**Mission Moments-State of the Foundation 2022 Script**

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**Ruth:** Good afternoon. I’m pleased to celebrate so many moments in Delta Gamma history with you all together. Leslie and I have been looking forward to this moment for quite a long time.

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**Leslie:** Yes we have, Ruth. To be here with all of you, in person, to celebrate our Fraternity and Foundation feels really good. And being able to share with you again how you are helping the Foundation fulfill its mission is truly humbling.

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**Ruth:** The work of our volunteers, donors, alumnae groups and collegiate chapters, is guided by our mission; to foster lifetime enrichment for members, promote Service for Sight and partner with the Fraternity to ensure the future of our sisterhood.

And how do we realize this mission? You make this mission come to life, through your individual gifts, alumnae group and collegiate chapter fundraising, and your do-good service to others.

**Leslie:** The past two years have been incredibly rewarding- donors have stepped up to ensure the Foundation will continue to grow and fulfill its mission through purposeful, heartfelt, and change-making gifts. Your investment in the future of the Foundation has been immense. Gifts of all sizes have sustained our mission-driven initiatives this past biennium.

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**Ruth**: And it’s been wonderful to see alumnae groups start meeting in person again, and for collegiate chapters to come together in fundraising activities and in-person service. But the creativity and tenacity that you all showed during the 2020-2021 year is awe-inspiring. From drive-through meal nights, to virtual runs and walks, you did GOOD.

**Leslie:** Through all of this, our mission stays at the forefront of all we do. The Foundation executive offices professional staff has a practice of beginning each weekly staff meeting with something we call a “Mission Moment.”

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This is a story, quote, video or picture from a sister or Service for Sight organization, explaining how the Foundation has impacted their lives or work.

**Ruth:** And the Board of Trustees follows this same tradition at our monthly meetings. These mission moments are heartwarming, but they also keep us focused on the WHY behind our work. So today, we’d like to share four very inspiring “mission moments” with you during the State of the Foundation.

**Leslie:** One of the most distinguishing attributes of being a member of Delta Gamma is that we promise to be there for one another.

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Individual Member Support, including scholarships, fellowships, and crisis grants, helps us uphold article II of our Fraternity Constitution and our commitment to one another.

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**Ruth:** This past biennium, donors have given over $67,000 to the Crisis Grant Fund. And these dollars are going directly to our sisters when they need our help the most. Sisters like Alison Meadows, Omega-Wisconsin, who exemplifies that sisterhood is for life.

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**Leslie:** On December 30, 2021, the Meadows family, including Alison, her husband, and two young sons, lost their home of 15 years to the Marshall Fire outside of Boulder, Colorado. Because there was no warning, the family had just minutes to grab the few items they could carry and safely evacuate. By the next morning, their entire neighborhood was lost to the wildfire.

**Ruth:** In February of 2022, Alison applied for a Crisis Grant was unanimously approved. Alison says: ”It is beyond difficult to tell your children their childhood home is gone and none of their toys or pictures are there.

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Sifting through the ashes of our home, the team found my Delta Gamma ornaments that my parents purchased for me when I was a collegian. I'm not sure how they survived the intense fire when so much didn't. Perhaps a sign of just how strong sisterhood is.”

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**Leslie:** Alison also shares that: “The Crisis Grant gives us hope. While the material memories and photographs of my college DG days are gone, the bond of sisterhood remains and will provide strength for me and our family during our recovery. For that, I am forever grateful.” It is a gift to have a sister like Alison, but to be able to give her family a hand up, especially in times of trouble, is a gift to us all. Thank you for being there for your sisters, like Alison.

**Ruth:** And promoting sisters’ educational interests is a hallmark of our sisterhood. When members struggle to pay for tuition costs, we provide Sisters Helping Sisters: Need-Based Scholarships. Begun by visionary donor Carlene Moore Ellis, Delta Iota-Georgia, this program has grown to become a major component of Individual Member Support.

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Over the past biennium, donors have given over $760,000 [$760,507] to this program.

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**Leslie:** These funds are redefining the path for so many women like Lily Annen, Zeta Iota-Chapman, who received a Sisters Helping Sisters Scholarship after becoming solely responsible for her tuition costs, so she could continue attending college.

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When Lily received the award, she said: “When I woke up to the email this morning saying I received the scholarship, I immediately called my mom and started crying. I was ecstatic and texted my little and big with a big smile on my face. I knew it was going to be a great day, and had a sense of peace and happiness with some of my financial burden lifted off of my back. This is a huge win for myself and my family, and I cannot thank my sisters at Delta Gamma enough.”

**Ruth:** We are so proud of Lily and all our sisters who receive a need-based scholarship, and we know the award will help them accomplish so much. But the financial need of members far outweighs our ability to help.

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In the past two years, we had over nineteen hundred women apply for scholarships and fellowships. And while we have made a huge difference for the 1,031 recipients, totaling over $2,000,000, there are many qualified and worthy sisters who did not receive an award. We strive to grow our endowed funds to ensure even more women feel the support of their sisters.

**Leslie:** Developing the best qualities of character is just what we do as members of Delta Gamma.

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And exceptional Training and Programming initiatives, supported through a Foundation grant to the Fraternity, help our members become the best versions of themselves and uphold the values we all ascribe to.

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**Ruth:** Opportunities like Lewis Institute, our values-based leadership program.

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We are so pleased that after a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, we were able to welcome these emerging leaders to the first session of Lewis Institute just two weeks ago.

This experience builds their confidence as leaders and helps them influence others to create positive change in their chapters and on their campuses.

**Leslie:** I had the pleasure of leading a session at this most recent Lewis Institute and I am blown away by the enthusiasm, authenticity, and eagerness of our collegiate sisters to learn, grow and do!

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**Ruth:** And this is possible because of you - your generous gifts to Training and Programming and the Loyalty Fund allow the Fraternity to provide opportunities like Lewis Institute. This past biennium,

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the Foundation granted $1.5 million to the Fraternity for exceptional programming in the areas of health and well-being, social responsibility, and leadership.

**Leslie**: And one committed sister has really stepped up to fund an area that is a passion of hers - ensuring that Delta Gamma continues to produce strong women leaders.

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Julie Whitney Dawson, Gamma Iota-DePauw, has made a $200,000 gift to Training and Programming to sponsor two sessions of Lewis Institute- one session in July, and one session in 2023.

Thank you, Julie for believing in the transformative power of Training and Programming for our collegiate participants and alumnae facilitators!

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**Ruth:** Our Do Good motto is exemplified by our commitment to our philanthropy, Service for Sight. So to share with you just one more Mission Moment,

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I’d like to talk about how a Service for Sight grant is fulfilling our mission to provide access and advocacy for people living with blindness or other vision loss. For the past three years, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired has been the recipient of a Service for Sight grant for the Arts and Accessibility initiative, a program that is truly a first of its kind.

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**Leslie:** Beyond being the largest braille printing house in the US, and serving thousands of people who are blind or visually impaired each year, Clovernook recognized a real and urgent need to make cultural institutions more equitable, accessible, and inclusive, not just for people who are visually impaired, but all people.

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**Ruth:** This initiative is bringing accessibility to art and natural history museums, performance halls, and other cultural institutions across the US through braille programs and signage, tactile representations and audio descriptions of artwork and artifact displays, raised floor guides for people with low vision or who use white canes, and educating museum staff on best-practices for inclusivity.

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**Leslie:** Arts and Accessibility program coordinator, Brian Anderson, notes of this program; “It’s important for people to see accessibility as a normal part of what is offered in cultural institutions. The inclusive elements of the exhibit will impact everyone who visits the space. Whether one is blind or visually impaired or not, all visitors will recognize that this is an inclusive place that everyone can visit and be enriched.”

**Ruth:** And this one grant will improve the experiences of thousands, if not eventually millions of people who visit these cultural institutions each and every day. Our Service for Sight grants are creating a true sense of belonging for everyone impacted by them. As a long-time docent at my local art museum, I am tremendously proud that the Delta Gamma Foundation supports this important work.

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**Leslie:** Overall, the Foundation has awarded 125 truly meaningful Service for Sight grants totaling $755,000 in the past two years,

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including $30,000 this year to each of the 5 Delta Gamma Schools for Children with Visual Impairments.

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Because of the more than $770,000 [$777,770] dollars you’ve given to our Service for Sight philanthropy, we are truly doing the work of lasting progress.

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**Ruth:** The growth the Delta Gamma Foundation has experienced over the past two years would not be possible without your extraordinary fundraising efforts, your individual gifts, and your service. Last year alone, members have spent over 135,000 hours in service to others. Now that is doing good!

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**Leslie:** Alumnae groups have held over 164 fundraisers resulting in $285,000 dollars raised for the Foundation.

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And collegiate chapters have held over 550 fundraisers resulting in over $4,200,000 [$4,203,000] dollars raised for the Foundation.

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Of this, over $600,000 [$661,000] has been directed to local 501(c)3 organizations that share our Service for Sight mission, improving the outcomes for millions of people in the blind and visually impaired community.

**Ruth:** And as individuals, you have also given greatly from your heart.

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This past year, 4,452 individual donors have made gifts to the Foundation. These past two years, collectively, you’ve given over $17,000,000 [$17,274,235] to the Foundation as an outward sign of the trust you have for your sisters and your confidence in the outcomes of our work.

**Leslie:** This fundraising total is the largest we’ve ever had in a biennium and includes a historic gift- in fact, the largest single gift ever made to the Delta Gamma Foundation. Just a few months ago, an anonymous donor made a

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$5,500,000 gift of unrestricted funds to the Foundation. Talk about trust! Trust in the important work that we’re doing and trust in our commitment to continue doing good well into the future.

We are so pleased to be stewards of these funds, which will allow us to grow our impact in ways we hadn’t even dreamt of. Will you join me in a round of applause for this extraordinary gift?

**Ruth:** This growth is also happening with endowed funds. These legacy gift commitments mean that the Foundation will be able to make even more financial awards and grants in perpetuity.

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Just last year, donors created 14 new endowed funds, and added to over 50 existing endowed funds, resulting in an additional 15 awards and even larger existing awards for programs like scholarships and fellowships.

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**Leslie:** Unrestricted gifts to our Loyalty Fund have also allowed the Foundation to anticipate needs before they arise. Every Loyalty Fund gift is a sign of your belief in the Foundation and Fraternity’s work as we designate these funds towards the initiatives and programs that will make the biggest impact for all members of Delta Gamma for generations to come.

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**Ruth:** We can’t thank you enough for being part of our Foundation Family. For believing in our mission and creating your own “Mission Moments” through your collegiate chapter and alumnae group fundraising and service, and individual gifts to the Foundation.

Our mission, and our do good motto, has no limits. We look forward to seeing how Anchoring the Future: The Campaign for Delta Gamma will foster continued growth, laying a strong foundation for Delta Gamma for the next 150 years.

**Leslie:** Everything we’ve shared with you during today’s State of the Foundation is an example of what happens when this sisterhood comes together, united by a common goal.

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Anchoring the Future, the first comprehensive campaign in our history, has already remarkably increased the resources we have available to fulfill our mission. This is how a campaign can transform an institution and this is how we can help ensure that Delta Gamma will stand the test of time, which is never by standing still. Thank you for believing in the power of our Foundation.

RUTH: Thank you to each of you for your generosity and your belief in the Delta Gamma Foundation. You are extraordinary in your accomplishments, you embrace the hopes of those in need, and your incredible support of our mission has turned our mutual dreams into remarkable realities.

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We are one Sisterhood.

We are Delta Gamma!