



ny delta doings

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Fall 2016 newsletter

ΠΒΦ

Chapter Board

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VPA

Danielle Grossman '18

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Kayla Brooks '17

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Kristianna Lea '18

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Eleni Rigas '18

VPEP

Olivia Matticoli '17

VPFD

Leanne Youstra '17

VPF

Emma Ackermann '18

Thank you, NY Delta!

By Katie Murphy '17

These past 10 months that I have been serving as NY Delta's president have been filled with various highs and lows. I have never had an experience that has challenged me in so many ways yet given me so many blessings. It has been a valuable opportunity to get to know every member of our chapter in such unique ways and being able to be their champion in issues and friend throughout my term. The strong connections I have made with the younger classes through my role as president has allowed me to gain friendships outside of my member class, as well as valuable leadership skills, which have helped me lead the chapter with kindness and dedication.

I am extremely proud to be passing my presidential pin to Kristianna Lea. This past year we have worked together on NY Delta's executive



board, and I have seen her lead through example the entire time. She is one of the most respected members of our chapter, and I know she will do a great job as president next year. Good luck to the next executive board, and thank you to NY Delta for letting me be your president.

Alumnae Advisory Committee Update

By Laurel Kruke '08

I'm happy to be writing on behalf of NY Delta's Alumnae Advisory Committee, and would like to introduce you to our fantastic group, helping out the chapter's executive board this year! We have a few new members, as well as some returning members, and it's exciting to have so many dedicated alumnae supporting our chapter. Here's our all-star list of AAC volunteers:

- **Emily Fasel** [NY Alpha, Syracuse University]: AAC Chairman and Adviser for VP Event Planning
- **Maggie Ibrahim-Taney** [KY Alpha, University of Louisville]: Adviser for VP Administration
- **Laurel Kruke** [NY Delta, Cornell University]: Adviser for VP Member Development and VP Fraternity Development
- **Liz Lowery** [NY Alpha, Syracuse University]: Adviser for VP Finance and VP Housing
- **Christina Lowry** [VA Theta, Washington & Lee University]: Adviser for VP Philanthropy
- **Jen Maclaughlin** [CT Alpha, University of

Connecticut]: Adviser for VP Communications

- **Casey Talbot** [NY Eta, New York University]: Adviser for VP Membership and New Member Coordinator

NY Delta also has an amazing Chapter House Corporation that takes care our home at 330 Triphammer Road. They coordinate the amazing chef and house mom or family we grow to love while living in the chapter house. The members (all NY Delta alumnae) of this year's Chapter House Corporation are:

- **Susan Murphy**: Treasurer
- **Betsy Noel**: Personnel Manager
- **Kaki Alexander**: House Corp Member
- **Emma Scott**: House Corp Member

If you are interested in finding out more about what it means to be on AAC, either with NY Delta, or with another chapter, please feel free to contact me at lkruke@gmail.com. I'm happy to answer questions, and put you in touch with the collegiate regional team if you'd like to volunteer.

Sister Times Two!

By **Erinn Ravosa '19**

Sisters are a very complex thing. Sometimes, your sister is your absolute best friend, and other times you can't stand being around her. Most people only have the pleasure of interacting with their sibling while at home. However, I get to attend college with mine, and we became Pi Phi sisters because being biological sisters at the same university just wasn't enough.

Thus far into my college career, going to school with my sister has been one of the best experiences; it has brought us much closer together, and I can't imagine attending school without her. There is nothing like having her there through the ups and downs of college, and knowing she can't get rid of you after just four years.

College can be a stressful and hectic process, and we all find ourselves homesick every once in a while. Having a sister with you at school makes the whole process a lot less intimidating—and a lot more like home.

What could be better than that? If you're ever feeling down or just need someone to talk to, your sister is there for you. Instead of talking to her on the phone or texting back and forth, you can see her in person.

I'd love to tell you about one favorite Pi Phi memory that I've shared with my sister, but I simply cannot; I have far too many great memories to select just one. Some of these memories include dancing with her on bid night, seeing her at our mixers, and calling for formal and date-night outfit advice. Greek life is all about sisters, and it's an amazing experience having my biological sister be a part of it.

As the incoming vice president of fraternity development, I am very excited to focus on Pi Phi's rich sisterhood and rituals that my sister told me about after my initiation. As the fifth member of my family to be a part of the NY Delta Chapter, I feel deeply connected to and have an appreciation for Pi Phi's history. I am excited for the opportunity to share the history and rituals that are



Marielle '17 and Erinn Ravosa '19

unique to our chapter. It is those special rituals and bonds that link our Pi Phi generation with those of my older cousins and thousands of other Pi Phi women. Membership is a special gift that I am so grateful for, and I cannot wait to see where Pi Phi takes me in the next two years of my college life.

Making an Impact Around Campus & in the Community

By **Zoe Lee-McDermott '18**

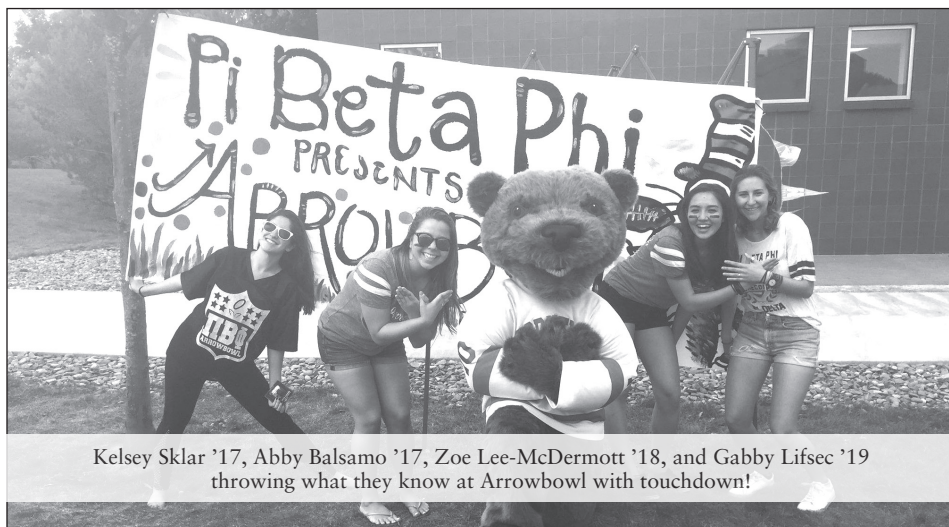
Here at NY Delta, we are extremely passionate about our philanthropy and the ways we can make an impact around campus, in the Ithaca area, or by raising money to support our national philanthropy!

So far this semester we've hosted a ton of fun and successful events and still have more to look forward to! Our first event this semester was Pie a Pi Phi, which was a blast (as always)! Our sisters banded together to get pie in the face all in the name of benefiting literacy. We raised more than \$700 in that

one afternoon, and we were so proud of the impact we made. Shortly after Pie a Pi Phi, we hosted our second-annual Arrowbowl! Flag Football competition. It was really awesome to see the way groups around campus get involved to help us, as an organization, make a difference nation-wide.

Looking forward, we're excited to announce that we are hosting our first online fundraiser in honor of Pi Phi's 150th birthday. At NY Delta we wanted to celebrate our 150th in the most Pi Phi way possible—through philanthropic service to others! We are working to reach out to friends and family

to raise \$3,500, which will go toward buying 150 books for the students in the local Ithaca area! We are really excited and passionate about raising this money so that we can go directly into the community and get to see our impact face to face. Similarly, we will also be co-hosting a philanthropy event with two MGLC houses (Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Lambda Upsilon) in order to put on an event called "Bowling for Books"! We are particularly excited about this literacy-based initiative, and also about some new friendships we're making in the tri-council in the process!



Kelsey Sklar '17, Abby Balsamo '17, Zoe Lee-McDermott '18, and Gabby Lifsec '19 throwing what they know at Arrowbowl with touchdown!



Danielle Olonoff '18 enjoying Pie a Pi Phi!

Happy Birthday, Pi Phi!

By Leanne Youstra '17

This school year, we are so excited to join the many Pi Phi chapters around the world in celebrating Pi Beta Phi's 150th birthday! This coming April marks 150 years of sisterhood, philanthropic service, and leadership through Pi Beta Phi. NY Delta has begun the celebration with many activities and events commemorating Pi Beta Phi's history and mission.

On September 14, the Ring Ching Roadshow visited us here in Ithaca! Sisters gathered to welcome "Libbie," who has been touring chapters across the country, and then enjoyed a presentation about the history of Pi Phi with some yummy ice cream! Daphney Bitanga interviewed Savannah Woodworth '17 and wrote a story about her visit at NY Delta titled, "Be the Reason Someone Smiles Every Day," which is featured on the Ring Ching Roadshow website.

During Parents' Weekend in the beginning of October, our wonderful parents joined in on the celebration as well. Parents wrote 150 "Words of Wisdom" to pass down



Stasia Skalbania '17, Katie Murphy '17, Savannah Woodworth '17, and Olivia Matticoli '17 posing with Libbie at our chapter house!

to our members, which we consolidated and have now hung in our chapter house. These tidbits of knowledge from our parents will remind us to always strive for personal and intellectual growth.

We will be continuing our celebration throughout the school year and encourage you to join us in celebrating Pi Beta Phi's 150th birthday. Our chapter recognizes the importance to honor our fraternity on such an exciting occasion. Happy birthday, Pi Beta Phi!

Our alumnae share their news

Jean (Zenner) Kaelber '44 reports that she's had a "great life since Cornell." She and husband George enjoyed 65 years of marriage. Their two daughters married "great guys"; their two children produced five great-grandchildren. She adds, "Geo passed away in '09, and much of life's joy ended, as 'the kids' live far away. *C'est la vie!*" Say hello at 635 S. Park Centre Ave., #1216, Green Valley, AZ 85614, or geojean.k@gmail.com.

"What a lovely, thoughtful letter," wrote **Dorothy (Brown) Golden '46** after receiving our August mailing. "It reinforces my feelings after all these years of how fortunate I am to be a Pi Phi! In June my granddaughter graduated from Cornell. I regret she never had the slightest interest in sorority life. But I'm proud and happy she found Cornell as challenging, strong, and beautiful as I did so many years ago." Reach Dorothy at 3647 Coral Gables Dr., Dallas, TX 75229.

"Since I have been retired and widowed for many years, my news is primarily uneventful," writes **Beatrice (Watson) O'Connell '48**. We might beg to differ, though, since she plays in several bridge groups and is in a book club. She's also got five children, nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. "Family

parties are fun, especially when young children are present." Reconnect with Beatrice at 1581 Third St. NW, New Brighton, MN 55112.

When she wrote in May, **Elizabeth (Meng) Howell '51** was planning to attend her 65th Cornell reunion in June. "I think I shall be the only Pi Phi from my pledge class attending." Find out how it went by writing her at 289 Ashford Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150, or jandbhowell@verizon.net.

After spending May through October in Vermont, **Rae (Pullen) Alexakos '55** is heading down to Sarasota, where she enjoys the camaraderie of a very active Pi Phi group. Drop her a note at 5642 Ashton Lake Dr., Sarasota, FL 34231.

Ann (Telfer) Eaton's ('55) husband died in December 2015 after a long battle with cancer. "After many years of caregiving, I am beginning to rebuild my life." Check in with "Toni" at toni@starstruckdesign.com or 335 W. Gill Rd., Gill, MA 01354.

"I jokingly say I'm running a B&B," writes **Diane Baillet Meakem '61**. "That's because I now have 16 grandchildren! They range from a new baby to age 24. All are healthy and

Sister Shares Favorite Pi Phi Memory

I am currently disaffiliated from our NY Delta Chapter because I am part of Panhellenic's executive board here at Cornell, so I can't put my name on this article, but I wanted to share one of my favorite Pi Phi experiences since the last *Delta Doings*.

Last spring, the NY Delta Chapter set up a dinner with in-house sisters of Pi Phi and the Mu Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. It was a great chance to meet women in the community who were Greek whom we may not have known previously. By simply having a meal together in our dining room, we were able to learn about the Alpha Kappa Alpha culture and in turn share with their members our culture. What we found was that so many of us were similarly dedicated to improving the campus, as well as ourselves.

These dinners are so critical to expand our viewpoints, make new friends outside of our chapter, and learn about other Greek organizations. By the end of the dinner, our chapters were in agreement we should host a philanthropy event together this year, and we are currently working on planning those logistics!

I'm hoping we will institutionalize these dinners and make them a recurring event each year with each new member class. That way, we help instill a culture in Pi Beta Phi of sincere friendship and growth.

happy! So, despite having lost my husband three years ago, I feel blessed with my big family." Contact Dee at dbmeakem@aol.com or 3315 Southern Cay Dr., Jupiter, FL 33477.

Ann (Nemes) Mrazek '65 announces, "After 20 years of living in the Sonoran Desert of Tucson, we have returned to our East-Coast roots. The Arizona house is for sale, and our new digs are in Vero Beach, Florida. We still visit the Adirondacks in the summer." Ann has five grandchildren. She concludes, "We continue to travel extensively and will do so until we can't. Life has been kind to us, and we are grateful for each day." Ann's new address is 60 Beachside Dr., #101, Vero Beach, FL 32963. Email reaches her at kezarma@aol.com.

"No big headlines from me," reports **Elisabeth Kaplan Boas '71**, who's still living in Maryland, just outside DC. She's active in community leadership, "including Cornell (locally, class of 1971, Ithaca-based)" and describes herself as a great enthusiast of Cornell's Adult University. "It has me on campus for a month in summer

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our alumnae share their news

and following professors' courses, including Japan, Arctic, London Theater, and Mohonk Mountain House. This past winter, Art Spitzer and I enjoyed an unseasonably warm December week visiting museums by day and theaters by night. We were lucky to find **Martha Coultrap '71** in town but sad to miss **Patria (Yuan) Zuroski '71**. Reach Elisabeth at elisabeth.k.boas@gmail.com or 11 Oxford St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

"In early June," recounts **Susan Murphy '73**, "we held a mini-reunion of '73 Pi Phis here in Ithaca. **Linda Camp** traveled from St. Paul, Minnesota, and **Mary (Muggleton) Strauss** joined her from Rochester. **Lucy (Hertel) Staley '73**, **Nancy Potter '73**, **Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen '73**, and I joined in; we walked the Cornell campus, hiked in Treman, and lunched at Purity Ice Cream (see photo below)! Visited Nancy and George's home in North Danby. It was a great Ithaca weekend, including watching the annual Ithaca Festival parade from Maryterese's front stoop! Susan lives at 49 Eastlake Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Email her at susan.h.murphy@gmail.com.

Lucy (Hertel) Staley '73 recently retired, and one of her weekly activities has been going on hikes with four other Pi Phi sisters who live in Ithaca: **Susan Murphy '73**, **Nancy Potter '73**, **Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen '73**, and **Kathy (Coleman) Weinberg '74**. Lucy adds, "We are exploring all the wonderful trails in the area. It is fun to reconnect after busy careers that made it difficult to get together." (208 Iroquois Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; lhstaley123@aol.com)



Kudos to **Debbie (Lyon) Fister '74**, who bought a loom and has added weaving to her bag of tricks. She writes, "The alpacas are doing well, and I expect delivery of felt, rug yarn, and fiber batts so I can turn them into rugs, felted purses, yarn, and the like. We await two alpaca babies in the fall." Grandson Aidan is "a delight, at 20 months walking and talking up a storm." Adds Debbie, "Dave has entertained the thought of retirement, and when he does, it will be NC or bust." (54 Sherwood Dr., Brockport, NY 14420; yarngirl1952@gmail.com)

Now that her husband, George, is retired and their youngest son, Reed, has finished his freshman year in high school, **Laurie (Clemente) Milnor '75** is "looking forward to traveling more in the next few years." Laurie adds that she connects with **Nancy (Kiesendahl) Bloch '71** several times a year. Catch up with Laurie at laurie.milnor@gmail.com or 57 Pond Way-Fairmount, Alton, IL 62002.

After 13 "spectacular" years living in Tokyo, **Judy (Marlinski) Doyno '85** and her husband, Dave, have returned to Boston. Judy will be working for Fidelity Investments and starting a new division focus on innovation and design. Judy served as president for Fidelity Japan for five years while in Tokyo. "It has been an amazing 30 years with the same company," she adds. Judy's oldest daughter graduated from Cornell in 2015 and is now a Fulbright Scholar in Morocco for the next year. Her youngest daughter is a Cornell sophomore "and loving life as an undergrad." Dave continues to build his private real-estate business. They're hoping Boston's booming market will be a great re-entry for him. While in Japan they enjoyed many fun visits from Pi Phi Delta sisters, including **Betsy (Daniels) Graseck '85**, **Laura (Armstrong) Falvey '85**, **Lorah (McNally) Perlee '85**, **Amy Snow '85**, and **MJ (Marlinski) Lehman '81**. Until we have an updated postal address, contact Judy by email at judy.doyno1@gmail.com.

Carolyn Call '86 started a new job in October as the executive director of development and communications at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Her husband will retire from Notre Dame and join her there in May 2017. "I'd love to hear from any classmates who are in the Lancaster area!" We'll forward her new address next time; meanwhile you can email Carrie at ithacab@gmail.com.

Leslie (Kalick) Wolfe's ('87) daughter Sydney is now a freshman at Cornell. "It was incredibly nostalgic and great fun to help move her into her dorm!" Leslie makes her home at 1144 Zimmer Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306.

There's another Cornell freshman in the bunch, Kendall, the daughter of **Kim (Brown) Bixler '91**. "I'll be visiting Ithaca more frequently for a few years." Find out more at kimbixler@earthlink.net or 3616 The Strand, #C, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

"Everyone's well," reports **Heidi (Straub) Henderson '97**, who usually visits Ithaca in the summer. She also enjoyed a chance to ski with **Jeannette (Brady) Townsend '96** and family at Greek Peak last winter. "Our eight kids stayed together, and we even got together with **Kim (McKenzie) Bendus '94** and her five kids for dinner one night. Ben Townsend (13) and Ella Henderson (12) composed a lovely haiku with Jeannette's help to wish Kim a happy birthday! So much fun." Contact Heidi at riheidi@gmail.com or 32 Rhodes St., Cumberland, RI 02864.

"I hope everyone is doing well...and congratulations to **Pamela Mirels '04** on getting married!" writes **Monica Pham '04**. "I'm currently working in the U.S. Senate and living in Washington, DC. I love the Phi Phis on Capitol Hill. Pi Phi has been such a great part of many stages of my post-college life. I'm so grateful to Pi Phi and think of 330 Triphammer often." Catch up with Monica at monica.pham@gmail.com or 1391 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Unit 235, Washington, DC 20003.

deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Marion L. (Walker) Patrick '41
July 28, 2016

Margaret B. (Belknap) Smith '42
January 1, 2016

Anne N. (Green) Stratton '44
January 13, 2016

Frances C. (Corbally) Damico '47
August 7, 2016

Claire (VanWagner) Sylvester '47
August 28, 2014

Frances (Lown) Crandall '49
July 14, 2015

Marybeth (Weaver) Ostrom '51
December 18, 2015

Diane M. (Miller) DeVido '53
March 8, 2015