

## GCP 2019-2020 Officer Election Biography

Name: **Blanca Canales**

Chapter of Initiation: **Epsilon Kappa**

Date of Initiation (MM/YY) and Date of Graduation/Anticipated Date of Graduation (MM/YY): **Initiated 03/17; Graduating 05/20**

What position(s) are you running for? **Chaplain**

Please list relevant Kappa Psi experience: (for an office or committee chair, please briefly describe what you did. If you were a member of a committee, please briefly describe what your role was in the committee) **Epsilon Kappa Chaplain for the 2017-2018 academic year. As Chaplain, I had the opportunity to educate myself and my chapter on the strong traditions of Kappa Psi. I made sure to include a lesson regarding our bylaws, our history, and our current active brothers during every meeting. I decided to create several fun ways to prepare our chapter for every ritual, such as holding a ritual workshop in which I explained the meaning behind every word and action completed during ceremonies. Gaining this deeper understanding for all the rituals helped me grow closer to this organization. My experience as Chaplain helped me grow as a leader and as a brother. My main focus became helping other brothers with both personal and professional goals and making sure that our chapter was providing all the tools necessary to reach them. I currently serve as Epsilon Kappa's Vice Regent and have continued to uphold the same goal of providing all brothers with personal and professional help. I have created an open channel of communication among brothers and executive team and chairs. I have actively participated in planning the current Winter Assembly and aided the Winter Assembly Committee in making decisions involved in today's meeting. My main goal this year has been to uphold the 4 pillars of our fraternity and make sure my chapter meets those standards.**

In the last three years, what Kappa Psi events have you attended? (Please do not list individual chapter events. Examples include: GCC, Province Assemblies, Chapter Charterings, Special Anniversaries, etc.) **I have not attended these events.**

In the last three years, what workshops or special presentations have you completed for brothers? **I completed a Ritual workshop for my chapter in which I gave extensive information about bylaws, current active brothers (so we could all get to know each other better and grow closer), and all meanings behind rituals (pinning ceremony, initiation ritual, and graduation ritual).**

If elected, what would be your plans for that office? (If running for more than one office, please give us your plans for each office). **If elected, I would love to expand the role of Chaplain for each chapter. Having been a Chaplain myself, made me realize the value of the role. The knowledge that each Chaplain holds is very substantial and important in creating a close-knit fraternity. Once I understood the deep meaning behind our roots and traditions, I felt closer than ever to this fraternity. My goal will be to create this same feeling among Gulf Coast Chaplains, so that they may create a ripple effect in their respective chapters. I would like each chapter to require a Ritual Workshop meeting per semester and also require at least one professional meeting, such as assembly, during each brother's time in the fraternity. I believe that doing so will help each brother feel the importance and**

**magnitude that Kappa Psi has in our profession. In order to do this, I plan on providing each Chaplain with a detailed plan on how to conduct Ritual Workshops, attend Ritual Workshops, and also actual Rituals for each chapter.**

If elected what would be your vision for the fraternity over the next two years?

**My vision for this fraternity is to expand our numbers, continue opening new chapters, and making sure our traditions and rituals are passed down for generations to come. I believe our brothers have many talents to offer and can change our profession for the better. I believe it all begins in how we run our chapters.**

Why did you decided to become a candidate for your future office and why you are the best brother for the office(s)?

**I decided to run for this position after I felt that I had made an impact in my chapter during my time as Chaplain and Vice Regent. I felt as if I gave my chapter good direction and they believed in me and the goals I set for everyone. Now, I am ready to make the same impact at the province level. Every day that I participate in this fraternity's functions, I feel as if I grow closer to it and want to thrive in it. I am proud to have grown as a professional and a leader in this fraternity and I am ready to show my gratitude by serving as the Province's Chaplain and providing every chapter with the necessary tools to succeed.**

What do you feel has been your greatest accomplishment as a Brother of Kappa Psi, a member of a committee, or leader?

**My greatest accomplishment was passing on the knowledge of rituals and traditions to my chapter. This helped create a feeling of cohesion and trust within my chapter. I felt that we grew together and were all ready to uphold each other to our four pillars. After completing my last ritual as Chaplain, I felt that our chapter was closer than ever and that I had made lifelong bonds with every member of my chapter.**

What goals and objectives do you envision yourself accomplishing as <insert position> over the next year?

**I have already begun planning a detailed Ritual Workshop that I would like to provide each Chaplain with. I want every Ritual across the province to be held as uniform as possible and make sure the role of Chaplain remains vital in each chapter. I want every brother to feel as though they can reach out to their Chaplain for any and all issues they may have throughout the year. I also plan on making some visits to chapters to aid them in any way possible.**

What is something new you would like to accomplish as <insert position> over the next year?

**I would like to implement a way of evaluating each chapter's preparedness for Rituals, such as a survey, in which I would ask each chapter to provide a summary of how their rituals are held. I believe implementing this will give me a better idea of which areas the chapter needs help in when it comes to ritual.**

If your position oversees a committee(s), how will you incorporate members of your committee throughout the year?

**I believe committee members are very vital in the process of planning rituals and events for each chapter. I plan on reaching out to each committee and asking for quarterly updates on what the chapter has planned for events.**

What is one weakness at a collegiate, graduate, and/or province level of the Gulf Coast Province and how do you plan to improve this weakness via your position as <insert position>?

**I feel as though each Chapter runs their rituals somewhat differently. I understand this occurs due to resources, facilities, and number of brothers in each chapter. However, I plan to encourage each Chaplain to push for fundraisers so that each chapter may purchase all the tools and regalia necessary to conduct proper rituals. This will help us feel more connected as a province and promote brotherhood from chapter to chapter. I also plan on promoting communication among neighboring chapters so that all brothers may see the impact that Kappa Psi is able to have on a national level.**

If not elected to position X by your fellow Brothers, how will you serve Kappa Psi at a collegiate, province, or graduate level over the next year?

**If not elected, I would still like to be very active in my chapter during my P4 year. We have seen several P4 brothers till return to our chapter and actively participate in every event. This has inspired other brothers to partake in this active participation and enjoy hat our chapter has to offer. I also plan on being as helpful as possible to next year's Executive and Chair Team so that my chapter continues to be successful and strong.**

