



The Anchor

Alpha Chi Alumnae Sorority Newsletter



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July 2014

A Note from our Alumni President, Lyndie Aquila

Dear sisters-

Here we are again in the middle of summer; sending out the newsletter informing you about the 96th anniversary weekend October 11, 2014. Once again I am proud of the alumni, the active chapter and Jim Davis for all that has been accomplished in the past year. There are sometimes ups and downs but the ship continues to sail and it is a reflection of the hard work of all of us that allows this to happen. I know there are sometimes disagreements but it is important we all continue to have the best interests of AX at heart. It is refreshing to me to have some new alumni stepping up to help out. This is my tenth term as alumni president and I am grateful to have worked with some amazing women over the last decade. We have managed to figure out how to recruit women into the active chapter, have more women showing up to alumni weekend and have weathered some storms since 1993. What doesn't kill us makes us stronger. While I don't like conflict, it reaffirms the type of organization we are and always renews my dedication to keep working toward making our sorority and alumni the best it can be.

As a result of the hard work and dedication of all of us we saved a few thousand dollars last year to put towards the rent for the year the house next door is being remodeled. We are on schedule to meet our goal of fourteen thousand dollars saved by our 99th anniversary. I am hoping each year we can continue to save money and generate ideas to fundraise to help offset the cost of the loan we will be taking out for the house next door. It would be great to have our current loan on the AX house paid down or off completely so the loan for the house next door does not go over 300k. The alumni treasurer is putting together a plan for bricks at the house. Lashaun Schwenk Byer and I each found a jeweler who can make our lavalieres. We are going to pick a company to produce it and bring details on the lavalieres and brick to alumni weekend. The AX house is currently empty and is getting some additional upgrades. We are putting in a couple bunk beds in a few rooms, finishing installing the upstairs windows, installing new bike racks on the side of the house and completely remodeling the front bathroom. The major remodels should be done after this year so we will just need to fix a few things in one downstairs bathroom, finish the downstairs windows and maybe carpet in a few bedrooms. The slide up windows (front room and study) will be in the next few years. Those are expensive so we just have to see how much money is saved up. This is the second year the house has been completely full which allows Jim to put away a significant amount of money. He does an amazing job managing that house including saving money, remodeling it, and keeping women safe and out of trouble.

The alumni execs met with the active chapter in February and had a great discussion. I was

President continued.....

in Chico for retreat, meet the execs and initiation. I think we have built a positive relationship with the leaders of the active chapter. The alumni execs take an active role in making sure the traditions of Alpha Chi are upheld and do what we can to mentor the girls holding certain offices. I have taken the pictures for their composite the last two years and the actives seem to understand that while we appear hardnosed at times; we do have the best interest of Alpha Chi at heart. Melissa Murray, Danielle Alvernaz, Sabrina Valenzuela, Cyndi Denning Rachel and Erin Coe have attended functions the previous year. Jackie Domine cleaned out the office and reviewed all of the checklists for each active chapter officer! Thank you to all of you who helped out in the last year! I look forward to your continued involvement in our sorority. The active chapter has initiated 40 women over the last year and the house will be full with 31 women living at 393 E. 4th Street in the upcoming year. I am excited for what the future holds for Alpha Chi and am looking forward to seeing you all in October. Cyndi Denning Rachel, Erin Coe, Lisa Torney Morrill, and Chrissy Fullington Jordan were a big help last year when I was diagnosed with celiac disease and missed my first alumni weekend and have continued to work diligently for the past year. I am confident this team of people can continue to lead our alumni association and do it well.

As always, please contact me with questions, comments or concerns or if you plan to run for an office; please notify me at csuc2000@yahoo.com by October 1. See you all in a few months

Lyndie Aquila

Reserve Your Hotel Now...

There are several hotels in Chico to choose from for Alumni weekend. We didn't reserve any hotels this year however here is a list of the hotels we commonly stay at. Please book early rooms go rather fast due to many other events that take place in Chico.

Quality Inn (Formerly Thunderbird)

715 Main Street

Chico, CA

530-343-7911

Vagabond Inn

630 Main Street

Chico, CA

530-895-1323

Hotel Diamond

220 West 4th Street

Chico, CA

866-993-3100

..... *Alumni Weekend 2014*.....

Hello Sisters!

What an incredible time we had at the 95th celebrations last October. It was wonderful seeing the banquet room filled with women who, regardless of pledge class or current life path, all have love for Alpha Chi and common memories to share and enjoy. Thank you to the 95th crew with Kelley Rothrock-Valentine leading the way.

I am looking forward to the 96th celebration in just a few short months. As has been decided previously, the off years (not ending in 0 or 5) will be smaller celebrations, allowing for lower costs and for everyone to save up for the next big celebration- the BIG 100! This year we will be holding the entire event at the house- business meeting and all.

As usual we will handle business bright and early so that we can move on quickly to sisterhood events and enjoying Chico. The business meeting will be at 10am, doors will open at 9:30. Stop by your favorite coffee shop (Bidwell Perk, Starbucks, Sin of Cortez, Naked Lounge to name a few) and bring your own coffee. The pledges and actives will join us at the conclusion of our meeting. This is always a highlight of the weekend. I love seeing all the stages of sisterhood in one place.

We will be preparing food, rather than catering, to help keep the cost low. The meal will be light as I know many people have favorite restaurants around town and we don't want to compete.

Please RSVP by October 1st, so that we can plan accordingly without the last minute rush. We will need to reserve tables and chairs, as well as food, so accurate numbers are key.

The cost for the event will be \$9.00 on top of your annual dues. This cost will include paper goods, agenda and ballots, tables and chairs, and food and soda fountain drinks for the day.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in October! Start checking airfare and hotels now!

Love in AX,

Cyndi (Denning) Rachel – Fall 2000

Alumni Vice President

Our Active Chapter Update.....

Dear Alpha Chi Alumnae,

The 2013-2014 school year brought our chapter many lively and dedicated additions to our sisterhood. Lots of new happy, smiling faces that have brought so much love and excitement to this chapter. The fall rush brought us 20 amazing pledges. Including the addition of the spring rush, that brought us 19 new members, our numbers are now at 80 and thriving! We have so much to look forward to and so many new members who are ready and willing to help our sisterhood grow. It is so inspiring to see such excitement and enthusiasm in these young women and I am hoping that their positive attitudes will spread throughout our sorority. Looking to the future and to what these wonderful ladies can offer is so exciting.

Throughout the year our chapter was kept busy with many socials and community events. One of our fellow Greeks, Delta Psi Delta, has been attempting to rebuild their brotherhood and community name. In the fall we participated in many events such as a volleyball tournament and themed socials to help rebuild some bonds. Continuing into the Spring semester we have been able to keep this strong bond and are looking forward to many more community events with our fellow Greeks. In addition, we have also made sure to continue our connections with Alpha Gamma Rho, Tau Gamma Theta and Alpha Sigma Phi, but also attempt to branch out and open new doors. This Spring the gentlemen of Sigma Chi were able to attend our Casino night which added some new faces to the scene. Hopefully we can continue to branch out and socialize with many more new faces and organizations that could help us open more doors in the future.

In addition to our numerous social events throughout the year we also participated in many volunteer opportunities both within the community of Chico and beyond. The Sacramento Heart walk is always an event to look forward to and was a fun event to attend. Looking to the future we are hoping to motivate our chapter to attend important events such as this and expand upon our drive to support a greater cause. Within the community we have participated in events such as Up Till Dawn event, which is always a fun event for our girls. This year our very own Clarisse Austria won the prize of a whole semester tuition paid for by the school! It is always exciting to see familiar faces within our sisterhood being recognized for their hard work. We also recently participated in NAKland community event, which is put on by Nu Alpha Kappa. We have participated in this event in the past, so it was great to see the rekindling of relationships between these fellow Greeks. It is always encouraging to see fellow sisters, especially those that are new to the group, who are excited and anxious to work for the community. I have so much optimism for this coming year knowing that we have these women on our team.

ACTIVE CHAPTER UPDATE CONTUINED

As each semester came to a close we said goodbye to some great sisters who are graduating and moving to the next chapter in life. In Fall, Leilani Norton and Angela Miller were our only two graduates, but the removal of their dedication to Alpha Chi is surely missed. In spring, which is always a larger graduating class, we said goodbye to Kristine Campos, Miriam Coronado, Nicole DiLorenzo, Janae Jensen, Kasey Judge, Belinda Sayabouapheth, Mary Swearinger, Chantal Richards and Cassie Thomas. There are many lovely sisters who are now joining the Alumnae Association and the lack of their presence in the future will surly be felt throughout the sorority.

Although we have many older and wiser actives who are leaving our sisterhood, I have so much hopefulness for the coming semesters. Looking around me at the new faces, in addition the faces that are now becoming "older" actives, I am so excited to see what is coming around the corner. We have a plethora of hard working women who are dedicated to Alpha Chi and are ready to see it thrive.

Even with the added work coming these next few semesters, we have the ability to truly see our sisterhood grow to a whole new level of success. However, we can only do so much on our own and would not be anywhere without the support of our Alumnae and Advisors. It has been shown numerous times this past year how far the dedication of our supporters will go to help this great organization. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing support system at our backs. I hope as this year comes to a close and a new one begins that we can continue to make strides in a positive direction to better our sisterhood and organization. Cheers to a successful approaching year.

With love in AX and mine,
Cassie Runyan
Alpha Chi President
Fall 2014

Cammi Carter
Alpha Chi Vice President
Fall 2014

.....Justice.....Loyalty.....Love.....Leadership.....

⁶From our Alumnae Treasurer.....

Hello Sisters!

96 years this October! 96!

We take a lickin' and keep on tickin'! We've outwitted, outlasted, and outplayed! We think we can, we think we can, we KNOW we can, we KNOW we can!

I am so very proud to be a part of this historic, resilient, and incredible sisterhood! Thank you SO very much to those who came before us, those who are workin' it now, and those who have yet to experience all that is Alpha Chi!

Our ship is still sailing in large part due to the diehard support from you, our alumnae! A few years ago we launched a donation campaign and we now have a permanent plaque displayed in the AX house acknowledging our sisters who contribute above and beyond our annual dues. A HUGE thank you goes out to the following 2013 donors:

BRONZE (\$50 - \$99)

Jennifer Alejandro Navalle – F98

Niki Davis Jones – S95

Carol Jessen Sprecher – F87

Ellen Peace – F82

Jessica Webster Powell – F01

SILVER (\$100 - \$174)

Joan Bottum Mora – S81

Brianna Bryant Brown – S00

Dana Daniel Alvarez – S92

Carrie Izant Steffes – S95

Debbie Jones Tarke – F83

Laurel Lusk – F82

Lisa Torney Morrill – F88

GOLD (\$175 - \$249)

Jennifer Miller Chavez – S95

Catherine Reinmiller – S95

Lindsay Thomas Dickerson – F01

PLATINUM (\$250+)

Lyndie Aquila – S97

Jenny Davenport Brooks – F95

Jim Davis

Remi Lohse – S02

Winona McLean Lee – F91

Julie Moreno Laskin – F80

Melissa Murray – F04

Additionally, we are happy to report that in 2013, at our 95th, 96 sisters paid their dues, and 29 sisters donated in some form or another – not just cash! Our 95th had great silent auction items, a raffle, and many other items donated for the lovely set-up at Trinity Methodist!

A big thank you goes out to the following sisters who have paid their dues every year for the past five years! Thank you for your unwavering support! Lunch at the house following the meeting is on us for these sisters:

Lyndie Aquila - S97
 Joan Bottum Mora - S81
 Brianna Bryant Brown - S00
 Ashley Casey - F03
 Jenny Davenport Brooks - F95
 Cynthia Denning Rachel - F00
 Holly Dussell Feeney - F73
 Chrissy Fullington Jordan - F00
 Alicia Gonzales - S05
 Carol Jessen Sprecher - F87
 Debbie Jones Tarke - F83
 Heather L'Amoreaux - S05

Gina McKeever - S99
 Jennifer Miller Chavez - S95
 Melissa Murray - F04
 Ellen Peace - F82
 Debbie Phillips Garcia - S72
 Crystal Roberts Bennett - S00
 Kelley Rothrock Valentine - F82
 Lashaun Schwenk Byer - F86
 Lisa Torney Morrill - F88
 Holly Trentelman Silveira - F03
 Jennifer von der Lieth - F03
 Sophie Whelan Kirk - F83

As we've mentioned in recent years, our house next door is in need of repairs...we have a very aggressive four-year plan to get the remodel completed by the 100th and we will most definitely need your support. We are considering creative fundraising ideas (think bricks, like the schools do), so if you have any surefire ways of convincing our sisters to dig a little (or a lot), please, let us know!

Paying your dues and making a donation is SO easy!

You may send a check, made payable to the "AX Alum Assn", or, you may remit via PayPal to AX_Alumntreasurer@yahoo.com (remember, depending upon your method of PayPal payment, our account may be hit with additional fees, so please be sure to gross up your payment so that your \$30 dues are received by us in full). Or, if you're a last minute attendee to our annual meeting, you may pay your dues in person of course!

For those of you who come often, we look forward to seeing you again! And for those of you who haven't been back in a while (or ever, for that matter), whatcha waitin' for? An invitation? THIS is your invitation! We'd LOVE to see you! And we know that YOU would love to see us, our letters, and our big, beautiful yellow house!

"It's fun to have fun, but you have to know how."

And Alpha Chis sure know how to have a good time! So book your room, complete the RSVP form, write your check, and get ready for the 96th!

Much AX love,
 Lisa Torney Morrill – F88

ARE YOU MOVING?**DID YOU GET MARRIED?****DID YOU GET A NEW CELL NUMBER?**

Don't forget to keep your Alumni Membership Chair updated with your contact information: name change (married), mailing address, phone number (house and cell) and email address. Send an email to ax_alumnimembership@yahoo.com or private message me on Facebook: Chrissy Jordan.

We are always trying to expand our database and any help with finding our lost sisters is always a huge help!

BIG thank you to Kelley Rothrock Valentine, Rachel Rich Meyer, Jen Lukins, Mikka Alvarez, Debbie Jones Tarke, Carla Camerotto-Rooper and Teri Harbour O'Keefe for volunteering to help expand the alumni database! Thank you ladies.

NEW: We have added a column for occupation! If you would like yours to be added in our alumni database please update me!

Friendly Reminder: Information stored in the database is not given out, and it is there for the Executive Board to be able to communicate with everyone about Alpha Chi.

Chrissy Fullington-Jordan
Alumni Membership Chair

What's New With Our Sister's....

Roxanne Gillan:

I have some news to include in the Newsletter. I married the love of my life (David) on Saturday June 7th.

Danielle Silver:

I am Fall 2000, just had my 3rd baby....Leora Silver Born: 5/5/14 Weight: 9.4 pounds and 21 1/2 in. long My birth story: <http://daniellasilver.com/birth-story-baby-3/>
My name is Daniella Silver (but when I was at Chico, I went by Denise Benveniste)

What's new continued:

Leah (Taylor) Luepke sp98:

Got married to Jeff Luepke 3-17-2014 and acquired 5 step-daughters and expecting 2nd son Sept 2014 totaling 7 kids :)

Jenny (Zanone) Jones (Spring 2001):

My husband (Chris Jones - my Chico State college sweetheart!), and I recently welcomed a new addition to our growing family. Maxwell "Max" Christian Jones was born on February 1, 2014. His older brother Sawyer Jaxson Jones (now 3 years old) is in love with his new baby brother!

Niki Davis Jones, spring 95:

Big news for me this year. My husband and I welcomed twins on 4-17-14!
Paige Emily and Declan Davis, We are just over the moon!

Remi Lohse (Spring '02):

After graduating in December 2007, I moved to Sacramento to start working in marketing for a Davis-based biopesticide company. That job led me to a promotion and move to the San Antonio, TX area in June 2011. In 2013, I met an AGR alumni (Texas A&M) In November 2013, Lee proposed to me while we were standing under a gorgeous oak tree (known as the Century Tree, it's a very traditional proposal site for Aggies).

Kayla Mora: (Spring '10)

Danielle Alvernaz, Jackie Domine, and I graduated from the teaching credential program! I accepted a job offer in yuba city as a jr. High resource specialist and I will be getting my masters in special education at Chico state this upcoming year!

Gina Mckeever (Spring 1999) (President Spring 2001):

I will be celebrating 12 years with Northwestern Mutual on July 1 and was recently promoted to Director of Training & Development. July is also the conclusion of my year-long Presidency of Active 20-30 Club of Greater Sacramento #1032, a non-profit organization that provides adults between the ages of 20 and 39 with an opportunity for personal growth, friendships and leadership development while improving the quality of life for the special needs of children in our communities. AKA, Sorority Part 2.

Julie Laskin (Moreno (Fall 1980):

My Daughter, Emily, graduated from high school and was inducted into the US Naval Academy. She is a recruited Athlete to play women's golf!

Alicia Kirchner (Estrada):

I received my MA from San Jose State in May and am moving to Hawaii in May to teach SPED in Lahaina, located on the island of Maui!!!



Above: Jenny Jones's two sons
Below: Julie (Moreno) Laskin's Daughter, Emily



Above: Nikki Jones's twins
Below: Danielle Silver with her new born



Below: Roxanna Gillan at her wedding

