



# THE *Columns*

**SPRING 2017** Volume LVII (57)

## 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. 🌹

### LEADERSHIP

## Embarking on a Unique *Experience*

Thanks to you, collegiate women representing 14 chapters from across the US and Canada took flight for Alpha Gamma Delta's week-long, inaugural service and cultural immersion experience in January. Led by two alumnae facilitators and one staff member, sisters traveled to New Orleans to learn about the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the 2005 levee failure that continues to plague the city today.

**"Service is becoming increasingly important for college students and they are looking for opportunities to get more involved. We wanted to provide this trip as a chance for sisters to truly learn about servant leadership and giving back to the community,"** says Samantha Avanzino, Fraternity Engagement Specialist.

This experience connected service and leadership development by providing civic engagement, cultural immersion and alignment of Alpha Gam's values with serving others.

Hands-on service ranged from planting trees for the St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation in an area destroyed by the hurricane and levee failure, to serving the Giving Hope Food Pantry in both the pantry and hot meal distribution center. A day was spent at the Arc of New Orleans Mardi Gras Recycling Center, which provides jobs to developmentally disabled adults, while supporting the traditions and culture unique to New Orleans in an environmentally friendly manner. Did you know approximately 2,000 pounds of beads are thrown at each of the 50 parades in New Orleans?

*Continue article on second half of page 2*



# Forty One Years and Counting

Her Alpha Gam path is anything but typical. When both her chapter and university closed in 1973, it would have been easy to simply disconnect and walk away. After all, what would she have to gain? Yet amidst the sadness and joy of her experiences, Sara Wagoner Young, Beta Zeta—Parsons College, has always asked herself, “What do I have to give?”

The truth is, Sara has given a great deal to Alpha Gamma Delta including her time, thoughtfulness and leadership through service as President (twice) of the Omaha Area Alumnae Chapter, and as both Province Director- and Area Coordinator- Alumnae. In recognition of her service to the Fraternity, she wears the Arc with Diamonds and Pearls.

Sara’s love of Alpha Gam is so strong she recruited family members. Her sister, Mary Alice Wagoner Fisher, is a 1983 alumna initiate of Beta Alpha-Nebraska Wesleyan University, and her daughter, Joanna Young Shubart was initiated into Beta Alpha at the 1999 Alpha Gamma Delta Convention in Denver. Sara’s mother was a member of a local sorority that was later installed as Beta Zeta Chapter.

Her love and commitment to Alpha Gam is visible in another significant way. Sara made her first gift to the Foundation 41 years ago and has been a member of the Foundation’s Jewel Society for 19 years. She is one of our longest serving A Team (Ambassador Team) volunteers for the Foundation with over 10 years of service. Sara is one of several



Sara and her husband, John

friendly voices that may call to personally thank you for your gift to the Foundation.

“I have received so many blessings in life including membership in Alpha Gamma Delta that I want to be a positive influence,” shares Sara. “Serving and supporting the Foundation is one way I can live that positivity.”

Sara is inspired to support the Foundation, “...because of all the many wonderful things it does for our sisters! Especially SIS Grants and scholarships—I really believe in education.” Her own journey is proof of this belief. Sara received her bachelor’s (as a pipe organ major) and master’s degrees in education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Professionally, Sara is a retired music educator with 40 years of experience, and continues to believe in the value of music in learning.

Sara also believes that “travel is one of the best educational things you can do,” which is why when she learned of the Foundation’s support to the Fraternity’s new Service Immersion Trips she was very pleased.

When not volunteering for the Foundation, you’ll find Sara and John visiting their family; daughter, a Broadway actress living in New Jersey; son, an athletic director at Auburn University, and five grandchildren.

Thank you, Sara, for continuing to give to Alpha Gamma Delta! 

**Interested in joining Sara as a Foundation volunteer?**  
Email us at [foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org](mailto:foundation@alphagammadeltafoundation.org).

## Continuation of Embarking on a Unique Experience

Last year the center collected, sorted and repackaged more than 175,000 pounds of beads for community celebrations. Working alongside the employees, our sisters sorted nearly 5,000 pounds of beads in one day.

The final afternoon brought reflection as sisters created their own service plans, ranging from housing for the homeless to providing mental health education in their communities.

Because of you, our sisters are given these types of leadership opportunities—opportunities that prepare our next generation of women leaders.

In response to this program’s positive attention and feedback, the Foundation has committed to fully funding another service immersion experience in July 2017. Please consider a gift today so we may continue providing essential service and leadership experiences to even more sisters. 



“This experience changed my heart and effort towards service. I gained a greater appreciation for other cultures and people different from myself. It set a fire in me for serving others and learning.” – Oakleigh White, Gamma

Sigma-Troy State University



“After a long day at the food pantry I helped one last woman to her car with her groceries and in the most sincere way she said ‘God bless y’all and everything you’re doing here’ and gave me a hug. It really reminded me that even the simplest of tasks can make a huge impact on others.” – Emily Moser, Delta Zeta-University of British Columbia



“As a group, we embarked on a unique experience that pushed each and every one of us towards better. As a facilitator, I’m thankful that I was able to be a part of a moment in these collegians’ lives and encourage them to live purposefully... it allowed me the opportunity to reconnect with the Purpose and values of Alpha Gamma Delta, but it also left me with new understanding and appreciation for the impact that Alpha Gamma Delta has had on my life since joining. Through this experience, I was able to reflect upon the woman I have become and see just how much of that woman I owe to my time as a collegian with Alpha Gam.”

– Hannah Hendricks, Theta Tau-Belmont University

# Important Dates

**April 15**  
International Reunion Day

**May 31**  
Close of our giving year and  
Annual Fund campaign

**July 7–9**  
TLC  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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

## MAKING AN IMPACT

“I give to the Foundation because I am privileged to play a small role in the mentoring and development of our future women leaders. As a business owner, executive and mother of boys, I put volunteering for the Fraternity on hold for many years. When I was able to reengage and serve at the chapter level, then later on VST, I found that I gained so much more than I gave—through the friendships with other volunteers, interactions with our amazing collegians and by being given the chance to truly Live with Purpose. The Foundation makes this possible through support of training,

meetings, collegiate scholarships and so much more that impacts the lives of our members and those with whom we interact in the communities in which we are placed.”

– Barb Krumme Geiger,  
Epsilon Beta-University of Kansas  
Director of Chapter Development



## Why I Give

## Way to Make an Impact

The GEM Society offers an easy way for our donors to “contribute to the world’s work” by providing Alpha Gam sisters of all ages with opportunities to grow and impact our communities. By choosing to Give Every Month, you help fund scholarships and leadership programs for our sisters. From sisters, for sisters.

Joining is easy! Initiate your monthly, automatic credit card donation using one of these options:

- Use the enclosed giving envelope
- Visit [alphagammadeltafoundation.org](http://alphagammadeltafoundation.org) and click on “Make a Gift”
- Call our office at 317.663.4242

You may change or discontinue your recurring donation at any time by simply letting us know. Today we have 198 GEM Society members; we hope you’ll join them! *View a full list of GEMs on the Foundation’s website under the “How to Give” tab.*

## Foundation Bulletins

### New Foundation Trustees

We are pleased to welcome two new Foundation trustees who joined the board in 2016.

Adrienne Kerr Beckett, Zeta Omicron-Kettering University, previously served the Fraternity as both a Director of Extension and New Chapter Development Specialist, and held various local Chapter Advisor roles. Professionally, she is a business executive in the area of Manufacturing Supply Chain, specializing in Food & Beverage. Adrienne and her husband reside in Edina, Minnesota, where they enjoy travel, reading and cooking.



Catherine Matthews, Theta Eta-University of Tennessee at Martin, previously held a Leadership Advisor position with the Fraternity, served on the Education Committee and in multiple local chapter advisor positions for three collegiate chapters, all earning her the Arc with Diamond. Catherine has a wealth of experience in higher education and law and holds a PhD in Higher Education. She currently resides in Bloomington, Indiana, where she enjoys college football, baking and fostering cats for the animal shelter.



To meet all of the Foundation Trustees, visit [alphagammadeltafoundation.org](http://alphagammadeltafoundation.org) under the “About” tab.

## Make your gift *Today...*

**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, M, AmEx) or to find out more about other giving opportunities, endowments, stocks and bequests.



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

# THE Columns

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

## SEND DONATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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