

KEYping Up with Kappa

SUMMER

2023

CREATING COMFORT

Cara Giannini Evashchen '88 Understands and Adapts to Others through Design

In January, **Cara Giannini Evashchen '88** and six of her Kappa sisters took a girls' trip to Cabo, and even though they hadn't seen each other in three years, they fell right back into familiarity and fun. To Cara, this is what Gamma Zeta is all about.

Finding an Instant Family

Coming from a private school in San Francisco, Cara knew she wanted to be a part of a more intimate group at the University of Arizona. She already knew a high school classmate who had pledged Kappa, and once Cara connected with a few women she'd vacationed with years ago, it felt like the right choice. The beautiful house was simply a plus!

Cara loved having a group of friends who felt like extended family. Some of her favorite moments were those spent getting ready for and attending themed parties together and suntanning with Diet Cokes in the courtyard.

"I loved living in the house and having the comfort that, after school, I could go right back in and just flop down on the couch and catch up with friends," she shared.

Dressing Her Way to the Top

Cara instantly found her people in Gamma Zeta, but she also found that by living in the house, she was surrounded by different personalities, and it was important to understand and adapt to

them. The same can be applied to her career as a costume designer.

Cara has always had an eye for clothing and style, and although she majored in communications, she found her calling during a semester off when she took a job as a production secretary on *Saved by the Bell*. While there, she connected with the show's costume designer, and after graduation, she moved to Los Angeles to work on a few of the designer's shows.

After moving on to do independent gigs, she worked her way up, eventually landing a job as a costume designer on *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*. After working with the same set of producers on several other shows, one of them brought her in for an interview for *The Talk* on CBS.

"I remember specifically that my kids were young, and the producer said, 'I really want you to come meet Sara Gilbert.' I said, 'I'm supposed to go to Legoland,' and was kind of blowing her off," Cara joked. "She said, 'Come on, just go to Legoland later.' So, I went and met with Sara; we hit it off—and it's been great ever since!"

While on the show, Cara has adapted to the changes, meeting the different hosts' needs by finding their aesthetic and comfort levels. She



is proud to have been doing this for 13 years, during which she has been nominated for an Emmy six times and won in 2018. Her husband, an art director on *General Hospital*, won an Emmy the same year!

Embracing a Work/Life Balance

Cara chose to work in TV early on in her career so she would have more flexibility with her family. She and her husband of 28 years have 20-year-old twins and two dogs. Their daughter is a Delta Gamma at UC Davis, and their son is a media arts major at The New School. Cara has enjoyed watching them grow.

Even when she's not working, Cara is always studying people and their aesthetics. She also enjoys good food, boutique museums, vintage shopping in Palm Springs, entertaining, and lounging.

You can connect with her at caragiannini5@gmail.com.

MORE CHAPTER PHOTOS INSIDE!



The 2022 pledge class during spring formal!



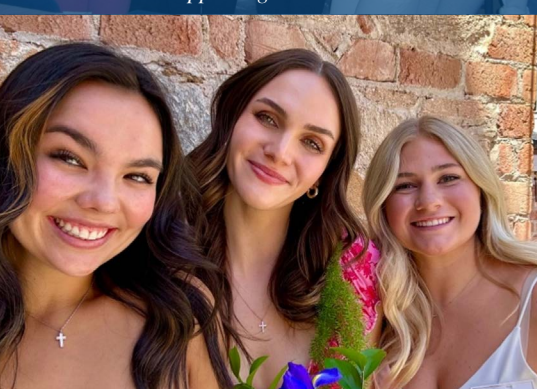
Annie Langmade '20 looking stylish in Lisbon, Portugal, on her semester abroad! We support each other no matter where we are on the map.



Nina Mackey '20 and Olivia Kwan '20 at Hoops for Hope, our annual philanthropy basketball tournament. This year, we chose to raise money for a sister's close friend who is battling brain cancer.



Kappas working hard at their Krispy Kreme with KKG event supporting Mental Health America!



Vice President of Standards Sasha Sanderson '20, President Carlie Herrmann '20, and All-Member Experience Director Ellie Warning '21 at the 100-year Alumnae Luncheon!



Sammy Castillo '21, Ella Royer '22, Maggie Crist '21, and Ella Needelman '22 at Gamma Zeta's Bid Day event on September 5, 2022.

Commitment to Caring

SISTERS BOLSTER GENUINE CONNECTIONS

This year was a time of great accomplishments and transformation for Gamma Zeta Chapter! We started by transitioning to an entirely new leadership structure, which has increased member involvement and has allowed our chapter to thrive more than ever.

Smarts and Hearts

Gamma Zeta achieved a fall 2022 GPA of 3.51—the highest among all UA Panhellenic chapters. This spring, we maintained our stellar performance with yet another 3.51! Our members continue to consistently prioritize their academic pursuits.

Beyond our academic successes, Gamma Zeta continues to make an impact through philanthropy. Our annual basketball tournament, Hoops for Hope, raised over \$30,000 this spring; this was the most successful spring philanthropy event for any chapter on campus. This year, the chapter voted to direct the proceeds from Hoops for Hope to Emily Kouzios, a friend of one sister, who is battling a rare brain cancer. We are grateful for fundraising assistance from Wight Horse, an organization that helps free people from medical debt so they can focus on healing. We are also deeply grateful for the opportunity to vote on a philanthropic cause each year, enabling us to support causes close to our hearts.

(New) Rules of Engagement

Under our new chapter officer structure came an all-new role: member engagement director. This year's director, **Avery Fletcher '22**, orchestrated an array of sisterhood events to foster a positive and exciting environment

within our chapter. We had cycling classes and a "Kappa Karnival" at the house with a bounce house, slip and slide, popsicles, and more! Furthermore, we continued to foster relationships with other sororities on campus and had many events with our sister sorority, Alpha Delta Pi. Panhellenic Delegate **Lexi Lamme '21** organized events such as tote bag painting, slime making, and pot painting/flower planting with ADPI.

This spring, Gamma Zeta also worked closely with the women of the Tucson Alumnae Association. Our all-member experience director, **Ellie Warning '21**, collaborated with the association to plan mixers and foster increased involvement. Our first mixer brought together 20 active members and 12 alumnae, generating discussions on bolstering our relations. Moreover, Vice President of Standards **Sasha Sanderson '21**, President **Carlie Herrmann '20**, and Ellie Warning had the privilege of attending the 100-year alumnae association luncheon at the Mountain Oyster Club. We are so grateful for the chance to build lasting relationships with our alumnae and cannot wait for what is to come.

A Lasting Impact

Looking to the fall, we have an exciting year ahead of us filled with new opportunities for growth, sisterhood, and continued success. We will continue to make a difference and create a lasting impact on our campus and community!

Loyally,
Carlie Herrmann '20
Chapter President
ua.kkg.president@gmail.com



The KKG Alumnae Association of Tucson hosts a wonderful evening to welcome Gamma Zeta seniors as new alumnae.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Carlie Herrmann '20

VP Internal Affairs
Jenna Hartman '21

Vice President Standards
Sasha Sanderson '21

Academic
Excellence Director
Grace Emery '21

Member
Engagement Director
Avery Fletcher '22

Ritual/History Director
Maya Rappe '21

VP External Affairs
Ellen Colombo '21

Event Director
Ainsley Domingue '21

Philanthropy Director
Karina Isayev '21

Public Relations Director
Peyton Felix '22

Risk Prevention Director
Anna Lindsey '21

VP Operations
Muffin Turner '21

Administration Director
Claire Baker '21

Primary
Recruitment Director
Shaye Bergstrom '21
ua.kkg.recruitment@gmail.com

Facility Director
Tana Savage '21

Chapter Panhellenic Delegate
Lexi Lamme '21

VP Membership
Olivia Kwan '20

VP Member Development
Grace Guzinski '21

All-Member
Experience Director
Ellie Warning '21

New Member
Experience Director
Maggie Crist '21

Senior Member
Experience Director
Sammy Castillo '21

Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion Director
Ripley Coope '22

VP Finance
Delaney Eatman '21

Finance Director
Jessie Klebosky '21

Alumnae News

Elizabeth "Tao" Sykes Real '49 has nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She lives in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

Dorothy "Dot" Michelbach Weinberg '55 has been active in her local alumnae group in Redmond, WA, since moving there in 1967. Dot is a proud Kappa supporter and has two daughters in the sisterhood. She happily attended the 2022 convention in Palm Desert and received her 65-year pin (two years delayed). "Greetings to my GZ sisters!" Email: dotlang.w@comcast.net

Anne Weinzapfel Herndon '57 is 85 and retired from teaching. She lives in Sunnyvale, CA, and enjoys traveling and volunteering at church. Email: acherndon1937@gmail.com

Judy McElreath Steed '57 lives in Fort Worth, TX, from November to May and in Montana the rest of the year. Her three daughters moved to Montana also. "Playing bridge and living a quiet life with my husband!" Email: judysteed55@gmail.com

Barbara Engel Anderson '59 is retired in Solvang, CA, and loves to travel. "I see the chapter house often when in Tucson; it's fantastic!" Email: barbnorm@verizon.net

Carole Coulter Carrillo '60 is a huge fan of UA men's and women's basketball—she's only missed a few games since 1959! Carole lives in Tucson, AZ. Email: cortezano@comcast.net

Mary Kinietz Karam '61 retired after 17 years of owning an art gallery and still does photography for the city of Denison, TX. She also serves on the city's planning and zoning commission and recently joined the Daughters of the American Revolution. Email: mfkf.kt@gmail.com

Barbara Booth Keiller '61 is writing her third book and supporting a nearby nature park by taking leadership roles. Barbara and her husband, Danny, enjoy traveling (especially to Baja) and being grandparents to five young people. They live in San Diego, CA. Email: barbara@keiller.net

Patricia Hand Frannea '63 and her spouse retired to Tucson in 1996 after 30 years away; Patsy spent those years doing freelance art and volunteer work. Since moving back, she has volunteered with several organizations, including the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and The League of Women Voters. "We love being back in the Sonoran Desert." Email: patricia@frannea.com

Janet Keller Coxon '64 is retired and trying to see as much of the world as possible! She lives in Oro Valley, AZ. Email: gdjkcixon@yahoo.com

Mary Pat Curtis Honey '64 is retired from education and lives in a senior residence in Phoenix, AZ. Mary Pat is a member of the Arizona Historical League and of Friends of Mexican Art; she's also a happy

grandmother of two little girls. Email: mhoney7550@gmail.com

Starr Smith Wagstaff '65 and her husband live in Leawood, KS, and spend the winter months in Phoenix. Email: starrwagstaff@me.com

Jerelyn Jones Allen '65 lives in Englewood, CO, and spends much of her time volunteering at church. She also enjoys playing bridge and golf, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. Email: duffer609@msn.com

Nancy Kaufmann Lynn '65 lives in Tucson, AZ, where she volunteers in hospice care, in a resale shop that supports Tucson Medical Center, and is a UA sports booster. Email: nancy.lynn@comcast.net

Melissa Carland Peterson '65 lives in Nipomo, CA, where the weather is ideal most of the year. "Watching grandchildren grow and develop." Email: mlssap@live.com

Lisa Schaad Lavagetto '66 opened her own catering business and is still working hard. "The best part is being able to work when I want and

take time off for family time when I want!" Lisa lives in Sonoma, CA. Email: llavagetto@aol.com

Jean Deramus Wagner '68 loves living in Kansas City, MO! She's on the board of the Nature Conservancy in Missouri and enjoys gardening. Email: jwttwin49@gmail.com

Lori Ludden Pederson '73 lives in Scottsdale, AZ, and works part time at the Sundance Store at Kierland Commons. Email: klpederson3@gmail.com

Michelle Salkeld Van Hoose '76 lives in Englewood, CO, and works in addiction and substance use as a behavioral health therapist at Valley Hope. "I am committed to working with those in addiction, to exploring the experiences that have shaped who they are and how they approach recovery." Email: michelle.msv@comcast.net

Susan Thomas-Dibden '77 moved to England from Dubai in 2021. Her mother, a fellow KKG, also lives in Dubai. Email: susandibden@gmail.com

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Chapter Eternal

Joanne Popin Clapham '50 entered Chapter Eternal on January 2, 2022. Joanne graduated cum laude from UA and was a stewardess for Frontier Airlines until marrying George Loyde Clapham on January 6, 1955. Life brought the couple to Orlando, FL, where George worked as an attorney. Joanne worked with Junior League of Orlando, the Orlando Opera, Council of 101, the Third Friday Book Club, and several informal groups where she enjoyed bridge, stitchery, and being with her friends. Professionally, she sold personal and estate property as well as antiques and worked in Studio Three. All of this led to wonderful friendships and times.

Check It Out!

Happy summer from Gamma Zeta!

Open to page 1 for the incredible story of **Cara Giannini Evashchen '88** and her TV costume design career. You'll also find photos and updates from a wonderful Kappa school year inside.



While you're at it, consider reaching out to a sister from the Alumnae News section. It's great to stay in touch and make Kappa connections!

KEYping Up with Kappa



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Alumnae News

Nancy Ballantyne Brewer '78 is recently married (for the first time) and has moved to Poulsbo, WA, in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Nancy works as a compliance manager for a large engineering firm, but her passion is skiing, hiking, and her marriage. Email: nancybrewer1228@gmail.com

Susan Young Freeman '79 lives in San Diego, CA, and is retired after 30 years in education. She now works part time as an adjunct professor and supervisor for student teachers at California State University San Marcos. Email: syfreeman58@gmail.com

Valerie Lopat Schneider '82 runs a medical spa featuring laser and injectable procedures. Valerie lives in Alamo, CA, and looks forward to retiring to Arizona in 5-10 years. Email: valerieaschneider@yahoo.com

Jennifer Martin Sayre '91 is a mom and a professional organizer in Phoenix, AZ. "I love helping people create systems that work for them and their families and creating stylish order." Email: steve525252@msn.com

Caroline Goode '94 is a member of the Junior League of Orange County, a woman's charity organization. She lives in Corona del Mar, CA. Email: carriegoode@hotmail.com

Stephanie Sipe '10 lives in Bitterroot Valley, MO, where she works for a non-profit that helps to conserve ranches and open spaces—including many from the TV show *Yellowstone*. Email: stephaniesipe@gmail.com

Harleigh Perolla '14 is a coach at Orangetheory Fitness and is applying to nursing school. She lives in Tucson, AZ. Email: harleighisabella@gmail.com

Who Do You Suggest? For Future Alumnae Features in Keying Up with Kappa

We need your suggestions for our next spotlight feature, which highlights the accomplishments and successes of sisters since they've become alumnae of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

We know that our alumnae community is filled with accomplished and successful individuals who are making a difference in their fields, communities, and beyond, and this is your chance to illuminate the work of someone you know who has made a meaningful impact in the world. **Help us showcase the incredible talent of our sisters and inspire current and future Gamma Zetas to strive for excellence!**

Please take a moment to think about someone you know who deserves to be recognized for their accomplishments. By submitting your candidate, you will not only be celebrating the achievements of someone you admire, but you will also be helping to inspire others and build a stronger alumnae network.

Submitting a recommendation is easy! Simply send the name of the person, along with a brief description of why you think they should be featured, to our communications coordinator, Candace Moore, at cmoore@penningtonco.com with "KKG AZ Spotlight" in the subject line.

Thank you for your help in recognizing the remarkable individuals of Gamma Zeta. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing their inspiring stories.

More News Inside!