

# The Arrow

OF PI BETA PHI • SPRING 2023

# ANGELS

*in disguise*

Chance Encounters Between Pi Phis

ALSO INSIDE | A Home to Rely On | Lifelong Commitment Means Paying It Forward



# The Arrow

OF PI BETA PHI • SPRING 2023

## FEATURES

### 6 A HOME TO RELY ON

From the beginning, Pi Beta Phi has provided a home away from home for members. Whether in a physical space or the feeling sisters get when they're together, our sisterhood is our home. For New Mexico Alpha **TAYLOR GORDON** and her sisters, a special place in their chapter facility provided the perfect space for building and fostering Sincere Friendships.

### 12 ANGELS IN DISGUISE

Even a brief moment of sisterhood has the capacity to leave a lasting mark. A chance encounter with another Pi Phi is a moment of serendipitous sisterhood, and may lead to a lifelong connection.

### ON THE COVER

As the beloved song says, a Pi Phi is an angel in disguise. When two angels have a chance encounter with a fellow sister, it's a moment of joyous serendipity. Such was the case for South Carolina Beta **KADY BEDARD** and Michigan Alpha **JENNA HAGEMAN** when they met during a summer internship in Washington, D.C.



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## FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR

FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE, New York Alpha



## THE ARROW® OF PI BETA PHI

Spring 2023 • Vol. 139 No. 2

### GRAND COUNCIL

Lisa Gamel Scott  
Melissa Malone Colvin  
Jamie Feist Daniels  
Amy Lorenzen Southerland  
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Greer Horne

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shawn Eagleburger

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Libby Gilkison Cannon  
Ashley Hollowell Karth  
Emily Kuryla  
TG Livak  
Abby McCord  
Maddie Mitchell  
Cassidy Nieves  
Brittany Robb  
Hallee Winnie

### PI BETA PHI FRATERNITY FOR WOMEN

1154 Town & Country Commons Drive  
Town & Country, Missouri 63017  
(636) 256-0680 | FAX (636) 256-8095  
[headquarters@pibetaphi.org](mailto:headquarters@pibetaphi.org)  
[pibetaphi.org](http://pibetaphi.org)

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### SUBMISSIONS

All Pi Phis are encouraged to submit news and stories to *The Arrow*. Articles may be submitted online at [pibetaphi.org/stories](http://pibetaphi.org/stories). Visit [pibetaphi.org/arrow](http://pibetaphi.org/arrow) for submission and photography guidelines.

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

### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

### ADDRESS/NAME CHANGES

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

### HOW TO RECEIVE THE ARROW

To receive three hard copies of *The Arrow*, pay your \$35 annual alumna dues to your local alumnae club or directly to Headquarters. Visit [pibetaphi.org/dues](http://pibetaphi.org/dues) or mail a check to Headquarters.



FRATERNITY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION

# You are a Pi Phi



**MELISSA MALONE COLVIN**  
Grand Vice President Collegians

Dear Pi Phis,

*I am a Pi Phi.* This is how I think about my membership in our organization, and it makes my heart happy when I hear similar sentiments from sisters I cross paths with throughout the Fraternity.

I hope you notice the use of present tense, because this is not how I always thought about my membership, and I know it isn't intuitive to everyone. We all hear about the value of Lifelong Commitment from the time we are introduced to Pi Beta Phi, but as a collegian, it was hard to imagine how Pi Phi could have a continual impact throughout every stage of my life.

The way this impact manifests can vary, as it has for me. Since graduating, I have relocated a dozen times, and most locations where I landed were nowhere near an alumnae club or any Pi Phis I knew. Even with physical distance, I have always been able to remain connected to the Fraternity and the friends I have made along the way. I can personally attest that Pi Phi can be part of your life in your own unique way regardless of your location or stage of life.

In thinking about the lifelong endurance of our sisterhood, I also think about the serendipitous moments that have contributed to my member experience. As we prepare to celebrate Friendship True at convention in July, I remember attending my first convention in 2009 and the encounter with a sister that has led to a longstanding friendship and tradition.

Through a random roommate pairing, I was fortunate to meet Illinois Eta **SUZANNE GILL KRIZ**. At the time, she and I were both Pi Phi volunteers but wouldn't have crossed paths if not for that pairing. Though we are separated geographically, and we do not see each other in person outside of Fraternity events, we have continued to be roommates at every opportunity, and it's one of my most cherished traditions with a sister—who is now a friend—which came from total happenstance.

Volunteering for Pi Phi has given me the greatest gift by allowing me the opportunity to meet so many dear Pi Phi sisters and forge connections with women I wouldn't have had the privilege to know if not for our shared sisterhood. The benefits of Pi Phi are truly at your fingertips if you're willing to leave the door open for possibilities.

In big ways and small, you can carry our sisterhood with you along your personal journey. Volunteering and giving back are fulfilling ways to do that, as are maintaining a group chat with chapter sisters, including Pi Phis on your holiday card list or proudly wearing your favorite arrow jewelry during your travels.

No matter how connection looks for you, one thing will always be true—you weren't a Pi Phi, you *are* a Pi Phi. And, my hope for you is that you have many serendipitous moments along the way that turn into lifelong friendships. ◀

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](mailto:thearrow@pibetaphi.org). Please include your full name and chapter of initiation.

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

**JANE ECKERT**, *Florida Alpha, initiated 1967*

"I've just had the opportunity to begin reading the latest issue of *The Arrow*. Thank you for such an in-depth look into the STEAM influence on our Pi Phi sisters. The articles were very enlightening into this area of education and professional opportunities. I was a Florida Alpha business graduate in 1970 and STEAM was not part of our jargon. These women are an inspiration for all of us. This Winter 2023 issue is one of your best publications. Congratulations to the editorial staff!"

**MARCI AZBILL HICKS**, *Kentucky Beta, initiated 1986*

"Pi Phis doing big things! A great example for young women."

*In response to the Ring Ching Chat with Grand Vice President Alumnae **GREER HORNE** and Missouri Alpha **DR. KRISTY WEBER**:*

**JACQUELINE JASEK GARDINER**, *Indiana Gamma, initiated 2001*

"Dr. Kristy is such an inspiration professionally, but also in living Pi Phi for Life! Thank you for sharing this!"

*In response to the alumnae Pi Phi Points of Interest newsletter and the announcement of the Meeting Ritual Research Committee:*

**JAN KINCAID CLIFFORD**, *Indiana Delta, initiated 1975*

"I think it's important to understand and accept that organizations fail to thrive or exist if they are not meeting the needs of the age. I applaud our Fraternity's leadership for the willingness to study an issue that has apparently bubbled up to the surface to be deemed important. Our organization has been in existence for over 150 years and is still guided by its founding values. I don't see that changing, but hopefully adapting so we continue to stay relevant. I want it to be known that I trust the process of this effort (and the effort's volunteers) to do the best work and make the best recommendations."

**BEVERLY CREGG SCHAFER**, *Oklahoma Beta, initiated 1965*

"Times do change, but some things need to remain the same! Your plan to have a small committee of women who will assess the change at the request of young women who find our Ritual "uncomfortable" is hugely unacceptable. I agree we must listen to our youngest members and take their ideas seriously, but this is a step in the wrong direction. The diversity of young women in Pi Phi is to be applauded and commended but a small group cannot rule the organization so very many of us have loved and supported."

**SUSAN SALCH**, *Texas Beta, initiated 1988*

"This is important work. I hope the goal of the committee is not to just set aside more than 100 years of Ritual. I understand the need to be inclusive, but I also respect the foundation of our organization."

Read more about the Meeting Ritual Research Committee on page 4.

*The opinions expressed in Letters to Pi Phi do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, nor does Pi Beta Phi endorse the opinions or viewpoints expressed within these letters. ◀*



## PI PHIS LEADING IN THE FRATERNITY/SORORITY COMMUNITY

More than 20 Pi Phi collegians and alumnae attended the Association of Fraternal Leadership & Values (AFLV) Central Conference February 2-5 in Indianapolis. Nearly 3,000 participants from 200 campuses gathered for programming and idea sharing while building connections across dozens of fraternal organizations.

Pi Phis from across North America at AFLV.

## THE POWER OF PI PHI

Every year, Pi Phi chapters and alumnae clubs demonstrate the strength of their commitment to Philanthropic Service to Others through their financial support of Pi Beta Phi Foundation. In 2022, our chapters and alumnae clubs collectively raised \$620,041.03 for Pi Beta Phi Foundation. We extend our deepest thanks to every chapter and club and a special congratulations to the top 10 chapters and alumnae clubs for Foundation giving listed below.

### TOP 10 CHAPTERS

*Presented in alphabetical order*

California Kappa  
California Theta  
Connecticut Gamma  
Florida Eta  
Georgia Alpha  
Illinois Eta  
Louisiana Beta  
Missouri Gamma  
Texas Eta  
Virginia Eta

### TOP 10 ALUMNAE CLUBS

*Presented in alphabetical order; \*Alumnae Club not currently active*

Colorado Springs, Colorado, Alumnae Club  
Dallas, Texas, Alumnae Club  
Fort Worth, Texas, Alumnae Club  
Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club  
Hidalgo County, Texas, Alumnae Club\*  
Nashville, Tennessee, Alumnae Club  
Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club  
Richardson-Plano, Texas, Alumnae Club  
South Bay, California, Alumnae Club  
Stillwater, Oklahoma, Alumnae Club



Members of the Colorado Springs, Colorado, Alumnae Club.



California Eta Pi Phis at Fraternity Day of Service Long Beach.

## 30,000 NEW BOOKS FOR LONG BEACH AND SEATTLE

Every year in early March, Pi Phis recognize Fraternity Day of Service by participating in literacy-related service in their communities. As part of our commitment to inspiring a lifelong love of reading, Pi Phi hosted Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events in Long Beach, California and Seattle to distribute 30,000 books and school supplies to more than 100 local schools and organizations. Gifts to The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation are critical to the success of Pi Phi's literacy initiatives—providing full financial support for all Read > Lead > Achieve® programs, including Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events.

## MEETING RITUAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Earlier this year, Grand Council appointed 12 committee members to serve on the Meeting Ritual Research Committee (MRRC) from a pool of nearly 300 members who expressed their interest. The MRRC will explore the history of Meeting Ritual and New Member Meeting Ritual through the context of our membership—gaining insights and hearing perspectives from Pi Phis across our sisterhood. In January, the committee began their work—establishing a meeting cadence, breaking into subcommittees and establishing a schedule for their work. In March, the committee hosted a webinar to provide an overview of their work thus far and announced surveys and focus groups will take place throughout May, June and July. Learn more and meet the members of the committee at [pibetaphi.org/mrrc](http://pibetaphi.org/mrrc). You may also email [ritual@pibetaphi.org](mailto:ritual@pibetaphi.org) with additional questions.

## VOLUNTEER WITH PI PHI

From our earliest days, Pi Beta Phi has thrived thanks to the dedication and leadership of volunteers who guide our organization at the local, regional and international levels. More than 2,700 dedicated volunteers serve and strengthen Pi Beta Phi every day. Their leadership gives members the opportunity to practice and grow their skills, while contributing to our collective success.

Region Two Community Relations Specialist **JULIA FURTAW**, Michigan Gamma, shares, “As a Pi Phi volunteer, I’ve become a more intuitive and empathetic leader. Seeing these amazing young women and the challenges they face—which are different from the challenges I faced as a collegian—has helped me better understand the collegiate experience today. It’s critical that we have more engaged women leaders in organizations. I really appreciate what Pi Phi is doing in developing women leaders and I want to be a part of it.”

Join this network and support members across our sisterhood at [pibetaphi.org/volunteer](http://pibetaphi.org/volunteer). ←

# Don't miss your chance to celebrate 156 years of Pi Phi sisterhood!

Since the first Grand Alpha Convention convened in 1867 at the home of Fannie Thomson, Pi Beta Phi has met regularly to conduct the business of the Fraternity. New friendships are sparked and old ones are rekindled at a Pi Phi Convention. This year's convention programs and activities emphasize "Friendship True" with special focus on authentic leadership, honored tradition, steadfast growth and genuine Pi Phi Pride.

## YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO REGISTER FOR PI BETA PHI'S 74TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION!

More than 1,000 Pi Phis will attend convention and enjoy opportunities to celebrate our sisterhood while engaging with the important business of the Fraternity. Read more about a few of the highlights happening at Convention 2023.

### Friday, July 7

#### OPENING DINNER AND KEYNOTE

There's nothing quite like a Pi Beta Phi Convention!

Join your Pi Phi sisters as we celebrate Friendship True and the ties that bind our sisterhood. During this meal, we will recognize Pi Beta Phi International Officers, the 2022 Alumnae Excellence Award winners and hear from Michelle Poler, a passionate fear-facer, author and entrepreneur.

Michelle will kick off our 74<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention with a keynote that will change your perception of fear and inspire you to take action.



July 7-10, 2023  
Phoenix, Arizona

### Saturday, July 8

#### OPENING GENERAL SESSION

The business of Convention 2023 will begin in earnest with the Opening General Session, including the State of the Fraternity, legislation and presentations of charters to chapters and alumnae clubs established since we last gathered in 2019.

#### FRIENDS AND LEADERS FOR LIFE LUNCHEON

Pi Beta Phi members are Friends and Leaders for Life. This luncheon will spotlight some of our sisterhood's greatest friends and leaders, including our Foundation's Distinguished Partner and an introduction to the 2023 Members of Distinction—a prestigious award honoring Pi Phis who have achieved great success in their profession or community.

#### DINNER BY CHAPTER

A convention favorite! Members are invited to gather by chapter to share stories, meet new sisters and celebrate the special bond we share with Pi Phis from our chapters. The evening will also include the beloved Banner Parade, more award presentations and recognition of the Balfour Cup honorees.

## Sunday, July 9

### INITIATION

At every convention, Pi Beta Phi welcomes alumnae initiates into our sisterhood. Initiated members are invited to participate in the Initiation of our newest alumnae members.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

As we gather again in sisterhood, we will also take the opportunity to remember and recognize those sisters who are no longer with us. Carnations will represent those sisters who have passed since 2019 as we remember the Friendships True which are now in the eternal bonds of sisterhood.

### RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

After a morning of cherished Pi Phi traditions, the spirit of appreciation will continue with recognition of past award winners, new award presentations and a celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cookie Shine.

### CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

The business portion of convention will close with a message from Ohio Alpha **REGAN WALSH** and the announcement of the 2023-2025 elected Fraternity officers.

### WINE CARNATION BANQUET

This dinner will include the installation of the 2023-2025 Grand Council and directors, additional award presentations and the announcement of the 2025 Convention location!

## Monday, July 10

### LEADERSHIP AND LITERACY EXPERIENCE

This full-day experience will focus on developing the future impact of our sisterhood through individual leadership and literacy service. We'll kick things off Monday with an immersive leadership experience facilitated by Erin Fischer where attendees will be inspired to identify their passions and outline small steps toward their goals, both personal and professional. Attendees will be encouraged to determine their strengths, develop their confidence and dream big about the future all while building connections with support from sisters. We'll end the day by highlighting the past 110 years of Pi Phi's literacy commitment. Members are invited to help cast a vision and share ideas for the next 100 years of literacy service. ◀

## Registration

There are many registration options to make attending convention affordable. Can't join for the full event? That's okay—come for a day or even just a meal! Registration is open through June 1. Visit [pibetaphi.org/convention](https://pibetaphi.org/convention) to view the available options and register.

## Slate of Officers

The Slate of Officers for the 2023-2025 biennium can be viewed at [pibetaphi.org/slate](https://pibetaphi.org/slate).

## Share Your Sisterhood Story

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

Sisterhood Stories are shared throughout convention and on social media to showcase the power of our sisterhood. Submit your favorite Pi Phi memory—or “Sisterhood Story”—at [pibetaphi.org/sisterhoodstory](https://pibetaphi.org/sisterhoodstory) by June 1.

## Honor a sister with a Halo from Halo Heaven

For just \$5 each, you can send halos to thank, recognize, remember or simply say hello to a sister. After June 1, visit [haloheaven.org](https://haloheaven.org) to honor the angels in your life while supporting the future of our sisterhood!

Follow [#PiPhiConvention](https://www.facebook.com/PiPhiConvention) on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for pictures, memories and more!

## A Home to Rely On

Pi Phi chapter facilities can hold different meanings for every sister—whether it be the shared meals, the late-night talks or the camaraderie of it all—they remind us of home. New Mexico Alpha **TAYLOR GORDON** remembers her chapter facility like the best friend you go to for everything.

During her first semester at University of New Mexico (UNM), Taylor was a commuter student living at home. However, with more than a 30-minute drive, she wanted to find a different solution. After instantly falling in love with Pi Phi during recruitment and wanting to get involved in as many ways as possible, Taylor moved into New Mexico Alpha's chapter facility the following semester. Over the next four years, this house would become her home.

"One of my favorite memories is from the first night I moved in," Taylor recalls. "After settling in, a group of us went to Target, bought a bunch of board games and stayed up for hours playing and getting to know each other in the upstairs loft." Taylor and her roommate, who were paired randomly, quickly sparked their friendship on that first night. "We learned so much about one another and the other sisters living in."

The upstairs loft, affectionately known as "The Smoker," is famous among New Mexico Alpha sisters—it has been the go-to room for generations. Back in the day, The Smoker was where members would make phone calls on the landline and smoke. Today, it's known for movie

nights, study sessions, event gatherings and everything in between.

As Vice President Recruitment in 2021, Taylor remembers gathering in this room with her chapter to hold their virtual recruitment. "Those of us who were living in all joined one Zoom call in The Smoker so that we could be together and make the Potential New Members feel a little more comfortable," she says.

The Smoker is also where Taylor met one of her best friends, **KATHRYN MASTEN**, in her last semester at UNM. "The two of us were just sitting up there chatting and ended up having such a great conversation that I asked her to hang out the next day," she shares. "From then on, we did everything together."

Not only did living in the chapter facility bring Taylor some of her most cherished memories and friendships, but it also helped her become more involved in chapter leadership. Taylor was able to learn about the housing system and eventually took on the role of Director Housing in 2019 and Vice President Finance/Housing in 2020. "I don't think I would've had the same professional opportunities if I didn't live in the house," she explains. "Having those experiences allowed me to open up more as well."

“

*I don't think I would've had the same professional opportunities if I didn't live in the house*

While choosing to live in gave Taylor many opportunities to grow both professionally and personally, the New Mexico Alpha Chapter facility was also a place of comfort for her. No matter the time of day, there was always someone to talk to. "I would go up to The Smoker whenever I was having a bad day," she shares. "It was kind of an unspoken rule that if someone was obviously sad, you wouldn't make a big deal out of it but rather

Taylor with her little sisters on Bid Day. From left: **EMILY OBREY**, Taylor and **SYDNEY GROTH**.



just include them in your conversation to make them feel better." It was those simple acts of kindness that always brightened Taylor's day.

In good days and bad, The Smoker was always there for Taylor and her sisters, especially when plans fell through and they had to get creative. "One night we were supposed to go out for karaoke, but there was a bad storm, so instead of letting it ruin our night we had our own karaoke in The Smoker," Taylor says. "Another time when two sisters and I got Covid before Thanksgiving, we had to stay in the house over break. Our moms dropped off some food for us and we all sat on the floor of The Smoker and had Thanksgiving dinner together."

After four years of being surrounded by her sisters, moving out was difficult for Taylor—she often finds herself wishing she could go back for just one more night. However, Taylor stays in contact with some of her best friends from the chapter, helping ease her transition into alumnae life. Now, as a student teacher beginning her career, Taylor knows her experiences living in will be with her forever, and that she can always rely on the New Mexico Alpha Chapter house to remind her of home. ←



Above, from left: Sydney and Taylor on the day of Sydney's initiation.

Below, from left: Sydney, Taylor, Emily and **CLAIRE O'MALLEY** on New Mexico Alpha's baseball themed Bid Day.

## TAYLOR'S *chance encounter*

At the school where I student teach, a coworker came up to me one day, noticed I was a Pi Phi from a sticker on my laptop, and mentioned that his aunt was a Pi Phi. After exchanging names, I realized that his aunt was one of New Mexico Alpha's Advisors when I was a collegian. I also recently found out that our principal is a Pi Phi!





*Rosa Hamalainen*

CALIFORNIA ALPHA

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF—PERSONALLY, PROFESSIONALLY AND AS A PI PHI.**

I was born in Helsinki, raised in Atlanta and made my way to Silicon Valley where I studied Product Design at Stanford University. Today, I'm co-founder of Rupa Health and live bi-coastally between San Francisco and Boston. Rupa is a health tech company on a mission to make root-cause medicine more accessible. I started Rupa because I'm passionate about helping people with chronic conditions get better and live life at 100% every day.

My best friends from Pi Phi live across the United States and we get together for girls' trips a few times a year. In my free time, I love going to workout classes, hiking, hosting events, painting and traveling!

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

So many things! A lot of it comes down to the people—I love our team and our customers. I get to work with people who are smarter than me and make me laugh every day. I also love that as an entrepreneur I get to set my own schedule, and no two days look the same. I could go from customer meetings to interviewing lawyers to making a company-wide presentation all in the same day.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL?**

Follow your curiosity! Don't be afraid to carve your own path. When I graduated from college, I had no idea what I wanted to do other than that I wanted to learn about startups (and to be honest, I still don't know what I want to do when I grow up). I ended up coincidentally meeting my co-founder a few months later, turning down a consulting offer and taking a chance to build something from scratch.

People love to tell their story as if they knew what they wanted to do all along (and I'm sure there are some people that do!), but oftentimes you can't really connect the dots until afterwards. If you follow what you're curious about you can't really go wrong—it'll all make sense later and you don't need to have it all figured out.

**HOW DO YOU MEASURE PERSONAL SUCCESS?**

By how hard I'm pushing myself and how much I'm learning, both personally and professionally. It's important to have macro-level goals, but I have to ask myself "am I doing my best?" and "am I doing at least one thing that scares me?" every day.

I think you see personal growth in the little things: by how you're less nervous to have a difficult conversation or how much faster you're able to solve a problem than you were previously. It's fun to look back and almost feel embarrassed by who I was six months ago because I've grown so much.

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

I think it goes in waves—sometimes work can take over and needs to be reeled back in. I've found that scheduling "solo time," workouts and social time into my calendar helps me be intentional about it and catch feelings of burnout before they start to happen.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PI PHI MEMORY?**

I met my best friends in Pi Phi, so I have too many to just pick one! My favorite memories are the tiny moments where I felt connected and happy. I think of sitting around the Pi Phi house working on physics problem sets, spending time with sisters on warm spring days and special dinners we used to host at the house.

**"PI BETA PHI HAS TAUGHT ME ..."**

The power of surrounding yourself with strong, powerful women who push you to be the best version of yourself.

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

That nothing is more important than your physical, mental and spiritual health. You can't show up as a good friend, partner or leader if you don't take care of yourself first.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE AND WHY?**

It changes all the time! I was sitting at a doctor's office the other day and saw a book of Frida Kahlo quotes and one really hit me: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." It just reminds you, life is short, and you have to do what makes you happy. ◀

# AND



# GELS

*in disguise*

As the beloved song goes, Pi Phis are said to be angels in disguise. Over the course of 156 years, more than 300,000 sisters have put on the Pi Phi arrow. The links of Sincere Friendship bind all Pi Phis together and provide a network of unending sisterhood wherever you go. A chance encounter with a Pi Phi sister may arise at times you least expect—a pleasant surprise of finding a shared connection with someone who has gone from stranger to sister in just a moment. As we think on the meaning of Friendship True and the power of Lifelong Commitment, consider some of these chance encounters to be tokens of something greater than each of us alone. Even a brief moment of sisterhood has the capacity to leave a lasting mark.

By finding a fellow angel in disguise,  
you just may find something or someone  
*you didn't know was missing.*



Colleen  
FORCINA MOLNER

When North Carolina Delta **COLLEEN FORCINA MOLNER** was searching for a new obstetrician early in her pregnancy, she came across a name that felt oddly familiar to her—**SARAH MEDEARIS POLLOCK**. That’s when she realized it was Sarah, a North Carolina Delta sister, who would soon become one of the most important people in her life.

From left: Sarah, Colleen and Ava at Ava’s first birthday party.

Colleen was a sophomore at North Carolina State University while Sarah was a senior. Despite only having one year of overlap in the chapter, Colleen remembers Sarah’s kindhearted personality and had full trust in her as a doctor. Going in for her eight-week ultrasound was their first time seeing each other in more than 15 years. “We instantly reconnected because of our underlying values and understanding of how truly special sisterhood is,” Colleen says. Sarah was also pregnant at the time, which created an even more cherished bond between the two.

When Colleen hit the 40-week mark, she planned an induction, but had to be induced by a different doctor. Nearly twenty-four hours into labor, the birth of her daughter quickly posed a concern.

With no initial cause, both Colleen’s and her daughter’s heart rates were dropping rapidly, and the original birth plan was no longer a viable option. “I was immediately panicked and in tears,” she says. “When they told me I urgently needed a C-section, it really felt like an emergency.” With no time to process the situation, Colleen was being prepped for surgery when she recognized a familiar voice—Sarah, who wasn’t supposed to be on call. “She appeared at my side to hold my hand and tell me everything would be okay.”

With no hesitation, Sarah decided to deliver Colleen’s daughter herself. It was during surgery when Sarah discovered the umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby’s neck, which was cutting off her airway and contributing to their distress during labor. Although distraught and incognizant, Colleen says she will always

“

She was there for me like a sister and a true angel.

remember Sarah saying how beautiful her daughter is and briefly holding her up over the curtain, “That was by far the most amazing moment of my entire life, even through all the fear and panic,” she recalls.

Colleen’s daughter was born safely, but the severity of the situation impacted Colleen’s post-partum healing. “I was never able to process what happened,” she shares. “When I went in for my follow-up six weeks later, I remember crying into Sarah’s shoulder.” As Colleen navigated her post-partum anxiety and depression, Sarah was there to help her understand and validate the experience of birth trauma, something Colleen says was difficult to accept. “It was nice to confide in a doctor and a friend—just giving me a hug at an appointment meant the world.”

Now, with Colleen’s daughter, Ava, at 21 months and Sarah’s children at three years old and 18 months old, the two get together regularly with their kids and know they will remain in one another’s lives forever. Colleen also recently found out she’s expecting and plans to have Sarah by her side as the physician for both pre-natal care and delivery.

As Colleen continues to heal, she and her husband are eternally grateful for the way Sarah has impacted their lives. “Even though it was traumatic, I can look back at the experience and say it was special because of her,” she says. “She was there for me like a sister and a true angel.”



From left: Cynthia, Eliza and Riley snap a photo outside St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

# Eliza

## BORYSENKO

It’s often said that you’re always wearing your Pi Phi letters—of course, sometimes you actually are wearing your Pi Phi letters, as was the case for Wisconsin Delta **ELIZA BORYSENKO** when she ran into New York Epsilon **CYNTHIA SCHWAB** and Connecticut Gamma **RILEY SULLIVAN** in the airport on the way to St. Louis for Pi Beta Phi Leadership Institute 2022.

“I’ve run into Pi Phis before, but it was so special to share in the same anticipation and excitement for a Pi Phi event,” says Eliza. As fate would have it, all three sisters were sitting next to each other on the plane where they swapped stories about their chapters and chatted about the weekend ahead.

Following Leadership Institute, the three sisters have kept in touch. While they’ve become closer since their introduction, Eliza felt the connection was instantaneous. “Whenever I run into a Pi Phi it’s an immediate connection because we share the same values and ceremonies and knew that Pi Phi was where we wanted to be,” she says. “We share all those things without even knowing each other. We could have different careers, different hobbies or live in different places, but Pi Phi connect us—and you know it right away.”



# Samantha LENOX

While working on a pre-operative floor at the University of Kentucky hospital, Kentucky Beta **SAMANTHA LENOX** heard the question many sisters know all too well: “Are you by chance a Pi Phi?”

Samantha was assisting with the care of an older male patient and answering questions posed by him and his wife as they passed time and quelled nerves. As she talked about her life and involvement on campus, Samantha shared she is a member of a sorority and spoke about what strong connections she’s made with her sisters—all without knowing another sister, Kentucky Beta **MARCI AZBILL HICKS**, was in the room. Marci asked if she was by chance a Pi Phi, and Samantha was surprised that of the 15 National Panhellenic Conference organizations on

campus, she had guessed the right one. Marci shared that in their 10-minute conversation, she could sense the strength with which Samantha carried the values of Pi Phi and knew right away to guess her own sisterhood. Following her husband’s successful procedure, Marci reached out to the chapter to share her gratitude for meeting Samantha and the care and compassion she’d shown during such a vulnerable time for her and her husband.

Samantha says, “This experience has enhanced my desire to pursue a career in healthcare to help those people in vulnerable places, and it has also strengthened my love for Pi Phi and the community of women who make up our sisterhood.”



Samantha during a shift at the University of Kentucky hospital.



Jenna

## HAGEMAN

Over the summer in 2022, Michigan Alpha **JENNA HAGEMAN** interned at a foundation in the Washington, D.C., area that specializes in providing leadership development to young women. “Initially, I was a little nervous to meet the other interns and worried I would struggle to make friends with them,” Jenna explains. However, after a text exchange to introduce themselves, Jenna found out a fellow intern, **KATHRINE “KADY” BEDARD**, was a South Carolina Beta from Clemson University. “From that moment, I knew we would be immediate friends.”

“Working with Kady felt so natural because we had a connection bigger than ourselves,” Jenna shares. “It was so special to experience this opportunity and learn alongside someone who shares the same values as me.” Soon into the summer, Jenna and Kady extended their friendship outside the office and went to brunch, visited museums and even completed a service project together. Their favorite thing to do, however, was to take “Diet Coke breaks” in the break room.

“Meeting and becoming close friends with Kady proved to me that Pi Phis really do embody our core values and that Sincere Friendship can stretch across the world—no matter where we’re from,” Jenna says. “Our connection is one I will cherish forever and will always remind me that we are not alone.”



From left: Kady and Jenna.

“  
Sincere Friendship  
can stretch across  
the world—no  
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we’re from.”



# Doreen MUELLER

Georgia Alpha **DOREEN MUELLER** could sense trouble in the air as soon as she walked into the chapter facility that afternoon. Or, rather, she could smell it—the unmistakable aroma of takeout from The Varsity, a legendary drive-through eatery near the University of Georgia campus.

Despite only recently being initiated into Pi Phi, Doreen was well-versed in the Georgia Alpha Chapter house rules—including the strict policy prohibiting food in the formal living room. A quick visual inspection confirmed that two women were indeed enjoying chili dogs and fries with little regard for the potentially catastrophic damage to upholstery and furnishings that could ensue.

Immediately, Doreen reported the transgression to her roommate, house manager **MARY GWIN WOOD**, who in turn introduced her to the two offenders: future Grand President **SARAH RUTH “SIS” MULLIS**, South Carolina Alpha, and longtime editor of *The Arrow* **MARILYN SIMPSON FORD**, Nebraska Beta. Both were members of the Georgia Alpha Alumnae Advisory Committee at the time. “I wasn’t aware enough to even be mortified that I’d called foul on these women who were there for a meeting and giving their time and energy to our chapter,” Doreen laughs.

Following graduation, Doreen joined Sis and Marilyn in the Atlanta, Georgia, Alumnae Club. The two women introduced Doreen to another close friend and club member: future Grand President **CAROLYN HELMAN LICHTENBERG**, Ohio Alpha. Together, Sis, Marilyn and Carolyn took the young alumna under their wings and encouraged her to serve as Club President.

Inspired by their example, Doreen took the first steps in her own leadership and philanthropic journey. “These women lived our values in their ability to give back their time, talent and financial resources as part of their commitment to Pi Phi,” she recalls. “I wanted to emulate them, and I knew I needed to step up. I respected their empathy and kindness toward an organization that meant so much to them.”

Within a few years, Doreen and Carolyn both relocated to Northern Virginia, where their friendship continued to deepen. Carolyn recommended Doreen for a promising job, sponsored her membership in a women’s civic organization and introduced her to her future husband.

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These women lived our values in their ability to give back their time, talent and financial resources as part of their commitment to Pi Phi. I wanted to emulate them, and I knew I needed to step up. I respected their empathy and kindness toward an organization that meant so much to them.





From left: Mardy, Doreen and Nix.

But in the years before she married, Doreen was a frequent guest at Carolyn’s “Widows and Orphans” Thanksgiving parties for friends without family living in the area. Through the annual events, Doreen developed a close connection with yet another notable Pi Phi—past Grand President **MARIANNE REID WILD**, Kansas Alpha.

“At first, lots of people were there—but I was single forever, so it became just me and Marianne for years,” Doreen smiles. “We’d have dinner, then head downstairs to the rec room and watch movies and talk about the future of Pi Phi—me, the Grand President and the past Grand President. I needed somebody to pinch me!”

Doreen describes her conversations with Marianne as living Pi Phi history, recalling her dinner companion as the epitome of Pi Phi leadership and a gifted raconteur. “She had so many stories, and to hear them in her own voice was amazing,” Doreen says. “She’d tell you all these things in this low, conspiratorial whisper. We’d laugh until tears ran down our faces. It was the experience of a lifetime.”

Although Marianne, Carolyn and Marilyn have since passed away, Doreen’s friendship with Sis now spans nearly five decades and includes a new generation of Pi Phi: Doreen’s twin daughters, South Carolina Alpha **MARDY KRAMER** and North Carolina Delta **NIX KRAMER**. “They text Sis all the time,” Doreen laughs.

Through her intergenerational friendships, Doreen developed her own passions for keeping young alumnae involved with Pi Phi and nurturing a culture of philanthropy among her friends and family. Mardy and Nix have both followed in their mother’s footsteps as Foundation donors. And just as she experienced, Doreen hopes the personal connections our members create will keep Pi Phi moving forward.

“Sis can tell you, all our stories are interwoven,” she says. “This sisterhood is something you carry throughout your life. I believe it’s my responsibility to share that with other women and help them along the way. A rising tide lifts all boats.”



# Tori VASQUEZ

Sometimes a chance encounter between Pi Phi sisters comes years before their membership begins. That was the case for childhood friends and future California Epsilons **TORI VASQUEZ** and **ELIANA SCHREPPPEL**. The two first connected in elementary school while attending baseball games for the traveling team both their older brothers played on in central California.

“Eli is a year younger than me, and we only knew each other from playing together to pass the time at long games and tournaments,” Tori says. “We only ever saw each other at these games or family events for the team, but never just the two of us.”

By the time Tori was in fourth grade, she was no longer traveling for games and lost touch with Eli. With the advent of social media, the two were able to stay connected throughout the remainder of their school years, though more than a decade would pass before they saw each other again.

Tori followed in her brother’s footsteps by attending San Diego State University (SDSU) and went on to join Pi Phi as a sophomore. That same year, Eli also joined her older brother at SDSU, which Tori discovered through Instagram.

The two didn’t manage to reconnect during their first year on campus together. It wasn’t until Sisterhood Round of recruitment during Tori’s junior year that she saw Eli in-person once again; in the backyard of the California Epsilon Chapter house.

“I was in the middle of giving a house tour to another Potential New Member and caught a glimpse of her in the backyard talking to another Pi Phi,” Tori says. “After the party, I confirmed it was Eli and was surprised to learn she had been going through recruitment. It was kind of a shock to see her, but there was also this sense of

From left: Kathy Sharp, Hannah and Maria.

For South Carolina Alpha **HANNAH MARKS**, finding a mentor made all the difference in her experience as a first-year educator. Discovering that mentor was a Pi Phi sister made the connection even sweeter.

As part of a graduate teaching fellowship in Philadelphia, Hannah taught at an all-girls high school in the city. “My first year of teaching was being thrown in the deep end,” she recalls. “I think anyone’s first year of teaching is difficult; you’re learning on the job. It was a lot of getting my sea legs, figuring it out as I went and asking other teachers for help.”

Hannah’s daily schedule included cafeteria supervision with two colleagues. She developed a particular connection with Pennsylvania Theta **MARIA SMITH MURRAY**, a veteran educator who had worked at the school for several years. As the year progressed, Hannah would seek advice on specific classes and child development, and Maria shared her background knowledge on their shared students, school culture and traditions. “Having that time to talk through things was so helpful,” Hannah says. “I felt I could be authentic and honest, ask questions as they came up and build a true relationship.”

As their connection grew, Hannah and Maria’s conversations often turned to their personal lives. When Hannah mentioned her sorority membership, Maria shared that she was a member of the Pennsylvania Theta Chapter—and everything clicked. “It was an almost childlike moment of excitement,” Hannah smiles. “We started talking about all our shared experiences. There’s something about having a relationship—then finding out you’re both Pi Phis—that adds an extra layer of fun and excitement. It’s a different kind of special.”

For Hannah, Maria’s mentorship embodied the core values of our sisterhood, especially Integrity and Sincere Friendship. “My favorite aspects of Pi Phi are the ways we support other women, build leaders and enrich each other’s lives,” she reflects. “That’s what Maria was doing for me, long before we learned we were both Pi Phis.”

Although both women have since moved on to other schools, Hannah still relies on Maria’s guidance as she navigates new experiences and challenges in the classroom. “I remember reading that with a truly good mentor, you find each other,” she says. “I can’t imagine not having a mentor like Maria.”

familiarity and excitement to be able to get to know her again. When the Preference Round sign-up sheet came out and I saw her name on the list, I knew I wanted to talk to her.”

The following day, the childhood friends were finally able to reconnect and spent the entire Preference Round event catching up, reminiscing and reconnecting as young adults—who had followed similar paths to find their way back together. After choosing SDSU, Tori and Eli were looking for another form of community on campus when they joined recruitment as sophomores. Their similar work ethic and core values which drew them to Pi Phi helped to rekindle a friendship started so many years prior.

As Eli became a New Member, Tori had hopes of becoming her big sis but says she didn’t want to put any pressure on her. “We were still getting to know each other, and I knew I wanted to develop that relationship however I could,” Tori says. “When it came time, we both put each other as our top choice.”

After becoming a Pi Phi family, Tori and Eli caught up on each other’s lives since childhood and bonded over their shared life experiences. When their collegiate experience was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic only a few months later, the two learned the importance of caring for a relationship to make it last.

“Relationships take work,” Tori says. “You have to cultivate the connection and care for it and being apart through the majority of our time in college reinforced that. Now that we’ve graduated and live across the country from each other, it’s even more important that we take the time and effort to sustain our friendship.”

Tori says her relationship with Eli has helped her develop as both a friend and a mentor, and she channeled those skills throughout her term as Chapter President and during the last two years as a Leadership Development Consultant (LDC) for Pi Beta Phi. As she concludes her term as Senior LDC and looks ahead to attending law school at in the fall, she knows those lessons will continue to propel her forward as a leader and a friend.

“Eli is one of the first people I call with good news, like when I was offered the LDC role and was accepted to law school,” she says. “We will always be in each other’s lives to share the good times and support each other through the rest. I know I’m the leader, mentor and person I am today because of the impact she’s had on my life.”



From left: Eli and Tori during big sis/little sis reveal.

“

I know I’m the leader, mentor and person I am today because of the impact she’s had on my life.

# Monica

## DIAZ-GRECO

If Ontario Alpha **MONICA DIAZ-GRECO** could describe her Pi Phi membership in one word, it would be “serendipitous.”

When attending the University of Toronto as a first-generation college student and Canadian, finding Pi Phi and the community our sisterhood has provided wasn't initially on her mind. However, by pure happenstance and encouragement from a randomly paired roommate, Monica found her way to Pi Phi. She also found her way to lifelong friends and confidants who have provided support throughout life's challenges.

One such challenge arose when Monica's daughter, Emma, was diagnosed with a rare form of epilepsy at seven months old. “I didn't share that news with many people, but so many of my Pi Phi sisters have been my biggest support system through Emma's journey,” Monica says.

There is one Pi Phi sister who has provided support through Emma's various medical needs and was a complete surprise to Monica; another matter of serendipity. Speech delays are common for children with epilepsy, and Emma has seen a speech therapist for most of her life. A few years ago, her speech therapist was elected to the school board, and the conflict of interest necessitated the family find a new provider. Upon a recommendation, Monica reached out to a practitioner at the Speech and Stuttering Institute in Toronto, and as luck would have it, the provider had a new opening in her schedule.

After seeing this new practitioner for more than a year, Monica brought Emma to an appointment in casual clothes instead of her school uniform. One of the items she'd selected were her beloved leggings adorned with arrows.

“Arrows find me, especially when I'm shopping for clothes,” Monica says. “These were her favorite leggings partially because she knows how much I love arrows and anything Pi Phi.”

During her session, Emma pointed to her leggings and said “arrow” which had been one of her practice words. Monica explained to the speech therapist that arrow is a big word in their house because it's the symbol of her sorority.

“Wait, what? Are you a Pi Phi?”



Monica's daughter, Emma, in her favorite arrow leggings.

At that moment Monica discovered she had been spending all this time with a sister, Ontario Alpha **DEBRA MORNINGSTAR GOSHULAK**. “Her first response was, ‘Oh my god, I'm a Pi Phi!’ and she ran to grab a photo of her and her husband at a Pi Phi event in college,” Monica says. “We even learned that when I helped plan the centennial event for Ontario Alpha in 2008, Debra had attended. I definitely greeted her at the door and we both have no memory of it!”

After they realized the shared connection, arrows started making more appearances in Emma's work for speech therapy. Debra and Monica continue to enjoy their serendipitous sisterhood and shared love of everything arrows and Pi Phi. When Debra's son and daughter-in-law welcomed their first child, Monica even gifted the new parents baby clothes adorned with arrows to continue the tradition.

“Pi Phi touches every aspect of my life,” Monica shares. “It's fun even when it isn't fun; I know I was meant to be a Pi Phi and meet the women who've changed my life for the better in every way. I told my husband when we got married that I would always be involved with Pi Phi, and he even joked that he didn't know I'd married Pi Phi first.”

“I love the mission of our sisterhood and how it's developed me as a person. I know Pi Phi is always there for me and can even come up in the most surprising situations. It's for life, and I'm so grateful for everyone I've met along the way.” ←

“  
Pi Phi touches every  
aspect of my life.”

# Sincere Friends Through Many Milestones

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

From childhood friends to sisters in the White House, the bond between D.C. Alphas **MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL** and **JANE LINGO** was far from a fair-weather friendship. Margaret and Jane met as students in Washington, D.C., when Margaret, daughter of then-Senator Harry S. Truman, began splitting her time between Independence, Missouri, and D.C. She later called Jane her “first Washington friend” in reflecting on their journey through her father’s political career.

While the two wouldn’t become sisters until they both joined D.C. Alpha in 1943, Pi Phi played a role in their early lives as Jane’s mother was active in the local alumnae club. **MARIE TUNSTALL LINGO**, herself a D.C. Alpha, regularly attended and hosted alumnae club events and instilled a shared respect for Pi Phi’s core values in her daughter before Jane’s own membership began.

The two friends-turned-sisters enjoyed the benefits of sisterhood as their friendship reached new heights throughout their collegiate years. Margaret was asked to christen the battleship U.S.S. Missouri at the U.S. Navy Yard in Brooklyn, New York; she was able to invite a friend to serve as her “maid of honor” at the ceremony and selected Jane to accompany her.

While Margaret was in college, her familial life was changing rapidly. Her father was elected Vice President of the United States in 1944, and on April 12, 1945—upon the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt—was sworn in as the 33<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States. The March 1945 issue of *The Arrow* included an announcement that a collegian was the daughter of the Vice President, information that was out of date only weeks later when Margaret became the daughter of the President.

Members of the D.C. Alpha Chapter and the Washington, D.C., Alumnae Club were occasional guests of the Truman family at the White House. Throughout what was undoubtedly a challenging time for her family, Margaret relied on the Sincere Friendships of her Pi Phi sisters.

During the summer of 1945, Jane accompanied Margaret and First Lady Bess Truman to their home in Independence. Margaret was the guest of honor at the Kansas City, Missouri, Alumnae Club picnic held at the summer home of Kansas Alpha **GERTRUDE SPECK NEWCOMER**.

Nearly 200 Pi Phis spent the afternoon swimming, boating, playing bridge and meeting Margaret and Jane at the home on Lake Lotawana.

When Jane and Margaret graduated from George Washington University (GWU) in 1946, President Truman was the commencement speaker, as he had been for their high school graduation. Margaret supported her father’s reelection campaign, and after his reelection in 1948, Jane served as co-chair of the program committee for the inaugural ball.

In 1956, Jane returned to GWU, where she would enjoy a six-decade career and ultimately serve as assistant director of university relations. After the formation of the National Press Club, Jane was one of the first women invited to membership in 1971.

Jane and Margaret were side-by-side for most of their formative years and through many milestones in their lives. While their Sincere Friendship grew more distant in later years, the two always had a bond in wine and silver blue. ◀



From left: Margaret and Jane. Photo credit: Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

## Just Jump In

When Ohio Alpha **AMY BROWNS** and her family had the opportunity to move from Cincinnati to Poland in the summer of 2021, they jumped in with both feet. Amy's spouse Carson would be spending extensive time in the country for his job and as a self-employed consultant, Amy had the professional flexibility to work abroad. Moving wasn't a question of why, but rather—why not?

During their first six months in Katowice, Poland, the family focused on the process of settling into a new home. Amy quickly found a house amid a tight market and sought schools for daughters Avery and Parker, then 13 and 9. Life in a foreign country was different, but normal. Then everything changed.

In February 2022, Russia began its invasion of Ukraine—located just a four-hour drive from Amy's new home. Within six weeks, more than four million Ukrainian refugees fleeing the invasion poured across the Polish border; most were women and children. In the same way Amy knew moving was the right decision for her family,

she knew she needed to help however she could. She didn't have a plan, but she jumped in with both feet—opening both her home and heart.

"Every train and bus leaving Ukraine was coming through Poland," Amy recalls. "Our city took in 400,000 people, and everyone was doing something—hosting, collecting and delivering supplies, picking up people crossing the border. We decided immediately as a family that we wanted to host. Taking in a family and providing food and shelter became our primary goal."

Poring through local relief organizations active on social media, Amy added her name to more than 20 lists of potential host families. "I just jumped in," she says. "It was fearful; I didn't have a plan. But if you think about having a huge impact, you might feel paralyzed by all the steps. Start small, in your corner of the world, however you can."

Amy was soon contacted by someone seeking shelter for his aunt, Natalia, and 15-year-old twin cousins, Alina and Yaroslav. Natalia spent a week in Katowice helping the twins settle with Amy's family, then returned to Ukraine to support the hospital where she worked as an administrator. Amy describes Natalia's decision to go back to Ukraine while entrusting her children to almost complete strangers as a choice requiring faith in humanity. "We were strangers bound by trust," Amy says. "She had to go with her gut feeling; there was no time to vet anyone. We had hard conversations about things like power of attorney and her possible death, but she felt like she needed to go back and help."

Amy and her family focused on providing safety and a sense of normalcy for Alina and Yaroslav. Initially, there were small bumps in the road. It took three weeks for Alina to share that she didn't eat meat, and both teens were hesitant to allow Amy to do their laundry. Although they tried to keep in touch with Natalia every day,



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*It's easier to volunteer when that habit starts early; you figure out what you're good at and where you can help. I learned those skills from Pi Phi and they've deeply impacted my life.*



Amy's family with the Ukrainian refugee family they hosted in Poland. From left: Alina, Avery, Carson, Yaroslav, Natalia, Amy and Parker.

communication wasn't always possible. Alina and Yaroslav knew no English, so the family used Google Translate to navigate the language barrier.

Yet the challenges quickly gave way to mutual trust. Avery and Parker volunteered to share a room so the twins could have more space. The family's three rescue dogs offered a source of comfort to Alina and Yaroslav. Alina and Parker bonded over their shared love of art, and all four children grew close playing board games. "Without them, it would have been more difficult," Amy reflects. "Children have less fear of the unknown and are more curious to learn."

After nine weeks, the invasion slowed for a time and areas of Ukraine became safer. Alina and Yaroslav were able to return to their village outside Kyiv, reuniting with Natalia. But Amy's humanitarian efforts were far from over. Drawing on her skills as a communications and marketing professional, she began telling refugee stories everywhere she could. "I made sure it was okay with the families first; I didn't want anyone to feel exploited," she explains. "But I wanted people to know how bad things really were and shared big details as I could."

As soon as Amy's family took in Alina, Yaroslav and Natalia, word began to spread—especially among friends back in the United States and Amy's Ohio Alpha sisters. Amy gave an interview with a news station in Cincinnati and appeared on a popular podcast hosted by author Amy Jo Martin, thanks to a connection made by Amy's friend and fellow Ohio Alpha **REGAN WALSH**. "Everything spiraled," Amy says. "We were getting emails right and left, and people just started giving

money. Much of it was my core group of Pi Phi friends making it happen."

With thousands of dollars in donations pouring in, Amy was able to support 18 additional refugee families—including two just a week after meeting Natalia's family. Amy used donations to secure housing options, support women seeking employment, facilitate medical treatment and provide necessities for those who fled with nothing. "It was the most humbling experience to have people trust we'd use their money the best way we knew how," she says.

Though Amy and her family relocated to the Charlotte, North Carolina, area in early 2023, she is determined to persevere in her support of the Ukrainian people. She remains in close contact with Natalia, Alina and Yaroslav through social media messaging. "We formed relationships with other families, and I need to know how they are," Amy explains. "So many of the messages I get from our friends say how excited they are to welcome us to their country once they've won the war. Their resilience to save their country and independence is astounding."

The drive to support others is deeply instilled in Amy, who connects her willingness to jump in where help is needed with her Pi Phi experience. "Pi Phi provided an organized way to volunteer and gave me the confidence to do what I did here," she reflects. "It's easier to volunteer when that habit starts early; you figure out what you're good at and where you can help. I learned those skills from Pi Phi and they've deeply impacted my life." ◀

## The Power of a Story

There's no greater feeling than falling in love with a good story—the picturesque town, the villain you love to hate, the protagonist you want to root for. When you find a story you love, reading is an exhilarating journey that helps you escape from the stress of daily life.

Utah Alpha **HALEY BURNS-HODGES** understands the power of a compelling story. Combined with her passion for literacy and lifelong love of reading—values she was drawn to in Pi Beta Phi—Haley took a chance on a bold idea to empower writers to manage their storytelling process in a sustainable and creatively fulfilling way.

Based on a passion for great stories, Haley and her husband, Jason, created Fiction Software—a web-based story planning and productivity tracker for aspiring authors. As an author himself, Jason was struggling to find a virtual platform to help bring his stories to life. There was no digital version of the traditional photos and string on the bulletin board.

As he shared his difficulties with Haley, she jokingly asked, “Why don’t you just build one?” What started as

an offhand comment turned into a passion project for the pair—supporting authors in the Salt Lake City area and beyond. Fiction Software helps authors piece together elements of their story in a visual way. In addition to tracking work and creating goals, the program helps storytellers build a world by storing everything in one place—from chapter outlining and timelines to character building and storyboarding.

The program is built on the power of a story—both reading and writing them. “I love the artistic expression that comes with writing a story,” says Haley. “Being able to get it all out there, tell it the way you want and share it with the world in a longer format is inspiring to me.” Haley remembers some of her favorite books as the ones where characters become friends and readers dive into their worlds, such as young adult fantasy series like Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings.

She carried her passion for stories into her adult life and passed this love along to her husband and two children. For Haley, reading is a family affair. “I was adamant that

From left: Jason and Haley at a conference promoting Fiction Software.



my kids needed to be fluent readers by the time they went into elementary school,” she says. “I knew how much that impacts you in life.” As her children have gotten older, they’ve fallen in love with reading and even asked for personal libraries of their own. Just like their mother, they’ve found the stories and genres they enjoy most.

Soon after discovering comics, they wanted to create their own. Haley encouraged them to do so and helped them along the way. “Because they were such strong readers and had solid knowledge in reading comprehension, they were able to understand how a story should flow,” says Haley. “We had them use Fiction [Software] to figure out plots, storyboarding and how the characters tie together before they wrote their comic books.”

Watching her children utilize the software inspired Haley, and as Fiction Software evolves, she hopes to create a student model of the program. “We’re working with a local author to sponsor writing workshops for high school students in lower-income communities,” she says. “We’re able to gift a product that can help students not only find a love for writing but also teach them how their stories inspire others.”



Haley and her family.

Beyond the writing components of the software, Haley notes the opportunity to incorporate more literacy skills. “Reading and writing are intertwined,” she says. “In order to be a good writer, you need to have print competency—understanding how a story flows and the different forms and styles of writing.”

Looking ahead, Haley can begin to see the future impact of Fiction Software. “There is a lot of potential in the education space—instilling it into schools and continuing education programs at universities,” she says. “A lot of universities have creative writing programs where I think this [Fiction Software] would really flourish.” With the future looking bright, Haley is excited to continue evolving the software to best fit the needs of aspiring authors of all ages.

At Pi Phi, we believe in the power of reading and know reading always has been—and always will be—a powerful step toward a life of enduring impact. Haley is deeply aware of the impact each author can make with the stories they share. For Haley, it all comes back to cultivating a love of storytelling—a love she no doubt gained from Pi Beta Phi. ←



## Lifelong Commitment Means Paying It Forward

Oregon Alpha **KIM BARGER DURAND** has always been drawn to leadership roles. As senior associate athletics director for student development at the University of Washington (UW)—a role she’s held for 17 years—Kim has nurtured her natural passion for supporting and mentoring others into a thriving career. That same passion drives Kim’s support of Pi Phi as a longtime volunteer and Foundation donor.

Kim fell in love with the collegiate experience as a student at the University of Oregon. As Chapter President, she learned what she considers her most transformational leadership lesson. “I started understanding that leadership is not about me,” Kim says. “I realized it’s about everyone else—representing the organization and the women in my chapter and serving a purpose larger than myself.”

The encouragement Kim received from Oregon Alpha’s Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) inspired her to serve as a Resident Graduate Consultant (now Resident Leadership Development Consultant) for Pi Phi. “I was blessed with people who saw something in me and gave me a nudge when I needed it,” Kim says. “That leadership exposure gave me confidence. Being in a leadership role with Pi Phi was a safe place to explore, learn about yourself and make mistakes, as long as you did your best.”

Returning to Oregon after her year as a consultant, Kim served as a graduate assistant in the athletic department while working toward her master’s degree in educational policy and management. She was introduced to the world of academic support services for student athletes—a professional field that combined her love for school, sports and leadership. Kim began to arrange informational interviews with athletics leaders at other schools; looking back, she says one interview especially stands out.

“There was a woman who was incredibly influential in athletics at Stanford University,” Kim recalls. “I had no business cold calling her. She didn’t have time to meet with me, but politely offered to look at my resume. Five minutes after I sent it, she called me back, said that she was also a Pi Phi and she’d see me that Friday afternoon.”

The woman was Missouri Alpha **CHERYL LEVICK**, who at that time served as Stanford’s senior associate athletic director. “I was floored that she made time on her schedule for me, because of our Pi Phi connection,” Kim continues. “That was a defining moment—she made a difference for me by giving me incredible leadership and professional

advice. Our paths have continued to cross many times over the years, and I don’t turn people down for informational interviews because of what she did for me.”

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Being in a leadership role  
with Pi Phi was a safe  
place to explore, learn  
about yourself and make  
mistakes, as long as you  
did your best.”

Following graduate school, Kim earned an associate director position in the University of Kansas athletics department before serving as the assistant athletics director for academic services at the University of California-Los Angeles. In her current role at UW, she helps to oversee 22 men’s and women’s sports teams and supports 650 student athletes. Kim draws inspiration from them, as well as the leadership skills and values instilled in her by Pi Phi, to guide her work. “I see myself as serving others and helping them be the best versions of themselves; that’s Personal and Intellectual Growth for sure,” she reflects. “My personal goals are to inspire and develop others; I get satisfaction from watching others grow.”

As a woman leader in a male-dominated space, Kim has relied on women in similar roles to support her throughout her journey. “I’ve had women all along the way who lifted me up—unbelievably strong, determined smart women who empower me,” she says. “Now it’s my responsibility to do the same for other women.” Kim honors that responsibility through her volunteer service to Pi Phi. A current member of the Fraternity’s Legislative Committee, Kim has served in roles ranging from AAC Advisor to Collegiate Province President and Director Membership.



From left: Oregon Alphas **TRACY JOHNSON CHAPMAN**, **LYNNE THIESSEN ROBERTS** and Kim visit the Oregon Alpha Chapter house.

“I can’t think of a time since graduation when I haven’t been involved,” she says. “[Texas Delta] **CAROLYN PAVLETICH LESH**, who supervised me as a consultant, once told me Pi Phi is always here, no matter what stage of life you’re in. I’ve held big jobs and small ones, but I give back because of everything Pi Phi continues to give me. Wherever I go, I have an instant group of women to rely on. As much as I’ve given to Pi Phi, my sisters have shown up for me in ways I could never have imagined.”

That sense of connectedness and empowerment also inspires Kim’s support of Pi Beta Phi Foundation. “I wanted to invest my time and treasure in things I knew benefitted me and my own growth and give opportunities for others to have the same experience,” she says. “Early on, my gift was small; it was what I could afford, but it was important. As you grow, you make financial decisions based on what

aligns with your values and how you can do good in the world. My passion is leadership and empowerment of women, and I haven’t found an organization that does those things better than Pi Phi. That’s why I continue to prioritize our sisterhood—because I continue to be so filled with gratitude for everything Pi Phi gives to me.”

Kim says she hopes other Pi Phis are inspired to give to our Foundation for similar reasons. “I hope our sisters realize how Pi Phi has touched their lives and want to make an impact,” she says. “If you want to continue our viability in today’s changing world and continue to provide opportunities for collegiate women to excel, it’s an easy decision. Part of Lifelong Commitment means paying it forward in gratitude, for the impact Pi Phi has had on your life.” ←

“

*My passion is leadership and empowerment of women, and I haven’t found an organization that does those things better than Pi Phi.*

## Always Say Yes

After graduating from high school, South Carolina Beta **KATHERINE SINGLETON** felt burnt out from extracurricular activities and leadership responsibilities. When she joined Pi Phi, she told herself she would not get involved in leadership. She vowed to meet new friends, participate in our philanthropy and have fun—nothing more.

Looking back on her last four years of involvement, Katherine laughs knowing her Pi Phi experience has been anything but what she originally planned. She, like many Pi Phis, quickly learned that when Pi Phi comes knocking, your heart often leads you to answer with yes.

During her time at Clemson University, Katherine served the South Carolina Beta Chapter in many ways, including piloting the Director Diversity and Inclusion position and serving as South Carolina Beta's first Vice President Inclusion. While Katherine's inclusion work has had its challenges at times, she loves the opportunity to talk to sisters about issues she finds important.

"Hearing positive feedback from chapter members is always the best," she says. "It's really special to see how something you've done is enhancing somebody's Pi Phi experience or making them feel more connected to the Fraternity—because that's inclusion."

More recently, Katherine was appointed to Pi Beta Phi's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee. As a committee member, she has gotten to know sisters across chapters and generations. "It's really expanded my Pi Phi experience in general," she says. "It's great to see not just the diversity on the committee, but the diversity of perspectives and ideas that are being brought forward."

Last fall, Katherine was invited to attend Pi Beta Phi Officers Workshop alongside many Fraternity officers. As the only collegiate member in attendance, she recalls feeling intimidated, but that anticipation soon turned to excitement after meeting so many of the women leading our organization.

"Throughout the weekend, nothing was forced," she says. "I felt comfortable starting conversations with anyone because I knew we all had something in common even before getting to know each other."

The discussions that took place throughout the weekend left Katherine feeling excited for the future of our sisterhood. "The Fraternity is moving toward an inclusive culture," she



Members of the 2022-2023 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee at Officers Workshop 2022. Back row, from left: Washington Alpha **MICHELE LOMAX**, Utah Alpha **CHLOE LAVERSON**, Katherine and Grand Vice President Inclusion/Community Relations **AMY LORENZEN SOUTHERLAND**, South Dakota Alpha. Front row, from left: Virginia Theta **ALLIE HARVEY GRIFFIN**, Texas Beta **D'ANN DUBLIN RIEMER** and California Eta **DAPHNEY ROSE BITANGA**.

says. "We're not just implementing DEI in one corner; we're moving toward full alignment." She feels inspired by the way in which Pi Phi views all its work through a lens of inclusion rather than limiting inclusion work to one area of the organization.

Katherine left the weekend with more than just new learnings, but new friends. With plans to attend graduate school, she knows she'll have connections wherever she goes. "I met sisters who live near every school I'm applying to," she says. "It makes it less scary knowing there is a Pi Phi or alumnae club nearby who will be willing to help me out, show me around or recommend the best place to get my hair cut. It makes me feel taken care of."

Katherine jokes that she doesn't yet feel like a "real adult" and admits it can be hard to think of sisters from older generations as friends. "After this experience I can genuinely say I am friends with my older Pi Phi sisters," says Katherine. "I've been welcomed into a network I didn't even know existed in the way it does; I'll keep saying yes as long as I'm asked. I'm even more excited for alumnae life than collegiate life." ◀

## ARIZONA

*Arizona Alpha, University of Arizona*

In November 2022, Vice President Community Relations **MCKINLEY SEVERSON** helped sponsor a community wide event at University of Arizona. After being greatly impacted by the words of Dr. Lindsay and Dr. Lexie Kite—two women sparking conversation on weight stigma and body neutrality—she knew she wanted to share their important message. With the help of her chapter and campus community, McKinley was able to bring in the Kite sisters to speak at the university in hopes to make others feel less alone in their struggles with body image. With nearly 800 attendees listening to the Kite sisters' powerful message, McKinley hopes this inspires a necessary conversation within her community.

*Arizona Beta, Arizona State University*

Five Pi Phis from Arizona State University are studying abroad together in Barcelona, Spain throughout the Spring 2023 semester. Although it was difficult to leave home, **ANISSA MARTINEZ** said she would not change the experience for the world. "The one thing that made this choice so easy was getting to be alongside my best friends and Pi Phi sisters," Anissa shared.

## ARKANSAS

*Arkansas Alpha, University of Arkansas*

In 2022, **CARSON CHAPPELL**, **LAUREN MATHEWS** and **SAMMI THROCKMORTON** traveled to Panama with Arkansas' Medical and Dental Global Brigade. While there, they were able to assist in treating economically disadvantaged communities, shadow doctors and gain practical experience such as how to communicate with patients. Together, they helped treat more than 400 community members. All three Pi Phis found great value in the trip—better understanding the privilege of healthcare and strengthening their passions for the medical field.



Above, from left: Sammi, Carson and Lauren in Panama.

## CALIFORNIA

*California Beta, University of California, Berkeley*

**ANIKA MANCHANDA** and **ASHLEY LEE** are spreading their Pi Phi wings as part of University of California, Berkeley's skydiving club, The Air Bears. They both compete in solo jump tournaments and have found Sincere Friendship as they explore new heights together.

*California Epsilon, San Diego State University*

In October 2022, Director Fraternity Heritage **KATIE CHRISMAN** received the 110<sup>th</sup> title of Miss Huntington Beach, a pageant which focuses on academic excellence, public speaking and philanthropic involvement. Her new title has given her the opportunity to become more involved in the local community and also partner with large non-profit organizations such as Toys 4 Joy, Spark of Love and SurfRider to expand her donation and fundraising efforts.



Above: Katie Chrisman loading a truck full of donated toys for children in Orange County, California.

## CONNECTICUT

*Connecticut Beta, Yale University*

**ELITA FARAHDEL** was recently awarded a Fulbright scholarship and will be receiving a Master of Public Health from the Université Paris Cité and joining the Obstetrical Perinatal and Paediatric Epidemiology Research team. Elita's Connecticut Beta sisters are incredibly proud of her accomplishment.



From left: Delaware Alphas **KIERA ZIEHL** and **KASSIDY WOJTOWICZ**.

## DELAWARE

*Delaware Alpha, University of Delaware*

In Fall 2022, the Delaware Alpha Chapter members expressed their core value of Philanthropic Service to Others by bringing Pi Phi's Champions are Readers® program to West Park Place Elementary School and developing a pen pal program with the fifth-grade class. The pen pal program targets reading and writing skills while creating a special bond between the sisters and students.

## FLORIDA

*Florida Eta, University of Miami*

In Fall 2022, Director Academics **ALLY STANKOWSKI** started a book club for the chapter as a fun way for sisters to get together and discuss a book of their choosing. Through this, she has also been able to promote Pi Phi's philanthropic focus on literacy and inspire sisters to read outside of their classes. Starting out with 30 members and counting, the club chose their first book as "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

## INDIANA

*Indiana Alpha, Franklin College*

This past September, the Indiana Alpha Chapter participated in a local service opportunity with Imagination Library of Johnson County, an organization founded by Dolly Parton that gifts books to children ages 0-5 in low-income households. Collaborating with Dr. Susan Crisafulli, president of the local organization and English professor at Franklin College, members dressed up as storybook characters, greeted families and served food during their inaugural Storybook Breakfast.

### *Indiana Delta, Purdue University*

Vice President Community Relations **MARY BORCHERS** and Director Service and Philanthropy **NAOMI BABKA** created a new philanthropy tradition at the Indiana Delta Chapter. Over the course of six months, Mary and Naomi planned "Pi Phi Par," a golf outing to support Read > Lead > Achieve® by raising money for The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation. The event took place at Ackerman Golf Course on Purdue University's campus with a total of 65 participants including students, family members, faculty and friends. During the event, members of Indiana Delta educated participants about Read > Lead > Achieve, held mini games and handed out prizes for winning teams. "My favorite part of the day was seeing all our sisters spend time together and get excited about philanthropy with the golfers," said Naomi. "I look forward to seeing this event grow in the future!"

### *Indiana Gamma, Butler University*

The Indiana Gamma Chapter had a fun and successful Bid Day in January 2023 with the theme "On Cloud Phi." Outgoing Vice President Community Relations (VPCR) **KATIE KUHN** invited alumna **MARIA JANE "MJ" KEYLAR** to serve cupcakes from her baking business, MJ's Baking Boutique. Incoming VPCR **GIGI GRAHAM** hired an aspiring photographer, Olivia Liebe, from the Butler community to capture the day.



From left: Indiana Gammas **AMBER HAANTZ** and **LETITIA BORTEY**.

## IOWA

*Iowa Zeta, University of Iowa*

In January, **EMILY BONERT** spent 10 days in Ghana, Africa, working with children living in orphanages and helping local families in the village of Cape Coast where she was able to learn about the culture and develop meaningful connections. She also had the opportunity to visit local schools and universities in Ghana to better understand the education system and the challenges within it. During the duration of the trip, Emily and her team helped a family register their three children at a local school.

## KANSAS

*Kansas Beta, Kansas State University*

**MACKENZIE MORRIS**, the libero—or back-row defense—for Kansas State University’s volleyball team, just hit her 100<sup>th</sup> career dig, a major accomplishment for a libero to achieve. Members of Kansas Beta are her number one fans and were excited to celebrate her latest achievement. “I am so grateful to have such an amazing support system through Pi Phi,” Mackenzie shared. “Seeing my friends in the crowd is the best feeling and reminds me how lucky I am to share in this sisterhood!”

## KENTUCKY

*Kentucky Alpha, University of Louisville*

**KATIE HODAPP** attended College Weekend 2023 and shared her story of coming out to her chapter at the “We Are Pi Phi” engagement station. Over the last year, Katie began questioning her sexuality and was afraid her sisters wouldn’t accept her for who she is. However, Katie experienced an outpouring of love from the chapter. “Sincere Friendship is valued most at Kentucky Alpha and I hope my story can empower many others who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community,” she shared.



Above: Katie at College Weekend.



Above: Emily Bonert playing with children in the community.



Above: Mackenzie Morris celebrating on the court.

## MISSISSIPPI

*Mississippi Alpha, University of Southern Mississippi*

In October 2022, the College of Business and Economic Development at University of Southern Mississippi announced the Golden Idea Pitch competition, an opportunity for students to develop a creative business idea and win a cash prize to aid in their efforts. As a top three finalist, **MARYKATHERINE WILKINSON** was awarded \$1,500 for the idea she pitched called The Lula Rich Foundation, an organization that seeks to enhance growth and development in Mississippi's rural areas. "It only takes one person to stand up and start making a difference—I am ready to make that difference in Mississippi," she shared.

*Mississippi Beta, University of Mississippi*

**LIESEL GARRETT** and **OLIVIA SCHNEIDER** spent time in Guatemala over their winter break to serve the local community, shadow doctors and experience the culture. Liesel's favorite part of this service opportunity was performing wellness checks for the women of the community as well as educating mothers on the importance of mental health. Olivia's favorite part was interacting with the children and trying the traditional food to immerse herself in the culture.

*Mississippi Gamma, Mississippi State University*

In Fall 2022, the Mississippi Gamma Chapter participated in Mississippi State University's campus-wide carnival where several fraternities and sororities each created a carnival booth based on their favorite children's book. Local students and parents enjoyed a night full of food, games and live music. This event also raised money for The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Mississippi Gamma hopes to see this become an annual tradition.

Below, from left: Mississippi Gammas **SADIE BRYAN, MADDIE SAUCIER, CAROLINE PRATT, LANEY BARTON** and **CARLY CHAPMAN** at the carnival.



The Nebraska Beta Chapter Leadership Team in front of the Arch. Back row, from left: **VIRGINIA ALLEN, CAROLINE OBERLE, ELLA TURLEY**, Quinlan and **ABBY METSHKE**. Front row, from left: **BROOKE SLAMA, ANNA SNODGRASS** and **LAUREN OSTROWSKI**.

## NEBRASKA

*Nebraska Beta, University of Nebraska*

The entire Chapter Leadership Team from Nebraska Beta attended College Weekend 2023 in St. Louis—an experience they all valued greatly. "The best part about this experience was getting to connect with other Pi Phis and discover our differing and shared experiences!" said Vice President Member Experience **QUINLAN COUCH**.



## NORTH CAROLINA

*North Carolina Alpha, University of North Carolina*  
 After struggling with her mental health during her first year of college, **LIBBY OGDEN** developed a passion for mental health advocacy. She created the podcast DebUNCed with a fellow University of North Carolina student to destigmatize mental health and bring awareness to college students. In the podcast, Libby and her co-host discuss personal experiences, relationships, goal setting, burnout and much more. Through this platform, Libby's goal is to foster a community between listeners and help others know they are loved and not alone.

*North Carolina Delta, North Carolina State University*  
 The North Carolina Delta Chapter was bestowed the Sopher Cup, an award named after a past Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life at North Carolina State University and based on a chapter's overall success. North Carolina Delta received this recognition due to its campus involvement, leadership advancements, service opportunities and academic achievements.

## OHIO

*Ohio Epsilon, University of Toledo*  
 Ohio Epsilon sisters have been working with Solace Health and Wellness in Toledo to collect menstrual product donations. Recently, they were able to pack up their donations and give away 75 bags to women in need.



Ohio Epsilons with their donation bags. Back row, from left: **KASSIDY KOKOTAYLO, OLIVIA CASTLE, ALIA BESEISO, ERIN ERMATINGER** and **AMANDA KEENER**. Front row, from left: **CHARLOTTE DEROSA, JENNY BOHURJAK, ELLA LOCKSHIN, SRIJA CHUNDURI** and **TANYA DHULIPUDI**.

## OKLAHOMA

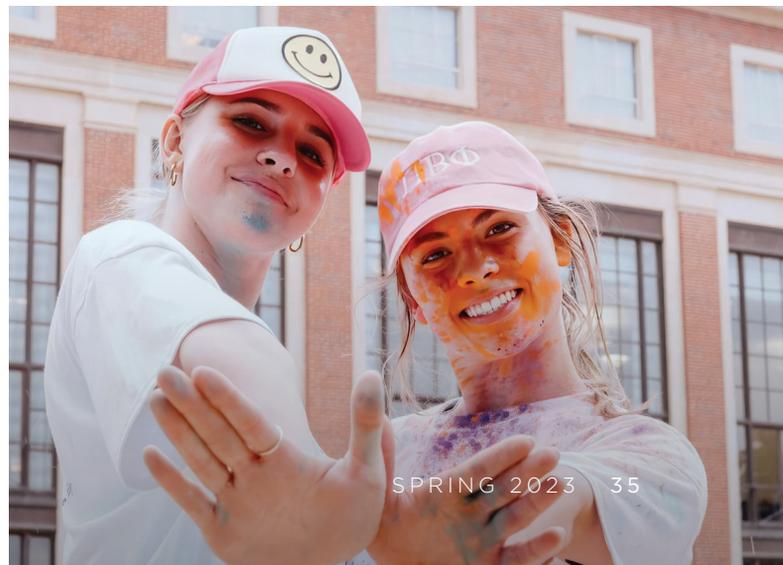
*Oklahoma Alpha, University of Oklahoma*  
 Members of Oklahoma Alpha started 2023 with their annual leadership retreat, a treasured event within the chapter. Both incoming and outgoing officers attended for a weekend of leadership training, bonding and a night in Oklahoma City. The new officers now feel ready to take on their roles after learning from the previous leaders!



Above, from left: North Carolina Deltas **GEENA THOMAS, ALYSSA JOHNSON, OLIVIA LARUSSO, MIA RABASSI, MORGAN MILLER, SYDNEY CRUSH, SYDNEY MANUEL** and **WAVERLY KENNEDY** with the Sopher Cup.

*Oklahoma Beta, Oklahoma State University*  
 In Fall 2022, the Oklahoma Beta Chapter partnered with the men of FarmHouse Fraternity and hosted the inaugural Race for Reading 5k and Fun Run philanthropy event on Oklahoma State University's (OSU) campus. Participants could either walk or run the 5k or participate in the one-mile color run. The event was a huge success with approximately 200 participants from OSU organizations and the local community. Together, they raised more than \$14,000 for The Literacy Fund and the Friendship Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Oklahoma Beta is excited for the event to continue in the future since this philanthropy event was unanimously voted as the chapter's favorite event to date.

Below, from left: **EMMA DUFFY** and **KELSEY CALDWELL** participating in the Fun Run.



## ONTARIO

*Ontario Beta, Western University*

In November 2022, the Ontario Beta Chapter hosted its annual Lip Sync for Literacy event, the highlight of Ontario Beta's philanthropic efforts. With the theme Love is in the Air, the event was a huge success with fraternity men from the community coming together to perform love-inspired songs and dances choreographed by Ontario Beta sisters. Vice President Community Relations **HANNAH RODDAN**, Director Service and Philanthropy **TAYLOR BURTON** and Director PR/Marketing **OLIVIA WROBLEWSKI** organized the event, and with the help of their community, raised more than \$6,000 for the Friendship Fund and The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation.

*Ontario Gamma, University of Guelph*

Vice President Member Experience **GILLIAN MACKAY** implemented a new scrapbooking event for members of Ontario Gamma to uplift one another. At a sisterhood event, members came together to make their own scrapbooks and write kind notes to each other on each page. Gillian plans to make this a monthly event so sisters can show their love and appreciation for one another regularly. She also hopes these scrapbooks will serve as a cherished keepsake for Ontario Gamma sisters.

## PENNSYLVANIA

*Pennsylvania Eta, Lafayette College*

**JORDAN LAM** has been working alongside Professor Michael Butler at Lafayette College to better understand how the fear or curiosity of novel objects can affect the feeding behavior of birds. Their research is contributing to a worldwide data collection project, and Jordan is more than grateful for the opportunity!

Below: Jordan Lam outside the Louvre Museum in Paris.



Above: Isabelle Leasure in her medical attire.

## TENNESSEE

*Tennessee Gamma, University of Tennessee*

In January, **ISABELLE LEASURE** traveled to Costa Rica for 10 days to help provide dental care to communities without access to proper care. She and her peers treated a total of 286 patients. "I'm truly grateful for this unforgettable experience, the friends and memories I made along the way!" she said.





Above: Texas Gamma members initiated in 1972 with current members.

## TEXAS

*Texas Gamma, Texas Tech University*

Texas Gamma members hosted the 1972 Member Class for its induction into the Order of the Golden Arrow and were eager to witness the special moment these women shared celebrating 50 years of commitment to Pi Phi. Past Chapter President **HALEY HUTCHINSON** said, “Witnessing the love these women still have for each other even 50 years later is truly inspiring. This ceremony is a true testament to Lifelong Commitment and Sincere Friendship and it made me excited to see these relationships go far beyond my four years as a collegiate member.”

## UTAH

*Utah Alpha, University of Utah*

Utah Alpha **JESS RIOUX** has been working with the Geraldine E. King Women’s Resource Center, a homeless shelter in Salt Lake City, for many years. As a volunteer, she has been making a difference by donating clothes, working within their food banks, collecting hygiene products and creating opportunities for her sisters to volunteer. Many members have found a genuine passion for giving back to and connecting with this community. “If you believe you have something to give to make the world a better place, then give it and do it with a smile on your face because you might inspire someone else to do the same,” Jess shared.

## VIRGINIA

*Virginia Gamma, College of William & Mary*

Members of the Virginia Gamma Chapter have been expanding their love of literacy to include financial literacy through a series of chapter workshops. Vice President Finance/Housing **LILLY POPE** has led this initiative by organizing several workshops on development, investing and housing, as well as a collaboration with another women-led group on campus—Smart Women Securities—to learn about personal finances. Recently, the chapter also held a Women in Business panel with several alumnae, which inspired many of the collegiate members. Through the creation of this program, Virginia Gamma has given its members the opportunity to take a valuable step toward their futures with strong financial competency. ◀



Above: Arrowhead West-Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club members standing with their newly installed Little Free Library.

## ARIZONA

### Arizona Alpha Alumna

**PAM TURBEVILLE** was recently announced as one of five alumni to win the University of Arizona's Order of Omega Greek Hall of Fame Award, a recognition for exemplary achievement in alumni life. Pam is currently the CEO of a medical care company, has served on various boards and established the Pamela J. Turbeville Endowment in the University of Arizona's School of Family and Consumer Sciences in 2000.

### Arrowhead West-Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club

In January, the Arrowhead West-Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club donated gift cards, more than 600 stuffed animals and 800 toiletry bags to the Surprise, Arizona Police Department's Victims Advocate Program which supports victims of crime and abuse.

In November 2022, the Arrowhead West-Phoenix Club installed its fourth Little Free Library, this one in partnership with the Wickenburg, Arizona Public Library. As an older community, Wickenburg is excited to have more books that cater to children. This Little Free Library was also part of a community service project for Centennial High School in Peoria, Arizona, as the students came together to construct and mount the library, as well as paint it wine and silver blue!

### Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club

In November, the Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club held a "Friends" sitcom-themed Thanksgiving with recipes from the show and a trivia game. Attendees were also asked to bring a stuffed animal to support the local charity Mighty Change of Heart, an organization that sends care packages to local foster kids.



Above: Members of the Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club gathered at their "Friends" Thanksgiving event.

## ARKANSAS

### *Arkansas Alpha Alumnae*

Since the loss of her husband to cancer, Arkansas Alpha **LAUREN COKER STRINGER** has channeled her energy into helping others facing similar challenges through the nonprofit Personal Pep Rally. Founded alongside her mother, fellow Arkansas Alpha **MISTI POLLARD COKER**, Personal Pep Rally sends care packages to patients around the world, funds scholarships for students impacted by cancer and advocates for other cancer-related philanthropic efforts. Lauren and Misti say they've found a greater purpose after their personal pain, and helping others through their grief keeps them connected to the memory of Lauren's husband, Marc.

## CONNECTICUT

### *Connecticut Gamma Alumnae*

**ALEXA POLICASTRO** and **RACHEL SHUTE** were roommates and sisters at Quinnipiac University, and in October 2022, Rachel had the honor of officiating Alexa's wedding to her husband, Michael. The ceremony was an unforgettable moment for Alexa and Rachel to share and even included nods to Sincere Friendship and Lifelong Commitment.

## GEORGIA

### *Atlanta, Georgia, Alumnae Club*

In December, the Atlanta, Georgia, Alumnae Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> annual Mother-Daughter Tea event. Members from more than 20 Pi Phi chapters gathered at the home of Alabama Gamma **STEPHANIE HAUGHWOUT SHERLING** for tea, coffee and holiday treats and were also joined by Grand Vice President Alumnae **GREER HORNE**, Virginia Zeta.

Right, from left: Grand Vice President Alumnae and Virginia Zeta **GREER HORNE**, South Carolina Beta **PAIGE RAMSDEN PETERSON**, Georgia Alpha **VANESSA WILLIAMS LITTLE**, Foundation Trustee and Virginia Eta **DONNA LYNN BUTTERWORTH**, and Georgia Alpha **MARY ROOD BAGWELL**.



Above, from left: Rachel, Alexa and Michael.





## INDIANA

*Indiana Epsilon Alumna*

Indiana Epsilon **JOANN GIVENS BAKER** receiving her Diamond Arrow from her nieces. Above, from left: Michigan Alpha **KAREN BOLL ROBIDEAU**, JoAnn and Indiana Epsilon **BETSY BAKER LASKEY** celebrating JoAnn's 75 years with Pi Phi!

## KENTUCKY

*Kentucky Alpha Alumna*

Kentucky Alpha **RACHEL ROARX** was elected to serve in the Kentucky House of Representatives as the youngest female state representative to serve in the chamber. She is also currently the youngest member of the Kentucky General Assembly.



### *Kentucky Beta Alumnae*

From left: Kentucky Betas **CAROL SUTTMAN RICKERT, JANA CASE LISTON, TAMMY BLAIR KMETZ, ROBERTA CHEATHAM ETHINGTON, MENDY SURTEES VIDAL, FAY DORVAL, LAURIE LYONS** and **SUSAN WILSON** gathered in Glacier National Park for a week of hiking and sisterhood.

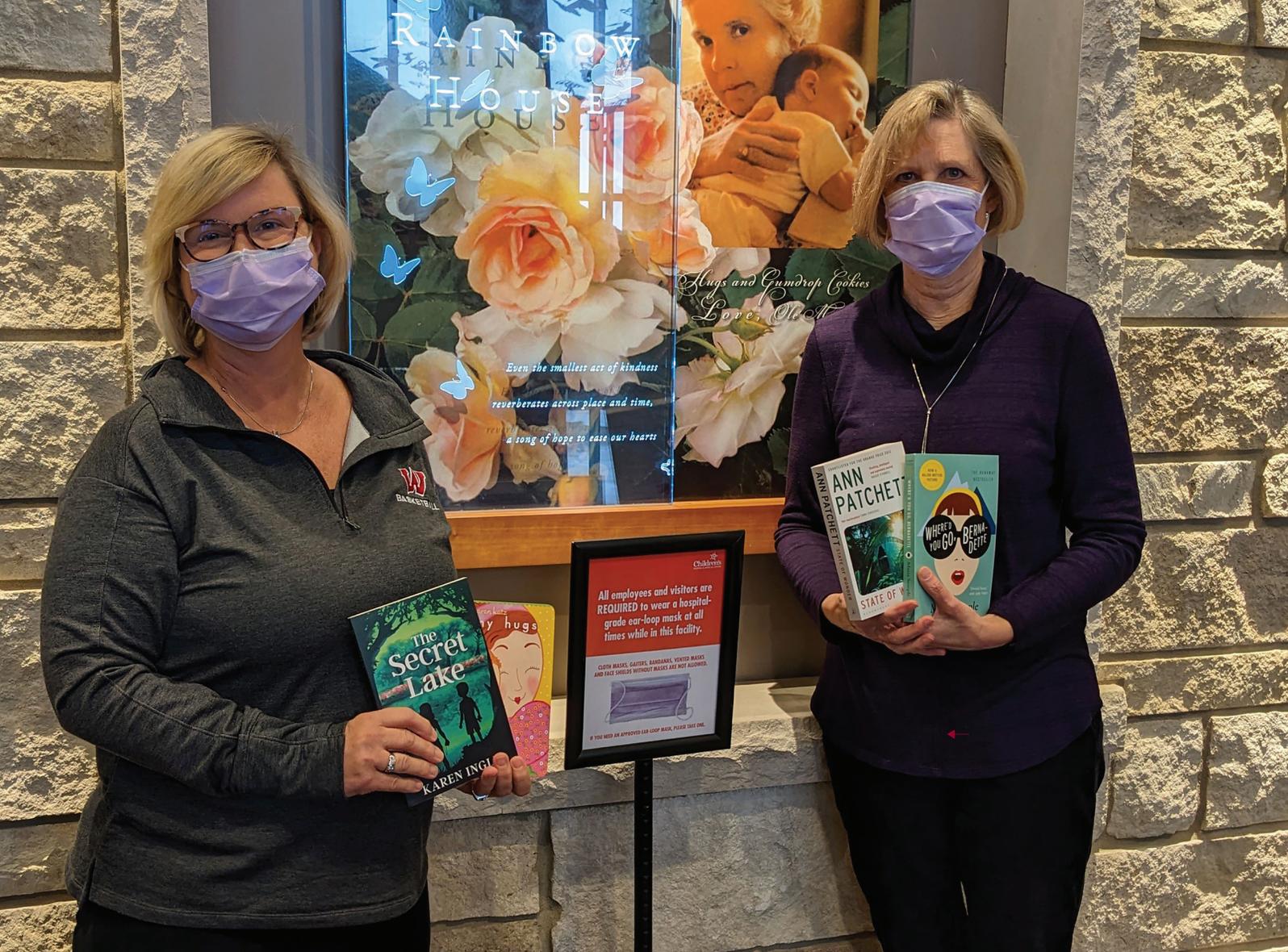
## MASSACHUSETTS

### *Bostonian, Massachusetts, Alumnae Club*

The Bostonian, Massachusetts, Alumnae Club's "Angels on the Trails" interest group visited Boston's Women's Heritage Trail, a site highlighting women who led the way in education, the arts, environmental protection and suffrage. The three-and-a-half-mile walk included stops at the Boston Women's Memorial and the Boston Public Library and ended at a hotel on the trail for conversation and refreshments.

Back row, from left: Utah Alpha **SARAH GIBBONS**, Connecticut Alpha **DEBBIE MCMILLAN**, Pennsylvania Epsilon **OLIVIA BRACKEN**, Connecticut Alpha **RAINY MOBAREK** and New York Delta **JUDY ASHBY**. Front row, from left: Florida Alpha **CAROLINE KURTZ SCHEIRER**, Maryland Gamma **PAIGE PERSKY** and Michigan Gamma **LYNN SEEBER WENTZEL**.





From left: Omaha Alumnae Club President **ANN HERRALD CHRISTIANSEN** and Vice President Communications **ANNE PAULE HALL**, both Iowa Gamma, inside the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House delivering books.

## MICHIGAN

*Michigan Alpha Alumna*

In December, Michigan Alpha **ASHLEY PIEPER** performed the U.S. national anthem in an octet at the NCAA Final Four Volleyball Championship. With 16,000 in attendance, she said, “It was a once in a lifetime experience!”

## NEBRASKA

*Omaha, Nebraska, Alumnae Club*

In December, the Omaha, Nebraska, Alumnae Club continued its annual “Books from Angels” philanthropy event and collected 40 new adult and children’s books for the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House. This house was built for out-of-town families who come to Children’s Hospital & Medical Center from more than 90 miles outside Omaha. On each floor, there is a “lending library” with new books that may be borrowed or kept.

*Nebraska Gamma Alumna*

**LINDSEY LARSEN** wrote and published a children’s book intended to educate children and caregivers about other children who live with disabilities. “Meeting Exceptional Friends” offers guidance into supporting a child’s curiosity with education and respect, as well as showing children the importance of friendship regardless of our differences.

## NEW YORK DELTA

### *New York Delta Alumna*

Founder and CEO **SUSAN SARICH** has recently been named in the Forbes 50 Over 50 list for her bakery, SusieCakes, a classic American bakery with 26 locations in California and Texas. This list consists of 200 women who have made great strides in their careers, and Susie was one of 50 women included in the “Lifestyle” category alongside Tory Burch, Martha Stewart and Dolly Parton. As this passion sparked at a young age from baking alongside her grandmothers, being named on this list is an incredible honor for Susie.

### *North Carolina Beta Alumna*

In 2022, **CHLOE SONGER** was featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 for her company, Thousand Fell, which she co-founded in 2019. Chloe’s goal was to make a completely reusable pair of sneakers using materials like yoga mats, recycled bottles, food waste and more. She has done just that as the sustainable shoes are now available at Bloomingdale’s, Madewell and Zappos. When customers are done with their sneakers, they can scan a microchip embedded in the shoe and receive a shipping label to return them for recycling.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### *Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club*

The Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club celebrated Chapter Loyalty Day with a dinner at the home of Ohio Zeta **GWENDOLYN MITCHELL REICHBACH**. Sisters from 17 different Pi Phi chapters were in attendance and dressed in clothing representative of their chapter or university. Members also brought memorabilia from their collegiate years to share along with new children’s books for their upcoming Fraternity Day of Service events. After dinner, they played a special bingo game to help members learn more about each other and their chapters of initiation.



Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club members at their Chapter Loyalty Dinner.



Above: Alison (second from right) cutting the ribbon with members of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation.

## OKLAHOMA

*Oklahoma Alpha Alumna*

When **ALISON EVANS TAYLOR** retired, she knew she wanted to volunteer in the Oklahoma City community but wasn't sure how. Little did she know that in 2016, she and her friends would dream up the idea of a literacy bus, and now, ReadOKC On the Go! has become a reality. Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation provided two buses and Pi Beta Phi Foundation of Oklahoma City helped in supplying books and grants for the bookmobiles. The goal is to bring books to students in the area and instill a love of literacy on the go. Pi Phis in the Oklahoma City area have already begun volunteering to help make a difference in this community!



Above: Gretchen (left) at the Off the Field Wives Association luncheon before the Super Bowl.

## TENNESSEE

*Tennessee Beta Alumna*

**GRETCHEN BAUER GOMOLISKY**, designer and founder of BSWANKY, was honored to have one of her own handcrafted designer bags featured in the 2023 Super Bowl. As part of a raffle to benefit the Off the Field NFL Wives Association—a group of current and former NFL players' wives who give back to NFL charities—she created a one-of-a-kind bag to be gifted to one of the women. This opportunity to give back through her craft is one Gretchen is more than grateful for.



Above: Members of the Tyler, Texas, Alumnae Club posing in front of angel wings painted by local artists in downtown Tyler.

## TEXAS

*Texas Gamma Alumna*

In the summer of 2022, **TERI PHILLIPS** received her Doctor of Chiropractic from Parker University and was cheered on by biological and Pi Phi sister, Texas Delta **ANDREA PHILLIPS, PHD.**

## VERMONT

*Vermont Beta Alumna*

**MAYA SHAPIRO-MILLER BURR**, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, recently published a children's book titled "Little Siblings, Big Feelings," which acts as a guide to help children navigate their feelings around welcoming a new sibling to the family. As someone who often consults families struggling with this dynamic and who has dealt with it firsthand, she felt her knowledge could offer a resource to other parents and children who may be going through the same thing. ◀

# In Memoriam

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

In Memoriam lists the name and initiation year of each member who has died. The list below reflects notification by public obituary received at Pi Beta Phi Headquarters between October 1, 2022—January 31, 2023. Obituaries may be submitted at [pibetaphi.org/in-memoriam](http://pibetaphi.org/in-memoriam).

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

## ALABAMA ALPHA

Leta Rush Cutler, 1959  
Ann Mooty Davidson, 1948  
Cathy Rogers Spires, 1968

## ARIZONA ALPHA

Judy Dold Higdon, 1955  
Judith Hodge Lundin, 1959  
Jacquie Hatch Schmidle, 1965

## ARKANSAS ALPHA

Pat McSwain Combs, 1946  
Mary Collom Fore, 1953  
Joan Vanhooose Havens, 1944  
Betty Wunderlich Rachels, 1946

## ARKANSAS BETA

Linda Gail Baker, 1973

## CALIFORNIA DELTA

Joan Little Forsyth, 1948

## CALIFORNIA EPSILON

Ginger Hoy Kossy, 1978  
affiliated California Beta  
Barbara Brown Norwood, 1954

## CALIFORNIA GAMMA

Mary Mackie Ballentine, 1953

## CALIFORNIA THETA

Susan Frier Nichols, 1980

## COLORADO BETA

Jeanne Hazelhurst Carpenter, 1948

## COLORADO DELTA

Heather Therese Mergentime, 2012

## FLORIDA ALPHA

Mary Landers Brooke, 1947  
Joan Sloan Mainwood, 1953  
Janet White Stebbins, 1943

## FLORIDA BETA

Cari Alexis White, 2003

## GEORGIA ALPHA

Ashley Bateman Mixson, 1990

## IDAHO ALPHA

Elaine Wacker Broyles, 1959  
Dona Newman Harris, 1959  
Xana Kernodle, 2020  
Madison Mogen, 2019

## ILLINOIS THETA

Truda Cooling Nelson, 1953

## ILLINOIS ZETA

Susie Glosecki Burton, 1964  
Ellen Hartman Dahl, 1965  
Phyllis Welsh Hallene, 1948

## INDIANA ALPHA

Karen Hibner Colgrove, 1959

## INDIANA BETA

Jill Harris Albershardt, 1953  
Beth Bizot, 1969  
Marjorie Brink Coridan, 1946  
Stephanie Marie Powell, 1999

## INDIANA DELTA

Peggy Savage Fogle, 1961  
Sondra McCormac Kent, 1954  
Cara Dunbar Klockow, 1997  
Karin Hellman Muncie, 1953

## INDIANA EPSILON

Suzanne Day Pontius, 1947  
Anne Paisley Porteous, 1942

## INDIANA ZETA

Lorene Norton Yazel, 1957

## IOWA ALPHA

Patricia White Bishoff, 1961

## IOWA GAMMA

Beth Johnson Patterson, 1936  
Kristi Ann Shaw Cadwell, 1978  
affiliated North Dakota Alpha

## IOWA ZETA

Valerie Pierce Leuck, 1966  
Nancy Hunt Ryden, 1950

## KANSAS ALPHA

Judy Howard Billings, 1955  
Barbara Varner Frizell, 1945  
Laura Cline Lehman, 1986  
Betty Shartel Smith, 1949

## KANSAS BETA

Kim Green Freeman, 1971  
Joline Nelson Ohmart, 1947  
Beverly Pribble-Gard Pinkerton, 1946  
Carolyn Huber Pulford, 1957

## KENTUCKY ALPHA

Bette Pence Beck, 1946

## LOUISIANA ALPHA

Jacqueline Provosty Avegno, 1943

## LOUISIANA BETA

Amanda Lee Kohler, 1955

## MAINE ALPHA

Norma Cumming Russell, 1952

## MICHIGAN ALPHA

Dale Rankin, 1971  
Laurel Kropp Schaefer, 1971

## MISSISSIPPI ALPHA

Zula Wilson Kimble, 1973

**MISSISSIPPI BETA**

Susan Gryder Vassar, 1976

**MISSOURI ALPHA**

Georgette Stanley Page, 1944

**MISSOURI BETA**

Georgia Dunbar Colwell, 1948  
Pat Dougan Neilson, 1958  
Jane Petersen Nixon, 1959

**NEBRASKA BETA**

Gretchen Winkler Creswell, 1954  
Angela Donner, 1992

**NEVADA ALPHA**

Bobby Sanford Walker, 1945

**NEW YORK ALPHA**

Janet Allis Kortright, 1967

**NEW YORK GAMMA**

Theresa Howard Brennan, 1949  
Carol Webster McCormack, 1952  
affiliated North Carolina Alpha

**NORTH CAROLINA ALPHA**

Jane Hatchett Nast, 1958

**NORTH CAROLINA BETA**

Marilyn Stokes Young, 1949

**NORTH DAKOTA ALPHA**

Eleanor Ginther Raymond, 1940

**OHIO ALPHA**

Nancy Arthur Smetts, 1946

**OHIO BETA**

Nancy Gingery Gylov, 1950

**OHIO DELTA**

Cynthia Keep Aguiar, 1959

**OHIO EPSILON**

Kathleen Miller Grewe, 1958  
Joanne Wenner Sigler, 1947

**OHIO ZETA**

Anne Goddard Barker, 1955  
affiliated Ohio Alpha  
MaryJo Oberlin Gifford, 1965

**OKLAHOMA ALPHA**

Ann Bingaman Jacobs, 1958  
Kaye Ferguson McCullough, 1958  
Carolyn Cooley Smith, 1945

**OKLAHOMA BETA**

Fran Thornberry Callaway, 1962  
Jane Gillett Price, 1938

**OREGON ALPHA**

Linda Lundberg Enloe, 1972  
Joan Hickey Kinzel, 1945  
Joan Miller Myers, 1951  
Nancy Knight Roberts, 1945

**PENNSYLVANIA BETA**

Virginia Reed Demoreville, 1970

**PENNSYLVANIA EPSILON**

Margaret Tighe Drozd, 1959  
Peggy Byrnes Kiefer, 1954

**SOUTH CAROLINA ALPHA**

Evelyn Plyler Carpenter, 1948  
Jane Boyce Carroll, 1961

**TENNESSEE ALPHA**

Mary Jacoway Stephenson, 1947  
Madolyn Strahle Tankesley, 1956

**TENNESSEE BETA**

Judith Manning Auer, 1961  
Jane Ralston Bowles, 1964  
Julia Lipscomb Jarman, 1969  
Sharon Ligon Troy, 1957

**TENNESSEE DELTA**

Patsy Higgins Rushing, 1974

**TEXAS ALPHA**

Mollie Hart Clemens, 1942  
Doris Newton Harrington, 1949  
Nancy L. Rogers, 1962  
Edina Welsh Sauer, 1982  
Carole Robinson Scott, 1956  
Marjorie McGown Sharpley, 1952  
Jane Everett Whitney, 1951  
Rosine McFaddin Wilson, 1946

**TEXAS BETA**

Kay Calloway Mitchell, 1957

**TEXAS GAMMA**

Harriet Moltz Cole, 1954  
Suzanne Matteson Estle, 1953

**UTAH ALPHA**

Julie Hawkes Heninger, 1955  
Barbara H Harker Jensen, 1963  
Sunee Wood, 2013

**VERMONT BETA**

Judith Enright Daly, 1958  
Carol Ballou Smith, 1946

**VIRGINIA GAMMA**

Betsey Davis Hathaway, 1954

**VIRGINIA ZETA**

Sarah Wellford, 2017

**WASHINGTON ALPHA**

Sallie Ivy Brown, 1946  
Joanne Tartre Herrin, 1947  
Janice Merritt Walker, 1951  
Jeannie Carson Whittington, 1952

**WASHINGTON BETA**

Ann Ayres King, 1950

**WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA**

Lois Conley Harris, 1958  
Margaret Curry Wise, 1951

**WEST VIRGINIA BETA**

Gayle Arbogast Perry, 1950

**WISCONSIN ALPHA**

Sally Stenjem Slocum, 1946

**WISCONSIN BETA**

Joan Halmstad MacDonald, 1955  
Marcia Mann Robbins, 1959

**WISCONSIN GAMMA**

Victoria Agee Groser, 1960

**WYOMING ALPHA**

Reta Wick Ralph, 1949

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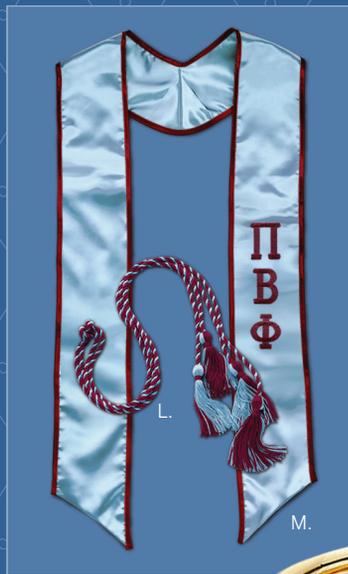
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# Spotlight on Sisterhood

FOLLOW PI BETA PHI ON INSTAGRAM @PIBETAPHIHQ



## @msmichaylad

This is what Sisterhood is all about. I had a fantastic time visiting my Ontario Gamma sisters @piphi\_uofg talking all things sisterhood, alumna life and grad school! Thank you ladies for an incredible evening! #realresiliency



## @monmouthpiphi

Congratulations to the initiates into Order of Omega! We are so proud of you!



## @colapiphialums

Here's to strong women! May we know them, raise them, and be them. #internationalwomensday

## @simpsonpiphis

How sweet it is to be loved by you! Girls day was a blast with all of our favorite women

## @pugetsoundpiphi

Happy International Women's Day! We love to celebrate and honor all of the wonderful, strong and talented Angels we have and who have come before us. WA Gamma is sending love to all of the other chapters on campus and to our fellow Pi Phi chapters!

