



**SPRING 2018** Volume LIX

*Welcome*

**TO OUR LOYAL DONORS** who believe in and support the Foundation's mission of providing essential support for women's education, philanthropy and leadership. Welcome, also, if you are receiving *Columns* for the first time. This newsletter is published to thank those who support the work of the Foundation and to share their impact. 🌹

## Design Thinking Finds *Solutions*

On Saturday in early January, more than 100 Chapter Presidents funneled into a conference room in downtown Indianapolis with open minds and hearts. They were eager to gain wisdom that would help them lead their chapters and communities. They were excited to meet and work with sisters from around North America. More than anything, they were motivated to succeed as Chapter Presidents in 2018.

For the next four hours, the collegians participated in a Design Thinking Lab, a process utilized by major corporations like Walgreens and Ford to enhance capacity and identify new markets for products or services. The challenge for these Alpha Gams was to answer the question, "How might we create a stronger sense of belonging for the members of Alpha Gamma Delta?"

During the session, the women learned the various stages of the Design Thinking process and practiced applying them within small groups. First, they were taught the importance of empathizing – conducting interviews and making observations to understand the experiences and values of those around them. Next, they had to define the challenge, or reframe the problem to identify patterns and themes based on their observations. The next step was to brainstorm all possible solutions to the problem identified, understanding that there were no wrong answers in this phase. Once the brainstorming was finished, groups worked together to develop a prototype, or a potential solution to the problem. In the final stage, they tested their solution by presenting it to others and gathering feedback on what may work well and what could be improved.

*"I will use Design Thinking to generate many more creative solutions to the ever-growing list of problems I may experience as a Chapter President,"* said Autumn Gupta, Delta Alpha—University of Southern California.

*"I also learned how to have a greater capacity for dedicating time and energy to my chapter because I see the bigger picture and I realize that I am part of a greater purpose."*

The Design Thinking Lab was one of three sessions during the Academy for Chapter Presidents funded by the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation. Led by Dr. Allison Butler, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at Bryant University in Rhode Island, several alumnae and IHQ staff members assisted in facilitating the session to ensure that the collegians gained the most knowledge possible and were able to "connect the dots" of the larger picture.

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# The Ultimate Alpha Gam

Elaine Barrick Bess, Alpha Gamma—University of Cincinnati, has been described as the **ultimate Alpha Gam sister**. She is always doing nice things for others – sending cards and gifts, calling to check in, and doing whatever she can to support her local alumnae chapter. According to Elaine, it's what being an Alpha Gam is all about, *"the sisterhood and friendships that last."*

In addition to being a loyal sister, Elaine has been a devoted Foundation donor for 33 years. In 2004, she established the *Elaine Barrick Bess Scholarship Endowment*, open to any undergraduate or graduate sister.

*"I had an uncle who was kind enough to help me pay for tuition for college, otherwise I would have never been able to go to school. It is one way I feel I can give back,"* stated Elaine. *"I purposely did not limit the endowment to any particular chapter or field of study. There are too many people that need help."*

In addition to funding her endowment, Elaine is a member of the Give Every Month (GEM) Society. She feels that being a GEM is a great giving option for someone on a budget.

*"I give \$10 a month through the GEM Society. That \$10 adds up when it comes from several people. Every little bit helps."*

**In March, Elaine will be awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fort Lauderdale Panhellenic Alumnae Club. It is the first time the club has presented this award.**



Elaine Barrick Bess,  
Alpha Gamma—University of Cincinnati

*"I'm very honored to receive this award,"* said Elaine. *"I've done a lot of things behind the scenes, which I enjoy doing. I'm quite surprised they chose me to be the first one."*

Anyone who knows or has met Elaine at International Convention – she's attended every one since 1981 – is probably not surprised she is receiving this award. Her willingness to help others, serve in an officer role or provide young women with the opportunity to pursue academic goals, is all part of what makes her the ultimate Alpha Gam.

## 2017-2018 Recipient of the Elaine Barrick Bess Scholarship



Paula Martins,  
Tau—University of Toronto

*"The first line of the Alpha Gamma Delta Purpose charges us 'To gain understanding that wisdom may be vouchsafed to me.'*

*During my undergraduate, post grad and now master's degrees, my purpose has always been to gain as much knowledge and wisdom, not only in the academic environments, but also clinical and social, so that I may be able to impact the world.*

*I am so grateful for the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation's commitment to academic excellence. From the bottom of my*

*heart I feel honored and privileged to be this year's recipient of the Elaine Barrick Bess Scholarship."*

Paula is in her final year of the master of nursing – clinical program at the University of Toronto and recently started a new position as a Public Health Nurse in Toronto working with vulnerable families and seniors. 🌸

## Continuation of Design Thinking Finds *Solutions*

**This transformational leadership experience prepared Chapter Presidents for the challenges they will face not only in their chapters, but as women leaders.** The opportunities to invest in the future of women's leadership would not be possible without the generosity of Foundation donors.

*"Thank you. This weekend changed how I view Alpha Gamma Delta and how I plan to positively lead my chapter,"* stated Shannon Zogran, Beta Epsilon—Carroll University. *"I was able to gain insight to other chapters and learn many new things I can bring back to better my chapter. The Academy reinforced my love and passion for Alpha Gamma Delta and I hope to have a similar impact on my chapter."* 🌸

## The GEM Society Shines On

For the last three years, the Alpha Gam Foundation has recognized our donors who Give Every Month as members of the GEM Society. Their recurring, monthly gift enables the Foundation to continue our great work in support of women's leadership, education and philanthropy. It is with heartfelt appreciation that we recognize the **224** members and friends of the GEM Society. The full GEM Society list is available in the electronic version of *Columns* and on our website at [alphagammadeltafoundation.org](http://alphagammadeltafoundation.org). 🌸

### SEND DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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[foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org](mailto:foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org)

# Important Dates

**April 21, 2018**  
International Reunion Day

**May 31, 2018**  
Close of our giving year and  
Annual Fund Campaign

**June 28 - 30, 2018**  
International Convention  
San Antonio, Texas

*Gifts to the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by U.S. law.*

## MAKING AN IMPACT

“From the moment I accepted my bid, my sisters have always been there for me! It was Alpha Gam that gave me my first leadership position. From there, I had the confidence in myself to become a leader on campus. Because of the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation, I was able to attend UIFI, which allows fraternity and sorority leaders to define and enhance their leadership skills, personal awareness and commitment to their fraternity or sorority. I was able to use these skills for my chapter, my council and my campus. The Foundation awards academic scholarships each year and I was lucky enough to be chosen as a recipient in my senior year. I choose to be a GEM because the lifelong bond to Alpha Gam is real. It was the Foundation’s SIS Grant that was my saving grace during a scary and painful time of my adult life, and it was my sisters that opened their arms for support. I have never been prouder to call myself a member of Alpha Gamma Delta.” 🌸

– Laura Welch Sokalski,  
Theta Phi–University of Tampa

Why I *Give*



## Way to Make an Impact

**Want to see your name among those who Give Every Month?** Join your sisters as a member of the GEM Society today! Initiate your monthly, automatic donation (at the level you’re most comfortable) via credit card or direct debit in one of three simple ways, listed below. You may change or discontinue your recurring donation at any time by simply letting us know. Thank you for supporting the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation! 🌸

**Give by mail** COMPLETE & RETURN the enclosed giving envelope.



**Give online** CONTRIBUTE ONLINE AT [www.alphagammadeltafoundation.org](http://www.alphagammadeltafoundation.org) where you can also become a GEM Society member.



**Give by phone** CALL US at 317.663.4242 to charge your gift (V, MC, DS, AmEx) or to find out more about other giving opportunities, endowments, stocks and bequests.



*Please let us know if your employer matches charitable contributions.*

[www.alphagammadeltafoundation.org](http://www.alphagammadeltafoundation.org) | 3

## Foundation Bulletins

### Foundation Hires Advancement Officer

The Foundation is pleased to welcome Liana Mitchell Wallace, Gamma Zeta—University of Memphis, to our staff. Liana will be overseeing major gifts, planned giving and special fundraising initiatives. Liana brings a wealth of knowledge to the position, most recently as the Executive Director of the South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council. Liana can be contacted at [llwallace@alphagammadeltafoundation.org](mailto:llwallace@alphagammadeltafoundation.org) or 317.663.4242.



### New Endowment to Award in 2018

Thank you to Judith Hayes Hand, Epsilon Alpha—University of Missouri, who recently completed funding our newest endowment, the *Judith Hayes Hand Scholarship*. This endowment will begin awarding next fall for undergraduate students studying art history, art administration, fine arts or studio art. If you are interested in learning more about establishing an endowment, please contact Julie Waitman, Executive Director, at [jwaitman@alphagammadeltafoundation.org](mailto:jwaitman@alphagammadeltafoundation.org) or 317.663.4242.

### Special Events

Is your alumnae chapter/club holding a special event to celebrate an anniversary or fundraiser soon? The Foundation wants to help by providing materials to distribute about our support of women’s education, leadership and philanthropy, designed specifically for your event. Please reach out to Noelle Nachreiner, Communications and Programs Manager, at [nnachreiner@alphagammadeltafoundation.org](mailto:nnachreiner@alphagammadeltafoundation.org) or 317.663.4242 for assistance. 🌸

# THE Columns

OUR MISSION: "The Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation impacts and enriches our communities by providing essential support for education, philanthropy and leadership."

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