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

Fall 2020

# Sigma Sisters Need Your Financial Support

Safety has, is, and always will be the top priority for the Sigma House Corporation when it comes to the well-being of our undergraduate sisters. The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed that. While the collegians were home for the summer, the Sigma House Corporation did everything in its power to ensure that the chapter house would be a safe environment for live-in members this fall.

With the additional expenses spent to implement coronavirus-related safety protocols, Sigma House Corporation has launched the SOS Chapter Housing Campaign. To maintain social distancing guidelines, the number of occupants in the house has decreased, while necessary cleaning and cost of meals have increased. The Sigma House Corporation is proud to lead the way in this effort, but it is critical that this campaign receives support from the entire sisterhood to keep Sigma financially sound.

As loyal alumnae, we made a lifelong commitment to live by the values of sorority and grow from our

Sigma undergraduate experience. We've achieved so much because of the support of our sisters and have been lifted up by them during difficult times. Now more than ever, Sigma is relying on all of us to remain strong. It is our turn to give back to Sigma by building up the Sigma House Corporation's budget.

The board hopes you and yours are also following CDC guidelines and staying healthy. We have enjoyed hearing stories of sisters staying connected virtually in recent months. The next time you talk with your sisters, please spread the word to them about the SOS Chapter Housing Campaign. Your support means more to the Sigma House Corporation than you know, and it can't wait. Together, we can help Sigma prevail through the pandemic.

Loyally,

Jana Pottorff Mitchell '83

Sigma House Corporation President

### **How You Can Help**

Donate online by visiting sigmaofadpi.com and clicking "Donate."

To mail a check, please follow these steps:

Make check payable to: Sigma of Alpha Delta Pi Building Corporation Memo SOS Campaign

#### Mail to:

Alpha Delta Pi, University of Illinois Payment Processing P.O. Box 2187 Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Goal: \$25,000

Raised: \$7,525

Donors: 52

### **WHY I GIVE**

"Some of my fondest college memories involve living in the ADPi house. I wanted to contribute to the upkeep of 1202 W. Nevada so that others can have those same experiences. With the added expenses necessary to keep the girls safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever for us alumnae to support the Sigma Chapter." - DeAnna Ballard '85



"My years as an active Sigma sister are memories that I absolutely cherish. Living in this beautiful house made those years even more special. Supporting this fund is the least I can do to keep the legacy going not only for future generations, but also for personal peace of mind that this home away from home will continue to flourish." - Kimberly Kreis Stenson '82





# **Thank You, September Donors!**

September donations of \$50+ received a special thank-you gift of a 100th anniversary ornament. Thank you to these 76 donors for contributing a total of \$6,500 in September.

Nancy Alban '77	Dina Cadagin '88	Hannah Giacomini	Katie McNamee '10	Amy Smith '03
Libertyville, Ill.	Wheaton, Ill.	Henry '08 Springfield, Ill.	Chicago, Ill.	Hodgkins, Ill.
Leslie Allred '95	Sonya Baca Chavarria '86	1 0 /	Erica Metz	Suzanne Smith '79
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Lisa Balon '86	Jennifer Deschler '96	,	Lori Montana '76	Tori Stierwalt '98
Wheaton, Ill.	Champaign, Ill.	Nicole Kellogg '05	Chicago, Ill.	Sadorus, Ill.
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,	Kerri Druckmiller	, - <i></i>	Eileen Northcutt '82	Christine Svab '86
Carolyn Bench '85	Oak Park, Ill.	Abigail Klarner '97	Marietta, Ga.	Naperville, Ill.
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# Anna and Emily Roberts: Sigma Chapter's Mother/Daughter Dynamic Duo

Anna Roberts '18 is the 2020 director of facility management (formerly, property manager) for the

chapter. She is a junior music major from Elmwood, Ill. With the major impact of COVID-19, Anna's role has been quite a bit more challenging than anticipated. Anna has led the way to a safe and healthy semester for all who live at Sigma, despite these challenging times.

Anna's mom, Emily Roberts '90, along with Anna's aunt and cousin, are also Sigma alumnae. Emily is a teacher and coach at Elmwood High School. When Anna went to U of I and became an ADPi, it was a good opportunity for Emily to really help at the house, so she joined the Housing Corporation Board.

This dynamic duo has truly gone above and beyond for our chapter. They were instrumental in helping rearrange furniture in all the rooms of the house to allow for appropriate social distancing. This included turning the three open air dorms into bedrooms.

The south wing has been designated as a quarantine wing for those with exposure to the

virus, and the chapter room is now an

who test positive. They repainted the outdoor furniture and chose new cushions to liven up the outdoor space – which is getting lots of use, due to social distancing rules. And Anna has made sure all common areas are equipped with cleaning supplies.

As members of the building committee of the Housing Corporation Board, Emily and Anna are excited to help update our chapter house, while maintaining the history. They are meeting with different chapters from around the country to get a vision of what sorority women want in today's chapter house, as the committee works on a master plan.

Anna shared that she is incredibly grateful for her family and her Sigma support group.

"My mom is always making stuff for the house and always donating her free time to Sigma. She is my rock through all this craziness. I am grateful for our director of resident life, **Brianna Anderson '08**, who has been my mentor and friend throughout my time at Sigma. I am also grateful for my amazing advisor, **Jamie Postlewait '06**, for supporting me. Lastly, I am grateful to the fall 2020 in-house members who are always patient and willing to adapt with all of the rules and new adjustments we have had to make to keep the Pi Palace safe and fun for everyone living there."

Anna hopes to continue the tradition of legacies in her family.

She said, "I can't wait for my future daughter to someday call Sigma her home just like so many in our family have done before her."

From all past and present members of Sigma of ADPi, we are grateful to the Roberts women for their loyal service to this chapter. You two truly exemplify our motto: we live for each other.

### **Sigma Housing Corporation Annual Meeting**

On October 18, our Sigma Housing Corporation board gathered by Zoom for 2020's annual meeting.

Here are some of the highlights:

2019-2020 Accomplishments

- Four New Directors
- Created Building Committee and Kicked Off Capital Planning
- Relaunched Sigma Strong Facebook Group
- Promoted Part-time Employee Brianna Anderson to Director of Residence Life
- Strengthened Relationship with Chapter Officers & Chapter Advisor Board Members
- Improved Financial & Operating Transparency with Chapter

We also elected new directors and officers. The board for this year is:

- President Jana Pottorff Mitchell '83
- Treasurer Laura Crouse Dunk '80 Secretary Marianne Roesler '82

• Directors Becky Berns '85, Emily Roberts '90, Sarah Petersen '83, Lindsay Bentivegna, Kourtney Murray '09, and Carol Laude Pechi '81

Here's how you can get involved NOW. We're looking for alumnae to join us through any of these committees:

- Alumnae Relations/Fundraising
- Building and Operations
- Governance
- Policies
- Finance
- Personnel

Contact Marianne Roesler '82 at mroesler 63@yahoo.com to learn more.



# The Illini COVID-19 Response

The University of Illinois has always been a popular Big Ten school, but it has never been more publicized than it is now. From August 15 to the end of September, all eyes were on us. Illinois is the only large university with a semi-established infrastructure for the global pandemic, with its proprietary rapid test, 20 testing stations, and unlimited, free COVID-19 testing available for all students. I've received more questions about my university in the past month than I have in my three previous years of study.

Here's how my week goes: I visited a testing center Monday morning, and I will most likely have my results eight hours later. My test results are emailed to me and also monitored in the Safer Illinois app. The app has a boarding pass that is valid for four days if I receive a negative test, and it employs various methods of ensuring that it's a real boarding pass so that it's very difficult to fake a boarding pass. All Illinois buildings require a recent negative test, as well as some establishments in the community. If I want to get a burger on Green Street, there's a good chance the restaurant will ask to see my COVID-19 status. Because of the availability of easy, quick testing on campus, it's not uncommon for a friend to ask to see your status before visiting for a meal or study session. The Safer Illinois app also tracks your location — if I go to class and a student in my class tests positive the next day, the app will recognize that I may have been exposed. If I suspect I have been exposed, I can get tested as often as I want. Regardless of exposure, when Thursday comes around, I'll have to stop by a tent on my way around campus. It takes five minutes and gives everyone peace of mind.

I've been highly impressed by the way the university has handled this situation. One of the most nerve-wracking things this summer was the big question: How will we send students back to school? In an environment that relies so heavily on social interactions, both in and outside of the classroom, how will we make sure that inperson classes and gatherings are safe? College kids can be irresponsible — how will everyone else remain safe? How will student organizations like Alpha Delta Pi continue to hold events?

Many of my friends have been sent home from other universities due to outbreaks or risks. Illinois did have a spike in cases in early September; we were encouraged to stay inside to reduce this spike, and told two weeks later that we were successful; a shocking feat for a community full of antsy college students. Testing sites have increased their hours, contact tracing has improved accuracy, and the Safer Illinois app has been modified to thwart false passes. Our positivity rates have significantly decreased. I have not heard of any other school with such a developed infrastructure to handle this crisis.

My senior year looks a lot different than I planned. I have spent more hours in my apartment than I ever thought possible, and I am slowly learning to cook more than just quesadillas. While the next semester, year, and decade are huge question marks, there is one thing I know for sure: I have never been prouder to be an Illini.



L&V, **Janie Huber '17** Director of Alumnae Engagement, Archivist

# How has the house changed this year for COVID-19 accommodations?



#### **BATHROOM**

We added plexiglass sheets in between the sinks and are providing lots of cleaning supplies.



#### **DINING ROOM**

We capped dining capacity at 26 and removed extra chairs. The women have really stepped up to maintain a sanitary environment with weekend cleaning jobs and cleaning up after themselves before exiting a room.



#### **PATIO**

We gave the patio a facelift with the new colorful seat cushions and the new patterned umbrellas.



#### **BEDROOMS**

This image shows one of the open-air dorms that was converted into a very spacious quad.



#### SHORT-TERM ISOLATION

Since there are no in-person chapter meetings, the chapter room has been converted into a short-term isolation area for women heading home after testing positive or getting an exposure notification. There are four beds, a TV, and desk, with a bathroom reserved for these cases.

**Fall 2020** 



### Welcome, Sigma Pledge Class of 2021!

Mary Beck | LaGrange, Ill. Lincoln Becker | Chicago, Ill. Sara Berardi | Wheaton, Ill. Marina Betancourt | Dunlap, Ill. Grace Bock | Western Springs, Ill. Nicole Brandt | Evanston, Ill. Cameron Carlson | Naperville, Ill. Katherine Christensen | Grayslake, Ill. Abigail Dannegger | Wheaton, Ill. Grace DeGroff | River Forest, Ill. Giulia Dumitrescu | Downer's Grove, Ill. Carly Eberhart | Denver, Colo. Olivia Elkin | Deer Creek, Ill. Molly Foley | Park Ridge, Ill. Laine Gamrath | Lake Bluff, Ill. Abigail Greetis | Elmburst, Ill. Jesica Guallpa | Chicago, Ill.

Angelina Haney | Bangkok, Thailand Elise Husemann | LaGrange Park, Ill. Nubaira Kabir | Burr Ridge, Ill. Chloe Korst | Western Springs, Ill. Sravya Kosuri | Naperville, Ill. Varsha Krishnakumar | Champaign, Ill. Whitney Kunz | Murrayville, Ill. Chloe Leonard | Sugar Grove, Ill. Zoe Levitan | Highland Park, Ill. Lindsay Mallak Naperville, Ill. Daniela Marin | Park Ridge, Ill. Hima Mekala | Bloomingdale, Ill. Mia Michalski | Glen Ellyn, Ill. Aiushe Mishra | Santa Clara, Calif. Amy Morgan | Hickory Hills, Ill. Fierra Mulhern | Chicago, Ill. Maya Patel | Forsyth, Ill.

Anna Piacente | Orland Park, Ill.

Annika Pickard | Aurora, Ill. Priya Rao | Vernon Hills, Ill. Samantha Reyes | Chicago, Ill. Maeli Sanchez | Palos Park, Ill. Caroline Schapmann | Skokie, Ill. Allison Schuricht | Shelbyville, Ill. Nicola Setterdahl | Glen Ellyn, Ill. Marissa Sokolowski | Palos Heights, Ill. Kathryn Southon | Naperville, Ill. Amelia Steinlein | Gurnee, Ill. McKenna Walsh | Kildeer, Ill. Abigail Weis | Chicago, Ill. Kara Wolniewicz | Naperville, Ill. Anna Wymoczyl | Arlington Heights, Ill. Jasmin Zielinski | Joliet, Ill. Meredith Zimmerman | Bartonville, Ill.

## Virtually Recruiting in a COVID-19 World

Pioneering how a virtual recruitment would look for the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi was not an easy feat. There were so many layers to this complex virtual system, and they all came with much trial and error. Utilizing the recruitment practices we were allotted from Panhellenic was more crucial than ever. Although these practices may have sometimes seemed disorganized, our recruitment team and the rest of the chapter were always so willing to adapt when we wanted to try something new.

Mia Hackett | Elmburst, Ill.

Of course when it comes to utilizing technology, troubles are bound to occur. The main challenge Sigma faced was how to structure breakout rooms to ensure potential new members were having the best possible experience when virtually visiting our chapter. It was a big change to make, but we decided that we would cut the number of conversations from three to two to help ensure the conversations our recruiters were having were truly

meaningful. On the behind-the-scenes end, figuring out how to accomplish setting up recruiters with potential new members was a big challenge. We tried a few different options and were finally able to figure out the best course of action. That could not have been possible without our technology team. Sigma decided that with a virtual recruitment, we had to create a new team of Deltas solely responsible for tackling Zoom troubleshooting. This team of women impressed me so much with their ability to manage ambiguity and were a huge driving force in the success of our recruitment.

As for overall Panhellenic recruitment statistics, there was a drastic decrease in the number of potential new members signing up for recruitment. In previous years, we would see upwards of 2,000 potential new members registering for formal recruitment. This year, we began with just over 900. This was a steep drop, but we felt very encouraged that even this many women on campus

were looking to find their home. I also believe that fewer potential new members withdrew from formal recruitment this year than typical during in-person ormal recruitment. Personally, I think this is because potential new members could connect with chapters on campus in the comfort of their own homes, which alleviates a lot of nerves for the potential new members.

Overall, it took an amazing team of responsible and resourceful women to ensure our recruitment would still be a success. Sigma's recruitment would not have gone as smoothly as it did without the consistent support of our advisors, along with so many capable and driven women in our chapter.



L&V, Emilia Wojcikowski '17 Recruitment Analyst



Alpha Delta Pi University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign P.O. Box 442100 Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested



SIGMA STAR Fall 2020

### Let's stay connected!

Have you joined the Sigma Strong Facebook page? Please check us out at facebook.com/groups/433256040197413.

You'll find that it's a great place to learn what's happening at the house. You can reconnect with old friends. You'll have the opportunity to make new ADPi connections, too. If you're already a member, make sure your Sigma connections are members of the group.

We've recently posted a list of "lost" sisters (sisters who do not have a valid mailing address in our database). Take a look to make sure you're not on there — and maybe you'll be able to help find some of your friends.

#### **Stay Connected with Sigma Chapter!**

- f facebook.com/groups/433256040197413
- @illinoisadpi
- @illinoisadpi
- t illinoisadpi.tumblr.com
- sigmaofadpi.com

# Do We Have Your Current Contact Information?

Help us keep our alumnae records up to date! Visit **sigmaofadpi.com/ sister-updates** to update your information online or clip this form, place it in astamped envelope, and send to:

Alpha Delta Pi, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign P.O. Box 442100 Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Name
Initiation Year
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone (H)
Phone (W)
Email