



Engaging and Celebrating Seniors Virtually

Although your chapter is not together in person this term, you can still recognize your graduating seniors and we encourage you to do so! Below are several ideas for how you can celebrate your seniors from a distance. Based on questions that we have fielded since schools went to online learning, there is also a list of general FAQs.

FAQs

When will seniors officially become alumnae of Phi Mu?

- While the Third Dimension Service (3D) is the symbolic transition to becoming an alumna of Phi Mu, membership changes will take effect at the end of the term when members graduate and are no longer enrolled as undergraduate students. Therefore, at the end of your school's spring term, current seniors will be alumnae members, meaning they cannot attend undergraduate events.

What about events we had planned for the rest of this year for seniors?

- Unfortunately, your chapter should not host ANY of the events you had planned for the rest of this year.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, formals, in-person 3D, senior events

How can we make-up for canceled events in the fall?

- Celebrate seniors virtually this spring.
- Honor recent 2020 graduates at Homecoming.
- The local alumnae chapter can host an event for the 2020 graduates.

Are we allowed to have a "redo" of formal in the fall and invite seniors to come back?

- No, it is not appropriate to "redo" formal in the fall and invite seniors (who will then be alumnae).
- Phi Mu's Risk Management Policy states that "former members of Phi Mu who have voluntarily resigned their membership, been dismissed, or hold alumnae status in the Fraternity may not be invited to or attend any Phi Mu events held solely by the collegiate chapter."
- A collegiate chapter cannot hold alumnae members accountable in the same way it can hold collegiate members accountable. When hosting a social event, it is critical that clear behavioral expectations are set and that members are held accountable in a consistent way. Allowing alumnae to attend does not align with this.

Best Practices for Engaging and Celebrating Seniors

Snail Mail Appreciation

- **Graduation Stoles:**
 - Mail the senior member her Phi Mu stole with a thoughtful note.
- **Letters:**
 - Many chapters write letters for their seniors. You still can! Have members write letters and send them in the mail or read them in a virtual meeting.
 - An Exec member can collect all letters from members and send them in one package.
- **Gifts:**
 - If your chapter gives seniors gifts, this can also still happen via mail.
 - These gifts should be reasonable and do not need to cost more than what the chapter had originally planned to spend.

Virtual Recognition

- Create a Dropbox folder for each senior, and fill it with letters, pictures, memories, etc.
- Make videos for the seniors and send them electronically.
- Award Senior Superlatives and share in a virtual meeting, in senior Dropboxes, etc.
 - Please keep them appropriate and supportive!
- Send letters and photos via email.
- Create “posters” with quotes and pictures from members.
- Spotlight a few seniors every week on your chapter’s Instagram, and have members compliment them on the chapter’s story.

Virtual Meetings and Activities for Seniors

- Utilize the resources we shared in our Virtual Chapter Experience document to create some “senior only” experiences to give them a space to create closure together.
 - This could be setting up lunch/coffee hangouts for them to have lunch/coffee together.
 - This could be a virtual movie night.
 - Think about what you had planned and how you could still support that idea virtually. This certainly won’t apply to all your activities and it will not be the same. But we don’t want to let this time apart keep us from not doing anything at all!

Hosting a Virtual 3D Service

- Google Hangouts or Zoom are likely the best places to host a virtual 3D.
 - A [mock virtual 3D service](#) performed by the Headquarters staff is on the Library. See the specific paths below.
 - Collegians/Ritual
 - Collegians/President/Resources
 - Pro tip: If using Zoom, have everyone use the “speaker” versus “gallery” setting. This will allow you to better see the person who is speaking.
- Keep your regularly scheduled time on the calendar, if you can.
- Conduct the service virtually.
 - The script can be found [HERE](#) on the Library. See the specific paths below.

- Collegians/Ritual
- Collegians/President/Resources
- Be creative with our resources. It is okay to adapt and make do with what you have on hand at home.
 - The members with speaking parts should have all the resources they need and set up just as they would in person.
 - Send each senior two candles ahead of time, or have her use candles from her home.
 - Send each senior ahead of time any gifts, stoles or letters that your chapter would normally distribute during this service.
 - Encourage people to dress up.
 - Utilize the online chat for members to give encouragement, when appropriate.
- If you choose to sing or use music during your service, you can use that time for sisters to congratulate the seniors using the chat function in Zoom or Google Hangouts.

If you have additional ideas for seniors, please email programming@phimu.org.