

WELCOME TO THE

# ΕΚΤ Alumni Newsletter

*we're so glad you're here!*

## ALUMNI INSTALLATION

### Welcome, New Members!



L to R: Alexis Sheets, Belinda Reynolds, Morgan Joyner, Katelyn Hussing, and Sophie Domanik.

On April 23, 2023, the Alumni Chapter of Epsilon Kappa Tau welcomed five new members into our ranks. Alumni Installation was held in the Philomathean Room on Otterbein's campus. The ceremony was followed by light refreshments and a celebratory dinner.

## STAY IN TOUCH!

RSVP FOR EVENTS, ASK  
QUESTIONS, AND MORE ON  
OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.EKTALUMNI.  
ORG](https://www.ektalumni.org)



MOVING? HAVE AN  
EXCITING LIFE UPDATE TO  
SHARE OR AN IDEA FOR AN  
ALUMNI ACTIVITY?  
REACH OUT AND LET US  
KNOW!

[EKTALUMNIWEB  
@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EKTALUMNIWEB@GMAIL.COM)



## Coming Up:

### **ZAFTIG BREWERY HAPPY HOUR JULY 14TH**

Join your fellow Arbutus siblings at the upcoming Otterbein alumni event, the Zaftig Brewery Happy Hour. Otterbein is hosting this event, including an optional beer tasting (\$15) and food truck at 7020 Huntley Rd # A, Worthington, on July 14th at 5:00pm. Michael Ruehrmund '03, Zaftig's Executive Vice President for Business Development, will lead the beer tasting. Participants will have the chance to vote for their favorite of the three beers and the winning beer will be served at OtterFest during Homecoming. If you plan on attending, please register on the EKT website, [www.ektalumni.org](http://www.ektalumni.org). Alumni Exec Board member Mary Vander Sluis is organizing this for us, so you can contact her at [mary.vandersluis@gmail.com](mailto:mary.vandersluis@gmail.com) with any questions.

This event was listed in a recent Otterbein alumni newsletter, and the school also requests registration to guarantee your spot in the tasting: [Zaftig Brewing Happy Hour & Beer Tasting! Our Beer Tasting event is back again this year! \(office.com\)](#)



# Updates from the Active Chapter

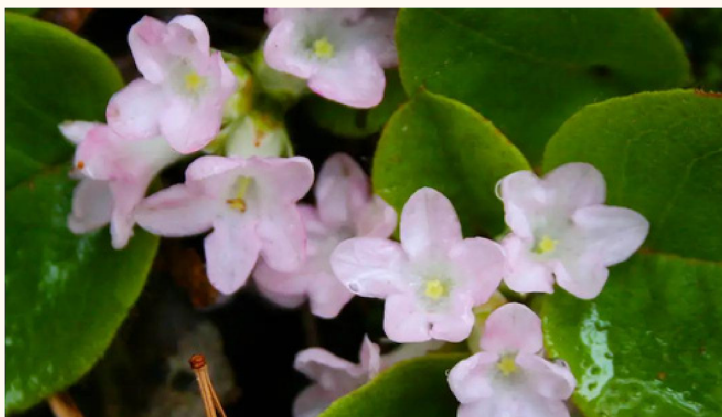


The active chapter released a newsletter in May of this year announcing that they had officially transitioned to a gender-neutral sorority. As the alumni chapter board we are committed to open communication between the active and alumni chapters and we want to make sure everyone feels safe and can get any questions answered.

A Power Point presentation has been created by an alumnus who was an active on the executive committee at the time of this decision, and we are including a few excerpts here:

## **What does being a gender neutral sorority mean?**

This transition means that Epsilon Kappa Tau is a sorority that accepts all individuals based on ideals, morals, and personality with gender identity not being a contributing factor for acceptance. For EKT, this inclusion widened our horizons. We were already a very open-minded and accepting chapter and did not turn people down because they didn't identify as cisgendered women. Everyone has always had a home in this chapter. Primarily, with this change we were targeting transgender, gender-queer, and nonbinary individuals. Essentially, Chad or Brad rushing Jonda were not also going to be rushing EKT. EKT has always been primarily female and I expect it to remain as such. But this change meant that we went a step further to ensure that this chapter was a safe space for all people regardless of pronouns or identity.



### **What did transitioning to a gender neutral sorority change?**

Gender neutral terminology in all official documents (constitution, insurance, etc). Transitions to more open terminology in key words (sisters to siblings, sisterhood into siblinghood, etc) . Extending the terminology changes to songs and chants. Opening up the recruitment process to individuals who didn't identify as cisgendered women. These transitions were ALREADY HAPPENING before we made the gender neutral change official. For years, we have been changing terminology in our documents and accepting others regardless of gender identity. This change began before I entered the chapter in 2019. The ONLY difference is that this year we made it official. Nothing about our values, ideals, or daily actions changed. We are still the same chapter with the same motto, philanthropy, and the same values.

You can read the newsletter and Power Point in their entirety in the Epsilon Kappa Tau Alumni Facebook group. If you are not already a member, you may request to join here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/11017699578/>

Please make sure you answer all questions when you ask to join! You may also ask questions via the website submission form.

***The EKT Alumni board stands in solidarity with the decisions of the Active Chapter to be an all-inclusive chapter. We also want to reaffirm that everyone who meets the requirements to join the alumni chapter is welcome in the alumni chapter. You are welcome and valued here.***



# Homecoming Events

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2023

Otterfest kicks off Friday, September 15th at 7pm with food, music, and a beer garden. Anyone interested in attending, meet at the house at 6:30pm and we'll go as a group!

Saturday:

Shantel Weinsheimer (class of 1999), is one of 3 recipients of the Otterbein Alumni Award being presented at the Celebration of Otterbein on 9/16 at 9:30am. Meet at the house at 9:00am and we'll walk to Riley Auditorium to cheer and support her!

Parade- 11:00am. Donuts and coffee will be available in the house beginning at 10:00am.



NEW EVENT!!!

We will be hosting a Silent Auction at Homecoming where proceeds will be distributed to the Active Chapter and our Scholarship funds.

Organize some of your classmates and donate items to be auctioned off and we'll see which class has the highest bidder!

If you would like to be a contact for your class or a group of classes, please contact Cindy Sievers at [crsievers89@gmail.com](mailto:crsievers89@gmail.com).



## Fun Fact:

EKT is the highest ranked sorority as far as total philanthropic support (lifetime giving, to date)  
\$4,884,554.54

Eta Phi Mu	\$1,776,602.80
Lambda Gamma Epsilon	\$5,223,077.39
Pi Beta Sigma	\$2,047,919.26
Pi Kappa Phi	\$4,670,812.63
Sigma Delta Phi	\$2,718,668.07
Zeta Phi	\$6,502,948.92

Epsilon Kappa Tau	\$4,884,554.54
Kappa Phi Omega	\$1,540,230.00
Sigma Alpha Tau	\$4,038,926.42
Tau Delta	\$1,866,618.74
Tau Epsilon Mu	\$2,248,800.23
Theta Nu	\$3,699,939.75

# Alumni Spotlight

Our most recent featured sibling for the alumni spotlight is Mary VanderSluis, our alumni chapter president-elect. Let's get to know her better!

## Fun facts about Mary:

Favorite beverage- wine

Favorite food- pizza

Favorite city- New York City

Favorite sports team(s)- Pittsburgh Steelers and the NY Yankees

Currently binge watching- Law and Order SVU is always a go-to

Favorite ice cream flavor- Cookies and Cream

First concert- The Goo Goo Dolls and Sugar Ray



### **Mary Vander Sluis**

President-Elect, Alumnae Chapter

Alumni Advisor to Active Chapter

Class of 2007

Mary is the current President-Elect of the Alumnae Chapter and also serves as an advisor to the Active Chapter.

She currently lives in Dublin, OH and is originally from Kingston, New York.

After Otterbein, Mary obtained her Masters in Social and Community Services and is currently an ELA middle school teacher for Educational Solutions.

## **What took you to Otterbein?**

I went to Otterbein because it was close to home and fell in love with the peaceful little village.

## **Were you involved with any other activities/groups while at Otterbein?**

Campus Programming Board, PanHellenic Council, and the literary magazine

## **Favorite EKT memory:**

Friendship Circles- They always helped us bond as sisters and share. I wish we had them as alumnae!

## **What is something people may not know about you?**

I have a tattoo of the New York City skyline.