Hello Chi Chapter Alumnae! My name is Katie Cohron and I will be the Alumnae Relations chair for this upcoming year. A bit about myself: I am a junior Accounting major here at Transy and last year I served as Chi Chapter’s treasurer. I am very involved on campus, as a member of the Transy Track and Field team and as a tutor in the library’s new peer tutoring program. I am very excited to be the liaison to the alumnae base and look forward to putting these newsletters together for you all. Similar to last year, articles from various Sisters will be included in the newsletter detailing activities that we as Chi Omegas are involved in on campus. I will also try to provide updates about various activities that the chapter is hosting on campus. With our new EC and CC, there are a lot of new and exciting changes taking place within Chi Chapter and one of those is our desire to have more contact with our wonderful alumnae base. As such, I will also include ways that you as alumnae can get involved in Chi Chapter again. Our marketing team is in the process of putting together Facebook photo albums of pictures of Sisters from years past. Email Alexa Quiroz at transychiomegamarketing@gmail.com if you have any pictures that you’d like to share!
Taking Involvement Off Campus

Although volleyball has been a part of my life for well over ten years, this semester I was given the opportunity to coach a team of my own. This experience is relatively new to me and has become challenging in ways I never expected. The team that I coach is made of the ten, twelve and thirteen year olds; all of which can be very sassy but very hard working. I was extremely nervous the first day of practice because I had never been the person in charge and was not necessarily great at teaching certain positions. This is where my sisters stepped in. Thankfully, two of them are coaches at the same club and play different positions than what I had played. Our teams scrimmage with each other and are able to break up into positional practices. Along with this, we feed off of each other on ideas of how to teach certain techniques and how to improve our practices over all.

Another fantastic sister, who played volleyball with me at Transy, gives her time to come teach the girls setting. I have never been a setter and would not know how to teach anything other than the basics. She taught three of my girls for two whole hours on the proper techniques for setting. It was amazing to see how much the girls improved during that short amount of time. Thanks to all of the help from my sisters in Chi Omega, we have successfully been able to help the girls improve immensely over the last month. They continue to improve every practice and enjoy getting the extra help.

-Lauren Ketron
Class of 2015

Leading the Student Body

Perhaps the greatest thing I’ve been lucky enough to be a part of in my first year of college, excluding Chi Omega, of course, is Transylvania’s Student Government Association. The mission of the TUSGA is to represent the student body in the decision-making processes of the University, to promote the general welfare and involvement of the student body and serve as a liaison between the student body and the Administration and Faculty of the University. After being convinced to run by a friend I can now proudly call my sister, and subsequently elected as a Senator by the student body (along with fellow Chi Omegas Lauren Gilbert, Jamie Vescio, Katie Tucker, Ashton Ogle, and Catherine Clark), I became the Senate’s PR chair and both began and became involved with various committees and projects going on within SGA.

My favorite project is ongoing and nameless - its goal is to track down and purchase student art fitting for the walls of student living spaces around campus in need of adornment, such as the lobbies of Forrer and Thompson, and hang up the art work until it can be replaced with another work of Student Art. The initial purchase idea turned into a close collaboration with the Transylvania Student Art League, which the SGA helped to host an art sale in December. SGA also passed a motion which allotted funding for the students to vote for and select one piece of student art work exhibited as a part if the Lexington Gallery Hop to be purchased and displayed along with other works selected by SGA. I am meeting this week with the President of the Student Art League to see new student art work and begin the process of another purchase, have been recently elected Secretary of Senate, and plan to (student body willing) be a part of Transy’s Student Government Association for the rest of my college days.

Chloe Hunt
Class of 2018
This past January was crunch time for most choir folks since we only had four weeks to rehearse for our annual Cabaret performance. This meant learning new music, choreography, and sound checks, which even called for some extra rehearsals. All in all it was a lot of fun to rehearse with the other choirs on campus as well as spending some quality time with my talented sisters. The show featured some solos from our very own Elle Woolery ’17, Justine Yentsch ’17, and myself as well as many acts with our other sisters Alli Duncan ’18, Stephanie Holstein ’16, and Cordelia Addington ’15. During meetings we announced the Cabaret rehearsals and I was personally very excited to see my sisters in the audience watching our performance, which we had worked so hard on. I am once again thankful for all the support and encouragement from my sisters, as well as the sisters who endured the extra time and effort with me.

Selena Quintanilla
Class of 2017

This past semester I was privileged enough to study abroad in China and it was an experience I will never forget. From my first day there, I could feel my perceptions about the world changing and expanding. Sure, the food was an adjustment (and no, I do not like tofu), but the social norms and everyday lifestyles that I encountered were completely different from what I was used to in Lexington. Although I had a wonderful time and a great experience with my host family, my experiences generally speaking made me feel sympathetic towards the problems that this region is facing. Environmental destruction, discrimination, and sexism certainly stood out to me while I was abroad.

With my eyes opened to the huge issues plaguing China, my goals for the kind of work I want to be involved in after college was narrowed significantly. My experience in South East Asia helped me connect with national and local non-profits such as WWF Greater Mekong, Earthrights International, FishBio, Nagahouse, and many more. These organizations work to give a voice to those who don’t have one, people and animals/the environment alike. Despite the struggles I witnessed between the stoic temples and rolling mountains of Asia, I found outlets for solutions and progress in the region. My journey also opened my eyes to the fact that these are issues faced by people around the world, maybe just masked a little better elsewhere.

I think my involvement in Chi Omega encourages me to see the beauty potential in everything. My chapter gives me the support to travel and take risk, make mistakes; the strength to know what is immoral; the hope for solutions and progress. Those who reached out to me made such a difference in my days abroad, but the distance was beautiful. This distance showcased my grown and independence over the years in Chi Omega and the love I felt from the chapter stayed with me in China and will stay with me forever.

Chi Omega Goes to China

Sister Holstein ’16 poses at Tiger Leaping Gorge in the Yunnan Provence in southwestern China.
When I came to college, I remember feeling relieved that I would no longer have to endlessly answer the question asked by friends and strangers alike, “Where are you going to go to college?” Little did I know that being a college student would bring on a whole new set of — perhaps even more stressful — questions, including, “What are you going to major in?” and “What are you planning on doing after college?” I am happy to say that, as a second semester junior, I have the major part decided. However, when I inform people of my decision to major in Sociology/Anthropology and German Studies, they seem extra skeptical when asking the obvious, “What are you going to do with that?” To be honest, I’ve been a little skeptical myself about what my life will entail after graduation next year. Through Chi Omega, however, I have developed the confidence to go after even the loftiest of goals and to have less fear for the future, and these qualities have already presented some amazing opportunities. I believe that through this sisterhood, I have found a support system that helps me stay true to my values and go after what I want.

My favorite section of the symphony is, “...To work earnestly, to speak kindly, to act sincerely...” These are some of the ideals that I have held most dear during my time in college, and I can see them carrying me to success in the future. Naturally, hard work is essential. I work hard in my classes and leadership positions and am continually pushed by my sisters to work harder and be my best self in all facets of life. Through having sisters, I have also learned the importance of being unconditionally kind to others. That has gotten me so much farther in so many ways than being abrasive or standoffish. Lastly, the women of Chi Omega have helped me learn the importance of being genuine. Job interviews and networking are so much easier when I can fully “act sincerely,” knowing that I am putting the same version of myself forward in the interview as I am while spending time with my sisters.

I truly feel that Chi Omega and the values it has imparted on me will continue to guide me into the big, frightening, post-college world. We are always told that sisterhood is for a lifetime, and it is nice to feel that that will actually ring true. While the next year or so may be more stressful for my pledge class than any we have faced thus far, I am confident that we will be able to lean on each other — and swear off asking what everyone is doing after college, at least for a while. I look forward to standing next to my sisters as we open graduate school acceptance letters, sending sisters off to exciting new jobs with sweet going-away parties, and catching up as often as possible from wherever we all may be. Chi Omega, yours forever.

-Kaitlyn Hill
Class of 2016