



ny delta doings

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Spring 2017 newsletter

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A Letter From Our President

By Kristianna Lea '18



To my Pi Phi Sisters,

I am proud to call myself a member of Pi Phi and a member of New York Delta. I'm so proud to be where I am right now. Each day, I am reminded why I joined this sisterhood. I see the kind words, supportive actions, and true spirit that each of my sisters brings to our community. In a seminar led by a few of our members in the fall of 2016, we were asked to determine what makes a sisterhood. The final answer is the commitment to a common goal, a common purpose. After much reflection (and asking the Grand President), it stuck that we are all working to be better women. I want to encourage every woman in the chapter to live out our core values. Being in Pi Phi

has challenged me, rewarded me, and allowed me to grow as a person. I wish the same for every one of my sisters.

In my term as president, I am excited to show our members what it means to be a woman of Pi Phi. Our values as sisters of Pi Phi unite each of us and encourage us. They encourage us to learn, grow, and achieve more throughout not only our college life, but life beyond school. We take great pride as a chapter to be active members of our Ithaca and Cornell communities, providing a foundation of service to others. Pi Phi is much bigger than each of us individually; we are a sisterhood that lift one another up, provide sunshine on rainy days, and lays a foundation for our personal and professional growth. Being a sister of Pi Phi allows us to experience the ups and downs of life together, as one chapter, and as sisters for life.

Exciting News From AAC & House Corporation

By Laurel Kruke '08 and Susan Murphy '73

We are excited to be writing to everyone again, and sharing some information about NY Delta's Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) and House Corporation. In early February, AAC traveled to the chapter house in Ithaca for a retreat with the new executive board. We spent the weekend doing some team bonding with laser tag and discussing the executive board's goals for the next year. This year's executive board is great, and we're excited for what's to come in 2017. AAC and House Corporation members also enjoyed an evening's dinner together, providing a great opportunity to get to know one another.

House Corporation has been busy working with the chapter, especially the VP for Housing, on house improvement. In summer 2016, we purchased new beds, desks, and chairs for every bedroom, and also replaced the tired bathroom floors on the second- and third-floors. In summer 2017, we intend to purchase new stand-alone dressers for the rooms and redo the bedroom floors. All

of these investments we hope will keep 330 Trip-hammer the wonderful home that it is.

If you are interested in being on AAC (either with NY Delta or at another chapter), please feel free to reach out to Laurel at lkruke@gmail.com. I'm happy to answer questions, and put you in touch with the collegiate regional team. Anyone interested in joining House Corporation, please be in touch with Susan at shm1@cornell.edu.

We also would like to share a little piece of information that you may have noticed in an issue of the *Arrow* from last year: Natalie Rousseau '16, was nominated and selected as the winner of the national Amy Burham Onken (ABO) Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Campus and Community Leadership! This is a competitive and prestigious national Pi Beta Phi award, and that Natalie was chosen from a collection of very accomplished young women is AMAZING! Here is what Pi Beta Phi published about Natalie's accomplishments (you can also see the press release on Pi Phi's

(continued on page two)

Why Pi Phi?

By Leah Womelsdorf '20



Going into recruitment, I was a little nervous at the prospect of joining a sorority. The idea of spending just a few hours with each chapter on Cornell's campus before committing confidently to a lifetime of membership seemed overwhelming and unrealistic. How was I supposed to know whether Greek life in general, let alone a specific chapter, was right for me after a few ten-minute conversations and a tour of the house?

It sounds cheesy, but after my first visit to Pi Phi, these fears washed away. The sisters I met were so present and passionate and unapologetically themselves. Our conversations were real and weird and fun. I saw how their eyes lit up when they shared a special memory about Pi Phi, or even just waved to a friend across the room. Their excitement and appreciation for Pi Phi was contagious and I wanted to be a part of it. I never expected to feel so comfortable and find a sense of home during recruitment, but when I did, I knew that Pi Phi was special and wanted desperately to be involved.

When bid day came, I was so excited. By joining Pi Phi, I instantly gained a huge network of friends to support me on campus. It was so comforting to sit down in a huge lecture hall on the first day of classes and recognize a Pi Phi backpack, or reach out to upperclassmen for advice and know that they really cared about helping me. Joining Pi Phi made Cornell feel smaller in all the right ways, while also encouraging me to step outside of my comfort zone and try new things.

During the new member period, I got to experience what Pi Phi was like as a chapter for the first time and absolutely loved it. In the beginning I was a little intimidated by the sheer number of unfamiliar names and faces, but our chapter was extremely welcoming and made my transition easy. Our new member coordinators really cared about making our new member class feel comfortable and I appreciated that upperclassmen reached out to us individually. I loved having the motivation to try new activities (I highly recommend intramural inner tube water polo) and sharing meals with new friends.

My time in Pi Phi has just begun, but I know it's going to be a good one. When I look at the people around me, I see inspiration. I am surrounded by strong women who know themselves and bring out the best in each other. They have accomplished so many great things, both in and outside of Pi Phi, and show that you are never too young or inexperienced to make an impact. I'm so excited to grow and learn in our chapter. NY Delta is a special place and I know that in a few years I'll be leaving college with lifelong friends and a whole lot of happiness.

Pi Beta Phi à la Paris

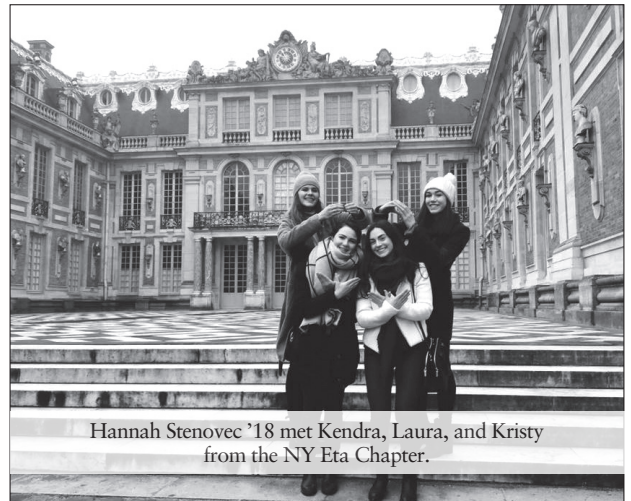
By Hannah Stenovec '18

The metro bus whirred around a corner and rattled to a stop in front of us, a gaggle of Americans speaking in English far above the appropriate volume level of the Parisian metro standards. My orientation group was a motley crew of women from all different stages of life, all from NYU, who all already knew one another, which no doubt added to my anxiety about studying abroad. Upon signing up through NYU Paris, I thought, of course there would be a bunch of different students from different schools, that's what study abroad was, right? I was wrong. "Oh, you're the girl from Cornell, right?" That was my label. I was no longer just "the tall girl," but I had now morphed into "the tall girl from Cornell." Great.

One of the girls bumped into me as the metro made yet another abrupt stop. "Oops! Haha sorry. Just like the New York subway huh?" She joked, as her long brunette locks fanned over her back. I smiled, "Yeah sure, I don't take it much though. I'm not from NYU." We started to talk, and sure enough, got to the question of Greek life. I couldn't believe my ears. "We're all in Pi Phi, too! No way!" And that's how it all started. It seems ironic to me that of course the only three girls in the whole NYU program who are Pi Phis as well became some of my closest friends abroad, but it happened.

The similarities between us are just uncanny. For instance, we all love mussels. One of the first

nights in Paris, we all ventured out with our Navigo passes in hand, traversed the metro, and dined at one of the mussel establishments that we had researched via Yelp. It was delicious. We are also all on LNC, adore Dutch culture, spend late nights watching *Harry Potter* reruns, go to spin class at Lets Ride! (the French knock off Soul Cycle), and love cooking dinners together. Our Pi Phi values really do make us so unique compared to many other people. Upon first glance, we are all laid-back, friendly, and animated, but we are also all extremely empathetic and loyal friends. When I was out for a week with a terrible sinus infection, it was my three Pi Phi friends—Laura, Kristy, and Kendra—who went to Monoprix (French Target) and bought me soup and Gatorade, and shared their class notes with me. I always feel like they have my back, and I have theirs, too. Although I am 4,000 miles from Cornell and 6,000 miles from my home in California, I feel like I have a family here in Paris with my Pi Phi friends.



Hannah Stenovec '18 met Kendra, Laura, and Kristy from the NY Eta Chapter.

Exciting News From AAC & House Corporation, cont'd.

website: www.pibetaphi.org/pibetaphi/News/2015_Award_Winner_Press_Releases/:
"Natalie was on the Dean's list all seven semesters and maintained a 3.983 GPA while majoring in history and on a pre-med track. Natalie is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and a Mortar Board member, as well as a published author and biology study group leader. This astounding woman also serves as the sole student representative for Cornell University Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, is one of five student managers for Cornell Visitor Relations, serves as the co-president of the Senior Class Campaign, works as a University Ambassador to prospective students, and is a native speaker in French language house. Natalie served the New York Delta Chapter on their Policy and Standards Board, and won the class of 2016 award, voted on by her peers."

Congratulations to Natalie! NY Delta is so proud of you!

A Senior's Reflection

By Simone Klein '17

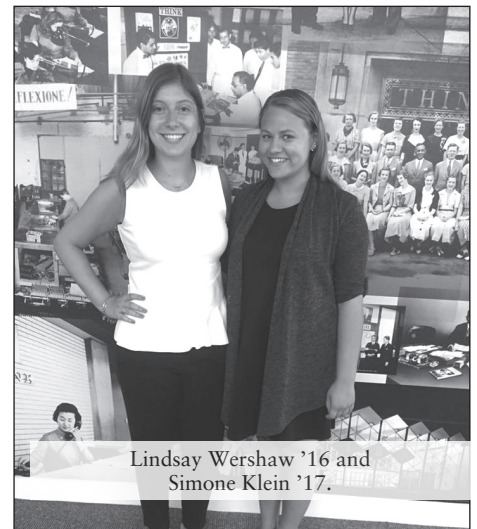
This past February I was honored to be presented with a Leader of Distinction award at the annual Northeast Greek Leadership Association conference. This award is only presented to 10 students in the region for their work within the Greek community. I am incredibly touched to be included in this group, but know it would not have been possible without my sisters.

When I first decided to go through recruitment, I knew I wanted to be involved in leadership within my sorority. Self-governance is one of the tenants of Greek organizations and what distinguishes them from other campus clubs. To me, it was important to be involved in that facet and to be able to shape the experience of my sisters in a positive way. At preference round, I met a sister named Lindsay Wershaw who was involved in spaces all over campus, but particularly within the Pi Phi executive board and the Junior Panhellenic Council. Lindsay and I grew closer after I joined Pi Phi, and I was continuously inspired by the difference she made on our campus. The next year, she was elected onto the Panhellenic Council, and I became Pi Phi's delegate where I got to see her influence first hand. Lindsay taught me how to be an involved campus citizen and how to speak out for groups who were not present at the

table. She went out of her way to seek feedback and include voices from many different communities in order to create a stronger and more inclusive Greek community. A born networker, Lindsay was able to unite people and bring together strangers for a common goal. Through her, I was connected with a team working on solutions to Cornell's lack of late-night transportation, which is something I was really passionate about but would never have known about otherwise.

I joined this team and it quickly became my top priority. While many students dropped off, two other Panhellenic women and I remained. We worked tirelessly for two years with the administration and the student body to revamp the Big Red Shuttle, Cornell's first free late-night transportation program. Remembering what Lindsay taught me, I made sure to solicit feedback on the plan from students across campus so that it would be an efficient program for everyone and inclusive of many different needs. When it came time to launch, my sisters were there spreading the news, coming to meetings, handing out stickers, and listening to me vent. This is one of the most important achievements in my life thus far and I could never have done it without the support of Pi Phi and the sisterhood of the greater Panhellenic community.

Leaving Cornell in May is going to be



Lindsay Wershaw '16 and Simone Klein '17.

bittersweet. I feel like I did everything I wanted to do here and have made an impact I am proud of. However, I am sad to think about leaving the incredible support network I have here at Pi Phi behind. Luckily, sisterhood is "for life, not four years" and I will always have this group of women who have one another's backs. Going into the real world is really scary for me, but this fear is quelled by the fact that I'll have at least one familiar face and mentor at my full-time job as I am going to be working alongside my sister and friend, Lindsay. I am happy to know that no matter how far away from 330 Trip I may be, I'll always have a home with my sisters of Pi Beta Phi.

With Integrity We Act, With Diversity We Grow

By Heather Lukas '19

It is so enriching to be able to come home to conversations that make you question, stories that inspire you, and debates that engage you. Living in the house is a remarkable experience, because it brings together 40 women who are diverse in backgrounds and in thought. In this house, each argument has three sides and infinite realm of solutions. Each woman makes an effort to educate the others on what they have learned through their studies and experiences, thus widening our collective perspective on the world. The sisters of NY Delta are driven and passionate in their pursuits, and as a chapter we are working to open dialogues within the Greek community at Cornell.



In preparation for Cornell Panhellenic Recruitment 2017, our chapter decided to focus on diversity. We noticed that Greek

life on campus is not as inclusive as it appears. From high-priced dues and apparel to the emphasis on "girl pretty" and heteronormative constructs, Greek life seems to exclude members of various minority groups. Our sisters thus began to discuss these issues through a series of diversity workshops covering disabilities and mental health, race and religion, LGBTQ+, and socioeconomic status. Each workshop was led by members of our chapter who were knowledgeable on the subject matter either through coursework, independent research, or personal experience. It was really meaningful to hear how members of our chapter identified with these minority groups and helped us connect with and understand the topics at a more personal level. The workshop presenters then facilitated group discussions about how as a chapter we can develop solutions to some of the obstacles members of these groups face during recruitment.

With heightened awareness, our chapter went through recruitment. In between

rounds, people would make suggestions as to how we could improve. One member suggested, "Instead of asking 'Where are you from?', try asking 'Where did you grow up?'" Just this simple change, increased the chances of a potential new member excitedly sharing their unique cultural and family background. By broadening our questions, sharing our own passions, and delving into sincere conversations, we strived during recruitment to present our chapter as a home to anyone, no matter the journey that brought you there.

I am so proud of our chapter's efforts toward diversity and equality. The workshops we held helped to open a dialogue among our sisters, one we hope to share with the rest of the Greek community at Cornell. It was exciting to see these discussions applied to recruitment, thus helping to produce a diverse new member class. We cherish our differences because through this diversity we grow as individuals, as a chapter, and as a community.

Alumnae, Please Welcome Our New Sisters!



Bolatito Adetula '19
Denville, NJ

Sheila Balu '20
Toronto, Ontario

Helen Barna '20
Cazenovia, NY

Sarah Barry '20
Chatham, NJ

Abby Beeler '20
Gaithersburg, MD

Emma Berger '19
Crofton, MD

Claudia Chan '20
Great Neck, NY

Mollie Cramer '20
Glenview, IL

Ruby Dener '20
Westport, CT

Ingrid Donnan '20
Piffard, NY

Iryna Dovirak '20
Smithtown, NY

Alexandra Farhangui '20
Fremont, CA

Samantha Fioto '20
Manalapan, NJ

Kaitlyn Hefferline '20
Mount Vernon, WA

Eri Kato '20
Tokyo, Japan

Priyanka Konan '20
Chandler, AZ

Emma Lester '20
Belmont, MA

Gracyn Levenson '20
Norwalk, CT

Emma LoMastro '20
Potsdam, NY

Georgia Makris '20
Nicosia, Cyprus

Alysse Merila '20
Madison, NJ

Elise Michaels '20
Randolph, NJ

Natalie Murphy '20
Seattle, WA

Hannah Nusbaum '20
Rochester, NY

Alanna Perez '20
Venice, FL

Gwendolyn Pieper '20
Taos, NM

Sarah Reeves '20
Laguna Niguel, CA

Isabela Reyes-Capo '20
Miami Beach, FL

Grace Rieflin '20
Mount Pleasant, SC

Kelly Riopelle '20
Los Angeles, CA

Arielle Rogers '20
Montville, NJ

Jenelle Safadi '20
Howell, MI

Nadia Samaha '20
Beirut, Lebanon

Colette Schissel '20
Westwood, MA

Anna Shats '20
Chicago, IL

Danielle Shecter '20
Boca Raton, FL

Kelsey Sheldon '20
Cincinnati, OH

Samantha Smalling '20
Austin, TX

Eleanor Smith '20
New Albany, OH

Jasmin Strong '20
Middle Island, NY

Grace Taylor '20
Andover, KS

Jasmine Teng '20
Vancouver, British Columbia

Talia Turnham '20
Bethesda, MD

Julia Velazco '20
Carlisle, MA

Sophia Wang '20
Paoli, PA

Faith Wilder '20
New York, NY

Leah Womelsdorf '20
Fanwood, NJ

The Tale of Two Roommates

By **Meghan McKenzie '19**

The summer before I moved into 330 Trip, I urgently prayed and hoped that my sophomore year would be different. It was partially because I didn't connect with my roommates the year before, and I still felt alone at Cornell after attending it for an entire year. I wasn't enjoying my Cornell experience. After leaving my best friends in California, I had hoped to find a new group of women where I could just be me and where I felt loved. And although Pi Phi had given me so many potential new friends, I had not yet connected with someone at a deeper level. On move-in day I was full of hope, but also worried that everyone else was already too close for me to find those friends. Then I met Shan.

One minute together and we instantly meshed (probably because we had the same color bed sheets without even planning). I can't say that we were best



Meghan McKenzie '19
and Shannon Su '19

friends the moment we met, but within the first month of school we had become inseparable. With every hilarious Snapchat video we made, every chai tea pitcher we downed (that Dickyi made solely for us), every annoying Pop song that Shannon forced me to listen to until I sang along, every synchronized dance routine we made to perform at parties, we became the best of friends.

At least once a week Shannon will tell me, "I just keep thinking about where I would be if we weren't roommates." I honestly have no idea, maybe we would both have transferred back to our home California and met by fate at UCLA. Or maybe we would just be sad, missing sincere friendship in our lives and Shawn Mendez shrines on our walls. All I know is that together we are 100-percent blessed and 125-percent Taiwanese, and I cannot imagine my life without her.



ΠΒΦ

2017 Chapter Board

President

Kristianna Lea '18

**Vice President of
Member Development
Rachel Soderstrom '18**

**Vice President of
Fraternity Development
Erinn Ravosa '19**

**Vice President of
Membership
Emma Ackermann '18**

**Vice President of
Housing
Gillian Prinzing '19**

**Vice President of
Administration
Kelley Nevils '19**

**Vice President of
Communications
Heather Lukas '19**

**Vice President of
Philanthropy
Sarah DeMouilly '18**

**Vice President of
Event Planning
Rachel Marks '19**

our alumnae share their news

Although **Jean Hoegger '56** is now a resident in the memory care unit at Wellspring Village, Brightview Assisted Living, in North Andover, Massachusetts, "she still lights up at the mention of Cornell and Pi Beta Phi," writes her closest friend (for 22 years!), Virginia Montella. "She often says that her brain no longer recognizes things, but she knows them in her heart. She will be 84 in July and is in good health with the exception of her Alzheimer's condition." Jean would love to hear from her sorority sisters: c/o Virginia Montella, 148 Main St., A408, N. Andover, MA 01845.

"Still keeping our Bergen County Alumnae Club viable," reports **Carolyn (Carlson) Blake '60**.

"I just hosted our Christmas party." Last year Carolyn enjoyed a "very scenic and lovely" tour of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. She keeps busy singing in two choral groups, organizing a Cornerstone retreat for Guardian Angel Church, and bringing communion to the homebound. She continues, "My grandchildren are growing up. The youngest is now 12, with others at Boston College and Penn State, as well as graduates of Union, University of Connecticut, and Bentley University (12 in all). Life is blessed." Contact her at 111 Midwood Ave., Allendale, NJ 07401, or ccbake38@aol.com.

"Thanks for sending *NY Delta Doings* to me for over 50 years!" writes **Linda (Whitman) Bors '61**. "I keep looking for news from classmates in the late '50s or early '60s. Class of 1961, where are you?" Lyn adds that she has stopped by the house on Triphammer a few times over the years; "it looks good!" After retiring from the Ithaca City School District 10 years ago, she keeps busy with volunteer activities. "Ithaca has lots of ways to volunteer and stay part of this community." (121 Texas Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850)

Congratulations to **Vickey Verwey '74**, who writes, "I was very honored to be awarded the 2016 Evelyn Peters Kyle Angel Award!" Vickey adds that she enjoys being a very active member of the Richmond VA Alumnae Club. She is also a board

member of the club's local philanthropy. When she's not busy with Pi Phi activities, Vickey is an employment law attorney. In closing, she writes, "My 'hometown honey' and I have been married for 43 years and have two adult daughters." Catch up with her at 8405 Valley Wood Rd., Richmond, VA 23229, or vaverwey@aol.com.

"Back on Cornell Council as of fall 2016," announces **Laurie (Clemente) Milnor '75**. "Wonderful to visit Cornell in the gorgeous fall season. Loved seeing the Pi Phi house and other new buildings and spaces on campus." Laurie's husband, George, has retired, and they hope to be working on plans to get back to Ithaca more as well as to Philly, where he can reconnect with his Penn friends. She concludes, "I'm still working with my company, ShopTalk 20/20, which I founded with Cornell Pi Phi **Nancy (Kiesendahl) Bloch '71** in 1988." Get back in touch with Laurie at 57 Pond Way - Fairmount, Alton, IL 62002, or laurie.milnor@gmail.com.

We had some big news from **Maureen (Metz) Charhut '79**: she recently became a grandmother after her oldest daughter had a baby boy in December. "My husband, Ken, and I enjoy living near the beach in Dana Point, California. I love to hear from fellow Pi Phi sisters!" (32622 Adriatic Dr., Dana Point, CA 92629; taximom@cox.net)

"**MJ Marlinski-Lehman '81** and I both have freshman daughters on campus," announces **Laura (Dake) Roche '81**. "It has been fun to catch up with her in Ithaca!" Laura lives at 177 Steele Rd., West Hartford, CT 06119. Email her at ldakeroch@aol.com.

Mishtu Mukherjee '90 sent along this fun photo and update: "On a perfect September evening in 2016, **Robyn Tice '88** and Artie Boland ('90) turned their long-time relationship into wedded bliss! The celebration took place on Boston Harbor at the Institute of Contemporary Art. The ceremony was filled with lots of laughter and great joy, both hallmarks of their

years together. Many Cornellians were in attendance, including [see photo] (from left to right, bottom row) **Kara (Danehy) Maloney '88**, the bride wearing shimmering gold, **Deb (Schwartz) Stamm '89**, (top row) **Laura (Rossin) Van Zandt '89**, **Stephanie (Morak) Kalman '88**, **Ruth Silman '90**, me, and **Jana (Dlouhy) Dillard '88**. Reach out to Mishtu at mish-michaels@gmail.com or 3 Dewing Path, Wellesley, MA 02482.



deceased

*We regret to announce
the deaths of:*

Shirley (Crafts) Rosser '46
July 5, 2016

Jean (Gallagher) Welch '46
August 17, 2016

Barbara (Clines) Hart '48
November 27, 2016

Lila (Smith) Lightfoot '48
November 30, 2016

Mary A. (Stockton) Ahmadi '56
December 5, 2013