

## THE QUESTION OF GRANTING NEW CHARTERS

This issue of our Journal furnishes the active chapters of our fraternity with the first account of the establishment of a Theta chapter, since the initiation of their present active membership.

It is therefore with more than ordinary pleasure and enthusiasm that we welcome our Alpha Eta chapter established at Vanderbilt University, January 15, 1904. It is needless, I am sure, to add that our whole fraternity thought was turned to the "Sunny South" on that day, and that each and every Theta wished that she might have a part in the making of this first Theta Fraternity bond between our Northern and Southern Universities.

But it is not of the installation of this particular chapter that I wish to speak. Rather, this recent granting of a new charter brings to my mind some thoughts with reference to the fraternity that receives the applications as well as to the applying groups.

It is doubtless the experience of every fraternity that many applications come before it that can have little claim on the fraternity's attention. Every fraternity has some standard by which in a general way it can judge of its applying groups.

What of those groups that apply and seemingly come up to the requirements as to their own organization as well as to the standing of their institutions? Do we as members of a national organization realize the great amount of energy, work, and continued interest that has been spent in bringing the local to the position where it feels it is sufficiently well organized and equipped, that the growth of its University is sufficiently permanent, that the number of women students is enough of a force, to warrant the group in asking for a first or perhaps an additional national fraternity?

March, 1904

## THE EVOLUTION OF ALPHA ETA—VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

It was in the spring of 1899 that the girls of Vanderbilt University, feeling the need of a closer comradeship among themselves decided to organize a sorority. They were ably assisted in their efforts of organization by Dr. Herbert C. Tolman, Professor of Greek at Vanderbilt, and by Miss Clara Kretzinger, then a student of the University, but now an alumna of Chicago University. The sorority was to be known as Phi Kappa Upsilon, the colors chosen were white and green, and the flower was the white rose.

Seventeen charter members were enrolled and four honorary members. During the last two years a change was made in the constitution whereby the honorary members became patronesses of the sorority. In 1900 Miss Stella Scott Vaughn was elected an honorary member. No name on Phi Kappa Upsilon's roll is dearer to her girls than that of Miss Vaughn. It is through her untiring devotion and loyalty to Phi Kappa Upsilon that we have been successful in so many of our undertakings.

In November, 1899, application was made for a charter of Kappa Alpha Theta. In reply to our application the Grand Secretary of Kappa Alpha Theta wrote that owing to the limited number of girls then attending the university, the Grand Council thought it better not to grant a charter, and advised us to leave our application on file.

At the time of our application Phi Kappa Upsilon was the only local sorority then in existence at Vanderbilt, but during the winter another sorority was organized and continued to exist sub rosa until the following fall, when it became known as Theta Delta Theta.

Then followed three years of mingled hope and discouragement, during which time Mrs. David Holmes and Miss Jeanette Becker, two Thetas, who happened to be in

Nashville, visited us, and reported to the Grand Council. We carried on a vigorous correspondence with the various members of that august body, and as a result of this correspondence, Miss Grace Eagleson, president of Beta District, was sent in March, 1903, to again investigate Vanderbilt. Through the strenuous efforts of Miss Eagleson, her deep interest, and the personal efforts of the Grand Council, our application for a charter was at last able to pass the chapter votes and on December 16, 1903, a telegram was sent to Phi Kappa Upsilon from Miss L. Pearle Green announcing national affiliation with Kappa Alpha Theta. In the next few days, a letter came from Miss Eagleson informing us that the installation of the chapter would take place January 9, 1904, but owing to the illness of Miss Eagleson, she was unable to come to Nashville at the date arranged, and the installation was postponed until January 15, 1904. Miss Eagleson, Miss Mary Loren from Alpha Gamma, and Miss Edith Cockins from Alpha Gamma, were sent to install the chapter. Miss Elsa Branner of Phi Chapter was passing through Nashville on that day on her way to Europe, and kindly agreed to assist these Thetas in the installation of the chapter.

There were fifteen active members and four graduates who were initiated as charter members. In honor of our installation, a banquet was given that night at the home of Miss Stella Scott Vaughn. Twenty-two Kappa Alpha Thetas were seated at the banquet table. Miss Eleanor Buford acted as our toast-mistress, and the following toasts were responded to:

Alpha Eta	-	-	-	Miss Eagleson,
Kappa Alpha Theta	-	-	-	Miss Cockins,
Kappa Alpha Theta,	-	-	-	Miss Cockins
Vanderbilt University	-	-	-	Miss Wilson,
Phi Kappa Upsilon	-	-	-	Miss Pride.

A letter of greeting to Alpha Eta from the Grand President, Ednah Wickson, was read by Miss Eagleson. The number of telegrams of congratulation and letters of welcome from our sister chapters made Alpha Eta feel that she was

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indeed well repaid for her long waiting and strenuous efforts to win this much coveted goal.

Alpha Eta returns greetings to her sister chapters and pledges a most loyal support to Kappa Alpha Theta.

MONNELL PRIDE,  
Alpha Eta.



UNIVERSITY HALL, VANDERBILT CAMPUS VIEW



REAR VIEW OF UNIVERSITY HALL, VANDERBILT



CHARTER MEMBERS OF ALPHA ETA CHAPTER VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

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