

The Arrow

OF PI BETA PHI • WINTER 2024

SUNSCREEN QUEEN

Supergoop! Founder
Holly Emery Thaggard,
Oklahoma Alpha

ALSO INSIDE | Bettering the Lives of Sisters Bettering Themselves | Forging Your Own Path

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OF PI BETA PHI • WINTER 2024

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Until 2018, there was a greater likelihood that the CEO of a major company would be named John than be a woman. It wasn't until 2021 that women truly broke away in number from any single male name, with ten more women taking the helm at their respective organizations. Colorado Alpha **MARIA BARKMAN BLACK** was one of the women who tipped the scales.

ON THE COVER

When Oklahoma Alpha **HOLLY EMERY THAGGARD**'s close friend was diagnosed with skin cancer in their 20s, Holly was inspired to develop sun protection that was both safe and effective—and revolutionized an entire product category in the process. Holly, who lives by the mantra "can't stop, won't stop," is on a mission to fight the epidemic of skin cancer, and believes slowing down is not an option.



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FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR

FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE, New York Alpha



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SUBMISSIONS

All Pi Phis are encouraged to submit news and stories to *The Arrow*. Articles may be submitted online at pibetaphi.org/stories. Visit 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. Submissions may be used for other educational or marketing purposes by the Fraternity. We cannot guarantee the publication of any submission.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter — October 1
Spring — February 1
Summer — June 1

ADDRESS/NAME CHANGES

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

HOW TO RECEIVE THE ARROW

To receive three hard copies of *The Arrow*, pay your \$45 annual alumna dues to your local alumnae club or directly to Headquarters. Visit pibetaphi.org/dues or mail a check to Headquarters.



FRATERNITY
COMMUNICATIONS
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Charting Our Own Course



ANA MANCEBO MILLER
Grand Vice President Alumnae

Dear Sisters,

Innovators. Disruptors. Change agents. Call us what you want, but Pi Beta Phis have always been pathbreakers—a mantle we inherited from our founders, as members of the first women's fraternity. We are confident leaders who embrace opportunity and stay open to possibility. When there's not a road that leads where we want to go, we chart our own course, using our core values as our compass. We're motivated to seek challenges, surpass goals and leave our campuses and communities better than we found them.

Perhaps that's why so many Pi Phis become entrepreneurs, founders and leaders in the business world. We have the innate drive and desire to create the lives we envision for ourselves, and the milestones achieved by women who wear our golden arrow never fail to amaze me. Yet with every passing year and each new experience, one truth becomes clearer to me—it's the power of our shared sisterhood that not only makes our journey possible but makes it worthwhile.

My own entrepreneurial path began during my time at the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University. I had incredible opportunities to meet and learn from experts in numerous fields. Course work was centered on real-world case studies with large brands, which led me to a corporate career—and ultimately, building a business of my own after years of hard work, commitment and exceeding client expectations.

College is also where I fell in love with the idea of lifelong sisterhood. Navigating new waters at a school far from home led me to deeply appreciate the bonds I made, as well as the many avenues for leadership available to me. I found inspiration in sisters who thought differently than I did and brought other skills and talents to the table. I also realized I could strengthen my own gifts through collaboration. Whether as a member of an Alumnae Advisory Committee or Grand Council, each leadership role I've held in Pi Phi has introduced me to new friends and served as a catalyst for personal and professional growth. I'm a stronger sister, mother, wife, daughter, aunt and leader because of the skills I've learned—and continue to learn—through my service to Pi Phi, and that's one of the main reasons I'm committed to giving back to our sisterhood.

Reflecting on my journey from student to young professional to business owner, I think of a quote from author Steve Maraboli: "You express the truth of your character with the choice of your actions." I believe every situation in life, every relationship and every encounter, brings learning opportunities. Like everyone else, I've experienced setbacks and disappointments—but knowing how much I value persistence helps me navigate challenges and push forward. As you forge your own path, it's important you decide who you want to be and what you'll accomplish. No one else will care about your dreams as much as you do, so be flexible on the details but stubborn on your vision. And above all, remember that you have an entire sisterhood supporting you along the way. With true friendship as your foundation and sisters by your side, you will not fail. ◀

In Pi Phi,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ana M. Miller".

Letters to Pi Phi

Pi Beta Phi believes 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 with the Fraternity.

Let's keep the conversation going, together—send your reflections and feedback to thearrow@pibetaphi.org. Please include your full name and chapter of initiation.

In response to the Fraternity's social media initiative, We Are Pi Phi, celebrating Rosh Hashanah:

SYDNEY KREBS, Alabama Beta, initiated 2020

"I am so grateful to you for giving us the platform to share our stories with the organization. I can't speak for everyone; however, I know that initiatives like this make me feel seen and valued by Pi Phi."

In response to the October 2023 Collegiate Points of Interest newsletter, which included resources for the Israel-Hamas War:

JESSICA NIRSCHEL, Connecticut Alpha, initiated 2021

"I have been struggling with coping with the Israel-Hamas war and I really appreciate that you mentioned the situation in the newsletter! I really appreciate the support and that you care! I am SO proud to be a Pi Phi!"

In response to the question "Why do you pay your dues?" during Alumnae Dues Week:

LORA YOUNT PARKER, Tennessee Gamma, initiated 2015

"The way I see it, my dues help pay it forward and ensure other young women can enjoy their collegiate experiences. Additionally, paying dues encourages our philanthropic efforts to increase literacy and education across the board that I believe increases anyone's quality of life."

MELANIE MARVIN DILLMAN, Mississippi Beta, initiated 1988

"I pay my alumnae dues so Pi Beta Phi can continue the important work it does for its members. From lifelong college friends to new friends I have made in my alumnae club, being a Pi Phi has given me more than I could have ever imagined. I am happy to give to an organization that supports its members, has strong core values and promotes an atmosphere of women helping women and their communities."

In response to the Summer 2023 issue of The Arrow:

JANE HARMELING MCPHERSON, North Carolina Beta, initiated 1948

"I love keeping up with Pi Phi as I read through every issue of *The Arrow*. Our organization keeps getting better!"

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. ←



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR *International Badge Day*

Celebrate your sisterhood with thousands of Panhellenic sisters on the National Panhellenic Conference's International Badge Day. On Monday, March 4, 2024, wear your arrow badge or Pi Phi letters to let everyone know you're proud to be a sorority woman and a Pi Beta Phi. Inspire other sisters and future Pi Phis by sharing your story using **#BadgeDay24** on social media.

LEADING THE WAY AT COLLEGE WEEKEND 2024

On January 19-21, hundreds of Pi Phis will gather in St. Louis for College Weekend. Throughout the weekend, more than 800 collegiate officers and Alumnae Advisory Committee members will be equipped with the tools, knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their officer position while learning, growing and connecting with fellow leaders from chapters across North America. For updates before, during and after the event, make sure to follow our social media channels.

NOMINATE A PI PHI FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Honor individual Pi Phis and celebrate their achievements and contributions by nominating a sister to receive a Pi Beta Phi award. Awards are given to members who embody the Fraternity's core values and can highlight leadership, academic excellence, community involvement and more. Nominations will be open to all members through February 15, 2024. To learn more and nominate a sister, visit pibetaphi.org/awards.

CONNECT WITH PI PHIS AT HALO HAPPENINGS

Halo Happenings events are a special time to reconnect with Pi Phi sisters and forge new bonds while learning how gifts to our Foundation create meaningful impact. Hear about our latest achievements and current initiatives that make us Pi Phi Proud. All Pi Phi sisters and friends are invited to join us for an evening filled with connection, conversation and celebration in the following cities:

- February 27: Pasadena, California
- February 29: Corona Del Mar and Laguna Beach, California
- April 3: St. Louis, Missouri
- June 5: Portland, Oregon
- June 18: San Antonio, Texas
- June 20: Austin, Texas

Learn more and register at pibetaphi.org/halohappenings.

**WANT MORE FRATERNITY
NEWS?** Subscribe to the
Pi Phi Points of Interest
digital newsletter!



SISTERHOOD AS SWEET AS PI!

Mark your calendar for March 14, 2024—Pi Day—and plan to join sisters for a day filled with fun, friendship and giving back to our sisterhood. Just like pi, the mathematical constant (3.14) that gives Pi Day its nickname, Pi Phi is a never-ending source of support and true friendship in the lives of our sisters. And, with the continued support of sisters and friends, our Foundation is committed to ensuring Pi Phi has the resources we need to preserve our past, focus on our present and dream of a bright future for our sisterhood. Giving on Pi Phi Giving Day, or any day, is an easy way to live the values at the heart of our sisterhood. Visit pibetaphi.org/ppgd to learn how you can participate—then invite sisters in your chapter, alumnae club and social networks to join you!



It's time to
put on your
Pi Phi Pride!

All proceeds from this year's exclusive Pi Phi Giving Day T-shirt will support Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Order yours at pibetaphi.org/ppgd by February 15 to wear it on Pi Phi Giving Day; March 14 is the last day to order.

NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE (NPC) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

More than 90 NPC member organization leaders, board members and guests gathered in October 2023 to build relationships and discuss topics of mutual interest—such as the relevance of women's organizations and an update on NPC's data analytics project. During the conference, Missouri Alpha **DR. KRISTY WEBER** was awarded the NPC Foundation's Women in Higher Education Achievement Award—which recognizes an outstanding woman who has made or is making a difference in higher education through scholarship and leadership. Dr. Weber is the Abramson Family Professor in Sarcoma Care Excellence in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) Perelman School of Medicine.

The event was followed by a regular meeting of the Council of Delegates, which is composed of one individual from each of NPC's 26 member organizations. Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT**, Pi Beta Phi Fraternity and Fraternity Housing Corporation Executive Director Shawn Eagleburger, Associate Executive Director and Chief Panhellenic Officer **ASHLEY HALLOWELL KARTH**, Illinois Eta, and Grand Vice President Emerita, RFM Specialist and NPC Area Advisor **CAROL INGE WARREN**, North Carolina Beta, attended on behalf of Pi Phi.

MEETING RITUAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE (MRRC) UPDATE

Over the past year, the MRRC has worked to meet the charge set by Grand Council: to examine our Meeting Ritual and New Member Meeting Ritual and hear perspectives on the impact of Ritual from Pi Phis across our sisterhood while honoring its history. The members of the MRRC are grateful to all members who participated in the data collection phase through survey responses and joining one of their 28 focus groups. The committee recently completed their research analysis—including synthesizing the results from the data collection phase, contextualizing the historical origins of our Meeting Rituals and providing summaries of past efforts or proposals to alter Meeting Ritual. A report has been shared with Grand Council who will review and determine next steps in the coming months. More information about the Meeting Ritual Research Committee and a timeline of Meeting Ritual history can be found at pibetaphi.org/mrrc.

FRATERNITY AND FOUNDATION HELP TO AMPLIFY SORORITY

Grand Council and Pi Beta Phi Foundation's Board of Trustees have made the decision to support the Foundation for Fraternal Excellence's Women's Research Initiative through their Amplifying Sorority campaign by making a collective \$50,000 pledge, payable over three years. The Women's Research Initiative seeks to prove the relevance of the sorority experience to Potential New Members and their families, collegians, alumnae, volunteers, donors and higher education administrators. Read more about the research effort and campaign at foundationfe.org. ←



West Virginia Alphas celebrating their Fall 2023 Bid Day at the chapter facility.

The Solid Foundation of Sisterhood

While change can be daunting, it's a natural part of a life journey, and there is courage in moving forward with hope and openness to opportunity. Changes to a Pi Phi residential housing experience do not have to mean a negative impact on member experience—chapters operating under a non-residential facility still celebrate the happiest moments such as Bid Day, sisterhood events and more. Whether members are living together or not, a chapter house is still a home.

When the West Virginia Alpha Chapter transitioned from a residential facility to a non-residential lodge, the members worked together to navigate a time of uncertainty through the strength of sisterhood. The Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) determined that alleviating the financial and operational burdens of a residential facility would allow the chapter to focus on providing a strong member experience. Chapter leaders and advisors were brought along as the transition progressed to ensure the entire chapter was prepared for the change to come.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, members no longer live in the facility, but use the house to gather for meetings, sisterhood events and more. This change allows the chapter to prioritize beloved aspects of sisterhood while relieving some of those housing obligations. Chapter members were involved in determining how the facility would be utilized moving forward, including chapter leaders Vice President

Finance/Housing **ALLIE DOUGLAS** and Chapter President **TARYN FANTOZZI**.

The announcement of the change to chapter members in November 2022 was timed to ensure West Virginia Alpha could use the Spring 2023 semester to plan how this new model would work for the chapter. As is the case with any major life change, the decision generated some concerns from members as they considered how to preserve their member experience while no longer living in the facility. For leaders like Taryn and Allie, it also meant expanding their leadership skills to meet these challenges and opportunities. “There were a lot of new questions to answer,” Allie explains. “As a new officer, it’s been a learning curve trying to figure everything out.”

Some of these questions arose because West Virginia Alpha is the first chapter on West Virginia University’s campus to transition to a non-residential housing model. To provide more guidance and expertise throughout this process, Taryn notes the support the chapter received



Left: Allie
Right: Taryn

from alumnae and Fraternity officers—particularly Missouri Alpha **SUE KINGSLEY ROBINSON**, who serves as West Virginia Alpha's Chapter Support Officer. "Sue reached out to campuses with lodge models to see how they were functioning and how we could apply that to our chapter," Taryn shares.

Sue saw this transition as both a challenge and an opportunity for West Virginia Alpha to model the way for how to sustain a strong member experience while forging a new housing framework. "It's challenging to be the first to try something new," Sue says. "But I'm encouraged that FHC was willing to refashion to remain financially sustainable while also keeping the experience relevant for today's collegians."

The chapter members are quick to note something that can be viewed as an obstacle may turn out to be an advantage amid change. "Having no live-in requirement means we have a larger pool of women who can or want to join our chapter," Allie says. "Getting to meet some of those New Members I maybe wouldn't have otherwise met has been a great opportunity."

Although Taryn was initially concerned about how the chapter members would adapt to this new model, she found that this change brought the chapter closer. "Going through this together helped us recognize, understand and respect that what's happening is for a good reason," Taryn says. "We were worried this might not be the right solution, but it actually made the chapter rally, and that was the biggest creator of morale."

Allie and Taryn made it a priority to ensure all chapter members were involved in the process of envisioning what their chapter experience would look like in the future. The entire chapter engaged in conversations about their aspirations, and through this, creative ideas were brainstormed, such as a house decorating event and a shared closet room where sisters can donate clothes for others to use in the future. "We tried to make it as inclusive as possible because it was a big change for all of us," Taryn says.


Imagining the new opportunities a non-residential facility can create helped more members feel hopeful for the future of their chapter. As Allie and Taryn have both had the residential experience, they were particularly eager to see what future chapter leaders would do with the new lodge model. "I was excited to see how sisters would make new, unique memories," Taryn shares. "They were able to think of things we never even dreamed of," Allie says. Since implementing the new model, West Virginia Alpha has already enjoyed milestone moments at the facility, including celebrating Bid Day, welcoming new big sis/little sis pairings and their 105th chapter anniversary in September.

From the Pi Phi Love and words of encouragement West Virginia Alpha received from various alumnae to involving members every step of the way, there was something, in particular, that helped the chapter move forward in this transition—the true strength of sisterhood. "It was a strong moment for us to come together as a chapter and say, 'this is something we love and care about and don't want to lose,'" Allie says. "We want to keep this sisterhood going for future generations of Pi Phi."

"It's easy to get wrapped up in the idea that the house is the chapter's identity," Taryn shares. "But at the end of the day, the chapter is not the house—it's the women. We may not have a traditional house, but that doesn't make us any less of a chapter." ←



From left: West Virginia Alphas **ERIN BASHAM, SLOANE HEAGERTY, GABRIELLE GARRISON** and **CAROLINE RODRIGUEZ**.



REMEMBERING FOUNDATION PRESIDENT EMERITA *Ann Dudgeon Phy*

Above: Ann at the 1995 Convention, just before receiving the Dorothy Weaver Morgan Award from Grand President **JO ANN MINOR RODERICK**, Oklahoma Beta. The prestigious award was established in 1969 to recognize exceptional loyalty to Pi Beta Phi.

With great sadness, we share that Pi Beta Phi Foundation President Emerita **ANN DUDGEON PHY**, Texas Alpha, passed away on November 26, 2023. A dedicated Pi Phi, Ann served the Fraternity as Grand Secretary from 1981 to 1983 and as Pi Beta Phi Foundation's first Board of Trustees President from 1990-1995. She was a pillar in the Dallas Pi Beta Phi community, trusted and revered for her service and leadership.

Ann's task as the inaugural Foundation Board President was immense, and she rose to the challenge with poise and prudence. With only a loan from the Fraternity and no apparent means of immediate income, the Foundation's legal counsel described the time as "innovative and challenging." Shortly after taking office, Ann said, "The goal of the Foundation is to focus on those educational and philanthropic issues that will be germane to the future, while permitting us to retain the best of our Pi Beta Phi traditions." Her leadership made an immediate impact on the success of the Foundation, and she was honored with the title of President Emerita in June 2010.

Reflecting on their long friendship and Ann's Lifelong Commitment to Pi Phi, Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT** shared, "I had the pleasure of knowing Ann and calling her both a sister and a friend. Our interactions always included updates from the Fraternity and Foundation and her interest in the progress of the organization never waned. She had tremendous love and loyalty for Pi Phi and her contributions to the organization were significant."

Ann attributed her leadership skills to Pi Phi, sharing, "Pi Phi recognized in me the potential that I did not know existed. In fact, I had not been a leader [and] I definitely did not know that I had the potential to be a leader until I was invited to serve in Pi Phi and it made a huge difference in my life." Of being the first President of the Foundation, Ann said, "It is nice to be first because you don't have a notebook that says you have to do it





Above: Past Grand Council members **JANET GOODE DURHAM GARD**, Wisconsin Gamma, and **JEAN WIRTHS SCOTT**, Pennsylvania Beta, share a meal with Ann at the 2001 Convention. All three women served Pi Phi at the highest level—Janet as Grand Vice President Alumnae, Jean as Grand President and Ann as Grand Secretary and Foundation President.

this way. You can do it the way that you think is best and that made my experiences as President of the Foundation very satisfying and very rewarding because I was able to use my judgment and I was able to evaluate what I had done.” As a sisterhood, we’re indebted to Ann’s good judgment and her legacy that resulted in the Pi Beta Phi Foundation we know today.

Ann was a steadfast supporter of our sisterhood, and her legacy continues beyond her lifetime. In 1993, Ann was honored as one of the charter members of the Marianne Reid Wild Society at Pi Phi’s 59th Biennial Convention in Orlando. “I joined the Society to benefit the Foundation with an additional gift at my death,” Ann said. “My gift will ensure the future of the Foundation and its support of Fraternity programming.” Today, more than 150 sisters and friends make up this giving society.

When asked where she saw Pi Phi in 100 years, Ann shared, “Our founders came together because of their values. They valued education and they valued friendship ... I think Pi Phi will be very different, but I think the bonds of friendship and the values we hold will continue to be carried forward among our members.” Ann is one of the Pi Phi legends who have ensured our sisterhood will indeed be carried forward.

Ann exemplified our core value of Lifelong Commitment in everything she did; she will be dearly missed. A special memorial will be offered at the 2025 Louisville Convention. ◀

Below: Arkansas Alpha **C.A. ECKEL EDWARDS** and Ann at the Foundation Tree at the 1995 Convention. A tireless champion for our Foundation, Ann was a constant presence at convention fundraising efforts.



Meg Robinson Piercy

KANSAS
ALPHA



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF—PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

I graduated from Kansas University in 2006, and after college, I moved to Chicago where I met my husband, Joe. We found out we were pregnant with our oldest son and, unfortunately, didn't have the money for a brand-new changing table. Our neighbors were throwing out a vintage dresser, and we decided to refinish it to save money. That's where the story of our business, MegMade, began. We started refinishing vintage furniture every night and eventually rented out a storefront that we grew out of in less than a month.

We now own a two-story showroom in Chicago as well as one in Munster, Indiana. Along the way, we were recognized by HGTV and our first season of the show "Renovation Goldmine" premiered in April 2022. We loved the process of filming and since then have used what we did in the show to start our interior design services! Our family has grown into a family of five, with three boys—Wells, Brooks and Finn.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?

I love how creative I get to be. Running a business definitely involves thinking through logistics, but through our interior design program, I get to work with families every day and use my creativity to make their house feel like the home of their dreams.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?

What I love is that every day is completely different. One day I am working with families on designs for their home, the next I'm working on our website and planning a store event with my team!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL?

Don't be afraid to forge your own path. The business that Joe and I created was unconventional. Creating a new concept was scary at first, but it's so rewarding. Don't

think "I can't" just because you might not be following the "typical" path. Do what's right for you and take the risk!

WHO CONSISTENTLY INSPIRES YOU?

Joe is my biggest cheerleader and is such a dreamer. He speaks things into action, and so many of MegMade's successes have come to fruition because of the visions he's dreamed up. I am sometimes too much of a realist, and he inspires me to remember to dream—and that dreams do come true if you put them into action and work hard for them.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE PERSONAL SUCCESS?

It's so easy, especially because of social media, to see what others are doing and get down on yourself in comparison. But when I look back, I think of where Joe and I were when we were painting dressers in our living room, and that puts everything into perspective. Personal success is where you came from to where you are today; not where you are compared to others.

BETWEEN YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, HOW DO YOU FIND BALANCE?

It's something I constantly have to work on. I'm a better mom and wife when I have the time to hone in on my creative energy at work and I'm a better business owner when I spend time with my family and do other things I love. I think having boundaries and being intentional about making time for both is the key.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER PI PHIS INTERESTED IN A CREATIVE FIELD LIKE INTERIOR DESIGN?

Go for it! I wasn't formally trained in interior design, so don't be discouraged if you want to go into a creative field without the "formal" training. Have the courage to take the risk and put your faith into your creative ability. Some parts of a creative field do become more refined with practice, so don't be discouraged if it takes some practice to really feel like you're proud of your work.

"PI BETA PHI HAS TAUGHT ME..."

Family doesn't always have to be the family you are born into. I found some of my forever "sisters" within Pi Phi!

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN SOONER IN LIFE?

To trust my abilities and take the leap of faith. Some of my greatest accomplishments would have never happened if I didn't eventually learn to trust in my creative ability!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE?

"Don't compare their chapter 10 to your chapter one." ←



Left: Meg, third from right, with her team at MegMade.



SUNSCREEN

Oklahoma Alpha **HOLLY EMERY THAGGARD** lives by the mantra “can’t stop, won’t stop.” As the founder of the award-winning skincare brand Supergoop!®, she’s on a mission to fight the epidemic of skin cancer, and slowing down is not an option. “I’m obsessed with SPF and changing the way people think about it,” she beams.

When a close friend was diagnosed with skin cancer in their 20s, Holly was inspired to develop sun protection that was both safe and effective—and revolutionized an entire product category in the process. Yet the brand’s journey from startup to skincare superstar didn’t happen overnight. To build Supergoop! from the ground up, Holly relied on passion and grit, determined to trust her vision and power through roadblocks. Today, she embraces gratitude for the moments that required her to pivot—when seizing opportunity amid challenge opened the door to new possibilities she couldn’t have imagined.

Holly’s pathbreaking spirit was nurtured during her childhood in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Her parents, entrepreneurs who built a successful local business, encouraged creativity and valued strong leadership skills. “I learned a lot about being an entrepreneur from my parents,” she says. “They taught me to look for the white space—to see where innovation could happen.”

QUEEN



Above: Holly (fourth row, second from left) celebrates Bid Day as a member of the Oklahoma Alpha 1989 New Member class.

She joined the Oklahoma Alpha Chapter during her first year at the University of Oklahoma (OU), sharing the tradition of Pi Phi sisterhood with her mother and sister—**JANIE REDING EMERY** and **KELLY EMERY**, who are also members of Oklahoma Alpha. Holly found a natural fit for her own creative, driven personality in Pi Phi's values and focus on leadership. "Pi Phi encouraged me to work hard and taught me to surround myself with good people," she reflects. "Passion and Lifelong Commitment go hand in hand. Those values helped me grow over the next two decades."

As her college years unfolded, Holly felt called to the classroom rather than the C-suite. Returning to Baton Rouge after two years at OU, she graduated with a degree in education from Louisiana State University and began teaching third grade at a private school in the area. Despite earning recognition as the Most Creative Classroom in America during her first year, the school declined to renew her contract. Holly chose not to dwell on the disappointment—a lesson that would prove to be pivotal later. "I did everything I could to be the best at my job, so I knew there was something else in life for me," she reflects. "I'm often asked to look at one failure in my career and think of what I'd do differently. My answer: *nothing*. While you may not understand why things happened in the moment, later in life you often do."

Rather than find another teaching job, Holly leveraged her skill in playing the harp—an instrument she'd

diligently practiced since childhood—into a decade-long career as a professional musician. Over time, she realized she enjoyed building her business more than performing. That's when her friend's stunning cancer diagnosis became the catalyst that changed Holly's life.

From another friend in dermatology, Holly learned that skin cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed in the United States. She was even more surprised to discover the primary risk factor—routine exposure to the sun during everyday activities that accumulates over time. And while daily use of sunscreen substantially reduces the risk of cancer, the options available at the time were limited, unappealing for everyday use and formulated with potentially harmful ingredients that could be absorbed through the skin.

Drawing on the entrepreneurial wisdom of her parents, Holly started to look for white space—and saw an entire product category ready for disruption. "Sun care was dominated by mass-market brands, and there was no innovation," Holly recalls. "The only real difference between products was the SPF number. Serious skincare was mostly clinical, doctor-driven brands, and talking about sun protection was scary."

She was pregnant with her oldest child, Emery, when she started to dream about sunscreen. Once Emery was born, Holly would often stay up after middle-of-the-night feedings, too energized by possibility to

go back to sleep. She knew two things had to happen. First, she needed to create a product people wanted to use every day, made with clean ingredients that were beneficial to skin and didn't pose harm to people or the environment. Second, she needed to convince people to change their behavior through inspiration, not scare tactics.

Aided by research compiled during her all-nighters, Holly partnered with a chemist to start product development. She envisioned a brand that was fun and playful—and when she started referring to her trial formulations as “Supergoop” in conversation, she watched people’s faces light up. “People couldn’t help but smile when they heard the name,” she remembers. “I realized making sunscreen fun could be the ticket to an exciting day outside in the park, rather than a mess moms would have to slather on their kids.”

Holly also realized promoting daily sunscreen use as a lifelong, healthy habit needed to start during childhood—just like brushing teeth, using a bicycle helmet or wearing a seat belt. That’s when she thought of the third graders she’d taught a decade earlier, out in the sun every day during recess. “At the time, I couldn’t have realized there was a bigger takeaway from my days watching little kids play outside,” she says. “But the year I spent in the classroom was absolutely essential.”

With Holly’s former students and background in education as inspiration, and a tremendous amount of help from her older sister, fellow Pi Phi Kelly, the groundwork was laid for a nonprofit organization that would provide sun protection education to classrooms

across the United States. Their plans nearly came to a standstill with the unexpected discovery that SPF was classified as an over-the-counter drug in the U.S. Only one state—California—allowed schools to provide sunscreen or students to bring their own without a doctor’s note.

Upper: Janie and Holly.

Lower: Holly and her daughter Emery at the Supergoop! Paris launch.



WHAT IS YOUR SUPERPOWER?

gratitude!

I don't let a day go by without writing a thank-you note. Every January, I print 1,000 pieces of stationery—and they'd better be gone by the end of the year. Gratitude goes a long way; we never want to lose sight of how thankful I am for the opportunity I have to help people, and as we get busy, it's important to make time to be grateful. My goal is to instill this value in my children as well—I just had stationery made for both of them, too.

HOW HAVE RELATIONSHIPS PLAYED A ROLE IN YOUR JOURNEY?

Relationships are everything.

You're the sum of the five people you spend the most time with—so choose wisely, and they'll support you. Pi Phi sparked a desire in me for a close circle of friendships, and I've been able to lean into sisterhood in different ways, in different seasons of life. In the first decade of building the brand, I barely had any free time—but as we've evolved, it's been so special to see that all my previous relationships are still there for me.

From her own experiences and the stories of fellow pathbreakers, Holly had learned that challenges were intended to be part of her journey—and hitting a wall meant her efforts were worthwhile. “Since childhood, I’d read about other entrepreneurs and the hurdles they went through,” she explains. “If I didn’t have challenges, what would be in my book? Would I be doing something that mattered? I took roadblocks as a sign that my work meant something. You can get through hard times if you realize what you’re doing hasn’t been done before, or the problem would already have been solved.”

Holly refused to let the setback slow her momentum. She decided to pivot and build Supergoop! through traditional corporate retail channels, pushing to redefine and de-seasonalize the sun care category. Nearly 20 years and more than 40 products later, the best-selling brand is available in more than 30 countries and has become a perennial favorite of beauty editors and skincare experts. Innovation and creativity continue to drive Holly, and every new product tells a story—from the mousse-textured formula inspired by watching her kids play with shaving cream to the SPF-infused eye shadow created when Emery became interested in makeup. “Everyone has their own favorite product, and what’s right for everyone is different,” she says, noting that customer needs and trends vary by region and climate. “What’s most fun is seeing how our formulas truly solve problems, and that’s why our goal is to continue innovation.”

As she developed critical relationships in the retail and dermatological spaces, Holly was able to leverage the brand’s growth into policy change. Following years of advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., Holly reports that 25 states have lifted their restrictions on SPF—allowing sunscreen to be provided in classrooms or brought from home. Today, the long-term partnerships Holly has established with global retailers including Sephora, Nordstrom and Bluemercury make the brand’s Ounce



Left: Holly (center) with Supergoop! team members at the brand's Sunshine Shack pop-up shop in Aspen, Colorado.

by Ounce® giving program possible. To date, Supergoop! has donated more than 9,500 pump bottles of Supergoop! Play SPF 50 to schools and children's organizations across the U.S.—bringing Holly's original dream full circle and honoring her lifelong love of education. "There's a time and place for everything," she smiles. "You don't have to be confined to a classroom to be a teacher. Education is the foundation of our brand, and I'm still teaching every day—but with a global audience!"

Under Holly's leadership, Supergoop! has continued to thrive. In 2021, she sold majority ownership to the investment management firm Blackstone, a move that allowed her to transition from daily oversight of the company to a brand ambassador/founder role. She specifically chose Blackstone's offer because it promised a high level of involvement as the brand continues to scale and evolve, while supporting her passion for education and awareness. In 2022, Holly was selected as Ernst &

Young's Entrepreneur of the Year, representing the U.S. at the prestigious global competition in Monaco. And in 2023, Supergoop! officially became part of the White House's Cancer Moonshot, a national effort to end cancer.

Yet milestone moments like these aren't how Holly measures success—she's inspired by the small wins that add up over time. "People think success just happens, but I always say it's cumulative," she reflects. "It's the steady accumulation and repetition of massive amounts of effort. My son, Will, came home from his first day in ninth grade, and the girls in his class asked for Supergoop! products by name. Ten years ago, kids that age weren't even wearing sunscreen. We've literally changed people's daily habits and inspired the younger generation. We're stopping the epidemic of skin cancer." ◀

Below: Holly (right) and Inc. Magazine Executive Editor Diana Ransom at the Inc. Founders House at SXSW 2022 in Austin, Texas.



WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH ASPIRING FOUNDERS AND ENTREPRENEURS?

building a big-B brand happens over time—

and to sustain a big idea through the roller coaster ride, you must be passionate. It sounds cliché, but I knew nothing would get in my way or stop me, and it still won't. If your idea is good and you're so passionate about it you can't sleep, then you just need the grit and gratefulness to see it through.



Members of the 2021-2023 Region Nine Team at Convention 2023. From left: Finance/Housing Specialist **ASHLEY BOARTS**, Ohio Theta; Inclusion Specialist **CARLA HASHLEY**, Michigan Epsilon; Community Relations Specialist **KRISTIN ZEMKE**, New York Eta; Recruitment Specialist **KARLI HANSEN**, Colorado Gamma; Risk Management Specialist **LIS MAYER GARCIA**, Nevada Alpha; Collegiate Regional Director **KRIS SEMENZA MURPHY**, Montana Alpha; Member Experience Specialist **KRISTI HANLON MARSH**, Illinois Zeta; and Tara.

Always Say “Yes”

Arizona Beta **TARA ABBOTT DAVIS** believes in the power of saying “yes.” Throughout more than 15 years of volunteer leadership, she’s learned that Pi Phi always provides her with the right opportunity at the right moment—and both she and our sisterhood benefit as a result. Currently the Risk Management Specialist (RMS) for Region Nine, Tara has served in a number of volunteer roles for Pi Phi since graduation. Below, she shares more about what keeps her engaged as an alumna, what she’s learned through her volunteer work and the “why” that inspires her service.

YOU’VE WORN MANY HATS FOR PI PHI! DESCRIBE YOUR VOLUNTEER JOURNEY.

Shortly after graduation, I was asked to provide mentoring support to Arizona Beta during a member conduct issue. Arizona Alpha **KATHI CALDWELL KLEINMAN**, then a specialist for Region Eight, encouraged me to join the chapter’s Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC). Though I was very young, and the role wasn’t what I’d envisioned for myself, I accepted. When our AAC Chair was offered another opportunity within Pi Phi, I moved into her role and became AAC Chair less than a year after graduation.

Within a few years, I was asked to join the Region Eight Team as Finance/Housing Specialist (FHS). Since then, I’ve served as RMS, Chapter Assistance Officer, FHS (again!) and Operations Specialist (OS). Through my roles

on the Region Nine Team, I’ve loved the opportunity to work with newly established chapters and AACs and see our sisterhood from a fresh perspective.

So much has changed since my volunteer service began, but I’m comfortable in every role I step into because Pi Phi’s core values are always at the center of what we do. What’s consistent is the love we have for each other as sisters, our prioritization of leadership development for women and our focus on fun and friendship. I’ve realized Pi Phi always shows up in the right moments, even when you don’t seek it out, with ways to better yourself.

HOW HAVE YOU FOUND THE RIGHT VOLUNTEER ROLES FOR YOUR SKILLS AND INTERESTS?

By always saying “yes” to the opportunities Pi Phi presents. Those opportunities have allowed me to view my other positions through a totally different lens. When I was an OS and helping to place AAC members, the bigger picture of how someone else might view your potential clicked for me. Sometimes having no experience in a particular area is a good thing—you see things through fresh eyes and try to understand the “why” instead of doing what’s always been done. I’ve learned to trust that no matter the role I’m offered, it’s good for my own development and for Pi Phi as a whole.

WHAT ASPECTS OF YOUR VOLUNTEER SERVICE HAVE BEEN MOST MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

Volunteering has given me the opportunity to meet both collegians and alumnae outside my own experience. Mentoring collegians and helping to provide the member experience they're looking for is so rewarding. I've also connected with some of my own mentors and closest friends during alumnae life. Without a doubt, I would not be where I am without my Pi Phi journey.

Volunteering with Pi Phi is also the reason I have my job! After becoming a mother, I was at a crossroads in my corporate career. I realized working with our collegians was a main source of joy in my life and decided to pursue my master's degree in higher education. I now work in the dean's office at Belmont University, supporting students as they navigate significant life events.

HOW HAS YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU—AND WHAT IMPACT DO YOU HOPE TO MAKE THROUGH YOUR WORK?

This work has taught me to be brave: to try new things, have confidence and be open-minded to different ways of thinking. We're all from different chapters and our experiences are not identical, but we're all Pi Phis. As an organization, we can continue to thrive and help women lead—generation after generation—by staying committed to our core values. We've shown endurance, despite the change in the world throughout our history, because of the bonds of sisterhood we share.

WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO STAY ENGAGED WITH PI PHI AS AN ALUMNA?

At our first Officers Workshop following the onset of COVID, the theme was "Stick with Pi Phi." I'd been asking myself whether I truly had time to volunteer with Pi Phi and if it was still the right fit. That weekend, spending so much time in sisterhood alongside my fellow volunteers reinforced my "why"—friends who walk with you through ups and downs, who know your story, who let you pick up where you left off, no matter how long it's been. For me, even when things are hard and I've had doubts about my priorities, Pi Phi always finds its way back to the top because of the people.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH OTHER SISTERS WHO ARE CONSIDERING A VOLUNTEER ROLE WITH PI PHI?

Say "yes"—and do it in all the ways you can, for as long as you can! As much as you give of your time to Pi Phi, our sisters give it right back. For me, seeing our collegians grow is such an impactful opportunity. You create bonds that last long past college years. ←



LEAD WITH PI PHI

Tara is one of the more than 2,300 volunteers who serve Pi Phi at the local, regional and international levels each year. Volunteer leadership invites alumnae members to continue developing their skills while serving and strengthening our sisterhood.

Pi Phi offers opportunities to mentor collegians, lead alumnae clubs and share professional expertise. No matter your background, interests or skill set, Pi Phi benefits from your involvement and can help you grow as a leader.

Scan the QR code to join our volunteer network.



Spotlight On Service

Every Pi Phi shows their commitment to Philanthropic Service to Others through involvement with chapter and alumnae club events. Check out a few examples of premier events—and draw some inspiration!

1. Texas Deltas celebrating their Fall 2023 Lemonade for Literacy event. From left: **AVA HANNAH, LAINEY STRANBERG** and **LAURYN MRACHEK**.
2. The Edmond, Oklahoma, Alumnae Club gathered 110 donated books at the University of Oklahoma's kickoff tailgate and the club's first meeting of the season.
3. Arkansas Alphas cheering on the runners of the chapter's 18th Annual Pi Phi 5k. More than 1,000 community members participated and nearly \$30,000 was raised for The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Back row, from left: **ANNA KREAMER, REESE OWENS, SOPHIA JOHNSON** and **ABBY HUTCHINSON**. Front row, from left: **HARPER WICKS** and **NAOMI KING**.
4. At Ontario Alpha's first philanthropy event of the Fall 2023 semester, "Books and Bites," chapter members raised \$520 and donated 85 books to The Children's Book Bank in Toronto, Ontario.
5. The Alabama Beta Chapter raised more than \$90,000 at its second annual Breakfast of Champions event where collegians, alumnae and families gathered for breakfast before a home football game. Back row, from left: **KATHLEEN CARTER, LENA BARRIDO** and **EMMILOU SCHUMACHER**. Front row, from left: **ABBY SCHOMBURG** and **ELIZABETH WILLIAMS**.
6. Members of the Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club visited Niner University Elementary at Amay James to put together pencil pouches full of school supplies, sort library books for classrooms and organize supply boxes for the teachers.
7. At the Nation's Capital Alumnae Club annual kick-off event, members signed books for the nonprofit Everybody Wins DC, which were purchased using the 2023 FDS500 grant the organization received.
8. The Austin, Texas, Alumnae Club gathered a bag of books and \$110 in gift cards which were then donated to Women's Storybook Project Director Jill Gonzalez. The Women's Storybook Project was also the recipient of a 2023 FDS500 grant. From left: Austin, Texas, Alumnae Club Philanthropy Chair **KATIE GEORGE HALLBERG** and Jill.







Forging Your Own Path

Until 2018, there was a greater likelihood that the CEO of a major company would be named John than be a woman. According to Bloomberg, it's been only six years since the total number of women serving as CEOs of S&P 500 companies outpaced the number of CEOs named John—or any iteration of that name—and only four years since women outnumbered men named James. It wasn't until 2021 that women truly broke away in number from any single male name, with ten more women taking the helm at their respective organizations.

Colorado Alpha **MARIA BARKMAN BLACK** was one of the women who tipped the scales. When Maria took over as President and CEO of Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP) in 2023, she became the first woman to lead the company—valued at more than \$90 billion—in its 75-year history. ADP pays one in six workers in the U.S., and serves more than a million clients worldwide. Maria's road to leading this organization dates back long before her 27 years at ADP; to her birthplace in Sweden, homes in Pittsburgh and Colorado and to the Colorado Alpha Chapter.

"When I think about my leadership journey, so much of it goes back to the principles and values I learned through Pi Phi," she shares. "I'm fortunate that the friendships I formed through Pi Phi have followed me, and to this day, my Pi Phi sisters are still my biggest sources of strength encouraging me on good days and tough days."

Before finding these steadfast supporters and leadership opportunities in Pi Phi, Maria was first a Swedish-born immigrant in Pittsburgh, learning English in her third-grade class and finding her way in a world that seemed entirely new. After her family moved to Colorado, Maria finished high school at 17 and enrolled at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she began both her professional and personal development through her studies and involvement with Pi Phi.

"My first-ever leadership role was as Colorado Alpha's Vice President Mental Advancement," Maria says. "I learned a lot about what it meant to be a leader. Pi Phi built a strong foundation for the journey that lay ahead of me. Pi Phi taught me how to operate, how to make choices, how to represent something bigger than myself. Still today, I know that I represent my company in everything I do, and I can trace that lesson directly back to Pi Phi."

Though she connects many lessons back to our sisterhood, Maria credits that foundational leadership development for helping her achieve the professional goals she has pursued. After college, Maria moved to Atlanta to begin her post-graduate life. Each of her first few professional roles were based on hospitality, but she eventually found her footing—somewhat literally—in sales with ADP.

Maria's journey with ADP began on foot as a door-to-door salesperson offering payroll services to small businesses. She harkens back to this time as her way of learning the ins and outs of the company, expertise she has built upon through multiple roles over the last 27 years. From sales to implementation and management, Maria honed her strengths and leveraged those abilities to continue her growth.

"My leadership model—and my company's—is rooted in strength-based leadership," Maria says. "I tend to lean into my strengths, and I encourage others to do the same. When I see something I'm good at, I lean into it. To me, leaning into your strengths is better than trying to check off the boxes on your weaknesses. Some people make what I believe is a mistake, because they think addressing their weaknesses is better than being strong at what you're best at."

While it's essential to know your strengths before you can start leaning into them, Maria recognizes it can be hard to identify them for yourself. There may also be a disconnect between your own perceptions and what others see as your strengths from their vantage point. Say someone compliments your abilities as an engaging public speaker, but you lose sleep in the days leading up to an event. Maria would remind you to keep the balance between others' perceptions and your personal experiences. Considering multiple perspectives brings value and makes it possible to understand one's strengths and weaknesses, which inform many aspects of our personal and professional lives.

"I know now what my strengths are, but it took me years to figure them out," Maria says. "By this point, I've learned my strength is taking something good and making it great."

One of the ways Maria channels this strength is by believing in and empowering greatness in those around her. Not only does she focus on defining and refining her own strengths, but she devotes time and energy to doing so in others. Achieving her own goals—and those of her company at large—brings a level of fulfillment, but there's no match for the feeling of inspiration and pride when seeing others succeed.

"I always build my agenda to help someone else along; I'm fed by that," Maria says. "Life is a series of deposits and withdrawals. The deposits for me are seeing other people thriving, seeing leaders who come about because you helped them along their journey. What's fulfilling to me is being able to pay it forward. My biggest legacy won't be an individual achievement, it will be the leaders I leave behind."

Maria has felt firsthand the benefits of this kind of mentorship throughout her career. When she arrived at ADP's offices in the United Kingdom to launch a new product, she sought a mentor with that experience to model the way. When it comes to empowering the next generation of women leaders, one behavior Maria models is redirecting self-doubt and reframing the questions we often ask ourselves: Am I qualified? Why should it be me? What makes me think I'm right for this role?

"Women in particular get into this mindset of questioning ourselves and doubting whether we belong," she says. "I've had to retrain my mind to instead ask 'why not me?' in those moments."

In answering those questions, Maria hopes others will look to her and similar pathbreakers to quell the indecision and self-doubt. At her core, she defines herself not by the places she's been able to reach, but by the person she was from day one: as an eight-year-old who arrived in America without speaking English; as a 17-year-old attending the University of Colorado and finding her home in Pi Phi; as a door-to-door salesperson who is now one of 41 women leading an S&P 500 company.

"Anything is possible, and I hope others look at me and see that," Maria says. "The number one thing that prevents women from believing they can accomplish their goals is the lack of visibility of people like them in these roles. I'm just a person—a proud Pi Phi—who worked hard and earned my place. We need more examples of average people, who took a journey to get where they are, and now it's my obligation as the person sitting in this seat to showcase it's possible for others to do as well."

That's the difference Maria hopes to make, and watch come to fruition, through her professional leadership roles and as a committed Pi Phi alumna. Beyond the immense value she's born out from the leadership development opportunities available through Pi Phi, Maria also counts her lifelong friendships as the cornerstone of her experience. When she celebrated her birthday in December with a girls' trip to Jamaica, almost half of the 18 women who joined her were Pi Phis.

In these joyful moments, as well as the difficult challenges in life, Maria has had her sisters by her side; while it's second nature to feel gratitude for support in good times, it's also important to find those who will call you in when needed. Maria is an example of finding both—and appreciating both in due measure.

"When I think about the fundamental things I gained from Pi Phi, I'm most grateful to have found my people," she says. "You have to find the people who will check you, who are loyal enough and have shown their integrity and trustworthiness. I only realized later how true those things are and what the value of sisterhood really is: finding your people and fighting for them, just as they would for you."

Maria continues that fight for her closest Pi Phi friends as well as those sisters she's never met. She embodies our core values, including the value of Philanthropic Service to Others as a loyal donor to Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Whether in her personal relationships with sisters, as a model of leadership development or a supporter of our sisterhood's greatest needs, Maria continually demonstrates her Lifelong Commitment to Pi Phi. She hopes to see the outcome of that commitment in the successes of her fellow Pi Phis—of all ages.

"If I can influence one Pi Phi the way Pi Phi influenced me, that will be fulfilling," she shares. "I'm not more special than anyone else, and the more I can show that, the more of an impact I hope it will make. I'm a Pi Phi at the core, and I hope my sisters look at me and think, 'if she can do it, why not me?'" ←

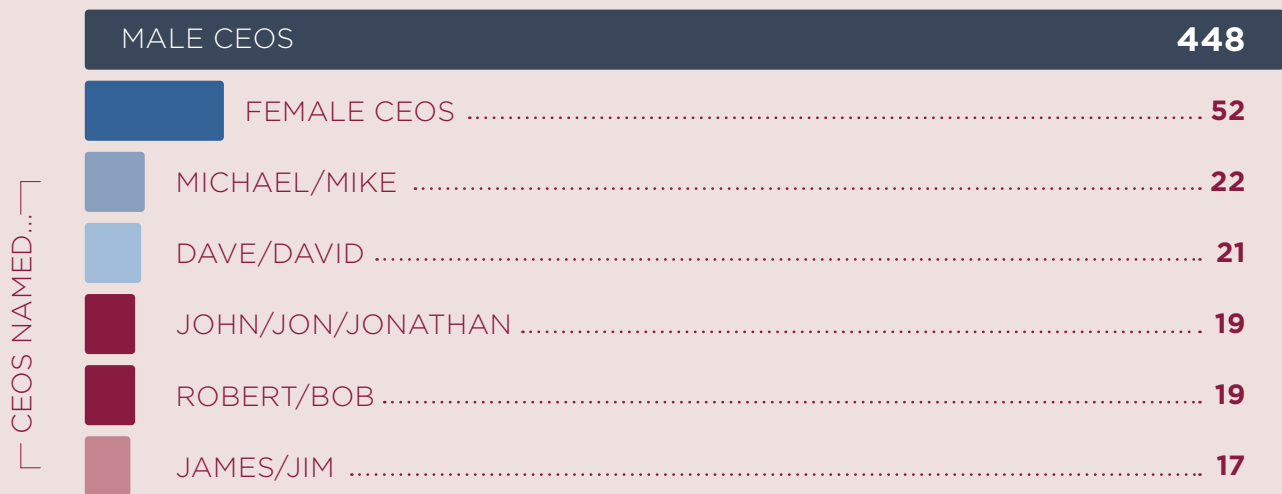


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You have to find the people who will check you, who are loyal enough and have shown their integrity and trustworthiness. I only realized later how true those things are and what the value of sisterhood really is: finding your people and fighting for them, just as they would for you.

FEMALE CEOS ARE GAINING ON MEN

In 2021, women finally outnumbered any single male name in the 50Pros List of Fortune 500 companies.



SOURCE: 50PROS

*DATA FROM LIST OF FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES AS OF OCT. 2, 2023

For any Pi Phi inspired by Maria’s story and beginning to wonder “why not me,” there’s still a long path ahead to forge alongside Maria and other Pi Phi pathbreakers. Outnumbering CEOs named John is a step in the right direction, but women still only hold 10% of CEO roles at large companies, despite representing just more than half the population. For those similarly forging their own path, we want to hear from you! Share your own leadership story—no matter where you are in your journey—at pibetaphi.org/submit.

Bettering the Lives of Sisters Bettering Themselves

If any member of Pi Beta Phi understands the real value of education, it's Michigan Alpha **MILLETTE KING**. Perseverance and persistence have been key to her journey within higher education—as has the support of sisterhood. After earning her bachelor's degree in education and psychology from Hillsdale College, Millette knew she wanted to continue pursuing higher education and entered a master's program specializing

in community agency counseling. Even as a dedicated, passionate learner, she faced barriers to obtaining that degree.

"I had originally taken time off to get my master's degree, but it ended up taking me eight years to finish the program because I was paying out-of-pocket," Millette says. "I would pursue it, take a couple of classes, then have to stop because I couldn't pay for it anymore."

Millette's commitment to her education endured, and she earned her degree in 1998. Throughout the eight years she'd spent working toward that goal, she'd also begun forging her career path as an educator, social worker and community health worker. Millette's approach to education and community development is holistic and therefore intertwined in her educational and professional pursuits.

Once she completed the master's program, Millette was able to combine those pursuits through her work in a Head Start program, where she says she had the best of both worlds. "That gave me the opportunity to leverage my backgrounds in education and social work to support the whole student," she says. With a solid foothold in her professional life, Millette's personal life was also developing, as she married and welcomed two children into her family. It wasn't until her youngest child was in kindergarten that Millette began entertaining the idea of going back to school once again.

"My daughter was in kindergarten, and she saw her brother and dad going to school as well," Millette says. "So, one day she asks me, 'When are you going to school?' which led to my first attempt to get my doctorate."

She calls it her first attempt because after joining an Ed.D. program in 2006, Millette was unable to finish the program—completing all coursework and research aside from her dissertation. "I was ABD (all but dissertation) and again, ran out of money," she shares. "I was maxed out on loans, and it wasn't feasible for me to continue. By the time I was able to restart pursuing my doctorate, more than 10 years had passed, and I had to start from scratch."

It wasn't until her children were out of high school that Millette was able to come back to her doctoral studies, enrolling in a virtual Ed.D. program through Kansas State University in 2021. This time, she felt more financial security, in part due to the support of Pi Beta Phi Foundation's Alumnae Continuing Education (ACE) scholarship. Millette hadn't been aware of the ACE program until she reengaged with Pi Phi as a member of



the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DEI AC), which she joined as an inaugural member in 2020. While she was giving back to Pi Phi as a volunteer, she was excited to learn our sisterhood had something else to give to support education for members of all ages.

"I'm very humbled and grateful for the support of Pi Phi and for having been chosen over the last three years to receive a scholarship," Millette says. "Getting involved with Pi Phi again helped me understand what our organization does for sisters from all walks of life and at all times of their lives. It really means the world to me that an organization I belong to is supporting me and that so many Pi Phis and friends provide support to people they'll never meet. Having that Pi Phi Love helps me continue and move further along in my educational pursuits."

With steadfast support from Pi Phi, Millette was able to complete the coursework for her doctoral program and is working to complete her dissertation in 2024. While balancing her schoolwork, professional commitments, volunteer service to Pi Phi and involvement on her local school board can be draining, she has the confidence and capabilities to accomplish all she's taken on. Millette's focus in all these endeavors is to empower others to pursue their goals in education and beyond. In speaking to her fellow Pi Phis, she is an enthusiastic advocate for giving back in whatever way you can—whether through time, talent or treasure—to better the lives of our sisters.

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Getting involved with Pi Phi again helped me understand what our organization does for sisters from all walks of life and at all times of their lives.

"Your donation of any amount will help a sister in need, a sister like me who is trying to better themselves," Millette says. "Furthering my education means I can reach back and bring others along. I've had sisters reach out to congratulate me on the scholarship or my involvement with the DEI AC and I share with them that they too should be giving back and doing more when they can. If we all give a little more and do a little more, we can help many other Pi Phis looking to further their education. We want to keep that legacy of giving going." ←

2024-2025 Scholarship Applications Close February 15

Accessing and pursuing higher education remains a privilege, and one that comes at a cost as Millette and others know all too well. Scholarships play a key role in the ability for many Pi Phis to achieve their educational goals. For the 2023-2024 academic year, Pi Beta Phi Foundation awarded \$241,830 in scholarships to 96 Pi Phi collegians and alumnae,

empowering our sisters to continue their educational endeavors with some of the stresses alleviated. Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year are open through 11:59 p.m. PST, February 15, 2024.

Scan the QR code
to apply now!



The Day the Pi Phis Came to the White House

By Historian and Archivist **FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE**, New York Alpha

Nearly 100 years ago, on April 11, 1924, more than 1,200 Pi Phis, including founders **JENNIE HORNE TURNBULL** and **INEZ SMITH SOULE**, posed for a picture on the White House lawn; the culmination of months of planning and a cherished memory for our sisterhood. It commemorated a unique occasion in the history of both Pi Beta Phi and the United States. First Lady **GRACE GOODHUE COOLIDGE**, a charter member of Vermont Beta at the University of Vermont, was honored by our Fraternity with an official portrait painted by Howard Chandler Christy. On that April afternoon, nearly 100 years ago, Pi Beta Phi presented the portrait to the United States—and it remains on display in the China Room in the East Wing of the White House.

The June 1924 issue of *The Arrow* credits Michigan Beta **KATHARINE TOWER BARNES** with setting in motion the plan to present a portrait of the First Lady to the nation. She wrote that the idea “just drifted into my mind one day last summer. It lay tucked away until November, when a small group of scattered Pi Beta Phis held a Cookie Shine with me in Concord, New Hampshire. Their enthusiasm prompted a letter to Massachusetts Alpha **ANNA ROBINSON**, a dear friend of Grace’s since their meeting at the 1901 Syracuse Convention, who suggested we show our love and appreciation of the signal honor that had come to Mrs. Coolidge by keeping a portrait of our First Lady of the Land always in the White House, so surely does she stand for gracious American womanhood.”

Below: The only woman without a hat in the picture is the First Lady (front row, center in white)—she was at her home and therefore did not wear a hat. The other women were visitors, and in 1924, one always wore a hat when visiting. Another notable Pi Phi, Grand President **AMY BURNHAM ONKEN**, Illinois Epsilon, had commissioned a new hat for the occasion, but it didn’t turn up in time for the event. She is stood beside the First Lady and instead wearing a borrowed hat from another attendee, and it appears by her expression this was a disappointment on an otherwise joyous day.



After Katherine's initial inspiration, it was Anna who helped drive forward the plan to present the portrait of Grace at an April 1924 meeting of the Fraternity called the Eastern Conference—a supplemental educational and networking opportunity outside the convention schedule. Grace was honored to host the Eastern Conference at the White House after her years of service to our sisterhood. She had not only been a charter member of her chapter, but also of her alumnae club in western Massachusetts before serving as President of the Alpha Province, overseeing the collegiate chapters in that region beginning in 1908. She later transitioned to Vice President of the province, overseeing alumnae clubs.

Grace stepped away from her Pi Phi office when her husband, Phi Gamma Delta Calvin Coolidge, was elected lieutenant governor of Massachusetts, later becoming governor. He was then elected Vice President a year later, moving the couple to Washington, D.C., where Grace was welcomed by the Washington, D.C., Alumnae Club. Vice President Coolidge became President Coolidge in 1923, upon the untimely death of President Warren G. Harding.

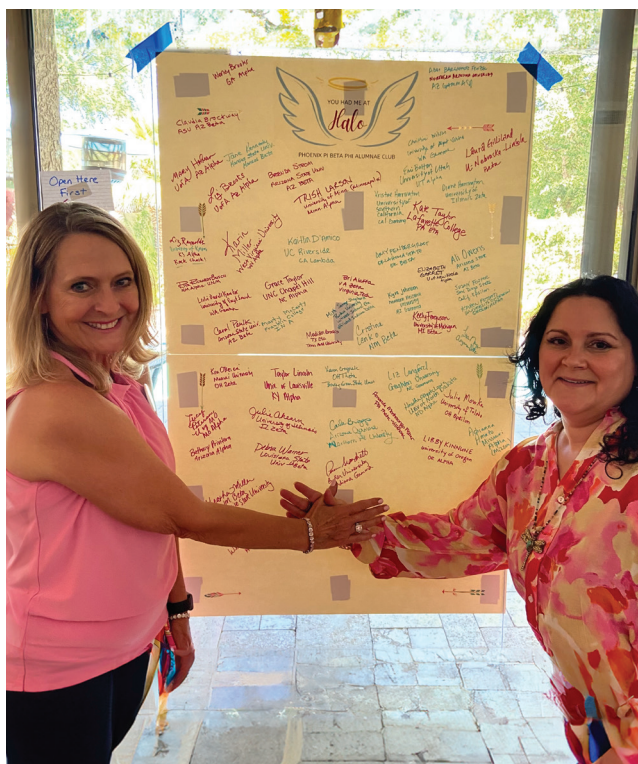
With Anna coordinating the event through her role as Grand Vice President of the Fraternity and serving as toastmistress during the conference, the two friends were able to pull off an effort never undertaken before—and

likely to not happen again. The likelihood of a sitting First Lady to host her fraternal organization in the White House seems implausible in modern day, but Grace held deeply her commitments to both her country and her sisterhood.

The presentation of the portrait took place on a Friday afternoon. Escorted by the Army, Naval and Marine aides to the president, the First Lady wore a soft grey dress trimmed with crystals. Pointed upward over her heart was the diamond-studded arrow which her Pi Phi sisters presented to her before the festivities began. After the presentation, she headed to the Blue Room, where she gave each guest a smile, a word of greeting and the Pi Phi grip, then they gathered on the lawn for a picture. As the crowd was leaving, Grace said to the Pi Phis surrounding her, "This is the loveliest thing I have seen here. I should like to keep you here always, to make beautiful the White House lawn."

As the centennial of the event approaches, Pi Phis should remember the day our sisterhood went to the White House and left a lasting mark on the home of the United States. Still today, while taking a tour of the White House, Grace's portrait can be viewed in all its glory in the China Room; a testament to her service as First Lady and her commitment to our beloved sisterhood. ←





Above, from left: Arizona Gamma **WENDY OWENS** and West Virginia Alpha **KARIN MILLER** with the membership poster.

ARIZONA

Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club

In September 2023, the Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club gathered to kick off the club year with its annual Membership Brunch. More than 100 members representing nine decades, and 61 chapters were in attendance. Every attendee was encouraged to sign a poster board with their name and school to visually show the geographic diversity of the club. The club plans to bring the poster to each event they host over the next year to continue gathering signatures.

CALIFORNIA

California Delta Alumnae

CAITLIN MARSH reached a momentous milestone in her surgical career as she was recently accepted into a fellowship program at New York University for breast and surgical oncology.

California Gamma Alumnae

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of California Gamma's Chapter house, nearly 200 members gathered for lunch and a Cookie Shine at the chapter facility. Women initiated in every decade since the 1960s were in attendance and nine alumnae were presented with the Order of the Golden Arrow pin. The afternoon was filled with delicious food, house tours, reconnections, a silent auction and lots of smiles. The event was chaired by **JILL COOPER MCDERMOTT** and Chapter House Corporation (CHC) President **SUSAN BROWNFIELD BEALL**.

Below, from left: California Gamma alumnae at the chapter facility's 50th anniversary celebration





Above: Hazy (front row, center) with members of the La Jolla, California, Alumnae Club enjoying a Cookie Shine the club hosted in her honor in October.

La Jolla, California, Alumnae Club

While every Pi Phi demonstrates Lifelong Commitment to our sisterhood, those members who reach their Diamond Arrow anniversary are living examples of this core value at work. The La Jolla, California, Alumnae Club is proud to celebrate a beloved Diamond Arrow, Minnesota Alpha **MARY "HAZY" HAY BAUER**, who continues to cherish her Pi Phi sisters more than 80 years after her Initiation. Hazy has led an exciting, fulfilling life—from earning her pilot's license and raising a family to serving on Colorado Alpha's CHC and passing along the Pi Phi Love to her daughter, Colorado Gamma **KATHLEEN BAUER STELZER**. Club members love to visit Hazy at her home in La Jolla and appreciate her son, Tom, for helping Hazy continue her commitment to Pi Phi at nearly 100 years old.

FLORIDA

Brevard County, Florida, Alumnae Club

The Brevard County, Florida, Alumnae Club celebrated Founders' Day 2023 in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" style with members dressing in black dresses, pearls and sunglasses. The event was held at the home of North Dakota Alpha **GRETCHEN ADAMS SYFERT** with brunch, a Cookie Shine and the pinning of a new Golden Arrow, Arkansas Alpha **PENELOPE DIX BERNARD**.



From left: Penelope with her new golden arrow pin and Georgia Alpha **LINDA LAACK WISE**.



*Sarasota-Manatee, Florida,
Alumnae Club*

In June 2023, members of the Sarasota-Manatee, Florida, Alumnae Club gathered for the inaugural Summer Book Blitz with Children's Guardian Fund in Sarasota. The Children's Guardian Fund is a nonprofit organization that immediately responds to the needs of children in the foster care system. Through donations, they are able to provide emergency essentials and ongoing support to the needs of children in the community. The event was a collaborative effort to support literacy over the summer. Pi Phis helped pack more than 700 hand-selected books to match each child's reading level and interests. The books were then distributed to 95 local foster children along with a Goodwill gift card and colorful tote bag for each child.



ILLINOIS

Arlington Heights, Illinois, Alumnae Club

The Arlington Heights, Illinois, Alumnae Club Founders' Day celebration included honoring Indiana Delta **MARY "FRAN" MULLIGAN KEELAN** into the Diamond Arrow Society.

KENTUCKY

Louisville, Kentucky, Alumnae Club

Members of the Louisville, Kentucky, Alumnae Club celebrated Read > Lead > Achieve® month by sharing brunch together and discussing their favorite books. Copies of the books were then donated to local Little Free Libraries.



Upper: Members of the Sarasota-Manatee Alumnae Club at the Summer Book Blitz event.

Middle, from left: Illinois Iota **MELISSA BARNES DICKSTEIN**, Ohio Alpha **GERALDINE DALE CAMPBELL**, Fran, Illinois Theta **NANCY COONEY TAUB** and Illinois Iota **ANGIE KILLIAN UNDERWOOD**.

Lower, from left: Kentucky Alphas **LESLIE LONG OLSON**, **KATHY WELCH HALL**, **BETH LONG**, **DONNA MARTIN**, **PEGGY CHOATE PERKINS** and **CANDY REYNOLDS DEPP**.

MISSOURI

Missouri Alpha Alumna

At the National Panhellenic Conference's (NPC) Annual Conference in October, Missouri Alpha **DR. KRISTY WEBER** was honored with the NPC Foundation 2023 Women in Higher Education Achievement Award. Kristy, who shared her story in the Winter 2023 issue of *The Arrow*, works as the Abramson Family Professor in Sarcoma Care Excellence in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) Perelman School of Medicine—in addition to previously serving as the first female president of the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. The NPC Foundation gives the award each year in recognition of an outstanding woman who has made a significant difference in higher education through scholarship and leadership.

St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club

Members of the St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club regularly visit the St. Louis Art Museum with guided tours from museum docent Susan Weber, who is also a dedicated volunteer at Sign of the Arrow, the alumnae club's needlepoint and gift shop. In March 2024, the club is scheduled to tour "Matisse and the Sea."



Above: Kristy receiving her award at the NPC Annual Conference, joined by Pi Phi Headquarters (HQ) staff and volunteers. From left: HQ Associate Executive Director and Chief Panhellenic Officer **ASHLEY HALLOWELL KARTH**, Illinois Eta; Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT**, Colorado Alpha; Kristy; RFM Recruitment Officer **CAROL INGE WARREN**, North Carolina Beta; and Fraternity/Fraternity Housing Corporation Executive Director Shawn Eagleburger.

Left: Members of the St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club at the St. Louis Art Museum. From left: Missouri Alpha **MARY ROGERS GORDON**, Missouri Beta **LIZ HIGGINBOTHAM**, North Carolina Beta **TRACY SHAVER HOLTZMAN**, Illinois Beta-Delta **JANET WATSON HOYNE**, Missouri Alpha **ELIZABETH GORDON**, Indiana Epsilon **SUE MELBERG DAVIS** and Indiana Epsilon **ANN FLACHMANN BABINGTON**.



NEBRASKA

Omaha, Nebraska, Alumnae Club

The Omaha, Nebraska, Alumnae Club celebrated 150 years of the Cookie Shine at its Fall 2023 kickoff meeting. Twenty-eight alumnae attended and sang their favorite Pi Phi songs from their collegiate years.

From left: Iowa Gammas **DARCY RUKA RENNER**, **DEBBIE DOLEZAL GRAFELMAN** and Alumnae Club President **ANN HERRALD CHRISTIANSEN** at the Cookie Shine celebration.

NEW YORK

New York Delta Alumna

At New York Delta's annual open house reunion, alumnae took the opportunity to surprise beloved sister **SUSAN HILLS MURPHY** with a celebration to commemorate her 50-year class reunion at Cornell University. More than 50 sisters and friends gathered in June 2023 to recognize all Susan has done not only for Pi Phi, but also through her professional career in academia. After graduating from Cornell University in 1973, she returned to the university to begin her 38-year career on campus. Susan eventually became the first female Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, and after receiving her doctoral degree, she became Cornell University's first Vice President of Student and Academic Services in 1994. Susan's service and dedication to her career led to significant recognition, such as an endowment in her name for a Cornell Tradition fellowship and the naming of a floor in the university's health services facility in her honor. To conclude the celebration, a bronze plaque was presented to Susan that will be placed at a tree planted on the property.



From left: Susan receiving her plaque from New York Delta **LORI ALLEN UTTER HAMOR**.

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club

In September, members of the Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club supported friends in Delta Delta Delta Fraternity by participating in and raising money for the St. Jude Walk/Run in Charlotte. The members raised roughly \$400 to fight childhood cancer, helping Delta Delta Delta's alumnae group raise a total of \$2,075.



From left: Karen Kaplan, Dana Nightingale, South Carolina Beta **NELLY WELSCH**, Florida Beta **ANNE ANDERSON MCKNIGHT**, Peggy Rishe, Anna Rushing, Nina Speed, Maggie Nibbe and Julie Johnson at the St. Jude Walk/Run event.

OREGON

Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe, Oregon, Alumnae Club

The Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe, Oregon, Alumnae Club was a proud sponsor of the Start Making a Reader Today (SMART) fundraising event, which raised more than \$80,000 for the organization's programs in the Portland metropolitan area.



From left: Oregon Alpha **MAJA TANAKA BERGE**, SMART Development Director Erica Vince, SMART Development Director Sharon Benson, Iowa Gamma **PATRICIA BUKOWSKI MAY** and Oregon Alpha **JULIA TUCKER** at the SMART fundraising event.

TENNESSEE

Nashville, Tennessee, Alumnae Club

Members of the Nashville, Tennessee, Alumnae Club

SUSAN MCDAVITT, Mississippi Beta, and **SHELBY**

GREENE, Nebraska Beta, volunteered at the 2023

Exposition of Elegance: Classic Cars at Cheekwood event, which benefits the historic estate and botanical gardens of Cheekwood, a beloved destination for Nashville residents.



From left: Susan and Shelby at the Exposition of Elegance: Classic Cars at Cheekwood event.



TEXAS

Cypress Creek-Northwest Houston, Texas, Alumnae Club

Texas Beta **PAULA HERMAN SMITH** published her second cookbook in March 2023, titled "Cooking & Dining with Ease." At the alumnae club's kickoff meeting, Paula gifted each member with signed copies of the book.

Texas Alpha alumna

JULIE CRAIN MILLER published a book to help encourage those caring for aging parents or spouses and recently held a book signing where she was supported by members of the Dallas, Texas, Alumnae Club.

Dallas, Texas, Alumnae Club

In August 2023, the Dallas, Texas, Alumnae Club was featured in an article in The Dallas Morning News for their 2023 Style Show & Luncheon, "Lifting Up Literacy." This event benefited the McShan Reading Homeroom/Vickey Meadow Summer Reading Academy.

A large population of students at McShan Elementary School are economically disadvantaged with many learning to read English. With the alumnae club's financial support, the school has been able to provide one-on-one tutoring and help with reading, writing and comprehension skills.



Upper: Paula Smith.

Middle: Members of the Cypress Creek-Northwest Houston, Texas, Alumnae Club with their cookbooks from Paula.

Lower, back row, from left: Texas Betas **SUZANNE HEBERT EVERBACH** and **MARYBETH FLAHAVIN JOHNSTON** and Texas Alpha **SALLY NICHOLSON DUTTER**. Front row: Julie.



From left: Washington Beta **JILL STACHOFSKY MANTHEY**, Washington Beta **MARY RITTER HEITKEMPER**, Idaho Alpha **MARJORIE-ANN FAUCHER**, Oregon Gamma **VIRGINIA GRANT SCHUYLER**, Mary, New Mexico Alpha **ESTHER LARSEN**, Washington Beta **CARLA LILES PERCIVAL** and Washington Beta **KAYLEE MCPHAIL**.

WASHINGTON

Spokane, Washington, Alumnae Club

Oregon Gamma **MARY BRONSON MOLTKE** is the owner of the home featured in the 1993 movie “Benny & Joon.” To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the movie, Mary invited members of the Spokane, Washington, Alumnae Club to attend a private picnic at the famous home.

Washington Gamma Alumna

SHANNON KERRY HUGHES recently donated a portion of her liver to a former classmate and roommate from the University of Puget Sound. Shannon’s friend, Karen Moore Sales, needed a life-saving liver transplant and Shannon read about her need on social media. They hadn’t seen each other since graduation 31 years ago but met again in the hospital where Shannon donated a portion of her liver to help Karen. ←



From left: Karen and Shannon.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Alpha, University of Arkansas

Over the summer, a group of Arkansas Alphas studied abroad in Paderno del Grappa, Italy. Members took courses ranging from marketing to Italian and had the opportunity to travel on the weekends and immerse themselves in the culture. **AVERY PETERSON** said, "Traveling halfway around the world helped me learn how to adapt and make the most out of living in a new community."



Above: Arkansas Alphas in Paderno del Grappa, Italy.

CALIFORNIA

California Alpha, Stanford University

Although initially hesitant, **NADIA CHUNG** went through recruitment at Stanford University with the encouragement of her hometown best friend, California Beta **KYRA AITELLI**. She quickly realized she loved Pi Phi sisterhood just as much as Kyra. Soon after, Nadia joined the California Alpha Chapter and the two couldn't be more excited to call themselves not only best friends, but sisters too.

Below, from left: Kyra and Nadia.



California Beta, University of California, Berkeley

Growing up, **AUGUST DAVIS** spent her weekends venturing to Lake Tahoe to ski with her family. At 11 years old, she joined the competitive freestyle team at Palisades Tahoe. This past year, August placed second at the U.S. Nationals and earned a start in the 2023 Deer Valley World Cup. In March 2023, she faced a setback in her skiing career when she fractured her tibia while competing in the Val Saint-Côme NorAm Cup. During her recovery, August's love for skiing only grew stronger. In search of similar community that competitive skiing has brought her, August joined the California Beta Chapter and found exactly that. "I am so very grateful to have found Pi Phi, and I can't imagine my college experience without all my wonderful sisters!" August said.

FLORIDA

Florida Eta, University of Miami

Florida Eta members were proud to attend Pi Phi's 2023 Convention in Phoenix as the first delegates of their chapter to attend a convention. Chapter President **ATLANTIS HOFSTETTER**, Alternate Delegate **ELYSE HOFFMAN** and Alumnae Advisory Committee Chair **RAQUEL SACAL**, Florida Zeta, traveled to Phoenix to join hundreds of other Pi Phis. They had the opportunity to vote on international Pi Phi legislation, collaborate with other collegians and alumnae, be inspired by renowned keynote speakers, participate in the Cookie Shine, meet Grand Council and learn more about Pi Phi's extensive history.



Above from left: Elyse, Atlantis and Raquel with Florida Eta's new chapter banner.



Above: Idaho Alpha alumnae cheering on the Idaho Vandals.

IDAHO

Idaho Alpha, University of Idaho

In September 2023, the Idaho Alpha Chapter hosted its centennial celebration with a weekend full of activities including a Cookie Shine, a formal banquet, house tours and more. This weekend was also the unveiling of the chapter facility's new Legacy Brick Walk—this campaign lasted over a year and the walkway was fully installed over the summer in 2023. This event also highlighted the rich history of Idaho Alpha, with physical chapter history books dating back 100 years on display. To close out the weekend, a networking event was held for alumnae and collegiate members to connect and discuss professional interests. Sisters in attendance spanned generations, and the Idaho Alphas were proud to host Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT**, who spoke about Pi Phi sisterhood during the formal banquet and met with the 2023 New Member class. Both collegiate and alumnae members of Idaho Alpha saw the true impact of Lifelong Commitment and Sincere Friendships during this noteworthy celebration.

Right: Idaho Alpha alumnae at the centennial celebration.

From left: **JUDITH SPERRY ELLISON, JUDY ELLSWORTH CUNNINGHAM, SUE CARNEFIX KUPILLAS, SALLY LAU, SUSAN SIEVERT MCGINTY, BARBARA FOX BLAIR** and **BARBARA HARRISON ANDERSON**.





INDIANA

Indiana Delta, Purdue University

Indiana Delta installed a Little Free Library in front of the chapter facility in honor of Read > Lead > Achieve® Month in September. The Chapter House Corporation helped to fund and install the library to be enjoyed by the local community.

MAINE

Maine Alpha, University of Maine

EMILY HOBBS spent the summer of 2023 in Moshi, Tanzania. After graduating in May 2023 from the University of Maine School of Nursing, she and a group of other nursing students traveled to Moshi to work with doctors in the local communities. Emily and her team set up medical clinics and helped local citizens in any way they could, from providing personal hygiene supplies to seeking treatment at nearby hospitals for more serious conditions.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Alpha, University of New Mexico

Chapter President **HEATHER FERRELL** recently wrote and self-published a children's book titled "The Pollution Pox," which brings awareness to the environment and educates children about sustainability. Heather will soon be partnering with the University of New Mexico's sustainability program and plans to donate some of the proceeds from her book to support Read > Lead > Achieve® initiatives.



Upper, from left: Indiana Deltas **LEANNE BORKOWSKI, ALLIE VAN APPLEDORN, MICA LOVELL, CALI PETERSEN, EMILY DORNEANU, ALYSSA SCHWARTZ** and **JULIETTE MILLS** with the chapter's new Little Free Library.

Lower: Heather with copies of her book.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Alpha, University of North Carolina

In September 2023, the North Carolina Alpha Chapter hosted its centennial celebration for collegians and alumnae across all generations. The weekend included tours of the chapter facility, class reunions, shared meals and an evening of dancing and sisterhood. The chapter welcomed alumnae and special guests, including Regional Team officers and chapter Advisors as well as Grand President Emerita **SARAH "SIS" MULLIS**, South Carolina Alpha, and Grand Vice President Inclusion/Community Relations **AMY LORENZEN SOUTHERLAND**. The chapter members were incredibly grateful for every sister in attendance who made this an unforgettable weekend honoring the history and longevity of North Carolina Alpha.

Right: The North Carolina Alpha Chapter facility with their centennial celebration banner.



OHIO

Ohio Epsilon, University of Toledo

Members of Ohio Epsilon often visit Burroughs Elementary School to read to the second-grade students. In the Spring 2023 semester, the members visited every second- and third-grade classroom to donate books. Each child chose two books to read and take home.

Left: Ohio Epsilons at Burroughs Elementary School.

Ohio Iota, University of Dayton

In honor of National Suicide Prevention Month, members of Ohio Iota participated in a day of self-care to promote mental health and overall well-being. Vice President Inclusion **KATIE COSTELLO** coordinated a group yoga class followed by a self-care night at the chapter facility. The night consisted of face masks, cucumber water and a lighthearted movie. In addition, Katie implemented “Weekly Wellness Walks” which encouraged members to stay active amidst their busy schedules.

ONTARIO

Ontario Gamma, University of Guelph

Ontario Gamma’s theme for its Fall 2023 recruitment was “Grow with Pi Phi.” To fit with the theme, the chapter hosted fun events during the week such as bouquet and plant pot making which were highly successful.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Epsilon, Pennsylvania State University

After finding her home in Pi Phi sisterhood, **ARIANNA COOK** discovered that her friend’s grandmother, **SUSIE EWERT WRIGHT**, is a Pi Phi from the Indiana Epsilon Chapter. Although the two knew each other prior, they have developed an irreplaceable bond since becoming sisters. While their experiences in fraternity/sorority life differ, they found common ground through shared sisterhood, traditions and values and feel as though they are truly family. “From exchanging our cherished Pi Phi apparel during the holidays to comparing photographs, we found that the Pi Beta Phi community transcends time,” Arianna said. “It bridges gaps between generations, and we are both deeply honored to be part of this sisterhood.”

Pennsylvania Kappa, Lehigh University

Vice President Community Relations **MAGGIE ZASOWSKI** planned a week of literacy events during the month of September. The week kicked off with virtual bingo in which an infographic, designed by Director PR/Marketing **ZOE NATHAN**, was posted on every member’s Instagram Story. The virtual bingo card was filled with different donation amounts, encouraging donors to pick a spot on the card and help members get a bingo. Other events during the week included Lemonade for Literacy and Barbeque for Books. Altogether, Pennsylvania Kappa raised \$1,385 to benefit The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation.



Above: Ohio Iotas at their group yoga class.



Above: Ontario Gammas with their handmade bouquets.



Above, from left: Arianna and Sue.

*Pennsylvania Zeta, Washington
& Jefferson College*

The Pennsylvania Zeta Chapter has worked closely with the Literacy Council of Southwestern Pennsylvania in projects such as “Baby Bookbags” which fill bookbags with books, bookmarks, informational brochures regarding literacy and a certificate for a free kid’s meal from Moe’s Southwest Grill. Through their partnership, the organization received a 2023 FDS500 grant due to Pennsylvania Zeta’s submission to the grant program. In recognition of its dedication to service, Washington & Jefferson College gave the Pennsylvania Zeta Chapter the Excellence in Philanthropy Award.

SOUTH CAROLINA

*South Carolina Alpha, University of
South Carolina*

In the summer of 2023, **ADRIANNA FLORIT** was invited by her oceanography professor to spend a week off the coast of Winyah Bay in South Carolina. During this week, Adrianna studied river plume dynamics and had the chance to fish in her free time, where she pulled a lemon shark.

Right: Adrianna with a lemon shark.





Above: Ella in the field.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Alpha, University of South Dakota

Biology student **ELLA WITTMUSS** was recently featured in a University of South Dakota (USD) publication for her research on how various stressors impact amphibians' hormone levels. This passion began through lab projects with Jake Kerby, chair of biology at USD, where Ella discovered that increases in corticosterone levels can cause problems like slower growth, malformations and diseases. By expanding her own research on this topic, Ella hopes to make a positive change in conservational efforts for amphibians.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Gamma, College of William & Mary

Over the summer of 2023, the Virginia Gamma Chapter created a chapter Goodreads account. As a community with many avid readers, this initiative was received with high enthusiasm across the chapter. Through this account, members can see their sisters' favorite books and enjoy other insights such as customized ratings and reviews. Despite being apart for summer break, this account served not only as a source of connection for the sisters, but also as an outlet to show their appreciation for literacy and remain grounded in the cause that unites our sisterhood.

WASHINGTON

Washington Beta, Washington State University

Panhellenic Vice President Membership Recruitment **LINDSEY MCFEE** took initiative to create a free recruitment closet for both recruiters and Potential New Members (PNMs) in the campus community. She invited all Panhellenic chapters to donate clothes, shoes and accessories, and ended up receiving 3,298 donations. Members and PNMs were able to take as much as they'd like from the selection. "I envision a future where all universities have something like this in place," Lindsey said. "Clothing should never be a barrier to someone joining a chapter." ←



Above: Lindsey in front of the recruitment closet.

In Memoriam

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

The list below reflects notification by public obituary received at Pi Beta Phi Headquarters between February 1, 2023 and May 31, 2023. Obituaries may be submitted at 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. ←

ALABAMA BETA

Rosemary Epperson Sorensen, 1958

ALABAMA GAMMA

Lynn Alsobrook-Moye, 1967

ALBERTA ALPHA

Sheryl Harrop Hagen, 1982

ARIZONA ALPHA

Mary Lynch Calihan, 1966
Bonnie Robinson Greene, 1947
Ina Reed Mapes, 1954
Molly McCracken Smith, 1950
Katie Neill Wint, 1965

ARIZONA BETA

Dianne Allen Rodrigue, 1985

ARKANSAS ALPHA

Pat McMahan Anthony, 1960
Suzanne McClain Benham, 1974
Ceile Erwin Faulkner, 1972
Nancy Wiggins Flake, 1959
Juliette Tatum Hall, 1962
Margaret Little Piles, 1967
Suzanne Booth White, 1964

CALIFORNIA DELTA

Marjorie Norberg Clark, 1947
Ann-jannette Dodge Emerson, 1944

CALIFORNIA GAMMA

Marcelle Saussy Sjostrom, 1984

CALIFORNIA IOTA

Laura Joanne Golino, 1986

CALIFORNIA THETA

Alice Wallace Berringer, 1995

CALIFORNIA ZETA

Dorothy Davis Moss, 1951

COLORADO ALPHA

Patricia Beeley Lebsack, 1948
Shirley Miller Wheeler, 1951

COLORADO GAMMA

Eleanor Fullerton Phillips, 1956
Karen Fay Sacrison, 1975,
affiliated Wyoming Alpha

CONNECTICUT ALPHA

Marion Botelho Doyle, 1962
Bette Elvington Liebler, 1950

D.C. ALPHA

Florence Colbert Cassidy, 1939

FLORIDA ALPHA

Shirley Champion Baur, 1953
Susan Wilson Hilton, 1949

FLORIDA BETA

Maria Chandler, 1962
Betty Hatton Hussey, 1955
Dorothy Goodwin Shelton, 1956
Pamela Walker Westgate, 1973
Janice Southerland Williams, 1953

GEORGIA ALPHA

Carole Kelley O'Neal, 1951
Lourene Tate Silvey, 1945
Lorelee Wright Wolters, 1957

IDAHO ALPHA

Ann Tremaine, 1952

ILLINOIS ALPHA

Constance Irey Swenson, 1953

ILLINOIS EPSILON

Nancy Findlay Potter, 1958

ILLINOIS THETA

Renatli Grob Petrie, 1952

ILLINOIS ZETA

Sarah Holder Butler, 1950
Jeanette Dehning Hall, 1947

INDIANA BETA

Dianne Johnson Cartmel, 1955

INDIANA DELTA

Ingrid Johnson Caverly, 1954
Patricia Welliver Marshall, 1949
Mary Petrillo Monferdini, 1975
Sharon James Powers, 1961
Priscilla Pontius Rubenzer, 1948
Carol Ritter Wenaas, 1961

INDIANA EPSILON

Sue Fisher Arnold, 1974
Amanda Hornback, 2000

INDIANA GAMMA

Sondra Bisesi Clark, 1956
Cherry Sheppard Gerlach, 1953

INDIANA ZETA

Nancy Sharpf Gilgrist, 1955

IOWA ALPHA

Trudy Leshke Goldsbury, 1946
Judith Thompson Helscher, 1965

IOWA BETA

Judith Hoiekvam Fredregill, 1963

IOWA GAMMA

Elizabeth Clark Horne, 1949

IOWA ZETA

Cassie Leigh Erdmier, 2006
Patricia Kaufman Larrabee, 1946
Lucretia Gehrke Vanolst, 1948

KANSAS ALPHA

Katherine Gura Joyce, 1988
Louise Schwartz Shore, 1945

KANSAS BETA

Polly Pratt Collins, 1949
Denise Laird Dean, 1990
June Graff Myers, 1948

KENTUCKY ALPHA

Carol Waford O'Koon, 1962

LOUISIANA ALPHA

Clara Guthrie Moss, 1926
Helen Garrett O'Keefe, 1947
Charlene McCorkle Smith, 1946

LOUISIANA BETA

Edith Fox Murphy, 1957
Garnet Montgomery Watts, 1952

MAINE ALPHA

Barbara Brown Carey, 1951

MASSACHUSETTS ALPHA

Marilyn Fenton Hicks-McGovern, 1945

MASSACHUSETTS BETA

Mary Shea Gilman, 1948
Ellen Hatch Pochet, 1964

MICHIGAN BETA

Virginia Campbell Buhrow, 1948
Mary Catherine Dykhouse, 1983

MICHIGAN GAMMA

Joan Daniels Ryan, 1965
Marilyn Byram VanDis, 1951
Kathryn Otterbein Welch, 1948

MINNESOTA ALPHA

Carolyn Meyer Gundersen, 1978

MISSISSIPPI BETA

Maria Martinez Irby, 1974

MISSOURI ALPHA

Mary Nelle Park Bryant, 1945
Sally Ginn Hood, 1961
Sylvia Wood Mayer, 1953
Jean Riemeier Neunreiter, 1961

MISSOURI BETA

Katherine Mirjanich Pohle, 1949
Mary Sharp Seidel, 1956
Patricia Baskett Tice, 1950

MONTANA ALPHA

Elizabeth Steele Diekman, 1955

NEBRASKA BETA

Betty Krause Bell, 1941
Carolyn Elliott Walla, 1954
Sherry Leeka Wiese, 1946

NEVADA ALPHA

Sue White Oddo, 1958

NEW MEXICO ALPHA

Betty Ayres Huffman, 1947

NEW MEXICO BETA

Barbara Lujan, 1978

NEW YORK ALPHA

Priscilla Buttner Breck, 1943
Jeanne Clark Meinke, 1954
Judy Miller Sagall, 1974

NEW YORK DELTA

Rae Pullen Alexakos, 1952

NORTH CAROLINA BETA

Betty Lu Albert Grune, 1948
Diane Mahony Monrad, 1970

NORTH DAKOTA ALPHA

Sandra Fleischfresser Glass, 1958

OHIO ALPHA

Patricia Nolan Noonan, 1959
Dorothy Lasher Rodgers, 1947

OHIO BETA

Bonnie Brinkman Gibbs, 1960
Norma Paullin McClaran, 1947
Nancy Shuman Pickard, 1949

OHIO EPSILON

Patricia Moran Valentine, 1953

OHIO ETA

Ann Lucas Royer, 1957

OHIO ZETA

Cynthia Swingle Morris, 1951
Emily Welch Schneider, 1955,
affiliated West Virginia Alpha

OKLAHOMA ALPHA

Otie Ann Delaporte Fried, 1969
Mazie Mahan Havens, 1955
Ronna Riddle Troup, 1967
Mary Maddox Wilson, 1949

OKLAHOMA BETA

Carolyn Bond Evans, 1948

ONTARIO ALPHA

Hester Stronach Cowan, 1951

ONTARIO BETA

Jean Rollo French, 1946

OREGON GAMMA

Colleen Schodde Mahoney, 1949,
affiliated Utah Alpha
Laura Vanyo, 1978

PENNSYLVANIA BETA

Anne Ramsburg Jones, 1955

PENNSYLVANIA ETA

Jeanne Walsh Manning, 1982
Kristin Tregellas McIlvaine, 1984

PENNSYLVANIA GAMMA

Marge Huselton Clinton, 1940
Claire Madison Metcalfe, 1963

SOUTH CAROLINA ALPHA

Carolyn Alcorn Clark, 1948

TENNESSEE BETA

Suzie Straight Harris, 1963
Kathy Beto Jones, 1968

TENNESSEE DELTA

Linda McComas Campbell, 1962
Pam Crowder Petersen, 1964
Peggy Faquin Sampietro, 1963
Pamela Pettit Zanone, 1964

TENNESSEE GAMMA

Sara Oliver Millener, 1967
Sidney Potter Payne, 1948

TEXAS ALPHA

Marietta Payne Allmond, 1958
Stacy Nell Broun, 1974
Doris Dickinson Ethridge, 1936
Andrea Kelly Gaedcke, 1988

TEXAS BETA

Jeanie Tunstill Cowden, 1962,
affiliated Texas Alpha
Nancy Acker Fleshman, 1971
Linda Harris Gibbons, 1955
Joan Potter Stout, 1951

TEXAS DELTA

Lois Callan Collins, 1959

TEXAS ZETA

Dorothy Abernathy Miller, 1977
Rubye Drumwright Pulley, 1977

UTAH ALPHA

Carol Woods Martin, 1950
Carol L. Sonntag, 1957

VERMONT ALPHA

Heather Hamilton Robinson, 1954

VIRGINIA ALPHA

Ann Duckett Reed, 1952,
affiliated Texas Beta

VIRGINIA GAMMA

Polly Mayhew Owens, 1961

WASHINGTON ALPHA

Marilyn McCormack Dimmer, 1949

WASHINGTON BETA

Jan Gotzian Nail, 1975
Sharon Justice Thompson, 1956

WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

Donna Smith Chase, 1952
Nancy Ferguson Spears, 1951

WYOMING ALPHA

Donna Gabrielson Cole, 1953
Lynne Mabee Stroh, 1955



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