Submitted by the Missouri Alpha Chapter and the Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club

Goals:
- To illustrate the value of membership in Pi Beta Phi following college.
- To educate participants on the rights and privileges of membership in Pi Beta Phi after graduation.
- To provide concrete examples of how alumnae have personally benefited from their membership in Pi Beta Phi.
- To discuss the expectations of alumnae and how they differ from expectations of collegians.

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 roundtable discussions.
- A couch, stools or multiple chairs need to be arranged at the front for panel discussion in front of the large group.
- Copies of discussion topics for alumnae participants will need to be placed on each table.

Participants:
- Alumnae panelists. Reach out to the local alumnae club and select alumnae with varying Pi Phi journeys including a mix of Pi Beta Phi alumnae who are club members and officers, chapter advisors and CHC volunteers, HQ staff, Fraternity officers as well as those who are not current or past officers but engage in Pi Beta Phi through other avenues.
- One alumna facilitator for group discussion at the beginning.
- Four to six collegiate facilitators for small group roundtable discussions. Collegiate facilitators will pair up with each alumna panelist to facilitate the small group discussions.

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.

❖ Have you ever wondered how Pi Beta Phi will be a part of your life after you graduate from college? Just because you graduate does not mean your time as a member of Pi Beta Phi is over.

❖ Today we are going to discuss the many ways you can stay engaged with Pi Beta Phi beyond your collegiate years. This includes how to find out about these opportunities, how to identify what meets your needs and what expectations you should have of yourself and of Pi Beta Phi.
After the opening, the alumna facilitator will facilitate the panel’s discussion and ask questions. This is meant to feel relaxed yet provide great candid information. Alumnae should be prepped on which question they will be asked. It should be one that details their personal story so their experiences are not only interesting but can also anecdotally illustrate the points. Alumnae should give open and honest responses, and the facilitator should ask additional probing questions based on the panelist’s response.

Examples of discussion questions for alumnae panelists are listed below. However, the alumna facilitator should feel free to use other questions that may come up or omit any question that does not seem to flow with the current conversation.

- How did you learn about alumnae opportunities after you graduated?
- What things have you identified you need from Pi Beta Phi? How did Pi BetaPhi help fulfill your needs or open doors to otherwise unforeseeable opportunities?
- What have you done to find your Pi Phi connections and remain engaged after college? What does your current relationship with Pi BetaPhi look like?
- Are there periods of time where you are more formally engaged and other times where you are only informally engaged?
- How has your Pi Phi membership evolved over time?
- What is most rewarding about your membership in Pi BetaPhi?
- How is alumnae life different than life as a collegian?
- Do you always pay your annual alumna dues? Why?
- How do you encourage and promote Pi BetaPhi?
- Do you promote the Greek experience to others? If so, how? If not, why do you choose not to?
- Do you promote the Pi Phi alumna experience to other Pi Phis? If so, how? If not, why do you not promote the alumna experience?
- If you had 30 seconds in an elevator to tell someone the benefits of being an engaged Pi Phi alumna, what would you say?
- How do you respond to an individual you meet who says, “I was a Pi Phi in college, but I don’t do anything with it anymore?” Do you think you could change her point of view?

Next, you will break into small group roundtable discussions based on the following topics: Learn, Identify, Find and Engage and Encourage. Each alumnae pairing should be matched with an Executive Council member to help facilitate the conversation. These pairings should be decided before the seminar so the collegiate member has a few minutes to meet with the alumnae panelists to discuss topics.

Now, we’re going to break into small, round table discussions to hear more alumnae perspectives. Collegiate participants will rotate after each topic is discussed. You will have approximately 10 minutes at each table with the alumnae.

Break the collegiate participants into small groups. The number of groups you have will depend on how many alumnae volunteers are available. Ideally there will be two alumnae at each table, along with a member of the Executive Council to help facilitate and prompt with questions.

Assign each group to a table or area and give participants time to move to their locations.

We will be discussing four topics: Learn, Identify, Find and Engage and Encourage. Our first topic for discussion will be “Learn” as in “Learn about alumnae opportunities.”
Collegiate facilitators should have a copy of topics for the alumnae volunteers. However, participants should feel comfortable to ask any questions that apply. Volunteers should be prepared to provide anecdotal stories and life examples to enhance the conversation.

- Pi Beta Phi is an innovative, creative organization that is constantly creating new opportunities and experiences for its members.

Examples of topics for discussion: **LEARN** about alumnae opportunities.

- How do you learn about what Pi Phi offers you as an alumna?
  - From the Fraternity
  - From your own chapter
  - From your local community
  - From other Pi Phis

When about 10 minutes have passed, announce for participants to rotate clockwise to the next group of alumnae panelists.

- When we talk about identifying your needs we ask, “What’s in it for me?” You give a lot of your time and a lot of money in college, now it’s time for Pi Beta Phi to give back, so take it!

Examples of topics for discussion: **IDENTIFY** your needs and how Pi Phi opportunities might fulfill those needs.

- What do you need at this stage of your life? How can Pi Phi help? (Alumnae volunteers could ask this question of collegians as well so they can connect with the collegiate members beyond this seminar.)

- So what rights, privileges and benefits do you get as an alumna that you didn’t before?
  - **Network:** You have access to a network of individuals around the world. Don’t be afraid to reach out to alumnae through the database.
  - **Not Mandatory:** Nothing is mandatory. You’re welcome to attend a Pi Phi alumnae gathering anywhere. You can come and go and spend as little or as much time as you want.
  - **Recommendations:** As an alumna, you have the privilege of recommending someone for membership. If you have enjoyed the Greek experience, pass it on in a positive and Panhellenic way. You can write a RIF for anyone going through recruitment at any chapter.
  - **Legacies:** Pi Beta Phi values the history and commitment that legacy members may bring to a chapter and appreciates their special affinity to the organization. In the future, your daughter or granddaughter will be a legacy. In time, share the Greek experience with them, but be open-minded, realistic and appropriate in your expectations. Regardless of the outcome of recruitment, we hope you will support and encourage your family members to be a part of the Panhellenic community, whether they are wearing our badge or the badge of another NPC organization.

When about 10 minutes have passed, announce for participants to rotate clockwise to the next group of alumnae panelists.

- When finding alumnae relationships, ask “How can Pi Phi help to fulfill these needs?” There are many ways you can stay engaged.
Examples of topics for discussion: **FIND** the alumna relationship with Pi Beta Phi that is going to meet your needs.

- How do you find informal connections?
- How do you find formal connections through organized Pi Phi opportunities?
  - Come back to your chapter, visit and stay connected in a positive way. Offer to volunteer on AAC or CHC.
  - Reach out to network directly with Pi Phis through the Pi Phi website, especially those in your profession.
  - Check the alumnae club in your area. We have more than 300 of them. What do all alumnae clubs offer?
    - **Fun and Social:** Social opportunities have outlets for young members, too.
    - **Meet Movers and Shakers:** Meet people in all walks of life; get to know your community.
    - **Personal Connections:** The best way to network for both professional and volunteer opportunities is to make personal connections.
    - **Give Back:** Community service keeps everyone’s busy schedule in mind is a lot of fun at the same time.
    - **Leadership:** Yes, there are leadership opportunities if you’re interested.

When about 10 minutes have passed, announce for participants to rotate clockwise to the next group of alumnae panelists.

Today we have talked about ways to learn, identify and find the best fit for you at different stages of your life and heard some great examples from the alumnae. No matter what type of engagement you choose, the most important thing to remember is for Pi Beta Phi to be there for the future, we must do our part to keep our organization going.

Examples of topics for discussion: **ENGAGE and ENCOURAGE**

- **Address:** If you do nothing else, keep your profile current on the Pi Beta Phi website. Your email and mailing address are most important so you can receive correspondence.
- **Dues:** Paying annual alumna dues to support and maintain development of Pi Beta Phi at every level is easy. You can do it online. It’s the easiest way to give back to Pi Beta Phi not only for making your own experience in college a good one, but also to make sure Pi Beta Phi stays around so other women have the chance to join in the future. As seniors in college, you will pay your first year of alumna dues. You will not need to worry about it during your first year as an alumna.
- **Recommend Joining a Fraternity or Sorority:** Writing a RIF so we can continue to attract quality women. Talk up the Greek experience.
- **Support Local Work:** If you’re in an area with a club, join and support what they do locally to keep Pi Beta Phi available for everyone. Alumnae clubs do everything from sending RIFs to chapters to supporting local causes and providing social avenues for Pi Phis in your community.
- **Support The Foundation:** Consider donating to Pi Beta Phi Foundation. The Foundation does great work to make life better for individuals through scholarships and need based grants, but it also funds a great deal of what makes Pi Beta Phi strong such as leadership programming, the *Leading with Values* program and Read > Lead > Achieve reading initiatives.
- **I Am (Not Was) a Pi Phi:** Always remember that Pi Beta Phi is for life and you are, not were, a Pi Phi. Even if you think you “Don’t do anything with Pi Phi,” you really do.
Final Wrap-Up

After participants have finished taking any seminar notes, lead the group in the final wrap-up.

- Take a moment to think about a Pi Phi alumna who has influenced your life. She could be a relative, a mentor, an advisor or one of the thousands of Pi Phi volunteers living all over the world.
- What if she had chosen to let her Pi Phi experience end when she graduated? **How different would Pi Phi be today? How different could Pi Phi be in the future if each of us understands our responsibility to remain engaged?**
- The lesson I want you to take away from this session is to remember that we are Pi Phis for LIFE. And in order to uphold our core value of lifelong commitment, we must continue to Learn, Identify, Find and Engage and Encourage just as we did in today's exercise.

Thank everyone for participating in this seminar.

**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, to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is **Making Pi Beta Phi a Lifelong Experience.**

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