

GAMMA / BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Chapter Heritage Report

Located At:

Kappa Alpha Theta
825 W Hampton Dr
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208-3451

Installed On:

February 27, 1874

Reorganized On:

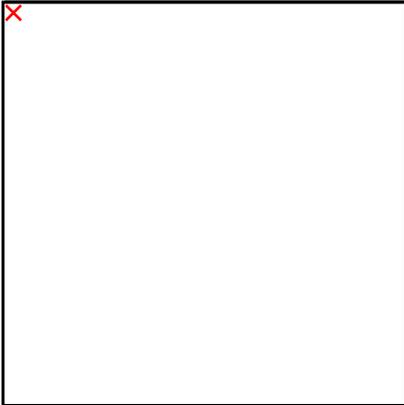
November 03, 1906

Nikê Response

Butler University, Indianapolis, is the home of Gamma Chapter, first established as Indiana Delta in 1874. A year later, in 1875, the chapter hosted the second Fraternity Convention. In 1886, the charter was returned due to declining enrollments, but was reissued in 1906 when prospects for growth were healthier.

Notables

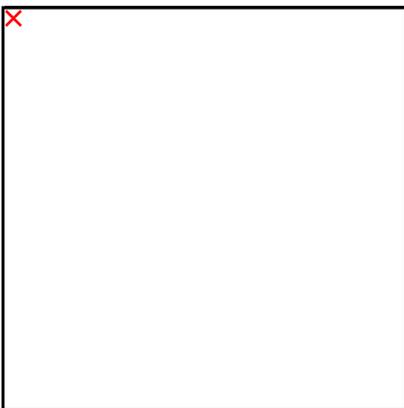
Lindsey Pitts Croop (1987-)



Croop is a member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, She started her professional dance career with the Nashville Ballet's second company.

- Arts & Humanities
- Performing Arts

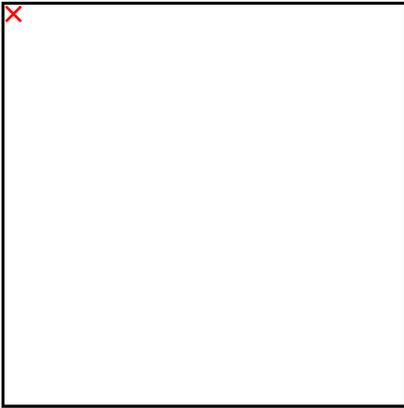
Elizabeth Jane Miller Hack (1878-1969)



An author, Miller's four published novels include *The Yoke* (1903), *Saul of Tarsus* (1906), *The City of Delight*(1908), and *Daybreak*,(1915).

- Literature

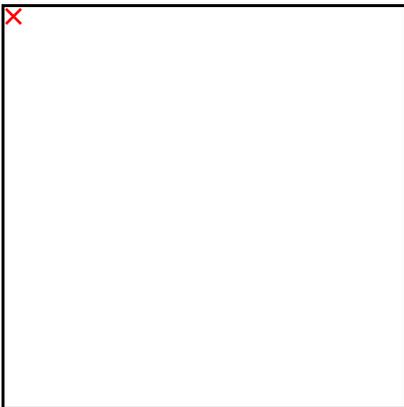
Diane Meyer Simon ()



Environmental activist, founder and leader of Global Green USA and Green Cross International.

- Community Leaders & Advocates
- Science & Technology

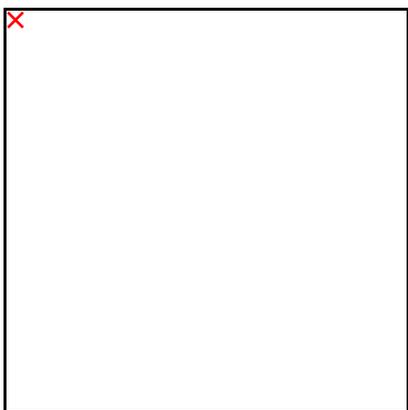
Mary Vance Trent (1914-1998)



Mary Vance Trent was one of the first female Foreign Service Officers serving the United States Government, Trent served in France, 1946; Norway, 1947; Czechoslovakia, 1949; Indonesia, late 1950s - 1960s; New Zealand, 1969-1972; and Micronesia (1972-1974). A Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Trent was honored with the U.S. State Department Superior Service Award (1964) and the Meritorious Honor Award (1974). Following her service with the State Department, Trent joined the Society of Woman Geographers (SWG) in 1977 and served as the president of SWG from 1984-1987.

- Government Service & Politics
- International Relations
- First in Field

Maurine Dallas Watkins (1896-1969)



Watkins becomes a journalist, playwright, screenwriter, and philanthropist. She is the author of the original 1927 Broadway play *Chicago* - the story that becomes the Oscar-winning movie *Chicago* in 2002.

- Performing Arts
- Philanthropy

Gamma Grand Convention Awards

Theta has been presenting awards to college chapters at Grand Convention since 1917. Award categories have changed frequently. The following listing includes only those who finished first.

- **2016** Bronze Kite Award
- **2012** Silver Kite Award
- **2010** Silver Kite Award
- **2008** Golden Kite Award
- **2006** Golden Kite Award
- **1982** Most Improved Scholarship Award
- **1982** Golden Kite Award
- **1972** Panhellenic Award
- **1972** Leadership Award - Sandra Soucek
- **1972** Alumnae Cooperation Award
- **1968** Founders Award

National Chapter Officers

Bayse, Catharine

- Fraternity Vice-President Education (1994 - 1996)

Casselman, Elizabeth

- Foundation Executive Director (1998 - 1999)

Cossaart, Barbara

- College Regional Director (1992 - 1996)
- Fraternity Vice-President College (1996 - 1998)

Dial, Jessica

- Public Relations Specialist (2010 - 2011)
- Service & Philanthropy Committee Volunteer (2012 - 2015)

Goshert, Wendy

- Foundation Campaign Honorary Steering Committee (2013 - 2016)

Harris, Margaret

- Leadership Development Committee Chairman (2013 - 2015)

Haviland, Marjorie

- Grand Council Member at Large (1919 - 1922)

Henry, Marcia

- Educational Leadership Consultant (1981 - 1982)

Hirsch, Linda

- Special Officer (1977 - 1981)

Marshall, Melinda

- Assistant Director of Finance (1994 - 2011)
- Director of Administration (2011 - 2018)

Mayes, Pamela

- Foundation Executive Director (1987 - 1991)

Meyer, Barbara

- Educational Leadership Consultant (1970 - 1971)

Perkins, Amy

- Educational Leadership Consultant (2000 - 2001)

Rahn, Heather

- Educational Leadership Consultant (1998 - 1999)

Reehling, Dorothy

- Alumnae Regional Director (1985 - 1987)

Rowan, Elise

- Director of Service (2010 - 2011)
- Director of Philanthropy (2011 - 2011)
- Director of Service & Philanthropy (2011 - 2011)
- Service & Philanthropy Committee Chairman (2012 - 2015)
- Service & Philanthropy Committee Volunteer (2015 - 2015)
- Extension Committee Volunteer (2016 - 2016)

Salatich, Hilary

- Educational Leadership Consultant (1967 - 1968)
- Grand Council Member at Large (1976 - 1978)
- Director of Fraternity Training (1990 - 1992)
- Foundation Campaign Honorary Steering Committee (2013 - 2016)

Schmaltz, Jennifer

- Educational Leadership Consultant (2005 - 2006)
- Assistant Director of Chapter Services (2006 - 2014)
- Extension Committee Volunteer (2014 - 2014)
- Associate Executive Director (2014 - 2015)

Sourwine, Eliza

- Special Officer (1935 - 1951)
- Special Officer (1956 - 1959)

Stelsel, Laura

- Communications Assistant (2008 - 2010)
- Associate Editor (2010 - 2013)

Wolfe, Dana

- Grand Council Member at Large (1978 - 1982)

Woodward, Jo

- Educational Leadership Consultant (1961 - 1963)

Gamma re-installation, 1906

We send our best wishes to all of our sister chapters for the year.

ALICE BOOTH.

GAMMA — BUTLER COLLEGE

One of the pleasantest as well as the most profitable features of our new chapter life has been the interest which the alumnae have taken in us. Not only the Zeta Alumnae in Indianapolis, but also the members of the original Gamma chapter have given us advice and assisted us in many ways. We are indebted to one of the latter, Mrs. May Durbin Christian, for advance knowledge of one of the girls whom we recently initiated, Julia Booth of Noblesville. The other initiates are Vera Jacob, Hazel Pasquier, Maude Boston, Louise Wheeler and Jessie Ragsdale, all of Indianapolis. These girls are already giving proof of their worth to the fraternity.

The subject of most general interest at present to Thetas in this vicinity and which I am sure will be of interest to all Thetas, was the celebration in honor of the anniversary of the founding of Kappa Alpha Theta. Ninety-seven women from all parts of Indiana attended the luncheon at the Claypool Hotel and more than half of that number were present at a Theta dance in the evening at the Propylæum. Several girls from both Alpha and Beta chapters were here for the occasion so that we had an opportunity to make many new and delightful acquaintances. We girls of Gamma chapter enjoyed both the luncheon and the dance and are looking forward with pleasure to Kappa Alpha Theta's next birthday.

The anniversary of the founding of Butler College is to be observed on February the seventh. The Butler alumnae will have a luncheon on that day at the Claypool Hotel. In the afternoon the students are to give an entertainment

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and in the evening the Alumni Banquet at the University Club will take place.

We hope that the new year has begun as prosperously for all our sister chapters as it has for us, and we send greetings and best wishes to them all.

LOUISE BROWN.

EPSILON — WOOSTER UNIVERSITY

We are back again at our regular routine of work after passing through the trying ordeal of examination week. What sighs of relief we all drew when the last examination was over and we had no more to look forward to until next June.

Our time before the Christmas holidays and since then has been so taken up with work that it has almost been impossible to entertain very much, but we are now making plans for our term party, which will probably occur in the early part of March. This is always our largest party of the year, so all brains are busily engaged with plans and suggestions.

The marriage of Josephine Taylor to Mr. Slagle, of Milwaukee, took place this week in Wooster. It was a very pretty home wedding, and Thetas figured quite prominently in it, part of the music being furnished by a Theta quartet and many of the guests being Thetas. Mrs. Slagle is the third alumna who has become a bride since Christmas; the marriage to Nina Gibbon to Mr. Horn and of Blanche McClland to Rev. Mr. Marshall occurring since then.

Our University has been quite favored this year along the lines of gifts. Our new library, which was the gift of Mr. Frick, of Pittsburg, is now open. It is a beautiful building and adds greatly to our campus. Another gift we have received is that of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars from the sum given by John D. Rockefeller

Gamma's early history

HISTORY OF GAMMA CHAPTER

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Gamma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta was founded in 1874. Little is known of the first years of her fraternity life, but material has been gathered from members who were in Butler College about 1879 and '80.

There was no chapter house at that time and initiations were held in one of the lecture rooms in the administration building. For several years Kappa Alpha Theta was the only women's fraternity in Butler. A little later Kappa Kappa Gamma installed a chapter there.

Social functions were not as many or as varied in those days as they are at the present time. The girls never gave dances. In fact, none were given under the auspices of the college. However, once a year at Commencement time, the men's fraternities gave a dance, and the Theta girls attended these given by the Beta Theta PIs and Phi Delta Thetas. These were held at private homes and the music was provided by string orchestras. The waltz, schottish, and square dances were then in vogue.

In the Spring when the flowers were in bloom and the air was balmy the Theta girls gave an annual picnic and invited the men as guests. One of these was held at the home of Miss Hanneman on the National Road. It is described by one of the young men present as follows:

"On a beautiful spring morning the party met at Engleside.

From there we took an old mule car and rode to the end of the line, then we walked the remaining distance to Miss Hanneman's home. It was a fine old-fashioned brick house, sitting far back from the road and surrounded by woodland. The wild flowers were in bloom and we spent the morning wandering thru the woods gathering flowers. As I recall, the girls all wore white dresses which were quite different as to style from those of to-day. The skirts were long and full and high collars and long sleeves were the fashion. The men wore sack coats, long trousers without cuffs, low shoes and red socks. Big, ready made ties that were spread out to cover the whole front of the shirt were worn with angel wing collars, straw hats completed the outfit.

"At noon we all entered the house and there in the big cool dining room with high ceilings, we sat and enjoyed a wonderful feast prepared by the girls,- fried chicken, salads, cakes, home made ice cream and all sorts of delicious food that is unknown to-day. Games, contests and sports occupied the rest of the day and the party abated not its hilarity until night fall when we departed."

Due to a misunderstanding and poor representation at Grand Convention, the charter was withdrawn from Butler in 1886. A black pall here descends upon Gamma activities until the re-establishment of the chapter in 1906.

For several years Pi Beta Phi and Kappa Kappa Gamma were the only girls' fraternities at Butler and great was the rivalry between them.

In 1904 an interesting group of girls encouraged by some enthusiastic Indianapolis Thetas determined to apply for the

return of the charter. At the opening of the school year much pressure was brought to bear on these girls by the Kappas and Pi Phis, but, with one exception, they stood firm in their allegiance to the new organization. Some of them were wept over all night by Kappa sisters and chums, others withstood harrowing forecasts of failure related by Pi Phis, but all came tearful of eye, and somewhat shaken as to nerves to the meeting place the next morning. This place, curiously enough, was "Huder's corner"! Anyone who knows Indianapolis knows Huder's corner. The original intention had been to proceed to some more seemly and dignified spot,- but so great was the excitement and the eagerness for news from one another that it seemed impossible to move on and there was formed the organization known as Sigma Delta Theta.

The alumnae in Indianapolis were anxious to see the new chapter re-established at Butler. Furthermore, they knew many of the girls in the applying group. There were in fact daughters and sisters among them. These Thetas, therefore, immediately took steps toward regaining the Theta charter. Letters were obtained from influential and well known people who were in touch with the College and who knew the girls.

Emma Pearson (Mrs. Robert Fulton), Miss Sarah F. Cotton, and Mrs. Charles Eichrodt especially were active and helpful. Mrs. Eichrodt attended the convention of 1905 and make an impassioned plea on behalf of the girls of Sigma Delta Theta. She was always a loving and loyal friend to the chapter and her memory is enshrined in the hearts of all Gamma Thetas.

The charter was given back to Butler in 1907 and great was the rejoicing in Indianapolis. The initiation was particularly impressive and inspiring. Two members of the Grand Council,

Miss Pearson and Miss Edith Cockins, were present, and Miss Grace Eagleson, the retiring president of Beta District.

At the banquet which followed the initiation the merry making lasted so late that the janitor, lingering wearily on the outskirts, was heard to remark, "I wish they'd finish with that K A T business so's I could clean up around here'."

The history of Gamma chapter would be incomplete without some account of the "cabin". This was a rustic affair built of logs and situated in beautiful "Ellenberger Park" about half a mile from the college campus. For several years this little cabin took the place of a chapter house in many ways. Meetings were held there as well as picnics, house parties and "rushing parties". It seemed the ideal spot for all sorts of informal frolics. It was easier to get acquainted with a "rushee" here than anywhere else. There was a piano, enough mission furniture to make the place comfortable and attractive, and cooking arrangements and equipment adequate for our camping expeditions.

Gamma alumnae of this period will always remember it lovingly as the scene of many delightful festivities.

Since the passing of the "cabin days" and the erection of a real for sure fraternity house across from the campus the life of Gamma Chapter has had its triumphs and its misfortunes, but with all has held the even tenor of its way-ever onward. With the advent of the new house, the enlarged program of Butler College, the possibilities for the future of Gamma are yet greater. The girls of to-day rejoice to look back upon the lengthening chain of bright links of their chapter history and they feel a deep pride and increasing responsibility to uphold the vision of the past and to strive on to greater achievement.