

homecoming celebration weekend

JUNE 30 - JULY 1, 2023 🍇



⊢ MEMPHIS, TN • OXFORD, MS

It was the year 1873.

Three women in their late teenage years arrived at the Oxford Train Depot with hopes to further their education. They had left their small town and families for what would be a year of studying grammar, the arts and other ladylike subjects at the time, but **these women yearned for more.** 

They wanted to deepen their friendship to something beyond their childhood ties and they felt a desire to challenge themselves with subjects and literature not part of their current curriculum.

It was what happened at Lewis School in 1873 for which we gather to celebrate this weekend.

Eva, Anna and Mary, upon a fourposter bed, and unknowingly to them at the time, created a club of mutual helpfulness which would extend the bonds of sisterhood to more than 260,000 members and become one of the leading women's organizations in the National Panhellenic Conference.

This weekend, we celebrate and honor those early moments which contributed to making us who we are today. ‡

Anna Boyd Eva Mebb Mary Comfort



# Dear Sisters.

## Greetings and welcome to Homecoming Celebration Weekend!

We've eagerly awaited this for months. It is surreal to be here, extending a warm welcome to all of you. Our time together promises to be an exceptional weekend of reflection and sisterhood. On behalf of the Fraternity and the Foundation, we jointly welcome you to this once-in-a-lifetime event.

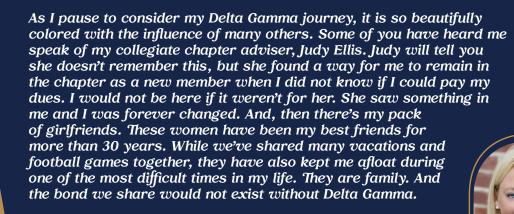
Thinking back to 1873 and the club of mutual helpfulness that our Founders created, it is astounding to see just how vast Delta Gamma has grown and how much we have achieved in our collective spirit of always reaching to do good.

Let us pause for a moment to reflect. Close your eyes. Think back to who gave you the opportunity to say yes to Delta Gamma or have significantly impacted your experience. Each of us has followed a unique path in the organization, but our enthusiasm in always choosing to become more than ourselves has brought us to this moment and helped us reach all that we have become.

"When I look back on the DGs who influenced my path, the first one I clearly recall is the DG who had a welcoming smile and wore her letters on campus the week before recruitment. I was drawn to Shannon Myrand Smithson's, Zeta Lambda-UC Riverside, energy, her confidence and her belonging with those sisters around her. During my collegiate years, I recall Fran Bilderback, Alpha Pi-Arizona, who encouraged me to say yes

to multiple leadership positions while in my collegiate years. And then my alumna years bring me to many Delta Gammas. Those who told me that I could step up to challenges and tasks at hand, whether it be regional teams, collegiate chapter advising or supporting me in my position now, as Chair of the Foundation Board. Each of these DGs have influenced me and have shaped the Delta Gamma I am today."

Jennifer (Jenn) Stuart Ragusa Zeta Lambda, UC Riverside Chair, Delta Gamma Foundation Board of Trustees



**Dr. Amy R. Ayres**Alpha lota-Oklahoma
President, Delta Gamma Fraternity

When we first donned the golden anchor of hope at 18, we could not have fathomed the life altering moments that would come with being a Delta Gamma. We are forever grateful for the sisters who have shaped us along our own unique journeys within DG. We are indebted to our Founders, Anna, Eva and Mary, for creating a space for each of us to grow, flourish and support one another. We are excited for all that is yet to come.

We gather for our Homecoming Celebration Weekend with excitement in celebrating the past 150 years of Delta Gamma. We also come together to look ahead to the next 150 years of leadership, commitment and achieving more remarkable milestones as a sisterhood.

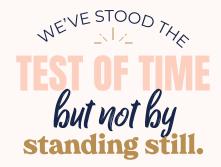
Our hope is that you, sister, have taken a moment to close your eyes and look back on your own journey. May we now raise our eyes and look forward to all that the future holds.

In the Bonds.

2 Am







# Dear Sisters.



#### Welcome to Homecoming Celebration Weekend!

This weekend, sisters from across North America have "come home" to celebrate sisterhood. We hope you'll enjoy every opportunity to deepen your Delta Gamma friendships, learn more about our 150 years of doing good and see the historic places where our Fraternity was founded.

We also hope you'll join us in making a financial commitment to Anchoring the Future: The Campaign for Delta Gamma to strengthen our next 150 years. Visit the Foundation area, or speak with any member of the Foundation staff or Campaign Cabinet for more information. Our goal is to have support from every sister and we look forward to counting you in this historic campaign!

In the Bonds.



Laurie Watson Kight
Delta Kappa-South Florida
Campaign Co-Chair



**Shaun Fisher Young** Mu-Missouri Campaign Co-Chair





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Save the date to flamingle with us in Palm Desert, California!

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Be one of the first to get one of this commemorative cream rose



social media?

Keep up with the Fraternity and Foundation by following along on social media.

Don't forget to use **#DG150** for a chance to be featured on the Fraternity's social media this weekend.

- f deltagamma
- (a) @deltagamma\_eo
- in company/delta-gamma
- v deltagammafraternity
- f deltagammafoundation
- (a) @dgfoundation

## A special thank you

to the EO staff members and volunteers who tirelessly gave their time to make the details of the sesquicentennial possible. We appreciate the many hours given to our sisterhood serving on the following subcommittees over the last few years: branding, jewelry and merchandise, chapter and local events, history book and Homecoming.





# TO THE PEABODY HOTEL

#### THE LEGEND OF THE DUCKS

In the 1930s Frank Shutt, general manager of The Peabody, and a friend returned from a weekend hunting trip to Arkansas. The men had a little too much Tennessee sippin' whiskey and thought it would be funny to place some of their live duck decoys (it was legal then for hunters to use live decoys) in the beautiful Peabody fountain. Three small English call ducks were selected as "guinea pigs," and the reaction was nothing short of enthusiastic. Thus began a Peabody tradition which was to become internationally famous.

In 1940, Bellman Edward Pembroke, a former circus animal trainer, offered to help with delivering the ducks to the fountain each day and taught them the now-famous Peabody Duck March. Mr. Pembroke became Peabody Duckmaster, serving in that capacity for 50 years until his retirement in 1991.

#### **FUN FACTS ABOUT THE DUCKS**



Ducks were not the first residents of The Peabody's lobby fountain. Rumor has it that turtles and baby alligators each briefly graced the fountain in the 1920s.



The Peabody Ducks are five nameless North American mallards - one drake (male) with a white collar and green head and four hens (females) with less colorful plumage.



Duck is not served anywhere at The Peabody and has not been seen on the hotel's menus since its 1981 reopening, quite possibly making Chez Philippe the only French restaurant in the world that does not offer duck.



The ducks live in a Royal Duck Palace, a \$200,000 structure on the hotel rooftop, made of marble and glass and features its own fountain with a bronze duck spitting water and a small house, a replica of the hotel, where the ducks can nest with a grassy "front yard."



Raised by a local farmer and a friend of the hotel, each team of Peabody Ducks lives at the hotel for only three months before retiring from duty and returning to the farm, where they are free to live as wild ducks.

#### THE FAMOUS PEABODY DUCK MARCH

The Peabody Duck March occurs daily at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to and from the Grand Lobby and the Royal Duck Palace on the hotel's rooftop. There's a long list of notable honorary Duckmasters who have led the Duck March, including Patrick Swayze, Oprah Winfrey, Florence Henderson, Peter Frampton, Joan Collins, Molly Ringwald, Gene Simmons, Kevin Bacon, Andrew McCarthy and many more. This weekend, two Delta Gammas will be added to that list.

#### **DELTA GAMMA HONORARY DUCKMASTERS**



Marcelle Bergeron
GAMMA ZETA-LOVISIANA STATE

Marcelle was initiated into Gamma Zeta chapter in 1979. After graduating, she relocated to Houston, Texas, where she has lived since. When her son was about to graduate from high school, she realized that she soon would be an empty nester. Thanks to the persistence of a DG sister, Marcelle joined the Houston Northwest alumnae chapter, and has since served as president, vp: social standards, vp: Foundation, Founders Day chair and more. Now retired, Marcelle works part-time at Houston Lighthouse for the Blind.

"Earlier this year I was lucky enough to attend Gamma Zeta's 75th Anniversary weekend," Marcelle shared. "I reconnected with sisters I had not seen in years, but it felt like yesterday. That is what it is all about. As a collegian, you are told that you are a member for life, and while I didn't understand it then, I do now, and am eternally grateful for what Delta Gamma has brought to my life."

Hannah Bode
DELTA PHI-UC IRVINE

Hannah currently serves as the chapter president of Delta Phi chapter at the University of California, Irvine. She is entering her final year at UCI, and double majoring in education sciences and dance. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career involving education, creativity and the arts. "Being a member of Delta Gamma has truly been one of my greatest privileges and life experiences thus far, and I am so honored to be celebrating the sesquicentennial," Hannah shared.



The honorary Duckmasters will be introduced to the crowd, presented with the Duckmaster certificate and given a Duckmaster cane to help guide the ducks in and out of the fountain to the elevator and to their final destination, the Penthouse. Be sure to catch Marcelle and Hannah serve as the honorary Duckmasters on Friday, June 30, 4:40 - 5:05 p.m.



#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 30**

8 a.m. – 8 p.m. REGISTRATION
East Mezzanine

8 a.m. – 6 p.m. FOUNDATION CREAM ROSE TRIBUTE GIVING

West Mezzanine

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. SPECIAL ARCHIVES EXHIBIT Delta Gamma: 1873-1897

SHOPPING WITH HANNAH'S CLOSET AND HERFF JONES

Forest Room

4:40 – 5:05 p.m. HONORARY DUCKMASTER CEREMONY

Peabody Hotel Lobby

5 – 7:45 p.m. DINNER ON OWN

7:30 – 10 p.m. FOUNDATION CREAM ROSE TRIBUTE GIVING

Peabody Rooftop and Skyway

8 – 10 p.m. SESQUICENTENNIAL KICKOFF DESSERT RECEPTION AND WELCOME

Peabody Rooftop and Skyway

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 1**

8 – 8:45 a.m. REGISTRATION

East Mezzanine

**BREAKFAST ONSITE** if purchased

Peabody Grand Ballroom

**BREAKFAST ON OWN** 

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. OXFORD HISTORICAL SITES TOUR

Depart from The Peabody Hotel Lobby board buses promptly at 8:45 a.m.

**5 – 7 p.m. SPECIAL ARCHIVES EXHIBIT** *Delta Gamma: 1873-1897* 

SHOPPING WITH HANNAH'S CLOSET AND HERFF JONES

Forest Room

6:30 – 11 p.m. FOUNDATION CREAM ROSE TRIBUTE GIVING

Peabody Grand Ballroom

7 – 11 p.m. SESQUICENTENNIAL GALA

Peabody Grand Ballroom

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 2**

ALL DAY DEPARTURES

8 a.m. – 12 p.m. REFLECTION SPACE

Cockrell Room

# 150 Kickoff Dessert Reception and Welcome

Friday, June 30 8 – 10 p.m. • Peabody Rooftop and Skyway

Delta Gammas will gather on the rooftop of The Peabody Hotel to kickoff Homecoming Celebration Weekend and sing happy birthday to the Fraternity.

The evening will begin with a welcome from Fraternity President Amy R. Ayres, Alpha Iota-Oklahoma, and Rose Jackson Flenorl, Manager, Global Citizenship and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at FedEx Corporation. Light desserts will be enjoyed along with surprise entertainment.

Be sure to enjoy the views and watch as Memphis lights up bronze, pink and blue with the lighting of the Hernando DeSoto Bridge.



# **Oxford Historical Sites Tour**

Saturday, July 1 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. • Depart from The Peabody Hotel Lobby

Delve back in time to when Anna, Eva and Mary formed our club of mutual helpfulness. On this self-guided audio tour, you can visit many key locations of Delta Gamma's earliest days. From the site where Lewis School once stood to the town square where the Founders had the first badge made and purchased the first minute book, the tour will showcase the places where it all began.

We acknowledge here and throughout the tour that Delta Gamma was founded less than ten years after the Civil War ended. Throughout the tour, sites will be contextualized and examined with historical authenticity and candor. All moments in Delta Gamma history, even those which diverged from our values, are vital to telling our story. You can learn more about our contextualization project by visiting **deltagamma.org.** 

Trolleys are available to move between many of the sites and will run continually at five minute intervals. Please feel free to hop on and off at any of the official stops. QR codes located on the commemorative map and displayed on signs at each stop will allow visitors to learn about these locations. Additional landmarks are marked on the commemorative map which will be provided to attendees as they board the charter buses to Oxford, or as they check-in at tour registration in Oxford.

Buses to Oxford leave from The Peabody Hotel promptly at 9 a.m. and will arrive in Oxford around 10:30 a.m. Please be on the bus by 8:45 a.m. Buses will leave from The Oxford Train Depot promptly at 3 p.m. to return to Memphis. Please be on the bus by 2:45 p.m.



MIVEORITY OF MISS

## DELTA GAMMA FRATERNITY

Delta Gamma, a national collegiate women's fraternity, was organized during the 1873 Christmas season at the Lewis School, located here. Its founders were three students, Eva Webb, Mary Comfort, and Anna Boyd, who were unable to go home to Kosciusko, Mississippi, for the holidays because of bad weather and impassable roads.

Vaford Train Depot

When the Founders first arrived at the Oxford Train Depot, they had made a journey of over 100 miles from their hometown of Kosciusko, Mississippi. With no direct route, they traveled 20 miles in wagons on dirt roads from Kosciusko to Durant where they boarded the train to Oxford.

Lewis School

Although no longer standing, a proud historical marker is posted and is on the sidewalk in front of the site marking the birthplace of Delta Gamma. Founder Eva herself said, "The school we attended was not much more advanced than a high school."

Women at this time were barred from most institutions of higher learning. Well-off families could send daughters to female seminaries like Lewis School. When the University of Mississippi began allowing some women to attend in 1882, Lewis School struggled to survive and ceased operations in the late 1890s. The building stood until 1969.

First Preshyterian Church

The three Founders walked just over a block each Sunday from Lewis School to the First Presbyterian Church where they and other early members worshipped. The church was established in 1837, 36 years before Anna, Eva and Mary founded Delta Gamma.

Alpha Psi - Mississippi House

Psi I-Lewis School closed in 1889 after an investigation revealed that the enrollment was not of college-age women, but often of 12-and 13-year-olds. More than 35 years later, Anna, Mary and Minnie Wohlleben Carter, Psi I-Lewis, petitioned to the 1926 Convention body to "bring Delta Gamma home" and establish a chapter at the University of Mississippi.

The chapter was installed in 1927 and the house was built in 1938. Most notable to the house is the Founders Room. The floor was constructed using wood from Lewis School, and other important mementos from the earliest days of Delta Gamma are kept there. In 1976, a fire severely damaged much of the house. Nearby fraternity men and local alumnae saved the irreplaceable archival items as well as furniture and rugs.

Delta Gamma University Gate

The gate at the entrance on the south-end of the University of Mississippi's campus on Coliseum Drive was donated by the Alpha Psi- Mississippi house corporation in 2008.

Vaford Town Square

In January 1874, Anna, Eva and Mary walked from school to the town square and had a local jeweler create the first Delta Gamma pins; shaped like an "H" to stand for hope. They also acquired a leatherbound book that became the first minute book. The minute book can be found in the archives at Executive Offices.

What were the earliest days of Delta Gamma like?

Find out by visiting the special archives exhibit *Delta Gamma: 1873-1897* during Homecoming Celebration Weekend from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday and 5 – 7 p.m. Saturday in the Forest Room.

This exhibit explores our history from the time of our Founding through the closure of Lewis School, where Delta Gamma was born. The exhibit also explores some of the challenges women in the 1800s faced in the pursuit of education and see several artifacts from the first days of the Do Good Sisterhood.

# Lunch at Alpha Psi House

Saturday, July 1

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. during the Oxford Historical Sites Tour

Dedicated on February 15, 1938, the Delta Gamma house at the University of Mississippi was the first sorority house on campus. Originally called Memorial House, it was built and furnished by the Fraternity and rented to the chapter for its college home. Funds to build the house were raised through donation appeals from Delta Gammas throughout the nation.

#### **FACTS ABOUT THE ALPHA PSI HOUSE**

- · Over 38,000 square feet
- · Room for up to 120 residents
- · Chapter room has seating for 400
- · Oldest fraternity/sorority house at the University of Mississippi
- The original North Wing was demolished, and a basement was excavated, three floors built above and tied to the historic South Wing

"From the very beginning it was not built of wood and stone alone; it was never just a house; it was never just a home. The entire Fraternity followed the months of building, and its completion was to our Fraternity the symbol of our ideals and standards - a rich reward for the ties that held through the years."

Quote from the 1945 History ANCHORA





# Sesquicentennial Gala

Saturday, July 1

7 - 11 p.m. • Peabody Grand Ballroom

Enjoy a night full of Delta Gamma, one that will be an unforgettable part of your member experience! It will be glitzy and glamourous while meaningful and celebratory. Attendees will be in their best bronze, pink or blue and enjoy an evening of dinner, impactful programming and dancing.

Some highlights of the event include the debut of the official sesquicentennial song written and performed by an Alpha Psi-Mississippi collegian, a group photo and video presentation. By attending the gala, you will be the first to receive a personal copy of the commemorative edition of the *ANCHORA* as it launches that night.

Doors to the Peabody Grand Ballroom will open at 6:45 p.m. The event begins promptly at 7 p.m. Please be seated by then. Table seating information can be found on the back of your name tag.



# Introducing the Sesquicentennial Song: "A Friend in Me"

Incoming junior, Isabella "Bella" McCormick, Alpha Psi-Mississippi, is from Nashville, Tennessee, and is the

current director of songs for Alpha Psi. Bella's talent for singing and songwriting made her the perfect composer for a song honoring Delta Gamma's sesquicentennial celebration. The song will be shared with attendees at Saturday night's gala at The Peabody Hotel.

"I've been singing and writing music my whole life so when I was given this opportunity it meant the world to me." She added, "This song came to me easily because I've been lucky enough to experience true friendship through my time in Delta Gamma.

I just thought about how sometimes I see so much in the women I've surrounded myself with, and how I hope they see themselves the way I see them." \$\dagger\$

The sheet music for the song can also be accessed by visiting **www.deltagamma.org/library** and searching "A Friend in Me" or you can listen to Isabella's performance by scanning the QR code.

# "A Friend in Me" Lyrics

She has the kindest of eyes and the sweetest of smiles she is impossibly true

I hope to be just like you and to do how you do Will you guide me to you

I hope to bring you to goodness and raise you to kindness I see the best qualities too

I hope you dance when there's music and sing when you shouldn't but honestly all I need is you to see what I see my sister and a friend in me

Pink bronze and blue is what I see with you and I know you uphold those values A dream, a DG, and a deep friend in me, are the things needed for us to bloom

I hope to bring you to goodness and raise you to kindness I see the best qualities too

I hope you dance when there's music and sing when you shouldn't but honestly all I need is you to see what I see my sister and a friend in me

When the days seem so dark and the moon and the stars aren't shiny as they used to be When the tides come in muddy and days feel so muggy it's the strength you give me that I need

I hope to bring you to goodness and raise you to kindness I see the best qualities too

I hope you dance when there's music and sing when you shouldn't but honestly all I need is you to see what I see my sister and a friend in me

See what I see, my sister and a friend in me



# "A Friend in Me" Sheet Music

for piano



















The Delta Gamma Kaleidoscope

In celebration of Delta Gamma's
Sesquicentennial Biennium,
Julie Whitney Dawson,
Gamma lota-DePauw, an
artist well-known for her
watercolor paintings,
created a piece of art
that would capture
the spirit of Delta
Gamma and honor our
organization's 150 years
of sisterhood.

In collaboration with Executive Offices staff, Julie created a kaleidoscope that took nearly 200 hours to complete, incorporating symbols, colors and other elements representative of Delta Gamma. Each of the three sections of the Delta Gamma Kaleidoscope tells a different part of our history, and there are treasures to be found throughout.



Be sure to stop by the special archives exhibit this weekend to view the Kaleidoscope during Homecoming Celebration Weekend. The artwork will be on permanent display at Executive Offices in Columbus, Ohio, and will be part of the permanent collection in the anticipated Archives Museum planned as part of Anchoring the Future: The Campaign for Delta Gamma.

Check out the commemorative summer *ANCHORA* to learn more about Julie and items featuring the Kaleidoscope that are available at **shopdeltagamma.com**.

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**Introducing the inaugural Cream Rose Tribute** Giving opportunity presented by the Delta Gamma Foundation.

You're invited to celebrate a dear Delta Gamma or loved one through a Foundation gift, and your honoree will receive a Cream Rose Tribute message. Open to all Delta Gammas, your gift of any size will support Anchoring the Future: The Campaign for Delta Gamma, ensuring our sisterhood will continue to flourish for another 150 years and beyond.

To make your tribute gift today, scan the QR code or visit www.deltagamma.org/CreamRoseTributes. Stop by the Cream Rose Tribute Giving table located in the West Mezzanine to hear how your support is making an impact!



The main sesquicentennial celebration at the local level should occur at your Founders Day event in 2024. Some groups are planning a single large formal affair, and some are planning several small casual celebrations. No matter the style, getting together with sisters in your community to celebrate our earliest members' accomplishments will be an unforgettable experience.

On the planning side? We've got the guide for you! A team of dedicated staff and volunteers created a Local Events Toolkit which can be found at deltagamma.org/DG150/

events. The beautiful 22-page document is full of valuable content to assist in planning and executing local events. There are branding suggestions, DG history, Campaign fundraising ideas, event planning tips and ideas to make your celebration special.



The time has come, and our celebration — and book — are upon us! Be sure to grab your copy of our sesquicentennial anniversary pictorial history book, Celebrating 150 Years of Delta Gamma, 1873-2023. This 12"x9", 96-page limited edition pays homage to our history, including historical vignettes and images, many of which have never been seen before, curated into a masterful, comprehensive treasure trove. Supplies are limited.

celebrating

Don't miss out on your chance to capture history! Purchase your book from Hannah's Closet or online at shophannahscloset.com.



Purchase and customize your badge by visiting hjgreek.com.









Save the date to flamingle with us in Palm Desert next summer!

More information will be shared in fall 2023.





# Does having an official rose sound familiar to you?

Well, this whole project got started after a 2021 ANCHORA story searched for a living original Delta Gamma rose from the 1970s. At that time, a rose was registered with the American Rose Society and named "Delta Gamma.". It was sold to at least 400 sisters but to our knowledge, none survived. The last known rose remained until 2020, in the garden of past Fraternity President, Martha Cheely Brown, Gamma Nu-North Texas.

We worked with rose growers at the Antique Rose Emporium in Texas to create a hearty rose to celebrate 150 years of sisterhood. Several hundred roses are available this year, approximately 1,000 will be available in 2024, and as they are grafted, grow and multiply, the supply will increase substantially.



sesquicentennial. It can live in both a garden or pot and will survive in most growing zones in the U.S. and

southern parts of Canada.

Scan the QR code to get your own Delta Gamma Heritage Rose today!

"For we hoped for great results and have not been disappointed" MARY COMFORT LEONARD OXFORD, MISSSISSIPPI

