

Alpha Chapter of Clovia Alum Activities
2013 – 2014
Presented at the National Association of Clovia
National Meeting, April 5, 2014

Much has happened this past year in which we can take pride as Clovia Alums. A highlight of the year was the successful fundraising effort that allowed for the remodeling of the original kitchen over the summer. \$660,000 was raised for the Growing Kansas Leaders-Clovia Fundraising Campaign which allowed for remodeling the bathrooms and kitchen. \$235,677 was for the kitchen. The campaign was completed December 31, 2013. The donors will be recognized in conjunction with the Senior Celebration on April 26, and also at the Annual Friend of 4-H Day held at Rock Springs 4-H Camp in June. The dining room floor was also refinished this summer. Work on the heating and cooling in the study rooms will be the next thing to work on in the house. Fundraising will continue with a goal to build a fund for future projects.

Alums prepared a Wednesday night dinner for the girls on April 24, 2013 which brought back many fond memories of kitchen duties and as a way to say farewell to the old, original kitchen. Alums once again gathered to prepare a Wednesday night dinner on September 25, 2013 in a beautiful, modern, and very efficient remodeled kitchen complete with new appliances.

The ground was broken for our present house in the spring of 1967, when the hard work of Clovia's alumni and the Kansas 4-H Foundation started to pay off. The Kansas 4-H Foundation constructed our house as one of its projects to promote and support Kansas 4-H programs.

We are proud of an amazing past and look toward a promising future as a home away from home for former 4-H girls attending Kansas State University. Clovia has a rich heritage of members who have accomplished much as leaders in their chosen fields, and for creating bonds of life-long friendships. We are especially proud of the beautiful house in which the girls can live very economically when compared to other housing.

A standing house improvement committee continues to oversee future maintenance and improvement projects for the house. The committee consists of representatives from the Kansas 4-H Foundation, Alums and Active members. Maintenance and improvement projects are prioritized.

On April 27th, 2013, eleven were initiated and welcomed into the Clovia Alumni Association at the Senior Event hosted by the Clovia Alums at the Columbian Theatre in Wamego. The event replaced Senior Breakfast in an attempt to make the scheduling more convenient for the girls to attend. It was a fun and meaningful event complete with great food and a fun Clovia Trivia Jeopardy game.

We were saddened by the passing of two founding Clovia Sisters this past year. Wilma Cook Creed passed away in May and several Clovia Sisters gathered at her Celebration of Life Dance to sing "Remember" on June 23rd in Russell, Kansas, changing the lyrics to "We'll be together again someday". Jessie Dean Thackery passed away in September.

The Clovia Alums once again provided assistance during move-in day. The alums had the opportunity to meet the girls and their families and provided refreshments to all participating. The alums gave gifts to the 60 girls living in the house as a welcoming gesture.

For a fifth year, an August, 2013, highlight was hosting dinner with Clovia house officers during move-in activities. Board members attended and enjoyed getting to know the officers for the 2013-2014 school year.

Alums assisted the alum advisors by sponsoring snack breaks during finals week each semester. The alums provided fruit pizzas for the spring semester final-week study break, and last December the girls were treated with cookies they got to decorate themselves. All participating enjoyed a good time.

There are currently 818 members on the alum list who receive the yearly letter, which is mailed by a former alum board member and her special education students after it is written and edited by another Clovia alum. Much work goes into keeping all addresses up to date so that we can have an accurate and complete mailing list to communicate news and request support from all members. We have 129 members paying \$25.00 sponsorships this year. New alums are offered a discounted rate of \$10.00 for the first 5 years.

Parent/alum relations continue to be a priority. An alum board member has met with the Clovia Parents' Association Officers and attended the Clovia Parent Club Fall and spring meetings.

The annual homecoming meeting was held Oct. 5, 2013, with 15 members attending. An open house was held in conjunction with the day's activities to showcase the recently remodeled kitchen.

The alums hosted the annual Scholarship Dinner on Jan. 26, 2014. Forty-six girls qualified to attend by achieving a 3.3 or higher GPA in either or both the spring and fall, 2013 semesters. We are proud of the high academic achievements of the girls.

For a fifth year, the alum board organized a new officer orientation/training, which was held February 23rd. Alum board members volunteered to work with officers and mentor them throughout their terms of office. Pizza and ice cream was provided. Nancy Rezac, alum board member, developed a fun and interesting program which offered practical information relating to conflict management for the officers. We are fortunate to have extra talented alums who know how to present the information in a clever and fun manner.

As you can see, it has been a full year of activities. We are blessed with a dedicated alumni board that brings many special talents and gifts to achieve our objectives. Through the support of alumni, who share a passion for Clovia and its mission, much has been accomplished to carry the Clovia tradition onward. On behalf of the Alpha Alumni, I would like to thank each of you for being a part of our special sisterhood.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ann Sparke
Alpha of Clovia Alumni Board President