

# Phi Sigma Rho Foundation 2009 Annual Report





# Building the Future Together

## President's Message

---The motto of the Foundation is an incredible set of words that simply

state what we are doing as a team of volunteers--working together to build the future of the Foundation and provide for the Sorority, Actives, Alumnae, and future engineers. As an engineer, to build something means making a set of plans to follow, evaluating the construction, and assessing how close we are to the final product. With this report, we will take a few minutes to talk about our plans, our progress, and our assessment.

Upon joining the Foundation in July 2007, it was clear to me that we needed more volunteers, and more revenue to pay our debts, grant funds to the Sorority and to give scholarships. These are all things that a normal charity would do, and they are a measure of our mission. While we did not have a formal strategy approved by the Board, we had a new team of fired up volunteers who were ready for the challenge. While I focused setting up our operations and recruiting volunteers, the other volunteers focused on revenue generation. Since then, we have tripled the number of Foundation volunteers who are involved, and maintain close ties with past Board members who continue to support the Foundation operations. We have repaid our debts and continue to generate positive revenue that we are now granting to the Sorority. In addition, we have been able to increase the number of scholarships we are giving each year.

Building onto what we have now means taking the time to measure our success and see how far we have come to the present. We are committed to fund grants that the Sorority asks from us. We were able to grant money towards the LEAP Workshops which cover costs associated with the National Convention and Leadership Conference. We have also granted money to cover the special LEAP events held at individual chapters. Since 2007, over \$5000 has been granted to the Sorority for programming. The Sorority has worked to provide excellent programming for our members. With the increasing support of our donors, we

will be able to continue to support our membership through programs that the Sorority believes will benefit our sisterhood.

We have made a commitment to fund more than one scholarship each year, and are pleased to be able to give four scholarships this year. It is important for us to be able to support our members as they aspire for higher and continuing education.

Building this future means that we must have a plan so that we know what we are building. We are preparing to have a more formal Strategic Plan which we update on a regular basis. It is important for us to have a set of goals that we can use to measure ourselves, and that we review it regularly to make sure we are always making progress towards the final product.

We are working on a program to partner with our chapters in philanthropy. We hope to be able to put that in place in 2011. This will mean more volunteer opportunities and a larger organization, but we see the benefit to both Sorority and Foundation.

Our Board members and Volunteers are the biggest asset to the organization and deserve the most praise and thanks for the incredible successes in the recent past. Most important is the continuing commitment year after year, and the willingness to even serve past their terms.



Our Board has been mostly stable, and we continue to recruit new volunteers into Chairperson positions as a means to develop new Officers and Board Members as the organizational structure continues to grow.

Our Final Product: What our final product is keeps changing. We have built something small, but it is sustaining. And, our Board members are evaluating what we want to build next... what to build onto that small but sustaining piece. As our Sorority develops programming for members, we will continue to build up what we underwrite to benefit our sisterhood. We need to further define ourselves and our new projects, and keep reporting to you, our donors, what we have in the works. Stay tuned. Is it going to be an exciting unveiling of our future.

Serving as President of the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation, has been exciting and challenging for myself personally. However, it is the most rewarding gift that I give and that I get at each moment. The women who serve with me have passion and commitment to our organization, and that generates the passion and commitment for me to work through the challenging times. To them, I am forever thankful that they allowed me to lead them, and I am grateful for their service and friendship. We have built something incredible together, and that bond will be there forever.

*Elana*

*A special thank*

*you to our  
"1984" Donors*


*Elana Chapman*

*Lara Day*

*Heather Lazar*

*Beckie Trudeau*

*And those donors who  
have now joined our  
"Circle of Contributions"*



*Heather Lazar  
Christine Jackson  
Charlene Yauch*

# Treasurer

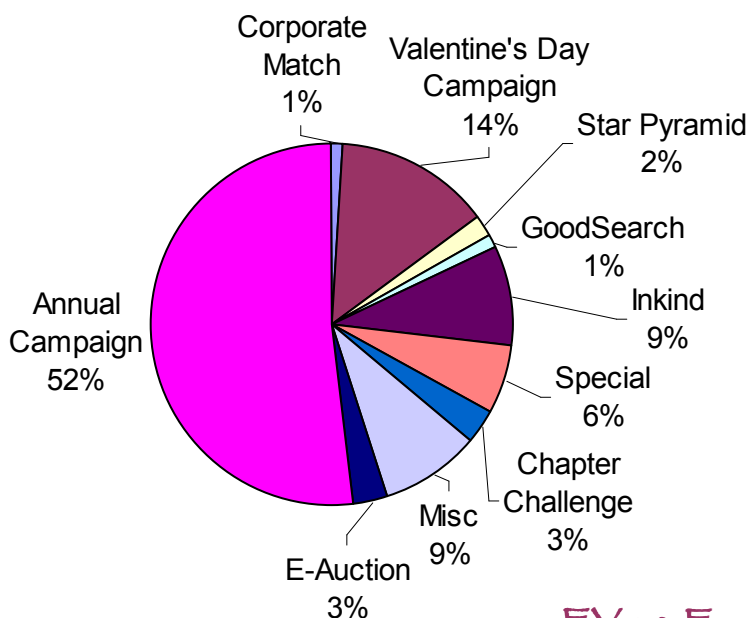
It has been such an exciting year to step in as the Treasurer of the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation. As a new alumni in 2009, jumping into a Board of Directors and Officer role on the Foundation has been an educational whirlwind. I never knew how much funding went into all the programming that is done for the actives. Thank you to all the donors who made all of those events possible!

Even in a slow economy, the Foundation is moving forward and improving. We switched to a new book keeping program this year to better manage our budget and income. This is the first year we have

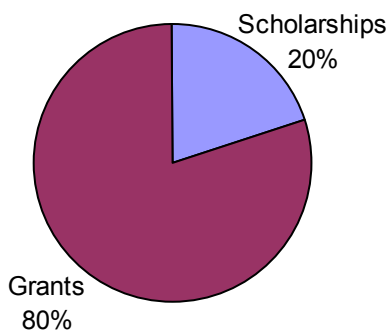
allowed restricted giving. Donors were allowed to stipulate if they wanted their scholarship donation to go towards a merit based or leadership based scholarship. For some this may seem like a small step, but for a Foundation that was formed just 5 years ago, this is a big step in the direction we would like the Foundation to go. Through the help of all of our donors we have increased the number of scholarships we are able to give as well as the grants to the National Sorority for programming. Thank you all so much!!!!

*Leanne*

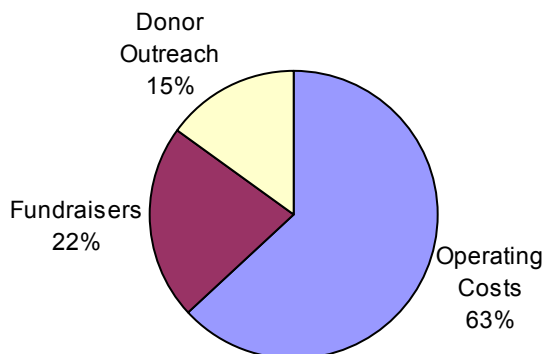
## FY09 Income



## FY09 Outreach



## FY09 Expenses





## VP of Publicity

I have to admit, when I first joined the Foundation board I truly didn't understand its intricate workings. I simply saw that there was an opening and I

stepped up to the challenge. Publicity is the type of position that I have always held dear, ever since my time as an active. I've always enjoyed getting the word out about Phi Sigma Rho, whether it was creating posters for rush events to attract potential Phi Rhos, or designing t-shirts, I loved spreading the word about an engineering sorority. Now, since I joined the Foundation, it has been my personal goal to spread the word about the Foundation and all that we do.

In this last year we have really focused on growing our relationships. The Foundation Board of Directors have become very close, allowing us to work really well together, regardless of how far away we may live. Additionally, our relationship with National Council has continued to grow, allowing for us to have open communication and common goals. Lastly, we have also put a strong focus on our donors, one of the most important pieces of the Foundation. We want to learn about you, and show our appreciation. It can be easy for us to get caught

up in the operations of our positions, but we never want that to be the case. For without our donors, the Foundation would not be able to exist. We want to be sure that you know where your donations are going, because they are making a huge difference within Phi Sigma Rho. We've created a fan page on Facebook, and you can also follow us on Twitter, which can allow you to stay up-to-date with what we are doing. This next year I am planning to overhaul our website; giving it a fresh look, and hopefully creating a desire for you to visit. This will provide yet an additional way for you to learn more about our plans and accomplishments.

I'll also let you in on a little secret, my favorite part about this position is actually putting together the Annual Report. This year was such an exciting year, and I love how we can showcase everything and you can see how far we have come since last year. New in this report, we are including our goals for 2010. I hope that you enjoy this new format and find that you are able to learn a little more, not only about the Phi Sigma Rho Foundation, but also the amazing women that are volunteering their time. The women who sit on this board are pouring in their time and effort to create opportunities that align with the original building blocks that were first laid back in 1984. Because of our generous donors, we are *building the future together*.

*Julie*



*2009 Star Pyramid at the National Conference in Pittsburgh*



# VP of Development

Growth has been the unofficial theme for the Foundation over the past year. We've increased the number of Sorority grants, scholarships and volunteers working toward the Foundation's Mission. While charitable giving in 2009 fell by an estimated 75% across the country, donations to the Foundation increased by nearly 200%. This remarkable success in a dismal economy is thanks to two things: the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers.

The Foundation simply exposed the need for program funding and scholarships and Phi Rhos stepped up to the plate in a big way. Donations to the Scholarship Campaign at the end of 2009 will allow us to fund four additional scholarships in 2010. The 2009 Annual Campaign was the most successful in the Foundation's history, largely due to the tireless efforts of Foundation volunteer Christine Jackson (Alpha –

Alpha). Even our Active members and parents chipped in in the form of donations to the 2009 Chapter Challenge and 2009 Heart to Heart Campaigns, respectively. The 2009 E-Auction received generous support from Phi Rhos, businesses, professional sports teams and the general community.

I am excited by our financial successes over the past year and the Foundation is already working toward repeating – and hopefully exceeding – them in 2010. We all owe a thousand thanks to Foundation donors, who have demonstrated an unparalleled devotion through their selfless generosity. I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes: "Money is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless it's spread around helping young things grow."

*Sarah*



## VP of Programming

I have enjoyed serving the Foundation as Vice President of Programming since early 2008.

Since I pledged Phi Sigma Rho in 1987, the Sorority has meant a lot to me. I am thankful I have had this opportunity to give back to the Sorority that has given me so much. It has been great to reconnect with my fellow alum from Alpha chapter, and it is amazing to meet all the women who have taken Rashmi and Abby's dream to the next level with the expansion of Phi Sigma Rho.

As Vice President of Programming, I am responsible for the Grant and Scholarship Programs. I am very proud of my development of the Grant process the Foundation now uses. Last year, the Foundation was able to grant the Sorority a total of \$4,445.02. This money was used to assist the Sorority to provide the Leadership Conference at National Convention, and for LEAP Workshops at the chapters. This year the Foundation has approved a Grant for the Leadership Conference in the amount of \$6,815.72. We are hoping to be able to raise the funds necessary to be able to grant the Sorority additional funds for the

regional LEAP conferences and for the chapter LEAP workshops.

As a student who relied on scholarships to attend school, the Scholarship program is very close to my heart. Last year, we awarded a total of \$1,000 in scholarships to two fantastic women. This year, we will be awarding even more scholarships thanks to the generous donations given to the Scholarship Campaign and through using Good Shop/Good Search. We have expanded the Scholarship program by adding a Scholarship Chair, Tammy Lowe. Tammy has worked hard to offer a new Leadership based scholarship, in addition to our Merit scholarship. We look forward to awarding this year's scholarship winners at the LEAP Conference this summer.

I want to thank everyone who helps the Foundation accomplish our mission of providing professional, educational, philanthropic, and leadership development opportunities through their generous donations of both time and money.

*Lara*



## 2009 Scholarship Winners

### Spring 2009 Recipient

Stephanie Cappiello  
UCLA—Nu Chapter

*I would like to sincerely thank you for  
honoring me with the Phi Sigma Rho  
Foundation National Scholarship!  
...I had no idea the kinds of  
opportunities and memories that this  
sorority would give me.*

*—Stephanie*



### Fall 2009 Recipient

Nicole Varnerin  
Case Western Reserve University—Omicron Chapter



*I wanted to thank all those who support the  
Phi Sigma Rho Foundation. Your  
contribution has made it possible for me to  
continue my education at Case Western  
Reserve University... Phi Rho has been an  
integral part of my life. I have grown through  
the leadership opportunities, life experiences,  
and lasting friendships Phi Rho has given me.*

*—Nicole*

## Secretary

After spending most of 2009 without a dedicated Secretary, the Foundation Board of Directors was made complete in October with my appointment of Director and Secretary. I would like to recognize former Director Heather Lazar (Ohio State-Beta) for pulling double duty as Treasurer and Secretary through the first half of the year. The Board appreciates all your hard work! With a Secretary on board, I hope that this will free the other board members to focus on their own positions and leave the secretarial and organizational items to me. Assisting me in this endeavor will be Heather as she has assumed the position of Operating Manuals chair.

In July, the Foundation held its first donor recognition event by hosting hospitality suites at the National Convention. Board members and volunteers mingled and enjoyed snacks and drinks with donors in attendance including our Sorority's two founders Abby McDonald and Rashmi Drummond and charter member (and Phi Rho cheerleader) Christine Jackson. It was a great way to celebrate the success of our Annual Campaign which ended that weekend. If you



*Christine Jackson, our cheerleader, who helped us to meet our \$10,000 goal at Convention*

are attending this summer's Leadership Conference or are in the Cleveland area, please join us for our hospitality suites during that weekend. More information will be coming your way!

Allison

## Ex-Officio

As National President of the Sorority, I have a unique opportunity to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors as Ex-Officio. This gives me the great experience of getting to know the wonderful volunteers we have in both organizations and working with them to continue growing our sisterhood. After just a few months I have been impressed by the dedication, motivation, and hard work of the volunteers of the Foundation and our donors.

As Ex-Officio, my primary role is to serve as a link between the Sorority and the Foundation and to make



sure that the Foundation strategy and vision aligns with that of the Sorority. As National Council develops the 2010-2015 strategic plan, we will work with the Foundation to continue to develop our plans for the future.

Since the beginning of the Foundation, National Council and the Board of Directors have worked hard to develop a relationship between the two organizations and collaborate on appropriate joint projects. As we continue to work together and grow, we will expand and solidify this relationship and our operating procedures. One of the areas where we have accomplished a lot is the grant process where the Foundation has worked hard to develop and implement a smooth and effective process to support appropriate activities, like LEAP workshops, financially. In 2010, we will continue to work together towards improving processes, utilizing resources, and collaborating in areas that make sense.

Over the last few years, the Foundation has made great strides at providing educational, leadership, and philanthropic support to the sisters of Phi Sigma Rho. I thank the volunteers and donors who have worked so hard to make this happen. And I look forward to learning, growing, and working with the Foundation and Sisterhood through the remainder of my term!

Nikki