

PROVIDING THE BEST FOR OUR HOUSE AND ITS MEMBERS

Despite the challenging times we live in, I hope everyone found some time this summer to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. I returned to Cornell for my 50th reunion; it was wonderful to see people I haven't seen in a long time and view firsthand the many changes to the campus, which remains as beautiful and welcoming as ever.



The living room of our lovely Chapter House.

To phrase it like a state of the union address, the chapter is in very good health, and the House Corporation is strong. We have had a busy year; maintaining a hundred-year-old Chapter House has its challenges. As many of you may know, "Delta Deck," the third-floor sun deck, sprung a leak late last fall. We moved some residents of the crescent to a hotel until temporary repairs could be made. As of early October, permanent repairs to the roof, the brick wall, and capstones, along with repointing damaged mortar, have begun.

Being wired is one of the necessities of life. That is not an easy thing in a house with solid walls. As part of the structural review for the roof repairs, we had Taitem Engineering prepare a plan to update the internal Wi-Fi system. While we are still looking for an electrician to complete the upgrade, we are optimistic we can complete this by the end of winter break.

While we were assessing the damage to the roof above the crescent bedrooms, we also explored the structural impediments to creating private entrances to each of the three rooms. I know

there are die-hard crescent fans with fond memories of the way it is, but we learned that we could create a hallway so each room has a private

entrance. Better use of the interior space is possible. Would love to hear from crescent alumnae about what you think!

The last major project has been a revision of our bylaws. We received a request from national to approve their draft of the new proposed bylaws. In reviewing these, we identified some procedural areas

of concern. We are working with an Ithaca law firm specializing in fraternity and sorority matters to guide us as we consider the issues. We will continue to focus our efforts to ensure the long-term success and stability of Alpha Beta.

Finally, mark your calendars. The board is recommending we establish the tradition of hosting our annual meeting via Zoom the first Sunday in November at 11 a.m. EST every year. **See the login instructions for joining on page 4.** You must provide your own beverage of choice, but the friendship is on the call. Hope to see you all on Zoom.

Delta Love,
Judy Fox '72
 Alpha Beta House Corporation President
 alphabetahc@gmail.com

Serving Communities around the World

One of the biggest reasons **Erica Fischer '07** joined Tri Delta was because of her sister, **Beth Fischer Gilje '04**, who was a senior at Cornell when Erica was a first-year student; she constantly looked out for her as she navigated her first year of college. Erica not only made wonderful connections with the Alpha Beta women, but she also embraced the opportunity to be a Tri Delta sister with Beth.

Alpha Beta gave Erica a sense of community at Cornell, both within the sisterhood and throughout the Greek system, and the friends she made in school are still her close friends today, even though they're scattered around the world. "Cornell is a fairly large university, so finding those small communities was really helpful for me to feel connected to other students and to the university itself," Erica said. *(Continued on page 2)*

"I am really proud and inspired by my fellow Alpha Betas! The women I graduated with are doing amazing things all around the world, and it just reminds me that we, as women, are capable of anything."



Erica Fischer '07 and her sister, Beth Fischer Gilje '04, hike near Santa Fe, New Mexico, in early July.

Serving Communities around the World

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During her time at Tri Delta, Erica served as an officer, which provided her with experience collaborating with those different than herself; she uses those skills today to work with people around the world through her career as a structural engineer.

Erica has always loved math and science, but she also wanted to find ways to help people in their day-to-day lives. With those interests, she studied science and pre-med, only to realize at Cornell that she loved math much more than biology or chemistry.

When Erica was looking to switch majors during her junior year, she was reminded that, during high school, she had designed a pool facility for her high school as a scholarship project. In this project, she researched the importance of such a facility in communities and, specifically, what it means for families to have access to a pool and the influence learning how to swim can have on a person's life. This project taught her that buildings are not just infrastructure in our communities but can play a role in the development of our next generations.

After Cornell, Erica worked as a structural engineer in New York City. After the 2010 Haiti earthquake, she was trained on how to inspect buildings after an earthquake, and the company she worked for sponsored her travel to Haiti to help inspect houses.

"This experience showed me firsthand the implications of having weak or failing infrastructure within a community, because it isn't

just the building itself; this is someone's home, place of work, or where they receive healthcare," she shared.

Erica's work consists of in-field data collection after a disaster and testing of structural components and systems within laboratories. While she loves the science and math aspects, developing knowledge that will enable a community to recover faster is a huge motivator in her work.

"We as engineers always joke that no one notices infrastructure until it doesn't work," she shared. "This is why I do what I do. I hope people don't notice the infrastructure within their communities, particularly when a hazard, such as an earthquake or wildfire, hits! Then I know we have done our job and helped that community."

The most rewarding part of Erica's research is the opportunity to work with students across a wide range of disciplines, and she is excited about the next generation of engineers. "It is incredibly rewarding to watch them grow and accomplish things they never thought was possible for them," she shared.

Erica is grateful for the support she has received from her family throughout her career. In her free time, she enjoys running, which has not only given her unique access to cities she travels to for work, but it also allows her to be a tourist and view the engineering marvels in each city. She also enjoys hiking and has access to many trails in Oregon, where she lives. You can connect with Erica at erica.fischer2@gmail.com.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Property Committee oversees the annual maintenance and capital improvements for the Chapter House and works with the Board of Directors for the continued upkeep of our beautiful and historic home at 118 Triphammer. As you may know, there is a local maintenance company with whom we work closely; this provides us with people nearby who know the house well and allows us to respond quickly when needed.

We recently completed the ongoing painting of the exterior windows and door frames. Seventy windows, six doors, and a chimney inspection with an annual sprinkler inspection were done in August. The freezer was installed in our kitchen, and the old one was removed last winter. A new boiler was installed in the fall of 2021.

By the time you are reading this, the new house director may have moved into the apartment and will have found a bathroom with



This sofa is one of many new updates to the house director suite.

updated fixtures as well as new furniture in her suite. Much help was provided for the furniture selection by this year's new house manager, **Kyrah Barnett '25**.

Security is always a priority. In August, a new system for front- and back-door access was installed—including a key system with individual, trackable access for each resident.

The House Corporation and Property Committee strive to maintain excellence for our collegiate sisters who live in or utilize the Chapter House, and we truly appreciate the care and pride each of the active sisters takes in the house. Alumnae donations to the House

Corporation are also appreciated to help with the ever-increasing costs of caring for 118 Triphammer.

Delta Love, **Kathy Kelley '76** and **Robin Secord '85**
Property Committee Co-Chairmen

A Special Thank You to Loyal Sisters

Our sisterhood truly appreciates the following sisters for contributing in the spring of 2022. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of Alpha Beta's undergraduates and provide opportunities for sisters following in your footsteps!

Thank you, **Lucy Gale Gaven '61**, **Carol Finlay Schrafel '72**, **Jean Leskovec Davis '81** and **Wendy Burdick Stummer '83!**

Make your donation online at [tinyurl.com/GiveCornellTriDelta](https://www.tinyurl.com/GiveCornellTriDelta), to help preserve our historic house, or as a tribute in honor or in memory of someone special. You can also mail your donation to: Alpha Beta House Corporation of Delta Delta Delta, 410 E. Upland Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850

Please make your check payable to Alpha Beta House Corporation of Delta Delta Delta.

DELTA LINKS NETWORKING WORKSHOP



Tara Benedict '01 and Cristina Moeder Shaul '91 deliver a presentation on networking.

On Saturday, September 10, Delta Links Committee members **Tara Benedict '01** and **Cristina Moeder Shaul '91** delivered a presentation on networking to about 25 active sisters at the Chapter House. Many thanks to Lifetime Membership Director **Annie Rogers '23**, who arranged the logistics, and alumnae **Judy Fox '72** (also Alpha Beta House Corporation President) and **Susan Geringer '91** for attending.

The actives were eager to network with us afterward and asked some amazing questions. It was a joy to be with them in person! Our chapter truly recruits the smartest, most interesting, and engaged sisters year after year.

Delta Links helps create and foster intergenerational bonds among all Alpha Betas, especially for professional and personal development. If you'd like to join the Delta Links Networking Directory, please follow these steps:

1. Create an account:
cornelltrideltaalumnae.com/register
2. Use this invitation code: **28pi4hjk591**
3. Create a profile!



Members attend an alumnae-hosted Delta Links Networking Workshop.

Empowering Our Community

This semester, the incredible women on our leadership team have worked tirelessly to revamp tradition and expand the breadth of sisterhood, philanthropy, wellness, career development, and social events available to our sisters.

PHILANTHROPY AND DEI TEAMS

The philanthropy team is planning several events, including Sincerely Yours, our signature event supporting St. Jude. The philanthropy and DEI (Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion) teams collaborated with Pi Beta Phi and Kappa Alpha Theta to design a community engagement event to get sisters registered to vote and request their absentee ballots. Our chapters then raised money for When We All Vote to support voters beyond the Cornell Community.

WELLNESS AND NETWORKING

Nina Pofcher '24, our wellness chairman, has facilitated wonderful wellness programs, including weekly newsletters, collaging, and office hours for sisters to come chat. **Annie Rogers '23** helped plan a fabulous alumnae networking weekend. This is just the tip of the iceberg, but it has certainly been a full semester!

RECRUITMENT

While the Tri Delta legacy policy is no more, our recruitment team would love to see your recommendations for the next generation of sisters! To do so, email our recruitment chairman, **Kristen Ikle '24**, at kei6@cornell.edu, or our vice president of membership experience, **Nuray Ozden '24**, at nyo3@cornell.edu.

Delta Love,
Maddie Sand '23
Chapter President



Rae Fox '25, Danielle Koutsainis '25, Kat Liang '25, Helen Lim '25, and Kyrarh Barnett '25 enjoy Spring Formal.



Big/Little duo
Julia VanPutte '24 and
Emily Crites '25 at initiation.



Seniors gather for a picnic at Stewart Park to celebrate the start of classes and their final year together at Cornell.



Alpha Beta alumnae get together for dinner in the Somerville/Boston area on October 1. From left: Tara Benedict '01, Lara Thornton Tabola '93, Melissa Turner Booth '93, Jennifer Barber Joyce '93, Laura Corson '93, Kristi Covert Tsiopanas '94, and Christy Bleyle Frank '93.

Mark Your CALENDARS

House Corporation Annual Meeting 2022

Join us on Zoom for the annual Alpha Beta House Corporation meeting on Zoom:

Sunday, November 6, 2022
11 a.m. EST

All Cornell Tri Deltas, past and present, are invited! To join the meeting, use the link and login information below. If you need further instructions email alphabetaHC@gmail.com and we can help.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/AlphaBetaZoom

Dial in by your location:

- +1 (929) 205-6099 US (New York)
- +1 (312) 626-6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 (301) 715-8592 US (Washington, D.C.)
- +1 (669) 900-6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 (253) 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 (346) 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 847 1168 9381

Passcode: 097965

LOOKING FOR HC VOLUNTEERS

The Alpha Beta House Corporation is a group of alumnae who work to keep the Tri Delta Chapter House at 118 Triphammer Road in good order, financially and physically. It is a great way to connect and continue your lifelong bonds of sisterhood.

- If you have worked in building and facilities, real estate, or hospitality, consider sharing your talents on our Property Committee.
- If you have background or interest in marketing, communications, or journalism, help our Communications Committee with this biannual newsletter and updating our social media channels.
- If you have finance or investment experience, our Finance Committee would welcome your participation.
- If you just want to become involved and share in decision-making, become a member of our board.

Reach out to me if you would like to reconnect and get involved with Alpha Beta again at alphabetahc@gmail.com.

Loyally,
Marianne Gardy Passarelli '82
Nominating Committee Chair

TRI DELTA

Cornell Alpha Beta Alumnae

Alpha Beta Data

Fall 2022

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

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Cornell Tri Delta



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June 2022 Cornell Reunion!



1972



1977

June 2022 Cornell Reunion! The classes of '72, '77, '82, and '87 enjoying their time at our Tri Delta Open House.



1982



1987