



## Holt House: Pi Beta Phi's Founding Home

This seminar is designed to be utilized as a companion piece to the film, "Holt House: Pi Beta Phi's Founding Home" and is suggested for use as part of Founders' Day celebrations.

**Fraternity Value:** Honor and Respect

**Time:** Varies – depending on components chosen

**Suggested Facilitator:** Vice President of Member Development, Vice President Programming or alumnae club leader

- Goals:**
- To educate participants on the history, heritage and current uses of Holt House.
  - To promote participants' knowledge, appreciation and preservation of Fraternity heritage.
  - To allow participants the opportunity to reflect and discuss the founding of Pi Beta Phi.

### Room setup/materials needed:

- Make sure you have enough room for participants to sit comfortably as a large group as well as space for small group discussions.
- LCD projector and large screen or a large-screen television with audio capabilities. Test your equipment before the seminar.
- "Holt House: Pi Beta Phi's Founding Home" DVD (mailed to all collegiate chapters and alumnae clubs in April 2011 or can be found online at [www.youtube.com/pibetaphiHQ](http://www.youtube.com/pibetaphiHQ)).
- May want to provide candy/snacks for winning Holt House Jeopardy team.
- Flip chart paper and markers

### Getting Started

Talking points are indicated with a callout bullet (☛). Please use these as speaking guidelines, but be sure to jazz up the presentation with your own personality. Facilitation instructions are indicated with an arrow (➔) and serve as hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun!

### Instructions

➔ Introduce the activity

- ☛ Today, we will take a closer look at the founding home of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, Holt House, in Monmouth, Illinois. The mission of Holt House is, "to promote a welcoming spirit, to preserve Fraternity history and to provide an inviting setting that serves Pi Beta Phi collegiate chapters, alumnae clubs and the greater Monmouth community." The vision of Holt House states, "Holt House, the founding home of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, is committed to being recognized as a premier historic home."

- Join me as we watch this short 10 minute DVD about how Holt House came to be what it is today. Then, we will play a short game. Be sure to listen for interesting facts about the history of the property and the use of the property today.

→ Begin the video by clicking “Play Movie” on the opening DVD menu and stop it when it reaches Part Two at the nine minute and 30 second mark.

→ Divide participants into two or four groups to begin playing the Holt House Jeopardy game. Make sure to setup your flip chart paper ahead of time according to the attached document called, “Holt House Jeopardy Setup” and possibly a second piece of flip chart paper to keep score for each team. An assistant may be needed to cross off questions after they have been asked and keep score. Introduce the game by giving participants the following instructions:

- Who is ready for a game of Holt House Jeopardy? Here’s how to play. On the flip chart paper you will see five categories of questions: People, Dates, Names, Facts and Founders. Each has questions worth 100, 200, 300, 400 and 500 points. When it is your team’s turn, someone from your group will choose a category and point value by saying something like, “People for 100”. Then you will be given a statement about something just presented in the video and someone from your team will have five seconds to respond to the statement in the form of a question. For example, if the statement was, “This is the name given to Pi Beta Phi’s Founding Home;” you would answer, “What is Holt House?” If no one from your team answers within five seconds, I will say, “Time’s up” at which point someone from another team may raise their hand to be called on to offer a guess. Whichever team guesses correctly will be awarded the point value for that question and will be allowed to pick another question. That team will continue answering questions until they answer incorrectly or run out of time. Does anybody have any questions?

→ Take any questions that participants may have.

→ Once Holt House Jeopardy is over, tally each team’s point totals to determine the winner.

→ Choose one or more of the following activities to close the seminar.

### **Holt House: Pi Beta Phi’s Founding Home – Part Two**

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→ As a group, watch Part Two of the Holt House: Pi Beta Phi’s Founding Home DVD. Part Two of the DVD offers a tour of the home, explains the significance of each room and the treasures it holds and highlights current uses of the facility. Part Two is approximately 14 minutes in length.

### **Discussion Questions**

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- The following questions are designed to enhance the DVD’s message. Consider using these discussion questions in one of the following ways:
- If you have a Founders’ Day speaker, ask the speaker to lead this discussion.
  - If the group is sharing a meal or refreshments, have the questions at each place setting and ask each participant to ask her question to those seated at her table.
  - Write these questions on flip chart pages and hang them around the room so that participants can discuss

informally during an informal reception.

→ Discussion questions:

- What do you think were some of the things the women discussed in that upstairs room the day Pi Beta Phi was founded?
- Has anyone in the group ever visited Holt House? If so, describe that experience. If not, what do you imagine that experience might be like?
- Put yourself in the shoes of one of the founders. What do you think it was like to be in Libbie and Ada's room that day? If you could have known then what you know now about what Pi Beta Phi is today, would that have changed any of the decisions being made?
- What do you think "Major" Holt thought about these women having secret meetings behind closed doors in his home? Do you think he had any idea what was going on?
- Why do you think it was important to these women to have an organization like I.C. Sorosis for themselves?

### Final Wrap-Up

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→ After watching Part Two of the DVD or the discussion questions, bring everyone back together to close the seminar.

- Holt House is more than just a house. It is a landmark symbolizing the beginning of a movement that would sweep across the nation for centuries following. Ada Bruen once said, "It has always been a real joy to me that I had a little part in the founding of Pi Beta Phi, and I wish you all continued prosperity of success."

→ Thank everyone for coming.

#### For collegiate chapters:

**Evaluation:** Don't forget to help the Fraternity assess this program. The program facilitator, as well as a member of each class, should be asked to visit the *Leading with Values*® website, [www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues](http://www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues), to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is **Holt House: Pi Beta Phi's Founding Home**.

The chapter's Vice President of Member Development should remember to record the presentation of this program in the chapter's monthly regional report.

# Holt House Jeopardy Setup

		Categories				
		People	Dates	Names	Facts	Founders
Point Values	100	100	100	100	100	100
	200	200	200	200	200	200
	300	300	300	300	300	300
	400	400	400	400	400	400
	500	500	500	500	500	500

# Holt House Jeopardy Questions

		Categories				
		People	Dates	Names	Facts	Founders
Point Values	100	This U.S. President once called Monmouth, Illinois home.	In this year, "Major" Holt purchased the newly built two-story house at 402 East First Avenue.	This Greek motto was used by 12 young Monmouth students when beginning their organization.	During renovations, these rooms were added to Holt House.	These women considered themselves fortunate when they obtained a room from Major Holt.
	200	A politician and former legislator, this person purchased Pi Phi's Founding home shortly after it was built.	In the fall of this year, Ada and Libbie enrolled in Monmouth College.	John Talbot made his home in this location which would eventually become this modern day city.	"Major" Holt served three terms as this elected official in Monmouth.	On this day, the women's fraternity movement began.
	300	This person was the last surviving child of "Major" Holt; left as the sole occupant of the house.	The idea of purchasing Holt House was discussed at the Pi Beta Phi Convention in Ashville, North Carolina in this year, but ultimately the attendees felt the house was in disrepair.	On April 28, 1867, a secret society by this name was formed.	This was the cost of the first term at Monmouth College.	Each of the founders was a member of this type of student organization on campus.
	400	A neighbor and father of a Pi Phi, this person purchased the home at a delinquent tax auction.	At Pi Beta Phi Convention in Pasadena, California in this year, attendees voted to restore Holt House which had been found to be structurally sound.	Monmouth College was originally founded under this name in 1853.	I.C. Sorosis was modeled after this type of organization.	These women were not in attendance on April 28, 1867 but they agreed to abide by the group's decisions.
	500	This Grand President of Pi Beta Phi, from 1921 to 1952 gave great service to the restoration of Holt House.	On this date, just two days before Founders' Day, a restored Holt House was opened.	Shortly after the Civil War, these were the two courses of study offered at Monmouth College.	Pi Beta Phi acquired the property in this method.	This person was the first president of I.C. Sorosis.

# Holt House Jeopardy Answers

		Categories				
		People	Dates	Names	Facts	Founders
Point Values	100	Who is Ronald Reagan?	When is 1855?	What is "Pi Beta Phi"?	What is an upstairs bath and a downstairs powder room/half bath?	Who are Ada Bruen and Libbie Brook?
	200	Who is "Major" Jacob Holt?	When is 1866?	What is Monmouth?	Who is the city's mayor?	When is April 28, 1867?
	300	Who is Susan Holt?	When is 1938?	What is I.C. Sorosis?	What is \$12?	What is a literary society?
	400	Who is Hugh Moffet?	When is 1940?	What is Monmouth Academy?	What is a collegiate men's fraternity?	Who are Fannie Thomson and Jennie Nicol?
	500	Who is Amy Burnham Onken?	When is April 26, 1941?	What are classical and scientific courses?	What is a gift?	Who is Emma Brownlee?