

# THE KEY

*of Phi Sigma Rho*

SPRING 2018



Photo Credit:  
Arkansas - Kappa Chapter  
Instagram @uarkphirho



# In This Issue...

Foreground Photo Credit:  
Instagram @uconnphirho

Background Photo Credit:  
Instagram @phisigmarhouf

## Sorority News and Updates

- 03 Letter From the Executive Director
- 04 2017 Financial Overview
- 05 2018 National Leadership Conference
- 05 Alumnae Weekend in Chicago
- 06 Thank You Regional Field Directors
- 08 Colony Updates

## Spotlights

- 10 Chapter Spotlights: Howard-Phi & Purdue-Alpha
- 12 Active Spotlight: Emily Jensen
- 13 Alumnae Spotlight: Mary Beth White
- 14 A Founder's Reflection:

## Phi Sigma Rho Foundation Updates

- 12 Step Bet & Diet Bet
- 15 Letter from the Foundation President
- 16 2018 Goals & Objectives
- 17 Light the Night

## Did You Know?

- 12 Upcoming Webinars
- 18 In the Beginning
- 19 Life on a Vineyard
- 22 PSR in Social Media
- 24 Alumnae Dues

# Letter from *the Executive Director*

In May 2009, I was given the honor of becoming the Executive Director of Phi Sigma Rho. Over the years, my responsibilities have increased as the Sorority has grown. In May 2009, there were twenty-two chapters. I attended my first Installation in 2011 in San Diego of the Psi Chapter from Cal Poly Pomona. Since then, I have been to five Installations, and I am looking forward to attending even more in the future. Installations are full of energy, excitement, and nerves. The colony members work hard over a long period of time to make their dream a reality. It is an overwhelming experience to welcome the colony members into Phi Sigma Rho and know all of the incredible things in store for them as Phi Rhos.

Since 2007, the number of initiated candidates has nearly tripled, and the number of active members has more than tripled. By the end of 2019, it is expected that the number of chapters will have doubled since 2007 from twenty-two to forty-four. The incredible growth is due to the hard work and dedication of both collegian and alumnae members.

As the Sorority grows, so do the demands on the national volunteers. All of the national volunteers are instrumental to the stability and growth of Phi Sigma Rho. The National Council members devote many hours a week to ensure that the sisters have the tools and skills they need to be successful. The Regional Field Directors (RFDs) are a constant source of support for the chapters and the committee members and directors are passionate about the success of each Phi Rho. All of these volunteers have jobs, families, and other responsibilities, but they are willing to give their time to make Phi Sigma Rho what it is. Phi Sigma Rho would not be where it is today without these amazing ladies!

As Phi Sigma Rho continues to grow, the National Sorority provides even more support for the chapters. Thanks to

the efforts of the current and previous VP of Collegiate Affairs and RFDs, the chapters have another resource to go to with questions and concerns. Chapters now use ChapterSpot online chapter management software that includes recruitment, points tracker, finance, communication, file storage, calendar, and website tools. The online database used by both the Sorority and Foundation has been transitioned to Salesforce to allow both groups accurate reporting, increased member communication, and improved member management. This year, thanks to the VP Of Membership and the Ritual Committee, an updated Ritual Manual will be distributed to all chapters. This Ritual will include the new Infinity Ritual. The VP of Membership has worked hard to ensure that all candidates have a similar member education experience and to bring consistency to the membership education process. The VP of Standards is helping the chapters understand the need to manage all risks and plan safe events so all sisters have safe and fun events.

To better and more fully support the national volunteers, the Sorority headquarter staff continues to grow as well and recently hired the fifth staff member. Each staff member supports the national volunteers and assists with the headquarters operation. The day-to-day operations are now run by the staff

which allows the National Council members shift their focus to the mission, vision, and strategy of the Sorority.

In addition to providing more support for our collegians, the Sorority is always seeking more strategic and focused ways to support the alumnae. In September, the first official Phi Rho Alumnae trip has been planned to take place in Chicago from the 14th through the 17th and promises to be an exciting opportunity for sisterhood and sharing outside of our usual gatherings. Check out the blog and the advertisement in this Magazine for more information.

In 2018, our sisterhood celebrates thirty-four years since ten courageous ladies at Purdue saw the need for Phi Sigma Rho and took the necessary steps to make it a reality. At the 2019 National Convention, we will proudly celebrate thirty-five years of sisterhood in Scottsdale, Arizona. Please mark your calendars now for July 18-21, 2019 for a Phi Rho party like no other.

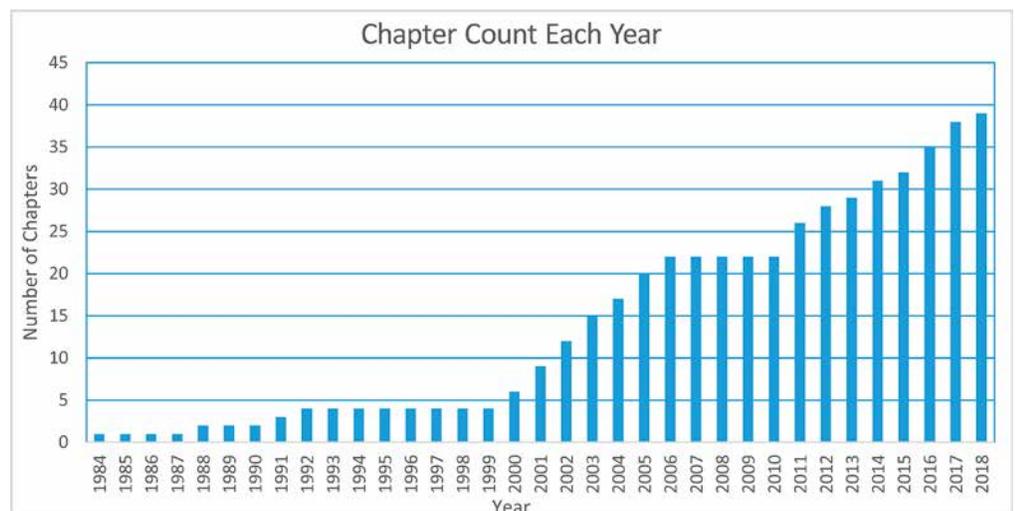
Thank you to all of you for your incredible and amazing contributions, talents, and commitment that always make me proud to be a sister of Phi Sigma Rho!

*Colleen Bush*

*Ohio State - Beta*

*Executive Director*

*Phi Sigma Rho National Sorority*



# Phi Sigma Rho National Sorority

## 2017 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

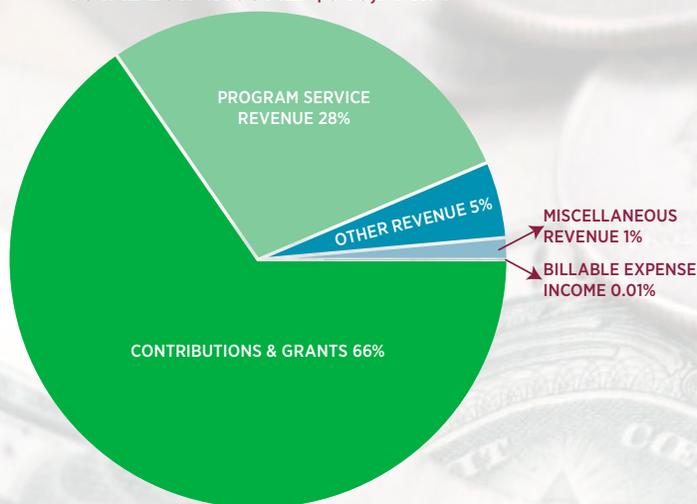
The financial position of Phi Sigma Rho National Sorority remained strong in 2017 – expenses were less than income collected. The pie charts below provide a high-level overview, with the following explanations.

Contributions represent the biggest source of revenue, with 61% from Collegian Dues and Fees, 3% from Alumnae Dues and the remaining from Installation fees and Foundation Grants. Program Service Revenue includes Convention fees and premiums collected for our liability insurance coverage. The remaining sources of income are from other sources such as the Phi Rho Store, interest, royalties, etc.

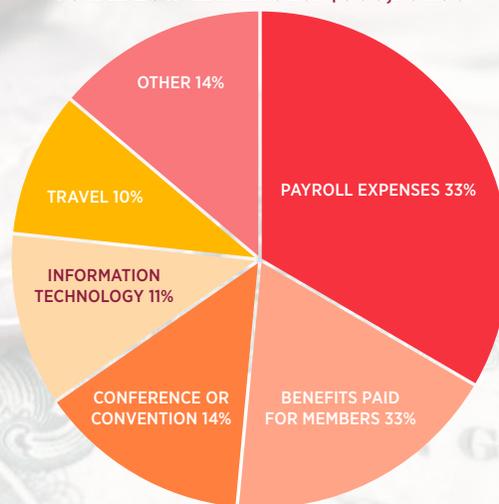
A good portion of our income is spent on payroll related items – salaries and taxes for our four employees. Liability coverage continues to be a major expense each year, representing 18% of total expenditures. While Conference and Convention is paid for with registration fees, we were able to provide several chapters with travel subsidies to Convention (a total of \$6200). Our remaining expenses include items such as travel, Chapter materials, and various office related expenses. The biggest single purchase in 2017 was ChapterSpot, which will streamline workflow between our Chapters, our employees, and National Council.

Any questions about the National Sorority's finances can be directed to Christine MacLaren, VP of Finance, at [vpoffinance@phisigmarho.org](mailto:vpoffinance@phisigmarho.org).

TOTAL 2017 INCOME: \$346,744.14



TOTAL 2017 EXPENSES: \$306,701.60



2017 INCOME	
CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Contributions and Grants	\$226,678.56
Program Service Revenue	\$98,068.10
Other Revenues	\$17,223.13
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$4,739.68
Billable Expense Income	\$34.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$346,744.14</b>

2017 EXPENSES	
CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Payroll Expenses	\$102,417.70
Benefits Paid for Members	\$55,414.10
Conference or Convention	\$42,785.45
Information Technology	\$34,680.62
Travel	\$29,180.84
Other	\$42,222.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$306,701.60</b>

# 2018 National Leadership Conference

*Register Now*

WHAT?

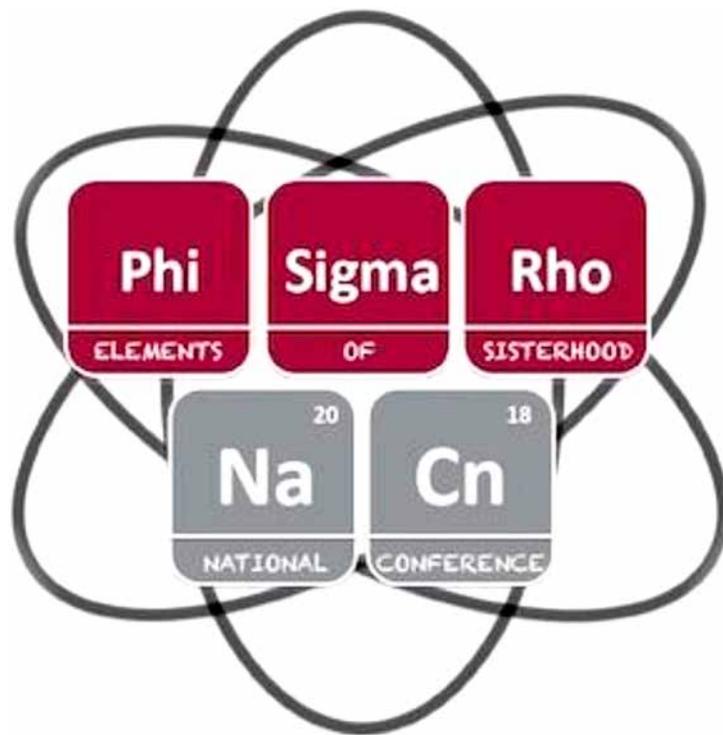
**2018 National Leadership  
Conference**

WHERE?

**Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN**

WHEN?

**July 20-22, 2018**



SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.phisigmarho.org/event/2018-national-leadership-conference](http://www.phisigmarho.org/event/2018-national-leadership-conference)

## *Alumnae Weekend in Chicago*

**Are you in need of some Phi Rho sister time?  
Do you love to meet new Phi Rhos  
from all over the country?**

Then mark your calendar for

**SEPTEMBER 14-17**

for the Alumnae weekend in Chicago.

Check out more details on the Phi Rho blog at  
[phisigmarho.org/blog/chicago-alumnae-trip](http://phisigmarho.org/blog/chicago-alumnae-trip)

# Thank You to the 2016-2018 REG

## EAST 1



**Name:** Emily Alexander  
**Degree:** BS in Mechanical Engineering  
**Current City:** Columbus, OH  
**Job:** Design Engineer

**Why did you apply for the RFD position?** I wanted to continue to be involved in the sorority after graduation

**Favorite Phi Rho memory:** Living with other sisters and sitting around realizing that I wasn't the only one struggling. It really builds confidence to have people right next to you who are going through the same stage of life. And that continues to extend into adulthood, getting married, having babies, building careers, all with your best friends right beside you, building you up.

**Advice to Alum interested in volunteering:** Remember what you joined Phi Rho for and think about all of the girls out there looking for the same thing. Phi Rho can only exist with volunteers, and in order for it to continue to be the shining light it is for hundreds of women around the country, it needs people to help make that light even brighter.

## MIDWEST 1



**Name:** Tricia Fuge  
**Degree:** BS in Biology  
**Current City:** Spencerville, OH  
**Job:** Fuel Lab Technician at Husky Energy

**Why did you apply for the RFD position?** To connect with and help actives

**Favorite Phi Rho memory:** We had a weekly Sunday brunch where we would get together and make

pancakes before we went and did street cleans. Or basically anything from my last year :)

**Advice to Alum interested in volunteering:** Remember how difficult things could be as an active and the crazy college schedule on top of balancing all the paperwork and duties as an active. Remember how helpful it could have been or was to have an Alumna say "I've been there, you'll get through it" and offer advice or just listen or help you understand all the rules and governing documents. Remember how your sisters were what got you through college and the fact that without volunteers it wouldn't be possible to have active chapters.

## EAST 2



**Name:** Courtney Riley  
**Degree:** BS in Mechanical Engineering (Michigan), currently pursuing MS in Engineering Management (Middle Tennessee State University)

**Current City:** Nashville, TN

**Job:** Field Quality Investigation Engineer at Nissan

**Why did you apply for the RFD position?** I thought it would be a great way to give back to Phi Rho

and help chapters out right after graduation (I applied while I was still an active)!

**Favorite Phi Rho memory:** During my last sisterhood retreat I was voted "Most likely to get married first." I rolled my eyes and thought nothing of it but it's now a couple years later and I am getting married in September!

**Advice to Alum interested in volunteering:** Talk to those in that current position to see how much of a time commitment it will be! It probably isn't as much as you would think. It's a great way to transition out of being an active!

## MIDWEST 2



**Name:** Heather McCall  
**Degree:** BS in Mechanical Engineering

**Current City:** Louisville, Kentucky

**Job:** Project Lead the Way Engineering Instructor at the Academy at Shawnee High School

# REGIONAL FIELD DIRECTORS (RFDs)

## MIDWEST 3



**Name:** Kelsey Blake

**Degree:** BSE in Industrial and Operations Engineering (Michigan)

**Current City:** Chicago, IL

**Job:** International Network Planning Analyst at United Airlines

**Why did you apply for the RFD position?** I saw the Regional Field Director role as a way of giving back to the organization that greatly shaped my college experience. In return, serving as an RFD has taught

me a great deal about the way the sorority operates – and about chapters other than my own.

**Favorite Phi Rho memory:** That's a difficult one, but I'll always cherish a spring break trip that I took with sisters in college. Nine sisters crammed into two Priuses (Prii?), drove nearly 1000 miles each way... and the rest is history.

**Advice to Alum interested in volunteering:** I can't think of a better way to show your love for an organization than to volunteer to give your time. If you're thinking about getting involved, do it – every hour you contribute helps to build the sorority's future.

## WEST 1



**Name:** Mary Beth White

**Degree:** Honors BS in Industrial Engineering with a Business Engineering Option (Oregon State)

**Current City:** Portland, OR

**Job:** Industrial Engineer at Boeing

**Why did you apply for the RFD position?** I had volunteered as a chapter advisor for a while and felt like I could do more for a larger group of active members.

**Favorite Phi Rho memory:** There are many, but the Installation of the Boise State Chapter after working with them for a year as one of their colony educators stands out as very memorable.

**Advice to Alum interested in volunteering:** Consider how much Phi Rho has touched your life as a member and then how you want to give back to make that happen for even more women. Giving back can come in many shapes and sizes to fit into your life.

## MIDWEST 4



**Name:** Sammyrose Manning

**Degree:** BS in Biomedical Engineering, MS in Mechanical Engineering

**Current City:** Bloomington, IN

**Job:** Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division

**Why did you apply for the RFD position?** To be able to help chapters directly with problems they may have.

**Favorite Phi Rho memory:** During the founding of my chapter, we had our Alpha class lock-in. One of the events we had planned was for everyone to bring an object of importance to them and share why they brought it. The results were powerful. Some sisters brought items from a silly memory. Others brought symbolism from a heart break of a lost family member or friend. We all laughed with each other's joy and cried for each other's sorrows that night. There were no fights, only sisterhood, love, and fun.

**Advice to Alum interested in volunteering:** You will always have a busy life schedule, so it comes down to if you are willing to make Phi Rho a priority, just jump in and do it!

## WEST 2



**Name:** Sharon Snyder

**Degrees:** BS in Mechanical Engineering ('09, Ohio Northern), MSME ('11, Purdue), PhD ('15, Purdue)

**Current City:** Tucson, AZ

**Job:** Senior Systems Engineer at Raytheon Missile Systems

**Why did you apply for the RFD position?** I wanted to get more involved with Phi Rho at a Chapter level, and expand my Phi Rho network beyond the Midwest

**Favorite Phi Rho memory:** All of my senior year was pretty special, but becoming a grand-big and celebrating at Orchid Ball really stand out

**Advice to Alum interested in volunteering:** Find something you're passionate about and go for it - it doesn't matter if you're great at it or have a ton of experience as long as you have something to contribute! Make sure you know how much of your time/energy you can dedicate so you don't spread yourself too thin. As long as you love what you do and budget time for it, it will be a very rewarding experience!

# Colony Updates:



## Old Dominion University

We, the Old Dominion University colony, have been a colony since October 2017. These past few months have been rather busy and exciting for us. Last fall, we had our Alpha class Induction and membership education, and are continually working on our chapter bylaws. We were also able to hold our first fundraiser and have held many social events for us to grow closer as sisters.

So far in the spring semester, we have held our first recruitment and successfully recruited six new candidates into our Beta class with the assistance of our sister chapter from Virginia Commonwealth University. The new candidates recently finished going through membership education. As they went through education, our Alpha class was preparing for Big/Little and

was extremely excited to meet their other half.

In addition to our internal events, we will be holding several more fundraisers and have started our Relay for Life team. Relay for Life is a huge event here at Old Dominion and we are thrilled to be getting involved not only with our school community, but also with such a great organization that gives back to so many people.

Furthermore, we are currently in the process of planning a social with our university's Theta Tau chapter and have recently attended our Engineering Gala together. We are all learning the true meaning of sisterhood. We are always helping and supporting each other when things are stressful. As sisters, we always know we have each other to lean on when we need something.



Our members have all been working very hard on setting the foundation for the future and we are excited to see what is to come.

## PRL, ODU Colony



## University of Wyoming

Phi Rho love is strong here in the middle of nowhere Wyoming where the wind blows hard and the cows outnumber the people.

We had a strong showing of girls in our first couple of informational meetings back in August and September of 2017. The real magic came when that number of girls doubled, and we were in the beginning stages of planning the mysterious induction

ceremony. Both Haley MacPhee and Colleen Bush were an amazing help while I was learning the ropes. None of us had any idea what kind of adventure we were about to embark on.

On a beautiful day in October we were graced with the presence of our neighboring Boulder - Alpha Mu Chapter and the lovely Colleen. At one in the afternoon, you could see the nervous anticipation upon 19 ladies faces all dressed in their Sunday finest. As I'm sure you all know, it was a ceremony filled with oddities that took some time to process, and absolute wonder that'll stick with each and every one of us for a very long time.

*We can't be taken too seriously...*



The Key of Phi Sigma Rho

From that day on until the moment you read this, we are what you might call busy bees.

*We had a colony retreat...*



We've continued the journey of Phi Rho candidacy pushing down obstacles before they can stop us. Being in Wyoming we've had no advisor to be physically present at any of our meetings. Luckily, we had the lovely Kira Hart (UC Los Angeles - Nu) take the time out of her busy schedule to Skype us our membership education lessons for six weeks. From there we had to determine roles within the chapter; we had so little experience, it was tough trying to determine what those roles entailed. In fact, we are still carving out the details of what each girl's responsibilities are within Greek life at the University of Wyoming. Lately, we've dealt with issues around the need for established bylaws, recruitment marketing, week by week membership education plans, etc. that have simply been documents that we put together almost entirely from scratch. Sounds fun doesn't it?

Despite these hardships, that seem so monumental in the moment, we've never

stopped helping and trusting one another. This group of girls became a one of a kind powerhouse that can truly do anything when done together. Our wonderful advisor Nancy Small, Assistant Professor for the English Department and Director of Composition, has encouraged us through the whole process, and we wouldn't be in the mental state we are today without her support.

The spring of 2018 is foretelling of big things. We have already gotten closer with other sisters in the Greek Community through sisterhoods, and plans are being set in place to visit each of the housed chapters on campus enjoying their hospitality and sharing new moments together. Our colony is also teaming up to participate in Greek Week where we'll compete against other chapters for a week doing various activities. Not going to lie, I think we'll kill at the cardboard and duct tape challenge!

Looking beyond our colony, we've found support in every single fraternity, sorority, council, and advisor within the Greek community here. Even our University President, Laurie Nichols, has been a strong advocate for the general inclusion of more students in Greek Life. Our colony goal is to participate in as many other chapter's activities as we can to gain those relationships and get as much out of our experience here as we can.

We want to continue to grow and share these moments, so please wish us luck as we induct our first Beta class this semester. On our current track of things, we will hopefully be participating in the Installation ceremony in the fall of 2018 and will be



*Back row left to right: Delaney (me), Merritt, Hannah, Paige, Kaila, Emily, Jasmine  
Front row left to right: Hali Leigh, Esperanza, Erin, Sam, Adrianna, Nicole  
And half of Brittany in the very front*

officially chartered here at the University of Wyoming.

If you ever find yourself in close vicinity to us (Laramie, WY) please feel free to come and chat a minute with the ladies who are excited to have founded an extension of your chapters in the heart of Wyoming. We would be honored to have you!

**PRL, Delaney Dent** ▲

# SHOP & SEARCH SMARTER



Already an avid Amazon shopper? Make your dollar go further by shopping with AmazonSmile! Go to [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile), and select Phi Sigma Rho Foundation as your charity of choice to have 0.05% of your qualifying purchases donated to the Foundation. When you shop Amazon, be sure to go to [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile.com) to make your purchases, so the Foundation receives the donation.

with the **PHI SIGMA RHO FOUNDATION!**

Support the Foundation while you Shop and Search Online



Why go to the store when you can shop your favorite brands online? Shop through GoodShop to receive special offers and coupons while having a portion of your purchase donated to the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation.



When searching online, you can use GoodSearch to give back. With Phi Sigma Rho Foundation selected as your charity, a penny per search will be donated to the Foundation!

# Chapter Spotlights: *Howard - Phi*



**Above and to the left:** The Phi Chapter at Howard University celebrated their Ten Year anniversary last year with a fabulous **photo shoot**. Chapter President, Joy Gonzalez, said it was “an amazing and memorable event!”



**Below:** Say hello to the lovely Nu Class!



**Above:** Morganne Veal of the Howard - Phi chapter was crowned Miss College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA) 2017, congratulations!

## Phi Sigma Rho's **Top 5** Selling Affinity Vendors in **2017**



1. South By Sea College
2. CustomInk LLC
3. Affiliate Merchandise Group
4. Something Greek / EZ Corporate Clothing
5. Adam Block Design



# Purdue - Alpha

*Below:* Continuing the tradition of Grand Prix - only sorority to own and operate their own Grand Prix cart



*Above:* Top Five Panhellenic Community Service Hours - invited local Girl Scouts to Grand Prix practice, educated them about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)



*Above:* Top Ten Panhellenic Philanthropy Dollars - top group fundraising team at Light the Night

*Right:* Purdue - Alpha chapter raised \$4,399.21 for Relay for Life this semester, making them the #2 fundraising team on campus

*Below:* Christine with active chapter President, Allison Meyer, at the Alpha Chapter house



*Above:* Christine Barman, Purdue - Alpha Alumna, was named as a 2018 Distinguished Engineering Alumna of Purdue University

# Active Spotlight:



*Emily Jensen*

Case Western - Omicron

**Degree/Major:** BS Mathematics and BA Cognitive Science

**Current Job:** I will be starting a PhD program in engineering in the fall.

**Favorite Phi Sigma Rho moment/memory:** I attended National Convention right

after I was initiated. It was so exciting to meet sisters from all over the country and I felt like I had known them for years! I also learned a lot of tips about how to be a leader in my chapter, which helped me through the rest of my time as an active member.

**Favorite quote or motto:** Leave everything better than how you found it, including yourself.

**Words of wisdom for other Phi Rhos:** Being in engineering or the sciences can be mentally and emotionally draining, so make sure you take time to pursue a personal hobby or project like music or crafts. Those few hours a week that are just for yourself really help so that you don't get burned out as easily.



*Emily Jensen received a national scholarship from Order of Omega for her contributions to and involvement in the Greek community.*



**Your happy place:** All I really need in life is a warm blanket, a giant cup of tea, and a good science fiction book.

**Item you can't live without:** My planner is the only reason I can stay on top of everything! It has my daily schedules as well as my thousands of to-do lists that I scribble down before I inevitably forget. ▲

## Upcoming WEBINAR SCHEDULE

**MAY:** Networking - growing and keeping your network

**JUNE:** Multi-Generations in the Workplace - a case study on the evolving workforce and team dynamics

For more information,  
please contact

[leadershipdirector@phisigmarho.org](mailto:leadershipdirector@phisigmarho.org)

## StepBet & DietBet

*Support the Foundation by Being Healthy!*



Shed a few pounds and hit your step goals by joining the Foundation's StepBet and DietBet campaigns! Bet on your success as you take on the challenge. A portion of the entry bets is donated to the Foundation, and winners split the pot at the end of the game. Keep an eye on social media and the Foundation's website for more details and information on upcoming games.



# Alumnae Spotlight: *Regional Field Director*



## *Mary Beth (Vanlue) White*

Oregon State – Sigma

**Degree/Major:** Industrial Engineering with a Business Engineering Option

**Current Job:** Industrial Engineer at Boeing’s Fabrication Site in Portland, OR

**What is your favorite part of being an RFD?** I love working with the leaders of the five different chapters in my region. The sisters and chapters are all so unique and getting to watch new officers grow into stronger leaders is really rewarding. Helping newer chapters find their way and transform into role model chapters is fulfilling.

**Your happy place:** My happy place is the Oregon Coast. I always feel so relaxed and at peace there. It is truly a place out of time where I can unplug and be with family and friends. I love going for a walk on the beach and curling up with a book or knitting project in front of the wood stove on a stormy day.

**What is the title of the last book you read and are there any messages you can share from it?** I most recently finished *An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth: What Going to Space Taught Me about Ingenuity, Determination, and Being Prepared for Anything* by Chris Hadfield. It discusses Chris’ career both in space and on earth and all that he has learned from it. The piece of wisdom that has stuck with me is in a new situation aim to be a zero (a person who neither detracts nor adds value) and once you have that down you can begin learning how to be a plus one (a person who adds value). Often walking into a situation people want to help and make an impact and by trying hard to do that can easily become what he calls a minus one (a person who detracts value). Chris Hadfield explains that he learned this when he accidentally ruined experiments

when he was new to the space station and made assumptions instead of asking for help.

**Why do you want to stay involved with Phi Sigma Rho?** I had the opportunity to attend Conference in 2010, around the time I was graduating, and realized how much more there was to the sisterhood outside of my chapter. After that weekend, I knew I wanted to support my chapter and grow the larger sisterhood. I want more young women to find the support that I felt during my active years. I have been able to do that



as a chapter advisor, colony educator, and RFD. Each role has been challenging and rewarding in its own way.

**Do you have any hobbies?** I enjoy knitting and use it as a way to relax. I like being able to slowly knit love into gifts for friends and family and then getting to see them use those gifts. ▲



# A Founder's

# REFLECTION

by Rashmi Khanna Drummond, Purdue - Alpha



*“You will launch a massive network of women leaders and change makers who continue to inspire, support, and provide friendship forever.”*

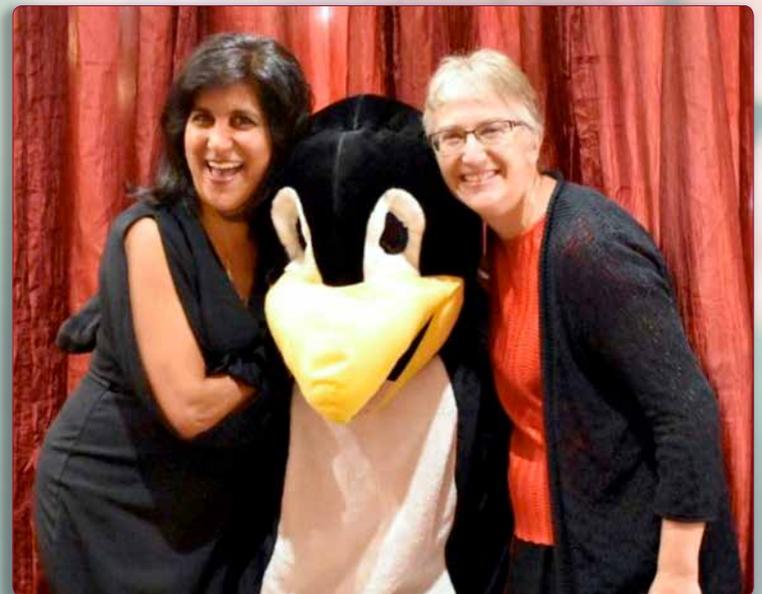
**How could my 19-year-old-self have predicted this?**

I was asked recently if the sorority has achieved the goals we envisioned when we first set out. I have to smile at this question. Some of you reading this may be 19 like we were when Abby and I started “envisioning,” or at least you can think back to a time when you were that age. Our visions for Phi Sigma Rho were relatively simple and fit into our 19-year-old world. We wanted something to surround women in engineering students, to support and encourage them to be successful, and to still allow them to have some fun. That goal was met a while ago because of the commitment and hard work of all who embraced that idea.

But my 19-year-old self could not envision the Phi Rho year that began at National Convention in July and continues through social media, in person breakfasts, and phone calls. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting inspiring leaders in the engineering industry and hearing how they continue to fight for gender equality. I’ve had breakfast with the Penn State Chapter President who happens to have grown up just a few miles from my town. In fact, I probably watched her play field hockey against my daughter. I’ve been surprised to learn that a neighbor’s daughter, someone who graduated with my son and who I have known for years, pledged Phi Rho this year. I’ve reached out to our Phi Rho sisters in Tucson who helped me find a sublet and a car for my son. I’ve been able to share the career successes of many of our sisters through their mentoring middle school girls via the nonprofit I work on, The DreamGirls Initiative. And when an unthinkable tragedy affected one of our sisters, I witnessed the outpouring of love and support that comes from what can only be called our Phi Rho family. ▲

So the answer is yes and no. The sorority has become what I envisioned: a community on campus that helps women in engineering succeed. But it has become so much more. We’ve gone beyond the campus community and are now within miles of your community no matter where you live. We are neighbors, co-workers and friends. We have reached a critical mass, so to speak, where Phi Sigma Rho can be a significant part of all of our lives every day.

Whether you are still on a college campus or have been away from Phi Sigma Rho for a while, I encourage you to stay in touch with the Phi Rho community. There are so many ways you can lend your talents and support the Sorority, but there are also so many ways that your Phi Rho family will support you. ▲





## Letter from the *Foundation President*

With each year as the days grow longer, there is always an anticipation of something coming. It wasn't that long ago that I was walking around campus, counting down the days before a break from academia with the trees budding, each evening lasting a little longer than the one before it, and a fresh energy all throughout campus. Outside of my regular routine of homework, meetings, and trying to get "spring-break-ready" at the gym, each day ended feeling excited for whatever was ahead. Something was coming and I was ready for whatever that something was.

As an active, spring meant philanthropy events, socials, and Greek awards. New Big and Little relationships budded into real friendship as the new members were welcomed into the chapter. This is still one of my favorite times to check out what the chapters are doing on Instagram – (do you ever stop having fun in the spring as an active?). Of course, spring also meant final exams, internships, and summer vacations weren't far away and we'd eventually have to say goodbye to the seniors and for the summer. Before I knew it, it was my turn to say goodbye, with anticipation in the form of the start of my career.

Through all the changes in life since my time as an active, one thing has always remained constant: I have always had a Phi Rho by my side. I was lucky enough to move to a new city after graduation, only to find a Phi Rho alum ready to be my guide. My little and I still celebrate birthdays together, my pledge sisters receive almost weekly calls from me, and I've been honored to stand next to my Beta sisters at the weddings that feel more like reunions. I've found mentors and role models in the women who have lead this organization to where it is today and who answer every one of my anxious calls with knowledge and expertise.

Working with the Foundation, I have that same feeling of anticipation that something is coming. I've been honored to work with a strong group of women who have pushed this organization farther than I had expected in such a short time. We've put big goals down and continue to run towards them. Each meeting brings something we can do better at, or something new to look forward to. This group gives me that fresh energy and allows me to get lost in the possibilities ahead. Even more, I appreciate the friendship that has come from those hours working towards progress.

Graduation, research, new careers and new cities. Life changes, but sisterhood remains.

*Janelle Becker*

*Ohio State - Beta*

*President, Phi Sigma Rho Foundation*



# Foundation BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Janelle  
Becker*  
President



*Daisy  
Gill*  
Vice President  
of Development



*Dominique  
Fantasia*  
Vice President  
of Programming



*Ashley  
Mohler*  
Vice President  
of Publicity



*Rebecca  
Schmidt*  
Vice President  
of Strategy



*Samantha  
Rohner*  
Vice President  
of Donor Engagement



*Rosalie  
Krob*  
Treasurer



*Lexi  
Heironimus*  
Secretary

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES 2018

As 2017 wrapped up on a high note with the annual End of Year campaign, 2018 promises to be an exciting year for the Foundation. The goal of the 2017 campaign was to raise **\$8,000** to fund scholarships for exceptional sisters, grants to the sorority for LEAP programming, additional philanthropic support for chapters and alumnae associations, and efficient operation of the Foundation. Through the support of its generous donors, the Foundation crushed that goal and raised **\$10,433!** Be sure to read our 2017 Annual Report for all of the successes of last year, including scholarship winners, the donor impact, and more!

The success of 2017 has helped to jumpstart the Foundation's objectives for 2018. This year the Foundation is focusing on expanding its donor base, providing support for leadership education and programming, and streamlining operational processes as it continues to grow. The Foundation will also continue to coordinate philanthropy efforts, supporting leukemia and lymphoma education and awareness through the Light the Night campaign. We look forward to the continued support of the sisterhood and Foundation friends. ▲

Chapters have been creative in their support for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by hosting events such as Phi Rho Your Boat and 5K runs. The Mu Chapter at the University of Washington, for example, hosts the Run Run Rudolph 5K each December, with 2017 marking their third year. They had 30 runners participate in the most-recent event, raising \$1,350 through ticket and t-shirt sales along with additional donations. The chapter reaches out to participants through their personal networks, while also posting on various Seattle-area running pages. Aside from raising money for a great cause, there are other benefits in the planning and execution of the run. As chapter president Kate Ericksen remarks, "the whole chapter is involved in the planning... which is great for morale and sisterhood."



## *Sigmund* SHOUT OUT

TO OTHER EVENTS THAT SUPPORT  
LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

# Light the Night

## *with the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation*



University at Buffalo Colony

Since 2010, leukemia and lymphoma education and awareness has been one of the major national philanthropies of Phi Sigma Rho. Having sisters and family members who experienced blood cancers first hand, Phi Sigma Rho wanted to have a part in helping find a cure. To further unite the chapters in their philanthropic efforts, the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation launched the Light the Night campaign with The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk in 2015. With this campaign, active chapters and alumnae associations can easily find and organize walks or create their own event to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Going into the third year of the campaign for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the philanthropic goal was increased to \$25,000 based on the previous year's impact. The chapters and groups participating did not disappoint in showing overwhelming support, allowing us to crush the goal again this year! The 2017 Light the Night Campaign goal was not only met, but the teams participating raised **\$34,440** for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society!

### *Top Teams*

- UC Berkeley - Alpha Theta Chapter - \$4,506
- Arizona State - Alpha Lambda Chapter - \$3,457
- Wright State - Alpha Zeta Chapter - \$3,192

### *Top Individuals*

- Emma Manzano - \$2,070
- Alyssa Goldstein - \$1,235
- Ann Marie Lang - \$1,010



Purdue - Alpha Chapter

# In the Beginning, THERE WERE TWO...

by Mary McWilliams, Ohio State - Beta

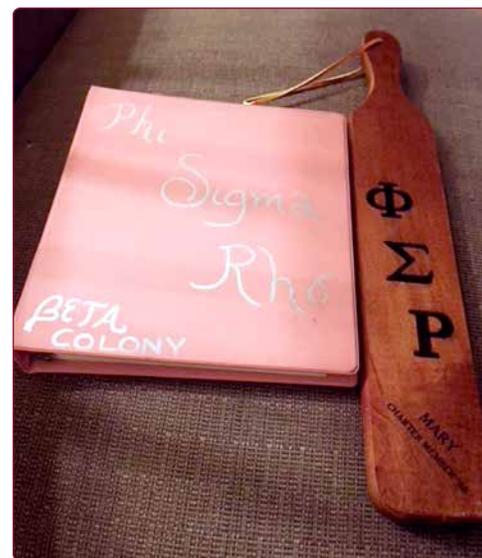
I often think about when Phi Sigma Rho had only 2 chapters - Purdue and Ohio State. I am one of the founders from Ohio State. I still have my Beta colony notebook and went down memory lane. There were originally four of us: Aylene Kibler. She was from Lubbock, TX. I remember her telling me that if she were not in engineering, she would be a private investigator. Her favorite television show was "Family Ties." Sheri Lynette Eikleberry. She was from Columbus, Ohio. If she were not in engineering, she would have been a psychologist. Her favorite television show was "Moonlighting." Marta Alicia Stayonoff was from Troy, Ohio. If she were not in engineering, she would have been a dancer. She enjoyed the show "Who's the Boss?"

I am from Gary, Indiana. If I were not an engineer, I think I would have loved to have been a concert pianist. My favorite shows were "A Different World" and "The Cosby Show." Our colony educator's name was Mary Anne; I remember we loved when she

came to town. She was with us every step of the way as we moved from being complete strangers, then friends, and then Phi Rho Sisters. I have been asking some sisters from my timeline of Mary Anne's whereabouts; I would love to reconnect.

My paddle is still very special to me. It is very simple really by today's standards. It has my first name and says "Charter Member '88." I remember fondly how we four went to Purdue for our installation. We met Rashmi and Abby and they welcomed us warmly into the sisterhood. That was a whirlwind weekend for sure.

I remember how excited we were to bring in our first class. We had champagne colored roses. We went to dormitories to give young ladies the news in person that they were going to be part of our first class. Jumping and screaming and tears are what I remember from that experience. Now it is 2018. Doing the math, that means that Phi Sigma Rho Beta Chapter



is 30 years old this year. I am glad that I had a part of establishing something bigger than one person for other women to enjoy at Ohio State. I believed in Rashmi and Abby's dream and when I found out that Phi Sigma Rho was coming to Ohio State, I knew I had to be a part of this organization. I wanted to have technical sisters that understood the rigor of attaining an engineering degree but rushing traditional sororities did not lean itself to my studies. I was excited to know that we now had an option. I knew Phi Rho was going to be big and I wanted to be a part of it. I am glad and blessed that I am around to see the growth and the changes along the way. I have been able to surprise some young ladies in the airport from Beta that were attending the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Conference in Austin, TX in October 2017 with the factoid that I am one of their founders. Their faces were priceless!

From two chapters to thirty-eight, with more chapters coming, this is a very exciting time to engage with Phi Sigma Rho for alumna and actives alike. I am still making memories that will last a lifetime. I hope you will continue to dream and envision what Phi Sigma Rho will look like in the next 30 years. We are still building the future together. The journey continues. ▲



# LIFE *on a Vineyard*

by *Bethany (Zokaites) Barnes, Pittsburgh - Zeta*

I met my husband, Chris, while living in Indianapolis, Indiana. We were out on our first date chatting about all sorts of things when he mentioned that he wanted to retire on a vineyard. I was never a big wine person, but the idea of being 65, retired, and relaxing on the porch of a beautiful vineyard sipping a glass of wine sounded pretty good. We did not talk much more about it for several years during which we moved to Salt Lake City and got married.

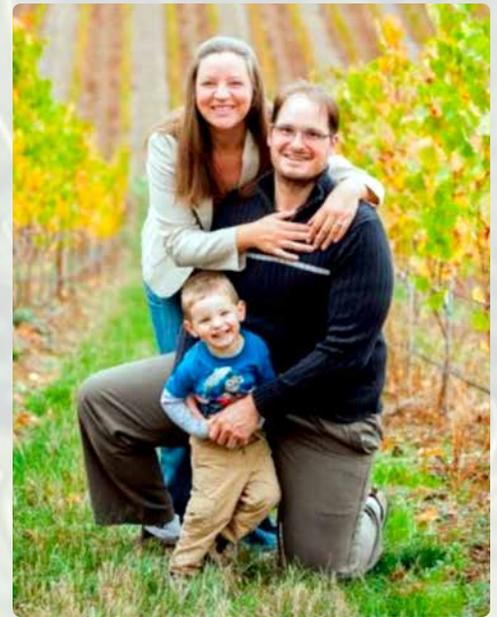
A short time after moving to Salt Lake City, we took our first trip to Oregon Wine Country. We planned a long weekend in Carlton, Oregon, in the heart of the Willamette Valley, in early April 2011. We had been in Salt Lake City less than a year and we were happy to get away for a bit. The weather there was very different from back east – very dry and hot in summer and very cold with snow in winter. We were excited to get to Oregon and find warmer temperatures and the green landscaping that comes with the wetter environment. We stayed at a beautiful little Bed and Breakfast that had converted old grain silos into guest rooms. We spent our time visiting wineries and tourist sites. It reminded me a lot of being back in Pittsburgh – rolling tree covered hills, windy roads, rivers running through the center of the city, and even a tram up the side of a big hill (although theirs is more of a gondola than an incline).

Almost from the first moments of the trip Chris started dropping hints about moving to Oregon. He loved driving through wine country admiring the vineyards. He is more of a wine buff and foodie than I am, so tasting the

wines and enjoying the unique meals made the area appeal to him even more. I stopped counting the times he said ‘wouldn’t you like to live here someday’ on that trip. But at the end of the weekend, we went home to Salt Lake City with no plans to move in the near future as we had over 2 years left on our current commitment.

A few months went by with no mention of Oregon when Chris came to me with three properties that he wanted to go look at to purchase. He had been doing research for months about the important characteristics for vineyards. These three seemed to be good candidates. I was surprised by his idea, and quite frankly against it, but he convinced me to at least take a trip back to Oregon to look and enjoy some more wine touring. We contacted a local real estate agent that specialized in vineyard properties and setup the appointments.

We made our way back up to Oregon in September 2011 to look at the properties. There were three on our list. Two of them were not suitable, but the third had great potential. It was a 62-acre lot 10 minutes to the west of downtown Carlton in the foothills of the coastal range. It is a bit farther west than most other vineyards, but still within the Yamhill-Carlton AVA. Chris fell in love with it at first sight. It was an old timber farm that had been passed down to three siblings when their parents passed away. They cut down all of the trees of value and let the rest of it become a mess. There was an old single wide trailer on it that literally was falling down. Despite all of its flaws, it was a beautiful piece of



land that Chris wanted to pursue. We decided to put in an offer and give ourselves 30 days to determine its viability as a vineyard.

Over the next month, Chris returned to Oregon to do additional research. There were several important criteria that had to be met for us to buy the land. First, the soils had to be appropriate for vines. This area was well known for having the soils required, but this particular location had not been checked. We hired a local soil expert and rented a backhoe to dig test pits around the lot. The results were perfect; the soils were primarily volcanic and great for vines. Second, we had to find water. Several other people had tried to find water and failed. We chose to consult with a local geologist who gave us several suggestions on where to drill. We hit water on our first try. Third, we had to get a replacement dwelling permit on the existing home so that we would be allowed to build in the future. Oregon has strict rules about building on the agriculture land and if we did not get a replacement dwelling permit, we would have had a hard time being allowed to build on the land. Fortunately, they gave us one. The final criteria was to ensure the elevations and aspects were suitable, which they were. Everything passed our evaluation so we proceeded to buy the land in October 2011.



The following spring we began work to turn the old timber farm into a vineyard. The first step was to clear and fence in a small portion of the lot. Chris and I spent our vacations traveling to Utah to build a fence and oversee the land clearing. We fenced in about 14 acres right in the middle of the lot. We initially cleared about 5 acres for planting in fall 2012. We put in 3-4 acres of Pinot Noir and about 1 acre of Sauvignon Blanc. We worked with a vineyard manager to oversee activities while we were still living in Salt Lake City. Over the next few years we continued to prepare new sections inside the fence and plant them.

In August 2013 we finally moved to the area and Chris took over all aspects of the vineyard. He had done some online classes to learn more about maintaining a vineyard and he enrolled in local classes for both vineyards and wine making once we moved to Portland. He continued to learn by doing as the vineyard grew and he faced new challenges.

In fall 2015 we harvested our first crop from the vineyard. It was a small crop, but enough to produce our first wine! It was an exciting time for us as we produced 175 cases of Pinot Noir and 25 cases of Sauvignon Blanc. The Pinot Noir had to age in barrel for a year, but the Sauvignon Blanc was ready to sell. It was the start of the next difficult phase to the project – the sales challenge. We started out small with just a few wine events and selling to

friends and family. It was all a learning experience for what was to come when we produced larger quantities.

The following year we continued to expand the vineyard by about an acre and we spend the summer building a winery on the property. Again Chris showed his resourcefulness by designing and building a steel framed 82'x30' building with only the help of day labor (and my cousin).



He researched and purchased all of the necessary equipment for wine production so that we were ready to go at harvest. It was the first year we made wine in our facility with Chris as the winemaker. In addition to our own grapes, we purchased grapes from the local area which resulted in our case count growing to over 1,000 cases.

This increase was a big step forward for us and it required more dedication to selling the wines. While Chris was maintaining the vineyard and making the wine, I spent my time focusing on marketing and sales. We wanted to approach it in a few different ways. First, we launched our website and social media accounts. In the current world, these are a must for companies. Second, we signed up for every show and festival that we could find and fit into our busy schedules. These shows range in size and location, but they all gave our winery an opportunity to get in front of customers to promote its brand and sell its wines. Third, we started to approach retail stores, such as grocery stores, and restaurants to carry our wine. This area has hundreds of wineries and the stores like to carry local options. I was fortunate in most of my efforts because our product was good. All I had to do was get someone to try it and it typically sold itself.



We have continued working hard in our respective areas to build the company. We have had a few minor setbacks, primarily around the name and trademarks, but overall we are making progress. Our wines have won many awards, most notably “Best of Show – Whites” for the 2016 Gewürztraminer at Portland Seafood and Wine and “Best of Show – Whites” for the 2016 “Orange” Pinot Gris at First Taste Oregon. We have continued to increase our production in 2017 to over 2,000 cases. And most exciting of all is the opening of our tasting room in mid-April. The tasting room is part of the winery with a beautiful deck overlooking our 2017 plantings. Our customers will finally have a place to visit and learn more about growing grapes and making wine.

Our project has been a labor of love with many challenges and rewards. Both Chris and I come from engineering backgrounds with MBAs. We continue to work full time to support the winery. We are in the process of hiring our first employee to oversee the tasting room and events. We plan to pursue local and nationwide distribution over the next few months. All indicators seem to point toward success as long as we are willing to put in the hard work.

Next time you are heading to Oregon Wine Country, please look me up and plan a trip out to our winery and vineyard. Let me know in advance and I will give you the personal tour! ▲



# PSR in Social Media

**Phi Sigma Rho National Sorority**  
Published by Phisigmarho Comm [?] · January 24 · 🌐

It's Wednesday and we're bringing #PearlsofWisdomΦΣΡ back in the new year.

Here's some advice for new grads from the Theta chapter's Teresa Phillips: "Sit at the table! Even if it is your first day. You are there for a reason. Speak up, raise your hand, and lean in! You've got this!"



**Phi Sigma Rho National Sorority**  
Published by Phisigmarho Comm [?] · March 5 at 8:34am · 🌐

Happy International Badge Day, Phi Sigma Rho! Are you wearing your pin or letters today? #BadgeDay18

wear your letters on your heart

**International Badge Day**

**International Badge Day**  
Monday, March 5, 2018



**phisigmarho** · Following

phisigmarho Have you ever seen the letters #ΦΣΡ look so good? #lovemylettersΦΣΡ | 📷: @pitt\_phisigmarho  
\_itstash\_ @sunnyzohra  
sunnyzohra Ahh this just made finals week so much better

230 likes  
DECEMBER 9, 2017

Add a comment...



**phisigmarho** · Following

phisigmarho Happy New Year!

148 likes  
JANUARY 1

Add a comment...



**phisigmarho\_psu** · Follow

phisigmarho\_psu 6 more days till open house starts! We're so excited to meet you guys ♡ mheneman Can't wait ❤️ carroollinnaaa Ahh prl prl prl

206 likes  
JANUARY 9



**ukphisigmarho** · Follow

ukphisigmarho It's international badge day, and our sisters are proud to be Phi Sigma Rho! 📷❤️ #BadgeDay18  
mujanseif Well this is simply heartwarming! ❤️  
suzetta12 Very nice and way to represent Phi Sigma Rho!

79 likes  
MARCH 5

Add a comment...



PSR National Sorority Links



PSR Foundation Links



Photo Credit:  
Instagram @phisigmarho\_ud

## *Alumnae Dues*

### **Active Alumna - \$35 annually**

Being an Active Alumna means volunteering to support the sisterhood in its advancement and growth by paying alumnae dues. These voluntary alumnae dues directly support our national expansion efforts and increased programming via webinars and at National Conferences/Conventions.

### **Lifetime Active Alumnae - \$600**

As part of the revamped dues program that was introduced in 2017, all alumnae who become lifetime members will receive the exclusive piece of Phi Sigma Rho jewelry on the right as a token of appreciation.



*Are you interested in becoming an active alumna?*

Please visit

**[www.phisigmarho.org/form/alumnae-dues](http://www.phisigmarho.org/form/alumnae-dues)**

to find out more. This page has detailed information about the voluntary alumnae dues program, including how to pay dues and the special benefits reserved for dues-paying alumnae.

