

Steadfastly Securing Our Future

THE CAMPAIGN FOR DELTA RHO

Passionate about Serving Others. A Strong Woman of Character. Empowering Women to Succeed.

While these phrases could apply to any Delta Delta Delta sister, they exemplify Jessica Johnson Parrish '71.

Throughout her life, Jessica has worked to strengthen her community and work for change. As a business education teacher in Henry County, she prepared high school students and adults for the workforce, teaching them the skills they needed to land jobs that would support their families. She also substitute taught in the Pikeville Independent Schools, where she helped shape students' minds.

In Pikeville, her hometown, Jessica served on the Pikeville High School site based council, continues to support the booster clubs, is a member of the Pikeville High School Alumni Association Board, volunteers at her church, First Baptist of Pikeville, and participates in community initiatives.

"I love my community, and I want to see it succeed," Jessica said. "I live in a great place, and I want to make it an even better place to live. As Christians, we are told to help others and to give and to serve others. I think it is the right thing to do."

Jessica's generosity has spilled over to the University of Kentucky. A former student at Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Va., Jessica earned her associate degree in business and transferred to UK to finish her education. She grew up a fan of the Wildcats and wanted to attend a bigger university.

"UK is the state's flagship, land-grant university," Jessica said. "It allowed me to meet people from all around the state, nation and world. It provides students so many opportunities to learn, to grow, and to find out who they want to be."

As an incoming junior, Jessica quickly got involved at UK, joining a Greek organization. The Delta Rho sisters took her under their wing, engaging her in the sorority, showing her around campus, and introducing her to Lynn Parrish, a Kappa Alpha Order who won her heart.

"Those were fun times," said Jessica, who served as marshal and social chairman in Tri Delta. "I loved living in the house, being on my own, and learning all of the skills I needed to succeed. I would encourage all students to join a sorority or fraternity. It makes the campus seem smaller and helps you make lifelong friends. My husband and I are still close to many of our college friends. When we see them, it is as if no time has passed. It feels like we just left college."



Greek organizations also give students a basis for philanthropy, something that is close to Jessica's heart. She was a charter member of UK Women & Philanthropy, a group of women dedicated to improving UK. Each member contributes \$1,000, and then collectively they choose programs to support with their pooled funds.

Since the organization's inception, the women have distributed more than \$1.8 million to UK programs and colleges, funding training opportunities, scholarships, recruitment efforts, arts programs, internships, and research opportunities.

"As we launch the university's \$2.1 billion comprehensive campaign—Kentucky Can: The 21 Century Campaign—we need to find more women to join our network," Jessica said. "It is such a worthwhile effort, because while \$1,000 seems like a lot, there are limits to how many people you can help with that gift. When we pool all of our money, we can make such a difference and help students who normally would not receive help."

As the co-chair of Women & Philanthropy, she works with women all over the country who share her passion for giving and love of UK. Together, they attend scholarship dinners and special events, where they meet the recipients of their support and see how their gifts are improving campus.

"It is nice to see the difference we can make together," said Jessica, who is also a UK Fellow Society member.

Beyond Women & Philanthropy, Jessica has seen the impact of private giving on campus. Both of her sons attended UK, earning advanced degrees and studying with top faculty members who helped shape her sons' careers. She relied on UK HealthCare and Markey Cancer Center when she had breast cancer and received treatment from leaders in cancer care. And, Jessica and her husband attend UK football and basketball games and often travel with the teams, where they see how student-athletes receive academic and athletic support to ensure they succeed in the classroom and in competition.

"I love UK," Jessica said. "Everywhere you go, you run into someone from UK. It is a small, tight community and the more you get involved with the university, the more reasons you see to support it." You can reach Jessica at jparrish@bellsouth.net.

An Update on Construction

Follow Our Progress on Instagram!

Construction has begun! The foundation has been poured in our new basement and walls are being constructed. Demo has begun on all the spaces that will be renovated in the existing space. Our next task is to consider the interior design and furnishings for the project. We are in the process of collecting names of interior designers interested in bidding on this portion

of the project. If you are a Tri Delta alumna with an interest in submitting a proposal, please email Mindy Foley at Mmfoley@qx.net.

Be sure to check out our progress on our Instagram page at [UKDDDDHouse!](https://www.instagram.com/UKDDDDHouse/) You will also want to join our Facebook page at [Delta Delta Delta - Delta Rho Alumnae](https://www.facebook.com/DeltaDeltaDelta-DeltaRhoAlumnae/) for updates on the house and chapter.