



# ny delta doings

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Winter 2009-'10 newsletter

## What's inside:

Reflections from a Pi Phi senior

Communicating Pi Phi love across the Atlantic

Spotlight on Mara Perman: making meaningful connections

Our alumnae share their news and notes

## alumnae:

If you would like to get involved with the alumnae advisory committee or house corporation, please contact Beth Walkenbach at [bethwalkenbach@hotmail.com](mailto:bethwalkenbach@hotmail.com).

## State of the Chapter: Hello from NY Delta!

**Melissa Powers '10**  
Undergraduate President

New York Delta certainly had an incredible fall semester. We had the privilege of adding two transfer members (Charlotte Werner from Denison University and Caroline Dickens from University of North Carolina), and also welcomed two additional members, Sabrina Wang and Sadie Ellison. These four new members make the new member class of 2009 the biggest in NY Delta history, with 48 members in all. We are so happy to have such amazing new women in our house, and we have had such a great time getting to know the entire new member class.

We kicked off the first week of classes with a boat cruise around Cayuga Lake, which was an extremely fun evening despite the lovely Ithaca rainstorm that persisted throughout the entire cruise. The week following the cruise, we held a rotational dinner in Collegetown so that the underclassmen could visit some of our annexes. We all had an absolute blast

bonding over a scrumptious assortment of appetizers, including chicken wing dip and pigs in a blanket. A few weeks later, we had a beautiful Homecoming Weekend and were so happy to see many recent alumnae!

Aside from these events, Mariana Diez '10, our stellar vice president of membership, worked closely with the new member class in preparation for formal recruitment in January. The entire house came together with overwhelming enthusiasm for recruitment this year!

We have also been participating in a great deal of philanthropy thanks to our dedicated vice president of philanthropy, Mollie Miller '10, and her co-pilot, Sarah Sprague '11. We co-hosted a basketball event called "Freshman 14," and we have been participating in Books Thru Bars and Glamour Gals throughout the semester. Our biggest event of the semester, "Battle of the Chefs: Warm Up Edition," was a smashing success.

All in all, fraternity life is wonderful, and I am proud to be part of such an outstanding group of women.



Melissa Allen '11, Cristina Law '11, Erica Sher '11, Jackie Carlson '11, Chelsea Blau '11, Kate Loose '11, and Michelle Grosso '11.

## save the dates

**May 2, 2010:** Make plans to join your Pi Phi sisters for the **Founders' Day brunch**.

**June 10-13, 2010:** During **Reunion Weekend**, we will be hosting an informal open house at 330 Triphammer Rd. on Saturday, June 12 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. All returning Pi Phis, family members, and friends are encouraged to join us.



---

# Reflections From a Pi Phi Senior

By Ariel Fox '10

As my final year at Cornell begins to wind down, I find myself reflecting on all I've experienced in the last three and a half years, and feeling particularly nostalgic about my memories as a Pi Phi. Focusing on schoolwork while simultaneously applying to jobs for next year has been overwhelming, to say the least, and imagining a new life outside of Ithaca and the Big Red is both exhilarating and frightening. My anxieties stem from the unknown aspects of life after graduation: What will I be pursuing, where will I be located, who will be close by, and how will I feel once the newfound independence of post-college life really hits me?

Despite my fears about elements that are outside of my control, there are some thoughts that always comfort me, even in the moments of the highest stress and trepidation. Wherever I wind up after graduation this May, I will have

Pi Phi sisters supporting me.

When studying abroad in Quito, Ecuador this past semester, my Pi Phi sisters didn't hesitate to make expensive calls to my international cell phone to check up on me. When I awoke in a frenzy the morning of my first job interview, my nerves were mollified by text messages from sisters wishing me good luck. As fellow Pi Phi and I train for a half-marathon this coming semester, we smile as we run, knowing there will be sisters at the finish line to cheer us on.

I'm grateful for all that Cornell has given me; my studies have been incredibly fulfilling and my activities outside of the classroom have undoubtedly enriched my college experience. We always feel privileged to participate at such a wonderful university, whether as students, athletes, musicians, artists, debaters, or whatever else our busy sisters choose to become. I am always particularly proud, however, to call



Melissa Powers '10 and Ariel Fox '10.

myself a Pi Phi. I am certain that feeling won't fade after I graduate. Good luck to all seniors in their final semesters at school. I can't wait to see where we all are next year!

## Communicating Pi Phi Love Across the Atlantic

By Claire Shapiro '11

If you're reading this as an alumna, there's a good chance that you attended Cornell when Pi Phi had one house telephone, cell phones either weren't around or were the size of massive bricks, and typewriters were new and considered portable. For many of you, the Internet was a fantasy existing only in science fiction books and movies—assuming that those even existed that long ago (just kidding). But honestly, when you traveled, did errands, or just sat at home, you had the ability to completely disconnect from other people. It was a simpler time, and independence was truly independence. To be honest, I don't understand how anyone did it.

While studying abroad in Rome this past fall, having the Internet and a cell phone was invaluable. I was able to stay in touch with my Pi Phi family, and share photos and stories with the simple click of a button. Even though I was so far away, I felt closer than ever to my sisters (I really mean this in the least clichéd way possi-

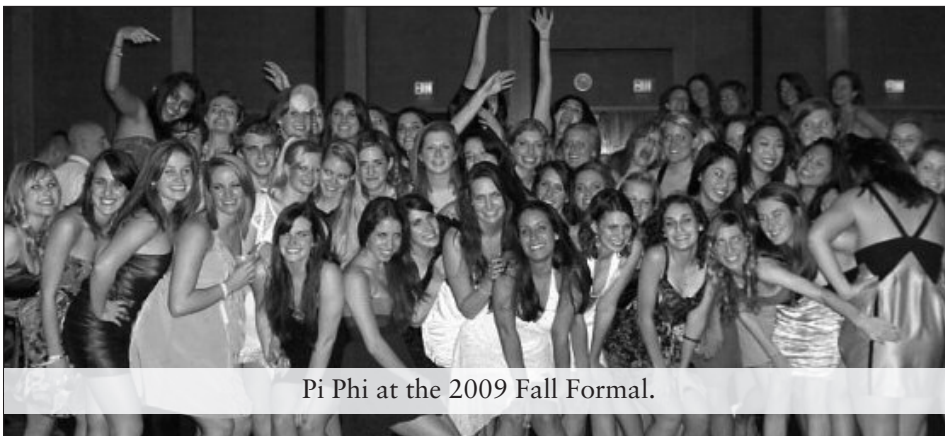
ble). Throughout the semester, I periodically e-mailed a big group of Pi Phis about my adventures—magical moments including everything from transportation strikes to wardrobe malfunctions). They have been given an inside look into my world in Rome, and I've received some insights into theirs as well. I was worried when I left for the semester that I would miss out on a lot back home, but with the ability to video conference and e-mail at my fingertips, our bond has been as strong as ever. The e-mail group has been a support system and a venue to share very candid moments of my life with all of my best friends easily from my apartment in Rome. I really never have felt closer to such a big group of girls all at once; luckily modern technology has allowed me to keep this connection strong.

Despite how much I owe to the technology gods in all forms of electronic correspondence and communication, this semester has also taught me a thing or two about the importance of more traditional forms of communication. The letter, postcard, and my personal favorite—

the package—are much more meaningful than a Facebook post because they take that extra effort on the part of the sender. My Pi Phi "Angels Abroad" package made my week when I got it in my mailbox. By taking the time to print, stamp, and send a letter in this day and age, it shows extra care and thought from my sisters back at Cornell.

In my Italian media and pop culture class, I've learned that many Italians actually still don't even own computers or use the Internet. Despite this, Italians are known for remaining extremely close to friends and family because they spend so much time together talking, eating, and generally socializing. A lot can be said about this emphasis on face-to-face communication and its ability to bring people together. During my semester abroad, I was lucky enough to actually spend some time in Italy, France, and Sweden with fellow Pi Phi sisters Jane Whalen '11 and Meaghan Frank '11. I can honestly say that these visits were the highlights of my semester. I had an amazing time and grew much closer to those girls by exploring our respective cities and teaching each other a thing or two about the cultures. While I was in Sweden, I realized I actually had hardly taken any pictures at the end of the trip. The reason behind this was that I had been having so much fun just spending time with Meaghan that the idea of taking pictures completely slipped my mind. We were enjoying each other's company, face-to-face, and it was that much more meaningful.

So to all of you active Pi Phis who can't fathom one phone for 40 girls, and to all of you alumnae who remember it so fondly, I've found that technology is wonderful when it comes to staying in touch with sisters far away, but the extra effort associated with snail mail and face-to-face interaction is unmatched in terms of connecting with sisters from far across the globe.



Pi Phi at the 2009 Fall Formal.

# Spotlight on Mara Perman: *Making Meaningful Connections*

NY Deltas are truly spectacular: As Pi Phis, we strive to enjoy a universal fun-loving spirit with a greater commitment toward serving our world. Junior Mara Perman '11 exemplifies of this goal: Not only did she charm audiences during our rush skit with her sparkling performance as fictional movie anchorman Ron Burgundy, but she also reminds Pi Phi of our truly lasting goals through her commitment to service.

While Mara has always shown a commitment to others—whether it be by sharing a funny anecdote or helping with homework in the living room—this commitment translated into inspiring action when she spent her summer in Banti, Tanzania, to teach HIV/AIDS education. Working through an NGO based in Arusha, Tanzania, called Support for International Change, Mara taught comprehensive education programs to children and adult community groups, collectively teaching

over 6,000 people and testing more than 2,000.

Mara worked tirelessly in order to serve her organization, despite the added challenge of a torn meniscus and ACL. Characteristic of resilient Mara, she didn't allow this to hinder her effectiveness as a teacher, taking every opportunity to spread HIV/AIDS education, even outside of scheduled sessions. Mara recalls, "We soon found ourselves leading a massive question-and-answer session with dozens of young men, arguably the most important demographic for HIV education. This teaching made me realize that health education can come in so many different forms, and public health policy should not be limited to what is conventional."

Mara continues to support her organization from New York, starting the first SIC chapter at Cornell. Our chapter is lucky to have Mara, who is changing the world as only a Pi Phi could.



Mara's base site in Tanzania.

## *our alumnae share their news and notes*

"I would love to hear from any friends here or there!", writes **M. Louise (Walker) Patrick '41**. Get in touch with her at 1055 Walker Rd., Waynesville, NC 28786.

**Ann (Bode) Jennings '44** has been traveling to the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and was planning a trip to the East Coast when she wrote to us in September. She still plays bridge and gin rummy, and participates in volunteer activities. Write to her at 14515 W. Granite Valley Dr., # C429, Sun City West, AZ 85375; abjenningsaz@cox.net.

**Elizabeth (Wait) Geidel '47** has moved; send greetings to her at 1230 Wildewood Downs Cir., Columbia, SC 29223.

"Thank you, dear Pi Phi sisters, for trying to keep us all in touch!", writes **Anita (Sargent) Leonard '53**. "Ralph and I have just returned from a wonderful trip he organized for a group of his West Point buddies and friends to take in the beautiful sights of Ireland. We stayed in thatched-roofed cottages when we weren't touring castles, the Ring of Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, and other attractions by bus, or golfing on one of Ireland's many inviting courses. We loved it! Our granddaughter, Kaitlin, is a 'firstie' at West Point, and will graduate in May. I have been in touch with **Suzie (Brigham) MacLean '53**, **Helen (Wallace) Miksch '53**, and **Enid (Spangenberg) Miles '53** recently." Reach Anita at 96 Sargent Dr., Old Town, ME 04463.

**Esther (Corcoran) Namian '54** has a new e-mail address: esthernamian@hotmail.com. Send mail to 3312 Newark St. NW, Washington, DC 20008. **Rae (Pullen) Alexakos '55** attends a monthly Pi

Phi luncheon, as well as a bridge group in Sarasota. Catch up with her at 5642 Ashton Lake Dr., Sarasota, FL 34231.

"I continue to take students to Nicaragua each summer," writes **Ann (Gaffey) Coyne '58**. "This year, two graduate students did their practicum there, working with families of deaf children. My son Brian (Cornell '81) and grandson Patrick came down for ten days to help build roofs and bathrooms. It was an eye-opening experience!" Find out more: 1130 N 79th St., Lincoln, NE 68505; acoyne@mail.unomaha.edu.

**Mimi (Petermann) Merrill '59** reports, "It was great to see everyone at our 50th reunion: **Nancy (Stone) Jenkins '59**, **Carolyn (Hill) Rogers '59**, **Sue (Bates) Cottrell '59**, **Barbara (Curit) Thorp '59**, and **Ellen Michel '59**." Find Mimi at 5379 Mariners Cove Dr., #504, Madison, WI 53704; mpmerrill@aol.com.

**Janis (Mitchell) Leas '60** has been "traveling, gardening, having visitors, enjoying time with my children and grandchildren, and dealing with a nasty knee injury. My granddaughter, Darien Mathe, is in my old dorm (Dickson), possibly in the very same corridor where I spent my freshman year! She is loving it there." Get in touch with Janis at 115 Buck Rd., Stone Ridge, NY 12484.

"I'm still in touch with **Janis (Mitchell) Leas '60** and **Priscilla (Miles) Yannall '60**, who seem to be doing what all we retirees do: travel, travel, travel, and enjoying spending time with our grandchildren," reports **Beth (Hoover) Morsman '60**. "I still remember when we were all cramming for finals, and alums came back and said 'Oh, girls, these

are the best years of your life!' We groaned and hoped they were wrong—they were! Cornell and Pi Phi were important, great fun, and valued, but not the best. The best is now!" Write to Beth at 4011 E. Valley Rd., Deephaven, MN 55391.

"Since my husband is also an active Cornellian (Jack Meakem '58), we are still involved with Cornell after all these years," writes **Diane (Baillet) Meakem '61**. "We are both lifelong members of the Cornell University Council, and have made two endowments. We are usually on campus once a year for council weekend. We have five grown children, and are expecting our twelfth grandchild in February. We live in Florida and Connecticut, and we have a home in the Berkshires in Massachusetts. We have been blessed many times over, and are extremely grateful for our years at Cornell." Say hello to Diane at 3348 Barrow Island Rd., Jupiter, FL 33477; dbmeakem@aol.com.

"My youngest son will graduate from college in the spring, likely headed to a career in social work," reports **Elisabeth (Kaplan) Boas '71**. "My other son, who loves all things Japanese, is living in his third city there (northern Tokyo) in three years. My oldest daughter is happily living in Manhattan and working for McKinsey." She recently completed a year full of traveling, during which she saw the Russian maritimes and far east, Siberia, Mongolian steppes, the Gobi Desert, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and India. "I was happy to see how good the Pi Phi house looked this summer, as I passed it almost daily during my month at Cornell. My husband is still working as hard as ever with the ACLU of Washington, D.C. Happily,

(continued on page four)

# our alumnae share their news

(continued from page three)

my Pi Phi friends are doing well, though sadly, none of them are here in Maryland, where I've lived for the past decade!" Stay in touch with Elisabeth at 11 Oxford St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815; ekb7@cornell.edu.

**Moira (Hearne) Hints** '74 has a new address: 2683 Bronson Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824. Send e-mail to mohints@aol.com.

**Kathy (Coleman) Weinberg** '77 writes, "Our big news is that we just bought a house near Ithaca, on the west shore. We're planning to move in during the summer. We also have a guest cottage, which we plan to rent out, hopefully to current Pi Phi or their kids at Cornell. We can't wait to reconnect with old friends in the area, so call, e-mail, or write." Find Kathy at 3856 Pallos Verdas Dr., Dallas, TX 75229; weinberg2@sbcglobal.com.

"After being home for 17 years, raising my family, I finally went back to work, part-time, as an adjunct professor in the business department of Passaic County Community College," reports **Sarina (Monast) Bronfin** '82. "It's great fun being 'in school' again. Our four children range in age from 10-17, so we are incredibly busy with them. However, I do manage to see some Pi Phis; **Jill Flack** '81, **Kristi (Bleyer) Johnson** '82, **Naomi (Gelzer) Kettler** '82, **Alyssa (Alia) Malanga** '81, **Martha (Garcia) Cairnie** '81, **Jill (Schosberg) Stoller** '82, and **Patty (Garr) Milch** '82, and I e-mail with **Jana Reichle-Berard** '80." Keep in touch with Sarina at 270 Bellair Rd., Ridgewood, NJ 07450; sbronfin@yahoo.com.

**Glynnis (Stone) Tihansky** '82 has a new e-mail



Big Kelly Mannix '11 with Little Kristen McClellan '12 on a Pi Phi boat cruise.



An alumnae brunch at NY Delta.

address: ctihansky@comcast.net, or reach her at 2764 E. Fox Chase Cir., Doylestown, PA 18901.

**Marilyn (Wilson) Lund** '83 writes, "I'm having fun with my daughter, Alexandra (6), and husband, Victor. I run a real-estate technology consulting firm from California, and I'm loving it. Contact me by e-mail at marilyn@wavgroup.com." (291 Falcon Crest Dr., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420)

"Our family is in our seventh year living in Tokyo, Japan," reports **Judy (Marlinski) Doyno** '85. "I have been working for Fidelity Investments for nearly 24 years. My husband, David Doyno (Cornell '85) started his own real-estate company in Japan a few years ago. Our two daughters, Abbey (15) and Jenna (12) are thriving in their overseas life. We have constant visitors and welcome anyone who is stopping in Tokyo." Get in touch with Judy at 2-6-16 Kami Osaki Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 121-0021; judy.marlinski@jp.fid-intl.com.

**Kim (Brown) Bixler** '91 writes, "We moved to southern California last year and are really enjoying it. My husband, Tim Law (Cornell '93), has a new job that is close to home, and our kids, Kendall (11) and Robert (10) have adjusted well to their Manhattan Beach schools. We'd love to hear from other Pi Phis in the area." Catch up with Kim at 3616 The Strand, C, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; kimbixler@earthlink.net.

**Corinne (Ogden) Rogers** '94 has moved from the Boston area to Ohio with her husband, Joe, and children, Aislin (6), Brogan (4), and Reid (2). She writes, "We will miss seeing **Kate Ackerman** '94! If anyone is around or visiting Columbus, come see us!" Reach Corinne at 7766 Kate Brown Dr., Dublin, OH 43017; cko2@cornell.edu.

"My husband, Jay, and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our daughter, Isabella Grey Tobin, on July 8, 2009," reports **Courtney (Goldstein) Tobin** '95. "**Andrea Savage** '94 and I coincidentally had the same fantastic night nurse!" Send

congratulations to 1300 San Ysidro Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; cagoldstein@hotmail.com.

**Tamara Crepet** '03 has taken a new position with Habeas Corpus Service Center in San Francisco. Her new address is 900 Chestnut St., Apt. 104, San Francisco, CA 94109; stay in touch via e-mail at tac23@cornell.edu.

"I would love to invite all new, current, and alumnae Pi Phis to a very exciting event happening at the Cornell Club in Manhattan," writes **Monica Pham** '04. It is the Art, Law, and Culture Society's symposium, which will take place April 9, 2010 from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, see [www.artlawandculture.com](http://www.artlawandculture.com), or get in touch with Monica at 10 Clinton Ct., Plainsboro, NJ 08536; monica.pham@gmail.com.

**Whitney Z. Bernstein** '06 has moved to 201 S. 18th St., Apt. 915, Philadelphia, PA 19103; e-mail [berstein.whitney@gmail.com](mailto:berstein.whitney@gmail.com).

## deceased

*We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumnae:*

**Frances (Hartman) Freer** '39  
October 24, 2009

**Ora Jane (Henning) Hurd** '44

**Jerri Ann (Reilly) Peck** '51  
August 13, 2009

**Nancy P. (Peery) Harmon** '60  
April 12, 2006