

NY DELTA DOINGS

NY DELTA CHAPTER OF PI BETA PHI AT CORNELL

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A Letter From Our President
- Celebrating 150 Years of Pi Phi
- Renovating and Revamping
- Circle of Sisterhood
- Senior Reflection
- Chapter Updates

Alumnae Share their News

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter President
Kristianna Lea '18

VP Member Development
Rachel Soderstrom '18

VP Fraternity Development
Erinn Ravosa '19

VP Membership
Hannah Shuman '18

VP Housing
Gillian Prinzing '19

VP Administration
Natalie Murphy '20

VP Communications
Heather Lukas '19

VP Philanthropy
Sarah DeMouilly '18

VP Event Planning
Rachel Marks '19

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Kristianna Lea '18.

I would like to express my gratitude for and pride in our New York Delta Chapter. We are a collection of women with a breadth of interests, convictions, and personalities. I was asked what unites our chapter at a Cornell Panhellenic event

in October, and I could only answer by describing our chapter as those who inspire the best in each other. We have members from all over the Cornell gamut, but we all joined Pi Phi to grow as collegiate women. We expect the best of each other while providing an incredible support system for all.

The current climate of Cornell mandates change within the Greek system and the greater student body. We have the opportunity to be at the forefront of this change for years to come, and I believe that we will be. Our challenge is to create a persisting Greek system that serves to better our members and the world around us. As individuals, we all have a voice. I am proud of that. But together, we have the chance to make a large-scale impact that lasts;

we will have our voices heard. We need to be the change we wish to see in our university. We have a heightened responsibility, as part of the Greek system, to address issues that are often propagated by our fellow sisters and brothers. I challenge the members of NY Delta not only to identify what needs to be changed, but to present concrete, actionable items that will take us in a positive direction. We will create a more accountable, accepting, and tolerant environment for our campus.

Our chapter strives to better our members as students and as people. As president, my goal is to inspire lasting applicability of the sorority experience. Here, we are challenged to think differently and to be better people. We hold each other to high standards, and there is an expectation to live out our core values everyday. We are women of power and courage. Pi Phi has been an inspiring experience, and we will not forget these lessons. I wish for every member to strive to be the best that she can be, while carrying forward our chapter legacy.

In the Wine and Silver Blue,
Kristianna Lea '18

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF PI PHI

On April 28, 2017, Pi Beta Phi celebrated 150 years of sisterhood. Over the past 150 years, Pi Beta Phi has grown as an organization, expanding to 200 chapters across the United States and Canada, with over a quarter million members initiated since 1867. This called for celebration!

On April 30, 2017, NY Delta held a Founders Day brunch. With streamers hanging from the ceiling, photo booth props, and lots of cake, we had a Pi Phi birthday party.

We then continued our celebration of the 150th anniversary by spreading positive vibes across campus on Monday, May 1st, through our 150 Carnations Campaign. Sisters passed out over 150 wine carnations with messages of encouragement and



150 Carnations Campaign.



Dani Shecter '20, Leah Womelsdorf '20, and Hannah Nusbaum '20 celebrate Founders Day.

kindness attached to them to raise students' spirits before finals. It was exciting being able to share our 150th celebration with the Cornell community.

With NY Delta's own centennial coming up in June 2019, it is an exciting time to be a Pi Phi on Cornell's campus!

— Heather Lukas '19

RENOVATING AND REVAMPING



Gillian Prinzing '19

Serving as vice president of housing (VPH) over the past year has brought many new experiences. I had the opportunity to work with our house director, Katie Compton, and all of the Chapter Housing Corporation, which is headed by

Susan Murphy. After adjusting to the demands of the position, I was able to work closely with all parties to make changes to the functionality of the house. This past summer we continued to work on the bedrooms, installing new carpet, hooks, and dressers. We were also able to repair the parking lot, retile the second-floor bathroom showers, and add more storage. In the kitchen, we added shelves to increase efficiency of the layout and had a profes-

sional deep cleaning of the entire house.

As I walked in the front door this summer, I was proud of the renovations we could schedule in such a short amount of time! We are currently working on adding laundry machines, storage in the dining room, a new gym and study room as well as re-vamping the front entry way. For the summer of 2018, we plan on focusing on common rooms to ensure that each space is meeting the needs of the chapter.

In addition to the ability to make tangible changes, my role as vice president of housing also enabled me to interact closely with the newest member class. Although housing can sometimes be stressful, it was a pleasure coordinating housing for the 45 new members in the NY Delta Chapter. Living in during my term, I enjoy seeing each member daily around the house and

getting to know better as the semester progresses.

This position was a true challenge, but it improved my communication, organizational, and leadership skills. There were some occasions when I had to persuade others to my proposal and had to persist with my plan, no matter the challenges. As I near the end of my term, I can truly say I have enjoyed working as VPH over the past year. I aim to continue remodeling the house through January and look forward to working with the next VPH. This position holds a great deal of responsibility and I am thankful for both the house director and the Chapter Housing Corporation for helping me every step of the way. I look forward to seeing all the changes that occur in the future!

— Gillian Prinzing '19

CIRCLE OF SISTERHOOD: A PANHELLENIC-WIDE PHILANTHROPY



Rachel Soderstrom '18

This year, Panhellenic President and fellow NY Delta Caitlin Gleason, along with the rest of the Panhellenic Executive Board and a selected steering committee (including myself), brought Circle of Sisterhood to the Cornell campus.

Circle of Sisterhood is a philanthropy initiative started by a group of sorority women after reading Nicholas Kristof and

Sheryl WuDunn's *Half the Sky*. *Half the Sky* details the oppression that women face all over the world, from genital mutilation to human trafficking, extreme poverty, and many other atrocities that are frankly difficult to read about. It took me months to get through the book, simply because I had to take frequent breaks when the stories became too much for me to digest. Above all else, there seems to be one common solution to all of these egregious global issues: access to education for girls.

After reading this book, the founders of Circle of Sisterhood decided to start the initiative and capitalize on the large network of sorority women throughout the nation. The goal of Circle of Sisterhood is to reduce barriers to education that girls find throughout the world. The money raised goes to supply girls with school supplies, uniforms, lunches, vaccinations, and so on. Eventually, when enough money is raised, a school is built in an area that has requested it. At least 50% of the student body population must be girls to ensure the mission of Circle of Sisterhood. Circle of Sisterhood initiatives have been brought to many campuses across the nation and has already managed to build 15 successful schools in five countries.



Tabling on Ho Plaza for the letter-writing campaign during Circle of Sisterhood Week.

I am so proud to have been a part of the first steering committee that has helped shape this initiative at Cornell. Circle of Sisterhood unites women across the Panhellenic community for a common philanthropy goal. On October 2, 2017, the first fundraising week of Circle of Sisterhood began. Throughout the week, the entire Panhellenic community came together in support of each other and women everywhere. Highlights of the week included gathering together to watch the *Half the Sky* documentary on Monday night, a Chipotle fundraiser that raised somewhere between \$3,000 and \$6,000, and doing a letter campaign to our family and friends reflecting on the privilege that we all have as university women. While the final total of donations has not yet been calculated, the first Circle of Sisterhood fundraising week can definitely be deemed a success. I can't wait to see this philanthropy initiative continue to grow on Cornell's campus in the coming years. We hope one day to raise \$40,000 to build a needed school and allow Panhellenic leaders to visit and see firsthand the impact of Circle of Sisterhood.

— Rachel Soderstrom '18



As I prepare for my graduation in December and reflect on all the friendships and memories that have impacted my Cornell experience, none hold as strong and true as the lifelong friendships I've made through Pi Beta Phi. Joining Pi Phi was one of the best decisions I've made in the past three years and I cannot imagine my life without my Pi Phi sisters.

During my freshman year, I joined Cornell's community excited by the possibilities that lay ahead of me during and beyond my next four years. Almost my

entire family attended Cornell and all the women on my mother's side were members of the Panhellenic community. I grew up on stories filled with love and fondness of their time at Cornell with their sorority sisters, and was eager and excited to find the sisters I would build the same relationships with. I couldn't wait to find the women I would call my best friends even after our 25th and 50th reunions, as my mother and grandmother just celebrated with their sisters.

Three years later, just as my mother, aunts, and grandmother experienced, I've found a group of over 200 incredible women who have stuck by my side, supported me, laughed with me, celebrated with me, and most importantly, grown with me throughout our time on the hill. I am honored that I was selected to lead these women for two consecutive terms as the vice president of finance

and then the vice president of membership.

However, during the middle of my second term, I had a difficult decision to make as I declared my early graduation from Cornell. Graduating early and accepting my job offer would mean that I would not be able to continue my term as vice president of membership and would not be able to attend recruitment, one of my favorite times of the year. As I mused this crossroads with my sisters, they supported and celebrated with me as I made the decision to begin my career early and take a step back from leadership within the chapter. For my entire career in Pi Phi up until this semester, I served in a leadership capacity. I was anxious to make the transition out of leadership, but this step back has provided me with extra time to spend with my sisters, enjoying my last semester in Ithaca with them.

This semester has allowed me to reflect and spend time with those who mean most to me and whom I'll miss dearly as I begin my career next semester. From living with a sister while interning in Los Angeles to sleeping on a sister's couch in NYC, I know I'll find my sisters in every corner—especially mine—as we continue to progress through our lives. While distance will soon separate us, I look forward to visiting my Pi Phi sisters across the globe and supporting them in every new adventure they pursue.

In February, I will move from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Washington, D.C., to begin my career in hospitality asset management with LaSalle Hotel Properties. While I'm nervous about moving to a new city and beginning my post-graduate life, I'm excited that shortly after May graduation I'll have many Pi Phi sisters moving to the nation's capital as well and cannot wait to begin our next chapter and newest adventures there.

— Emma Ackermann '17

NY DELTA EXCELS IN OUTREACH, PHILANTHROPY, AND PROGRAMMING



in one of Pi Phi's largest philanthropic efforts to date, where Pi Phi donated over 40,000 books to more than 250 organizations in the St. Louis area and attended the **Read>Lead>Achieve Walk** to raise awareness for childhood illiteracy. The convention also featured the launch of the **Shine Through campaign**, a \$28 million goal to sustain Pi Phi's mission and meet the current and future needs of members through outright and deferred gifts.

At the beginning of the semester, we hosted our two main philanthropy events, **Pie a Pi Phi** and **Arrowbowl Flag Football Tournament**, to benefit Read>Lead>Achieve.

On October 11th, we welcomed **seven distinguished faculty members** to our house for dinner. These individuals were nominated by our sisters as people who had made an impact on sisters' own academic

careers. Their courses ranged across Cornell's colleges, and even the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences was in attendance. We hope that this event helps us in **choosing a faculty advisor** for our chapter who will be able to provide further academic and professional guidance to our members.

We held a **Cookie Shine** on October 15th, continuing the chapter tradition that connects Pi Phi sisters new and old.

This semester, we have had **professional development programming**, including a headshot session in our backyard prior to the fall career fair as well as a presentation by a lecturer in the communications department on personal branding and how one can market herself to others through social media.

ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS



Pi Phi reunion in Charles, South Carolina.

Tricia (Tafe) Williams '93 shares details on a recent Pi Phi reunion in Charleston, South Carolina, this past April, where she reconnected with **Ali Ehrman '93,**

Colleen Durham Craig '92, Stacy Hirschberg Eisner '93, Janet Hawkins Laudy '93, Leah Peterson Swanson '93, Tina Hennessey Goldstein '93, Amy Oringle '93, Stephanie Mehleck '93, Joanna Caine '93, Jen Tracy Hooker '93, Amy Mills Sethi '93, Erin Stokes Majernik '93. Reconnect with Tricia at 366 Windy Owl Ln., Troy, PA 16947, or tafewill@yahoo.com.

Jeannette (Brady) Townsend '93 has traded Washington, D.C., history for cowboy boots in Fort Worth, Texas, where her husband Jon's career in the Navy has relocated them for the next few years. Catch up with her adventures in the South by contacting her at 3265 Captain's Row, Fort Worth, TX 76127, or jmtown2000@gmail.com.

Continuing to reside a half mile from our nation's capital, **Elisabeth Kaplan Boas '71** stays active in her many leadership capacities: Cornell Club of Washington, Cornell University Council, Cornell's Adult University (CAU), Cornell's affiliated natural history programs through the Paleontological Research Institute's Museum of the Earth, Cayuga Nature Center, the Cornell Class of '71, her synagogue, and a few book and needlework clubs. She has engaged CAU's on-campus and off-campus adult education programs, including four on-campus weeks in July. Hear more about her busy activities by reaching out to her at 11 Oxford St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815, or ekb7@cornell.edu.

With two children now at Cornell, **Kim (Brown) Bixler '91** anticipates more visits to Ithaca soon. She reports: "Our son, Robert Bixler '21, will be joining his older sister, Kendall Bixler '20, at Cornell in fall 2017. Some hefty tuition bills (and travel expenses) are in our future. Thrilled that their breaks will align and they'll have company when traveling." Check in with Kim at 3616 The Strand, #C, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, or kimbixler@earthlink.net.

Lisa Lilienfeld '90 hosted a spontaneous Pi Phi mini-reunion in June 2017, when her old Pi Phi basement quad roommate **Andrea (Geisert) Grieco '91** came to visit D.C., and **Fern (Feil)**

Kaufman '89, who lives around the corner from Lisa, stopped by. Lisa reports: "Fern and I walk together every weekend, but I hadn't seen Andrea in a decade since I moved from Atlanta (where she still loves) to Virginia. I am enjoying our kids in high school, middle school, and elementary school, as well as my career as a clinical psychology professor with a private practice specializing in the treatment of eating disorders and anxiety disorders. It's fun because my husband does the same thing, so lots of 'psychology' talk goes on all the time in this house, which the kids LOVE (not)!" Contact Lisa at 2510 Branding Iron Ct., Herndon, VA 20171, or lilenfeld@argosy.edu.



Mini reunion in Washington, D.C.

Celebrating 57 years together this year, **Elizabeth Hooven Morsman '60** and her partner are slowing down on their travels as they adjust to their brand new dream house in Minnesota. Learn more about their happy home by writing her at 1340 Ferndale Road N., Plymouth, MN 55447.

Jane (Rabbino) Miller '75 has retired and is now living at The Villages in Florida, a retirement community of 115,000 retirees. Reach her at her new home at 851 Regal Manor Lane, The Villages, FL, 32163 or send her a note at janemiller460@gmail.com.

Dorothea (Warren) Crozier '52 continues to divide her time between Ohio and Tucson, Arizona, with her husband, Terry, who plans to join her at Cornell for their 65th reunion in June. Check in with her at P.O. Box 1420, Ashtabula, OH, 44005.

Pi Phi lives on in the lineage of **Virginia (Robinson) Pumphrey '55.** Her daughter, Sarah, was a Pi Phi at University of Texas, class of 1983, and Sarah's own daughter, Sarah Ellen, was initiated into Pi Phi in fall 2016 at Colorado School of Mines. Share the Pi Phi love with her at 125 Pebble Ridge Ln., Crismon, TX 76035.

Helen (Wallace) Miksch '53 celebrated her 86th birthday this year. She reports: "I am in good health, living for 62 years in my original home in Lititz, Pennsylvania. I have living with me my younger daughter, a critical nurse, two grandsons, and three French bulldogs—a busy life." Catch up with Helen's busy life at 121 E. Main St., Lititz, PA 17543.

Eileen (Donahoe) Muhlig '76, now retired, shares her story: "Since the start of 2012, I've

been back 'close to home,' serving as the registrar/bursar at St. Elizabeth College of Nursing in Utica, New York. As a small school—serving about 200 students annually—it was easy to 'adopt' many of those students, male and female, who often wandered into my office for a quiet visit. In late September 2016, I left my office for the last time and walked into retirement! I'm still figuring out what is next—it may include a move back to Ithaca or something (with available water views!)." Keep up with Eileen's next steps by connecting with her at 11 Oxford Towne Ct., New Hartford, NY 13413, or emuhlig@yahoo.com.

Alyssa Alia '79 shares exciting news about her entrepreneurial endeavours: "I'm SO excited to share with you that I just published my first solo cookbook called *If the Table Could Talk: A Taste of Celebrations*. It is a treasure trove of recipes from my menus I served at my home for decades for hundreds of celebrations; it's a log of food memories. Since I am a food stylist and certified culinary chef, as well as a working mother, making food beautiful, delicious, and with ease is my greatest joy! Every recipe has hints and tips for preparing ahead with complete success. Every recipe has a beautiful photograph I food-styled to follow as a guide as well. I invite you to keep your table talking and to make new amazing food memories at your own tables. Enjoy and cook just for the love of it!" To order your own copy, visit AlyssaAlia.com or contact Alyssa at alyssafoodstylist@gmail.com.



Alyssa Alia '79.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Alice (McFall) Zwanzig '39
January 31, 2017

Jane (Pettem) Howard '56
February 2, 2017

Julia (Mather) Schnuck '70
February 14, 2017

Nancy (Bennett) Bernard '58
March 18, 2017

Elizabeth (Waltz) Grimm '52
April 8, 2017

Therese (Driscoll) Elliott '47
April 22, 2017

Frances (Lown) Crandall '49
July 14, 2017