



UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON



REFLECTIONS ON ALPHA XI

BY JENNI BROUGHTON, Γ/BUTLER

Nearly 103 years after the Alpha Xi Chapter was initially established at the University of Oregon, Kappa Alpha Theta returned to campus. Over the weekend of January 20, Theta's installation team traveled to Eugene, Ore., to install the Alpha Xi chapter. Fraternity President Amy Hayner Kates, Alpha Phi/Tulane presided over the Initiation Service, initiating 78 new members. "It is always so special to bring back disestablished Theta chapters. I find it so rewarding for the alumnae of the chapter to reconnect with the new members and for the new members to be able to count on the experienced alumnae for guidance. Even though it's a new beginning, it's a beginning that has history, and I love that," said Kates.

The installation team was assisted by members of the Beta Epsilon chapter at Oregon State University. "Being a part of the re-colonization of the Alpha Xi chapter was an experience unlike anything else for our chapter. Not only were we able to work hand in hand with many esteemed members of the Fraternity and Grand Council, but we were able to share in the joy and excitement of initiating the founding members of this new Theta chapter. It was a true reminder to the members of Beta Epsilon of how blessed we are to be a part of this all-encompassing sisterhood," said Alison Vogt, Beta Epsilon Chapter president.

Local alumnae had many opportunities to participate in the weekend's events. Alpha Xi alumna Mary Sipprell Pool said, "I was so excited to witness Alpha Xi's official return to the Oregon Greek community during installation weekend. It was an honor to attend the events, and I especially enjoyed the initiation ceremonies. The charter service was quite moving ... watching the members sign the new charter, with the original 1909 charter placed beside it. All in all, a terrific Theta weekend!"

A charter member summed up her experience: "Installation weekend was amazing. I loved participating in the same ritual that Alpha Xi Chapter members did a long time ago, as well as Thetas all over the country from recent years to the late 1800s."

Following the Pledge Service on Friday night and the Initiation Service on Saturday, the final ritual service was the Charter Service on Saturday evening. The newly initiated members signed the new charter and the original charter, signed in 1909 was returned to the chapter. One charter member said, "I loved signing the charter. I have seen old charters in other facilities, but didn't know I would soon be signing my own charter as a charter member of Kappa Alpha Theta."

The weekend culminated in the installation reception, where newly initiated members were joined by nearly 200 of their closest friends, family members, members of the university Greek community and alumnae. "Amid all of the highlights of the weekend, I think my favorite part was getting to meet so many of the parents and hearing their stories of the special dimension that Kappa Alpha Theta had added to their daughters' lives," said Laura Ware Doerre, Fraternity vice-president.

"Looking back on the chapter's colonization, I couldn't believe how far these women have come. To share in this experience with the newly initiated members, their families, and all of the Thetas who joined us was unforgettable. I am so proud of all that the Alpha Xi chapter has accomplished thus far and cannot wait to see the impact they make on the University of Oregon campus," said one of the two educational leadership consultants (ELCs) based with the chapter this year. ◇

Thank you to the Fraternity officers, educational leadership consultants, and staff members who served on the installation teams:

INSTALLATION TEAM

Amy Hayner Kates, AΦ/Tulane, Fraternity President

Laura Ware Doerre, ΔΞ/North Carolina, Fraternity Vice-President

Nicole Frank, ΒΘ/Idaho, Chapter Budget Committee Chairman

Liz Bush Weiss, ΕΨ/Richmond, Music Coordinator

Betsy Sierk Corridan, ΒΟ/Iowa, Executive Director

Jenni Broughton, Γ/Butler, Ass't Director of Chapter Services

Stacey Jarrett, ΑΜ/Missouri, ELC

Lindsey Witt, ΒΔ/Arizona, ELC

Katharine Murphy, ΓΖ/Connecticut, ELC

Justine Rosenberg, ΕΣ/UC Irvine, ELC

1904

A group of women at the University of Oregon formed the first fraternity for women on Oregon's campus, organizing as a local group called Beta Epsilon.

July 21, 1909

The women of Beta Epsilon become the Alpha Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

1924

Chapter moves into their first facility.

1970

Chapter receives the Leadership Award at Grand Convention.

June 14, 1997

After 88 years on the Oregon campus, the Alpha Xi Chapter votes to relinquish their charter.

April 8, 2009

Kappa Alpha Theta makes a formal presentation to the University of Oregon extension committee in hopes of being selected to re-establish Alpha Xi.

Oct. 10, 2009

More than 160 Alpha Xi alumnae gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the chapter's establishment.

Oct. 5, 2011

Kappa Alpha Theta's colonization process begins.

Oct. 18, 2011

Kappa Alpha Theta Bid Day.

Jan. 21, 2012

Seventy-eight women are initiated into the Alpha Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta. A new charter is issued to the Alpha Xi Chapter.

