

# ny delta doings

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Spring 2015 newsletter

## SAVE THE DATE

and Join us for

*"Tea Time  
With Pi Phi"*

Reunion Weekend Brunch

June 6, 2015

## 2015-'16 Chapter Executive Board

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Caity Wischermann '16

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### VP Membership

Lauren Ransohoff '16

### VP Fraternity Development

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## Letter From the President: Empowering Our Sisters

**By Caity Wischermann '16**  
President

Dear Pi Phi Sisters,

It is a pleasure to be writing to you all and to be informing you of the current events of the NY Delta Chapter and the community at large. To give you a little bit of background on myself, I am a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in economics, comparative literature, and German studies. I often joke that I am a Cornell baby since I am the daughter of two Cornellians and was raised in Ithaca for most of my childhood. Outside of Pi Phi and other on-campus activities, I avidly ride horses and keep my horse at school with me.

Pi Phi is an incredibly important part of many of our lives within the sisterhood. It takes time and dedication to build a sense of strong community, and over the course of the past few years we have managed to re-establish that sense of connection. We are still actively pursuing opportunities to make the sisterhood more united. A few of the special events we have had this past semester include a cookie shine with the Rochester Alumnae Club, our iconic Pie a Pi Phi philanthropy event, and a brilliantly successful formal recruitment. We have since initiated 43 new members into the NY Delta family

and are looking forward to seeing how they grow our chapter in the long term.

Part of what makes our community so strong is that Pi Phi has remained an incredibly diverse sisterhood that embraces uniqueness and individuality. For that reason, many of our sisters are prominent or aspiring student leaders on campus. An initiative that I have taken to foster this type of leadership development is the establishment of a formalized committee system based on the individual passions and interests of the sisterhood. The objective of empowering more women to be leaders within the sisterhood is meant to create an environment of purpose and genuine personal growth. I feel that we all need to believe in our dreams a little more. The committee system, because it allows members to define the vision of their own committee, is a way to give sisters an outlet to do the things they truly care about, even if they have previously only considered it a hobby. I believe in giving opportunities based on passion, based on drive, because it is when we are truly passionate and honest with ourselves that we will be fulfilled.

And with that, I encourage you all to keep in touch. It will be amazing to see how NY Delta grows especially with the addition of a new member class.



Sophomores enjoying the snow. Photo courtesy of Leanne Youstra.

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# NY Delta Honors Two Incredible Alumnae

## Remembrances submitted by Susan Murphy '73 and Marj Smart '57

*Virginia "Ginna" (Hallett) Hardesty '49*  
Ithaca, New York: Passed peacefully in her home Sunday, October 5, 2014, at age 86.

Ginna's role was with House Corporation, where her wise counsel guided the chapter through several house renovations, including the installation of the sprinkler system and internet. She was House Corporation treasurer for a number of years and was very diligent with financial record keeping.

Marj Smart

When I first returned to Cornell to work in 1978 and reconnected with the chapter, Ginna was active with the House Corporation. Her dedication to the women and supporting their dreams for the house, along with her stewardship of the

building were so motivating. She had a very special feeling for 330 Triphammer Road as she never had the beauty of living in a house built for a sorority, since our earlier chapter houses were smaller and not as well appointed.

Ginna was a remarkably independent woman who treasured her family and her friends. Her Pi Phi connections through the generations were so important to her. She was proud to be a Cornelian and proud to be a Pi Phi.

Susan Murphy

*Constance "Connie" (Salm Conlon) '55*  
Lansing, New York: Passed away Monday, February 9, 2015, at the age of 80.

Connie was the resident adviser on my freshman corridor, so she was the first person I met at Cornell 62 years ago! When I pledged Pi Phi, she became my Big Sister, and we

reconnected when I moved back to Ithaca. Connie's role was with the Alumnae Advisory Committee. I also believe she served as secretary for a time, and later on as adviser to the chapter treasurer (as that position was called in the "old days"). Ginna and Connie treasured their undergraduate days as Pi Phis, as have I, and found their sorority experiences to be wonderful preparation for life.

Marj Smart

I knew Connie best as Marj's dear friend and through her work as financial adviser. Quiet, thoughtful, also very dedicated to the local community, as well as Cornell and Pi Phi.

Seeing the example these women set as alumnae inspired me to get involved as an alumna and helped me truly understand that our Pi Phi connection is for life!

Ginny and Connie will be dearly missed.

Susan Murphy



Olivia Matticoli with Emma Ackermann and the rest of their lineage on Big Reveal! This year the Bigs hid in wrapping paper around the house and their littles opened their presents to find them!

## Big & Little, We'll Always Be

By Olivia Matticoli '17

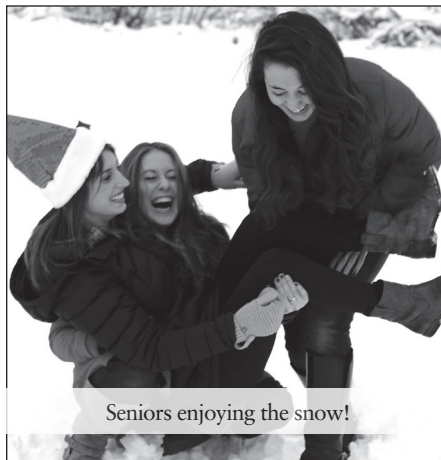
This January we welcomed a new member class of 43 unique and passionate young women. Seeing all of their eager faces reminded me how I was in their position just one year ago. New member period is such an exciting time filled with so many emotions leading up to initiation. This past year as an active member in Pi Beta Phi has taught me so much about leadership, true friendship, and most surprisingly, myself. Joining Pi Beta Phi is probably the best decision I have made since coming to Cornell, and I am so excited

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## Senior Sentiments

By Ellen Kaminski '15

As graduation approaches, I frequently find myself reflecting on the past four years spent at Cornell. When thinking about my favorite memories as an undergraduate, I realize that my Pi Phi sisters are present in nearly all of them. While most second-semester seniors tend to develop "senioritis" and distance themselves from their campus organizations, my involvement in the New York Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi has never been stronger. This year I live with 13 other Pi Phi sisters in a house in Collegetown. Although the hike to the Pi Phi house on North Campus may be far, we make sure to make frequent trips to spend time with the sophomores living in the house and to chat with our beloved chef Dickyi over dinner.



Seniors enjoying the snow!

I spent the spring semester of my junior year studying abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. While I loved traveling around Europe, I definitely missed all that was going on around campus, especially at 330 Triphammer Road. I especially missed getting to know the new member class, which I was able to make up for during recruitment this past January. Some of my favorite Pi Phi memories have occurred around recruitment. While recruitment tends to be a stressful and somewhat chaotic experience, it also provided me the opportunity to get to know Pi Phi sisters from all years and majors. The highlight of recruitment for me is always skit round, in which our sisters put on a 10-minute skit that showcases the personality and sense of humor of our chapter. Each year, our skit makes me fall in love with Pi Phi all over again. I am going to miss participating in recruitment next year, but I am confident that the incoming recruitment chair will do an amazing job to secure the best new member class possible.

Although my time as an active member of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell is coming to an end, I know that the friendships I have made with my fellow sisters will remain strong. After graduation I will be moving to New York City, where I already have a network of older Pi Phi sisters waiting for me. I am already looking forward to returning to Ithaca in October for Homecoming Weekend to reunite with younger sisters and older alumnae. While my time at Cornell is coming to a close, I am happy to leave Cornell knowing that I will always have a home at Pi Phi.

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# From Initiation to Graduation: *Engaging Our Sisters & Our Values*



## *Leaders in Letters*

By Marielle Ravosa '17

As this year's vice president of fraternity development, I was so excited to help lead the New York Delta Chapter forward through the initiation of 43 amazing new members this past February. I could not have asked for a better experience. I had the pleasure of getting to know each incredible new member, and am curious and excited to see how each woman will grow and evolve as time progresses. NY Delta is proud to have initiated athletes, a *cappella* singers, artists, and many more talented women.

Thus far, educating our new members on the importance of initiation has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. Our new members understand that initiation is when they participate in a ceremony that marks their formal admittance into our chapter. This event is a ritual ceremony that dates back to the very beginning of Pi Phi's founding. New members learn symbolic gestures, readings, actions, and secret details about Pi Phi within their membership. This year, initiation took place on February 21, after the new members had several weeks to learn about Pi Phi's history.

Planning initiation was an amazing experience and reminded me of why I love Pi Phi so much. It not only recapped the rich history

of Pi Phi, such as its founders and rituals, but it also made me reflect on the wonderful and endearing sisterhood that I am so fortunate to be a part of. My experience planning this event deepened my connection with our chapter.

As the semester forges ahead, I have many aspirations and goals that I hope to achieve with the support of our wonderful chapter. One of my goals this year is to strengthen alumnae relations. Connecting with our alumnae will bridge the gap between graduates and undergraduates, and is something that I believe will foster stronger bonds between Pi Phi members. If you will be at Reunion this June, please stop by our house to visit with our active sisters, as well as to enjoy refreshments with other alumnae. Likewise, as VPFD, I also hope to incorporate ceremonies specific to NY Delta back into our chapter. Our NY Delta alumnae throughout the past century have hosted exciting events, including tea parties, fashion shows, and housewarming barbecues. I would love to incorporate some of these events back into our chapter.

As the semester wraps up, we will be bidding farewell to many adored seniors. We wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors, and thank them for their many contributions to Pi Phi over the past four years. May they always remember that 330 Triphammer is a home away from home; our doors are always open to our beloved alumnae.



New Member Caitlin Gleason performing in her *cappella* concert.



Sophomores all dressed up and ready for Date Night.



Newly initiated members Shanna Smith and Sarah DeMouly enjoying Big Night!



Sophomores getting ready in the house for Date Night.

By Hadar Sachs '17

As a chapter, NY Delta sisters engage in a variety of activities on campus. We acknowledge and celebrate the fact that we are such a diverse group in terms of academics, personal interests, and abilities. Without even looking for it, you'll see sisters active in every corner of campus. Pi Beta Phi women are interested in consulting, global health, finance, nutrition, and religious life. Our sisters are teaching assistants, singers, dancers, researchers, designers, resident advisers, and athletes.

As far as I go, my niche centers in my academic focus—urban planning. In my time at Cornell I have been very active within the City and Regional Planning Department as an urban studies major. Through an organization called Design Connect, I have engaged in projects in the Ithaca area in which students provide urban planning and design services to select communities and municipalities. Last semester I was the project manager of a team working to design a rooftop healing garden at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, New York. I organized a team of 18 undergraduate and graduate students in the fields of planning, landscape architecture, real estate, health administration, and engineering as we created an innovative and holistic design for the hospital. We spent many afternoons visiting staff, administrators, and patients at the hospital so as to best inform our designs. The proposed designs create a space for recreation, rehabilitation, and relaxation for the elderly population that is cared for by the hospital's various units. With the work that we did in the fall, the hospital will now be able to raise enough funds in donations and grants to make the garden a reality for its long-term care patients—surely soothing the strains of the arduous healing process.

At the end of each semester, we present our projects to the community we worked with and to the general campus. Not many things can compare to the feeling I experienced when I presented the work I spent endless hours on, and looked up to the audience to see Pi Phi sisters supporting me from the crowd. Pi Phi has given me sisters who encourage my passions not just by asking me about my work or listening to me vent, but also by actually showing up to my big moments. This care and support gives my achievements extra meaning and makes me proud to be part of a family so true and loving.

## Big & Little, We'll Always Be

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to be able to share that experience with all the new members.

One of the most exciting things I remember about being a new member was the opportunity to get a Big Sister. At home, I'm the oldest sibling, and the idea of having a Big Sister to mentor me was so exciting. The relationship between a Big and Little Sister is something that really cannot be found elsewhere, and now I get to finally be a Big Sister to one of our new members!

Being a Big Sister is truly an honor. Your Little Sister naturally looks up to you for guidance and support, and there is no better responsibility than to be able to share what being a Pi Phi has meant to me. Just as she can come to me whenever she needs assistance or just a friendly companion, I know I can rely on my Little to be there for me, too. This bond extends far beyond time and place, and is truly a lifelong friendship. As a Big Sister, I unconditionally love my Little, and I cannot wait to see her grow and the positive impact she will have on our chapter as an active member.

## New Member Experience

By Emma Ackermann '18

Opening my bid to find my name written on a wine and silver blue card was one of the happiest moments I have ever experienced. This year has been such a whirl of opportunity. Not only was I accepted to my first choice program and school, but I also found my home on campus with the sisters of Pi Beta Phi. On Bid Day, seeing the wine and blue and knowing that I was going to have sisters for life reinforced the idea that choosing Cornell was undoubtedly the right choice.

Joining the NY Delta Chapter instantly improved and added value to my life. The women whom I've met have been some of the most caring, sincere, welcoming, and fun ladies that I have ever known, and I'm so thankful to be able to call them all my sisters! By joining Pi Beta Phi, I instantly went from having a family of five, to a family of more than 200 and have loved every minute of it.

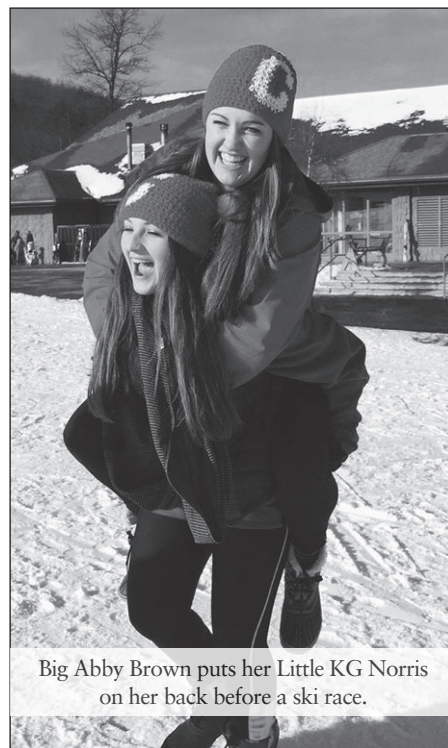
From day one, the sisters of Pi Beta Phi have been extremely welcoming, and I have felt so comfortable in the

house. From being invited to come over every Thursday night to watch *Scandal* with the sisters to being featured on the Cornell Pi Phi tumblr page, I feel so loved and like I belong in Pi Phi.

I cannot wait until I get to move into 330 Triphammer this August. I honestly could not see myself in any other house here and am looking forward to what the rest of my life as a Pi Phi has in store. Whether it be participating in philanthropy projects, attending a sister's ski race, or simply having someone to bring you a snack in the library, Pi Phi do it Beta, and I am proud to call myself one of them.



Juniors Tianne Nguyen and Katie Kennelly meeting up in Venice while abroad!



Big Abby Brown puts her Little KG Norris on her back before a ski race.



Juniors Victorine Muse and Monica Cai meeting up in Amsterdam while abroad!

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# our alumnae share their news

**Barbara (Rapp) Hamilton '48** writes, "Hope to make husband Walter's 70th Reunion in June." Reach her by email at brwjham@comcast.net or by postal mail at 2884 Treasure Isle Rd., Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952.

"Now a great-granny!" announces **Dorothea (Crozier) Warren '52**. She's still in Ohio (but spends winters in Tucson). Adds Dori, "Will be in Ithaca for the second week of CAU 2015." Keep in touch at rivbirch@windstream.net or P.O. Box 1420, Ashtabula, OH 44005.

**Helen (Wallace) Miksch '53** is still living in her own home—of 58 years—and reports that she's well. Write to her at 121 E. Main St., Lititz, PA 17543, or try emailing ibuhelen@mailbox.com.

Trying to preserve muscle for her tennis game and general health, **Barbara (Jones) Jenkins '54** took on a personal trainer. She relates, "She was looking somewhere else as I shuffled between two rows of fitness machines and tripped on the protruding leg of one of them. Result? Broken jaw. Don't tell the little children ... but it's a great way to lose weight. Breaking the jaw, I mean, not the fitness program (alas)." Apart from all that, Barb has been keeping busy as the financial director of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium. (barbjenkins16@charter.net; 514 Sumner St., E., Northfield, MN 55057)

Now in her third year of care-giving for her husband, **Ann Telfer Eaton '55** cherishes phone and email connections with **Sally (Kiernan) Torodash '55, Judy (Powell) Lothrop '55**, and others—"they're keeping me sane." Toni's husband, a multiple stroke survivor, is now terminally ill with colorectal cancer. She adds, "Planning a respite in June to attend Reunion—I hope with Judy." Wish Toni well at toni@starstruckdesign.com or 335 W. Gill Rd., Gill, MA 01354.

Congratulations to **Janet (Senderowitz) Loengard '55**, who received a Carolyn Helman Lichtenberg Crest Award for Professional Achievement in 2014. "My alumnae club (Northern New Jersey) nominated me." Find out what else she's

been up to: j.loengard@verizon.net or 75 Old Army Rd., Bernardsville, NJ 07924.

**Percy (Edwards) Browning '56** celebrated her 80th birthday in Turks and Caicos with family members (27 of them!) in February. She's eagerly awaiting the arrival of her first great-grandchild this coming August and adds, "Was thrilled to pin my granddaughter, Karinna, last spring with my pin." (peb24@cornell.edu; 1 Pleasant Grove Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850)

"I love receiving news about NY Delta and CU Pi Phi—thanks!" writes **Jean (Willman) Scott '56**. She and Bill have been married 58 years. They moved in 1990 from their longtime Ithaca home to "a wonderful town" in Florida on the Gulf of Mexico between Tampa and Fort Myers. Jean is active in the community, belonging to a large Pi Phi alumnae club and volunteering for hospice. She writes, "Time really flies; my Cornell Pi Phi friends and I are all celebrating our 80th birthdays. Unbelievable!" Jean and Bill have a son and grandchild in Seattle and a son in New York City. "Life is a joy in spite of some serious health issues for both Bill and me." Check in with her at lovingheart929@verizon.net or 1460 Colony Place, Venice, FL 34292.

Professor **Ann (Gaffey) Coyne '58** reports that she's been going to Nicaragua every two months, bringing another professor with her to put on an intensive, one-week graduate course in social work. "This is the only way social workers in Nicaragua can get a master's degree in social work," she explains. "We have put on 10 courses. Two more to go, plus thesis..." Contact her at acoyne@unomaha.edu or 1130 N 79th St., Lincoln, NE 68505.

"Can't believe I've been retired from Pella Windows for more than 14 years," muses **Cynthia (Rau) Sears '58**. After enjoying several years of wonderful travel, she and husband Ray were more homebound in 2014. "Had bilateral knee replacements with lots of complications. Am only starting to get around a bit. Hoping 2015 will be a much better year!" She always enjoys hearing about NY Delta activities. Send her well wishes at cbear519@aol.com or

15 Hillcrest Dr., Wayne, NJ 07470.

After attending her 55th Reunion last June, **Carolyn (Hill) Rogers '59** admits that she "came away with mixed feelings." She explains, "Awesome events were planned for the weekend—very good. But I couldn't make it to 330 Trip-hammer for the tea—too far for this old grad from Alice Cook dorm location!" She was sorry about that—and sorry that only one other member of her class attended, **Mimi (Peterson) Merrill**. What was very nice, however, was that her original "roomie," **Nancy (Justin) Dalrymple**, flew to Hartford from Indiana, and they drove to Ithaca together. Check in with Carolyn at chillrog@aol.com or 77 Buttonwood Rd., Hebron, CT 06248.

**Joan (Spurgeon) Brennan '65** is planning to attend her 50th Reunion in June! We sadly report that Joan's husband passed away in November, but she notes that she's "adjusting to the new life chapter well." Send greetings to joan.brennan398@gmail.com or 398 Steele St., Denver, CO 80206.

"When I am in Ithaca," writes **Elisabeth (Kaplan) Boas '71**, "I enjoy driving by the house, which is looking great." She also sent this account of a trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, last spring. "We stopped to see Arrowmont, the focus of so much of Pi Phi philanthropy for so many years. I've got photos of the statue placed in a little pocket park to mark Pi Phi's 100-year role with this important craft school and with preserving our country's handcraft tradition. I had not known Pi Phi is no longer affiliated with Arrowmont. But the staff members were generous with their time and praise. I felt so glad to have finally visited there!" (ekb7@cornell.edu; 11 Oxford St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815)

While tutoring a young adult from Thailand who is trying to pass the GED, **Ellen P. Roche '75** is "relearning some grammar and geometry." Drop her a note at eroche9425@aol.com or 4634 Mirada Way, Unit 15, Sarasota, FL 34238.

"My little one, Marisa, had a hard  
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# our alumnae share their news

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decision to make this year," relates **Alyssa Alia Malanga '81**. "She was accepted as a transfer to Cornell and NYU. She really wanted to have a big-city environment in NYU's broadcasting journalism program and decided on the Big Apple. Of course I was saddened at first, but she decided to rush at NYU. And I'm so excited to report that she's an NYU Pi Phi in our Beta Chapter! I got my legacy after all!" Alyssa was invited to attend her initiation and pin her: "a cherished moment!" She concludes, "Marisa is so happy, already working two internships, and taking NYC by storm. So proud of her!" Her older daughter, Maria, is also at NYU—getting her master's for dance/musical theater education while still pursuing a career in theater. "Both sisters are enjoying this special time together." Reach her at [aliaalyssa@aol.com](mailto:aliaalyssa@aol.com) or 3 Edgewood Ct., N. Caldwell, NJ 07006.

**Elizabeth (Daniels) Graseck '85** hosted a big group of 1985 Pi Phis for their recent 50th ("gasp!") group birthday. Those who were able to attend "flew, drove, and boated from around the country and world to Long Island wine country for a

weekend of great friendship." Write Betsy for more details: [edan@ms.com](mailto:edan@ms.com) or 421 Park Ave., Rye, NY 10580.

**Carolyn M. Broadhead '96** reports that she had visits from **Kristin Barbato '94** and **Alison (Ford) Balan '95**. Find out more! Get in touch at [cmbroadhead@comcast.net](mailto:cmbroadhead@comcast.net) or 960 Mill Creek Dr., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

Living in Bergen County, New Jersey, with husband Matt and three children (Brooke, 4; Peyton, 3; and Wyatt, 1), **Laura (Snow) Lefever '99** just entered her 15th year with Maxus (a Gap company) in New York. She's a strategic planning director, managing partner working with NBC Universal. Contact her at [laura.s.lefever@gmail.com](mailto:laura.s.lefever@gmail.com) or 5 Renee Ct., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677.

"My husband and I are happy to announce the birth of our twin girls, Elle and Avery, on August 11, 2014," writes **Nicole M. Salas '00**. "It's been quite an adjustment, but we're very happy and blessed." Send congratulations to [nicolemsalas@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolemsalas@yahoo.com) or 17409 Mary Charlotte Place, Lutz, FL 33549. Nicole is a veterinary surgeon in Tampa.



## deceased

*We regret to announce the deaths of:*

**Jeannette (Hughes) Joiner '34**  
May 15, 2014

**Mary Elizabeth (Strong) Irish '39**  
March 24, 2014

**Helen (Heald) Rader '39**  
June 25, 2014

**Marie (Warren) Dickey '45**  
February 14, 1997

**Anne H. (Huttar) MacDonald '45**  
March 20, 2014

**Maj-Britt (Karlsson) Gabel '46**  
October 1, 2014

**Laura (Eastman) Carpentier '49**  
July 30, 2014

**Virginia (Hallett) Hardesty '49**  
October 5, 2014

**Jean May (Thomas) Herrington '50**  
August 15, 2014

**Martha (Gotthoffer) Pogue '51**  
November 19, 2013

**Martha (Kelsey) Davenport '53**  
November 25, 2012

**Jean (Jensen) Remington '54**  
July 25, 2014

**Barbara (Buck/DeCamp) Bozeman '62**  
September 27, 2014

**Jerryanne (Taber) Bier '67**  
June 27, 2013

**Jeannette Ostertag '83**  
February 21, 2011

