

2016 SPRING NEWSLETTER

KAPPA ALPHA THETA - ETA RHO



MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

JANUARY

- EXECUTIVE BOARD RETREAT
- LEAD
- FOUNDERS DAY BRUNCH

FEBRUARY

- PLANETARIUM MOVIE NIGHT SISTERHOOD EVENT
- CHICK-FIL-A AND CHILL SISTERHOOD EVENT
- BLANKET MAKING SISTERHOOD EVENT
- INFLUENTIAL WOMEN'S TEA

MARCH

- EDUCATIONAL EVENT
- DUO BOUTIQUE TRUNK SHOW
- SOBER MIXER W/ ALPHA PHI
- BASEBALL GAME SISTERHOOD EVENT
- SISTERHOOD RETREAT

APRIL

- HUMPBACK ROCK HIKING SISTERHOOD EVENT
- SPRING FORMAL
- 4TH ANNUAL DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT
- SUNDAE BAR SISTERHOOD EVENT
- SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

SISTERHOOD EVENTS

PLANETARIUM MOVIE NIGHT

For this event, sisters had the opportunity to take a study break and enjoy a funny movie in the exciting JMU planetarium! Popcorn and drinks were provided as well.

HIKING TO HUMBACK ROCK

At this event, sisters met at the entry to Humpback Rock hiking trail and embarked upon the hike to the top of the mountain. Photos were taken and it was a great bonding experience!

CHICK-FIL-A AND CHILL

Chick-Fil-a trays arrived in the basement for sisters to get together and have a delicious meal together

BASEBALL GAME

Sisters gathered at the baseball stadium to watch the Dukes win over their opponents!

BLANKET MAKING

At this event, we used yards and yards of colorful fleece to make 20 blankets for a hospice center and for children with cancer

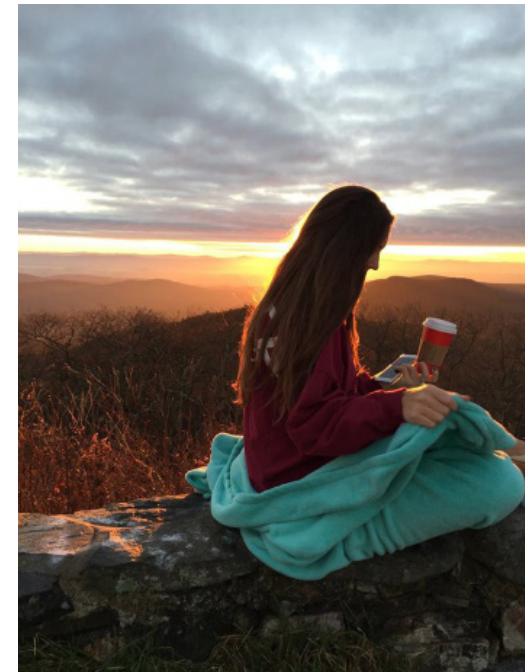
DUO BOUTIQUE TRUNK SHOW

Duo Boutique, a women's clothing shop in Charlottesville, VA, came to the Theta basement to do a trunk show. Sisters shopped together and some of the proceeds went to CASA!

DE-STRESS SUNDAE BAR

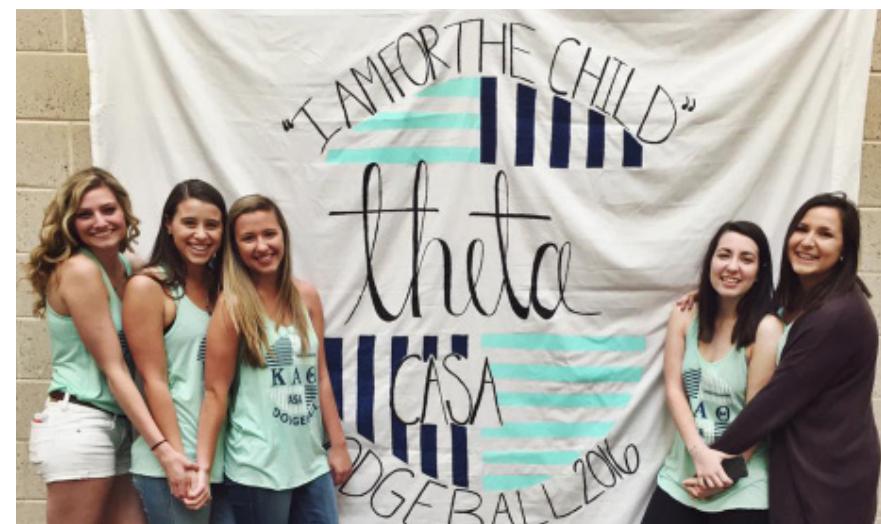
On the eve of finals week, sisters met in the basement to de-stress before exams began. Ice cream sundaes were served and coloring pages were decorated!

-MEGAN KING, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR



PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

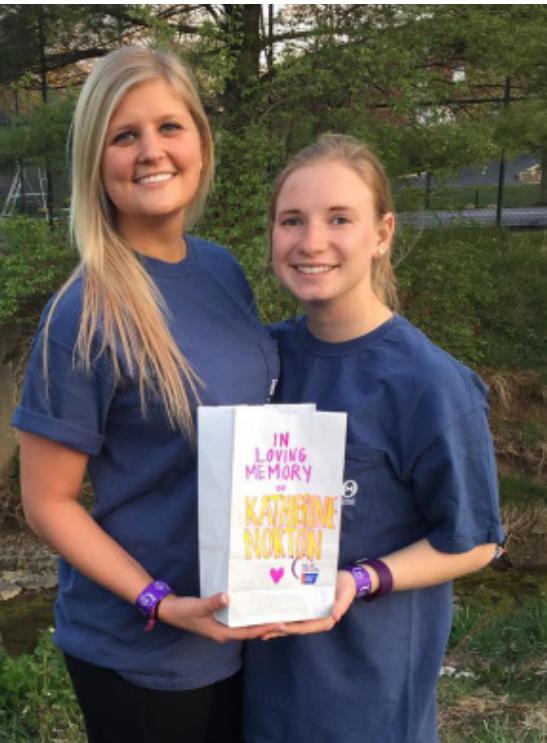
Each year our chapter holds multiple philanthropy events to benefit Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for both the Harrisonburg and Staunton, Virginia locations. This fall we held our first annual Fall Fest held on-campus where we had a variety of stations including pumpkin painting, apple bobbing, a chili cook-off and an all you can eat food buffet! Everyone who came out had a blast sampling food, participating in the activities and listening to the entertainment of the DJ that came to perform. In February we held our Influential Women's Tea, which was a one-day event for the women in our chapter as well as the women who they consider most influential in their lives. This event benefitted both CASA and the Katherine Norton Scholarship fund, a new philanthropy that our chapter has contributed to since the recent passing of our beloved sister, Katherine. At this event, we held a silent auction, ate lunch, and heard from CASA representatives as well as Eta Rho Alumni, Lauren MacPherson. Lastly, in April we held our annual Theta Dodgeball tournament, which is the biggest event we put on each year! Each year, we strive to get as many organizations (Greek and non-Greek) on campus involved as possible. The event took place in new-Rec and was performed in a bracket- style tournament! Overall, we raised over \$1,000 this year for both the National CASA and our local Harrisonburg and Staunton CASA.



RELAY FOR LIFE

This year, Kappa Alpha Theta Eta Rho chapter was proud to participate in JMU's annual Relay for Life event. We raised a total of \$8,133 as a result of both individual and group fundraising events. This placed us in 4th place for overall fundraising and 2nd place for overall Greek Life fundraising out of the 195 teams that participated. We had a total of 68 sisters attend the event, which is almost a third of our chapter and truly an accomplishment all on its own. Our sisters alternated walking around the track, while others hung out in our tent for the night in order to support the fight against cancer.

-ALLIE KAYE, THETA RELAY CAPTAIN, JUNIOR



SPRING BREAK SERVICE

This spring break I was given the opportunity to travel to Tahlequah, Oklahoma to serve at the Head Start Program in the Cherokee Nation. Growing up an education was something I always expected to receive I knew come every August I would be given an opportunity to further my intellectual development and cultivate talents that would lead me towards a successful future. Not every child is so fortunate. Head Start is a government-funded program that provides early pre-k and pre-k education to qualifying low-income children. I had the pleasure of helping in the classroom and around the school to create a positive and fun learning environment. Serving these children opened my mind to a new conversation on privilege and the different social issues that affect my life as a college student. Less than 10% of the world receives a college education, and as one of those 10% I feel that it is my responsibility to use my education and abilities to engage in direct service. I fell in love with all the aspects of the alternative break program and am excited to announce that I will be leading my own break to the Dominican Republic in Spring 2017!

-CAROLINE COOK, JUNIOR

Going on an ASB trip to St Joseph's Bay Florida was such a rewarding experience! Having the opportunity to give back to the environment through planting endangered plants and weeding up invasive species not only helped the community down in Florida, but also was a time for reflection on my own life. I loved having a whole week dedicated to forming new friendships with total strangers and devoted service. Although spring break is known for hanging out with friends and soaking up the ~sun~, it was so much more rewarding to plant and give back to the community through service!

-SHELLLY PEARCE, SOPHOMORE

This past spring break, I co-led an alternative break to Atlanta with a focus in human trafficking. In that one short week, I learned the importance of love, service, and forgiveness -- I learned that these ideas are all necessary in enabling us to become humble leaders for change. Leading this break taught me the importance of igniting passion in others. Everyone has such great potential in the fight for social change, and I was very fortunate to have a group who was excited and eager to learn about the injustices surrounding human trafficking. I believe that this break impacted the communities of Atlanta greatly, as well as our group as a whole. Individuals who have been affected by human trafficking were able to experience love through the volunteers serving them-- something that has been foreign to them for so long. Additionally, our group learned the importance of community engagement when becoming active citizens.

-MELANIE FARRELL, JUNIOR



SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship is a very important value the sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta cherish. Especially here at Eta Rho, we strive to do our best academically each and every day. Academically, we support our sisters by having scholarship presentations during some of our chapter meetings. Also, during every chapter the “Smart Cookie Bag” is passed around which allows sisters to receive recognition for some of their academic achievements while also getting a sweet treat. Due to the success of study hours last semester we decided to bring them back again, except instead of only being able to sign in at the library sisters were encouraged to log their hours on GIN. Some of our sisters even logged 200+ hours at the library and we could not be more proud of all of their hard work! Our chapter truly values scholarship and we will continue to find new and fun ways to encourage academic excellence in the future.



PANHELLENIC INVOLVEMENT

This semester we strove to increase our presence within the greek community at JMU. We put on a variety of sober mixers to try and improve and maintain our relationship with other panhellenic organizations. One of which was with the sisters of Alpha Phi that allowed our chapters to bond and get to know each other in a relaxed environment.

We also tried to increase our attendance at other sorority and fraternity philanthropy events this semester. In the past there had been complaints about our attendance at campus events, so this year we used new incentives to get our sisters to go. This worked out very well and we had a record number of sisters participating in a variety of other organizations philanthropy events throughout the semester. We hope to continue on this path and further our presence on campus well into the future.

-GRACE PATTERSON, CHIEF PANHELLENIC OFFICER





GRADUATING SISTERS

As another semester comes to an end, the time has come to wish some of our sisters goodbye, as they set off into the real world. As a chapter, we would like to congratulate all of the graduating seniors. We are so proud of all of their accomplishments and we know they all have bright futures ahead of them. We're going to miss them so much. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS- you all "did the thing"!!

WHAT THETA HAS MEANT TO ME...

The women of Kappa Alpha Theta have meant so much to me throughout my college experience. Coming to JMU from upstate New York was a huge change and left me feeling alone on campus. Having been in a sorority herself, my mom urged me to go through recruitment to make a big campus seem just a little smaller and I can not thank her enough for doing so. Theta has helped me become the best version of myself. It has challenged me with different leadership positions, supported me when I was feeling down, and taught me to really appreciate everyone's unique skills that they can bring to help better an organization. However, the best part of my Theta experience has been the feeling of sisterhood, all the wonderful women in our chapter, and the forever friends I have made. I am so thankful to have been blessed with such a great experience throughout my collegiate career and am excited to continue my it post-grad when I move to Arlington with many thetas of the class of 2016!

-KATIE KELLY, ZETA PLEDGE CLASS

Theta has introduced me to a group of women that I am blessed and porud to call my best friends. My college experience was enriched when I joined this group of wonderfully talented and supportive women. What I love most about our chapter is that everyone brings something so distinctly unique to the table. We all come from different walks of life, yet we hold near the same values of faith, hope, and love. I truly don't know where or who I would be without the love and support that our sisterhood has given me. Some of my best memories belong to you, Theta. As an alumnae, I will continue and spread the values of our chapter. TLAM!!!

-SARAH DANIELS, ETA PLEDGE CLASS

Theta has been a large part of my college experience and shaped me into the capable and professional graduate I have now become! I credit not only some of my happiest college memories to Theta as well as my best friends, but some of my most challenging and rewarding moments as well. Theta, as an organization, teaches you to hold yourself accountable, as well as others. It teaches you that if you let them, you will have 200 plus women supporting you, cheering you on, and helping you through your toughest moments on any given day due to the deeper bond you all share. Lastly, Theta has taught me to believe in myself, and to strive to be the best leading woman I can be.

-SYDNEY ROSE-GRAHAM, ZETA PLEDGE CLASS

AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONS

PLACING 2ND AT 2016 GREEK SING

Going into Greek sing we had a lot of pressure to perform to a certain standard since in the past we had done so well. We had to take it to another level, and I think we succeeded in that. When they announced we had placed for the third year in a row, I was thrilled. Everyone involved put in so much hard work and I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls to work with! - HAILEE LARSEN, GREEK SING CHAIR, JUNIOR

OUR OUTSTANDING NEW MEMBER

I couldn't believe it when I received the FSL's 2015 Outstanding New Member Award. Being in such an astounding organization such as Kappa Alpha theta makes it easy to put my entire self into my sorority. I am surrounded by some of the most intelligent, kind hearted, and wholesome women I have ever met. I'm so proud to represent Theta in winning this award.

-SAVANNAH BOWEN, FRESHMAN

SYDNEY BECOMES AN ELC

I decided to become an Educational Leadership Consultant (ELC) after graduation, because I wanted to give back to the organization that gave me so much. I was lucky enough to be surrounded by inspiring and amazing women in my undergraduate time because of Theta and I knew that would continue if I was an ELC. Not only do I get to work with amazing undergraduates I am now surrounded by a huge team of leading women who challenge me and make me a better person. I look up to many individuals who were ELCs in the past and to think I could have an opportunity to grow into half of the woman they are is amazing. Being an ELC will be one of the toughest challenges I will face but the most rewarding by far. - SYDNEY ROSE-GRAHAM, SENIOR



ALUMNAE UPDATES

KATIE HINNENKAMP, CLASS OF 2015

Hi Eta Rho! Since I have graduated I started working in the West End neighborhood of Washington DC. I am a graphic designer at The Advisory Board Company, in their in-house Design Strategies and Solutions Team. I feel pretty lucky to work at such a fun and young company. I am finally about to move out of my parents house into Glover Park in DC! I hope you all are doing well! Hit me up if you are ever in the area!



KATE MCGRATH, CLASS OF 2014

After graduation in 2014 I moved to DC and I worked at an advertising agency as an Account Manager for about a year. It was a really cool job where every day was creative and different. After that, I decided I didn't want to work at a desk anymore and quit everything, sold my things and moved to the country of Chile in South America for 6 months. I taught English for several months and then spent the rest of my time traveling and backpacking through South America, including the Patagonia Mountains. It was terrifying at first but was a really incredible experience and unlike anything I had ever done. I really recommend to anyone to take some time and travel after graduation; there aren't enough opportunities once you start a full time job. Now I'm living on the coast of Southern California in Santa Barbara, and working at a very California-like tech startup doing marketing. I spend my weekends wine tasting and my lunch breaks surfing. I miss you all so much and anyone is welcome to take a vacation out and visit, I love having the company!



MORGAN CARTER, CLASS OF 2014

My name is Morgan Carter and I graduated from James Madison University in 2015 with my M.A.T. I currently live in Alexandria, VA and work as a 3rd grade teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools. I am planning on going abroad in the coming year to teach English. Kappa Alpha Theta has given me lifelong friends and has also helped me gain lifelong skills. I am thoroughly enjoying teaching but miss JMU and my Theta friends!



OFFICERS

CABINET OFFICERS

Lauen Neely // Executive Assistant
Hanifah Mohamad // Archivist & Historian
Alex Astarita // Awards Director
Megan King // Human Resources Director
Emily Slawinski // Event Director
Jess McCormick // Scholarship Director
Bryce Timberline // New Member Director
Katie Smith // Ritualist
Megan King // Facility Management Director
Sara Dix // Finance Assistant
Courtney Sickel // Recruitment Director
Allie Cappiello // Alternate Panhellenic Delegate
Shae Yeager // Service & Philanthropy Director
Elle Nguyen // Online Media Director
Sarah Short // Alumnae Engagement Director
Orion Taylor // Publications Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Megan Wieseman // Chief Executive Officer
Coryn Romano // Chief Marketing Officer
Sammy Seaton // Chief Operating Officer
Becca Seymour // Chief Recruiting Officer
Ellie Gavin // Chief Education Officer
Grace Patterson // Chief Panhellenic Officer
Ali Cloutier // Chief Financial Officer
Maddie Massari // Chief Administrative Officer



ADVISORY BOARD

OUR ADVISORS DO SO MUCH FOR OUR CHAPTER AND WE COULD NOT THANK THEM ENOUGH FOR WHAT THEY DO! THEY DEDICATE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF THEIR TIME INTO OUR CHAPTER BY TRAVELING TO JMU, CONSTANTLY RESPONDING TO OUR MANY EMAILS AND QUESTIONS, AND BEING A GREAT SUPPORT SYSTEM. OUR CHAPTER WOULD NOT BE WHERE IT IS TODAY WITHOUT THEM!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE ETA RHO ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT ASHLEY FREEMAN AT THETA.ASHLEY@GMAIL.COM

Ashley Freeman // Advisory Board Chairman

Nancy Reed // Administrative Advisor

Ashley Barbee // Ritual Advisor

Katie Prichard // Marketing Advisor

Katlyn Clinton // Education Advisor

Jackie Carpenter // Operations Advisor

Amanda Hattenback // Scholarship Advisor

Leah Brockman // Co-Recruitment Advisor

Afton Dean // Co-Recruitment Advisor

Jackie Knight // Facility Management

Virginia Whorley // Finance Advisor

Virginia Houston // Panhellenic Advisor

CONNECT WITH ETA RHO



@JMUTheta



JMUKappaAlphaTheta



@JMUTheta



jmutheta.tumblr.com



www.jmuthetaweebly.com

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY ORION TAYLOR // PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR