

NY DELTA DOINGS

NY DELTA CHAPTER OF PI BETA PHI AT CORNELL

SPRING 2025

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Catherine Gelber '26

Hello everyone! My name is Catherine Gelber, and I am the chapter president of NY Delta this year. I am so honored to have the chance to give back to this wonderful organization that gave me a place to call home at Cornell. I am grateful for the continuous support I have received from my Alumni Advisory Committee, my executive board, housing corporation, and each member of NY Delta. I look forward to maintaining our commitment to Pi Phi's core values and leading my incredible sisters for the upcoming year. I want to foster friendships that go beyond the years at Cornell and allow for memories that will last a lifetime.



I did believe Pi Phi would allow me to meet new people, give back to the community, and make some good friends. But I never imagined just how much my life would change. I am so grateful to the sisters I met in my first few weeks at Cornell who allowed me to feel welcomed into a community that now holds my best friends.

Being president has been a huge learning experience, and I have grown more in my time as president than I have since moving away from home. As we welcomed 49 new members, it has been delightful to get to know them and see their smiles on campus. Many of them have asked me not "Why did you choose Pi Phi?" but "Why did you stay?" as they have tried to

figure out what the dynamics of Pi Phi are beyond the new member experience. While my answer changes from day to day, one thing remains the same: wherever you go, there's always a hug waiting when you see a Pi Phi. There is someone who cares to ask how your day was, not just to hear the answer "good," but to look for the real answer. These are women who choose to support you, not out of obligation but because they truly care. This has been a huge support system as I have found my way at Cornell.

As spring break recently ended, I have a greater appreciation for Pi Phi. When visiting one of my best friends from home abroad, I ran into many Pi Phis on the street. One had graduated, and others were in surrounding years here at Cornell. This confirmed what I had always known: that Pi Phi lasts long beyond Ithaca, New York.

I can't wait to keep building a stronger Pi Phi, through Read ➔ Lead ➔ Achieve, continued learning, and by always showing up for one another.

With Pi Phi Love and Mine,
Catherine

I went through recruitment through Continuous Open Bidding (COB) in September of 2023. Having just transferred to Cornell, I had no idea how big an impact Pi Phi would have on my life. Over coffee chats with sisters, I didn't know at the time these girls would become my support system. I was frightened of beginning my second "freshman year," where I didn't know anyone, once again. The feeling of being lost and lonely around campus was remarkably familiar to my other school. When I signed up for COB, I had no idea what my future at Cornell would look like. The moment I met my first Pi Phi, who happily explained all the nuances of my major and the ins and outs of school, I felt less frightened. It was clear that Pi Phis are unique, brave, passionate, and kind, making me desperately excited to become a part of this sorority. My favorite part of being a Pi Phi is continuously being challenged and pushed to learn more and improve myself, while also being supported. Being able to learn from my sisters and lean on them when I need support is an indescribable blessing.



CLASS LEADERBOARD

Class Year	No. of Donors
1952	1
1956	1
1957	1
1958	3
1959	2
1961	1
1964	2
1965	4
1966	1
1969	3
1970	3
1971	1
1972	5
1973	7
1974	5
1975	8
1976	1
1977	1
1979	7
1980	3
1981	4
1982	11
1983	2
1984	5
1985	9
1987	2
1988	2
1989	4
1990	2
1991	3
1992	2
1993	2
1994	1
1995	4
1997	1
1998	2
1999	1
2000	1
2008	1
2009	2
2011	3
2012	1
2013	1
2014	1
2015	3
2016	2
2017	5

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR HOUSE, OUR LEGACY AT REUNION 2025!

**Marian Levy Ware '83, Campaign Co-chair
Jennifer Berger Schatz '91, Campaign
Co-chair**

We continue to be amazed by the dedication of NY Delta alumnae. At this writing, the capital campaign, supporting our home at 330 Triphammer, is well over halfway to the \$1 million goal with over **\$571,000** raised from **153** alumnae donors! We'd like to have at least 330 alumnae giving by the end of the campaign.

We know that Pi Phis are goal-oriented and perhaps even a little bit competitive, so we challenge each class to have the highest number of alumnae participation. You can see the class standings so far on the leaderboard.

We hope that many of you plan to return for Reunion in June. While on campus, please make a point to visit the house for our special **Reunion Reception on Saturday, June 7 from 3:00–5:00 p.m.**

Dickason Carroll '80, Laura Dake Roche '81, Sarina Monast Bronfin '82, Laura Clark '85, Judy Marlinski Doyno '85, Alba Catapano Zobel '89, Jana Pompadur Kierstead '91, Tracy Furner Stein '92, Alison Ford '95, Alison Cupp Relyea '98, Melissa Loewenstern Lewin '00, Amy Mawby '04, Laurel Kruke '08, Alaina Skalski '15, and Stasia Skalbana '17.

It's been wonderful to work side by side with them, sharing favorite Pi Phi memories and cheering each other on as we reach out to sisters in support of the campaign. All of this began as a result of the forward-thinking vision of our Chapter House Corporation members, who developed the house improvement plan: **Chris Smith Barley '85, Lori Allen Utter Hamor '84, Cheryl Kessler '84, Susan H. Murphy '73**, and undergraduate house directors **Sydney Wan '24, Varshini Madhavan '24**, and **Catherine Gelber '26**. We are grateful to them for the countless hours of stewardship of our home away from home.



"If you have not yet made your gift, there's still time. Join us, so we can add your name to the honor roll we will display and celebrate at Reunion."

We'll have refreshments and share the latest totals for the campaign as well as thank our donors and volunteers. While there, you will have a chance to see all the improvements so far including the new windows, gutters, and downspouts. We hope you won't miss the electrical wiring that is now underground instead of streaming above our parking lot. You're encouraged to walk through the house and visit your old room where you will see new windows and blinds, and LED lighting has also been updated in the main areas of the house. You might also notice the landscaping is looking a bit different. This is our main project, along with updating the chapter room, this summer.

Thank you to our volunteers. We continue to be grateful for the many members of the Campaign Committee who have made this all possible: **Diane Baillet Meakem '61, Martha Coultrap '71, Mary Antenen McIlroy '72, JoAnn Flickinger Patross '72, Susan H. Murphy '73, Moira Hearne Hinsta '74, Wendy McKee Wuest '74, Nancy Hargrave Meislahn '75, Laurie Clemente Milnor '75, Anne Vitullo '77, Maureen Metz Charhut '79, Kathryn Boor '80, Diana**

We'd also like to thank the many NY Delta alumnae who have brought us to where we are in the campaign due to their giving. They are all listed on the campaign honor roll, which will also be displayed at Reunion. To all our angels: thank you for your steadfast dedication and support of Our House, Our Legacy.

If you have not yet made your gift, there's still time. Join us, so we can add your name to the honor roll we will display and celebrate at Reunion. We will continue to add names of donors whose gifts come in after June, until the close of the campaign at the end of December. The ever-growing honor roll can be accessed from our chapter website at pibetaphi-cornell.org. Gifts can be mailed with the enclosed pledge form, or made online. There you will find more details about the campaign and how the funds will improve our chapter house.

If at any point you have questions and would like to speak with someone on the committee, please contact us at NYDelta@pibetaphi-cornell.org. We'd love to hear from you!

OUR SPRING 2025 NEW MEMBERS



NATALIA RIVERA-DIAZ
Major: Biological Sciences
Dallas, TX



GABBY LENZMEIRER
Major: Agricultural Science
Wayzata, MN



CAROLINE BURNS
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Signal Mountain, TN



JEMMA HENDRICKS
Major: Human Development
Chappaqua, NY & South Africa



DISKHA TYAGI
Majors: Philosophy & French
Torrance, CA



VICTORIA DOUGLAS
Majors: Applied Economics & Management
Bohemia, NY



KENZIE VASBINDER
Major: Chemical Engineering
Mifflinburg, PA



TUPELO WRIGHT-DYKHUSE
Major: Biology
Portland, Oregon



ANIKA GANDHI
Major: Hotel Administration
Englewood Cliffs, NJ



NEHA PATIL
Major: Computer Science
Orlando, FL



KATE STRAKA
Major: Earth & Atmospheric Science
Dublin, OH



AVERY MORRIS
Major: Public Policy
Lake Bluff, IL



ANIKA CHANDRA
Majors: Computer Science & Italian
Vienna, VA



SALLY MALIN
Major: Chemical Engineering
Glencoe, IL



REEVE APPLGATE
Major: Global & Public Health
Charleston, VT



VICTORIA WROBLESKI
Major: Global & Public Health
Commack, NY



HANNA HANS-WELLENSTEIN
Major: Biological Sciences
Pittsfield, MA



VERA JACOBSON
Major: Biological Science
Boston, MA



ALENA TOPACHY
Major: Nutritional Sciences
Arlington, VA



ELLA SCANDURA
Major: Chemistry
New York, NY



ANNIKA TEREZAKIS
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Cortland Manor, NY



SOPHIEANN DEVITO
Major: English
Manaplan, NJ



CONSTANCE SHARP
Majors: English & Economics
Lyme, CT



ELSA VAN DER LIDEN
Major: Statistical Science
Walpole, MA



LAYLA LIU
Majors: Computer Science & ORIE
Boston, MA



GRACE REUBEN
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Charleston, SC



RO McATEER
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Dallas, TX



CHARLOTTE FEEHAN
Major: History
Scarsdale, NY



LIBBY ALDERMAN
Majors: Physics & PMA
Columbus, OH



ZOE FRANKS
Majors: Environment & Sustainability, Economics
Briarcliff Manor, NY



EMMA CHAN
Major: Government
San Francisco, CA



HANNAH VEITH
Major: Hotel Administration
Seattle, WA



JULIA BEST
Major: Human Biology, Health & Society
Seattle, WA



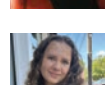
NOORIYA BAXAMUSA
Major: Chemistry
San Diego, CA



RILEY SMITH
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Buffalo, NY



ZARA ISLAM
Major: Computer Science
Queens, NY



PATRICIJA DIRZIUS
Major: Applied Economics & Management
Long Island, NY



FIONNA SHI
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Brooklyn, NY



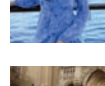
GIGI REMOND
Major: Communication
New York, NY



JORDAN DICKSON
Major: Human Development
San Mateo, CA



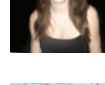
KATE WILDISH
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Moorestown, NJ



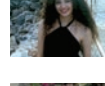
ANNA DONAHUE
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Mamaroneck, NY



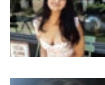
CAROLINE IZMIRLY
Majors: Chemistry & Economics
New York, NY



CONNIE ANAGOS
Major: Material Sciences
La Grange Park, IL



INIKA MEHTA
Major: Economics
Jersey City, NJ



LAUREN DIPERRI
Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Plainview, NY



ISHANI KISHOREPURIA
Major: Biological Sciences
Cleveland, OH

PI PHI PASSIONS



Anna Donahue '28 | *Ithaca Firefighter*

CHFD is an all-volunteer fire department that provides emergency medical services and fire protection to the Village of Cayuga Heights, the Town of Ithaca, and mutual aid districts. Anna joined in fall 2024 and just completed her exterior firefighting requirements. This May, she'll begin her interior firefighting checklist and continue training into next fall. Anna loves training together as a department (which consists of Cornell students and local residents), going out to eat, and hanging out at the station running calls. It truly is one big family!

Annelis Bergmann '27 | *Cornell Hockey*

This past season with Cornell Women's Ice Hockey was an incredibly meaningful one. Annelis is so grateful to have been part of a team that consistently supported and challenged each other, both on and off the ice. She made a deep run to the Frozen Four, and was honored to be named ECAC Goaltender of the Year and an AHCA Second Team All-American. These recognitions reflect the hard work and commitment of the entire team, and we are so proud to have shared this journey with such an amazing group of women.



Kaitlyn Clarke '25 | *Tres Jazz*

Kaitlyn started a jazz club in Collegetown during her final semester at Cornell. She has always loved live music, but it was during her study abroad experience in Paris that she fell in love with the jazz scene. Her dream is to own live music venues in New York, and she decided there was no reason to wait any longer to pursue that dream. She is proud to have brought weekly live music to upperclassmen at Cornell, offering an experience just within walking distance. Kaitlyn and her musicians view this initiative as "building a field" for Cornell musicians to perform in. In the long term, it ensures there will always be professional gigs available for jazz musicians at Cornell to showcase their craft and earn income from it. Before the club's events, upperclassmen felt limited by the nightlife options in Collegetown. Kaitlyn's club has created a classy, creative environment for upperclassmen to network, socialize, and interact. It has become a "third space" for students to connect. She loves spending her Wednesday nights talking to anyone who comes to Tres Jazz.



Fionna Shi '28 | *Debate*

Fionna debated all four years of high school and decided to join the British Parliamentary team as part of Cornell's speech and debate society. Her first tournament at Cornell was Huber Debates, hosted by the University of Vermont. There, she received second-best speaker award and was part of the only novice team competing in the opens category grand finals. In December 2024, she went on to represent Cornell University at World Championships in Panama City with three other teams.

Claire McKechnie '26 | *Cornell Racing*

Claire has always been interested in building and taking apart things to figure out how stuff works. She excelled in math and science in high school and decided to take it to the next level and study mechanical engineering at Cornell. In her freshman year, she joined a project team of 60 students focused on designing, building, testing,



and racing a Formula style all electric race car. In her second year of the team, Cornell Racing competed in the FSAE Competition at the Michigan International Speedway, where the car placed sixth place overall, second place in skidpad, and first place in efficiency. This year, as a junior, Claire is the ergonomics sub team lead, where she oversees all driver interfaces of the car and is specifically the steering system and full ergonomics system designer.

STAY CONNECTED... Be sure to check out our website pibetaphi-cornell.org and take a moment to review your contact information or create a profile. It is from this website we direct all our correspondence. We are always striving to be more sustainable and reduce the use of paper, so **graduates from '90 to the present** will only receive email distributions. If you know of any sisters who are not receiving correspondence, please share our website so they may be kept in the loop. And if it's easier for you to call rather than login on a computer, please call our alumni relations partner at (607) 533-9200 and they will assist you with your profile.

SENIOR REFLECTION

Sofia Watkins '25

With just over a month remaining at Cornell before graduation, I've found myself reflecting often on the past four years. I am undoubtedly a very different person than the one who first arrived in Ithaca. I have learned countless lessons, experienced moments that fundamentally shifted my worldview, and most meaningfully, built relationships that have brought tremendous richness to my life. I can say with complete sincerity that I credit my time in Pi Phi with many of these experiences and friendships.

When I first came to Cornell, I was uncertain about Greek Life as a whole, choosing not to participate in formal recruitment during my freshman year. It wasn't until two close friends who had joined Pi Phi encouraged me to participate in that fall's Continuous Open Bidding that I began to see myself in a sorority. From the very beginning, the women of Pi Phi made me feel seen, safe, and expressed a special zest for life that I have not found anywhere else. The decision to join Pi Phi was one of the easiest I have ever made. Since then, Pi Phi has played an integral role in shaping my time at Cornell. A campus that once felt so big and formidable, is now studded with the familiar faces of sisters offering a smile, an update on the Zeus line, or a story about their weekend as we pass by one another. Pi Phi has made Cornell feel less like a vast unknown and more like a community where every class, club, or activity promises at least one sister, or a sister willing to try it out with me.



My academic career at Cornell has been influenced by the three Pi Phi sisters who worked alongside me in our psychology research laboratory, pushing me every day to explore new ideas and keeping me grounded when I inevitably

experienced stress. Thanks in large part to their influence, I successfully completed my honors thesis in psychology, which I will defend in just a few weeks. They instilled in me a deep appreciation for the pursuit of knowledge and encouraged a mindset of lifelong learning.

As an only child, I never expected to fully understand what it was like to have siblings. However, the women in my Pi Phi lineage showed me how wrong I was. They are now the people I look up



to, who inspire me, whom I turn to for career advice, and most importantly, who give me hope for the future of the world. They've become the second family I didn't know I needed but now realize everyone deserves.

No reflection on Pi Phi would be complete without mentioning my extraordinary member class. From the very first day we met, we formed an immediate and meaningful bond. These ten women became the people I spent most of my time with, whose advice and opinions I hold in the highest regard, and who always answer in a resounding "yes" to every idea or adventure I propose.

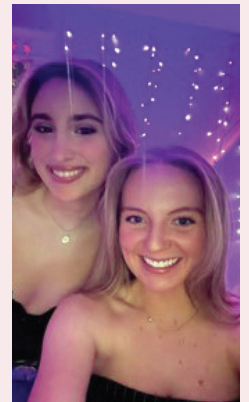
I could never have anticipated finding friends so deeply aligned with my heart, and I am endlessly grateful that I did. They have brought immeasurable joy and light into my life, more than I could ever feel deserving of, and I will never stop being thankful for them.

As I approach graduation and prepare for what lies beyond Cornell, I am heartbroken to leave so much behind. Yet, I am confident that the gifts Pi Phi has given me will remain with me for a lifetime. Training for and running a half marathon with my sisters taught me the value of consistency and perseverance. Published research led by Pi Phi women proved to me that we

absolutely can change the world. Spending countless hours with my sisters showed me that even the most mundane moments can feel like magic with the right people by your side.

Finally, as I unpack moving boxes in New York City beside a Pi Phi sister, I will be reminded that Pi Phi is not confined to one place or time but is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

With Pi Phi Love and Mine,
Sophia Watkins '25



PHILANTHROPY

Pi Phis of NY Delta continue to pursue philanthropic endeavors within the chapter, support initiatives by other organizations on campus, and engage with the greater community. This dedication is reflected in the hundreds of service hours completed by chapter members and the many dollars raised for the Pi Phi Literacy Fund.

Last semester was sweet, and not just because of the whipped cream that covered our faces after getting pried on Ho Plaza. We volunteered at Ithaca Childcare Center, sold donuts, and held voting awareness meetings to encourage civic participation.

Most recently, NY Delta ran a clothing drive, with generous donations going to a local secondhand store. MC '25 quickly understood what philanthropy means to our chapter. Just before Valentine's Day, they joined other members to sell donuts in support of the Literacy Fund, spreading love with smiles and brownie batter donuts.

Since then, they've hosted tabling events at Willard Straight Hall, raising awareness about our philanthropic mission. From creating bookmarks to sharing what's dear to our hearts at Pi Phi, they've kept the momentum going strong.

Our family weekend barbecue went off

without a hitch as parents got a closer look at how NY Delta works to promote literacy locally and globally. And of course, our much-anticipated ArrowBowl is right around the corner! With the snow finally giving way to spring rain (after one last post-spring break flurry), our sisters are ready to show off their athleticism on the field for the laughs, the competition, and the memories.

Next up: volunteering to read at the nearby Ithaca Childcare Center, organizing a food drive, and giving time at Loaves and Fishes.

Beyond these chapter events, our sisters go above and beyond to serve the community. Whether it's answering "Does this look infected?" texts or jumping into action, four members (**Sarah Bunker**, **Jaclyn Ellis**, **Emma Chan**, and **Ishani Kishorepuria**) volunteer with Cornell Emergency Medical Services. You'll spot them responding to calls on campus, and they've definitely become our go-to for all the important questions (and the occasional minor medical freak-out).

Meanwhile, **Ariana Greenberg** and **Anna Donahue** volunteer at the Cayuga Heights Fire Department. They keep an eye out to make sure we haven't accidentally started a fire over the weekend, and if we did, at least they are the ones showing up!



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.

Alumnae communication services provided by **Elevate** | programs@elevateims.com | 607-533-9200 | [@elevateims](https://www.elevateims.com)



IN MEMORY

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Esther Cocoran Namian '54

December 29, 2024

Ann Walker Riemer '58

January 22, 2025

Judith A. Evans Leach '62

December 26, 2024

Zoe Iris Klippert Walter '64

January 22, 2025

ON JUNE 15, 1919,
NEW YORK DELTA WAS
INSTALLED AS A GREEK
CHAPTER ON THE 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,
HOTELIES, CHEERLEADERS,
SINGERS,
LEADERS IN OUR ITHACA
COMMUNITY AND MUCH
MORE!

IN 2019, OUR CHAPTER
CELEBRATED ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY ON
CORNELL'S CAMPUS WITH
FRIENDS AND ALUMNAE.