

Epsilon Tau: Theta establishes a Yale tradition

Kappa Alpha Theta, the first Greek letter fraternity known among women, is also the first and only National Panhellenic Conference group on Yale University's campus.

A unique group of sophomore Yale women entered the pledgship of Epsilon Tau colony of Kappa Alpha Theta September 29, 1985. From that day on, the women of Epsilon Tau were determined to experience the traditions that have made Theta what she is today, and to enrich the social life at Yale. They battled the negative stereotypes of the Greek system held by some Yale students, as well as their own questions about this "new" women's fraternity that was forming at Yale.

During their pledgship, the Yale collegians gathered at weekly meetings, enjoyed sitting together at football games and took part in social activities with the men's fraternities. They also hosted a Halloween party for underprivileged New Haven children as a service project.

The Epsilon Tau pledges sometimes invited college masters and deans to join them at their Monday night dinners. This proved to be an excellent opportunity for the women to explain exactly what Kappa Alpha Theta is, and why they believe it has a place at Yale.

Alumnae support was another positive aspect of the Epsilon Tau pledgship. The Fairfield Alumnae Chapter hosted a shower for the



Epsilon Tau Chapter President Patricia Lizarraga addresses Grand President Sue Supple at the charter service banquet.



The charter members of Epsilon Tau formed Kappa Alpha Theta's 109th chapter at Yale University. Installation took place in January.

colony, and New Haven alumnae took an active part in the colony's Big/Little Sister Program.

Installation of the 109th chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta took place January 24 through 26 in New Haven, Conn. The Theta-filled weekend began Friday with the loyalty service and continued with the initiation ceremony Saturday morning. The banquet and charter service were held at the Yale Graduates Club. All those present clearly felt the warmth of Theta within that traditional Yale setting. Final events on Sunday included a model chapter meeting, church service and a campus reception, held at the Pierson College Common Room.

The Epsilon Tau installation team included: Grand President Sue Supple; Grand Vice-President Finance Carryl Krohne; College District President Joyce Ann Vitelli; Alumnae District President Margaret Ricks; Central Office Associate Executive Secretary-Treasurer Ann Meeks; Betsy Sierk, Central Office administrative assistant; and Melissa Crane and Kim Massey, chapter consultants. The local installation chairman was Avery Flowers, and Alpha Epsilon Chapter at Brown University shared their loyalty and dedication to the Fraternity by serving as the assisting chapter.

Throughout their pledgship, the ten Epsilon Tau charter members watched each other gain respect and pride in the ideals and traditions of Kappa Alpha Theta. They learned



Charter member Jill Humphrey and her mother enjoy the Epsilon Tau installation banquet festivities.

to better accept other personalities and to take an active interest in each individual pledge sister.

The love and understanding of Theta that the members attained were best expressed at the charter service by Epsilon Tau Chapter President Patricia Lizarraga, "Theta at Yale is both the continuing of traditions more than a century old, and the birth of new traditions at Yale. Just as our founder Bettie Locke Hamilton forged a path, established traditions and cleared the way for thousands of women in North America, we the members of Epsilon Tau Chapter feel we are forging a path, establishing traditions and clearing the way for generations of Yale women to come."

For Theta and for Yale, it was a historically significant weekend, and just the beginning for Epsilon Tau Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Melissa Crane
Chapter Consultant

Epsilon Tau Charter Members

Kerry Elizabeth Berchem
Milford, Conn.
Julie M. Heller
Westport, Conn.
Miriam Florence Herman
Bethesda, Md.
Jill Patricia Humphrey
Randolph, N.J.
Patricia Lizarraga G.
Lima, Peru
Margaret Alice Mann
Mamaronceck, N.Y.
Karen Elizabeth McGinley
Wilmington, Del.
Tara Ann Owen
Bethesda, Md.
Melissa Dawn Welch
Lima, Ohio
Laura Crandall Wheeler
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