

The Arrow

OF PI BETA PHI • SPRING 2024



Words of Wisdom

Sage career advice
shared by our members.

*Also
Inside*

10

EMBRACE YOUR
OWN CALLING

26

I DIDN'T GET
THERE ALONE



OF PI BETA PHI • SPRING 2024

FEATURES

10 EMBRACE YOUR OWN CALLING

As the former Senior Vice President of Culture and Communications at Southwest Airlines®, Texas Gamma **GINGER RODGERS HARDAGE** wholeheartedly believes in the power of positive organizational culture. Now, as the founder of Unstoppable Cultures, it's Ginger's mission to amplify the impact of healthy workplace environments—because when we lean into our strengths, we make a true difference.

12 WORDS OF WISDOM

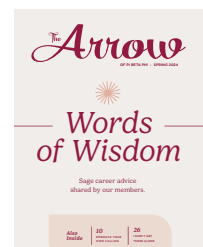
In this issue's feature, read some sage career advice shared by your fellow sisters.

26 I DIDN'T GET THERE ALONE

When Ohio Alpha **TESS SOUTH SPENCER** unexpectedly lost her younger sister, Ohio Alpha **KATHY SOUTH**, she wasn't sure how to continue her collegiate career. With unwavering love and support from her sisters, Tess not only completed her education but also created a meaningful gift to Pi Beta Phi Foundation in honor of Kathy.

ON THE COVER

Within Pi Phi, the bonds we foster give us a golden opportunity to share our insights, expertise and passions with other women—and there's no substitute for the wisdom we can gain from our sisters.



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CORRECTION

In the Winter 2024 issue of *The Arrow*, the photo caption featuring the Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe, Oregon, Alumnae Club on page 35 misspelled a member's initiated last name. The member's name should read "Iowa Gamma **PATRICIA BUKOWSKI MAY.**" We sincerely apologize for the error.

FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR

FRAN DESIMONE BECQUE, New York Alpha



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SUBMISSIONS

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

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter — October 1
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ADDRESS/NAME CHANGES

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

HOW TO RECEIVE THE ARROW

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

A Learning Lab for the Real World



JENN PLAGMAN-GALVIN, PH.D.
 Grand Vice President
 Fraternity Growth

I often say I'm an accidental higher education professional—nobody really starts college thinking they'll be a leader at a university and make a career of it! Through my Pi Phi leadership opportunities and work experiences connected to universities, I stepped into the role of Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Greek Affairs at Iowa State University and later became Director of Operations for the College of Human Sciences. My underlying passions have always been nonprofit work and community engagement, and I've been able to nurture these interests in nearly all aspects of my career through collaboration with others and approaching my work with the hope of pursuing a greater good.

I believe women empowering women is integral to a better world—and throughout my life, Pi Phis of all ages and chapter experiences have empowered me. Looking back, my experience as a collegian at Iowa Gamma was the best learning lab for the real world, whether through formal leadership opportunities or living and growing alongside my chapter sisters. During my time in the chapter, I learned not to shoulder the weight of challenges alone, delegation is key to shared success, transparent communication is always appreciated—and attitude is everything. I may have joined Pi Phi with the foundational elements of leadership, but I developed and refined my skills because of my sisters. They challenged and supported me in the spirit of Sincere Friendship, offered grace when I took missteps and encouraged me to think more broadly than my own life experiences. (Hopefully I had a similar influence on them!)

Learning to lead in an environment of sisterhood prepared me for the high-pressure moments and experiences I'd encounter on the road ahead. I'm talking about the *big* challenges you feel may be impossible to overcome—the times where you start to doubt yourself but know the task at hand cannot fail and find it within yourself to persevere. The problems that require you to work with others in new ways, seek resources you didn't know existed and innovate solutions you didn't know were possible. These are the career experiences that have most shaped me—they've made me a better person, challenged me to be a better team member and allowed me the opportunity to contribute to something bigger than myself. And at every turn, through all the highs and lows, my Pi Phi mentors, fellow leaders and friends have been part of it all.

As working women, whether starting out, nearing retirement or somewhere in between, we find ourselves juggling professional responsibilities, family, friends, personal interests and volunteering. For me, there's a trifecta that leads to a healthy career—believe in the organization you work for, enjoy the job you do and surround yourself with colleagues who challenge you to be the best version of yourself. It's easy to underestimate how important each of these elements are until one or more is out of balance. Find something you enjoy doing and give it your all—and when you, your job or your organization evolve, embrace the change and embark on your next journey knowing your sisters are with you every step of the way.

In Pi Phi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenn Plagman-Galvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional yet personal style.

Letters to Pi Phi

Pi Beta Phi believes we can strengthen the inherent value in Pi Phi sisterhood by seeking feedback from our members and using what we learn to help plan our next steps. We want to hear from you, whether you're sharing your feelings on the latest issue of *The Arrow*, your thoughts on a Fraternity email or social media post or a heartfelt critique encouraging Pi Phi to do better. Below are a selection of thoughts Pi Phi sisters shared with the Fraternity.

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

In response to the tribute of retired Pi Beta Phi Fraternity Executive Director Virginia Bland Fry, Tennessee Beta:

PATTI ROOT BASH, *Indiana Beta, initiated 1965*

Ginny was a beautiful lady—inside and out. It was a privilege to know her. Rest in peace, dear sister.

JANE BONADY BRACKIN, *Arkansas Alpha, initiated 1967*

Ginny answered my phone calls and led a tour of the office for my daughters. She was adorable and so fun. A perfect Pi Phi woman. Pi Phi Love to you, Ginny!

In response to Pi Beta Phi migrating to BetaBase—a new database management system (learn more on page 5).

LEIGH ANN TURVEY SCHULTZ, *Oklahoma Beta, initiated 1992*

Thank you for your work on developing a new database.

*In response to the Fraternity sharing the history of Pi Phis presenting a portrait of First Lady **GRACE GOODHUE COOLIDGE**, Vermont Beta, to the White House:*

TONI MARTINOVICH, *California Eta, initiated 1977*

Thank you for sharing this, Fran! I love knowing Mrs. Coolidge was such an involved alumna!

DANA REILLY, *Florida Zeta, initiated 2014*

I'm glad I've been able to visit the portrait in person! Thank you for sharing this history with us, Fran!

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. ←

THANK YOU TO OUR CHAPTERS AND ALUMNAE CLUBS

Every year, Pi Phi chapters and alumnae clubs showcase the strength of their commitment to Philanthropic Service to Others through their financial support of Pi Beta Phi Foundation. In 2023, our chapters and alumnae clubs collectively raised \$553,707.22 for our 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

Alabama Beta
Arkansas Alpha
California Kappa
Florida Beta
Florida Eta
Louisiana Beta
Nebraska Beta
Nevada Alpha
Oklahoma Beta
Texas Epsilon

TOP 10 ALUMNAE CLUBS

Presented in alphabetical order

Dallas, Texas, Alumnae Club
Fort Worth, Texas, Alumnae Club
Greater Kansas City Alumnae Club
Nashville, Tennessee, Alumnae Club
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Alumnae Club
Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club
Richardson-Plano, Texas, Alumnae Club
South Bay, California, Alumnae Club
Southlake Area, Texas, Alumnae Club
St. Louis, Missouri, Alumnae Club



CONNECT WITH PI PHIS AT HALO HAPPENINGS

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

June 5: Portland, Oregon
June 18: San Antonio, Texas
June 20: Austin, Texas

For more information and to register for a Halo Happenings near you, visit pibetaphi.org/halohappenings.

From left: California Etas **BARBARA MORENO** and **TINA FELLERS** at Halo Happenings in Laguna Beach 2024.

PI PHI GIVING DAY WAS A SWEET SUCCESS!

On March 14—Pi Day—Pi Phis and friends joined together to raise \$215,018.67 for our Foundation! Just like pi, the mathematical constant (3.14) that gives Pi Day its nickname, Pi Phi is a never-ending source of support and true friendship in the lives of our sisters. More than 800 sisters and friends helped us raise \$215,018.67 for our Foundation. Their gifts make it possible for our Foundation to continue impacting lives within our sisterhood and communities. See the results at piphigivingday.org.

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING

To better support our chapters, clubs and members, Pi Beta Phi is moving to a new database management system during Summer 2024. Powered by Salesforce, BetaBase will offer new tools to support member management, club management and more—replacing current solutions like SisterSearch, memberplanet and eReports. Learn more at pibetaphi.org/betabase.

Still using your college email? Have an email specific to your Pi Phi volunteer position? Help us update our records by adding your personal email address to your member profile.



OHIO ZETA WELCOMES MORE THAN 100 PI PHIS

Established in 1945, the Ohio Zeta Chapter returned to Miami University in Spring 2024. Resident Leadership Development Consultants (LDCs) **VALORA HART**, Indiana Delta, and **COURTNEY KROSS**, Ohio Theta, led reestablishing efforts joined by LDCs **CAROLINE AYERS**, Tennessee Gamma, and **SARAH WHITE**, California Mu, who assisted with recruitment efforts and planned the chapter's early-March Bid Day which welcomed 103 New Members into the reestablishing member class. On April 27, 2024, Grand President **LISA GAMEL SCOTT** reinstated the chapter and initiated the newest member class, officially welcoming them into the wine and silver blue.

Right: Members of Ohio Zeta's reestablishing New Member Class on Bid Day.



ONE MILLION BOOKS DONATED THROUGH FRATERNITY DAY OF SERVICE SIGNATURE EVENTS

Every year in early March, Pi Phis recognize Fraternity Day of Service by serving in their communities. As part of our commitment to inspiring a lifelong love of reading, Pi Phi hosted two Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events including one in-person book distribution in Austin, Texas, coordinated by the Austin, Texas, Alumnae Club, and one virtual book distribution in Honolulu open to the greater Hawaii community.

In Austin, Pi Phis distributed 45,000 books to nearly 200 local schools, after-school programs and community programs. In Honolulu, more than \$26,000 was provided to purchase books for four schools needing immediate support following the recent devastation in Maui. After 10 years of hosting Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events, Pi Phi celebrated awarding more than one million books through book distribution events across North America.

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. ←



Above: Mississippi Alpha **PHOENIX POPE JOHNSTON** (right) and a recipient group at the 2024 Fraternity Day of Service Signature Event in Austin, Texas.

Navigating New Homes

Sharing a living space with your sisters or friends has the power to transform mere walls into a home brimming with laughter and the comfort of familiar faces. This unique experience weaves a tapestry of cherished memories, unwavering support and a profound sense of belonging that can act as a bolster in any season of life. For many of us, leaving these places we call home is bittersweet, especially when our next journey is one taken alone.

Living on your own for the first time can be as intimidating as it is liberating—embracing the lessons learned from living with others can help navigate this newfound freedom. Whether you're living in a chapter facility with your sisters, sharing an apartment with your best friends or preparing to live alone, these experiences are distinct in their own challenges and joys. Below are some of our sisters' best advice and life lessons that have come from both sharing a living space and welcoming independence.

Three insights from living in a chapter facility

KRISTIN CULLEN MINNESOTA ALPHA

Living with my sisters in our chapter house has been one of the biggest blessings since I moved to college. Living with a built-in support system has brought me so much comfort I missed from home and showed me time and time again how amazing my sisters are. I wouldn't trade living with my best friends for anything!

MADYLIN DODSON NEVADA ALPHA

Just because you are best friends does not mean you'll make good roommates! Always make sure to set your boundaries and communication needs.



MYA PEREZ TENNESSEE GAMMA

The biggest lesson I learned from living with my sisters is that they will show up for you even when you feel alone. Living in the chapter house alongside my sisters taught me lessons in patience, forgiveness and most of all Sincere Friendship. My sisters truly acted like sisters—they could tell me the truth, even if it was hard to hear, and I knew it was coming from a place of love. I was also serving in chapter leadership when I started living in, and that allowed me to connect with other chapter officers and learn alongside them. Whether it was someone to talk to or someone to remind me I have a seat at the table, living with my sisters taught me so much and helped me grow in ways I didn't know were possible!

Above, from left: Mya and Tennessee Gamma
EMERSON CLEMENT.

Three insights from living alone

KENDRA CURRAN CONNECTICUT ALPHA

I wish I was more confident in creating my own peaceful, fun and functional space with thrifted items instead of stressing about new and expensive furniture.



CARMEN FELDER OKLAHOMA ALPHA

Cooking for one can be daunting! One-pot meals with easy clean up, leftovers and pre-planned meals helped me so much. Also, having frozen meals on hand is great for when you don't have time!



NATALIE GLITZ GRUMHAUS MICHIGAN ALPHA

For anyone transitioning to living alone, my first piece of advice is to build a steady routine. Living alone can mean you don't have people to hold you accountable, so building a routine I could rely on to stay motivated and organized was so important. Prioritizing and improving my sleep schedule as well as planning activities throughout the week for myself truly helped. I love my weekly routine of going to the farmers market every Friday morning!

Getting involved in my community also made such a huge difference in helping me feel comfortable in my new home. If you look, there are opportunities everywhere. I joined the choir at my new church, a book club with my coworkers and an Alumnae Advisory Committee (my personal favorite!) at a Pi Phi chapter near me. They have all introduced me to new people and experiences and kept my life interesting! Not everything you join will be a perfect fit, but as you try different things you will soon find where you belong—and you'll make some amazing new friends along the way.

Nishka Saboo

ILLINOIS ZETA



TELL US ABOUT YOUR STARTUPS, AINA AND NYRAA.

Aina is a virtual try-on platform allowing online shoppers to see what an item of clothing would look like on their body and get size recommendations through augmented reality. My team and I launched Aina's beta app at the first ever South Asian New York Fashion Week, and there was so much interest from South Asian designers. After meeting with some of these designers, they all said their main goal was to expand their reach to the United States, and that they wanted a partner who knew the retail market. I thought—why not me? That's how I started NYRAA, a sustainable marketplace for luxury fashion, showcasing both top and emerging South Asian designers to the United States market.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR GREATEST LEARNING EXPERIENCE AS A FOUNDER AND CEO?

When starting an idea, make sure you understand the problem, don't just get married to a solution. If you understand the problem thoroughly, there will be many solutions you can develop along the way. There is no rulebook for being a founder—you are the decision maker. Make decisions with clarity, but if you make a mistake, react quickly. The best lessons I've learned have been from my mistakes, because I'll never forget them!

WHO (OR WHAT) CONSISTENTLY INSPIRES YOU?

I am largely inspired by the people I work with, the environment I am in and the mission of bridging the gap between India and the rest of the world. The designers on NYRAA and the craftsmanship these artisans have passed down through generations is art I'm inspired to share with the rest of the world. Especially doing this in New York City—the fashion capital of the world—I love how people here are willing to push boundaries and adapt to change. At the end of the day, it's the opportunity to share my culture with the rest of the world that brings me so much joy.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE?

"I never lose. I either win or I learn." - Nelson Mandela

HOW DO YOU MEASURE PERSONAL SUCCESS?

I am a perpetual student graded by growth and lessons learned, so I measure success by tracking what I have learned along the way. If I'm not pushing myself, doing something new or moving forward, then I don't feel fulfilled.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL?

It's okay to continue to reinvent yourself. I started off as a tax accountant, and now I'm on my third fashion startup. There is no rulebook in how you do life and what positions will lead to others. Also, your network is one of your greatest assets, so join communities and meet new people.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR SISTERS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STARTING THEIR OWN BUSINESS?

Sometimes the hardest part is convincing yourself to get going, so just start. Get that domain, start your website, get involved on social media—once you get the ball rolling, the rest will come.

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

I am lucky my career happens to also be a personal passion of mine; I truly love working in this space. But I think the word "balance" suggests equilibrium, and there is no such thing. It's all about priorities and adjusting to what comes in life. How you integrate those is how you find your own peace and happiness.

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

Take risks! It's okay to fail. Stop worrying about what everyone else will think—this is your life so live it in a way that fulfills you.

HOW HAS PI PHI HAD AN IMPACT ON YOUR CAREER?

Pi Phi has provided me with friends that have become family and my biggest supporters through every career and season of life. It's a bond that has persisted throughout all our lives and one that I'm very thankful for. ←

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING FEATURED?

Scan the QR code to share your story with us!





Embrace Your Own Calling

Above: Ginger speaking at Leadercast—the largest single-day leadership event in the world.

While Southwest Airlines® is well-known for its customer service and affordable fares, it also harbors a unique company culture—one that Texas Gamma **GINGER RODGERS HARDAGE** helped to build. As former Senior Vice President of Culture and Communications, Ginger's influential 25 years at the company sculpted an environment where employees can contribute to a legacy and, most importantly, feel valued. Now, through her own brand, Unstoppable Cultures™, Ginger continues to advocate for the power of positive organizational culture.

Growing up, Ginger recalls the exceptional customer service modeled by her parents who operated a rural grocery store. Years later, she realized the timeless influence this left on her own professional pursuits. As Southwest Airlines aligned with the values she was raised on, Ginger describes landing her dream job at the company in 1990 as the catalyst that changed her life. "Southwest Airlines is a company that puts people first, and that's how my parents taught me to approach life," Ginger explains. "This philosophy of encouraging employees to lean into their strengths allowed

thousands of employees, including myself, to reach our full potential."

As a member of the CEO's executive leadership team, Ginger was at the forefront of a 150-person team, spearheading efforts to sustain the organization's distinguished culture and communications framework. Through this position, Ginger became equipped with decades of leadership and team-building experience as well as worthwhile career lessons. "As a young professional, I wanted to apply the newest ideas or developments to the workplace, but that wasn't always a great fit for the organizations I served," she says. "The ideas that had the greatest impact were the ones that solved a problem for the organization."

“

The ideas that had the greatest impact were the ones that solved a problem for the organization.



Throughout her tenure at Southwest Airlines, Ginger's passion for problem-solving and fostering a healthy workplace environment never faded, making the next phase of her career a natural step forward. In 2017, Ginger launched Unstoppable Cultures, a brand designed specifically to help organizations not only uphold but improve their company's culture. Through this initiative, Ginger offers consulting, keynote speaking and more—all which ignite a powerful sense of purpose and joy in her life.

"Organizational culture is a fulfilling field because you get to impact the strategic direction of an organization while improving the lives of the employees who work there," Ginger shares. "Our people are the foundations of our organizations. When we provide the level of support, training and consistent information so employees can act like owners, we set the organization up for success." Since establishing Unstoppable Cultures, Ginger has had the opportunity to engage with global brands and organizations such as Google and Princeton.

Aside from her professional career, Ginger also holds a deep-rooted love for volunteerism which

was strengthened through Pi Phi. "Pi Phi modeled the importance of being involved in philanthropic service, and those lessons in altruism stuck with me," she says. Ginger currently serves as Global Chairman of Ronald McDonald House Charities which supports families with critically ill children in 62 countries. From Ginger's perspective, giving back not only increases our connection to others but can also help you find a sense of purpose outside of your profession. "There is nothing that compares to serving others."

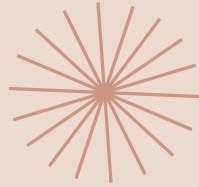
As she steers her own enterprise along with carving out time to give back to her community, Ginger occasionally finds it difficult to balance her personal and professional life. However, if there's one thing that reminds her to stay grounded in the present, it's connection—with family, friends and Pi Phi sisters. Ginger notes the remarkable support she has felt from her sisters ever since her first year at Texas Tech University. "Pi Phi taught me the value of friendship, sisterhood and belonging," she reflects. "It provided me with a powerful support system and a bond that only gets stronger through the decades."

“

Pi Phi taught me the value of friendship, sisterhood and belonging. It provided me with a powerful support system and a bond that only gets stronger through the decades.

From being a young girl inspired by her parents to now owning a business dedicated to revolutionizing organizational culture, Ginger's story of success leaves a lasting impression. However, when reflecting on her journey, Ginger encourages a mindset of non-comparison—to fully embrace your own calling. When one follows their own unique path, the opportunity for impact is endless. "You will never be happy if you live someone else's idea of success," she says. "Live *your* best life." ←

Words of Wisdom



***Like a favorite pair of jeans,
an heirloom recipe or a vintage
wine, wisdom is a gift that often
gets better with time.***

Within Pi Phi, the cross-generational friendships and connections we foster give us a golden opportunity to share our insights, expertise and passions with other women. Being part of a community 225,000 sisters strong means there's always someone who can benefit from our knowledge and lived experiences—and there's always someone we can learn from, whether in our personal or professional lives. And while there are plenty of resources to help polish your resume, ace an interview or gain a promotion, there's no substitute for the wisdom we can gain from our Pi Phi mentors, Advisors, fellow volunteers or friends in our clubs and chapters.

Read on for some sage career advice, shared by our members—sister to sister.

Get comfortable with networking—and rely on your connections during times of transition.

Like many people, Colorado Epsilon **NICOLE JOHNSON** was intimidated by the idea of networking. Yet as she walked into the opening reception of her first professional conference, she found herself in



surprisingly familiar territory. “I realized that when you take away the buzzword, networking is just getting to know people with similar career interests—not unlike sorority recruitment,” she says. “It’s taking the tools we learned within Pi Phi and putting them to use.”

Thinking back to the skills she refined as a collegian during Spirit Week and recruitment, Nicole quickly became comfortable introducing herself, telling her story and finding common ground. “During conversations with Potential New Members, I’d have a mental list prepared with things I wanted to talk about—and I went back to my list,” she recalls. Now, when she’s presented with a networking opportunity, Nicole still finds confidence through preparation. “Go back to your Spirit Week mindset,” she says. “Think about your conversation starters. Look people up online, learn about them and know what you’re going to ask ahead of time, so when you do get them face-to-face, you’re ready.”

Now the SafeSport manager for the Colorado Rapids Major League Soccer team, Nicole landed her first job in athletics simply by talking about her passion for sports with her chapter sisters—many of whom were also sports management majors and shared her interests. “No one can navigate their career—or life—all on their own,” she says. “When you share your passions and what you want to do, people want to help you. All you have to do is speak up. Lean on the people in your professional and personal networks—Pi Phis, college friends, work connections, even family—and suddenly your periods of career transition are much less scary. Then, when you’re well-positioned enough to help others, make it your responsibility to do so.”

Stay open to opportunities for learning and growth.

As a sophomore studying psychology, Louisiana Beta **CHELSEA CRUSE ROSS** received the devastating news that her father had been diagnosed with Stage IV esophageal cancer. Amid her father's intensive treatment, Chelsea suddenly found herself faced with heartbreaking choices about her own future. Understanding that school was no longer her focus, she left Louisiana State University midway through her junior year. "Education should be a top priority for everyone, but there are some life events that make you reevaluate where it falls on your list," she shares. "It was impossible to be away at school when I knew my time with my dad was limited."

Without a degree, Chelsea understood she would need to push herself to get ahead professionally. Working with a temp agency, she landed a position answering phones at a civil engineering firm. "When I entered the workforce, my first goal was just to find a job," she says. "But I started offering assistance in any way I could. I just needed the company to see that I was intelligent and capable of much more than I was hired to do." Her employers noticed her drive and willingness to learn and asked her to help with bookkeeping. Over time, her role and responsibilities continued to grow—and eight years later, Chelsea is now a partner and treasurer at the same firm. "I own part of the company where I started out answering phones," she smiles.

For Chelsea, avoiding a "not my job" mentality was key to moving up the ranks. "When I saw that there was stress caused by a deadline, I offered to help," she says. "Inputting funding requests wasn't in my job description but did increase my value to the team.

If you keep learning, eventually your knowledge is why your employer needs you." While she cautions that there's a fine line between being willing to learn and being taken advantage of, she also recommends finding a workplace where hard work is valued and rewarded. "Be true to yourself," she says. "Find a group that sees your value, and it will feel like second nature to want them to thrive. You'll pitch in when needed because you know they'll do the same for you."



“

*Be true
to yourself.*

*Find a group
that sees your
value, and it
will feel like
second nature
to want them
to thrive.*



Above: Gretchen (back row, second from left) with her family.

Embrace the power of the pivot.

After a 10-year break to raise her young family, Michigan Beta **GRETCHEN MORAN MARSH** returned to her clinical psychology career, building a thriving private practice. But as the demands on mental health professionals escalated following the COVID-19 pandemic, she found herself serving too many patients and recognized the signs of depression and burnout. “I was so conflicted,” she shares. “I loved my work, but it was taking a toll on my own mental health. I was frustrated, had no work-life balance and was at a point where I didn’t recognize myself.”

Knowing she needed to make a change, Gretchen intentionally set aside time to brainstorm new ways to apply her skill set. She read about companies investing in mental health speakers for employees and realized her experience as a clinician made her unique. “The field is inundated with speakers who lack professional backgrounds in mental health—but I had the knowledge and credentials,” she explains. Working with ImpactEleven, a speaker training and development resource, she crafted a presentation combining clinical information with storytelling and humor in a way she knew would reach audiences. Gretchen began to offer her speech to local schools free of charge—and word spread quickly. Within months, she was presenting for

companies like GE Healthcare, Lear and Prudential. Today, she travels the United States giving mental health presentations to major corporations and nonprofit organizations, reaching global audiences through virtual engagement. “I never envisioned this would be my life, but it gave me my world back,” she says.

Gretchen credits an intentional investment of time and a growth mindset for her ability to successfully shift to a new career. “People often think their career is a linear path—but it can change over time, and you change, too,” she shares. “What you want in your 20s might not be what you want in your 40s. Reflect on who you are, what you want out of life and what you want to achieve.” She also recognizes that learning to pivot is more than a career move—it’s an essential life skill. “Life isn’t always going to turn out the way you planned,” she says. “You’re going to be expected to pivot in something, whether it’s an illness, a career curveball or even the loss of a partner. Those things happen to all of us, and our ability to be flexible is a predictor of our happiness in life. What can we do to embrace the pivot and keep going? Know that you can make things look different with time and effort.”

Prioritize both your professional and personal goals.

With an academic background in zoological and aquatic animal medicine, Illinois Zeta **SARAH WRIGHT** always envisioned herself working at a zoo or aquarium after veterinary school. From the start of her training, she knew it would be a demanding career choice. “In that position, the needs of the animals sometimes have to take priority over your personal needs,” she explains. Sarah was solely focused on achieving her professional goals—but while applying for a specialized residency program, she began to understand the challenges of obtaining her desired work-life balance in this type of role.

“During the matching process for residency, I came to a fork in the road,” she says. “I was newly engaged and started to think about what my life would look like in this career.” As Sarah watched her Pi Phi sisters marry and start families, she realized she wanted those things, too. “I’d been so focused on my professional goals for so long that my personal life was lost along the way,” she shares. “My career path was all-consuming, and my personal goals would have to wait—likely for a long time. I had to look within and decide what was most important to me. I realized that jobs can change, but friends and family are your rocks.”

With both her values and advice from Pi Phi friends and family to guide her forward, Sarah respectfully withdrew from the residency matching program. Today, she serves as the Associate Editor for two scientific journals published by the American Veterinary Medical Association—a role that offers work-life balance and fulfills her passion of caring for animals. “Different stages in life require you to reevaluate your goals and your priorities,” she says. “It’s important to ask yourself whether your job furthers those things.”



Above, from left: Sarah and Illinois Zeta **HANNAH WRIGHT**. Photo by Elizabeth Nord Photo.

*Find clarity
on your
direction—
learn to
navigate
stumbling
blocks along
the way.*

It took Michigan Beta **LAUREN SICKELS ALLSOPP** exactly one childhood visit to a local church to ignite a lifelong passion for historic architecture. “I was five, and my mom decided to take me into the church’s sanctuary,” she recalls. “To this day, I couldn’t tell you one word that was said. All I remember was looking up in awe at the architectural elements.” But during her time as a collegian at the University of Michigan in the 1970s, the field of historic preservation was just beginning to take shape. Lauren raced through her undergraduate studies in just two and a half years, driven by the promise of a new graduate program at Columbia University she hoped would impart the knowledge she’d been chasing her entire life. Yet within a Columbia classroom, she encountered her first significant roadblock.

“During a lecture, I asked a question,” she says. “My professor took me aside and told me, ‘You don’t need to know that. You’re just going to get married and have babies.’”

Lauren was determined not to let the experience stand in the way of her goals. That same afternoon, she visited Columbia’s architecture library and began to research doctoral programs and grants. She went on to earn her Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and embarked on a distinguished career spanning academic positions, community preservation and sustainability work—and even the conservation of artifacts raised from the Titanic. “I was doing what I wanted, so every day, I woke up with a smile on my

face,” she reflects. “I knew I was on the right trail, even if I didn’t know where it would lead.” (As for the Columbia professor? He apologized profusely to Lauren after their paths crossed at a conference, years later.)

To help navigate life’s roadblocks, Lauren has developed a deep appreciation for the Danish concept of *hygge* (pronounced “hue-guh”)—cultivating well-being through simple experiences of contentment and tranquility. “I discovered *hygge* a handful of years ago when I had more bumps than smoothness in my life,” she shares. “I couldn’t change the bumps, so I sought out moments that brought me peace.” Whether finding a quiet place to journal, appreciating nature during daily walks with her beloved border collie, Jack, watching a sunset or enjoying a glass of wine with a friend, Lauren finds that embracing *hygge* brings her clarity and insight. “Life isn’t going to be a smooth road,” she says. “*Hygge* moments are where I’ve personally found the chance to slow down and think about my purpose—and we need purpose.”



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even if I
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where it
would lead.*



Stop comparing your milestones to anyone else's.

Since her childhood, Missouri Alpha **LAUREN KOHLER** knew she wanted to pursue a career in healthcare. She studied health sciences at the University of Missouri with plans to become a physician assistant—until the onset of an autoimmune disease during her senior year changed her life's trajectory. "I almost failed my classes because I couldn't focus," she recalls. "By graduation, I felt like my life was in a tailspin."

After moving back home to Minneapolis, Lauren tried to follow the clinical path as a nursing assistant and emergency medicine technician but struggled to be admitted to a physician assistant graduate program. At the same time, she watched her friends start to achieve major career and life milestones—promotions, marriages, children, new homes—and felt she was on the outside, looking in. "All the plans I'd imagined for myself seemed out of reach," she shares. "I was resentful. Everyone around me seemed to be getting everything they wanted."

Lauren relied on self-reflection and therapy to understand that though her life's timeline was different, it was no less worthy than the more traditional routes taken by her friends. She completed her master's degree in healthcare administration and found a performance improvement consulting role with an academic health system. She continues to focus on the aspects of her life that bring her joy, framing her illness and career detour as ultimately leading to the path that was the right fit for her. "I never thought this is where I would be, but I love the life I have and all the wonderful things that have come out of it," she says. "You might struggle with where you fit into the world, or envy others' successes—but you have to learn to trust that you're exactly where you're supposed to be. Your life's timing will be as unique and beautiful as you are."



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*Your life's timing will
— be as unique and —
beautiful as you are.*

Have the courage to bring your authentic self to the workplace.

With a newly-adopted baby girl, a loving partner and a successful career as a petroleum engineer at Chevron, post-college life seemed to fall into place for Texas Eta **BROOKE BRADBURN**. Yet eight years into their marriage, Brooke's husband confided that he was gay. And just as Richard had carried the burden of hiding his true self in his family and work relationships, Brooke felt she also had to keep his secret from the people around her. "I saw the negative effects it had on him, to hide that person from everyone for so long," she shares. "On a parallel path, I was hiding it, too. Coming out to me wasn't the same as being ready to share it with the world."

Brooke's awareness of the profound impact of Richard's experience only dawned on her when she unintentionally overheard colleagues at Chevron making disparaging remarks about the company's LGBTQ+ employee network. Until then, work had been her refuge from the stress at home—but that sense of safety seemed compromised. "Only then did I start to understand Richard's fear of judgment from his leaders and colleagues at work and how it must have stunted his career," she says. "How could you ever contribute at your best while living in that fear? I learned you just can't live to your highest potential if you can't be free to share who you are with others."

Brooke made it her goal to be the kind of leader who cultivates an atmosphere where her coworkers felt safe in bringing their complete selves to the office. After 20 years in a technical role at Chevron, she switched gears to lead the company's global learning and talent consulting team—a position that allows her to provide professional and personal development to the company's workforce. "I think differently as a leader because of my experiences," she says. "It takes bravery and courage to lead with authenticity, but your employees will follow. You enable them to be real, open, honest and free to

share their lives." To Brooke, authenticity is the most critical key to creating an atmosphere of psychological safety in the workplace. "As humans, we're built uniquely and that's what we want to be recognized for," she explains. "If you don't value who you are, you're holding yourself back from what you're meant to achieve. But when you value yourself and your unique skills, you see what you bring to the table. And when we value each other, we grow and learn in ways we otherwise wouldn't." ←



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*It takes
bravery and
courage to
lead with
authenticity.*



Autumn (back row, center, with hand raised) and her Montana Alpha sisters.

Jumping In

For many sisters, serving as a chapter Advisor provides a chance to reconnect with Pi Phi; it's a heartfelt return to the roots of their Pi Phi journey. While some volunteers return to Pi Phi after years away, others jump right in after graduation—armed with fresh perspective from their collegiate experience. For these sisters, stepping into the role of chapter Advisor is a tangible way to live the core value of Lifelong Commitment.

Below, Ohio Epsilon Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) Chair **AUTUMN FREUDENBERG**, Montana Alpha, shares what inspired her to stay involved after graduation, what she's learned through her volunteer service and why other young alumnae should consider a similar path.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO VOLUNTEER FOR PI PHI SO SOON AFTER GRADUATING?

After college, I was preparing for a big move to a new city to begin my career. I felt sad to leave my chapter, my college, my friends and the organization that shaped me into who I am today. I had this misconception that I was too young to be on AAC, but I always knew one day I would serve the Fraternity again.

I was eager to connect with more sisters and began researching local alumnae clubs and universities in the area. I reached out to a few of my Pi Phi mentors and asked them about their experience serving Pi Phi after college; my commitment to the Fraternity deepened

after every conversation. I remembered how much Pi Phi could positively impact lives, and I wanted to help more young women find their interests through leadership and community service.

DESCRIBE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE. HOW DO YOU BALANCE YOUR PI PHI VOLUNTEER SERVICE WITH OTHER PERSONAL COMMITMENTS?

In my current role, I'm mentoring and guiding undergraduate members—providing support as they navigate their collegiate journey, offering insights, facilitating discussions and being a reliable resource for questions and concerns. Teaming up with fellow chapter Advisors, I play a role in decision-making, bringing my perspective to help align the chapter with the values and goals of Pi Phi.

Balancing my Pi Phi volunteer service with other personal commitments has been a priority for me. I've found that effective time management and clear communication are essential. By setting realistic expectations and priorities, I can fulfill my responsibilities both within Pi Phi and in other aspects of my life. Flexibility and adaptability are key, allowing me to navigate the dynamic nature of volunteer work alongside personal and professional commitments. In the end, it's about discovering the right mix where I can contribute meaningfully to Pi Phi while still meeting my other obligations, like my career. I would be lying if I said it was easy; it takes time to figure it out.



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

On a personal level, my volunteer experience has provided me with a profound sense of fulfillment and connection. Being part of a community that shares the same values and aspirations has enriched my life and created lasting friendships. Professionally, the experience has amplified my leadership skills, decision-making abilities and the art of collaboration—all skills that have proven to be beneficial in my career. Moreover, this volunteer work has broadened my perspective and improved my communication skills through interactions with diverse groups of people.

In terms of the impact I hope to make, it's twofold. I aim to inspire and empower young women within Pi Phi—guiding them toward their full potential through mentorship and support—and I hope to contribute to the broader community by promoting the mission of Pi Phi. Ultimately, my goal is to leave a meaningful and lasting mark on both individual members and our sisterhood as a whole.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH YOUNG ALUMNAE WHO ARE CONSIDERING SERVING AS A CHAPTER ADVISOR?

Reflect on what fueled your passion for Pi Phi during your collegiate years. Volunteering isn't just about giving back; it's a continuous journey of personal and professional

VOLUNTEER WITH PI PHI

Autumn is one of more than 1,000 Advisors currently supporting our collegiate chapters. If you're interested in working with our chapters, scan the QR code below to join our volunteer network. Serving as a chapter Advisor requires no prior experience or waiting period; any member can volunteer following graduation.

With numerous opportunities to get involved, your Pi Phi volunteer experience can be anything you want it to be—whether mentoring collegians, leading alumnae clubs or sharing your professional expertise. No matter your background, interests or skill set, Pi Phi benefits from your involvement and can help you grow as a leader.

Scan the QR code to join our volunteer network.



growth. Consider the aspects of Pi Phi that truly resonated with you—the friendships, the values, the sense of community—and recognize that, as a volunteer, you get to amplify those elements for others. It's a chance to share your experiences, guide younger members and be part of something that extends beyond your college days. Your unique perspective and energy can make a real difference. ←

Write Your Own Story

From picture books to chapter books, California Lambda **STACEY AKEMI AKAHOSHI** was drawn to the magic of storytelling at an early age, and she's been an avid reader ever since. However, the soccer field was a close rival for her childhood interests—one that would bring an unexpected hardship in Stacey's life.

When Stacey was 12 years old, she was playing a game of club soccer and was accidentally tripped by another player, causing her to flip over and land on the back of her head. "I only remember flying through the air and then seeing my mom and coach leaning over me," Stacey recalls. From witness accounts, Stacey was knocked unconscious for at least one minute before the referee noticed something was wrong and stopped the game.

For the first few months following the accident, Stacey hid the symptoms she was experiencing, including severe headaches that lasted several hours per day. "When my headaches would start, I would just get quiet, and as a kid who was quiet to begin with, no

one noticed anything was wrong," she says. While the headaches were concerning, there was one symptom Stacey couldn't overlook—she couldn't read anymore.

"One night I was trying to read my science textbook, and I just broke down crying," she shares. "I told my mom I couldn't understand anything I read; I could read one word at a time but putting the words together to make sense is what I lost." Stacey's mother immediately took her to the doctor where they were referred to a neurologist.

Because Stacey's headaches were localized to the back of her head, doctors were initially worried about a spinal injury. She was then sent to both physical and occupational therapy combined with various tests to figure out exactly what was wrong. While Stacey did not sustain any life-threatening injuries, doctors discovered the neurotransmitters inside her brain were not following their original pathways. "As a teenager, the way they explained it to me was that the bridges broke," she says.

Due to the time commitment of Stacey's diagnosis and recovery, she was pulled out of school. This posed a significant challenge on its own, as missing the opportunity to grow alongside her peers was something Stacey deeply struggled with. "I remember feeling like everybody was moving on without me," she reflects. "It felt like my whole world was doctor's appointments while my friends were learning about themselves."

As she navigated the isolation of her recovery, Stacey's innate love for reading kindled a flame of hope within her. "I missed stories, so eventually I just started trying to read on my own," she says. "I got out a big box of picture books from my childhood and read them every single day, even though I didn't understand a thing. I thought if I didn't try, I might never read again."

Stacey also notes the overwhelming support she felt from her loved ones during this time; her family, including her dogs, were an integral part of her healing journey. One person in particular changed the trajectory of Stacey's recovery—her doctor, who believed in her when she found it impossible to do so herself. "If I didn't have a doctor who cared so much, I don't think I would be where I am today," Stacey reflects. "I had so many people telling me I would never read or play soccer again, but he believed in the dreams I had before



my injury. He told me that one day he would sit at my college graduation.”

Through consistent practice and her own unwillingness to give up, Stacey eventually regained her ability to read—then went on to graduate from college and earn a master’s degree. Detailing this experience in a college admissions essay led Stacey to attend the University of California, Riverside and turn the page on a new chapter of her life—joining Pi Beta Phi.

Although initially nervous to participate in recruitment, Stacey describes the experience as serendipitous, especially after discovering Pi Phi’s philanthropic focus on literacy. “I remember thinking if I could give back through literacy work, after everything I went through, it would be amazing,” she shares. After sharing the story of her injury and being met with genuine support from her future sisters, Stacey felt an undeniable sense of belonging. “They gave me a place to be who I was without my injury hanging over me. Everything about Pi Phi was going to be my home.”

Allowing her passion for literacy to guide her, Stacey eventually became Vice President Philanthropy (now known as Vice President Community Relations), which not only honored her journey but paved the way for her future. In this role, Stacey instituted Champions Are Readers® (CAR) at the California Lambda Chapter. Driving this mission led Stacey to discover a deep-rooted love for inspiring children to read—and later become a librarian in 2019.

Following years of dedication within the field and nurturing her love for literacy, Stacey now works for the Maricopa County Library District in Arizona focusing on accessible digital and information literacy. As someone who truly understands the significant barriers illiteracy



can cause, she is devoted to making a difference in her community and society as a whole. “A literate society is a more equitable society,” she explains. “When you struggle with reading, the simplest tasks become difficult. For kids especially, it’s so important for them to not only see themselves reflected in books but also understand other people’s lives, perspectives and cultures.”

As Stacey continues to work toward bettering the landscape of literacy, she channels her inner child as a source of hope. By transforming her injury into purpose, Stacey’s experience underlines the profound impact of an indelible love for literacy—proving that even in the face of adversity, it’s possible to continue writing your own story. ←

“
*A literate society is a
more equitable society.*”



Tess' group of closest Ohio Alpha friends call themselves the Big Girls—and are celebrating 40 years of friendship in Pi Phi. From left: **TAMI OLIVER DIXON, KATHY KEEFE POTTSCHMIDT, CINDY TREJO RUBAL, DANA CLINE PRICE, LISA MOODY ROBBINS, ANN WELSH STANTON, CAROL BINDER SMIETANSKI** and Tess.

I Didn't Get There Alone

“What would you want Kathy to do?”

Posed by her mother, this simple yet poignant question helped Ohio Alpha **TESS SOUTH SPENCER** find the motivation to return to classes following the sudden death of her younger sister, fellow Ohio Alpha **KATHY SOUTH**. Three decades later, the same sentiment gave Tess and her closest chapter sisters the inspiration to honor Kathy's memory with a gift to Pi Beta Phi Foundation that pays it forward for other Pi Phis.

Though Tess and Kathy were two years apart in age, just one year separated them in school. Like many siblings, the sisters developed a close bond through their shared experiences growing up. “We followed the same path in many ways,” Tess recalls. “We both played flute, ran track, played basketball and skied—and of course, we both went to Ohio University (OU) and became Pi Phis.”

Tess and Kathy both lived in the chapter facility, forming close circles of friends with their Ohio Alpha sisters and finding meaning in different aspects of the Pi Phi member experience. Tess prioritized academics and leadership, serving the chapter as Treasurer (now Vice President Finance/Housing) with the hope of becoming Chapter President. The outgoing, bubbly Kathy happily focused on the fun and friendships college life offered.

That's when one seemingly typical football weekend changed everything. After a traditional rivalry game between OU and another Ohio school, Kathy was in a car accident on the way to an off-campus party with some fraternity friends. “The driver was intoxicated,” Tess says quietly. “Kathy was in the front passenger seat, and she was killed.”

Burdened with grief, Tess wasn't sure she could return to campus after Kathy's death. But with gentle encouragement from her mother, she found the determination she needed. “I didn't want to go back, but then my mom asked me to think of what I'd want Kathy to do if this had happened to me,” she explains. “I decided I wouldn't let this loss define me or ruin my life—but I didn't get there alone.”

Once back at OU, Tess was surrounded by the unwavering love and support of her Pi Phi sisters—from fellow chapter officers to Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) members and friends in Kathy's New Member class. “My sisters were always kind, thoughtful and wouldn't let me fall behind,” Tess says. “If I got down, they wouldn't let me stay there. They made sure I showed up for classes and dinner. My little sister [Ohio Alpha **CINDY TREJO RUBAL**], who is still my best friend to this day, would knock on my door just to check on

me and would leave me notes and cookies. One of our Advisors was a psychologist and gave me free therapy sessions. All those women did so much for me.”

With her sisters championing her, Tess pursued her goal of becoming Chapter President—an opportunity she credits with giving her the leadership skills she needed to thrive in her career, as well as the key that unlocked the door to a transformational post-college job. “Procter & Gamble recruited at OU and only talked with presidents of fraternities, sororities and major campus organizations,” she remembers. “Serving as Chapter President was the reason I got the interview and the job. It set me onto an unbelievable trajectory of corporate life and gave me opportunities I’ll forever be grateful for.” In recognition of the leadership experience she gained, Tess joined the Marianne Reid Wild Society by including Pi Phi in her estate plans—designating her first 100 shares of Procter & Gamble stock to our Foundation.

Tess also sought a lasting way to honor Kathy’s memory at Ohio Alpha. After a conversation at a Halo Happenings event, her New Member class sister and Foundation Trustee **TERRE MCFILLEN HALL**, Ohio Alpha, came forward with an idea. Terre suggested creating a Chapter Leadership Education Expendable (CLEE) fund with our Foundation. CLEEs are unique designated funds that provide financial support for collegians to attend Pi Phi’s immersive leadership development opportunities, including College Weekend and Pi Beta Phi Leadership Institute, or can be used to provide leadership education for an entire chapter. Multiple donors can combine their gifts to contribute to a CLEE—and once again, Tess’ closest Pi Phi friends rallied around her by generously donating in Kathy’s memory. “We’ve maintained our friendship through all the first jobs, weddings, promotions, babies, heartaches and losses,” Tess says. “Friendship among women isn’t what you experience in sixth grade—true friends love and support each other without keeping score, and that’s the secret of the Big Girls.”

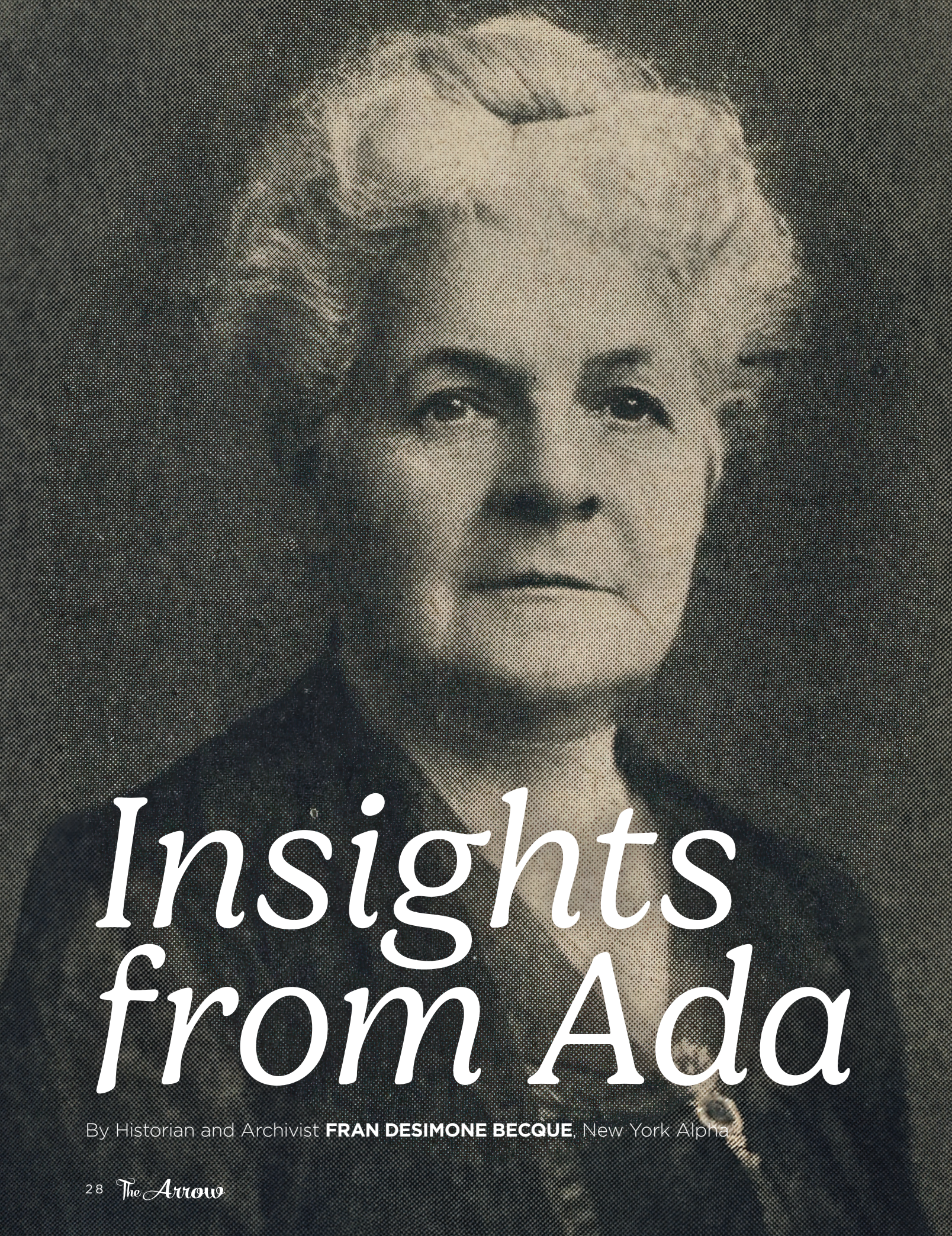
For Tess, establishing a CLEE for Ohio Alpha was not only a way to remember her beloved sister, but an opportunity to ensure her chapter’s emerging leaders have the same access to essential leadership opportunities that opened doors for her. “Pi Phi has given me a gift I can never repay—I can only pay it forward,” she says. “We have to keep helping women reach their full potential. To do that, we need good role models. That’s what I found in Pi Phi; now I’m trying to be one. If I can help just one or two women, it’s worth it.” ←

Pi Phi encourages and empowers the next generation of leaders

A Chapter Leadership Education Expendable fund (CLEE) supports leadership development and training at the chapter level. These funds eliminate financial barriers to leadership programming for chapter officers and individual members by helping to cover travel and registration costs, giving more Pi Phis access to transformational leadership development opportunities as they pursue their goals and develop as confident leaders. Once established with a \$10,000 donation, any member can make gifts to support a CLEE—scan the QR code to see if one has been created for your chapter.



To learn more about how CLEEs support your chapter sisters and ensure the Pi Phi member experience stays strong, contact Foundation Executive Director **JILL CARREL**, Indiana Gamma, at jcarrel@pibetaphi.org.



Insights from Ada

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

While wisdom is often a gift that gets better with time, Illinois Alpha and Pi Beta Phi founder **ADA BRUEN GRIER** was wise beyond her years. As a young woman, Ada understood the fine balance between developing in your professional career while also prioritizing relationships with those you love. Even as she approached the end of her life, she measured her success not through accomplishments but through cherished memories made along the way.

Born Adaline Cochran Bruen in Bloomfield, New Jersey, on February 8, 1848, Ada was the youngest of a large family. At 15, the Bruens moved to Illinois, where Ada began her journey as an educator. By 16, she was already teaching, later reflecting on the challenges and aspirations of her early career. “Some of my pupils were older than I; many of them knew more than I,” Ada said. “But I managed to finish the term, with the ambition to learn how and try again.”

Her educational pursuits led her to Monmouth College in 1866, where she not only completed her studies but also forged lifelong friendships with her soon-to-be sisters. After graduation in 1869, Ada taught in Monmouth schools until she married James A. Grier, D.D., LL.D. on July 15, 1874. James, a Presbyterian minister, was also a charter member of the Illinois Gamma Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi. Ada and James made a home in Pennsylvania, growing their family to include three sons and a daughter. Their commitment to education ran deep, with their son, Rev. James Harper Grier, later assuming the presidency of Monmouth College.

In her later years, Ada’s declining health prevented her from engaging with Pi Phi in-person, but she eagerly anticipated receiving *The Arrow* and reading about the

latest updates of her beloved sisters. The June 1917 issue of the magazine featured greetings from the founders, including Ada, who shared her gratitude for the joyous memories she made as a collegian. “These Monmouth days were among the happiest of my life,” she said.

Ada also reminisced about the treasured experience of founding Pi Beta Phi. “One of the greatest events to 12 women during that college year was the founding of I.C.

Sorosis on April 28, 1867,” she explained. “Then, the first essential [decision] for a fraternity was the pin; we had quite an exciting time choosing a suitable badge.

We wanted the most attractive, of course, and we wanted to keep our plans secret, so there were numerous quiet gatherings at the jewelers. Finally, the arrow was decided upon as the most desirable symbol for our clan.”

If there was one memory that seemed to stand out in Ada’s mind, it was the friendship she shared with fellow founder **LIBBIE BROOK GADDIS**, which flourished in the upstairs bedroom of Holt House. Near the end of her life, Ada spoke fondly of their relationship and its profound impact. “Her friendship is one of the brightest spots in my memory and the warmth of it has remained through all the years,” Ada shared.

Reflecting on her own life and contribution to Pi Beta Phi’s legacy, Ada expressed her heartfelt wishes for the future success of our sisterhood, hoping to extend the impact of Sincere Friendship and unforgettable memories for years to come. “It has already been a real joy to me that I had a little part in the founding of Pi Beta Phi,” she said. “I wish for you all continued prosperity in all the work undertaken.” ←



From left, Founders Ada Bruen Grier and Libbie Brook Gaddis with Frances Holt, daughter of “Major” Jacob Holt.

New Heights

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



Above, from left: **ALYSSA PHELAN, CATHERINE BROGNO, AVERY GOODRICH** and **AVA HERREN** at the New Heights Community Resource Center.

ALABAMA

Alabama Beta, University of Alabama

In Fall 2023, Alabama Beta participated in the New Heights Community Resource Center “Back to School Bash,” where members of the chapter donated more than \$2,000 worth of new clothing items for students. Alabama Beta also nominated New Heights Community Resource Center for a 2023 FDS500 Grant, which they received and used to purchase new books and literacy-related items for the students.

Alabama Gamma, Auburn University

During the Fall 2023 semester, then-Vice President Member Experience (VPME) **HANNAH DIEHL** organized a sisterhood event which quickly became a chapter favorite—Stuff-A-Plush. All member classes came together to pick out a stuffed animal and accessorize it with a personalized Pi Phi T-shirt. Hannah says the inspiration came from the childhood memory of getting to build your own stuffed animal, and that this was one of the most fun events to execute during her time as VPME.

ARIZONA

Arizona Alpha, University of Arizona

In Fall 2023, the Arizona Alpha Chapter hosted its semiannual philanthropy week, Pi Phi Phever. During the week, people from all over the Tucson community participated in various events such as “Lip Sync for Literacy” and “Pi Phi Pizookie.” Through Pi Phi Phever, the Arizona Alpha Chapter raised more than \$36,000, which was donated to The Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation and three local nonprofit organizations—Tucson Festival of Books, Kids Need to Read and Literacy Connects.

Upper: Alabama Gamma’s setup for Stuff-A-Plush.

Lower, from left: **ANNA BIERMAN, AUBREY WINGER** and **CHRISTINE ARENDT** during Pi Phi Phever.



CALIFORNIA

California Epsilon, San Diego State University

AVA REDPATH recently participated in the annual Susan G. Komen 3-Day breast cancer walk. This walk spans 60 miles and aims to raise money for breast cancer research, as well as help pay medical expenses for people battling cancer. Ava said, "I chose to be a part of this event because of the major influence it has on people with breast cancer. My grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer before I was born and today, she is a 22-year survivor." Ava's sisters are more than proud of her accomplishment and her passion for raising breast cancer awareness.

California Kappa, University of California, San Diego

During the Fall 2023 semester, the California Kappa Chapter assembled 1,700 literacy bags to donate to local classrooms. These gift bags included various books and engaging activities to foster connections among students, parents and classroom experiences. The bags were also prepared in both English and Spanish to ensure accessibility for all students. The chapter successfully distributed the bags to 56 classrooms throughout San Diego County.

California Zeta, University of California, Santa Barbara

FRANCESCA "FRANKIE" MATESSO and **JULIA SANCHEZ** attended the 2024 Universal Dance Association (UDA) College Dance Team National Championship in Orlando, Florida, and are proud to have won two championship titles. Their Division 1 team won second place for a pom performance and seventh place for a jazz performance.



Upper: Ava during the breast cancer walk.

Middle: Members of California Kappa with their literacy giftbags.

Lower, from left: Frankie and Julia at the UDA College Dance Team National Championship.

COLORADO

Colorado Delta, Colorado School of Mines

Vice President Finance/Housing **ELLA STAM** joined the Colorado School of Mines climbing team her first semester of college when there were only six women on the team in comparison to 50 men. As treasurer of the club, she has encouraged more women to join, including four of her Pi Phi sisters, now adding up to 15 women on the team. Ella's sisters are proud of her dedication as she continues to support the women both on her team and in the Colorado Delta Chapter.



Above: Ella Stam climbing outdoors.

GEORGIA

Georgia Alpha, University of Georgia

TESS ABRAHAM currently serves as the Executive Director for UGA Miracle, a student-led philanthropic organization on campus with more than 2,000 members. This is Tess' fourth year involved in UGA Miracle, and in the organization's 29 years on campus, it has donated more than 14 million dollars. Through Tess' inspiring leadership and passion, many of her sisters have followed in her footsteps and joined her in supporting UGA Miracle.



Above: Tess Abraham.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Gamma at Quinnipiac University and Connecticut Alpha at University of Connecticut

Members from the Connecticut Gamma Chapter supporting their sisters at Connecticut Alpha in their Arrowspike philanthropy event.





IDAHO

Idaho Alpha, University of Idaho

In Fall 2023, the Idaho Alpha Chapter introduced a new philanthropy event called Wingman. The community competition consisted of Pi Beta Phi trivia, a spelling bee, letters to the chapter and more. Along with other philanthropy events, Wingman had a successful turnout and helped contribute to an overall \$6,000 fundraised for Pi Beta Phi Foundation. The Idaho Alpha Chapter also collected 400 school supplies to donate to a local elementary school.

ILLINOIS

Illinois Beta-Delta, Knox College

In December 2023, **ABIGAIL NEILAN** and **KEYLAN CORTES** spent two weeks in Oaxaca, Mexico, working with a local school and supporting students in an after-school program. Keylan was able to talk with students one-on-one and Abigail worked with a first-grade classroom teaching reading and writing in Spanish. Abigail and Keylan also had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Oaxaca’s culture and community.



INDIANA

Indiana Alpha, Franklin College

After surviving a sexual assault her junior year of high school, **MADDIE CARY** founded the organization H.O.P.E. (Heal, Overcome, Persevere, Empower) to educate others on sexual assault and foster a supportive community for survivors and allies. After coming to Franklin College and joining Pi Beta Phi, Maddie successfully brought H.O.P.E. to the campus community, initiating conversations and creating an environment for healing. Recognizing her drive and passion, the Indiana Alpha Chapter then elected Maddie as Chapter President. Maddie said, “I don’t know where I would be without my Pi Phi sisters and their overwhelming support. They, unknowingly, have given me the motivation to keep going, and it means more to me than they know.”



Upper, from left: **ZOEY OVARD-PARIS, HANNAH BYRNES** and **PAIGE MARRON** during one of Idaho Alpha’s philanthropy events.

Middle, from left: Keylan and Abby in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Lower: Maddie and her sisters promoting H.O.P.E. at Indiana Alpha’s Welcome Week tailgate. From left: Maddie, **SAVANNAH WANLESS, EMMA DODDS, JOSIE LYONS, ALISON MUCK, CORINNE MAGNER, ELAINA CONNELL** and **TIANA ARTHUR**.



Indiana Delta, Purdue University

BRIDGET CHAVEZ feels passionately about health disparities and in the past year she has been able to attend two medical brigades serving rural communities in Honduras. After taking her first trip, Bridget knew she wanted to lead her second trip and introduce this passion to a new group of students. After finding her home in Pi Phi and connecting with two sisters, **ELIZABETH HIRSCHBECK** and **MERCEDES SANCHEZ**, she encouraged them to attend her second medical brigade. In December 2023, the three sisters traveled to Honduras to serve the local community and happened to meet another Pi Phi sister, Mississippi Beta **ELAINA VITALE**. These four sisters not only bonded over a shared love for sisterhood but also a love for serving others. Bridget said, “Sharing this experience with my Pi Phi sisters was so uniquely beautiful and I will carry our Sincere Friendship with me for the rest of my life.”

IOWA

Iowa Zeta, University of Iowa

On October 14, 2023, **OLIVIA WIRTZ** ran her first half marathon in Chicago at the Country Sole race. Her Iowa Zeta sisters could not be prouder of this accomplishment!

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Gamma, Mississippi State University

In Fall 2023, the Mississippi Gamma Chapter hosted its first-ever Wing Ching philanthropy event. Attendees of the event were served wings while fraternity members competed in a dance battle and spelling bee. All proceeds from the event were donated to Pi Beta Phi Foundation, and the winning fraternity received a donation to their philanthropy as well. Mississippi Gammas hope this event becomes an annual tradition.



Upper, from left: Elaina, Bridget, Mercedes and Elizabeth in Honduras.

Middle: Olivia after finishing the half marathon.

Lower, from left: **TAYLOR HILL, REAGAN SZAMBELAN, SARAH BETH BEAGLES, MEGHAN CARLSON, PEYTON RIGDON** and **PRESLEY HORN** at Mississippi Gamma’s Wing Ching philanthropy event.



MISSOURI

Missouri Alpha, University of Missouri

In January 2024, **MARIA HINKAMP** participated in the “Dopey Challenge” at Disney World, which includes running a 5k, half-marathon and full marathon in the span of three days. Maria took this challenge a step further by partnering with the charity “A Running Passion” and raised more than \$1,000 to provide running shoes and scholarships to high school runners. During her training for this event, Maria notes the unwavering support she felt from her sisters. “During my six months of training, I lived at the Missouri Alpha Chapter facility and felt so much love and support from the women in the chapter,” she said. “The early morning Sunday runs grew tougher each week, but I’m so grateful I’d come home to my sisters greeting me with a smile, asking me how my run was or saving me a plate of food from lunch.”



Above: Maria with her Dopey Challenge medals.

MONTANA

Montana Alpha, Montana State University

JAYLIN HURD has been racing cars for the last five years. Although dirt track racing is often a sport dominated by men, Jaylin is following in her family’s footsteps and currently races in the same class as her father and uncle. She recently won the 2022 Big Sky Speedway Girls race, and her sisters are so proud of her accomplishments and the unique perspective she brings to Montana Alpha.



Above: Jaylin Hurd.

OHIO

Ohio Epsilon, University of Toledo

For sisterhood fun and camaraderie, members of Ohio Epsilon and Ohio Theta came together for a “Wig Party” at Bowling Green State University.

Below, from left: Ohio Epsilons **SHELBY ECKMAN**, **DANAE KARSHUK** and **ALIA BESEISO** at the Wig Party.



OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Alpha, University of Oklahoma

ANNA LUNDAY embodies what it means to be a Pi Phi through her extensive and inspiring contributions to both Oklahoma Alpha and the community. In the last year, Anna created Emotionalist, an organization which aims to help and support children’s emotional development. She has also worked with a program called Teaching the Teachers which educates teachers on emotional intelligence. Additionally, Anna serves as an annual volunteer for Positive Tomorrows, a school for homeless youth. Through her volunteer work and dedication to philanthropic service, Anna currently holds the title of Miss America Collegiate.

Oklahoma Beta, Oklahoma State University

After battling her own diagnosis of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma in 2022, **BROOKLYN HAWKINS** created “In the Middle of a Miracle,” a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness for pediatric cancer. In the Middle of a Miracle offers various avenues for support, such as funding scholarships for teenagers battling cancer, creating monthly gifts for children’s hospitals in Oklahoma, hosting fundraising events and more. The Oklahoma Beta Chapter is incredibly proud of Brooklyn, and Brooklyn could not be more grateful for her sisters’ support.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Zeta, Washington & Jefferson College

During homecoming weekend in Fall 2023, South Carolina Alpha **NANCY STRINE**—Pennsylvania Zeta’s first Resident Leadership Development Consultant—visited the chapter during its open house. Nancy helped to establish Pennsylvania Zeta as the first sorority installed on Washington & Jefferson College’s campus. Pennsylvania Zeta’s members are thankful for Nancy and her continued support of the chapter.



Upper: Anna Lunday.

Middle: Brooklyn Hawkins.

Lower: Nancy (front row, middle) with members of the Pennsylvania Zeta Chapter.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Beta, Clemson University

In October 2023, the South Carolina Beta Chapter participated in Clemson University's annual Homecoming Float Build. The chapter's design encapsulated the theme of "Beyond the Paw" by showing that no matter how far they go, Clemson University will always be home. South Carolina Beta members felt this was an amazing opportunity to bond as a sisterhood and as a fraternity/sorority life community. The chapter could not be prouder of the final product and the time and energy that went into it.

TEXAS

Texas Alpha, University of Texas

KATE SNEDEKER was recently included in a Forbes 30 Under 30 local feature for the nonprofit she founded, Gray for Glioblastoma. In honor of her father who was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, Kate founded the organization to help fund research and support patients with this disease.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Gamma, College of William & Mary

In October 2023, members of Virginia Gamma launched a new philanthropy event called Pi-Lympics, a field day-style fundraiser aimed to foster camaraderie among sisters while strengthening connections with the campus community. Virginia Gamma sisters were placed on teams, and each sister had the responsibility of recruiting friends from the community to join their team. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Arc of Greater Williamsburg, a local nonprofit organization that assists adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with improving their literacy skills. The Virginia Gamma Chapter is excited to give back to this treasured partnership and support the greater philanthropic vision of both Pi Beta Phi and the Arc of Greater Williamsburg.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Alpha, University of Wisconsin

In November 2023, several Wisconsin Alpha members participated in the 2023 Madison Marathon, and many of them had memorable experiences. **LUCY STANLEY** said, "The route took us all around Lake Mendota and it was an amazing way to explore the city." **ELLA MCNIECE** notes the incredible support from the community as well as her sisters, "The best part was seeing the support from so many people in our chapter—it was the best surprise." Another member, **MERYL HUBBARD**, had a special motivation that inspired her to complete the race. Meryl had spinal surgery in 2020 and thought she couldn't run more than a light jog, but when her big sis survived a severe car crash and still managed to run the race in years prior, Meryl was determined to do the same. "I never told



Upper, from left: **BAYLEE BRUNELLI** and **DANI DONADIO** in front of the float.

Middle left: Kate Snedeker.

Middle right: Wisconsin Alphas at the 2023 Madison Marathon.

Lower: Members of Wisconsin Epsilon at the football game.

her this, but she is the reason I started training so hard," Meryl said. "I figured if she could complete the race after everything she went through, I could do it with metal rods in my spine."

Wisconsin Epsilon, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Members of Wisconsin Epsilon volunteered at a Green Bay Packers vs. Kansas City Chiefs game to hand out earmuffs. Through this effort, the chapter raised \$600 for the Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation to support Read > Lead > Achieve®! ←

ARIZONA

Arizona Alpha Alumna

HEATHER HENRICKS LENKIN was recently inducted into the University of Arizona Order of Omega Greek Hall of Fame—one of the highest honors in Arizona’s fraternity/sorority life community. Heather was recognized for her exceptional work in architecture, landscape architecture and design. Heather’s designs have been featured in many home and garden tours, books and national publications and on international television. Her accomplishments have also impacted the University of Arizona through her support of the school’s architectural programs.

Arrowhead West-Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club

Arrowhead West-Phoenix Alumnae Club members and guests gathered for a holiday luncheon in December where they collected more than 70 stuffed animals and gift cards which were given to the Surprise, Arizona, Police Department. The police department has a Victim’s Advocacy Program that assists domestic abuse and crime victims and also provides victims’ rights education. One hundred personal hygiene kits were also collected for Eve’s Place, a domestic abuse facility for women in Phoenix.

Below, from left: Illinois Iota **DEBBIE SCHILE FENSKE**, Washington Beta **MARY JO SCAMAN PEREZ**, Arizona Beta **KIMBERLEE WILLIAMS NANCE**, Arizona Beta **SUSAN SPALENKA VANDEVIER**, Arizona Beta **DEBBI REITSCH MITCHELL**, Wisconsin Gamma **PAMELA WEINER** and South Carolina Alpha **BARBARA REESE PORTER**.

Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club

With the Phoenix Alumnae Club having a strong Golden Arrow and young alumnae presence, New Mexico Beta **CRISTINA MOODY LENKO** wanted to create an event specifically for alumnae who have reached 25 years of membership, also known as Silver Arrows. In Fall 2023, she planned a Silver Arrow luncheon in Scottsdale, Arizona. The event had 15 different Pi Phi chapters represented, and attendees can’t wait to gather again next year!

Below: Members of the Phoenix, Arizona, Alumnae Club at their Silver Arrow luncheon.





Above, from left: Alberta Alpha **CHRISTINE VALDES**, Oregon Beta **SUE BRIGGS CHAFFEE**, Washington Alpha **COURTNEY SOULE MITCHELL**, Nevada Alpha **CATHIE CLINCH** and Wendy.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver, British Columbia, Alumnae Club

The Vancouver, British Columbia, Alumnae Club visited the George Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, one of Canada's top birdwatching sites and Ontario Beta **WENDY NEWTON REIFEL**'s family's conservation effort for migrating birds.

CALIFORNIA

California Alpha Alumna

California Alpha **KATE BRADLEY** was recently named a Rhodes Scholar, meaning she will receive full academic funding for two or more years of post-graduate study in any field at Oxford University in England. She plans to pursue a master's degree in energy systems and economics.

Alumnae from Northern California

Three sisters from different chapters—California Zeta **TRINA ROWE AUDLEY**, California Gamma **DOMINI DONLON TARMAN** and Indiana Delta **HEIDI MILLER SKVARNA**—found themselves connecting in the same town in Northern California. United by their shared values and passion for service, Trina, Domini and Heidi recently came together to prepare meals for those less fortunate.



Above, from left: Trina, Domini and Heidi.



California Delta Alumnae

Since 2021, California Delta alumnae from the 1981 and 1982 New Member classes have regularly reunited. In 2023, this group of sisters gathered at the University of California, Los Angeles homecoming game, supported Pi Phi in a Panhellenic fundraiser, delivered snacks to the California Delta Chapter during recruitment and met for a holiday brunch. Through these connections, several of these sisters now serve on California Delta's Alumnae Advisory Committee or Chapter House Corporation.

Long Beach, California, Alumnae Club

The Long Beach, California, Alumnae Club recently gathered to celebrate the club's centennial anniversary. Collegians and alumnae came together to support this significant milestone, recognize local members and celebrate the club's achievements—including hosting Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events.

FLORIDA

Boca Raton, Florida, Alumnae Club

The Boca Raton, Florida, Alumnae Club contributed \$800 to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County to benefit the "Building Better Readers" program.



Upper, from left: California Deltas **KELLY THIES BROWN** and **SUSAN DICK GIUSTO** at the UCLA tailgate.

Middle: Collegians and alumnae at the Long Beach, California, Alumnae Club's centennial celebration.

Lower, from left: South Carolina Alpha **ANITA SOLTIS DICKERSON**, Washington Alpha **BARBARA CLANTON ACKERMAN**, Michigan Gamma **MATINA BALLAS NIMPHIE**, Oklahoma Alpha **SUSAN DAVIS BRODY**, Ohio Eta **JANET SIEGEL ROGERS**, CEO Kristin Calder and Development Director John Landry-Odell.





Above, from left: Florida Betas **BEVERLY SELLERS**, **CAROLINE EUBANK MUNRO**, **JULIE KELLER CHAMPION**, Tricia, **CHRISTINA WHITE PHILLIPS**, **STORMI LITRELL STEIN** and **ARDEN FLETCHER MAGEE**.

Florida Beta Alumnae

In Fall 2023, Florida Betas gathered to celebrate the ordination of **PATRICIA “TRICIA” SCOTT YOUNG**. Tricia received her Master of Divinity from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and was ordained into the Presbyterian Church USA on September 24, 2023, at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale. Tricia is currently the chaplain and bereavement specialist at Broward Health Medical Center and Salah Foundation Children’s Hospital.

ILLINOIS

Peoria, Illinois, Alumnae Club

Members of the Peoria, Illinois, Alumnae Club labeled nearly 1,000 books that Look It’s My Book purchased with a Pi Phi FDS500 grant after the club nominated the organization. The grants are made possible through donor support to Pi Beta Phi Foundation.



Above, from left: Illinois Theta **GAYLE ERWIN MCDOWELL**, Ohio Eta **RAMONA GIBBS**, Illinois Zeta **THERESA HUTCHISON DENTON**, Illinois Theta **CONNIE MACEK WILCOSKY**, Ron Patterson, Illinois Zeta **COLLEEN SHANNON DIGIALLONARDO**, Illinois Theta **ELIZABETH WITRY SPARROW** and Illinois Theta **CHERI RABER PATTERSON**.

KANSAS

Kansas Alpha Alumnae

The Kansas Alpha Chapter recently welcomed four alumnae initiates along with its Fall 2023 New Member class.

NEW YORK

New York Alpha Alumna

New York Alpha **JODY MORSE AL-SAIGH** recently pinned her daughter, Virginia Gamma **ADDY AL-SAIGH**, at Addy's Initiation in Fall 2023. Not only did they experience this special moment together, but Jody also used her grandmother's badge from 1929 to pin Addy. Now, Addy is a fourth-generation Pi Phi—with Addy's grandmother and great grandmother, **BEA MORSE** and **MILDRED BURNHAM SPOTTSWOOD** both being D.C. Alphas.

New York Epsilon Alumna

AIMEE DUNCAN TODD recently became an alumnae initiate of the New York Epsilon Chapter, and chapter members could not be more excited to welcome her into Pi Phi's sisterhood. Aimee is a special education teacher with more than 30 years of experience and is also the mother of New York Epsilon **KATIE TODD!** She has supported the chapter in its philanthropic efforts over the years and is excited to be an official part of the Pi Phi sisterhood.

Upper, back row, from left: Kansas Alphas **YVETTE ALEXANDER MICELI** and **KATE HERRENBRUCK**. Front row, from left: Kansas Alphas **ANDREA HICKERSON** and **SUSAN AMBLER SPENCER**.

Lower, from left: Addy, Jody and Bea at Addy's initiation.



NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club

In October 2023, 12 members of the Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club took a trip to Italy filled with fun and sisterhood. The members took a gondola ride in Venice, dove into the history of Rome, admired art in Florence and enjoyed the local food and wine.

OHIO

Ohio Zeta Alumnae

Five Ohio Zeta sisters initiated in 1972 traveled to Kauai, Hawaii, in January 2024. While enjoying their trip, they ran into another Pi Phi sister on the island—North Carolina Beta **NICOLE MCCARUS DEFORD**.

Upper: Members of the Charlotte, North Carolina, Alumnae Club bringing their Pi Phi Pride to Italy.

Middle, front row: Nicole. Back row, from left: Ohio Zetas **LAURA ECKMAN ATWELL, KATHRYN HAYS VEZIN, JANE MULLIN SCHMIDT, JENNIFER GREEN BUCKMAN** and **MEGAN MURPHY**.

BECOMING AN ALUMNA INITIATE

The opportunity to join Pi Beta Phi doesn't end after college. Through our alumnae initiate program, women outside of their collegiate years can join our sisterhood and experience the lifelong friendships and sincere bonds woven throughout our membership. Potential alumna initiates might be personal friends, family members, volunteers or leaders in your community who share a passion for Pi Phi's mission and core values. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming an alumna initiate, scan the QR code or contact alumnae@pibetaphi.org for more information on requirements, benefits and the application process.





Above, from left: Beth, Pennsylvania Zeta **JEANIE HOWARD DU GAN**, Yvonne, Illinois Zeta **ANNIE RAKOCZY SCHUSTER** and Arkansas Alpha **HADLEY CLINE STACK**.

TENNESSEE

Nashville, Tennessee, Alumnae Club

Members of the Nashville, Tennessee, Alumnae Club gathered to support Make-A-Wish Foundation and two sisters who work for the organization: President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Middle Tennessee and Director Community Relations **BETH TORRES**, Illinois Zeta, and Director of Administration **YVONNE SMEJKAL AYERS**, Tennessee Gamma.

WASHINGTON

Washington Alpha Alumna

Washington Alpha **NICOLE PERRIELLA-REHMKE** recently published her first children's book, "Except for All That Noise." Based on her own daughter, this book is about a little girl who experiences noise sensitivity and learns how to use coping strategies to handle loud situations. Nicole's hope for this book is to help kids and families struggling with sensory differences.

Below: Nicole reading her book to an elementary school class.



TEXAS

Cypress Creek-Northwest Houston, Texas, Alumnae Club

The Cypress Creek-Northwest Houston Alumnae Club kicked off the new year with a literacy initiative—reading to the second grade students of Eiland Elementary, a recent recipient of a Pi Beta Phi FDS500 grant. The grant was used to purchase a chapter book, "Mindy Kim and the Big Pizza Challenge," for each of the school's nearly 500 second-graders. Alumnae club members read with the students in preparation for a visit from the book's author, Lyla Lee.

Below: Texas Beta **MARY HUGHSTON SMITH** reading to students at Eiland Elementary.



VIRGINIA

Richmond, Virginia, Alumnae Club

The Richmond, Virginia, Alumnae Club was busy during Fall 2023 supporting various literacy programs in the community. Members first provided books and backpacks to support the Amy Preschool Reading Program and donated \$500 to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Richmond. They also nominated the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother Program to receive an FDS\$500 grant, which allowed this organization to purchase \$2,000 worth of books and literacy-related supplies.

WASHINGTON

Spokane, Washington, Alumnae Club

The Spokane, Washington, Alumnae Club celebrated its fourth annual fall Bunko for Literacy event at the home of North Dakota Alpha **SANDI BOSCHEE BISHOP** and raised \$200 for the Literacy Fund at Pi Beta Phi Foundation.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Alumnae Club

The Neighborhood House of Milwaukee honored the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Alumnae Club for its 50 years of literacy initiatives and volunteer service. ←

Upper, from left: New York Gamma **DEBBY KAY**, Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program Specialist Kimberly Fehrs and Virginia Gamma **PATRICIA MOORE MYERS**.

Middle, front row, from left: Washington Beta **NANCY VANDERHYDE JAMES**, Sandi and Washington Beta **CARLA LILES PERCIVAL**. Back row, from left: Washington Gamma **SHAANI ROBIDEAUX CLAYPOOL**, Washington Beta **CATHY FULLER ARMACOST**, Idaho Alpha **MARJORIE-ANN FAUCHER**, Oregon Gamma **HEATHER CRABTREE YARBROUGH** and New Mexico Alpha **ESTHER LARSEN**.

Lower, from left: Texas Gamma **RUSTY SMITH MILLIN**, Iowa Zeta **KELLY KIRK CONRARDY**, Illinois Alpha **DEB JACKOWNIAK SCARLETT**, Wisconsin Alpha **LYNN PARTLETON HUDY**, Ohio Zeta **BRITT ENGSTROM GOSENHEIMER** and Ohio Zeta **MEGAN MURPHY** accepting the award.



In Memoriam

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

The list below reflects notification by public obituary received at Pi Beta Phi Headquarters between October 1, 2023, and February 14, 2024. Obituaries may be submitted at pibetaphi.org/in-memoriam.

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

ALABAMA BETA

Mary Hassell Burch, 1953
Janet Nolen King, 1970

ARKANSAS ALPHA

Diane Reid Carroll, 1948
Georgia Graham Jones, 1956
Virginia Harrell Shreeve, 1957

ARKANSAS BETA

Jo Clair Armstrong Hays, 1963

CALIFORNIA BETA

Joan McRae Biersch, 1952

CALIFORNIA ZETA

Karen Allender Pehlke, 1961

COLORADO ALPHA

Jane Roudebush Speckman, 1954

ILLINOIS BETA-DELTA

Jean Bitunjac Fuehrmeyer, 1970

INDIANA DELTA

Betty Hewitt Lane, 1964
Kathleen Andersen Sheft, 1980

INDIANA ZETA

Cathy Hosier Palmer, 1963

IOWA ALPHA

Margaret Parks Eichelberger, 1959

IOWA ZETA

Mary Dewitt Howe, 1947

KANSAS ALPHA

Sarah Simpson Dean, 1957
Virginia Lee Carson Garver, 1939
Marilyn Thompson Ritchie, 1949
Susie Boyle Simonson, 1947

KANSAS BETA

Peg Goetz Hilton, 1950
Ann Bates Scott, 1961
Marcia Steerman Winegardner, 1960

KENTUCKY ALPHA

Susan Thomas Mahan, 1954
Martha Oldham Schildknecht, 1970

LOUISIANA ALPHA

Sue Stubbs Cutler, 1960

LOUISIANA BETA

Susan Taylor Pellerin, 1961
Yvonne Broussard Teeter, 1943
Mary Baker Templet, 1958
Diane Pierson Whaley, 1959

MICHIGAN ALPHA

Elsie Beall Hale, 1955
Jane C. Harris-Warren, 1958
Mary Ann Nye Knowlton, 1947

MICHIGAN GAMMA

Gwendolyn Hansen Lukash, 1952
Marilyn Beckmann Smythe, 1951
Megan Jean Wells, 2004

MINNESOTA ALPHA

Carol Wetzberger Schmalz, 1962

MISSOURI ALPHA

Virginia McCleary Bath, 1949
Helen Simpson Coulson, 1946
Ann Basinger Wilkins, 1958

MISSOURI BETA

Kay Hammond Hazel, 1953

MISSOURI GAMMA

Susan Seabough Porter, 1960,
affiliated Arkansas Alpha

MONTANA ALPHA

Georgia McQueary Chase, 1955
Carole Kamhoot O'Neil, 1956

NEBRASKA BETA

Sally Krause Burt, 1949

NEVADA ALPHA

Elaine Zeitlmann Schmidt, 1955

NEW MEXICO ALPHA

Sally Smith Grady, 1955,
affiliated Arizona Alpha

NORTH CAROLINA ALPHA

Lila Ponder Friday, 1950

OHIO ALPHA

Joan Erdmann Simpson Parks, 1948
Vivian Goulder Schuller, 1955

OHIO DELTA

Catherine Harding Davis, 1963
Carol Rees Eickhoff, 1956
Lynn Kummer Reinhardt, 1961
Marylu Warner Stacy, 1955

OHIO ZETA

Barbara Surbeck Borton, 1952,
affiliated Ohio Beta
Marilyn Foster Kalamaros, 1953

OKLAHOMA ALPHA

Yvonne Souter Allen, 1949
Adrienne Smith Burruss, 1947
Beverly Klein Patterson, 1945

OREGON ALPHA

Sarah Turnbull Johnson, 1950

OREGON GAMMA

Sarah Higgins Robertson, 1955

PENNSYLVANIA BETA

Karen Weaver Hafer, 1971

SOUTH CAROLINA ALPHA

Betty Jane Gawler Cline, 1941

TENNESSEE ALPHA

Adele Baker, 1951

TENNESSEE BETA

Virginia Bland Fry, 1948

Jo Ann Marsh Grossman, 1951

TEXAS ALPHA

Sally Otis Cassidy, 1950

Elisabeth Field Goeth, 1948

Clytie Thomas Phelps, 1962

Ann Dudgeon Phy, 1957

TEXAS BETA

Lunell McFarland Horton, 1952

UTAH ALPHA

Joyce Orlob Evans, 1942

VIRGINIA ALPHA

Penelope Babcock Laingen, 1950

Ann Pryor Simms, 1957

VIRGINIA GAMMA

Audrey Allein Hoitsma, 1946

WASHINGTON BETA

Anne McCrea Chase, 1948

WASHINGTON GAMMA

Corrine Sule Paulson, 1949

WISCONSIN ALPHA

Shirley Capitani Stathas, 1953

WYOMING ALPHA

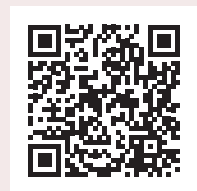
Bobette Brown Barrasso, 1972



REMEMBERING VIRGINIA BLAND FRY

With great sadness, we share that retired Pi Beta Phi Fraternity Executive Director **VIRGINIA (GINNY) BLAND FRY**, Tennessee Beta, passed on February 14, 2024. Ginny began working at Central Office—what is now known as Headquarters—in 1977 as a staff member. The following year she became an Assistant Director in charge of membership and jewelry. Three years later, Ginny took on the role of Executive Director, where she led Central Office staff members supporting the Fraternity for 15 years until her retirement in 1996. In her 15 years as Executive Director, Ginny's leadership style and managerial talents were an incredible asset to Pi Beta Phi. The result was not just a well-run Central Office but also a more efficient Fraternity. ←

Scan the QR code to read
the full tribute.



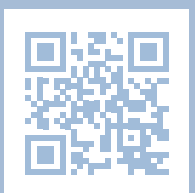
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D. Crown Pearl Badge with Diamond Point, #0203 | **E.** Crest Guard, #0910 | **F.** Big Sister Dangle, #0037 | **G.** Chapter President
 Dangle, #001A | **H.** Scholarship Pearl Dangle, #0041 | **I.** Cora Ring, #RP3400 | **J.** Forever Ring, #001G | **K.** Cushion Ring,
 #0452 | **L.** Lavalier with Snake Chain, #L2649PIBEPH | **M.** Arrow Bracelet with Crest, #1065

*standard shipping

HERFF  JONES.





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