



ALPHA GAMMA DELTA

• International Reunion Day •

Welcome to International Reunion Day, my name is Melissa Jacobson James and I am honored to serve as International Vice President–Alumnae.

I'm so happy that you're able to spend this time together with sisters. For 84 years, we have come together in celebration of our Founders, our sisterhood, and our members. IRD is a time to develop or rekindle Fraternity friendships and to renew our understanding of the true meaning of Alpha Gamma Delta. *Loving, leading, lasting.*

These three words embody what Alpha Gamma Delta is to our members throughout their lifetime. It all began with eleven amazing women who sought an environment of support and encouragement for each other when there was little to be found in their collegiate surroundings. Through it all, our Founders stuck together. They pledged their faith, loyalty and dedication to each other by forming the Fraternity, Constitution and Purpose. These pioneering women had the wisdom to see beyond their college experience to form alumnae chapters and clubs, so that all members would have opportunities to stick together and care for each other through every season of life.

Alpha Gamma Delta is Loving. The bonds we form with our sisters are best described by the love we have for each other and the Fraternity. This love only exists because of the ties that bind us as sisters—from the day we accepted our bids, to the circumstances we face today and to whatever tomorrow may bring. While we all walk different paths into sisterhood, our love for each other and Alpha Gam is the same. We provide one another with unconditional love and support during the times of joy, happiness and growth. They provide love during the everyday moments of a call, a text, a cup of coffee or an encouraging note. And most importantly, they provide love during the challenging times of loss, uncertainty and grief. Think of that time you felt the love of a sister when you needed it most. Think about how you were able to endure knowing they were there to hold you up and push you forward. And think of the time when you were the one providing the love and support for a sister who was struggling, how it uplifted you both.

Alpha Gamma Delta is Leading. We are leaders, not only together as an organization, but also individually in our communities. We support Meals on Wheels, Feeding America, neighborhood food pantries and local charities. We lead when we care for those in our communities who are less fortunate than we are. And we lead when we recognize that opportunities are not the same for everyone and when we strive together to provide possibilities for others. As individuals we lead by lifting up our sisters, by encouraging them to walk beside us, and by working with members of our communities we help them realize their potentials. Alpha Gamma Delta has taught us to lead—and there is no challenge we can't face and handle when we stick together.

And Alpha Gamma Delta is Lasting. For the past 116 years, the Fraternity has been a strong, vibrant organization, providing opportunities for thousands of women to grow together. Because of each and every member, Alpha Gamma Delta continues to move forward to provide further opportunities for women of all ages in years to come. Collegiate chapters, Junior Circles and alumnae chapters and clubs alike will continue to foster a lasting environment where sisters can be supported, learn, grow and contribute to the world's work.

As we all navigate the twists and turns of life, we have sisters who love us, who lead us toward ideal womanhood and who give us a lasting connection to the Fraternity...because no matter the weather, sisters stick together.