

# The Arrow

OF PI BETA PHI • SPRING 2021



purpose  
meets  
passion



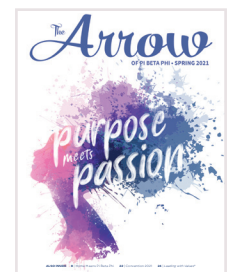
OF PI BETA PHI • SPRING 2021

## FEATURES

- 10 ENDURANCE ENTREPRENEUR ON AND OFF THE TRAILS
- 16 PURPOSE MEETS PASSION
- 28 WHY NOT ME?

### ON THE COVER

Purpose and passion are two driving forces in the pursuit of personal fulfillment. Some are lucky enough to find a way to merge the two, including members spotlighted in this issue of *The Arrow*. Read on for their stories at the intersection of purpose and passion.



# IN EVERY ISSUE

2 PERSPECTIVE	26 READ > LEAD > ACHIEVE®
3 LETTERS TO PI PHI	32 REMEMBER
4 ONE, TWO, THREE WORDS	34 COLLEGIATE NEWS
8 BUILT FOR SISTERHOOD	40 COLLEGIATE SPOTLIGHT
12 IN HER WORDS	41 ALUMNAE NEWS
14 FOUNDATION	46 IN MEMORIAM

## FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE, New York Alpha



**THE ARROW® OF PI BETA PHI**  
Spring 2021 • Vol. 137 No. 3

### GRAND COUNCIL

Marla Neelly Wulf Alison Veit Heafitz  
Emory McGinnis Eison Jenn Plagman-Galvin  
Amy Lorenzen Southerland Jamie Feist Daniels  
Lisa Gamel Scott

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Juli Holmes Willeman

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Jordan Aschwege TG Livak  
Caroline Majers Backer Cassidy Nieves  
Shawn Eagleburger Brittany Robb  
Emily Kuryla

### PI BETA PHI FRATERNITY FOR WOMEN

1154 Town & Country Commons Drive  
Town & Country, Missouri 63017  
(636) 256-0680 | FAX (636) 256-8095  
headquarters@pibetaphi.org  
pibetaphi.org

### CONNECT WITH US!

f/pibetaphi  
t/pibetaphihq  
@pibetaphihq  
in/Pi Beta Phi Fraternity  
p/pibetaphihq  
e/pibetaphi.org/blog

### SUBMISSIONS

All Pi Phis are encouraged to submit news and stories to *The Arrow*. Articles may be submitted online at [pibetaphi.org/submit](http://pibetaphi.org/submit). Visit [pibetaphi.org/arrow](http://pibetaphi.org/arrow) 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](mailto: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/member-profile](http://pibetaphi.org/member-profile).

### 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](http://pibetaphi.org/dues) or mail a check to Headquarters.



FRATERNITY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION

# Pieces of the Pi Phi Mosaic



**JULI HOLMES WILLEMEN**  
 Outgoing Executive Director  
 Pi Beta Phi Fraternity and  
 Fraternity Housing Corporation

Iowa Beta  
 Simpson College

Dear Sisters,

I'll never forget one late summer night in 2001 at the end of the long hall of the old Pi Beta Phi Central Office, poring through stacks of papers all around me preparing for my first Pi Phi audit. I'd been on the job for a couple weeks and was putting together pieces of the puzzle one by one to understand how our Fraternity worked. Having previously worked in public accounting, I'd done this process plenty of times before - just not for Pi Phi. I enjoyed the challenge of figuring out new organizations and seeing how everything fit together.

However, I quickly realized this time was different. These weren't just numbers on a page or pieces to put together any other puzzle. These numbers represented dollars going to produce leadership programs for young women. Our members. To develop their leadership potential to go out into the world and do great things. Suddenly, the numbers mattered much more and came to life. In that moment, I think I did, too.

I was never unhappy in my previous jobs, but I can't say I was passionate about the work I was doing either. That all changed when the numbers turned into real programs for real people, and I could see the impact they made. I discovered a passion I didn't know I had for leadership development. I started seeking out resources and asking different questions to learn more. I quickly came to realize how blessed I was to be surrounded by amazing Pi Phi leaders and mentors. When I transitioned into the Executive Director role upon my predecessor's retirement, I discovered the value of fostering the leadership potential of our members on a whole new level. My passion grew deeper.

Fast forward 20 years and I'm still learning and just as passionate about helping our members reach their leadership potential. It's what Pi Phi does. We develop Friends and Leaders for Life. It is not always easy, but it is always worth it. When I find myself having a particularly hard day, I always come back to one thing. We are developing leaders, and the world needs the leaders we are developing. It is good work, and it is worth it. I know I would not be the woman, mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend, colleague or leader I am today without all Pi Phi has taught me. My life is forever enriched by the relationships built, lessons learned and experiences shared on my Pi Phi journey.

The puzzle I started to put together that night long ago has evolved into quite the mosaic 20 years later. I have witnessed incredible women develop into even more incredible leaders. As you read the stories in this issue of *The Arrow*, I hope you are inspired. I invite you to reflect on how you are leading with your passion and adding to the Pi Phi mosaic. I just know you have a beautiful story to add. ←

In Pi Phi,

*Juli Willeman*

# Letters to Pi Phi

Pi Beta Phi is committed to delivering a premier experience for all members. To fulfill this commitment, we are continually striving to learn what our sisters need from the membership experience and find the best ways to deliver. We believe we can strengthen the inherent value in Pi Phi sisterhood by seeking feedback from our members and using what we learn to help plan our next steps.

We want to hear from you, whether you're sharing your feelings on the latest issue of *The Arrow*, your thoughts on a Fraternity email or social media post or a heartfelt critique encouraging Pi Phi to do better. Below are a selection of thoughts Pi Phi sisters shared on recent stories in *The Arrow*, social media and Fraternity communications.

---

*In response to the all-alumnae Pi Phi Points of Interest: Issue 2*

**DANETTE H. MURRET**, Louisiana Beta, initiated 1989

"I am so disappointed that my Nationals [Headquarters] do not think it is important to honor our past members by having legacies. I have an active daughter and one coming soon. I have always loved what Pi Beta Phi sisterhood meant to my life both in college and as an adult. This is one more thing that the world today does not understand. Honor traditions, celebrate the past that brought us to this future, do not try to erase what got us where we are."

---

*In response to our Facebook post sharing the Fraternity's core values definitions that inspired the Leading with Values® refresh:*

**MORIAH MERKEL SOWDERS**, Indiana Gamma, initiated 2003

"Love this! I was a collegian when *Leading with Values* was launched years ago. This is a great refresh of the supporting statements of our values to make them even more relatable and relevant today!"

---

*In response to the Winter 2021 issue of The Arrow:*

**KATHIE BRIDGES**, Utah Alpha, initiated 1963

"Such an amazing issue. College women should all read and live it!"

---

*In response to the February all-member DEI Progress Report:*

**SHEILA MCGRATH**, Illinois Theta, initiated 1953

"I wish to commend Pi Beta Phi on the energizing and encouraging work regarding the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion reports. Your work is very visible and will have many people thinking more deeply on how their lives are lived. Thank you for your hard work and time in making this mission happen."

**MELISSA PARSONNET WALLACE**, Alabama Beta, initiated 1987

"I am absolutely appalled that you all have voted to take away the distinction of legacy. Since the birth of my daughter, I had hopes that she would follow in my footsteps and become a member of Pi Beta Phi. Having that distinction puts a little spotlight on members to know that the young lady has a connection to the Fraternity. In your quest to be inclusive, you all have decided to exclude."

---

*The opinions expressed in Letters to Pi Phi do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, nor does Pi Beta Phi endorse the opinions or viewpoints expressed within these letters. Let's keep the conversation going, together — send your reflections and feedback to [thearrow@pibetaphi.org](mailto:thearrow@pibetaphi.org). Please include your full name and chapter of initiation. ◀*

## PI BETA PHI NAMES SHAWN EAGLEBURGER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After an extensive search, Pi Beta Phi Grand Council has selected Shawn Eagleburger to serve as the organization's next Fraternity and Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) Executive Director. In this position, Shawn will lead the overall function of the international Headquarters of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women in implementing the strategic priorities set by Grand Council and executing the administrative operations of the Fraternity and FHC. Read more about Shawn at [pibetaphi.org/blog](https://pibetaphi.org/blog).

---

## PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES – LEGACY AND SPONSORSHIP

At Convention 2021, Grand Council will propose legislation to revise the Constitution and Statutes to remove any reference to special consideration for legacies, as well as eliminate sponsorship as a requirement for membership and the process by which alumnae offer recommendations for Potential New Members. This includes the elimination of the Recruitment Information Form (RIF), the form alumnae currently use to offer sponsorship and recommendations.

Simply put, a legacy recruitment policy is inequitable by nature. The requirement for sponsorship or necessity of an alumnae recommendation creates a barrier to joining Pi Beta Phi. Therefore, these practices are inconsistent with Pi Beta Phi's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Visit [pibetaphi.org/recruitment-changes](https://pibetaphi.org/recruitment-changes) to learn more.

---

## AN UPDATE ON OUR PROGRESS: PI BETA PHI'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

In June 2020, Grand Council committed Pi Beta Phi to do better in ensuring a more diverse, equitable and inclusive sisterhood. You are invited to be a part of the journey. In a demonstration of accountability, the Fraternity provided a progress report to the membership this past February. Read the progress report at [pibetaphi.org/dei](https://pibetaphi.org/dei).

---

## LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Over the last year, Pi Beta Phi has made diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) a greater priority. Through this work, it has become evident that the Fraternity must increase capacity within the leadership structure.

At Convention 2021, Grand Council will propose legislation which requires all chapters elect two new chapter officers: Vice President Inclusion and Director Community Inclusion. The new officers will be supported by an additional member of the Alumnae Advisory Committee. Grand Council will also propose revising the responsibilities of the current Grand Vice President Community Relations and renaming the role Grand Vice President Inclusion. This Grand Council member will oversee the Fraternity's existing Community Relations team as well as a new Specialty Director, the Director Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and nine new Inclusion Specialists serving on Regional Teams. To learn more, please visit [pibetaphi.org/proposedstructure](https://pibetaphi.org/proposedstructure).

---

## VOLUNTEER WITH PI PHI

From our earliest days, Pi Beta Phi has prospered thanks to the dedication and leadership of volunteers who guide our organization at the local, regional and international levels. Through their work, our volunteer leaders help to build a strong sisterhood for generations to come. More than 2,000 dedicated volunteers serve and strengthen Pi Beta Phi every day. Their leadership gives members the opportunity to practice and grow their skills, while contributing to our collective success. Visit [pibetaphi.org/volunteer](https://pibetaphi.org/volunteer) to join this network and support members across our sisterhood.

## TOP 10 CHAPTERS

Every year, Pi Phi chapters demonstrate the strength of their commitment to Philanthropic Service to Others. Throughout 2020, our chapters' fundraising efforts were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; many had to re-envision their fundraising and philanthropy events. Despite the challenges, our chapters collectively raised \$423,598.80 for Pi Beta Phi Foundation! We recognize the Top 10 Chapters for their outstanding contributions in support of scholarships, leadership, literacy, sisters in need and more through your Foundation.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Illinois Kappa - University of Chicago             | 6. Oklahoma Alpha - University of Oklahoma             |
| 2. Arkansas Alpha - University of Arkansas            | 7. Idaho Alpha - University of Idaho                   |
| 3. Texas Eta - Texas A&M University                   | 8. Louisiana Beta - Louisiana State University         |
| 4. Indiana Beta - Indiana University                  | 9. North Carolina Alpha - University of North Carolina |
| 5. California Theta - University of California, Davis | 10. Colorado Delta - Colorado School of Mines          |

## CHAPTER OFFICERS LEAD WITH RESILIENCE

Although Pi Phi was unable to host College Weekend in 2021, the Fraternity coordinated a series of virtual, live officer trainings for all chapter officers and advisors. The live sessions, which included a keynote attended by more than 800 members, were designed to kick-start this year's unique officer term.

With chapters operating under COVID-19 precautions, the Fraternity decided to forego the traditional Chapter Evaluation. This year, every Pi Phi chapter will use one unifying goal to guide their work: overcoming obstacles to provide an engaging, inclusive member experience and ensure operational sustainability.

## LOBBYING FOR OUR FUTURE

Each spring, a team of Pi Phi collegians and alumnae advocate for legislation impacting fraternities and sororities. This annual day of lobbying is coordinated by the Fraternal Government Relations Coalition (FGRC). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's lobbying took place virtually. Pi Phis in attendance included collegians Colorado Epsilon **MAGGIE GENEVICH**, California Epsilon **TORI VASQUEZ**, Washington Beta **MCKENNA PLOWMAN** and Virginia Gamma **GRACE HAFFNER** and alumna Illinois Theta **SHEILA CONSAUL**.

Each representative had the opportunity to learn about legislation impacting the fraternity and sorority community and meet with members of Congress to share why these issues are important. Topics included national anti-hazing legislation, freedom of association, safe housing and college affordability. ◀

## COVID-19 UPDATE

On March 9, 2020, Pi Beta Phi Headquarters learned of our first chapter impacted by a university moving to remote instruction in the wake of the rapidly worsening COVID-19 outbreak. Within four days, every chapter had been impacted. After first focusing on establishing safety practices, the Fraternity resolved to turn the challenges into opportunities. Sisterhood has taken many forms in the last 14 months. Through it all, Pi Phis have stood up to lead their chapters, alumnae clubs and communities with care, creativity and commitment. More information on Pi Beta Phi's COVID-19 response can be found at [pibetaphi.org/COVID](https://pibetaphi.org/COVID).

# Pi Beta Phi Welcomes Florida Eta

This spring, Pi Beta Phi celebrated the installation of the Florida Eta Chapter at the University of Miami. The establishment of Pi Phi's newest chapter was complete on March 27, 2021, as Pi Phi officers and Headquarters staff joined 87 Florida Eta collegians to celebrate Pi Phi's first-ever virtual installation.

The women of Florida Eta are excited to be part of a supportive sisterhood on campus and forge connections with one another at a time when friendships are critically important. "One quality of this outstanding group is noted by the Sincere Friendship they have already shown one another," said Resident Leadership Development Consultant (RLDC) **SARAH MOORE**, South Carolina Alpha. "It can be seen in their everyday care for each other, their dedication to get to know one another's differences, passion for future service projects and their excitement to positively impact the Miami community."

Their Pi Phi journey began on February 7, 2021, as Pi Phi welcomed Florida Eta's charter class of New Members. After a mostly virtual recruitment process, members were eager to get to know one another and the inner workings of their new sisterhood. Throughout the spring term, members prioritized learning more about each other and Pi Phi despite challenges presented by the pandemic.

Chapter members participated in several sisterhood activities including a virtual Valentine's Day event, virtual trivia and Pictionary, and an outdoor workout class with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. "The women of Florida Eta

are dedicated to making connections and relationships with the University of Miami and the Association of Greek Letter Organizations," said RLDC **CHRISTIANA HOLLADAY**, Colorado Gamma. "The chapter wants to continue building strong relationships with organizations in the fraternity/sorority community."

After much anticipation, Installation Weekend was held March 26-27. Campus leaders and Fraternity officers joined chapter members for a virtual Cookie Shine to kick off the weekend's celebration. RLDCs Christiana and Sarah filled the chapter's suite with decorations and treats for members to safely pick up following the event to ensure chapter members were following local, campus and CDC guidelines. Before the Cookie Shine, members received a gift bag with a custom Pi Phi cookie and Pi Beta Phi cookie cutters along with other Pi Phi accessories.

On Saturday morning, members participated in the Preparatory Service and were virtually initiated by Grand President **MARLA NEELLY WULF**, Kansas Beta. Following their Initiation, members attended their first chapter meeting and installed the new chapter officers and Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) Advisors.

After her installation as Chapter President, **CONNIE AIRAN** shared some of her aspirations for the Florida Eta Chapter. "The women in our chapter have so many amazing and unique ideas," Connie said. "I have no doubt in my mind that this chapter will continue to grow and thrive for many years to come. All of us have the

Resident Leadership Development Consultants **SARAH MOORE**, South Carolina Alpha, and **CHRISTIANA HOLLADAY**, Colorado Gamma, prepared the Florida Eta Suite for a Cookie Shine.







Florida Eta's Executive Council. From left: **SOPIA GONZALEZ, JULIA HARRIS, LANEY BLOCH, CONNIE AIRAN, EMILY MARQUEZ, OLIVIA TONINI** and **BRIANNA FRANK**.

opportunity to be a part of something so special and remarkable — we are the first Pi Phis at the University of Miami. We get to decide and choose who we want to be. I couldn't think of a better group of women to build a new sorority with, and as Chapter President, I look forward to creating an amazing chapter with all my new sisters. Each one of you has a unique personality, a high-value system and will share your talents to build Pi Beta Phi into an extraordinary organization."

The weekend concluded with a virtual Installation Ceremony hosted by Grand Vice President Fraternity Growth **ALISON VEIT HEAFITZ**, Illinois Zeta, and Grand President Marla Neelly Wulf. "I have full confidence that the incredible women of Florida Eta are going to do great things for their chapter, for Pi Phi and for the University of Miami community," said Marla. "I am very excited for the opportunities and bonds this sisterhood will bring — it is just the beginning."

The Florida Eta Chapter made history as Pi Phi's first-ever virtual establishment. The chapter's success wouldn't have been possible without the support of our assisting chapters, local alumnae and Fraternity officers. "The support this chapter has received, especially in a year filled with continued difficulties is immensely appreciated," Sarah said. "We are so proud of the women of Florida Eta and cannot wait to see what this chapter will continue to achieve in the coming years."

With the establishment of our 205<sup>th</sup> chapter, the founding members of the Florida Eta Chapter have already made a lasting impact in their short time as Pi Phis. Our sisterhood is strengthened by every member, and we are grateful for their commitment to the growth and future of Pi Beta Phi. ←



From left to right: Florida Etas **KAYLEE REYES, ALEX GARCIA, RENEE MERRIMAN** and **ELIZABETH HAHNE** celebrating their Initiation.

# Home Means Pi Beta Phi

Most everyone knows the joy of coming home after a long day and being warmly greeted by those we love. A home is meant to be a place of support, safety and security, surrounded by loved ones, loyal pets or even the ever-growing plant collection. Whatever makes for a supportive and comfortable environment for you, there's a sense of relief and a weight lifted when walking through the door.

Pi Beta Phi members are doubly lucky when those greeting them at home are their sisters in the chapter facility. Whether it's a chapter house, suite, dorm or other shared space, when Pi Phis are together, there is always a place to call home. Collegians and alumnae alike know the sense of support offered within a Pi Phi chapter, from homework assistance to long conversations offering advice and insight.

To share some of their recent experiences in a Pi Phi chapter facility, members of chapters across North America reflected on how their chapter fosters a supportive environment and shared their stories of how Pi Phis supported them through the highs and the lows.

The onset of COVID-19 presented many obstacles and heartbreaks. For Wisconsin Alpha **HAILEY LAUBSCHER**, serving as Chapter President during a pandemic brought a unique set of obstacles, as well as opportunities for growth and support from her sisters. "The last year was difficult for me and my mental health amidst all of the other challenges that came with being a leader during this pandemic," she said. "I leaned on my sisters for emotional support and was able to grow through a tough chapter in my life. Having a group of friends who are there to send a positive note your way, or make you laugh when life gets hard, is one of my favorite things about Pi Phi."

As Hailey and her Wisconsin Alpha sisters finished a semester virtually and returned to campus in the fall, they placed a heightened level of importance on supporting one another and fostering resilience in their sisterhood. When a member needed their sisters, they were there; as is the way for Pi Phis no matter the chapter, year or setting. The chapter house fosters an irreplaceable atmosphere of consistent support, and members know the bonds forged in that space last a lifetime. "I have developed friendships with so many sisters who I know will always have my back even after college," Hailey said. "While 2020 threw many obstacles at us, our sisters were always there to pick up the pieces and offer emotional support to one another."

The same is true for members of Kansas Alpha who know the importance of lending a helping hand when times are tough. The University of Kansas implements an annual Mental Health Awareness Week every April to help #EndTheStigma of mental health for the campus community. The chapter has participated since its inception, though being off campus during the 2020 campaign hindered their plans.

In previous years, members recognized each day of the week with a new activity to promote wellness and mental health awareness within the chapter, particularly in the chapter house. Members placed sticky notes with supportive messages on every mirror in the house as a constant reminder of their sisters' worth and the enduring love a sisterhood can provide. The chapter also promoted



Left: Wisconsin Alpha members during Preference Round of Fall 2020 virtual recruitment. Back row, from left, **SAMANTHA TELSON, CLARA HUSKIN, CAROLINE ROESNER, MARY SHULTS** and **HANNAH DAVIDSON**. Front row, from left, **GRACE WIEDMEYER, HAILEY LAUBSCHER** and **BRIDGET HORVATH**.

the importance of self-care to their members and shared healthy habits for mindfulness and relaxation.

Sometimes support means offering a listening ear and shoulder to cry on, and other times it means offering a fun distraction to decompress from stress. Colorado Alpha members find all those things and more in their chapter facility. From a seminar on the true meaning of Sincere Friendship and how to practice it, to a “mini Pi Phi Prom” in the chapter room, sisters find fun and community in their chapter house. “Pi Phi helps me in difficult times, because no matter what there is always someone there to listen and help,” said **LAUREN PURCELL**. As a leader in her chapter during 2020, Lauren looked to her sisters and fellow chapter officers and always found a network of care. “**TATE ROBINSON** and **OLIVIA CRAWFORD** were there for me in every way this past year, especially living in the house. Having this kind of constant love and support always gives me happiness and hope even in the most difficult of times.”

Whatever home means to you, hopefully it includes the same kind of compassionate support these members — and so many others — know so well. No matter if it’s been a day, a year or a few decades since living in a Pi Phi chapter facility; the Pi Phi house is always home.

What does home mean to you? We want to share your housing story and the impact it had on your life! Submit your photos and stories at [pibetaphi.org/submit](http://pibetaphi.org/submit). ←

Right: Past Colorado Alpha Chapter President **LAUREN PURCELL** (second from left) and past Vice President Operations **TATE ROBINSON** (second from right) with their mothers on Mom’s Weekend in February 2020.





## Endurance Entrepreneur On and Off the Trails

By its very name, elite endurance running is not a sport for the faint of heart. It's a grueling, strenuous physical activity that requires athletes to push the boundaries of what seems possible and continuously strive for more. It's a fitting sport-turned-career for California Iota **JULIE FINGAR**, who herself may best be described using that same language. She is enduring, striving for more and not limited by what her body or peers say is possible.

"I started competing in ultra-endurance events in 1999 and I've won seven 100-mile races among numerous achievements in other ultra/road distances over my career," Julie said. "Running has given me the strength, stamina and perseverance to unite my passion for sports — ultra-trail running — and my entrepreneurial spirit to build and operate two companies."

After graduating from Chico State University in 1993, Julie traveled across the country as an early employee of Red Bull, acting as a sales representative to market the new product. Having grown up an avid athlete competing in gymnastics, cheerleading and cross country, it was important for her to continue exercising even while traveling, and running was the easiest way to do so.

Julie moved to Sacramento after the years of traveling and began volunteering with a race production company in addition to running in the events. That position turned into a full-time role as an assistant race director, and as her work in racing expanded, so did her capacity and capability as a runner. She worked her way from running 5k races up to running her first marathon in 1999 and hasn't looked back since. She took on longer races — placing second in or winning multiple 50-100-mile races — which only solidified her passion for racing as an activity and industry.

California Iota **JULIE FINGAR**, founder of NorCalUltras, an ultra-trail race production company.

“I loved working on the production end of athletic events, planning and coordinating something on that scale, and that made it clear I needed to continue in this industry,” Julie said. Despite her passion for the sport and expertise in the industry, Julie faced added obstacles as a woman in a male-dominated field. She worked for the same racing company for seven years and had established early on with the owner that she was interested in purchasing the event rights from him after his impending retirement. Not only was she already established as an excellent race director, but she had run these very events for years and knew she was best equipped to carry them forward.

Even though she had made clear her intentions and received confirmation from the race director, Julie says he brought in an outside buyer around the time he was ready to sell. “I had worked with and proven myself to this man who I believe did respect me and believe in me, but there were times when I was put down and felt like I had to do more to prove my worth and get the respect I deserved,” she said. “Even though we’d established I was qualified and intending to buy these races, I always had to stay on my toes to make sure that would really happen. I’m not sure if he brought in this man to set up a battle over these races I’d worked on for seven years, but it did feel like a test.”

Despite the added obstacles, the original deal went through, and Julie took ownership over two races in 2008. At that time, she created NorCalUltras, a trail-running production company that has grown to manage five annual ultra-trail races in Northern California and the Sierra Foothills. The company also took over ownership of a women’s fitness fashion company called RYP Wear in 2018 with the mission to design products for women that fit, function, feel and look great.

That mission is directly in line with Julie’s values as an entrepreneur, athlete and member of Pi Phi. As a first-year student at Chico State, Julie was initially intimidated by the idea of sorority life and decided not to finish recruitment. But after two years on campus and getting to know members of the chapters, she tried again and found her home in Pi Beta Phi. “Going through recruitment really empowered me and woke me up to the idea of women supporting one another and the kind of empowerment that gives to all of us,” she said. “Pi Phi has enriched my life with lifelong sisters and helped me become the athlete and entrepreneur I am today. Through the unwavering support of my chapter, my sisters cheered me on to pursue leadership roles and encouraged my business endeavors. The network of support that Pi Phi has provided me personally and professionally is remarkable.”



Julie (left) and her event coordinators modeling fitness fashion at the Urban Cowture half marathon.

That network includes many Pi Phis who participate in or support Julie’s races. One supporter of NorCalUltra events with a Pi Phi connection is the company Larabar, founded by California Gamma **LARA MERRIKEN**, which partners with Julie’s company to distribute bars for race participants. For Julie, sisterhood and women’s empowerment are integral parts of her business and driving forces behind the work she does. In 2012, NorCalUltras created an all-women’s trail running event, She Rocks the Trails, specifically designed for women to have a space in a typically male-dominated sport that is all about support, sisterhood and solidarity.

“It’s not just another race; it’s a lifechanging experience with women who want to cheer you on,” Julie said. “I get chills standing at the finish line of that race because there are crowds of women standing there to cheer on complete strangers because we’re all there to support and empower each other. There’s a misconception that a space with all women will lead to cattiness or drama, but my experiences in my career and in Pi Phi have been the exact opposite.”

Julie’s mission — personally and professionally — is to empower women in every aspect of life, help them find confidence and to take what they’re passionate about and run with it, sometimes literally. With challenges new and old, from gatekeeping to a global pandemic, Julie exhibits the strength and endurance necessary to run toward a challenge and accomplish whatever lies ahead. ←



# Annie Bradshaw

## OKLAHOMA ALPHA

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?

Pep & Party Co. is here to help our customers love their people, and having the opportunity to do that is my favorite part of this job! Life is busy and we know that, so we are here to take the pressure of gift giving off of you. We include a handwritten note from the sender with each gift. It is really special to write those, and to know our customers trust us to help them celebrate important moments in their lives. It's an honor I don't take lightly!

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START A SMALL BUSINESS? DOES THAT DIFFER FROM YOUR PAST CAREER ENDEAVORS?

I remember sitting in my room with my best friend, Oklahoma Alpha **HALLE ULFSRUD**, late one night my sophomore year of college, trying to create the perfect birthday present to send to a friend. I was on a tight timeline and only had \$20 to spend on the gift, so I spent all night brainstorming what I could fill the box with to make it a birthday party in a box. After that, I realized I'd found my new go-to gift for my friends. While living in the Oklahoma Alpha house news travelled fast that I was assembling these gift boxes, so I created an Etsy shop to keep all the orders organized. Over the past six years, the brand has evolved right alongside my customers and has grown to sell more than just birthday parties in a box. I use my advertising background in the day-to-day aspects of my business to market my products and connect with my customers.

### BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

When my parents dropped me off for college, my mom told me to keep an "emergency" Coke and roll of toilet paper hidden in my closet. Those are two things that you never want to be caught without!

### HOW DO YOU MEASURE PERSONAL SUCCESS?

I measure success by seeing how far I've come. I'm a big goal setter, but I also know it's okay if I don't reach those goals. The way I measure success is to think back to where I was when I started working toward that specific goal, and then think of where I am now. One way I remind myself of these successes (both big and small) is through my victory boards. In college, I had a bulletin board in my room and each day I would write down a "victory" or win from the day. That could be as big as nailing a dream internship, or as small as having a good hair day or making a really delicious dinner. At the end of the semester, I was able to look back and see my victories.

### WHAT IS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MIGHT SURPRISE PEOPLE?

I love to travel alone! I think there is so much power in taking a solo trip to get out of your day-to-day and get a breath of fresh air in a new place. You deserve to take time for yourself and to spend a day (or two or three) doing whatever you want to do, whenever you want to do it.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PI PHI MEMORY?

This is a tough one — I feel like I have two! The first would have to be piling in my bed in the Oklahoma Alpha house while dreaming up this business. I remember many late-night chats with my best friends brainstorming products, prepping for photoshoots and even assembling orders.

A close second is a memory from my time as a Leadership Development Consultant (LDC). I was assisting New Jersey Alpha with formal recruitment and we held membership selection in the same classroom that Albert Einstein taught in! Definitely a memory I will never forget.

### PI BETA PHI HAS TAUGHT ME ...

Pi Phi has taught me the power of using your voice. Whether that's in a meeting at work, on your social media or with your friends, you're here for a specific reason and it's important to always remember that. Pi Beta Phi instills incredible leadership skills in all members and that is my biggest takeaway from my collegiate experience.

### FAVORITE WORD (AND WHY):

In this season, my favorite word is "bloom." For me, it means to dig your roots really deep, to focus on the blooms in the everyday moments — whether a leaf, a small flower or a bright and bold bloom — and stand tall no matter if the wind is trying to take you down. One of my LDC friends, Georgia Alpha **MEREDITH PAIGE STONE**, told me that it's important to water your own garden first and that has really stuck with me as a reminder to invest in myself.

### WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

My most treasured possession is my Pi Beta Phi badge. It was my mom's badge when she was initiated at Texas Epsilon, and my cousin was also pinned with it during her initiation at California Delta. My mom pinned me with her badge during my initiation at Oklahoma Alpha and I've worn it ever since. It traveled all over the country with me as an LDC too! ◀

# Building Confident Leaders

Throughout our history, Pi Beta Phi has helped members establish meaningful relationships with others while reaching their personal potential. Our mission calls us “to promote friendship, develop women of intellect and integrity, cultivate leadership potential and enrich lives through community service.” Pi Beta Phi Foundation helps realize our Fraternity’s mission by supporting sisters and communities around the world. Through gifts to your Foundation, we empower our sisters — helping them find and use their voices.

Maine Alpha **CASEY POLA BUCKLES** experienced this empowerment firsthand and credits the success she has found in her career to her leadership development in Pi Beta Phi. Casey serves as the Director of Corporate Partnerships & Cause Marketing at National Parks Conservation Association, where she leads NPCA’s corporate partnership program, building partnerships with national brands to raise support for America’s



Maine Alpha **CASEY POLA BUCKLES**

national parks. “I am responsible for fundraising more than \$1M annually from brands interested in protecting our national parks,” she said. “In these partnerships, we create and execute national marketing campaigns to educate their consumers around the importance of protecting our national parks, and inspire and empower them to take action.” Casey shared her excitement to work in a field that is always evolving and innovating, each new year and partnership brings more opportunity to make an impact.

As Casey shared her excitement, she noted her experience in Pi Phi - specifically her time as a Leadership Development Consultant (LDC) - served as the foundation for her career. “Being able to meet and learn from other successful women helped set the stage for what I wanted in my career and the person I wanted to become,” Casey said. “I don’t think I would be where I am now - as a woman in my early thirties and as a director within a national organization - if Pi Phi hadn’t afforded me with those opportunities.”

As a senior at the University of Maine, Casey’s decision to serve as an LDC was simple. “For me, it was an opportunity to marry something I was passionate about with developing myself and preparing for the next chapter of my life,” she said. Throughout her time as a consultant, Casey built a network of sisters who greatly influenced her as a young professional. “I loved the opportunity to connect with Pi Phis across so many different walks of life,” she said. “It really expanded my worldview.” These Pi Phis provided inspiration and support for Casey as she determined what would come next.

While Casey experienced tremendous growth during her time as a consultant, it wasn’t until afterward that she fully realized what she gained from the program. “I have talked about my year as an LDC in every job interview and professional development setting,” said Casey. “It has always been of interest to my employers, especially when I was starting out early in my career.” Casey explained how the LDC program introduced her to strategic goals and planning, finance management, membership experience and fundraising. “When I tell people that, they say ‘You did all that at 22? People don’t learn that until years into their career.’”

The consultant role provided Casey new skill sets and talents that many young professionals hadn’t yet gained. “Every week we were jumping into new situations and



learning how to assess the problem, form connections, build trust and credibility, think strategically and provide positive reinforcement and guidance,” said Casey. “And now, I make decisions for my team and create strategic plans using those same skills.” The experience Casey gained during her time as a consultant made for an easier transition from college to the workforce and continued to make an impact in every role thereafter.

While there were many skills Casey gained during her time as an LDC, maybe the most important was her confidence as a leader. “It taught me a lot about my own voice,” she said. “It taught me to have confidence in decision making and strategic thinking and how to carry that confidence with me in my career.”

Casey’s experience provided self-assurance at a critical point in her life. “For younger women, it’s sometimes hard to find your voice,” she said. “This opportunity taught me my thoughts were valid and that I should be confident in them.” Building confident leaders is how we help our sisters become Friends and Leaders for Life. As Casey’s experience shows, one of the greatest places to develop and build women leaders is within our sisterhood.

Pi Beta Phi offers leadership development opportunities ranging from events, like College Weekend and Pi Beta Phi Leadership Institute, to programming, like *Leading with Values*® and the Leadership Development Consultant program. These life-changing leadership opportunities are made possible through support from your Foundation. The confidence Casey gained as a young woman in Pi Phi continues to impact both her personal and professional life. “I’m thankful to Pi Phi for empowering me to use my voice,” she said. “That kind of support is not something you find everywhere.” ←



Maine Alpha **CASEY POLA BUCKLES** (middle right) at Pi Phi Headquarters with the 2009-2010 LDC class.

## Supporting our Sisters

Pi Phi shapes the women our sisters become - and in turn, Pi Phi needs your care to ensure future generations benefit from the support of Sincere Friends and the inspiration to achieve their goals.

The world always needs Pi Phi leaders, but right now it’s clear why courageous, empowered women are so critical. When you give to our Foundation, you give Pi Phi the resources we need today to ensure we meet the needs of tomorrow. If you are able, now is the time to make a gift or increase your commitment.

Learn more and make your gift at [pibetaphi.org/foundation](http://pibetaphi.org/foundation).



# Passion meets passion

D.C. Alpha **DR. DAVINA DURGAN** dreams of a world where people are no longer exploited because of vulnerabilities they can't control. "Everyone's life is worthy of dignity and honor, and I want a world where that's first and foremost," she says. As a globally recognized expert on human rights, Davina uses her experience as a statistician to assess risks to vulnerable populations and influence international governments to enact change. "Problems like human trafficking, modern slavery and other forms of exploitation affect millions of people around the world and in every country, in situations where people are forced to work against their will under threat or are living in forced marriages, for example," Davina explains. "My work uses statistics to uncover these hidden populations and determine how to better protect and serve them." While data shapes her work, she's driven by something much deeper — a lifelong appreciation for community and desire to foster connections among people. For Davina, the transformative power of a strong community is a critical tool in the fight against trafficking. It's also a catalyst for her own development as a leader and essential for building the networks of support that empower women to thrive.

Davina has established herself as a leading voice for human rights, and her accomplishments after just 15 years in the field speak volumes about her passion and expertise. She currently serves as the Senior Multilateral Engagement Adviser for the Minderoo Foundation, one of Asia's largest philanthropic organizations, and Quantitative Research Lead for Minderoo's Walk Free initiative. Her work as Report Co-Author of Walk Free's Global Slavery Index is used by governments, corporations and nonprofits around the globe. She is a visiting professor at Oxford University's Green Templeton College, serves on faculty at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., and holds a doctorate in International Relations with a specialization in advanced statistical modeling from American University.

A vocal advocate for women and girls in STEM, she was named to Forbes 30 Under 30 - Science in 2017 and has

appeared in two episodes of the Emmy-nominated educational television series "Mission Unstoppable." Additionally, she has authored more than 28 publications, delivered over 100 invited presentations and keynote addresses, and is a member of more than a dozen international nonprofit and professional boards.

Davina traces all of these achievements to her desire to build community, the seeds of which were planted during her childhood. "Finding ways to feel connected to others has been a huge part of my life," she says. "My parents came to the United States from Guyana, and in the immigrant community where I grew up, successes are shared rather than individualistic. We all rise together." Growing up attuned to her surroundings gave Davina a thirst for engagement, empowering her to see the world and think about her position in it. As a teenager, she found perspective and inspiration from her volunteer work

Davina delivers a keynote address hosted by the Trudeau Center for Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies of the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto in 2017. A prolific speaker, Davina has given more than 100 invited talks and 30 keynote addresses as a global leader in human rights.



with New York City's homeless population. "It was hard to get caught up in typical teenage angst when I knew the people I worked with had no place to sleep or access to basic necessities like menstrual products," she explains. "It was a constant acknowledgement of my relative power, privilege and strength."

While in college, Davina was forced to confront that privilege head-on during a humanitarian trip to El Salvador as part of a group teaching language and math skills to children. The experience galvanized her interest in advocating on behalf of the disenfranchised. During Davina's time in El Salvador, members of the community where she stayed discovered the body of a young girl who had been killed. "I was staying in a guarded hotel," Davina recalls. "I hadn't given any thought to what it's like to live in a world controlled by organized crime, where law enforcement doesn't protect you." Returning to the United States with newly ignited passion, Davina immersed herself in policy work and advocacy experience through internships and volunteer roles. She found encouragement and belonging in the community of those working against human trafficking and exploitation, as well as among her sisters in D.C. Alpha.

"Pi Phi was the first time I really belonged to something with such strongly-rooted, shared values and connections," Davina says. "Our goals are community-driven and bringing together people who care for others is one of the most important things we can do. We instill an early commitment to developing other women and deeply valuing friendships. That community of support around you means something and manifests throughout your life. Because of those experiences, I don't think I'll ever look at a woman and see anything but infinite potential."

Buoyed by that support, Davina felt empowered to pursue her goals with confidence. As a rising woman leader in fields often dominated by men — STEM, academia and government policy — she made it her personal mission to embrace that role with authenticity. While working for the United Nations during her mid-20s, Davina acutely felt the differences between herself and her older, white, male colleagues. Despite inclinations to downplay her personality to fit the status quo, she made the deliberate choice to lean in rather than hide it.

"I flourish because I'm unapologetically me," she says. "I'm proud of being a woman in those spaces. It took me a long time to get there, but I own it. The most authentic experience was allowing my personality to come to the forefront. In my mind, that's how I take down the glass walls and ceilings. So much of what I give to my work is tied to my true personality. I can pretend to fit someone



Davina's work against human exploitation and trafficking takes her across the globe. Of the more than 60 countries she's visited, Davina lists Antarctica as her favorite destination. "I love visiting places where I speak the language and immerse myself in the culture. Visiting Antarctica was a different experience because it wasn't focused on humans — it was all about the environment and animals. I was able to go with my parents and my husband (Tim, pictured above) and it was the best trip of my life. I did a CrossFit workout in Neko Harbor and took a polar bear plunge in the Antarctic Sea!"

# "I flourish because I'm unapologetically"

else's mold, but I'll never quite get there — the best I can be is myself. It's allowed me to lean in, seek more collaboration and make genuinely transformational relationships. Bringing our authentic selves to work will change the world."

Davina carried that same confidence and desire to build community into her doctoral studies. Through her work with human rights organizations and supporting trafficking survivors, she began to see some critical data gaps and inaccuracies preventing her colleagues from properly assessing risk and making effective policy recommendations. Most of the available research centered on child trafficking, but Davina also knew most international anti-trafficking policies existed to protect children. She started to wonder about other populations at high risk of exploitation, including women and undocumented workers. "Who's telling their story?" she asks. "If you don't have the data, you're erasing their experience from the record. Data needs to be accurate, not just reflect the most compelling narrative. We can't change something if we don't recognize that it exists. Numbers amplify the truth."

With this in mind, Davina embarked on a project to develop an improved statistical model for assessing human exploitation using more comprehensive methods of gathering information and emphasizing the role of human security. While she had initially envisioned herself working directly with survivors or on Capitol Hill, she felt compelled to work with statistics because she understood how

critical data was to human rights efforts. "Data about victims is the lifeblood of our organizations, but it has to come from trusted sources," she explains. "What the field needed wasn't the most glamorous or fun; it was better data, and I knew I could do it. To me, it felt like another act of supporting my community and recognizing what was needed to move our work forward. If not me, who? If not now, when?"

Seeing her work come to life in the field keeps Davina grounded and motivated. Her statistical models are used by governments around the world to make estimates on human exploitation, with the ultimate goal of giving those governments the tools they need for decision making





and policy development. Her research also provides nonprofit organizations essential leverage in the fight to protect human rights. She points to Walk Free's recent collaboration with Greenpeace International to stop the deep-sea fishing industry's use of forced labor in international waters near China and Taiwan. "We were able to influence policy on a scale where a single decision impacted thousands of ships immediately," she says. "The work was driven by committed advocates, and we knew if we kept at it, thousands of people would be taken out of slavery."

Reminding herself of the progress she's seen during the past 15 years helps Davina keep working for a hopeful future in the face of such a heavy, expansive problem. She envisions an equally dramatic change within the next 15 years, citing increased consumer interest and awareness in sustainability and responsible supply chains. "To have research inform global policy and thinking — I knew it would be a long fight from the start, but the changes we've seen have surpassed my wildest expectations," she says. "So many brilliant, talented people around the world are working on this problem, and in my heart of hearts, I believe most communities want what's best for people." Still, Davina acknowledges her work is far from done. "When I'm tired, I think, 'What right do I have to feel this way?' No one deserves a life of exploitation because of the circumstances they were born into. That's reality for millions of people around the world, and once you see it, you can never forget." ◀

Left: Davina (right) met Vice President Kamala Harris (left) while working in Washington, D.C., and the two developed a strong mentoring relationship. "For women, it's all about representation — seeing people who look like you in places where you want to be," Davina says. "That's why meeting Kamala was so important. We need to model healthy female relationships by cheering each other on, not taking away each other's ladders."

## WHAT CAN *you* DO?

"Longstanding cultural norms about the value of human lives often limit the success of efforts against human trafficking, modern slavery and other forms of exploitation," Davina says. "Most people don't want to participate in exploitation but aren't aware of how their choices contribute to the problem. It's education as well as engagement — helping people understand how they can make choices that support human rights."

"First, take an interest in the companies you give your business to, whether that is your favorite clothing brands or the places you buy your food. Ask what they're doing to prevent exploitation in their supply chains. Legislation all over the world requires companies to make public statements about this, and consumers taking interest will be one of the most influential ways to make change."

"Second, we have to think local about a global problem. What's happening to people in other countries is happening in our backyards, too, and it can't survive without our dollars. Think tactically about what you can do to uplift and help those around you. Building more care and connectivity will strengthen our communities, especially at a time when we're focusing more on technology than human contact."



**L I N K E D**  
*Through Friendship*

Π Β Φ C O N V E N T I O N 2 0 2 1

**JUNE 25-26, 2021**

Share in our sisterhood as we usher in the beginning of a new biennium at Pi Beta Phi's first-ever virtual convention. Every two years, we come together as a sisterhood to celebrate, legislate and commemorate all our sisterhood has accomplished and look ahead to what we will accomplish together over the next biennium.



## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

For our first-ever virtual convention, Pi Beta Phi members can expect to carry out the business of the Fraternity as well as honor the accomplishments of our collegiate and alumnae sisters, clubs and chapters.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 25

On Friday, we will kick off convention with a keynote speaker. Visit Pi Phi's social media channels for the announcement of the keynote. We'll also celebrate our exemplary sisters by announcing our top awards, including Premier Club and the Balfour Cup. Friday will be a night of Pi Phi Pride, so be sure to wear your letters as we all celebrate our sisterhood.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Saturday will comprise the business of the Fraternity, including voting on proposed legislative changes, electing new officers, announcing literacy initiatives for 2022 and celebrating the installation of our newest chapter, Florida Eta. Help us welcome a new biennium by participating in and observing the essential business of our sisterhood.

*Register now!*

Pi Beta Phi is pleased to offer this year's convention as a benefit of membership. There is no registration fee for members with dues paid through June 30, 2021. If you have not yet paid your dues but would like to attend, you can do so through the registration process. Visit [pibetaphi.org/convention](https://pibetaphi.org/convention) to register by June 10, 2021. ◀

## HONOR A SPECIAL PI PHI. ENSURE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR EVERY PI PHI.

Pi Beta Phi Foundation's

HALO  
HEAVEN

Send a virtual halo in celebration or memory of the special Pi Phis in your life. Halo honorees will receive a personalized email letting them know you've given to Pi Beta Phi Foundation in their honor. With your gift, you'll send Pi Phi Love to a sister and support our Foundation's Friendship Fund.

Halo Heaven will be open May 25 - June 30 at [haloheaven.org](https://haloheaven.org).

# Leading WITH VALUES

As a premier organization for women, programming has always played an integral role in the Pi Beta Phi member experience. Originally launched in 2003, the *Leading with Values*® program focused efforts on organizational knowledge, good citizenship, intellectual development and leadership development. In 2009, the *Leading with Values* program was updated to include seminars similar to the ones chapters and alumnae clubs use today.

Over the last biennium, Pi Phi has evolved *Leading with Values* to further engage members in authentic connections on topics affecting today's member. *Leading with Values* seminars offer members a way to regularly engage in conversations related to personal, intellectual and professional development as leaders and dedicated members of their communities. The seminars were refined to focus on topics including mental health; diversity, equity and inclusion; conflict resolution and supporting others through empathy.

The refreshed seminars have already encouraged members to engage in open and honest conversations with one another. Vice President Member Experience **RILEY BABBIN**, Virginia Delta, recently led her chapter in the What Makes Me Who I Am seminar. "Having

members share how they identify helped our sisters to realize there is so much more to each of us than race, ethnicity and sexual orientation," said Riley. "It was helpful to hear other perspectives."

**CHANEY SCOTT**, Vice President Member Experience for the Indiana Zeta Chapter, expressed a similar sentiment, sharing that the conversations that started in their Basics of Self-Care seminar have sparked action in their members. "The chapter is determined to keep the discussion going," said Chaney. "Since the seminar, we have discussed the possibility of starting a volunteer 'sister check-in committee' to check on members periodically. We have also added a 'sister challenge of the week' as an incentive to spend quality time together." Our *Leading with Values* program encourages members to apply the conversations and activities from each seminar to everyday life.

However, these topics are only the beginning for the refreshed program. The Fraternity will continue to add new seminars to support members and the conversations occurring in chapters and alumnae clubs. These peer-facilitated workshops can be led by any individual — whether a member of the Chapter Leadership Team or an individual member with expertise on the topic. *Leading with Values* seminars are available to anyone — not just members.

Alongside the launch of the refreshed *Leading with Values* seminars, the Fraternity defined each of Pi Phi's core values. These definitions provided guidance and served as inspiration for the creation of the new seminars.

Integrity

Maintain personal and social responsibility while following through on commitments made to oneself and others.

LIFELONG  
COMMITMENT

Remain engaged and help the Fraternity achieve its mission throughout membership.

HONOR  
& RESPECT

Acknowledge, appreciate and care for others, communities, and the Fraternity.

In addition to refreshed content, the new seminars are offered in a flexible, online format that allows facilitators to customize the curriculum to best engage their participants while still delivering a powerful, values-based outcome. Each seminar offers different activities and discussions to tailor the experience based on the number of participants, space and resources needed. “Our chapter loved the customizable section of the seminar,” Chaney said. “We chose the video option and followed up with small group discussions, which made it easier for members to be more personal.”

The *Leading with Values* program sets the stage for understanding and living Pi Phi values, fulfilling leadership potential, serving others and achieving academic excellence. The seminars included in the program aim to help collegians see the connection between Pi Phi’s core values and real-life scenarios. While each member lives the values in their own way, these seminars provide an opportunity to reflect on and discuss what it means to be a member of Pi Beta Phi. “The new seminars emphasize the importance and prevalence of Pi Phi’s core values in our everyday lives,” said Chaney. “They remind us how our values lead us in everything we do.” To view the updated seminars or plan your next seminar, visit [pibetaphi.org/lwvseminars](http://pibetaphi.org/lwvseminars). ◀

Based on the Fraternity’s core values, the refreshed *Leading with Values* seminars offer purposeful programming to help participants achieve three main learning outcomes:

*Evolve authentic connections* by engaging in open and honest conversations that enhance long-lasting relationships.

*Demonstrate growth* of interpersonal skills through intentional dialogue and reflection.

*Acquire tangible skills* that aid in the advancement of confident, women leaders.

PERSONAL  
-AND-  
INTELLECTUAL  
GROWTH

Explore different perspectives, skill sets and experiences while aspiring to better oneself.

philanthropic  
service to  
others

Connect with and enrich communities through service.

sincere  
friendship

Seek to develop a bond that is irreplaceable and stretches beyond ordinary friendship into a deep understanding and long-lasting support of one another.

# Turning Challenge Into Change

## CELEBRATING THE POWER OF READING

Every spring, Pi Beta Phi's Fraternity Day of Service celebrations culminate in Signature Events — distributions of 20,000 new books to educators, schools and agencies in several major cities, held in partnership with First Book® and hundreds of Pi Phi volunteers and supported by donations to The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Since the first distributions took place in 2014, Pi Phi and First Book have given more than 640,000 books to children in need through Signature Events.

From the first planning meetings to the moment the last book is selected, Signature Events are designed to be personal and interactive. Some Pi Phis travel for hundreds of miles to celebrate the power of reading, make a difference for children in the host city and experience the shared sisterhood that makes the events so special. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to worsen, it became clear it was neither safe nor responsible to hold Signature Events in 2021. It was equally clear the full Signature Event experience couldn't be replicated virtually.

Yet while so much of daily life paused, the need for literacy service only grew. The pandemic's onset brought unprecedented challenges to students and educators, making the need for books in the home greater than ever. Research from First Book's 500,000-member network showed 85% of educators were concerned about children lacking books in their homes during the pandemic, and an additional 80% cited books as the resource they most needed to support students. At the same time, medical data began to show COVID was impacting people from marginalized groups at disproportionate rates, putting students from these populations at an even greater risk and widening existing learning gaps.

"When children's entire learning experience was moved to a virtual platform, we looked at how we could continue developing readers and helping children become people who love to read," says Director Community Relations **CATHERINE ROOSEVELT MCCLUSKEY**, Michigan Beta. "First Book knows the first step in becoming someone who loves to read is finding a book you connect with. We want to make sure that opportunity continues to be available to all students, not just those in communities with abundant resources."



**85%**  
OF EDUCATORS  
WERE CONCERNED  
ABOUT CHILDREN  
HAVING NO BOOKS  
IN THEIR HOMES  
DURING THE  
PANDEMIC.

**80%**  
OF EDUCATORS  
CITED BOOKS AS  
THE ITEM THEY  
MOST NEEDED.

## REIMAGINING OUR IMPACT

With many of our traditional literacy events on hold, Pi Phi needed to reimagine the ways we could continue to make an impact. Continuing to collaborate with First Book, the Fraternity created a new one-time literacy initiative focused on delivering three critical aspects of Signature Events: identifying and responding to need in local communities; connecting students and teachers with much-needed books and resources; and providing an opportunity for Pi Phi members to engage in literacy service. During the month of March, Pi Phis were asked to identify qualified educators and organizations in their communities and encourage them to register for First Book membership.

This approach encouraged Pi Phis to research the need in their own communities and make a local impact, and also expanded our reach by giving all alumnae and collegians the opportunity to participate in addition to those who live near a Signature Event host city. "Through Signature Events, we have tremendous impact in five cities," Catherine says. "But Pi Phis live in thousands of communities and in every one of them, there are children who need books. This initiative allowed us to reach children and communities where there might not be an alumnae club or chapter."

## THROUGH THE INITIATIVE

# 178

NEW EDUCATORS,  
ORGANIZATIONS  
AND PROGRAMS  
REGISTERED

\*AS OF MARCH 31, 2021



# \$44,500

WORTH OF NEW  
BOOKS TO CHILDREN  
IN NEED

The small actions of Pi Phi making one-on-one connections quickly made a big difference. As of March 31, 178 new educators, organizations and programs registered for First Book membership through this initiative. Each group that registered received immediate access to First Book's extensive library of free reading materials and resources. In addition, each of the newly registered groups received \$250 gift certificates for new books from First Book Marketplace, helping teachers restock depleted classroom libraries and provide new reading materials for students learning remotely. Collectively, Pi Phi were able to provide \$44,500 worth of new books to children in need. As with all Read > Lead > Achieve programs, the initiative was fully funded by grants from Pi Beta Phi Foundation, made possible by generous donors supporting The Literacy Fund.

Pi Phi continued to support diversity, equity and inclusion efforts by ensuring 50% of the books available featured titles from First Book's "Stories for All" collection. Books from this collection include diverse characters and themes, helping children gain confidence by seeing their own experiences reflected in the pages and develop empathy by reading about experiences that differ from their own. "For me, 'Stories for All' is about every child being able to see the world in which we live shown within a text — and it's good for everyone," Catherine says. "It offers new perspective, helps build understanding of others, elevates the lived experience of all people and changes the concept of what is 'normal'. It allows children to see the world, and it benefits everyone to see beyond themselves." ←

**One way Pi Beta Phi literacy initiatives support diversity, equity and inclusion efforts is through engagement with First Book's "Stories for All" collection. Books from this collection include diverse characters and themes, helping children gain confidence by seeing their own experiences reflected in the pages and develop empathy by reading about experiences that differ from their own.**

## Why Not Me?

For as long as she can remember, Missouri Alpha **SARA PARKER PAULEY** has been drawn to nature. “It’s where I can think, rest and rejuvenate,” she explains. Now the director of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) — and the first woman to hold the position in the agency’s 80-plus-year history — Sara forged her unique career path by pursuing her passion and taking risks. She credits the encouragement of strong role models, mentors and friends for helping her recognize opportunities, and hopes to give back by growing the next generation of women leaders.

During her childhood in Columbia, Missouri, Sara’s family nurtured her love of the outdoors. She describes her father as an avid fisherman and quail hunter, but notes that her grandmother was responsible for teaching her to hunt, shoot and properly care for guns. “I had an amazing female role model in this tenacious, fiery little woman who lived without fear,” she recalls. As she grew older, Sara realized her interest in writing matched her passion for nature. She knew a fulfilling career would combine the two. “I found myself wondering how I could take the sense of freedom and adventure I felt in the outdoors and make a living from it,” she says. “I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do, but I knew I was a right-brain thinker who loved to write.”

Sara enrolled in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri (MU), hoping to eventually write for the Missouri Conservationist — the monthly magazine published by MDC. Her career path took a turn when she instead decided to pursue graduate study in Australia and work in sports journalism before returning to Missouri to study law. Following her second year of law school, Sara spent the summer in Albuquerque, New Mexico, working for the Center for Wildlife Law at the University

**“ANY ORGANIZATION IS IN A CONSTANT STATE OF CHANGE. AS A LEADER, YOU HAVE TO BE VIGILANT ABOUT MAKING SURE YOU’RE EVOLVING. YOU’RE PROVIDING YOUR TEAM WITH RESOURCES, SUPPORT, INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION; YOU’RE ENSURING YOUR ORGANIZATION IS HEALTHY; AND YOU’RE INNOVATING AND PREPARING FOR WHAT COMES AFTER YOU. IF IT’S ALL ABOUT YOU, WHEN YOU LEAVE, THE ORGANIZATION DIES.”**

of New Mexico School of Law. What began as a summer researching national wildlife policy and legal issues led to a valuable connection with Ruth Musgrave, the institute’s founder and director. “It was an experience that opened doors within the fisheries and wildlife community,” Sara says. “I had no idea these opportunities were possible but was able to access them thanks to my mentoring relationship with Ruth. I’m a big fan of finding people who can teach you what you don’t know.”

After completing her law degree, Sara landed what she thought was her dream job as a policy analyst with MDC. Soon thereafter, she was asked to become the chief of staff for the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. Initially, Sara found herself struggling to align the political position with the career in environmental law and policy she envisioned. “I remember asking myself how this would help me,” she says. “Fortunately, I had enough people around me telling me not to pass on the opportunity and helping me realize what I’d learn about policy.” The experience also helped Sara learn the value of taking professional risks. “I’ve worked in the nonprofit and for-profit sectors, and every opportunity has taught me a skill set I couldn’t have learned if I’d just stayed in my position, even though I thought I was in my dream job,” she recalls. “So when opportunities present themselves, I’ve learned to take advantage of them. On this side of my career, I’m grateful for everything. Even the jobs I didn’t like taught me something.”

Sara went on to serve as the deputy director and director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources before becoming the MDC director in 2016. She’s transparent about feeling the weight of expectations as she stepped into the role. “When you wear the triangle [the MDC logo], it’s a source of pride,” she explains. “I felt some trepidation walking into an agency I love, where I started, with a history a lot of people care about, especially as the first female director. You want to do your best job, and not let the citizens, your staff or yourself down. I continue to feel that level of expectation, but I believe my skill sets and experiences have prepared me well.”

At times, Sara says she still feels like an outlier — not just as a woman in a male-dominated field, but as someone who followed a non-traditional career path. As the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Sara estimates that over 90% of her national counterparts are men, the majority of whom have backgrounds in fish and wildlife management, biological sciences or similar

Right: An avid outdoorswoman since childhood, Sara (pictured with her dog, Zoey) became Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation in 2016. She is the first woman to hold the position.





fields. Through this lens, she's been able to guide MDC's increasing focus on diversity. "We're really trying to recruit a more diverse workforce," she says. "We asked our entire agency how we need to be organized to prepare for our future and created a structure that adds capacity through repurposed positions versus new positions. I'm excited about what we're building and that we're recruiting from more diverse sources. The more you bring in new perspectives and skill sets, the stronger the agency becomes."

As a leader, Sara draws her own strength and confidence from focusing on what she can control and letting go of the rest. "All I can do is my best to lead, and lead well," she says of working past the challenges she's encountered. "I'd tell my younger self to ignore the critics. You're always going to have them, but don't ever pay an ounce of attention to what they say. The people you trust will give you valuable feedback." She cites a favorite quote from former President Theodore Roosevelt's famed "Citizen in a Republic" speech as a particular inspiration: "It is not the critic who counts ... The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." With this in mind, Sara strives to give her best each day and let her work speak for itself. "In the end, you just need to treat people with respect and do your best work," she says. "By and large, people are going to be with you."

Sara helps conduct a prescribed burn with the Missouri Department of Conservation. The carefully planned practice is a critical part of fire management and wildfire prevention.



Sara points to the lifelong friendships she created as a Missouri Alpha collegian as another vital source of inspiration and support. “I met two Pi Phi sisters while living in the house who are among my best friends to this day,” she says. “**KRISTY WEBER** was preparing for veterinary school at that time, and **JENNY MOELLER ROWE** was President of our chapter and involved in everything. Somehow, we found each other as New Members — we’re just kindred spirits. We still talk regularly on Sunday nights. We mentor each other as peers; we’re all leaders in our fields and all have had our challenges. We’ve shared a lot of our lives and ups and downs, and I wouldn’t trade that sisterhood for anything.”

Sara hopes to provide that same sense of support to the next generation of leaders through mentoring relationships, both formal and informal. “I don’t believe you’re ever too old to have a mentor and I hope I’ll never stop being one,” she says. “It’s sharing lessons learned and counsel on the path you’ve walked, and we all need those people in our lives.” She credits her passion for continuous learning as a key part of her own development as a leader: “Every day, I take notes on what I learned or what I saw in someone else. What can I learn today that makes me a better leader tomorrow?”

Sara also encourages other women leaders to not let fear hold them back from new experiences and leadership roles, emphasizing the opportunities arising from the changing landscape of power. “We’re coming into a time when the strengths and skill sets needed are the ones women tend to bring — we’re conveners; we try to find paths forward by working together,” she says. “It’s a time for women to step up and lead in any position. Don’t feel like you can’t, don’t feel afraid. If I’d listened to my fears, I wouldn’t have taken any steps forward. Instead, I would encourage women to ask themselves, ‘Why not me?’” ◀



Sara (center) cherishes the lifelong friendships she made as a Pi Phi collegian — particularly the special bond she shares with Missouri Alpha sisters Jenny (left) and Kristy (right). “We call ourselves the Tri Lambdas, because we all share the same middle name beginning with L,” Sara laughs.



Sara says her passion for the outdoors was nurtured by her grandmother — a powerful role model who taught Sara to hunt, shoot and care for guns.

# Emma Harper Turner's Influential Impact

by Pi Beta Phi Historian and Archivist **FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE**, New York Alpha

Lifelong Commitment is a core value and guiding tenet of our Pi Beta Phi sisterhood, and while every member lives this value in her own way, few can tout such a lengthy list of contributions to the Fraternity as **EMMA HARPER TURNER**, Indiana Alpha and D.C. Alpha. Her journey in Pi Phi was unique and her impactful legacy is nearly unmatched, including her namesake serving as Pi Beta Phi Foundation's dedicated emergency grant fund, which celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. Well beyond her lifetime, Emma's service continues to touch and improve the lives of her sisters.

Emma Harper Turner was born on November 5, 1864, and her early life was spent in Franklin, Indiana. Her mother died when Emma was only 11 years old, leaving her to help with rearing her two younger sisters, Maude and fellow future Indiana Alpha **NELLIE TURNER**. After enrolling at Franklin College, Emma first became a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. In 1886, her chapter's charter was withdrawn leaving her without a sorority affiliation on

campus. At the time, the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) had not yet been established — not until 1902 — and there was no prohibition against belonging to more than one group. Emma sought to find another sisterhood opportunity on campus.

Emma and her friend **MARTHA NOBLE (CARTER)** asked for and were granted honorable dismissals from membership in Kappa Kappa Gamma and set out to establish a new organization originally called Alpha Xi Theta. They then sought a charter from I.C. Sorosis and — along with 12 other charter members — established the Indiana Alpha Chapter on January 16, 1888, shortly before Emma graduated with honors.

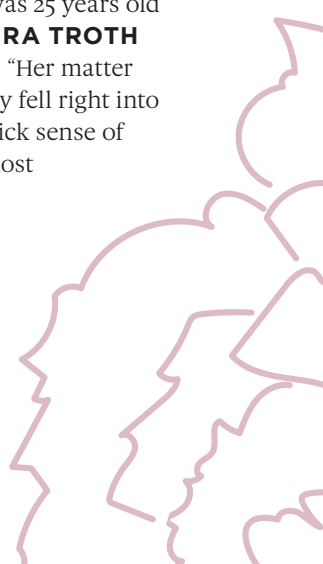
Later that year, Emma attended the 1888 Ottumwa Convention, incidentally witnessing the monumental moment I.C. Sorosis officially became Pi Beta Phi. Emma had a hand in helping execute this change and she was elected Grand Vice President as a result. It's nearly unimaginable in a modern context, but the same year Emma helped charter a chapter and became a member of Pi Beta Phi, she was also elected to one of the highest positions within the Fraternity.

Throughout her tenure, Emma's impact on Pi Beta Phi was far-reaching, as was her personal and professional life. After a year of teaching in Indiana, she headed to Washington D.C. where she began working for the U.S. Post Office. She took night courses at George Washington University and in another now-unorthodox move, was a charter member of the D.C. Alpha Chapter, installed on April 27, 1889.

At the 1890 Galesburg Convention, Emma presided in the absence of Illinois Beta **RAINIE ADAMSON SMALL** and was elected Grand President. Emma was 25 years old and two years out of college. Iowa Zeta **MIRA TROTH** said of Emma's service as Grand President, "Her matter of course, straightforward executive ability fell right into line whenever it could serve. She had a quick sense of leverages and went about using it in the most considerate fashion."



**EMMA HARPER TURNER**, Indiana Alpha and D.C. Alpha



During Emma's time in service, many of the foundational elements of Pi Beta Phi came to fruition, forming the member experience of generations of sisters to follow her. A few of these integral actions include the adoption of the Ritual and Initiation Ceremony, the designation of the carnation as the Fraternity's flower and the celebration of Alumnae Day on April 28, which would later be renamed Founders' Day.

An ardent proponent of extension, Emma sought to establish chapters at suitable institutions and helped expand the number of chapters and the geographical range during her time on Grand Council. Between 1888 and 1893, the total number of Pi Beta Phi chapters grew from 20 — all in six adjacent states — to 28, including Emma's efforts with D.C. Alpha.

Emma considered not only the continuation of the collegiate experience, but the importance of alumnae membership as a true signifier of Lifelong Commitment. At the 1893 Chicago Convention, she advocated for the establishment of the Alumnae Association, resigned her role as Grand President and became the first president of the alumnae wing of the Fraternity. As all Pi Phis know, this sisterhood is for life, and the opportunities afforded to alumnae members largely rely on this initial action to engage post-graduate members.

Emma's long-lasting contributions to Pi Beta Phi didn't stop there. In 1910, she attended the Swarthmore Convention and proposed another novel idea — a philanthropic project — the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School. The motion passed, and Emma was one of the driving forces behind the project. The opening of the Settlement School is often recognized as the formal beginning of Pi Beta Phi's more than 100-year commitment to literacy service.

Additionally, when Pi Phis gathered at the White House in 1924 to give the country a portrait of First Lady **GRACE GOODHUE COOLIDGE**, Vermont Beta, Emma was the event's honorary chairman.

After she retired from government service in 1936, Emma made her way to California to live closer to her sister — actress Maude Turner Gordon — and took time to visit her hometown and see Pi Phi friends along the way. She stayed involved with Pi Phi as a member of the Glendale, California, Alumnae Club until her death in January 1944. During her final weeks, her lifelong Pi Phi friend Martha Noble Carter was with her.

At the 1946 Swampscott Convention, the convention body established the Emma Harper Turner Memorial Fund to honor Emma's Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi. 2021 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Fund, and Emma's impact continues on for Pi Phis in need of emergency financial assistance. Her vision and service shaped the organization, and her lasting impact is exemplary as both a dedicated sister and service-minded leader in our sisterhood. It is our steadfast hope that Emma would be proud of the assistance and support given to members in need through grants bearing her name. ◀

## ARKANSAS

*Arkansas Alpha, University of Arkansas*

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Arkansas Alpha has done their best to find the positives in their chapter and local community. One of their Arkansas Alpha sisters, **DOROTHY DAVIS STUCK**, turned 100 years old on February 5, 2021. Dorothy is part of the chapter's 1942 Member Class. She served the community as a strong voice supporting civil rights and desegregation. In addition, she served Pi Phi as the 18<sup>th</sup> editor of *The Arrow* and by raising funds to build Arkansas Alpha's previous chapter house. She went on to represent Pi Phi as a member of the National Panhellenic Editors Conference. After she raised the funds to build the chapter's "Pink Palace" on campus, she became President of Arkansas Alpha's Chapter House Corporation. Dorothy received many awards, such as the Mary Campbell Gregory Chapter Service Award in 1968 and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Arkansas in 2008, and was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame in 2017. She has never stopped succeeding, and that's why chapter members wanted to thank her for all she's done not only for Arkansas Alpha but Arkansas' communities as a

whole. The chapter wrote Dorothy letters for her birthday celebration telling her how much she inspires them, what they admire about her and how much they love getting to share Pi Phi with her.

## CALIFORNIA

*California Alpha, Stanford University*

Although Stanford has been entirely online for the 2020-2021 school year, sisters at the California Alpha Chapter have been striving to make the best of their new virtual reality. Not only have members been taking a variety of rigorous courses, but many women have also been teaching courses over Zoom in addition to managing their own workload. Several members work as teachers at Stanford's student-run organization, Curious Cardinals, including **LEILA ORSZAG**, **ALESSIA ARRIGO** and **MELANIE KESSINGER**. Curious Cardinals allows kids from kindergarten to high school to explore their academic passions with the help of a college mentor. Leila Orszag, a junior in Pi Phi, has been teaching at Curious Cardinals since the summer of 2020, sharing her passion for reading with young kids looking to learn outside of the traditional classroom setting. Last quarter, Leila taught

Back, from left: Arkansas Alpha Vice President Risk Management **CLAIRE COOPER**, Vice President Member Experience **ALYSSA NIXON**, Vice President Operations **ALEX PITTMAN**, Vice President Community Relations **CARLY CAMPBELL**, Vice President Finance/Housing **GABBY COLLINS**, Vice President of Recruitment **BAILEY LEHMANN**. Front: Chapter President **CARLY RUSSELL**.



a class called Fairytales and Fables, where students had the opportunity to embrace storytelling and practice reading out loud to one another. The kindergarteners in her class came from many different locations, from Palo Alto to Washington D.C. and New York City. The chapter is proud of Leila for making the most of an unprecedented situation and using this time to bring together kids from around the country to delight in the joy of telling stories. Leila has also shared her love of reading with California Alpha by co-running a virtual anti-racism book club, where a group of members meets regularly to discuss various books, podcasts and films. Although the pandemic has completely altered what members expected this school year to look like, they feel lucky to be surrounded by members who push themselves to educate others, whether that be kindergarteners in a Zoom classroom or other Pi Phi women looking to be advocates for reform and equality. Thank you to Leila - one of the chapter's biggest role models!

#### *California Theta, University of California - Davis*

Like any Pi Phi chapter, the women at California Theta love philanthropy. In the age of COVID-19, philanthropy and sorority life have had to adapt like all other activities in daily life. Pi Phi women are strong and resilient, and the women of California Theta have shown this as they navigate the pandemic while promoting literacy, taking care of their communities and supporting sisters along the way. The Fall 2020 philanthropy event, run by Director Service and Philanthropy **ISABELLE ZUROSKE**, truly was a highlight for the chapter. The chapter partnered with Underground Books, a local Black-owned bookstore in Sacramento, California, to set up a book wish list for the children of Glenwood Elementary, a school with a special place in the hearts of members after many volunteer hours spent reading to their students. Every book on the wish list was purchased, amounting to more than 100 diverse, new books for the kids! By supporting a local business and growing the library of Glenwood Elementary, California Theta has made a positive impact on the children of Glenwood for years to come. In the spirit of their annual dance competition that brings the University of California, Davis community together, California Theta decided to keep the spirit going by moving the festivities to a favorite quarantine app — Tik Tok. The Winter 2021 Arrowjam philanthropy event, planned by 2021 Director Service and Philanthropy **LINDSEY PAPUC**, was a time to build community safely, promote literacy and add something fun into their daily lives. The chapter was excited to have numerous organizations on campus take part in this virtual dancing and reading event. Arrowjam is a chapter and community favorite, and while it was different this year, it was no less fun for all involved.



California Xi Director Diversity/Inclusion **ISABELLA GARCIA**.

#### *California Xi, University of San Diego*

The introduction of the Director Diversity/Inclusion position to the Chapter Leadership Team made it possible for California Xi to add essential training and education to its regular recruitment preparations. Director Diversity/Inclusion **ISABELLA GARCIA** and Vice President Community Relations **RILEY MORALES** co-hosted an informational pre-recruitment workshop discussing implicit biases and microaggressions. During this workshop, individual members completed tests of implicit bias and shared their experiences, discoveries and learnings. This activity sparked necessary conversations that raised awareness to the subconscious assumptions that members could be bringing to the recruitment process. California Xi is honored to have Isabella continue her hard work and lead the chapter's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts for a second year.

## FLORIDA

#### *Florida Beta, Florida State University*

Florida Beta members have always prided themselves in being hands-on community servants. With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic came a new set of challenges for how best to serve the community. Chapter President **KARIANNE BUSER** faced challenges no previous president had before in making sure chapter members were safe and had opportunities to be active in the community. Having been present when the chapter first

participated in Angel Tree in 2019, she knew it had to be continued. Angel Tree is a seasonal program through the Salvation Army where community members can buy gifts for families who are struggling financially. Donations can be in the form of clothing, household items or toys, satisfying both the wants and needs of recipients. Partnering with the Salvation Army, sisters were able to donate much needed items directly to members of the community who were in need of some holiday joy.

There was a growing need for generosity this year as the Tallahassee community was struggling in ways it has never seen before. Since Florida Beta's regular service opportunities with Read > Lead > Achieve® had been put on hold due to COVID-19 regulations, sisters poured their heart and soul into the Angel Tree initiative. Florida Beta helped provide Christmas gifts for more than 1,000 children and seniors in the immediate community. Despite the curveballs thrown at everyone this year, Florida Beta managed to increase the amount of donations and the number of people served than previous years. Participating in Angel Tree not only uplifted the community but opened the hearts of sisters. The initiative brought the women closer as they worked together to provide gifts for the same group of Angels.

**SARA KISSANE** said, "I was compelled to donate to Angel Tree because in the season of giving, it's important not to forget about others." She added, "The little girl that I bought gifts for asked for the simplest things, like shoes and a winter coat." Angel Tree was an opportunity for the women to experience the joy of giving in a time of need. For many women in Florida Beta, this was their first year participating, but definitely not their last.

## IDAHO

*Idaho Alpha, University of Idaho*

**ADRIANA BRYANT** was awarded an Alumni Award of Excellence from the University of Idaho honoring her work in chemical engineering. "Engineering isn't about being the best at math and science," Adriana said. "You have to show people that you are determined and want to do a good job. My classmates and the comradery from faculty have been components in how I've succeeded so far." Her Senior Capstone Design Program team submitted their project to the NASA STEM Student Payload Opportunity with the Citizen Science program. The project aims to further human space travel by developing an experiment to address bacteria resistance research at the International Space Station.

As a development engineer intern for Micron USA in Summer 2020, Adriana analyzed trends of process parameters and performed experiments at one of the Boise site's fabrication facilities to achieve better overall



Idaho Alpha **ADRIANA BRYANT** interns for Micron USA as a development engineer.

product quality. "Learning the software, understanding the process to operate and shut down tools, and the automation system that facilitates this, was a huge learning curve when working in industry," she said. "All the theory you learn in class is a great foundation but does not teach you the logistics of doing the job in industry." As a sophomore, Bryant interned with Tokyo Electron US in Hillsboro, Oregon as a process technician, developing optimal process parameters for an atomic layer deposition film. "This was a great insight into industry and gave me valuable insight of how a degree in chemical engineering could be applied," she said.

As a member of the Idaho Alpha Chapter, Adriana has served as Vice President Member Development, interim Chapter President and Director Leadership. She has won the Margaret Kinyon Award every semester since Fall 2017 for having the highest GPA in her member class. She is also a member of the College of Engineering Ambassador Program, participating in outreach events with K-12 students and helping prospective students and their families learn more about life at the University of Idaho. After graduation in Spring 2021, she plans to attend graduate school focusing on engineering with environmental sustainability applications.

## INDIANA

*Indiana Gamma, Butler University*

In early December, two members of the Indiana Gamma Chapter took it upon themselves to make a difference in their own community. Pi Phi's value of Philanthropic Service to Others is a value that the members of the Indiana Gamma Chapter hold near and dear to their hearts. As December came around, it only made sense that some of the members wanted to give back to their own communities in support of literacy. **ABBEY JACKSON** and **SAMANTHA KEESER** volunteered with Kate's Kart in their hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Kate's Kart is a non-profit that provides free books to children in hospitals within the community. One of their main goals is to provide school-age children the opportunity to continue their reading process in the absence of the formal classroom setting. As of 2019, Kate's Kart had donated 274,341 books. Their efforts have touched the lives of many children and align with the values of Pi Beta Phi. When asked about their experience, Samantha and Abbey explained, "We wanted to find a way to contribute to our community while on break from school. Working with Kate's Kart to donate books to local kids allowed us the opportunity to promote the Pi Phi value of Philanthropic Service to Others." Abbey had just begun her position as Director Service and Philanthropy and was driven to lead by example for the chapter. The Indiana Gamma Chapter members are incredibly proud of the work Abbey and Samantha did this winter. These women are a perfect example of what it means to be a Pi Phi, and how the work that this organization does extends beyond college campuses.

Below, from left: Indiana Gammas **ABBEY JACKSON** and **SAMANTHA KEESER** volunteered with Kate's Kart in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



*Indiana Zeta, Ball State University*

Driven by her desire to help people and invest in the community, **EMILY ROGERS** spends her free time at a local hospital. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the junior and nursing major appreciates just how vital nurses are. "At the beginning [of the pandemic], it was a tad scary because everything was so new, and we [the nursing class] were missing out on hands-on experience, but it made us see just how vital our help is and made me realize that I want to ensure the health and well-being of others in my future career," Emily said. In addition to her work at the hospital, Emily is involved with Riley Children's Hospital and Dance Marathon, which made her realize how crucial and important it is to help others. Since joining Pi Beta Phi, Emily has seen many different values coincide with her values as a nursing student. "Integrity is very important, especially in nursing, because you want to make sure you are doing everything you can to help your patient get the care they need. Not only do you need to show respect for the patient, but also their family and other healthcare professionals as well. Like Pi Beta Phi, nursing is a Lifelong Commitment. It's not an easy job. It's filled with good days and bad that make you question why you're doing what you do," she said. Emily intends to work as a maternity care nurse upon graduation. She knows her experiences, both volunteer and paid, and Pi Phi values have prepared her for the good days, bad days, grueling hours and rewarding outcomes she'll encounter in her future career as a registered nurse.



Indiana Zeta **EMILY ROGERS** on a shift as a nurse during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Handmade facemasks made by Maine Alpha  
**ANASTASIA LIPP**.

## MAINE

*Maine Alpha, University of Maine*

**ANASTASIA LIPP** has been working hard to grow her small business, T1Design. Ana has had Type 1 diabetes since the age of four. Last summer, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, she began designing and hand-sewing accessories for people living with Type 1 diabetes. Masks became her major focus because they protect both the high-risk community as well as those around them. Having sold more than 300 masks since moving to the University of Maine this past fall, she continues to donate one dollar per sale to the American Diabetes Association. The Maine Alpha Chapter is incredibly proud of Ana and all she has done for the betterment of others.

## NEBRASKA

*Nebraska Gamma, Creighton University*

Every Pi Phi has their own version of the past year. For many members of the Nebraska Gamma Chapter, the forefront of the battle against COVID-19 comes in the form of vaccines. “We are saving lives one clipboard at a time,” said **KATHERINE WORDEN**, a junior and nursing student who is working to administer vaccines at a local hospital to hospital staff, volunteers and Creighton students. “I love Pi Phi because of the dedication my sisters have to serving others. I was fortunate enough to not only receive the COVID vaccine, but also help distribute it to others. It was inspirational to be a part of this life-changing event alongside my Pi Phi nursing sisters.”

More than a third of Nebraska Gamma members hope to pursue careers and degrees in a healthcare field. Creighton University is home to several healthcare programs including nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, medicine and dentistry. Nebraska Gamma members continue to give their time whether medically or through community service. **RASIKA MUKKAMALA**, a junior and pre-med student said, “I will be volunteering in a clinic once a week to give back to the community now that I’m fortunate enough to be vaccinated myself.” Women going into the medical field, such as senior and pharmacy student **JENNA SCHWARTZ**, are continuing to change the world. “The pharmacists I work with said ‘we are a part of history right now.’ It was a really cool moment to work with a large team to vaccinate hospital personnel to protect the lives of patients and their families,” said Jenna of her time as a pharmacy intern at the local Children’s Hospital. “I was able to help prepare vaccinations for all hospital employees and work with the pharmacists to support nursing staff during any adverse reactions.”

Chapter Members’ overwhelming passion and desire to further healthcare in our country through their understanding of Pi Beta Phi’s sisterhood and values has helped impact many lives throughout the global pandemic. Junior and nursing student **MAGGIE GERVAIS**, who helped administer over 100 of the 500 vaccines given in just one day at the nearby hospital clinic, described her work as “an eye-opening experience to have the chance to better the situation we have all lived through this past year. We were able to distribute vaccines a year to the day after the first person in the world was diagnosed with COVID-19.”

Nebraska Gamma nursing students at an Omaha clinic helping administer vaccines. Back, from left, **MAGGIE GERVAIS** and **KATHERINE WORDEN**. Front, from left, **CAROLINE MONCHAMP** and **CLAIRE SABAL**.





The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine is continuing in hospitals, clinics and campuses. The Nebraska Gamma sisters are hoping to further support the efforts of the ongoing pandemic by continuing to distribute vaccines, supply vaccines from pharmacies, help at the on-campus testing center and work with COVID-19 patients at nearby hospitals. Whether helping administer vaccinations like Katherine and Maggie, volunteering in clinics like Rasika, or preparing the vaccinations, our Nebraska Gamma sisters, as well as Pi Phis across the nation, are making a difference one vaccine and one life at a time.

## NEW MEXICO

*New Mexico Alpha, University of New Mexico*

The Hum Magazine was founded on the principles of community involvement and hometown values. **SORCHE MORGAN** created the magazine during the COVID-19 pandemic in an effort to promote positivity in her hometown of Taos, New Mexico. Each month, Sorche and her team seek out residents of the Taos community to feature in short online articles. Sorche says that she has always been inspired by her community and the strong hearts in her town. Because Taos has always been so tight-knit, COVID-19 hit residents extremely hard with feelings of isolation and loneliness. In battling with her own mental health during lockdown, Sorche realized the people she cared about were likely experiencing similar struggles. She wanted to continue to bring people together even when every circumstance seemed to drive them apart. By starting The Hum, Sorche has been able to spotlight friends and family she believes are continuing to leave a positive impact in Taos. Furthermore, she has been able to meet people she never would have the chance to know otherwise. Even though there have been difficulties in the creation and maintenance of the magazine, Sorche says every moment has been worth it. Being able to meet such amazing people, help create vibrancy in her town and pursue her ambitions drives her to continue her dream. She says, "Find what you love to do and then find a way to give it away to as many people as you can. Dreams are limited only by the limits we give them."

## NORTH CAROLINA

*North Carolina Delta, North Carolina State University*

Above all else, the North Carolina Delta Chapter prides itself on producing high-achieving women who will become America's next leaders. After honing her leadership abilities as Vice President Recruitment, **SOFIA HNATCZUK-ESCOBAL** completed the fall semester of her senior year in Washington D.C., hundreds of miles away from North Carolina State University and her sisters. She was selected as an investigative intern at the prestigious Georgetown Law Criminal Clinic, where



North Carolina Delta **SOFIA HNATCZUK-ESCOBAL** on the National Mall.

she assisted leading defense attorneys in preparing legal memos, interviewing witnesses and canvassing crime scenes. "I grew in my passion for criminal defense and serving the public interest," Sofia said. "I hope to take these experiences into my first year of law school next year, and practice as a criminal defense attorney one day." Sofia exemplifies Pi Phi's values in both her academic and budding professional life, and the chapter is excited to see her amazing accomplishments as a future alumna and attorney.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

*South Carolina Alpha, University of South Carolina*

After weeks of hard work and help from students, faculty and generous donors, the South Carolina Alpha Chapter held its most successful annual book drive yet, collecting more than 6,000 books for schools and teachers in the Columbia area looking to build their classroom libraries. The chapter's Amazon wish list made a big difference this year, making it easier for people off campus to contribute to the philanthropy. It also helped promote the chapter's goal of diversity, equity and inclusion, as the wish list included diverse titles reflective of all students. Local teachers believe the books will promote equity within schools and help students feel better represented when they see themselves on the page. The book drive motivated chapter members to continue to educate themselves and others, particularly through the addition of the Director Diversity/Inclusion on the Chapter Leadership Team. Members are excited for the opportunities this position offers, as well as the positive change it makes in their community. The chapter hopes its efforts will inspire Pi Phis, as well as members of other chapters and students at the University of South Carolina. ◀

## Exemplary Sincere Friendship



Emily with the North Carolina Delta 2020 Member Experience Team. Back row, from left, **MORGAN DAVIS** and **AVA ARMSTRONG**. Front row, from left, **MADI FLAHERTY**, **ANNA KRAWCZYK** and **EMILY FORD**.

Members of Pi Beta Phi exemplify the core values of the sisterhood. These guiding principles signify what it means to be a Pi Phi and drive home the message that this sisterhood is lifelong and sincere. With another academic year coming to an end, graduating members are learning firsthand what it means to embody Pi Phi core values for life.

One member entering this new stage of life and sisterhood is North Carolina Delta **EMILY FORD**. As a senior about to graduate from North Carolina State University, Emily has mixed emotions thinking about what the next few months mean for her as a member of Pi Beta Phi. She will always have her Pi Phi sisters and the Sincere Friendships forged in North Carolina Delta, but the idea of not seeing her sisters in the chapter house every day is difficult to grasp.

“I never imagined going into college that I would find this kind of connection,” Emily said. “Now I know it’s true that you don’t know you’re in the good times until you’re out of them.”

The good times have been plentiful for Emily as a Pi Phi, ever since she first met members during primary recruitment. She describes an overwhelming feeling of acceptance and welcoming as soon as she spoke with Pi Phi members, and that feeling has yet to fade years later. Throughout her collegiate experience, North Carolina Delta has been a source of comfort, empowerment and true sisterhood through the highs and lows.

Above and beyond the typical bonds of friendship, Emily feels her chapter’s sisterhood is unmatched in its level of support for every sister at every stage of life. “These women taught me how to embrace the real me and feel confident,” Emily says. “Our sisterhood is all about being yourself and that shows the character of the women Pi Phi recruits. Sincere Friendship in my chapter is exemplary and I wouldn’t trade a second of my time with my sisters for anything.”

Emily moved into her chapter house second semester of her freshman year and credits that decision as the catalyst for some of her strongest, deepest friendships in the chapter. Through hours of studying, days of sickness and nights of cramming for exams, Emily says the relationships made in the chapter house have made her stronger and left a lasting impact on her life.

“My sisters taught me how to be resilient even in the hardest moments of my life and the importance of spreading generosity every day,” she says. “I will forever be grateful for the generosity these women have shown me, for these experiences taught me how to be a better version of myself.”

She also credits a Pi Phi sister for helping her find a major and career path that encompasses her strengths and passions. **LOGAN SNAVELY** encouraged Emily to explore occupational therapy and even helped her get a job in the field. Emily is set to attend graduate school at the Medical University of South Carolina to pursue her doctorate in occupational therapy starting in May.

“Had I not joined Pi Phi, I don’t know what my plans would be or how I would have gotten through the last year,” she says. While there is much left to learn after graduation, she is sure of one thing. “No matter what, I will always live the values and virtues of Pi Phi.” ◀

## ALABAMA

*Alabama Gamma Alumna*

**ABIGAIL BENZ** recently finished first runner-up in the 2021 Miss Rodeo USA competition. After being crowned the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Miss Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo Queen, Abigail qualified for the Miss Rodeo USA competition with seven other finalists. The multi-day competition hosted by the International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA) was challenging but rewarding for Abigail, whose love of rodeo dates back to her earliest memories. "The sport of rodeo and western way of life have taught me that life is not about simply winning or losing. Life is about having heart and choosing faith over fear," Abigail said. "I cannot think of a better way to give back to a lifestyle that has equipped me with this mindset than as a spokeswoman for the IPRA as I share my knowledge and love for the sport of rodeo." Abigail also dedicates her time to Pi Phi as a member of Pi Beta Phi Foundation's Stewardship Committee.

## ARKANSAS

*Arkansas Alpha Alumnae*

**SHELBY SHEETS ROSSON** and **KAITLYN BROWN SHUFFIELD** never thought their big sister-little sister bond would go from Sincere Friendship to business partners. In September 2020, Shelby and Kaitlyn founded SK Designs and Floral Preservation. Almost immediately, the response was more than they could have ever imagined. Shelby and Kaitlyn entered the corporate world shortly after graduation and discovered they wanted to dive deeper into the design industry. They also believed there was more to come from their friendship, and SK Designs was born. They both have a passion for florals and wedding planning, so they decided to combine those passions by creating a business centered around both. Shelby and Kaitlyn loved the idea of creating something special for a bride on their big day and preserving their most special moments into a forever keepsake. As they've grown their business, they've held true to running SK Designs with the same values with which they live their lives — the values Pi Phi taught them. "Pi Phi taught us to use our influence to help others and to live and lead with our core values. Now more than ever, as we run our business daily, we consider how we can thoughtfully live our values through every decision," Shelby and Kaitlyn said. "Thank you, Pi Phi, for all you've taught us and for a friendship that means the world to us. The bonds of wine and silver blue bind us together, continue to shape our leadership qualities and motivate us to use our influence as we run our business together."

Above: Alabama Gamma **ABIGAIL BENZ**

Below: Arkansas Alphas **SHELBY SHEETS ROSSON** and **KAITLYN BROWN SHUFFIELD**.



Photo by  
Sherry Smith



## CALIFORNIA

*San Jose, California, Alumnae Club*

The San Jose, California, Alumnae Club thanks Membership Chairs **DEBBY COBURN RICE** and **ELLEN KAHLE EVANS**, both Oregon Alphas, for their remarkable efforts that led to an increase in membership. Throughout the winter months, they created colorfully designed email graphics, safely delivered handmade angel ornaments and produced humorous videos starring club members. Because of their creativity and determination, the results led to an almost 50% increase in the club's membership. In early 2021, Debby and Ellen moved from the membership committee to become the club's event coordinators. Their first virtual event in February was a celebration of "Groundhug Day" which brought virtual hugs as well as lots of laughter during Covid. Despite not being able to experience in-person gatherings, Debby and Ellen's creative spirit enabled members to experience an evening of fun. The San Jose Alumnae Club is extremely grateful for what these two angels have contributed to boost membership morale and help alumnae connect to each other with the spirit of fun and friendship.

## FLORIDA

*Fort Myers Area, Florida, Alumnae Club*

The Fort Myers Area, Florida, Alumnae Club annual Christmas celebration looked different in 2020 but was just as fun as years past. The drive-through Christmas celebration and book donation took place on December 5 at the home of Indiana Beta **SUSAN CRANE KYLE**. A book donation table, gift table and goodie bag table were set up to allow sisters to drive through, drop off a book, drop off and pick up a gift and pick up a goodie bag. The books collected from the event were delivered by Philanthropy Chair **PATTY ATHERTON TURNER**, Arkansas Alpha, to the Pi Phi Book Nook at Golisano Children's Hospital. After the event, the club hosted a Zoom call for all members to open their gifts and celebrate all together. Club members wish to thank Susan for opening up her yard to host the Christmas celebration at her home for the 47<sup>th</sup> year.

From left, Mississippi Alpha **SANDIE FOWLER DELLACROCE**, Indiana Beta **SUSAN CRANE KYLE** and Alabama Beta **SAMANTHA DELLACROCE** at the Fort Myers Area, Florida, Alumnae Club's drive-through Christmas celebration.



## GEORGIA

*Alpharetta, Georgia, Alumnae Club*

This year, everyone has continued to learn that the most important parts of life involve those around us — whether friends, family, strangers or sisters. It's those people who make everyone feel less alone, which is particularly needed when living at a social distance. Separated from the people and memories that provide joy and laughter, everyone had to find new ways to connect. Knowing this, Mississippi Beta **HEATHER RODGERS APPLIGATE** spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to keep members in contact with one another during a difficult time.

What started as a way to check in on sisters became an opportunity for reflection, substantial connection and joy. With the help of club members, Heather sent out 75 cards, each including arrow charms honoring local Silver Arrow (25 years), Golden Arrow (50) and Diamond Arrow (75) anniversaries. She received several responses from members, many recounting their own special memories and thoughts. These memories became a piece of distraction, reflection and happiness for many. In a time where mental and physical health are of a high priority in our lives, we've seen what loneliness can do to us. Now more than ever, giving back to those around us is critical. Whether it be hosting a book drive, serving in the community or spearheading a letter writing campaign, Pi Phis know that the most important time spent is that which brings those around us joy, charity and grace.

## MICHIGAN

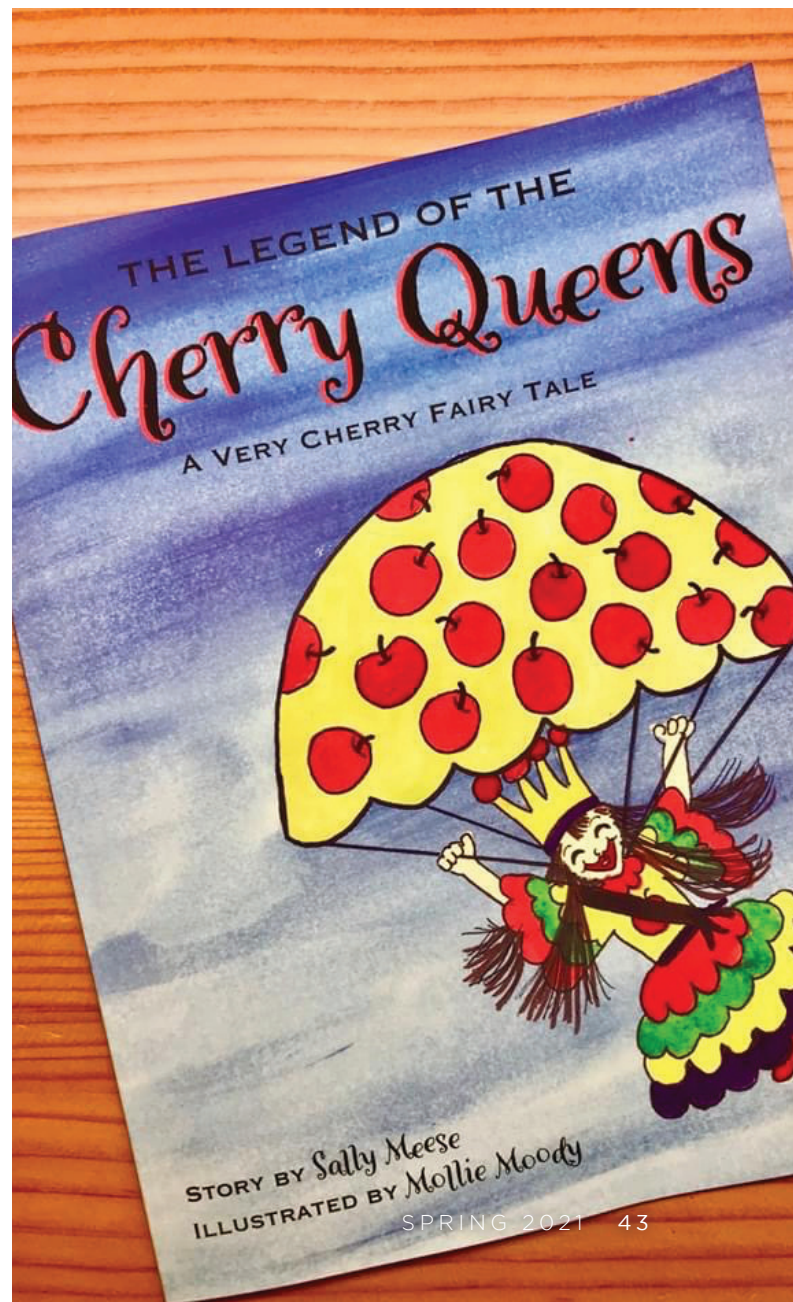
*Michigan Gamma Alumnae*

A friendship forged in Michigan Gamma is now an outlet for creativity and a philanthropic effort for two alumnae, **SALLY MOODY MEESE** and **MAGGIE NUGENT ELLWOOD**. The two women shared a room at the Michigan Gamma Chapter house over 40 years ago and their friendship has endured despite living far apart for most of their post-graduate years. One way they stayed connected was through an annual Fourth of July gathering with their growing families at the Meese cottage on the beautiful Leelanau Peninsula in Michigan, the Cherry Capital of the World.

On one of these visits in 2005, Sally and Maggie hatched an idea for an entry into the local parade their families had enjoyed for many years. It had to celebrate Independence Day, but it also had to be "Purely Michigan" and most of all, whimsical. The Cherry Queens of Leelanau County were born.

Everyone in town loved the Cherry Queen float and looked forward to seeing it every year. Sally, or "Queen Ba-Da-Bing," was so inspired by the reactions, she wrote a poem about "The Legend of the Cherry Queens" which was published in the local paper. Sally expanded on that inspiration by writing and publishing a book detailing more of the story. The book both captures the whimsy of the Cherry Queens and celebrates and educates readers about the cherry farming industry. Additionally, they follow their Pi Phi values and donate all proceeds to charities focused on literacy.

*The Legend of the Cherry Queens, A Very Cherry Fairy Tale* builds on the story developed by Michigan Gamma **SALLY MOODY MEESE** and **MAGGIE NUGENT ELLWOOD**.





Virginia Theta **MARIEL PEARL** and her grandfather, Dr. Henry Ruston.

## NEW YORK

*New York City - Manhattan, New York, Alumnae Club*

In January, the New York City - Manhattan, New York, Alumnae Club virtually hosted “Embracing Perspectives: A Talk with a Holocaust Survivor,” in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The featured speaker was Dr. Henry Ruston, grandfather of Virginia Theta **MARIEL PEARL**, and the event was moderated by D.C. Alpha **DINA NEWMAN**. Embracing Perspectives is a conversation series hosted in partnership with the NYC Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma where alumnae women come together to learn and reflect on timely social topics such as politics, women’s history, anti-Semitism and more. Dr. Ruston’s virtual event was attended by nearly 100 alumnae, collegians, family and friends. Attendees came together to hear a first-hand account of what it was like to experience anti-Semitism at its most overtly dangerous moment in history. Dr. Ruston was honest and thoughtful as he told his story, while Dina, a Jewish youth educator, asked insightful and respectful questions. Dina’s extensive background in Jewish history and contemporary issues helped attendees understand Dr. Ruston’s story in a fuller context. His story’s theme was one of resiliency, positivity and the power of education, something Dr. Ruston holds close to his heart. As the voices of these Holocaust survivors start to pass and will soon no longer be accessible in real time, the alumnae clubs were proud to host an event of such importance and relevance. To make an even greater impact, Pi Phi and

Kappa held a joint fundraiser in support of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. With the support of attendees, the alumnae clubs raised \$2,000 which will directly support the Museum and help promote Holocaust education to continue the fight against Holocaust denial and real — and increasingly fearless — anti-Semitism.

### *New York Delta Alumna*

**JOYCE FRIES SIDOPOULOS** was awarded the AFCEA International Leadership Award at the organization’s annual conference at the end of 2020. Joyce is a longtime member of AFCEA — a non-profit association for government, military and industry professionals working in communications, IT, intelligence and global security — and currently serves on the International Board of Directors and is a member of the Lexington-Concord chapter.

Joyce’s commitment to promoting women in leadership and philanthropic service highlight her commitment to the core values of Pi Beta Phi — values she’s passed on to her two Pi Phi daughters, Alabama Betas **KASSIE SIDOPOULOS** and **KATIE SIDOPOULOS**. “Both were taught at a young age the importance of volunteerism through helping me with AFCEA initiatives and other community service,” Joyce said. “[Community service] is a shared value stressed by Pi Phi that we all share.”



New York Delta **JOYCE FRIES SIDOPOULOS** (center) with daughters **KASSIE SIDOPOULOS** (left) and **KATIE SIDOPOULOS** (right), both Alabama Beta, outside the Alabama Beta Chapter house before a football game.

## NEVADA

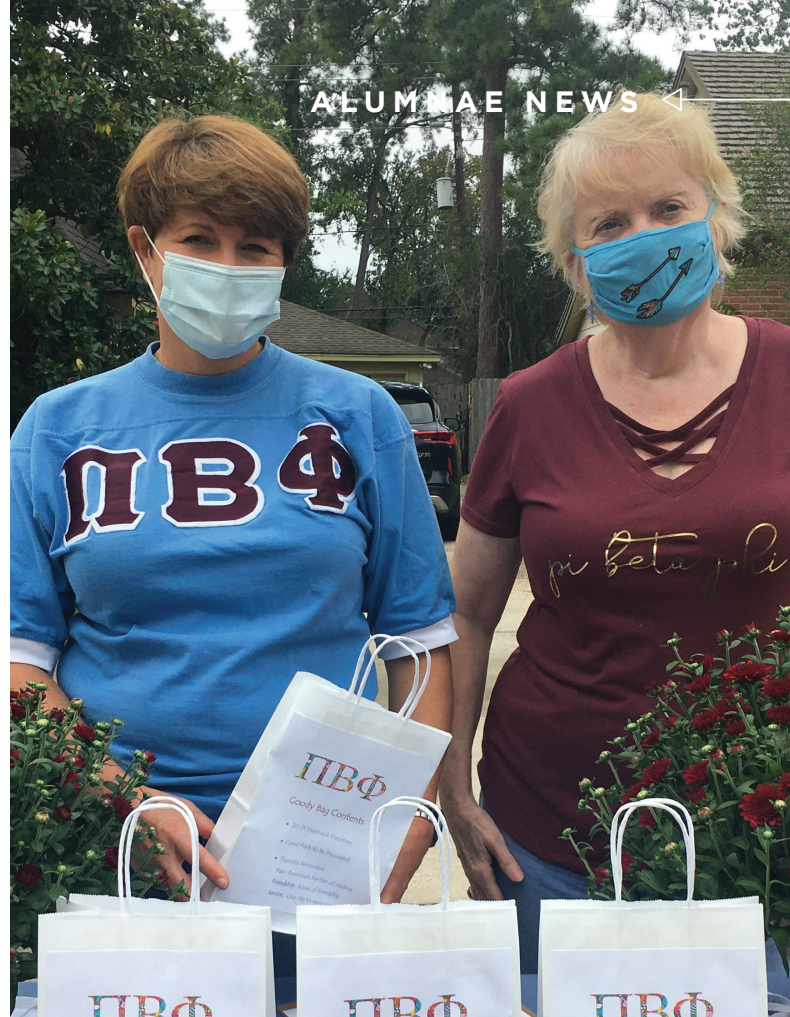
### *Las Vegas, Nevada, Alumnae Club*

The Las Vegas, Nevada, Alumnae Club wants to highlight the efforts and Lifelong Commitment of a newer member of the club, Ohio Kappa **MEGAN ISRAELITT**. Upon graduating from law school in 2019, Megan returned home to Las Vegas and joined the alumnae club, taking on a position as co-chair of the club's monthly book club and maintaining involvement with the club throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Megan's keen participation is not surprising based on her extensive experience giving back to Pi Phi. In 2020 she joined the Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) for the Virginia Zeta Chapter as the Advisor to the Vice President Community Relations. Prior to this position, Megan chaired the AAC for California Omicron at Chapman University, where she attended law school. Megan's final six months as AAC Chair for California Omicron were conducted virtually as she had already graduated law school and returned to Las Vegas. Volunteering remotely prepared her well to take on her current AAC position at Virginia Zeta, a chapter 2,200 miles away. Megan says she has been warmly welcomed by the chapter, even touring their chapter house remotely via Facetime. Megan's experience on AAC has given the alumnae club members unique insight into how a collegiate chapter is navigating its school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Megan has shared great ideas with the alumnae club for ways to help maintain that sense of sisterhood and friendship, as even now, local restrictions continue to prevent getting together in person. Megan says of volunteering with such a range of Pi Phi sisters, "We have more in common with each other than we have differences."

## TEXAS

### *Cyprus Creek - Northwest Houston, Texas, Alumnae Club*

Even from a social distance, sisterhood perseveres in the Cyprus Creek - Northwest Houston, Texas, Alumnae Club. Club President **PATRICIA SEAMAN SMITH**, Illinois Beta-Delta, and Vice President Programming **MELINDA MEYER BLANKENSHIP**, Texas Alpha, coordinated a drive-by goodie bag event, which allowed club members the opportunity to collect a token of appreciation from the club complete with the club directory and Pi Phi favors. These favors included a silver blue mask ready for decorating, a Pi Phi bookmark, candy kisses and an arrow chip clip. They were designed to give members activities to do at home as well as show appreciation for sisters during a trying time. The club looks forward to continuing engagement with members safely and continuing to strengthen sisterhood from afar.



From left: Texas Alpha **MELINDA MEYER BLANKENSHIP** and Illinois Beta-Delta **PATRICIA SEAMAN SMITH** coordinated and hosted a drive-by goodie bag event for alumnae club members.

### *Richardson-Plano, Texas, Alumnae Club*

Members of the Richardson-Plano, Texas, Alumnae Club sought to alleviate the added economic challenges faced by single mothers in their community when schools required children to stay home between Thanksgiving and January due to COVID-19 concerns. To assist the moms in keeping their children reading and occupied with educational games and activities, the club collected new books, art supplies, puzzles, educational toys and family games to create age-appropriate activity boxes and bags for the 16 children served by Agape Resource and Assistance Center, a local nonprofit agency. The agency provides single-mother families with housing, counseling, supplies and skills training to empower women while they support their families.

The tote bags, filled with personalized cases for the kids, were delivered on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving — just in time for the agency's weekly group dinner. The club also gave each mother a \$25 Target gift card and a gift bag with lotion, shower gel and a cloth facemask as an extra pick-me-up. The families were surprised and delighted, and the club received a handwritten note of thanks from each mom. ←

# 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 November 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021. Obituaries may be submitted at [pibetaphi.org/in-memoriam](http://pibetaphi.org/in-memoriam).

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 [pibetaphi.org/foundation](http://pibetaphi.org/foundation). ←

## ALABAMA GAMMA

Lee Rolling Baldwin, 1962  
Anne Williams Taylor, 1963

## ALBERTA ALPHA

Betty Burke Lilge, 1936  
Diane Gittins Walker, 1949

## ARIZONA ALPHA

Ginny A. Wolfe, 1960,  
affiliated Wisconsin Alpha

## ARIZONA BETA

Lauren Sage Kettell, 2019

## ARKANSAS ALPHA

Gail Whitsitt Tompkins, 1957

## CALIFORNIA DELTA

Johanna Randall Cardella, 1954

## CALIFORNIA GAMMA

Anne Knight DeRosa, 1953

## COLORADO ALPHA

Barbara McCarthy Bowes, 1945  
Marilyn Reynolds Harman, 1956

## COLORADO GAMMA

Connie Carlson Jungbluth, 1974  
Georjean Dubois Taylor, 1959

## D.C. ALPHA

Margery Gessford MacLeod  
Glass, 1942

## FLORIDA ALPHA

Sarah Holt Dennis, 1985

## FLORIDA BETA

Jean Nydegger, 1950  
Joy McConkey Roth, 1964

## GEORGIA ALPHA

Virginia Cooper Herron, 1949  
Mary Frances Olsen-Ragsdale, 1964

## IDAHO ALPHA

Patricia Rojan Patton, 1956  
Linda Bacheller Pressey, 1961

## ILLINOIS BETA-DELTA

Margaret Lord Castendyck, 1944  
Judy Reily Pacey, 1955

## ILLINOIS EPSILON

Pat Abel Armstrong, 1948  
Susan Cummins Myers, 1952

## ILLINOIS THETA

Maxine Morrison Horwath, 1950  
Shirley Puckett Olsen, 1947

## ILLINOIS ZETA

Ruth Dearing Beliles, 1948  
Barbara Blanchard Frutchey, 1947  
Gwendolyn Peterson Spencer, 1941

## INDIANA ALPHA

Lorna Britan Arnot, 1959

## INDIANA BETA

Jennifer Billings Barnes, 1992  
Patricia Nackenhorst Fehr, 1948  
Carolyn Funk Foster, 1949  
Shirley King Myers, 1947  
Wanda Hayden  
Quinn-Isenbarger, 1944  
Pamela Cagle Walters, 1945

## INDIANA DELTA

Katie Cruz, 2020  
Jackie Cramer Hegman, 1961  
Martha Nees Lyerly, 1959  
Margot Vitale Rowe, 1958

## INDIANA EPSILON

Karen Jenkinson Barnes, 1958  
Barbara Ault Homme, 1951  
Marilyn Wiegand Pecsok, 1948  
Sally Sohngen Henderson, 1951,  
affiliated Ohio Zeta

## INDIANA GAMMA

Dorothy Lewis Reed, 1948

## IOWA BETA

Judith Sacre Lathrop, 1957

## IOWA GAMMA

Catherine Grant Johnson, 1953  
Mary Ann McDonnell McTigue, 1947  
Norma Somerville Schmoker, 1954  
M. J. Bond Tilden, 1946

## IOWA ZETA

Joan Overholser Houghton, 1945

## KANSAS ALPHA

Jean Dressler Barber, 1948  
Margaret Quigley Bergman, 1949  
Joann Ruese Stucker, 1945

## KANSAS BETA

Sally Doyle Baker, 1952  
Maryellen Phillips Munger, 1948  
Judith Allen Weckel, 1960

## KENTUCKY ALPHA

Sue Ellen Broadus Ackerson, 1952



**LOUISIANA ALPHA**

Doris Guillot Neill, 1954

**MAINE ALPHA**

Kristin Doughty, 2014

**MARYLAND ALPHA**Dorothy B. Krug, 1938  
Janis Wimberly Hruby, 1950,  
affiliated Oklahoma Alpha**MARYLAND BETA**

Nancye Hager Ady, 1955

**MICHIGAN ALPHA**Mary Jane Keller Meier, 1939  
Jane Scott Potter, 1948**MISSISSIPPI BETA**

Bessie Fisher Chisum, 1966

**MISSOURI ALPHA**Marilyn Wiegner Brandom, 1945  
Emily Kate Kirk, 2019**MISSOURI BETA**

Bernice Ziegler Roemer, 1941

**MONTANA ALPHA**

Shirley Boe Amberson, 1955

**NEVADA ALPHA**Audrey Bernard Ferrari, 1954  
Ann Richardson Spencer, 1950**NEW MEXICO ALPHA**

Helen Woodward Weaver, 1952

**NEW YORK ALPHA**

Anne Kupfer Andrews, 1954

**NORTH CAROLINA ALPHA**

Jane McLure Temple, 1943

**OHIO ALPHA**Polly Homer Piggins, 1964  
Mary Wolfe Riley, 1955  
Marjorie Young Wittich, 1949,  
affiliated Ohio Beta**OHIO BETA**

Jacqueline Marcum Wenger, 1946

**OHIO DELTA**Jean Whiting Addison, 1937  
Lynne Williams Guilfoyle, 1970**OHIO ETA**

Jo Lynne Belt Murchland, 1957

**OHIO IOTA**

Joyce Canney Young, 1989

**OKLAHOMA ALPHA**Ann Jarrett Shade, 1947  
Marilyn High Vaughn, 1953**OKLAHOMA BETA**Joanne Stephens Bezinque  
Stadler, 1953  
June Gouin Wood, 1940**OREGON ALPHA**Donnie Lyons Kunkel, 1947  
Marissa Kay Worstell, 2012**OREGON BETA**Carolyn Velguth Krieger, 1953,  
affiliated Oregon Alpha  
Carolyn Wilson Jahn, 1971  
Susan Filler Lane, 1953**OREGON GAMMA**

Sharon Allen Smullin, 1955

**PENNSYLVANIA BETA**

Marion Ranck Rose, 1935

**PENNSYLVANIA GAMMA**

Patricia Kelly Surrick, 1958

**SOUTH CAROLINA ALPHA**Dorothy Parke Cothran, 1939  
Louise Matthews Maisel, 1953  
Elwyn Thompson Mossler, 1949**SOUTH DAKOTA ALPHA**

Sharon Colwill Issenhuth, 1961

**TENNESSEE ALPHA**

Ann Dixon Schimpf, 1948

**TENNESSEE BETA**

Carolyn Partridge Gustafson, 1949

**TENNESSEE GAMMA**

Marie Moncier Murphy, 1955

**TEXAS ALPHA**Eleanor Greer Drake, 1952  
Kathryn Buckley Houseman, 1943  
Peggy Pitman Mays, 1956**TEXAS BETA**

Nancy Wilemon Smith, 1951

**VIRGINIA ALPHA**

June Runyan Riddick, 1947

**VIRGINIA GAMMA**

Jayne Baker Lewis, 1952

**WASHINGTON ALPHA**

Marilyn Turner Adams, 1945

**WASHINGTON BETA**

Carole Cooke Jones, 1952

**WISCONSIN ALPHA**

Elizabeth Marx Lierk, 1961

**WISCONSIN GAMMA**

Helen Wagner Pierce, 1947

**WYOMING ALPHA**

Donna Hofferber Wilson, 1954

Boardwalk Scoop Tee  
**\$32.99**

**PI BETA PHI**  
**1867**

FOR THE LARGEST CURATED COLLECTION  
OF PI PHI MERCHANDISE, VISIT

*shoppibetaphi.com*



# Celebrate Sisterhood THIS SPRING



**LINKED  
Through Friendship**

**NEW 2021 Convention Dangle**  
(Larger than actual size.)

**A.** Arrow Bracelet with Crest, #1065 SS, 10K | **B.** 10K Lavalier with 18" gold-filled Snake Chain, #L2649 10K/GF | **C.** Rory Necklace, #RORY GP  
**D.** Garnet and Aquamarine Badge with Diamond Point, #0317 10K | **E.** Letter Guard, #J0100 10K | **F.** Crown Pearl Badge with Garnet Point, #0205 10K | **G.** Crown Pearl Badge, #0200 10K | **H.** Crest Guard, #9005 10K | **I.** NEW Convention 2021 Dangle, #2021 | **J.** VP Finance Dangle, #004 GP  
**K.** Chapter President Dangle, #001A GP | **L.** Scholarship Pearl Dangle, #041 GP | **M.** Cushion Ring, #0452 SS | **N.** Arrow Wrap Ring, #3047 10K  
**O.** Addy Ring, #ADDY SP/GP | **P.** CZ Stackable Band Ring, #143864 SP/GP | **Q.** Forever Ring, #001G 10K | **R.** Emma Ring, #0629 SS | **S.** Official Crest Ring, #3002 SS, 10K

**HJGreek.com | 1.800.451.3304**



Pi Beta Phi Fraternity  
 1154 Town & Country Commons Drive  
 Town & Country, MO 63017  
 pibetaphi.org

NONPROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO 1828  
 ST. LOUIS, MO

# Friends and Leaders for Life

FOLLOW PI BETA PHI ON INSTAGRAM @PIBETAPHIHQ



## @pibetaphi\_rp

The Richardson-Plano, Texas, Alumnae Club's Champions are Readers 2021 literacy program is in the bag! Spring break book bags — filled with a brand new copy of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, a custom designed book mark, sweet treats and personal letters — were given to all 80 Aikin Elementary third grade students and teachers. #readleadachieve



## @valpopiphi

Happy International Women's Day! Today we honor the strong and empowering women that make up our chapter. Today and every day we are grateful for the amazing women that we get to call our sisters. We #choosetochallenge - as we continue to challenge not only ourselves but also our sisters and the world around us, we will continue to grow into strong, independent women. We can't wait to see what the women in our chapter will accomplish in the future!

## @piphilafayette

This week's #piphriday is Lia Charles, who joined Pi Phi in 2019! Lia is a Gov/Law and Psych double major and is the Secretary of Student Government, on the Speech and Debate team, Student Associate on Student Conduct and Bias Response Team and an America Reads Tutor. Lia can also recite the Preamble of the Constitution from memory! Lia chose Pi Phi because "the women in this organization are the women I aspire to be ... Pi Phi is full of inspirational, intelligent, involved women just like them. I'm honored to know these women and for them to be my sisters."



## @iowabetapiphis

"The world needs strong women. Women who will lift and build others, who will love and be loved, women who live bravely, both tender and fierce, women of indomitable will." - Amy Tenney



Happy Women's History Month! Here's some moments of the strong women that make up the Iowa Beta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi.