EXPERIENCE

Alpha Chi Omega

An overview of our sisterhood
Welcome to Alpha Chi Omega!

This brochure is an invaluable resource for learning more about Alpha Chi Omega sisterhood. You’re part of our family and we hope you’ll come to know what our organization—and our members—are all about. The following pages will provide an overview of Alpha Chi Omega:

- The benefits and opportunities available to our members
- The reputation we individually and collectively strive to uphold
- The women who emerge from our sisterhood

Featured throughout this booklet are Alpha Chi Omegas who exemplify real, strong women. We hope they offer encouragement and inspiration. And we hope that when the time comes, you’ll share your story with us so that we may share it with others.
The Symphony
OF ALPHA CHI OMEGA

To see beauty even in the common things of life,
to shed the light of love and friendship round me;

to keep my life in tune with the world
that I shall make no discords in the harmony of life;

to strike on the lyre of the universe
only the notes of happiness, of joy, of peace;

to appreciate every little service rendered;

to see and appreciate all that is noble in another,
be her badge what it may;

and to let my lyre send forth the chords of love,
unselfishness, sincerity.

This is to be my symphony.

by Celia McClure
Delta, Allegheny College
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Let's Be Real

Someone needs to change the language. Change the conversation.
Change how women think and act about the idea of sorority.

We accept the challenge. By offering an experience that respects and responds to the hopes, dreams, fears & realities of today's women, in today's world.

At Alpha Chi Omega, we are Real Women. Facing Real Issues. In the Real World.

On the one hand, inspiring. In turn, being inspired. Transforming. And being transformed. Together, creating a more positive reality, for ourselves and others.

We are Strong Women.
Strong in the courage of our convictions, the confidence in our actions and the purpose in our hearts.

To know us will be to experience a voice that is respectful, genuine, open, empathetic & honest. Real.

We will define how a sorority will thrive, and be defined, today and in the future.

All good sororities are fun. They enhance education. They serve their communities. They provide support and a sense of belonging on campus. They set high moral and academic standards. They build lifelong friendships.

SO WHAT SETS ALPHA CHI OMEGA APART?

The Declaration of Our Shared Commitment on the previous page says it best. Sure, we offer all the qualities noted above. But we also believe in being real, genuine, ourselves. And we strive for strength—in whatever ways our women choose to define and demonstrate that quality in their lives.

Back in 1885, our seven Founders were among the few women on a male-dominated campus (most campuses were in those days!). They were genuine in their belief in education and in music. They were strong in their support for one another. And they fostered that authenticity and strength into an organization that became national in scope and more than 230,000 women strong.

Today’s collegians, in turn, set the stage for those who follow. We encourage them to take part in conversations, invest in themselves and their sisters, take part in the programs and opportunities available, and push themselves to become the real, strong woman they aspire to be.

REAL. STRONG. WOMEN.®
The roots of our past shape our present and future

With Alpha Chi Omega, you get an organization built by and for real, strong women.

Alpha Chi Omega was founded on October 15, 1885 at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. That’s about 70 miles southwest of our current headquarters in Indianapolis.

Back when America was getting used to the notion that women belonged in college at all, the dean of DePauw’s School of Music, Professor James Hamilton Howe, invited seven of his female students to form a women’s society within the school.

Our Founders took Professor Howe’s suggestion a step further and formed a women’s fraternity, only the sixth of its kind in the country. They were the first such group in the music school and believed they’d be the last. So they chose as their name the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet—Alpha and Omega. They put the word “Kai” (and) in the middle, and later changed it to the Greek letter Chi.

Our Founders wanted Alpha Chi Omega to advance “the intellectual, social and moral culture” of its members. It worked. Today, Alpha Chi Omega serves more than 230,000 members in more than 139 collegiate chapters and 200 alumnae chapters nationwide.
Symbols and traditions

When you’re welcomed into any family or organization, you come to appreciate its symbols and traditions. Some of Alpha Chi Omega’s hallmarks, like our colors and lyre, are rooted in our founding. Others have been adopted and adapted through the decades. All have meaning to our members. They connect us across miles and years. They symbolize and verbalize who we are, where we’ve come from and what matters most to us as individuals and as an organization.

CELEBRATIONS

October 15: Founders’ Day. Through acts of friendship, leadership, learning and service, we celebrate the birth of our Fraternity.

March 1: Hera Day. In honor of our patron goddess Hera, Alpha Chi Omegas give personal service for the happiness and well-being of others.

February: MacDowell Month. Named for the MacDowell artists’ colony in New Hampshire (Alpha Chi Omega’s first philanthropic project), this month also honors our Founders’ heritage as musicians.

OPEN MOTTO

“Together let us seek the heights”

COLORS

Scarlet and olive green

FLOWER

Scarlet carnation

LYRE BADGE

COAT OF ARMS

MOTHER’S PIN
Nationwide mission and values, chapter-by-chapter implementation

Alpha Chi Omega is grounded in its mission and values. We deliver on those promises through innovative programming and myriad opportunities for each collegiate and alumna member.

Alpha Chi Omega’s mission is simple in language, yet powerful in responsibility. We exist to:

Enrich the lives of members through lifetime opportunities for friendship, leadership, learning and service.

Our values are also beneficial to our lives and sisterhood. We value:

- WISDOM
- DEVOTION
- ACHIEVEMENT

Given to mothers of Alpha Chi Omegas.

With more than 139 collegiate chapters across the United States, there are around 19,000 collegians sharing a similar Alpha Chi Omega experience. The more members get involved, the greater their personal network will be in their own chapter, their community and throughout the country!
Alpha Chi Omega’s chapters by state

ALABAMA
Auburn University
Birmingham-Southern College
University of Alabama

ARIZONA
Arizona State University
University of Arizona

ARKANSAS
University of Arkansas

CALIFORNIA
California Polytechnic-San Luis Obispo
California State University-Fullerton
California State University-Sacramento
California State University-San Marcos
Loyola Marymount University
San Diego State University
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis
University of California-Irvine
University of California-Los Angeles
University of California-Riverside
University of California-Santa Barbara
University of California-San Diego
University of San Diego
University of Southern California

COLORADO
University of Colorado

CONNECTICUT
Quinnipiac University
University of Connecticut

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
American University

FLORIDA
Florida International University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
University of Florida
University of North Florida
University of Tampa
University of West Florida

GEORGIA
Brenau University
Georgia Institute of Technology
University of Georgia

IDAHO
Boise State University

ILLINOIS
Bradley University
Loyola University-Chicago
Millikin University
Northwestern University
University of Illinois

INDIANA
Ball State University
Butler University
DePauw University
Indiana University
IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis)
Indiana State University
Purdue University

IOWA
Iowa State University
University of Iowa

KANSAS
Baker University
Kansas State University
University of Kansas

KENTUCKY
University of Kentucky

LOUISIANA
Louisiana Tech University
Loyola University-New Orleans

MARYLAND
University of Maryland
Washington College

MASSACHUSETTS
University of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MICHIGAN
Albion College
Central Michigan University
Michigan State University
Northwood University
University of Michigan
Western Michigan University

MINNESOTA
Minnesota State University-Mankato
University of Minnesota

MISSISSIPPI
University of Southern Mississippi

MISSOURI
Missouri State University
Southeast Missouri State University
University of Missouri
William Woods University

NEBRASKA
University of Nebraska

NEW HAMPSHIRE
University of New Hampshire

NEW MEXICO
University of New Mexico

NEW YORK
Columbia University
Cornell University
Syracuse University

NORTH CAROLINA
Elon University
High Point University
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina-Charlotte
University of North Carolina-Greensboro
University of North Carolina-Wilmington
Western Carolina University

NORTH DAKOTA
University of North Dakota

OHIO
Bowling Green State University
Case Western Reserve University
Miami University
University of Mount Union
The Ohio State University
University of Toledo

OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma State University
University of Oklahoma

OREGON
Oregon State University
Portland State University
University of Oregon
Willamette University
Western Oregon University

PENNSYLVANIA
Allegheny College
Bucknell University
Carnegie Mellon University
Lehigh University
Muhlenberg College
Pennsylvania State University
Villanova University

RHODE ISLAND
Brown University

SOUTH CAROLINA
Clemson University
University of South Carolina

TENNESSEE
Middle Tennessee State University
University of Tennessee
Vanderbilt University

TEXAS
Baylor University
Houston Baptist University
Lamar University
Sam Houston State University
Southern Methodist University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Texas A & M University
Texas Christian University
Texas Tech University
University of Houston
University of Texas-Arlington
University of Texas-Austin
University of Texas-Tyler

UTAH
University of Utah
Utah State University

VERMONT
University of Vermont

VIRGINIA
College of William & Mary
Lynchburg College
University of Virginia
Virginia Tech University

WASHINGTON
University of Washington
Washington State University

WEST VIRGINIA
Marshall University

WISCONSIN
Carthage College
Marquette University
Ripon College
University of Wisconsin
Missions and values are all well and good. But how do they benefit everyday life?

During the collegiate years, Alpha Chi Omegas participate in MyJourney, an innovative program offering practical advice for life during and after college. This four-year experience is designed to help sisters understand, define and navigate their journey. It will add to the wisdom (of themselves and the world), devotion (to one another and the world around them), and achievement (in their life, education and career).

The MyJourney curriculum includes not only the ins and outs of Alpha Chi Omega, but also such lessons as:

- How to Make Laugh-Out-Loud, Know-My-Deepest-Darkest-Secret and Most-Embarrassing-Moment Kinds of Friends
- Yes, I Have an Opinion
- Leadership From Every Seat
- The Chemistry of Stress
- I Landed an Interview, Now What?
- When Common Sense Is Not So Common
- The Art of Negotiation

Alpha Chi Omegas who already have experienced this program said:

- “No one is giving us these kinds of courses.”
- “It makes me realize I’m not alone.”
- “It really relates to where I am in my life.”

MyJourney is a fun and engaging program that will add meaning to membership. And it’s only the beginning. Sisters will soon discover opportunities to participate in more valuable programming within their chapter and within our organization nationally. Turn the page to discover more.
Chapter life: Chances to live, lead and learn.

Naturally, every Alpha Chi Omega will experience the bonds of sisterhood. She will come to think of her sisters as family, giving her a true home away from home—helping one another through college life and, if so chosen, the rest of her life!

Beyond the friendships, however, she’ll have chances to lead and learn—skills and experiences that will help in her career, in her community, in her family and more. Life with Alpha Chi Omega offers the opportunity to discover not only who she is, but who she aspires to be—and how to get there.

Career, company and community leadership benefits. Alpha Chi Omegas have the opportunity to set themselves apart in the job market, in their companies and in their communities. How will being in a sorority help to build a résumé from Day One? Alpha Chi Omegas can, among other things, learn:
• Leadership skills (e.g., by serving as an officer or chairing a committee)
• Business skills (e.g., by joining an executive board, managing a budget and operating within it. Running an Alpha Chi Omega chapter is much like running a small business.)
• Interpersonal, interviewing and networking skills (which are practiced right away when recruiting new chapter members)
• Democratic management skills (honored through chapter meetings and group decisions)
• Conflict management (an inevitable by-product of group living)

While a member’s chapter is the most common classroom for leadership lessons, she’ll have the opportunity to make a difference at the national level, as well. The more she gets involved, the greater her personal network will be in her own chapter, in her community and throughout the country!

When she joined Alpha Chi Omega at the University of Iowa, Amanda Ball Richter was the epitome of the all-American college girl. She lived in the chapter house and wore her letters everywhere. Her future was bright.

Junior year, Amanda traveled to Ireland to study abroad. However, after just a few months on the Emerald Isle, it all came crumbling down: Amanda was diagnosed with meningitis B. Placed in a medically-induced coma for 18 days, she awoke to find the flesh on her legs eaten away by the meningitis and the antibiotics necessary to treat her illness. After months of treatment, rehabilitation and recovery in Ireland, then Chicago, Amanda returned to campus the following fall to continue her studies. She proudly walked across the stage with the assistance of a cane to receive her diploma.

Now married with two children, Amanda is a financial planner. She attributes many of her life and career skills to her time with the chapter, and remains in close touch with the sisters who supported her through her crisis.

Amanda Ball Richter is a real, strong woman—an Alpha Chi Omega.
One great place to lead and learn: National Convention

Alpha Chi Omega’s first national convention took place in Greencastle, Indiana in 1891. There were four chapters at the time, and three of them were represented.

Today, our national convention occurs during the summer months of even-numbered years. About 900 women gather to celebrate, educate and legislate!

At convention, we elect our National Council—our National President and five vice presidents. Each elected officer serves a two-year term beginning in August of that year. We also enact legislation, establish policies and otherwise conduct the business of the organization.

In Alpha Chi Omega, there are specific individuals/positions entitled to vote. These voting delegates include the National Council, past National Presidents, province alumnae chairs, province collegiate chairs and one delegate from each collegiate and alumnae chapter in good standing.
Members don’t have to be voting delegates to attend convention! In fact, well over half of the attendees are not voting delegates.

There is something for everyone. We focus on education—providing an opportunity to grow as leaders through training and engagement with sisters across the nation. A wide variety of speakers cover topics from money management to finding life balance to making a difference for others. And like any good convention, food is plentiful! Convention meals are filled with the laughter of old friends and the conversations of new ones.

Reuniting with sisters and making new friends from around the nation keeps Alpha Chi Omegas coming back year after year. Convention is a great time to network, socialize and make a difference.

Linda Sax

At the 2014 Alpha Chi Omega National Convention, Dr. Linda Sax—professor at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and one of the world’s leading experts on women’s underrepresentation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields—stepped onstage to receive the Award of Achievement.

As she looked around at the faces of all the extraordinary women in the room, she saw intelligent, impressive sisters with careers and families who still made time in their busy schedules to contribute to Alpha Chi Omega. That moment opened her eyes to the possibilities available to an alumna of Alpha Chi, and it renewed her appreciation for the organization she had loved so much as an undergraduate in the Pi chapter at University of California-Berkeley.

Since receiving the award, Linda has reconnected with Alpha Chi Omega as faculty advisor for the Alpha Psi chapter at UCLA. She’s so grateful for the opportunity to get to know the chapter members and to provide guidance as the women seek out career paths that are most interesting and meaningful to them.

Linda Sax is a real, strong woman—an Alpha Chi Omega.
Community service: Making a difference on domestic violence and other issues

Like every sorority, Alpha Chi Omega is about service to others. Our official philanthropic work is focused on domestic violence—increasing awareness of the problem, helping to prevent it and helping those who’ve become victims. We’re a women’s organization helping women and families in need. Together, we’ve raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit local shelters or initiatives.

In addition to our domestic violence initiative, our members raise funds for our Foundation. Also, in recognition of our musical heritage, some help support the MacDowell Colony, an artistic program that’s long benefited from the generosity of Alpha Chi Omega. And finally, we’ve provided support to Easter Seals to help children with disabilities and their families.

As Alpha Chi Omegas, sisters have the opportunity to make a difference on these issues and others of their choosing. They might participate in chapter service opportunities, such as teaching young people, volunteering at a shelter or raising money or awareness through a special event.
What feels like a small gesture to you makes a huge difference to someone else. That, in turn, builds respect in our organization and pride in our members. (PHOTO BY FARRAH RAHIMPOUR)
Getting connected—with Alpha Chi Omega and one another

One of the biggest benefits of Alpha Chi Omega is the opportunity to engage with a nationwide community of real, strong women who have a common bond. We hope you’ll get connected and stay connected with all you can!

**Facebook** On Alpha Chi Omega’s official Facebook page, you can find the latest news, interact with Alpha Chis and take advantage of networking opportunities.

**Twitter** Follow us and Alpha Chi Omega sisters, too!

**Instagram** Glimpse special Alpha Chi moments.

**LinkedIn—Alpha Chi Omega Networking Group**
- It’s a great place for sisters to make career connections.

**alphachiomega.org**
Our award-winning website is the official place for all things Alpha Chi! It’s the hub for meeting, greeting and accessing resources for the Alpha Chi Omega experience. Sisters can also personalize that experience through member-only access.

In addition to online outlets, Alpha Chi Omega reaches out via:

- **The Lyre magazine.** Collegiate members receive *The Lyre*, Alpha Chi Omega’s quarterly magazine. After college, they can subscribe or receive it through Life Loyal membership.

- **Newsletters.** Collegians stay informed on trending membership topics through our national newsletter, *Carnation Quarterly*. Many chapters also offer local connection points through their own communications.

- **Foundation communications.** One of the most invaluable ways to make a difference for future generations of sisters is by supporting the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation. Watch for opportunities and make an impact!
Rewarding good work, showcasing positive examples

One of the best ways to lead is by example. So at Alpha Chi Omega, we recognize positive achievements by our members and chapters.

Our highest award is the National Council Trophy, which is presented to the chapter or chapters best exemplifying the ideals of Alpha Chi Omega. This award is given annually at both the collegiate and alumna chapter levels.

Other award categories may include recruitment, advisory boards, Foundation initiatives or communications.

Winning awards is an honor for a chapter, instilling pride and building loyalty among collegiate and alumnae members.

Alumnae members of Alpha Chi Omega are also eligible to win individual awards recognizing their commitment to our sisterhood. Additionally, the Real. Strong. Women. of Distinction campaign is a new initiative to highlight the impact of our sisterhood. Alumnae and collegians honored exemplify a great mix of the skills and attributes we want our members to develop as part of the Alpha Chi Omega experience.
Building a positive reputation for our sisterhood

Here’s a simple fact of sorority life: A sister’s reputation depends on Alpha Chi Omega, and Alpha Chi Omega’s reputation depends on a sister. Sure, being in a sorority is fun. Having fun is fabulous! But with fun comes responsibility—and responsibility is vital not only to a member’s health and safety, but also to her reputation and ours.

As a member begins her journey with Alpha Chi Omega, she’ll learn about chapter policies and national policies. They don’t exist because we’re rigid or old fashioned. They exist to protect the health, safety and reputation of our members. We also don’t take these policies lightly. They’re monitored, enforced and, when violated, they have consequences, including the loss of individual membership or chapter charter. Among the policies members learn about and live by:

- **Nondiscrimination**: Alpha Chi Omega does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sexual orientation or religion. Membership in Alpha Chi Omega is based solely on academic interest, character, financial responsibility, leadership ability and personal development.

- **Alcohol and drugs**: Alpha Chi Omega expects members to abide by all federal, state, local and college/university regulations with regard to the use of alcoholic beverages and possession and/or use of any and all illegal drugs. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs may not be stored, served or consumed on any property designated for regular use by Alpha Chi Omega chapters and colonies.

- **Hazing**: an unacceptable form of domestic violence. Alpha Chi Omega does not condone unkind, undignified or humiliating activities. Period. Our members may not conduct hazing of any kind, and our chapters have to include in their bylaws a statement prohibiting hazing and/or demeaning activities. Alpha Chi Omega considers hazing to be a form of domestic violence. Because that’s our national philanthropy, it’s especially important that we never participate in hazing of any kind.
Wearing a reputation on the sleeve:
How to buy Alpha Chi merchandise

Wearing and carrying merchandise featuring Alpha Chi Omega is a great (and easy) way to display pride in our sisterhood!

When you purchase Alpha Chi merchandise, be sure to look for the Greek Licensed Product logo. To protect the Alpha Chi Omega brand, identifying trademarks are licensed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

It’s illegal to sell merchandise with our trademarks without paying a royalty to the organization. This is important to ensure the integrity of the marks and a high standard of quality in the products you purchase.

The royalties received from the sale of merchandise benefit the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation. The Foundation, in turn, uses this money for member benefits such as educational programs.

In other words, when sisters, parents and other supporters wear licensed Alpha Chi Omega merchandise, they give back! Visit the merchandise page at alphachiomega.org for a link to licensed vendors and Herff Jones, our official jeweler. For more information about becoming licensed, visit greeklicensing.
What about parents?

Parents or guardians have a great deal to do with the real, strong woman their daughter has become. For that, we thank them.

We know a member wants to share her experience with family. In fact, we encourage it. We want families to be comfortable with the choices a member has made. We want them to learn all they can about the difference Alpha Chi Omega is making in her life.

But when it comes to a member’s college and sorority life, she is in charge! She is the one we’ll work with on programs, finances, housing and more.

How little (or how much) involvement parents have in a sister’s sorority experience is up to her. While we hope she’ll communicate with them and share all the great opportunities that being an Alpha Chi Omega has presented, we also respect her privacy. At Alpha Chi Omega, membership belongs to her.

If parents have questions about Alpha Chi Omega, they are welcome to contact headquarters. If parents have specific questions about their daughter’s membership, they will need to contact her. We know Alpha Chi Omega may be one of the first commitments she makes as an adult, and we’re excited to help her along the way to becoming independent.

Making mom a sister!

Did you know an Alpha Chi Omega’s mother may be eligible for membership? The alumna initiate program allows for women who are no longer in school—and have not joined a Panhellenic group—to become members. Call the lifetime engagement department at 317-579-5050 to find out about membership eligibility as an alumna initiate.
Help with the high cost of living and learning: Grants and scholarships

Through the generous support of members, families and friends, the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation offers scholarships and grants to individual members in several categories. Every member in good standing is eligible to apply. Amounts vary from year to year and from scholarship to scholarship, depending on donor specifications and investment returns.

Scholarships may be awarded to undergraduate and graduate members based on academics, chapter leadership, campus/community activities and financial need.

Educational Assistance Grants are need-based funds that provide educational assistance for members. They might help with tuition and expenses for undergraduates, or continuing education or graduate school costs for alumnae members.

Meaghan O’Connor

As a freshman at the University of Michigan, Meaghan O’Connor was overwhelmed by the thought of making new friends and finding her place on campus. She pursued membership in a sorority as a way to meet people and get involved. During recruitment, members of Alpha Chi Omega made Meaghan feel right at home. In 2010, she became a proud Alpha Chi Omega.

Like many students, she faced the challenge of balancing extracurricular activities with a part-time job. When she received a scholarship from the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation, Meaghan could focus less on her job and more on becoming an active chapter member, a balanced college student and a better friend.

After graduation in 2013, Meaghan landed her dream job in New York City as the executive assistant to the editor-in-chief of Seventeen magazine.

Meaghan said, “Going through recruitment, I was the shy girl who never really knew how to stand up for herself. My sisters helped shape my character and supported my goal to make a significant difference in the world. Now I’m in a spot where I can help millions of teen girls overcome their fears and figure out what makes them special and unique!”
**Member Assistance Grants** are available for members who have experienced special circumstances and have financial needs at particular times in their lives.

**Love and Loyalty Grants** can be awarded to the Fraternity as a whole and to individual collegiate chapters, alumnae chapters, alumnae members and collegiate members to advance leadership, learning and service.

Finally, **Opportunity Grants** go to outside organizations that support the values and mission of Alpha Chi Omega, such as domestic violence awareness organizations.

To learn more about application requirements and deadlines, visit the Foundation section of alphachiomega.org.
Leading the way: Volunteers and headquarters staff

Alpha Chi Omega, its Foundation and its National Housing Corporation are all governed by volunteer boards. The Fraternity’s National Council is ultimately responsible for governing our Fraternity. Members, including the National President, are elected for two-year terms. For that board, and for the National Housing Corporation and Foundation boards, there’s a nominating committee and appointment process that’s explained on our website. The Foundation board also includes collegiate representatives!

While the boards oversee policy and strategy, day-to-day operations are handled by the headquarters staff. From the first permanent central office of Alpha Chi Omega, established in 1922 in Washington, D.C., to Alpha Chi Omega’s present-day Indianapolis office, the headquarters staff is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of members everywhere. Headquarters houses the Fraternity, the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation and the Alpha Chi Omega National Housing Corporation.

Together, our more than 60 employees (most of them Alpha Chi Omega members!) help ensure Alpha Chi Omega remains relevant to its members and that its reputation remains strong. Our staff develops and delivers programs, manages the organization’s fiscal and human resources, raises and stewards donor gifts, oversees housing and more.

Most likely, you’ll engage with staff in these departments:

- **Collegiate experience** helps collegiate chapters with recruitment, policies, risk management, chapter operations and more. A chapter consultant will visit her region’s chapters, offering support and guidance as necessary.

- **Education and leadership initiatives** delivers learning and leadership opportunities and experiences. MyJourney, the four-year experience you read about earlier, is just one example.

- **Lifetime engagement** develops initiatives to engage alumnae. Volunteer management, alumnae communication, Ritual, the alumnae initiate program and Life Loyal program are maintained through this department.

Other headquarters departments include executive, administrative services, finance, information systems and marketing and communications.
Check out career opportunities at Alpha Chi Omega headquarters! Becoming a chapter consultant (pictured above) is a great way for a member to give back, travel the country, serve her sisterhood, make connections and decide where to live as she settles into a profession.
Working for sisters: Alpha Chi Omega Foundation

Those scholarships we told you about? They’re made possible by gifts to the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation. Those programs we mentioned? Member dues don’t pay the entire bill. The Alpha Chi Omega Foundation funds the rest. Those leadership and training opportunities? The Foundation helps make them possible. All that work toward domestic violence awareness? Foundation again.

Without the philanthropic arm of Alpha Chi Omega—and generous donations raised and contributed by our collegians, alumnae and friends—we couldn’t deliver much of what we deliver to our sisters.

That’s why giving back to and through the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation can make an enormous difference for the emerging needs of our sisterhood for years to come. We are especially grateful for the outpouring of support for our For Now/Forever campaign, which generated epic results as the largest successful giving campaign in National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) history, raising $10.4 million to impact the lives of generations of Alpha Chi Omega sisters!

Samantha Leder

Samantha Leder couldn’t imagine a day when Alpha Chi Omega would not be part of her life. So, after graduating from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, she was determined to find a way to remain connected and involved. Serving as a Foundation volunteer has allowed her to do just that.

As a collegian, Samantha found great value in the MyJourney program. “MyJourney is unique in that it meets women at their particular stage in life and helps develop relevant skill sets. Instead of a cookie-cutter curriculum, this program really delves into pertinent issues and is extremely practical,” Samantha said.

Other cherished memories include philanthropic events like “Kicking Domestic Violence Out of the Game,” her chapter’s kickball tournament and chili cook-off. “Learning the importance of giving back to others is so valuable, and it also makes us better people—heart, soul and mind,” she said.

Samantha knows the Foundation is essential in creating programs to benefit every aspect of Alpha Chi Omega. “I dedicate my time and talents to Alpha Chi Omega because I could not have become the woman I am today without it.”

Samantha Leder is a real, strong woman—an Alpha Chi Omega.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

We realize college is expensive. We know members and their families have many obligations (and, possibly, student loans!) on their plate.

But collegiate members, more than anyone, can see firsthand the difference Alpha Chi Omega can make in a young woman’s life. Collegians understand the difference even a small amount of financial assistance—or a quality program—can make in their Alpha Chi Omega experience. And, they want to share that with others, including future sisters.

So all we ask is that you do what you can when opportunities present themselves. When the time is right to provide support, it will make a
Jill Fox

Whether it’s 100 degrees in the shade or 50 degrees below zero, Jill Fox likes a good adventure.

Since graduating from Simpson College in 1996 where she was initiated into Alpha Chi Omega, Jill has traveled the world making a difference.

She joined the Peace Corps and traveled to Mali, where she spent her days talking to villagers about family planning, disease prevention, vaccinations and nutrition. She lived for two years in a mud hut with no electricity or running water. Getting to the closest post office involved a two-hour bike ride!

After some time teaching in Tennessee, Alaska, Nebraska and inner-city Chicago, another adventure beckoned. Jill landed the position of a lifetime as a dishwasher at the South Pole. Living on the coldest and windiest continent didn’t slow her down. “I adapted well,” she said. “It’s refreshing to know that I can do manual labor and be a hard worker—that I’m not too soft.”

While she has spent so much time traveling and making a difference in communities around the globe, Jill has also found the time to make a difference in the lives of her Alpha Chi Omega sisters right here at home. She has served as a province alumnae chair and also as the risk management advisor for the Xi chapter at the University of Nebraska.

Jill Fox is a real, strong woman—an Alpha Chi Omega.

Working for sisters: National Housing Corporation

For many students, college is the first time they’ve lived away from home and family. They may find themselves suddenly responsible for many things they took for granted: laundry, managing a bank account, even adjusting a thermostat. Alpha Chi Omega chapters with a residential facility offer a living/learning environment where members can gain practical life skills to ease the transition between high school and post-college reality!

Many Alpha Chi Omega chapter houses are owned and operated by local house corporations—boards of Alpha Chi alumnae who’ve chosen to give back by providing our women with quality living space.

In 1996, Alpha Chi Omega established the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to operate some houses directly and assist with locally owned facilities.
So, what can a member expect from a chapter housing experience? Much like our members, while there are some common elements, no two houses are the same. They vary in size, décor, configuration and personality from campus to campus. Sisters will become accustomed to their space and find a comfort zone whether studying, dining, sleeping or having a conversation.

A mission to serve: The National Housing Corporation promotes, supports, and develops appropriate, desirable and safe facilities to enhance the Alpha Chi Omega experience.
What a sister gets with Alpha Chi Omega housing

Each Alpha Chi Omega facility is unique from campus to campus. However, there are some things a sister will get no matter where she is:

**She gets to have fun.** This is, after all, a group of interesting, engaging young women all living together in the same space. Imagine a few dozen women, flat irons, makeup, blow dryers, brushes, eyeliner, shoes, dresses, laughs, hollers, giggles, gossip—all in the same bathroom at the same time getting ready for a big event. If that’s not fun, what is?

**She gets to learn.** The classroom stuff, to be sure. Our quiet time, study space and academic standards all help in that department. But members also learn from one another. When living with women from different backgrounds—with varied skills and pursuing multiple interests and wide-ranging careers—members are bound to be exposed each and every day to new ideas and amazing possibilities.

**She gets freedom... and responsibility.** In college, there are no parents planning things, picking up or covering for their daughter. She’s on her own—running a house, helping plan meals, working out conflicts, supporting one another, organizing activities, getting involved in her campus and community and more!

**She gets company.** While some houses have a few single rooms, a member’s far more likely to have a roommate. And hey, that’s a good thing. College is a big adjustment; she doesn’t want to deal with it all alone!

**Meals are prepared for her.** Members living in and out of the chapter house may sign up for meal plans. Whenever possible, they take into consideration the meat eaters, the vegans, the vegetarians, the wheat allergy-sufferers, the lactose intolerant, etc. Our meal programs may include salad bars, buffets, sit-downs, stand-ups and other options.

**She gets protection.** Again, provisions vary from house to house. But in choosing such things as sprinkler systems, locks, lighting, smoke-free environments, mechanical reviews, health inspections and more, our housing professionals always seek to provide a safe environment.
Working for sisters: Alumnae advisory boards

While our collegiate chapters are governed by collegians, members don’t have to go it alone. There’s lots of history behind what they’re doing, plenty of best practices to guide them along the way—and alumnae volunteers to serve as mentors.

In all likelihood, the volunteers you’ll see most are a member’s chapter alumnae advisory board.

This group, dedicated to the chapter, provides guidance to members in specific areas such as education, financial management, recruitment and risk management. Advisors often become mentors and friends to their collegiate sisters.

Depending on the chapter’s housing situation, sisters also may see alumnae who are part of a local house corporation or property management team. These women take great pride in the facility and look out for the chapter’s best interest in maintaining a safe and comfortable living environment.
Will she be Life Loyal?

Life Loyal Alpha Chi Omega is for alumnae and collegians of all ages who choose to support Alpha Chi Omega and be engaged and informed at the highest level. It’s also for those who want better services for themselves and all of our collegiate and alumnae members.

Once a sister becomes an alumna, she’ll no longer receive *The Lyre* magazine unless she subscribes annually or becomes a Life Loyal Alpha Chi Omega member.

We hope she’ll consider becoming a Life Loyal member before she graduates. But we understand if she waits until graduation. We welcome Life Loyals at any time.

Megan Goelzer

Going through recruitment at Indiana University, Megan Goelzer had the full support of her father, Greg. Although he was a member of Sigma Chi at IU, he knew nothing about the sorority recruitment process or the individual sororities she would be visiting. But as a single father (Megan’s mother passed away when she was five), he knew he would learn quickly and support Megan through her journey.

Megan became a member of Alpha Chi Omega in 2010, and in 2012, Greg took his support a step further and gifted Megan with a Life Loyal membership. “My father purchased my Life Loyal Alpha Chi Omega membership both to honor my graduation and to show his support for Alpha Chi Omega and the betterment of future real, strong women,” Megan said.

Alpha Chi Omega was a big part of Megan’s life as a collegian, and she is anxious to continue her involvement as an alumna. “I would not be the person I am today without Alpha Chi Omega. I plan to stay involved as an alumna and help preserve what I loved so much about being an Alpha Chi Omega,” Megan said.

Megan Goelzer is a real, strong woman—an Alpha Chi Omega.
Yes, there is Alpha Chi life after college!

“I am an Alpha Chi Omega!” We know this will be stated with pride throughout a sister’s collegiate experience. But Alpha Chi is the gift of a lifetime, and once she graduates it still rings true: I am an Alpha Chi Omega!

After graduation, she will enter a new phase of life—one that comes with lots of changes. What’s been familiar—a college campus, life with sisters, crazy schedules—becomes a memory, a great one, but still a memory! Through these changes, she’ll still have a home in Alpha Chi Omega. Many sisters find their best lifelong friends in sisters they met as alumnae—someone who settled into life alongside them, someone who filled the void left after graduation. What’s the best way to stay connected? Here are a few suggestions:

• Update contact information regularly at alphachiomega.org.
• Get involved with an alumnae chapter. Check out the chapter locator on the website.
• Give to the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation.
• Network with sisters at local events such as Province State Days or national gatherings like Alpha Chi Omega convention.
• Become a Life Loyal Alpha Chi Omega!

Alpha Chi Omega is a volunteer-driven organization. As such, we need lots of real, strong women willing to give their time, talent and treasure. Opportunities are always available and can be found at alphachiomega.org. The first step to becoming a volunteer is to complete a volunteer interest form on the web site.

Volunteers will discover how easy it is to:

• Make connections, keep connections and initiate connections between sisters
• Make a difference in someone’s life and community
• Make the world a smaller place
• Promote all the great things about Alpha Chi Omega
• Broaden your experience and learn something new!