

NY DELTA DOINGS

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Spring 2023

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Caroline Kelly '24

Hi, my name is Caroline Kelly, and I am the chapter president this year! I'm honored to be representing NY Delta and hope to impact our chapter positively. When I came to campus during my freshman year in 2020, it was nothing like I could have expected due to COVID-19. I was in such a large and scary place and couldn't meet people in the way I thought I would be able to. This made Cornell feel so overwhelming and lonely at times; I even created a transfer application after that first semester. Going back to campus in the spring I decided to give recruitment a chance and it completely changed my time at Cornell. Joining Pi Phi, I finally began seeing familiar faces on campus and got to meet so many new people, making Cornell feel smaller and a place I belonged. I was blown away by learning how every member was involved and passionate about a variety of things from sustainability and criminal justice to women's rights and medicine. Seeing how there was not one "mold" for a NY Delta, but rather a diversity of women fueled by passion and determination backed by Pi Phi's values, I felt at home and empowered to find my place and passion.

Exploring this, I knew I wanted to get involved with Pi Phi on a deeper level. I first became the vice president of operations. During this time, I learned a lot about all that goes into running this organization, especially what needed to be done in the aftermath of the pandemic and the impact it had on our chapter. I learned you can't have just one person run an organization. It takes a dedicated group of people working toward a common goal. After that, I knew I wanted to continue my involvement, and I'm honored my chapter voted for me to continue as president. While excited, I was very intimidated coming into this position. I am thankful for the patience and guidance former President **Charlotte Galasso '23** has shown me. Between my non-stop stream of questions to words of encouragement during tough times, she has helped me transition and start to build the confidence and strength necessary for this role. Thanks to the support and advice of not only her, but other sisters across the chapter, my experience as a woman and leader has



Top left: Chapter President Caroline Kelly '24
Top right: Caroline Kelly '24, Regina Galvan Rumayor '24, and Elana Frank '24 enjoying Dragon Day on campus!
Bottom: Masked up on Bid Day 2021 with Eileen Kelly '24, Kaelyn Park '24, Maria Alexander '24, Madison Higgins '24, Caroline Kelly '24, and Jade Lewin '24.

reached places I never expected, and I hope I can be an example for every member of NY Delta of what you can accomplish.

During my term, I hope to give our members the best experience possible and help facilitate events that will build sisterhood and foster a greater sense of community within our chapter. I will encourage members

President, continued on page 3

PI PHI PASSIONS



Lillian Pinheiro '23

HEC Managing Director

Lillian is the president of Hotel Ezra Cornell (HEC), the largest Cornell Hotel School organization and student-run hospitality conference held annually every April. Lillian serves as an advocate for sustainable tourism and student leadership development.



Anjali Kumari '25

Soprano Singer in the Key Elements

Anjali is a part of a co-ed a cappella group with roots in rock 'n' roll. She prepares for their semesterly concerts by attending six to eight hours of rehearsals a week, helping arrange complex scores, and creating social media posts as the PR and creativity director. She loves bringing the Cornell community together through electrifying songs and harmonies.



Jess Hensel '25 and Mira Harris '24

Food writer at Crème Launch

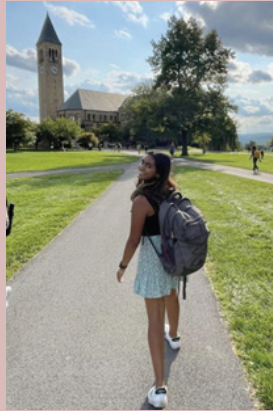
Crème de Cornell is Cornell's premier food magazine that designs and publishes four culinary magazines each year, along with a newsletter about exciting food news in the Ithaca area. Jess is on Crème de Cornell's culinary team and designs recipes that appear on Crème's website, Instagram, and mid-semester magazines. Her most recent project was writing a beginner's guide to making a charcuterie board. Her favorite part of being in the club is photoshoot day, when all Crème members cook their recipes and photograph the incredible results!



Taisa Strouse '24

Co-President of PPGA

Taisa is the current co-president of Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA), an organization on campus that raises money for abortion funds and access, educates our campus, and raises awareness about reproductive health access. She helps organize events like condom distribution, speaker events, and fundraisers each semester!



Shaylyn Nair '25

"Foodstagram" blogger

This past summer Shaylyn made a food Instagram account to share her love for making and eating new foods while she was in Vail, Colorado for a summer internship and had the opportunity to experience a wide variety of cuisines and restaurants. Since then, she's enjoyed sharing her "chomps" with friends and family, giving her personal recommendations on her favorite orders from local restaurants and even cafes on campus.



Sophia Waktkins '25

Intern at Buddi

Sophia currently interns as a peer counselor for an organization called Buddi. They work to provide college-aged students with mental health resources on their campus and connect them with students (like herself) who are trained to listen and support them!

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

by **Jordan Tralins**

Pi Beta Phi has shaped my life by bringing me the most genuine and inspiring friendships I could have ever hoped to discover at Cornell University. Coming to Ithaca from Saint Petersburg, Florida, as a freshman was an overwhelming experience. While I enjoyed my first semester, it wasn't until I joined Pi Phi that Cornell really began to feel like home.

Within the first few weeks of my life as a Pi Phi, I met sisters who

became my closest friends and greatest support network. Moments like my first initiation, first big little reveal, and first chapter helped me find my community. When campus closed in March of 2020 due to COVID-19, my Ithaca adventure came to an abrupt stop, but my Pi Phi sisters remained a constant. Although my 19th birthday was spent at home in Florida, Pi Phis joined me via Zoom to celebrate. Returning to Ithaca in August of 2020, I wasn't sure what to expect; in the midst of distanced learning and uncertainty, I could have never imagined the amount of joy living in 330 Triphammer would bring. Surrounding myself with a house full of driven, incredible women was the only thing I needed to have a wonderful sophomore year. Between dancing through the halls of the second floor, studying with fellow pre-med Pi Phis on the couch, and making snow angels in Jessup field with my sisters, my time in 330 was full of unanticipated joy and adventure. That year, my Pi Phi sisters also supported me as I founded the COVID Campus Coalition, a national grassroots organization that provided college students with factual information about COVID vaccines. I will never forget the unmeasurable support I received from my Pi Phi family on the day that I spoke live on CNN from my room in 330 Triphammer.

Moving to College Avenue during my junior year was an even more exciting experience with Pi Phis by my side; the memories I made with sisters as an upper-classman are some of my most valuable. As a second-semester senior, I reflect with gratitude on how my sisters have shaped me into the person I am today. My sisters made me a better version of myself. I am more environmentally conscious, I am more aware of injustices within our country's immigration system, I recognize greater inequities surrounding education and literacy in America, and I feel a stronger drive to spread inclusivity in the world around me. As I prepare to leave Cornell and trade Big Red for Crimson Red at Harvard Medical School, I am certain that my Pi Phi sisters will remain my forever chosen family. It is both encouraging and comforting to know that wherever life takes me, I will always have a friend at Pi Beta Phi.



Jordan Tralins '23 (right) and her little Anum Chotani giving big hugs at recruitment.

PHILANTHROPY

NY Delta has set itself apart from our Panhellenic community this past semester in our philanthropy efforts. Our chapter volunteered the most hours of community service compared to any other organization on campus by serving over 500 hours. NY Delta also received the Silver Standard Distinction among our Panhellenic community to congratulate our efforts and work for the community. While being extremely proud of this, NY Delta's Vice President of Community Engagement **Mia Federico '24** has set the goal of having our chapter achieve the Gold Standard and has already started planning to achieve this.

We jumped into the spring semester by partnering with the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta to hold a Valentine's Day bake sale to fundraise for our literacy initiative Read > Lead > Achieve. This was a great opportunity to work with others in our community and get started with philanthropy early in the semester. It also allowed members to spend time together tabling the event, helping grow our sisterhood.

NY Delta is also currently holding a clothing drive for our local Ithaca community. So far, we have collected over 200 items of clothing and are hoping to continue to gain items from other chapters on campus!

On the horizon, NY Delta is planning a barbeque philanthropy picnic at the beloved Stewart Park down on Cayuga Lake during Friends and Family Weekend! Stewart Park has been a special place for picnics and watching the sunset for many NY Delta over the years. We therefore wanted to share this special place with our loved ones when they come to visit. All proceeds from this will go to Read > Lead > Achieve to support its important cause.

Lastly, NY Delta is planning on continuing our tradition of the Arrowbowl Powder Puff game against the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta. This is a great opportunity for Pi Phis to show their sisterly love and support for the team and chant positive words of encouragement to the players. This has always been a great opportunity to incorporate teamwork and sisterhood with philanthropy and something that we hope to continue!



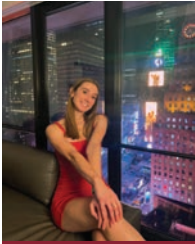
PRESIDENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to recognize their potential and impact our greater community for the better. I hope to learn from members, hear what they want, and strive to solve our shortcomings. I've seen firsthand how impressive all of our members are and want to celebrate their accomplishments. I have such immense respect for the women that have come before me and can only hope to continue enabling our chapter to grow and thrive. Had it not been for the welcoming women in NY Delta during my freshman year, I don't know if I would even still be here at Cornell or would have had so many amazing memories. I only hope that through my presidency I can continue creating that home at Cornell for women and helping them explore their passions and carry on our legacy at Cornell. Thank you all for this opportunity; I can't wait for an exciting spring!

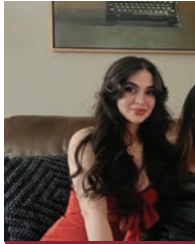
Charlotte Galasso '23, Caroline Kelly '24, and Genie Enders '25 showing some lin love during Preference Round of recruitment.



NEW MEMBERS: SPRING 2023



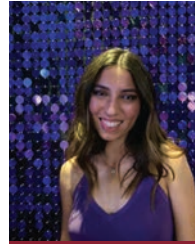
Kathleen Anderson



Sophia Arnold



Kate Barclay



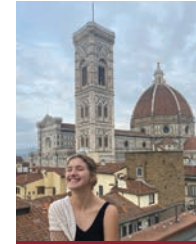
Abby Bates



Amina Bilalbegovic



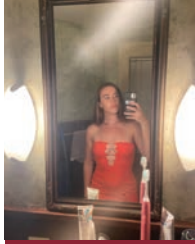
Sarah Bunker



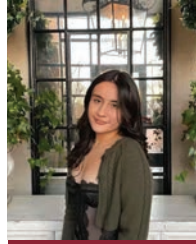
Courtney Candy



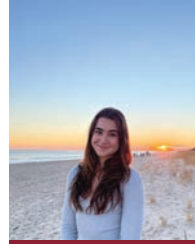
Ale Carlon



Kaitlyn Clarke



Maria De Fex-Barraza



Emily Dyner



Eva Egeghy



Libby Elman



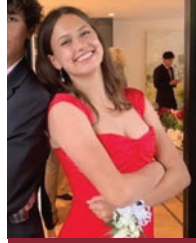
Erica Fox



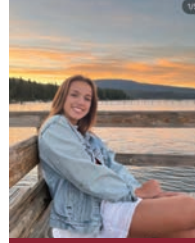
Ava Friesen



Daniella Granin



Ariana Greenberg



Ella Hartmanis



Meredith Houston



Eunice Kang



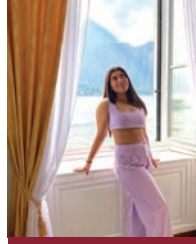
Sarah Kimel



Christina MacCorkle



Varshini Madhavan



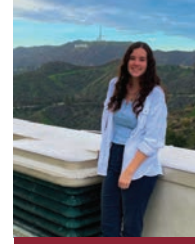
Alena Makheja



Claire McKechnie



Tabitha Mueller-Schrader



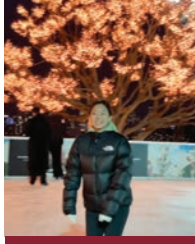
Caitlin Neafsey



Elizabeth Osmanski



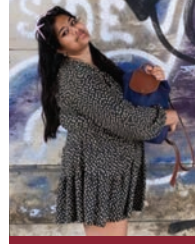
Maddie Packer



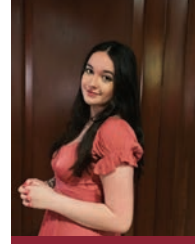
Julie Park



Katie Perlitz



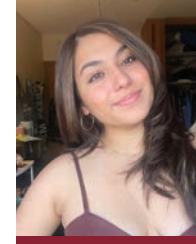
Simi Prasad



Katie Sestak



Sophia Shah



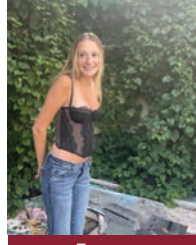
Nitya Shamdasani



Lily Spertus Newman



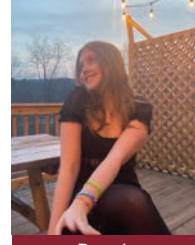
Lauren Squires



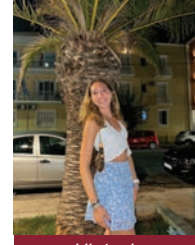
Emma Stepke



Vivian Terry



Brooke Turner



Victoria Vlachos

Welcome to our newest members! We can't wait to see what you'll accomplish!

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

by Allison Chang '25

Coming from Southern California all the way to upstate New York was definitely a culture shock. I came not knowing anyone, and in my first year here, found myself anxious about making lifelong friends. Partially because of this worry, I decided to go through recruitment my freshman spring. And despite still having COVID-19 restrictions on my Bid Day, I remember getting to see 330 Triphammer for the first time. The snow had just fallen the previous day and walking up to the front door, with balloons, music playing, and current members waving and cheering from inside, I remember thinking how magical it would be to live in the house.

Fast forward to over a year later, I am living that dream. I've gotten to know the girls in my member class so well through Sunday brunches, doing homework together on the couches, and celebrating birthdays together. I will forever be thankful for my roommate, **Ariana Wanvig-Dot '22**, because I can't imagine having late-night conversations (and then sleeping through our alarms the next morning) with anyone else!

I'm also extremely grateful to room 3, **Genie Enders '22** and **Molly Ryan '22**, for their constant support and advice. I cannot imagine what Cornell would be like without them and their affinity for doing all things silly and fun. I'll forever remember the night

I took the spare mattress from the third floor and brought it down to their room for a sleepover... it only took us two weeks after to bring it back up. Although my room is the best room in the house (I'm only slightly biased), their room comes a close second.

330 Triphammer has definitely become a safe place for me here at Cornell. I've loved the friendships I've made and the memories I have with different places in the house. From having conversations with our house chef, Dicky, in the kitchen, to watching movies on our TV in the living room, to running up and down the stairs to trade clothes before having an event, 330 Triphammer has made me grateful that I took the risk moving so far away from home.



Left: Allison Chang '25 and Genie Ender '25 sharing a slice! Above: Allison Chang '25, Molly Ryan '25, and Genie Enders '25 showing Pi Phi love on the 330 porch during recruitment



CHAPTER HOUSE CORPORATION "DOINGS"

Welcome again to the Chapter House Corporation "Doings" news corner! We have been making strides in scheduling our second and third-floor window replacements to begin this summer along with the electrical upgrade of our current system. We are excited for these projects to begin!

COVID-19 pushed back many contractors on projects and the availability of building materials has also been detained for quite some time. Despite these challenges, the architectural firm that has been supporting us through this whole process was able to secure a reputable contractor. The work for the window installments and repair of the third-floor dormers will begin in June. Plans for the first floor and basement window replacements are likely to take place next summer.

The electrical upgrade will support the increasing demands of the house, as well as any addition to the facility should that become desired in the future. In our quest to reduce our carbon footprint, the upgrade also will allow for completely electrifying the house as the combustion units need to be replaced.

We hope to accomplish even more yet support for a fundraising campaign is necessary. We are grateful for the sisters who have reached out to us, and we hope for more volunteers to create a dynamic team. If you are able to volunteer and possibly bring together a group of your fellow sisters, please let us know.

You may always reach us through our website www.pibetaphi-cornell.org. Thank you!

JUMPING FOR JOY

By Laurel Kruke '08 (with help from Dan Flynn, proud husband!)

Joyce Flynn (Banch, Cornell '68) has not let retirement slow her down! For the past few years, she and her husband of 51 years, Dan Flynn, have competed in national and international track and field competitions and are winning medal after medal. Last summer, in June and July of 2022 at the World Masters Track and Field Championships in Finland, Joy competed in the 75–79 age group and won the gold medal in the high jump. She also placed second and third in the long jump and triple jump. Stateside, Joy was the champion in the long jump, high jump, and triple jump in the 2022 National Senior Games in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Joy's passion for track and field competition began later in life (thanks to encouragement from Dan), but she has many other activities that keep her busy. She is a master gardener and flower show judge, was the president of the Westhampton Garden Club in Westhampton, New York, and is actively involved nationally in the Garden Club of America. She was also the president of her church board and has held several posts at the Shinnecock Yacht Club. This is just a short list of all her activities and positions.

"I always say that she is always 'saving the world' because of her endless involvement in environmental and sustainability causes," says husband Dan. Joy is also on a board to educate about light pollution, pollinator pathways, anti-plastics legislation, and many other environmental issues. Through the Garden Club of America, she went to Washington, DC and helped lobby the House and Senate regarding various environmental causes.

Joy and Dan plan to be at Cornell Reunion and visit Pi Phi in June, so if you see them, make sure to congratulate her and find out more about her awesome accomplishments!



Joy with medals from World Masters Track and Field Championships in Finland.

ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS

Ann Eaton '55: I am alone now in my hilltop house in rural Massachusetts, but my daughter and her husband are next door and check on me daily. My son's family of five live in Darien, Connecticut, and my six stepchildren and their offspring are in various places in between. There's a lot to be said for living in New England! Gardening is my current passion and keeps me happily and busy for a good part of the year.

Janet Anderson '56: Retired and busy with many activities. My grandson, Harris Erdman, is a sophomore and enjoying Cornell. He is also a singer in the Hangovers, so we go to concerts often.

Dale Johnson '58: Husband Dick and I are still doing pretty well; we're still in our home. Daughter KC lives in Virginia; Son Craig lives in Orange County with his wife, Michelle, and two sons. Oldest one goes to a small college, George Fox, near Portland, Oregon. Youngest one will be going to Cornell in the fall. Both boys play baseball. I am still active in Omnilore (learning in retirement). We take classes and must be the professor once during the trimester. Stimulating. I keep up with Ann Steffen Bradley and Lois Pape Dam via e-mail. Lois recently lost her husband. Ann and Lois were Pi Phi classmates.

Dorinda McNamara '58: I moved to independent living at Belle Meade in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Love to hear from my classmates.

Mary Merrill '59: Enjoying retirement at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community in Asheville, North Carolina. Would love to hear from you.

Carolyn Blake '60: In September, my first grandchild's (out of 12) wedding in Massachusetts was a wonderful family gathering, and I am now looking forward to two more! Aruba is next. Still busy with singing and church activities. Enjoyed reading *Delta Doings*, keep up the good work!

Linda Bors '61: I've lived in Ithaca, about eight blocks from the Pi Phi house, for over 50 years! Would enjoy hearing from any Pi Phi friends, especially those in the classes of 1958-'65!

Sue Moore '62: Bill and I still live in North Palm Beach, Florida. We love to travel, mostly in Europe now, when Florida gets hot. We have two children: Julia and Tom. Both live in Westchester County, New York. Julia and her family are in Rye; her children (3) are either in college or just graduated. Tom's family are in nearby Bronxville, and their two children are in middle school in the village.

Susan Murphy '73: 2022 was full of Pi Phi gatherings for me. In June, **Wendy (McKee) Wuest's '74** daughter, Ellen, was married on the shores of Skaneateles Lake. In attendance were **Gerry Serotte '74**, **Mary (Artenan) McIlroy '72**, and me. Later in July, Mary and her family joined me and some of my family and all of **Sherri (Koenig) Stuewer's '73** family for our annual Hilton Head vacation. All of us met again at another friend's wedding in South Bend, Indiana, in August.

Deborah Fister '74: I suppose the biggest news is that we're moving! New York winters are too brutal, and I can't tolerate the cold. We bought a house in Clayton, North Carolina, in August 2021 and have slowly been emptying our house of unwanted or unneeded items! I am downsizing my hobby to focus on fiber arts: knitting, weaving, and spinning. I have enough knitting and weaving yarn to last several lifetimes, so if anyone wants any, I will gladly pass it along. I can send pictures. I heard that **Sherri (Koenig) Stuewer '73** weaves and also lives in North Carolina. If anyone knows her contact information, please pass it along. We sold our last alpacas in 2021, so that chapter is closed. However, they live on in many skeins of yarn and bags of fiber; those too need a loving home. Aside from health problems that come with age (arthritis knee), we are both very healthy.

Elizabeth Huffaker '77: Retired from teaching in May 2021. Spending time working with master gardeners, church committees, and two grandchildren, and tending to a summer cottage in Michigan, as well as our mountain home in Tennessee.

Susan Frontero '87: I am still living in Wellesley (outside of Boston) with my hubby Jim Frontero (Cornell '87). We celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in 2021! We are

deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Ann S. (Smyers) Livingston '53

July 16, 2020

Lois E. (Heikkila) Gosse '64

July 19, 2022

empty nesters now; our son Michael (Marist '18) is 27 and lives and works in the Boston area. Nicole (Amherst College '20) is 25 and moved to Madrid to get a masters in statistics. We took a trip over in November of 2022 to visit. I keep in touch daily with **Leslie (Kalick) Wolfe '87** and **Sharon Raider '87**. And, I love to see two awesome Phi Phis from '86, **Leesa Storfer** and **Allison (Passer) Ostern** whenever I can. We missed our 35th reunion last June, but I can't wait to get back to Cornell. Hello to all my fellow Pi Phis!

Kimberly Bixler '91: Wrapping up my last semester at NYU Tisch's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. It has been the adventure of a lifetime! I've worked on projects with collaborators from around the globe: Brazil, Kenya, Ghana, South Korea, China, Canada, Iceland, and more. Next stop...Broadway!

Jennifer Mitchell '93: Life is great in Hawaii. Been here 15 years now, working, swimming, surfing, and taking care of the house, friends, and family who visit. VVA graduate school's MEd in the social foundation of education was an excellent program and continues to be useful and ahead of the curves in research and education. The work ethic and grind of CU continues to equip me for business-ownership survival, especially all pandemic long.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH NY DELTA!

Starting in fall 2021, **we have been sending hard copies of the NY Delta Doings to those who graduated before 1995. Anyone who graduated 1995 and after have been 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!).**

To assure that you are receiving the latest newsletters, please make sure to **update your contact information with the chapter**, both postal address and email address. You can do this two ways:

1. Fill out the news form included in this *Delta Doings* mailing; or
2. Update your information online through our NY Delta alumnae website: **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 from links in the upper right corner.

Thanks for keeping your information up to date!

REUNION UPDATE

Alumnae coming back for Reunion June 8–11, 2023! Check your reunion schedule and be sure to visit 330 Triphammer Road while you are back on campus. There will be a reception, likely on Saturday.