gringauz** | Newcastle, WA  
**Rain Hackney** | Seattle, WA  
**Josephine Hammond** | Tucson, AZ  
**Gioia Hamrick** | Happy Valley, OR  
**Courtney Hanrahan** | Orange, CA  
**Regan Hayes** | Denver, CO  
**Sabrina Hazel** | Davis, CA

**Piper Hendrickson** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Olivia Hizme** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Reese Holzkamp** | Centennial, CO  
**Sydney Horton** | Tucson, AZ  
**Rhian Hudson** | Buckeye, AZ  
**Nhi Huynh** | Salem, OR  
**Finley Jacobs\*** | Highlands Ranch, CO  
 (Mother **Jodi Litman Jacobs '93**  
 and Grandmother **Susan Kane, Chi '70**)  
**Lila Kaufman** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Kaylin Kiner** | West Des Moines, IA  
**Stella Kirilenko** | Renton, WA  
**Madison Klein** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Samantha Krull** | North Hills, CA  
**Carli LaRuffa** | Ballwin, MO  
**Elsie Lawson** | Bellaire, TX  
**Mikayla Lee** | Tucson, AZ  
**Lucy Leivian** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Alyssa Lewey** | Eugene, OR  
**Mia Lucchetti** | Sonoma, CA  
**Georgia Lybarger** | Aurora, CO  
**Lainey Maas** | Chantilly, VA  
**Emma Mauger** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Tess McDonald** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Lindsey McGhee\*** | Carlsbad, CA  
 (Sister **Shay '21**)  
**Ande McLean** | Greenacres, WA  
**Maggie Meaney** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Allison Mericle** | Trabuco Canyon, CA  
**Shayden Merrill** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Josephine Mestad** | Olathe, KS  
**Sara Metcalf** | Gilbert, AZ  
**Ella Meyer** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Sophie Michnick** | Potomac, MD  
**Sophia Miles** | Snoqualmie, WA  
**Paris Mitchell** | Harbor City, CA  
**Madison Mix** | Sacramento, CA  
**Samayra Montalvo** | San Juan Capistrano, CA  
**Erin Moulds** | Superior, CO  
**Megan Muehlebach\*** | Tucson, AZ  
 (Cousins **Maggie '21** and **Bea Crist '21**)  
**Kaya Nealis** | Snoqualmie, WA  
**Sophie Nicks\*** | Paradise Valley, AZ  
 (Mother **Shira Nicks, Epsilon Delta '96**)  
**Rena Nissanoff** | Paradise Valley, AZ  
**Lauren Norkus** | Woodridge, IL  
**Raya Nuxoll** | Bellevue, WA  
**Ella Ollenburg** | Clear Lake, IA  
**Hannah Olson** | Tucson, AZ  
**Hayli Ortega** | Tucson, AZ  
**Addison Panici** | Bakersfield, CA  
**Tate Parker** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Julia Pauline** | Clayton, CA  
**Emma Peretz** | Valencia, CA  
**Ruhi Pierce** | Chandler, AZ  
**Zora Pipersburgh** | Carlsbad, CA  
**Ruthy Protass** | Lafayette, CA  
**Sofia Pulcini** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Emma Rasche** | Heron Lake, MN  
**Molly Rhodes** | Chandler, AZ  
**Rachael Rizzi** | Northbrook, IL  
**Amelie Robinson** | Barrington, IL  
**Elle Romano\*** | Paradise Valley, AZ  
 (Sister **Avery '16**)  
**Alexa Rosenfeld** | Belmar, NJ  
**Megan Ross** | Concord, CA  
**Ava Ruiz** | San Diego, CA  
**Kennedy Rund** | Superior, CO

**Samantha Russell\*** | Huntington Beach, CA  
 (Mother **Jennifer Russell, Delta Tau '83**)  
**Amelia Sabatino** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Abigail Saigh** | Cave Creek, AZ  
**Morgan Samuel** | Vail, AZ  
**Avery Sanislo** | Westerville, OH  
**Courtney Saxe** | Las Vegas, NV  
**Piper Schultz** | Fox Island, WA  
**Hazel Seashore-Botha** | Durango, CO  
**Remy Shapiro** | Natick, MA  
**Brynn Smith** | Spokane, WA  
**Nadia Smith** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Nicole Smith** | Dallas, TX  
**Rylie Soens** | Lakeville, MN  
**Sarah Somrak** | Durango, CO  
**Marin Stander** | Centennial, CO  
**Clementine Stanford** | Bloomington, MN  
**Alexis Steele** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Audrey Steele** | San Diego, CA  
**Dylan Stepanek** | Tucson, AZ  
**Jordan Stini** | Appleton, WI  
**Caroline Sutton** | Hinsdale, IL  
**Lucy Toohey** | Costa Mesa, CA  
**Bethany Towers** | Naperville, IL  
**Elle Turner** | Peoria, AZ  
**Madison Uhlmann-Novotny** | Littleton, CO  
**Brielle Valadez** | Snohomish, WA  
**Leila Vulic** | Skokie, IL  
**Ella Wagner** | Maple Valley, WA  
**Addison Waletzke** | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL  
**Baylee Walker** | Steamboat Springs, CO  
**Emily Walker** | Cave Creek, AZ  
**Mia Weinstein** | Tulsa, OK  
**Sophie Willis** | Bentleigh East, Victoria, Australia  
**Leonna Young** | Tacoma, WA  
**Lexi Yurgae** | Urbandale, IA  
**Riley Zschoche\*** | Mission Hills, KS  
 (Mother **Amy Carter, Gamma Theta '92**)  
**Tangerine Zurek** | Seattle, WA

\*Legacy; relation(s) in parentheses

Sisters at our Welcome to the Dirty T event. Work Week was filled with bonding, sisterhood activities, and getting ready for the 2024 member class.





# CHAPTER OFFICERS

## Chapter President

**Peyton Lothrop '22**

(951) 440-0858

ua.kkg.president@gmail.com

## VP Standards

**Becca Fahrner '23**

## VP External Affairs

**Arden Ricotta '23**

## VP Internal Affairs

**Cecilia Groch '23**

## VP Finance

**Alyssa Denaro '23**

## VP Member Development

**Kate Miller '23**

## VP Membership

**Taylor Mohr '23**

## VP Operations

**Peyton Boice '23**

## Academics Director

**Ellory Fishman '23**

## Administration Director

**Amelia Bennett '23**

## All Member Experience Director

**Rylie Kruse '23**

## DEI Director

**Zoe Bowles '23**

## Events Director

**Raegan Robison '23**

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD  
MAKE A GOOD SISTER?**

## CONTACT ME!

Recruitment Director

**Blythe Beardsley '22**

(602) 738-4144

ua.kkg.recruitment@gmail.com

# Unforgettable Moments

## Sisterhood Events Bring Us Together

**G**amma Zeta has had an exciting and memorable year, bringing sisterhood and fun to the forefront with a multitude of exciting events. Kicking off the year with Kappa Krush, our Valentine's date dash, we had such an amazing time dancing and jumping around with our sisters—all while dressed in the cutest red and pink dresses!

In the spring, we went all-out with our spring formal, an amazing night where everyone was dressed in their best formal attire. With a prom theme, the night was filled with nostalgia, celebrating our seniors who, due to the pandemic, never had a high school senior prom. It was such an exciting way to celebrate them right before the end of their college careers.

In October, Gamma Zeta hosted Dynamic Duos, a creative and entertaining event that brought out the best in costumes and collaboration. Whether it was iconic pairings from pop culture, historical figures, or playful combinations, the night was full of laughter and camaraderie.

We are gearing up for our annual Sapphire Ball in December, a splendid night that is bound to close out the semester in the most thrilling way. With so much to look back on, Gamma Zeta continues to shine as a cornerstone of community and celebration. Here's to a year filled with unforgettable moments and more to come!

*Gamma Zetas dress up for Dynamic Duos—a sisterhood event full of laughter and fun!*



## SISTERS LEADING THE WAY

**HERE ARE JUST A  
FEW OF OUR SISTERS  
WHO ARE INVOLVED  
ON CAMPUS:**

- ◆ **Cambria Swanson '22:** Elected as president of the Professional Women in Business Association
- ◆ **Daniella Vogel '23:** President of Spurs Honorary
- ◆ **Deana Nguyen '23:** Historian for Spurs Honorary; personal relations chairman for Epsilon Eta (environmental fraternity)
- ◆ **Grace Fajardo '22:** Chosen for Greek Standards Board
- ◆ **Sam Landy '22:** VP of Ardor Dance Company
- ◆ **Jazlyn Ortega '23:** VP of the Criminal Justice Association and secretary of Mock Mediation; co-founder and VP of the Pre-Law Society
- ◆ **Sasha Sanderson '21:** Selected for Bobcats Senior Honorary
- ◆ **Ali Cordova '21:** Senior vice president of Delta Sigma Pi
- ◆ Arizona Ambassadors:  
**Hailey Manning '22, Sarah Dillon '22, Jenna Hartman '21, Delainey Eatman '21, Samantha Hemstreet '21, Sasha Sanderson '21, Ginny Castille '23, and Lucy Leivian '24.**

# ALUMNAE UPDATES

**Colleen McCollum Gyori '56** lives in a senior living facility in Glendale, AZ, and feels lucky that she is still upright and in reasonably good health. Email: gyori2102@hotmail.com

**Debbie Porritt Kirby '57** lived in Bulgaria and France from 1992 to 2022. She has now moved from California to Virginia and resides in Alexandria. Email: chezjadkirby@gmail.com

**Lovell Yaeger King '62** has been traveling, mostly to see her four children and eight grandchildren, most of whom are in college or soon to be in college. She lives in Greenwood Village, CO. Email: lovellking@comcast.net

**Chris Kammer Dungan '69** is retired but working part-time as a pastor at Hebron United Presbyterian Church in upstate New York. She resides in Greenwich, NY. Email: chrisdungan1@msn.com

**Susan Van Slyck Jones '76** is fully retired, but through AARP and Experience Corps, she is tutoring second and third graders in reading two times a week. She is also working with Maricopa Community College, reviewing scholarship applications. Susan enjoys Jazzercise daily and walking along the Arizona Canal. She resides in Phoenix, AZ. Email: svjones3@aol.com

**Karen Geldmacher '77** shares that her cotton harvest photo was featured on the cover of *Grande Living Magazine* in fall 2023. She lives in Casa Grande, AZ. Email: karengeldmacher@gmail.com

**Monique Thevenet Balboa '80** lives in Castle Pines, CO, and has been playing pickleball, pursuing her Christian faith, cultivating friendships, and making a difference in the lives of others. She enjoys her three grown daughters and their families. Email: moniquebalboa@gmail.com

**Tara Bruce Gray '88** lives in Kentfield, Calif., and is enjoying time with her family. She has a daughter and son as well as a black labrador and three chickens. Email: tara9642@yahoo.com

**Kelly Plough Farney '92** is thrilled that her daughter, Carli, was initiated to Gamma Zeta in November 2022. "I love that we are both mother/daughter and sisters now too. Such a dream." She resides in Huntington Beach, CA. Email: kellyfarney@me.com

**Emily King Vatter '94** lives in Highlands Ranch, CO. She and her husband opened a concussion and chronic pain clinic. Their daughter suffered from a terrible concussion years ago, and they are now hoping to give back and help others get better too. Emily has three daughters. Email: evatter22@gmail.com

## WHAT KEEPS YOU CONNECTED TO KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA?

### Joie Vaughn Nolasco '77

"I am part of the San Diego Alumnae Chapter and helped charter the UCSD chapter in 1985. Becoming a Kappa was one of the best decisions of my life. I keep in touch with several of my sisters."

### April Burke Bramini '90

"I meet up regularly with three of my pledge sisters for dinner, drinks, laughs, etc. We have also planned several pledge class reunions in Tucson over the years!"

### Kelly Plough Farney '92

"We stay connected via text. We created a Kappa Komfort Team text thread to help our Kappas when life happens: funerals, sickness, etc."

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Virginia "Vim" Merritt Phillips '46** entered Chapter Eternal on September 10, 2024. Vim married University of Arizona Sigma Chi John Pierson Phillips after graduation, and they had three children: Ralph, Jay (Leslie Bianco Phillips '73), and Mary Phillips Heath '77. Vim worked as an operator for AT&T and was a member of many organizations, including Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary, PEO, Junior League of Phoenix, Barrows Women's Board, ARCS, Arizona Historical Foundation, and the Western Arts Alliance. She enjoyed needlepointing, reading, tennis, golf, homemaking, and traveling.



**Jane Schell Bryant '52** entered Chapter Eternal on January 16, 2024. Jane earned her learning disability certification and taught at Divisadero Junior High School as a resource specialist for 15 years and later at Fairview Elementary School. Jane was a member and past president of the American Association of University Women and served as president of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association. She was a charter member of the Assistance League of Visalia, and in 1988, was voted Visalia's Woman of the Year.



**Sandra Jones Washburn '60** entered Chapter Eternal on March 5, 2024, after a brave battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Sandra was known for her passion for teaching, gardening, and her community. A lifeguard in her youth, she started working as a PIAA swim official in 1989, a job she continued to perform into her 80s.



SEE INSIDE FOR  
UPDATES ON  
ACADEMICS,  
PHILANTHROPY,  
EVENTS,  
AND MORE!



*A family weekend for the books!  
This year, we held an event at The  
Boxyard for all the Kappa families.*

# KEYping Up with Kappa



Kappa Kappa Gamma,  
University of Arizona  
P.O. Box 442100  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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## INVESTING IN OUR HOME *Support Gamma Zeta's Upcoming Projects*

Like any home, our chapter house has ongoing maintenance needs and expenses. You can show your support and investment in KKG with a financial contribution. Gifts can be made online or mailed in with the enclosed envelope.

**Any amount will help with our needed projects!**

### UPCOMING HOUSE PROJECTS AND APPROXIMATE COSTS:

PAINT living spaces (\$50,000)	UPGRADE air conditioning in main house (\$75,000)	REUPHOLSTER living room furniture (\$5,000)	UPDATE mini kitchen (\$40,000)	REVAMP landscaping in front yard (\$60,000)
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To contribute directly to the House Corporation,  
visit [gammazetaaz.causevox.com](http://gammazetaaz.causevox.com) or scan the QR code.



To make a tax-deductible contribution, visit [kappakappagamma.org/donate](http://kappakappagamma.org/donate)  
or scan the QR code. When filling out the form, be sure to select "Gamma Zeta  
House Project" or "Gamma Zeta Scholarship."

**THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN OUR GAMMA ZETA SISTERHOOD!**

## Chapter Goals

### **GET MORE MEMBERS INVOLVED**

Opening up more spots on committees and for coordinators is where we will begin this venture. It is so important for members to feel involved, as it will encourage them to stay active!

### **STRIVE TO MAKE MEMBERS FEEL HEARD**

Updating the way we approach feedback is the main way we plan to do this, which includes changing the way we do exec office hours. Approaching the board can be nerve-wracking and overwhelming, and using a "feedback box" in the main foyer is a great way to make approaching the executive board less overwhelming.

### **KEEP UP WITH OUR ALUMNAE RELATIONS**

We have found that one of the biggest things to gain from a chapter is the alumnae-active connection. We will strive to find better ways to connect our undergraduate members to Gamma Zeta alumnae.