

A Letter from the Fraternity President



Dear Sisters,

Happy New Year! Over the holiday season, when reflecting upon the 147th anniversary of the founding of Delta Gamma Fraternity, the striking similarities between 1873 and 2020 fell sharply into focus, with both years sharing the perfect storm of life-threatening disease, social isolation and economic insecurity.

In 1873 young women were unable to study at university and had negligible social or financial capital. Our Founders' eyes warmed as they gazed upon the value of one another, finding their true power in the bonds of their deep friendship, their core strength. Their belief in the resilience and impact of friendships among women, in addition to a shared admiration for high standards of character and a passion for doing good proved the catalyst for the founding of our beloved Fraternity.

Our sisters today enjoy the social, financial and educational clout that our early members lacked, but when faced with the immense challenges of 2020 they found the same answers as Anna, Eva and Mary, that the bonds of sisterhood are vital and absolutely essential to us. Surrounded by uncertainty, loss and isolation, our sisters turned to one another for connection, friendship and the kindred encouragement that women of character and vision share. We found rejuvenation through solidarity, as our bonds helped us to pull one another through this crisis.

The greater the isolation and despondency, the more powerful the love and support have proven to be. Sisters have mentored, guided, led, encouraged, comforted and inspired one another. None of us have led alone, served without support or struggled in a vacuum. The test of these challenging times has proven that the vision of the Founders was clear: **In Delta Gamma, living our bonds means leading with our purpose.**

The term "mask" has long been associated with disguise, either concealing the identity or transforming the appearance of the wearer. Ironically, as we wear our masks to protect ourselves and the health of our friends and neighbors during the pandemic, we have been simultaneously and metaphorically unmasked in our interactions with our sisters. We have dared to be completely and totally ourselves in all our sisterly interactions, and our bonds of friendship have been transformed into something even mightier by the technology-aided candor and honesty among our cherished sisters.



With the dawn of a new year, bursting with hope and opportunity, we recognize that the challenges are far from over and know that we must remain steadfast because the end is finally almost in sight. United in our support and friendship for one another, we possess something that transforms our individual strengths into power: the bonds of Delta Gamma.

When we are soon able to gather together again to embrace and celebrate in the company of our sisters, we will do so with a renewed vigor and appreciation for the gift of our sisterhood. Your accomplishments during these socially-distanced times have been remarkable, conducting meetings, organizing fundraisers, recruiting and initiating sisters and gathering virtually simply for enjoyment. Our Founders placed their Hope in the sisters who followed, and in 2020 you have exceeded their every expectation.

Here's to a happy, healthy and hopeful year in 2021!

In the Bonds,

Wilma Johnson Wilbanks, Alpha Psi-Mississippi
President, Delta Gamma Fraternity