

The Arrow

OF PI BETA PHI • WINTER 2020

the
POWER of
Sincere **FRIENDSHIP**



ALSO INSIDE
Putting Our Values into Practice
Sincere Friendship Across the Miles



OF PI BETA PHI • WINTER 2020

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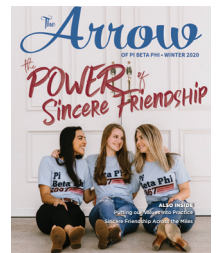
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ON THE COVER

Friendship is a powerful force that can evoke joy, mend pains and inspire us to reach for our full potential. Beyond the bonds of friendship is a loftier goal: Sincere Friendship. These bonds are lifelong, steadfast and true. This issue of *The Arrow*® is dedicated to exploring and affirming some of the many sincere friendships in Pi Beta Phi.

From left: Leadership Development Consultants **DIVYA DESAI**, Alabama Alpha, **OLIVIA KENNEDY**, Michigan Gamma and **CASEY GARGANO**, Connecticut Alpha



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EDITOR'S NOTE

On the cover of the 2019 Fall *Arrow*, from left: **LINDA HARRIS GIBBONS**, Texas Beta and **CARA GRAVELY FRENCH**, Texas Alpha.

FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

Fran DeSimone Becque, Carla Hashley, Cary Krumdieck, Lauren LaMontagne and Jenny Sullivan



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SUBMISSIONS

All Pi Phis are encouraged to submit news and stories to *The Arrow*. Articles may be sent by email to thearrow@pibetaphi.org or by mail to *The Arrow*, 1154 Town & Country Commons Dr., Town & Country, Missouri 63017. Visit pibetaphi.org/thearrow for submission and photography guidelines.

All photos and written submissions become the property of Pi Beta Phi, and are subject to editing for content, grammar and space constraints, and may be used for other educational or marketing purposes by the Fraternity. We cannot guarantee the publication of any submission.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Fall — August 1 Spring — February 1
Winter — November 1 Summer — May 1

ADDRESS/NAME CHANGES

Please direct any address or name changes by email to thearrow@pibetaphi.org or by mail to *The Arrow*, 1154 Town & Country Commons Dr., Town & Country, Missouri 63017. You may also call Pi Beta Phi Headquarters at (636) 256-0680 or update your profile at pibetaphi.org/updatesmyprofile.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE ARROW

To receive four hard copies of *The Arrow*, pay your \$35 annual alumna dues to your local alumnae club or directly to Headquarters. Visit pibetaphi.org/dues or mail a check to Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, 1154 Town & Country Commons Dr., Town & Country, Missouri 63017.

Sincere Friendships: A Timeless Treasure



CAROLE JONES
National Panhellenic Conference
Chairman

Dear Pi Phi,

It's true what they taught us as little girls: friendships are like silver and gold.

I am blessed with abundant friendships, many of which I attribute to my involvement in the National Panhellenic Conference and my fraternity, Alpha Omicron Pi. My professional career in journalism afforded me some dear friends, and as most parents do, I picked up some great friendships raising my daughter. Additionally, I've held on to some incredible friendships from childhood. Of all of these, it's the sincere friendships that are most important to me.

Sincere friendships are different from the others — they are varsity-level friendships. Without my sincere friends, I'm not sure I could survive. These friends believe in me so that I can believe in myself. They care deeply, love hard and push harder. They are my energy boosts for life. My sincere friends have helped to foster my talents and personality and made me who I am.

In a time when friendships seem to be dictated by an online click that can as easily end with "unfriending," sincere friendships are more important than ever. Even with increased opportunity to connect to others, some are lonely. The world needs places and spaces to develop and nurture sincere friendships — that's why I promote the sorority experience.

Sincere friendship is the cornerstone of sorority membership. It's not a coincidence that for each of the 26 National Panhellenic Conference organizations — some founded more than 150 years ago — it was friendship that compelled the creation of the organization. Still today, sincere friendship remains our collective greatest attraction. The critical need for close, personal friendship cannot be negated.

I don't have to tell you the role Pi Beta Phi plays in the development of sincere friendships. I've seen Pi Phis in action, and I know you're empowered by the strength of unwavering support only a sincere friend can give. However, in providing the forward for this issue of *The Arrow*, I do want to encourage you to take full advantage of those friendships. May what follows on the next few pages inspire you to invest a little more, hug a little tighter or maybe pick up the phone for an overdue hello. As fraternity women, you and I have been given a gift — indeed as precious as silver and gold. ←

With Sincere Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole Jones".

Carole Jones

SHOW YOUR PI PHI PRIDE

Each year, thousands of women celebrate their sorority membership on NPC's International Badge Day. On Monday, March 2, 2020, wear your arrow badge or Pi Beta Phi Greek letters to let everyone know you're proud to be a sorority woman and a Pi Beta Phi. Don't forget to share your Pi Phi story — no matter how ordinary or extraordinary — using #BadgeDay20 on social media.



PI PHIS GATHER AT THE ASSOCIATION OF FRATERNITY/SORORITY ADVISORS ANNUAL MEETING

In December, members of the Pi Beta Phi Headquarters staff attended the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA) Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California. The meeting is an opportunity for campus-based staff, international staff and volunteers and industry vendors to share best practices, discuss new ideas and connect face-to-face.

Pi Beta Phi hosted a reception during the meeting and invited Pi Phi members, Fraternity and Sorority Advisors who work at universities with Pi Phi chapters and local Pi Phi International Officers. During the reception, updates on Pi Beta Phi were presented to the group, and there was plenty of time for catching up with old and new friends.

Congratulations to Wisconsin Delta **BROOKE GOODMAN** and Alabama Beta **JESSIE ASHTON**, who received the 2019 Gayle Webb New Professional Award from the AFA.

REGISTER NOW FOR PI BETA PHI LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The 2020 Pi Beta Phi Leadership Institute will be held July 8-12 on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis. At this three-day experience, Pi Phis will be encouraged to identify their talents and develop a personal plan so they can serve the world as confident women leaders, who contribute to making the impossible the inevitable.

Any Pi Phi collegian who wants to develop a strong inner voice and is prepared to take action, speak up and make a difference should attend Pi Beta Phi Leadership Institute. Not only will you make lifelong Pi Phi friends from across North America, but you will also challenge yourself, develop new skills and strengthen skills you already have. To learn more and to register, visit pibetaphi.org/leadershipinstitute.

SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE ARROW

We welcome all letters from *Arrow* readers! Tell us what you think about *The Arrow* or share what makes you Pi Phi Proud by sending an email to thearrow@pibetaphi.org. Submissions should include the writer's full name and chapter of initiation and may be edited for purposes of clarity and space. Your thoughts may be published in an upcoming issue!



From left, Texas Epsilon **PAULA PACE SHEPHERD**, Oklahoma Beta **MARY LOY TATUM**, Kentucky Beta **RAE WOHLHUETER MAIER**, California Eta **DIANE BIELMAN**, Illinois Beta-Delta **CARA BALLARD SUTCLIFFE** and Kansas Beta **CINDY RICE SVEC** gathered at Pi Beta Phi Elementary school for a reunion in the Gatlinburg area.

PI PHIS VISIT ARROWMONT

In October, past Grand Council Members gathered for a reunion in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. They reunited to celebrate the continued growth and success of Arrowmont, to see the development of the land Pi Phi previously owned and to tour the recovering landscape of the Gatlinburg forest fires in 2016.

Be sure to read the Q&A with Bill May, Executive Director of Arrowmont, in an upcoming issue of *The Arrow*.

END ALL HAZING ACT INTRODUCED IN THE U.S. SENATE

Pi Beta Phi, along with fraternity and sorority groups, as well as parents of children who died from acts of hazing, applauded the introduction of the Educational Notification and Disclosure of Actions risking Loss of Life by Hazing Act (END ALL Hazing Act) in the U.S. Senate by Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) and Bob Casey (D-PA).

The END ALL Hazing Act, which was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in June by Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) and Rep. G.T. Thompson (R-Pa), would require colleges and universities to post on their websites incidents of hazing that took place on campus or within a student organization. Providing this information would improve transparency and assist students in making the best choices for their futures.

“Hazing has no place in Pi Beta Phi. The safety and wellbeing of Pi Beta Phi members is a top priority for the Fraternity. We are pleased to see the introduction of the END ALL Hazing Act in the Senate, which is critical to address this issue,” said Grand President **MARLA NEELLY WULF**, Kansas Beta.

COLLEGE WEEKEND 2020

In January, more than 900 Pi Phi collegiate officers and Alumnae Advisory Committee members gathered at College Weekend for three days filled with robust educational programming, genuine connections and shared love for Pi Phi. Attendees learned about current initiatives and pressing issues, and practiced skills to best lead their chapters. Special emphasis was placed on the implementation of the new officer structure passed at Convention 2019. Read more about the experience at piphiblog.org.

JOIN PI BETA PHI FOR A RING CHING CHAT

Our inaugural Ring Ching Chat was a success, and we can't wait for the next one this spring. This virtual chat provides you with an opportunity to stay informed and build your Pi Phi Pride. To learn more and register for this free, online event, visit pibetaphi.org/ringchingchat.

SAVE THE DATE FOR PI PHI GIVING DAY

Join sisters and friends around the world for the fifth annual Pi Phi Giving Day on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Celebrate Founders' Day by helping raise \$100,000 for the Friendship Fund. As a premier organization for women, we've worked hard to support and empower our sisters since 1867. Supporting Pi Phi through gifts to our Foundation is a tangible way to live the values at the core of our sisterhood. Giving on Pi Phi Giving Day, and any day, embodies Sincere Friendship in its truest form — sisters supporting sisters.

Visit piphigivingday.org after April 1 to give back — then invite sisters in your chapter, your alumnae club and your social networks to join you! We hope you'll add to the online celebration by sharing your favorite Pi Phi photos, memories and sisterhood stories on social media using #PiPhiGivingDay.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NPC CHAIRMAN

During the 2019 NPC Annual Educational Conference in October, NPC Chairman Carole Jones delivered the "State of the Conference" address. Carole said the National Panhellenic Conference today is the most strategic and purposeful version of the organization that has ever existed. "As a conference, we are positioned to act on our strategic plan in the months ahead, and we are equipped to be deliberate and intentional about how we chart a future for all sorority women," she said.

NPC's focus on the future of sorority is arguably the most important role and the most valuable contribution that can be made to the Panhellenic community. "By asking the right questions about our organizations, the environment we operate within and the nature of higher education today, the board can ensure we preserve valuable sorority experiences, while adapting and evolving to meet new needs," Carole continued. Read the complete message from the Chairman at pibetaphi.org/news.

APPLY TO HOST A 2021 FRATERNITY DAY OF SERVICE SIGNATURE EVENT

Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events are held in several major cities across North America every year. At each event, Pi Phi volunteers distribute 20,000 new, age-appropriate books to children in need and promote the importance of reading and literacy. Your chapter or club could make a huge impact on the lives of underserved children in your area by bringing a Signature Event to your city. To learn more and apply, visit pibetaphi.org/fraternitydayofservice after April 1. ◀



Director Alumnae **SUZANNE GILL KRIZ**, Illinois Eta, and Iowa Eta **MISSY REAMS** helped give 20,000 new books to children in need at the 2019 Indianapolis Signature Event.

What Happens Inside Matters Most

For generations of Pi Phis, the chapter has been the place where Sincere Friendships are born — and this tradition still holds true for our sisters today. Whether the seeds are planted within the walls of a chapter house or in the common area of a suite, or at a special meeting space on campus or at a favorite community gathering place, Sincere Friendships take root in the places our chapters call home. It's where Pi Phis learn to care for each other, pursue their academic goals, practice leadership skills and celebrate the ups and downs of life surrounded by women who share similar values and aspirations.

The chapter facility is also the setting for some of our most cherished Pi Phi memories. Do you remember staying up late to hear how a date went, or cramming for a final exam into the wee hours? What about standing at the front of the chapter room to present your best and brightest idea? Maybe you made a wish at a Cookie Shine or passed a candle to announce a sister's engagement. If you lived in a chapter house, do you remember running out the front door with open arms to welcome your newest sisters on Bid Day? Depending on when you were in school, you might have crowded in front of the mirror to set, tease, spray, crimp, straighten or curl your hair — likely while laughing with your best friends. And, on graduation day, you probably gathered on the lawn with your New Member class to snap one more photo together.

... BEING A MEMBER OF PI BETA PHI MEANS ALWAYS HAVING A PLACE TO CALL HOME. AFTER ALL, HOME IS WHERE YOUR SISTERS ARE.

Sincere Friendships cultivated in our chapters make Pi Phi facilities truly special places unlike any other on campus. Learning and growing together as sisters, especially within a Pi Phi facility, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build bonds that last forever. While we're proud of beautiful homes and suites and well-maintained properties, we know it's what happens inside those walls that matters most. We know sisterhood isn't defined by a location alone, but rather by our love and appreciation for one another. Whether a chapter has a live-in facility or a shared meeting space, being a member of Pi Beta Phi means always having a place to call home. After all, home is where your sisters are. ◀

“THE CHAPTER HOUSE IS THE SETTING FOR MY FONDEST COLLEGE MEMORIES. SOME OF MY GREATEST LESSONS WERE LEARNED INSIDE THE CHAPTER HOUSE. THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING WITH MY SISTERS, WHO SHARED MY VALUES, CONTRIBUTED TO MY SUCCESS.”

**- MARGY HARM MOORHEAD,
INDIANA GAMMA**



@BUTLERPIPHI

WHERE SINCERE FRIENDSHIPS ARE BUILT

"One of my fondest memories is when my Little Sister Margaret and I became a family. After Big Little Reveal was complete, our whole chapter came back to the house at 831 West Hampton for a celebratory Cookie Shine and to snap some photos together.

At the time, I did not realize the incredible relationship we would go on to form; years later, we remain as close as ever. We even served together on the Indiana Gamma AAC — giving back to the chapter and organization that gave so much to us. Not only did we get to spend more time together, but we got to do so at the home that means so much to both of us."

— **MARCI KOLB**, Indiana Gamma

"During my time as an Indiana Gamma collegian, I lived all over the house - from the cold dorms to the President's Suite! I loved opening the home to guests, like parents and professors, and inviting them to join us for meals in the house. When the chapter would burst into "Ring Ching," they always loved it!

I knew I would stay involved with Pi Phi again after I graduated. I was lucky to not only be able to serve my own chapter, but to do so alongside my best friend and Big Sister, Marci. It was such a joy to return to 831 West Hampton every month and spend time with the incredible collegiate women at the house that brought us together in the first place."

— **MARGARET GRIFFITHS**, Indiana Gamma



Above, from left: Marci and Margaret on the rock outside the Butler Pi Beta Phi house.

Share your story

What role did your Pi Phi chapter facility play in the development of your sincere friendships? What did you love most about living in a Pi Phi house or suite? What memories did you create in your chapter's gathering space? We want to share your story!

Send your stories and photos to thearrow@pibetaphi.org for a chance to be featured in an upcoming Pi Phi publication.

Texas Delta Nursing Students Pursue Their Passions

By Texas Delta **LAUREN LAMONTAGNE**, Former Vice President Communications



Competitive, passion-driven and highly renowned, Texas Christian University's (TCU) nursing program recognized its junior students with their white coats in Fall 2019. The White Coat Ceremony is a meaningful step in a nurse's career and a big honor. The Texas Delta chapter of Pi Phi is proud of its hardworking nursing students. Five members received their white coats and joined the seniors who received their white coats last year. As juniors and seniors, these nursing students dedicate significant amounts of time to their studies, and attend clinicals once a week to get hands-on experience in the field. Clinical experience will help them decide which field of nursing they will pursue.

Texas Delta's nursing majors are passionate about their studies, and their passion comes from many different backgrounds. Because of this, they were especially honored to receive their white coats. Junior **DARBY GALL** recalls what led her to pursue a nursing degree: "My grandmother motivated me to be a nurse! When she was fighting cancer, she always told me how her nurses made the biggest impact on her care. Her nurses made her visits to the hospital so much better and helped keep her spirits up. I want to be a nurse so I can help others the way my grandmother's nurses helped her."

Because the White Coat Ceremony symbolizes the next step in a student's journey to becoming a nurse, the event also represented the sisters' dedication to the practice and the beginning of their clinical learning. "We had worked

Top row, left to right: **JANE POWELL, GEORGIA GINN, LAUREN PITTS, MEGAN WHITE**

Bottom row, left to right: **KAYLA BUSTIOS, ALLY IKEYA, DARBY GALL, DELANEY HUGHES, KAYLEE WESTRA**

so hard for that moment," said past Chapter President **KAYLEE WESTRA**. "To share it with our family and friends in attendance, cheering us on, made it such a great experience. I got chills during the ceremony when we stood and took the nursing pledge together, along with the other nurses in the room. It made me realize how passionate I am about this practice and how excited I am to care for my patients."

The nursing pledge the sisters took embodied the responsibilities of being a nurse and represented a turning point in the students' lives. While TCU's Harris Nursing College is an arduous, grueling program, it is also rewarding, and this ceremony signifies such rewards. Texas Delta's senior nursing majors, having had lots of experience in their clinical work, say they feel as though their hard work is beginning to pay off.

Students also feel the TCU nursing program is unique because of the community and support system it provides. And, Texas Delta's deep presence in the nursing program also benefits the chapter's nursing students. "Pi Phi has supported me so much throughout nursing school by connecting me with older Texas Deltas who have thrived in Harris College," says senior **JANE POWELL**. ←

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Alpha, University of Arkansas

Every year, Arkansas Alpha organizes a 5k run to raise money for children's literacy. The event is extremely well known in Fayetteville: the streets are swarming with runners in white T-shirts, volunteers in Elmo costumes and dogs by their owners' sides. The event encourages people to come together with their loved ones, get some exercise and end the morning with a delicious brunch at the Pi Beta Phi house.

This past year, the race took place on September 21, with over 1,600 runners. **CAROLINE MCCARTY**, past Vice President of Philanthropy, worked with Sigma Nu Fraternity to set up the event. Pi Phi members took their place along the track to cheer on the runners. Caroline's leadership helped the chapter raise \$30,000 to support Read > Lead > Achieve® though gifts to The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation, as well as children's literacy efforts in the Fayetteville area.

When asked about the event, Caroline said, "My favorite part of the 5k is the unity it brings for our chapter and the rest of the community. This is an event that is known and loved in Fayetteville, and our members do not take it lightly. I love seeing everyone working so hard to put on this event for people who are so excited to participate!"

The 5k also reinforces the chapter's core values, particularly Philanthropic Service to Others. Caroline said it best: "This race is special to Pi Phi because we are really the only chapter on campus that puts on an event of this caliber. This is something in which we all take pride and being able to help Read > Lead > Achieve is just the cherry on top!"

CALIFORNIA

California Beta, University of California, Berkeley

This past fall, California Beta welcomed parents during homecoming weekend. It was an exciting time seeing parents from across the world come together for the love of Cal. Whether they were visiting lectures led by world-famous professors or watching the Bears take on Oregon State, it was heartwarming seeing students reunited with their families. Cal Beta had a few special events going on for this parents' weekend. **NIKITA BODDU** coordinated the festivities. She decorated the chapter house for the occasion, organized a tailgate on Saturday and a brunch on Sunday where all new big sisters presented their little sisters to the parents. Pi Phi had its own section at the football game where parents and their daughters could all mix and mingle as they cheered on the Bears.



California Beta **BIANCA BROCK** spent time with her parents during the chapter's family events at homecoming.

INDIANA

Indiana Epsilon, DePauw University

Members of the Indiana Epsilon Chapter participated in a Putnam County community block party celebrating the completion of the first Putnam County Mural Project. The project included creating one of Indiana's largest murals, located on the side of four silos at the intersection of Veterans Memorial Highway and Route 231 in Greencastle, Indiana. While the mural will serve as an enhancement to the otherwise bare silos, the goal of the project was to transform the community through this new symbolic landmark.

Indiana Epsilon alumna and current Alumnae Advisory Committee Chairman **ALEXANDRA CHAMBERLAIN** worked closely with the project herself. "This [project] has been a truly collaborative process," Alexandra expressed. "From its generation in a large community gathering to selecting an artist and funding this huge project, pockets of people from all across the county have given time, money, and most importantly, feedback and ideas as to how to make this project truly matter. That is what public art does best — it brings the community together to build something new with each other. And Indiana Epsilon Pi Phis had the chance to be a part of that process by partaking in community engagement and offering their

time during the block party to celebrate the completion of this momentous project in Indiana.”

With the help of Alexandra and former Vice President of Philanthropy, **ELIZABETH CULP**, members were able to personally experience the value of the project by painting pumpkins with kids and their families at the block party. While it was a change from the usual philanthropic events the chapter hosts, working directly with Greencastle children was rewarding for those involved. Indiana Epsilon is looking forward to watching how the mural benefits the community and is excited to continue to participate in similar community-based activities moving forward.

Indiana Zeta, Ball State University

On September 28, 2019, Indiana Zeta held its first “Angels in the Outfield” wiffleball tournament event. The chapter raised over half their fall fundraising goal at this event, making this their most successful event in 2019 and a true home run!

“This new philanthropy event means the world to me,” said former Vice President Philanthropy **SARA HANEY**. “I feel like it was a legacy to the chapter as my term came to an end. Seeing all of the girls get into the games and cheer for their sisters was such an amazing feeling.” Members from the Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity won the

overall tournament, and teams from numerous other campus organizations participated as well.

“A team-based philanthropy event was perfect for our chapter because our members want to give back to the community and they’re competitive,” said Sara. “Being able to combine those two aspects makes our philanthropy events some of the best events our chapter does.”

KANSAS

Kansas Beta, Kansas State University

On August 17, 2019, the Kansas Beta Chapter hosted their annual mock recruitment event with over 100 family, friends and alumnae attending. During the event, members practiced giving house tours to guests and sharing a little glimpse into the primary recruitment process at Kansas State. While this event serves as a good practice for members, it also gives them the opportunity to welcome their family and friends into their home and share a little about what makes Kansas Beta such a special chapter. Following the mock recruitment round, attendees celebrated the chapter’s 2018 Balfour Cup award.

The celebration began with video highlights from the 2019 Convention in Washington D.C., attended by chapter officers and advisors. The video featured the moment



Indiana Epsilons participated as volunteers at the Putnam County community block party to celebrate the completion of the first Putnam County Mural Project.

Kansas Beta was named the 2018 Balfour Cup Winner. **JUDY WELTSCH KLOTE** shared how the award is selected based on the annual chapter evaluation. Kansas Beta previously won the Balfour Cup in 1999 (and in 2000 and 2001, retiring the Balfour Cup in 2001) when **COLLEEN BOLIN HOCHBERG** was Chapter President. Colleen shared how the leadership and philanthropic values she learned from Pi Phi have carried throughout her life and career. Lastly, the group heard from **JULIANE FRANCIA**, who served as the 2018 Kansas Beta Chapter President. As a recent graduate, Juliane shared how proud she was to have helped earn this honor for Kansas Beta, but also encouraged the members to remain committed to Pi Phi's core values and dedicated to goals for the coming year.

This event was the perfect way to energize the chapter for primary recruitment and to celebrate their special sisterhood. The chapter was grateful to be able to share the day with family and friends.

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Alpha, Tulane University

Business is booming within the Louisiana Alpha Chapter at Tulane University. A total of 15 sisters are currently running their own small businesses on campus, making Pi Phi the leading house of young female entrepreneurs at Tulane University. Past Chapter President **ORLI COLE** founded a local tanning business catered to students in New Orleans. Orli recruited and trained additional team members and continues to run the successful business. **ANDIE REGAN** has had a passion for baking for as long as she can remember. Her love for the kitchen prompted her to start her own baking company, Andie's Eats, where she delivers custom-made birthday cakes to Tulane students. **JULIA GOLDSMITH** also has a love for baking and founded the Sweet Sisters Cookie Company. The creativity doesn't stop there — **GILLIAN HALPER** combined her passion for living a positive life with her love of beading when she started Mindful Beads in 2018. Gillian sells handcrafted necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and chains for sunglasses. **ISABEL (IZZY) BLEIER** started her own jewelry company, Frida's Beads, earlier this year. And finally, **GABRIELLA (GABI) MARCUS** is the founder and designer of Reform Denim. Gabi showcases her artistic ability in the hand painted vintage denim and leather clothing she sells. There are more women-run student organizations at Tulane now than ever before, and Pi Phis are eager to be at the forefront of the action.



Michigan Alpha alumna **ELISE FARLEY** addresses attendees at the chapter's Angel Memorial dedication ceremony over Homecoming weekend.

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Gamma, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The sisters of the Massachusetts Gamma Chapter love to support literacy, including STEM and computer literacy. Past Vice President Philanthropy **SARAH SPECTOR** adapted the Champions are Readers® (CAR) program this year to better align with the chapter's technical background specific to MIT. On Friday afternoons, members visited a local after-school program for low-income youth to run an introductory computer science workshop. A group of members led around 20 kids ages 9-13 through activities focused on the block-based programming language Scratch, teaching teamwork, communication and technical skills. Students had a blast coding their own fun, creative games in Scratch. The chapter hopes to inspire the youth to continue a lifetime of learning in STEM, the arts and other areas of literacy. Members who attend CAR always feel rejuvenated by hanging out with energetic kids after a long week of school and bring meaning to their studies through teaching!

MICHIGAN

Michigan Alpha, Hillsdale College

For Michigan Alpha, homecoming weekend this past fall was even more emotional and celebratory than usual. After almost two years of planning and construction, the Michigan Alpha Chapter held a dedication ceremony for its new Angel Memorial. The ceremony took place after a welcome brunch on September 21, 2019. Pi Phis who had graduated as many as forty years ago made their way up the sidewalk to the new memorial. Michigan Alpha's Past Vice President Finance, **KAITLYN ROWLAND**, started the ceremony by leading the group in prayer. Alumna **ELISE FARLEY** welcomed attendees and introduced **KAREN BOLL ROBIDEAU**, who inspired the Angel Memorial project efforts after the passing of her big sister. The Angel Memorial includes a terrace with a sitting area, an angel memorial statue and a brick walkway inscribed with the names of Michigan Alphas who have passed away.

MISSOURI

Missouri Alpha, University of Missouri

In a crowded room of over 200 people, 50 women gathered to cut a minimum of seven inches of their hair for Missouri Alpha's annual event, Haircuts for a Cause.

Missouri Alpha **MADISON MACKEY** holds her hair after **KAITLIN OSBORNE** cut her hair for donation during the chapter's annual Haircuts for a Cause event.



The event brings members of the University of Missouri campus together to cut their locks for others. The hair from this year's Haircuts for a Cause was donated to Wigs 4 Kids, an organization that provides free wigs for children with illnesses that cause hair loss. After making the cut, participants were invited back to the Pi Phi house where professional hairstylists trimmed and straightened the haircut for free.

"Many service-driven events on campus survive on donation-based contributions," said **ALEX LEHMAN**, Past Vice President Philanthropy. "Haircuts for a Cause allows students to donate something that we don't often think of giving away — hair! I believe that if students start living a service-based life during their college years, it will set them up to find ways to serve their community for the rest of their life."

Haircuts for a Cause was started four years ago by then-Vice President Philanthropy, **MADISON HUMMEL**. "When I took the position of Vice President Philanthropy, I wanted to not only do something new, but also create an initiative that would both impact the community and excite our chapter," Madison said. "Haircuts for a Cause was an idea I wrote down in my notebook, but then with the help of my Executive Council, the Missouri Alpha Chapter and a number of Mizzou students, this idea became an amazing reality. I'm so proud to see this event continue today and can't wait to watch it grow to touch even more lives in the future."

NEW YORK

New York Eta, New York University

The week of big sister/little sister reveal is always a highly anticipated time, and this year was no exception for New York Eta! A total of 46 initiated members took little sisters this past fall, but the entire sorority took part in Beta Buddy Dates, a program designed to introduce New Members to the rest of the chapter. Fall 2019 New Member **ABAIGEAL HENEGHAN** said, "I liked big/little week because it helped me feel more connected to Pi Phi and helped me find my forever friends, sisters and family!"

After about three weeks of Beta Buddy Dates, the week of big/little reveal began, and all the New Members were welcomed into the open arms of their new Pi Phi families. Because of the chapter's location in New York City, New York Eta's reveal occurred in Central Park, where all the initiated members were wrapped in wrapping paper like gifts. It was so exciting to see all the New Members' faces when they tore open the wrapping and found their big sister!



Oklahoma Alpha collegians and alumnae celebrated the chapter facility turning 60 years old in 2019.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Alpha, University of Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Alpha Chapter house, better known as 1701 Elm Avenue, turned 60 years old in 2019, and the chapter invited alumnae to celebrate this milestone. During the 60th birthday celebration event, collegians and alumnae sang “Ring Ching, Ching” together at a formal meal and learned more about the house during a presentation and house tours, all while admiring the beauty of 1701 Elm.

A current resident, **MARSHALL-ANNE LEWIS**, appreciates 1701 Elm because this is the same house her mother and grandmother lived in as well. “I am so fortunate to be living in the same house that my mom and grandmother did,” she shares. “We three enjoy sharing all of the memories, tradition and fun from living under the same roof.”

Since its purchase in 1959, the Oklahoma Alpha house has undergone multiple renovations including a new bedroom wing, a chapter room, executive suites, bathroom remodels and various cosmetic updates to preserve the tradition of the home while updating it to modern standards. The 60th birthday celebration gave alumnae the opportunity to reflect on their time living in the house.

OREGON

Oregon Alpha, University of Oregon

As Oregon Ducks, Oregon Alpha takes pride in the ability to be ecofriendly in any way possible on and around campus. Several members of the chapter have joined student organizations that encourage people to change habits that result in waste or harm to the planet. Passionate about sustainability, junior member **HUNTER SPENCE** created a composting system for the Oregon Alpha chapter house.

Hunter recalls the extensive process to turn this idea into a reality within the chapter house. Oregon Alpha’s House Director, Chapter House Corporation and Regional Team were all consulted during planning. Despite some concerns, such as if the compost would attract animals into the house, Hunter worked hard to educate members to see the benefits of composting. The city of Eugene, Oregon, offers a commercial composting program that requires participants to simply place their food scraps in a separate container — the rest is handled by the city — to make composting easy and avoid any issues.

After much planning, this past fall Oregon Alpha officially started composting with positive feedback from members. “I’m glad everyone finally got on board and that we’ve begun composting!” Hunter said. Oregon Alpha hopes composting will have a lasting legacy and this minor addition will influence others to be more mindful about the environment.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Beta, Vanderbilt University

This year, the sisters of the Tennessee Beta Chapter recognized an opportunity to learn to defend themselves and their sisters. The chapter invited the Vanderbilt University Police Department to the house to teach a self-defense course. The first half of the course was learning about recognizing risk and how to help friends out of risky situations without leading to confrontation. Sisters had many laughs coming up with silly code words and requests to use when they need to leave a bad situation or when they see a sister in need of help. The rest of the program was dedicated to learning how to physically defend oneself and others when necessary. Members learned how to properly use their bodies and the items around them to fight off a perpetrator.

The program, in its entirety, helped the chapter to understand the importance of being able to protect oneself and protect others when they are unable. At the end of the program, the chapter decided to strive toward the goal of never leaving a sister alone in a situation where she will not be able to recognize risky signals or defend herself. The Tennessee Beta Chapter showed immense passion toward protecting their sisters, in which their strength was overwhelming and heartwarming.

TEXAS

Texas Alpha, University of Texas

Texas Alpha New Member **AUDREY VAN DEN BRANDEN** finished her final round of chemotherapy on October 11, 2019, just a month before her initiation into Pi Beta Phi. Audrey was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in Summer 2019. Due to treatment, she participated in a virtual recruitment. Through Facetime and videos, Audrey was able to learn all about the Texas Alpha Chapter and Pi Beta Phi. Audrey learned about Read > Lead > Achieve, heard sisterhood speeches and saw chapter presentations. Audrey was able to come to Bid Day and the chapter was excited to meet the newest angel as a member of the Fall 2019 New Member class.

Because the chapter cannot be with Audrey every day, Texas Alphas wear wristbands that say "Audrey's Angels." Audrey has been very involved in Pi Phi even though she is not currently in Austin. She has made an effort to attend Pi Phi and University of Texas events. The Texas Alpha chapter is amazed by Audrey and her determination.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Gamma, College of William & Mary

In 2019, Virginia Gamma **THOMPSON BROWNLEE** led the process to form a collegiate chapter of Habitat for Humanity at the College of William & Mary. For Thompson, Habitat for Humanity has a special place in her heart, and she wanted to share that love with not only her Pi Phi sisters, but the whole William & Mary community. "I love the mission, the volunteers, the work, the lessons that I've learned, and I really love what a great impact it makes on communities worldwide," Thompson said. Her passion and love for this organization and what it stands for moved the Virginia Gamma Chapter. Members of Virginia Gamma helped petition the school to start the Habitat for Humanity chapter, retrieving signatures for the petition and raising public knowledge of Thompson's initiative.

With the help of her Pi Phi sisters, Thompson was able to achieve her goal of creating the William & Mary chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Not only is Virginia Gamma proud of Thompson for bringing more attention to this deserving organization, but the chapter is equally as proud to display Pi Phi's core value of Philanthropic Service to Others on a larger scale at this campus.

Virginia Zeta, Virginia Tech

In the fall, Virginia Zeta participated in an annual event hosted by Virginia Tech's Panhellenic Council called "Oak Lane Trick or Treat." This is a safe, free occasion for the surrounding local community's families and children. Panhellenic sororities give out candy, entertain the children with an array of activities such as face painting and sack races, and chaperone sensory boxes for children who are in need of a break from the festivities. Virginia Zeta member **KAITLYN "KAIT" TOKARZ** served as the past Vice President of Outreach for Panhellenic Executive Council and had the opportunity to oversee the event. When discussing her leadership on the Panhellenic Executive Council, Kait said, "Serving on Panhellenic last year was a challenging, but also very rewarding experience." The chapter is so proud to have chapter leaders like Kait representing the overall Panhellenic community with the ability to make a positive difference.

At the Pi Beta Phi house, chapter members created Halloween-themed games for the children and painted kids' faces. It was heartwarming to see sisters interact with the kids, and bond as sisters and with Panhellenic. Kait reflected on the event, "It was great to see over 500 families come out to Oak Lane Trick or Treat. I heard things like 'I have lived here for years but have never been to Oak Lane. It's great to see what young women are doing for the kids!'" The excitement in both the families

and the Panhellenic community was contagious. Virginia Zetas dressed up in costumes with the kids and it was worthwhile to see the children become so happy over all the house decorations, costumes, games and candy. Overall, it was rewarding for chapter members to impact the children in the area in addition to weekly visits to local elementary schools through the Champions are Readers program.

“IF THERE’S ONE DECISION I MADE IN COLLEGE THAT I AM GLAD I MADE, IT WOULD NO DOUBT BE MY DECISION TO JOIN PI BETA PHI.”

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Alpha, West Virginia University

The West Virginia Alpha Chapter had the amazing honor of hosting Grand President **MARLA NEELLY WULF**, Kansas Beta, this past fall. Marla visited West Virginia University (WVU) along with other National Panhellenic Conference inter/national Presidents to meet with university administrators, including WVU President Dr. E. Gordon Gee. This was not only Marla’s first visit to West Virginia, but also her first chapter visit as the Fraternity’s recently installed Grand President. West Virginia Alpha hosted a meet-and-greet at the chapter house where members were able to talk about issues they face as sorority women on campus and how collegians would be able to make the most out of their Pi Phi experience.

Collegiate member **BRIANA HAMILTON** reflected, “Marla’s visit was an experience that reaffirmed my love for Pi Beta Phi. We are constantly asking what our ‘why’ is, our reason we fell in love with Pi Phi, why Pi Phi is so special and near and dear to our hearts. Seeing as though I have only been an initiated member for one semester, my ‘why’ was always so surface level — ‘I love Pi Phi because I felt at home’ and ‘I love Pi Phi because I have fostered genuine friendships’. While all these things are very true, I never really understood how much deeper Pi Beta Phi was to me or could be to me, until I listened to the beautiful memories Marla shared with us about her time as a collegian and her experience with Pi Phi beyond undergrad. So, what exactly did I learn? That being a part of Pi Beta Phi surpasses just the four years of undergrad. Marla shared with us how her Lifelong Commitment to Pi Phi has led to her current position in life as our Grand President. The older members in my chapter and alumnae constantly talk about how amazing the alumna

experience is in Pi Beta Phi, and it wasn’t until Marla shared her overwhelming love for Pi Phi that it hit home for me. If there’s one decision I made in college that I am glad I made, it would no doubt be my decision to join Pi Beta Phi.”

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Alpha, University of Wisconsin

This year, members of Wisconsin Alpha are participating in the campus Humorology event. Humorology is an annual juried musical put on by sororities and fraternities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to raise money for a local organization in the Madison community. The preparation for the musical began in August and will conclude in April. Many members have been working hard to rehearse and fundraise for Blessings in a Backpack. This organization helps feed underprivileged children in the Madison community.

Wisconsin Alpha members **SAMANTHA TELSON**, **GRACE WIEDMEYER**, **CAITLIN BROMMEL** and **ALLIE GLINER** work as directors of Humorology to choreograph, direct, fundraise, and support their Humorology cast, while also preparing them for the final musical this April. These directors are working hard at creating an incredible show and fundraising, as each of them puts about 25 hours of work per week into Humorology.

Samantha Telson stated that Humorology has brought her “long-lasting friendships with her sisters, and it gives her an opportunity to express herself in different ways that she never knew she enjoyed.” She mentioned that being a director has taught her organization and communication skills, but more importantly leadership skills, as she acts as a role model for the chapter’s members that participate in the effort.

This year, the theme for the Humorology final show is “The Road Less Traveled,” symbolizing the importance of getting out of your comfort zone and trying new things in order to grow personally and intellectually. Wisconsin Alpha is very proud of all the hard work that members and directors of Humorology have put into the organization this year! ◀



A member of the Tucson Alumnae Club pins an arrow hair clip into a New Member's hair at their annual sisterhood event.

ARIZONA

Tucson, Arizona, Alumnae Club

Harkening back to the arrow hair clips worn by the women of I.C. Sorosis in 1867 at Monmouth College, the members of the Tucson Alumnae Club give similar hair clips to New Members at the University of Arizona at their traditional sisterhood event in the fall. This sisterly gesture of giving arrow hair clips to New Members reinforces the Lifelong Commitment of Pi Beta Phi in a fun, dynamic and interactive way. Being 122 strong, New Members enjoyed refreshments, learned about the foresight, courage and intelligence of Pi Phi's twelve founders and celebrated sisterhood with the Tucson alumnae. Equally exciting was the unveiling of the First Phase of the transformation of the Arizona Alpha Chapter house at 1035 N. Mountain. Vintage post cards of our chapter house were also distributed to New Members.



CALIFORNIA

South Coast, California, Alumnae Club

Members of the South Coast Alum Club demonstrated the importance of sisterhood at the 2019 Susan G. Komen More than Pink Walk at Fashion Island. Over 10,000 breast cancer survivors, friends, families and volunteers united in shades of pink to show support for the cause.

COLORADO

Colorado Springs, Colorado, Alumnae Club

On October 17, members came together at the home of Nebraska Beta **DEE JONES** to celebrate Pi Phi's heritage. Memorabilia from the club was on display, and members brought items to share from their time as collegians. The night ended with a Cookie Shine, and each member answered a question about their time as a collegian/alumna. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate club history and sisterhood.



Sisters of the Colorado Springs, Colorado, Alumnae Club from across generations gather to celebrate a shared sisterhood.

FLORIDA

Sarasota-Manatee, Florida, Alumnae Club

Sisters celebrated National Handbag Day at BSWANKY in Sarasota. Tennessee Beta **GRETCHEN BAUER** is at the helm of this amazing company. BSWANKY is rooted in the purpose-driven goal that all roads lead to be the difference. Gretchen provided club members a window into their culture and philosophy of manufacturing happily in the United States. It was wonderful to learn about Gretchen's business, beliefs, and being the difference ... not to mention some retail therapy! Club members are proud to call her a Pi Beta Phi sister!

Members of the Sarasota-Manatee, Florida, Alumnae Club proudly display their BSWANKY purses



Pi Phi alumnae, friends and legacies of the South Coast, California, Alumnae Club gathered to support those battling and surviving breast cancer.

GEORGIA

Athens, Georgia, Alumnae Club

The Athens Area Alumnae Club has re-booted! Our “Precious Metals,” the Silver & Gold Arrow members, met for a planning meeting at the home of Georgia Alpha **CAROLE BRADLEY MOODY**. The club’s focus is new membership and fun! Since the kickoff event, the women have met for lunches, enjoyed a movie matinee, and began planning an old-fashioned Cookie Shine. The Athens members participated in Georgia Alpha’s initiation ceremony and their fall philanthropy fundraiser for literacy.

IOWA

Iowa Gamma Reunion

Members from the 1965 and 1972 New Member classes returned to Ames to celebrate the Sincere Friendship that has lasted far beyond their college years. The love and energy flowing from the women as they walked through the chapter house was electric. Laughs rang out as they reminisced on sweet memories of life at 208 Ash.



Fondly remembering life at the Iowa Gamma Chapter house.

OREGON GAMMA SINGER- SONGWRITER ERIN O'NEILL RELEASES NEW ALBUM "THE SAME AND FAR AWAY"

In 2019, Oregon Gamma **ERIN O'NEILL** independently released a new album, "The Same and Far Away." The product of a successful crowdfunding campaign, "The Same and Far Away" harkens back to the singer-songwriters of the Laurel Canyon era. With live instrumentation, powerful vocals and piercingly honest lyrics, this collection of songs speaks on themes of anxiety, independence and life on the road. Erin has spent the better part of the last four years touring as a member of the Nashville-based rock band Gooding. Erin's experiences on the road with Gooding were the inspiration for many of the tracks on "The Same and Far Away" and helped her settle into her warm, acoustic sound.



MICHIGAN

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Alumnae Club

The Bloomfield Hills Alumnae Club gathered to hear details of the life and career of Dr. Anthony (Tony) England. Tony, currently a college professor in Dearborn, MI, is a former NASA astronaut. Selected in 1967, England was among a group of astronauts who served as backups during the Apollo and Skylab programs. Like most others in his class, he flew during the Space Shuttle program, serving as a mission specialist on STS-51-F in 1985. The women loved his stories and enjoyed "heavenly" treats courtesy of England's wife and his Pi Phi sister, **SUSAN MILLS ENGLAND**, Indiana Alpha.



Left to right: Michigan Beta **SUZANNE SMULSKY**, Tony England and Indiana Alpha **SUSAN MILLS ENGLAND**.

Michigan Epsilon Reunion

Sisters from Western Michigan University went Greek — again and quite literally! Chapter sisters celebrated birthdays, babies and 15 years of friendship and sisterhood with a recent trip to Greece.

MISSOURI

Missouri Alpha Alumnae Reunion

“When I was a student at college, I belonged to the Pi Beta Phi. Ring Ching!” This past fall, Golden Arrow sisters from Missouri Alpha gathered in Columbia to stroll down memory lane and rekindle their Pi Phi sisterhood.

NEVADA

Las Vegas, Nevada, Alumnae Club

Freshly inspired by this past summer’s Pi Beta Phi convention, the Las Vegas Alumnae Club has had a busy start to the club year. **KATIE WALPOLE**, New York Alpha, and **ROSALIE GONZALEZ**, California Kappa, were quite fortunate to visit with past Grand President, and current Alumnae Engagement Director for Region Seven, **PAULA PACE SHEPHERD**, Texas Epsilon, while Paula and her husband were passing through Las Vegas. The ladies reminisced about favorite moments from college and convention, and Paula shared great ideas to implement for club programming and to encourage membership engagement. In the following weeks, the club held a kick-off brunch, which included a Cookie Shine; an idea inspired by the impressive Cookie Shine held at convention in Washington, D.C. Most recently, some ladies and their families gathered to enjoy lovely fall weather at a local orchard.



Above: From left, Michigan Epsilons **VICTORIA GASIDLO**, **MOLLY BARACKMAN-EDER** and **CARLA HASHLEY** on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece while vacationing to celebrate 15 years of friendship and sisterhood, birthdays and babies.



Sisters of Missouri Alpha embrace each other and celebrate decades of friendship.



Left to right: New Mexico Beta alumnae, **BRENDA PORTER, LYNDA PAULSEN TIEFA, KRISTIN SCHULTZ MUSCH, JACKIE STUDDARD BRAZILLE** and **LAUREN GREENWADE**

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Beta Reunion

A group of New Mexico Beta alumnae continue to celebrate the wine carnation after 40 years of friendship. The sisters travel together, rekindling their friendship each time, and share Pi Phi with those around them. During their recent adventure in Ruidoso, New Mexico, the group wore matching arrow shirts, which drew questions from onlookers. When they explained their connection, it brought tears to a stranger's eyes who admired their four decade-long friendship. Up next ... a Viking River Cruise from Amsterdam to Basel!

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Alpha Reunion

Oklahoma Alpha sisters (and biological sisters!) **DEBBIE PATRK VINYARD** and **SUSAN PATRK HALL** recently attended two Pi Beta Phi alumnae club meetings in two different states. Debbie, currently serving as President of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Alumnae Club, met Texas Delta **KIM GATLIN THOMAS**, Richardson-Plano, Texas Alumnae Club President, at convention this summer. They hit it off and Kim invited Debbie and Susan (past Oklahoma Alpha president) to visit.



Sisters by blood and Pi Phi celebrate the wine and silver blue!



John Ferrell, Washington Alpha **KIM KIMMY TOMCZAK** and William Jenney visit the Coolidge Historic site.

PI PHI COMMEMORATED AT COOLIDGE HISTORIC SITE

Vermont Beta and First Lady **GRACE GOODHUE COOLIDGE** was so proud of her Pi Beta Phi sisterhood that she wore her arrow badge for her official First Lady portrait. This portrait is featured in the Coolidge Historic Site in Plymouth Notch, Vermont. When guests visit the site, they receive a special ticket, noting their guest number and date of the visit.

Knowing she was visiting Plymouth Notch, Washington Alpha **KIM KIMMY TOMCZAK** had a special rubber stamp made to add to the souvenir. From this day forward, when a Pi Phi visits the Coolidge Historic Site, she will receive a stamp on her souvenir that notes our letters,

the significance of Pi Phi throughout the Coolidge family history, and the site's name. Tomczak presented the stamp to John Ferrell, conservator of the Coolidge Foundation site, and to Historic Sites Regional Administrator William Jenney.

A few minutes after Kim made her gift, a visitor arrived at the site. She just so happened to meet Connecticut Alpha **SUSAN CLARK SCHUR**, who immediately noticed the stamp at the entrance desk and was thrilled. "There is so much to see at this site, and now Pi Phis will have a special stamp to commemorate their visit there," Kim enthuses.

ONTARIO

Toronto, Ontario, Alumnae Club

The Toronto Area Alumnae Club teamed up with First Book Canada at the 30th annual Word on the Street Literacy Festival in downtown Toronto. The festival celebrates the past and future of Canadian literature by taking over the Toronto Waterfront with book signings, poetry readings, literacy activities and much more. Local alumnae worked alongside First Book Canada volunteers to help advertise for the celebrity author signings happening at the festival and to promote their new releases. They also worked alongside staff at the Harper Collins booth, where the publishers had donated several books to be sold with 100% of the proceeds going to First Book Canada.

TEXAS

Texas Eta Reunion

Still the “phinest” after 20 years of sisterhood! Members from the 1998 New Member class of the Texas Eta chapter at Texas A&M University celebrated their milestone anniversary with a traditional Cookie Shine! ←



Ontario Beta **MARILYN CLARK**



The 1998 New Member class of Texas Eta celebrate with a Cookie Shine!

I'm Still Proud to Be a Pi Phi

Becoming a Diamond Arrow is a celebration of Lifelong Commitment. Only about 150 members reach the milestone of 75 years of Pi Phi sisterhood each year. Diamond Arrows are honored at an alumnae club event, often Founders' Day, where they receive their official pin and share memories of their years in Pi Phi.

Kansas Beta **EMOGENE SHARPE NIEMAN** was initiated in 1944 and became a Diamond Arrow in 2019. Now 94, Emogene lives in a nursing facility in the Edmond area. She helped found the Edmond, Oklahoma, Alumnae Club in 1972 and remained a faithful, dues-paying member — even when mobility and health challenges made it impossible for her to attend club meetings and events. So, when the time came to recognize Emogene as a Diamond Arrow, Edmond Pi Phis demonstrated the depth of their friendship and respect by attending a special ceremony at Emogene's facility.

More than 30 club members, from recent graduates to those nearing Diamond Arrow status themselves, gathered to celebrate Emogene and present her pin. Club leaders invited all past Presidents, club founders, longtime members and Emogene's dearest friends to attend. Photos, scrapbooks and special Pi Phi keepsakes from Emogene's years at Kansas State University, including a wine carnation from her Bid Day, were displayed for all to see. Emogene recounted stories from her collegiate years and decades of alumnae involvement, to the enjoyment of those gathered.

“IT WAS A WONDERFUL TIME TO BE A PI PHI — AND I'M STILL PROUD TO BE A PI PHI TODAY!”

“Emogene is a founding member of our club, so most everyone who has been involved in the club for a while knows and loves her,” said Oklahoma Alpha **AMY ASCH KESSLER**, President of the Edmond Alumnae Club. “She's been one of the most loyal Pi Phis to our club and is so supportive of everyone around her. I was honored to present and pin on her Diamond Arrow.”

Emogene appreciated the chance to visit with club members and share 75 years of Pi Phi memories, especially with the younger women in attendance. “They kept asking questions, and I loved it,” she laughed. “What did you do



Members of the Edmond, Oklahoma, Alumnae Club gathered to celebrate Kansas Beta **EMOGENE SHARPE NIEMAN** (center, seated) as she became a Diamond Arrow. Emogene helped establish the Edmond club in 1972.

when you got up?’ ‘Who was your house mother?’ It was a very different time to be on campus, and so many of the men were in the service. But it was a wonderful time to be a Pi Phi, and I'm still proud to be a Pi Phi to this day!”

She also recalled some of the early days of the Edmond club. “Our club was very small to begin with; we started with 12,” Emogene said. “Edmond was a small town, and I was friends with all those girls. Getting our charter was really special.” Emogene shared that the club's meetings were first and foremost social gatherings. “We just talked to each other and had fun,” she said. “We took turns meeting at each other's homes, which felt so personal. It was easy to have good conversations and do ritual.” The opportunity to reconnect with those days, and the friends who shared her experiences, was an especially poignant part of the celebration. “It was really special — I felt so loved,” Emogene reflected. “I loved seeing members of our original group.”

Amy expressed deep appreciation for the impact Emogene's commitment to Pi Phi continues to have. “I'm so grateful that she helped start our club,” Amy said. “I've met so many wonderful women whom I might not have met if it weren't for the Edmond Alumnae Club.” ◀



Photography by Tarin Frantz

Lizzy Chesnut Bentley

TEXAS BETA

IN A NUTSHELL ... TELL US ABOUT YOU:

I'm the founder and CEO of CITY Boots, an online handmade boot store based in Texas. I was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas, where I live now. I attended Southern Methodist University where I studied Finance and Economics. I started my career in Oil and Gas but quickly moved over to e-commerce and Cowboy Boots. I love catching up with friends over dinner, eating good food, exploring new cities and hiking in national and state parks. My next stop is Zion! I am super family-oriented and have a younger sister and brother and a fur baby Birdie, my toy Australian Shepherd.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY IN THE OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Every day is so different! Some days I'm on the road traveling to a pop-up shop, and some days I'm in the warehouse organizing inventory. I do a lot of texting with the factory, customers and my marketing and fulfillment teams.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?

It's something I can put work into and see an immediate outcome. I definitely get what I put into it, which is very rewarding and motivating.

"LOOKING AT ME, NO ONE WOULD GUESS..."

I'm a widow. My late husband, William, passed away in April this year.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

A pair of diamond earrings I bought myself when I took a new job in my previous career. They go with everything and make my day so much easier because I never have to pick which jewelry to wear. They outshine everything I have in my closet.

BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

"There are always a million reasons NOT to do something. Don't let that stop you."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE AN UP-AND-COMING PROFESSIONAL WOMAN?

You don't need to have a 10-year plan; not even a 5-year plan. Life and career will throw you curveballs, try to be in the moment and do the task at hand instead of being distracted by what else is out there and what "should" be happening in your career or what's happening in your peers' careers.

WHO IS SOMEONE THAT HAS CONSISTENTLY INSPIRED YOU?

Whitney Wolfe Herd, the creator of Bumble. She went to SMU and has done amazing things. She is such a genuine person too. She really wants the best for everyone.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL?

When you can take a phone call from a friend at any time of the day.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH STRESS?

Sleep!!! I'm a stress sleeper.

PI BETA PHI HAS TAUGHT ME...

Sisterhood. When my husband passed away my Pi Phi sisters really rallied beside me and made me feel so supported and loved during my darkest days.

SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN SOONER IN YOUR LIFE?

Not to worry so much about the future.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

You can have everything; you just can't have it all at one time.

FAVORITE WORD (AND WHY):

Love. It's all we really have at the end of the day. ←

TEXT OR **CALL**

~~SNEAKERS OR SANDALS~~ **COWBOY BOOTS**

NIGHT OWL OR EARLY BIRD

WORK HARD OR **PLAY HARD**

COFFEE OR **TEA**

Yesterday
Today,
Always.

DAY.

The Power of Sincere Friendship

Its value is timeless. It connects us and defines us. It's the reason for our founding and it remains at the core of Pi Beta Phi a century and a half later. Its strength will continue to sustain us far into the future.

Sincere Friendship is essential to the Pi Phi member experience — so essential that it's specifically mentioned in our Constitution, referenced in our Ritual, emphasized as a core value and explored through our member programming. In a culture where our calendars are full but our cups are empty — meaningful conversation gives way to screen time and “friends” are made through social media algorithms — authentic, personal relationships are needed more than ever.

For inspiration, as we so often do, we can look to our founders. Their choice of the word “sincere” to describe the friendships made in Pi Beta Phi was purposeful. With this word, our founders called us to be intentional as we cultivate relationships of depth and meaning, and invest in our friendships with sisters.

They knew and understood the power of Sincere Friendship — yesterday, today and always.

Why Sincere

"Whereas, it was deemed necessary, in order to cultivate sincere friendship, establish the real objects of life, and promote the happiness of humanity, we the undersigned ladies of Monmouth College do ordain and establish the following Constitution and Bylaws for the government of said organization ..."

The passage above may be instantly recognizable for many Pi Phis — it's the Preamble of I.C. Sorosis, which begins our organization's Constitution and Statutes. With these words, twelve women charted a course for more than 150 years of Pi Beta Phi sisterhood and set the tone for the values that continue to define our organization. Our founders approached their choice of words with intention and care. By creating a sisterhood rooted in shared values and experiences, they ensured Pi Beta Phi would remain relevant for generations to come. By distinguishing the quality of their friendship as "sincere," they conveyed the depth of meaning that set their bond apart from all others.

Pi Phis aren't the only ones who note the inclusion of the word "sincere." Dr. Mari Ann Callais, whose inspiring messages have made her a favorite keynote speaker at Pi Phi events, developed and wrote the curriculum for the "Discovering Sincere Friendship" program within our Critical Conversations Speaker Series. Mari Ann understood the emphasis placed on "sincere" was purposeful and used that insight to guide her work with Pi Phi. Below, Mari Ann shares her reflections on the significance of Sincere Friendship to Pi Phi and its continued relevance as part of the sorority experience.

MARI ANN, YOU NOTED THAT PI PHI'S FOUNDERS WERE PURPOSEFUL IN USING THE WORD "SINCERE" TO DESCRIBE THEIR FRIENDSHIPS. CAN YOU SPEAK TO THE INTENTION BEHIND THIS?

I believe Pi Phi's founders truly believed in the power of friendship because on college campuses they needed friends to feel they could be successful. At most colleges in the 1800s, women were not only not welcomed, but not

wanted. I think Pi Phi's founders wanted to make certain the women they brought into their circle understood this friendship was special.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SINCERE FRIENDSHIPS?

I think Sincere Friendship must be based on unconditional love — love that challenges, supports and is understanding when times become rough. Sitting down face to face and really being there for someone is hard work. My belief is that the early women of Pi Phi knew friendships were important, but they also understood the beauty of friendships that would help them to grow and develop. Sincere Friendships take years to evolve and grow; often the most meaningful friendships and accomplishments come with time and work.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE "DISCOVERING SINCERE FRIENDSHIP" CURRICULUM FOR THE CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS PROGRAM?

At first, I was a bit stumped. I must have read the Preamble of I.C. Sorosis about a thousand times before I even began putting anything on paper. I tried to put myself in the minds of the founders, thinking why they would use the words "Sincere Friendship," and what made it different than friendship.

As I began to put the curriculum together, I wanted to capture the concept that Sincere Friendship is raw, authentic and can withstand any level of conflict or challenge. It's intended to be a true, lifelong bond, no matter where life might take you. To think about those young women, and their desire to create a bond that would support them through the challenges and roadblocks put in front of them as women, helped me begin to understand the responsibility that comes with sincere friendship. What a beautiful gift and expectation to create for one another.

That intent guided my work on this project — to try to bring a concept from the 1800s into today's world of

FRIENDSHIP?

women supporting women and Pi Phis supporting one another. The curriculum establishes the opportunity to have authentic, caring conversations. I also admire Pi Phi for including mental health discussions in the curriculum, allowing the program to evolve and stay relevant.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN OR EXPERIENCED SINCERE FRIENDSHIP IN YOUR WORK WITH PI PHI?

Pi Phi's work in the Panhellenic world has brought opportunities forward for smaller groups, like mine (Theta Phi Alpha), that haven't had access to some of those opportunities. Pi Phi has been vocal and taken action to say that opportunities for NPC organizations should be inclusive, and for that I am forever grateful. The theme this demonstrates is courage — courage to stand up and make changes. In my opinion, that's Pi Phi living Sincere Friendship within, and with others.

HOW CAN MEMBERS DEMONSTRATE SINCERE FRIENDSHIP IN THEIR DAILY LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS OUTSIDE PI PHI?

I believe it's how we walk into a space, a conversation, a task. We can demonstrate Sincere Friendship by the way we treat others. Are my intentions coming from a place of love and care? If I'm holding someone accountable or want to work through a situation, is it about being right or is it about the right solution? Sometimes Sincere Friendship means taking the road less traveled. Sometimes it means taking a chance that might result in losing a friendship. Sincere Friendship can be, and should be, practiced in actions and words.

DO YOU SEE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR MEMBERS TO BUILD STRONGER, MORE AUTHENTIC FRIENDSHIPS?

Our sorority experiences give us opportunities to meet others and walk the journey of life together. Connectivity to others is a fundamental part of our wellbeing as humans. We all want to love and be loved, and friendships help us feel we matter to others. Friendship is about belonging — belonging to others and sharing our lives with others. Specifically, as women, we need to learn to

support one another, even if that friendship is not a "best" friend but someone who can benefit from our kindness. We need to do a better job of being authentic friends.

CAN YOU SPEAK TO THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF AUTHENTIC, PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE SORORITY COMMUNITY — AND IN TODAY'S CULTURE?

The importance of deep connection is still something we need as humans. Mental health is a major concern on college campuses today. As we look at the future of the sorority experience, I believe we have to get better at establishing safe environments where caring and belonging are the foundation of who we are. If we don't become better at this, our existence will continue to be in question.



Mari Ann is a past National President of Theta Phi Alpha Sorority and the current Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives for Tri Delta Fraternity, and has presented hundreds of keynotes and workshops on fraternity and sorority leadership, team building and values during her career. She holds an undergraduate degree in political science from

Loyola University New Orleans, a master's in education and a doctorate in educational leadership and research from Louisiana State University. Mari Ann is also a speaker with The Catalyst Agency.

We ARE THERE *for our*





SISTERS.

NO MATTER WHAT

Perhaps the truest test of our friendships is their strength in the most challenging times. When life goes smoothly, our relationships are lighthearted and can feel almost effortless. After all, who wouldn't want to share in the joy of milestones like marriages and births, professional accomplishments and personal successes? Yet when the skies darken, our most sincere friendships are the ones that shine through. The character of those friendships is proven through setbacks and failures, losses and tragedies. We're called to support our sisters with intention and purpose, even in the most dire of circumstances, even when it would be easier to stand on the sidelines.

*In January 2019, U.S. Army Special Forces Soldier Jonathan Farmer died of wounds sustained in an attack while serving in Syria. Left behind in the wake of Jonathan's passing were his wife, Florida Epsilon **TABITHA LUCHKA FARMER**, and their four children. Almost immediately, members of the Florida Epsilon community rallied around the Farmer family. Whether working quietly behind the scenes or coordinating public efforts, Pi Phi showed their commitment to Tabitha and the values of our sisterhood. We asked Florida Epsilon **JENNY SULLIVAN** to share her reflections on the experience of supporting a sister through unimaginable heartbreak.*

Florida Epsilons **JENNY SULLIVAN** and **TABITHA LUCHKA FARMER** visited the chapter's house on the University of Central Florida campus — where their friendship began during their college years.

Seeing the support of our FLORIDA AFFIRMED my love

I met Tabitha at the Sigma Chi house on the University of Central Florida campus. We ended up listening to Jimmy Buffett music, sitting on a Jeep and talking. Instantly, I knew that we would be good friends. From the moment I met her, I knew she had a huge heart. When she told me that her middle name was Angel, I just knew fate would lead her to become a Pi Phi. She joined the following semester, in the fall of 1999.

Tabitha and I were close throughout college. She was the type of friend who took care of everyone. We went on spring break trips together. We laughed and cried together many times. When I left Florida for graduate school in Knoxville, Tennessee, we stayed in touch. She traveled north to visit me, and I'd go back to Orlando to visit her. When she met Jon, she told me all about him and even

asked for advice because the relationship moved so fast. As soon as they met, they both knew they were meant to be together. It was an honor to watch them walk down the aisle.

When I began working for the military, we made it a priority to stay connected, even when I went overseas. From afar, I watched her babies grow up. We would meet up as often as we could. When I visited Tabitha, Jon would counsel me on how to feel "normal" again after my deployment to Iraq. I struggled a lot to readjust, and he offered insights from his own experiences going to and from deployments. On one of her visits, we participated in a mud run together, dressed as angels (of course). Before the race, our outfits were bright white; afterward, we were absolutely covered with mud. It was a great time!



Epsilon community

FOR OUR SISTERHOOD

During the summer of 2018, she, Jon and their kids met up with me in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to watch fireflies. There's a certain time of the year in a special location where huge numbers of fireflies light up in synchronized groups. We all hiked up a trail at dusk and waited for dark. When the fireflies started flashing, it was amazing. The kids were so excited; Tabitha, Jon and I were able to catch up. It was a wonderful night that I'll never forget, and I'm so grateful we had that time together. It was the last time I saw Jon in person.

Tabitha called me the morning after he died. I was walking into class. When I heard the news, I fell to the ground bawling. Jon was a friend, an amazing husband and an incredible father. I couldn't believe he had died. Jon was a warrior — the kind of guy who you thought nothing could happen to — but could also be so gentle holding his children. I sat on the ground crying for the loss of him as a husband to one of my best friends, a father to his four children and a friend who would listen and give advice when needed. The risks that came with his job were clear, but in my mind, he was invincible. I still can't believe he's gone.

I love Tabitha more than I can even describe. We have a bond that goes beyond friendship. When Jon died, I mourned for her loss as well. He was her Prince Charming (seriously, he dressed up as Prince Charming for her). And then he was gone. In this time of heartbreak, I wanted her to know she wasn't alone.

The women of Florida Epsilon — or as we call it, Florida E — have kept in touch over the years as well. When I deployed to Iraq, many sisters sent me care packages. Several others have been diagnosed with cancer, and we've rallied around them in their times of

need. When Jon passed, we all came together like nothing I've ever seen. So many sisters offered anything and everything they could to help. Someone offered cleaning service coupons; others gave restaurant gift cards, gifts for the kids and family and so much more. Pi Phis have signed up to send her care packages for two years! Our close friend, Florida Epsilon **ANN MARIE MILANO**, established the We Got This Fund as a way to collect sponsorships and raise support for Tabitha's family. Another Florida Epsilon sister and friend, **CARA WALL ROESNER**, reached out to Pi Phi Headquarters to see whether scholarships could be established for Tabitha and Jon's two young daughters. I relayed information among the group, trying to give Tabitha privacy while allowing others to give the support she needed.

When the United States military brings home casualties, the families meet the bodies of their loved ones in Dover, Delaware. I was there to support Tabitha when the love of her life came home. She was surrounded by family, and I wanted her to know she had friends at her side. I held her, and we cried together. We were all in shock.

Tabitha and I sat around the pool a couple of days before Jon's funeral in Florida, talking about him and their life together. During that conversation, Tabitha mentioned wanting a cast of his hand. I found a company that made a cast for Tabitha at no charge so she and the kids could always touch his hand. The funeral service was attended by more than 30 Pi Phis, including women who had never met Tabitha or Jon.

Just a few days after the funeral, the Disney Princess Half Marathon was held at Walt Disney World as it is every February. Tabitha was determined to honor her commitment to run the race, and her friends were determined to support her. One sister was able to get



free t-shirts for everyone in our group to wear. Another sister, who had previously run the race, mapped a route through the park so we could cheer for Tabitha at different locations. Yet another sister who used to work for Disney was able to get all of us into the official cheering section, and secured park passes for Tabitha's family. They met Prince Charming and Cinderella, sat in a VIP section for the parade and received Fast Passes for rides.

The day of the half marathon, about 20 of us got up super early to head to the park. We wore our matching shirts and carried posters and flags to let Tabitha know we were there for her. Before the end of the race, almost 60 Pi Phis had gathered to support her. Tabitha not only finished the race, but she carried the guide-on (flag) from Jon's unit with honor the entire way. I was so proud of her.

Several weeks later, Jon was interred at Arlington Cemetery, just outside Washington, D.C. I was there to support Tabitha and her family; it was one of the most difficult days of our lives. At the reception following the burial, we girls gathered together, laughing and crying just as we had during college. Since then, I've spent time with Tabitha when she visits Washington for various events. We usually go to Old Ebbitt Grill — John's favorite D.C.-area bar — and have a whiskey in his memory. On Memorial Day, I spent some time with Jon at Arlington. I sat next to his grave, talking with him and promising that we would take care of Tabitha and their family as best we can. He's up in heaven watching over Tabitha and her family, their own "Warrior Angel."

Knowing one of my best friends is in the midst of such pain and loss is heartbreaking, but I know how much comfort and strength Tabitha draws from the Pi Phis who have gathered around her. Seeing the support of our Florida Epsilon community affirmed my love for our sisterhood and my belief in the power of Sincere Friendship. When something happens to one of our sisters — no matter how long it's been since we've seen each other, no matter the need — we'll do anything we can to support each other. We're there for our sisters, no matter what.

All in, For All THE HIGHS & LOWS



Erin Fischer knows a thing or two about cultivating authentic relationships and investing in other women. As the owner of The Leadership and Training Studio, she's a sought-after speaker, author and facilitator who focuses on developing people and building teams and communities. Erin has partnered with Pi Phi for more than 10 years and is part of the

team that created and continues to facilitate Pi Beta Phi Leadership Institute.

We asked Erin to reflect on why deep, supportive friendships among women are uniquely important. Here, this Phi Mu alumna shares her personal insights on the evolution of her own friendships, the necessity of leaning into vulnerability and how she's learned to be a better friend along the way. She also offers her ideas for how women can create and nurture the bonds of friendship through intention and purpose.

THE "REAL STUFF"
STARTS *with* **SHOWING UP.**

"Talking about friendship can seem trivial. We all have friends; everyone should just know how it works. But I don't think we really know how to do it well. Some friendships come by nature of where we live and how much time we have to invest. In my younger years, I did it all — 36 weddings in three summers and every bridal and baby shower. I think I knew how to be a good periphery friend, a good friend in crisis or even a good 'seasonal friend.' I was really good at long-distance friendships or quarterly get-togethers, but the real stuff happens when you say, 'I'm all in, for all the highs and lows.' It starts with

showing up for each other. It creates the feeling that you have a crew to rely on, who have your back, who will stand next to you — and that only comes with the ability to be in a healthy, vulnerable relationship."

BEING AN
ENGAGED FRIEND
MEANS BEING ALL IN.

"Now that I'm in my 40s, my female friends have taught me how to be a highly engaged, super intense and loving friend. I've learned that these friendships bring so many things women are missing because they don't lean into vulnerability and the requirement of being all in with somebody. I'm part of a group of seven women — the Badass Women's Council. The texts start at six in the morning and last until midnight — and we cover just about everything. We talk about who found a great deal, who needs a dog sitter or a meal delivered that night, and about our sweet parents and grandparents who are aging. These women know just about every detail of my life. The intense friendship that comes when a group of women care for each other so deeply is just off the charts."

WIDENING OUR CIRCLES
HELPS US GROW.

"As you get older, you also realize friends are there to share with other people. In our group, we often say, 'You know who you should know?' The key is to think of who could help a friend's business, support her, and align with her. Who would light up her world? It's a little like blind dating — you might know your friend better than

TAKING friendships TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Cultivating Sincere Friendships begins with intention. Erin offers some tangible ways we can focus on investing in our relationships with women — and support them through all the highs and lows.

BE THE FIRST TO SAY “HELLO.” As a natural introvert I’ve had to change my approach to this. Now I’m the first to greet someone, offer her a hug or a seat next to me and make sure she knows she has someone to lean on. It’s brilliant, simple advice and requires nothing but a word.

LEAN INTO THE HARD STUFF. Who really needs your help? It’s easy to ignore the tough situations or feel you might not have the capacity to be there. And if you truly don’t, just acknowledging what someone is going through is a first step.

BE LESS BUSY. We have a false narrative around being busy and that it equals success. That’s a really bad rubric. There’s no winner of the “busy” race — and even if you feel like there is, there’s nobody at the end handing out medals for being busy. So, put friendships first.

YOU DON’T HAVE TO HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT IN THE BEGINNING. Don’t pressure yourself to be the world’s best friend on day one. Let friendships grow organically and remove your expectations about what they’re supposed to be.

REALLY GREAT WOMEN FORM A CIRCLE — THEN THEY FORM A “U.” Collect great friendships and then open your circle wide for other women who need a space, too.

she knows herself, and to match her with someone who aligns with her personality and values is such a gift. (But, remember it’s also important to find people who have other skill sets and think and act differently than you do too.)”

Real FRIENDSHIP
REQUIRES
CONSISTENCY.

“Right now, I’m really working on showing up for my friends with more consistency. My dear friend Ellen just lost her mother-in-law. The old version of me would have sent a quick note, or maybe checked in once. I’ve realized that friendship requires consistency to do well. I need to check on Ellen every day for the next six months, because what she’s going through — she feels every day. The consistency and intensity of following through is the most important work in our friendships. Some of my oldest and dearest friends I get to see every one or two years, but when we’re together, it feels like we’ve never left each other’s side. That’s consistency — showing genuine care, concern and checking in. It’s so important to be together in person, but it’s just as important to be able to send a text at six a.m. My father (and best friend) just passed away, and he always reminded us, ‘Remember, no matter where you are in the world, we are standing right next to you.’ You can go confidently into the world when you know you have a team standing at your side.” ←

What Does Being a Sorority Woman Mean to You?

Joining a network of like-minded women connected by shared experiences and shared values. Creating a place to discover, build and practice skills and strengths. Making an impact in our communities and in our world. Finding a group of friends who are there for you in every season of life, for life. When we asked our members what being a sorority woman means to them, their responses reflected the intention and values that define an authentic sorority experience — and the Sincere Friendship at the core of Pi Beta Phi sisterhood.

“Loving who I am because of the women empowering me.”

-@mads._98

“Having the authentic support of sisters based on the values that unite us and help us grow.”

-@madeleinecorrell

“Sharing a wonderful love that transcends generations and campuses.”

-@wishfulinwisconsin

“Learning how to lead by following in the footsteps of women who came before me!”

-@genevieve.kenah

“Growing into an empowered woman through the help of women that share my values.”

-@benton_sydney

“Becoming and discovering the strongest version of myself with inspiring sisters by my side.”

-@surahhmortier

If Not for Pi Phi

By **CARLA HASHLEY**, Michigan Epsilon

So many pivotal moments in my life have come as a result of sisters, friends or mentors (or at times, someone who is all three!) offering me their support and love. These women are different from me: alumnae of a variety of universities, working in different industries, living in different cities or countries, at different stages of life and with varied interests. The one thing that connects us is our sisterhood in Pi Phi and our shared commitment to living out our Sincere Friendship for one another.

When I was a collegian serving as Recruitment Chair at Michigan Epsilon, my chapter struggled through a tough semester. I'm convinced we wouldn't have made it without the dedication and care offered to us by our small but mighty Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC). Our AAC Chair, Indiana Theta **ABBY BARNES NICOL**, in particular, offered me endless advice and support when I wasn't sure we'd pull through. Years later, it was the memory of her example and my gratitude to our advisors that inspired me to "pay it forward" with my own service on an AAC. I previously served the Virginia Eta Chapter as AAC Chair and am currently a Regional Member Experience Specialist, and my experience has been transformative. It has filled my cup in so many ways and has affirmed my desire to work in higher education in the future.

GIVING BACK SEEMS LIKE A NATURAL EXPRESSION OF MY GRATITUDE AND BELIEF IN OUR MISSION AND VALUES.

Still today, my closest friends are Pi Phis from my days at Western Michigan. I'm closer than ever to my Michigan Epsilon sisters **VICTORIA GASIDLO** and **MOLLY BARACKMAN-EDER**. We support each other with a bond that's hard to describe: they know what support I need without me having to articulate it, and I do the same for them. It's a special friendship that I know is rooted in Pi Phi's Ritual and the promises we made to each other during initiation. And while this bond is especially meaningful with my closest friends, I know that my membership in Pi Phi has also directed me to women I would have otherwise never met.



Above: Michigan Epsilons reunite at 2019 Convention. From left, **HALLIE NOTHWEHR DAMS**, **CARLA HASHLEY** and **ALISON SEASON SMITH** celebrate at the Wine Carnation Banquet. All three were officers and roommates together during their time at Michigan Epsilon.

Below, from left: **VICTORIA GASIDLO**, **CARLA HASHLEY** and **MOLLY BARAKMAN-EDER** celebrate going Greek again, at the final dinner of their trip to Greece.



One of my biggest cheerleaders has been Virginia Eta **LORI HAIGHT**, who I met in 2017 at the St. Louis Convention. Our affinity for the women of Virginia Eta brought us together. Our connection goes deeper to our personal beliefs in the power of mentorship and service as AAC members. She's supported me and cheered me on through the process of determining when and where to go



From left: Members of Nation's Capital Alumnae Club, Michigan Gamma **MONICA WATT**, Washington Gamma **SARAH PAULOS** and Michigan Epsilon **CARLA HASHLEY** met and became friends during drives to Richmond, Virginia as remote Advisors serving on Virginia Eta's AAC.

back to school and pursue my Ph.D. in higher education. She's been a driving force in helping me connect my AAC service with my career goal to work with first generation college students — and work toward accomplishing it. Her friendship and mentorship are so special to me, and I'm grateful to our sisterhood for bringing us together.

But I've found Sincere Friendship isn't exclusive to the special connections I've made or those friends I consider my nearest and dearest. I feel a real affinity for so many women I've met only once, I have yet to meet, or that I may never meet. While I can actively support the Pi Phis I know personally with my time, support and Pi Phi love, I feel grateful that I can support the Pi Phis I don't know through my service to the Fraternity and my gifts to our Foundation.

Giving back seems like a natural expression of my gratitude and belief in our mission and values. I realize that there is a difference between service and

philanthropy. I know my volunteer service is important, but I also know that volunteer hours aren't the only resource Pi Phi needs to support our members. I feel good knowing my financial support of our Foundation today can support sisters immediately, and my legacy gift can help invest in my future Pi Phi sisters. I believe Pi Phi's legacy must be continued through each of its members, and I feel strongly that its heritage must be passed on through me to ensure future generations of Pi Phis — and those sisters I may never meet — have the chances I had to experience this beautiful sisterhood.

I know if not for Pi Phi, I would be missing so many incredible women in my life. But I also know, even more importantly, if not for the sincerity, support and friendship I give to my sisters and to our sisterhood, Pi Phi would not be as strong or vibrant as it is today. Surely, if not for each and every one of our Pi Phi sisters past, present and future, Pi Phi would not be the same. ◀

Putting Our Values Into Practice



Pi Phis have worked for the betterment of society for as long as we've been a fraternity. Our Founders felt they had a responsibility to serve others in their communities, writing of their determination to "dispel the gloom from the lives of all around them." Our philanthropic efforts serve as a tangible way for our members to live Pi Beta Phi values, visibly demonstrating what we believe.

In a partnership spanning decades, members of the Richmond, Virginia, Alumnae Club have advocated for the importance of literacy and education through their work with incarcerated women at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women (VCCW) in Goochland, Virginia. Pennsylvania Beta **ELIZABETH KATES** was chosen to be the first warden of VCCW when the prison opened in 1931. Understanding both the value of education and the challenges the offenders would face upon their release, Elizabeth felt she could improve the lives of the women at the prison by investing in their futures.

"Elizabeth was strongly committed to rehabilitating the women she oversaw," said New York Delta **VICKEY VERWEY**, a member of the Richmond club and board member of the Elizabeth Kates Foundation. "For support of educational programming and materials beyond the basics provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia, she

Members of the Richmond, Virginia, Alumnae Club who participate in Kates Readers share some of the books they've read with women enrolled in the program. From left: Georgia Alpha **CAROL PAYNE MARTIN**; Texas Beta **PATTY THOMASON SCHAUMBURG**, Club President; Indiana Epsilon **MARY PETTICREW SMALLING**; Ohio Beta **SONIA PHIPPS BROKAW**; Tennessee Beta **RANDIE SEARS ROSENBERG**; and New York Delta **VICKEY VERWEY**.

turned to her Pi Phi sisters for help." One of these sisters was past Grand President **MAY LANSFIELD KELLER**, Maryland Alpha, who was among the founding members (and the first president) when the Elizabeth Kates Foundation was chartered in 1942.

The Richmond club has supported the Kates Foundation's efforts since its beginning; in that time, Richmond Pi Phis have served thousands of incarcerated women. Today, VCCW houses a population of approximately 525 inmates. The all-volunteer Kates Foundation is the club's local philanthropy, and club members serve on the organization's board and volunteer in its programs at VCCW. Club members help prepare the offenders for successful reentry into society by strengthening their reading and critical thinking skills.



In 2007, Richmond club members and educators **JOAN DALRYMPLE**, Georgia Alpha, and her daughter **MARGARET DALRYMPLE EVANS**, Virginia Zeta, founded the Kates Readers program as a community literacy project that would help the women at VCCW. Structured as a book club, Kates Readers provides a positive learning environment and strengthens the reading skills of offenders working on their GEDs. “The offenders participating in the program usually have had negative learning experiences, and growing up, many were repeatedly told they were stupid,” Vickey explained, referencing one woman who had never read an entire book before joining Kates Readers. “The books are carefully selected by experienced teachers and librarians to provide quality reading experiences and promote discussion.” Each book is thoroughly introduced, and study materials are provided. Discussions provide opportunities for the participants to improve analytical, evaluative and critical thinking skills, all of which are tested on the GED exam. Club members later established the Kates Readers 2 program to serve other offenders who had already earned a high school diploma or GED and encourage them to pursue additional educational opportunities offered at VCCW.

By helping participants develop a love of reading and attain educational goals, the long-term benefits of the Kates Readers programs extend far beyond prison walls. “Kates Readers improves both individual and family literacy,” Vickey said. “Most of the participating offenders are mothers and grandmothers who keep in close contact with their children and grandchildren while in prison. When they are enthusiastic about learning and reading, they share their enthusiasm through letters, phone calls and face-to-face visits. An offender who improves her own reading skills is more likely to read aloud to her child or discuss books with a child during a visit. The offenders’ improved literacy positively affects everyone close to them.”

Vickey appreciates that the club’s ongoing work with the Kates Foundation and the women at VCCW provides meaningful opportunities for Pi Phis to put our values into practice. And, while she finds examples of every Core Value reflected in the club’s service, she sees Sincere Friendship as the thread that connects it all. “Since VCCW is a prison, more is expected of a volunteer,” she said. “There are many rules to follow. The dress code is strict. To enter VCCW, you must pass through a metal detector, be ‘wanded’ and go through a pat-down search. Volunteers have to attend training and receive updated training. I’m not sure how many of us would be willing to go through this without belief in Sincere Friendship.”



After their December visit to Virginia Correctional Center for Women, Kates Readers volunteers gathered for dinner and a planning session. From left: New York Delta **VICKEY VERWEY**, Indiana Epsilon **MARY PETTICREW SMALLING**, Virginia Zeta **MARGARET “MEG” DALRYMPLE EVANS**, Virginia Zeta **JARYN CREAMY**, Georgia Alpha **JOAN ROSSER DALRYMPLE** and Tennessee Beta **RANDIE SEARS ROSENBERG**.

By helping the women at VCCW build their skills and confidence, the Kates Readers programs also strengthen existing bonds within the Richmond club. “Participating in Kates Readers has enabled me to get to know my Pi Phi sisters much better,” Vickey reflected, mentioning that volunteers pour their hearts into preparing thoughtful questions and facilitating engaging discussions. “For over 12 years, I’ve been impressed by their dedication to making Kates Readers successful through their hard work.” ←

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ADVOCATING FOR LITERACY
IN YOUR COMMUNITY? SEND
STORIES AND PHOTOS TO
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Sincere Friendship Across the Miles

by **CARY KRUMDIECK**, California Mu

The journey through college is always slightly different than we expect, and that's true for almost everyone's experience. But sometimes, the best thing that can happen is for college to differ from — or exceed — our own expectations. For Pepperdine University students, our journeys and expectations often involve living and learning abroad. We have the opportunity to participate in one of the most extensive study abroad programs of any university in the country.

As the women of Pi Beta Phi are some of the most involved on our campus, many of our sophomore members are based on one of Pepperdine's international campuses.

Left, from left: **IVY MOORE** and **CAROLINE CHANCE** studied abroad in Lausanne, Switzerland where they got to travel across Europe to see highlights such as the Colosseum.

Below: **MEGAN OFFUTT** spent her year abroad in Heidelberg, Germany where she also got to visit places like Amsterdam, Berlin and Paris.

Right, from left: **JESSIE ARNOLD** and **LEXI JOHNSON** are studying Spanish at Pepperdine. What better way to immerse themselves than to spend their summer in Spain?



Balancing this valuable academic opportunity with our Pi Phi member experience isn't easy. With so many of our members living outside the country, it can be challenging for California Mus to get to know one another. Our chapter has truly embraced this system by creating an environment of respect and Sincere Friendship to keep our members close, no matter the physical distance between us.

To support the women abroad, help them get acquainted with our new freshmen members and strengthen their relationships with our juniors, we send boxes of letters and goodies across the world to the different cities



where our sisters are studying: Buenos Aires, Argentina; Lausanne, Switzerland; Florence, Italy; Heidelberg, Germany; and London, England. In response, we've received many thanks back on campus. We can see friendships beginning to form, especially between our freshmen members and the sophomores returning the following term. This growth and development of friendships has been wonderful for our entire chapter to experience. The bond between those studying at our international campuses and those on our main campus in Malibu is difficult to put into words, but so special to experience first-hand.

As spring rolls around, graduation grows near and our sisters abroad return to Malibu, emotions are bittersweet. On one hand, around 25 members who have been our "pen pals" for the past year are back home; on the other, the seniors who have had such an impact on our chapter are graduating. During their time at Pepperdine,

our seniors have touched the lives of many with their kindness, generosity and humor. Many of their little sisters are the sophomores studying abroad. The return of our sophomores and the commencement of our seniors completes a cycle of our chapter that we hold close to our hearts.

Our California Mu family completes our experience as members of Pi Beta Phi. As part of a sisterhood that extends far beyond our chapter, we enjoy recognizing the Personal and Intellectual Growth and Sincere Friendship being created among our sisters at Pepperdine despite the challenges outside programming may cause. And because friendship, Integrity and loyalty are the foundation of our unique sisterhood, our members are able to embrace all the opportunities our campus and our college journeys bring our way. ←

Below, from left: Seniors **SAM PASSMAN, ELLE HARDING** and **MICHAELA WALL** spent their sophomore year in Buenos Aires, Argentina where they became best friends.



Happy 150th, Kappa Alpha Theta!

By **FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE**, New York Alpha



Copyright: DePauw University

DePauw University's first four women students (from left): Indiana Epsilon **LAURA BESWICK**, Alice Allen, Mary Simmons and Bettie Locke.

In the summer of 1867, a few months after Pi Beta Phi was founded, the Indiana Asbury University Board of Trustees decided to admit women. Located in Greencastle, Indiana, the institution was founded 30 years earlier, but became DePauw University in 1884 to honor a major benefactor.

Alice Allen, **LAURA BESWICK**, Bettie Locke, and Mary Simmons, members of the class of 1871, were the first women to attend Indiana Asbury. Initially, the male students were not very friendly to the women and tried to make collegiate life difficult for them. The men did not allow the women to join their literary societies, so in 1869, the women founded the Philomathean Literary Society. Just as our founders did at Monmouth College, Alice, Laura, Bettie and Mary relied on friendship with one another to make the experience of being pioneers in higher education a little easier for themselves.

Later, the Phi Gamma Delta chapter at Indiana Asbury offered Bettie Locke a Phi Gamma Delta badge. It did not come with membership responsibilities, nor did it come with a dating arrangement as future tradition would have it. Bettie declined the badge, accepted the gift of a silver cake basket instead, and went on to found Kappa Alpha Theta on January 27, 1870.

A chapter of I.C. Sorosis, as Pi Beta Phi was then known, was chartered at Indiana Asbury in September 1870. It came about through the efforts of Kate Preston, who was a charter member along with Laura Beswick,

ELLA JONES, FLORENCE BROWN and **ROSE RANKIN**. It was known as the Epsilon Chapter of I.C. Sorosis.

Pi Phi's third convention was held in Greencastle in June 1872. Three of our five active chapters sent representatives. Expansion, or the forming of new chapters, was the main topic of conversation at the business meeting. The delegates and visitors were entertained by the Epsilon chapter, including an event held at the home of Dr. Albert G. Preston, Kate's father.

In 1875, Kappa Kappa Gamma established a chapter at Indiana Asbury. As sometimes happened when a new group came to campus, another group faltered. Our Epsilon Chapter closed in 1877, having initiated 12 women; it took 65 years for our chapter to return. The Indiana Epsilon chapter of Pi Beta Phi was installed on September 1, 1942.

The silver cake basket Phi Gamma Delta gave Bettie Locke was recently donated to Kappa Alpha Theta, just in time for its sesquicentennial. While Pi Beta Phi claims the title of the oldest women's organization based on the men's fraternity model, Kappa Alpha Theta claims the title of the oldest Greek-letter organization for women. And, even though the early women students at DePauw wore different badges, they shared friendship as a common value. With Sincere Friendship, we wish a Happy 150th anniversary to our Theta friends! ◀

In Memoriam

We honor our Pi Phi sisters who have passed away and celebrate their part in our sisterhood.

In Memoriam lists the name and initiation year of each member who has died. The list below reflects notification by public obituary received at Pi Beta Phi Headquarters between June 1, 2019 and September 30, 2019. Obituaries may be sent by email to Engagement Coordinator Carolyn Banks Loper, Illinois Eta, at cloper@pibetaphi.org or mailed to Headquarters.

Memorial gifts made to Pi Beta Phi Foundation are a loving and lasting way to honor the memory of a beloved Pi Phi sister. To make a memorial gift, please call our Foundation at (636) 256-1357 or visit pibetaphifoundation.org. ←

ALABAMA ALPHA

Joanne Gray Englebert, 1950
Nancy Bradley Smila, 1951

ARIZONA ALPHA

Rosemary Layson Adams, 1947,
affiliated Missouri Alpha
Ann Frost Bailey, 1963
Beverly Lewis Collins, 1953

ARKANSAS ALPHA

Betty Meadows Atkinson, 1945
Judith McFall Garner, 1957
Sharon Drake Tabor, 1962

CALIFORNIA BETA

Alice Goodwin Lenz, 1951
Constance Lacy Loundagin, 1952
Peggy Lacy Still, 1947

CALIFORNIA EPSILON

Annie Falk Goss, 1951

CALIFORNIA ZETA

Judy Curry Daniels, 1953

COLORADO ALPHA

Susan Newbill Conrad, 1971
Jane Middlemist Winterroth, 1941

COLORADO GAMMA

Bonnie Herrle, 1972
Amy Elizabeth Larkin, 1990

FLORIDA ALPHA

Jan Nelson Reichenbach, 1979

FLORIDA BETA

Eleanor Mahoney, 1942
Betty Schoeppe Miller, 1950,
affiliated North Carolina Alpha

GEORGIA ALPHA

Carolyn Chambers Jones, 1951

IDAHO ALPHA

Patricia Anderson Harberd, 1953

ILLINOIS ALPHA

Mary Stults McCarnes, 1939
Juanita Winbigler Reinhard, 1939

ILLINOIS BETA-DELTA

Ann Ahlum Owen, 1946

ILLINOIS EPSILON

Donna Beagle Sidwell, 1950

ILLINOIS THETA

Margaret Hill Jones, 1947

INDIANA BETA

Wendy Chiogioji Chioji, 1980

INDIANA EPSILON

Kathy Avery Wynne, 1976

INDIANA GAMMA

Joan Dunn Randolph, 1947

IOWA BETA

Harriett Hartzler Overland, 1940
Jackie Pyfer Vander Linden, 1955

KANSAS BETA

Middy Allison Divelbiss, 1945

LOUISIANA ALPHA

Suzanne Brunazzi Paxton, 1959

LOUISIANA BETA

Jean Short Triplett, 1945

MICHIGAN ALPHA

Nancy Woodward Bouhall, 1951

MICHIGAN BETA

Jane Holden Walker, 1937

MICHIGAN GAMMA

Helen Miller Hoxie, 1945

MINNESOTA ALPHA

Mary Hyde Murphy, 1959

MISSOURI ALPHA

Virginia Wornall Hulen, 1956
Barbara Allton Knaus, 1950
Jayne Fulford Lautenbach, 1955
Martha McCormick Sensenich, 1952

MISSOURI BETA

Anne Travis O'Connell, 1944
Marianne Kessler Spiegelhalter, 1950

MISSOURI GAMMA

Katie Louise McWain, 2007

MONTANA ALPHA

Faye Williamson Bacon, 1956
Ellen Brown Moe, 1944

NORTH CAROLINA ALPHA

Sarah Little McElroy, 1947

OHIO ALPHA

Donna Wenrick Gilligan, 1969
Deborah Linn Kennedy, 1949

OHIO BETA

May Louyse Bradley Griebel, 1967

OHIO DELTA

Doris Baker Blackmore, 1947
Patricia Dynes Dye, 1946
Hazel Mutersbaugh Martindale, 1948

OHIO EPSILON

Mary Stoll Mahnen, 1953

OHIO ZETA

Judy Christine Larch, 1978

OKLAHOMA ALPHA

Patricia Moore La Force, 1953
Nancy Johnston Records, 1955

OREGON ALPHA

Sandy McDaniel Sweeney, 1972

OREGON DELTA

Judy Holland Blake, 1960

SOUTH CAROLINA ALPHA

Ann Logwood Broome, 1958
Sylvia Campbell Little, 1951

SOUTH DAKOTA ALPHA

Florence Jacobsen Lee, 1943

TENNESSEE BETA

Dorothy Green Tune, 1948

TENNESSEE GAMMA

Lucy Hatmaker Farrar, 1955

TEXAS ALPHA

Coralee Fain Baldwin, 1950

TEXAS ZETA

Lenore Cain Waldrop, 1977

UTAH ALPHA

Barbara Lloyd Wallin, 1949

VERMONT BETA

Helen Riegels Mackey, 1957

VIRGINIA ALPHA

Virgini Richardson Anderson, 1947

VIRGINIA GAMMA

Lucille Eldridge Harkless, 1937

WASHINGTON ALPHA

Frances Delano Abolins, 1957

WASHINGTON GAMMA

June Baker Louderback, 1955

WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

Betty Hollister Barksdale, 1950

WISCONSIN ALPHA

Mary Lacey Davies, 1947
Joan Ransom McSunas, 1952

WISCONSIN BETA

Marjorie Bishop Cottrell, 1956



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Pi Phi jewels.



- A. LYANNA NECKLACE, #LYANNA GP \$50
- B. 10K LAVALIERE WITH GF SNAKE CHAIN, #L2649 10K/GF \$75
- C. CUSHION RING, #0452 SS \$128 10K \$325
- D. ADDY RING, #ADDY SP/GP \$39
- E. ARROW WRAP RING, #3047 SS \$100 10K \$300
- F. FOREVER RING, #001G SS \$253 10K \$407
- G. GARNET AND AQUAMARINE BADGE WITH DIAMOND POINT, #0317 10K \$325
- H. CROWN PEARL BADGE WITH GARNET POINT, #0205 10K \$300
- I. CROWN PEARL BADGE, #0200 10K \$225
- J. LETTER GUARD, #J0100 10K \$65
- K. CREST GUARD, #9005 10K \$65
- L. VP FINANCE DANGLE, #004 GP \$11 10K \$32
- M. CHAPTER PRESIDENT DANGLE, #001A GP \$11 10K \$32
- N. SCHOLARSHIP PEARL DANGLE, #041 GP \$11



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@wiscopiphi

but what could beat this duo?



@ellis.betts

We are so thankful for all of the memories made in 2019! From in-home gatherings, to volunteering, monthly book club, and traveling to Convention, we are eager for 2020! What are you looking forward to?



@bradleypiphi

No Monday blues here
 #bradleypiphi
 #sincerefriendship



@msupibetaphi

How we're feeling after Big Little & that tomorrow is Friday!!!! Raise your hand if you're ready for Homecoming weekend!!!
 #MontanaStatePiPhi
 #SincereFriendship



@baylorpiphi

Bid day is only 2 weeks away & we can't wait to hug you this big, MC '20!! #wingsbyspring



@mizzoupiphi

We're so ready for you, 2020! Bringing in the new year like R I N G C H I N G



@phxalumpibetaphi

Our events are in full swing - we hope you can make it to something in October! #simplypiphi #beacharmingpiphi #sincerefriendship #philanthropicservicetooths



@uccspiphi

last night was a BIG deal. We love to see our PHAMs grow!!! #sincerefriendship #uccspiphi