

Fall 2011
Semi-Annual



KAPPA PHI DELTA ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Jac Rose Journal

Thank you, Kelly!

By Elizabeth Bilitz PC '03

Kappa Phi Delta Sorority wishes to thank Kelly Steelman-Allen for her years of service on the Alumnae Board by presenting her with the Alumna Service Award. Kelly has been the President of the Alumnae Chapter since 2007, and previously was the Vice President/ Alumnae Advisor. She was dedicated to the position despite living 'remotely' in Champaign, Illinois while finishing her PhD.

Kelly recently moved to the city of Adelaide in Australia for a one year post-doc position. We wish her the best in her year abroad! Apparently, Australia is not flush with Diet Mountain Dew or good JIFF peanut butter, so all donations to that effect would be appreciated.

Kelly, aka "Towanda Steel," her roller derby name



107th Reunion

By Ashley Hodgson PC '04

Bring your smiling faces and memories and possibly a camera! Remember that Chicago is quite chilly in November so dress (nicely) for the weather if you are taking the train.

Café Amano
105 S. York
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Arrive around 11am, Brunch starts at noon, Alumnae Meeting starts at 1:30pm

Parking: Café Amano is located in the

historic Fifth Third Bank Building at the corner of York Road and Park Avenue. Free parking is available in the bank parking lot and also available on the street. Free deck parking is also located one block south of the Café on Adelaide Street. **By Metra Train:** Take the Metra Union Pacific West Line from the Chicago, Oglvie Station to Elmhurst. We are located on the South East corner of Park Avenue and York Road right across the street from the train station.

The cost of the brunch is \$30 and can be paid by cash or check.

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Events to Remember

- Alumnae Reunion- November 12, 2011, Elmhurst, IL. Café Amano
- Cookbooks for Sale! \$15 or \$20 w/shipping
- Send photos or clippings from your Kappa years for inclusion in the next newsletter!

Memories and Clippings

By Elizabeth Bilitz PC '03

If you would like to submit pictures or articles/memories from your era in Kappa, please feel free to email them to kappa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com or mail them to Elizabeth Bilitz, Kappa Alumnae Secretary.

To the right is a 'mini reunion' photo of several Kappas in New York. From left to right: Theresa Zapala, Justine Banda, Kim (Lao) Sigurdsson and her daughter, Ava, Karen Nelson, and Sara Sustersic.



Hello, Kappas!

By Samantha Paruchuri PC '02

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits. First, I would like to recognize and thank Kelly Steelman-Allen for all of her dedication and service over the years, most recently as the President for the Alumnae Chapter. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors in Australia!

As the new President, I would like to thank everyone for the privilege in leading the continued growth of the Alumnae Chapter. As alumnae, our main goal is to provide the annual scholarship. I hope to help support our

various chairs in increasing donations so that we can continue to provide this wonderful opportunity. In the same regard, I would like to help promote more involvement amongst the alumnae.

We welcome your ideas, time, and efforts in helping with these endeavors. Whether you have an idea for a fundraiser, would like to volunteer on a committee, or host an informal get-together with fellow alums, we hope everyone can contribute to our continued success in keeping our sisterhood thriving well past graduation.

Donor Honor Roll

Kappa Phi Delta wishes to thank the following people for their generous donations to our scholarship fund.

Dorothea Edgeworth Biernesser
Virginia Brock
Millie Delahunty
Martha Rappaport Griffin
Ellen Doyle Hudson
Barbara Louthan
Jeannette Metzdorf
Edith Schreiner
Sherie Shapiro
Megan Strassler
Lisa Swan
Ronna Treier

Business as Usual-Secretary's Notes

By Elizabeth Bilitz PC '03

The biennial voting meeting was held at the home of Theresa Allen PC '01 on Saturday, July 16th. There were nine alumnae in attendance and one via Skype. All chairs submitted reports, including our staff advisor, Jackie Anderson, who gave an update on the financial stability of the school as well as recruiting efforts. It was reported that the active chapter had the highest spring GPA and had 6 recruits from spring rush.

This year's scholarship was awarded to Joanna Klimczak, current treasurer of

the active chapter. As part of her report, the treasurer gave an update on our scholarship fund and reported that we have lost several key donors over the years and that the now \$8,000 scholarship is in jeopardy of being under-funded. Please remember to pay your dues! Every little bit helps.

Current board members are as follows:

President: Samantha Paruchuri
Vice President/Advisor: Jackie Villa
Secretary: Elizabeth Bilitz
Treasurer: Kendra Sveum
Registered Agent: Abby Krug
Social/Reunion: Ashley Hodgson
Fundraising: Brittany Carter

Cookbooks are here!

The cookbooks will be available for sale at the Reunion this year. They are scheduled to be delivered late October/early November. For those of you who have preordered and been so patient with the process, except to see them in the mail shortly after. Thank you all again for your contributions and for making this a successful memento!

The board can be reached by contacting Samantha Paruchuri by email at sam.paruchuri@gmail.com. For full minutes from the meeting, please email kappa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com

A Kappa becomes part of the largest Egyptian exodus since biblical times

By Fern Krauss PC '61

Originally published in the "Washington Technology" trade publication. Used with permission of the author.

We went to Egypt to see the antiquities. Seeing the pyramids and temples was high on our "bucket list." Instead, we got caught up in the revolution. And we learned two important lessons: what a lifeline the Internet has become for just about everything we do; and how precious it is to be an American.



The Sphinx and pyramid. Photo by Jeff Krauss

Our trip ended prematurely after the riots that enveloped Cairo spread to other cities around Egypt. The government closed the museums, temples and other tourist attractions and as the demonstrations became more violent, thousands of Americans were stranded.

We were never in any danger even though the protests in Cairo grew larger and more volatile each day. On Feb. 1, we left Egypt with the help of our son and daughter-in-law in Virginia who booked us on a Qatar Air flight out of Luxor where we were staying, to Doha, Qatar, not the normal routing.

We were insulated from the disaster by our fortunate timing in and out of Cairo. But we watched the events unfold on TV on the cruise ship as we sailed up the Nile from Aswan (we flew there from Cairo) to Luxor, the ancient city surrounded by important temple complexes.

We saw the devastation wreaked on the Egyptian Museum, where we had visited just four days before, and were prevented

from visiting sites in and around Luxor because of demonstrators and heightened security.

Our son heard from friends who were trying to reach us but couldn't because the internet was unplugged by Egyptian authorities, silencing information to us and the rest of the world.

And we became acutely aware of how dependent we have become on the Internet and the world of instant communications that keeps us connected. We felt so helpless without access to the internet.

We couldn't book flights out of Luxor International Airport or any place else since we couldn't see what flights were available. We couldn't communicate with the people who cared about us because email was dead. Thankfully, my husband's Blackberry could make and receive international calls.

There also was plenty of calm around Egypt's storm. Remarkably, Luxor looked normal. We saw cruise ships and feluccas (large sailboats) on the Nile, and people lounging about the hotel swimming pool. What's the saying about Rome burning?

But as we watched events unfold, courtesy of CNN and the BBC, we realized the news was getting worse and worse. There were food shortages, trains were no longer running, people were being attacked and killed, and there was no law and order. Finally, the State Department asked Americans to leave and was flying in jets to Cairo to ferry Americans out of harm's way.

Worst of all were the reports of looting at the wonderful Egyptian museum and other historical sites.

In our eight days on the ground, we saw magnificent artifacts and learned a great deal about Egypt's amazing history. We got a taste of

Cairo that we liked, including visiting the famous museum and seeing the well-preserved treasures of King Tut. And we went to Giza to see the pyramids and the Sphinx.

We learned a lot about the Egyptian belief in life after death, especially if you're the Pharaoh. But it all paled in comparison to the powder keg Egypt had become. And, not being able to return to Cairo safely or see additional sites, we couldn't leave soon enough.

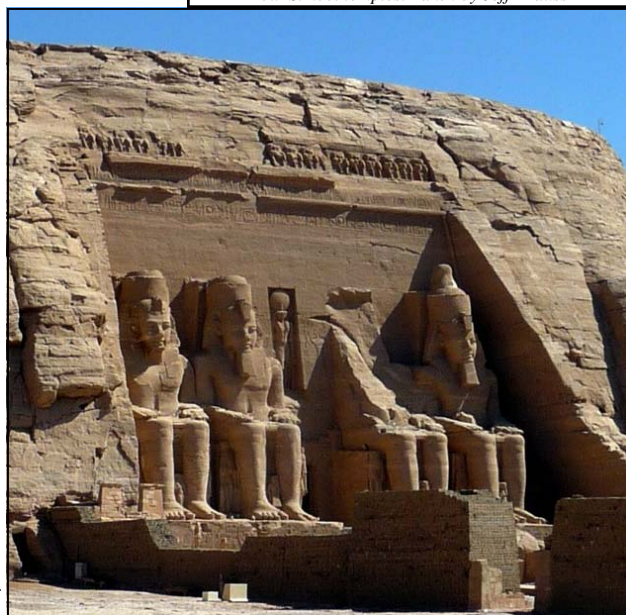
It cost considerably more to fly home via our new route. On the bright side, we did get a refund from United Air Lines for the tickets we didn't use and from the tour company for the unused hotel nights and the Luxor-to-Cairo flight we didn't take.

Most importantly, we'd like to go back to Egypt to finish our trip. But it sure doesn't look like we'll be taking that trip anytime soon.

While it was a relief to leave Egypt, we were even happier to be back in the USA where we truly have the broadest range of freedoms and privileges of any country on earth. The customs official who stamped our passports and said, "welcome back," had no idea how much those words meant to us!

The Krausses have a new criteria for traveling – only going to countries where revolution will not be on the itinerary.

Abu Simbel temples. Taken by Jeff Krauss



Introducing: PC Fall 2011

By Kylie Kosulic PC '10 Spring

This semester, Kappa Phi Delta inducted eleven new members into the pledge class of fall 2011. This number grew to twelve with the Thursday, September 29th induction of Sara Tischler. The pledges this semester have jumped right into Kappa, coming to meetings and socials, getting interviews and even joining the football team. Before our last pledge meeting, a group of them go together and baked a cake for their pledge sister's birthday. At PC elections, co-chairs ruled the day. PC president is Priscilla while Pledge Project co-chairs are Jaya and Lissette. Social co-chairs are Liz and Hannah. Philanthropy co-chairs are Medha and Nicole. Scrapbook co-chairs are Audrey and Vanessa. Turnabout chair is Sima and Secretary is Laura. We are all super excited for these pledges and anticipate all the good things they will do for Kappa.

Laura Amaro-2nd year Arch

Vanessa Antar- 1st year Mech Eng

Lissette Ayvar- 1st year Applied Math

Hannah Barnes- 1st year Arch

Sima Mustaklem- 23rd year Arch Eng

Jaya Parulekar- 1st year Chem Eng.

Medha Parulekar-1st year BMEng

Audrey Rodriguez- 1st year Arch

Sara Tischler-3rd year Music Ed

Priscilla Vega- 1st year Sociology

Nicole Wujcik- 1st year Arch Eng

Elizabeth Zielinski-1st year Mech Eng



New Pledges Jaya Parulekar and Vanessa Antar with family.

Recruitment Report

By Elaine Erwin, PC '09 Spring

This fall, we had a great Recruitment Week with a variety of events. The week kicked off with Greek Council's annual Taste of the Quad, where we served ice cream floats, used our new bags set (made by Kappa sister Kylie Kosulic and her father), and met dozens of new and returning students. One favorite event was "Kappa Kandyland," during which we decorated cupcakes, colored, and jumped around in a pink bouncy castle. Another popular event that allowed us to show off our creativity was Tie Dye and Cotton Candy with the brothers of Delta Tau Delta. To wrap up the week on Friday, we made fleece scarves and cards for US troops through an organization called Operation Gratitude. Finally, Preference Dinner was hosted at Star of Siam, where we enjoyed a delicious meal. We have given out twelve bids this semester, and are very pleased with our new members.

Scholarship Spotlight: Joanna Klimczak

Meet our scholarship winner:

I'm Joanna Klimczak a third year civil engineer, born and raised in Chicago. Currently, I am serving as the active chapter treasurer. As treasurer I have upgraded our system to be more transparent, up-to-date and organized. I will also ensure that it will be more sustainable in years to come. Being treasurer has been one of my biggest accomplishments and I have loved every minute of it. I have also been my pledge class scrapbook chair, and sisterhood chair. Outside of Kappa, I am active in Engineers for a Sustainable World, Engineers without Borders, and American Society of Civil Engineers. Above all, I want to thank all the alumnae for granting me the Buddie Mae Scholarship. It was such an honor and I am so grateful for this award and thank each and every one of you. Yours in Kappa,

Joanna Klimczak



Catching up with Kappas: Keeping Goals Personal

By Shannon Ciston PC '00

In October 2010, I made a choice that changed my life. One year later, I am enjoying the benefits of my decision to take a risk and leave others' expectations behind.

My first job after graduate school was an assistant professor position at a small private college in Connecticut. In many ways, this was my dream job. I spent most of my time interacting with students during classes, office hours, and research project meetings. I enjoyed teaching and research interactions with several of my colleagues. But in other ways, the job was frustrating, stifling, and exhausting. Some of the negatives included a set of ever-changing expectations for my research, teaching, and service work; an appointment in a small (now defunct) department with a brand new chair, whom I hadn't previously met; and a 4.5-hour roundtrip commute, which involved a car, a ferry, a walk, and another car.

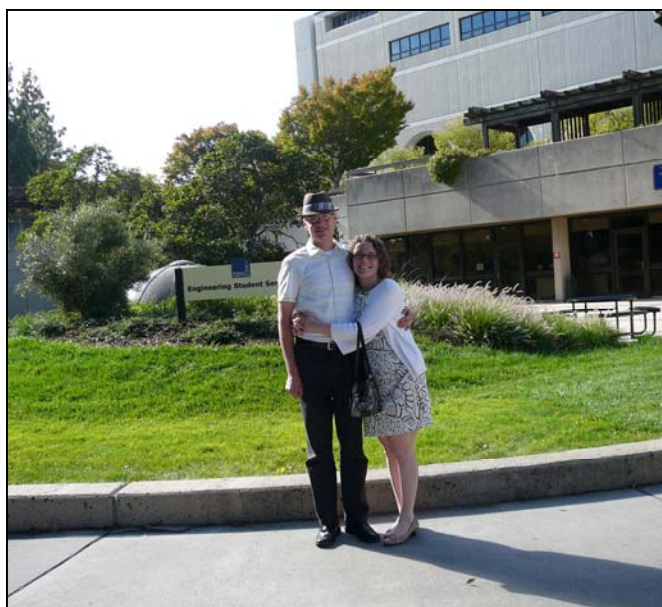
My time as a "Frequent Floater" seems surreal as I reflect on it now. In my two years living on Long Island, I took over 500 trips on the ferry from Port Jefferson, NY to Bridgeport, CT. I made friends with the other Floaters—a motley crew including chimney sweeps, aerospace engineers, non-profit fundraisers, teachers, lawyers, a body builder, and a radio comedian—and we supported each other through fair and foul weather, holiday parties, and ship HVAC malfunctions. Most days I worked on the boat both ways, starting at 6:00 or 7:30 am and finishing at 7:15 or 9:15 pm when my dear husband collected me from the ferry terminal. We enjoyed our weekends and the odd surprise snow day together.

Things began to get complicated when my husband's two-year contract at a research lab on Long Island grew short. Opportunities seemed to pop up for him from many directions, but none from Connecticut. So we perceived this crossroads to be an opportunity to press 'reset' on our life and careers,

and I began to quietly seek other opportunities too. By October, his time was running out to accept or decline a very attractive opportunity in the San Francisco Bay Area, and so after many prayers and late-night discussions, he accepted the offer though I hadn't had as much as an interview for any positions in the area.

In January, I informed my colleagues of my decision to leave. Some of them were shocked—it is not common practice to leave a coveted tenure-track job, with its prestige and potential for extremely stable employment. The voices of old advisors and professors haunted me in quiet moments of doubt. I continued to reach out to employers in the San Francisco area, even those who were not advertising job openings, hoping to find what I was looking for in California. In May, I was offered a position as a non-tenure track teaching professor at a university down the street from my husband's new employer. We counted our blessings!

I love my new life at Berkeley! My new job allows me to spend time thinking about teaching (my passion), and still gives me the flexibility to do research as it pleases me, without any specific expectations or requirements for external funding. The culture in the Bay area is also a great fit for me. People are friendly, laid-back, and open-minded. There are local farmers markets every day of the week, and I never have to travel more than a mile to find a yoga studio. It's very easy to be "me" here. In many ways, I feel like this change has allowed me to embrace a fuller, truer expression of myself. I also get to spend time every evening with my husband, who says that every day now feels like a weekend.



Jim and Shannon Ciston outside Berkeley

I feel good about this transition. It took courage for me to let go of the goals that my mentors had for me, so that I could take on the goals I had for myself instead. I am so happy and fulfilled right where I am now. I'm grateful for this new opportunity, and looking forward to all the blessings the future may bring.

Have a photo of you and another Kappa? Want to share your story of life after college? Please send them for inclusion in the next newsletter!

kappa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com



Liz Bilitz, Patti Sticha and Debbie Vyskocil

Bits and Pieces

Margaret Stepanek PC '46 All is well here. Went to Oregon in August!

Sherie Shapiro PC '59 Last October, I received the Thelma J. Neff Distinguished Service Award from Alliance of the American Dental Association. Received the Volunteer of the Year award for the NW Chapter, Lyric Opera of Chicago in May-will be serving as NW Chapter President and also serving on the Chapter Executive Board of the Lyric Opera. We have 8 grandchildren/ 3 grown sons. Oldest son Jeff (a Lt. Col. In the Army) is home now after serving last year in Iraq.

Martha Rappaport Griffin PC '60

IV's and all! Photo of me prior to the hospital closing for Hurricane Irene At the end of June, I will no longer be consulting for the City of New York or taking on further consulting assignments. Though this is retiring, I will continue my side business, Griffin Tax Prep, LLC. We will become snowbirds, spending the summer up north and the winter in Florida..



Phyllis Chillingworth PC '66

Hi All! Thanks for all your news updates, I really appreciate it! I left my design firm /agency, Chillingworth/Radding, Inc, in '09 to paint/study full time. How wonderful this time is, life is full! I am currently preparing for a show of oil paintings in Chelsea/NYC, May 21, 2012, at The Atlantic Gallery, 135 W 29th St. They are all painted in the open air around Montauk NY, where I have a house. I strive to capture

the elusive power/energy I experience in nature. I plan to finish them before the elements turn too cold. Gallery site is: atlanticgallery.org where some of my past work can be viewed. Best to



all! I have such fond memories of KAPPA/ID/ IIT.

Arlene Adams Juracek PC '68, of Mount Prospect, Illinois, and **Vonna Deulen Hermans PC '70** of Capetown, South Africa, had a wonderful visit in late August both in Mount Prospect and at the Juracek farm in Savanna, Illinois. Vonna returned to the States for a visit in honor of her mother's 90th birthday in Kankakee. We caught up on events since our last visit in South Africa in 2008. Wine tasting, play going, AT-V'ing and boating around Lake Carroll filled our time, highlighted by a kayak trip down the Plum River in a thunderstorm!

Ellen Doyle Hudson PC '74 In my 5th year at Advocate Christ Medical Center-the hospital continues to be very

busy. There are shortages in all medical professions, medical technology (now often referred to as Clinical Laboratory Scientists). A good solid career for women with interest in science and medicine. Best wishes to all Alums and Actives.

Suzanne Ko PC '96 will be featured in TCW Magazine in an article on "How Trainers Train." Look for her in the December Issue.

Heather Weaver, PC '96, will be honored for 20 years of service to the US Air Force Auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol this October. In addition to serving as a Squadron Commander for 6 years, Heather just completed her third year of service as the Pennsylvania Wing Encampment Commander. She volunteers for CAP outside of her regular job as Assistant Director of Student Engagement at Arcadia University."

Lisa Swan PC 96 We welcomed baby #3, Caelum Swan on March 27, 2011. We are excited to see our family grow. We also have completed a big addition to our home (that I designed) to accommodate our growing family.



Fall 2011 Dues 'n News Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS (including city, state, zip): _____

PHONE NUMBER:() EMAIL: _____

Please send future copies of the newsletter electronically ☐

PLEDGE YEAR: _____ MAJOR: _____

YES! I WILL BE ATTENDING REUNION (\$30) _____

Sponsor a Pledge? ☐

ANNUAL ALUMNA DUES, \$12 (Senior Citizen rate \$5) _____

DONATION TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND _____

COOKBOOK ORDER (\$20 including shipping) _____

TOTAL _____

NEWS TO SHARE: _____

Please send checks, payable to
Kappa Phi Delta, to our Treasurer:

Kappa Phi Delta
c/o Kendra Sveum
4340 W 99th Place
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

Lost Kappas

If anyone knows the location of those on the list, please let Elizabeth Bilitz or another member of the board know. We want to keep all of our alumnae up to date! To prevent your name from being on this list, please inform the Alumnae Board of any address changes including changed email accounts. *Starred names are new additions to the list.

Lucy Rockwell Balmer
J. Bartusek
Helena Beuhler
Dr. Bretz (deceased)?
Lindsay Brinkmeyer
Charlene Brooks
Roseann Conrad
Josephine Wheeler Couper
Michelle Turner Cowheard
Rose Brewer Cress
Norbert Dahler
Diana Davies
Stephanie Donovan
Millicent Dugich
Connie Duresa
Marjorie Sandler Dwiggins
Shirleen Finley Erickson
Lucyille Turner Evans
Rhonda Simanek Ewasiuk
Lorrain Spigel Frazin
Jackie Gorski-Culberson
Jenniger Hamelin

Allison Adams Hegarty
Kathryn Dates Higgins
Judy Hines
Sue KilimnikLori Dobsch
Knutson
Kelley Kraft
SandraGuelfi-Krzyzanowski
Linda Lee
Marjorie Foreman Long
Arlienne Lueck
Ruth Curtis Macfarland
Grazina Maciuna
Betty Rabiansky Majewski
Dimetra Makris
Lucy Axline Meeker
Miriam Flory Meyers
Marion Behren Mitchell
Dorothy Miller Monell
Darlene Gilbert Murdoch
Vickie Navarro
Darlene Novak
Claudia Peterson

Phyllis Barnes Pitkanen
Paula Pluta
Marianne Loska Polk
Mandy Porter
Sigmund Purwin
Laura Pyzynski
Maryann Ramos
Mrs. Robert Reike
Melinda Reiske
Raleighnae Sammons
Gloria Klouzar Saul
Celia Harris Scalpone
Maria Torres Sheldrake
Sue Schei Sheriling
Marge Stabosz de Lopez
Jeanette Smith Strom
Helen Syprzak Suska
LaShawna Taylor
Theresa Tenzie
April Thornley
Dolores Lipschultz Ward
Lynn Watanabe

Harriet Milewski Wernicke
Jan Wessels

Kappa Floats during Rush Week



KAPPA PHI DELTA ALUMNAE CHAPTER

c/o Elizabeth Bilitz
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