
New Theta Strongholds

PENNSYLVANIA STATE college, seventy-five years young, and University of Alberta, twenty-three years old, welcome chapters of Kappa Alpha Theta.
Kappa Alpha Theta gains its third Canadian college chapter and its fifth Pennsylvania college chapter in the establishment of Beta Phi and Beta Chi chapters.

Beta Phi

MAY 28, radio fans who tuned in on Pennsylvania State college's station, heard the following announcement, which the news service of the college also sent that day to all Pennsylvania papers:

"Nita-Nee, the first campus club for women students to be established at the Pennsylvania State college, has been granted a charter in Kappa Alpha Theta, the oldest women's fraternity in the United States, it was learned today. Installation of the new chapter will take place in late May.

"Since its establishment in 1922, the Nita-Nee club has ranked among the leading fraternities and sororities at Penn State in point of scholarship, and in 1930 led both men's and women's organizations for both semesters.

"In establishing a chapter at Penn State, Kappa Alpha Theta is adding the fifth Pennsylvania representative and its sixtieth chapter. Only four petitions to join the national fraternity have been acted upon favorably in the past three years, and the installation at Penn State will be the first in 1931. Members of Kappa Alpha Theta from other chapters resident here who sponsored the petition of Nita-Nee are Mrs Edward Steidle, Mrs D. F. McFarland, Mrs E. B. Forbes, Miss Gertrude Adams, and Miss Sabra Vought, who recently resigned as librarian at Penn State to accept a position in Washington."

Welcome, Beta Phi!

The five Thetas resident in State College, Pennsylvania, and several others who have been inhabitants of the Nittany Lion's lair, and interested in the Nita-Nee group of girls, suddenly began to purr like mother Kats over the last batch of superlative kittens, for, in the spring of 1931, word came finally, of the granting of a charter in Kappa Alpha Theta. The guardianship of years had been justified; the tests had been passed; the objections inherent in the granting of every new charter had been met and overcome; Nita-Nee had become Beta Phi of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Because these girls have had such a rigorous training, through so long a period, we are expecting great things of them. They have, as a local in competition with nationals, more than held their own in rushing; with the prestige of Theta they can maintain themselves in a carefully chosen membership. They show a fine spirit of cooperation with, and adherence to, the standards set by the resident Thetas.

Altogether I am quite sure we have made ourselves insufferable to all other Greeks in our conscious pride in our new Beta Phis, a pride not at all disguised by our careful restraint.

The deep satisfaction felt by all of us, resident and active alike, is due, we feel, entirely to our Titian-haired little sister Ellie

May, from Mu, otherwise, Mrs Edward Steidle. Her devotion to Theta ideals, her insight and guidance of Nita-Nee, her fire, and splendid administrative and executive ability, are the final and decisive factors in making Beta Phi a reality. To her, resident and active Thetas both will feel always grateful. And to our beloved L. Pearle we feel as all Thetas everywhere, at every time have learned to feel; what she says, goes; what she does and the way she does it, is illumined by all that is lovely and lovable in Kappa Alpha Theta.

GERTRUDE M. ADAMS, *Alpha Beta*

Events at State College

From east and west, from north and south, Thetas traveled toward the center of Pennsylvania, and the anxious Nita-Nee girls went forth from State College to meet guests at this town and that way station, this bus

stop, that junction point, until finally every possible train had been met, every expected guest had had dinner, and the Nita-Nee girls had vacated their chapter house, instructed not to return until 8:30 p.m.

Promptly at that hour they were back on the great porch. As time passed, group after group was called into the house, emerging a little later wearing the coveted Kappa Alpha Theta pledge pins. Within the house, aided by members of Grand council, and some dozen Thetas from almost as many chapters, Mrs Wilputte, District president, conducted the beautiful Theta pledge service for charter members of Beta Chi chapter.

The soon-to-be Thetas then passed delightful ices, so welcome that hot night, and dainty cakes. Experienced Thetas led in singing fraternity songs, and before "lights out" were in order under Penn State rules, all guests had been deposited at their sleeping



PHI DELTA THETA HOUSE, PENN STATE COLLEGE
Where Beta Phi Charter members were initiated into Kappa Alpha Theta

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quarters, "for a good night's rest." Well, maybe, but for those at the Nittany Lion inn, the installing officers, it was some hours before any "night's rest" was in sight.

Toward the middle of Friday morning, with gracious words of welcome, Phi Delta Theta men turned over their chapter house to Mrs Steidel, resident Theta, and the Grand officers of Kappa Alpha Theta. (All members of Grand council, except the Grand president, were present. And how we all did miss Mrs Banta!)

To prepare the Phi Delta Theta basement chapter room for a Theta initiation service proved to be an easy morning's work. And how cool that chapter room was—the only really comfortable place that hot, hot day! We will henceforth agitate for basement chapter rooms in every new Theta house.

Early in the afternoon, in the parlors of the Phi Delta Theta house, pledge service was conducted again by Mrs Wilputte, for late arriving Nita-Nee alumnæ.

Then through the long afternoon, group after group of Nita-Nee alumnæ became members of Kappa Alpha Theta. Promptly at six-thirty arrived the college girls and a delightful supper, partly brought by the girls, partly provided by the Phi Delta Theta cook. A jolly hour of friendly converse, and then back to business, for those college girls were still wearing *only* pledge pins. (How quickly they had wearied of "only a pledge pin.")

The service of initiation was never more beautiful, with Mrs Grasett and Mrs Wright presiding, and Alpha Beta musicians leading the song, while delegates from the other college chapters of District VII, aided by alumnæ, carried forward the service. In time for another "good night's rest" all was over and Kappa Alpha Theta had won 57 fine new members.

Saturday's "events" did not begin until late afternoon, so there was an air of leisure about that day, though the Phi Delta Theta chapter room was to be put in order, and all Theta impedimenta packed and carried away; plans for the evening must be advanced; committee's must formulate by-laws and other

things the new chapter needed; and all visiting Thetas must be shown the campus, and the many palatial fraternity houses, and the beautiful scenic environment of Penn State.

At early dusk, the long procession, in evening dress, entered the spacious parlors of the Nittany Lion inn, where the installation service took place. Then the processional across the paved court to the inn's banquet hall, where 98 Thetas enjoyed food, and speeches, and song, and fellowship. Later many of the visiting Thetas, along with their new Theta hostesses, enjoyed dancing at several of the university parties in progress that same evening.

Sunday morning, the autoists, and many other guests were speeded on their way, after which the new chapter and the national officers settled down to model chapter meetings, conferences, question asking and answering, which consumed every minute until they too must say "Auf Wiedersehen."

And so, during the week-end of May 30, 1931, the dream of Nita-Nee became the reality of Beta Phi chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Pennsylvania State College— Yesterday and Today

Old Main was still in the process of construction when a group of sixty or more young men representing the manhood of Pennsylvania drove from Spruce Creek February 15, 1855, to a desolate spot later to be called State College. It was quite a rude welcoming to this group of young men who had come to enjoy the advantages of this first state supported institution of higher education.

The farmers' high school, for this was the name given to the institution at this time, struggled along, and its life was almost snuffed out during the Civil War. At the close of the war Congress came to the financial aid of the school through the Morrill Land Grant Act. In 1863 the name was changed to the Agricultural college of Pennsylvania, and in the same year Old Main building was finished.



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BETA PHI CHAPTER HOUSE

to style. High arched doorways and wide winding stairs are other features. On the first floor there is a wide hallway separating the house into two parts. On the south side the chaperon's suite is located, while the living room, the chapter room and the card room are situated on the northern side. The members of the Beta Phi chapter live on the second and third floors which accomo- date twelve girls.

What Beta Phis Are Doing In College

Beta Phi sponsors scholarship and interest in the various campus activities. Among the present active members are Muriel E. Bowman, president of Archousai, senior girls' activities society, and vice president of the senior class. Dorothy W. Cummings, president of both the Girls' glee club and the Louise Homer club musical society, Rushing chairman of the Panhellenic council, and an Archousai. Anne A. D'Olier, treasurer of

Archousai, member the Penn State players and manager of the wardrobe. Kathleen M. Meek, treasurer of W.A.A. Edith W. Orton secretary to *Froth* business board. Mary M. Wright, women's editor of the Penn State *Collegian*, president of Alpha Theta Epsilon, women's honorary journalistic fraternity, and a member of Archousai. There are but twelve members of Archousai, and of these four are Thetas.

Lillie A. Kell is a member of the Penn State players, Anne M. Light is on the junior hockey team, and Isabel McFarland is an associate editor of *Collegian* and treasurer of Y.W.C.A.

As Alumnae

The alumnae of Beta Phi chapter are an active group interested in the fraternity. For a number of years, the aim and ambition of their group has been to become Thetas. Now that their dreams have been realized, their interest will be the greater. Every

Alumni Home-coming at Pennsylvania State college for the past couple years has brought a large group of Nita-Nees to the campus. Partially through this interest in the college, and through their college activities and records, several Nita-Nee alumnae were elected to the Penn State Alumni Council when it was organized in the spring of 1930. During the elections in 1931, five out of fifteen women members of the Council were Nita-Nees, and these five were all back for the Theta installation. The Alumni Council is the legislative and administrative body of the Alumni association, and the members represent alumni in all parts of the United States.

Concerning what our alumnae are doing: the teaching profession seems to be the favorite profession for Beta Phi alumnae. Exclusive of the class of 1931, fifteen others are teaching in various parts of Pennsylvania, mainly in the public schools. One member is teaching at Dickinson seminary, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Eleven alumnae are keeping house for their husbands, or for their families. Two others are doing likewise but are also in business, making a total of five alumnae in business.

One alumna is helping to manage her father's mushroom farm at Downingtown, while another is a member of the Home economics extension department of Pennsylvania State college.

Official Opinion

Penn State college lies exactly in the center of the State of Pennsylvania and is rather hard to reach, since it is surrounded by mountains. This inaccessibility goes to create a delightful atmosphere which is aided by a background of Indian legends. From these came the name of our petitioning group—"Nita-Nee", after an Indian princess, and Mount Nittany stands up as one of the lovely peaks surrounding Penn State.

The friendly spirit of the men's fraternities on that campus was an outstanding surprise to me. When news of the granting of a charter was received, many of the fraternities asked for the privilege of donating their homes for the installation ceremonies. Phi Delta Theta, being the first to offer, was accepted. Kappa Alpha Theta is indeed grateful for their hospitality and kindness.

In adding to our list of chapters, we have every reason to be proud of Beta Phi. They have already made a name for themselves on that campus. Indeed we will have a hard time to develop any finer sense of loyalty and devotion to each other than was shown by the alumnae of Nita-Nee who returned to be initiated.

With all my heart I welcome Beta Phi as a sister chapter in Kappa Alpha Theta.

JEANETTE GRASETT, *Grand Treasurer*

On my arrival at State College, Pennsylvania I was impressed with this town's ideal



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location for a big university. It is a lovely spot, far enough into the mountains to assure a united college spirit. This spirit was evidenced in many ways during our stay. The fraternities were all anxious to do everything they could to make Nita-Nee's installation as a Kappa Alpha Theta chapter successful.

The campus is beautifully located and the large number of stately buildings, as well as the fine fraternity houses, make it seem like a wealthy little city in itself. Situated on the campus, among the tall trees, is the beautiful new Nittany Lion inn of Colonial architecture, where parents of students can be entertained while visiting their sons and daughters.

With all the wealth of the state of Pennsylvania back of it, Pennsylvania State college is bound to grow and develop. It seems a perfect place for Kappa Alpha Theta to have added an eastern chapter.

ALINE WRIGHT, *Grand vice-president*

Beta Phi chapter has been installed! It was a personal joy to me to be present, not only to meet each charter member of this new group, but also to meet the new members of Grand council and to renew my former acquaintance with our own L. Pearle Green.

The solemnity with which Beta Pi received the charter impressed me greatly, but back of that impression was the constant thought of the perseverance of the Nita-Nee group, who in the face of keen disappointments, strove on and on to attain the goal, for which they had set out. Their dreams were realized. They were now Thetas! I have all confidence that Kappa Alpha Theta will never regret the opportunity it has placed in the hands of the Nita-Nee club of Penn State college.

GRETCHEN BUSKE REPLOGLE
Pennsylvania State chairman

What the Neighbors Think

Theta lips were smiling as we met the girls of Beta Phi chapter to be, for they were the most attractive and charming girls one

could imagine. And—would you believe it? —they were extremely capable too, as was proved by their careful and enthusiastic attention to the duties of installation at the time when they were busy with college examinations. In between, several of them were performing the duties of student officers. They welcomed us and entertained us in the true spirit of Theta. Here's good luck to a chapter that we *know* will uphold Theta standards!

MARY SAVACOO, *Alpha Kappa*

In the creation of Beta Phi chapter I feel that Kappa Alpha Theta has made a valuable addition to its national organization. The outstanding qualifications of the young women composing this new chapter gives every good reason to believe that Kappa Alpha Theta had been overlooking an opportunity in the past years and that this new chapter will be not only an honor to the fraternity but an inspiration as well.

At the installation we were received and entertained in a most cordial manner, and our experience generally has been equaled by few and excelled by none.

GENE SHAFFER, *Alpha Delta*

Attending the installation of Beta Phi chapter was a privilege. The Beta Phis themselves are a fine group of girls. The prestige which they have on the Penn State campus was more than evident to all the visiting Thetas. One phase of the installation which meant much to me, was meeting Thetas from other chapters, both alumnae and college, and the national officers of the fraternity. The installation service and banquet where we all, old Thetas and new, assembled for the first time as sisters, made each one of us there feel *prouder than ever* to wear the Kite of Kappa Alpha Theta.

ADELLE F. QUINTO, *Beta Eta*

After changing trains many times during the weird hours of the morning and never knowing exactly where I was, because I had been routed a thousand different ways



to Penn state, I could hardly wait to see what kind of a college could be so difficultly located and what type of person would possibly go there. I expected an ideal college full of interesting students—truly I was not disappointed.

One often hears that southern hospitality is hard to beat, yet I think the same can be said of that of Penn State. Thanks to our new sisters, Beta Phi chapter is one of which we can be proud. During the installation I was impressed with the sincerity, eagerness, and enthusiasm the girls had in becoming Thetas. I know they will be loyal sisters and prove the true worth of Thetahood.

SARAH EARLY, *Beta Beta*

After meeting, pledging, and initiating our new chapter, Beta Phi, we wistfully wished that every Theta in the country could have been there. The Beta Phis (née Nita-Nee) extended to us incomparable hospitality, and displayed, at every turn, sure en-

thusiasm for Theta. We are indeed proud of this young chapter, and know it to be a strong link in our chain of hearts.

With our new sisters, we had the great pleasure of meeting and working with Miss Green, Mrs Grasett, Mrs Wright, Mrs Kircher, and Mrs Wilputte; and delegates from Adelphi, Penn, Pittsburgh, Goucher, Randolph-Macon, William and Mary, and Swarthmore. Under the direction of the Grand officers pledging and initiation were beautiful, and we gleaned therein, many pointers for our own ceremonies.

Our installation visit to Penn state will always be remembered for a grand time, scores of new friends, and new Thetas, and at the last a glorious banquet. As we drove homeward through the mountains we exclaimed time and again to one another: "The Beta Phis are darling!" And we only hoped that they had seen us, as we found them, absolutely charming, and worthy of Theta.

KATHARINE A. WILSON, *Alpha Beta*

Beta Chi

PSI OMEGA at the University of Alberta is the third Canadian group to be granted a Kappa Alpha Theta charter. Its installation as Beta Chi chapter forms the connecting link between Sigma at Toronto and Beta Upsilon at Vancouver.

Events at Edmonton

The installation, in charge of the Grand vice-president, Alline Wright, and the Grand treasurer, Jeanette Grasett, started Thursday noon, September 24, with a luncheon for the visiting Thetas at the Mayfair Country club. Present at this event, in addition to the two Grand council members, were Lorraine Crowe and Dorothy Barrow, delegates from Beta Upsilon. Their own recent installation made them happy to pass on the thrill of becoming a Theta chapter. Eleanor Dyer came from Alpha Nu and Charlotte Gowran was the enthusiastic delegate from Alpha Pi. The Edmonton Thetas who had charge

of the details of the local arrangements were indeed gracious hostesses. Helen Blackburn Robertson, Alpha Lambda, was chairman of this group, and was assisted by Evelyn H. Dickson, Sigma, and Gertrude Fleming, Alpha Sigma.



HELEN BLACKBURN
ROBERTSON

Beta Chi is fortunate to have three such charming women and loyal Thetas as resident alumnæ. Thursday afternoon the Edmonton Panhellenic entertained in honor of Kappa Alpha Theta visitors, the Psi Omegas, and the newly installed chapter of Pi Beta Phi.

November, 1931