

November 2012 KEYnotes

FAITH * TRUST * FORTITUDE * WISDOM



✧ A note from the Secretary ✧

2011-2013 National Officers were elected at the 2011 National Conference in Tempe, Arizona. Each KeyNote, they will focus on one of our Cardinal Virtues.

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#cklove

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Happy November Cardinal Keys!

By now, midterms are in the rear view mirror and Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Where have the last three months gone?

I am currently in my senior year at Truman State and trying to make the most of every moment that I have left in college. I was blessed to be offered my dream job for after graduation within the first week of school starting which has allowed me to focus my time on other things such as CK!



Recently, I have given a lot of thought to what I will leave behind in Kirksville, MO after I have my degree. I like to think that I have been a good peer mentor to younger students, especially in the school of business, but I wondered if I was making a memorable impact on others. I decided that I wanted to make

community service a more regular part of my daily schedule and so I offered to do some simple accounting work at our local United Way chapter. From

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Chapter Highlight

**Baker University
Baldwin City, Kansas**

23 members
co-ed

Major Chapter Activities: "Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week" each fall which includes a fundraiser called The Empty Bowl Project. All funds raised during that week go to the Baldwin City Food Pantry. In the spring, they also sponsor the annual King and Queen of Courts fundraiser which raised \$600 for JDRF!

Recruitment: They seek well-rounded candidates who display academic performance, leadership roles, & participation in community service. Candidates must submit a letter of recommendation with their application. Members rank candidates anonymously on a point scale to keep judging as fair as possible.

Southeastern Oklahoma
State University
serving at the May
2012 Graduation.



Celebrating our Virtues: Fortitude

Fortitude is the guard and support of the other virtues.

~ John Locke

During recruitment for Cardinal Key at Truman State, one of the questions that Cardinal Keys often ask a candidate is “Which of the four virtues is most important to you and why?” By far the least popular answer is fortitude. Recently, I spent some time thinking about this virtue and if fortitude really is less important than the other virtues or if it is just that many people do not understand its true definition. As I researched it more and put some thought behind this question, I realized that the idea of fortitude can be very intimidating and we often take it for granted. If you are typing in Microsoft Office Word (as I am while I write this), then the synonyms that come up for fortitude are strength, courage, resilience, guts, staying power, grit, stamina and determination. When I think of the other three virtues, faith, trust and wisdom, I think that they are all made possible through fortitude. A person must have strength and staying power in order to live out each of our other virtues. It is one thing to have faith, but another to have the courage to talk about it with others. It is one thing to say you have trust, but it is another to have the resilience to not give up on those who break our trust. It is one thing to have wisdom, but another to have the guts to challenge ourselves to learn more. To me, fortitude is the depth behind each of our other virtues.



I challenge each of you to think about fortitude and how your Cardinal Key chapter displays this virtue. Try to use this school year to strengthen your chapter, to build a stronger relationship with the other members or to show more leadership in your community because “Patience and fortitude conquer all things.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Whether your chapter is struggling and needs help, or you have successful ideas to share, we’d love to hear from you! Email us (nationalcardinalkey@gmail.com), or [tell us on facebook!](#)



National Officers

Kirsten Vollmer, Secretary; Rachel Marx, President;
Libby Hurley, Vice President; Kenneth Brenneman, Parliamentarian

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volunteering about eight hours a week, I discovered a need for more students to help United Way in their donation campaign and decided to try to start a United Way organization on campus. I am so excited to see where this idea goes and to possibly make a lasting impact on the community! I encourage CKs everywhere to find a way to share your love for service with those around you. :)



In August I made it one of my goals for this school year to try to make to most of my time in Cardinal Key and to build even stronger ties to my sisters through service. I was not sure what this would look like exactly, but it has been an adventure watching it unfold. I have had an awesome opportunity to live with five other CKs which has been a lot of fun. Being surrounded by such inspiring and talented girls on a regular basis has been a true gift. I also had the chance to serve as both the



Co-Homecoming Chair (shout out to Lauren Chapman!) for my chapter and as the Homecoming Court representative for Cardinal Key! It was an amazing experience getting to represent an organization that means so much to me.

I know when I look back years from now that CK will be one of my greatest college memories both at the chapter level and national level. I am already counting down the days to the next National Conference! Hope to see you all there!

CK love, Kirsten

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