

KEYping Up with Kappa

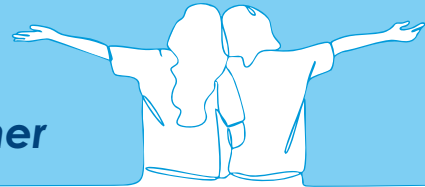
SPRING

2026



ANOTHER EXCEPTIONAL KAPPA SPRING

Sisters Reach New Heights Together



Left: This spring, seniors celebrated their upcoming graduation and the closing of such a special chapter in their lives. While we are so sad to see them go, we are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished during their time in Gamma Zeta and cannot wait to see all they continue to achieve after graduation. From left: Katelyn Sheldrick '22, Hailey Manning '22, Grace Fajardo '22, Sarah Dillon '22, and Lily Peralta '22.

Spring 2026 was a wonderful semester for Gamma Zeta Chapter, and we are thrilled to highlight some of our favorite moments.

RECENT SUCCESS

Our philanthropic efforts this semester were a true highlight. This spring, we hosted Hoops for Hope, which is an annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament that invites the university community to play and support our cause of choice. This year, our chapter supported the Alzheimer's Association in its goal of creating a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementias by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing high-quality care and support. This was a cause our chapter was honored to support, especially as it was presented by one of our own members. Together, our chapter raised over \$30,000 while creating meaningful memories and having fun throughout the process.

Academically, we earned the highest overall GPA among the Greek community for the fifth semester in a row in fall 2025. We also earned the highest new member GPA in the fall. We will continue striving for excellence and are excited to see the academic achievements members have made this semester.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Gamma Zeta Chapter has hosted numerous events to celebrate our members and strengthen the bonds within our sisterhood. We hosted our annual Valentine's formal, where members were dressed in all shades of pink and red. Our spring formal featured a karaoke machine, which was a huge hit. We also enjoyed celebrating our Dad's and Dude's Weekend, Senior Week, sisterhood slime-making, study parties with sister sorority Chi Omega, and much more.

We had two faculty members from the university's accounting department come give our members a financial literacy presentation, which is now one of our most requested seminars. We also had an alcohol safety seminar before spring break and a human dignity seminar guided by Kappa Kappa Gamma headquarters staff. Our programming-filled semester brought us much closer and truly filled our home with joy. We are so thankful to have the opportunity and resources to help sisters form stronger bonds throughout the semester.

A special thank you to all our wonderful advisors for supporting us through this semester and the transitions for our new leadership team. The newest chapter council has done an incredible job since starting in January, and we can't wait to see what they have in store for next semester!



Loyally,
Taylor Mohr '23
Chapter President



Dad's and Dude's Weekend was one of our favorite weekends of the semester! Sisters welcomed their dads or favorite dudes to Tucson for a fun weekend cheering on the Wildcats and making memories. Pictured: Emily Walker '24 and Elle Romano '24.

Chapter Officers

President
Taylor Mohr '23
ua.kkg.president@gmail.com

VP External
Caroline Sutton '24

VP Finance
Kaylin Kiner '24

VP Membership
Marina Brown '23
ua.kkg.membership@gmail.com

VP Internal
Bethany Towers '24

VP Standards
Stella Kirilenko '24

VP Member Development
Nicole Smith '24

VP Operations
Regan Hayes '24



Connected to Kappa

Share Your Latest News!

AND UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Within this edition of *Keying Up with Kappa*, we've included a bio update form. Be sure to check the details currently on record for you; if there have been changes or if any information is missing, please complete the form and send it back to us. You can choose to mail the form via USPS or submit it digitally. Refer to the insert for full instructions.

More importantly, let us know what you've been up to! Updates on your life experiences and those of your fellow Gamma Zeta alumnae could be featured in the news segment of our next issue.

DR. BECKY SIMMONS '75 ON SISTERHOOD AND SAVING LIVES

WHAT FIRST DREW YOU TO KAPPA?

The culture of camaraderie, service, and scholarship.

WHAT IS A FAVORITE MEMORY FROM YOUR TIME IN GAMMA ZETA?

The way the sisters supported each other through everything, whether it was schoolwork or relationships.

WHAT PATH DID YOUR CAREER TAKE AFTER COLLEGE?

After graduating from the University of Arizona, I attended medical school and completed my pediatric residency. I then moved to San Francisco for a fellowship in perinatal medicine at UCSF. My first faculty position was at Northwestern University, where I spent eight years in Chicago. I was later recruited to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. For 25 years, I have focused on both research and clinical care, with an emphasis on understanding the mechanisms behind preterm birth and adverse pregnancy outcomes in women with diabetes.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE NEONATAL MEDICINE?

I was drawn to the intensity of critical care medicine and the opportunity to support families during vulnerable moments. The teamwork in this field is unique and incredibly rewarding.

WHAT IS THE MOST FULFILLING PART OF YOUR WORK?

Saving the life of a critically ill newborn.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN INTERESTED IN THE HEALTHCARE FIELD?

Be resilient!

WHAT DOES LIFE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TODAY?

My husband and I live in Philadelphia, where we enjoy the city's vibrant food and cultural scene. He recently retired from his role as a scientist at Drexel University. Our son graduated from Penn and now works in finance in New York City. We enjoy traveling and hiking together.

HOW DO YOU STAY CONNECTED TO KAPPA?

Through newsletters and by maintaining strong friendships with my Kappa sisters. Fifty years later, my closest friends are still my Kappa sisters!

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH FELLOW KAPPAS?

Being a Kappa has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

You can connect with Becky at rsimmons@penmedicine.upenn.edu.

Chapter GOALS

1 Elevate our membership programming to include more hands-on experiences and educational learning, such as our financial literacy seminar we did this spring. Ideas include having a panel of women in our networks to speak about their leadership and work experiences.

2 Enhance our academic support by creating college-specific study groups and cross-grade mentorship.

3 Use our new Gamma Zeta mission statement to guide chapter decisions, initiatives, and engagement.

Sisterhood Snapshots

ALUMNAE UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Beverly Pollard Wilson '53 entered Chapter Eternal on April 3, 2026. She is survived by sons John Riddle and Bill Riddle, daughters-in-law Cindy Riddle and Jenny Riddle, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and sister Kathleen Pollard. Born in Spokane, Washington, Bev spent part of her childhood in Red Lodge, Montana, where her family owned the historic Pollard Hotel. She graduated from the University of Arizona and later earned her Master of Social Work from the University of Denver. Bev devoted her career to helping others as a social worker, therapist, and private practice counselor. She was known for her intelligence, compassion, resilience, and independent spirit.

Bev's greatest joy was her family. She also had a deep love for animals and spent much of her life rescuing and caring for dogs and cats. She will be remembered for her kindness, humor, strength, and the lasting impact she had on her family, friends, clients, and community.

Kathryn Kessler Allen '71 entered Chapter Eternal on April 3, 2026. She is survived by her loving husband Jon Allen, sisters Linda Jean Hohl, Mary Ann Barth, Patty Cleone Moore, and Marjorie Kessler Merrill, and many beloved nieces and extended family members. Kathryn graduated from the University of Arizona in 1974 and spent a year volunteering at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Orphanage in Cuernavaca, Mexico, reflecting her lifelong compassion and commitment to serving others. She later built a respected career in the insurance brokerage industry, where she met Jon, whom she married in 1994.

Kathryn and Jon shared a love of travel, especially throughout Europe, and created a welcoming home in North Central Phoenix where family gathered often. Kathryn was deeply devoted to her faith community at The Casa Renewal Center, where she served as a eucharistic minister. She will be remembered for her elegance, kindness, generosity, and unwavering love for family and friends.

Carroll Sue Hayes Anawalt '73 entered Chapter Eternal in May 2026.

Janet McMillan Rivas '63 (left) and Wanda Keltner Coil '61 attended the College of Humanities Honors Luncheon in April.



Top: We had the best time celebrating at our spring formal as we closed out the 2025-26 school year with our sisters! It was such a fun night spent reflecting on an amazing year together and making even more memories with the chapter. From left: Zoe Godinez '25, Leila Hage '25, Maddy Mindeman '25, and Avery Dyer '25.

Bottom: We recently welcomed our new chapter council and have already seen them accomplish so much throughout the semester. We are incredibly proud of this strong group of women and all the leadership, dedication, and hard work they pour into Gamma Zeta each day.



RECONNECT WITH GAMMA ZETA

This issue includes the latest highlights from your Kappa sisterhood at Arizona. Catch up on recent chapter updates, enjoy a feature article on *Dr. Becky Simmons '75*, and check the included bio update form to make sure we have your updated information!



This spring, we hosted our annual Hoops for Hope philanthropy event in support of the Alzheimer's Foundation. We came together for a fun day of friendly competition during our 3-on-3 basketball tournament while raising awareness for a cause that means so much to our chapter. From left: Ilani Caraballo '25, Carly Axen '25, Sophia Cloos '25, and Lauren Byrd '25.

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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)



To contribute directly to the House Corporation, visit gammazetaaz.causevox.com or scan the QR code.



To make a tax-deductible contribution, visit bit.ly/KKGFoundationGZ or scan the QR code.

We appreciate the generous alumnae listed below who have recently invested in the Gamma Zeta sisterhood.

Barbara Engel Anderson '59
Penelope Conroy Patten '61
Emily Hassinger McCall '62
Paula Wrenn Cole '63
Teryl Wright Damron '64
Jerelyn Jones Allen '65

Barbara St. John Brown '65
Martha McGeorge Hunter '66
Jean Deramus Wagner '68
Christine Kammer Dungan '69
Judy Chilson Prosser '73
Susan Lemke King '75

Ann Savage Brown '77
Theresa Laugharn Weiner '77
Nancy Bauer Egelhoff '79
Amy Reed Reardon '82
Julia Wilfert '83
Marla Bradley Holladay '87

Marla Bradley Weil '87
April Burke '90
Juliana Giumarra Houchin '95
Patricia "Trey" Ross '13