

# Kappa Alpha Theta



GAMMA ETA CHAPTER HOUSE—MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE

VOLUME 57

MARCH

NUMBER 3

1943

# Theta's Newest Chapter

Gamma Eta Chapter at Massachusetts State College

PIONEERING in the East has marked the fraternity's progress during this college year. First came Gamma Zeta chapter, the first national fraternity chapter for girls on the campus of Connecticut State college, chartered at convention, and chapter installed in October 1942.

And now, in February, comes the installation of Gamma Eta chapter. At the time of last summer's convention the petition of Phi Zeta for a charter at Massachusetts State college, had not been on file long enough to permit convention to vote the charter, it desired to grant. But, convention promised the group, that unless some unforeseeable problem arose, a charter would be forthcoming November 1. No such problem arose, and so, November 1 the group received a wire stating the charter was granted.

All hoped for installation before Christmas—but the time between November 1 and Christmas vacation was so short that, in view of war time restrictions on travel and demands on the time of Council members, it became impossible for those hopes to materialize. So, precedent was broken, and though the promised fraternity badges were not ready to wear home for the holidays, pledge pins were. Mrs Cook, president of District IV, went to Amherst and on December 12, with the assistance of Kay Hoover, co-organizer at Gamma Zeta, nine members of that new chapter, and the aid of resident Thetas, Mildred Briggs, Alpha, Mrs Grace Law Foorde, Iota, and Mrs Ray Stannard Baker, Eta, she pledged twenty-four members of Phi Zeta to Kappa Alpha Theta.

These girls, all of whom became charter members of Gamma Eta chapter were—Marjorie Aldrich, Ruth Baker, Priscilla Bentley, Helen Berger, Mary Jean Carpenter, Rosalind Goodhue, Doris Johnson, Elinor Koonz, Daphne Miller, E. Jane Smith, H. Barbara Smith, Catherine Stockwell, Helen VanMeter, Mabel Arnold, Betty Jane Atkinson, Jean Burgess, Elizabeth Clapp, Barbara Crowther, Marjorie Gunther, Dorothy Nestle, Betsy Tilton, Barbara Thayer, Patricia Anderson, and Marilyn Hadley.

Between the granting of the charter, Novem-

ber 1, and pledging of charter members December 12, Massachusetts State Panhellenic had conducted its fall rush, and the chapter to become Thetas, had acquired sixteen new pledges. Under their Panhellenic rules, these pledges must acquire sophomore standing before they may be initiated. And, the week-end of pledging for charter members, was the same week end on which Kappa Kappa Gamma installed a chapter at Massachusetts State, the group to which it had granted a charter at its 1942 summer convention.

## Massachusetts State College

One of the outstanding achievements of the middle of the nineteenth century was the remarkable development in the field of science. This, in turn, brought about great changes in industry, transportation, and agriculture, which stimulated the desire for new information and further training. People were enthusiastic about the possibilities of the future. It is not surprising, therefore, that scientific courses gradually found their way into the academies and colleges, though not without opposition from the friends of the old classical training. In many instances, institutions founded along literary and philosophical lines did not favor the introduction of courses based on the needs of students desiring to perfect themselves in the technical principles and practices of the arts and industry. Nevertheless the demand for such courses increased. It was evident that the old order of education was changing but at the time the new was not apparent. It was under such conditions that Massachusetts State college had its birth.

This demand for technical education finally crystallized into the Morrill Act of 1862 endowing colleges for this purpose in every state of the Union.

Massachusetts accepted the provisions of the Morrill Act in 1863 by founding a new college at Amherst to be known as "Massachusetts Agricultural college." It was not until October 2, 1867, that the institution formally was opened to students. At that time there were four teachers



### *Kappa Alpha Theta*

on the faculty and four campus. The number increased during the first 1867, forty-seven had been now over twelve hundred. On April 15, 1931, the was changed by legislative Massachusetts State college. Joining the college has grown and influence has been felt in

Women were as scarce when two co-eds graduated. The number has increased when over one-third of of females. They are Women's Student government their head. In 1940, the honor group) was founded and senior girls outstanding scholarship, and extracurricular Massachusetts State for women, and women's fraternities.

### Women's Fraternities

On the campus there three national women's Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Zeta was the third affiliated with a National

All year long, W.A.A. sponsor Inter-Greek competition ball, hockey, volleyball spring, the Intersorority sponsors the annual si which time, each house two declaimers—one in Two plaques are awarded of the sing, and one of the two most outstanding members of the faculty

Frequently, Phi Zeta members with one of evening meal. It also gives pledges of other groups

Of course, competitive election of the Honorary of the Winter Court. Two Phi Zeta' court last year. This year chosen queen, and Ma



GAMMA ETA CHAPTER—GAMMA ETA PLEDGES

on the faculty and four wooden buildings on campus. The number of students steadily increased during the first term and by December, 1867, forty-seven had been admitted. There are now over twelve hundred students attending. On April 15, 1931, the name of the institution was changed by legislative enactment to Massachusetts State college. From its modest beginning the college has grown steadily and its influence has been felt in many parts of the world.

Women were as scarce as bananas until 1917, when two co-eds graduated from the college. The number has increased amazingly until now, when over one-third of the enrollment consists of females. They are self-governed, with the Women's Student government association at their head. In 1940, the Isogon society (senior honor group) was founded, made up of junior and senior girls outstanding in character, scholarship, and extracurricular activities.

Massachusetts State college has two dormitories for women, and there are five houses for women's fraternities.

### Women's Fraternity Groups

On the campus there are two local groups and three national women's fraternities, Chi Omega, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Kappa Alpha Theta. Phi Zeta was the third local group to become affiliated with a National fraternity.

All year long, W.A.A. Sports managers sponsor Inter-Greek competition in swimming, softball, hockey, volleyball, bowling, etc. In the spring, the Intersorority council (Panhellenic) sponsors the annual sing and declamation, at which time, each house presents two songs, and two declamers—one in prose and one in verse. Two plaques are awarded, one for the winner of the sing, and one for the house presenting the two most outstanding declamers. Three members of the faculty judge the contests.

Frequently, Phi Zeta exchanged 10 or 15 members with one of the other houses for an evening meal. It also gave teas for seniors and pledges of other groups.

Of course, competition is keen for the annual election of the Honorary Colonel and the judging of the Winter Carnival queen and her Court. Two Phi Zeta's were on the queen's court last year. This year Daphne Miller was chosen queen, and Marilyn Hadley, and Jane

Murrey were members of her court.

Phi Zeta has its own scholarship plaque upon which is engraved each year the name of the girl with the highest average, and the name of the girl showing the greatest improvement in her marks. It also has a plaque upon which is placed each May, the name of the senior girl who has done the most for her chapter.

Under the direction of Helen Berger, elected Head Usher this year, the women's fraternities usher at the various college Social unions. All of the groups usher at some time during the year for Sunday Vesper services.

### Theta Activities

Six of the new Theta chapter are members of the Women's Student government association: Olive Tracy, member of the Board; Betty Bates and Helen Beaumont, Sophomore representatives on Council; and Cynthia Leete, Barbara Crowther, and Jean Burgess, Proctors in the Womens' dormitories. Jean is also vice-president of the Home economics club.

Ruth Baker is president of the Women's athletic association, of which Patricia Anderson is secretary. Five Thetas are sports managers: Olive Tracy, skiing; Jane Smith, dancing; Shirley Salsman, hockey; Virginia Julian, volleyball; and Marilyn Hadley, bowling. Louise Pennock, pledge, is well known for her beautiful figure skating.

Reporting for the college newspaper, *The collegian* is Betty Bates. Marcia Green was a member of the *Index*, yearbook board.

Mary Jean Carpenter and Cynthia Leete are vice-presidents of the senior and junior classes, respectively. Mary Jean is also president of the Intersorority council and is a member of the active Student Defense council.

Helen VanMeter, manager of the Women's Glee club, also managed our annual operetta. Helen and Betty sang solo parts in the *Yeomen of the Guard* and seven of the girls from the house were members of the chorus. Nine Thetas sing in Glee club; Barbara Bird and Lee Hodges sing in Statettes, a quartette, and Betty Bates and Helen VanMeter sing in the Bay Statettes, a sextette. Pledges sing in the Freshman choir.

Irene Strong, Sandy Sanford and Helen Van Meter play in the Massachusetts State College band, of which Jean Gould, pledge, is Drum



Majorette. All of the cheer leaders for the past two years have been Phi Zetas and now, Thetas.

Seven of our girls are members of Roister Doisters, dramatic society. Lee Hodges, Jean Gould, and Nancy Andrews achieved membership through their excellent work in the Freshman play which won the interclass competition. Pinky Smith, senior, has been an active member for four years. Frances Judd, Patricia Anderson, and Irene Strong are sophomore members.

Annually, M.S.C. celebrates Dad's-day. For the third consecutive year, Helen Smith and Daphne Miller have been members of this committee, this year acting as chairman and secretary. Betty Bates was also a member of the committee.

Mary Jean Carpenter and Daphne Miller are members of the senior honorary society, Isogon. Each year at the Junior-senior processional preceding Commencement, seven junior girls are tapped for membership to this society. Mary Jean and Daphne were also selected to have their biographies appear in the 1942-43 *Who's who in American universities*.

Elinor Koonz is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, scholarship fraternity.

### Installation

Plans went forward for installation to be the week-end of Kappa Alpha Theta's birthday, the last week-end in January. And then—Massachusetts State college, picked that week-end for its annual Winter carnival! And so, installation dates were shifted to the following week, though Phi Zeta had offered to give up participation in the Carnival for the excitement of installation. Fortunately this sacrifice was not approved by Kappa Alpha Theta, because if it had been Theta would have missed the distinction brought to installation by Phi Zeta—yes the distinction of claiming the Queen of the carnival, Daphne Miller, and two of her court, Marilyn Hadley and Jane Murray, pledge.

So, finally on February 6, two members who had been away at the time of pledging and four alumnae were pledged to Kappa Alpha Theta: Olive Tracy and Ann Sullivan, junior and sophomore, and four alumnae: Doris Jenkins French, Mary Berry, Gladys Archibald Hager, and Eleanor Curtis. A few hours later these six, along with the original twenty-four pledges, were initiated as Gamma Eta's thirty charter members.

Installation service and Installation luncheon followed on Sunday, February 7, both at the Lord Jeffrey Inn, in Amherst. Then all the Thetas returned to the "Kappa Alpha Theta house" for a reception, where Gamma Eta's official guests were introduced to the faculty friends of the new chapter.

Delegates from college chapters who assisted in the installation were—Virginia Shaw, Iota, Corrine Hollowell and Doris Welsh, Lambda, Betty Hughes and Caroline Dawson, Mu, Dorothy Borchert, Chi, Leslie Bodner, Alpha Kappa, and Betty Deu, Gamma Zeta, the latter two substituting for the two Canadian chapters of District IV, who because of war restrictions on travel from their country could not be present. Alumnae delegate was Marianne Harcourt Eagleson, Boston alumnae, visiting alumna, Miss Harriet Elliott, Lambda, from Northampton, and resident alumnae, Mrs Grace Law Foorde, Iota, and Miss Mildred Briggs, Alpha. Officers who conducted the service were Mrs Higbie, Grand president, Mrs Browne, Grand vice president (in charge), Miss Green, editor, Mrs Cook, District president, and Mrs Aline Smith Wright, former Grand vice-president.

And so, after historical formality let's take a peek at the charming girls of Gamma Eta chapter, as they see, and love, each other.

### Personality Sketches

Could it be that there are outstanding personalities in our chapter? Certainly there are. Just come into our living room and I'll tell you about a few of them.

You'll see a typical after dinner scene most any night when most of the girls are gathered in this room, for a bit of relaxation before the evening grind session begins.

Right over in the big corner chair sits "Pinky" Smith, smoking a cigarette and making quips—a small girl who keeps in trim by being head of the Modern dance class. At her feet is a set of bridge "the whizer," a rather whacky foursome. Pete Arnold, you should see her when she really gets excited over a bridge game; Betty Jane Atkinson, one of our good-natured cooks; Betty Clapp, watch the dainty movement of her hands; and Doris Johnson, definitely and whole heartedly a psychology major. These four get a kick out of life by being continually happy and fun-loving.

Of course Helen Van central influence in her but she is always intere

And there is another one hand is "Ditto" Str avenue—aren't the blue neat novelty songs she wolf when it comes to t House chairman beautif of the lack of heat, by h Opposite Tracy is Mary, you should see her whe be serious and efficient, settling down to be a go fourth, not the dummy, She's really taking this natural neatness and a real helpmate.

Next, on the couch, I Goodhue, our etiquette job. But even she gets t till you hear her laugh—our tall blonde, just rel curl up in front of the favorite tricks; Betsy h she is one of the juniors program—ambitious?—

Sitting cross-legged c of bridge. Pat Anderson who have showed gre members and taking o quite an instigator whe of thing; but she's also and buying to do while this games is Kay Stock who has a wonderful v

We move on to Bar front of the fireplace. T but always willing to s

There are a few miss couple more. Daphne job—she keeps herself ing her time and her with that singing man

And if we go to the dent and brain child, most excellent officer, g out being the least bit

Two of the girls w weeks' training period house. Bake, our most

## Kappa Alpha Theta

and Installation luncheon, February 7, both at the Amherst. Then all the "Kappa Alpha Theta" where Gamma Eta's introduced to the faculty chapter.

lege chapters who assisted ere—Virginia Shaw, Iota, and Doris Welsh, Lambda, rolaine Dawson, Mu, Doris Bodner, Alpha Kappa, nma Zeta, the latter two two Canadian chapters of use of war restrictions on ntry could not be present.

Marianne Harcourt Eagle-visiting alumna, Miss Harfrom Northampton, and Grace Law Foorde, Iota, iggs, Alpha. Officers who were Mrs Higbie, Grand ne, Grand vice president en, editor, Mrs Cook, DisMrs Aline Smith Wright, esident.

rical formality let's take a girls of Gamma Eta chapve, each other.

### ity Sketches

ere are outstanding perster? Certainly there are. ing room and I'll tell you

l after dinner scene most of the girls are gathered t of relaxation before the begins.

3 corner chair sits "Pinky" rette and making quips— in trim by being head of ss. At her feet is a set of rather whacky foursome.

ld see her when she really ridge game; Betty Jane ood-natured cooks; Betty 7 movement of her hands; finitely and whole heartor. These four get a kick continually happy and

Of course Helen VanMeter is handling the Vic. Music is the central influence in her life; she lives, talks, and breathes music, but she is always interested in the activities of her sisters, too.

And there is another bridge game—the "blue jeans girls." On one hand is "Ditto" Smith the girl from the penthouse on Park avenue—aren't the blue jeans typical? and you should hear the neat novelty songs she sings. Next is Olive Tracy, the big bad wolf when it comes to the fuel oil—she carries out her duties as House chairman beautifully and has kept the girls happy in spite of the lack of heat, by her straightforwardness and good example. Opposite Tracy is Mary Jean Carpenter, an imp from away back—you should see her when she goes on a silly streak—but she can be serious and efficient, too, which is why we can imagine her settling down to be a good wife within a few months. And for the fourth, not the dummy, though—is our ladylike, Lennie Berger. She's really taking this marriage business seriously, and with her natural neatness and adaptability, we're sure she will make a real helpmate.

Next, on the couch, Roz is curled up reading a magazine. Roz Goodhue, our etiquette chairman, is definitely the one for the job. But even she gets to acting up now and then, and just wait till you hear her laugh—she gurgles! Beside Roz is Betty Tilton, our tall blonde, just relaxing at the moment, but perhaps she will curl up in front of the fire later on and go to sleep, one of her favorite tricks; Betsy has her gay moods and her sober moods—she is one of the juniors who is taking advantage of the accelerated program—ambitious?—yes.

Sitting cross-legged on the floor near her is the third foursome of bridge. Pat Anderson and Mac Hadley are our two sophomores who have showed great interest in the chapter by becoming members and taking over duties immediately. Marj Aldrich is quite an instigator when it comes to playing pranks and that sort of thing; but she's also very stable, what with the meal planning and buying to do while Bake's in the Homestead. The fourth in this games is Kay Stockwell, a rather quiet, very capable member, who has a wonderful way with children.

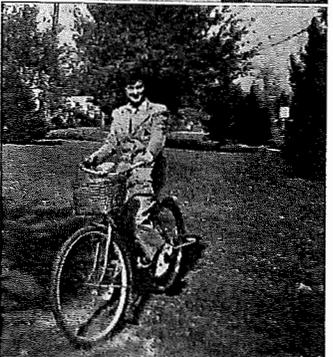
We move on to Barb Crowther and Barb Thayer talking in front of the fireplace. They are continually together, quiet, quiet, but always willing to serve in any way.

There are a few missing—but if we look around we will find a couple more. Daphne Miller is upstairs doing some odd little job—she keeps herself busy all the time, like a little bee, arranging her time and her work so that she has time off to go out with that singing man of hers.

And if we go to the study, we'll find Elinor Koonz, our president and brain child, finishing up a bit of work: Koonzie is a most excellent officer, getting work accomplished efficiently, without being the least bit officious.

Two of the girls who live at the house are having their six weeks' training period at the Homestead, the home management house. Bake, our most excellent treasurer, is one of them; even

GAMMA ETA AT PLAY



an error of one cent in the accounts would keep her up half the night, till she found it. With her is Pat Bentley.

And last of all are the four who neither live nor eat at the house. The pair from Amherst are "Popsy" Nestle and Anna Sullivan—always ready for fun, and always a smile. And Midge Gunther, a quiet, self-possessed member, keeps an apartment, uptown with three other girls—good experience. Then lastly, Jean Burgess, small in stature, but dynamic in personality, a sponsor in Butterfield dormitory.

I hope you enjoyed meeting us? Come again!

PAT BENTLEY

### Back to Business

The last caller gone, the receiving line ate, and then Gamma Eta's first chapter meeting, where Grand officers gave instructions and tried to answer questions! Conferences and just visiting filled every following hour, except a few for sleep, until the installing officers left at noon on Monday. That is all left but Mary Browne, who stayed to help Gamma Eta get its machinery adjusted and to aid in the pledging to Kappa Alpha Theta of the 29 Phi Zetas still in college. The sophomores of this group, will be initiated after six weeks pledge training, and the freshmen as soon as they are eligible under Massachusetts State Panhellenic regulations.

### Finale

What did the visiting Thetas think of the new chapter? Well, they found them interesting, and soon the fellowship had progressed where it was not easy to tell new initiates from visiting seniors from the chapters of Districts IV and VII—just as it should be, they were Thetas all. Many a promise to visit our campus, and many a promise to come again, floated through the air as the college visitors dashed to take a bus as the first step toward getting back to their own campuses.

What did the officers think of the group they had sponsored and guided in the work for a Theta chapter? Well they left with considerable smug satisfaction, that they had been among the Thetas who had seen the wisdom of Mrs Boyce's recommendation of this field of extension. Confident are they that never will Theta have to apologize for, or regret the establishment of its two farthest east chapters, who after so many years join Lambda in making New England a Theta center.

And as for alumnae, Boston alumnae and Springfield club, have long wanted a chapter at Massachusetts State—only the combination of winter weather and gas rationing kept them away from installation—and when conditions improve they'll be often calling on Gamma Eta; while the Thetas of Northampton, only eight miles away, under the leadership of Miss Elliott promise to be active friends too.



DELEGATES AND OFFICERS

