



# NOTES OF THE LYRE

PHI CHAPTER OF ALPHA CHI OMEGA | UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS | SPRING 2026

## Evolving Spaces, Enduring Sisterhood

*The more things change, the more they stay the same.*

Nowhere is that more true than at Phi Chapter. Some things remain unchanged, like how I still feel like I'm coming home as the back door swings shut and I head up the stairs! On a Friday night, the familiar sounds of women getting ready for Mass Street now mix with music echoing from a Bluetooth speaker outside the shower. Late-night meals extend beyond pizza, with DoorDash delivering a wide range of options to the back door. Mail cubbies may sit mostly empty, but packages from online orders are stacked by the front entrance.

A huge change is that in recent years, fall recruitment has surged and pledge classes are the largest in chapter history. Phi Chapter initiated over 100 women this fall, bringing total membership to over 200. With numbers like that, the women can no longer gather in the chapter room for Monday meetings, leaving the space unusable.

In response, the House Corporation Board plans to convert the chapter room into a dedicated study area with large tables, comfortable seating, improved lighting, and an environment designed for focus and productivity. The dining room will also be updated into a more flexible, multipurpose space, featuring varied seating options, tables of different sizes, and built-in banquet seating with outlets to support both studying and socializing. While these updates reflect changes due to the chapter's growth, we'll do our best to ensure 1500 Sigma Nu Place continues to feel like a home away from home.

**The generosity of our alumnae has made these updates possible while helping us keep rent as affordable as we can.** Rising costs for maintenance, insurance, and utilities continue to present challenges, and your ongoing support is more important than ever. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to Phi Chapter.

Loyally,  
**Missi Schoen '97**  
HCB President



*Sydney Bamfauk '25, Mimi Huttiger '25, and Kate Schiller '25 together during spring break!*

## THANK YOU, LOYAL SISTERS

Thank you to the following sisters who have given to Phi Chapter since our fall 2025 newsletter. Your support helps the House Corporation Board keep rent costs lower for our collegians and continue updates on our beloved home to be both functional and beautiful. We love that we're including more names and higher giving levels to honor these sisters and their contributions!

If you would like to make a gift to support Phi, we would greatly appreciate it. To donate online, scan the QR code to visit [give.alphachiomega.org/Phi](https://give.alphachiomega.org/Phi). To donate by check, please mail to: Alpha Chi Omega Foundation, Inc., PO Box 6457 – Dept #291, Indianapolis, IN 46206



**Phi Club**  
*(\$5,000 and above)*  
Mary Challinor Cole '60

**Lyre Club**  
*(\$2,500 to \$4,999)*

**Symphony Club**  
*(\$1,000 to \$2,499)*  
Nancy Schreimann Turnbull '71  
Blythe Ridenour Jones '95

**1885 Club**  
*(\$500 to \$999)*  
Marilyn Bondurant Anderson '60  
Mary Cleveland Bollinger '68  
Cindy Shavey Lohse '72  
Kelly Edmiston Callen '73  
Jill Flanders Krentz '86

**Scarlet & Olive Club**  
*(\$100 to \$499)*  
Debra Skie Scrivner '70

Debra Kaye Hamilton Sear '76  
JoAnn Greenwood Westra '78  
Jennifer Kay Tiller Burgoyne, M.D. '87  
Keri Edelman Clark '93  
Carla Tomc Coleman '94  
Shelby Gigous Uhernik '00  
Stephanie Temaat '07

**Faith, Hope, & Love Club**  
*(Up to \$99)*  
Juliann Crider Wisbrock '95



Lucy Fincher '25 and Mia Kaddatz '25 enjoy a warm KU gameday together in Lawrence.

# A Semester of Strong Progress

## Expanding Impact Across Campus and Beyond



Keira Gallon '23, Sofia Gemuend '23, Abby Holt '23, Avery Oppermann '23, Chase Dascoli '23, Caitlyn Cobb '23, Carter Shirack '23, and Carlie Rommeny '23 take a group photo before Semi.

Phi Chapter continues to exemplify what it means to be Real. Strong. Women!

The chapter has 288 members following fall formal recruitment where Phi welcomed 118, with an additional 13 joining this spring.

Over winter break, designated executive board members attended Leadership Academy in Indianapolis, where they gained valuable skills and insight to bring back to the chapter.

Phi prides itself on its dedication to its philanthropy, Domestic Violence Awareness. On April 8, we hosted our annual spring philanthropy event, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. Community members were invited to participate by walking a mile in high heels to raise awareness and funds. The chapter also hosted a clothing drive benefiting Health International KU, an organization advocating for

underrepresented countries through education about their cultures and current issues.

55 sisters achieved a 4.0 GPA in the fall, and three, **Danielle Aplin '24**, **Addie Michalczyk '24**, and **Sarah Tracy '24**, were recently accepted into nursing school—a significant accomplishment reflecting their hard work and dedication. **Audrey Daubendiek '22** and **Taylor Durst '22** graduated in December 2025, and five members are studying abroad this spring: **Kara Bowen '24**, **Avery Oppermann '23**, **Avery Rafferty '23**, **Addison Walker '24**, and **Megan Mazdra '22**.

We remain committed to supporting members' professional development as they prepare for life after graduation. **Adrienne Pruss '24** created a first-of-its-kind alumnae panel. The chapter will host this event to provide undergraduate Alpha Chi Omegas with

guidance and real-world perspectives from alumnae representing a variety of career paths. Panelists will answer predetermined questions about navigating the professional world, offering meaningful exposure to different careers, professional experiences, and practical advice.

Overall, Phi Chapter continues to embody its values through its growth, philanthropic impact, academic achievement, and commitment to professional development. Through service, scholarship, and intentional preparation for the future, the chapter remains dedicated to empowering its members and making a lasting impact on campus and beyond.

Loyally,  
**Mia Von Varga '23**  
Chapter President

# CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President  
**Mia Von Varga '23**

VP Chapter Relations and Standards  
**Jaycee Millison '23**

VP Finance  
**Hannah Huber '24**

VP Risk Management  
**Tehya Harvey '23**

VP Ritual & Fraternity Appreciation  
**Peyton Gillett '24**

VP Recruitment  
**Kate Hartnett '23**

VP Recruitment Information  
**Alaina Roland '25**  
axophicric@gmail.com

VP New Member Education  
**Jillian Kboudi '24**

VP PR & Marketing  
**Natalia Ramirez '24**

VP Membership Programming  
**Addison Golsch '24**

VP CEB  
**Adrienne Pruss '24**

Panhellenic Delegate  
**Rachel Rummerfield '23**

VP Intellectual Development  
**Claire Overmoen '24**

VP Facility Operations  
**Shay Nalick '24**

VP Philanthropy  
**Zoe Stergion '25**

# Welcome, Spring 2026 New Members

**Gretchen Brown**  
Leewood, Kan.

**Lindsay  
Frehrenbacher**  
Batavia, Ill.

**Skylar Bryant**  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Aryia King**  
Buffalo Grove, Ill.

**Lily Desmond**  
Oak Lawn, Ill.

**Ava Lamothe**  
Lenexa, Kan.

**Trisha Dinh**  
Wichita, Kan.

**Addison Rousselo**  
Blue Springs, Mo.

**Lynox Ellis**  
Olathe, Kan.

**Lola Shyers**  
Sand Springs, Okla.

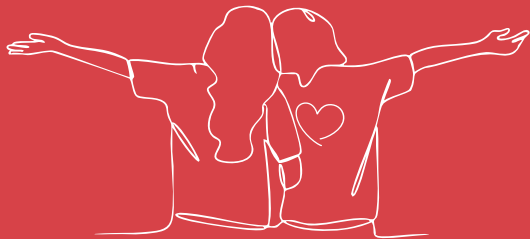
**Hannah Ferguson**  
Chicago, Ill.

**Madeline Walsh**  
Lagrange Park, Ill.

**Emily Fisher**  
Lombard, Ill.

## KNOW SOMEONE WE SHOULD KNOW?

*Submit a New Member Referral!*



If you know a woman who would be a strong fit for Alpha Chi Omega and who demonstrates character, leadership, academic commitment, and a desire to be part of a values-based community, we encourage you to submit a recruitment referral. Your recommendations play an important role in helping Phi continue to grow with driven and engaged members.

To submit a referral or learn more about the recruitment process, please contact VP Recruitment Information **Alaina Roland '25** at [axophicric@gmail.com](mailto:axophicric@gmail.com) or VP Recruitment **Kate Hartnett '23** at [kuaxorecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:kuaxorecruitment@gmail.com).

## What's Next for These Alpha Chis?

### Hear from Our Seniors!

"Joining AXO was one of the best decisions! I will be teaching elementary special education in the Blue Valley School District." –**Sophia Brewer '22**

"AXO helped me grow and gave me lasting friendships. I plan to attend physician assistant school." –**Anna Fleek '24**

"AXO gave me meaningful experiences and lifelong friends. I will move to Boise, Idaho, to pursue a master's degree and secondary education teaching certification." –**Emery Hankins '22**

"I am so grateful for my time in Alpha Chi. I have met some of my best friends and made unforgettable memories. After graduation, I plan to get my Masters of Accounting degree!" –**Ava Kemp '23**

"Phi gave me lifelong friendships I am deeply grateful for. I will travel through Asia before attending law school in fall 2027." –**Eve Lauffenburger '22**

"AXO gave me leadership opportunities through Rock Chalk Revue and lifelong friendships. I plan to pursue a career in the live entertainment industry." –**Sydney Nicks '22**

"My time in AXO was the most meaningful part of my college experience, giving me lifelong friendships and a true sense of belonging." –**Naomi Ormiston '22**

"AXO gave me friendships that will last a lifetime. I will be spending three months backpacking across Europe." –**Lanie Randle '22**

"Phi gave me meaningful friendships and connections. I plan to attend PA school and pursue a career in orthopedics or dermatology." –**Mikayla Schroeder '22**

"I will pursue a master's degree in public policy in Spain before attending law school." –**Tierney Shaw '23**

"I am grateful for the memories, opportunities, and lifelong connections AXO provided. I plan to become an elementary teacher in Minnesota." –**Ali Tarnowski '22**

# What's Inside?

Phi Chapter continues to thrive thanks to strong recruitment, academic achievement, meaningful philanthropy, and the support of dedicated alumnae. Catch up on chapter accomplishments, say farewell to our seniors, and discover how Phi undergraduates and alumnae are strengthening our sisterhood and making an impact.



Catherine Watkins '24, Stephanie Svetska '24, and Addy Kester '24 soak up their spring break vacation.



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## A CONSTANT AT ALPHA CHI

### Mom Pat Shares Her Story

We included a story about Mom Pat's contributions to our sisterhood in the Fall 2025 newsletter; find it at [bit.ly/F25NewsletterAXOKU](https://bit.ly/F25NewsletterAXOKU). Below, we caught up with Pat herself!

If you've been to the Phi Chapter house recently, chances are you've met or reconnected with **Pat Hollingsworth Mayor '61**. Mom Pat has been a steady presence at the house for more than three decades, ensuring everything runs smoothly.



Pat's Alpha Chi story began in the late '50s when she befriended several sisters before recruitment. After college, she remained involved, serving as chapter advisor and a member of the House Corporation Board in the mid-'80s. When her pledge sister, **Mary Fassnacht Whitaker '59**, asked Pat to take over as housemother in 1988, she said yes. "It's been a really good experience. I've really liked it."

Since then, Pat has lived alongside generations of women and has seen sorority life evolve over the years, from larger membership to fewer women living in at a time. As housemother, she noted, "It keeps you young."

She especially loves staying connected with Alpha Chi sisters after they leave the house. Many of the women she once lived with now serve alongside her on the House Corporation Board and as advisors. "It's just kind of been my life for these many years, and I've gotten really close to some of them; I still hear from girls that I had in the early '90s, and I get Christmas cards with all their family."

When alumnae return to the house, Pat enjoys hearing their stories. Sometimes, she receives notes about jobs they've taken and topics they once talked about during their time in the house. "Some of them, you think, 'Oh my gosh, I hope they make it in life,' and they come out really well."

You can connect with Pat at [plmayor@gmail.com](mailto:plmayor@gmail.com).

## Congratulations, 2026 Graduates

Zoey Alexander  
Allyson Barrick  
Hailey Bingham  
Sophia Brewer  
Clara Cussigh

Lauren Dock  
Anna Fleek '24  
Emery Hankins  
Sid Johnson  
Ava Kemp '23

Grace Koettker  
Lexi Kilton  
Lilly Kruse  
Eve Lauffenburger  
Brynn Luna

Megan Mazdra  
Kaitlin Meinheit  
Sydney Nicks  
Naomi Ormiston  
Katherine Peterson

Ashley Plantz  
Lanie Randle  
Mikayla Schroeder  
Tierney Shaw '23  
Taylor Stoll

Ali Tarnowski  
Lauren Tracy  
*Seniors were initiated in 2022 unless indicated otherwise.*