

PROUD TO HAVE LEFT A LEGACY FOR ALPHA BETA

This is my last column as House Corporation president. It has been a pleasure to take part in preserving the Chapter House and to play a role in strengthening the sisterhood as others did before me. As COVID-19 struck only months after my assuming the presidency, it certainly meant all hands on deck. Without the commitment and talents of the board over these last four years, the challenges we faced then and now might have been overwhelming. Being on the board has made for new friendships across the decades and renewing old ones. Saying “thank you” never really seems to adequately convey the importance and depth of support given to me and my appreciation for the HC team.

In my professional work, I have had many discussions with leaders regarding the legacy they want to leave behind them. As I reflect on my terms as president, several things come to mind. Perhaps most importantly, the current collegians are connected to the alumnae sisterhood,

and the alumnae sisterhood is more connected across the decades than ever before. For me as a freshman, building lifetime friendships was part of my reason to go through recruitment and join Alpha Beta. Through Delta Links, Pansy Pals, and the ongoing Zoom workshops, we have increased the bonds of friendship and support across the sisterhood.

Second is bringing 118 Triphammer into the 21st century. Wiring the house for Wi-Fi was just the beginning, but it was no simple task. Of course, we can't forget that Delta Deck is open for Vitamin D therapy and relaxation, and the roof is strong and watertight. More importantly, we have begun exploring how to adapt the building to “live better” for the current residents. We surveyed the reasons sisters choose to live in or not. At the initiative of last year's house manager, storage space in the basement is now available as an interview and/or group work room. We have explored ways to restructure some rooms, better utilize the old Chapter Room, make the house more

user-friendly, and improve the layout of the rooms. I leave the implementation of next steps to future leadership.

Finally, when I was at my 45th reunion and scaling back my paid work life, I decided to become involved with HC. My time at Cornell was enhanced by my friendships in the house and continues to this day. The board had committed members, which seemed to be fueled by reunion classes taking on the leadership of HC. Along with the efforts of the current nominating committee, we have a multi-generational board with deep benches throughout our committee structure. The stability and financial solvency this provides the current and future sisterhood can't be underestimated.

It has been my privilege to serve as president. Thank you for this opportunity. Best wishes for continued success.



Delta Love,
Judy Fox '72

House Corporation Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate for election to the Alpha Beta House Corporation Board of Directors at our Annual Meeting on November 5, 2023. Returning board members are also listed.

Board Officers for Term 2023-25

President
Heather Britt '93

Treasurer
Jennifer Ritter Kelly '89

Secretary
Joan Adamo '96

Members at Large
Tara Benedict '01
Judy Fox '72, past President
Sonia Guior '15
Jennifer Barber Joyce '93
Terry Schuster Petracca '76

The following board officers' terms will be continuing:

VP Long-Range Planning
Robin Secord '85 (2022-24)

Nominating Chairman
Marianne Gardy Passarelli '82 (2022-24)

The board would like to acknowledge the hard work and contributions of all our standing committees over the past year. Here are our committee members for 2023-24:

Finance Committee
Paula Boyer Kennedy '78,
MBA '80

Jenny Ritter Kelly '89
Cathy Chang Ko '76
Terry Schuster Petracca '76

Delta Links
Tara Benedict '01
Judy Fox '72
Debbie Lathrop Lechner '77
Aisling Mannion '23
Terry Schuster Petracca '76
Emily Roehr '16
Sophie Roth '23
Cristina Moeder Shaul '91

Communications Committee
Carol Benson Antos '77
Debbie Lathrop Lechner '77
Sonya Hand Stover '96
Jeanne Moulton Turner '90

Property Committee
Carolyn McMasters '71
Robin Secord '85
Susan Minch Starnes '95

Nominating Committee
Tara Benedict '01
Heather Britt '93
Marianne Gardy Passarelli '82
Sophie Roth '23
Cristina Moeder Shaul '91

We welcome participation at any level. If you would like to become involved, please reach out to us at alphabetahc@gmail.com.

Maintaining Our Home

I visited the house in September and was impressed with the pride members continue to take in their Tri Delta home. The furnishings are respected and there is an ongoing interest in improving the residence and accommodations. I toured each room to complete a furniture inventory, which gave me the opportunity to talk with members and gain their insight on how House Corporation can continue to support them.

I'm excited to have **Carolyn McMasters '71** and **Susan Minch Starnes '95** working with me on the Property Committee. Carolyn was able to join me at the house and was thrilled to return to her prior home in the crescent, chat with sisters living there now, and share memories of her time in the house.

House maintenance is a priority, and summer break allowed time for some refreshing of common areas in need of paint and overall deep cleaning. Upgrades to Wi-Fi this past year continue to be monitored, as this is an integral part of daily life. In the coming year, we'll be assessing some long-term projects, including the condition of window frames that were not part of our prior refurbishment project, strategizing for upgrades to the second-floor deck, and essential brick repointing on the exterior of the home. Water remediation is a constant concern, as rainy Ithaca and an older building do not always work together! Accordingly, a review of our drainage and landscaping plans is anticipated to ensure that the water stays outside the house.

It's a pleasure to support the maintenance of the Tri Delta house and see women making memories in a home filled with incredible history and happiness. As we continue to initiate projects, your donations can make a difference too. Consider a gift today to support House Corporation!

Loyally,
Robin Secord '85
House Corporation Property
Committee Chairman

Looking Back at a Successful Spring

Happy fall! The women of Alpha Beta are ready for another great semester full of sisterhood, philanthropy, and involvement.

This past spring, we welcomed about 50 new members through formal recruitment and COB (Continuous Open Bidding). We enjoyed our new member period, initiation, and Big/Little reveal.

In terms of philanthropy, we planned and hosted two successful events! The first was a clothing sale where we collected clothing donations around campus, sorted them, and sold them for low prices to the community. It was so much fun, and we raised about \$2,000. The second event was a classic car wash, where we raised around \$700.

In April, our new executive team traveled to Dallas, TX, for CLC (Collegiate Leadership Conference), where we got to meet so many sisters from other chapters



Sisters working the clothing sale! From left: Maia Koszarsky '24, Sophie Roth '24, Alyssa Freda '23, and Marlee Pincus '24.

and learn important leadership skills. Throughout the rest of the semester, we had a really fun sisterhood event at Catharine Valley Winery and celebrated the end of the semester at our Spring Formal at Ithaca Beer Co. We also had a lovely Circle Degree and Pansy Brunch for our graduating members at the house in May and were joined by a handful of local alumnae.

We have a busy fall semester ahead of us and cannot wait to see where the semester goes!

Delta Love,
Sophie Roth '24, Chapter President

We Invite You to Join Us for Pansy Brunch and Circle Degree

We invite you to join Alpha Beta Chapter as we welcome Circle Degree initiates on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. The exact location will be announced closer to the event, but it will be held in person in Ithaca, NY. Brunch will be served following the ceremony. Please contact **Aisling Mannion '24** at anm227@cornell.edu for more information and to kindly RSVP by April 14.

Circle Degree is the third degree of initiation in Tri Delta, reserved for graduating seniors. During this stage of initiation, members learn the significance of lifetime membership and transition from active to alumnae members.

The tradition of Pansy Brunch dates back to 1908 when it was featured in *The Triton*, a "secret" publication for Tri Deltas. The article shared that almost every chapter hosted a farewell of some kind for graduating members and suggested hosting a "pansy luncheon" for members in the spring. The Pansy Brunch and Celebration is a time for alumnae members to help our collegiate seniors transition into their first steps of alumnae membership. We invite all alumnae members to attend this celebration!

A Special *Thank You* to Loyal Sisters

Our sisterhood truly appreciates the following sisters for contributing to Alpha Beta in the spring of 2023. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of Alpha Beta's undergraduates and provide opportunities for sisters following in your footsteps!

Thank you, **Mary VanMeter Gordon '61**, **Melanie Mayer '67**, **Christine Davis Chase '73**, **Deborah Clawson '85**, and **Tara Benedict '01**.

To make your gift today, please visit GiveCornellTriDelta.causevox.com, scan the QR code, or mail a check to:

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



Building a Fun and Functional Network

JENNIFER GERSHBERG '99 TALKS PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Why did you join Tri Delta and what made you stay a part of the sisterhood?

I was initially ambivalent about joining a sorority, but all my friends were doing so and I needed a place to live sophomore year. **It turned out to be a great decision!** Tri Delta was my top choice from Day 1. I liked everyone I met and was struck by how authentic the friendships were. I loved my experience throughout all four years.

What aspects of the sisterhood were you most proud of?

The chapter was comprised of such different personalities and there was a place for everyone. Cornell is an intense place, and the sorority never demanded more of my time than I could give.

What are your favorite memories from your time in the Alpha Beta house?

Living in the house was the best! I got to know people so well and there was always something going on. I still vividly remember studying in the dining room until 2 a.m. with my sisters and breaking into delirious song and dance when the exhaustion became overwhelming.

In what capacity did you serve as a student?

I served as academic development chairman, so it should be of little surprise that I eventually became a college professor and now give talks to groups of college students on topics related to their academic and professional success!

What was your career path after college?

I earned my bachelor of arts degree in English in 1999 and then my law degree

from The George Washington University Law School in 2002. I taught business law at the University of Maryland for the last eight years but became concerned about students' declining skills and mental health after the pandemic. I resigned and launched JG Talks LLC, through which I give talks to groups of high school and college students about things like time management, résumé strategies, how to build a network, how to study effectively, positive relationship-building, and other topics related to their success.

How did you come to be involved in the Delta Links program?

One of my Tri Delta friends who is involved in the Delta Links program reached out to ask if I would be interested in engaging with the chapter. College has changed a lot since I went, and I have a good understanding of what college students go through now, having had thousands of students at UMD. I am always happy to mentor students!

What are your top three pieces of advice for undergraduates?

1 It is okay, and normal, not to be sure what your future career path will look like! Even if you think you have it all figured out, life has a way of inspiring change and things will happen along the way that are totally unpredictable.

2 Build your network by being service-minded. As sorority members, you are surrounded by an amazing network right now. Get to know people as well as you can, learn their goals, and offer to help them whenever possible.

Jen lives in Bethesda, MD, with her husband of almost 20 years and their three teenagers. They have one son who is a senior in high school and twin daughters who are freshmen. They also have a pandemic puppy named Maggie Madeline. In her free time, Jen loves to travel, take long walks, read, and watch "Bama Rush" TikToks. If you'd like to find out more about her work with JGTalks and Delta Links, you can follow her on Instagram at @jgtalksorg or send her an email at jennifer@jgtalks.org.



Networking is less about LinkedIn and résumés and more about cultivating authentic and positive relationships with as many people as possible.

3 Get to know your professors! Many educators worked in the "real world" before academia, and they have great contacts. Professors can be very helpful when it comes time to get recommendation letters and introductions to people in your chosen industry. When professors like you, they can move mountains. Be professional and strategic when it comes to your relationships with them.

How do you think Tri Delta helped you become who you are today?

I always felt confident that I could be myself, and that has carried me as I have navigated my life and career. Tri Delta helped me understand the value of surrounding myself with great people and led me to kind and loyal friends with whom I could be authentically myself and have a great time.

Alumnae News

Michele Landis Soileau '76 hosted a fabulous reunion for 18 Tri Deltas from the classes of '75-'79 in Annapolis, MD, where sisters visited the Cryptologic Museum, sailed on a big schooner in the bay, toured the Naval Academy, visited art galleries, enjoyed the Linganore Wineries (run by three generations of Cornellians!), and had some delicious meals and great conversations.



If you are planning a reunion or would like to share photos of a reunion of Alpha Betas, please send them to alphabetahc@gmail.com to have them published in our next newsletter.

Alpha Beta Deltas meet up in Somerville, MA, over the summer!



Laura Corson '93, Jennifer Joyce Kean '93, Danielle Koutsainis '24, Aisling Mannion '23, Tara Benedict '01, Emily Levine '01, and Terry Petracca '76.

See what our collegians
and alumnae have been
up to inside!



Executive board officers at
the Collegiate Leadership Conference.
From left: Ava Glowney '25, Kyrarah Barnett '25,
Sophie Roth '24, Alessandra Kaestner '25,
and Shohum Finkelstein '25.

TRIDELTA

Cornell Alpha Beta Alumnae

Alpha Beta Data

Fall 2023

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

Address Service Requested

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

 cornelltrideltaalumnae.com

 Cornell University Tri Delta

 Cornell Tri Delta Alumnae

Mark Your Calendars for the House Corporation Meeting

Join us for the annual Alpha Beta
House Corporation Meeting via
Zoom on Sunday, November 5, 2023,
at 11 a.m.

All Cornell Tri Deltas past and present
are invited! To join the meeting, use
the clickable information below (if you
are reading the newsletter digitally) or
email alphabetaHC@gmail.com and we
will send you the link.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84711689381?pwd=Z2JlSxhPNzVxa3pUb0hINzZlM1FzZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 1168 9381
Passcode: 097965

Delta Links and Pansy Pals Keep the Generations Connected

Tara Benedict '01, Robin Secord '85, Emily Roehr '16, and Sonia Guior '15 kicked off Delta Links programming this academic year by mingling and networking with collegians as part of our in-person offerings. Tara and Robin then went on to facilitate a program providing tips on networking, résumé writing, interviewing skills, and transitioning from Cornell to “real life” from a professional and personal perspective. They also shared helpful resources available. The collegians were engaged and appreciative, and Delta Links is excited to offer more in-person and virtual programming this year. Watch your email for details.

We have about 25 actives and alumnae paired up as “Pansy Pals,” a fun way to interact one-on-one across the generations.

On May 5 at 11 a.m., the chapter will be hosting the Pansy Breakfast and Circle Degree ceremony when the actives transition over to being “pansies.” Please mark your calendar—we’d love to have alumnae there to help celebrate! RSVP to [Aisling Mannion '24](mailto:Aisling.Mannion'24) at anm227@cornell.edu. More details to come.

