

Installation

Xi Chapter Returns to Connecticut Wesleyan

Last April Kappa Alpha Theta succeeded in adding another first to its already impressive repertoire. In Middletown, Conn. at Wesleyan University, Theta became the first international women's fraternity to return to this campus since it reopened its doors to women in the 1970s.

Characterized by the liberal student body and laissez-faire administration, Wesleyan would not strike you as a perfect location for a highly-structured international organization. The students exude independence and support individuality over group adaptability. The existing male fraternities have faced much controversy in recent years due to criticism over sexism, exclusivity and their unfair advantages.

However, a persistent and open-minded group of women visualized Kappa Alpha Theta as fulfilling their lack of community on Wesleyan's campus. The idea of providing the campus with a female group of friends to share varying experiences in a supportive environment of an international organization motivated these women. They realized the positive aspects of belonging to a Greek organization and knew they could mold Theta's structure to meet the needs of the campus.

The determination and unique qualities of these women overcame their opponents. They convinced Grand Council that the recolonization of Xi Chapter would be a worthwhile endeavor. On the weekend of April 14, 15 and 16, 1989, Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta once again became a reality.

Inspirational events began the preceding Sunday with readings

from alumnae advisers. Monday, the chapter members performed a rainbow ceremony, relating the colors of love to Theta. After devouring rainbow ice cream cakes, the women shared experiences about their new friendships created through their association with Theta. At the third inspirational event, selected loyalty papers written by chapter members were read. Some of the members presented the group with a self-composed Theta song. To end the evening, secret sisters gave each other collages in order to reveal their identities.

By Friday afternoon, Grand President Janet Peters, Grand Vice-President Membership Jennifer Rova, Music Director Joyce Anne Vitelli, College District President Margaret Means and Alumnae District President Suzanne Sarles, as well as 20 members from the assisting Gamma Zeta Chapter, had arrived. Two Central Office staff members, Kelley Galbreath and Paige Thompson, with help from Chapter Consultant

Heather Hart, finalized all the arrangements for the exciting weekend.

Friday evening, Margaret Means conducted the Loyalty Service, aided by Janet Peters and Jennifer Rova. Other visitors included many local alumnae and four Epsilon Tau/Yale members. Following the ceremony, Janet Peters led a fireside, explaining more about initiation. The evening closed with Xi Chapter members opening their gifts from the Fraternity and the Hartford Alumnae Chapter, while singing Theta songs directed by Joyce Anne Vitelli.

Finally the big event became a reality. The initiation ceremony was held Saturday morning at the Middletown First United Methodist Church. Laurie Olander, the local installation chairman, arranged for a beautiful banquet Saturday evening at the Hawthorne Inn to celebrate the chapter's reinstatement. Keynote speakers included Jennifer Rova and Xi Pledge Class President Erin

Xi Chapter collegians and Central Office staff members take time out from the installation banquet for a scrapbook photo. Fraternity officers and staff, collegians and alumnae all helped make the weekend a success. Clockwise from left are Xi Chapter members Erin Wyandt and Monica Chitnis, Chapter Consultant Heather Hart and staff members Kelley Galbreath and Paige Thompson.





Randi Sigmund Smith, Beta Lambda/William & Mary, celebrates Xi Chapter's installation with her daughter Robin. Robin was initiated into the re-established chapter, which her mother helped to bring back to the Wesleyan campus.

Wyandt. Rova expounded on the history of women at Wesleyan University and their concurrent development with Kappa Alpha Theta in the areas of scholarship, independence and perseverance. Relaying the excitement of the chapter members, Wyandt expressed their gratitude for receiving more than a support group for women, but also a lifetime of love and friendship in Kappa Alpha Theta. The celebration continued Sunday morning with the charter service, model chapter meeting and senior service. The weekend culminated with an all-campus reception that afternoon, welcoming the chapter.

After two years of trying to reopen Xi Chapter, the women were filled with a sense of accomplishment. The five seniors immediately attended an alumnae service and prepared to embark on the second realm of Theta involvement.

The underclasswomen remain involved in a variety of campus activities. Members represent Theta on every Wesleyan women's varsity sports team. They also reveal their artistic talents by participating in the chorale, orchestra and theatre groups. Some have chosen the government route, including leading the Tri-Minority Council, or service by heading the Wesleyan community service organization. Despite their other interests, they still chose to dedicate themselves to Xi Chapter. Although they will continue to face many hurdles, Kappa Alpha Theta has firmly re-established the bonds of sisterhood in the Xi Chapter at Wesleyan University.

Meriwether Bruce

Xi New Initiates

Chris Barrett, Woodside, NY
Meriwether Bruce, Middletown, CT
Monica Chitnis, Bayside, NY
Claudia Garofalo, Easton, CT
Lara Goldmark, Brooklyn, NY
Stephanie Gruber, Essen, West Germany
Paige Heggie, Short Hills, NJ
Jennifer Heppel, Reston, VA
Julie Huck, Edina, MN
Karen Hultgren, Peoria, IL
Shana Kurland, Sherman Oaks, CA
Stacey La Forge, Pennington, NJ
Jane Lee, Riverdale, NY
Wendy Moore, Glen Carbon, IL
Michelle Morgan, Dallas, TX
Caroline Mosher, Sarasota, FL
Grace Navas, Jackson Heights, NY
Krittika Onsanit, Virginia Beach, VA
Alison Patricelli, West Simsbury, CT
Laura Safran, St. Newton, MA
Carol Sherwin, Floral Park, NY
Robin Smith, West Hartford, CT
Chrissy Thomas, Upper Montclair, NJ
Erin Wyandt, Olivenhain, CA

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