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Top-bottom: ‘80s Prom, graduating seniors, and Delta Delta’s newest pledge class
THETA WELCOMES SPRING NEW MEMBERS

By Erika Horwege, ’13

BRENNA FEENEY

Hometown: Pasco, WA
Intended majors: Politics and Music (Vocal Performance)
Extra-curriculars: Cross Country, Theater, WEB, Green Dot.
Fun fact about yourself: I’ve been to over 20 countries and firmly believe that dark chocolate should be its own food group.
Why I joined Theta: Rush helped me make friends in every sorority, but the fun, genuine Thetas stood out by putting in the extra effort to get to know me and by making me feel valued as an individual.
What I’m most excited to get out of Theta: Both my older sister and my aunt were Thetas at Whitman. Their stories and experiences get me excited to create some of my own & to continue their legacy!

ALI PRICE

Hometown: Colville, WA
Intended Major: Politics
Extra-curriculars: Varsity Cross-Country, Black Student Union (BSU)
Hobbies: Anything outdoorsy!
Fun Fact: I spent my summer working on a U.S. Forest Service wild land fire crew fighting forest fires around the western U.S.
Why I joined Theta: As an only child, I’ve always wanted siblings, and joining the Theta family will give me more supportive and loving sisters than I could have ever hoped for.
What I’m most excited to get out of Theta: Unconditional support system, lots of laughter, and good times with some really great women.

LUCINDA SISK

Hometown: Flagstaff, AZ
Intended majors: Music and Math
Extra-curriculars: Playing music, volunteering, baking, running
Fun fact: At the age of 6, my dream was to be a cat when I grew up.
Why I joined Theta: To become closer to a group of wonderful friends.
What I’m most excited to get out of Theta: I’m most excited about getting to know the other lovely Thetas, and being a part of Theta as an organization - it’s much more deep-reaching and rooted in tradition than I had realized, and I can’t wait to learn more about it.

RAVEET WARAICH

Hometown: Pacific, WA
Intended major: BBMB & Minor in Religion
Extra-curriculars: Reading! Laying on the grass in the sunshine!
Fun fact: I’ve been a vegetarian since eighth grade.
Why I joined Theta: I joined Theta because I love all of the Theta girls that I know. You all are some of the most caring, smart, and beautiful people I know on campus. You all support one another like sisters and that is the type of relationship I need.
What I’m most excited to get out of Theta: I am excited to get to know all of the Theta girls that I don’t know. I’m especially excited to go to all of the sisterhood events and to do volunteer work with you all!
The Whitman Undergraduate Conference is an opportunity for Whitman students to take a day away from academics and showcase their research and accomplishments. On April 9th, 2013, 10 lovely women from Kappa Alpha Theta presented on various compelling and interesting topics. Several seniors presented on their thesis research including Lizzy Peterson, who talked about tibial shock in female runners, Emma Oschrin presented on Bluebunch Wheatgrass success based on slope direction, Cassandra Smith discussed mineral development in experimental lava flows, and Isabella Lowery talked about environmental degradation along the Noolturesh River. Senior Ally Gibson also presented on research that she did this January concerning the bush meat crisis on Bioko Island in Equatorial Guinea. Senior Erika Horwege presented a modified version of her History oral exam on women’s use of religion to gain power in Medieval Europe and Ancient Greece.

Three of our juniors also presented: Kendell Gilmore discussed the PRL gene and the effects of its over expression in plant development, Hannah Palkowitz presented on the research that she did about mining while abroad in Thailand last semester, and Sandra Medina Corey examined the state of the soul and its potential to determine self-sufficiency.

Our only sophomore presenter was Jade Blake-Whitney, who discussed the mediocrity in television and how one particular show continues to thrive because of commercial profit despite its bad quality.

In addition to presenting her senior thesis research, Isabella Lowery also performed in a violin trio during one of the presentation breaks. The trio played Adagio, Minuet, and Rondo for Three Violins, k. 356, 439b by W.A. Mozart.
UPCOMING SUMMER ADVENTURES

By Jade Blake-Whitney, ’15

Tina Welsh ’15 got an internship in Philadelphia this summer at the Philadelphia Zoo where she will learn about animal care and study animal behavior.

Sarah Primack ’14 will be doing a research program in Costa Rica through Duke University, taking a class on rainforest ecology and doing research while she’s there.

Kendell Gilmore ’13 will be doing genetics research funded by the American Society of Plant Biology grant (of which only 10 are given out for hundreds of applicants).

Lydia Kautsky ’15 (left) is interning with Washington State District #22 Representative Chris Reykdal. She hopes to use this opportunity to experience a career in public service.

Jade Blake-Whitney ’15 (right) was awarded a grant from the DAAD (The German Academic Exchange Service), including free airfare and room and board, to travel and study German in Berlin for 4 weeks this summer.
Emily Jones ’16 (left) will be interning at a children’s museum in downtown Spokane called the Mobius Science Center. She will be leading demonstrations and explaining exhibits.

Sayda Morales ’15 (right) was awarded the Whitman Internship Grant to work for the Successful Transition and Re-entry Project (STAR) that helps ex-convicts reintegrate into society, and will also work as a Resident Assistant for the Whitman Institute for Scholastic Enrichment Program.

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**ELOS 16 BRINGS WELCOME CHANGE**

By Julie Peterson, ’15

With the fresh start to the spring 2013 semester, members of the Delta Delta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta ushered in new and welcome changes to the Educational Leadership Officer Structure (ELOS). Rather than having an officer structure comprised of 9 or 10 women, which has been the case in the past for chapters of Delta Delta’s size, the decision was made to expand the officer structure so that there are now 16 positions instead of 9 or 10. This comes with a name change from ELOS 9/10 to ELOS 16.

In this new structure there are still 9 executive positions, but the duties and responsibilities of individual positions are shared more equitably among other positions.

The current Chief Operations Officer, Lauren Vorona ’15, says that “It’s helpful in dividing up the responsibilities so more people can be officers, and more people can be officers AND do something else.”

The main benefits of the new ELOS 16 structure include: reducing mid-year officer swaps because of studying abroad; more evenly distributed duties of officers; more girls have the opportunity to hold officer positions; and finally, more focused energies on specific responsibilities instead of a myriad of overwhelming tasks.

With overwhelming support of the new ELOS 16 structure, many girls enthusiastically echo Event Director Elena Aragon’s ’15 sentiment: “I think people are able to do their job much more effectively!”
THETA SHINES IN SERVICE

By Elise Tinseth, ’16

This Spring Semester, Kappa Alpha Theta members embraced numerous service and philanthropy opportunities around campus and in the greater Walla Walla community. On Saturday March 30th many Theta ladies partnered with Beta to volunteer at a local Easter egg hunt at Pioneer Park. Waking up bright and early, Thetas enjoyed the spring day and socialized with children, hiding eggs, dressing in costumes and having fun with the kids and parents. Sophomore Sayda Morales dressed in the duck costume while sophomore Jade Blake-Whitney sported the Easter bunny costume. “I think the hunt went really well! It was clear that the kids were excited about all the candy that we put out, and they really had a blast hanging out with the ‘rabbits’ and ‘ducks’,” said Morales.

Running around, playing with kids and enjoying the sun was only part of the volunteering opportunity. “It was an amazing bonding experience! We laughed at silly parents, fun kids, talked to kids, and just chatted amongst ourselves while watching the hunt,” said Sophomore Elena Aragon about the experience.

Another key service event was the joint TKE and Theta stream restoration project on April 13th. Thetas and TKEs worked hard weeding and replanting native species along the riparian buffer area of a stretch of the creek. The particular stretch that they were working on had a lot of overgrowth and invasive species that were pushing native plants out that would have provided shade for the ecosystem. “The project was vital because with a natural riparian buffer, the water can regain a healthy temperature and, as a tributary of larger rivers, create live able conditions so that salmon/steelheaders can return to the area,” said sophomore Molly Emmet, Delta Delta’s Service, Philanthropy, and Sustainability Chair.

Along with these two main service trips, Thetas participated in many of the 40 service opportunities as part of Spring Service Day. “Spring Service Day is an annual cooperative community service initiative between Whitman, Walla Walla University and WWCC. I think it's important because it brings all three groups of young people in the area together to supplement our classroom learning with learning and sharing in the community,” said Emmett.

With trips to the local Humane Society, volunteering at Mentees to Campus Day, recycling with the Out House and many other extra service opportunities, Theta has definitely made a positive impact in the Whitman and Walla Walla communities. “I think service is crucial to a well-rounded life. From service, a person learns to work with others, to focus on something outside herself, to recognize the skills she has that can benefit others, and to appreciate all that she already has,” concludes Emmett.
WALLA WALLA'S BEST DANCE CREW

By Emily Deacon, ’16

On March 1, 2013, Theta’s largest philanthropy event took place at Cordiner Hall: Walla Walla’s Best Dance Crew, also referred to as WWBDC. This is an annual event where dance crews, both comprised of Whitman students as well as locals from Walla Walla compete for the title of being Walla Walla’s Best Dance Crew. This event is held to raise money for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). The money for this foundation is raised both through ticket sales for the event, as well as through raffle ticket sales and donations from Theta alums.

This year there were many diverse dance groups showcasing their different choreographed dances. In between dances were raffles for various gift cards to local businesses in Walla Walla such as Graze, the Patisserie, and Sweet Basil. There also were random trivia questions about dance. There was a panel of three judges, comprised of professors from various departments of Whitman. One judge brought her young son to assist in judging the dance groups as well.

At the end of the dances and raffles the overall prizes were awarded. The People’s Choice award — in which people used spare change to vote for their favorite dance crews, and the most popular group won — was awarded to Whitman’s Irish dance group, RiverRince. The Judge’s Choice award, which indicates the group with the highest marks from the judges, was awarded to Step One, a group composed of Whitman and Walla Walla community members. Lastly, the overall Walla Walla’s Best Dance Crew award was given to The Performing Company, from the Dance Center of Walla Walla. Overall, Kappa Alpha Theta raised about $5,000 to donate to CASA, which was our goal of money to raise this year.

ABROAD STORIES

By Erika Horwege, ’13

Studying abroad proves to be a popular option for Thetas this semester, with 13 juniors spending the semester off campus. These locations include Costa Rica (Rita Ferri), Greece (Brittany Torrence), Washington DC (Alyssa Goard), Tanzania & Kenya (Alex Gold), China (Mykhanh Pham), Oregon (Claire Skach), New Zealand (Rachel Rice), and Japan (Jadelyn Martinez).

Angie Fugere spent most of her time in Quito, with the SIT Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation Program, but also traveled to various other locations and ecosystems, including the cloud forest, the Amazon, mountain highlands, and the Galapagos. Language has been a huge adjustment for her, but did not stop Angie from enjoying a trip to Quito with her host family and spending time together on their farm. She’s also enjoyed some amazing opportunities, like snorkeling with sea turtles, sharks, and crazy fish in the Galapagos Islands and
watching the sunrise from a 100m canopy tower in the Amazon rainforest. Despite all of the fun, Angie has stayed focused on academics; for her independent project, she studied ferns on an ecological reserve. Of the experience, Angie says, “I hiked around the mountains (including a three-day camping trip) to collect over 300 ferns in habitats ranging from 5,000 to 11,800 feet in elevation. Needless to say, my legs were a little sore. But at least I got some bomb landscape shots and memories to last a lifetime!”

Talia Rudee also studied abroad though SIT, participating in the Sustainability and Environmental Action program in Australia. Although her program is based in Byron Bay, Talia has also traveled to Brisbane, Melbourne, Tasmania, Sydney, and Far North Queensland. Based in the Daintree Rainforest, she studied the sustainability of the fledgling cocoa industry in Australia for her independent project. Says Rudee, “I have been able to pick the cocoa pods, split the pods open, eat the fruity mucus around the pods (cocoa is actually a fruit!) and eat the fruity mucus around the pods (cocoa is actually a fruit!) and ferment and dry the beans.”

Talia’s favorite memories include seeing a variety of wildlife – including kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, koalas, echidnas, snakes, parrots, crocodiles, and giant lizards – and visiting an aboriginal women’s area at Cape Tribulation with her host aunt.

In Granada, Spain, Emily Anderson is studying with the IES Program. She also interns in a local elementary school shadowing teachers and teaching English. In addition to strengthening her Spanish language skills with her host family, Emily has also traveled to Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Morocco as well as cities around Spain. For Emily, “the biggest adjustment has been the strange Spanish schedule. They eat lunch around 2:30 or 3:00 and dinner around 9:30 or 10:00 at night. On weekends people go out until six in the morning!”

In Mérida, México, Hanna Mosenthal is studying at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán through IFSA-Butler. Hanna has enjoyed exploring waterfalls, underground caves, Mayan ruins, and making tons of new friends from all over the world. Her favorite experience has been caving in the largest cave in the Yucatan, “where we squeezed through really small spaces and climbed up stuff for four hours 70 meters below the ground.”

Stephanie Viers is studying Renaissance History at Syracuse University in Florence, Italy. She has also traveled – backpacking through Germany, Poland, and England, as well as meeting a friend from home at the Eiffel Tower. Stephanie loves everyday Italian life: doing homework in the Accademia museum next to the David, eating gelato on the steps of the Duomo, and learning to make yummy Italian pastas. Though she loves her abroad experience, Stephanie also misses her Whitman friends and Theta; “Being abroad definitely makes you appreciate Whitman on a whole new level. Whitties, and Thetas in particular, have got to be some of the kindest, most caring, open, fun-loving people in the world. I’ve met some really great people in my program now, but I’ve got to say the majority have a very closed attitude. I <3 Whitman and Thetas!”
Despite the unusually chilly April weather, all of the Greek organizations on Whitman campus continued to celebrate Greekend together.

The weekend began with the dance off between the new initiates and new members of each Greek group, starting with the hilariously incompetent fraternities and then moving on to the actual dances — those choreographed by the sororities. This year, the dances were moved to Maxey Auditorium because of the uncooperative weather. Though it was an unexpected change, the atmosphere and packed crowds allowed for a more exciting and fun competition. Theta’s dance was definitely a group effort between all the newly initiated ladies and the new members, but most of the credit goes to choreographer Madeleine Kemme (’16). Kemme, as well as the other new Thetas worked tirelessly for weeks leading up to the dance off. The final choreography was a sassy dance to a mix of songs including Halle and Oates’ “You Make My Dreams Come True” and Lil’ Mama’s “Lipgloss”. This diversity in the music made for an entertaining and eclectic dance. According to Kemme, “It was super fun to figure out different attitudes to have during each section of the music. It went from being silly-happy to sassy and then into swag. It was crazy to choreograph, but entertaining to dance and hopefully good to watch. I think all the girls that participated in our dance really bonded over those hours trying to figure out what we were going to do.”

Not only where the Theta’s on stage a credit to the sorority, those in the crowd were definitely the most supportive out of any of the Greek groups. “When we went on stage, all I heard was a roar. It was awesome to see all the Theta’s standing up and cheering before we started dance. It definitely made me less freaked out about dancing in front of that many people,” said Meredith Ruff (’16).

After all the dances were done and all the participants were fairly exhausted, the hotdog-eating contest began. Though freshman Alison Price was officially signed up to represent Theta in the hot dog eating contest, it was really a team effort between Ali and Meredith. “Ali didn’t want to go up there alone, and I promised I would feed her the hotdogs, so she sat on my lap. At first, it was all her, but I she was definitely not eating the hotdogs fast enough, so I decided to help by surreptitiously eating the buns under the table,” said Meredith of this experience. They would have won, eating a combined total of five hotdogs, but it was decided that tag teaming was technically cheating, so the team gave the win to a more deserving individual.
The next day, the flag football tournament began. This year, Panhellenic decided that instead of each sorority fielding a separate team, the teams would be divided by class. Not only did this foster inter-sorority bonding during what is usually a competition between sororities, it was a great opportunity to meet and befriend girls from other sororities, especially for the freshmen.

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**THETAS REPEAT CHORAL CONTEST WIN**

*By Jade Blake-Whitney, ’15*

This year marked the 87th annual Choral Contest at Whitman College. One of the most highly attended events of the entire year, Cordoner was packed with students who were excited to see which group would win the judges votes and take home the coveted first place trophy (which, was not allowed to be taken home at all, actually). This year, the TKE’s decided to go against the traditional Chorale, instead dancing, acting AND singing in a long musical number which included a surprisingly talented musical ensemble with a violinist, drummer and trombone player. Though the audience didn’t quite know what was going on half the time, it was quite entertaining. “Whitman’s Gospel Choir” also sang two songs, but after the first one, people realized it wasn’t a gospel choir at all, but rather a group of seniors that nobody had really ever seen before. Still entertaining though! Other groups included the the Whitman Frisbee Team, the always wonderful all-male A-capella group, the Testostertones, and the all-female A-capella group, the Sirens, who did a great medley of Macklemore songs featuring our very own Caitlyn Yoshina ’15 who had a solo and some awesome beat-boxing appearances!

But, it wasn’t until the poised ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta, clad in their green and yellow robes took the stage as returning champions. Led by seniors Diana Wu and Alex Kerl, Theta’s first song: “Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal” blew everyone away with its perfect harmonies and heartfelt meaning. I think I even saw one of the judges wipe a tear from his eye! For the second song, robes were removed, revealing plaid flannels and even a Theta dressed in a bear costume. They sang "Touch the Sky", which, for all you Pixar enthusiasts, you may recognize from the movie Brave, a film surrounding a young girl and her magical powers in Scotland.

Overall, Theta’s performance was classy and well-rehearsed—something the judges clearly recognized as they awarded Theta with first place out of all the sororities. The men of Beta Theta Pi took the trophy for the fraternities, and Schwa, the co-ed A-capella group won the special interest group first place trophy. Congrats Thetas! Let’s win it again next year!
On Sunday, May 19th, sixteen Delta Delta seniors will graduate and become Theta alumnae. While many are still researching job opportunities or waiting to hear back on applications already submitted, a few Theta seniors have already made post-graduate plans.

Emma Oschrin will be working in the Eastern Sierras in California for an environmental non-profit called the Mono Lake Committee. She will lead educational tours, work in the information center, and do independent projects in the office.

Erika Horwege will be moving to Japan to participate in the JET Program. As an ALT, or Assistant Language Teacher, she will make lesson plans and teach English in the Japanese public school system. Although she has yet to hear where she will be placed and which grade levels she will be teaching, Erika is excited to immerse herself in a new country and culture and to work towards fluency in Japanese.

Cassandra Smith will be attending the University of South Florida this Fall to pursue a masters degree in volcanic seismology with Dr. Steve McNutt this coming fall. She is really excited to move to Tampa and see a new part of the country.

Sydney Conway was accepted to the University of Washington School of Law program and will begin there next Fall.

Whether their plans are concrete or still in the works, we wish our seniors the best of luck as they leave the Whitman Bubble and enter life “in the real world.” We know that they will shine in all that they do and will miss them dearly!
Want to stay updated on chapter events all year long?

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Theta love,
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