

WEATHERING THE STORM

Alpha Beta Leadership Team Implements Safety Measures, Seeks Alumnae Guidance

We are extremely proud of how the active sisters are managing and leading in the time of COVID. Chapter President **Courtney Xu '21**, her leadership team, the new house director, **Gwen Pipes '20**, who is immediate past chapter president, and the board were busy over the summer preparing to successfully open the house August 20. As of late September, 22 sisters are living in and no one has tested positive for COVID-19. The board set some parameters for safety, as did Tri Delta National and Cornell. The chapter leadership took responsibility for developing the guidelines and getting everyone on board.

The House Corporation has communicated directly with the parents to assure them we take their daughters' well-being seriously and are complying with all recommended safety precautions. We are upgrading the WiFi system in the house as many will be on the system for Zoom classes and projects. We also purchased an outdoor umbrella for the terrace to

encourage social distancing outside with sisters and friends without inference of the weather.

How things progress from here is in the hands of all the collegians on campus. Our principal concern, now and going forward, is the challenge for these sisters to experience in college all they can beyond the classroom. The fun and the close relationships that enriched us then and now in our lives are difficult during this pandemic. There is concern across the Greek system regarding deactivations. It is hard when dealing with the disappointment, frustration, anger, and fear of the present to think beyond the immediate losses.

While we work to support the leadership in dealing with all these challenges, we want to send out an SOS to all of you. We would like to develop a mentoring resource for the active members from the vast Alpha Beta network. We haven't worked out the specifics yet; however, while we work out the mechanics, we

need volunteers and a statement of what you can offer: networking for career development, technical expertise in similar fields, life coaching, etc. If you can help, send an email to alphabetaHC@gmail.com with some thoughts about how you can help. We will get back to you with next steps.

We are also looking for new board members to serve on the House Corporation. The stronger the board the better we are able to assist the undergraduate chapter. We meet once a month via Zoom and some board members also serve on a committee. Contact me if you're willing to join the board jafoxmsw@aol.com.

We value your support, which has enabled us to provide more assistance in this challenging time.

Delta Love,
Judy Fox '72
House Corporation President

House Corporation Works Diligently to Keep Chapter House in Order Amid Pandemic

Second Phase of Window Project Delayed Until After Thanksgiving

Our House Corporation acted quickly to support the sisters' move from campus last March. To expedite the departure for those who needed to store belongings, a storage unit was rented and items transported to the location for safekeeping until the members returned to campus in August. The House Corporation worked to support members' return as well with many alumnae, sisters, and staff attending virtual trainings from Tri Delta National and Cornell. Educational signage, food service delivery plans, additional professional cleaning schedules, a ThermoScan wall mount thermometer, reduced seating in the dining room, plastic covers on upholstery, a large, free-standing umbrella for the deck and lots of interaction with the house

director, who is also our most recent past chapter president, are all adding to a safe and positive environment.

Our House Corporation continues to make improvements to keep Tri Delta an attractive option in an increasingly competitive campus housing environment.

In 2019, 15 windows were rebuilt to their original state, both eliminating drafts and enhancing the structure. Due to COVID-19, we decided to delay our second phase of the window project. After the departure of sisters from the house
(Continued on page 2)

Staying Connected Through Adversity

Heather Britt '93 on Why COVID-19 Won't Beat Alpha Beta

After her freshman year at Cornell, **Heather Britt '93** felt she hadn't made as many female friends as she'd hoped. This motivated her to try recruitment as a sophomore, where she met the women of Tri Delta. From driving around with **Katy Carroll '93** in her VW convertible to friendly prank wars and moments of deep friendship, Heather found her people at Alpha Beta.



Heather Britt '93 celebrates "fake prom" this spring with her daughter, Maddy (17), and son, Henry (15).



Katy Carroll '93 with Heather's kids in Seattle in April 2018.

"It was a place where I felt like my skills were recognized in a way that, both then and now, helped me get over the 'imposter syndrome' that I think we sometimes feel," Heather said. "I think it also helped me truly accept and love myself and others so much more authentically."

Heather has brought that passion for the human experience to a lengthy career in healthcare. She landed the interview for her first job in the D.C. area thanks in part to her Tri Delta connection to the recruiter. Her career path inspired her to pursue graduate school—first for a Master of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, followed by a doctorate at the University of Minnesota. Over the years, Heather has worked on both the hospital and clinic sides of the industry as well as the insurance side.

About five years ago, Heather decided to join the House Corporation following a call for more alumnae support. She served part of her tenure as president and continues to serve as a board member, directly supporting the active chapter officers. "It's been great to reconnect with the chapter and the house, to get to know Alpha Beta sisters from over the years, and to have so many great conversations with the current collegiates."

Heather is honored to bring her expertise back to the sisterhood, especially as it faces the challenges of a pandemic. "To me, 'sisters helping sisters' means striving

our best to stay connected, to stay safe, and to stay intentional in our efforts to manage this together," Heather explains. For her, this means regular Zoom calls with sisters such as **Katy Carroll '93**, **Heather "Socket" Toomey Zimmerman '93**, and **Deanna Smith Watson '92**, as well as working on the board and being there for her two children.

"Life is going to be full of lots of blips and challenges—some long and short, and some of them a lifetime," Heather says as advice to undergraduate sisters. "I hope you'll look at this year as a chance to practice how you can support each other over a lifetime. COVID cannot take away the connection that is sisterhood." To sisters who may have fallen out of touch, Heather encourages them to try reconnecting on social media and consider joining the House Corporation. "Your friendships are longstanding and steadfast, so know that even if your pictures have faded, those relationships are true."

Heather lives in St. Paul, MN, and loves spending time in the North Woods with her family. In the pandemic, she has enjoyed watching her kids, Henry and Maddy, build new skills such as cooking and video development. She is also helping Maddy with college applications, and Cornell is on her list.

Connect with Heather at heather.rae.britt@gmail.com.

House Corporation Works Diligently

(Continued from page 1)

at Thanksgiving, we will add 55 customized, interior storm windows. The generosity of alumnae donations and grants from the Tri Delta National Housing Endowment Fund supported Alpha Beta as we made these investments of \$27,000 and \$33,000, respectively. Donations can be made online tinyurl.com/CornellTriDeltaDonate or by mailing a check to:

Delta Delta Delta at Cornell University
Alpha Beta House Corporation
410 Upland Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

These improvements will reduce heating costs, increase comfort, and provide a consistent look throughout the house exterior. Housing options are plentiful at Cornell, and we want to maintain our chapter's home to make it an attractive, comfortable, and inviting place to live.

Loyally,
Robin Secord '85
House Corporation Property
Committee Chairwoman

Alumnae Support Key to Alpha Beta's Success

Thank you to the following sisters who have shown their appreciation for their Tri Delta experience by donating to the spring 2020 appeal. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of Alpha Beta's undergraduates and provide opportunities for sisters following in your footsteps!

Jean Brechter '49
Ethelyn Allison '54
Jane Wilson '54
Phyllis Norrie '71
Dr. Alice Payton '74
Jean Davis '84
Kelly Starr '88
Lauren Henderson '03



Left: Chapter President Courtney Xu '21 enjoying summer at her home in Connecticut.



Middle: Kendall O'Shea '21 sewing masks at her home in Pennsylvania to sell and donate all of the profits to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Right: Sammy Lee '21 near McGraw tower commemorating her last first day of school.



Left: Lara Harvey '23 and Isabel Padilla '23 hanging out on the slope.



Middle: Maya Voelkel '22 and Alice Sullivan '22 grabbing fresh produce at the Ithaca Farmers Market.



Right: Lane Letourneau '21 enjoying an end-of-summer visit to Stewart Park.

ALPHA BETA CHAPTER ADJUSTS TO LIFE ON CAMPUS AS COVID-19 CONTINUES

Sisters Focused on Philanthropy, Community Involvement, and Strengthening Tri Delta Bonds

This semester our chapter is excited for the opportunities to find even more ways to strengthen our connection in a COVID-19 world. We are adapting to virtual chapter meetings, virtual sisterhood events, and planning for what will most likely be a virtual recruitment in spring 2021. Many sisters have been connecting in COVID-friendly environments, such as picking apples in tiny groups, going on small picnics, or going for runs on the many trails in Ithaca. Within the house, we have developed theme Fridays, where every Friday residents dress up in spirit-themed attire.

Health and Safety Measures in Place

We have implemented many health and safety procedures for all residents. We have invested in more cleaning products and increased sanitation measures, and food is made on an order-when-ready basis. Chef Steve remains resilient and outstanding. Residents are spending more time outside on the various Delta Decks at the house and eating meals on the porch to enjoy the weather.

Philanthropic Endeavors and Community Involvement

Our philanthropy team is working on connecting with non-

profit organizations within the Ithaca community. Not only are we planning on supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, but we aim to also focus efforts on supporting marginalized groups within the greater upstate New York area. Once a month, we plan to gather via Zoom to sign petitions, make calls, or write letters.

A Sisterhood Founded on Supporting Each Other

While sisterhood in a pandemic has certainly been challenging, it means that the connections we do make and already have made are only more meaningful. We are becoming much more intentional with how we are all supporting each other. Sororities were founded by women when they saw an opportunity for a support system during a time of need, showing how sororities were built to keep members supported and connected during difficult times. And now, we hope to continue the Alpha Beta Chapter as the strong support system that we know it has been for members, even before the pandemic.

Delta Love,
Courtney Xu '21
Chapter President

Alpha Beta Annual Meeting

All Alpha Beta Tri Delta alumnae are invited to join us for the annual Cornell Tri Delta House Corporation meeting which will be held virtually on Sunday, October 18, at 11 a.m. (EDT). If you would like to be sent a link to join the call with video or by phone, email, alphabetahc@gmail.com by October 17 with your request.

ALUMNAE NEWS

Susan Cowan Jakubiak '60 writes, "I retired at the end of 1999; I was a consultant in the field of Public Administration, working at private consulting firms for which almost all clients were public sector entities. When I went to the February CACO conference in Boston, a Tri Delt saw my badge and came over to me and told me that Tri Delta is the most diverse sorority on campus. I am so very pleased to know that. When I was pledged in 1957, our class had only two African American and one or two Asian undergrads! In Tri Delta, I was the second Jewish member. Things have changed, all for the better. I'm proud to be affiliated with such an organization and look forward to meeting some of the members when I come to reunion this June."

Lucy Mueller '66 enjoys singing, creating artwork, and involvement with friends and local organizations. Her 2020 goal is to finish a book on parenting a child with a rare genetic disability. Lucy lives in Sunapee, NH. Email: lucyalisonmueller@gmail.com

Donna Slattery Cooper '72 retired in 2019 and still keeps in touch with her sisters and former roommates **Diane Frank Dow '72** and **Maryam Tashakori Wehe '72**. Her hobbies are ballroom dancing, playing the piano and bridge, and keeping up with her three grandchildren. She lives in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. Email: ds850coop@gmail.com

Kathleen Parrott '72 plans to retire from Virginia Tech in 2020. She remains active

TRI DELTA

Cornell Alpha Beta Alumnae

Alpha Beta Data

Fall 2020

Cornell Alpha Beta Alumnae
Delta Delta Delta
Cornell University
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 66044
PERMIT #570



www.cornelltrideltaalumnae.com



Search "Cornell Tri Delta"



[@cornelltridelta](https://www.instagram.com/cornelltridelta)



cornelltridelta.tumblr.com

with the Beta Nu Chapter there as an advisor. Email: homes@vt.edu

Sharon Hamill-Huff '73 lost her husband of 30 years in December of 2018. She has been incredibly busy with her 10 horses, a horse blanket repair business, house sitting, pet sitting, and taking care of a kennel of nearly 80 Scottish deer hounds. Sherry also adds fox hunting to the mix from August to April. She resides in Flint Hill, VA.

Janet Gayler Fallon '73 lives in Elkton, MD, and is in the local Tri Delta Alumnae Association, which has several Alpha Beta alumnae as members. Email: fallonrd@comcast.net

Alison Dick '77 retired from clinical practice in January of 2020 and began teaching at Boston University at Boston Medical Center in February. She lives in Lexington, MA. Email: onelinalison@gmail.com

Elizabeth Reeves Lindh '79 says her career has taken many twists and turns—architect, professor of interior design, planner at Rutgers University, and her current position as park architect for NPA Gateway National Recreation Area, Staten Island Unit. In between, she managed to raise

two wonderful children, Marie and Frank. Elizabeth's daughter has blessed her with two of the grandest of grandchildren, Nate and Alex. Elizabeth says there are reasons people have children when they are young. Her grandchildren wear her out, but they are her joy and sunshine.

Nayla Rizk '80 is enjoying retirement and traveling a lot. In 2019, she went to London, Paris, Italy, Germany, Dubai, Singapore, Cambodia (Ankor Wat was impressive), and Laos. When Nayla is home in the San Francisco Bay area, she enjoys being with her two granddaughters. Email: naylar@aol.com

Karen Tillman Harder '81 has enjoyed being active in the Marin Tri Delta alumnae group in northern California, where she now lives. She loves the ladies and the many fun events they organize every year. Karen writes, "It's like being back at my collegiate chapter, except without the classes and frats."

Marie Slamm Fenter '82 is in her second year as a first grade teacher and 16th year overall. Her daughter, Elisa, graduated from the Gabelli School of Business at Fordham University and is now working at Kate Spade. Marie lives in Greenlawn, NY.