

Gamma Phi Beta

TRUE AND CONSTANT

MEET THE GAMMA PHI BETA INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL: AUTUMN HANSEN, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

November 2, 2020

Centennial, Colorado – On June 27, 2020, Gamma Phi Beta made history by hosting our 79th Convention on a virtual platform due to COVID-19. During this time, we elected a new International Council (IC) for 2020-22. Collectively, this IC has 142 years of Gamma Phi Beta volunteer service at local, regional and international levels. They are all active community members and accomplished in their fields. Professionally, these leaders demonstrate deep experience in finance, education, social services, technology, marketing and counseling. Together, they will lead our organization through the next biennium's challenges and opportunities and continue to strengthen Gamma Phi Beta.

We asked each member of IC to answer a few questions about what they hope to accomplish in this biennium, as it relates to [the 2021-24 Strategic Plan](#). Meet Autumn L. Hansen (Idaho). Autumn is currently serving her first term as International President on IC. Previously, Autumn served four terms as Vice President on IC. To learn more about Autumn, check out her bio on [the International Council page on our website](#).



A key aspect of financial discipline is smart decisions. What will you consider before making financial choices on behalf of our Sorority?

We must evaluate our best option at that moment in time while also considering the implications of the decision on our future financial state. If we learned anything in the pandemic, it is that we must plan for situations where operations are disrupted, and our revenue streams are impacted.

How will you ensure the membership experience is accessible and encourages lifetime engagement?

The beauty of Gamma Phi Beta is that it remains ever available to members throughout their lifetime; whether in college, a new job, new family role, new career, new joy or grief – Gamma Phi Beta can be a place of sisterhood and support. The more we move toward an organization that offers many re-entry points for members, both collegiate and alumnae, throughout the seasons of their life, the better we deliver on our promise to be the True and Constant in a sister's life.

What will you bring to the table regarding belonging, inclusion, equity and diversity?

I do not pretend to have expertise or perspective that supersedes my own privileged identities. We all have lived experiences that help inform the way we lead, but the experience of Sorority membership has predominantly centered the white, cisgender, heterosexual, higher education seeking member voice; this is



12737 E. EUCLID DRIVE, CENTENNIAL, CO 80111-6445

T: 303.799.1874 | F: 303.799.1876

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something we must change. A more diverse membership is one that yields a more vibrant sisterhood. Professionally, I have a master's degree in clinical social work, and this has given me the self-awareness, education and practice of advocacy and allyship of marginalized people. Again, I am not an expert but a continual learner who is committed to my own work in identifying as an anti-racist.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received that is relevant to the current landscape in Gamma Phi Beta?

The best piece of advice I have received in relevance to the current landscape in Gamma Phi Beta is 'you've done hard things before; you can do this hard thing.' This not only applies to my own service as International President but the place in time we find Gamma Phi Beta. We have a lot of hard things to do, but we have done hard things before. We can make necessary change that is sustainable, anchored in appreciation for our past and tethered to the hope and anticipation of our future.

How do you envision Gamma Phi Beta evolving and meeting new expectations in the next biennium?

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we were given the opportunity to evolve and expand the ways we connect when not together in-person. We have stretched ourselves to consider how we might maintain sisterhood despite physical distance, and this gives me confidence we will continue to grow and adapt in ways that will ensure the perseverance of our values and purposes.

How would you define a successful biennium besides accomplishing the top three priorities of the strategic plan?

Our success at the end of this biennium will not only be reflected in the advancements and successes of our strategic plan priorities, but also in the way members relate to Gamma Phi Beta and one another. This is our reality – a global pandemic, the commitment to individual and institutional anti-racism work, the ongoing requirement we assert our right to affiliate as a women's organization, questions about what college life will look like post-pandemic, and the financial impact it will have on Gamma Phi Beta and our members – and more will come. Our collegiate and alumnae members' engagement is critical in our ability to adapt, to respond, to learn, to grow. Success is leading a team that builds trust within the organization, cultivates hope, empowers our workforce and engages our members in pursuit of Gamma Phi Beta's vision to inspire the highest type of womanhood. I have full confidence in the collective strength of our team and sisterhood.

ABOUT

Gamma Phi Beta was founded on November 11, 1874, at Syracuse University by four bold and courageous women. The Sorority's mission is to build confident women of character who celebrate sisterhood and make a difference in the world around them. Headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, the Sorority has chartered 190 collegiate chapters across the United States and Canada and has more than 231,000 collegiate and alumnae members worldwide.



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