



Arizona Alpha

NEWSLETTER 2018

University of Arizona

Pi Beta Phi

FALL 2018
EDITION

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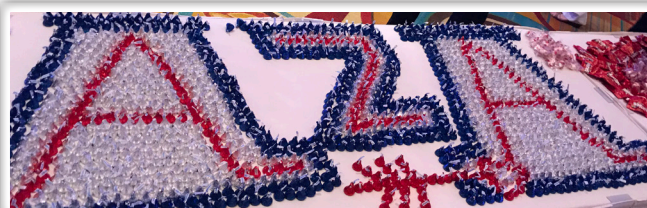
Meet Our New Alumnae – Good Luck With Your Careers



100th Anniversary Weekend



A special thanks to the 250+ of you who attended our Centennial Celebration. The Thursday Decade Dinners, Friday House Tours & 100th Banquet, and Saturday Tailgater in the UA Greek Park made for an incredible celebration. For those that have not seen the 100th video, go to <http://pibetaphiuaalumnae.org/news/100th-video>.



Arizona Alpha Chapter of Pi Beta Phi

Fall 2018

Key Chapter Leaders & Active Volunteers 2017-2018

Executive Board:

Chapter President
Sofia Schena '15

VP Member Development
Avery Lelio '16

VP Fraternity Development
Lily Jaeger '16

VP Finance
Alyssa Janakus '16

VP Housing
Megan Flaherty '16

VP Membership
Hannah Ellwood '16

VP Admin
Lauren Hanson '16

VP Philanthropy
Corinne Querrey '17

VP Event Planning
Jamie Wientjes '16

Alumnae Advisory Committee:

LaDonna Aronoff, Az A '83

Jen Harris, Az A '90

Bimi Huebner, NM B '80

Kathy Kleinman, Az A '81

Kelly McLaughlin, Az A '88

Heather Miller, NM B '92

Alisha Severson, Tx G '92

Briana Volpe, Az A '02

Megan Wood, Az A '89



President's Report

Hello Arizona Alpha Alumnae & Parents,

Pi Beta Phi's Arizona Alpha Chapter is home to the most genuine, determined, and hard-working women I have ever met. Pi Phi's not only uplift each other to high standards, but also all join together around the same foundational values as members. It is an incredible honor to represent Arizona Alpha as President. Since 2018 began, our academics have continued to improve, we

have been able to contribute to a more literate society through our Philanthropy, and our sisterhood has become stronger than ever.

As a chapter, we strive to build a strong culture centered on good scholarship and academic excellence. Coming into the spring semester, over 50 women earned a 4.0 GPA! We dedicated a ceremonial dinner to these women to recognize their dedication to excellence as students. Our New Member 2017 class also received the highest GPA for all Greeks! We are so proud of how all of our women shine in academics. We were thrilled to see our overall GPA is now second highest in the Panhellenic community.

We started off the year with a new Executive Board. In order to connect our chapter to the Pi Beta Phi community outside of our college, the Executive Board and our Alumnae Advisory Committee attended Pi Beta Phi's College Weekend. The entire board was exposed to position-specific training, and learned how to shine as leaders. We returned from the trip feeling all the more dedicated to serving all our members with the care and respect they all deserve. Our main dedication to our members is to foster an environment centered on the betterment and well-being of Arizona Alpha and Pi Beta Phi.

Our Philanthropy is Read>Lead>Achieve. Our literacy vision is to inspire a lifelong love of reading that can unlock true potential, ultimately creating a more literate and productive society. We host two fundraisers each year - Pi Phi Gives You Wings and Pi Phi Pizookie. Funds raised are donated to various funds at the Pi Beta Phi Foundation and Tucson literacy initiatives. These fundraisers are great opportunities to see our efforts in action.

This past spring, we helped sponsor the Tucson Festival of Books. Several members of our chapter decorated book plates with children, discussed our efforts to promote literacy as a fraternity, and handed out over 500 books to festival-goers. Our mission is to inspire readers, sparking imaginations, and ignite the inspire to learn. We are so excited to go back next year!

As a college student, it is so important to surround yourself with the right people. The Arizona Alpha women have sincere friendships, act with integrity, share great senses of humor, and continue to support each other through anything this world brings us. Our chapter celebrated our friendships through several sisterhood events. We rented out a movie theater, hosted Bachelorette screenings at the house, participated in work out classes, and constantly snacked on treats! In May, we reluctantly witnessed 80 Pi Phi graduates and watched them continue onto their careers. This number is testament to the strength of Arizona Alpha and the memories we share.

I would like to thank the women of Arizona Alpha and all those who dedicate themselves to this chapter. Together we can further the legacy of Pi Beta Phi at the University of Arizona.

With Pi Phi Love and Mine
Sofia Schena

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Angels Taking Aim for the Next 100 Years

As we look to our future, we must understand that our house serves an important role in the long-term success of our chapter.

For many of us, our years in Pi Phi were our launching pad. We developed our leadership, organizational and social skills inside those "Arizona Alpha Walls". The socials, recruitment events, meals, service projects, and late nights helped us bond with each other and develop lifelong friendships. With this in mind, and to help us compete for the next century, the Chapter House Corporation, Alumnae Advisory Committee, Campaign Volunteer Committee and the undergraduate members of AZ Alpha, have developed an exciting new vision for the renovation of our chapter house.

We are planning a \$2.5 million expansion of the chapter house to begin in the spring of 2019. We've raised approximately \$700,000 of our minimum goal of \$1.25 million. Why is this needed?

Our facility is 85+ years old and requires improvements to ensure our members safety, and to help us compete with other sorority houses that have undergone major renovations or built new facilities.

- The chapter currently has 330 undergraduate members and our facility is not meeting their needs. We need more educational and meeting space to serve our members.
- The dining room is one of the smallest among other sororities on campus, accommodating only 100 members. It will be expanded. Additionally, the kitchen service area will be redesigned to improve the flow and a new self-serve kitchenette space is being added.
- The entire house needs to be ADA compliant, adding ramps, an elevator and accessible day/study rooms.
- We want to help preserve our 100 years of AZ Alpha history and recognize the leadership role we have had in many women's lives.

Your Gift will make a Difference

We invite all Arizona Alpha alumnae and parents to be part of this important effort. You, individually, can make a difference.

Gifts to date are as follows, with more than one at many levels: **\$125,000, \$100,000, \$50,000, \$30,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 and \$50.** When you give from your heart, no gift is too small!

To learn how you can leave your legacy, please visit <http://pibetaphiuaalumnae.org/campaign>

**Thanks in advance for your support! AZ Alpha is only as strong as
the commitment of our alumnae and parents.**

Feel free to contact one of our campaign volunteers with any questions:

Pam Turbeville '69, pamelaturbeville@aol.com, 312-501-0013

LaDonna Hopper Aronoff '83, ladonna@scotiagroup.com, 520-909-3910

Susie Douthit Austin '80, saustin216@gmail.com, 216-470-9669

Matt Noble, Campaign Manager, at matt.noble@fmgtucson.com or 520-990-3250

AZ Alpha House Corporation & Campaign Committee

Arizona Alpha Chapter of Pi Beta Phi



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Pamela Morris Samuels '60

Pamela was born in Tucson, educated in Tucson and is still living and learning here. Because of Pi Phi's focus on literacy, Pam started a Pi Beta Phi Book Club which only reads books by female authors with strong female characters. The group also engages in fun activities together such as concerts (WOMEN Rock), female lead movies, and a trek up to Northern AZ each year to discuss AZ heroines and female authors like Daphne du Maurier.

Barbara White '62

Barbara is an architectural photographer living in Laguna Beach, CA with her significant other, Brannigan. She travels a lot for her fine art photography, which she displays at the Festival of Arts in the summers.

Gail Price Grossetta '65

Gail loved the Centennial celebration and is happy to be retired in Tucson with her USAF husband and ballroom dance partner Bruce. In addition to living in Europe, Asia and South America, Gail's career included work in retail as a buyer. She especially enjoyed cross cultural relations overseas and trying to learn Spanish and Italian. Gail likes yoga, swimming and hiking, and still likes to travel, especially to see daughter, son-in-law, and four grands in CT.

Suzy Shook Hagenah '66

Suzy lives in Paradise Valley with her husband Phil who she met at the UofA. They were pinned her senior year and now married 48+ years with 8 grandchildren. She is on the WINGS Board for the Phoenix Children's Hospital and a big basketball fan (having grown up in Indiana). She had a fabulous time at the 100th anniversary seeing old friends and touring the house.

DeDe "Wild" Leber '66

Dede re-engaged in Pi Phi, as she helped organize the AZ Alpha Centennial Celebration. In describing the event, she said: "After excitedly exclaiming, 'Where did fifty years go?', we swapped life stories, giggled over pledge pranks and generally enjoyed the fun and festive 100th Pi Beta Phi Arizona Alpha Celebration!" A newly energized Pi Phi, Dede is now serving as Co-President of the Tucson Alumnae Club! Besides Pi Phi activities, Dede's life is full with thirteen grandchildren, travel, golf (not very good) and various fun and challenging book clubs.

Nancy Rehling Wright '71

Nancy and her husband own a franchise consulting company, The YOU Network, which operates all over the United States and Canada. When not working in her COO position, Nancy supports her AZ Diamondbacks baseball team and plays golf whenever possible. Her visit to the 100th anniversary party was her first time back at campus since being a student and she had a ball seeing all of her sisters and the many changes on campus.

Leslie Withers Righetti '82

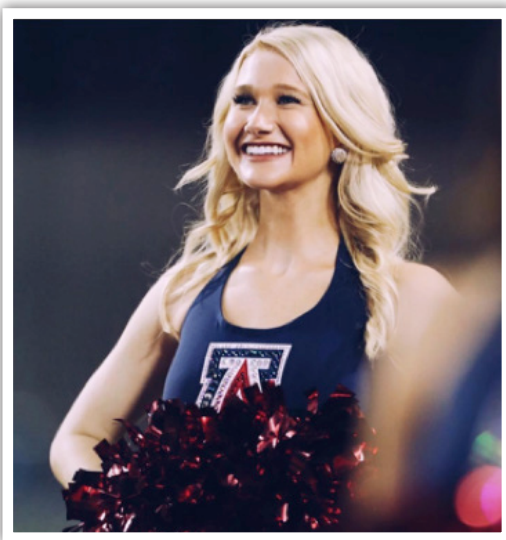
Leslie resides with her husband and three children in Green Valley, AZ. She came to the 100th anniversary and enjoyed reconnecting with Pi Beta Phi sisters so much that she has joined the Az Alpha House Corporation.

Katie Christy Care '02

Katie is living in San Diego with her husband Eric and their two children, Connor (4) and Charlotte (3). They love spending time outdoors and on their sailboat. She came to the 100th Anniversary and had a great time.

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Sammi Berwick '14

Arizona Alpha recent graduate, Sammi Berwick was involved with Pi Phi all four years, as well as the Arizona Pomline. "My experience on the Pomline has completely shaped me as a person because I've been able to make a difference in people's lives and watch the positive outcomes unfold hands on." Sammi volunteers with Pi Phi in addition to the pomline. A favorite moment of hers is when a group of girls on the pom team volunteered with a special needs cheerleading group. "One of the little girls gave me a hug for 10 minutes straight without letting go and told me that she wanted to be a U of A cheerleader when she grew up. Hearing her say that made me so emotional because I remember being that same little girl and everything really came full circle for me." Touching moments like these are what makes Sammi enjoy volunteering with the community so much. She believes being involved in the youth of her community is important because it helps inspire them to strive for bright futures. "I feel prideful to be a part of a program that contributes to the uplifting atmosphere of U of A!" Sammi plans on trying out to be a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader!

Profiles



Corinne Querrey '17

While Corinne Querrey is only in her third semester of being in Pi Phi, she has already been elected Vice President of Philanthropy and works tirelessly for her position on Exec. Corinne is the coordinator of the Champions Are Readers Program, or CAR, where Pi Phi's go to Robison Elementary on Friday afternoons and help underprivileged students learn to read and get excited about education through fun activities. In her first few months as VPP, Corinne implemented AZ Alpha's first Valentine's Day book drive which raised about 1500 books, 500 of which were donated to the Tucson Festival of Books. "Something I'm currently working on is donating the remaining books to Little Free Libraries around Tucson and other literacy-related events," Corinne says. Last spring Corinne revamped "Pi Phi Gives You Wings", raising nearly \$10,000 for literacy and the Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Next, she plans on implementing Pie A Pi Phi to go along with AZ Alpha's signature Pi Phi Pizookie Fundraiser. Outside of Pi Phi, Corrine is a volunteer with HopeKids. She attends the program's events and activities that are open to families with a life-threatening medical condition. She took a Pi Phi Little Free Library to an event to spread awareness for literacy and gave those families free books. Corinne's passion for volunteer work and her determination make AZ Alpha proud to call her our Vice President of Philanthropy.

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Featured Alumna

Danette Leighton '90
Chief Marketing Officer



Danette Leighton joined the Pac-12 Conference in April 2010 as the Conference's first Chief Marketing Officer. Her responsibilities include leading the Conference and Pac-12 Networks in the development and implementation of strategic marketing, communication and business development programs, overseeing the execution of the Conference's major championships (football, men's and women's basketball) and facilitating best practices with member institutions in the areas of communications, marketing, ticket sales, operations and analytics. An Arizona graduate, Leighton returns to the Pac-12 where she began her career as a public relations intern. Most recently, she acted as Vice President of Marketing and Brand Development for Maloof Sports & Entertainment.

She spent the last decade overseeing all marketing and branding efforts for the NBA's Sacramento Kings and ARCO Arena, as well as the business operations for the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs. Previously, she led Sony's sports marketing division, focusing on the PGA Tour and the Sony Open in Hawai'i. She also served as the executive director of the 1999 NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four at Stanford and worked in public relations for the Fiesta Bowl. The 1993 U of A graduate majored in political science and minored in Media Arts and as an undergraduate worked within the Wildcat Athletics Department in both the ticket sales and media relations departments as well as interning with KGUN-TV Sports department.

During her time at U of A, and specifically as a member of Pi Phi, she served as intramurals chair and secretary. She worked within the school's athletic department throughout her 4 years as well. Danette's role in coordination of sports activities for Pi Phi and serving as secretary assisted her in finding a love for sports. One of her fondest memories of her undergraduate experience was participating on the Pi Phi flag football team. Danette originally wanted to join a sorority because she was coming from out-of-state and did not know many people and figured it would be the perfect opportunity to get to meet people on campus. What she did not anticipate was meeting lifelong friends that she would still be in contact with to this day.

She is thankful to the University and her experience within Pi Phi and the Tucson community for making her college experience a very positive and memorable time. Danette shares that it is very important for undergraduates to find what they are both passionate about and good at. She also believes it is important to live and work to your personal values and ethics, in order to feel positive about yourself regardless of the situation.



Pi Beta Phi
AZ Alpha Chapter
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We'll have a
Groundbreaking
Ceremony &
House Tours.

More detail is
forthcoming!

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