

kappa alpha theta

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Fall 2017
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Omicron Celebrates Kappa Alpha Theta Day of Service Chapter Registers Students for National Marrow Registry

Every year, Kappa Alpha Theta chapters across the nation celebrate Theta's Day of Service on October 19th, in honor of founder Bettie Locke Hamilton on her birthday. This year, USC's Omicron chapter celebrated by working with the Gift of Life Marrow Registry (www.giftoflife.org).

Omicron set up a booth to swab people's cheeks and add them to the national marrow registry, helping match potential marrow or blood stem cell donors to those battling leukemia and blood cancers. Omicron's Service Director, Erin Silliman, first got involved with



Gift of Life when she was swabbed at an event on campus her freshman year. Since then, she has become very involved in the organization and is now part of their campus ambassador program (she even recruited Omicron's CEO, Jennie

Thompson, to intern for the organization!). Erin aims to get many others involved with Gift of Life's important work. She explained, "On Theta Day of Service, one of our main goals has been to involve others outside of Theta, and we've successfully involved the broader campus community in our cheek swabbing event for two years running." Thank you to everyone who supported the event this year!



by Rachel Ritter

September 2
Western Michigan v. USC
W 21-49

September 9
Stanford v. USC
W 22-42

September 16
Texas v. USC
W 24-27

September 23
USC v. Cal
W 3 0-20

September 29
USC at Washington State
L 27-30

October 7
Oregon State v. USC
W 10-38

October 14
Utah v. USC
W 27-28

October 21
USC at Notre Dame
L 14-49

October 28
USC at Arizona State
W 35-17

November 4
Arizona v. USC
W 35-49

November 11
USC at Colorado
W 38-24

November 18
UCLA v. USC
W 23-28

Omicron Cheers For Trojan Football on Gameday
From L.A.'s Coliseum to Indiana, Thetas Show Support

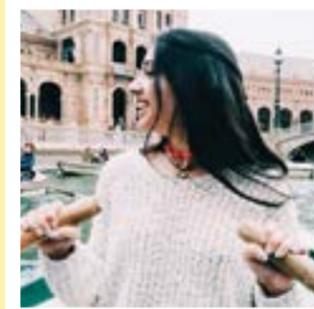
On Saturday, September 2nd, USC's football season officially began, as the nationally ranked Trojans took on the Western Michigan Broncos at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum. Gameday spirit was high throughout the afternoon as new members experienced their first gameday as Theta Trojans! Everyone was dressed in cardinal and gold for tailgate festivities and then kickoff. Every gameday, the excitement around campus and along The Row is obvious--the camaraderie among students, alumni, and fans is so fun to see. The opening game against the Broncos was the first of a few home victories for USC. The Trojans beat Stanford a week later, and then battled the Texas Longhorns

on September 16th. It was the first meeting between the USC and Texas football programs since the heartbreaking 2006 Rose Bowl. This time around, USC won the dramatic showdown that stretched into double overtime. All 85,000 fans in attendance were subjected to a roller coaster of emotion as the teams went back and forth putting points on the board. A highlight of the weekend was getting to know some fellow Thetas from University of Texas who were in town for the game. The weekend was evidence of what a great rivalry USC/Texas is, and Thetas are excited for the Trojans to play in Austin next season. Fight on!

by Fallon McCarthy



THETAS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**Freshman
Kiran Ebrahim**

Kiran is a Business Administration major who founded her own start-up to empower rape and domestic abuse survivors, providing them with lawyers and safety. Kiran also passed two bills, Girls Count Act and Girls Refugee Education, for the Girl Up United Nations Organization on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. She gave a Tedx talk in Spanish about gender inequality in Latin America, and the ways in which non-violent movements can help mitigate social issues. Kiran was chosen as Atlanta Magazine's 2017 "Rising Star," as part of the Women Making a Mark campaign. She has played flag football for 8 years (even representing Team USA in Dubai!), and hopes to be a social entrepreneur in the future.



**Sophomore
Emma Reynolds**

Emma is a sophomore studying Business Administration, and she has been Omicron's Assistant Ritualist and part of the chapter's Membership Development Committee. She was recently selected to attend the Kappa Alpha Theta Emerging Leaders Institute in Indiana to further develop her understanding of effective leadership. Throughout her early school years, Emma discovered her love for traveling and desire to become a true "global citizen." She is extremely passionate about learning about new cultures, and plans to go abroad during her time at USC (hoping to cross "traveling to every country" off of her bucket list!).



**Junior
Olive Numeroff**

Originally from New York City, Olive is majoring in East Asian Languages and Cultures and minoring in Marketing. Olive also plans to complete a Master's degree in East Asian Languages and Cultures. On campus, she is the President of USC's Ice Girls and a member of the Expat Society. She has traveled to China seven times to study and work as an intern. This past summer, she interned in Taiwan at Richemont Group, a luxury watch and jewelry brand. This semester, she will work as a marketing intern for Tinder, the well-known online dating app. In the future, Olive hopes to pursue a career that fuses her interest in marketing with her passion for Chinese language.



**Senior
Maggie Suszka**

Maggie grew up in the heart of downtown Chicago and graduated as a two time All State Field Hockey Player. She played field hockey for a small university in D.C. before transferring to USC. At USC, Maggie has been exploring her love of writing through songwriting and English courses. She is pursuing a degree in Print and Digital Journalism, as well as a minor in Marketing. She enjoys publishing both video and print content, and hearing and sharing people's life stories and experiences. This is evident from her role as Director of Marketing and Digital Public Relations at the global community @halfthestory. This past summer, Maggie traveled to New York City to work as a Merchandising Intern at Yankee Stadium.

WELCOME THETA NEW MEMBERS

Grace Adams
emma Anderson
Kate Aschkenasy
Alyse Barlow
Ryan Bauserman
Charlotte Black
Delaney Brower
Amanda Brunak
Josie Bullen
Lauren Cole
Lauren Collette
Holly Dahlem
Casey Dutton
Kiran Ebrahim
Ana Sofia Fehn
Brooke Finegold
Claire Fisher
Jillian Furger
Sophie Gerber
Chloe Goble
Cindy Conzalez
Leeta Gupta
Taylor Hanson
Allison Heil
Nikki Jamshidbaigi
Alexa Kimiabakhsh
Carlonie Kinley
Sarah LaBonty
Emma Lam
Helena Laskey
Bridget Latoff
Nicole Lebedin
Maddy Ledger
Isabelle Lemieux
Andie Lew



On Sunday, October 15, Kappa Alpha Theta presented our newly initiated members to their parents, friends, and loved ones. Theta officers and involved Theta alumnae spoke about the work that goes into becoming a Theta, and how proud they are of each and every new member. Then, Theta's New Member Educators, Olivia Carmack and Abbey Pickett, introduced each new member to the audience, offering a little information about her such as hometown, major, and a fun fact. Each new member's Big Sister met her in the middle and gave her a yellow rose. Then she stood facing the crowd as the rest of her pledge class was introduced. Two new members, Alison Heil and Sahar Rohani, gave a heartwarming and funny speech about members of their pledge class and how they've bonded since meeting each other on Bid Day. We even had USC's starting quarterback, Sam Darnold, in attendance. After the ceremony, everyone ate light snacks and took pictures. Inside the house, the new members found flowers given to them by their families and had the opportunity to show their visitors the Theta house. The weather was lovely, and everyone had a great time. As the chapter says, TLAM (Theta Love and Mine)!



Claire Lonergan
Kimiye Makiyama
Emma Maley
Julia Mata
Grace McMahon
Claire Monro
Mary Nebel
Jacqueline Nichols
Sadie Paczosa
Gracie Parish
Brooke Posnock
Randi Reinhardt
Heidi Reiss
Liv Reiter
Sahar Rohani
Lauren Sanchez
Arielle Schnitzer
Sydney Schwartz
Nicole Scruggs
Isabelle Sellon
Kayla Shoushani
Jordyn Sigmen
Arielle Smith
Talia Spiegel
Alexandra Stoller
Katie Stone
Emila Tavangarian
Nila Tavangarian
Mikayla Tejero
Uche Uche
Lilian Walker
Daniella Werner
Allison Westley
Tori Westmorelan
Allison Wilcox

Recapping Our Fall Events: From Sisterhood to Scholarship

Homecoming Weekend

From October 30th - November 4th, Omicron celebrated USC's Homecoming with a bunch of fun activities. Members spent an evening roasting marshmallows together at Dockweiler State Beach, and spent an afternoon conquering a campus-wide scavenger hunt. One night included Theta Trivia, with light-hearted questions about members of the house (it was hilariously competitive and surprisingly informative!). Another highlight of the week was Omicron's Annual Alumnae Brunch. Current Thetas enjoyed hearing stories from alumnae who shared bedrooms in the Theta house and then went on to be bridesmaids in each other's weddings. The Alumnae Brunch is such a nice reminder that many of the friendships Thetas form in college do last a lifetime. And of course, no Homecoming is complete without football and a massive tailgate on Saturday! This year's Homecoming was particularly memorable. Thank you to Omicron's Sisterhood Chairs, Jackie Norris, Sophie Spallas, and Celine Wilfert, for planning such a fun week!

Big Sisters Revealed

This Fall, reveal took place on September 28th. Leading up to the event, each new member received gifts from her unidentified Big Sister and tried to figure out the identity of her "Big." For the Reveal, each Big picked out two matching hats--one that the new member (Little Sister) wore, and one that she herself (Big Sister) wore. (The unique hat choices were hilarious - lobster hats, weird baseball hats, etc. Many of the hats have been passed down year after year from older Omicrons to younger ones!) These hats were delivered to the new members anonymously before the big event. During Big/Little Reveal, each new member wore her hat and entered the dining room of the Theta house. There, she united with her Big by finding whoever was wearing a similar hat. Everyone was smiling ear to ear once they found their match! Shortly after, everyone went to a nearby roller skating rink where they enjoyed dinner, skating, and dancing all night.

Scholarship Dinner Celebrates Chapter's Academic Achievements

Dinner Features Dean of Annenberg School of Communication, Willow Bay



On Wednesday, November 1st, Omicron hosted its Fall Scholarship Dinner at the Theta house. Scholarship Directors Emma Hyams and Kismet Kumar planned the event. Omicrons invited professors from various departments at USC, bringing everyone together to honor the academic achievements of the chapter. At the event, Omicron honored 14 women who had earned 4.0 GPAs in the previous semester, and 41 women who had earned a 3.75 GPA or higher. Scholarship dinner is a wonderful way to celebrate Theta's success in the classroom.

The event included a panel mediated by Carlin Pappas and featured the Dean of Annenberg School for Communication, Willow Bay. Before she became Dean in 2017, Mrs. Bay was an American television journalist, editor, author, and former model. At the event, she spoke about her previous experiences such as being a Senior Editor for the Huffington Post and working as a Special Correspondent for Bloomberg Television.

Trojan Family Weekend 2017

Trojan Family Weekend is one of Thetas' favorite weekends of the year, when families visit campus in mid-October and experience a bit of college life at USC. Families have the opportunity to visit the Theta house, which many members call "home" at some point during college. They can see what it is like to eat, sleep, and study at the house, and to live among women who will become life-long friends. Parents are often amazed by how beautiful the house is, how supportive the environment can be, and how many resources members have available to them.

Each year, Theta hosts a barbeque on Trojan Family Weekend. The event is an opportunity for Thetas to meet their sisters' parents and siblings, and to learn more about where their sisters come from. The mix of families at the barbeque is always a wonderful reminder of what a diverse organization Theta truly is.



4.0 SCHOLARS

Courtney Blaylock | Alicia Bechtel | Taryn Donnels
| Brooke Feldman | Nicole Friedlich | Samantha
Garnett | Katie Gillette | Caitlin Greenho | Brittany
Hope | Jessica Kern | Corinne Kneizys | Kiana
Phillips | Megan Scarlattelli | Kelley Sheets

3.75 (and above) Members

Jane Andrews | Sophia Arbess | Avery Barth | Lauren
Berger | Leia Cahill | Anna Catinis | Erin Craig | Mel
Demma | Kelly Devine | Lindsay Easom | Grace
Feitshans | Katherine Furgurson | Kendal Gee | Allie
Gershman | Addie Glass | Emma Hyams | Mallory
Jesser | Sarah Kane | Sydney Lopes | Emily Meckler |
Mirabel Michelson | Rosie Nebel | Claire Nordstrom |
Olive Numeroff | Ali Ozmeral | Carlin Pappas |
Morgan Rutter | Morgan Sands | Jamie Scheeter |
Claire Schenken | SarahBelle Selig | Emma Shafer |
Alexa Silver | Savannah Sinfield | Shannon Skibicki |
Maggie Suszka | Rachel Toffler | Jessie Ward | Shaina
Wottitz | Sammie Yeager



Theta Late Night Philanthropy Event Raises \$7,806 Fundraiser for CASA, Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation Full of Food and Fun

In mid-November, Omicron proudly hosted "Theta Late Night" in the parking lot of the Theta house to raise money for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation. At the event, guests were charged an admission fee of \$8 for an all-you-can-eat ticket or \$10 for an all-you-can-eat ticket plus In-N-Out, and 100% of the proceeds were donated. There was an endless supply of taquitos, Krispy Kreme

donuts, Baked Bear ice cream sandwiches, and more to keep guests happy and full while they enjoyed listening to music and catching up with friends. We also raised additional money for CASA by selling Theta Late Night t-shirts on campus the week before the event. Sending a big "thank you" to Adriana Bass, Sammie Yeager, their wonderful planning committee, and all of Theta for making this event such a success!



Ann Guerin Scholarship Continues to Support Omicron Women With Generous Donations, Ann Guerin Fund Assists Exemplary College Women

During this holiday season, please embrace the deed of giving. Do something that is good and you will feel good. The perfect gift from the heart is a charitable donation to the Ann Guerin Scholarship Fund to help an Omicron Theta next year. During the past three years, this fund has provided financial assistance to fifteen exemplary young women of Omicron. We want to continue offering this assistance, and make this appeal now for your help. Friends, family, and Theta sisters, please consider generously donating to the Ann Guerin Scholarship and Friendship Fund - we greatly

appreciate any and all support! Thank you for your anticipated "nice gift".

Ways to Donate
Tax Deductible Donations must be made to payable online at <http://giveto.usc.edu>
Click "I am making a new one-time gift."
Click "Please direct my gift to a specific school and program."
Click - "University Life."
Click - "USC/KAPPA ALPHA ANN GUERIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND."
Thank you in advance for your kind gifts.



Letter From Omicron's Incoming President A Message from Anna Volkmann

Hello Theta Family,

I grew up with Kappa Alpha Theta on my radar, as my mom was a Theta at the University of Illinois. In my first semester at USC, I had the opportunity to learn more Greek life and solidify my interest in joining a sorority. I interacted with several Thetas and saw their impact on campus, which increased my desire to join such an inspiring group of young women. Now as a junior, I could not be more honored to be a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, and I am humbled to serve as the next Chief Executive Officer of the Omicron chapter.

I am pursuing a degree in Health and Human sciences, with a double minor in Business and Forensics and Criminology. I

aspire to pursue a career in Health Administration. In addition to my studies and current involvement in Theta, I am a Tour Guide at the USC Admission Center. I have the wonderful responsibility of representing the university as a whole, and informing prospective students about this place I love and call home. I hope to carry these skills over to my position as CEO of Theta. Not only do I appreciate and respect Kappa Alpha Theta's mission and vision as a national organization. But I also adore and care for each member of the Omicron chapter. I am privileged to be able to lead these young women through the next year.

I am continuously inspired by my fellow Omicron sisters and all they are achieving. I am extremely proud to represent them as their

next CEO, and to lead the chapter into further success. Thank you all for the immense love and support. I cannot wait for the upcoming semester to begin!

Theta Love,
Anna M. Volkmann



Letter from Omicron's Outgoing President A Message From Jennie Thomson

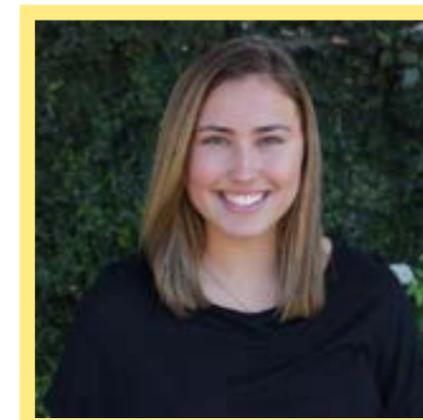
I am in awe at how fast this semester flew by. It feels like just yesterday, I was sitting at the front of chapter for the first time as the newly elected CEO.

During my time as CEO, Omicron hosted various philanthropic and social events, welcomed fabulous new members, and grew as a chapter in USC's broader Panhellenic community. The leaders of the house have effectively accomplished every task thrown their way, big or small. They have made my job as CEO immensely worthwhile. Whether it be our annual philanthropy events,

Monday Night Mission, Theta Bible Study, or an athletic event, Thetas put their love and energy into everything they do.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent our chapter. I am so fortunate to get to surround myself with such endearing, motivated young women every single day. And lastly, thank you to my parents, my sister, and my brother for being the greatest support system throughout the past year. I will cherish the memories I gained from this experience.

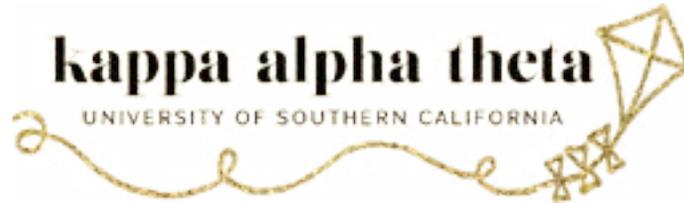
Theta Love,
Jennie Thomson



c/o Kappa Alpha Theta
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Los Angeles, CA 90007

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HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

Kat at Bat 2018

This year we hope to raise \$25,000 for our national philanthropies, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation. Our annual philanthropy event, KAT at Bat, will be in March. Please help us reach our goal by contributing raffle items or monetary donations. Please help us reach our goal by contributing raffle items or monetary donations. Visit www.kappaalphathetafoundation.org/giveback/annual-giving/donate-online/ and write "Omicron KAT at Bat" in the box that says "note regarding my gift." Contact Marissa Hastings, Kat at Bat Chair, at hastingsm2947@gmail.com with any questions.



THE CHAIN THAT BINDS US LINKS US HEART TO HEART..

Please follow the
Kappa Alpha Theta Omicron
LinkedIn and Facebook pages!

Contact Alumnae and Foundation Liaison
Lena Altaffer with any questions at altaffer@usc.edu

MADE WITH THETA LOVE

This edition of the USC Theta Newsletter was
created by:

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Special thanks to:
Ari Uhalde and Adriana Bass

