

NY DELTA CHAPTER OF PI BETA PHI AT CORNELL

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

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MY FIRST SEMESTER AS PRESIDENT

by Lauren Espinal



My name is Lauren Espinal and I am the chapter president this year. I am very excited to be representing New York Delta, and I have already learned so much from taking on this role. I was afraid to join a sorority as a freshman at Cornell. I am from a small community on Long Island

and my friends from home have been a part of my life since we were five. I feared that I would not form similar strong bonds at such a big university. However, my nerves calmed each day I visited Pi Phi during recruitment. I remember feeling comfortable, appreciated, and understood when talking to the women who would soon become my sisters. To my surprise, the women I met that week did not fit a singular mold; each had unique hobbies, majors, and passions, yet they all were kind and unbelievably genuine. Despite my initial fear, I found a home away from home in Pi Phi, and I know the bonds I continue to form will stay with me for the rest of my life.

This year has been challenging for everyone, and our Cornell experiences have changed beyond what anyone could have predicted. This past year, I sometimes felt disconnected from the chapter as a whole, and I was intimidated by the idea of

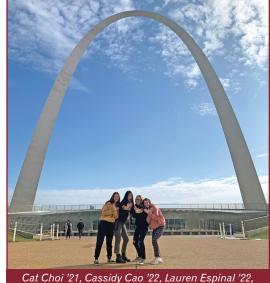
becoming president in this new environment. However, NY Delta's former president, Cat Choi '21. reminded me that I would build personal growth when leading, especially during difficult times when I may feel weak. Leah Womelsdorf '20, former president and alumna, encouraged me to be myself, assuring me that



Leah Wombelsdorf '20 and Lauren Espinal '22 dressing to the nines at the fall 2019 Pi Phi Formal.

my confidence and strength would emerge and improve naturally. Cat and Leah are fundamental role models and friends in my life. Their advice has been a foundation of my approach to leadership, and they continue to inspire me every day. I hope that our chapter members and our alumnae take this advice, and advice from other Pi Phis, as my experiences as a woman, leader, and friend have greatly improved since meeting these incredible women.

During the rest of my term, I will continue to learn from my sisters and lead with our best interests in mind. I will strive to be an individual who is open-minded, genuine, and understanding, just like the women I met during recruitment two years ago. I want everyone to feel comfortable in our chapter and trust that I will do my best to improve our faults and highlight our accomplishments. Our chapter will always have room to grow, and it is an honor to represent women who work tirelessly to achieve personal and chapter goals. Thank you for this opportunity; I hope to see everyone in person next semester!



Cat Choi '21, Cassidy Cao '22, Lauren Espinal '22, and Gracie Ashby '22 at Pi Phi College Weekend in St. Louis in January 2020.

by Kaela Olsen

The New York Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi is comprised of some of the most driven, motivated, and inspiring women I've ever met, and each day I feel immensely empowered to call them my sisters. The passion they have for building equitable and inclusive spaces in their communities compelled me to collaborate with Aarushi Machavarapu '23 and Matilde Cardoso '23 to create a social media sequence of "Pi Phi Passions." Each day, I would share a post on Instagram describing the incredible work of the women of the NY Delta. This opportunity did more than remember to celebrate women within our chapter. It allowed us to exemplify the values we uphold and illustrate our passions, interests, and support for each other, particularly for potential new members eager to learn about our chapter's sisters.



ConsentEd Executive Board Member Laura Valderrábano '22.



The first Pi Phi Passion was **Laura Valderrabano '22**, a highly involved and passionate executive board member of ConsentEd, a peer-to-peer education program that engages Cornell students in essential conversations about sex, alcohol, consent, and social responsibility. The next celebrated is **Pranjal Jain '23**, who founded Global Girlhood, an organization that uplifts women worldwide and their accomplishments, and who co-hosts the Brown Sugar



Shayda Daneshvari '22, a volunteer a the Ithaca Free Clinic.

The third Pi Phi Passion recognized **Shayda Daneshvari '22**, who volunteers at the Ithaca Free Clinic, where she meets patients and learns more about public health and medicine while also giving back to the community. Our fourth Pi Phi Passion, **Prameela**

Pod podcast, which discusses South Asian experiences in sex and love. Her social justice advocacy is beyond admirable and truly pioneers the area of Generation Z South Asia representation.



Prameela Kottapalli '23 advocates for women incarcerated by ICE through the Free Ingrid movement.

Kottapalli '23, focused on Prameela's pioneering work to advocate for Free Ingrid, a movement dedicated to spreading awareness and fighting for a woman named Ingrid, who was incarcerated by ICE and faced frequent mistreatment while in detention. Our fifth Pi Phi Passion spotlighted three sisters-Chloe Solon '23, Jordan Tralins '23, and Annelie Miller '23—highly involved members of Cornell Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to spreading inclusion by creating opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our final three Pi Phi Passions celebrated Alex Gibbons '22, Adina Mistry '23 and Regan Straudenraus '22, and Catherine Choi '21. Alex spent her summer working on political campaigns, researching the impacts of incarceration on family members, and fighting for reform

in the prison system. More recently, she headed research and data for a series of jail deaths published in *The Atlantic*. Adina and Regan both dedicate many hours to helping Cornell students with



Mistry '23 are

dedicated Cornell

EMS volunteers.

Previous NY Delta Chapter

President and amazing

human Cat Choi '21.

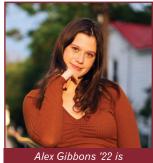


the Red Cross. Finally, Cat Choi, our 2020 chapter president, continuously pushes necessary conversations and continues to work countless hours to ensure our chapter is a safe and inclusive space.

In retrospect, our Pi Phi Passions series on our social media platforms went beyond just sharing an Instagram post. To us, it meant reflecting on our Pi Phi values and recognizing the astounding women in our chapter who tirelessly reinforce those values in our chapter, our campus, and our community. Their passions serve as pillars of inspiration for all our sisters, pillars, which create the foundation for our chapter's everlasting bonds.



Chloe Solon '23, Annelie Miller '23, and Jordan Tralins '23 lovingly give their time to Cornell Best Buddies.



Alex GIDDONS '22 IS passionate about prison reform and political activism.

medical emergencies through Cornell University EMS, with Adina training to become crew chief and Regan also volunteering at

SPRING 2021

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

College of Agriculture and

Environment & Sustainability



SASHA ABAYEVA WESTCHESTER, NY

Human Ecology Policy Analysis and Management



JEANELLE ABOU-EZZI NORTH ANDOVER, MA Human Ecology

Human Biology Health and Society (HBHS)



MARIA ALEXANDER SAN FRANCISCO, CA **College of Arts & Sciences Economics**



KAITLYN ANDERSON SHERBORN, MA **College of Arts & Sciences Biological Sciences**



KAYCEE ARIAS LOPEZ ROSLYN, NY **College of Agriculture and** Life Sciences **Biological Sciences**



JENNA CHIARELLA HARRISON, NY ILR

Industrial & Labor Relations



HAILEY CHOI CHAMPAIGN, IL SC Johnson School of **Business** Hotel Administration



ANUM CHOTANI MCLEAN, VA **College of Arts & Sciences Biology and Society**



ELIE COLE PIEDMONT, CA **College of Arts & Sciences Biological Sciences**

CAROLYN DONOVAN



RIDGEFIELD, CT **College of Agriculture and** Life Sciences **Biology and Society**



MIA FEDERICO BOSTON, MA SC Johnson School of **Business** Hotel Administration



ELANA FRANK MONTCLAIR, NY **College of Arts & Sciences** Math





CHICAGO, IL Human Ecology Policy Analysis and Management

SIONA GUPTA

WILEY GIFFORD

CLINTON, NY

Life Sciences

MCKENZIE HAYNES

ATLANTA, GA Human Ecology **Design and Environmental** Analysis



College of Engineering Biomedical Engineering









LOS ANGELES, CA **College of Agriculture and** Life Sciences **Biological Engineering**





Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management Applied Economics and Management



JADE LEWIN LONG ISLAND, NY SC Johnson School of **Business** Hotel Administration



SOPHIA LORENZO ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY College of Agriculture and Life Sciences **Development Sociology**



ASHLEY MILLER MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ **College of Engineering** Mechanical Engineering







SIMSBURY, CT **College of Engineering Operations Research**

ELLIE PERLITZ



MADDY REMINGTON KELLER, TX ILR Industrial & Labor Relations



CAROLINE RYU SEOUL, KOREA **College of Arts & Sciences Statistics**



TAISA STROUSE MIAMI, FL ILR Industrial & Labor Relations



SAM SYMONS PLEASANTON, CA **College of Engineering** Mechanical Engineering





HANNAH WALDINGER

NORTH SALEM, NY **Dyson School of Applied Economics and** Management Applied Economics and Management





WILMETTE. IL Human Ecology Human Development



EILEEN KELLY ROCHESTER, NY Life Sciences

CAROLINE KELLY WESTCHESTER, NY **College of Agriculture and**

Life Sciences Environmental Engineering **CHLOE KUELBS**





CARLEY KUKK NAPLES, FL **College of Arts & Sciences** Linguistics

JULIA LANCIA

SOMERS, NY

MEGAN KAEYER WILTON, CT SC Johnson School of Business Hospitality Management



JI KANG SEOUL, KOREA **College of Arts & Sciences** Sociology

College of Agriculture and Communications

MAKING OUR HOUSE INTO A HOME



Paulina Klubok '23 and Matilde Cardoso '23 enjoying each other's company at 330 Triphammer.

by Matilde Cardoso

It's difficult to start living in a new place during a pandemic, but the family I've surrounded myself with at 330 Triphammer couldn't have come at a better time. I spent last semester with my parents after being sent home in March of 2020. Like many others, living with my family was sweet and sour; I loved spending time with my mom and dad, but after a while, it was clear we needed to see other people.

I had been wary about moving back to Cornell's campus for safety reasons, but I found the Pi Phi house to be an oasis of sorts. It

seems like although we are living through an historically difficult time, professors have become less empathetic and have returned to teaching as though life were normal.

This can be increasingly stressful for many students on our



campus, but at 330 Triphammer, my sisters consistently put me at ease. My roommate, Paulina Klubok '23, is a fantastic listener, and she calmed the qualms I had about living a more normal life in our Ithaca bubble. I'll take a day trip with Jenn Muson to thrift shops in our city for some retail therapy and sustainable antiquing. Aarushi reminds me to get my eight hours of sleep, with a "tough love" tone that reminds me of home. Jordan Tralins '23, Annelie Miller '23, Rachel Reeves '23, and Chloe Solon '23 inspire me to keep a sound body as they go on daily runs or do fun YouTube workouts in our yard.

Renee Girbau '23 and Pranjal Jain '23 fill the halls with their youthful singing, making me less shy about belting one out in the shower every once in a while. And even after a long day, Prameela's daily check-ins are enough to remind me to take some time to myself and enjoy the little things.

Although it may seem a bit cliche, my sisters at 330 Triphammer have transformed our house into a home away from home. My sisters have a loving, caring, and oddly motherly energy that always reassures me that everything will be okay. I couldn't ask for a finer group of women to spend such an unpredictable semester with, and I will forever be grateful for the memories we created together.



Aarushi Machavarapu '23 and Jenn Muson '23 on a snowy February morning after a trip to the newly opened Ithaca Trader Joes.



Jenn Muson '23, Aarushi Machavarapu '23, Jen Grell '22, and Matilde Cardoso '23 ready for round two of spring 2021 recruitment at the house!

FUNDRAISING FOR #STOPAAPIHATE

by Jordan Sandell

Last semester, we got a taste of the world of virtual fundraising, an environment where we have to rely on our skills of social persuasion and influence on online platforms to ensure we get our message across. However, with this new skillset and the sheer number of people who use social media frequently enough to see our campaigns, we may see a shift in how we conduct philanthropy in the coming years.

This March, we teamed up with the Cornell Multicultural and Fraternal Council in response to the rise in Asian American violence to raise money for the #StopAAPIHate Campaign. Of the 12 multicultural organizations, we joined five MGFC groups and Alpha Epsilon Phi, another sorority on our campus, to spread the concept of unity through apparel.

Pi Delta Psi, an Asian interest fraternity on campus, designed apparel with translations of 18 Asian languages encompassing the word "unity" written in all caps.



Pi Delta Psi created this design to remind each other that we are all made equal; villainizing a particular racial group to the point of serious violence only brings us all further apart.

We reposted the graphic with an apparel preorder form on Instagram for two days so all of our followers could see the much-needed message. The NY Delta Chapter is honored to have participated in this fundraiser that raised over \$1,000 for the campaign. At such difficult times, coming together to stand in solidarity for the Asian American community is the absolute least we can do.

The organizer of the fundraiser, Derek Xie '23 from Pi Delta Psi, mentioned that he was surprised by the number of orders from the Panhellenic community on campus. Since our social circles differ, we made a measurable difference in the audience they reached with the campaign. Hopefully, we can continue to build a positive relationship with MGFC on campus and collaborate with them on even more events. Being a part of the Panhellenic community on Cornell's campus comes with the responsibility of acknowledging our privilege in Greek life. Supporting MGFC and its efforts to raise Asian American voices is only the beginning of uplifting and building bonds with Cornell's other Greek communities.

by Alex Meyer



It feels like just yesterday I was walking around Cornell for the first time, lost and overwhelmed by the size of campus. The first semester of freshman year was a blur,

especially

when I couldn't manage to remember where my classes were and the names of people I met. I distinctly remember going home and telling my mom that I would never join Greek life, but after meeting a few Pi Phis I was convinced otherwise.

Pi Phis are the most unique group of women I know. This chapter is so special because it allows space for everyone to be themselves and to grow. I am surrounded by future engineers, doctors, fashion designers, lawyers,



Alex Meyer '21 and Laura Leizman '19 excited for the 2019 Pi Burger Phry Fundraiser.

and even a few farmers. This group of ladies pushes themselves every day and is committed to our chapter and our community, coming together even as COVID-19 challenged the college experience we had all imagined differently.

During my time in Pi Phi, I served the chapter as both vice president of philan-

thropy and director of membership selection. In addition to the leadership experience that both roles gave me, they created some of my favorite memories that I will take with me once I graduate from Cornell. From cooking burgers in the pouring rain for Pi Burger Phry to hours-long Zoom calls with the recruitment team, my Pi Phi sisters were always able to make our jobs enjoyable and give me a reason to look forward to more Zoom calls after a long day.



Angels Alex Meyer '21 and Josette Barns '21 smiling it up at Bid Day 2018.

After graduation, I will be moving to Seattle to begin my career as a software engineer for Microsoft. While I'm excited to begin this new chapter in my life, I'm sad that my Pi Phi sisters won't be in the room next to mine, ready for any late-night rant or impromptu middle school-era movie session. I find comfort in knowing that Pi Phis are a quick phone call or a short visit away, there for me as they have been for the last three years.

ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS

Carol Edlund Pierce '55 sends this note: "I drove east to spend Christmas with daughter, Joanne, and her Brian and my son, Peter. Then, on the 28th, I drove south to Virginia Beach to spend time with my daughter, Sherry, and husband, Jerry. I feel so fortunate to be able to do that." (cmepierce0@gmail.com)

Barbara "Bobbie" Travis Osgood '56 writes: "I have been selected as a recipient of the 2020 Carolyn Helman Lichtenberg Crest Award of Pi Beta Phi for Professional Achievement." (btosgood@verizon.net)

Dorinda A. Larkin McNamara '58 sends this update: "I have moved to Belle Meade independent senior place. I am still getting used to it. Would love to hear from my sorority sisters." (rindy1958@gmail.com)

"Our 60th Reunion was cancelled this year, so I missed seeing 330 Triphammer and our Pi Phi class sisters," writes **Carolyn A. Carlson Blake '60**. "Thank god my family, including two granddaughters who are nurses in hospitals, are well. We are hopeful for a better 2021. My thanks to NY Delta for keeping us updated on the chapter and life at Cornell." (ccblake38@gmail.com)

"It was very interesting to read about life

on campus at at the sorority house during COVID-19," writes Linda M. Whitman Bors '61. "We have lived in Ithaca over 55 years, only a few blocks from Pi Phi! Everyone is very impressed and thankful that Cornell students are doing a great job dealing with the pandemic. Let's hope that the next newsletter speaks of better times for all!"

"As of fall 2021, I will have FOUR undergraduate Cornell grandchildren!" reports **Diane Baillet Meakem '61**. "Two of my grandsons just got early acceptance and their older sisters are juniors. I am hoping my class of 1961 will have a real Reunion in June 2021 (not virtual). All is well with me as I continue to live in both Florida and Connecticut. My big family is doing well!" (dbmeakem@aol.com)

Susan J. "Sue" Justin Garmston '63 notes, "We stay in touch with former classmates on a regular basis." (sgarmston@gmail.com)

Constance Elliott Holt '65 notes, "I have moved to a retirement community in Corpus Christi, TX, to be close to my daughter and two grandchildren." (ceholt@widener.edu)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

STAY UP TO DATE WITH NY DELTA!

Another school year is over, and AAC and House Corp. are proud of how the chapter worked through an unusual year. We're excited for the future, and have some changes coming to this Delta Doings newsletter!

Starting in fall 2021, we will only be sending hard copies to those who graduated before 1995. Anyone who graduated 1995 and after will be receiving virtual newsletters in the form of an email with a link to our NY Delta alumnae website (check your spam folders in case it goes there!).

This summer, please make sure to **update your contact information with the chapter**, both mailing address and email address. You can do this two ways:

- 1. fill out the news form included in this *Delta Doings* mailing; or
- update it through the NY Delta alumnae website at www.pibetaphi-cornell.org. You can get a username reminder and reset your password by clicking on the links at the top right corner, and once logged in, you can update your profile, also in the upper right corner.

Thanks for keeping your information up to date!

ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE)

"Enjoyed seeing sisters from the class of '75 on Zoom last June since we couldn't be together in person for our 45th," writes **Laurie Clemente Milnor** '75. "Our son, Reed, finished his freshman year in CALS in spring 2020 and loves Cornell. This year, he is working and taking a leave of absence. He joined Phi Kappa Tau and will be back on campus fall 2021, looking forward to being back in class in person." (laurie.Milnor@gmail.com)

Karen H. Hasby Epstein '77 writes: "In March 2020, my husband, Larry, and I sold our home in New Jersey and moved to a house on Owasco Lake, about 30 miles from Ithaca. As you can imagine, not the best time to move to a new community! Fortunately, many of my family members live nearby, so we've been able to do a little distanced socializing with them and we hope to be much more involved in our new hometown in 2021. We'd love to get together with any Pi Phis visiting the area." (KarenE6721@gmail.com)

Gail Evans Ruhl '77 notes: "I retired from Purdue University following 40 years of diagnosing plant disease and teaching others how to diagnose plant problems. My husband of 39 years, Joe, retired just before the COVID pandemic after 42 years as a high school biology teacher. We are enjoying retired life together now, with frequent visits to Searcy, AK, to visit our son (a professor at Harding Univ.), daughter-inlaw, and two grandsons (Dean, 5, Silas, 2) and north to Eaton Rapids, MI, to visit our daughter and son-in-law (health coaches) and two granddaughters (Mollyann, 9, Abigail, 7). My parents reside at Kendal Retirement Village in Ithaca, thus I get to back to Ithaca periodically." (ruhlg@purdue.edu)

Leslie Stevens Weinberg '77 writes: "Isolating with my husband, Jim, for close to nine months now in Los Angeles. Keeping my sanity by swimming three times per week either in pool at at the beach. I consider myself very fortunate to have both options open to me while so many other activities are restricted! My son lives close by, so very lucky to see him and his fiancé about once a month for outdoor picnics, but missing my Manhattan daughter very much! I am looking forward to a vaccine in the near future!" (lesliew1@ca.rr.com)

Teddi-Jann Casey '78 writes: "As president

of the longest continuous art society in the nation, the Bangor Art Society, I have held more Zoom meetings that I thought possible! During this pandemic, I conducted our annual juried art show via Facebook Live. We gave almost \$3,000 of prize money to participating artists. Over 75 local artists participated! November 2020 we held the Bangor Art Society's first live online auction. Both events were hugely successful and attribute part of my creativity to this special group of women, the sisterhood of Pi Phi! Back in the mid-'70s, when I was at 330 Triphammer Road, I collaborated with my roommate, Barb Risher Prestige '78, and a few others to get into several daring escapades! We were risk takers in a mischievous manner-all in good fun and no, we did not get arrested! But, sometimes on a Zoom I can tell you all about the antics!" (teddijann@gmail.com)

Jenny Howell '82 writes: "I live in beautiful Durango, Colorado. I get together with my long-time Pi Phi sisters and friends Glynnis Stone Tihansky '82 and Debbie Scaia Golick '81 frequently by Zoom and hopefully in-person again soon! Another Cornell Pi Phi I am close to is my mom, Betty Meng Howell '51, who lives in Getzville, NY, with my dad, Jack Howell ('52). Hope to see many Pi Phis and 330 Triphammer Road next June at my 40th Reunion." (jennycntrygrl23@gmail.com)

Susan Eileen Miller '90 notes: "Zoom calls with my Pi Phi peeps Nicole Page '90, Anne Peracca Bijur '90, Heather Webster '90, and Nicole Beauregard '90 have kept us connected and sane in lieu of our usual trips together. I'm currently working on two exciting projects related to food and climate: an eco-cookbook, due out from Stone Pier Press in 2021 (see stonepierpress@org) and a research fellowship with project Drawdown (www.drawdown.org)."(sem37@cornell.edu)

Tracy L. Furner Stein '92 reports that "2020 was supposed to include a trip to Montreal to celebrate the 50th birthdays of quite a group of New York Deltas from the class of 1992—I was to meet up for an amazing weekend with Debbie Berland Kaster '92, Jan Meyer Best '92, Gina Johnson '92, Sarah Chambers Potter '92, Kelly Keim Boniface '92, Shelley Halloran Holland '92, Heather McHugh Karmon '92, Pam Murray '92, and Theresa Faraci Berg '92. We have rescheduled for 2021 and are

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Lenore Breyette Roche '42 January 24, 2011

Ann Crowley Capshaw '49 June 27, 2020

Jane W. Wight Bailey '54 June 6, 2020

Nancy Ruh Stevens '55

Priscilla Edwards Browning '56 January 13, 2021

Jean W. Willman Scott '56 September 14, 2020

Susan D. DeWire Hosek '66 August 11, 2020

hoping that with our new dates that **Jen McSorley '92** and **Anne Fogarty Kain '92** can also join us! Much good health and happiness to all NY Deltas in 2021." (tracy.stein37@yahoo.com)

Andrea Beukenkamp Ward '95 sends along this update: "Of all things to tackle during a pandemic, my family 1.) graduated a high schooler, 2.) sent her to UVM for her first semester, 3.) sold a house, 4.) moved into a tiny house for five months while 5.) building a new house. We are so grateful to have remained healthy and well throughout. Vermont has been a good place to weather COVID, but we remain so saddened by those who have not had safety or who have died as a result of this illness. Stay safe. Be well." (dreyward@gmavt.net)

Jacqueline M. "Jackie" Holliday '07 sends along the following: "I've joined a fabulous consulting firm as a principal and am enjoying the new challenge. I'm looking forward to (finally) welcoming my pandemic puppy soon. Still constantly in touch with Nicole Christopoulos Rucci '07, Michelle D'Agnosa Dakin '07, and Kaitlin Drofton '07." (jacquelineholliday@gmail.com)

Jaclyn A. Carlson '11 writes, "I live in Philadelphia with my husband, Cornell Chi Phi '11, and our 5-year-old pup, Spot!" (carlsonjaclyn@gmail.com)

NY DELTA DOINGS Published regularly for friends and members of the New York Delta Chapter. News and photos should be sent to: Alumnae Records Office, New York Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876, or emailed to: alumnaerecords@pibetaphi-cornell.org.

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