

# SIGMA STAR

The newsletter for alumnae and friends of Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - *Summer 2017*

## Founder's Day 2017

On Sunday, April 23, members and twelve alumnae came to celebrate this year's Founder's Day. All who attended enjoyed brunch and participated in our Founder's Day ceremony. Alumnae also got the opportunity to engage in one of our recruitment meetings. Eighteen seniors went through Jewel Degree lead by **Kristen Arquilla '02** and **Marissa Claxon '00**. Thank you to all who attended!

Alumnae volunteers from the District and Province teams as well as Chapter Advisors and Housing Corporation board members attended the Founder's Day festivities and participated in Jewel Degree.



## How to Get Involved

As we say in Greek life "it's not for four years, it's for life" and at Sigma, this is a sentiment we believe. We are striving to increase our alumnae communications and offer new and exciting ways for our alumnae to stay involved with Alpha Delta Pi. As a Pi (alumnae) member, there are so many ways to stay involved with your sisterhood! Some of our current involvements include:

**Pis' Pitch In:** This is an event held at the end of every summer where alumnae return to the house for a day (or an overnight stay in your old room!) to help prepare the house before the current members move in for the semester. This past summer, we completely revamped the powder room into a more functional storage area - it was amazing what we did in two days! We uncovered so much Sigma history reorganizing the house, you never know what you will discover! **Mark your calendars for July 15-16, 2017! Please RSVP to [adpi.sigmaevents@gmail.com](mailto:adpi.sigmaevents@gmail.com) or RSVP to our event invitation posted to our Sigma Strong Facebook Group. We look forward to seeing you at this third annual event!**

**Housing Corporation:** Our home is managed by a group of amazing alumnae volunteers on the Sigma of Alpha Delta Pi Building Corporation. These sisters determine remodels and repairs to the house, oversee the House Director and work closely with the collegians on the housing board. It is fascinating what comes across Housing Corporation's plate, as there is always something new. We would love to grow the size of our board and welcome any Alpha Delta Pi alumnae to join.

**Fundraising Events:** To keep everything running, we need your help! Hosting an event is a great way to reconnect with local

sisters and help current sisters and the house. Whether it be at your home, a restaurant or sports event, we would be grateful for your fundraising assistance. Your creativity is welcomed! Please contact **Kaylee Barron '11** at [kayleebarron33@gmail.com](mailto:kayleebarron33@gmail.com) if you are interested in hosting an event.

**Visit Sigma:** When is the last time you stepped into 1202 West Nevada? Sigma welcomes you back at any time! If you are traveling to the area, contact our President **Bridget Finis '15** and she will arrange a tour of the house for you. We especially welcome you back during Homecoming, where we have house and campus tours occurring as well as a brunch on that Sunday.

**Be a Mentor:** Remember what it was like to feel lost in college and in need of advice? You can help guide our sisters to be on the right path! Wherever you are, you can be a mentor to some of our current members. Whether you come to the house for a "Career Day," exchange an email or two, or have a phone call with a current member, you can really make a difference in a sister's future.

**Make a Donation:** Any gift makes a difference to Sigma. Your contributions to the future of Alpha Delta Pi speak volumes to what it means to be a Sigma alumnae. We live for each other.

You have the ability to shape the future of Sigma of Alpha Delta Pi. The opening to our creed states "I believe in Alpha Delta Pi. I believe that my sorority is more than a ritual or a symbol, that it is a way of life." We believe Alpha Delta Pi is a way of life and hope you do, too.



## 2017 Chapter Executive Officers

**President**

Bridget Finis '15  
sigma.adpi@gmail.com

**Executive Vice President**

Shaina Kidd '15  
sigma.executivevp@gmail.com

**Membership Education  
Vice President**

Megan Parod '15  
sigma.mevp@gmail.com

**Finance Vice President**

Deanna Cooper '15  
sigma.fvp@gmail.com

**Recruitment and Marketing  
Vice President**

Madison Ballance '15  
sigma.rvp@gmail.com

**Director of Standards and Ethics**

Laura Akouris '15  
sigma.standards@gmail.com

**Director of Social Enrichment**

Breanna Miller '15  
sigma.socialenrichment@gmail.com

**Panhellenic Delegate**

Susan Spencer '15  
sigma.panhellenic@gmail.com

**Recording Secretary**

Adriana Sclafani '16  
sigma.recsec@gmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary**

Katie Tegeler '16  
ktegele2@illinois.edu

**Historian**

Brittany Kiss '16  
bekiss1620@gmail.com

**New Member Coordinator**

Maddy Henn '16  
sigma.nmc@gmail.com

**Scholarship Chair**

Alyssa Daly '15  
sigma.scholar@gmail.com

**Guard**

Kassidy Kimpling '16  
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**Leadership Chair**

Christine Jones '16  
cnjones2@illinois.edu

**Formal Recruitment Chair**

Kelli Ono '15  
sigma.frc@gmail.com

**External Philanthropy Chair**

Carley Kulenkamp '15  
sigma.external@gmail.com

**Internal Philanthropy Chair**

Andrea Algarra '15  
sigma.internalphilanthropy@gmail.com

**Alumnae Relations Chair**

Aubrey Stegich '15  
adpi.sigma.arc@gmail.com

**Public Relations Chair**

Jessica Jeon '15  
sigma.publicrelations@gmail.com

**Recruitment Information Manager**

Sami Lange '14  
samilange444@gmail.com

**Community Service Chair**

Aly Pudlo '15  
sigma.commservice@gmail.com

**Social Media Chair**

Kait Neibarger '15  
sigma.socialmediachair@illinois.edu

**Finance Assistant**

Allie Skerjan '16  
amskerjan@gmail.com

**Property Manager**

Kat Kistner '16  
sigma.propertymanager@gmail.com

**Merchandise Chair**

Bianca Madden '16  
sigma.giftmart@gmail.com

**Chaplain**

Erin Dowling '16  
ed2@illinois.edu

**Spirit Chair**

Sarah Pitzaferro '16  
sarab@pitzaferro.com

**Music Chair**

Grace Curie '14  
gcurrie2@illinois.edu

**Sisterhood Chair**

Emily Dawson '15  
peach62597@gmail.com

## Letter from the Chapter President

Hello Pi sisters!

My name is Bridget Finis and I am Sigma's 2017 Chapter President. I previously served as the Recording Secretary and Executive Vice President. I am currently a sophomore studying developmental psychology in hopes to pursue a master's degree in educational psychology. Outside of my involvement in ADPi, I am an assistant director for the dance marathon on campus and serve as a member in Alpha Beta Delta and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies.



Bridget Finis '15

This past spring was full of so many fun memories. We started off the semester welcoming six new alphas. In February, 19 collegian officers, advisors and housing corporation members attended District Leadership Conference where they learned about their roles in ADPi. In March, we held our Philanthropy Dinner "ADPicnic," which was a huge success! In April, we celebrated Founder's Day and many of our collegians had the opportunity to meet some of our alumnae!

I have the privilege to work with the most incredible executive committee imaginable. One of our goals this year is to improve our communication with our Pi sisters (that means all of you)! We are working closely with our Alumnae Relations Chair to implement new programs and initiatives to improve our methods of communication. Please check out our alumnae website sigmaofadpi.com and click the alumnae tab to update your contact information. By doing so, we will send you updates on future alumnae events. As a reminder, this page is password protected for your privacy. Please use the following case-sensitive password to access the alumnae contact database: violets.

I am looking forward to this year in my role as Sigma's Chapter President and I hope I get the chance to meet as many of you as possible! Alpha Delta Pi has served as a home to so many of us over the years and I hope Sigma still serves as your home away from home.

Love & Violets,

**Bridget Finis '15**, Chapter President  
sigma.adpi@gmail.com

## Violets to...

**Marissa Sulek '14**, junior, elected 2017 Panhellenic President. She served as Sigma's Guard in 2015 and Chapter President in 2016.

**Devin Weiss '13**, senior, received Marshall Scholarship which allows her to attend any school/master's program of her choice in the United Kingdom for the next two years. Next year, she will attend University of Sussex for a master's degree Human Rights and the following year she will attend Oxford.

**Bridget Finis '15**, sophomore, is the Assistant Director of FSA recruitment for Illinithon, the dance marathon on campus. Bridget signed up all 19 Panhellenic chapters for Illinithon and recruited over 1,200 dancers (so far!), which are record breaking numbers in the program. She received the Emerging Leader Award for her work in Illinithon and EVP of Sigma.

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## Alumnae Spotlight: Maureen Blaber

**Maureen (Flannery) Blaber '83** graduated from University of Illinois in May of 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. After graduation, Blaber decided an MBA would help with her career advancement and options, so she continued her education at Loyola University in Chicago and graduated in 1991. As an active Sigma member, Blaber served as the Activities Chair. She currently works as a Nurse Assistant in the LaGrange, Illinois school district. While she is not working, Blaber enjoys spending time with her husband of 27 years, Mark, their daughter, Erin, and son, Brendan. She also enjoys traveling, going out to eat, boating in Lake Michigan and recently joined a cycling group.

Blaber realizes the bond of Sigma sisters lasts long after graduation. Because of this, she frequently plans alumnae luncheons with the help of **Janet (Cotter) Anderson '83**. They started by creating an event on Facebook and encouraging everyone to invite all sisters they were still in contact with. Last year's luncheon had a record attendance of 32 sisters. "The quote that goes something like, 'We all have friends we may not talk to everyday, but they understand us more than anyone in the world' rings very true," said Blaber. "I think organizing the annual luncheon started with a goal of seeing a few Sigma sisters that we had not seen in years, but became something more. I noticed at last year's gathering that we really have more in common than I ever realized. Everyone in the room had chosen to join the same sorority and it became clear we all really did share a deep connection. Whatever drew us to ADPi was a common thread that I felt still existed all these years later. I felt an unexpected kinship to every woman in the room. As corny as it sounds the bond was still there."

Blaber has taken on many new adventures since her graduation from Illinois. Aside from becoming a wife and mother, she also worked for a local water department and afterward decided to sell real estate. "I decided to earn a real estate license because I believed it would afford me the flexibility I wanted to earn a living while being available for my children," said Blaber. "Being a realtor seemed to be the perfect career choice because I could work from home and control the hours I worked."

After selling real estate for ten years, Blaber decided it was time for a career change. While she was looking for her next career move, Blaber decided to get a substitute teaching license and work at the local high school. Here, she discovered what she considers to be her ideal job. "I was surprised how much I enjoyed working at the high school," Blaber exclaimed. "There is so much energy working with young people! I

recently took a position working at our local school district in the nurse's office doing administrative work. I love it because I am working with children in a healthcare setting."

Blaber's daughter is currently a senior at the University of Illinois and plans to graduate in May of 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Media and Cinema studies. Her son graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Fine Art's degree in Graphic Design in May of 2016. Blaber is an extremely family-orientated person and spends a great deal of time with her siblings who live within ten minutes of her house. She often enjoys time with her family on the shores of Lake Michigan. She loves boating, walking on the shore and swimming in the lake.

To her undergraduate sisters, Blaber offers the following advice: "Seek out a group that makes you feel welcome. I believe strong bonds are the key to living a full life. When you know someone has your back, you have the strength to handle anything. College is a special time. You are an emerging adult developing your sense of self. Figuring out your social, political, religious, and world views. The advice I have is the same as I gave my children. Find your tribe. Make friendships a priority and realize it's never too late to reach out and reconnect with people from your past."



Maureen Blaber with her husband and children during Christmas of 2015.

## Housing Corporation Officers

### President

Shannon Tebben-Sandoval '94

### Vice President/Secretary

Anna Miller '08

### Treasurer

Leticia Pickens '01

### Personnel Director

Amy Hornat Kaval '97

### Board Members

Lindsay Bentivegna '01

Jillian Marino '01

Francine Parkington '00

Cheryl Stevenson '01

Beth Terprastra '02

Leslie Freeman '95

### Chapter President

Bridget Finis '15

### Finance Vice President

Deanna Cooper '15

### Chapter Property Manager

Kat Kistner '16

### Chapter Finance Advisor

Jamie Postlewait '06

### Chapter Advisor

Marissa Claxon '00

### Annual Campaign Manager

Kaylee Barron '11

## Violets to... (cont)

**Alex Rabadan '13**, senior, accepted a position with Teach for America Houston for two years. She will be working as a teacher in an elementary school in the Houston Independent School District.

**Karolina Saucedo '14**, senior, was accepted to the MAS program at the University of Illinois and will take classes toward her CPA certification.

**Grace Currie '14**, junior, performed in the choir in Antonio Vivaldi's Oratorio: Juditha triumphans, with the Venice Baroque Orchestra and world-renowned soloists at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in early February.

**Deanna Cooper '15**, sophomore, was accepted into an Accounting Leadership Program Intern position at Navistar, Inc. for summer 2017. She is our current Finance Vice President.

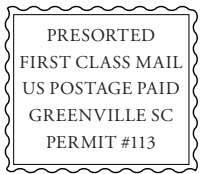
**Jennifer Hinkamp '14**, senior, received the Peter C and Gretchen Miller Markunas Chemistry Scholarship, which is a merit based award for an outstanding junior or senior majoring in chemistry.

**Ashley Camp '14**, senior, accepted a job at Union Pacific in Omaha, Nebraska as an Operations Coordinator to begin after her graduation this May. Ashley served as Sigma's Recruitment & Marketing Vice President for 2015.



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PO Box 2187  
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*Address Service Requested*



Help us keep our alumnae records up-to-date! Edit your member profile at [sigmaofadpi.com](http://sigmaofadpi.com) or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to:

Alpha Delta Pi  
University of Illinois (5366)  
PO Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Initiate Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## SIGMA STAR

Summer 2017



Visit the alumnae website by going to [sigmaofadpi.com](http://sigmaofadpi.com)!

Visit [sigmaofadpi.com](http://sigmaofadpi.com), the official Sigma Chapter website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumnae
- Update your contact information
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)

## Save the Date!

Pis' Pitch In is **July 15-16, 2017**, at the Sigma Chapter house! Come back to our home for a day or stay overnight (in your old room!) as we help prepare the house before the collegians move in. A group dinner will be held on July 15. This a great way to spend time with your sisters on campus - see you in July!

The weekend of February 17-19, 2017, several officers, advisors and Housing Corporation members attended District Leadership Conference. All attendees had the opportunity to learn about their roles as leaders in our Chapter as well as how Alpha Delta Pi and the Foundation are doing on a district and national level.

## Stay Connected with Sigma Chapter!

- Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi
- [illinoisadpi](https://www.instagram.com/illinoisadpi)
- [illinoisadpi](https://twitter.com/illinoisadpi)
- [illinoisadpi.tumblr.com](http://illinoisadpi.tumblr.com)
- [sigmaofadpi.wixsite.com/uiuc](http://sigmaofadpi.wixsite.com/uiuc)

