

We return to Brown

Alpha Epsilon Rechartered

March 3, 1984

By Ann Berner, Resident Counselor



Susan Shanahan presents flowers to Ann Berner at the Installation Banquet while Liz Huntsinger looks on.
Photo by Amy McCoy

It was a dream come true for the 18 charter members of the Alpha Epsilon chapter at Brown University in Providence Rhode Island, the first weekend of March 1984. Alpha Epsilon was reinstalled March 3, after being away from Pembroke (the women's college at Brown until 1972) since 1912.

Kappa Alpha Theta was the only recognized sorority at the time of the installation. Alpha Chi Omega has now been recognized. There are 10 all male fraternities and two coed fraternities at Brown.

The majority of the groups are housed on Wriston Quad, after gaining status for permanent housing. Theta was the first women's fraternity ever to be granted housing on Wriston. The original pledges lived together as a group of nine in a rented house for the 1982-1983 school year. The new chapter now has a quad house for the present school year with 24 of the 29 members living in. Alpha Epsilon completed rush in March taking 11 new pledges.

Julie Bogdanovich and Janet Tsai were the instigators in bringing Theta to Brown. They knew the men had fraternal options, and felt that women should also have the same opportunities. While at home in California for Christmas break their freshman year, they came up with the idea of starting a sorority at Brown. The two thumbed through the encyclopedia looking for the Greek alphabet and decided on Kappa Alpha Chi, three Greek letters they thought sounded good together.

Julie Bogdanovich contacted several national sorority presidents and later extension chairmen, and Janet Tsai canvassed the campus looking for interested members.

Lynn Davis, Theta's Grand Vice President Service and Extension Chairman made a visit to Brown in February 1983 to present Kappa Alpha Theta to the members of Kappa Alpha Chi. In April the ten members of the newly formed local petitioned Grand Council to become the charter group to reco-

nize the Alpha Epsilon chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta. They felt a great deal of warmth from Theta and were anxious to be a part of our organization. April of 1983 also brought my travels as a Travelling Consultant to an end. I finished the year with the Kappa Alpha Chi members at Brown preparing for the year I would spend with them as their resident counselor.

We returned in the fall to informal rushing until the group was up to 18 members. We became a Theta colony November 16, 1983. I worked hard from the very beginning to establish a good rapport and working relationship with these women. All 19 of us needed to work together to make Alpha Epsilon a success.

Second semester was a flurry of excitement: pledge education, rush, chapter elections, petitioning for 1984-85 housing and of course the highlight was becoming a Theta chapter.

The installation team arrived from all corners of the United States: Grand President Lissa Bradford from Nashville; Omah Klopfenstein, Grand Vice-President—Alumnae from Seattle; Lynn Davis Grand Vice-President—Service from Spokane, WA; Joyce Anne Vitelli, College District President from Manchester, CT; Judy Soto, Alumnae District President from Greenwich, CT; Marcia Bond, Executive Secretary-Treasurer from our headquarters in Indianapolis; Betsy Sierk, RC for the new chapter at Villanova; and I, Ann Berner from Bellevue, WA.

Also there for the installation were alumnae from all over the East and two alumnae, very special to me, my mother Rosemary Berner from Bellevue, WA; and Betty Givens, Indianapolis both Alpha chapter Thetas.

Initiation was held at St. George's Episcopal Church with area and district alumnae as well as collegians from Epsilon Kappa, the assisting chapter from Dartmouth; and Gamma Zetas from Connecticut participating.



Charter members of Alpha Epsilon on the steps of John Carter Brown Library.



Janet Tsai and Julie Bogdanovich two women at Brown who decided to start a women's fraternity and organized a group which became Kappa Alpha Theta.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF ALPHA EPSILON

Julie Bogdanovich, Huntington Beach, CA; Jocelyn Budman, Highland Park, IL; Brooke Dammkoehler, Bellevue, WA; Lisey Feder, Ossining, NY; Teresa Ferguson, Bellevue, WA; Fiona Fulton, New York, NY; Sara Geary, Vancouver, WA; Jennifer Gold, Brookline, MA; Ella Haile, Nashville, TN; Liz Huntsinger, Ventura, CA; Suzy Kessler, Baltimore, MD; Amy McCoy, Littleton, CO; Beth Riley, Gibsonia, PA; Susan Shanahan, Huntington, NY; Janet Tsai, Palos Verdes Estates, CA; Karen Weiss, Swampscott, MA; Daphne Williams, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.



The original ten of Kappa Alpha Chi who petitioned Kappa Alpha Theta for a chapter at Brown. L. to r. back Brooke Dammkoehler, Beth Riley, Lisey Feder, Liz Huntsinger, Suzy Kessler, Kirsten Iversen, Jennifer Gold. L. to r. front Ella Haile, Julie Bogdanovich, Janet Tsai.