

## BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD

### *Learn How You Can Help Shape Our Future*

This past year has been challenging for all. One can read most any newspaper to see that universities have met these challenges with varying success. Cornell as a whole, and Alpha Beta in particular, were extremely successful. That's not to say it was always smooth, but with everyone's cooperation, issues were resolved quickly. We experienced one positive case of COVID-19, and several sisters had to quarantine around Thanksgiving. A testament to the success of the fall semester is an increase in the number of sisters living in this spring (see Claire's column on the success of the chapter).

I am most excited about the amazing response from all of you to our request in the fall newsletter for alumnae to become coaches, mentors, supporters, and share hard-earned wisdom with active members to affirm the lifelong benefits of our sisterhood. It seemed like, within minutes of receiving the newsletter, we had volunteers—80 and counting. **Cristina Shaul '91** accepted the challenge to facilitate the development of what we now know as **Delta Links** ([www.cornelltrideltaalumnae.com/delta-links](http://www.cornelltrideltaalumnae.com/delta-links)). She has done a fabulous job and, along with **Debbie Lechner '77**, has created a website and system that is truly amazing. I don't have words to convey the enthusiasm of the alumnae and the undergraduates as this process developed and launched. My gratitude to all who have given of their time and talents.

We want Delta Links to become a sustaining part of being an Alpha Beta—for undergraduates and alumnae alike. The bridges made across generations are really exciting and powerfully support women as we live our lives. Therefore, the panels, coaching, mentoring, and all else that may follow will be available to all.

Given that, we are now looking for alumnae to volunteer on the Delta Links steering committee for 2021-22. We would like to have next year's program schedule ready to launch in August so the active sisters in particular can see what is available to them and help support fall recruitment. We look forward to hearing from you.

With all the coverage of the one-year "anniversary" of the pandemic, I remembered all the calls trying to close the chapter house, being sure everyone had a safe place to go, storing luggage, and then planning for the fall. While it was stressful and time-consuming last year, for me the friendships were such a big help. We also have a few board openings, so please think about joining us on House Corporation. For questions, please contact me.

Delta Love,  
**Judy Fox '72**  
House Corporation President  
[jafoxmsw@aol.com](mailto:jafoxmsw@aol.com)

## *You're Invited to Participate in Delta Links!*

Delta Links is an exciting new networking, mentoring, personal and professional development initiative that was created by Alpha Betas for Alpha Betas last fall and launched in January 2021.

The program grew out of a desire to add more value to the sisterhood. Networking and connecting during a challenging time are key! Through Delta Links, we want to showcase our lifelong relationships and offer a major value-added experience to the chapter. We have an amazing group of alumnae eager to mentor our younger generation of sisters professionally and personally. And it goes both ways; there's a lot we alumnae can learn from the collegians.

Delta Links will:

- help us keep our active sisters engaged and provide a way for them to interact during this unusual time
- differentiate our chapter during recruitment
- create relationships across the generations
- foster new relationships and rekindle existing ones among alumnae.

This program will help our undergraduates build bonds and open up connections that will last a lifetime.

So, what exactly are we doing?

We've created a **Mentor Directory** and encourage all alumnae to create a profile.

Undergraduates and alumnae can access the information and reach out to each other to seek advice or set up a mentoring relationship.

To create an account, visit [www.cornelltrideltaalumnae.com/register](http://www.cornelltrideltaalumnae.com/register), and use the code **2303p0j9g2**. We've set it up this way to protect your privacy so that only Cornell Tri Delta alums and collegiate members are able to access the Delta Links directory. Please use the same email that we use to send you this newsletter to sign up. After you create an account, create your profile by including a photo of yourself. If you include all of your contact information, it will allow the collegiate sister to contact you directly. If you do not

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# THE HOUSE AT 118



Our stately brick house at 118 Triphammer contains memories of warmth and sisterhood for Cornell Tri Delta alumnae. Sisters who are active on campus have a physical place to call home and know they belong. If Robin (who was a student on campus in the 1980s) or I (1970s) refer to the “crescent” or the “chapter room,” it evokes the same type of treasured thoughts as it does to a young Tri Delta who calls the place home now.

The house is a part of all our joint history and is one of the physical things that ties us all together. It needs to be cared for and tended to so that it can be enjoyed by sisters who are yet to even apply to Cornell. Continuous and completed upgrades have included new bedroom furniture, expansion of the dining room area, Steinway piano restoration, patio awnings, laundry replacements, and bathroom refurbishment, to name a few.

Caring for and preserving a building as it ages is an ongoing labor of love, and not without investment. Under the stewardship of the House Corporation and the property committee, much continues to be accomplished. The most recently completed item is the window repair and storm window replacement project. With wood frame windows in a historic home in a historic area, preservation is required.

This project began in 2019 and final touches were completed in early 2021, at a cost of over \$60,000.

We have also made multiple upgrades to the house Wi-Fi system. As you can imagine, hardware requirements for data, streaming, and speed seem to change each year, and for our live-in collegiate sisters, quality internet is an absolute necessity.

Immediate 2021 plans include replacement of the boiler system, some commercial kitchen equipment, new basement sump pump installation, and possible security upgrades—all totaling over \$40,000.

If you would be interested in serving on the property committee, let us know. And if you have any suggestions, we are all ears. Please consider making a contribution to House Corporation at [contributions.omegafi.com/contributions/product/1615-ddd-crn-hc](https://omegafi.com/contributions/product/1615-ddd-crn-hc); we promise all funds will be used with care. Thank you, Alpha Beta sisters.

Loyally,  
**Kathleen Kelley '76**  
thleen16@aol.com

**Robin Secord '85**  
rsecord@elderwood.com

## You're Invited to Participate in Delta Links!

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include your contact information, a collegiate sister will reach out to our mentoring coordinator, **Terry Petracca '76**, who will provide your contact information directly. The areas for career and location have been left as paragraph inputs so that you can share as much of your history as you'd like. All inputs, except for your name, are optional.

We've developed **programs** to learn from and share with each other such as:

- coping skills during life's transitions
- networking
- job interview skills and finding the right fit
- transitioning from Cornell to the real world (personal finance, saving, and investing)
- career panels
- industry discussions.

We also have a **Pansy Pals** program where we match up an alumna with a collegian to provide some sunshine and cheer throughout the school year.

We're soliciting your **Pearls of Wisdom** so we can pass down advice you would share with your 21-year-old self about careers, relationships, self-care, and life in general.

Specifically, we are collecting short nuggets to package in a book to present to the graduating seniors as they transition from being Pines to joining us as Pansies. Please send your Pearls of Wisdom to us at [CornellDeltaLinks@gmail.com](mailto:CornellDeltaLinks@gmail.com) and include your graduation year, the name you used in college, and a photo, if you'd like.

The Delta Links steering committee is thrilled with the participation of so many sisters to date! Many thanks to **Judy Fox '72**, **Cathy Ko '77**, **Debbie Lechner '77**, **Emily Levin '21**, **Terry Petracca '76**, **Taylor Wagner '14**, and **Courtney Xu '21**

for bringing your ideas and gifts to this committee. Personally, I've really enjoyed reconnecting with and meeting new sisters of all ages, recognizing that we all share the



Over 40 active sisters and alumnae met online in January for a Delta Links mixer. We look forward to many more gatherings (virtual and in person).

same Tri Delta values and bonds and are here to provide friendship and support to one another.

Please visit our website today for more details, including how to sign up for Delta Links, links to the **Mentor Directory**, our mentoring “Rules of the

Road,” and the Pansy Pal sign-up at: [www.cornelltrideltaalumnae.com/delta-links](http://www.cornelltrideltaalumnae.com/delta-links).

If you'd like to join the committee to help make the Delta Links magic happen, please email us at [CornellDeltaLinks@gmail.com](mailto:CornellDeltaLinks@gmail.com).

Loyally,  
**Cristina Moeder Shaul '91**



Asha Patt '23, Madelyn Yu '23, and Angela Sem '23 during round 2 of recruitment on the Delta Deck!



Julia Bernstein '23, Laur Kim '23, Claire De Cordova '23, and Andrea Viera '23 before the last round of recruitment.



Madelyn Yu '23 and Margaret Keymakh '23 model 118 merch in front of the Chapter House.

## Springing into Action

### Sisters Take Great Strides in Leadership and Inclusion

This spring semester has been very unusual for our chapter with continued COVID-19 regulations, virtual recruitment, and a virtual new member period. Many of our sisters have overcome incredible challenges during this time and we have all learned to rely on one another to stay connected and motivated, on and off campus. While many of our live-in members attend classes in their rooms, others meet up on campus to do their work in socially distanced spaces. At the time of writing, President Pollack just announced that small groups of less than 10 may gather in person, so we may be able to hold very small sisterhood events as the weather gets warmer.

#### RECRUITMENT

In the month of February, our chapter successfully completed our first-ever virtual recruitment. Through the efforts of our



Sisters out for a picnic!

incredible VP of membership experience, **Emery Bergmann '21**, and director of recruitment events, **Oniya Valencia '22**, our chapter formally recruited 36 new members. Round 1 was unique in that we did not meet any potential new members (PNMs) live. Instead, each PNM submitted a video where they spoke about their values. Collectively, our chapter watched all 607 videos. On the other side, PNMs viewed a Bitmoji classroom we created with links to our own videos introducing them to our chapter. Visit the classroom at [docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cfDLT6XX10wbd\\_a6J2N0D9F5kcWbm4gzK5oQoC6aQIJY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cfDLT6XX10wbd_a6J2N0D9F5kcWbm4gzK5oQoC6aQIJY/edit?usp=sharing). One of these videos, an animation created by **Lane Letourneau '23** and narrated by **Amelia Chikota '22** and **Wemi Oshun-Williams '22**, was presented in front of all of Tri Delta national leadership at the Collegiate Leadership Conference (CLC) in March. Following formal recruitment, our member selection committee completed collegiate open bidding, where we accepted 13 more new members into member class '21.

#### ALPHA BETA LEADERSHIP

This year, our members have once again become known leaders within the Panhellenic Council. In February, **Nahbuma Gana '22** was slated as the 2021-22 Panhellenic president. As far as we know, Nahbuma is the first Black woman to serve as president, and we could not be prouder of her and all of the work she has done. Nahbuma is incredibly passionate about inclusion

and hopes to implement initiatives such as mandating diversity training. Read about Nahbuma in the *Cornell Daily Sun* by visiting [cornellsun.com/2021/02/19/nahbuma-gana-22-the-next-president-of-panhellenic-council](https://cornellsun.com/2021/02/19/nahbuma-gana-22-the-next-president-of-panhellenic-council). **Angela Sem '23**, who was slated as Panhellenic's VP of inclusion, will work closely with Nahbuma on these initiatives. This is Angela's first position on the Panhellenic Council and we are very excited to support her.

#### DELTA LINKS

During the pandemic, we have had to find new and creative ways to connect. Our director of lifetime membership, **Emily Levin '21**, alongside former President **Courtney Xu '21**, worked with alumnae to create Delta Links, which actively connects alumnae with current members. In the Pansy Pal program, alumnae have graciously sent our members letters and packages filled with love and encouragement. Additionally, we have worked to foster career and life-transition advice through mentorship pairings and workshops.

Thank you to all of the alumnae who have taken the time to invest in our members with your wisdom and experience; we appreciate all that you do!



Delta Love and Mine,  
**Claire Meakem '22**  
Chapter President  
cbm83@cornell.edu

# THANK YOU FOR HELPING US WEATHER THIS STORM

We truly appreciate the following sisters for contributing to the fall 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 Schultheis Brechter '49  
Jean Lanigan Lenehan '54  
Jane Gregory Wilson '54  
Diane Frank Dow '72  
Dr. Robin Resch Charlton '74  
Barbara Wooten Chamberlain '78  
Wendy Burdick Stummer '83  
Jean Leskovec Davis '84  
Julie Bick Weed '86

## Alumnae News

**Phyllis Norrie '71** lives in Germantown, MD, and hopes that all her sisters had a healthy 2020. Email: [phylnorrie@gmail.com](mailto:phylnorrie@gmail.com)



**Christine Davis Chase '73** is winding down her research program at the University of Florida and looking forward to retirement, hopefully including some travel with her husband, Josh, in 2021. They live in Gainesville, FL. Email: [ctdchase@gmail.com](mailto:ctdchase@gmail.com)

After living in New York, Singapore, and San Francisco after college, **Kayla Rakowski Dryden '08** moved to Austin in 2020 to be closer to family. She is working in the arts after starting her career at the Johnson Museum on Cornell's campus. Kayla has a toddler daughter with another girl due to arrive in spring 2021.

Send your updates for our next newsletter to [alphabetahc@gmail.com](mailto:alphabetahc@gmail.com).

# TRI DELTA

Cornell Alpha Beta Alumnae

Alpha Beta Data

Spring 2021

Cornell Alpha Beta Alumnae  
Delta Delta Delta  
Cornell University  
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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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## Alpha Beta Spotlight Search

Do you know an Alpha Beta who's making a difference in the world during the coronavirus pandemic? Are you one of them? We want to hear from you!

Tell us stories about healthcare heroes, women handling crisis management, sisters who are involved with nonprofit or volunteer organizations that are community lifelines—any women with purpose who we should feature in a future Alpha Beta publication.

*Let us steadfastly love* and support our sisters now more than ever. Let's shine some light on our courageous sisters.

Share your story today!

## VIRTUAL REUNION OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for a happy hour and virtual tour of 118 Trihammer on Thursday, June 10, at 8 p.m. EDT/5 p.m. PDT. It'll be a great opportunity to chat online with friends! All Cornell Tri Deltas are welcome. Bring your own beverage and wear some Tri Delta or Cornell apparel!

Please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIod-6rqTgqH9GEkUallw3skLN8fRx7lqZ9>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Or, email [CornellDeltaLinks@gmail.com](mailto:CornellDeltaLinks@gmail.com) for an invitation.