On April 4, 2017, USC’s Office of Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Development hosted the annual Greek Awards ceremony. The Omicron chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta won a total of five awards for their achievements during the 2016-2017 academic year! The chapter received awards for Wellness & Safety Excellence, Recruitment/Intake & Retention Innovation, and Academic Innovation. In addition, Omicron was awarded Chapter of the Year for the Panhellenic Council, one of USC’s top honors for a Greek organization. The Chapter of the Year award recognized Theta’s academic excellence (Omicron consistently has the highest GPA of all Panhellenic sororities), civic engagement, and leadership on and off campus. Also, Omicron’s Chief Education Officer, Adelaide Jessup, was awarded Trojan Greek Officer of the Year. Addie started a mentorship program that fosters relationships between Senior Thetas and the newest members of the chapter. Thanks to the University for recognizing the efforts and achievements of our members!
Maggie Volker

Living in Lisbon, Portugal has been an absolutely amazing adventure! I have had the opportunity to travel around Europe with my best friends and explore many new places. Portugal is so full of interesting people and culture. While living abroad, one of my favorite trips was to Lucerne, Switzerland, where we hiked through The Alps and boated around the lake to see incredible views. My friends and I spent an entire day in the snow-capped mountains, stopping at each lookout to snack on Swiss chocolate. It was a perfect day, and the fact that I got to experience such a beautiful place with fellow Thetas made it that much better. My experiences in Europe have made me so excited to travel to other places in the future!

Emily Friedman

Leaving behind my Trojan and Theta family was difficult, but as soon as I arrived in Madrid I knew my semester abroad would be unforgettable. I was able to explore Madrid, many other cities in Spain, and other countries nearby. I went skiing in Zermatt, Switzerland with my Theta sisters, Lindsay Easom and Caitlin Greenho. I slept in the Sahara Desert in Morocco, and celebrated St. Patrick’s Day in Ireland. I loved my experiences, and I am excited to share my adventures with my USC family when I return!
Freshman  
Aya Shimizu  
Aya is currently a freshman majoring in Computer Science, with a minor in 3D Computer Graphics and Modeling. Not only is Aya extremely accomplished in the classroom, but she is also involved in many organizations on campus. She is a representative for the Women in Engineering Advisory Board, helping to foster a sense of community among female engineers. She is also a member of USC’s Song Girl team for 2017. Aya’s future career goal is to work for a company like Pixar, enhancing their graphics and animation software.

Sophomore  
Anna Volkman  
Anna is majoring in Health and Human Sciences, with a minor in Forensics and Criminality. She is Omicron’s Executive Assistant, and a Tour Guide for the USC Admissions Office. Anna is also a member of the student-run dance company, Xpressions, and a member of MEDLIFE, a nationwide organization that works to bring healthcare to underserved communities. She recently traveled to Lima, Peru, with MEDLIFE, where she volunteered as a medical assistant in a health clinic.

Senior  
Nicole Farage  
Born in NYC, Nicole attended a dual curriculum high school, and is a dual citizen of Israel and the United States. Nicole entered USC with several merit scholarships, and has continued to be recognized by the university for her work. During her sophomore year, she launched the popular collegiate clothing brand, Victorywear Apparel, which is now sold by 10 universities around the country. Nicole was awarded the Top Undergraduate Venture Award and the Pound the Pavement Award for Victorywear.

Senior  
Sophie Faude  
Sophie is a Health and Humanity major, with a minor in Health Care Studies. She is also in the Thematic Option Honors Writing Program. In addition to being a Kappa Alpha Theta Ann Guerin Scholarship recipient and a National Merit Scholar, Sophie is a Research Assistant at the Dinosaur Institute of L.A.’s Natural History Museum. When she isn’t busy there, she volunteers as a Teaching Assistant at USC’s Keck School of Medicine. Sophie recently went on a medical brigade to Nicaragua, where she helped care for over 1,000 patients in a small village.
CHEERS TO OUR

Brooke Belanger
Sam Alpert
Fanny Anderson
Megan Angulo
Megan Arizmendi
Joyce Arowosaye
Lauren Barsamian
Delaney Baute
Danielle Bear
Rachel Ben-Menachem
Holly Blackwelder
Brittany Blank
Claire Bostrom
Caroline Brooks
Alex Burns
Kara Byron
Madeline Carnow
Ktea Carolan
Ally Christensson
Kate Chulay
Sara Clausen
Camille Conner
Emma Diaz
Marygail DiBuono
Brynn Evans
Nicole Farage
Sophie Faude
Brooke Fricke
Grace Gao
Katie Goetz
Daisy Gonzalez
Alexa Gores
Adie Hobbs
Macaul Hodge
Madelyn Hopfensperger
Tori Hu
Krista Jamgotchian
Mackenzie Kennedy
Congratulations to our graduating Seniors! We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments during their time at USC, and we look forward to seeing all that they accomplish in the future.
Katrina Kernochan is a sophomore on the USC Beach Volleyball Team, which just won the NCAA Beach Volleyball National Championship for the second time in a row. Katrina has been playing beach volleyball for six years, and has now completed her freshman and sophomore seasons at USC.

Katrina grew up living on the beach, so it seemed natural to start playing beach volleyball. As opposed to indoor volleyball (where there are six players on the court for a team at any given time), beach volleyball involves teams of two. There are two positions, blocker and defender, and each player on a team plays both at different times. For the most part, however, Katrina is a defender.

She trains for the team is year round - there really is no off season, just weeks when there are no games on the schedule. According to Katrina, the team trains even harder during their “off” weeks.

“Training is rigorous and a huge time commitment, but I love my team and we all get along so well. We are competitive, so when we win it is a lot of fun,” she explains.

There are two tournaments and a few scrimmages in the Fall, but for the most part the season takes place in the Spring. The team finished the 2017 season with a NCAA National Championship win and a 38-01 record.

Katrina loves being a part of USC Athletics, but also explains how important being in a sorority has been for her.

“I am so happy to be a part of Theta. It gives me an escape from the competitive and sometimes hostile environment that I am in for at least four hours per day. I am so grateful for all of the friends I have made, and for all the smiling faces that I see as soon as I walk into the Theta house!”

We are excited to see you play next year, Katrina!
Madison Westby is a junior playing for USC’s Women’s Tennis team. She competes in both singles and doubles. Madison grew up around tennis courts because her older brother also plays. The 2017 season is her third playing for the Trojans.

The team practices and competes year-round. According to Madison, they are currently a solid team, but they have been dealing with a lot of injuries. “Hopefully by the PAC 12 Championships and NCAAs, we will all be healthy and ready to compete to our fullest,” she said.

Training is intense. Madison practices for 20-25 hours per week, and she is in the weight room at least three days per week (and that doesn’t include all the extra practice she chooses to put in on her own time). A typical day involves a general workout for an hour, a tennis scrimmage for another hour, shoulder rehabilitation, class, tennis practice for another three hours, and then more class!

Madison does wish their matches drew more of a crowd, and she encourages fellow Thetas to come watch the games. “We don’t get many fans at our matches because tennis isn’t considered a very fun sport to watch, but that’s actually not true! People can be super loud and cheer between points. If you attend one match, it’s likely you’ll want to go to more,” she explains.

Madison is on the team with fellow Theta, Sarah Teichner, and the two are extremely close. “Sarah and I have been close friends since day one at Orientation. Getting to share the Theta sisterhood and USC tennis with her is incredible. It’s really special having her constant support in all aspects of my life.”

Madison says her favorite part about Theta is having another outlet to go to after a long practice or day of school. “I love being able to walk in and feel like all my stress and worries go away. It’s truly a home away from home for me, and I am so thankful for that.”

We can’t wait to cheer you on next Spring, Madison!
Scholarship Dinner Celebrates Chapter’s Academic Achievements
Dinner Features President of UCLA Health, CEO of UCLA Hospital System

On February 22, 2017, Omicron hosted its Spring Scholarship Dinner at the house. Theta members invite professors from across disciplines and schools at USC to come together and honor the academic achievements of the chapter.

“Scholarship dinner is a wonderful way to celebrate Theta’s success in the classroom,” said freshman Charly Hennegan.

Isabel Queiroz, sophomore, expressed how, as an art major, she sees Scholarship Dinner as a unique academic opportunity.

“I appreciate getting to meet teachers from other schools. [Scholarship Dinner] gives me the opportunity to interact with so many different professors,” Queiroz said.

In addition to conversation and mocktails, each scholarship dinner includes a keynote speaker. Johnese Spisso, mother of Theta New Member, Veronica Heartling, was this semester’s speaker. Johnese is currently the President of UCLA Health and CEO of UCLA Hospital System.

In her speech, Johnese discussed the five characteristics that differentiate successful leaders. These include trust, purpose, communication, ability to inspire, and results orientation.

Following the keynote address, the chapter honored thirty-five 4.0 scholars and sixty-five scholars with a 3.75 or higher. Thanks to Emma Hyams and Kismet Kumar, the 2017 Scholarship Directors who planned this fun event.

Philanthropy Event Raises Over $28,000
Annual Kat at Bat Fundraiser Supports CASA, Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation

Each year, Omicron hosts a wiffle ball tournament called Kat at Bat to raise money for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation. CASA is an incredible organization that provides children in the foster care system with mentors and representatives in court. This year’s event was on March 31. During the week leading up to the tournament, Theta hosted events including a fundraiser at Blaze Pizza and a talent show. Omicron raised over $28,000 through generous donations from parents, alumni and friends. Thank you to everyone who contributed!
Hello Theta Family,

My name is Jennie Thomson, and I’m the CEO of the Omicron (USC) chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta. Spring 2017 was a very exciting semester for us, with so many sisterhood, social, philanthropy, and service events.

We received five awards at Greek Awards, including Chapter of the Year. We implemented a new senior mentorship program, which pairs a new member with a senior buddy and, together, they participate in activities such as Trivia or a hike to Griffith Observatory. We held numerous career workshops for our members, during which speakers shared advice about personal branding on LinkedIn and how to build a strong resume.

Spring semester was not without challenges. As many know, one of our members, Katherine Pasichuke was injured tragically in an accident this semester. She is progressing well and is at a rehabilitation center in Colorado. We all continue to send her our love, best wishes and prayers. You can follow her progress on CaringBridge.com

Thank you all for your continued support.

Theta Love,

Jennie Thomson

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A Letter From Omicron’s CEO

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Anne Guerin Scholarship and Friendship Fund

Fund Continues to Support Exemplary Thetas

Ann Guerin is a beloved Omicron Theta who left a legacy of caring and financial support for future members of her sorority. The Ann Guerin Scholarship and Friendship Fund continues to provide welcome cash gifts to a new generation of Thetas at USC. During her life she was engaged in giving care to others in need. Therefore she would be pleased to know that her progeny is of the same disposition and carries on the family tradition of caregiving that she started many years ago.

Ann’s granddaughter, Holly Dickinson, is also an Omicron Theta and graduated from USC in 2015. During her four years at USC she exhibited a triad of excellence in scholarship, service, and social contribution to Kappa Alpha Theta and the University of Southern California. Her academic achievements include a Bachelor of Science degree, Magna cum Laude in Neuroscience, with an overall grade point average of 3.82 and selection into Phi Beta Kappa, the highest academic honor awarded by American universities. Her volunteering service includes work as a research intern at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Department of Neurosurgery, research assistant in the UCLA Biochemistry Department, and two years work as a medical technician for Faith in Practice: Life-Changing Medical Mission (Doctors Without Borders) and a total immersion in Spanish medical terminology in La Antigua, Guatemala, and providing clinical care to geriatric patients in Oxnard, California.

Her grandmother would be ecstatic with Holly’s accomplishments. Ann Guerin would be proud to see that she passed on her own views, beliefs, values, and passion to Holly and that her granddaughter has already given so much of her time and talent to so many people in so many communities here and abroad and will continue to do so during her professional career as a doctor.

Hopefully her many friends, their family members and associates will continue to support the Ann Guerin Scholarship and Friendship Fund with their donations to keep the promise and opportunity alive for future generations of Omicron Thetas at the University of Southern California.

Tax Deductible Donations must be made 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.”
Enter the dollar amount of your donation and make a gift.

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by Kathy Toghia
RECRUITMENT 2017

Calendar
Move-In Day
Recruitment Shool
Recruitment Begins
Preference
Bid Night
August 13
August 14-19
August 20
August 26
August 27

Recruitment
Please send reference letters to the chapter house by August 12th at uscthetareference17@gmail.com
If you would like to volunteer during Recruitment or have any questions, please contact uscthetacro@gmail.com

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 Monica Bredsel with questions brendsel@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