

Kite Tales

Wichita Alumnae Affiliate of Kappa Alpha Theta

A Letter From Our President

Dear Theta Sisters,

During my Spring Break from school, I pondered off and on about the text of this President's Message. Taylor had told me at our transition meeting in March that she had a "timeline of topics" for each of her "presidential newsletter messages." Now really, **who** could have a better presidential term or message than Taylor? She, with the assistance of the 2007 - 2009 Board of Directors accomplished so much! Our alumnae chapter received the Black and Gold Honor Award at National Convention; we amended our by-laws; we established a fabulous new alumnae website; we received our fair share of positive publicity; and, we increased our Panhellenic involvement. I honestly have to say that WE ROCK!

What I would like to know now is this. What

is **YOUR** vision for our Alumnae Chapter? According to the Theta National website, "Alumnae chapters offer a variety of programs and events to meet the needs and interests of their membership. These could include community volunteer involvement, networking opportunities, philanthropic projects, social events, and meetings with themes or guest speaker." Do you think we need to concentrate on increasing our membership? Should we continue to strive for the Golden Kite Award? Do we want to concentrate on our philanthropies – especially CASA? Or, should we think more about the needs of the KS, KSU, WU chapters? Do we want to be more involved in Wichita Panhellenic activities? The 2009 – 2011 Board of Directors is very open to your ideas and concerns.



Please email/call us with your thoughts. We would love to hear from you as we strive to make our Alumnae Chapter one of the best in the nation! Thank you for all you do for Theta and for the Wichita community. We firmly believe that we have the best group of Thetas anywhere! I am honored to be your president. And, I know that I speak for the entire Board of Directors when I say that we really value your input. Thank you!

In Theta,
Mary Lynn



"What is YOUR vision for our Alumnae Chapter?"

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Past President's Letter



Wow! These past two years have passed very quickly and I can hardly believe that I am writing my last President's Letter. I would like to thank all of you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president for the past term. It truly has been a one-of-a-kind experience and I have learned so much about Theta and our wonderful alumnae chapter. As I reflect over my term in office, I am encouraged by all the chapter and the Board of Directors has accomplished. Please allow me to review the goals that our chapter aimed to achieve and what has come to fruition.

In June 2007 the Board of Directors

selected seven areas of focus and created goals in each of these areas. The first was aimed at membership where we strove to increase membership by 25% and concentrate on reaching new alumni in the area. While we did not quite reach the 25% mark, we did see many new faces at our events and our membership is as strong as ever. In conjunction with the need to attract new alumni in the area, we did successfully complete our second goal with the launch of our new Kappa Alpha Theta Wichita Alumnae chapter website! If you have not already, please visit our web site at www.wichitathetas.org to see all of the fabulous information that we have for you there. The chapter was also successful in increasing publicity of our chapter (goal #3) as we were recognized in the paper several times for our events and also by CASA of Sedgwick County for all of the work that we do with their organization. The Board also identified the need for a few organizational updates including conducting a dues analysis and updating the chapter bylaws. I am proud to report that these both have been completed and that several changes were made to the bylaws that will allow for easier operation of

our chapter. In addition, our dues analysis was brought to a vote by the general membership and it was determined that this issue would be tabled in lieu of recent economic challenges. Our sixth goal was to fulfill the requirements of the Golden Kite Award. While we did not receive this recognition, we were awarded the Black and Gold honor at Grand Convention. This honor recognized all that we have accomplished as a chapter and I was quite proud to receive this award on behalf of the chapter. Finally, the chapter aimed to increase Panhellenic involvement and this was certainly done as Theta faces were seen at many of the Panhellenic events. I know that this will continue to be a focus of the chapter as our own Ingrid Gill takes the role of Panhellenic President in May.

As you can see the chapter and the Board of Directors have had a very busy two years! A special thanks goes out to the members of the 2007-2009 Board of Directors. You all are truly amazing women and I have been blessed to work with each one of you!
In Theta,
Taylor

2009-2011 Board of Directors

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Immediate Past President

Taylor Gill

1st Vice-President (Membership)

Cathy Devlin

2nd Vice-President (Philanthropy)

Tracy Farrell

Mailing Chair

Ann Bauer

Panhellenic Representative

Sheila Prichard

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Robertson

Treasurer

Frances Foster

Social Chair

Maggie Mathias

College Contact

Lisa Schrieffer

Corresponding Secretary

Cindy Dunne

Editor

Molly Crowe

Historian

Susan Schroeder

Family Bingo

By Heather Schultz

Our First Annual Bingo Spring Fundraiser was held on Sunday, April 19th at Crestview Country Club. We decided to try something new and include families and friends, which was our first event including kids! Crestview's famous fried chicken buffet was served for dinner and six rounds of bingo were enjoyed by all. We had around 60 attendees which we felt was great attendance for our first event and raised over \$700 for our chapter and its philanthropies. A huge thanks to our Bingo Committee: Debbie Richardson, Mary Wilson, Cathy Lisenby, Frances Foster, Sheila Prichard, Nancy Schichtle and Taylor Gill! We hope everyone had fun and the baskets were also very, very cool. Sheila Prichard's stand up comic husband was our M.C. and I think he now is deserving of a spot on Saturday Night Live after his debut! Again, a huge thank you to all who came and supported this evening as it was for a truly worthy cause contributing to C.A.S.A.

Panhellenic Card Party

By Ingrid Gill

The Panhellenic Card Party and Luncheon held Tuesday, April 21st at Botanica was blessed by gorgeous weather and was a huge success! The Thetas were in charge this year, and I was happy to work with the representatives of all the sororities to cook, serve, decorate and coordinate this event. Approximately 200 women came out and enjoyed lunch and played cards, mostly bridge, until the event ended at 3:00. During lunch, a fashion show from K Lane's highlighted the great dresses that are hot for summer. This year's event raised \$2,700 for scholarships and are awarded to deserving young women who may be interested in investigating sorority life!

Thank you to the many Thetas who helped by donating tables, cookies, auction items and door prizes and by buying tickets: Molly Crowe, Cathy Devlin, Taylor Gill, Peggy Johnson, Lindsay Lane, Maggie Mathias, Anna Mills, Sheila Pritchard, Phyllis Robertson, Heather Schultz and Mary Lynn Walker. Special thanks to Susan Schroeder who helped with the food preparation and to Cindy Dunne who came and helped at Botanica!

Triad Dinner

By Susan Schroeder

It was certainly a fun evening at this year's TRIAD themed "Mixed Up Italian Dinner", which the Kappa's hosted at Crestview. Later in the year than the Triad is traditionally held, many of our fellow Thetas were unable to attend, but for the 10 of us there, it was certainly interesting! After a lovely fashion presentation by Nouveau's owner, we began the adventure which was known as dinner. (Graciously served by Nancy McEwen and her family). We were given menus with 12 items and asked to pick out our four courses (three items each). Sounds simple doesn't it? Yet all the items were written in Italian! So it became somewhat of a guessing game, which created a buzz in the room.

Feeling ever so clever at our table (and relying on my high school French to help out), we chose soup (zuppa), salad (insalata) and a fork (forschetta) for our first course. Little did we know that everything was cleared from the table after each course, so we were a bit concerned when we got our second course of spaghetti, bread and wine, but NO FORK! (We actually secretly hid our forks ...) I overheard some of the tables got a napkin, toothpick and glass of wine for their first course! It was a wonderful, fun, "mixed-up" evening and a great idea for future events!

Theta of the Year

By Susan Schroeder

It is said that many a famous leader exhibited signs of their brilliance at a young age. We can all recollect a four year old Tiger Woods showing off his skills on the Mike Douglas TV show in the 1970's. But did you know that Sylvia Plath, the writer, published her first poem at age eight, Thomas Edison taught himself to read and Dorothy Hodgkin, the Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry (in 1964) showed a keen aptitude for science at the age of 10? The same is true for 2009's Theta of the Year.

As a young girl growing up in Wichita, KS, her leadership skill got off to a shaky start however. She once willingly obliged her older brother who insisted that you *could* drink pop through a straw in your nose! It was perhaps after this event that her days of being a follower ended and her gift of leadership began to blossom!

This Theta stayed very active throughout her young life – she was a gymnast,

a cheerleader, a diver, a dancer and even did some roller-skating.

She was also a Panhellenic Scholarship winner. Then this extraordinary young woman went to KU where she pledged Theta. She received her Doctorate in Pharmacy a few years later.

Today she has become a true leader in her community. She is currently a pharmacist at Via Christi where she hopes to continue to be a clinical specialist, and also to be clinical faculty at the new KU School of Pharmacy Wichita campus and someday to be appointed to the State Board of Pharmacy.

Family is important to this Theta as well. Her parents and brother and sister in law live close by and she loves her nieces Grace and Edie and is a terrific "Aunt T."

She is active in Junior League and serves as a provisional advisor. Past placements include Holiday Galleria

treasurer, and Kids Zoobilee Chair. For Theta, she is on the Kappa Chapter Corporation Board, served as the Wichita alum President and prior to that was social chair. Currently, she is co-chairing Tunes on the Tarmac, a fundraiser for Arts Partners. In her spare time she works on her new College Hill house and is a great shopper!

This Theta is continually recognized by others for her outstanding effort and unwavering commitment wherever she is involved. This is obvious by her many accolades, including such prestigious honors as being named Kansas Young Pharmacist of the Year, Junior League of Wichita Active of the Year, and recently one of the Business Journal's 40 under 40. **This amazing leader is Taylor Gill!**



Panhellenic Scholarships

By Ingrid Gill

On May 12th, the Pi Beta Phi's hosted the annual Panhellenic Scholarship Luncheon at the home of Patti Edison. It was a lovely luncheon as the Wichita Alumnae Panhellenic scholarship committee distributed \$3,750 in cash awards to very accomplished young women. The winner's credentials were incredible and the future is certainly bright! The recipients are as follows:

Jill Winter , daughter of Kent & Susan Winter	Andale High School
Samantha "Sami" Denning , daughter of Richard Denning and Jill Laffoon	Maize High School
Catherine "Caty" Compton , daughter of Carl & Suzanne Compton	Derby High School
Courtney Franz , daughter of Karen Bainter	Derby High School
Kylie Aspegren , daughter of Todd & Shalae Harris and Todd and Monica Aspegren	The Independent School

If you know any of these young women or their families, be sure to congratulate them and offer to write a Theta rec!

Save the Date!



Board Meeting

- Monday, June 1st, 7:00 pm at the home of Mary Lynn Walker

Thirsty Theta Socials

- Thursday, June 11th, 5:00 pm at Fox & Hound in the Waterfront
- Tuesday, July 28th, 5:00 pm at Oeno wine bar in Old Town

CASAIino Night

- Friday, July 17th, 7:00 pm at the Wichita Scottish Rite
(Games begin at 7:30 pm.)

Board Meeting

- First week in August. Date, time and location TBD.

Salad Supper/Kick-Off and Mum Pickup

- Thursday, September 17th, 7:00 pm at the home of Barbara Thompson

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2009

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30			



**KAPPA ALPHA THETA
MISSION STATEMENT**

Yesterday, today and tomorrow, Kappa Alpha Theta exists to nurture each member throughout her college and alumnae experience and to offer a life-long opportunity for social, intellectual, and moral growth as she meets the higher and broader demands of mature life.

Wichita Alumnae Web Site

Have you visited the web site lately? If not, please take a moment and explore! You will find forms, the social calendar, pictures and more. You can also make suggestions and submit them online! This is a great way to keep up to date and learn more about our chapter.

www.wichitathetas.org

Membership

Do you know of a Theta that recently relocated to Wichita? If so, we would like to hear from you! Please email Cathy Devlin, cathydev@cox.net. We would love to invite them to join the chapter.

Also, if you have an address change or if you change your email address, please contact Cathy. Thank you!