



Lambda Log

CHI OMEGA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Glorious to View

70 Years with Our Chi Omega Fountain

The Chi Omega Fountain was dedicated and presented to the University of Kansas on April 24, 1955, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Lambda Chapter. The fountain is a prominent visual gateway to the campus. It provides a striking background for photography and is a popular destination for late-night rendezvous and a variety of rites of passage for students.

When **Stacey Satterthwaite Dillon '76** and her husband, Reed, drove by the fountain on a May evening in 2023, they were shocked at the extent of its deterioration. Through the years, pieces of the fountain centerpiece had been broken off and the stone walls had been damaged... but now, the seams of the octagonal lead tank were



compromised and water was spewing from all sides. Stacey contacted KU Endowment the next morning to pledge her full support to have it restored to its original glory—and in this case, that meant full reconstruction.

Lorie Kuchem Bowman '77 of BBN Architects served as project architect and worked closely with Jeff Bartley P.E. of Waters Edge Engineers, also a KU alumnus. Everything within the curb of the traffic circle was included in the scope of the project. A primary goal was to replicate the original as closely as possible while utilizing quality materials that would ensure the longevity of the fountain for many years to come. For this reason, bronze was chosen in lieu of lead for the fountain centerpiece. The finished product was expertly crafted by Asheer Akram of KC Metalworks, who created molds from what was left of the original fountain components.

The surrounding landscape was designed by Reed Dillon to complement the formal geometry of the setting and provide seasonal color. ADA access and wider sidewalks are also welcome improvements.

The project was completed in time for graduation this past spring, with time to spare before celebrating our Chapter House's 100th in September.

BLAST! FROM THE PAST

To celebrate both our home and fountain, **Mary Don Moore King '55** shared some great memories and photos with us!

Mary Don was an active member in 1955 when the Chi Omega Fountain was completed, and she recalled being part of the fundraising effort that both collegians and alumnae conducted. She shared that the fountain quickly became a favorite spot for graduation photos—for ALL KU graduates—and marveled that it has become a landmark location on campus for so many. The fountain was an immediate source of pride, and pranks: Mary Don remembers when soap suds and food dye were put in the fountain (but did not disclose who did so)! She was overjoyed, too, to return to Lawrence for our Chapter House Centennial!



Welcome, NEW MEMBERS

Meili Alvine
Ava Ashley
Rhyann Barnes
Audrey Becker
Jade Becker
Lily Benz
Fiona Bonner
Addison Burke
Elle Burton
Mia Calderon
Sarah Canfield
Abby Carlson
Sydney Carlson
Emerie Catlin
Maya Chand
Alyssa Christian
Lucille Cleveland
Mimi Domazet
Izabel Downs
Lucy Dugger
Kendall Elmquist
Brianna Gara
Ally Garn
Anna Gelb
Anna Goldman
Alexa Green
Cambell Grosdidier
Hadley Hampton-Ruyle
Carlee Hansmeier
Neylana Haque
Lily Harder
Eleanor Hare
Abby Harmon
Hallie Hawk
Abby Holt
Kaydence Hubby
Sydney Hulcher
Emma Humphrey
Johanna Huynh
Isabella Kadavy
Anjali Kambhampati
Lily Kanatzar
Natalie Kearney
Paisley King
Claire Kinney
Taylor Kostuch

Addison Krop
Reagan Lagerstrom
Sophia Lindo
Reagan Lockwood
Jameson Mangold
Savannah Mann
Ella Martinez
Margaux Masilionis
Audrey McCoyd
Sophia Mir
Rylee Mogalian
Ryann Newkirk
Vy Nguyen
Maggie O'Dea
Lucille Ochs
Meg O'Connor
Miranda Pappas
Bailey Passanisi
Lauren Patten
Ellie Pittman
Lucy Porter
Kendall Potter
Kamryn Profitia
Ella Racen
Sadie Redding
Ella Resch
Violet Ritchie
Caroline Rome
Haley Shannon
Lucy Shrawder
Sophia Shuford
Lillian Sommers
Iman Suleman
Averie Thurston
Eve Tollefson
Millie Tuttle
Lili Vottero
Brooklyn Wallace
Megan Weeks
Lillian Wehr
Megan Weis
Dru White
Jacey Williams
Lillian Wrye
Taylor Yost
Ashley Zwick



Rock Chalk Revue—behind the scenes and on stage!



YEAR IN REVUE Chi Omega's Successful Partnership

I am thrilled to share that the past year was filled with accomplishment, innovation, sisterhood, philanthropy, and fun!

Our directors, **Megan Mahloch '21**, **Yana Keane '21**, and **Brooke Techau '22**, and newly selected cast were hard at work preparing for the 76th annual Rock Chalk Revue, *Like There's No Tomorrow*. We joined with Beta Theta Pi to produce the show *Sweet Escape*, which won 11 awards, including Best Overall Show!

Lambdas also had a fun and heartfelt weekend with special guests during Ladies' Weekend. The semester continued with

a successful Wish Week, in which our philanthropy team—**Maleah Greenslade '22**, **Carly Hoban '22**, **Emma Holton '23**, and **Mia Ramirez '24**—led the Chapter through activities and events to raise money for Make-A-Wish. We ended the week with a Taylor Swift-themed Wish Reveal Party for our Wish Kid, Paige.

To wrap up the semester, Lambda earned a 3.7 GPA, showing our Chapter's dedication to academic excellence.

Loyally,
Sarah Walsh '22
Chapter President



All smiles for Make-A-Wish!



The 2025 Exec Board on the front steps of our lovely 100-year-old Chapter House.

A Family Affair

Podrebarac Sisters Reflect on Memories, Brother Talks House Anniversary Invitation

Chi Omega quickly became a home to the Podrebarac women, with its beautiful features, great location, and wonderful sisterhood. **Becky Podrebarac Bennett '72** was drawn to Lambda's clever and funny recruitment skits and felt she could relate to the members, who were poised and genuine. **Marya Podrebarac Stallard '74** felt welcomed by the diverse group of girls who came from all over the state as well as the rest of the country.

After seeing how positive and enriching sorority life was for her sisters, **Gina Podrebarac Bertrand '85** was eager to participate in recruitment to find the right sisterhood for herself. Chi Omega stood out as a sorority where she could be her authentic self.

Reflecting on their individual Chi O experiences, the sisters each fondly recall all the singing. "We had many talented singers, pianists, and drama majors while I lived in the house," Marya shared. "When we gathered in the living room waiting for the dinner chimes, it was not uncommon for girls to spontaneously break into song!"

Marya also enjoyed all the fun that came with Chi O parties and waking from a dead sleep when she heard her unique buzz indicating a phone call or visitor. Becky loved the Owl Hoots ("Unleashing our inner 'wild women' to pound on the tables.") Gina recalls gathering in the beautiful dining room with her sisters for dinner. Before she became a member, she looked forward to Little Sisters' Weekend every year.

"It was my absolute favorite event," Gina recalled. "I loved hanging out with my sisters, playing games, and meeting their friends, but when it was time to go home, I missed them so much that I would cry and cry."

Both Becky and Marya attended Gina's initiation, and they have all loved sharing the sisterhood with each other. "We have been able to share memories of Chi Omega experiences, how things were when each of us were Chi Os at KU, and more," Becky said.



The Podrebarac family. From left: Gina, Charlie, Becky, and Marya.

Living in the house with Becky for one semester, Marya felt better knowing that she had her older sister to lean on if she had questions or worries.

Chi Omega greatly influenced each woman's life. "I made some lasting friendships with 'sisters' I probably never would have known if not for Chi Omega. Several of us keep in touch regularly," Becky said.

Marya also cherishes her Chi O friendships, and even when she hasn't been able to keep in touch over the years due to life obligations, her Chi O sisters are always understanding. Chi Omega showed Gina the true meaning of sisterhood and the value of community. She gained a deep sense of belonging in the sorority, and Lambda Chapter helped her develop into an adult.

Whether they're writing recruitment recommendations, financially supporting Lambda, or getting together with their Chi O friends, the Podrebaracs each have remained connected to the sisterhood.

Marya also serves as a member of the Owl Foundation Board. "It is a great way to try to give something back to a place that has been so special to me, and selfishly, I have loved getting back in touch with old friends and meeting some new ones in the process!"

The sisters look forward to attending Lambda's 100th anniversary celebration for their house this fall! Their brother, Charlie, is the amazing artist behind the save the date and invitation.

"I had just completed a commission for the KU Alumni Magazine and had a lot of Jayhawk energy, which was put to good use when Chi Omega asked me to illustrate the save the date and the invitation painting," he shared. "The save the date was a smaller tease piece highlighting the iconic door of your beloved Chapter House. In that, a Jayhawk is peeking through the windowpane, inviting or checking out the possible attendees of the 100-year celebration.

The larger piece highlights the Chapter House, the refurbished fountain, a Jayhawk flying over dragging a happy birthday banner, a made-up owl-mobile with Lambda Chapter alumnae and members surrounded by KU campus buildings and structures."

Connect Us!

Marya at marya.stallard@gmail.com

Becky at bpod2006@yahoo.com

Gina at ginabertrand@me.com

Charlie at cpodrebarac@mac.com

A CENTURY ON WEST CAMPUS ROAD

Lambda Chapter joyfully celebrated the Chapter House's 100th birthday on September 28, 2025, welcoming over 200 alumnae back to 1345 West Campus Road for a heartfelt open house event.

Spanning generations, guests from the classes of 1949 through 2024 returned to reconnect, reminisce, and honor the Chapter's enduring legacy. A highlight of the day was the presence of special guest **Elyce Cox Arons '82**—co-founder of Kate Spade and founder and CEO of Francis Valentine—who joined the festivities during her visit to the university.

Collegians led tours of the house, showcasing recent room renovations and sharing stories with alumnae. The celebration featured inspiring remarks from Chapter President **Sarah Walsh '22** and House Corporation Board President **Julie Numrich Murray '96**. The party was filled with pride and tradition, culminating in a touching moment when the entire group gathered in the living room to sing "Shades."

The event was a true testament to the lasting bonds of sisterhood and the vibrant spirit of Lambda Chapter. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the undergraduates, house director, Chapter advisors, and House Corporation Board who thoughtfully planned and executed this unforgettable milestone event. Here's to the next 100 years of our iconic home!



CELEBRATING OUR CHI OMEGA HOME



**Support the
Lambda Owl
Foundation!**



Support the next century
of our home by scanning
the QR code to visit
givebutter.com/LambdaHome!

Remembering ELSA



Elsa McGrain '23, a junior majoring in pre-med from Omaha, Nebraska, tragically lost her life while on a run on November 6, 2025. She served Lambda as our house manager, where she led with grace, compassion, and a servant's heart.

Elsa was the kind of person everyone wants to be: genuine, kind, and full of light.

Our hearts go out to Elsa's family, friends, and all those who were touched by her presence. Her faith, kindness, and sisterhood will forever remain in our hearts.



Scan the QR code to read Elsa's obituary and honor her legacy, or visit heafeyheafey.com/obituaries/Elsa-Reese-McGrain?obId=46332551.



Lambda Owl Foundation
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"THAT'S SO JULIE!"

Members and friends of the pledge class of 1998 decided to honor their dear friend **Julie "Booty" Savute Zittergruen '98**, who passed away in 2019, by funding the painting by Charlie Podrebarac that will hang prominently in our Chapter House. Chi Omega was near to Julie's heart, giving her many lasting friendships. She exemplified character, integrity, and kindness, and she will be missed.

