

THE KEY

of Phi Sigma Rho

FALL 2021



*Photo courtesy of
Louisville-Alpha Gamma
Chapter*



Photo courtesy of Kentucky-Epsilon Chapter

In This Issue...

Magazine Content Submission Deadlines
Spring Issue: MARCH 1ST
Spring Issue: OCTOBER 1ST

Sorority News & Updates

- 03 Greetings from the Executive Director
- 03 2022 Conference Promo
- 04 18th Board Introductions
- 08 In Conversation with Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Uma Staehler
- 10 Q&A with Distinguished Alumna Abisola Oladapo
- 11 2021 National Award Winners
- 12 Recap of the 2021 Regional Leadership Conference
- 13 Chapter and Alumnae Association Updates
- 15 Undergraduate Research Project Spotlight
- 20 One Last Question

Phi Sigma Rho Foundation Updates

- 16 BOD, Volunteers, Open Positions
- 17 Foundation Scholarships Overview
- 17 2021 Scholarship Awards & Thank You
- 18 Light the Night
- 18 Amazon Smile Account Set Up Instructions
- 19 SRM Thank You for Donations for Endowment



Photo courtesy of Texas A & M - Alpha Phi Chapter

Greetings from *the Executive Director*

Dear Sisters,

This past year and a half has certainly been full of challenges, big and small, but I've been so impressed by the resilience of our community.

Our chapters have continued to grow despite facing challenging restrictions on recruitment due to the pandemic. I've enjoyed seeing their ingenuity and creativity in finding ways to connect with potential new members through Zoom and other virtual recruitment activities.

We saw record turnout for our 2020 National Leadership Conference and 2021 National Convention. Holding these events virtually allowed so many more people to participate than we ever expected, and we were so happy to have so many members together at a single event.

Over the past couple of years we've had so many members serve as volunteers within our organization. Despite difficult circumstances they've continued to thrive and produce incomparable results. We truly could not and will not succeed without them.

I'm excited to carry this momentum forward into the new year. We have so many fantastic projects in the works that will truly benefit our members. I can't wait to share them with you!



Phi Rho Love,
Gabby

SAVE THE DATE!

**Join us July 14-17, 2022 in Austin,
Texas for our National Conference!**

We can't wait to meet in person for the first time since 2019. We have several social events planned as well as special programming for alumnae and current and future leaders. Registration will open during the winter, but look for pricing details to be released soon.



Meet The 18TH National Board...

Kellan Ponikiewicz

Position: President

Chapter: Penn State - Lambda

Location: I live 20 minutes outside of Boston and right across the street from Babson/Olin college.

Occupation: I am an in-house lawyer who specializes in intellectual property, litigation, licensing, and corporate legal work.

What would you like to do during your term? I can't just give you one goal, it's not in my nature to just do one thing. There are three main goals: diversify our membership and most importantly our leadership, set up a housing corporation and develop a chapter road map to house ownership, and expand the sorority and our staff.

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? When I'm not working, I'm either doing Phi Sigma Rho stuff, playing with my one-year old son, or taking my eleven year old daughter to her many sports and after school events.

What is your favorite holiday? My favorite holiday is Halloween. I love fall, especially in New England, and the months leading up to Halloween are full of gorgeous fall scenery, good food, college football, and fun fall outings like picking pumpkins and apple picking. It is my absolute favorite time of the year!



This is a photo of me and my husband at a tea house in Shanghai. When we can, we love to travel and explore new places.

Sharon Snyder

Position: VP of Standards

Chapter: Ohio Northern - Iota

Location: I live in Maryland, just north of Washington, DC.

Occupation: I am a systems engineer for a space and launch system company.

What would you like to do during your term? During the first year of my term, I'm focused on standing up the Judicial Board, proposing an overhaul to the Nominating Committee, and helping the Governing Documents Committee get their Bylaw, Policies, & Procedures updates to a successful vote at Conference 2022. In my second year, I want to focus on sorority Risk Management (including the creation of a Risk Management Director) and ensuring that the GDC is in a good place to serve as a chapter resource for bylaw questions and reviews.

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? If I'm not working, I'm probably running, crafting, or taking pictures of my cats! Working from home has been great for my aspiring pet photography career...

What is your favorite holiday? I LOVE Halloween, mostly for the 3 Musketeers and Reese's candy, but also because I can design and sew fun Disney-themed costumes! And it helps that fall is my favorite season...when I lived in Arizona, it meant that the weather was finally cool enough to be outside most of the time, but now that I'm living in a place with real fall, it means crunchy leaves, sweater weather, pumpkin everything, the start of hockey season, great marathon racing weather...what's not to love!?



This photo of me and my husband was taken on one of our many hockey vacations, this time to Vancouver, BC (also a frequent non-COVID destination!). He has a goal to visit every NHL arena and I want to run a marathon in all 50 states, so we normally travel a lot!

Lacey Westcarr

Position: VP of Finance

Chapter: Arkansas - Kappa

Location: Olathe, KS (suburb of Kansas City, MO)

Occupation: Senior Accountant in Fixed Assets and Lease Accounting at T-Mobile

What would you like to do during your term? I would like to set some sound financial strategy and goals for the next several years.

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? Reading or crafting.

What is your favorite holiday? Thanksgiving. I love getting together with friends and family and the food.



4th of July in Arkansas

Stephanie Donahue

Position: VP of Communications

Chapter: Ohio State - Beta

Location: Cincinnati, OH

Occupation: IT Consulting

What would you like to do during your term? I'm focusing on our social media presence and reaching more sisters

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? Boating or reading a good book

What is your favorite holiday? 4th of July- because of boating and warm sunny days



This picture was taken at the marina I've been going to my entire life! I've moved many times but Lake Erie will always be home.

Meet The 18TH National Board... (continued)

Mary Beth White

Position: VP of Alumnae Engagement

Chapter: Oregon State - Sigma

Location: I live in the northeast area of Portland, Oregon next to the Alberta Arts district that has amazing food and shops (a popular destination for visitors).

Occupation: I am an industrial engineering team lead at an aerospace fabrication plant where I support two of the machining teams focused on short term and long term forecasting, planning, problem solving, and improvements.

What would you like to do during your term? One focus area for my term is to increase alumnae and active connections and collaborations.

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? At the Oregon Coast walking on the beach or curled up inside with a puzzle or board game. It has always been my place to escape and reset.

What is your favorite holiday? Thanksgiving and Christmas since both focus on time with family and reconnecting with each other. Even during COVID we have found creative ways virtually or outside to see each other and those have created special memories and also made me realize how much I took our normal traditions for granted.



This photo is of me and my spouse at the Wellington Zoo in New Zealand with their little blue penguin mascot. We love to travel (especially colder locations) and equally love getting back home and spending time in our neighborhood and at home with our two cats.

Rebecca Palmer

Position: VP of Collegiate Affairs

Chapter: Purdue - Alpha

Location: Ferndale, Michigan in the Metro-Detroit area

Occupation: Engineer for electric vehicle battery pack hardware at General Motors

What would you like to do during your term? For my term, one of my main priorities is using more resource guides and shareable content to help better support our chapters through the Regional Field Directors network consistently across the organization.

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? When I'm not working I am at community concert band practice, working on my house, playing on a co-ed kickball team or catching up on my homework for my Masters degree.

What is your favorite holiday? My favorite holiday is Kentucky Derby Day! Being from Kentucky it was always a big deal to go dress up, wear a nice hat, eat the Kentucky staples and watch the horse race. Now that I live in Michigan I host a party every year to celebrate and it has been fun introducing my friends from other states to the Kentucky traditions! Quite a few friends have also invested in some nice Derby hats they can show off each year.



Deck my dad and I built at my new house this summer! Stairs are still in the works.

Jenna Daghtani

Position: VP of Expansion

Chapter: Toledo - Delta

Location: I live in a west side suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. I am a Clevelander for life, and I love the city and being near my family.

Occupation: I am a project manager for Foundation Software. We make construction accounting software. I'm not sure how a degree in bioengineering landed me where I am, but I really love it.

What would you like to do during your term? We recently introduced the "60 by 40" goal, which is 60 chapters/expansion sites by 2024. I'm excited about this, but my overarching goal is to tailor and refine the expansion process so we can efficiently and successfully bring our sisterhood to many more campuses and share the Phi Rho experience.

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? When I'm not working I'm hanging out with my friends, knitting, crocheting, hanging with my cats, or spending time with my family. I'm getting pretty decent at making bread too!!

What is your favorite holiday? Without a doubt Thanksgiving. I love coming together to celebrate family. I have continued my Grandma's tradition of making sticky buns for Thanksgiving, and I love sharing the traditions and results with my family.



This is a picture of two of my five(!) nieces and nephews this year on Halloween. People ask why I moved back to Cleveland, and here is why!

Tina Schnell

Position: VP of Member Services

Chapter: Oregon State - Sigma

Location: I live on 5-acres just north of Vancouver, WA.

Occupation: I'm a Project Manager working on utility energy efficiency programs.

What would you like to do during your term? I'm looking to build out a larger volunteer network through additional Director roles and structure internal training/opportunities for collaboration.

When you're not working, where can people find you or what could they find you doing? When not working, I love reading, social coffee dates and board games.

What is your favorite holiday? My favorite holiday is Halloween, because I love to dress up. I helped set up/take down local Renaissance Faires in high school, and have been finding opportunities to get into garb of any kind ever since.



This is a photo of our '70s ranch house remodel, which we started in 2018 and took down to studs. We had just expanded this bedroom window and added a new header (the beam at the top).

IN CONVERSATION

with

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER *Uma Staehler*

By Christina Finn

Recently, I had the privilege of speaking to Uma Staehler, this year's Lifetime Achievement Award winner, and within minutes, I knew why she was selected. Not only is she a decorated leader in the marketing field at Eli Lilly and Co., one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the United States, but she has also directed multiple life-changing products into fruition, led innovative hardware and software solutions in multiple countries, and on top of that, has managed to procure an extremely impressive running resume.

"I ran three marathons in thirty-five days." Uma explained, going on to tell me how she had some big plans for more races in 2022. Running has always been something that she has loved to do for fun, starting as a kid growing up in Indianapolis and through college at Purdue University.

It was at Purdue that Uma also first heard about Phi Sigma Rho.

"I did actually go through Panhellenic Rush," She told me, "The idea of living in a house with a couple hundred women, it didn't feel like me. I was a little bit more independent." So when she heard about Phi Sigma Rho, she decided to check it out. "I found them to be inspiring and motivating," She describes, remembering going to their rush callout and connecting with the sisters. From there, Uma joined Phi Sigma Rho's Alpha Chapter.

Phi Sigma Rho helped prepare her for her career in many ways. Older sisters were always available to provide resources and advice about their classes for the younger sisters. As a Co-Op, Uma received endless support and mentorship from Phi Rho, as several of the sisters were also involved in Co-Op programs themselves. Through networking and offering advice on

company cultures, to explaining the leadership opportunities that each company provided, Phi Rho was a huge proponent of support when Uma chose her first job post-graduation.

She started her career as a Mechanical Engineer at Eli Lilly and Co., working in Plant Engineering. Uma had chosen the engineering route in high school after her physics teacher encouraged her to look into it, given her excellent math and science skills. After taking their advice and shadowing, she took the leap. It was two years into her first job as an Engineer, when her boss at the time brought up the idea of her doing a sales assignment.

"Lilly really emphasized having cross functional assignments," She explained, "I wanted to learn more about the core business of the company and I liked the idea that it would give me a broader understanding of the bigger picture of the products." From there, she began a six-month long sales assignment. After networking with New Product Planning, which happens to fall on the marketing side of the organization, she moved from the sales assignment into a New Product Planning and Marketing Analyst Role.

Throughout her years at Eli Lilly and Co, Uma has worked on multiple brands in infectious diseases, osteoporosis, diabetes and oncology, and helped to develop commercial strategies for thirteen products during her career. She had her first overseas position in London, where she joined the Lilly European team working with European affiliates on the brand strategies for one of their breast cancer products.

"It was an amazing life experience, personally and professionally," She described, "Seeing how people work in different countries,





some of the nuances as a global role for how you work with the affiliates, how they take what you give them, how much they really understand what you're giving them, it was fantastic."

After returning to the United States to continue her work in oncology, she was offered another international opportunity for a role in China. The role was the Director of Marketing Innovation and Capabilities, in which half of her role was working on digital marketing projects using technology, and the remaining half was building a central marketing organization for China. It was in this role that Uma really began to get into digital healthcare experiences, building programs and partnerships to integrate hardware, software and pharmaceutical products to spread awareness to people on their disease management. They launched a product for diabetes, created multiple Telehealth programs on Chinese platforms, as well as built software solutions for customers and internal employees on their WeChat platforms. That particular role was what she credits with opening her eyes to how technology can be used to improve patient outcomes with drug products.

Upon returning to the United States, Uma joined the Connected Care Team in Boston at the Lilly Innovation Center, where she works today. The team has been working to build solutions for both inside and outside the US to integrate hardware and software, with insulin administration, customer

support, and improved information to create better outcomes for patients with diabetes and healthcare professionals.

When I asked Uma what advice she could offer for sisters pursuing a marketing path, her answer was immediate.

"Continue to ask questions, build your network, don't be afraid to ask for help and advice." She offered, "Know that people want to help. Be thankful, but not apologetic. Know that no two career paths are the same, you drive it the way you want to, but be open and flexible to new opportunities that you might not have thought you would ever want. Try not to plan it out too much."

As for what she's learned when projects don't always go as planned, Uma explained that she learned "that you have to plan for success but that success is not guaranteed. You need a contingency plan and to prepare for it not to be successful." And she said, on a personal note, "My Phi Rho sisters have always been there." The lifelong friendships and the close group of sisters who she's relied on for thirty years, the supportive facebook communities, the Boston, Indy, and Purdue Phi Rho groups, are all still important friends and important parts of her life. "That," she explained, "has been the biggest gift."

As for what's next for this amazing Phi Rho sister, she explains, "to continue learning, contributing, making the world a better place and giving back. I want to mentor and give back to the next generation to help them be successful."



Images Courtesy of Uma Staehler



2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Abisola Oladapo

Abisola drew on the near-loss of her child to create Mumspring, a health tech company positioned to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths by providing essential health services to women and children in under-served communities.

Through her work at Mumspring, Abisola is building a legacy of enduring impact by saving lives and advocating for women and children across Africa and beyond. At the helm of Mumspring, Abisola has led her team to painstakingly and expertly create an intuitive technology, designed by women, for women, to create much-needed change to ensure that women and their families are spared preventable maternal and neonatal deaths.

Her work at Mumspring has received recognition from TechCabal, Folio by CNN, Impact Hub Global, and Forbes.

Previously an engineer at Microsoft, Schlumberger and Medtronic in the U.S, Abisola has a penchant for solving tough problems. She is an alum of prestigious universities such as: Howard University, Columbia University and London Business School. Abisola was a co-founder of the first HBCU chapter of Phi Sigma Rho (at Howard).



1. How or what circumstances led you to starting a Phi Sigma Rho chapter at Howard University?

There were two pivotal conversations that led to me starting a Phi Sigma Rho chapter at Howard. I was serving as the President of the Society of Women Engineers chapter at Howard University. I became President by default - I happened to be the only non-graduating member. I rallied together all the amazing women I knew to form a leadership team and we went on to establish the chapter as an award-winning organization.

As I had a chat with one of our members one day, I realized that in spite of all the career opportunities and career-positioning workshops we had implemented, women needed more. The mere fact that we were in male-dominated programs was overwhelming and isolating for many women and we needed a social network to help us connect with other women and be a support system beyond career.

I was relaying this conversation with Crystal - a good friend of mine and the treasurer of SWE at the time and she said: why not create a sorority for women in

engineering...a google search and 10 months later with dozens of meetings in between...the Phi Chapter of Phi Sigma Rho was born.

2. What made you decide to leave more traditional engineering jobs to start your own company, Mumspring? Was it a difficult decision to make? If so, any advice for anyone else who may be considering a similar move?

I saw problems that needed to be solved and I was dissatisfied with the status quo. That's why I left a traditional engineering job to become an entrepreneur. When I first became an entrepreneur, it wasn't a difficult decision - I naively thought building a business would be easy...turns out, it's a lot of work. In hindsight, I would say go for it but be very clear on your 'why' and realize that you will constantly be learning. For engineers who like to have the answers, it can be quite humbling to realize how much you have to learn about people and yourself when building a business.

3. What are your aspirations for Mumspring? What is your favorite part of what you do?

My aspiration is to see Mumspring enable an equitable and sustainable society using technology. My favorite part of what I do is bringing a new business or new product to life. I love seeing the difference it makes in the lives of our customers and beneficiaries.

Mumspring recently incubated and co-created a new business: Agnes Health. I am really excited about Agnes. Agnes is poised to transform maternal and neonatal health. We usually have a hypothesis for what impact our product or service will have but to hear the customer stories and the positive impact we have on their lives - that makes me glad and makes all the work worthwhile.

4. Between founding the Phi chapter and creating your own company, it would appear you have a very entrepreneurial spirit. Do you believe such a nature and the skills to do so are something people are born with or do you feel as though people can learn to become good at it over time?

It takes boldness and grit to become and stay an entrepreneur. They are tough days but it takes grit to keep going and adapting to create a resilient business.

Every child is born bold but through learned behaviors and experiences, we learn fear and caution. There are times to be cautious and they are times to go for it. Learning that balance takes time and nobody gets it right all the time.

The successful entrepreneurs are those who aren't afraid to fail. The way to look at it is this: either you succeed or you learn something. I believe entrepreneurship can be learned. Some people may be more inclined to start businesses but it takes a lot of resilience to remain an entrepreneur.

5. Speaking on behalf of all women who are glad to see a woman thrive in the traditionally male-dominated tech space, what aspects (if any) have you found especially challenging? How can we all do a better job of supporting women who might be doing this in the future?

Initially, I found it difficult to understand and navigate the funding landscape until I started to understand what kind of funding was right for my type of work and what investors seek for. Mentors, incubators and accelerators have been particularly helpful in helping me navigate the funding journey.

Being a woman in a male-dominated field can be daunting. Women who may be doing this in the future need coaches and allies. They need people willing to open doors for them and help them. They need people willing to help them see the greatness that lies within and who would help midwife it to reality.



2021 NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Lifetime Achievement Award

Uma Staehler (Purdue - Alpha)

Distinguished Alumna Award

Dr. Nia Peters (Howard - Phi)
Abisola Oladapo (Howard - Phi)

Orchid Award: Woman of the Year

Jessica Sofka (Arizona - Alpha Kappa)

Pearl Award: Exceptional Service

Tammy (Lowe) Biswick (Purdue - Alpha)

Chapter Advisor Award

Cara Redding (Connecticut - Theta)

Alumnae Officer Award

Tina Schnell (Oregon State - Sigma)

President's Commendation

Ivy Kwok (UCLA - Nu)
Allison Lunney (Northeastern - Alpha Tau)
Eliana Berney (Connecticut - Theta)
Abby Aronica (Ohio State - Beta)
Kate Evenson (Washington - Mu)
Jessica Sofka (Arizona - Alpha Kappa)
Kathryn Spencer (Connecticut - Theta)
Alyssa Bigley (Michigan - Eta)
Annabel Devault (Northeastern - Alpha Tau)

Order of the Pyramid Inductees

Kathleen Vijaywergiya (Ohio State - Beta)
Jenna Daghestani (Toledo - Delta)
Mary Beth White (Oregon State - Sigma)
Janelle Becker (Ohio State - Beta)
Rosalie Krob (Purdue - Alpha)

Lexi Heironimus (Wright State - Alpha Zeta)

Lara Day (Purdue - Alpha)
Alison Meshew (Dayton - Gamma)
Gabrielle Salazar (Pittsburgh - Zeta)
Alyssa Columbus (UC Irvine - Pi)
Nia Peters (Howard - Phi)
Jessica Sofka (Arizona - Alpha Kappa)
Tammy (Lowe) Biswick (Purdue - Alpha)
Abisola Oladapo (Howard - Phi)

Rashmi Khanna Scholarship Award

Rutgers - Xi Chapter

Abby McDonald Spirit Award

UCSD - Chi Chapter

Christine Mooney Service Award

Youngstown State - Alpha Alpha Chapter

2021 Regional Leadership Conference

This year, the Midwest 3 Region was thrilled to invite their collegiate and alumnae members to their Virtual Regional Conference that was held April 17-18, 2021. The weekend consisted of a keynote about Diversity and Inclusion, panels from alumnae talking about their involvement in the sorority and their careers, roundtables for collegiate members, social sessions, and workshops for their Executive Boards. The four schools in the region each had a sister delegate that helped plan and lead the activities over the weekend. The event had 57 sisters participate across the two days from the four universities. This event was the beginning of a new set of Regional Conferences that will be debuted across the organization in 2022 to help chapters get to know others nearby and collaborate both virtually and hopefully in-person. Thank you to Brittany (Alpha Delta), Kami (Eta), Shayna (Delta), and Hannah (Iota) for planning a great event, and thank you to the alumnae who presented! We look forward to growing these events across the sisterhood in the upcoming years!

MIDWEST 3 REGION
Michigan State University
University of Michigan
Ohio Northern University
University of Toledo

WHAT IS A REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE?

Regional Conferences are held in specific regions (that correlate to the region splits for Regional Field Directors) to improve communication and relations between chapters and provide resources for the chapters to collaborate on content they are interested in. The chapters are critical in the planning efforts to allow them to personalize the information to what they are most interested in learning. The Regional Field Directors will help coordinate the events with a team of delegates from the chapters in the region. The events are focused on collegiate chapters with support and additional events to engage alumnae from those chapters.



PHI SIGMA RHO

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Join us at our first ever regional conference, including actives and alumna from the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio Northern, and the University of Toledo.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17
9:00am – 5:00pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 18
12:00pm – 5:45pm

All events will be held virtually through Zoom, links will be sent out to participants.

Contact Rebecca Palmer at Midwest3RFD.PhiSigmaRho@gmail.com for more information



Alpha Chapter (Purdue)

The Alpha Chapter was able to hold an in-person philanthropy event at their house for the first time since 2019. Phi Rho Floats, an all-you-can-drink coke and root beer float event, raised over \$1000 for LLS!

During the weekend of November 14th, we activated 35 new sisters into the Alpha Chapter! With these new additions, we now have about 140 sisters! This semester, our lovely Candidate Educators were Payton Dude and Alyson Pickering, we couldn't have done it without them! Here are some pictures of the Beta Eta pledge class!



CHAPTER AND ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
UPDATES



Zeta Chapter (Pittsburgh)

Congratulations to the Zeta Chapter who was recognized for multiple achievements during the University's virtual Fraternity and Sorority Life awards presented on April 21st. The FSL office writes:

“Mari Kay Hannon was awarded Greek Week Executive Board Member of the Year. Mari Kay was the Logistics Chair for Greek Week. She designed a website and virtual points board for teams to follow along with events. As the Greek Week events were all virtual, having this tool was a great way to engage our community. Her hard work behind the scenes made Greek Week run smoothly.

The chapter was awarded Excellence in Member Development and the Cathedral Cup for the Collegiate Panhellenic Association. This sorority has often gone above and beyond to make sure members had a great experience, and this year was no exception. The chapter excelled in their service and philanthropy efforts, cultivated positive relationships with other chapters, providing enriching programming for its members, and creating opportunities for members to grow and develop. The sorority had a serious focus on DEI work by advocating for changing sororities policies at the national of their organization to protect undocumented members. They have worked hard to be a positive force in the Panhellenic community despite this year's difficulties and have made a lasting impact on everyone involved with their chapter as well as the greater FSL community.”

Omega Chapter (VCU)



This semester as a chapter, we had a floral photoshoot on Saturday, September 11th.



Additionally, on September 19th, we had a trash cleanup here in Richmond.



Furthermore, on October 9th, we had a Sisterhood retreat at Riverfront Canal Cruise.

Also, on October 27th, we had a Halloween cookie decorating social with Gamma Phi Beta.



We also started doing spirit days during chapter. Above is a picture of the dress to pin one! We've had neon day, VCU merch day, phi rho merch day, flannel day, and pink day.



Lastly, we had Semi-formal on November 5th.

Alpha Pi Chapter (Wyoming)

Congratulations to the Alpha Pi chapter for winning the 2020 Outstanding Philanthropic Endeavor for their Phi Rho Cookie Dough project. The Outstanding Philanthropic Endeavor award “recognizes a specific philanthropic event/initiative/project (or series of endeavors) that is considered worthy of special recognition due to the scale, participation, and/or benefit provided to the agency, organization, or cause.” The Alpha Pi Chapter was recognized as part of the University of Wyoming’s 2020 FSL award announcement earlier this year.



Sigma Chapter Alumnae Association (Oregon State)

Sigma Chapter AA has been transitioning back to in-person socials with an ice cream walk in July, the annual alumnae picnic in August, dinner with Abby and Rashmi for Founders Day in September (since they were both in Portland!) and a pumpkin patch visit in October. We were very excited to celebrate that two of the Foundation’s Founders Day Virtual 5k award winners were Sigma Alumnae, and are hoping to host a philanthropy event of our own shortly.

Continued on Page 19

Spotlight on Research: *Learn more about the innovative research projects that two of our fabulous collegiate members have done.*



Sarika Sawant

(Arizona State - Alpha Lambda Chapter)

The goal of my current study is to estimate maximum bite force generated by the Greenland shark to compare these estimates with both close relatives and other large sharks. Modeling studies such as this one are invaluable for better understanding species that are difficult to study directly.



Ashlyn Mahoney

(UC San Diego - Chi Chapter)

I am a Cognitive Science (Design & Interaction) major and Computer Science and Environmental Studies double minor at UC San Diego, and this project was something I worked on last spring quarter. I really wanted to take a look at a topic that spanned all of the disciplines I am currently studying, so this project is a compilation of research I conducted on peoples' knowledge and habits pertaining to smartphone obsolescence, as well as a look at how this practice has impacted the environment. It was actually the first research project I have undertaken completely on my own, and I am proud to say that it not only earned me an excellent grade in the class I started it for, but also won first place in a Computer Science and Engineering summer showcase at UCSD!



Read the report about my project.



Watch a video about my project.

Updates from THE PHI SIGMA RHO FOUNDATION

OPEN POSITIONS

VP of Donor Relations: The Foundation is seeking a new member of the Board of Directors to fill the VP of Donor Relations role. In this role, the VP of Donor Relations is responsible for all aspects of donor interaction, including donor engagement, direct communication with donors, reviewing gift requests, and campaign development. This office oversees the Development Chair, Collegiate Affairs Chair, Alumnae Affairs Chair, and Donor Acknowledgement Chairs. While the board position is a four year commitment, you will have the opportunity to change roles after two years.

HR Manager: The Foundation is seeking a new volunteer who is motivated and organized to fill the role of HR Manager. The HR Manager onboards volunteers and assists the Secretary as needed. If you are detail oriented and have an interest in learning about the Foundation, this is a great opportunity for you!

Chapter Funds Chair: We are seeking a motivated and organized alumnae to fill the role of our Chapter Funds Chair. This position will work closely with the VP of Programming and the VP of Donor Relations to oversee all aspects of the newly developed Chapter Funds Program. If you are detail-oriented, thorough, have good listening skills, and are passionate about helping chapters on a local level, this role may be a great fit for you!

Service Chair: We are looking for a responsible, dedicated alumna to fill the role of Service Chair. The Service Chair is responsible for assisting the VP of Strategy with reporting on service projects. This includes helping with grant reports and financial reports as well as developing service and philanthropy packets for active chapters. If you are good with numbers and passionate about service, this could be the role for you!

Publicity Committee (2): We are seeking at least 2 alumnae to fill openings on our publicity committee. This committee is responsible for working with the VP of Publicity and development committee to design content that publicizes the ongoings of the Foundation which will then be published using our various communication platforms (i.e. social media, website, emails, etc). If you are creative, organized and have good time management abilities, this may be a good fit for you!

Development Committee (3): We are seeking at least 3 alumnae to fill roles on our new development committee. This committee will be responsible for working with the VP of Donor Relations, Development Chair, and publicity committee in order to plan and execute each of the Foundation's fundraising campaigns. If you are organized, detail oriented, and enjoy campaign planning, this may be a good fit for you!

If you are interested in learning more about any of these openings, please don't hesitate to email contact@phisigmahofoundation.org. Please fill out the Volunteer Interest Form found on the Phi Rho Portal if you are interested in volunteering in any of these positions.

2021 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:

Janelle Becker,
Ohio State Beta



SECRETARY:

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TREASURER:

Rosalie Krob,
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VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGY:

Lexi Heironimus,
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VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLICITY:

Bridget Fricke,
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VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING:

Kendall Murphy,
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ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Christine Jackson

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SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:

Sam Rohner

DEVELOPMENT CHAIR:

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Missy Mercurio

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Amy Mazzanti

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Kathy Bradley, Katie Shesko

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:

Makenzie Gladieux

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Anita Jain, Victoria Platt, Gaby McInnes

Foundation Scholarships

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients this year! The Phi Sigma Rho Foundation awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding students. Since our founding, 49 sisters have now been awarded \$44,000 in scholarships.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Philanthropy and Service Scholarship

Pinky Arunwattanamongkol
(University of Cincinnati-Alpha Beta)

It is such an honor to be a recipient of the Phi Sigma Rho Philanthropy and Service Scholarship 2021. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support of my friends, and family who inspired and support me and believe in me. This scholarship means so much to me not only for the monetary value but also for the recognition and belief in my hard work.

One of the reasons that I wanted to be part of the Phi Sigma Rho sorority was because I have always had a passion for philanthropy since I was a little girl, I have a dream to make our society become a better place, and I believe that even a small kind act can change the world. Experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic affected me badly, but I was very lucky to receive a lot of support from my friends which inspired me to pay it forward to other people.

Again, thank you so much for this award. I appreciate this and I will continue to follow my passion for philanthropy and engineering. I will keep working on spreading positivity and paying forward to other people who need it.



Leadership Scholarship

Alyson Neaves Jimenez
(Arizona State University-Alpha Lambda)

I am so incredibly thankful for the support

of the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation and its supporters with this scholarship. Phi Sigma Rho has made me who I am today and I've learned so much through my sisterhood regarding leadership and our values. With this scholarship, I will be able to complete the last year of my Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Arizona State University and work toward my long-term career goal of being an aerospace engineer. I am so grateful for this opportunity to further my education.



Merit Scholarship

Isabella Gayoso
(Pennsylvania State University-Lambda)

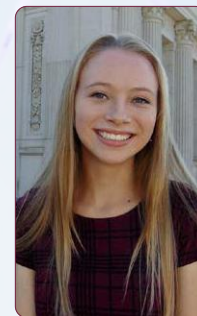
I so am honored to be the recipient of the Phi Sigma Rho Merit Scholarship. Thank you so much for your kind generosity to Phi Sigma Rho and its sisters. The impact you have on students with these awards is immeasurable and appreciated.

At Penn State, I am involved in several ways. My biggest commitment is the Society of Women Engineers, where I was the Internal Relations Chair freshmen year, the Director of Member Engagement sophomore year, and the Officer of Member Relations this upcoming year. I was also a Women in Engineering Program Orientation participant as a first year and on the leadership team afterwards. My other major time commitment, of course, is Phi Sigma Rho. I was inducted in Spring 2020, and held Scholarship Chair and Risk Manager during Fall 2020.

My majors are Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. I am interested in improving the aerospace industry to be more sustainable and efficient. After my freshmen year, I worked as a Process and Quality

Engineering Intern at a plastics fabrication company that specialized in thermoformed plastics. My background in quality assurance led to my internship at SpaceX this past spring, where I worked as a Build Reliability Intern ensuring components on SpaceX's products are meeting part conformance standards and running investigative analyses when they are not. This summer, I am interning at Lockheed Martin Space in the Engineering Propulsion Lab as a Design and Test Engineering Intern. In addition to my internships, I also participate in undergraduate research during the semesters at Penn State. After my undergraduate degree, I hope to attend graduate school for Aerospace Engineering. I am particularly interested in propulsion systems, especially turbomachinery, and hope to focus on this area. Afterward, I plan to work in industry, with the long term goal of founding an Aerospace start-up. Receiving this scholarship has given me the gift of opportunity, as it reduces my financial stress and allows me to focus on my activities and academics. In the future, I see the opportunities I received today through the scholarship opening doors to graduate school, potential start-ups, and time to develop and expand upon my interests.

I sincerely thank you for all you have done for me and my future.



Sarah Rogers McClure Memorial Scholarship

Jennifer Conde
(UC Berkeley-Alpha Theta)

I am so grateful to receive the 2021 Sarah Rogers McClure Memorial Scholarship! Thank you to both the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation and all donors for making this scholarship possible

Continued on page 18

2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Continued from page 17

and for encouraging future STEM leaders. The community that Phi Sigma Rho has provided to me has been invaluable, and I am looking forward to staying involved with Phi Sigma Rho as both a graduate student and an alumna. With this scholarship and the support of the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation, I am able to continue my studies as a Master of Information & Data Science student at UC Berkeley with the hopes of applying what I learn in the energy industry to fight against climate change.



*Francis J. Monigan
Memorial
Scholarship*

Alexa Brzezinski
*(University of Michigan-
Eta)*

I am so thankful and honored to receive the Francis J. Monigan memorial scholarship. I really appreciate the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation for providing scholarships so that students like myself can continue to pursue higher education. Attending college out of state was not an easy decision, but scholarships like the Francis J. Monigan memorial scholarship have helped me make my dreams of completing my mechanical engineering degree from the University of Michigan a reality. I hope to honor Francis J. Monigan by continuing to exemplify the

values he found most important - grit, compassion, and a desire for helping others. Joining Phi Sigma Rho has been one of the best decisions I have made during my time in college. The academic, professional, and social support I have received from my sisters continues to exceed my expectations, and I am excited to continue to stay engaged with this community throughout the rest of my life. PRL!



*Anne Louise Roach
Legacy Scholarship*

Lindsay Eichhold
*(University of Louisville-
Alpha Gamma)*

I am so thankful to have been awarded the Anne Louise Roach Legacy Scholarship from the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation! Growing up, I always remember my mom talking so highly about her time as an active in Phi Sigma Rho that when I came to college I decided to rush, too. Being a part of Phi Sigma Rho has helped me meet so many awesome female engineers and provided me with the support system I have needed to be successful during my undergraduate courses. This scholarship will help me cover the costs of the last semester of my chemical engineering degree and help me finally achieve my goal of becoming an engineer!!

LIGHT THE NIGHT

2021

TOP FUNDRAISING CHAPTERS

Ohio State University

\$5,613

Vanderbilt University

\$5,515

University of Pittsburgh

\$3,293

Overall Fundraised in 2021

\$34,470

How to Set Up Your Amazon Smile Account



Do you want to give back to the Foundation, but are unable to make a financial contribution? AmazonSmile is your solution! For every purchase you make, AmazonSmile donates 0.5% on qualified purchases to the nonprofit of your choice, at no extra cost to you. Be sure to spread the word to your family and friends so you can make an even bigger impact on the Foundation!

Use AmazonSmile While Shopping on your Mobile Device

If you aren't an AmazonSmile member, sign up at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and then select Phi Sigma Rho Foundation to begin generating donations.

Download the Amazon app on your iPhone or Android device via the App Store or Google Play.

Open the app, find "Settings," then click "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.



SARAH ROGERS McCLURE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The Sarah Rogers McClure Memorial Scholarship was generously developed in honor of Sarah Rogers McClure, a beloved Purdue chapter alumnae who passed away with cancer in December 2010. Since 2013, eight sisters of Phi Sigma Rho have received this \$1,000 scholarship in her name.

It is the Foundation's goal for sisters to be able to receive this scholarship for years to come; therefore, this year we aimed to raise \$11,000 in order to endow this scholarship in 2021. The Phi Sigma Rho Foundation is proud to continue sharing Sarah's legacy through the Sarah Rogers McClure Memorial Scholarship and Fund. Through endowing this scholarship, Sarah will continue to be an inspiration for years to come for the Phi Sigma Rho sisterhood. Thank you to all those who helped us reach our goal by donating to the **Sarah Rogers McClure Memorial Fund**. (<https://www.classy.org/campaign/sarah-rogers-mcclure-scholarship-endowment/c342484>)

Alpha Beta Chapter (University of Cincinnati)

Continued from Page 14



DREAM DAY 2021



The Alpha Beta Chapter organized and sponsored a Dream Day event at Saint Ursula High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dream Days, the signature events of the DreamGirls Initiative, are interactive workshops designed to introduce middle school participants to a variety of STEM careers.

On November 13th, students from the Alpha Beta Chapter and Saint Ursula High School volunteered to administer and oversee activities designed to foster a continued interest in STEM. Each activity was sponsored and presented by a professional from one of these participating companies: B&G Foods, Siemens, GE, Beckman Coulter, Fifth Third Bank, and Air Force Research Labs. Some of the activities included making a homemade lava lamp, building their own airplane, and brainstorming how to build an assisted living device for an animal with arthritis.

Due to the hard work of the presenters and volunteers, the event was a huge success for the many young participants who were able to attend!



Halloween! The weather is amazing, it is so much fun to decorate, and I love seeing how creative people get with their costumes

Jessica S

Thanksgiving is definitely my favorite. I attend a large family gathering and eat a lot of good food. I don't host so there aren't any expectations from me besides to show up and enjoy myself.

Rebecca W

Christmas! I always looked forward to spending time with family I don't see very often

Natalie R

New Years because it is a fresh start
OSU Phi Sigma Rho

Lunar New Year because of the vibrant, energizing traditions and delicious food with loved ones!

Ivy K

Christmas because all of the music and decorations leading up to the day itself adds joy to my life for weeks!

Amanda B

Halloween-I have always loved coming up with creative costumes for myself and now for my kids. Plus-you get to count and categorize candy!

Sara D

Halloween. I feel like my son will make it super fun. This year, at 3.5yrs old, he picked his costume for the first time and I ended up making him a lantern fly costume. I can't wait to see what his beautiful mind dreams up next year.

Fernanda C

Fourth of July because I love riding fast in my car and blast Lana Del Reys National Anthem song.

Anastasia M

Christmas! I love the snow

Lucie C

Dec 26 - the true rest day of a working mom. I relish wearing PJs all day and knowing the offspring are still enchanted with their loot. Showers are either a luxury or optional and the bottom line is mom is officially off for her holiday.

Heather M

Christmas because I get to spend time with all my family and friends

Alysa K

Thanksgiving because that is when I see the most amount of family

Emily S

I have to vote for both Thanksgiving (family gathering and PIE!), and Christmas, because my birthday is in December, and I have always loved the lights and music and parties and decorations and movies and traditions - such a festive time (not so much the commercial aspect). I love the whole season (not specifically the day).

Abby S

Thanksgiving. Good food and family time!

Alexandria C

4th of July because the meal is easy, the weather is warm, I don't have to buy gifts and everybody is happy.

Lisa C

What's your favorite holiday and why?

Love thanksgiving! It's always been my favorite. Spending time with family and friends, amazing food and no materialistic pressure. Just hang out and enjoy all weekend, maybe go for a movie etc. we've never been one to do shopping this weekend it's more time spent with friends and family.

Kathleen V

Thanksgiving- get to spend time with whoever you want, make and eat amazing food with left overs. Also it's typically a four day weekend.

Sydney N

Halloween is my favorite because I enjoy the spooky decorations and seeing how creepy I can make my house without scaring my family. Thanksgiving and Christmas are more about the time with family than the actual holiday for me.

Krista S