

## **What LKS and the Educational Trust Means to Me**

By Jillian Dempsey

In Lambda Kappa Sigma, I have discovered a unique loyalty embedded in sisterhood and feel privileged in the unending opportunities I have had to both contribute and benefit from this fraternity's robust principles and values. We are an entity that embraces uniqueness and individuality, while fostering intellectual and professional growth in each other. As sisters, we uphold great strength in our togetherness, and as President of Alpha Chapter during the planning period for our Centennial celebration last year, I had a first-hand view of the potential we have to do great things in our sisterhood. I think it is safe to say that we are all stronger and better women because of what we are a part of. I know that I am a better person, a better friend and a better professional as a result of the confidence, safety, faith and commitment I found within LKS.

As a professional organization, our integrity is preserved not only by the leadership and guidance of chapter officers but by the dedication and participation of every single sister of Lambda Kappa Sigma. I have grown immensely as a result of my yearly participation as an officer, and ultimately as president during a monumental period of our fraternity's history. I believe we all have a duty to uphold certain established standards, but just as importantly, I feel we also have a responsibility to reach our individual potential in stepping beyond the standard. We owe it to ourselves, our peers, our community and our profession to learn, to contribute and to lead when we can, all in a quest to be the best professional we can be. LKS has taught me so much and has provided me with the greatest of opportunities for learning and leading. I hope to always grow in leadership contribution, and I see LKS as the cornerstone in my leadership drive and development.

Although defined by professionalism, LKS is an entity supported by compassion and surrounded by love. I am so fortunate for the lifetime friendships that we have in each other. My LKS sisters are my family away from home, and I can honestly say they have been my shoulder to cry on and my reminder to always love and support the people closest to me. The principles of the Fraternity hold special meaning for all of us as sisters of Lambda Kappa Sigma. Through loyalty, we can continue to love each other, help each other and together make a difference in our lives and in our profession. It is true what they say, "From the outside looking in you can't understand it, and from the inside looking out you can't explain it". I will forever be a lamb for life.

Receiving the Marilyn & Joe E. Haberle Educational Grant was a tremendous honor, and I was overwhelmed with happiness and gratitude in accepting it. With a maximized work and educational schedule, I was appreciative and thankful for the opportunity to receive this grant for financial support through the Educational Trust Fund. Scholarship contributions from people like Marilyn and Joe are truly a blessing for students like myself. The support from and for our sisters is just another measure of our strength and greatness. LKS will forever remain close to my heart, and I hope to one day give back in the same manner as those who have given so graciously in past years. It is true: you make a living by what you make but a life

by what you give.

The things I have learned and experienced through LKS are the qualities and skills that will serve me well as both a learner and contributor in the residency experience I pursue. Following the completion of a PGY1 residency, I plan to pursue a PGY2 program specializing in either cardiology or critical care, with the eventual goal of becoming a clinical specialist in a tertiary academic medical center. Academic associate professorship is also of interest to me, once I am established in the pharmacy profession

Lambda Kappa Sigma has changed my life, surrounding me with the tremendous love, compassion and collaborative energy of the sisters of this fraternity. I am lucky to have experienced this deep-rooted pride not only at the level of Alpha Chapter, but also at Convention each summer as all collegiate and alumni members unite for a grander celebration of sisterhood. Long after finishing pharmacy school, I will carry with me our core values, lessons learned, memories made and the friendships that have molded me into a young professional. LKS has been the foundation of my professional growth in the pharmacy field and has provided me unending internship, learning and service experiences that have been advantageous to me since initiation. My fraternal relationships have been extremely valuable on both personal and professional levels, and as I move on to residency and post-graduate study, I take with me confidence, spirit and an outstanding network of friends and professional associates. For all that LKS is to me, I am forever grateful.