

# Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter Quarterly Newsletter



Gamma Phi Beta  
TRUE AND CONSTANT

Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2023

## Gamma Phi Gives Day Recognition & Fairfax Loyalty Grant Endowment

Dear Sisters,

*We are so happy to share with you the amazing results from Gamma Phi Gives Day that helped continue to fund the Fairfax Loyalty Grant Endowment Gamma Phi Gives Day in total raised \$206,702 which goes directly to ensuring our members experience the leadership and educational opportunities that prepare them to be confident women of character.*

*This would not have been possible without the incredibly generous donations from our chapter members and other alumnae members that made this possible. We would like to recognize and thank all of our members for their generous donations on Gamma Phi Gives Day this year.*

*Our very own Margaret Myers (Colorado College), pledged to match gifts up to \$5,000 for the Fairfax Loyalty Grant Endowment. This endowment provides Loyalty Grants to collegians and alumnae enrolled in graduate programs and was able to provide funding for one of these Loyalty Grant just last year!*

*In combination with Margaret's generosity and the generosity of our fellow chapter members and other alumnae, we were able to raise \$11,191.44 for the Fairfax County Loyalty Grant Endowment! This is a tremendous accomplishment and one that we should be especially proud of because it directly supports our sisters most in need.*

*In ILKE,  
Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter*

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## History of the Fairfax Loyalty Grant Endowment

*In 1993, Gamma Phi Beta Foundation Trustee and Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter Member, Joan Braitsch established a Scholarship Endowment, the Northern Virginia Challenge, and members of the Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter generously participated in fundraisers until they reached the required \$15,000 Endowment minimum. They founded the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter in 2012, and last year, Gamma Phi Beta Foundation Trustee, Margaret Myers, proposed re-naming the Endowment the Fairfax Virginia Loyalty Grant Endowment to represent the women who originally established the endowment. In March 2022, it was approved by the Foundation Board, and the \$30,000.00 Endowment, now named for the women who established it, generates a \$1,500.00 Grant annually.*

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*“We provide our sisters an enduring connection with women who are strong alone but stronger together.”*



### Member Input Survey – 2023



We are so excited to be ushering in a new decade of the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter after our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. In this new decade, we want to know what our members are looking to gain out of their membership experience. Covid-19 has changed our outlook on events and gatherings for better or worse. And we have seen a direct impact in the attendance rates of our events since the pandemic hit its height in 2020.



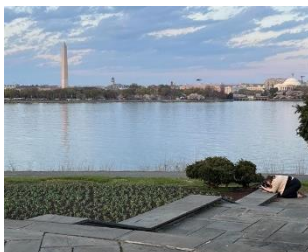
Founder's Day 2022

Many of our members live or work in Fairfax County but some do not and choose to join our chapter because of another affiliation to Fairfax County or its members. Should our events only be hosted in Fairfax County or be spread out over the DMV area to accommodate our current members?

Are the events we're hosting appealing to your interests and supporting our beloved sorority in the most effective way? These are questions we hope that our Member Input Survey will answer. This survey has been carefully crafted to help guide us into the next stage of service and sisterhood for the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter.

We would love for everyone to participate in the survey, linked [HERE](#). We will make sure to share the results in our Summer Newsletter and report on the results and next steps we will be taking so every member's voice is heard.

### Sister Celebrations *Our members share good news from their lives over the last few months!*



Can you spot our VP of Programming, Caitlin, hiding to take photos of the engagement?



Our Vice President, Katy, got engaged in April to her long-time partner, Richard. Congratulations, Katy!

## Open Volunteer Positions - East 3

### Local

Eta Epsilon @ Virginia Tech

- Standards Advisor
- Philanthropy Advisor
- New Member Advisor
- Alumnae Relations Advisor

Contact Chapter Advisor, Caitlin Sims if interested, at [cfern37@vt.edu](mailto:cfern37@vt.edu).

Epsilon Pi @ George Mason

- Chapter Advisor
- Financial Advisor

Contact Collegiate Chapter Supervisor, Allie Swint, if interested, at [alliegbp@yahoo.com](mailto:alliegbp@yahoo.com)

*Check the Open Volunteer Positions page on [gammaphibeta.org](http://gammaphibeta.org) for an up-to-date list of all open positions in all regions.*

## Collegian & Alumnae Coffee Mixer Event

As Spring approaches, we wanted to provide this awesome opportunity to our local collegian Gamma Phi Beta's who are nearing the end of their second phase of membership. As alumnae, we have extensive knowledge and experience not only of transitioning into our last phase of Gamma Phi Beta membership but also the dreaded post-grad to real world transition. We decided to host a coffee mixer to provide an opportunity to gather and provide these young women with the chance to ask questions about the post-grad transition varying from resume help, career advice, to general "adulting" advice.

While we may not be experts on life, we can most currently provide a sense of belonging and reassurance to these young Gamma Phi Beta's during a time of constant change. After all, that's what our alumnae chapters are meant for, to help guide our local chapters during and after their time as collegians.

*Date and Event Type to be determined by the Member Input Survey*



## Contribute to our Newsletter!

We are updating and streamlining the newsletter! We love having this form of communication to share important information about the chapter and all our endeavors. We want to hear from you and feature your news in upcoming newsletters.

If you have information that you would like to share, please fill out the [google form](#) to let us know.

Features can include announcements pertaining to Gamma Phi Beta or the chapter, philanthropy news, sister updates and celebrations, and more!

## Classy Crescents

The Classy Crescents meet for lunch on the third Tuesday of each month. The luncheons are held at local restaurants, especially the ones with out- door dining. It's always great to see each other and catch up. If you're interested in joining us,

contact Judy Willis at [jaowillis@gmail.com](mailto:jaowillis@gmail.com).

***They are tentatively meeting in May at Ruthie's All Day in Arlington.***

*I am a confident woman of character.*

## Sister Spotlight - Jennifer Coon

### FAIRFAX COUNTY ALUMNAE CHAPTER

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County Alumnae Chapter of  
Gamma Phi Beta

Jennifer Coon joined the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter recently in 2021 but in her short time has become an active member and an involved mentor to our local collegians. Jennifer was initiated into the Beta Xi Chapter at The Ohio State University in 2019. Here's what she had to say about why she joined Gamma Phi Beta, "I joined Gamma Phi Beta because I was looking for more in-depth, lifelong friendships from college. The friends I had made my first semester were nice, but it felt like that true connection with aligning values was missing. I am so lucky that I found that in Gamma Phi Beta." This organization means different things to so many of us, here's what it means to Jennifer, "Gamma Phi Beta means so much to me that it's sometimes hard to put into words, but I think what sticks out to me the most are our core values. Love, Labor, Learning, and Loyalty are



Nominate a fellow alumnae member for the next Sister Spotlight [here!](#)

ideals that I live and strive to uphold in my daily life, and I find that these are the qualities I look for in people I include in my support system. Gamma Phi means that even my hardest days will be made easier because I have someone who will be there to pick me up when I'm down or give me the confidence I need to persevere. In her alumnae career, Jennifer hopes to become a Recruitment or Education Advisor. One of her biggest inspirations in her alumnae life is former International President, Krista Davis, "She was the recruitment advisor for my chapter when I was an active member, and she is such an amazing woman who inspired me to be involved with Gamma Phi after graduating." Recently, Jennifer moved to Columbus, Ohio to pursue a career in publishing and works as an Assistant Editor for Great Lakes Publishing. She leads a book club with some of her Beta Xi sisters who live in different states, volunteers for Special Olympics, and stays involved with Girls on the Run. We're so glad Jennifer joined our chapter and will stay connected with us after her move to Columbus!

### Chapter Business & Reminders

A reminder to pay for local and international dues for 2023 if you have not done so already! You can pay both online through our website, [fairfaxgammaphibeta.org](http://fairfaxgammaphibeta.org). Scroll over the About Us tab, and click "Join our Chapter".

**International Dues: \$25 /year**

**Local Alumnae Dues: \$35/year**

As another reminder, we will *not* have elections this May as last May, we voted to extend our officer terms to two years to allow more time for each officer to make a lasting impact in their roles and on the chapter. We do still have vacant positions on our Executive Board, with most members balancing two or more positions at once. Not to mention their other Gamma Phi Beta volunteer roles! So, if you're interested in serving on the board, please reach out to us! We would love to have more collaboration and insight from fellow members. Email us at [fairfaxgphibalum@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxgphibalum@gmail.com) if interested or if you have questions on what serving on the board would entail.



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