

*Founder's Day*  
*April 30, 2009*

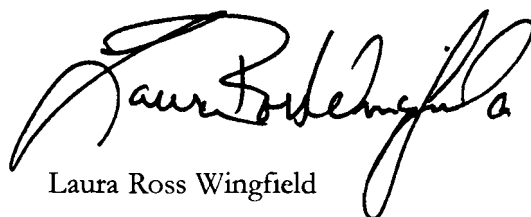
Dear Beta Sigma Phi Friends,

I wish Dad could do the letter this year so he could talk about losing Bill but he cannot. I have given my message about that in the *Torch* so this letter will be about the outgoing theme as usual.

I really like the theme the past year, Rekindle The Torch of Friendship was an easy one to like. It is always the time to let the message of friendship catch fire once more. It is always the right time to reach out to new friends and help to build our sisterhood but also to rekindle the flame in our old friendships as well. It reminds us that those friendships we've had for a long or short time can always use a little attention. How often do we take those friendships for granted and how sweet is it to once again reflect on how special those friendships are to us?

During hard times we often make hard choices about our time and our money, thankfully one of the things we often decide we need and want is something tangible, like our friends. We decide to spend our time on things that give us something and those are our friendships and support groups. Beta Sigma Phi formed during the worst financial set back the world ever had, even though our leaders are trying to say this time is similar, we are no where near to that so far. But even so, we are all feeling the strain of not knowing what will happen next. During these times we still want to Rekindle the Torch of Friendship to insure that we have the safety and support of our friendships old and new.

Even though we are putting this theme aside for a new one, I challenge you not to put the action aside and to continue to Rekindle the Torch of Friendship with old sisters and new sisters to give you the love and support you need in these trying times.



Laura Ross Wingfield