

## Gamma Phi Beta Explores Her History Of Discrimination

May 22, 2023

In the fall of 2021, Gamma Phi Beta hired Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA). Through HRA's research, they explored the roots of discrimination based on class, race, sexuality, religion and more within Gamma Phi Beta, with a focus on locations, events, members and themes relevant to the organization's activities or policies that might have sustained or challenged racist or discriminatory beliefs.

An article sharing HRA's findings can be found in the **latest issue of *The Crescent***.

In the article, Gamma Phi Beta's International Council stated the following:

*Gamma Phi Beta holds a deep commitment to belonging, equity, diversity and inclusion. As one element of this commitment, we support the process of historical contextualization. Becoming a more welcoming sisterhood involves actively seeking to understand who has been excluded from membership over time for reasons not consistent with our published membership criteria. This [work] of knowing and reconciling with all our history, including elements that are uncomfortable and unfavorable for members and the public alike, is an important step in building a stronger Gamma Phi Beta. We believe this is our best path toward remaining connected to our sisters of the past, present and future.*

International President Autumn L. Hansen (Idaho) adds, "When reconciling Gamma Phi Beta's role in discrimination and racism (specifically in but not limited to membership selection), a critical step of accountability is taking full acknowledgement and ownership of our past wrongs. Acknowledging the harm caused is more than offering a trite apology. It is taking time to understand the impact."

### About Gamma Phi Beta

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 us. Headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, the Sorority has chartered 190 collegiate chapters across the United States and Canada and has more than 246,000 initiated members.

