

NY DELTA DOINGS

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Fall 2024

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LEADING AND LEARNING WITH PI PHI



by **Genie Enders '25**

Hello everyone! My name is Genie Enders, and I am the Chapter President of NY Delta. As my time as President comes to a close, I am so grateful for everything this organization has given me. Embodying Pi Phi's core values through leadership has been an honor. Our sister-

hood feels stronger than ever, and I am excited about what is next for the chapter.

Throughout the semester, we have organized and participated in several sisterhood events. From sushi on the slope to arts and crafts at the house, we have formed bonds between member classes that will last a lifetime. With 40 members currently living in the house, something fun is always happening!

Not only have our sisterhood events been successful, but our philanthropic efforts have been fulfilling. We volunteered at the Ithaca Childcare Center to read to elementary schoolers through our Read → Lead → Achieve initiative. We have also been active participants in other chapters' philanthropic activities, helping to support Greek Life on campus. At Homecoming, we welcomed a number of alumnae to brunch at 330 to support our ongoing fundraising efforts with the Chapter Housing Corporation.

In October, we welcomed a new member class of eight incredible women. It has been terrific to watch them learn our traditions and form new friendships with one another. Our executive board has done a fantastic job at making them feel comfortable, as well as initiating them. I look forward to continuing to get to know them.

As a senior, I have been reflecting heavily on my time at Cornell. I have been doing things to savor my last few months here. From taking the long way home to see more of campus to spending more time at the

house, I know I will remember this time for the rest of my life. Pi Phi has completely changed the way that I view the world. It has made me a better and more empathetic leader and given me a support system that will never waiver. I knew it from bid day when **Summer** and I walked to the house together despite not knowing each other well. It was further proven when my New Member Educator, **Alison Landry '22**, visited me in September. I see it every day as I pass by Pi Phis on campus eating lunch with one another, sitting with one another in class, and working together in libraries. I have learned as much through Pi Phi as in the classroom.

My experience with NY Delta has been special, but it is not unique. At Homecoming, I met incredible alumnae who traveled to come back to the house, embodying the value of lifelong commitment. I will forever feel comfort knowing there will always be a home for me to return to when I come back to visit.

With Pi Phi Love and Mine,

Genie Enders '25



Molly Ryan '25 (left), Genie Enders '25 (middle), Allison Change '24 (right).

2024: A YEAR OF RECONNECTION AND GENEROSITY

by Marian Levy Ware '83
Jennifer Berger Schatz '91
Campaign Co-chairs

This year has been remarkable for reconnecting with alumnae, whether in person at Cornell Reunion and Homecoming or through Zoom, phone calls, and emails. Thanks to the foundational efforts of alumnae involved in the **Our House, Our Legacy** capital campaign, sisters have united to give back with their time and generous contributions. We are thrilled to announce that as of November 15, 2024, we have raised \$468,000 from 93 alumnae donors! Most of these funds have come from leadership gifts during the campaign's quiet phase, and we are deeply grateful to these alumnae for their steadfast support.

Thank you to our volunteers. This success wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the major-gifts campaign committee volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to reconnect with their New York Delta friends and encourage their participation in the campaign. A heartfelt thank you goes to: **Diane Baillet Meakem '61, Martha Coultrap '71, Susan Hills Murphy '73, Anne Vitullo '77, Kathryn Boor '80, Laura Dake Roche '81, Sarina Monast Bronfin '82, Vicki Keenan Gillespie '84, Laura Clark '85, Judy Marlinski Doyno '85, and Alison Ford '95.** These women have led the way, and we are incredibly thankful for their efforts.

In honor of our own Cornell home at 330 Triphammer Road, we officially launched the campaign's public phase during Cornell's Homecoming weekend. We shared news of the campaign with all NY Delta alumnae in mailings that included details about the campaign, how the funds will improve our Chapter House, and how to make a gift. If you didn't receive this information, please contact us! We'd love to ensure everyone stays informed.

It's been wonderful to welcome alumnae back to the house this year during reunion and Homecoming and when NY Deltas happen to travel back to Ithaca. During these recent visits, sisters had the opportunity



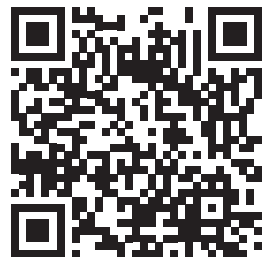
Big and Little sister reunited at Cornell Homecoming, September 2024.

to see some of the most recent capital improvements. This summer, a new electrical service that began with removing the overhead wires from the building and running them under the parking lot was completed. This part of the project ultimately enabled Pi Beta Phi the option to replace fuel-powered appliances and equipment with electrical units in the future. The new electrical system has the capacity to service a potential addition to the full structure, should an expansion be necessary and approved. Another electrical enhancement included replacing interior and exterior lighting fixtures with energy-efficient LED alternatives. In addition, the second phase of our window replacement project was completed on the first floor and basement. Soffits were repaired and painted, new gutters and downspouts were added and the three entrances were freshened with new paint. Next summer, the focus will

be on improving our landscape and pathways.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 to complete all projects outlined for the Chapter House through the calendar year 2025, and we hope to have every NY Delta alumna participate! In the coming weeks and months, you'll hear from fellow sisters about the campaign and have the opportunity to ask questions. We're also excited to welcome the following former Chapter Presidents and Class Agents who have recently joined the campaign: **Nancy Hargrave Meislahn '75, Alba Catapano Zobel '89, Jana Pompadur Kierstad '91, Tracy Furner Stein '92, Alison Cupp Relyea '98, Melissa Loewenstern Lewin '00, Amy Mawby '04, Laurel Kruke '08, Alaina Skalski '15, and Stasia Skalbani '17.**

Join us in the journey ahead. We're always looking for more volunteers to join our Campaign Committee. If you're interested, please contact us at piphinydelta330@gmail.com; we'd love to have you on board! You can also make your gift online by visiting our NY Delta website at tinyurl.com/pibetaphi-cornell-give or scan this QR code.



Pi Phi's at Cornell Reunion, June 2024.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Looking back on my four years at Cornell, I'm so grateful for the choice I made my during sophomore year to join the NY Delta chapter. Pi Phi offered me a home I couldn't have found anywhere else.

Coming from a small all-girls high school, I was used to being in spaces where female voices were always heard, and a strong sense of community surrounded me. During my first year at Cornell, I realized something was missing; I missed my sense of community in high school. After speaking with a friend involved in Greek Life, I decided that joining a sorority could give me that same connection. From the

moment I began the recruitment process, I knew I was making the right decision. The instant I stepped into the Pi Phi house, I knew I had found my place.

Beyond lifelong friendships, Pi Phi also gave me the chance to take on leadership roles, from the simple joys of being a Big to my Little to the challenges of being VP of Risk Management. My favorite part of serving on Pi Phi's Executive Board was watching us grow together as a chapter. I've seen sisters comfort each other in times of need, celebrate together in times of joy, and inspire one another every step of the way. My leadership experience in Pi Phi provided me with a safe space to grow personally, and I know I'll carry these skills with me forever.

As a senior, reflecting on my time at Cornell, I can confidently say that Pi Beta Phi's NY Delta chapter helped shape who I am today. It gave me some of my closest friends, and for that, I am endlessly grateful. It made campus feel more like home, surrounding me with over 100 familiar faces to wave high to every day. Pi Phi has made my years at Cornell unforgettable, and I can't wait to return as an alumna to see the new memories created at 330 Triphammer. I know that no matter where life takes me, I will always have the support of my sisters.

Thank you for everything, NY Delta.

With Pi Phi Love,
Ale C. '25

PHILANTHROPY



Check out our new Pie a Pi board featuring Riya Mittle (MC 24) and Mahealani Demello (MC 24)!

Earlier this fall, NY Delta enjoyed sunny weather and whipped cream on Ho Plaza with one of our favorite philanthropy events, Pie a Pi Phi. For a few dollars in support of the Literacy Fund, Pi Phis' friends (or foes) could "pie" a Pi Phi member in the face! On the theme of literacy, members volunteered to read at the Ithaca Childcare Center, and NY Delta hosted a book drive. Pi Phi continues its strong engagement in Philanthropy within the chapter and the broader Cornell Community by earning the

Cornell Panhellenic GIVE Gold Standard again last spring, a measure of philanthropic effort that only one other Panhellenic chapter

earned. Outside the chapter, Pi Phis exhibits leadership and service in various ways, from supporting other Greek organizations' philanthropic events to volunteering off-campus. For example, **Bronwyn McNulty (MC 24)** volunteers weekly at Loaves and Fishes, a soup kitchen in downtown Ithaca. **Ariana Greenberg (MC 23)** volunteers just down the road from 330 at Cayuga Heights Fire Department. **Kate Dunn (MC 22)** is the Director of Public Relations at Smart is Strong, a Cornell organization striving to empower women.



President Genie Enders (MC 22) after getting pi'ed.

A NEW LOOK FOR NY DELTA'S WEBSITE

Our website had a makeover! A hub of information, photo galleries, and news, the updated NY Delta website is the perfect place to connect with alumnae, update your contact information, share news and make a gift to the Capital Campaign. You can even catch up on the latest NY Delta Doings issue! Enjoy the lifelong benefits of sisterhood by visiting pibetaphi-cornell.org regularly to see what's new.



NEW MEMBERS FALL 2024



KENDALL CUNNINGHAM
Spring City, PA



EMILY BUCKLEY
Lancaster, OH



RIYA MITTLE
Glen Head, NY



ANNELIES BERGMANN
Troy, MI



BELLA HANSON
Chadds Ford, PA



MAHEALANI DEMELLO
San Ramon, CA



BODIL LOONEN
Albertson, NY

CLEANING UP THE TACKY CLOSET

A few alumnae tackled the Tacky Closet this summer! The closet was overstuffed, and **Chris Smith Barley '85**, our newest Chapter House Corporation member, decided after seeing the condition of the closet during the reunion that it was time to roll up her sleeves with other local sisters and put things back in order.

How many of us have fond memories of walking into that closet for quick costume get-ups, amused by what was left behind by previous

sisters? Now, our undergraduates store formalwear in there, too. Angel energy was in full force when **Lucy Hertel Staley '73**, **Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen '73**, and **Susan H. Murphy '73** helped **Chris** restore the closet to its original grandeur!

From left to right, the two sisters in the photo are **Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen '73** and **Chris Smith Barley '85** (in yellow shirt).



STAY CONNECTED...

Be sure to check out the new makeover of our website pibetaphi-cornell.org and take a moment to review your contact information or create a profile. It is from this website we generate our correspondence. We are always striving to be more sustainable and reduce the use of paper so beginning with next year's of NY Delta Doings, **graduates from '90 to the present** will only receive e-mail distributions.



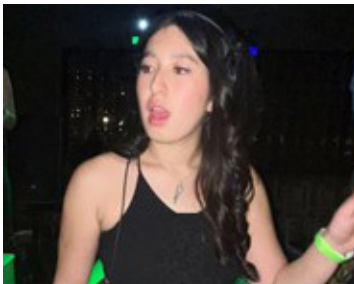
PI PHI PASSIONS



Victoria Vlachos '26

Neurosurgery Research Assistant

This past summer, I had the opportunity to engage in clinical neurosurgery research at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. My work involved developing a comprehensive database of patients diagnosed with cervical myelopathy who have undergone anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF) surgery. This database will serve as a foundation for researching various factors that may predict outcomes related to cervical myelopathy. I also worked on conducting a scoping review on the role of AI in patient education, which was recently published in *Frontiers in Medicine*. Currently, I am working on a similar scoping review that evaluates the use of AI in medical education. I have loved working on these projects and want to continue learning about research within the field of neurosurgery and medical education.



Kaia Ross '27

DJ

Kaia discovered DJing during her freshman year at Cornell when a friend introduced her to house music. Growing up, she trained in classical piano but stopped taking lessons in college, so she was excited to find a new outlet for her musical creativity. Kaia quickly fell in love with the hobby and how it allowed her to share music with others, especially her Pi Phi sisters. She recently performed at a student-run music event in Ithaca and has another gig in NYC. Kaia looks forward to continuing her DJ career alongside her academic passions!



Erica Fox '25

International Coach and Mentor

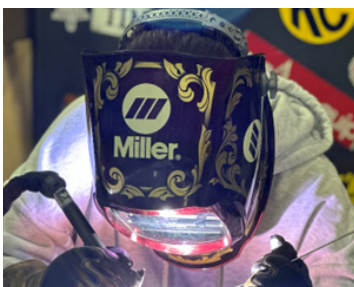
This summer, Erica had the incredible opportunity to travel to Vietnam for a month to participate in a program called Coach for College, where she taught and coached children at a local middle school in the Mekong Delta. The program brought student-athletes from US universities and Vietnamese college students together to teach kids about academics, sports, and life skills. The Vietnamese students became true partners and friends, helping us bridge the language gap and connect with the children meaningfully. Living in Vietnam and experiencing the children's daily lives and culture made a lasting impression on her. She will always treasure the memories of my time there and the connections she built with both the students and her fellow coaches.



Catherine Gelber '26

Baseball Analyst

Catherine is an analyst for the Cornell Baseball team. Every week during the season, she analyzes player data from other teams to create a pamphlet for the coaching staff and Cornell baseball players. Then they use this information to develop various lineups and make game-time decisions to enhance the team's performance. In the off-season, she focuses on creating platforms for player improvement. Catherine has found great joy in being an analyst for the baseball team, hoping to pursue a career in this field. She has learned a lot about interacting with coaches who are new to statistics in sports and how to navigate those conversations.



Ava Rosenow '27

Baja Racing Team

Ava is a part of the Cornell Baja Racing Student Project Team, which designs, builds, and races an offroad vehicle against more than 100 other university teams across the country as part of the Baja SAE competition. Ava is on the Chassis subteam, and this year is responsible for designing the engine subframes and the fixtures for the frame, drivetrain, and suspension components using CAD and helping weld the car. She loves applying her classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios and working with a close-knit team. Last season, the team came in second overall across all the competitions and hopes to top that this year and finally bring home the Iron Team award!



Bronwyn McNulty '27

Dedicated Crafter and Community Volunteer

From a young age, Bronwyn has had a passion for crafting. Over the past two years, she's worked on numerous personal projects, including knitting more than 15 chunky blankets, which are perfect for cold weather, and recently gifted her newest one to her Little. She enjoys sharing personalized gifts as a way of showing appreciation. Arts and crafts have always been a powerful way for her to connect with friends, family, and the community. She donates her time to personal and volunteer projects, such as making cards for veterans, blankets for dogs, and pillows for homeless shelters. Each project holds special meaning, carrying memories, warmth, and a heartfelt piece of herself.

ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS

Barbara Jenkins '54: As far as I know, my health is good, but I feel like I am dying the death of a thousand cuts, each one inflicted by e-mail or snail mail. After taking care of myself and happily continuing to live at home, I am left with precious little time for my obsessive quest to master a decent tennis serve. I blame my struggles with that shot on my father, who was off in the Pacific during World War II when he should have been at home teaching me how not to throw like a girl. Though I've sworn a holy oath never to complain about aging-related aches and pains, I can't resist sharing my latest development: my "monocep" or "unicep" instead of a proper bicep on my right arm. The ruptured bicep tendon initially horrified me. This was until my physical therapist mentioned that Brett Favre had the same injury, skipped surgery, and still managed to win a Super Bowl. Now, when I flex, it looks like there's a golf ball nestled under the skin above my elbow. And you know what? I can live with that!

Martha B. Lovell '56: As a full-time caretaker for my husband, I do not have much to report. News from our kids and grandkids are the highlights of our days. We have six great-grandchildren and one more on the way!

Ann Coyne '58: I will be publishing two books about Nicaragua. I now live in Ithaca at a retirement organization in Cayuga Heights called Kendall of Ithaca. About six of the retirees living here are Pi Phi's. Ithaca is not as cold as in the 1950s and not as much snow.

Carolyn Rogers '59: At 86, I'm grateful to be able to play bridge with neighbors. My long-time Pi Beta Phi bridge group has stopped because of the health issues of two of our group. Miss that! Wishing all the Cornell sisters a very Happy Holiday season.

Mary P. Merrill '59: At 85, I still thrive in my lovely apartment at Deerfield Retirement Community in Asheville, North Carolina, where I live with my 2nd husband, Professor David Tarr. We spend our spare time reading, writing, taking exercise classes, playing 6-wicket croquet, and enjoying visits from family and friends.

Carolyn A. Blake '60: I am still in my home of 56 years in Allendale, New Jersey, which I still love, especially our town lake, Crestwood, where I swim as often as possible. I am looking forward to my grandson's wedding on August 3, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I keep busy with our church choir's daily mass and our Allendale XYZ senior club.

Elizabeth Brunner '62: I still in Charlotte, North Carolina. Three children, nine grandchildren, and kitchen bath design keep me busy.

Sandra Beeman '63: Planning another trip with Pi Phi's, this time to Lake Tahoe.

Susan McCullough '65: I'm still a dedicated gardener, quiet guild member, and active Board participant. I spent the last several years resuscitating our guild after COVID-19 shutdowns. Happy to say we have many new members and officers, too. I have also been making garden plots smaller, but that's always a work in progress. For some reason, our more-than-80-year-old backs are not as cooperative as when we retired in our late 50s.

Jeanne Marie Mullenhoff '76: I am still living in a golf community outside of Charlottesville, Virginia. The University of Virginia reminds me of Cornell, and Charlottesville is comparable to Ithaca. Central Virginia is just beautiful. The Blue Ridge mountains provide a spectacular backdrop, but there is still no place like the Finger Lakes and our beloved Cornell. How lucky I was to have been a Pi Phi at such a terrific University.

Ann V. Hammer '75: Nine Pi Phis traveled to Savannah, Georgia, in April 2024 for five days of sightseeing, dining,

and catching up. The Pi Phis, all members of the class of 1975, were **Elaine Johnson Ayres, Gwenn Tannenbaum Canfield, Ann Goodrich Edgerton, Elizabeth Grover, Ann VanValkenburg Hammer, Leslie Hudson, Joanne Meder, Nancy Hargrave Meislahn** and **Ellen Roche**. The women stayed together in a renovated 1822 row house in the heart of the historic district. A full schedule of historic homes, a Savannah history walking tour, museums, and a famous cemetery ensured everyone appreciated Savannah's role in U.S. history and historic preservation. The trip was one in a series of joint trips the women have taken over the last 20 years to such locales as Washington, D.C., New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Newport, Rhode Island, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Laurie Milnor '75: On June 8, 2023, our first grandchild was born. Our son, Evan, and his wife had Aila Jean, weighing 5 lbs 3 oz. We are thrilled to live only 45 minutes away and see them regularly. I am still working with my company, Shop Talk 20/20, which I co-founded in 1988 with a NY Delta sister, Nancy Kiesendahl Bloch '71. I have traveled over the past year and seen several Cornell friends. Our son, Reed, graduated from the CALS school in 2023 and completed his first year at Cornell Veterinary Medicine. Because of the connection with the vet school, I have reconnected with my roommate from my Sophomore year at Pi Phi, **Dr. Joanne Bricknese**.

Kathleen Weimer '78: I have lived in the greater Cincinnati area (Cleveland) for the last 34 years. I am fortunate to have my three adult children and their families in this area, too. I have four grandchildren, and spend a great deal of time with them. My husband, Mike, and I enjoy traveling, serving at our church, and playing with our grandkids.

Laura D. Roche '81: Jennifer Read Campbell, Audrey Long O'Connor, and I spent two weeks in South Africa, touring, safari-ing, and biking. Just amazing friends, food, fun. Beautiful countryside.

Anna Esaki-Smith '83: is the author of a book for high schoolers about college admissions, **Make College Your Superpower: It's Not Where You Go, It's What You Know**, published in April 2024 by Rowman & Littlefield. Anna, who also has a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, is co-founder of research consultancy Education Rethink, producing market intelligence for universities and edtech companies, and previously recruited international students at UC Berkeley. Along with her international education research, Anna is a higher education contributor to Forbes and witnessed first-hand the overwhelming experience of her two sons through the college application process.

Her goal is to empower students to own the college application process through data-based decision making rather than feel like the system dictates what they must do to achieve success. Using the latest data, personal anecdotes, and inspiration, Anna shows students how to make informed decisions about where to apply to college, considering areas of job growth, personal finances, skill sets, potential salaries, and more.

Anna says the economy and workforce are becoming increasingly skills-oriented, disrupted, and dominated by big tech, and the value of college branding is diminishing as employers increasingly opt to hire graduates with in-demand skills rather than on the pedigree of their degrees. The bottom line is there's a smarter way to approach college selection by thinking deeply about choices and not simply getting swept away by a tidal wave of rankings pressure.

Susan Currier Nordberg '89: I am excited to hear from others who might attend. Earlier this year, **Elena Yotides Fechner, Elizabeth Altman,** and I went to India together for two and a half weeks.



deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Jane Humphreys Dieck '50
November 16, 2022

Deanna Dudzinski '73
January 9, 2023

Carol L. Norris '57
September 23, 2023

Patricia McInerney Curd '47
November 20, 2023

Helen Wallace Miksch '53
November 20, 2023

Jean Dwyer Williams '64
November 24, 2023

Natalie Demong Emlen '69
December 18, 2023

Jane Booth Ware '65
January 28, 2024

Rebecca Nunn Warburton '75
March 13, 2024

Joanne Bicknese '75
June 27, 2024

Barbara Curit Thorp '59
July 22, 2024

On June 15, 1919,
New York Delta was installed as a
Greek Chapter on Cornell University
Campus.

330 Triphammer Road
has been home to thousands
of women over the past
100 years, and our sisterhood has
grown with it.

Pi Beta Phi has become a remarkable
group of young women on Cornell's
campus.

We are athletes, activists, engineers,
hotellies, cheerleaders, singers,
leaders in our Ithaca Community and
much more!

In 2019, our chapter celebrated our
100th on Cornell's campus with friends
and alumnae.