

# Zeta Mu Chapter Installed At MIT

**T**he status of women has certainly changed since 1870 when Bettie Locke persevered for an equal education and her own fraternity for women. We take for granted now the rights and privileges of equality for which Bettie and the women of her time could only hope. However, while we as women, have earned the right to be treated as equals with men, there are still many obstacles to be overcome.

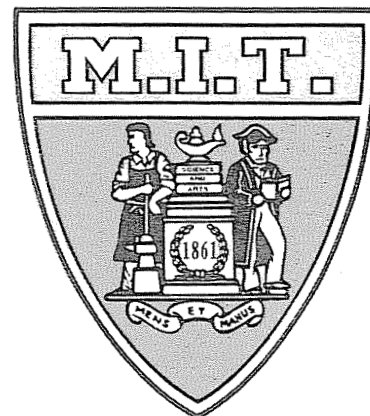
The women at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology know about these challenges, as they fight sexual stereotypes to study non-traditional fields at their non-traditional school. Their spirit and dedication are similar to Bettie Locke's. They are willing to take on challenges and pursue their dreams in spite of adversity. Thus it is appropriate, that on September 21, 120 years later, 56 MIT women formed the Zeta Mu Colony. On this same day, local alumnae shared in the excitement and celebration of a new

beginning. The Boston Metropolitan Alumnae Club was officially installed as a chapter.

Representing four countries and 22 states, the women of Zeta Mu comprise a diverse but unified group. These bright and motivated women are active not only in their studies but also in many other student organizations ranging from ROTC and Student Council to Musical Theater and Varsity Track. They take courses in subjects that boggle the mind: differential equations, aquatic chemistry, and kinematics and dynamics. As you can imagine, their daily schedules are packed with classes and meetings. It is hard to believe that they even had the time to face the challenge of organizing a new chapter.

But just as the founders of Kappa Alpha Theta did not give up when ridiculed nor when expanding the Fraternity became difficult, the Zeta Mu founders met each obstacle head on. Their first priority was

to establish a firm foundation for the future. This included formulating goals and objectives, establishing a sound cabinet of officers, developing the bonds of sisterhood, and, of course, continuing to learn about the Fraternity. Without the benefit of tradition, they used their own creativity to incorporate the ideals of the Fraternity into all aspects of the organization.



## Service

To demonstrate their commitment to service, Zeta Mu devised a 10 hour per semester service requirement. Every woman is encouraged to volunteer in the Cambridge and Boston community as well as in the many service projects on campus. Thetas helped staff a community Haunted House, co-sponsored a canned food drive with Figi fraternity, had award-winning participation in consecutive blood drives, and are planning a campus-wide Carnival for Fall 1991. In addition, Zeta Mu and the Boston Metro Alumnae Chapter pledged to help staff and raise money for the Boston CASA Convention in April. Zeta Mu has also required that four of the 10 service hours each year be donated to CASA in some way.

## Scholarship

MIT Thetas don't need much motivation to study. Some would say that it is harder to get MIT students OUT of the library

Colony Thetas Monica McConnell, Marnie Hausauer, Teresa Woo and Jennifer Healey performed a skit about Theta sisterhood during inspiration week.



Theta's Zeta Mu Chapter became the fifth women's group established at MIT. Fifty-six women were initiated.

than to get them in. However, scholarship programming is still a priority for Zeta Mu. To keep members motivated, study breaks were frequent, programs were pertinent and comprehensive, and consistent recognition was given to high achievers each week. At the Model Chapter Meeting on February 10, many members were recognized for their overall performance as well as individual accomplishments. The composite chapter GPA for the fall 1990 term was a 3.84 - but wait; MIT is on a 5.0 scale. There were 11 members with a GPA of 4.5 or higher, and one woman, Kelly Stengel, was a straight A Theta.

## Sisterhood

Zeta Mu focused much of its efforts on developing sisterhood and friendship. As Bettie Locke had envisioned, the Zeta Mu members greatly appreciate the support network of fellow women at their school. With the percentage of women students hovering at 33, Theta has served particularly well at MIT as an avenue to meet other women and foster female bonds. They strived, in spite of each woman's individuality, to make the colony a cohesive group. They had weekly kite sisters, big sister twin stars, two fantastic retreats, and, of course, fraternity mixers and a wonderful winter semi-formal. To establish bonds with Theta alumnae, they invited alumnae to be big sisters throughout pledgship.

## Installation

All of their hard work and dedication culminated with Inspiration Week, initiation and installation at the Cambridge Marriot February 4-10, 1991. During Inspiration Week, members expressed their thoughts and feelings about Theta. Activities included a sister appreciation night, a skit on Theta topics, a social with local alumnae who shared their Theta stories and a fireside focusing on everyone's perceptions of membership in Theta. Zeta Mu felt honored to be initiated by the installation team: Grand President Janet Peters, Grand Vice-President Development Sue Blair-Sheets, Alumnae District Presidents Suzanne Sarles and Mary Margaret Aprile, College District President Kathy Schweer, College Regional Direc-



tor Linda Pieplow, Chapter Consultants Farrell Binder and Sarah Spillman, and the assisting chapter, Lambda/Vermont. Other visitors during the installation weekend included local alumnae, advisory board members, and Thetas from Brown, Wesleyan, and Guelph university chapters.

The finale of the weekend was the banquet during which friends, family and university dignitaries gathered at the Marriot Hotel to celebrate Zeta Mu's installation. Theresa Fuentes, colony president, summed up how the new chapter viewed itself: "Change is a sign of progress, a sign of growth, and a vehicle for knowledge. We, as women, have had to embrace and sometimes even force change in order to progress to our present state. The women who make up Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity are exactly the breed of woman unafraid of reaching out and creating a path where none existed previously. The colony members of Zeta Mu recognized this fact, saw this same character within themselves, and came together to form, in its 120th year, the 120th colony of Kappa Alpha Theta, founded as a chapter on February 10, 1991...Today begins the history of the Zeta Mu Chapter. But it is we gathered here today, who made history as a colony and who will always and forever be remembered as the founders of Zeta Mu, unafraid of change."

Bettie Locke would have been proud.

**Susanna Carswell Hinds**  
Alumna Initiate  
Zeta Mu/MIT

## Zeta Mu Founders

Heather Andrus, Las Vegas, Nev.  
Elizabeth Booth, Lutherville, Md.  
Martha Bulyk, Cheltenham, Penn.  
Lissette Caro, South Meriden, Conn.  
Melissa Chang, Mission Viejo, Calif.  
Sally Chang, Madison, Wis.  
Cristina Chen, Wilmette, Ill.  
Stephanie Coleman, Red Lodge, Mont.  
Katherine Downes, Plymouth, Mich.  
Lois Eaton, Hampden, Maine  
Vanessa Feliberti, El Paso, Texas  
Theresa Fuentes, Albuquerque, N.M.  
Suzanne Garber, Rochester, N.Y.  
Gwen Gray, Helena, Mont.  
Michelle Greene, Jamaica Estates, N.Y.  
Elaine Gregory, Mt. Airy, Md.  
Marnie Hausauer, Brook Park, Minn.  
Lisa Havran, Peckville, Md.  
Jennifer Healey, West Roxbury, Mass.  
Susanna Hinds, Cambridge, Mass.  
Joanne Kang, Chatsworth, Calif.  
Jeanette Kao, Houston, Texas  
Linda Kao, Columbia, Md.  
Barbara Kennedy, Garden City, N.Y.  
Maria Killos, Alexandria, Va.  
Jean Kim, Yorba Linda, Calif.  
Denise Kung, Syosset, N.Y.  
Josephine Lai, Monmouth Junction, N.J.  
Wing-Mui Lam, Bayside, N.Y.  
Melanie Lazaro, Jacksonville, Fla.  
Judith Leckman, Lawton, Okla.  
Yvonne Lin, Yorba Linda, Calif.  
Monica McConnell, West Milton, Ohio  
Kaliza Khalid, Johor, Malasia  
Shannon Mohr, Midland, Texas  
Catherine Morrison, East Wareham, Mass.  
Elba Nazario, Perry Point, Md.  
Joy Oester, Schaumburg, Ill.  
Katherine Oldham, Orinda, Calif.  
Jee Park, Deerfield, Ill.  
Kathryn Peck, Wilbraham, Mass.  
Nancy Riley, Woburn, Mass.  
Gabrielle Rocab, San Angelo, Texas  
Melanie Rodriguez, Somerville, Mass.  
Laura Rubenstein, Williamsville, N.Y.  
Kelly Stengel, Thomaston, Conn.  
Kaoru Takase, Tochigi, Japan  
Mary Linton Thompson, Carmel, Ind.  
Rosemary Tietge, Wausau, Wis.  
Lisa Vincenty, Canonsburg, Penn.  
Amy Weaver, Clearwater, Fla.  
Alice Wei, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Teresa Woo, Hong Kong, China  
Jodi Wrublewski, Scotia, N.Y.  
Lynette Yee, Phoenix, Ariz.  
Michele Zavada, West Milford, N.J.