



Our new members after their February 26 initiation.



Sisters enjoy a rare Cornell snow day!

House Corporation Board Plans for the Spring and Summer

Alumnae Donations Help Make the House Beautiful

Happy spring to everyone! We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the reawakening of the trees, flowers, grass, and communities where you live, work, and play. May this time of year be filled with joyful reconnections with friends from the past, a renewed commitment to your life's purpose, and excitement for the summer ahead. In this message, you'll find a few updates from campus and from the House Corporation.

Snow Day: On March 14, Cornell University was closed for a full day for the first time in 24 years! It was a snow day—10 inches fell in Ithaca and in Tompkins County, and roads and businesses were closed across the area, along with classes on Tuesday and most of Wednesday. Many of the sisters reading this newsletter will remember the last time this happened—Sunday, March 14, 1993—when 30 inches of snow fell over the weekend and the university was closed until later in the day on Monday. Deltas who were part of the classes of 1993 through 1996 were celebrating

the downfall of those beautiful white flakes! I can remember trying to get across campus when many of the building doors had snow drifts so high it was impossible to enter or depart! Here's hoping the current sisters had a chance to take a breath from classes and enjoy a snow day in one of the prettiest places on the planet.

Pi Day: March 14 (3.14) was also Pi Day, the annual Giving Day at Cornell University. If you did not get a chance to watch the video of Interim President Hunter Rawlings and Professor Steven Strogatz, eminent mathematician at our alma mater, finding the area of a circle using an actual pie, please take a look at <https://youtu.be/LTzCjABCQP0>. We hope you had a chance to give to those areas of Cornell that are most important to you! And if you're still looking for an opportunity to contribute, we hope you'll take a moment to give to the Alpha Beta Chapter of Delta Delta Delta. You can donate online at www.alphabetaaddd.kintera.org/donate or

use the enclosed remittance envelope to send in a donation to support the house and your collegiate sisters.

Pledge Class: From the House Corporation and from all of our alumnae community, congratulations to the collegiate sisters on a wildly successful recruitment this spring! The Alpha Beta Chapter of Delta Delta Delta initiated 48 new sisters on February 26. Welcome to a lifelong sisterhood, new initiates! We are so very excited and honored you have selected Tri Delta as one of the ways you'll further your college and life experience with Cornell.

House Corporation: The new board members for the House Corporation have settled well into their new roles and are doing a great job progressing our work in house improvement and maintenance, financial status for the house, and connecting and communicating with Tri Deltas across the

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House Corporation Board Plans

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globe. A huge thank-you to **Robin Secord '85** for chairing the property committee and serving as vice president. The winter brought continued interior maintenance and painting of the house, just in time for recruitment. Spring weather will allow for a focus on the yard and completing the cleanup necessary after the major water remediation efforts. Look for a beautiful lawn this spring and summer! The property committee is also starting work on identifying the best options for new living room furniture so the chapter can make the best use of this space.

Marianne Passarelli '82 is keeping us on track with notes and minutes as the current secretary. **Kim Beres '95** is leading the communications committee and has been working with our new communications partner on this newsletter. Kim and her committee are also starting to focus on our social media presence, so look for more ways to connect with Cornell Tri Deltas soon! A big thanks also to **Hayley Easton '08** for so beautifully representing our younger alumnae on the board. And finally, to **Terry Petracca '76**, who has taken on the monumental role of treasurer of the House Corporation—a warm thank-you for all of the hours of work you have put in to get up to speed on the finances for the house and for ensuring our fiscal stability now and into the future.

As always, if you are interested in serving on any of our committees (finance, property, communications, or nominating), please contact us at alphabetahc@gmail.com.

Reunion: This year's reunion at Cornell will take place the weekend of June 8-11, 2017. The house at 118 Triphammer will be open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 10. If you are in town for the reunion, we hope you'll take some time to stop by and visit your old haunt! We know a number of sisters from the classes in the '70s will be around, especially those graduating in 1977, so we wish you a marvelous time reconnecting with each other.

Thanks for all you do to keep our chapter and our Tri Delta home thriving.

Yours in the Bonds,
Heather Britt '93
 President, Alpha Beta House Corporation
 heather.rae.britt@gmail.com

ALUMNAE DONATIONS ENSURE ALPHA BETA REMAINS STRONG

We are especially thankful for the generous contributions to the Alpha Beta House Corporation made by the following alumnae in 2016. You make a difference in the future of Alpha Beta at Cornell University. Your gifts helped us tackle interior maintenance and painting of the house last fall. Donations sent this spring will go toward new living room furniture for the facility. To give online, please visit www.alphabetaddd.kintera.org/donate.

Below is a list of our fall 2016 contributors. If an error has been made in recording your gift, we sincerely apologize. If corrections to your giving records are needed, please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661. Thank you, again, for your loyal support.

Jean Schultheis Brechter '49
 Ruth Schanze Casey '53
 Jane Barber Wood Smith '54
 Jane Gregory Wilson '54
 Barbara Wooten Chamberlain '78

Marianne Gardy Passarelli, M.D. '82
 Jennifer Ritter Kelly '89
 Kimberly Miller Beres '95
 Lauren Henderson '03

Alpha Beta needs your help to purchase new living room furniture for our house! To support our efforts, please return the enclosed remittance envelope with your gift or go to www.alphabetaddd.kintera.org/donate to make a donation online.

Maureen Laffey Bills '86 Gives Back to Tri Delta Through Local and National Service

Adaptable, creative, and diplomatic. These are the three words **Maureen Laffey Bills '86** uses to describe her personality. In fact, much of who she is today can be attributed to her days as an undergraduate in Tri Delta at Cornell University. "Alpha Beta was the place I felt I could just be myself. At the time, it was my home away from home; it was where I finally matured into adulthood with the help of my sisters. I felt that the chapter was diverse and that the women in the chapter didn't fit into any mold. I can say without a doubt that my undergraduate experience in Alpha Beta prepared me for life outside of Cornell."

Maureen wasted no time getting involved in Tri Delta and served as historian and social events chairman. Having the opportunity to lead a large group of women helped Maureen polish her leadership skills and talents, and served to her advantage in the workforce after graduating from college. "My first employer hired me because I was social chairman of Tri Delta. They had a lot of internal office issues and wanted someone who could work with a lot of different personalities. They felt that my experience dealing with 180-plus women who would want a variety of social experiences gave me that necessary background/temperament."



The leadership experience Maureen cultivated as an undergraduate in Tri Delta carried over as an alumna of Alpha Beta, where she served as alumnae chapter president and House Corporation president, as well as served in a variety of national offices and committees. Today, Maureen serves as a Tri Delta National House Corporation director and as the alumnae advisor to Alpha Beta. Some of her favorite highlights from her Tri Delta leadership have been attending the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's dedication

of Tri Delta Place, visiting other campuses, meeting with sisters nationwide, and being nominated for and winning the Cornell University Distinguished Service Award from Cornell University Fraternity and Sorority Affairs in 1999. "Decades after graduating, I feel that I am still learning from Tri Delta. Tri Delta taught me not only to live my best life, but also to learn from everyone and every situation and lead with diplomacy."

The memories, friendships, and skills Maureen gained in Alpha Beta have lasted a lifetime, and, as a result, she is hopeful that alumnae will join her in providing future generations these same opportunities. **"I can never give back to Tri Delta as much as I've received. As an alumna, the experience is so much richer than that of a collegiate**

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1970s Pledge Classes Travel to Niagara Falls for Alumnae Reunion

In late October 2016, 15 Cornell Tri Delta alumnae gathered at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario, Canada, for our 13th mini reunion. Sisters from the graduation classes of 1971 to 1979 are all invited and we gather about every two years at a site suggested by one of our attendees. **Louise Dawe '75** organized our reunion this time. We stayed at a lovely inn and spa in the historic part of town. We rode the Hornblower Niagara Cruise up to the falls and played tourist in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Some spent the afternoon at the spa while others did a winery tour of the area. After a gourmet dinner at another historic inn, we attended a play at the Shaw Festival. We had time for shopping and, most importantly, for lots of hugs and laughter, remembering the joys of being sisters at 118 Triphammer Road, and catching up on our lives since then.



Have you and your sisters held a reunion recently, or have any exciting photos or news you would like to share? Send an e-mail to our alumnae relations coordinator at mlisher@penningtonco.com to be featured in a future newsletter.

ALPHA BETA WELCOMES 48 NEW SISTERS, HOSTS FUN-FILLED EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

As winter break came to a close, Alpha Betas across the country geared up for formal membership recruitment. During recruitment season, Tri Delta sisters arrive at 118 Triphammer five to eight days early for a few days full of recruitment preparation and sisterhood bonding, all culminating in a celebratory dinner at Glenwood Pines the night before recruitment begins. Recruitment Chairmen **Darra Loganzo '17** and **Allyson LaRosa '17** planned extensively throughout the fall 2016 semester to implement a recruitment preparation and practice schedule. Aside from usual recruitment preparation activities, our sisters also spent time reflecting on their experiences in Tri Delta, particularly what makes our chapter unique and a home to all. Whether it's sharing meals together, practicing for each of the rounds, or bonding with members of different years, recruitment is a special time for our chapter and ultimately reminds us all why we chose Tri Delta when we were potential new members.

At Cornell, the recruitment process is steadily evolving. Over 800 women participated in recruitment in January and over 600 of these women joined a Panhellenic chapter. Recruitment consists of four rounds: open house, house tours, philanthropy and values, and preference. The values round is a new addition to Panhellenic recruitment this year, and our chapter chose to present a video that effectively conveyed the diversity of backgrounds and interests in our chapter. The week concluded with preference round, where the Pearl Story and reflections from Tri Delta seniors were shared with potential new members. Post-recruitment, Alpha Beta extended bids to 48 potential new members, consistent

with the average Panhellenic chapter new member class size of 47. The new member class celebrates the diversity of our chapter that we are so proud of. They encompass six of the seven undergraduate colleges at Cornell, and come from 18 different states and three different countries. Every member brings something special to our chapter and we are so excited to welcome them.

New member period has also shortened from eight weeks to four weeks. Therefore, New Member Educators **Hannah Fuller '19** and **Beth Kelley '19** were tasked with condensing Tri Delta's eight-week new member program into four weeks. By our February 26 initiation, each new member was well-versed in Tri Delta history, policies, and officer roles. Aside from new member education meetings, the first introduction into our chapter that new members participate in is Alpha Week, a week full of bonding events between the youngest two member classes, planned by Sponsor Chairman **Snigdha Kasi '19**. Sisters participated in events such as Big/Little speed dating, ice skating, and laser tag. Sponsor reveal now takes place 12 days after Bid Day, so new members are fully immersed in the chapter immediately upon receiving a bid. Please join us in welcoming our new member class for 2017!

Yours in the Bonds,
Amy Morrison '17
Chapter President
aem275@cornell.edu

Welcome, New Members

Christina Alvarez / Ridgefield, Conn.
Sarita Benesch / Rochester, N.Y.
Diamond Brisbane / Elmont, N.Y.
Allie Buccino / Ashland, Ore.
Julia Bujno / Forest Hills, N.Y.
Mia Casey / San Francisco, Calif.
Erin Chen / Shrewsbury, Mass.
Emma Clark / Spring Lake, N.J.
Lydia Clemente / Rensselaer, N.Y.
Alex Curran / Sparta, N.J.
Maya Cutforth / Denver, Colo.
Maitreyi Dave / Newark, Del.

Liz Davis-Frost / Sterrett, Ala.
Athena Delgado / Cambridge, Mass.
Lexi Farina / Middleton, Mass.
Alison Graziano / Williamsville, N.Y.
Sydni Green / Oakland, Calif.
Cayla Hamann / Yorktown Heights, N.Y.
Syjah Harris / New York, N.Y.
Jessica Hong / Edina, Minn.
Kyra Houle / Eaton, Ohio
Chloe Jones / Pelham, N.Y.
Chelsea Kiely / Ashland City, Tenn.
Janice Kim / Scarsdale, N.Y.

Sara Korniewicz / Brooklyn, N.Y.
Reema Kumar / Floral Park, N.Y.
Raegan Loheide / Shokan, N.Y.
Erin Lynch / San Jose, Calif.
Taylor Meyer / Houston, Texas
Emma Moore / San Diego, Calif.
Fiona Morrison / Rolle, Switzerland
Claire Noack / Iowa City, Iowa
Melissa Page / Victor, N.Y.
Deanika Preuss / Los Angeles, Calif.
Madison Ramsey / Wilmette, Ill.
Tiffany Ross / Hagerstown, Md.

Mihoko Sakanaka / Harrison, N.Y.
Lenore Schiller / Pittsford, N.Y.
Anya Sherman / Ridgewood, N.J.
Victoria Shin / Los Angeles, Calif.
Frances Tapping / Sammamish, Wash.
Emma Ungar / Merion Station, Pa.
Vega Walke / Decatur, Ga.
Jamilia Waltzer / Rhinebeck, N.Y.
Hannah Weinstein / Westhampton, N.Y.
Boya Zhang / Ontario, Canada
Lynn Zhao / Carmel, Ind.
Lori Zomback / North Bellmore, N.Y.

member. It's been a pleasure to watch the chapter grow, change, and develop. The women of Alpha Beta enjoy alumnae interaction and need it to understand lifelong membership in Tri Delta."

Maureen stayed busy as a stay-at-home mother for several years for her three children: Katherine (28), who is an Alpha Omicron Pi alumna at Cornell and is married; Jennie (25), a Zeta Tau Alpha alumna at the Rochester Institute of Technology; and Joey (21). Maureen began volunteering for Tri Delta in the early 1990s and worked with a variety of organizations over the years. In 2012, she was elected to the local Board of Fire Commissioners, and now serves as the first woman chairman of the board. Maureen is responsible for personnel and acts as the liaison to local and state government, as well as strategic planning for the district.

In her spare time, Maureen takes pleasure in photography, wine tasting, calligraphy, and other craft-related activities. She and her husband, Steve, have been married for 30 years and live in Victor, N.Y. You can contact Maureen at maureen14564@gmail.com.

TRI DELTA

Cornell Alpha Beta Alumnae

Alpha Beta Data

Spring 2017

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Cornell Greek Community Continues on Successful Path, Promotes Positive Culture

At Cornell, roughly one-third of the undergraduate students are affiliated with a Greek organization. This third organizes itself into 13 chapters in the Panhellenic Council, 35 chapters in the Interfraternity Council, and 14 multicultural Greek Letter Council chapters. The size of each sorority stays relatively constant, with each chapter containing between 150 and 200 members after spring formal recruitment. Fraternity sizes tend to vary, with the smallest being around 10 members and the largest with 100 members.

The Greek community at Cornell continues to showcase its strength and progress during the 2016-17 academic year. In February, the Northeast Greek Leadership Association held its annual conference and Cornell was presented with five awards, notably in both the PR and recruitment categories.

Cornell took home the Impact Award for Civic Engagement based off the very successful Greeks Give Back day of service. Organized by the Tri-Council every semester, this event brings the whole community together to volunteer for a day. In October 2016, the Tri-Council led over 400 Greek students to participate in assisting organizations, such as the YMCA,

Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, and Ithaca Children's Garden. The event is notable in its dual cause—not only does it exemplify the philanthropic aspects of Greek life, but it works to create a more cohesive community across campus. It allows for members of all different chapters to come together in a common, compassionate effort.

Cornell's One Greek Experience was another highlight of the year, helping to win the PR category at the NGLA. One Greek Experience is a series of events held on North Campus before recruitment. The events aim to rebrand the Greek system and combat some of the negative associations of exclusivity new students may have. It serves to introduce freshmen to the Tri-Council as an inclusive whole, rather than as separate chapters. This helps destabilize some of the biases that are based during formal recruitment and is a step forward in the process to creating a more welcoming, cohesive community.

In addition to these events, Women's Wellness Week proved to be highly successful as well. Held the second week of March, the weeklong initiative worked to help women learn about mental and physical self-care. The week started with a performance speech

by Jill Catherine, a body image educator working in the field of eating disorders with Ophelia's Place. Free STI testing was provided at Gannett Health Services and several gym classes were offered, such as meditation, barre, and yoga. The week ended with a workshop led by Jenny Chorba on massage and self-care. The university as a whole has been receptive toward working with both Panhellenic specifically and involving the Tri-Council to strengthen the Greek community on campus.

One of Cornell Tri Delta's most popular campus initiatives is the BodyImage3D program, which aims to encourage self-love and body positivity. The program celebrates the beauty of diversity and aims to strengthen the mindset that a healthy mind, a healthy body, and a healthy spirit are key to a healthy lifestyle. The program's annual Fat Talk Free Week campaign ran successfully for the fourth time this year. Among the events was a photo campaign celebrating sisterhood and self-compassion. Students all week were also invited to sign a pledge to end fat talk. The campaign inspired many to think more positively about their bodies and self-worth, and helped spread one of Tri Delta's more personal goals to create a more inclusive, empathetic environment on campus.