

June 2009

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Sigma Kappa News

Welcome!



Virtual Violet would like to welcome our 2009 spring graduates to the alumnae side of our triangle. Because growth and friendship are important to women throughout their lives, the Sigma Kappa experience does not end with graduation. Our bond continues to bring us together over the years, to share experiences, serve others and have fun. All you have to do is make contact!

Sigma Kappa enthusiastically welcomes all our new *Virtual Violet* subscribers. Let *Virtual Violet* support you to stay connected with your collegiate chapter sisters and be up-to-date with Sorority news, locally, regionally and nationally.

Next Issue of *Virtual Violet*

National volunteers and headquarters staff will be busy preparing for the College Officer Training School (COTS) in July. Therefore, watch for the next issue of *Virtual Violet* delivered to your e-mail inbox in August.

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The *Sigma Kappa Triangle* is Going Green!

Starting in Summer 2009, Sigma Kappa Sorority will be embarking on an exciting new initiative to help the environment and reduce costs by producing a digital edition of the *Sigma Kappa Triangle*. The digital magazine will help reduce the amount of paper, ink and transportation used to create a printed magazine as well as help the national organization keep costs down for its membership.

The digital *Sigma Kappa Triangle* will be a fully interactive magazine viewable right on your computer screen. It will feature exciting multimedia content that is not available in the paper magazine. The digital magazine is able to support audio and video, clickable hyperlinks, search capabilities and other exclusive content that can be found only in the online *Sigma Kappa Triangle*.

Don't miss out on this exciting development! Go to the For Sisters Only section of the

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[Online Member Search](#)

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Sigma Kappa Web site to update your e-mail address. The digital *Sigma Kappa Triangle* will be sent to all members with a valid e-mail address on file, so update your information and encourage your chapter sisters to do the same!

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Featured Alumnae Chapter

Along with spotlighting our alumnae members we are also shining the spotlight on alumnae chapters that display sisterhood and service in their communities.

June's Featured Alumnae Chapter: [New York City Alumnae Chapter](#)

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Reunions

Check out our [Reunions](#) page to view all upcoming reunions and reunions in the planning stage that need your help.

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Significant Sigma Kappas

Don't forget to check out this month's featured Significant Sigma Kappa [here!](#)

If you know of an alumna who should be recognized in our Significant Sigma Kappas section, we encourage you to submit her information to include name, chapter of initiation, bio and, if possible, a photo to virtualviolet@sigmakappa.org. For Sigma Kappas who've made a new accomplishment in their career or education, we have Sigma Kappa Kudos located in Simply Sisterhood.

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Alumnae Spotlights

[District I](#) - Heather Dunham, *Zeta Phi*, Rutgers University

[District II](#) - Misti Linn Keesee Cave, *Beta Nu*, Bradley University

[District III](#) - Aimee Nicklin Reyes, *Delta Iota*, California State University, Chico

[District IV](#) - Louise Maves Drane, *Gamma Zeta*, Northern Illinois University

[District V](#) - Brooke Huddleston Murphy, *Alpha Theta*, University of Louisville

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Shop Sigma Kappa

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Did You Know?

The very first Sigma Kappa alumnae chapter was chartered in 1905 in Boston, Massachusetts.

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Thanks For Asking

I'm attending COTS and I don't know what to pack. What kinds of clothing should I bring?

Please bring a light jacket or sweater; the meeting rooms tend to be cool. In addition, the

following appropriate attire for convention is listed for you [here](#).

All COTS attendees represent Sigma Kappa when they travel to and from COTS. Travel in attractive attire that represents Sigma Kappa well. Attire not appropriate throughout COTS, including travel to and from the weekend, include: short shorts, jeans, boxers, tube tops, miniskirts and tank tops.

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Significant Sigma Kappas

Showcasing sisters who have made a difference by living our values!

Maria Cardinale Rankine **(1958-2009)**

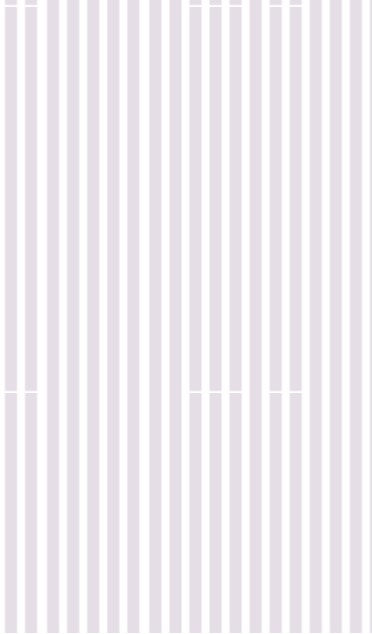


Maria Cardinale Rankine, *Alpha Chi*, Georgetown College, was one of the founding members of the European Alumnae Chapter. Through commitment, creativity and connectivity she ignited the spirit of sisterhood in Europe. From the inception of the chapter in 1997, she served as the vice president of membership, president, historian, secretary and annual meeting organizer. Under her leadership, the chapter tapped into technology to connect sisters and enable sisters to re-connect with Sigma Kappa. Her drive and passion showed us all what is possible for alumnae chapters and brought sisterhood to life again for countless alumnae members of Sigma Kappa.

In her professional life, Maria was a quality assurance certification specialist with the British Standards Institute. She worked with companies across the United Kingdom to assess and assist with their ISO 9000-series quality management certification, and most recently worked with legal offices throughout Southeast England. She was known for her professional, no-nonsense style and was widely respected and appreciated by her clients.

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Maria had a passion for travel and opera. She was a supporter of the English National Opera, for whom she helped to organize and promote the American Friends of the ENO evenings in London and the Les Azuriales chamber-opera festival in the south of France.

Maria touched the lives of so many Sigma Kappas throughout Europe and the U.S. In the words of her husband Angus: "Her love of life lit up the lives of those who knew her."

Donations can be made in Maria's memory to Royal Marsden Cancer Research, at www.justgiving.com/mariagrace.

Check out the list of [Significant Sigma Kappas!](#)

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Alumnae Chapter Spotlight



New York City Alumnae Chapter

Location: New York City, NY

Sister collegiate chapter: *Zeta Phi*, Rutgers University

Membership: They have hundreds of women on their electronic invitation list who are welcome to attend events whenever they'd like. They have a core group of a few dozen women who attend events regularly. They have SIG's including a supper club, book club, midtown lunch bunch and culture club.

Philanthropic service:

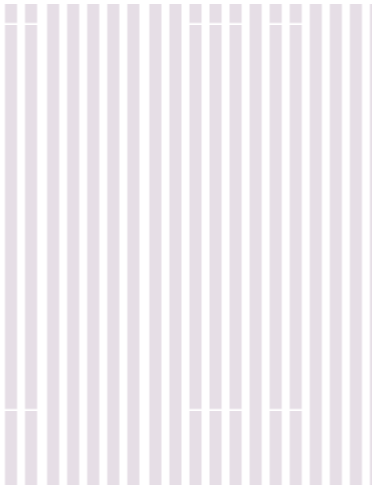
- Alzheimer's Walk
- Senior home visits
- Maine Seacoast Mission collections

Chapter activities: Activities are held once or twice a month. Activities include a wine tasting, picnics at the Philharmonic in the Park and Summer Movies in the Park and a paint your own pottery event.

Most successful event:

- Founders' Day fondue dinner
- Holiday high tea
- New member receptions

Message from president about why alumnae chapter membership is valued: New York City is home to more



A decorative graphic consisting of a series of vertical bars of varying heights and widths, arranged in a rhythmic pattern. The bars are light purple and white, creating a textured, striped effect.

than eight million people. So how do you find sisters with that Mystic Bond? Through the New York City Alumnae Chapter. It can be intimidating to meet new people in this city, but our chapter helps Sigma Kappa sisters find each other, navigate this city together and create life-long friendships.

Alumnae chapter contact information: For more information about New York City Alumnae Chapter membership, contact the president Tara Zimmerman at tarazimmerman@yahoo.com.

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Alumnae Spotlight - District I



Heather Dunham, Zeta Phi, Rutgers University

Alumnae Chapter: New Jersey Suburban Alumnae Chapter

Sigma Kappa Volunteer Activities: Advisor for *Zeta Phi*, Rutgers University

Occupation: Bankruptcy paralegal and full-time graduate student

Education:

- Master of Education in Social Studies Education with a focus on Urban Education, expected graduation in May 2010, Rutgers University.
- Bachelor of Arts in History, Political Science and a minor in Religion, Rutgers University

Professional/Civic Activities:

- National MS Society-Walk MS and Bike MS
- Involved with local elections by fundraising or doing public relations work

Family:

- Mom - Mary
- Grandmother - Betsy

- Brother - Patrick
- Boyfriend - Chris
- Cat - Luna

When not doing Sigma Kappa work:

- Studying
- Working
- Hanging out with her friends and family
- Reading on the beach
- Skiing

Favorite things:

- Working out
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Traveling
- Spending time outdoors
- The Jersey shore

Words to live by: "Take one day at a time and enjoy the sun when it shines."

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Alumnae Spotlight - District II



Misti Linn Keese Cave, *Beta Nu*, Bradley University

Alumnae Chapter: Peoria (Illinois) Alumnae Chapter

Sigma Kappa Volunteer Activities:

- Corporation board secretary for *Beta Nu*, Bradley University
- Treasurer and fundraising chairwoman for Peoria Alumnae Chapter

Occupation: Stay-at-home mother and Administrative Manager

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Business Management and Administration with a concentration in Legal Studies and a Minor in German language, Bradley University

Professional/Civic Activities:

- Pastoral Council Liturgy Commission Liaison, Parish Pastoral Council member and annual auction planning committee member for St. Patrick's Parish
- St. Patrick's grade school volunteer
- Picture person classroom volunteer
- Daisy Scouts leader

Family:

- Husband - Joseph
- Children - Maddi, Maci and Joseph

When not doing Sigma Kappa work:

- Spending time with her family
- Entertaining in her home
- Scrapbooking

Favorite things:

- Her family
- Pedicures
- Chocolate
- The color pink
- Listening to music
- Shopping

Words to live by: "Take time-out from striving for something better to enjoy what you have now."

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Alumnae Spotlight - District III



Aimee Nicklin Reyes, *Delta Iota*, California State University, Chico

Alumnae Chapter: San Jose/Bay Area (California) Alumnae Chapter

Sigma Kappa Volunteer Activities: President, vice president of programming and scheduling and *Sigma Kappa Triangle* correspondent for the San Jose/Bay Area Alumnae Chapter

Occupation: Stay-at-home mother and group exercise instructor

Education: Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in Business Administration, California State University, Chico

Professional/Civic Activities:

- Director of evening children's ministry
- Sunday school teacher
- Vacation Bible school teacher

Family:

- Husband - Ruben
- Daughters - Sarah, Madison and Adria

When not doing Sigma Kappa work:

- Taking care of her family
- Working as a fitness instructor
- Volunteering at her church
- Teaching Sunday school



Favorite things:

- Spending time with family
- Shopping
- Going to the beach
- Seeing the Sigma Kappa ladies
- Being with old friends
- Traveling to new places

Words to live by: “Make your family your first priority in life. They will always stand by you.”

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Alumnae Spotlight - District IV



Louise Maves Drane, *Gamma Zeta*, Northern Illinois University

Alumnae Chapter: Atlanta (Georgia) Alumnae Chapter

Sigma Kappa Volunteer Activities:

- Vice president of philanthropy for the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter
- Second delegate for the Atlanta City Alumnae Panhellenic Association
- Co-chairman for the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter Founders' Day and 50th anniversary celebration

Occupation: Retired

Education: Home Economics Education, Northern Illinois University

Professional/Civic Activities: Peachtree Road United Methodist Church volunteer in the church gift shop, co-chairman for the Baptism 'Napkins' project and member of the Sanctuary Guild

Family:

- Four children
- Four grandchildren
- Two step great-grandchildren

When not doing Sigma Kappa work: Traveling


Favorite things:

- Spending time with her children and grandchildren
- Sewing
- Counted cross stitch
- Embroidery

Words to live by: “Cherish your friends, both old and new.”

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Alumnae Spotlight - District V



**Brooke Huddleston Murphy, *Alpha Theta*,
University of Louisville**

Alumnae Chapter: Greater Louisville (Kentucky) Alumnae Chapter

Sigma Kappa Volunteer Activities:

- Historian for the Greater Louisville Alumnae Chapter
- Member of the SOE revision committee
- Corporation board vice president for *Alpha Theta*, University of Louisville
- Associate director of finance for national headquarters (2004-2006)

Occupation: Direct Response Media Planner

Education: Bachelor of Science in Marketing, University of Louisville

Family:

- Husband - Mike
- Dogs - Chevy and Chase

Professional/ Civic Activities: Louisville Advertising Federation and their subgroup, Young Advertising Professionals



When not doing Sigma Kappa work:

- Taking pictures
- Baking

Favorite things:

- Food (especially cookies)
- Family and friends
- Playing with her dogs
- Being happy
- Sigma Kappa

Words to live by: "Nobody really cares if you're miserable, so you might as well be happy." - Cynthia Nelms

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