



2026-28 Election Forum Speeches

Council Trustee: Alumnae | **Dr. Melissa Thompson, Gamma Zeta-Louisiana State**
Delivered on June 26, 2026, at Delta Gamma's 72nd Biennial Convention

Two years ago, the alumnae team aligned our work around Council's strategic priorities of Belonging, Agility and Growth. Today, I'd like to share what the team accomplished — and where we're headed next.

I could spend days talking about the team's achievements, but here are four highlights:

- Through our Anchored Connections programming, alumnae and collegians participated in professional development workshops on LinkedIn and interview skills and social webinars on everything from mahjong to needlepoint.
- Our 174 alumnae groups hosted 3,472 events, and logged more than 140,000 service hours, including more than 22,000 Service for Sight hours.
- We developed a Bylaws Compliance Dashboard in Anchorbase, giving officers real-time access to key information.
- We welcomed 67 new sisters through the Alumna Initiate program, including 12 who will be initiated tomorrow.

Looking ahead, our goals include:

- Creating pathways to connect sisters who may not live near an alumnae group so they remain connected to Delta Gamma.
- Adding more training modules in The Pursuit so alumnae officers spend less time on logistics and more time with their sisters.
- And, welcoming not one, not two, but three new alumnae groups in Alaska, Virginia and Michigan.

None of this is possible without an extraordinary team. Fleming, Lauren and Katie — thank you. To our Regional Alumnae Specialists and Alumnae Development Consultants — your dedication to our members is the foundation everything else is built on. And to Chelsea, Brittany, Kim and Hallie — thank you for making it all work, every single day. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

At the heart of our work is a simple hope: that every Delta Gamma — 18 to 98 and beyond — feels proud of her membership in this sisterhood. That is what drives our work. And that is what we will keep building toward together.

Thank you.