

# Four Theta Phi Alpha Sisters Awarded the Guard of Honor

by Kristin Windeshausen Henkenius, Alpha Pi

A hush fell over the entire room as the Guard of Honor Ceremony began during the Fraternity Night banquet. Once again, it was time to honor Theta Phi Alpha's most dedicated sisters for their remarkable service over many years. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the four exemplary women who are the newest members of the Guard of Honor Circle.

## Karen Jenkins Rubican, Alpha Sigma

"A true champion for our collegians" were words used to describe Karen Jenkins Rubican, our 71st wearer of the Guard of Honor. Karen was initiated into Alpha Sigma Chapter in 1991. She has fond memories of living in the chapter house, song nights and pomping for Homecoming.

Her 14 years of national service have all been directed primarily toward our chapters – Chapter Governor for Alpha Chi, Conference Director, Conference Administrator, and serving on the Grand Council as National First Vice President (2001-2006). She is now serving as National Vice President-Programming (2006-present), a role which focuses on collegiate and alumnae programming. Karen was one of  $\Theta\Phi\text{A}$ 's first Conference Administrators and was able to help develop the role of that position.

Serving on the Grand Council has been an honor, Karen emphasizes. She values the enduring friendships she has developed while on the Council and she is happy to be able to give back to  $\Theta\Phi\text{A}$ . She looks forward to continuing to work with our volunteers to develop relevant and helpful materials for our collegians and alumnae. She is excited to be leading the History Project for our Centennial celebration.

Through Theta Phi Alpha, Karen has learned how to speak up for herself, gently confront, and work through a disagreement. These skills have helped her in her professional life to assess a situation and develop recommendations for positive change. Her background in psychology and counseling has been an asset in working through a variety of chapter issues over the years.

Karen is proud to have been involved in the development of educational and leadership materials that have strengthened

our chapters. She also hopes that she provides an example of balance – being able to stay engaged with her family, be career-oriented and still give a high level of support and commitment to the Fraternity.

Karen dreams for Theta Phi Alpha to have no financial worries, to own a National Headquarters, to be at a healthy size with healthy chapters, and that all Theta Phi Alphas are as involved and supportive as they are able to be. She advises sisters, "Listen to the words in Ritual, for they have the power to point you in the right direction if you are unsure where to turn." She believes we should strive to live the ideals of Theta Phi Alpha, knowing that it isn't always easy, but it is always right.

Receiving the Guard of Honor was overwhelming for her. "The colors of the room actually changed! I was listening closely as the names of the wearers of the Guard were called, and I was still reflecting on the gifts that each of those women has shared, as I was announced. To be in this company is humbling, indeed."

Karen has worked in counseling and human services for 13 years, and is currently the Transitional College and Career Counseling Coordinator for Woodland Hills School District in Pennsylvania. She is married to her college sweetheart, Rick, whom she met while a pledge sister. Together they have two legacies, Meredith who is eight and Sarah who is five. Karen loves to read and scrapbook and collects copper.

## Dr. Mari Ann Callais, Alpha Beta

"What would our founders think of us today?" That is a question that is often heard from Mari Ann Callais, Ph.D., our 72nd wearer of the Guard of Honor. As a 1986 initiate of Alpha Beta Chapter, Mari Ann has many fond memories of formals and retreats with sisters. She remembers meeting the members of the Grand Council when she was a pledge sister. Today, she is honored to share the Guard of Honor with each of those women.

Mari Ann's national volunteer service has spanned 17 years and includes Chapter Governor for Beta Beta, Chairman of Alpha Beta's Board of Directors, President of the New Orleans Area Alumnae Association, Conference Director, Programming Chairman, Programming Director for Leadership Conference and National Convention, ten years on the National Panhellenic Conference delegation including



**Guard of Honor Wearers Present at National Convention**

*Top Row, L to R:* Donna Guerin, ΑΓ, Mary Lou Swartz, Σ, Katie Evans, ΑΝ, Becky McLaren, ΑΜ, Linda Barath, ΑΞ, Irene Caliendo, Κ

*Middle Row, L to R:* Leslie Trahant, ΑΒ, Kristin Henkenius, ΑΠΙ, Kathy Gaver, ΑΠΙ, Pat Marmaduke, Σ, Diane Stallmann, ΑΓ, Marie Sumara, ΑΙ, Pat Giallanza, Υ, Terry Kinch, ΑΕ

*Bottom Row, L to R:* Liz Eberhart, ΑΓ, Karen Rubican, ΑΣ, Mari Ann Callais, ΑΒ, Kathy Sullivan, ΑΓ, Karen Fisher, ΑΝ, Jean Cusack, Β, Ruth Thompson, Ε

serving as Theta Phi Alpha’s NPC delegate, and most recently, six years as National President.

Her most rewarding office was National President because it was such a great time of growing and maturing for the Fraternity and she feels privileged to have seen it firsthand. “I was able to work with such amazing women serving on Council who taught me a lot about myself and worked incredibly hard for the Fraternity. It was an honor to install chapters, initiate new sisters, spend time with collegians and alumnae, and represent the Fraternity to the outside world. It was just an amazing experience.”

Mari Ann has spent 21 years working in Greek Life and higher education and working with college students. Her work brought a unique perspective to our Fraternity that provided insight into our organization to help advance ΘΦΑ and our collegians. She hopes that we are always able to provide opportunities for young women.

Mari Ann dreams of a permanent place that Theta Phi Alpha can call home. Her next role in the Fraternity will be to help raise funds to allow us to accomplish goals we currently are not able to for financial reasons, as well as to purchase a new headquarters.

To Mari Ann, receiving the Guard was overwhelming and it means that she has a greater responsibility to the Fraternity than ever. “I think it says that I will continue to give back and to spread the good news of Theta Phi Alpha. I believe it holds me to the responsibility to support the Grand Council, to assist the National President, to pay my Alumnae Dues and to stay involved.”

She encourages sisters to step back every now and then and just think about what Theta Phi Alpha has given you – how much you have grown, the people ΘΦΑ has brought into your life, and the things you have been able to accomplish because of your experience in Theta Phi Alpha. Mari Ann credits earning her Ph.D. to the support of her sisters. To her, family means a lot of different people who have always been extremely supportive of her endeavors.

Mari Ann is the Senior Vice President for Marketing and Leasing for the Cottages Division for Capstone Development. She also represents CAMPUSPEAK through speaking on college campuses, primarily about ritual and values, and doing work with student organizations and orientations.

Many of us have been touched by her music at national events and college campus visits. Mari Ann enjoys playing the guitar, writing music, traveling wherever she can, and loves to garden and work in her yard.

**Kathleen Sullivan, Alpha Gamma**

Loyal. This is one of the words used to describe our 73rd wearer of the Guard of Honor. Kathleen “Kathy” Sullivan, a 1981 initiate of Alpha Gamma Chapter, was drawn to Theta Phi Alpha for the social outlet it provided at the commuter school she attended. A highlight of her collegiate experience was when 25 Alpha Gamma sisters were in attendance at the 1982 National Convention in New Orleans and received several awards, including the President’s Cup.

Kathy has served as a national officer for 20 years, including four years on the Grand Council as National First