

Installation

Zeta Iota Helps Bring NPC to Washington and Lee

When the first women students were admitted to Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. in 1985, plans for a sorority system were already in the works.

Three years later, thanks to the dedication of a group of W & L women and support from the University, the original plans came to fruition, as Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Chi Omega were invited to colonize chapters on campus.

According to Elizabeth Cummins, a charter member of Zeta Iota Chapter and one of W & L's first women students, the process of establishing a sorority system was not an easy one. Cummins says that from the beginning, the University administration was willing to show the same support for women's Greek groups that it had given men's fraternities. Various advisory committees, made up of students and faculty members, sponsored forums and programs to discuss the possibility of a sorority system. According to Cummins, student support was not overwhelming, but it was there. The decision was made not to proceed with colonization plans until at least 100 women expressed interest.

Cummins says plans came to a standstill in the fall of 1988, however. "The administration was willing to support a sorority system, but the thrust had to come from the women themselves," she says.

Grand President Janet Paine Peters speaks at the installation banquet and acknowledges the Zeta Iota charter, signed by the charter members.



Members of the installation team join the newly-initiated charter members of Zeta Iota on the steps of Washington and Lee University.

Cummins and two other women began circulating petitions among the three classes of women at W & L to determine interest in national sororities. "We combined the lists and had 90 signatures!" says Cummins. "In April, 1988, I wrote a letter to one of the deans of students telling him of the signatures. On behalf of the W & L women, I formally requested that the colonization process continue and that a committee be formed to review and select those sororities that would be invited to make campus presentations the following school year."

After a series of seminars during the fall of 1988, a survey revealed that 116 women favored immediate colonization. The three groups were selected in January. Nearly 300 women registered for January rush, and 259 were pledged by the three groups.

Cummins says pledgship was an exciting time for the new colony members. "With elections in February, the officers assumed more responsibility in conducting the weekly meetings and planning activities for the colony," she says. "We were all looking forward to the first weekend in May when we would become a Theta chapter!"

Grand President Janet Peters and the installation team led the initiation and charter services May 5-7, 1989, assisted by the women of Epsilon Omicron/Randolph-Macon. The installation team included

Peters, Grand Vice President Development Sue Blair-Sheets, Music Director Joyce Anne Vitelli, Alumnae District President Anna Lemert, Zeta Iota Advisory Board member Fran Sales, Chapter Consultants Lynda Fairman and LynnAnn Baldwin and Central Office staff members Kelley Galbreath, Sandy Luce and Paige Thompson.

Friday evening's Loyalty Service began the weekend events, followed by a reception, where Zeta Iota President Bitsy Hopper opened gifts to the chapter. Colony members were initiated in Sigma Nu Fraternity's Education and Conference Center on Saturday, with two Theta mothers present to share their daughters' initiation.

Sunday morning opened with the charter service conducted by Peters, followed by a model chapter meeting and installation of officers. Zeta Iota's graduating seniors were welcomed to alumnae status with the senior service on Sunday afternoon.

Cummins, a W & L senior when she pledged, says, "I feel so fortunate that I was able to be a member of Zeta Iota—even if only for a short time. Theta has been a wonderful outlet for me. In addition to getting to know my sisters and planning fun activities and events, I believe that what Theta represents and its ideals are what make it truly unique!"

Zeta Iota Charter Members

Louise Adamson, Richmond, VA
 Jane Allen, Winston-Salem, NC
 Victoria Allen, Atlanta, GA
 Mary Anderson, Houston, TX
 Melissa Anemojanis, Oakton, VA
 Anne Armentrout, Baltimore, MD
 Cary Baber, Roanoke, VA
 Elizabeth Baker, Norfolk, VA
 Caroline Boone, Lufkin, TX
 Kimberly Booth, Atlanta, GA
 Denise Brainard, Charleston, WV
 Rebecca Brandt, Kinnelon, NJ
 Barbara Byington, Annandale, VA
 Patricia Carr, Greensboro, NC
 Caroline Carter, Short Hills, NJ
 Clare Chapoton, Washington, DC
 Martha Christian, Lynchburg, VA
 Sarah Conrad, Old Lyme, CT
 Anne Culley, Geneva, IL
 Elizabeth Cummins, Nashville, TN
 Lindsay deHaven, Sewickley, PA
 Stephanie Demoura, Danville, VA
 Robin Dru, Newport Beach, CA
 Janice Ferman, Tampa, FL
 Stephanie Fitzgerald, Titusville, FL
 Lisa Frantz, Alexandria, VA
 Katherine Graci, Memphis, TN
 Ellen Greene, Phoenix, MD
 Paula Gregg, Fredrick, MD
 Anna Hampton, Dallas, TX
 Ashley Harper, Prairie Village, KS
 Catherine Harris, Chester, VA
 Woody Heath, Kinston, NC
 Laurel Heiskell, Trumbull, CT
 Carolyn Hopper, Midland, TX
 Melissa Jones, Baltimore, MD
 Jane Joyce, Little Rock, AR
 Clare Kaye, Windermere, FL



Eleven of the original colony members take a rest after a busy weekend of initiation, installation of Zeta Iota Chapter and installation banquet.



On behalf of the chapter, Zeta Iota new initiates Sarah Conrad and Clare Kaye present Chapter Consultant Lynda Fairman with flowers and a gift as a token of their thanks and love.

Mary Kelley, Annandale, VA
 Pamela Kelley, Boones Mill, VA
 Kathleen Kelly, Winston-Salem, NC
 Amy Kitchen, Amherst, NH
 Beth Lamb, Milford, NH
 Anne Lamkin, Birmingham, AL
 Kinnan Lane, Edenton, NC
 Julie Lawrence, Roanoke, VA
 Heather Logan, Tampa, FL
 Tara Makoski, Irving, TX
 Melissa Manko, Newton Square, PA
 Elizabeth Miles, Louisville, KY
 Genienne Mongo, Danville, CA
 Cara Mullin, Washington, DC
 Jennifer Nasser, Webster Groves, MO
 Eleanor Nelson, Richmond, VA
 Rachele Nock, Bowie, MD
 Betsy O'Connell, Baltimore, MD
 Susan Reil, Newton, CT
 Lori Richardson, Gaithersburg, MD
 Cristina Robinson, Bartlesville, OK
 Laura Rutherford, McLean, VA
 Chamie Schildt, Anchorage, KY
 Patricia Sciutto, New York, NY
 Stephanie Smith, East Brunswick, NJ
 Suzanne Sneed, Flanders, NJ
 Mary Stanton, Houston, TX
 Katharine Stroh, St. Louis, MO
 Beth Stutzmann, Port Washington, NY
 Tracey Thornblade, Scottsdale, PA
 Jennifer Thorpe, Blacksburg, VA
 Sonja Tillberg, Lawn, PA
 Cathleen Tirnan, Winston-Salem, NC
 Anne Walsh, Alpharetta, GA
 Katherine Walther, Bealeton, VA
 Morgan Warner, Odessa, TX
 Sara Webb, Maitland, FL
 Sharon Widmayer, Nanuet, NY



Zeta Iota new initiates Lori Richardson, left, and Rebecca Brandt, right, along with Chi Omega Gena Hauser, attend the Washington and Lee Panhellenic Reception held May 7, 1989.



Sue Blair-Sheets, GVP Development, addresses the Zeta Iota new initiates, their guests and area alumnae at the installation banquet.