



The Arrow

OF PI BETA PHI • WINTER 2025

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WHO YOU ARE

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HEARTBEAT
of connection



OF PI BETA PHI • WINTER 2025

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14 BUILDING A FRAMEWORK OF HOPE

As a staff architect for Austin Habitat for Humanity®, Louisiana Beta **CLAIRE UELTSCHHEY WALPOLE** is not only committed to providing safe, affordable housing but also building communities grounded in love and hope.

16 GIVING BACK IS WHO YOU ARE

After reconnecting with Pi Phi decades after graduation, California Alpha **JANET FELDSTEIN MCKILLOP** gained a new perspective on the importance of supporting our sisterhood. Now, as an engaged alumna, she finds continuous inspiration and opportunities to give back.

20 THE HEARTBEAT OF CONNECTION

In this issue's feature, hear from sisters whose stories reveal that art—in all forms—offers a way to heal, celebrate identity and foster true connection.

ON THE COVER

California Eta **FRANCINE ESPIRITU** performing at The Muny in St. Louis. As a performer from a young age, Francine has encountered some of her proudest moments and most valuable lessons throughout her life as an artist. Read more about her inspiring journey in this issue's feature, The Heartbeat of Connection. (Cover photo by Julie A. Merkle)



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FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE, New York Alpha



THE ARROW® OF PI BETA PHI

Winter 2025 • Vol. 141 No. 1

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SUBMISSIONS

All Pi Phis are encouraged to submit news and stories to *The Arrow*. Visit pibetaphi.org/arrow for submission details and 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

Note: Due to pre-press production schedule, submitted content may not appear for up to two issues.

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 betabase.pibetaphi.org.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE ARROW

To receive the Spring, Summer and Winter issues 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.

The Arrow of Pi Beta Phi is available to download in a fully accessible digital format, compatible with screen readers, to ensure everyone can enjoy our content. Download *The Arrow* at pibetaphi.org/arrow.

Perspective



MELISSA MALONE COLVIN

Grand Vice President Collegians

While I cannot remember a specific point in time when I began being drawn to the arts, many of my fondest childhood memories center around experiences rooted in exposure to them. Visiting the children's tent to make unique masterpieces during the Festival of the Arts, going downtown to see "Annie," being able to perform my dance routines on the big University stage under the lights and telling stories I created to my little sister as we giggled well after we were supposed to be in bed at night—these experiences not only brought me joy but also instilled a lifelong appreciation for the power of the arts to inspire, connect and transform.

Eventually, I played the flute and dreamt of becoming a professional flutist, captivated by the places beyond the walls of my small town I felt transported to when performing in the orchestra. As I got older, I realized my passion for expression and appreciation for art extended far beyond my earlier experiences, allowing my interest in and love for the arts to guide my academic pursuits, majoring in East Asian Studies and Art History.

At the end of my second year at Washington and Lee University, I embarked on a study abroad program in Japan initially centered on business. However, I soon realized a business-focused approach didn't provide the depth of cultural understanding I sought. Pivoting from my original plan, I shifted my independent project to focus on their culture and all it illuminated. Immersing myself in Japan's unique artistic traditions—from the tea ceremony to visits to ancient gardens, temples and shrines—I observed how deeply art permeates daily life.

My journey deepened my appreciation for the arts and reinforced my belief in their ability to serve as a universal language. Just as I was encouraged as a child to express myself creatively, I now saw how the arts were able to provide those of us without a shared verbal language a similar way to communicate, share stories and explore different perspectives. Whether through painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, photography, cultural ceremonies, theatre, dance or music—I recognized these art forms offered a window into the world, revealing new ways of thinking and inviting reflection.

The arts develop unique parts of our brains, encouraging creativity, teamwork and a deeper appreciation of the world around us. They evoke feelings and tell stories that might otherwise go unheard while creating space for open dialogue. Art, in all its forms, is more than just developing a craft—it has the power to shine a light on cultures and ideas in ways that feel intriguing and inviting. Our Fraternity—much like the arts—thrives on connection, support and a commitment to something bigger than ourselves. Together, it is my hope that we continue to celebrate the values at the heart of our sisterhood, encouraging creativity and lighting the path forward for one another, in all our individual pursuits.

In Pi Phi,

Melissa Colvin

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 feature article, Going for Gold, featuring North Carolina Beta **NANCY HOGSHEAD** in the Summer 2024 issue of The Arrow:*

KRISTIE CALLAHAN GILL, California Theta, initiated 1990

Loved reading her story in *The Arrow*! Amazing woman doing amazing work!

*In response to the Alumna Spotlight featuring California Alpha **JAYNE APPEL MARINELLI** in the Summer 2024 issue of The Arrow:*

JANE IRWIN LAUDEMAN, California Alpha, initiated 1978

Thank you for all that you do for *The Arrow*. The personal stories about members are wonderful. My grandmother and I are both California Alphas. It was fun to see the article about Jayne.

*In response to an Instagram takeover series for WeArePiPhi featuring D.C. Alpha **DINA NEWMAN KWASNICKI** reflecting on the Yom Kippur holiday:*

ALLISON HARVEY GRIFFIN, Virginia Theta, initiated 1998

Thank you for sharing this with all our sisters. I've never truly known about Yom Kippur, but I appreciate it so much more for my Jewish friends now.

In response to a Facebook post about the launch of BetaBase in July 2024:

TINA BRISKI FELLERS, California Eta, initiated 1997

It is wonderful to see the Fraternity updating and investing in modern functionality for our members. Looking forward to exploring BetaBase and seeing how it develops to meet members' needs over time!

In response to a Facebook post about paying dues during Alumnae Dues Week:

KIMBERLY JOHANSON, Missouri Alpha, initiated 1975

Ladies, it's SO easy! I'm 68, almost 69, and just pulled out my credit card on my work break and filled in the blanks. If you can get on Facebook, you can pay your dues.

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. ←

APPLY FOR A 2025-2026 FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Undergraduate, Graduate Fellowship and Alumnae Continuing Education Scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 academic year are now open. Submit your application before 11:59 p.m. PST on February 15, 2025, to be considered for more than 100 scholarships and fellowships. Learn more about the application criteria and start your online application at pibetaphi.org/scholarships.

NOMINATE A PI PHI FOR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

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 are open to all members through February 15, 2025. To learn more and nominate a sister, visit pibetaphi.org/awards.



INSPIRING LEADERS AT COLLEGE WEEKEND 2025

On January 24-26, 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 position while learning, growing and connecting with fellow leaders. For updates before, during and after the event, be sure to follow our social media channels.

Missouri Gamma members at College Weekend 2024. From left: **LANDRY PARNELL**, **GRACE BAILEY**, **TRINITY MORGAN**, **ABBEY OLIVER** and **JADE HALL**.

HELP US REACH \$1 MILLION IN LOCAL IMPACT GRANTS!

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Pi Beta Phi Foundation awarded \$58,985 in Local Impact Grants to more than 20 organizations across North America. Thanks to the unwavering support and generosity of our sisterhood, Pi Beta Phi Foundation has collectively awarded \$900,651 in Local Impact Grants—and needs your help to reach \$1 million in grant awards!

Did you know Local Impact Grants help fund literacy-based organizations in your local community? Chapters and alumnae clubs can nominate a literacy nonprofit in their area to receive a grant, allowing them to direct 25% of their fundraising, matched dollar-for-dollar from our Foundation, to the selected organization. Learn more at pibetaphi.org/lig.

2025 FRATERNITY DAY OF SERVICE SIGNATURE EVENT

As we celebrate Fraternity Day of Service (FDS) on March 8, 2025, Pi Beta Phi will host a book distribution in Louisville, Kentucky, for our Fraternity Day of Service Signature Event. At this event, Pi Phis will help distribute thousands of new "Stories for All" books, featuring diverse races, cultures and identities to youth-serving organizations in the local community. For more information and ways to celebrate FDS, visit pibetaphi.org/literacy.

NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE (NPC) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Last October, more than 170 NPC member organization leaders, board members, partners and guests gathered in Indianapolis to discuss topics including crisis communications for our community, reimagining recruitment terminology, responding to campus overreach and updates from the Amplifying Sorority Campaign. In addition, NPC provided an update on recent Conference successes in promoting growth through marketing and The Sorority Life.

Grand President and Council of Delegates representative **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 and RFM Recruitment Officer **CAROL INGE WARREN**, North Carolina Beta, attended on behalf of Pi Phi.

AN UPDATE ON THE STOP CAMPUS HAZING ACT

On December 11, the U.S. Senate passed the bipartisan Stop Campus Hazing Act by unanimous consent. This legislation combats hazing and protects students by requiring universities to report hazing incidents and provide comprehensive hazing prevention programs. It also helps students and parents make informed decisions about joining organizations on campus by requiring colleges to publish their hazing prevention policies and a list of violating organizations on their websites. The act is now headed to the White House to be passed into law.

ENHANCED FEATURES AND TOOLS COME TO BETABASE!

Since its launch in July 2024, BetaBase has transformed the online experience for more than 26,000 Pi Phis. Alumnae clubs have benefited from enhanced management tools, including improvements to prospective member lists and expanded reporting capabilities. Alumnae can now pay their club and international dues in one, easy transaction. Pi Beta Phi Foundation's new online fundraising platform has been fully integrated into BetaBase, and giving history data is now available within your member profile. Chapters gained access to several features to improve their workflows, including access to the Online Learning Center, the ability to receive automated invoices and improved member roster functionality.

Additional features and functionality will be continually developed and released over time to support integrations for chapter and club management, donor management, marketing and communication efforts and event registration. Efforts are ongoing to increase the number of Pi Phis who have created their BetaBase accounts. If you know a member who has yet to create their account, encourage them to visit **betabase.pibetaphi.org**.



celebrating
350,000
pi phis

We are excited to share a remarkable milestone in Pi Beta Phi's history—we have initiated our 350,000th member! **AIMEE CHO** was initiated into California Beta on November 10, 2024, marking the beginning of an inspiring new chapter for our sisterhood. This moment is more than a number—it symbolizes generations of cherished memories, lasting impact and unbreakable bonds at the heart of Pi Beta Phi. Join us in celebrating Aimee and all the sisters who came before us, those who are here today and our bright future ahead! More will be shared in the Spring 2025 issue of *The Arrow*.

Stewarding a Bright Future

Florida Zeta **DANA REILLY**'s volunteer journey began as a new graduate in New York City, where she was inspired by the support and leadership of the local alumnae community and the alumnae connections she made as a collegian. Now serving Pi Phi as Alumnae Engagement Director (AED) for Region Two and working as the senior manager of special events at Carnegie Hall, Dana shares what inspired her to get involved, how volunteering has made an impact on her career and why she encourages others to stay connected.

WHY AND HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO START VOLUNTEERING WITH PI PHI?

I decided to start volunteering with Pi Phi as soon as I knew I would be staying in New York City to begin my career. Volunteering for Pi Phi was always part of my plan, as I was greatly influenced by Alumnae Advisory Committee members like Alabama Gamma **CAROL CRANE WELLS**, Florida Epsilon **ANDREA STEINEMANN WIKSTROM** and Florida Delta **GEORGIA MALPARTIDA**, who supported Florida Zeta when I was a collegian. Pi Phi was central to my joy and ability to thrive at the University of Tampa, so it only made sense to find that same joy in New York City, and I surely did. It was, and always will be, about Lifelong Commitment for me.

I attended my first alumnae event at the home of Virginia Theta **MARIEL PEARL**, who hosted the annual Thanksgiving party for the New York City-Manhattan, New York, Alumnae Club. During the event, they handed out interest forms and I felt so welcomed and inspired to jump in that I checked off the "President" box to mark my interest in potentially leading the club someday. What I did not know is that they were looking to onboard someone right away! Mariel, the outgoing President, was so helpful in transitioning the presidency to me. Because I attended that one event, I was able to lead the club—with the help of a tremendous Executive Board and incredible members—to our Premier Club award in 2019.

HOW HAVE THE SKILLS YOU'VE GAINED AS A VOLUNTEER TRANSLATED TO YOUR CAREER, AND VICE VERSA?

My career has been a huge asset in making me a better volunteer. At Carnegie Hall, my role requires strategic thinking and adaptability to meet fundraising goals—skills that translate directly to my work with Pi Phi.



Dana at Carnegie Hall's Opening Night Gala in October 2024.
(Photo by Julie Skarratt)

Volunteering with Pi Phi and engaging with women of diverse backgrounds has also strengthened my confidence in working with all levels of staff. Whether someone is new or more experienced than me, Pi Phi has taught me to take pride in my expertise and lead confidently.

WHAT IMPACT DO YOU HOPE TO MAKE THROUGH YOUR WORK?

Pi Phi has a special way of fostering leadership abilities and helping members apply those skills at the right time. Whatever impact I make, I hope my service helps the sisters around me have the best Pi Phi experience. Being an engaged volunteer gives me a chance to bring other Pi Phis into the fold and foster their own volunteer journeys. A lyric from my favorite Broadway play, "Hamilton," resonates with me: "What is a legacy? A legacy is planting seeds in a garden you never get to see." I have to imagine this sentiment mirrors how our founders must have felt—if only they could see how we are thriving today!

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH OTHER SISTERS WHO ARE CONSIDERING VOLUNTEERING WITH PI PHI?

I would tell sisters who are considering volunteering with Pi Phi to jump in and say yes! If you don't know where to start, reach out to the AED in your region—they will be thrilled to get you connected. If you feel like you don't have the right experience, shake it off! Pi Phi needs volunteers with different experience and perspectives, and the chances are high that we are looking for someone like you. ◀

Investing in Growth

As a production coordinator working on Netflix projects with an acclaimed background in media, California Lambda **CARINA GLASSER** is no stranger to working under pressure and handling the industry's competitive landscape. However, Carina thrives in this environment, successfully navigating tough situations with grace and crediting her hard-earned skillset to experiences in Pi Beta Phi.

Carina's passion for the arts began at a young age, leading her to study media at the University of California, Riverside. Although uncertain where her degree would take her, she knew she wanted to work in the entertainment industry. In the confusing and chaotic period of post-graduate life, Carina leaned on her community, speaking to as many people as she could about their career paths and nurturing those relationships. She even searched through the Pi Beta Phi database, reaching out to various alumnae hoping to spark a connection. "Networking and dedication to maintaining relationships is what brought me to where I am in my career today," Carina shares.

Carina launched her career with various studios—such as Sony Pictures Entertainment and Twentieth Century Fox—which granted experience that ultimately paved the way for her current role on a Netflix production. Through promotions, long hours and high-profile projects such as "Boys in the Band" and Netflix's "Monster" anthology series, Carina reflects on her personal growth in this role, notably in developing greater adaptability and stronger communication skills.

As someone who has built a successful career in the entertainment industry, Carina understands the challenges and setbacks that come with making a name for yourself. With deeply rooted values of compassion and empathy, Carina finds genuine fulfillment in supporting young professionals as they pursue their own careers. "I am always happy to pay it forward to the next generation," she says. "I often give the advice to be proactive, be persistent, advocate for yourself and clearly communicate your goals."

Carina attributes her authentic intellect to Pi Phi's leadership development opportunities as a collegian. "When I was Chapter President, I learned so much; it changed how I viewed myself as a leader," she reflects.

"Pi Phi gave me my first insight into what it's like to lead a group, make executive decisions and act on behalf of an organization." Inspired by the profound impact Pi Phi has had on her life, Carina remains dedicated to giving back to our sisterhood, currently serving as the Alumnae Club Membership Chair for the Los Angeles - Santa Monica, California, Alumnae Club.

Despite sustaining a fast-paced career, Carina finds moments to pause, emphasizing the importance of slowing down and reflecting on gratitude. For her, listening to her needs and ensuring separation of her personal, professional and volunteer pursuits helps maintain a necessary balance. Even in moments of burnout, Carina's deep love and appreciation for the entertainment industry keep her inspired, allowing her to invest in her own growth while helping to shape the success of those who come after her. ◀



Upper: Carina in front of a "9-1-1" Season 2 premiere sign.

Lower: Carina at Fox Studio Lot in Los Angeles.



(Renderings by Julie Dodson Interiors)

Building Connection at Texas Eta

Nestled at 1601 Monument Avenue on the Texas A&M campus, the Texas Eta Chapter house has been a symbol of sisterhood since its doors opened in 1988. As the chapter approaches its 40th anniversary in 2025, an inspiring renovation project, affectionately dubbed "Angels on the Avenue," is underway to not only honor the chapter's rich history but also meet the needs of future generations.

At the heart of this renovation is a collaboration between Pi Phi professionals, working together to foster a supportive environment within our sisterhood. When Chapter House Corporation President **TARA BRADBURN**, Texas Eta, began to piece the project together, she knew the renovation and the team behind it needed to go beyond the basics and embody a commitment to preserving the legacy of Texas Eta. "While we talked to many designers, Mississippi Beta **JULIE DODSON**, of Dodson Interiors continued to rise to a level we were aspiring to achieve—not just because of the designs she continually delivered, but because she understands our sisterhood," explains Tara.

Julie, a nationally acclaimed designer, serves as the visionary behind the interior design. Her expertise has infused the project with traditional and classical elements, and her deep understanding of the Fraternity's spirit has helped shape a design that resonates with members. "I lived in my chapter house so I can remember what it's like to be in the shoes of the collegians," says Julie. "I have the added benefit of truly understanding Pi Phi, so designing a home for future sisters is not just a project for me, it's a privilege."

As fate would have it, the final piece of the project team fell into place thanks to yet another Pi Phi connection. Recognizing the need for architectural expertise, Julie recommended Graham Luhn, a seasoned architect, former adjunct professor at Texas A&M and father of her employee, Texas Beta **DABNEY LUHN JUNELL**. Affectionately known as the "Pi Phi beau," Graham brought not only his vast experience but also a unique specialty—designing fraternity/sorority life housing—making him the perfect fit for the project.

As Graham began working alongside Julie, he saw an opportunity to not only enhance the project but also offer a professional development opportunity for a future architect. Texas Eta **KATE HOLBROOK** joined the project as an intern under Graham's mentorship, gaining valuable hands-on experience during her junior year at Texas A&M. The internship allowed Kate to assist with the renovation's CAD drawings—detailed illustrations of architectural projects—and contribute first-hand knowledge on living in the Texas Eta house. “There is a passion and excitement surrounding this project because everyone is connected to Pi Phi,” describes Kate. “Having a direct tie to the women in the chapter inspired the team to be more thoughtful about each decision.” Now, as she embarks on her graduate studies, Kate's journey reflects the lasting impact of not only the project, but the team who brought it to life.

The connections formed within the team have gone beyond simple collaboration—they've felt like family. “Just like when we first walked into Pi Phi and instantly felt at home, that's the same sense of belonging we've found in this team,” Julie shares. As the project enters the construction phase, Tara remains inspired by the work ahead and the culmination of the team's efforts. Texas Eta's renovated chapter house promises to be more than a physical structure, but a testament to the enduring bonds of Pi Beta Phi. “We're not just building a house,” Tara says. “We're building a home that embodies the heart of our sisterhood.” ◀



IN THE DETAILS

The Pi Phi renovation team works to ensure the Texas Eta Chapter house is equipped with features that will create a nurturing environment and premier housing experience for the members.

- **NEW STUDY PODS:** Individual study spaces will allow members to comfortably study, take online proctored tests, interview for jobs or internships and more.
- **UPDATED LIBRARY:** The room will honor notable alumnae, including former First Lady **BARBARA PIERCE BUSH**, Texas Eta.
- **EXPANDED CHAPTER ROOM:** The expansion will ensure the chapter can successfully host meetings and recruitment. The room will bear the name of Texas Alpha **PAULINE "BETTY" WESTBROOK OLSON**, who was passionate about establishing a chapter at Texas A&M.
- **ENHANCED SECURITY:** Updated security measures will help create a safe environment for members—a number one priority for Pi Phi.

Project completion is expected in Summer 2025.

Texas Eta's renovation team posing with the architectural plans. Back row, from left: Tara and Dabney. Front row, from left: Texas Eta Chapter Housing Corporation Treasurer **CAITLIN THOMPSON REYNOLDS**, Texas Eta, Julie and Graham.





Caroline Graves

Mississippi
Beta

Creator of

C A R O R O S E A R T ♥



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.

I am a native Memphian, part-time artist and full-time product manager at a software development company. I began my art business the summer before college accepting commission requests and now have a website and Instagram account to manage and promote my art. I do flash Instagram story sales, accept commissions and attend a variety of shows throughout the year. I want to slowly grow my art business and develop a brand that is unique to me. While art may not be the centerpiece of my career, I dedicate time each week either in the pottery studio or in my sketchbook to nurture my creativity.

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST FULFILLING IN YOUR CAREER?

One of the most rewarding feelings is when people reminisce on the memories their Caro Rose Art piece evokes, or how much joy it brings them. In product management, I find joy in mentoring others and guiding them to take strategic steps toward advancing their careers. Transparency is key and I love to witness my mentees and peers achieve greatness and success through their hard work.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE AS AN ARTIST AND HOW DO YOU OVERCOME THEM?

Time, patience and trusting the process. It's easy to feel discouraged along the way, but a crucial takeaway is to keep pushing forward. I've learned to overcome these challenges by setting realistic expectations about how long it takes me to complete my work and allowing myself the necessary time to create.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PI PHIS WHO WISH TO PURSUE A SIMILAR CAREER?

Tap into the resources at your fingertips. Social media offers

a wealth of resources including videos from artists sharing tips and tricks on getting started. It's also beneficial to connect and support smaller artists and businesses—collaborating with others allows for valuable learning experiences. Additionally, it's important to balance passion with practicality. Understanding the financial, marketing and administrative aspects of being an artist is crucial for sustaining your career.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE PERSONAL SUCCESS?

I celebrate both the small and big wins. It's okay to not have accomplished every goal yet. Once you understand and reconcile with that, you gain a sense of freedom and every win—big or small—feels even more rewarding.

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

You wouldn't be given the opportunity if you didn't deserve it.

"PI BETA PHI HAS TAUGHT ME..."

The women I met through Pi Beta Phi have inspired me to pursue a life of integrity, honor and commitment in all my endeavors. When I make a commitment, I put my heart into it.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE AND WHY?

"Good energy attracts good energy."

Be nice to people, smile at them. You may not know what someone is going through and how a simple act of kindness can transform their situation. That's what is really beautiful about art, you never know who is going to be moved by your work and that's truly the most rewarding part of it all. ←



ΠΒΦ'S 75TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
**A CELEBRATION
of SISTERHOOD**

**JUNE 19-21, 2025
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

Pi Beta Phi's 75th Biennial Convention honors our 158-year history and the values at the heart of Pi Beta Phi.

Join your Pi Phi sisters in commemorating our shared heritage, celebrating our collective achievements, reaffirming our commitment to our values and envisioning a promising future together.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registration will be open mid-February through May 15, 2025. View the registration options available and make the selections best suited to your schedule and budget at **pibetaphi.org/convention** or scan the QR code.



Whether you're a collegian or alumna, first-timer or veteran attendee, aspiring officer or longtime volunteer, convention is designed to engage and inspire members across Pi Beta Phi. This year's programs and activities emphasize a special focus on the following themes:

- **LOYAL FRIENDSHIP:** We cherish the sincere, irreplaceable bonds—both old and new—that connect our members for life as new friendships take root and time-honored bonds blossom.
- **NOBLE LEADERSHIP:** We invite our members to take an active role in shaping the future of the organization and remaining a leader among fraternal organizations.
- **UNWAVERING GROWTH:** We empower our members to become strong, confident leaders, to explore new perspectives and to achieve their true potential.
- **HONORED TRADITION:** We discover connection in the history and heritage our members share with generations of sisters who wear the golden arrow.
- **TRUE PI PHI PRIDE:** We celebrate our accomplishments and milestones as a sisterhood and find inspiration in the achievements of our members.

LEGISLATION

An essential part of each convention is the business meeting where Pi Phis have an active role in shaping the future of the organization by electing Fraternity leaders and participating in the legislative process—to discuss and vote on any changes to the Pi Beta Phi Constitution and Statutes. For each member, participation in the legislative process is a privilege and a responsibility that fosters a sense of understanding and appreciation for the broader significance of the Fraternity. The Legislative Committee oversees Pi Phi's legislative process and is an independent resource to advise and clarify legislative proposals for delegates. Grand Council, chapters and alumnae clubs can sponsor a piece of legislation and should work with the Legislative Committee; proposed changes to the Constitution and Statutes will be sent to chapters and clubs in early spring.

SHARE *your* SISTERHOOD STORY

As Pi Phis, we cherish the authentic, irreplaceable bonds that connect us for life. Sisterhood Stories are shared throughout convention and on social media to showcase the power of our sisterhood.

Have your sisters supported you during a time of need? How did you meet your closest sisters? How have you stayed connected or reconnected with sisters over the years? Where was the most unexpected place you met a Pi Phi?

Submit your favorite Pi Phi memory—or “Sisterhood Story”—at **pibetaphi.org/sisterhoodstory** by May 31, 2025, or scan the QR code.





Claire (third from right) with her family. (Photo by Marion Hinkley Photography)

Building a Framework of Hope

After an unexpected layoff from an architecture firm during maternity leave with her third child, Louisiana Beta **CLAIRE UELTSCHHEY WALPOLE** found herself uncertain about the path ahead. Navigating both a job loss and caring for a newborn added layers of difficulty to an already strenuous situation. Claire found support from a previous contract partner who led her to a role at Austin Habitat for Humanity®, a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. In her role as staff architect for the last 11 years, Claire has supported nearly 350 families in Austin, Texas, by providing access to stable, affordable housing—building not only homes but a lasting framework of hope.

Architecture was not in the original blueprint for Claire's career as she initially attended college to study liberal arts. However, one year during summer break, Claire's father bought property and asked her to help design the house—what began as a casual family project soon sparked something deep within her. Although Claire's brother playfully joked about her workaholicism, she found herself captivated by the process of designing a home and bringing ideas to life. Realizing her need to pivot career paths, she then transferred to Louisiana State University (LSU) to enroll in their architecture program, the first step to laying the foundation for her career.

Now, as an architect for Austin Habitat for Humanity, Claire has an opportunity to channel this passion every day—to date, she has designed and permitted 176 homes. From apartment-style condos to traditional houses, each one is a building block toward a community of hope. While design is central to Claire's role, her work also involves navigating the financial limitations that come with nonprofit funding—but it's the mission of Habitat for Humanity that continuously fuels her dedication. "Knowing you're giving an opportunity for someone to have a home outweighs everything," she shares. "The most fulfilling part of my job is seeing families move into their home and have that burden lifted off their shoulders."

“

*Knowing you're giving
an opportunity for
someone to have a home
outweighs everything.*

As someone who works directly with affordable housing, Claire witnesses Austin's housing crisis firsthand and acknowledges its severity—one of the main contributors being gentrification. “The initial cost of a home isn't always the main factor of affordability,” she explains. “A family could be in a home for years, but the rapidly growing property taxes become difficult to handle.” As part of the solution, Claire and Habitat for Humanity focus their efforts on sustainable housing. “We make sure our homes are durable, so less money goes toward maintenance. When Habitat for Humanity homeowners pay their mortgages, it comes right back to us to invest in building another affordable home.” Along with promoting long-term sustainability, Claire prioritizes environmentally conscious construction. Each of her homes she designs earn top ratings in the Austin Energy Green Building program, which encourages energy-efficient design and construction in Austin.

As a mother herself, another motivating factor in Claire's career is ensuring safe and stable homes for children to grow up in regardless of economic status. “Many of these kids are so vulnerable,” she says. “I want to make the biggest impact for them and the children who will follow.” In the last 11 years, Claire has played a key role in making this pivotal difference in Austin. “I'm so happy there are so many families with children that now have a place they can come home to, free from worries from the outside world.”

One of the affordable homes designed and built by Austin Habitat for Humanity in the east Austin neighborhood, Scenic Point.

As an architect committed to supporting disadvantaged communities and someone who has faced her own share of challenges and triumphs, Claire understands the sacrifices made to live a life filled with love and purpose. She believes the desire for love, community and fulfillment is universal, and that by building a framework of hope, we can build a more purpose-driven and compassionate world. ←

CLAIRE'S CONNECTION TO PI PHI

Positively impacting the lives of children has always been an inherent value for Claire and one of the main reasons she felt a true connection to Pi Phi's philanthropic focus. As a student who transferred universities halfway through her collegiate career, Pi Phi provided Claire with a sense of home and stability, just as she does for families every day. “Going into LSU, I didn't know anyone,” she shares. “Having a welcoming group of women who were happy to have me was really comforting and touching. Even though it was a different chapter, it didn't matter because we were all a part of the same family.”



Giving Back Is Who You Are

California Alpha **JANET FELDSTEIN MCKILLOP** traveled a long way from her New England all-girls school to attend Stanford University in California, but her Pi Phi sisters seamlessly made it feel like home. From spaghetti dinners to philanthropic 5K fun runs, Janet embraced every aspect of Pi Beta Phi. She fully immersed herself in the collegiate experience, serving as Chapter President alongside friends who took on other leadership roles. “As we grew as chapter leaders, we grew closer to Pi Phi’s philanthropy and began to share the value of Philanthropic Service to Others,” she explains. “That was my Pi Phi experience—friendship and fun, but also leadership and service.”



After earning a bachelor’s degree in art history and an MBA from Stanford, professional life took center stage for Janet. She embarked on an ambitious career at J.P. Morgan’s investment bank and then served as the J. Paul Getty Trust’s chief development officer and vice president, leading fundraising and external engagement efforts for the Getty Museum, Research Institute and Conservation Institute. Janet has now returned to J.P. Morgan partnering with foundations, nonprofits and multi-generational families—where philanthropy and giving back is one of her top priorities.

Nearly three decades after graduation with a successful career under her belt, Janet began to reminisce on her Pi Phi days when a friend’s daughter was going through primary recruitment. This sparked Janet to explore Pi Phi’s website and reconnect with sisters from her collegiate years. Inspired by the philanthropic service, alumnae opportunities and Lifelong Commitment, she said to her friends “we’ve got to get involved.”

Energized with renewed excitement and Pi Phi Love, Janet joined her California Alpha sisters at a Halo Happenings event in Pasadena, California in February 2024. “We started talking to other members and remembered why we chose Pi Phi,” she reflects. The event was both enlightening and uplifting for Janet, helping her realize there are ways to give back to Pi Phi she hadn’t previously considered. She was deeply moved after hearing how our Foundation is committed to ensuring Pi Phi remains a constant in the lives of sisters and knew she wanted to join the cause. “I love the idea of giving to the Foundation and supporting the future of our sisterhood,” says Janet.

As someone who has worked in the philanthropic space for more than 30 years and shares her joy of giving back with those around her, Janet understands the importance of investing in the future of an organization with care. “That’s what called me to give to Pi Phi because I’ve been in their shoes,” she shares. “I know how important it is to have good stewards of our resources because our donors trust leadership to put these dollars to good use.”

Janet’s journey is akin to many alumnae who were involved during their collegiate years but feel uncertain on how to reconnect with the organization after time away. “In college you think, ‘We’re having a philanthropy event and raising money,’ but it’s only when you step away and come back to it you see it from a different

From Readers to Writers

Pi Beta Phi's commitment to literacy goes beyond promoting a love of reading; it plants the seeds for future authors to share their creative stories. Through Read > Lead > Achieve® initiatives, Pi Phis are not only encouraged to make a difference in their communities, but also to explore their own creative potential, often discovering a passion for writing that follows them beyond their collegiate experience.

Several Pi Phi authors share their journeys, reflecting on how their experience in Pi Phi influenced their decisions to become writers.

1 "IT HAPPENED ON SATURDAY"

Pennsylvania Beta **SYDNEY JOHNSON DUNLAP** knew from an early age she wanted to be a teacher. "I was initially drawn to Pi Phi due to the friendliness and enthusiasm of chapter members,"

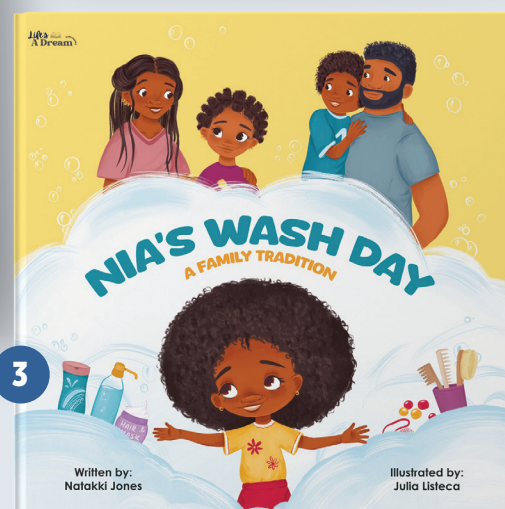
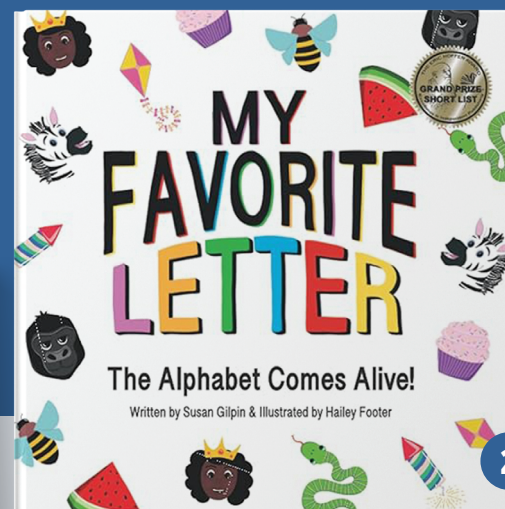
Did your time in Pi Beta Phi influence you to become an author or do you know a sister who was inspired by Read > Lead > Achieve to write a book? Share your story with us at pibetaphi.org/submit-a-story for your chance to be featured in a future Pi Beta Phi publication.



she reflects. "When I found out Pi Phi's philanthropy was centered on literacy, that was one more thing to love about it!" Her contemporary-middle grade novel, "It Happened on Saturday," grew out of her work with child trafficking survivors and her realization there was a gap in books addressing social media safety for tweens. "My Pi Phi sisters have been so encouraging of my writing. It's so nice to still be connected with friends from long ago through our wonderful sisterhood!"

2 "MY FAVORITE LETTER! THE ALPHABET COMES ALIVE!"

Oregon Gamma **SUSAN GILPIN** always knew she had a book in her, but she never expected she would write an award-winning children's alphabet book in her seventies. "My Favorite Letter: The Alphabet Comes Alive" came about when Susan asked friends, family and Pi Phi sisters on Facebook what their favorite letter is and why. "Many of the first readers of



'My Favorite Letter' were sorority sisters—remarkably we have maintained friendships for over 50 years," she shares. "Those long-ago days in the beloved Pi Phi house have become glory years for us."

3 "NIA'S WASH DAY: A FAMILY TRADITION"

With vibrant illustrations celebrating diversity and the joy of embracing one's natural beauty, "Nia's Wash Day: A Family Tradition" ties into Connecticut Gamma **NATAKKI JONES'** personal experience growing up and doing hair with her family on Sundays.

The inspiration to become an author began during Natakki's time as an undergraduate student. During primary recruitment, she was immediately drawn to



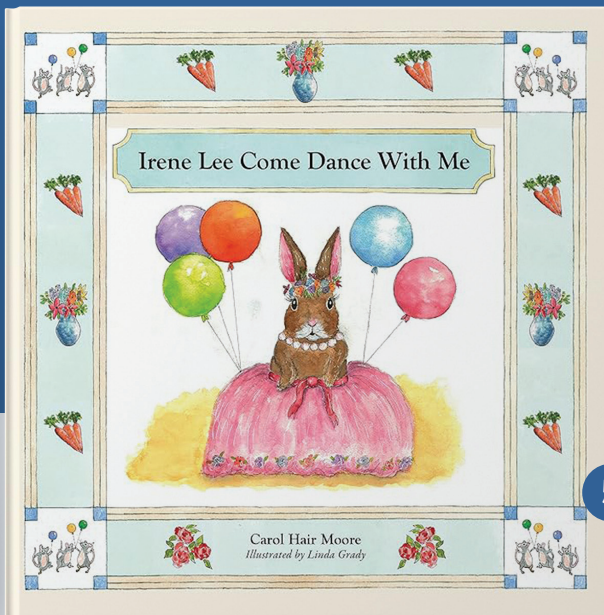
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Pi Phi for its commitment to literacy, inspiring her to become an elementary school teacher. "Before I was in classrooms for my degree, I saw the impact stories had on children during our annual Fraternity Day of Service event," she says. "Coming together to donate and help organize hundreds of books with my sorority sisters was a life-changing experience."

4 "PLAYING WITH FIRE"

When Michigan Alpha **RACHAEL MENOSKY WAECHTER** first arrived at Hillsdale College, she hadn't intended on joining a sorority until she attended a Pi Beta Phi philanthropy event. "To see women up on stage talking about Read > Lead > Achieve and how it changed their lives moved me to a point where I signed up for primary recruitment," says Rachael.

Now as Alumnae Advisory Committee Chair for Michigan Alpha, she reflects on her collegiate experience that refined her writing and gave her a greater opportunity to challenge herself. She used what she's learned in the expression of the characters in her debut young adult novel, "Playing with Fire."



5

"I'm proud of my book for many reasons, but one of the biggest is it teaches lessons everyone can understand and relate to," she says. "Pi Phi played a major role in that messaging, and I hope by reading my book people can draw themselves into the story and take something wonderful out of it."

5 "IRENE LEE COME DANCE WITH ME"

When Florida Beta **CAROL HAIR MOORE** interned with the School of Education at Florida State University, she realized her passion for creative writing. Each of the five books in her children's series, "I Wish You Ice Cream and Cake," is designed to educate and instill in her readers a desire to be kind and compassionate. "Florida Betas have always been scholastically and socially outstanding," says Carol. "My wonderful Pi Phi sisters, whom I am still in touch with, have influenced me and blessed my life always."



6

6 "BODEGA BABY"

After falling in love with her own neighborhood bodega in New York City, Virginia Epsilon **HANNAH SHATZEN** was inspired to write a book honoring her Puerto Rican grandmother, who shared a deep connection to the bodegas in New York City. As Chapter President, Hannah discovered her passion for writing and honed the skills needed to have a successful business behind her book. Hannah now offers one-on-one consultations to help other aspiring authors get their start. "It's one of the best ways to leave your little mark on the world," she says. "Just like so many of our Pi Phi sisters before us." ◀

the HEARTBEAT *of connection*

Art is beautifully and subtly woven into everyday life: the sunlight dancing through the leaves, a favorite song capturing emotions too complex to describe, the worn edges of a well-loved novel sitting on a bookshelf. Every artistic expression speaks uniquely, creating an intricate tapestry that reflects authentic experiences. Whether as the creator or the admirer, art serves as the heartbeat of connection—a value Pi Phis deeply understand.

The stories within these pages are a testament to the vibrant world around us and the beauty found in life's most difficult and joyous moments. Through the eyes of these sisters, it becomes clear that art offers a way to heal and celebrate identity—illuminating a profound truth that the path ahead is ours to create and define.

California Eta **FRANCINE ESPIRITU** performing at The Muny in St. Louis. (Photo by Julie A. Merkle)



give yourself THE OPPORTUNITY

"Dance is, and always will be, my first love," says California Eta **FRANCINE ESMIRITU**, who discovered her lifelong passion at just three years old in a Southern California dance studio. While her parents sought a solution for childcare, what they found was their daughter's spark—an undeniable love for movement, creativity and expression.

Francine's career as a performer began at a young age, landing her very first dancing gig for a children's music video when she was only six years old. She continued to work professionally throughout childhood, but as she entered middle school, her bookings slowed, giving her time to focus on herself. However, her passion for dance was unwavering, and when it came time to choose the next step, Francine found herself at a crossroads—pursue college or dive straight into the world of professional dance.

As the daughter of immigrant parents, the possibility of not attending college caused tension in the family, but after many conversations regarding her future, Francine decided to enroll in college to study dance. "That is one of the best decisions I ever made for myself," she says. "Without my experience in college and as a Pi Phi, I wouldn't have the skills and knowledge to sustain the career I have."

A few years after graduation, Francine felt compelled to challenge herself, prompting a bold move to New York City. She quickly realized the path to growth is often paved with difficult lessons, and no one truly prepares you for the challenges of building a life in a new city. As an aspiring performer, balancing auditions, bookings and jobs to make ends meet can be exhausting and unpredictable. "Nobody tells you how to live in the in between," she says. "Your brain loves to play tricks on you, but you have to push those voices aside and keep pushing forward."

(Photo by THEGINGERB3ARDMEN)



After a few years working service jobs while finding her footing as a performer, Francine eventually crossed paths with Baayork Lee, a renowned actress, singer and choreographer who became an invaluable mentor. Baayork founded the National Asian Artists Project (NAAP), a nonprofit organization focused on creating opportunities for Asian artists in New York City. Through NAAP, Francine began teaching theater at a public school in Chinatown. This blossomed into a partnership, opening doors to life-changing opportunities for Francine such as touring internationally with the notable musical, "A Chorus Line," and eventually performing at New York City Center, a prestigious nonprofit organization.

Working with Baayork and performing in New York are some of Francine's proudest moments—honoring the three-year-old girl who first discovered her love for the stage. Though her dreams had become reality, Francine still struggled with her self-doubt, begging the infamous question: Am I good enough? Building self-confidence, tending to her life outside of performing and practicing gratitude have helped her cope with those moments of insecurity throughout the years. She also emphasizes the importance of acknowledging your emotions rather than suppressing them. "I have to remind myself that these experiences—whether good or bad—are fleeting," she explains.

"Feel those feelings, celebrate the good and then move on to the next."

Another motivating factor in Francine's career is her parents, who serve as one of her greatest inspirations. "They built a life in the United States because they needed and wanted something better for themselves," she shares. "I want to honor them while doing what I love and show them that even though their kid went into an industry they were hesitant about, she's doing okay."

Francine's career in the arts has since shifted toward teaching and choreography rather than performing—a pivot that has brought her true fulfillment. In recent years, she has had the opportunity to work in the education department for The St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre, commonly known as The Muny. Through this role, Francine teaches choreography to kids and teens performing in the shows. "Seeing the arts through their eyes has been an amazing experience," she shares.

As part of a new generation of educators, Francine is committed to honoring her institutional knowledge while implementing practices rooted in compassion and equity. For many performers, the mental, physical and emotional toll can push them away from the industry they once dreamed of—something Francine is hopeful of

changing. "Burnout is not often talked about in the performing arts," she explains. "We need to make work-life balance a priority for performers."

Francine's new direction has emphasized that a fulfilling career in the performing arts industry doesn't always center on being in the spotlight. By embracing her passion for dance from a young age and leading with a heart full of purpose, Francine found her true calling. "Your life is not going to look like the person's next to you," she says. "Find your why and give yourself the opportunity to follow your own path—you never know where it's going to lead you."

Francine onstage during a performance of "Mary Poppins" at The Muny.
(Photo by Julie A. Merkle)



*Feel those feelings,
celebrate the good and
then move on to the next.*

embrace the UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

Iowa Gamma **SARAH ESBECK BLUMENSCHN**'s love for art stems from her childhood, influenced by her mother's creative spirit and the paintings that lined the walls of their home. For Sarah, art became a source of joy and an outlet to lean on during times of change. As she entered her collegiate years, art felt like the natural path to follow—but like many projects, sometimes finding the right direction requires starting with a blank canvas.

Sarah with her painting titled "Silver Vase, Pink Scarf," which won second place at an award show in 2021.



With the uncertainty of a stable career in the arts, Sarah set her brushes aside and pivoted to engineering. Yet, her innate love for art never faded, calling her back to the easel to fully embrace the artist she always wanted to be.

After many years as a successful engineer, Sarah's third pregnancy required her to take an extended medical leave, offering her the opportunity to slow down. This pause allowed for a moment of reflection, and soon her thoughts of becoming an artist rose to the surface once again. Sarah eventually retired and began exploring different art mediums in her free time where she discovered an affinity for pastels.

As Sarah began taking art classes, she experienced both a sense of freedom and fear—feeling drawn to pursue this path while questioning if it was the right one. “I always thought of myself as an artist who temporarily became an engineer,” she shares. “But I remember thinking: What if I can’t do this? What if I discover I haven’t been good at this all along?” Despite her moments of self-doubt, Sarah kept practicing and entered her first award show in 2004. She won second place, reaffirming she was moving in the right direction, even if it meant encountering a few obstacles along the way.

Although Sarah grew up with art and took various classes throughout the course of her life, she had no formal training. “As an engineer, I had a very simplistic view of art,” she says. “I had to learn some very basic techniques—this gave me a whole new appreciation for what it means to be an artist.” Reflecting on her journey thus far, Sarah holds deep gratitude for her years as an engineer, as it gave her important skills to cope with the vulnerable nature of art. “You’re putting yourself on a piece of paper, and that can be intimidating. Working in the engineering field gave me the grit and bravery needed to become an artist.”

For many, art is an expression of ourselves: a way to heal and process heavy emotions or an avenue to voice our greatest joys. After years of honing her craft with pastels, Sarah discovered her artistic niche—finding beauty in the mundane. Scenes such as picked-over pumpkins at the store and flowers resting in a glass vase have inspired some of Sarah’s favorite pieces; revealing the quiet grace and depth in these simple moments fuels her own creative spirit.

As Sarah grew in experience and gratitude and won various notable awards, she began wondering what her next step would be. She pondered the idea of teaching but

felt like she didn’t have something valuable to offer. However, Sarah realized she has a unique seed of wisdom, one she wishes she knew at the beginning of her creative journey—how to become an artist later in life. “I realized there are lots of people who come from different backgrounds, such as science or medical careers, who want to learn how to paint,” she says. “That’s where I came from, and I knew I could teach them how I did it.”

Guiding others through their own artistic journeys brings Sarah heartfelt fulfillment, especially as someone who rebuilt the path for herself. Through her workshops, Sarah shares the simple, yet profound advice that no matter your age, art is a story to honor oneself. “If it’s something you truly love, you have to give yourself the chance to not be perfect,” she reflects. “Learning to paint is like learning to play guitar, but instead of playing notes you’re playing color. Whatever your song is, stay true to it.”

Sarah's painting titled "Sunshine On My Rock Wall."



Working in the engineering field gave me the grit and bravery needed to become an artist.

follow the LIGHT WITHIN

As the founder of a successful interior design business, New Mexico Alpha **JULIA BUCKINGHAM VIKANDER** is renowned for her bold, eclectic style marked by vibrant colors and artistic expression. But for Julia, her work has always been about more than aesthetics—it's about connection. Her success is rooted in the cherished relationships she builds and the unique spaces she designs, each one thoughtfully made for someone to call home.

Julia in one of her designed homes. (Photo by Austin LaRue Baker)



Julia's passion for art and design stems from her love of fashion as a young girl, where an affinity for jewelry and style naturally led her to study fashion in college. Like many young adults, the path forward felt far from clear as Julia navigated her first year as a collegian. After joining the Arizona Alpha Chapter at the University of Arizona and later transferring to the University of New Mexico, Pi Beta Phi became Julia's anchor, providing a sense of stability and unknowingly laying the foundation for her future success. "Pi Phi taught me ideas of loyalty, friendship and decision making," Julia shares. "It enabled me to understand I could be a leader."

After a few years working in the fashion industry post-graduation and later focusing on her children, Julia eventually leaned into another passion of hers—antiques. What started as a small antique venture with her best friend turned into a thriving business curating antiques around the world. During this time, a customer visited one of her antique stores and asked if Julia could assist in decorating her home with her newly acquired antiques, and despite initial hesitation, this interaction is ultimately what led Julia to launch Julia Buckingham Interiors (JBI) in 2007.

Combining all her passions into one entity, JBI grew exponentially over the years, partnering with notable brands across the U.S., employing a talented team of designers and earning a reputation for its unique, award-winning interiors. Julia also recently branched into other design avenues, including working with a publisher to develop her book, "Modernique: Inspiring Interiors Mixing Vintage and Modern Style", as well as reconnecting with her roots and teaching a fashion class at Arizona State University in 2023.

Although Julia has discovered profound joy and purpose through JBI, she's also mindful of the challenges that come with being a designer and business owner. "To be successful, you have to work with people who have a different vision and create their most personal spaces," she says. "You are invested in a family's happiness, it's a huge responsibility." This is equally what fulfills Julia's love for interior design—the bond she forms with her clients that endures far beyond the finished project. "There is nothing more wonderful than the warmth you feel when you have completed a project for a family that has been respectful, kind and grateful."

Alongside the brilliant designs, projects and connections, Julia acknowledges the journey to her success was not always straightforward. She emphasizes the invaluable role of mentorship, believing that learning from those who have walked the path before you can be instrumental to success. "I booked my very first client from introducing myself to creatives in my community," she says. "There's something you're doing that sets you apart, so get out there, and be open."

One of Julia's dearest mentors is from her collegiate years—New Mexico Alpha **VICKI BROOKS BRANCH**, an Alumnae Advisory Committee member at the time who offered the love and support she sometimes lacked within her own family. "I didn't have the most attentive mother," Julia shares. "When I was president of my chapter, Vicki became a second mother to me. She helped me realize I didn't need to have the things I thought I did to be whole. She gave me the feeling that I could do anything, and I could do it on my own."

This relationship serves as a reminder that connection is—and always will be—a guiding light for Julia, one that instilled the confidence she needed to trust herself and lead with love. Now, Julia has become the person who inspires others to embrace their authenticity; to know your power shines brightest in your true colors, and even if you veer off the path, your light within will always lead you home.

*There's
something
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that sets you
apart, so get
out there,
and be open.*





Allison (first from left) at The All-American Alumni Band's 2019 inaugural concert in St. Louis.

empower unique **EXPRESSION**

After moving to a new town during her middle school years, Missouri Alpha **ALLISON FELTER** was faced with the challenge of finding new friends and a sense of belonging. To help her connect with her peers, Allison's mother, Oklahoma Beta **DEE ANN DICKENS FELTER**, signed her up for band class. Though Allison had never played an instrument before, she picked up a French horn and never set it down—an unexpected beginning to her esteemed career in the arts.

Allison quickly fell in love with playing French horn, and despite the family's limited means, her

mother managed to save \$3 every week to afford private lessons. This experience became a guiding light for Allison throughout her adolescence, deepening her love for music's power to foster connection and expression. As a high school senior, she was selected for the McDonald's All-American Band, a prestigious national marching and concert band that brought together top high school musicians from across the U.S. to work with renowned directors and perform in major parades. While Allison loved performing, it was the behind-the-scenes work which piqued her interest most.

"I was admiring the people who were responsible for bringing 100 teenagers together from all over the U.S.," Allison shares. "The McDonald's All-American Band experience helped me understand I could match my love for music with my interest in making music available to many people." Inspired by her experience, Allison pursued a bachelor's degree in music and a minor in business from the University of Missouri, kicking off her 30+ year career in arts administration.

During her collegiate years, Allison traveled from Columbia, Missouri, to St. Louis on the weekends to play for the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. Eventually, this landed her a full-time job post-graduation in the marketing department for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra which she held for nine years. Allison took the next step in her career by joining Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as the Director of

Education and Engagement, where she now impacts the lives of 80,000 individuals nationwide each year through the company's programs.

For Allison, this role is more than just a job; it's a calling. Sharing the gift of music and the profound joy it brings her comes straight from her heart.

"My job is to open as many doors and pathways as possible for people to experience the arts," she says. "Whether they're a musician, singer, audience member—four-years-old or 104—it still energizes me."

Recognizing the decline in school music programs and the shortage of music teachers, a driving force for Allison is ensuring the arts are accessible to children. Through Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Allison helped develop a program that gives children in schools the opportunity to work with a teaching artist to write and perform their own music. "This program not only supplies a need in the school but

also unlocks hidden gifts and abilities within the kids," she shares. "It's so fulfilling when I see a kid come alive when given the opportunity to interact with their peers in a different way. Music has such an important place in education."

In both childhood and adulthood, Allison has felt the same wholehearted passion for music that she witnesses in the young people she works with today. Although she does not play full-time, she still picks up her French horn as a freelance performer. She even had the opportunity to reconnect with her experience in the McDonald's All-American Band through forming an alumni group for former band members, which recently hosted its inaugural concert in St. Louis.

"We were all from different years," she says. "Some have made their career playing music, while others hadn't picked up their instrument in 30 years. It just goes back to the power of music and the deep, lifelong impact it can have on individuals."

Whether on the stage or behind the curtain, Allison's love for music is magnetic. As she looks toward the future of the arts, her hope is to continue spreading the connections music empowers us to make—in her eyes, music is what adds beauty to life. "As human beings, music is a fundamental way of communicating," she reflects. "It serves as a way for people to understand, appreciate and, dare I say, love one another."

High school students from Grand Center Arts Academy, located in St. Louis, performing the premiere of their original work "Little Red, the Musical," created in collaboration with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in December 2023.

*My job is
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and pathways
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for people to
experience
the arts.*



listen to your HEART'S CALL

From childhood to young adulthood, Colorado Alpha **JAYME HANNA MANSFIELD** adorned her bedroom walls with expressions of art and fondly recalls her sketchbook and journal always in hand. The essence of creativity and the desire to make art took deep root even from her earliest memories. Now, as an author, artist and educator, art is abundantly alive in Jayme's life, offering a boundless well of growth, joy and inspiration.

Jayme's multi-faceted career in the arts began when she opened a children's hand-painted furniture business—sweetly named Piggy Toes—while simultaneously teaching elementary school in Colorado. This charming business evolved into an instructional art studio for more than 20 years. While she considered Colorado home, Jayme and her husband's dream to live on a ranch recently became reality, prompting them to move to southern Wyoming and embrace a nature-centered lifestyle. A teacher at heart, Jayme continues to offer painting instruction through online courses and hosts art and writing retreats at her home.

Jayme finds the creative process is enriched when shared in community, and this serves as one of her greatest joys as a teacher. "Whether teaching children or adults, there is great fulfillment in helping others expand their knowledge, develop confidence and discover lifelong passions," she shares. "My sweet spot is the opportunity to encourage."



Though sharing the magic of art is an expression of Jayme's heart, she is still endlessly captivated by the beauty and wonder of a personal artistic journey. Often discovering profound reflection in her creative avenues, art has supported Jayme through various seasons of her life, planting new seeds of wisdom every day. "There are stretches in which a manuscript sits idle on the computer or a blank canvas stares at me from the easel, and that's when the deceptive voice of doubt sneaks in," she says. "But the creative mind—the subconscious muse that never rests—is constantly providing inspiration. There is much to be gained from taking time to dream and imagine."

Jayme's proudest, yet most challenging, creative pursuit has been one she embraced later in life—writing novels. Merging her love for art and writing, each book contains themes of the transformative power of art, some with stories drawn from her own experiences. Though, much like the ebbs and flows of life, crafting a novel is never without complexity. "Creating a solid story is a journey that can take years of imagining," Jayme says. This has empowered her to see the value in trusting the process, reinforcing that it is never

too late to take risks and grow in new ways. "Like the river outside my window, life moves swiftly—no invitation for stagnation or merely dipping a toe—jump in, take chances and live!"

In every chapter of her life, art has taken Jayme down an introspective path, one that continuously reminds her to find gratitude and compassion—especially for the young girl who once admired the

artwork on her walls. "If I could go back and talk with my younger self, we'd have quite a conversation," Jayme reflects. "It would not be a talk of correction or regrets; after all, those lost courses, meandering paths and dead ends eventually led to where I am now. No one is promised a perfect, well-lit path, so listen to the voice, however small, that whispers your passions and purpose and fills your heart with joy." ←

Jayme standing with one of her paintings on her ranch in Wyoming.



*There is much
to be gained
from taking
time to dream
and imagine.*



Fostering Leadership Along the Way

Our 2024-2025 Leadership Development Consultants (LDCs) are halfway through their year and already have so much to share. From visiting chapters across North America to mentoring our newest members, these dedicated Pi Phis are playing a key role in the success of our chapters. Continue reading for their personal reflections and discover how they are fostering leadership potential along the way.

OLIVIA CASTLE, OHIO EPSILON

**Resident Leadership Development Consultant (RLDC)
at Ohio Zeta**

The RLDC role has immensely enhanced my Personal and Intellectual Growth by improving my professional skills and expanding my critical thinking abilities. Engaging with unique perspectives has sharpened my analytical skills and boosted my confidence in communication and leadership. Each interaction enriches my experience and inspires me—making this journey truly rewarding!

ATLANTIS HOFSTETTER, FLORIDA ETA

Resident Leadership Development Consultant at Ohio Zeta

I realized the impact I was making when I saw how every event, tradition and Pi Phi memory we shared was laying the foundation for Ohio Zeta's future. Being part of the chapter's growth through continuous recruitment efforts has been an incredible experience. Coming from a newly established chapter myself, serving in this role is a full-circle moment.

TESS KLYGIS, MICHIGAN BETA

Traveling Leadership Development Consultant

From friendships to professional development and service opportunities, being a Pi Phi can add tremendous value to your collegiate career. Helping members develop their professional skills through my role is an extremely rewarding experience, especially when I help guide the chapter leaders through the recruitment process. Recruitment requires hard work and dedication, but seeing the effort pay off with the addition of incredible New Members is one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

HELEN LEMARR, TENNESSEE GAMMA

Traveling Leadership Development Consultant

As a collegian and Chapter President, I valued the visits from our LDCs who provided unwavering support and guidance. Their presence reassured me we were not only following best practices but also honing our skills to lead our chapter with confidence. Because of that, it is crucial to me to do the same for the chapters I visit. I try to bring in new perspectives and suggestions to help the chapters be the best they can be.



1. Florida Eta **ATLANTIS HOFSTETTER** (far left, front row) and Ohio Epsilon **OLIVIA CASTLE** (far right, front row) with Ohio Zeta's Fall 2024 New Member Class. 2. Connecticut Alpha members during primary recruitment. From left: Chapter President **JOCELYN ROSSIGNOL**, Vice President Recruitment **LILA PICKERIGN**, Maine Alpha **SABRINA MORRO** and Vice President Risk Management **RUBY NEUHAUS**. 3. California Epsilon members at their Lollipops for Literacy philanthropy event. From left: **CARLEIGH AHERN**, **LAUREN RAMIREZ**, **GRACE BANNING**, **CHLOE WEIL**, California Zeta **PARIS PAZ**, **LAUREN HUTHER**, **SOFIA CARMENATE** and **CHLOE MCALISTER**. 4. Arizona Gamma Chapter President **LYLE TUMARKIN** and Idaho Alpha **KYRA SCHARNHORST** on Arizona Gamma's Bid Day.

SABRINA MORRO, MAINE ALPHA

Traveling Leadership Development Consultant

The most important part of being an LDC for me is connecting with sisters across North America to build a supportive community within Pi Beta Phi. Empowering collegians from diverse backgrounds and environments creates a ripple effect that can positively influence the entire chapter. Being a leader, friend and sister is extremely rewarding in this role. By sharing resources and stories, we can inspire one another to address challenges in Pi Phi and in life. My goal is to foster leadership skills that not only uplift collegiate women but also create lasting impact beyond my own reach.

PARIS PAZ, CALIFORNIA ZETA

Traveling Leadership Development Consultant

Developing emerging leaders has been the most valuable aspect of being an LDC. I love meeting with the current leadership team in each chapter as well as future chapter leaders. Through my six recruitment visits so far, I've had the opportunity to gather the best ideas from those leaders and share them with

other chapters. It has been rewarding to see chapters take these small suggestions and turn them into meaningful, impactful changes for their members.

KYRA SCHARNHORST, IDAHO ALPHA

Traveling Leadership Development Consultant

My favorite part about being an LDC is making connections with so many Pi Phis! I find immense joy in being a source of support for all the collegians I meet and connecting with the alumnae who live close by or work with the chapters I support. My goal is to empower the members I partner with and give them the motivation to progress in their leadership roles. Encouraging and developing leaders, however I am able to, is something I try to do with every Pi Phi I cross paths with! ←



Above: Arizona Alpha New Members on Fall 2024 Bid Day.

ARIZONA

Arizona Alpha, University of Arizona

In Fall 2024, Arizona Alpha welcomed its largest New Member class yet, with 159 members. To kick off the year, Director New Member Experience **LANDREE MCCLURE** hosted a Pink Party for the New Members. Beyond the fun, the Pink Party laid the foundation for the next four years, as these New Members will lead the chapter, participate in events, contribute to philanthropy and shape the future of Arizona Alpha.



ARKANSAS

Arkansas Alpha, University of Arkansas

In Summer 2024, members of Arkansas Alpha participated in an enriching study abroad program in Italy through Consortium for International Management and Business Administration (CIMBA). They were immersed in local culture and visited various businesses, gaining valuable international experience. Along the way, Arkansas Alpha members connected with students from across the U.S., gaining a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that broadened their horizons and enhanced their academic pursuits.



CALIFORNIA

California Zeta, University of California, Santa Barbara

This past summer, **SOFIE OLSON** embarked on a two-month volunteer trip to Ghana, where she assisted with public health and education initiatives. Immersed in the local culture, Sofie learned indigenous languages and traditions while helping to run clinics for children—administering vaccines and monitoring health. She also engaged in public outreach on topics such as sex education and nutrition and shadowed doctors in the hospital. A highlight for Sophie was having the opportunity to teach in a rural community, where she created lesson plans on subjects such as photosynthesis and multiplication. “It was amazing to realize the impact we can have as college students,” Sophie reflects. “We learned and experienced a whole different culture while helping local groups, all on a volunteer, nonprofit basis. I couldn’t be more grateful.”

Upper, from left: Arkansas Alphas **CAMILLE MOORE, ASHLEY COOK, RILEY GARRISON, HAYDEN FOSTER** and **EMMA ADAMS** in Rome.

Lower: Sofie with students in the Ghanaian community.

ILLINOIS

Illinois Eta, Millikin University

In honor of Read > Lead > Achieve® Month, the Illinois Eta Chapter refreshed its Little Free Library®, a free book-sharing box where campus and community members can take or leave books. Due to wear and tear, the original paint had started to fade. Over three days, members came together to sand, paint and decorate the library, giving it a much-needed update. The enhanced design now invites passersby to admire its new look and take a free book to enjoy!

INDIANA

Indiana Alpha, Franklin College

The 500 Festival Princess Program is a key part of the Indianapolis 500 Race celebrations—in which 33 women are selected annually to represent the race and serve the Indiana community. Indiana Alphas **ELAINA CONNELL** and **MORGAN NELSON** were among the 33 women selected to serve as Princesses, showcasing the leadership and commitment to service the program upholds.

For Elaina, the role was especially meaningful—her mother had been a 500 Festival Princess, and her late grandfather was an IndyCar fan. She used her platform as a Princess to support causes close to her heart, including her high school's Unified Sports team and the Riley Children's Hospital.

Inspired by Elaina, Morgan applied for the program. As a Princess, she focused on STEM education, creating opportunities for underserved communities and encouraging young girls to explore science with confidence.

Indiana Gamma, Butler University

The Indiana Gamma Chapter hosted a Lemonade for Literacy event during the first week of September, raising money for the Friendship Fund and The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Sisters promoted the event on social media and with chalk messages around campus. The tables set up outside the chapter house drew in students, creating a fun atmosphere where Pi Phis and others could reconnect after summer break. The event was a success, setting a positive tone for the year ahead.

Upper, from left: Illinois Etas **AUBREY GERWEN** and **JOCELYN BETTARELLI** decorating the Little Free Library.

Middle: Elaina at the Indianapolis 500 Festival.

Lower, from left: Indiana Gammas **ABBY SULLIVAN**, **EMMA SIMMONS**, **IZZY KIPP** and **ABBY AYRE** in front of the Lemonade for Literacy banner.





Above: Kansas Alpha members during the car wash fundraising event. Back row, from left: **SOPHIE MCDERMOTT**, **CECILY JACOBSEN**, **AVA GARCIA**, **NATALIE FEDDEMA** and **RANDA COATE-BROCK**. Front row, from left: **ASPEN ARMSTRONG** and **LEAH BERNIER**.

KANSAS

Kansas Alpha, University of Kansas

Kansas Alpha kicked off Read > Lead > Achieve® Month with a record-breaking fundraising car wash for Pi Beta Phi Foundation. More than 200 members washed cars at the Pi Phi chapter house in Lawrence, Kansas, raising \$20,000—a chapter record. Classmates, roommates and the Lawrence, Kansas, Alumnae Club lined up for a VIP wash while members shared facts about Pi Phi's literacy efforts. The Community Relations team boosted fundraising efficiency, handled public relations and social media and coordinated with campus police to ensure a smooth event. All proceeds supported The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation.



Kansas Beta, Kansas State University

CHARLEE BARNETT has brought the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to Kansas State University (KSU). After struggling to find local support when her brother began experiencing psychosis, Charlee connected with NAMI and asked to bring the organization to KSU. NAMI provides support groups, a helpline, educational programs and guidance for families affected by severe mental illnesses. The organization also advocates for improved mental health policies through public awareness campaigns. Driven by her passion and the positive impact it has on her family, Charlee has partnered with another fraternity/sorority organization to introduce NAMI on campus.

Left: Charlee with her brother and mother.

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Beta, Louisiana State University

MARGUERITE SCHWARZ is a fitness instructor at Louisiana State University Recreation. After joining Pi Phi, her sisters encouraged her to get certified to teach classes, and she set out to create a fun, welcoming and judgment-free environment in the male-dominated campus gym. Her Pi Phi sisters regularly attend her classes to support her passion. "I look forward to every class knowing my sisters are there to cheer me on," Marguerite says. "I wouldn't be as strong an instructor without their support." As Louisiana Beta's Director of Policy and Prevention, Marguerite continues to uplift and encourage her sisters to look out for one another.

Right, from left: **TAYLOR RICHARDSON, ALEXIA JUNOT**, Marguerite, **RACHEL BOURGEOIS** and **MIA COCO** after a fitness class.



NEVADA

Nevada Alpha, University of Nevada, Reno

In Spring 2024, Nevada Alpha hosted a "Blooming with Pi Phi" sisterhood event that quickly became a chapter favorite. Members created beautiful bouquets with a variety of flowers, adding personal touches with ribbons and bows. The event was filled with joy, offering a fun and creative way for sisters to strengthen their connections.

Below, from left: Nevada Alphas **KENNEDY TAYLOR, MACKENZIE WHERRY, ALINA ZOHD, LAUREYN MACASIEB, NATALIE PALMER** and **ABIGAIL CALLAHAN** with handmade bouquets at their sisterhood event.





ONTARIO

Ontario Beta, University of Western Ontario

In Fall 2024, Ontario Beta had its most successful recruitment season to date. The chapter prepared through a series of themed spirit days focused on learning recruitment techniques and creating engaging social media content. Their efforts during spirit week paid off, as they proudly welcomed 66 New Members—their largest New Member class to date, and the biggest for any Canadian chapter! They are thrilled to welcome so many eager collegians who share Pi Beta Phi's core values and look forward to seeing all they will achieve.

TEXAS

Texas Zeta, Baylor University

Texas Zeta recently hosted its 68th All-University Howdy—Baylor University's official fall event. The event featured food and street vendors, a book drive, activities, merchandise sales and a concert headlined by RaeLynn, a country singer-songwriter. More than 25 vendors participated, donating at least 10% of their profits to The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation. The event drew 20,000 attendees from across the country, with hopes of surpassing last year's \$60,000 raised. Texas Zeta is proud to contribute to Pi Phi's lasting legacy at Baylor University, impacting the Waco, Texas, community and beyond.

VERMONT

Vermont Beta, University of Vermont

Vermont Beta recently launched "Book Buddies," a program where members volunteer weekly to read and spend time with children at the King Street Center, an after-school organization in Burlington, Vermont. As part of the program, Pi Phis read, help with homework, play games and offer additional support. "Book Buddies is a great opportunity to build lasting relationships with kids in the area," says Director of Service and Philanthropy **STELLA SCHLUMBOM**. This program allows the chapter to make a positive impact on the community while supporting Pi Phi's philanthropic focus on literacy.

WASHINGTON

Washington Alpha, University of Washington

In Summer 2024, **KARA FARHAT** interned at Beirut Eye & ENT Specialist Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, working alongside renowned surgeons. She assisted with clinical tasks including eye screenings, recording medical data and sterilizing equipment. On non-clinic days, Kara supported doctors in the operating room, assisting with eye surgeries. This three-month experience sparked her passion for surgery, and she plans to pursue a plastic surgery residency after college. Kara exemplifies Pi Phi's core value of Personal and Intellectual Growth while expanding her skills and making a difference in a unique field. ◀—



Upper, from left: Ontario Betas **ELLE VENTRESCA**, **MARY MITTMAN** and **ABBEY HOLLINGSWORTH** at Preference Round during primary recruitment.

Lower: Kara stands with her mentor doctor in Lebanon.

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Upper: Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Alumnae Club members gathered at Alabama Beta for the 75th anniversary celebration.



ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Alumnae Club

Members of the Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Alumnae Club, Alabama Beta collegians and Pi Phi friends gathered at the Alabama Beta Chapter house for the chapter's 75th anniversary celebration. This milestone is a testament to the enduring power of Pi Phi sisterhood and the incredible women of Alabama Beta. Cheers to 75 more years of friendship, love and loyalty!



ARIZONA

Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club

During Read > Lead > Achieve® Month in 2024, members of the Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club and Arizona Beta Chapter reassembled the media center at Brunson Lee Elementary, enabling students to check out books for the first time in four years. The club also volunteered to reshelve books for the remainder of the school year to lend an extra helping hand.

CALIFORNIA

South Coast, California, Alumnae Club

Members from the South Coast, California, Alumnae Club raised funds for Pi Beta Phi Foundation's scholarships and literacy efforts during a garage sale in Costa Mesa, California. They gathered together to collect items, making the day both fun and meaningful by recycling treasures and bonding over shared Pi Phi memories.

Upper, from left: Members from the Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club, Kentucky Alpha **TAYLOR SCHAFER LINCOLN**, Kansas Alpha **MARTHA WILLIAMS NEILSEN**, Susan Maleki, New Mexico Beta **HEATHER WILSON MILLER** and Texas Gamma **LAURA UNDERWOOD MUSCHAMP** sorting books.

Lower: South Coast, California, Alumnae Club members gathering for their garage sale.

Pasadena, California, Alumnae Club

The Pasadena, California, Alumnae Club celebrated its centennial anniversary with an enthusiastic gathering of Pi Phis representing 26 collegiate chapters. Members enjoyed a festive luncheon which included remarks from Alumnae Club President **BARBIE BLAKE**, California Gamma, and Grand Vice President Alumnae **ANA MANCEBO MILLER**, who gave special recognition to Golden Arrow members and the club's newest Diamond Arrow Member **PATRICIA ROSE KORBEL**, North Carolina Beta. California Alpha **JANE IRWIN LAUDEMAN** entertained guests with a historical presentation about Pasadena in the 1920s and the Pasadena club's activities and notable members over the last 100 years.

COLORADO

San Juan, Colorado, Alumnae Club

Last July, 16 women from 11 universities and five organizations gathered for a Panhellenic event in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Eight Pi Phis from the San Juan, Colorado, Alumnae Club attended—the largest sorority group in attendance.

FLORIDA

Florida Beta and Washington Gamma Alumnae

Washington Gamma Pi Phis met Florida Beta Pi Phis on a river cruise in Bordeaux, France, in April. The two generations of sisters exchanged stories and songs all while touring the French countryside.

Upper: Pasadena, California, Alumnae Club Centennial Committee members holding the Pi Beta Phi banner at the club's centennial celebration.

Middle, back row, from left: Oregon Beta **CAROLE MUNROE HOWARD**, Texas Gamma **PAULA BARRETT TENNANT**, Illinois Alpha **MELISSA MELVIN MCDONALD** and Mississippi Betas **MADELINE COOK** and **KARA RAWLS COOK**. Front row, from left: Colorado Epsilon **KELLY KAY MAESTAS**, Kansas Beta **PATTY DAVISSON BROWN** and Illinois Zeta **ANN MARIE VOGEL BUBB**.

Lower, from left: Florida Betas **WHITNEY WILHELM LANGHOLT**, **AMY KENYON JONES**, **YVETTE RODRIGUEZ CALOBRISI** and **J.C. LOADER-WOHL**, Washington Gamma **OLGA MANOS**, Florida Betas **KRISTI STEPHENSON UNDERWOOD**, **JEANNIE CAMPBELL HUDSON** and **DANA LENDEN MCWHIRTER**, Washington Gamma **NANCY MONTGOMERY GOLDBERG** and Tammy Gordon.





ILLINOIS

Illinois Zeta Alumnae

Thirteen members from the Illinois Zeta 1994 member class gathered in Champaign, Illinois, for their 30-year reunion. Members traveled from all over the country to enjoy a football game and a tour of the Illinois Zeta Chapter house. They talked with the new initiates, shared stories and reminisced with one another about their time as collegians.

INDIANA

Indiana Epsilon Alumnae

Four Indiana Epsilon sisters recently went on a service trip to Uganda. They visited Acres of Hope, a school and orphanage in Nebbi that **MICHELLE MACE CAMPBELL** has been involved with since 2011.



KANSAS

Kansas Beta Alumnae

Six Kansas Beta sisters from the 1963 member class who live across the country gather yearly to celebrate friendship, share life stories and pictures and talk non-stop day and night. This year they celebrated their 80th birthdays together in Winter Park, Colorado.

Upper: Illinois Zeta 1994 member class celebrating their 30-year reunion at the Illinois Zeta Chapter house.

Middle, from left: Michelle and Indiana Epsilons **JANET TUCKER WOODS**, **SIBLEY SMITH FRYE** and **NANCY REHM MCCLOSKEY** in front of a waterfall at Murchison Falls National Park.



Lower, from left: Kansas Betas **JODY SWAFFAR YOUNKIN**, **CYNTHIA LAMMERS BOONE**, **BEVERLY ABMEYER WOOD**, **JANE WADDLE KENNEDY**, **LESLIE BLAKE GEORGE** and **PATTI MCANINCH EDISON**.

Greater Kansas City, Kansas, Alumnae Club

The Kansas Beta 1974 member class gathered in Kansas City to attend the Greater Kansas City, Kansas, Alumnae Club's Founders' Day on June 6. At the event, **KAREN EVANS COHEN** received her Golden Arrow badge from the 1974 Chapter President **JANCY CAMPBELL PETTIT** with **DENISE SALMON BROWNLEE** and **BARBARA ROE LUHRS** at her side.

MASSACHUSETTS

Bostonian, Massachusetts, Alumnae Club

Members of the Bostonian, Massachusetts, Alumnae Club participated in the Massachusetts General Hospital's Cancer Center 5K Run/Walk to support both a sister and a great cause. Pennsylvania Beta **KRISTA MCCABE KNIGHT** serves as the Associate Vice President of Development for Massachusetts General Hospital overseeing fundraising events for supportive care and cancer research. The 5K followed a beautiful course along the Charles River in Boston's Back Bay and the club plans to make this an annual event.

MISSOURI

St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club

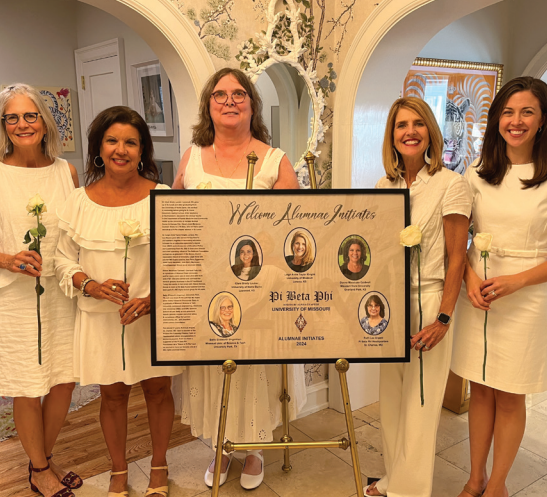
The 2024 Evelyn Peters Kyle Award Winner and past St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club President **MARGARET "PEG" STEFFEN SANT'AMBROGIO**, Indiana Epsilon, was joined by Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT** in St. Louis to celebrate this prestigious award with St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club members.

Upper: Members of Kansas Beta's 1974 member class at the Greater Kansas City, Kansas, Alumnae Club's Founders' Day event.

Middle, from left: Members of the Bostonian, Massachusetts, Alumnae Club, New York Delta **JUDY ASHBY**, Connecticut Alpha **VICTORIA MASUCCI**, Georgia Beta **MARION KEMELMAN**, Mississippi Beta **KATHLEEN WALSH**, Virginia Iota **REBECCA DURANT** and Michigan Gamma **LYNN SEEBER WENTZEL**.

Lower, from left: St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club Chair **ANN FLACHMANN BABINGTON**, Illinois Epsilon, Peg, Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT**, Alumnae Club President **LEE ZIEGLER SNYDER**, Illinois Zeta and Alumnae Club Vice President Endowment **TRACEY SHAVER HOLTZMAN**, North Carolina Beta.





Missouri Alpha

This past October, Missouri Alphas celebrated the chapter's 125th anniversary with a Ring Ching Reunion and a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated and expanded chapter house. More than 300 Pi Phis and friends joined for weekend events including house tours, a luncheon and chapter house dedication with Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT**. After 16 months of construction, collegians moved back into the facility which now boasts more than 26,400 square feet for 81 live-in members, including a new chapter room, multiple study and conference rooms and a new commercial kitchen. The weekend concluded with Missouri Alpha's Initiation ceremony for 101 New Members and alumnae initiates.

OREGON

Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe, Oregon, Alumnae Club

In celebration of Read > Lead > Achieve® Month, the Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe, Oregon, Alumnae Club collected 100 new and gently used books for BOOKtique, a nonprofit bookstore supporting literacy programs in Lake Oswego, Oregon.



NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club

Members of the Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club met at Niner Elementary School in September for their Read > Lead > Achieve event to make pencil pouches for students and gift boxes for staff. Each student received a new pencil pouch filled with crayons or colored pencils, dry erase markers, glue sticks, pencils and erasers. Teachers also received wipes, tissues, notebooks and dry erase markers.



TENNESSEE

Tennessee Gamma Alumnae

Tennessee Gammas **CARLA PARÉ** and **MARY OVEREND** reunited in August at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where Carla is the new director of advancement. Mary was enrolled in a weeklong ceramic workshop and the two reminisced about visiting Arrowmont as collegians to clean and organize the gallery studio.

Upper: Five alumnae initiates were initiated with the Missouri Alpha Fall 2024 New Members. From left: **BETTY ELLSWORTH UNGERMAN**, **DONNA MACALUSO CALDWELL**, **RUTH LEE ARGENT**, **LEIGH ANNE TAYLOR KNIGHT** and **CLARE BRADY LAUDER**.

Upper middle: Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe, Oregon, Alumnae Club Vice President Finance **DEBBI AMATO MONAHAN**, Oregon Alpha, with a car full of books to deliver.

Lower middle: Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club members. From left: Michigan Beta **JANET WICKHAM GREGORY**, Alabama Alpha **MICHELLE WILDER DODDS**, South Carolina Alphas **JESSICA SILK** and **SUE HUNGATE**, South Dakota Alpha **ALISON PILGRIM**, Virginia Gamma **PAT SANDERLIN BURTON**, Kansas Alpha **ANNE WEIMER HANNAH** and South Carolina Alpha **RYLEE FOSTER**.

Lower, from left: Carla and Mary in front of Arrowmont School.





TEXAS

Texas Gamma Alumnae

Over the summer, 12 Texas Gammas reunited in Plano, Texas, traveling from as far as Louisiana and California. The members, who bonded with wine and silver blue flowers, have been celebrating their yearly reunions since 2004.



Southlake Area, Texas, Alumnae Club

New alumna initiate **TRACEY HAGENY**, was initiated in Spring 2024 at Texas Epsilon. Tracey is a veterinarian and when one of her new Texas Epsilon sisters, **MORGAN WALTHALL**, reached out to Tracey about shadowing at her clinic she was thrilled to have Morgan come join her. Tracey's beloved black lab, Luttie, also joined as supervisor on duty.

WASHINGTON

Washington Alpha Alumnae

With a Pi Beta Phi flag flying high atop the mast, Washington Alpha members of the 1963 graduating class gathered together for a reunion aboard the Blue Peter yacht. As they sailed the Puget Sound waters around Seattle, the air was filled with shared memories, laughter and singing. Friendships maintained for 65 years are cherished by these Pi Phi sisters.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Nation's Capital - District of Columbia, Alumnae Club

The Nations Capital - District of Columbia, Alumnae Club had a great start to the new club year with a Cookie Shine and a "My Favorite Things" exchange. Members had fun reminiscing and sharing each of their chapter's individual Cookie Shine traditions. It was a wonderful afternoon catching up with old and new friends. ←



Upper: Members of Texas Gamma 1958 member class at their yearly reunion in Plano, Texas.

Upper middle, from left: Luttie, Tracey and Morgan at the Veterinary Clinic.

Lower middle, back row, from left: Washington Alphas **JOHANNAH EGAN WILTSE JR., MARYHELEN FISHBURNE JOHNSON, LINDA WILLIAMS MEYERS, BARBARA CLANTON ACKERMAN, SANDRA LAW RAMSTAD** and **LINDA KNUTZEN BARBO**. Front row, from left: Washington Alphas **PAT WERBERGER MENTI, JULIE SANDSTROM MURRAY** and **MARY RADEMAKER MEIER**.



Lower: Nation's Capital - District of Columbia, Alumnae Club members came together to kick off the new club year.

► REMEMBER

Arizona Beta **SANDRA BLAIN**, Professor Emeritus - Ceramics, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Director Emeritus - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in 1975 throwing a pedestal for one of her large hand-built construction forms.
(Photo by Tennessee Arts Commission)



Crafting a Legacy at Arrowmont

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

Surrounded by the Great Smoky Mountains, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts provides educational arts programming in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and will forever hold a place in the heart and history of Pi Beta Phi. On the site of the historic Pi Beta Phi Settlement School, Arrowmont is a testament to the strength and creativity of the women of our sisterhood who forged a unique path for not only themselves, but the Gatlinburg community, artisans, students and instructors.

Throughout the 1910s, a steady stream of Pi Phis journeyed to Gatlinburg to teach at the Settlement School, discovering along the way how handicrafts could help the local community turn their talents into income. Woven goods, pottery and other artisan items were made by residents of the Appalachian region and sold through Pi Phi chapters and alumnae clubs across the country, as well as in a small shop in Gatlinburg known as Arrowcraft Shop. The sale of these handmade items opened economic opportunities previously unimagined by the residents, especially the women who created them. In a rare practice for the time, the women who made the crafts were paid directly—giving them control over their schedule, work and income.

In the May 1945 issue of *The Arrow*, North Dakota Alpha **MILDRED ODELL SALE** writes Pi Phi had “a vision—a picture of a nationally known Handicraft Center to which Pi Phis and other lovers of beauty would flock to study under leaders in the handicrafts, to enjoy the loveliness of the Smoky Mountains and to learn firsthand of Pi Beta Phi’s contribution to Gatlinburg and to the handicrafts of the Southern Highlands.”



Grand President **LISA GAMES SCOTT** (driver's seat, right) and past Grand President **PAULA PACE SHEPHERD** (back row, third from left), Texas Epsilon, with Pi Phi sisters in an Arrowmont Truck at a summer Traveling Graduate Consultant—now known as Leadership Development Consultant—training in the 1980s.

It was that vision that inspired the first Pi Beta Phi Arts and Crafts Workshops, which were established in 1945. Held in conjunction with the University of Tennessee (UT), the summer program gave students the option to earn college credit in handicrafts and community recreation and included the official dedication of the Settlement School Center for Arts and Crafts.

After more than two decades of successful summer craft workshops, Pi Beta Phi celebrated its centennial anniversary with a massive philanthropic project—developing those workshops into a premier destination for artisans, instructors and students of the arts and crafts. At what was originally called Arrow in the Smokies—and quickly became The Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts—a full curriculum of classes in conjunction with UT was offered to the public. Later, the school added a studio complex that was aptly named for past Grand President and founding member of Indiana Alpha and D.C. Alpha **EMMA HARPER TURNER** who originally brought the idea of a Settlement School to the 1910 Swarthmore Convention.

In 2011, after Pi Beta Phi and Arrowmont worked together to implement a mutually beneficial transition, Arrowmont became a fully independent organization. This propelled Arrowmont to flourish into an independent, internationally recognized arts education center that fosters creative collaborations and learning opportunities with lasting impacts on the greater arts and crafts community. The success, rich history and enduring spirit of Arrowmont was the dream of the innovative Pi Phis who helped lay its foundation and a point of pride for our Fraternity still today. ←



Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts provides educational arts programming in the heart of Gatlinburg—hosting over 200 creative experiences each year, including supporting youth with creative year-round programming. The school's workshops are world-renowned for allowing experienced and burgeoning artists to deepen their passions, develop new skills and experiment. The unique mountain setting offers an escape from modern society, encouraging creativity to thrive amongst the students, teachers and visitors. In addition to its workshops, Arrowmont has five galleries that exhibit works from artists in residence, instructors and accomplished artists. Arrowmont is guided by its belief in enriching lives through the medium of arts and crafts.

Arrowmont holds a special place in the heart and history of Pi Beta Phi. Tennessee Gammas **BARBARA BLANKS BULLARD** and **SUSI MACDONALD GLENN**, Oregon Alpha **DEBORAH COBURN RICE**, Tennessee Beta **LOLA HARRISON LLEWELLYN** and Virginia Zeta **SIMONE ACHA** serve on the Arrowmont Board of Directors today, following a long line of Pi Phis who have done the same. Additionally, many Pi Phis still visit the school to attend workshops and fundraise for the organization. Notably, the Nashville, Tennessee, Alumnae Club donates a portion of the proceeds from its Christmas Village to Arrowmont each year.

To learn more about Arrowmont and its connection to the history of Pi Beta Phi, visit pibetaphi.org/arrowmont or scan the QR code.



In Memoriam

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

The list below reflects members who have passed away after June 1, 2023, and for which a public obituary was sent to Pi Beta Phi Headquarters between June 1 and September 30, 2024. 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 ALPHA

Susie Harris Elliott, 1943
Betty Hightower Pewitt, 1951

ALABAMA BETA

Joan Jennings Norton, 1952

ALABAMA GAMMA

Ellen Dowman Atkins, 1965
Ruth Preister Spencer, 1958

ALBERTA ALPHA

Alexandra Prycz Fraser, 1949

ARIZONA ALPHA

Heidi Ruston Hager, 1961,
affiliated Iowa Zeta
Linda Slay Skov, 1961

ARKANSAS ALPHA

Kay Douglass Clancy, 1955
Sarah Shipp Humphries, 1955
Beverly Moore Shelton, 1963

CALIFORNIA ALPHA

Betty Terry Lawrence, 1943

CALIFORNIA BETA

Jane Mannex Sagehorn, 1948
Sally Allen Smiley, 1949

CALIFORNIA DELTA

Lenore West Chillingworth, 1946

CALIFORNIA EPSILON

Jean Kimbell Dicken, 1951
Marian Lofgren Lofgren, 1949
Marian Knight Turner, 1951

CALIFORNIA GAMMA

Karen Waier Brooks, 1974

CALIFORNIA ZETA

Laurie Bushey Robinson, 1981

COLORADO ALPHA

Mary Ann Kester Borchers, 1949
Suzanne Schwab Torok, 1950

COLORADO BETA

Kathleen Koeteeuw Truby, 1946
Phyllis Nylund Turner, 1947

COLORADO GAMMA

Mary Ann Husbands Seymour, 1963

CONNECTICUT ALPHA

Aretta Burr Muir, 1953

FLORIDA BETA

Beth LeGate Pickels, 1961
Karen Shanor Saltz, 1958
Betty Munroe Skelton, 1952

FLORIDA GAMMA

Jolie Wheeler Riggs, 1948

GEORGIA ALPHA

Claire Whelchel Jameson, 1945
Ann Seward Mullen, 1964
Anne Smith Sovey, 1951

IDAHO ALPHA

Jean Charbulak Durkee-Emtman, 1955
Katherine Burleigh Frazier, 1948
Rowena Hasbrouck Roberge, 1955
Marsha Buroker Sayre, 1959

ILLINOIS ALPHA

Joan Marberg Beck, 1955
Karen Sundberg Finn, 1957

ILLINOIS EPSILON

Mary Thompson Embree, 1947

ILLINOIS ETA

Lyn Ryerson Stengel, 1952

ILLINOIS IOTA

Pamela Starkey, 1979

ILLINOIS THETA

Joyce Hauter Jennings, 1950
Judith Gray Morse, 1959
Sheila Graham Sherman, 1961
Barbara Rolfe Sterling, 1956
Michele Watterson Wittman, 1988

ILLINOIS ZETA

Joan Cowan Figatner, 1967
Ann Tobin Hart, 1959
Amy Burns Moore, 1994

INDIANA ALPHA

Mary Lou Beatty Henderson, 1949
Candace Poindexter Treibic, 1962

INDIANA BETA

Pauline Templeton Anshutz, 1947
Elizabeth Mauzy Beckman, 1953
Patty Chamblin Gaupp, 1963
Barbara Aikman Vogel, 1945

INDIANA DELTA

Florence Keighley Jones, 1960
Jane Heath Stuart, 1952

INDIANA EPSILON

Nancy Markham Ragatz, 1960

INDIANA GAMMA

Marilyn Mills Ault, 1954
Shirley Loucks Nason, 1945

INDIANA ZETA

Harriette Byland, 1966
Margaret McClung Edwards, 1952

IOWA BETA

Barbara Hubbard Prather, 1959

IOWA GAMMA

Mary Jean Stoddard Fowler, 1953

IOWA ZETA

Mary Donai Buesing, 1952
Rosalie Bowman Gallagher, 1964
Margery Anderson Merrill, 1960,
affiliated Indiana Epsilon
Victoria Brownlee Wittgraf, 1969

KANSAS ALPHA

Mary Eversull Blanchard, 1953
Linda Boone, 1964
Kay Rathbone Johnson, 1958
Carolyn Adams Phillippe, 1962
Kathryn Rohwer Sackheim, 1953

KANSAS BETA

Betty Hoffmeier Russell, 1952
Winkie Killian Wilson, 1957

KENTUCKY ALPHA

Jean Caldwell Hoffmaster, 1947
Anne Arrasmith Lewis, 1944

LOUISIANA ALPHA

Virginia Fairfax Bernard, 1949
Mary Foster Kock, 1949
Paige Garner Morse, 1980

LOUISIANA BETA

Wyn Drake Lundin, 1965

MARYLAND BETA

Allison Fry Huther, 1956
Jean Smith Turner, 1945
Suzanne O'Connor Welch, 1956

MICHIGAN ALPHA

Linda Gray Dunlap, 1961
Emerson Sigtryggsson, 2024

MICHIGAN BETA

Shari Odenheimer, 1982
Jane Vanvolkinburg Sexsmith, 1961

MICHIGAN GAMMA

Sharon Davis Stahl, 1964

MINNESOTA ALPHA

Barb Carlson Gilkey, 1980

MISSISSIPPI ALPHA

Mary Ann Wash DeSantis, 1972

MISSOURI ALPHA

Jean Parry Clayton, 1943

MISSOURI BETA

Mary Beth Paton Picker, 1958
Lois Spivey, 2020

MISSOURI GAMMA

Mary Quinn Fry, 1957
Jeanne Noonan Hunter, 1961
Jane Jones Peek, 1953
Lynda Blodget Settlemyer, 1964
Cay Coughenour Sikes, 1965

MONTANA ALPHA

Sara Forgy Hoffman, 1946

NEBRASKA BETA

Margaret Coen Hale, 1949
Kelly Donahue Robson, 1961
Abigail Young Zalodanis, 1989

NEVADA ALPHA

Brenda Barnes Nenzel, 1960

NEW MEXICO ALPHA

Dorothy Harroun, 1954
Karen Mulrain-Radziewicz, 1976

NEW YORK ALPHA

Susan Frey Holden, 1957
Ann Dale Ives, 1959
Sue Skinner Moeller, 1955

NEW YORK DELTA

Cindy Booth Ware, 1962

NORTH CAROLINA ALPHA

Joan Woltz Robins, 1976
Princess Stellings Williams, 1950

NORTH DAKOTA ALPHA

Margaret Anderson Thorson, 1947

OHIO ALPHA

Mary Schmidt, 1949

OHIO BETA

Patricia Rector Donnally, 1946
Kathleen Rosenow Fugazzi, 1955
Nancy Normecutt Miller, 1944
Susanne Rector Wilson, 1949

OHIO DELTA

Ruthe Rootes Battestin, 1952

OHIO ETA

Mary Riblet, 1977

OKLAHOMA ALPHA

Linda Vance Arrington, 1956
Sissy Phillips Austin, 1960
Deborah Goodman Burckett, 1971
Beverly Phillips Williams, 1949
Jacqueline Lillard Wolfe, 1952

OKLAHOMA BETA

Barbara Gabriel George, 1960
Doris Stanley Inbody, 1952
Shauna Schultheis Knowles, 1989
Cynthia Davenport Rambo, 1963
Rosemary Smith Wilson, 1949

OREGON ALPHA

Joan Randall Burkland, 1947
Marilyn DeBonny, 2015
Joy Reist, 1963
Karma Stephens Roberts, 1970
Kathy Hilson Wein, 1965
Ellen Mautz Williamson, 1963

OREGON BETA

Beth Webster Adams, 1961
Patricia Rose Waarvick, 1944

PENNSYLVANIA EPSILON

Miriam McAvoy Hiestand, 1959

PENNSYLVANIA GAMMA

Jettie Bergman Johnston, 1956
Mary Preston Koza, 1944

SOUTH DAKOTA ALPHA

Mary Knolle Jensen, 1959,
affiliated Nebraska Beta
Marjorie Wagner Rausch, 1945

TENNESSEE ALPHA

Sarah Denton Nendick, 1966

TENNESSEE BETA

Jane Combs Frazier, 1955
Caroline Chobot Garner, 1953
Jean Quarles Mary, 1948
Lynn Hill Owen, 1955
Linda Leckie Sinsar, 1971

TENNESSEE GAMMA

Rosemary Ellis Mayberry, 1950

TEXAS ALPHA

Christy Gaston Bass, 1978
Amy Conger Davenport, 1981
Joan McCroskey Friday, 1955

TEXAS BETA

Lee Torregrossa McCaffree, 1966
Ellen Coleman Terry, 1960
Kathleen Brooks Verschoyle, 1961

TEXAS DELTA

Martha Tevis, 1959

TEXAS GAMMA

Francine Young Gilbreath, 1953
Kathy Gilbreath, 2013
Charlotte Wilmarth Gleiser, 1953
Lori Knight Kennedy, 1989

TEXAS ZETA

Elayna Rogers, 2013
Donna Willett Wills, 1977

UTAH ALPHA

Marian Driggs Gresseth, 1955
Janet Blackhurst Romney, 1950
Elizabeth Blackett Streeper, 1961

VERMONT BETA

Rosemarie Eurich Borges, 1954
Mary Ellen Fuller Fitzgerald, 1948
Anne Knopf White, 1955

VIRGINIA ALPHA

Martha Funk Fulton, 1949

VIRGINIA DELTA

Judy Awtrey Bates, 1965

VIRGINIA GAMMA

Kathryn Halsey Armstrong, 1950
Nancy Long Bruni, 1973
Virginia Davis Faulconer, 1942
Joan Ray Hayes, 1956
Adelaide Jennings Smith, 1951

WASHINGTON ALPHA

Janice Ohlson Richards Smith, 1958

WASHINGTON BETA

Trudy Langmas Cargill, 1951
Barbara Allen Schneller, 1946

WASHINGTON GAMMA

Dolores Helf Colbo, 1955

WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

Dee Anne Robertson Bartoe, 1980
Mary Valentine Early, 1943

WEST VIRGINIA GAMMA

Connie Nusbaum Bradow, 1968

WISCONSIN ALPHA

Ruth Nolte Bloland, 1947

WISCONSIN BETA

Jean Zillmer Levenhagen, 1949
Barbara Gamble McEachron, 1949
Madelyn Larsen Miles, 1949

WISCONSIN GAMMA

Mary Wilder Perry, 1958

WYOMING ALPHA

Marilynn Hoffman Heth, 1958



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Please include your full name
and chapter of initiation.

SHOW YOUR PI PHI PRIDE ON BADGE DAY

Each year, thousands of Panhellenic members from all 26 National Panhellenic Conference organizations celebrate International Badge Day. On Monday, March 3, 2025, wear your arrow badge or Pi Phi letters to show everyone 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 **#BadgeDay25** on social media.

A member of Oklahoma Alpha showing off her badge for International Badge Day.



A. Snake Chain, #SNAKE18 | B. 24 Diamond Badge Holder, #2005D | C. Crown Pearl Badge with Diamond Point, #0203 | D. Chapter President's Ring, #20AQQ | E. Sapphire and Pearl Badge, #0304 | F. Crest Guard, #0910 | G. #42 Convention Dangle, #0042 | H. #21 ACC Dangle, #0021 | I. Forever Ring, #001G

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