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Samantha Grainger-Shuba ’16

On a sunny Friday in early September, the Great Hall of Prentiss Residence Hall teamed with Whitman women. They chattered excitedly and older sorority women in peach tank tops directed them to their first section tour. And so it began. “This year, we decided to have our recruitment revolve around a carnival theme, something that we have not really done in the past,” Chief Recruitment Officer Elise Tinseth ’16 said. “This allowed us to coordinate each day’s decorations and activities, making each day of recruitment unique yet part of the whole KAT Carnival.” Thetas were excited to show off the lovely newly themed section. The five spiraling floors of section were brightly decorated with colorful flags, papier-mâché hot air balloons, hundreds of photos of Thetas, and tables of photo albums and a selection of our costume closet. Sophomores living in section gave tours, showing off themed rooms and a stylish chapter room. The carnival theme carried over into Activity Day where Potential New Members played carnival games with active members, drew on themselves with henna ink, and ate delicious snacks on side lawn of Cordiner Hall. “The theme itself was really fun to work with. Section was decorated in bright colors and on Activity Day we had a fun, unique question and answer ring bottle toss game. It allowed us to be both creative and fun with our planning,” Tinseth said.

Philanthropy Day was filled with bright colors with Potential New Members along with Thetas tie-dyed shirts for the kids of CASA. Those who did not want to tie-dye made cards—all of which will be sent to CASA as a part of a sisterhood event later this semester. A beautiful sunny morning lit up Tea Day as Thetas in black dresses set up tables and decorations at alumna Kathryn Hill’s gorgeous house. Dates got their mirrors, a sunflower, and listened to Thetas perform songs and testimonials. And before the night was out, 30 new women became a part of the Kappa Alpha Theta pledge class of 2014.

“I think that recruitment went really well this year!” Tinseth said. “We gained 30 fantastic new members that are all unique and lend fantastic skills to out chapter and community. It was really special seeing this happen and know that it was because of all the work my committee and Thetas put into recruitment. The time commitment was well worth the results.”
New Member Spotlights

**Jade Blake-Whitney ‘15**

**Kyla Rapp**  
*From: Bellingham, WA (woot! The Ham!!)*  
*Major: Sociology or Gender Studies or something I’M SO UNDECIDED!!*  
*Favorite Food: Raspberries*  
*Ice Cream: Pecan Praline*  
*Why Theta: Thetas are diverse, intelligent, saucy, feminist warriors and I just had to get in on it!*

**Kendall Rae Dunovant**  
*From: Walla Walla, WA*  
*Major: Environmental History*  
*Fun fact: My grandfather was the first African-American to become a class A member of the Professional Golfers’ Association of America.*  
*What are you most looking forward to about being in a sorority: I am so excited to get to know my sisters, and I love the idea of a sisterhood that spans such large geographical distances; I am grateful for such a grand support system.*

**Eva McCauley**  
*From: Minneapolis, MN*  
*Fun fact: I took nude drawing classes all through high school (with nude models, the artists remained clothed)*  
*Favorite food: Sushi*  
*Why Theta: I chose theta because the women seemed down to earth, fun and a little weird like me. I’m looking forward to being part of a community of women that I identify with and enjoy.*
Sophie Poukish
From: Yuba City, CA
Major: Double major in gender studies and sociology
Fun fact: I sing Christmas carols in the shower year round. (Her sister, Hannah Poukish is a man theta too!)
Favorite food: gummy bears
Favorite ice cream flavor: mint chip all the way!
Why Theta: Everyone is just as passionate (nerdy) about life as I am.

Emma Rust
From: Los Angeles, CA
Major: I’m going to try and tackle a Psychology/Art double major
Fun fact: All of my biggest passions in life stemmed from video-games I played as a kid (art/music/writing stories)
Why Theta: As a sophomore I had the upper hand in knowing a lot of Theta’s before I even started the rush process and when ended up going through Recruitment, I found out that most of the girls that I knew there were some of the most intelligent, compassionate, and strong hearted women I knew at Whitman. I didn’t feel the need to compromise my personality to fit in. And the fact that I could be an individual while also being a part of an incredibly nurturing and loving community of women was really unique and ended being the ultimate reason why I chose Theta.
Jamie Willard
From: Corvallis, OR
Major: Economics-Environmental Studies
Fun fact: I can touch my nose with my tongue.
Favorite food: Macaroni and Cheese
What you’re most looking forward to about being in a sorority: I’m really excited to get to know so many girls that I may not have met otherwise. Even at a small school like Whitman it’s nice to have an even smaller place to call home to help you feel connected. I’m so excited to get to meet all of these fantastic women and to be a part of such a wonderful organization!

Catherine Barton
From: Portland, OR
Major: Chemistry
Fun fact: When leaving the hospital after being born, my documented name was “Baby Girl Barton” because my parents hadn’t decided on Catherine Rose yet (I was early).
What you’re most looking forward to about being in a sorority: I’m most looking forward to being able to meet a lot of great girls and people in general that will make my time at Whitman a lot more rich and fun!
Alumae Event

Julie Peterson ‘15


On September 17, active members and alumnae alike mingled in the chapter room. There were Patisserie treats and lemonade to sip on while alumnae reconnected and met the current members. The chapter room was packed with people visiting and laughing. Scrapbooks and old composites resurfaced, which made for a grand time of remembering past events and goofy times spent with sisters.

On the whole, our brief alumnae event was a great success and brought together women from all walks of life who all share something in common: Kappa Alpha Theta. It was a wonderful time to celebrate the Delta Delta Chapter through the years.
Our Sisterhood committee has been busy this semester! Led by sisterhood chair, Gabriella Luther, Thetas have participated in everything from cupcake making workshops, trips to the haunted corn maze, painting little pumpkins, facials in the chapter room, and movie nights to Jazzercise classes led by fellow Theta alumna Janet Byerly, zumba dances led by Sam Grainger-Shuba ‘16 and hosting ugly holiday sweater parties.
This September, Whitman’s GLBTQ and WEB organizations revamped this year’s week long Drag Fest. Drag Fest week was kicked off with a new event called Vanity Fair. Vanity Fair was an opportunity for students to come and try their hands at applying makeup and get ideas for costumes. Following Vanity Fair, a documentary called Venus Boyz was showed to students giving a closer look at Drag kings and the culture of women dressing in both masculine and hyper-feminized drag. Finally, the main event called Dragtastica was a huge success. It was hosted by the wonderful Aleksa Manila (a professional Drag queen) who helped make the event memorable. Kappa Alpha Theta women also played a large role in organizing, executing, and participating in the events of Drag Fest. Two Thetas who were directly involved in Drag Fest were Jessica Beccari (a GLBTQ intern) and Marlene Anderson. Both women were active members of the Drag Fest planning committee and were in charge of Vanity Fair. Jessica also helped run and organize the screening of Venus Boyz and Dragtastica. Senior Theta member Sayda Morales was the only student representative on Drag Fest’s judging panel; and Theta sister Anna Zheng documented the memorable event as main photographer. All in all, Drag Fest could not have been done without the dedication from many Whitman students. In addition, the support from Theta sisters made Drag Fest a hugely successful event that the whole campus is looking forward to next year.
Making service our thing

Julie Peterson ‘15

Service has been one of our chapters top priorities this semester, thanks in large part to the Philanthropy and Service Coordinator, Madeline Duppenthaler. This semester more than ever, community service has the feel of being sisterhood events. Collectively, Thetas have volunteered at the Adopt-A-Grandparent Carnival at Washington Oddfellows Home, Whitman’s Make-A-Difference Day, a Fall Food Drive, Trick-or-Canning, as well as Letters of Gratitude for soldiers overseas and visits to the humane society.

Individual Thetas also have taken part in much more than our committee organized service events. Thetas are active in everything from mentoring in the local school systems to visiting residents at Oddfellows, being part of the Whitman gleaning team, and volunteering with Challah for Hunger.

Thetas try to promote involvement in community service by asking active members to do at least 3 hours of volunteering per semester. With so many opportunities offered to complete those hours of service with Sisters, it has been a breeze to complete those, and made volunteering a rewarding experience that can be shared with sisters.

Looking forward to next semester, Thetas are anxiously awaiting our signature philanthropy event: Walla Walla’s Best Dance Crew which is being spearheaded by Samantha Grainger-Shuba ‘16 in March. Planning is currently underway and excitement is running high as we prepare for a great fund raiser to benefit the Walla Walla Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
Abroad Highlights

Pascale Carpentier ‘17

Walking through the streets of Nantes, France, Emy Jones ’16 finds herself abroad this semester improving her French and enjoying the fresh, warm baguettes she gets to buy frequently at the daily market. Before settling in Nantes, Jones traveled with her parents this summer around Belgium and France. They visited some of the most remote parts of Bretagne, the historical region of northwest France.

Jones is a participant in the IES Abroad program in Nantes. As an art and French double major, Jones chose to take four classes and they are all in French. Her classes range from a French grammar class to learning about French Classicism in an art history course. Jones is also taking a life drawing class at L’École des Beaux-Arts. Most of her classes include many field trips around the area to learn more about the wondrous and extensive history of the region.

While living with a host family, Jones shared some of her favorite moments in Nantes. They include her host mother ceremoniously gives her four pieces of chocolate every day that they called “mes questers” i.e. my four, teaching her host sister how to play the ukulele, and wandering around the streets while looking at some beautiful and old architecture where she’ll stop to sketch. When asked to disclose a funny anecdote, Jones told of the time she announced to her host mother that she would be wearing tights to combat the cold she called her tights “culottes”. Apparently, her host mother bursts out laughing because the word “culottes” actually means underwear and not tights. The word for tights is “collants”. Both the words look and sound very similar in French.

Jones is the only junior studying abroad this semester but there are many other Thetas in the junior class who will travel abroad in the spring. Kristine Zesch ’16 hopes to be studying abroad in Nantes, France in the spring. Four Thetas will be in London, United Kingdom on various programs studying a broad number of subjects. These juniors are Madeline Duppenthaler, Emily Grossmann, Gabriella Luther, and Colleen Moore. Deborah DeHovitz ’16 will be studying math at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Emily Deacon, Kaili Masamoto, and Lucinda Sisk, all’16, will all be studying in the capital of Denmark, Copenhagen. Brenna Feeney ’16 is traveling to Vienna, Austria to study music. Voyaging down south, Marla Harvey ’16 will be spending her time in Ecuador. Annie Boyenneh ’16 hopes to be off-campus, studying in Washington D.C during the spring term.
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the publication of this newsletter; especially the members of the Public Relations committee.

If you would like to get in contact with the women of the Delta Delta chapter, feel free to email the Chief Marketing Officer, Julie Peterson at petersjc@whitman.edu. We would love to hear from our alumnae!

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