

# GAMMA PHI BETA

## Convention 2026

## 2026 Convention Award Samples

### About Convention Awards

Convention awards are an excellent opportunity to celebrate your individual, chapter and affiliated house corporation accomplishments from the preceding biennium. Awards are available in a variety of categories and recognize chapter and individual excellence during the biennium.

Convention award submissions open on February 15. Chapters must be in good standing for the previous biennium to be eligible (January 2022–December 2023). Convention award submissions close at midnight on April 5.

### Sample Award Applications

Included in this packet are sample award applications from winners in the previous biennium. Each chapter should submit unique content related to their chapter activities and programs.

These examples provide good insight into the level of detail that should be provided for award evaluators. They also showcase a variety of writing styles that are successful in communicating chapter achievements and accomplishments to award reviewers.

In the previous biennium, supplementary materials were not permitted. Beginning in this biennium, chapters are permitted to submit supplemental materials to help illustrate the work described in their application. Supplemental materials may include things like screenshots from social media campaigns, pictures from events or PDFs of event invitations to help further illustrate the programs and activities described in your application.



## Alumnae Chapter Award Samples

### Alumnae Panhellenic Excellence Award

Since the Atlanta Southern Crescent Gamma Phi Beta Alumnae Chapter founded the local alumnae panhellenic association in 2001, they have consistently epitomized panhellenic leadership, cultivated friendship and unity, and continually promoted the sorority experience.

While the pandemic overshadowed much of the last two years, Gamma Phi Betas participated in all but one of the association's two dozen in-person and virtual events held this biennium. In fact, the Gamma Phi Betas took the initiative and led the association in keeping members regularly informed and ensuring programming continued as close to normal as possible, especially for the association's two most prominent community-wide events: the annual sorority information session and the annual high school scholarship program. In the first half of the biennium for the sorority information session, the Gamma Phi Betas secured the keynote speaker – a top national officer in another sorority - and two collegian speakers – including one collegiate Gamma Phi Beta. They publicized the event at area high schools and online, created press releases, secured appreciation e-gift cards for the speakers, set up the Zoom call, and created all the visual aids. After pandemic restrictions lifted, the Gamma Phi Betas were again in the forefront planning the most recent sorority information session by securing a member of another sorority's Grand Council as the keynote speaker, arranging for collegiate and young alumna speakers (one is a Gamma Phi Beta!), securing the venue, creating the agenda, informational material and visual aids, leading the publicity campaign, and acquiring thank you gifts and door prizes.

For the association's high school scholarship program, the Gamma Phi Betas were key behind-the-scenes contributors, as they updated the application with new deadlines and posted it online and helped with publicity, they updated the cover letter and flyer sent to the area high



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school guidance departments, made copies, stuffed, labeled, stamped envelopes and mailed it to all 50 high schools, and they participated in the selection process.

The Gamma Phi Betas led the association's community service and outreach efforts by coordinating a total of seven volunteer shifts over two years at the local food bank, ensuring volunteers followed state and local protocols, and in the process helping feed countless families experiencing food insecurity. The Gamma Phi Betas have also connected with smaller organizations that help food insecure members of the community. They have made it a point to request canned goods and staples be brought by all of the holiday party attendees. At least one Gamma Phi Beta accompanies an association member to take everything to that smaller food pantry and it is always very much appreciated. The Gamma Phi Betas have also twice arranged and helped deliver member donations of dog food to a local animal rescue group.

Another highly visible community outreach endeavor that positively promotes sororities to thousands of people, and which the Gamma Phi Betas are absolutely instrumental in conducting and continuing, is the annual city 4th of July parade. They coordinated with the local city government for one of the limited parade entries, they provided the vehicle and decorations for association members to ride in, they created business cards to hand out to new sorority women encountered along the parade route, and they acquired patriotic beads and candy to toss to the crowds. This has always been an extremely positive endeavor in which the Gamma Phi Betas are essential!

Social events during and after the pandemic were transformed accordingly thanks to Gamma Phi Beta initiative. The annual Fall game night and wildly popular sorority trivia contest (created by one of the Gamma Phi Beta members) was turned into a Zoom event, with bonus food and drink lessons added from a professional chef, using recipes crafted by one of the Gamma Phi Betas. This event was hugely popular and ended up garnering as many attendees as past in-person events! Gamma Phi Beta members also helped schedule two well-attended in person crafting events at a local painting studio. And the Gamma Phi Betas have been crucial to the success of the association's regular lunch gatherings because they have



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suggested charming new places to dine, as well as diverse locations that entice more new sorority alumnae to attend.

The association's most popular annual social event – the Founders Reception – is planned and executed exclusively by the Gamma Phi Betas as the association's founders. They arrange for speakers and programs that promote panhellenic pride and education. They provide all of the refreshments, door prizes and speaker gifts. For the first time ever, the Founders Reception in the first half of this biennium was held virtually via Zoom and featured an Emmy Award winning Cold Case investigator who lives in the community and is an alumnae of another sorority. One of the Gamma Phi Betas knew about her and reached out and was able to secure her as the featured speaker for the Reception. Due to the pandemic, the association's annual NPC Badge Day dinner was not held, so the Gamma Phi Betas created a badge celebration presentation about all 26 NPC sororities and their badges and included it in the virtual Founders Reception. The event was so incredibly well-received that the association members begged for the same speaker to come back in person for the next Founders Reception. So the Gamma Phi Betas made it happen! This most recent Founders Reception was hugely popular and earned rave reviews all around. One association member of another sorority remarked that, when she first joined the association years ago, she was unfamiliar with Gamma Phi Beta but through the years, she has become more and more impressed with Gamma Phi Beta!

The Gamma Phi Betas are constantly supporting the panhellenic experience and seeking out other sorority members to get involved. Thanks to Gamma Phi Beta members' friendliness, hospitality, and enthusiasm, the association has grown, both in terms of membership numbers, financial contributions, and involvement. The Atlanta Southern Crescent Gamma Phi Beta Alumnae Chapter truly embodies alumnae panhellenic excellence and is very deserving of this award.



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### Chicago Award

When the Covid-19 pandemic initially impacted us in 2020, most of us thought we would take two or three weeks to "flatten the curve" then all would revert to "normal." It took some time to realize we were living something else entirely! As meetings in each other's homes and trips to museums, plays, and concerts could no longer be contemplated, we had to pivot to some other means of living our Gamma Phi Beta sisterhood. Brainstorming for ideas, we managed to put together a series of events, programs, and activities that allowed us to support each other over the course of two years and that strengthened our alumnae chapter.

To stay connected and up to date with each other, we used virtual meetings (via Zoom). These meetings were well attended and even included former members who had moved away from our area. Topics for virtual meetings included:

- chocolate tasting session (we all ordered the same package from a local chocolatier)
- travel discussion
- Gamma Phi Beta's BEDI program
- book group discussion with the Toronto Alumnae Chapter

Between virtual meetings, we gathered in-person (but socially distanced) for outdoor events, including:

- an outdoor potluck dinner in a member's backyard
- outdoor brunch by a member's pool
- a visit to Grounds for Sculpture, an outdoor art venue (we enjoyed this place so much, we went twice)
- a trip to Holland Ridge you-pick tulip farm
- a long walk (and gab!) on Princeton's canal towpath

These outdoor events were crucial for many of us who were missing human connection during this time. Almost all of us were working from home and indoor gatherings had to be limited to one's personal "bubble," generally meaning family members only. The outdoor events allowed us to get together as sisters and renew bonds of friendship. One member, recently widowed, made the decision to move to Brooklyn, NY. To help her with the transition to a much smaller home, we helped her sell her surplus furniture on Facebook Marketplace and staffed her yard sale.



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Finally, the Covid situation improved and restrictions loosened. As indoor events became possible, we celebrated Founders' Day by attending Kelli O'Hara's concert at McCarter Theater in Princeton and with a spring trip to The Barnes Foundation museum in Philadelphia (not coincidentally, the event we had to cancel in 2020 as the pandemic lockdown started).

We have consistently sent a delegate to the biannual Convention and planned to send one in 2020. When the convention moved online with a reduced registration fee, a number of our members were able to participate, in addition to our designated delegate (Cathy Griffin). We decided to donate the balance of funds budgeted for Convention to the Gamma Phi Beta Foundation and to RISE, our local community non-profit supporting families in need. During the pandemic, the RISE food pantry experienced unprecedented demand from unemployed service workers and from families with children no longer receiving free lunch at school and they were badly in need of additional funds. We continued to stay in touch with local chapters of Girls on the Run, returning to volunteer as GOTR races resumed in the late fall of 2021.

Our chapter was part of the pilot of the Order of the Crescent rubric and we achieved the Order of 1874 level. We were also awarded the Diamond level Founders Circle of Excellence award. More importantly, our connections are stronger, we've retained our core group of members and attracted some new members to events who had not joined us before.

While I hope never to repeat the Covid-19 pandemic, we made the restrictions work for us. We will continue to have the occasional Zoom meeting; they are a way to avoid potential snow day cancellations in January and February and they provide a way to maintain connections with those who no longer drive at night and those who've moved away. The search for outdoor activities forced us to research our area and as a result, we've found wonderful venues like Grounds for Sculpture and Holland Ridge tulip farm that we'd like to visit again. We are a stronger alumnae chapter because of this experience.



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### Clara Worden Membership Excellence Award

In the past four years, we have improved and adapted not only our social media presence, but also our membership retention, involvement, and philanthropic efforts. Our membership has doubled in size, leading to improvements in communications, chapter operations, and collegiate chapter support. This has been empowering to see, especially after feeling the effects of the pandemic both individually and as a collective sisterhood.

We have evolved our social media presence, utilizing consistent hashtags to not only increase engagement but to also improve, maintain and simplify searchability. Our social media platforms have grown from sporadic engagement to consistent interaction on posts following the proper aesthetic and guidelines as determined by International Headquarters. Our Instagram Grid is now beautifully consistent and visually pleasing, alternating between a custom graphic design and photographs. In addition, our Instagram page links to our website to help ease social navigation.

Our website now functions almost as an additional board member. It answers questions, introduces our (human) board members, showcases our past and present events, acts as an online boutique for our custom Dallas merchandise and membership dues, and serves as a venue for potential members to reach out and current members to check-in.

In our 2021-2022 year, we created a new financial model for membership and integrated Square on our website to allow our sisters more flexibility to pay dues and give donations. It has been overwhelmingly successful, showing an increase in both dues paying members and chapter finances. With this additional funding, we are able to make donations towards Girls on the Run and streamline chapter operations. Our membership dues structure is geared towards various financial backgrounds, with the lowest tier retroactively extending five years to account for our sisters who graduated during the pandemic. In this way, we hope to make alumnae membership more financially viable and accessible for recent college graduates.

We have formed an incredibly close alumnae chapter, consistently showing each other love and loyalty with our monthly sisterhood events, service opportunities and individual recognition. For the past five years, we have sent out bimonthly newsletters via Mailchimp, featuring upcoming Dallas Alumnae and Alpha Xi events, member milestones and highlights, dues reminders, and community awareness and



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support. In the past year, we began sending personalized birthday emails to all our members as an additional way to make our members feel more included. Additionally, when someone fills out our information form on our website, we ensure that they receive a personal response from the best fitting board member to guarantee an instant connection.

We strive to make alumnae membership more memorable and unique for our new members. We create custom gifts to give each new member, which has ranged from custom pins and t-shirts to treats and gift boxes. We recognize our dues paying members through exclusive events and sisterhood opportunities. We love to highlight our members in our newsletters and on social media, featuring their life updates and major milestones.

The Gamma Phi Beta Dallas Alumnae Chapter is easily accessible in all avenues due to our strong search engine optimization (SEO) and social media presence. As we transition into this hybrid world, we have been able to continue our superior communication efforts which has led to increased membership, a stronger sisterhood, and overall better alumnae chapter engagement.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we maintained our outreach efforts, by elevating our platform to the next level, going virtual and hosting monthly meetings and fun activities via Zoom. In this way, we are able to remain connected to our alumnae while also continuing to mentor the young collegiate women that we advise. One of our board members serves as the Alpha Xi Chapter Advisor and many of our board members are advisory board and AHC members. In the past, the Dallas Alumnae Chapter has collaborated with the Alpha Xi chapter on events ranging from Founders Day celebrations to formal recruitment practice. As of March 2022, we are currently in the midst of planning our 7th annual Senior Celebration to recognize the Class of 2022. We also plan on supporting our collegiate coaches at the biannual Girls on the Run DFW 5K coming up in April.

In addition, we continue to emphasize philanthropic service, recognizing and supporting not only Girls on the Run but also local charities. Pre-Covid, we were honored to have the head of Girls on the Run DFW sponsor a table at our Founders Day event and speak on behalf of GOTR. Locally, we have hosted a winter clothing drive to collect donations for single moms without shelter as well as collected necessities for Genesis Women's Shelter during the 2021 winter snow storm that left millions without power.



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Finally, we have consistently maintained good standing for the duration of the biennium, keeping our records and meeting minutes up-to-date. In spite of Covid- 19 regulations, our executive board continues to meet monthly, in a virtual environment, to discuss chapter operations and membership retention. Meeting agendas are distributed to board members beforehand and updated meeting minutes are sent out afterwards via GroupMe. Our board members communicate frequently throughout the month, not only to discuss chapter operations but also to celebrate each other's milestones and successes.

Although the pandemic could have slowed us down, we took our love for Gamma Phi Beta and continued to evolve, improve, and show our loyalty.



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### Hall of Fame Award

As the Gamma Phi Beta Dallas Alumnae Chapter, our mission is to build a bridge between graduates and alumnae to continue to grow the sisterhood. Our excellence in sisterhood, growth and retention is exemplified in our previous awards as a former Diamond Circle of Excellence winner, and recognition as an elite alumnae chapter by attaining the Alumnae Order of 1874 in its inaugural year.

Gamma Phi Beta has been the leading sorority based on love, labor, learning, and loyalty for over 150 years -- and that connection does not have to end when you graduate. Our vision is to continue our sisterhood bond for years to come. Whether you are new to the Dallas area or just new to the Dallas Alumnae Chapter, everyone is welcome.

We have formed an incredibly close alumnae chapter, consistently showing each other love and loyalty with our monthly sisterhood events, service opportunities and individual recognition. In our 2021-2022 year, we revised our membership dues structure to allow our sisters more flexibility to pay dues and give donations. It has been overwhelmingly successful, showing an increase in both dues paying members and donations, which go towards Girls on the Run and chapter operations. Our membership dues structure is geared towards making alumnae membership more accessible for sisters of various financial backgrounds, beginning with newly graduated members.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, we maintained our outreach efforts by taking our platform to the next level, going virtual and hosting monthly meetings and fun activities via Zoom. We continued our tradition of monthly events (in a virtual space) such as a Gamma Phi Beta Themed Bingo Night and continued our Annual Holiday Celebration by hosting an Ornament Exchange (2020) and Candle Exchange (2021). In addition, to keep members active, we found our social media platforms taking off due to engagement. We were able to reach out to sisters across the country who participated in our custom Instagram story activities and games and even had sisters, spanning from coast to coast (Florida to California), participate in our chapter's virtual activities.

After 2020, thinking quickly on our feet, we planned and executed various sisterhood events complying with Covid guidelines. As we continue to transition to a hybrid world, we have hosted events that allow for social distancing. For example, we rented out an entire movie theater to host our 5th and 6th annual



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Galentine's Day event. We have created a safe space to continue showing our loyalty to our sisters, whether that be in-person (socially distanced when needed) or virtually.

We know for our sisters, life happens: the ups and downs, the happy and sad. We strive to always show up and support them through every season of life. In the past two years, we have hand delivered care packages to support grieving loved ones, shown up with giant teddy bears and boxes of diapers to support sisters and their new babies, and supported sisters' small businesses by promoting them on social media. Fun fact: one of our local sisters is a boxing instructor, so of course we planned a fitness event taught by her. Additionally, we aided in finding a home for a displaced Alpha Xi member, donated to local holiday Giving Trees, fulfilled Alpha Xi's Amazon Recruitment Wish List and dropped off care packages for homebound sisters during the pandemic.

The Gamma Phi Beta Dallas Alumnae Chapter continues to maintain strong communications with the DFW community, most notably with the Alpha Xi chapter at Southern Methodist University. We have not only maintained but grown and surpassed our chapter goals of activity in events, offered programs (in person and virtual), and community outreach. One of our board members serves as the Alpha Xi Chapter Advisor and many of our board members are advisory board and AHC members. As of March 2022, we are currently in the midst of planning our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Senior Celebration to recognize the Class of 2022. We have an established Dallas Alumnae Scholarship which awards a member of the Alpha Xi chapter with funds towards their education. In addition, one of our alumnae members provides a fresh and knowledgeable perspective as a former international council member, and our treasurer also serves as a Collegiate Chapter Supervisor for South Two serving Beta Omicron, Zeta Lambda and Zeta Phi.

We have also been consistently involved with our local panhellenic community (DAPA); our panhellenic delegate and outgoing president attends all meetings and necessary events. We rely on our Panhellenic Delegate, Marcy Tuttle, nee Roberts, to provide transparency, reliability, accountability, leadership and service in all she does. As an active representative of DAPA, Marcy has served in various DAPA roles. From 2020-2021, she multitasked as President of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter while simultaneously serving as our VP of Panhellenic Affairs and as the DAPA Audit Committee Chair. For the 2021-2022 term, Marcy is continuing to give back by serving as the DAPA Directory Chair and Dallas Alumnae Chapter Delegate. We are so proud of Marcy's involvement as she continually informs our alumnae chapter of any events occurring in our local panhellenic community.



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Through these efforts, we have seen our membership double in size despite the limitations of the ongoing pandemic. As we transition into this hybrid world, our board members continue to meet monthly to discuss chapter operations and plan relevant events spanning over 9,200 miles across the DFW metroplex. To remain accessible, we alternate between virtual and in-person, socially distanced events.

We've maintained our philanthropic efforts by supporting at Girls on the Run DFW 5Ks in addition to supporting local woman-focused organizations. In a few weeks, we will be hosting a brunch benefitting Attitudes & Attire; alumnae will be encouraged to drop by and donate gently-loved professional attire for women transitioning back into the workforce after tough situations. The Dallas Alumnae Chapter remains committed to Building Strong Girls while ensuring a fun and welcoming experience for all alumnae.



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### Philanthropic Excellence Award

In October of 2020, 17 DAC alumnae and guests attended our Fall Fundraiser which was a combined in-person and virtual via Zoom event of participants. Lauren Pietrek, who worked at the time as a Development & Marketing Director for Girls on the Run of the Rockies and happened to have been a Denver-based Gamma Phi Beta alum provided everyone with a presentation about GOTR and how they help support girls, along with how they were navigating during the world's pandemic with schools closed and kids staying at home. GOTR was still serving girls through Zoom, virtual-based practices and small group running. This event garnered proceeds for both GOTR and Gates Camp.

In May of 2021, 6 DAC alumnae, plus 2 guests participated in a Volunteer Workday at Gates Camp in Ward, CO, cleaning the kitchen and equipment, to ensure the Gates Camp was ready for opening. This effort translated into approx. 40 service hours of labor, serving the Camp, which, in turn, serves at-risk girls and boys who participate through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.

Putter's Pride Miniature Golf Course in Lakewood, CO, was the place where 11 alumnae members of our DAC group came together for a summer picnic and fun in August of 2021. There we raised proceeds to donate a financial gift to the Gamma Phi Beta Foundation, which awards scholarship funds to worthy girls attending college and/or university.

In September of 2021, 5 DAC alumnae participated in providing mobile app and online feedback, raising funds for Girls on the Run of the Rockies. These 5 individuals independently registered and then completed a maximum of 75 feedback surveys on-line, answering questions about commonly used consumer products for a marketing company called "Hundred X." This company, "Hundred X" then paid a percentage per completed survey, for the feedback provided, directly to Girls on the Run of the Rockies in the form of a financial donation, based on the number tagged as Gamma Phi Beta Volunteers "providing feedback for good" to GOTR.

October 2021 marked the return of our DAC in-person only Fall Fundraiser, in which we raised money for Girls on the Run and Gates Camp both again. There were 19 DAC alumnae who attended, and participated generously to the success of this event, through giving baskets and experiences to our Silent Auction, and they also bid generously on Silent Auction items, plus they purchased chances on games and door prizes.



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Our DAC Holiday Open House, in December of 2021, brought DAC alums from the metro Denver and Boulder area together. A collection drive for Newborns in Need achieved gathering of items for baby care supporting the Denver Area Panhellenic's philanthropy, serving needy women and girls who are mothers of newborn babies.

Working closely with Gates Camp's on-site manager this Spring, 1 of our DAC alums worked to ensure the Camp will be equipped for the coming summer season. We generously shopped and paid for \$430-worth of much-needed kitchen equipment. Restaurant-grade bowls, fry pans and lids, along with pizza trays, were purchased by DAC and shipped directly to the Camp.

In April of 2022, our DAC group gave a generous monetary gift of \$1500 to Girls on the Run via our Gamma Phi Beta International Headquarters.

In May 2022, we anticipate a group of 10-13 DAC alum members to work as part of the Refreshment Zone team supporting Girls on the Run of the Rockies on Saturday, May 14th from 8AM to 12noon during their wrap-up, year-end 5K for metro Denver GOTR clubs, building strong girls as they achieve the pinnacle ending of their school year-based running program.

And last, but not least, our DAC Gamma Phi group anticipates having a work team go to Gates Camp once again on Saturday, May 21st, 2022, for a day of volunteering. We will clean up and ready the Camp, as the physical buildings and property move from winter into summer, preparing to open the Camp for the summer season, so that girls and boys from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, can experience a taste of wilderness in the Rocky Mountains near Ward, Colorado.



## Collegiate Chapter Award Samples

### Mary A. Bingham Award

The definition of excellence has changed since 2020. Not in its literal meaning; Webster Dictionary continues to define excellent as "very good of its kind; eminently good." Excellence continues to be the standard by which each Gamma Phi measures her efforts, but since the birth of a pandemic, the standard of excellence has changed, and therefore so has our organization. In a biennium where conventional narratives of excellence have fallen away, the Omega Chapter has written her own story of excellence, which has less to do with perfection and more to do with perseverance.

Our story of perseverance begins with the breaking news of campus closure and an outbreak of the coronavirus in March of 2020. No one knew it, but we were about to encounter many obstacles. From a pandemic to a presidential election, social unrest to racial inequality, mental illness to financial hardship. Moving forward with an optimistic mindset was crucial yet proved to be easier said than done. The women of our chapter were struggling with real problems that could not be entirely fixed by a positive message sent to their email or a virtual sisterhood event. In time, chapter leadership began to worry over the negative effects of restricted programming and unresolved social conflict on our chapter's health. However, our members didn't want to see our worry; they needed to see our actions.

Each member of the executive and leadership team plays a key role in the success of our chapter today. Past or current, our leaders have produced quality work that endures beyond a single term of service.

In the administration department, leadership has worked to promote safety and accountability. A vital role in our chapter is the Risk Management Chairwoman. In the past biennium, risk prevention took on more responsibility for monitoring COVID restrictions, increasing sexual assault awareness, and creating a "Phone Tree" to account for our women during campus emergencies. Additionally, our administrative vice president is always collaborating with our standards chairwoman to highlight the accountability aspect of standards. Negative habits were formed in isolation that did not disappear when our women returned to campus. Many women were ill-prepared to return to a full college schedule with less social respite. Standards began seeing an increase in hearings related to unsisterly conduct and alcohol policy



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violations. Rather than viewing this as rebellion or character flaws, we recognized that our sisters were crying out for community and accountability. Our standards process may never be perfect, but it is beginning to become a space where leadership can walk alongside women who are hurting and ensure growth rather than shame.

Omega upheld our vow to promote a higher spiritual, mental and social culture through membership education. Whether virtually, masked, or socially distanced, our new member educators and ritual chairwomen have done an outstanding job of keeping the chapter educated on the rich history of our organization. Fidelity has also been an effective way of educating our members on social justice, BEDI topics, and personal health. Each assigned Fidelity learning course receives a chapter completion rate of 80% or higher. Similarly, completing the Fraternity and Sorority Experience Survey has opened the door to hard conversations on our own chapter's culture and habits. Additionally, Omega engaged in supplemental education through attending two campus lectures on mental health and sexual assault awareness and selecting PACE chapters that engage in meaningful conversation. For example, we had a Gamma Phi speak about LGBTQ inclusive mindsets and recruiting practices at PACE. Our members have also been pushed to engage in what may be difficult conversations surrounding belonging, equity, diversity, and inclusion, or BEDI as Gamma Phis know it. Our BEDI chairwomen have been brave in giving presentations on racial injustice throughout history, tokenism in recruitment, and ableism and respecting people with disabilities. It has been especially impactful to listen to first-hand experiences from our minority members as well. It is not their responsibility to educate the chapter majority, but our chapter has benefitted from hearing illustrations close to home.

Next, Omega has contributed to the progress of the Panhellenic community. Iowa State is especially fortunate to have an involved, inclusive, and empowering Panhellenic culture. Our Panhellenic Affairs Vice President and our Panhellenic delegate attend delegation meetings with the entire Panhellenic community members each week. At these meetings, the delegate shares Omega's achievements and our hardships, as do the other sixteen organizations. As a community, we can support each other so that all women in Panhellenic chapters can blossom. Our bond as a community was proven when Iowa State attended the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values conference in February 2022 as the largest congregation. Omega brought five members who could collaborate with other Gamma Phis and Panhellenic sorority women across the country. Finally, Omega has built a reputable relationship with other chapters on our campus through supporting philanthropy events. One example is the ACCESS Sexual Assault Awareness Candlelight Vigil that Omega co-hosted with Pi Beta Phi and Theta Chi. ACCESS



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is a local assault care and support center that works to educate our chapter and the Sorority and Fraternity community at Iowa State on assault. Over 100 community members came together at the vigil to show our support for sexual assault survivors while hearing from a representative of ACCESS.

Public relations was especially difficult to navigate. Due to restricted chapter programming, a consistent posting schedule with appealing and interactive content became harder. However, cultivating a strong social media presence was more important than ever in a virtual world. We found that, if used correctly, our virtual public relations were the most effective way of increasing chapter morale. A motivational Instagram post or virtual social carried the most weight in keeping our sisterhood connected in our most isolated. Overall, what is universally known as a superficial platform has seen substantial growth and influence. Since March 2020, we have increased posting by 60%, reaching 3,000 accounts per post and gaining more than 500 followers. To maintain good internal public relations, we found the use of GroupMe to be effective. In pledge class and all-chapter group chats, members had a space to share the little wins in their lives and their everyday hardships. As life slowly became less restricted, the public relations department took on one of the biggest roles in re-connecting our chapter to each other and the community. We embraced the restrictions for our safety and continued to host virtual or masked, and socially distanced events. The social chairwomen planned multiple social events with other chapters via Zoom, including a trivia night and an Among Us game night. A turning point for our chapter was in the spring of 2021, when we were approved to have our first in person Moonball since 2019. Following all International guidelines, we hosted a 16-team kickball tournament and an exhibition match with our local Girls on the Run chapter. Twelve fraternity and student organization teams and four community teams helped us raise nearly \$3,000 for Girls on the Run. While it was not the highest fundraising philanthropy event we have hosted, it was certainly the most impactful in generating community and chapter pride. In the year following, Omega has hosted five more socials, a semi-formal dance, two parent's weekends, a Founder's Day dinner, and a philanthropy event called Crescent Cakes which raised nearly \$6,000 for Girls on the Run.

Finally, Omega has excelled in our recruitment practices. Despite a nationwide decrease in sorority and fraternity involvement, our chapter has met our Panhellenic recruitment quota during primary recruitment in 2020 and 2021. We have achieved this by being diligent in our recruitment training. Despite not knowing whether primary recruitment would occur in the Fall of 2020, our Membership Vice President continued to hold virtual recruitment workshops for experienced and inexperienced recruiters. When recruitment was virtual, we created a comfortable experience for the potential new



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members by having our computers in separate rooms and performing bumps masked. This saved us from experiencing technical difficulties and also allowed potential new members to see our sisters interact through a screen. We have also made recruitment practices more inclusive to minority potential new members. Our BEDI chairwoman and Membership Vice President work closely to integrate inclusive verbiage, proper etiquette, and values-based scoring into our recruitment plan. For example, our BEDI chairwoman gives a presentation every day leading up to recruitment on BEDI topics such as implicit bias, tokenism, and ableism in recruitment. Omega is still learning how to better embrace our minority members, and we are lucky to have a sisterhood dedicated to progress and accountability.

The Omega chapter has revitalized a broken and hurting organization into a sisterhood that perseveres through hardship as one community through empowered and resilient women leaders. The Omega chapter may not be perfect, but in our eyes, it is certainly very good of its kind. Eminently good. Excellent.



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### E. Adeline Curtis Award

One of the most impactful moments for our potential and future new members during recruitment at Pi Chapter is the Philanthropy round. On this day, just like all Gamma Phi Beta chapters internationally, we watch the "She Is..." video to learn about our philanthropic mission of Building Strong Girls. This video is followed by a series of sisters sharing some "She is..." statements, ending with "She is [insert the name of a sister]." The statements are always a surprise to the sister who is being spoken about, and tears and hugs are frequent. The next day, during the Sisterhood round, one sister is surprised each round with a letter from a friend in the chapter sharing how the friend's life has been impacted by their friendship. Once again, tears and authentic connections are shared through these interactions.

These small presentations have garnered Pi Chapter the nickname "Gamma Cry Beta." Deeper than that, though, each potential new member leaves our chapter house fully in love with Gamma Phi Beta (with consistently high return rates to prove it), meaning that sisterhood at Pi Chapter is truly unparalleled. Every woman entering the recruitment process is seeking sisterhood. Women who become Gamma Phi Betas discover that sisterhood is so much more than simply friendship; it is a life-altering practice of love and service to others. This is evident in our tenets of sisterhood, friendship, cordiality, and concern and consideration of others.

### Sisterhood

Formally, sisterhood is essential to our chapter practices. Over the last years of the biennium, our co-sisterhood chairs have been two dynamic duos determined to foster meaningful connections over distance and isolation. For example, upon seeing disengagement from senior members of the chapter, the 2021 executive council selected a senior and a sophomore to serve as sisterhood co-chairs. The two collaborated to create events that were impactful for and inclusive of all members of the chapter.

Additionally, given capacity limits, our Education Vice President took advantage of the more intimate groups to develop intentional reflection during sisterhood retreats. The first half of the Fall 2021 retreat involved members writing a favorite characteristic of Pi Chapter on the back of a puzzle piece (Authentic was a common choice!). The puzzle pieces were later placed together to reveal a Mentor's Report on sisterhood from several decades ago that still resonated today. The second half of the retreat was capture the flag on campus, with a game culminating in a sister sprinting back to the house barefoot from retrieving the flag from the fountain on the union plaza.



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More informally, the leadership teams over the past two years have emphasized belonging as an essential tenet of their leadership and decision-making. In a time when sisters were isolated and disconnected, members of the chapter sought to simply make sisters- especially those on the margin- feel like they belonged. This became codified in the efforts of our Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion work as we took a hard look at the difficulties faced by some of our sisters. We took practical steps to revise bylaws and change non-inclusive chapter practices, but we also started creating a chapter culture that welcomes the identity of each and every sister.

### Friendship

Friendship abounds in Pi Chapter and spills out of our house to flood the campus. Our support for sisters is not just within our membership, but with all our activities at the University. Whether it be supporting our sisters running to be executive members of student government, advocating for our local Dance Marathon chapter and supporting our sisters in leadership, or participating in the Out of the Darkness suicide awareness walk to show compassion for our sister's important work, if one Gamma Phi sister is at an activity you can be sure that there are five more cheering her on.

Within the chapter, friendship is woven into even the little traditions. Our snap cup is overflowing each week with shoutouts from sisters, frequently thanking friends for their support during a hard time or celebrating a sister for a recent accomplishment. It is not unusual to see a “snap” sent to a sister that is not even close friends with the sender, demonstrating that friendship is not just a daily relationship but a fundamental part of being sisters. It is heartwarming to hear these stories of friendship and sisterhood each week and it inspires each of us to be better friends to those around us.

### Cordiality

One of the most impactful things about sisterhood and friendship within Pi Chapter is that it is authentic. Sisters sincerely care for one another, even those outside their usual friend group. This can be seen in the organic interactions throughout the house, especially at mealtimes when sisters gather together with whoever happens to be around. It is encouraging to walk into our dining room and see sisters that are seemingly polar opposites sharing a meal together.

Through our chapter social media, we strive to show cordiality to our sisters constantly and set an example for our peers on campus. Each week, sisters can submit “sister shoutouts” to our



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social media chair who will share these shoutouts on our social media. Each month, our social media chair makes a post for every sister who had a birthday that month. Each birthday message includes a quote from a sister sharing about why they love the birthday sister. This makes each and every member feel loved and recognized.

We also have an appointed “Sunshine Chairwoman” and committee who creatively find ways to show sunshine to our sisters. This comes in little things like shoutouts to sisters during meetings, care packages during finals, and positive messages posted around the house.

### **Concern and Consideration of Others**

Especially over the past two years, Pi Chapter has thought intentionally about how to show care and consideration for not just our membership but for the campus community and the world. To begin, the 2021 Executive team selected an individual for PACE chair that had expressed a desire to challenge the status quo of PACE in our chapter. She desired to challenge our thinking and how we approached the world, especially as it related to BEDI. The chapter was indeed challenged, and our PACE presentations included understanding power dynamics, challenging notions of a post-racial society, and understanding privilege. Our members were challenged and emerged from each presentation with a deeper willingness to show consideration for others both within the chapter and outside it.

Our Fidelity lessons have been similarly challenging and encouraging. Rather than go through the motions of lessons each month, our Fidelity chairs in the biennium have sought to foster productive and courageous conversations. We have learned to challenge implicit bias, establish healthy relationships, and have courageous conversations. Both the PACE and Fidelity conversations have gone beyond the meetings where they are presented and have become a part of everyday conversation in the chapter. Sisters are thinking critically about ways to better impact their campus and connect with people they may not have previously thought about.

One positive result of this has been a greater relationship with the NPHC and MGC multicultural sororities and fraternities on campus. At the annual Stroll Off where these chapters reveal their new members, there is consistently a presence from Pi Chapter. It is encouraging to see these relationships forming as our sisters better understand how to show care and concern for others.



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Another significant change in the last year has been the addition of a Membership Retention Chairwoman. Seeing the struggle with retention brought on by the pandemic and its impact on not just Pi Chapter but every sorority. In an effort to track and reach out to every sister that was beginning to fall to the margins, we developed a Membership Retention committee and officer position. These sisters are passionate about fostering belonging, and strive to create both organic and formal actions to make our sisters feel connected to the chapter long before they consider resigning their membership.

### Conclusion

There is no other facet of sorority life that has been impacted and transformed over the last two years in the way that our sisterhood has. Pi Chapter foresaw this challenge as soon as the world began to change, and the 2020 Executive team engaged in many regular conversations about how to foster and maintain a sustainable, supportive sisterhood. Our leaders and membership are proud of how we have maintained our sisterhood, friendship, and care for others over the past two years and how the evolving practices of our chapter are ensuring this connection for years to come. Sisterhood at Pi Chapter is unlike sisterhood anywhere else, and it will continue to be uniquely Gamma Phi.



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### Administrative Excellence Award

Throughout this past year, our chapter, Zeta Theta of Pepperdine University, has been striving to show our excellence through our administrative department.

Additionally, in the Spring of 2021, we were able to maintain a high level of chapter attendance, while on Zoom. With the transition to in-person events in the Fall of 2021, our attendance remained high and we were able to accommodate two sisters who attended all of our events virtually.

This year, we updated our bylaws and standing rules to improve the expectations for our chapter members in order for them to better reflect our situation in a transition back to in-person events. The bylaws were updated in Beta Base. Additionally, our Standards Chair and Administrative Vice President presented the updated bylaws and standing rules to the chapter in order to highlight changes made as well as policies that remained the same.

For both the Spring and Fall, each department held monthly department meetings over Zoom and remained in constant contact via text and email. Each department head was responsible for scheduling their department meeting in order to accommodate various schedules. Additionally, executive board meetings are held weekly on Sundays before chapter. In some instances, a second executive board meeting will be held during the week in order to discuss important matters.

In the Fall of 2021, we held our elections in which an executive board was slated. We had one chapter member run from the floor for the Education Vice President position. The two candidates gave speeches during a formal chapter meeting and the chapter voted on the two, resulting in 72% voting for our current Education Vice President and 28% voting for the individual originally slated. No other members ran from the floor. The new slate was approved with no objections. With the new executive board, a meeting was held in order to appoint the remaining positions the same week in which they were elected. Each position was filled. In the Fall of 2021, our Education Vice President stepped down due to personal reasons, and the opening was publicized to the chapter and we received three applications for the position. A nominating committee of our executive board selected a candidate for the position promptly.



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Additionally, throughout both the Spring and Fall of 2021, there were a few officer vacancies for appointed positions in which officer interest and officer eligibility forms were filled out to find replacements. All positions were appointed new officers by the executive boards within two weeks of the vacancy occurring. Our chapter had a completion rate for the FSES survey of 51.47%.

Our standards department has responded really strongly to conflicts within the sorority. The standards committee was formed the same week that the elected positions were approved by the chapter. The standards chairwoman maintains the attendance of members to each event and disburses excuses when applicable. Although the chapter was virtual for the Spring of 2021, attendance was still tracked for each event, but it did not determine eligibility for social events as they were not occurring. Because of the ways we have excelled in the administrative department, I believe the Zeta Theta chapter of Pepperdine University should be considered for this award.



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### Education Excellence Award

Knowledge truly feels like power in an environment like Epsilon Nu, where being informed is praised by the community. It gives us the ability to have healthy relationships, respect other cultures and belief systems, and confidently move about in the world. Our focus on education spans programming within the chapter, access to educational resources, recognition of members thriving academically, and more. We are honored to share a bit more about how we excel in member education programming.

Through this past biennium, each officer in the education department actively created development opportunities for our members. At the start of each term, the EVPs established position goals for their department. Each officer had a midsemester check-in to evaluate the progress towards their goals and reevaluate, if necessary. The officers aimed to educate members so that they may succeed socially, mentally, academically, and professionally.

Our Fidelity chairs truly went above and beyond this biennium to ensure that the chapter received important information in an interactive manner. In 2021, we **completed seven in-chapter Fidelity presentations** covering boundary setting, membership in Gamma Phi Beta, time management, financial literacy, challenging implicit bias, Fall 2021 Core Lesson, and LGBTQIA+ History Month. We **reached at least 90% completion on the Core Lesson and the Alcohol Awareness lesson** during the required semesters. Each Fidelity meeting consisted of small group conversations and videos to give the chapter better scope on a topic. For example, in the Challenging Implicit Bias presentation in collaboration with BEDI and the recruitment team, the Fidelity chair included a video of Dr. Cheryl Ingram speaking about unconscious bias and how it affects the community around us. The speaker helped us understand implicit bias in the workplace and challenged us to apply the information we learned to a recruitment setting.

Similarly, our PACE chairs far exceeded the responsibilities of their role. They facilitated presentations about avoiding cultural appropriation in costumes, COVID safety, Indigenous Peoples' Day, Black History Month, Love Languages, and more based on member requests. In 2021, the PACE chair invited Dani Smith, a Rape Crisis Counselor and Health Educator at Chapman University, to present to the chapter about Sexual Harassment Awareness Month and the resources available through the university. By



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choosing this topic, the PACE chair allowed everyone to learn how to safely navigate social settings and interfere when necessary.

Our new member education teams worked diligently to teach the new member class the history of our organization. Through their welcoming nature, exploration of our values, and development of new relationships in new member meetings we **initiated 95% of the new member class in 2021**. Additionally, we **completed 100% of new member fidelity and post-initiation workshops**. These numbers reflect that the new members understand who we are as an organization prior to making a lifelong commitment at initiation.

Maintaining strong relationships is critical in education because it ensures that as a community we are involved and excited to learn. Our sisterhood chair hosted **eight sisterhoods**. Once we could have sisterhoods in person again, each activity had around **50 members** filtering in and out. The four in-person sisterhoods consisted of friendship bracelet making, facemasks, eating donuts with friends, and making Galentines cards. The sisterhood chair also hosted a Founder's Day Sisterhood where she read a passage about the Founders and the importance of upholding our values. Then, everyone spoke amongst themselves and made cards to show appreciation to one another. Sharing kind words is not only beneficial for our sisterhood, but also for our mental health.

The REAL wellness chair educates the chapter regarding self-care, support systems, etc. in order to promote good mental health. After a two-year hiatus, the 2021 REAL Wellness chair relaunched Love the Life You Live Week (LTLYLW) LTLYLW encourages the Chapman community to leave time for self-love and mental health in our busy schedules. She planned events that promoted good habits like decorating notebooks for journaling, coffee and chatting as a study break, and writing our gratitudes on a poster. After so much time apart during the pandemic, having these opportunities allowed us to better ourselves and our Gamma Phi community. Additionally, our REAL Wellness chairs over the biennium have taken time to monthly for Facebook "Mental Health Check-Ins," where they spoke vulnerably to the chapter to cultivate a positive relationship with mental health and encourage self-reflection.

Academically, Epsilon Nu has maintained the second-highest GPA on campus through the biennium. In Spring 2021 and Fall 2021, our chapter had a **GPA of 3.652 and 3.612, respectively**, both of which were above the Panhellenic and all women's average. The scholarship chair presented to the chapter about



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available resources on campus like the tutoring center, peer-essay editors, notetakers, and more to give more academic support. In conjunction with the financial vice president, **we raised the amount of internal scholarships offered by \$2000** to provide sufficient financial support to our members, ensuring that financial stress would never be a reason to leave the chapter.

We believe that holding each other accountable is the only way to grow and function as a chapter. In fact, as our chapter advisor always says, "the difference between friendship and sisterhood is accountability." One way accountability is maintained is attending formal ritual meetings in the proper attire. We hosted two formal ritual meetings per month where members wore business casual attire and their badges. Additionally, the ritual chair performed all eight required ritual ceremonies for the semester in compliance with COVID guidelines. The Ribbon Pinning Service, Pledging Service, and Initiation Service help us celebrate and educate our new members at the beginning of their journey in Gamma Phi Beta. The Rite of Passage ceremony helps us to show respect to the past and present leaders in our chapter. The Founder's Day Celebration allows us to appreciate our founding members and what they have created for us.

Education is an integral part of who we are as Epsilon Nu chapter, and again, we are honored to share a bit about how we excel in member education programming.

