

# The A to Z

The Newsletter of Eta Xi Chapter  
Kappa Kappa Gamma, University of California, Merced

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## Presidents Corner

Before even being president, being a member of Eta Xi has taught me the true meaning of sisterhood. It is only because of the support of my sisters that I am able to carry out the duties of being President. The members of this chapter that have impacted my life, and helped me accomplish so much for the chapter, as well as for my own life. They know how to make smile on a stressful day, let me know that they are there for a shoulder to lean on, and can help me live in the moment of being a Kappa.

As for the position itself, it has required me to have great time management skills, and taught me that you don't always have to have the answer, but the answer is not too far away. It has also taught me that this organization is so much more than just Eta Xi. Before I had this position, I never thought to look outside of what is going on in this chapter, but going to province has changed my mind set. Even though our chapter is only 2 years old, it was nice to see that we shared some accomplishments and even obstacles as the other chapters in Pi Province.

I am very proud of the work that Eta Xi has done and it has shown through the Programming Award we received, thanks to our wonderful VPO, Heidi Zúñiga. One of my favorite moments at Pi Province was when Christine Jao and I were sitting with all the other presidents in a discussion on how to improve meetings and it was nice to know that the ideas that the other presidents were going to take back with them were from our chapter. I look forward to seeing what the women of Eta Xi will accomplish in the upcoming years.

Loyally,

Satdip Gill

*Kappa has an intrinsic capacity to foster leadership, developing women who strive to set the standard on their campus or in their community.*

## Eta Xi Chapter Awards

### Betty Ann Vencill Award

“Each year on Fireside, a woman of Eta Xi is presented with the Betty Ann Vencill award. I am extremely fortunate to have been honored to receive this year’s award. Betty Ann Vencill is a remarkable woman who embodies the true ideals of Kappa Kappa Gamma with everything that she does. Whether it is for our own organization or for the community, her personality and character helps promote the values of our fraternity. I am honored that the chapter sees that I embody the qualities that this woman exemplifies. However, one day I wish to make it look as easy as Betty Ann does. I am very excited to see who will be honored with this award next year!”

– Sea Gill, Spring ’09 Class

### Spirit of Toni Award

“Every year on Founders Day, we will present an active Eta Xi member with the Toni Gaestel Spirit of Kappa award. This award is given to the Eta Xi Kappa who best represents the Spirit of Kappa: someone who is true, generous, loving, considerate, wise, and who sees the beauty in the world. That active will have the privilege of wearing Toni Gaestel's badge for the remainder of the academic year. It has been an honor to wear her golden key for the time I have and I am anxious to see who will who will wear it next!”

– Lauren Butler, Spring ’10 Class

*Betty Ann Vencill  
Award Recipient  
Right: Sea Gill (left)  
and Betty Ann Vencill  
(right).*



*Spirit of Toni Award  
Recipient  
Left: Toni Gaestel (left)  
and Lauren Butler (Right).*

### Letter from Events Chairman , Sarah Rascon

As event chairman, I have grown and learned as an individual. I have seen Kappa’s core values reflected not only in myself, but through the events I have been able to host this past spring semester. I was able to hold two sisterhood events; one in chapter that tested how well sisters knew each other through collaboration and interaction. The other was an event at Yosemite Lake which allowed for a relaxing enjoyable day together consisting of various events. From tie-dying t-shirts blue and blue, to leadership corner, we learned to inspire one another through the process of learning and hearing one another.

Eta Xi proved to be a social, curious group of women at our Mix & Match/ dynamic duo mixer with Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Women mixed and mingled with the gentleman, playing various icebreakers and enjoying an evening with new friends.

Most recently, our Sapphire Ball proved to be an elegant, spectacular event. Women brought dates, enjoyed dinner and danced the night away along with some of our advisors, Molly Bechtel and Emily Langdon, in addition to our special alumna guest, Betty Ann Vencill and her husband, Bill.

Through this position, I have excelled in the role of leadership. It is beyond belief what I have learned; the ability to juggle various tasks, abides by deadlines, and put together ideal and enjoyable events working with our budget and location possibilities. Because Eta Xi has become a relatively large chapter, our events have gradually changed. I have learned to adapt and cater to such a large group in my event planning.



## Letter from Membership

This year the University of California, Merced had the largest Greek Letter Organization recruitment in our entire school's history. With over 100 registrants, it was a nerve-wracking, but exciting experience for our small chapter. We hosted three Recruitment events over a two-day weekend. Our chapter's second formal recruitment process flew by and we ended up with the biggest new member class Eta Xi has ever seen. With 20 new members and 18 new initiates, I am proud to have been involved in such a vital process of our organization.

Loyally,  
Lauren Butler

"I have learned to highlight the necessities of such a large chapter and accommodate events according to budget. I have become a better, well-rounded individual and have learned to become selfless, realizing that the events hosted are for the women of the chapter, for us to grow in unity and sisterhood. Not only am I proud member of the Eta Xi chapter, but an accomplished member of the events committee."

– Nadine Khedry, Spring '11 Class New Initiate

## New Initiates Corner

Eta Xi Welcomes  
the Spring 2011 Class



Monserrat Armendaris-Ibarria  
Tabatha Brogden  
Alisha Cardanini  
Kathleen Chung  
Stephanie Fernandez  
Rachael Graff  
Tori Kennard  
Nadine Khedry  
Caroline Mack  
Patricia Manuel  
Jasmine Marquez  
Kara Mulkey  
Ioana Pastor  
Sarah Plancarte  
Lizabeth Prado  
Kristine Renna  
Elizabeth Rivera  
Sandy Voong



*Kappas are encouraged to respect the larger world, celebrate individual differences and take pride in shared accomplishments.*

## Kappa Involvement

### Eta Xi Philanthropy

#### Letter from Philanthropy Chairman

Dear Kappas, Alumnae's, and Friends of Kappa Kappa Gamma,

I am pleased to have served as the philanthropy chairman for the 2011 Spring semester at UC Merced. Although this campus may be in its infancy, I feel that philanthropy was a major factor in contributing to its development. This term, my goals were to not only be involved in service with the campus community, but to also be engaged with the local community.

In doing so, I had organized the very first, nation-wide known philanthropy event known as the "Reading is Key Event" at the Eta Xi chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma. This had caused great involvement with not only the chapter, but with the local *Boys & Girls Club of the Merced*. Having achieved such success from this event, I hope to have set precedent for future "Reading is Key" events, thus to further the prospering of civic engagement among the Merced community and developing the growth of the Eta Xi's philanthropical achievements.

Besides service involvement, the Eta Xi chapter is highly dedicated into throwing our annual "Sock Hop" event. This is a fundraiser that is open to the entire campus and the local community in order to raise funds for local philanthropical organizations. This year, we had raised \$800 for the local *Valley Crisis Center*. We had chosen to donate funds to the *Valley Crisis Center* to advocate and show our support for women's rights and the fight against domestic abuse.



*Top: Paula Fon, Nora Arnold, Middle: Kathrina Abrot, Christine Nguyen, Bottom: Rachel DeVera*

In the UC community, I am honored to have such a dedicated chapter in being involved in campus wide community service events. Besides philanthropy that the chapter has set up, many of the members independently participate in philanthropical events hosted by various groups on campus; not to mention, participation in other Greek philanthropy events as well to strengthen the bonds with our fellow greeks.

After concluding this term, I believe that the Eta Xi chapter has the capability into furthering the development and its relations with the local community while at the same time strengthening the bonds of sisterhood in doing so. I am excited to see what Eta Xi will achieve in the future and contribute to its respected organization of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Loyally,

Kathrina Abrot

# Kappa Kollage



*"Nations Finest Ladies" – Bid Day 2011*



*Reading is Key Event at the Boys and Girls Club.*



*Left to Right: Heidi Zúñiga, Kaylyn Cotton, Lauren Brown, Kelsey Debevec, Paula Fon, Janet Palattao*



*Convention 2010*



*Pi Province 2011, Fresno, California*



*Inspiration week – Blue and Blue Banquet*

*Kappas celebrate a richness of common heritage while embracing each other's diversity of background and interests.*

## Academics at Eta Xi

“We are bobcats first, then Kappas.”

### Letter from the Vice President of Academic Excellence

Eta Xi has had such a busy spring semester, including a successful formal recruitment where we welcomed a wonderful group of scholarship-minded women to our chapter. This semester was filled with recognition for academic excellence.

The Academic Excellence committee (AE) held the chapter's first **Pie for Pi Day**, a celebration for the women who attained a 3.14 GPA or higher during the Fall 2010 semester. The event was held on March 14, 2011 (Pi Day!) and was an appropriate title for our chapter since we are located in the Pi South Province. The women who had the highest GPA in the Fall 2010 semester also received a beautiful silver replica badge charm to reward them for their academic achievement.

Throughout the semester, women were constantly recognized for placing academics first. Women received **Kappa Kash** for attending a session of Kappa Study hours with a member on the AE committee. They also received kash for sending in a good grade report, receiving an A on a major assignment or exam.

The **No Skippy Jar** was passed around each week as well for the women who went to every single one of their classes. At the end of chapter meeting, a name was drawn out and one lucky woman got a \$10 gift card. The AE committee not only recognizes the women succeed academically, but supports those who are in need of an extra push. We make ourselves available to women when they need it and motivate them as well. With a plethora of incentives for doing well academically and monthly AE programming, Eta Xi chapter has continued to instill the quality of scholarship into its members.

Loyally,

Janet Palattao



*Eta Xi Chapter won the “Best Programming” Award at Pi Province. (Top: Heidi Zúñiga)*

### Letter from the Public Relations Chairman

Greeting to all Kappa parents, alums and friends,

The Eta Xi Chapter would like to thank you for all the support you have provided us during the 2010-2011 academic year. Being the Public Relations Chairman has given me an opportunity to promote Kappa in any way possible in hopes of recruiting new members and increasing the strong bonds of sisterhood we have all created.

Eta Xi has experienced a lot of first's this year, like attending Convention, Pi Province, and new philanthropic events, in which we have successfully succeeded. This chapter has built strong bonds of sisterhood and we cordially invite you all to become involved with our chapter to create and share new memories. Eta Xi will only continue to grow and improve in the years to come. As always, “Kappas demonstrate throughout their lives bonds of sisterhood and mutual support, sustaining members in bad times, celebrating in good times and sharing at all times.”

Loyally,

Lizbeth Cervantes

## Senior Farewell

Congrats Class of 2011



### Officer Recognition

President – Sea Gill  
 Vice President, Standards – Kaylyn Cotton  
 Vice President, Organization – Heidi Zúñiga  
 Vice President, Academic Excellence – Janet Palattao  
 Recording Secretary – Lauren Butler  
 Corresponding Secretary – Katie Wang  
 Treasurer – Lauren Butler  
 Registrar – Christine Jao  
 Marshal – Kelsey Debevec  
 Education Chairman – Rachel DeVera

House Chairman – Paula Fon  
 Membership – Lauren Butler  
 New Member – Amy Weldon  
 Philanthropy Chairman – Kathrina Abrot  
 Public Relations Chairman --- Lizbeth Cervantes  
 Risk Management – Mariah DeGuzman  
 Events Chairman – Sarah Rascon  
 FSC Delegate – Courtney Butterfield

Kristen Bures  
 Kathryn Chiu  
 Natalie Holton  
 Michelle Kim  
 Jakelyn Llamas  
 Megan Wingo  
 Christine Nguyen  
 Claire Wu

As one year end the other begins, but just how one flock entered af ew of the members leave to start a new journey. The journey of life and finding out where the next path would lead them to. These seven women have left a mark at UC Merced both in Kappa Kappa Gamma and the school. Completing the mission they set for themselves four years again has finally come to an end. Although they are leaving they will forever stay with us in spirit. Eta Xi Chapter will always welcome them with open hands every time they come to visit. They are truly amazing women and are sure to accomplish great things in future. For they have contributed so much to Kappa and still managed to accomplish their dreams. We love you and we are extremely proud of all you have done.



*Kappas cultivate social responsibility by giving time, talent and treasure to serve the greater good.*

## Alumnae Corner

### Eta Xi needs your help!

Dear Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae,

The Eta Xi Chapter cordially invites you to participate in our upcoming events for the next academic year. Please contact the Public Relations Chairman, Carlie Mack to RSVP for the event, to chaperone or for more information at [etaxi.publicrelations@gmail.com](mailto:etaxi.publicrelations@gmail.com).

(Please notify us one month in advance if you would like to participate and/or chaperone. Dates are subject to change and you will be notified if so)

Chapter Retreat – Saturday, September 10, 2011  
 Volleyball Tournament – Friday, September 16, 2011  
 Mixer – Friday, September 23, 2011  
 Founders Day Brunch – Sunday, October 9, 2011  
 Sock Hop – Friday, October 21, 2011  
 Kappa Dash – Saturday, November 5, 2011  
 Mixer – Saturday, November 19, 2011  
 Membership Workshop – Saturday, December 2, 2011

Recruitment Workshops – Friday through Saturday,  
 January 20-22, 2012  
 Sisterhood Dinner – January 20, 2012  
 Recruitment – Friday through Sunday,  
 January 27-29, 2012  
 Sisterhood Event – Saturday, February 11, 2012  
 Casino Night – Thursday, February 23, 2012  
 Reading is Key Event – Friday, March 2, 2012  
 New Member Retreat – Friday, March 9, 2012  
 Ronald McDonald Event – Saturday, March 17, 2012  
 Blue and Blue Banquet – Tuesday, April 10, 2012  
 Kappa Kozy – Thursday, April 12, 2012  
 Fireside – Friday, April 13, 2012  
 New Member Sleepover – Friday, April 13, 2012  
 Initiation – Friday, April 14, 2012  
 Networking Night – Monday, April 16, 2012  
 Sapphire Ball – Saturday, April 28, 2012

## Central Valley Alumnae Assoc. of KKG

**Don't Wait!!! Dues are now due for the current year! Join the Central Valley Alumnae Association Now!**

*You will be supporting KKG and the Eta Xi Chapter!*

*Dues: \$35, payable to CVAA- KKG,  
 Mail to the following address:*

CVAA – KKG, c/o Betty Ann Vencill, 4504  
 Bluff Creek Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355

*Along with your dues, please include the following:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

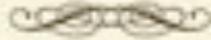
I prefer my updates and newsletters to be sent via \_\_\_ e-mail or \_\_\_ U.S. mail!  
 (please choose one)

Pick one of the following:

\_\_\_ \$35 Dues only  
 \_\_\_ \$50 Dues, plus Owl level donor  
 \_\_\_ \$75 Dues, plus Key level donor  
 \_\_\_ \$100 Dues, plus Fleur de lies level donor  
 \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for event, please specify  
 \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ additional donation  
 \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

## Can't attend or chaperone one of our events?

We invite you to get connect with our chapter's active members and sign-up for our Pen-Pal system. We want to hear about your Kappa experience.



If you are interested, please email Caroline Mack at [etaxi.publicrelations@gmail.com](mailto:etaxi.publicrelations@gmail.com) and she would gladly connect you with an active member.

**Kappa Kappa Gamma is an organization of women, which seeks for every member throughout her life bonds of friendship, mutual support, opportunities for self-growth, respect for intellectual development, and an understanding of and an allegiance to positive ethical principals.**

**Special thank you to our chapter consultant, Molly Bechtel, for helping the Eta Xi Chapter flourish into a beautiful chapter. Thank you for all of your dedication and mentoring for the past two years. We wish you nothing but the best in your future plans and you will truly be missed by us all.**

