

# NEW THETA

from East



Newly pledged Zeta Pi collegians Angela Ward, April Ferguson, Amy Howes, Maya Helz, Renee Oh, and Katherine Howe look forward to sharing Theta sisterhood at Furman.

to West



Zeta Rho members take time out for food and fun on the UCSD campus.



# CHAPTERS

On February 12, 1994 two new college chapters of Kappa Alpha Theta were installed in locations and weather conditions that could hardly have been more opposite.

In Greenville, S.C., 63 Furman University collegians were initiated as members of Theta's Zeta Pi Chapter during an ice storm. That same day, under a brilliant sunny San Diego sky, 58 young women from the University of California at San Diego became members of Zeta Rho Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Despite the difference in circumstances, both groups shared the pride and excitement of becoming charter members of two new chapters of Kappa Alpha Theta.

## Furman collegians Form Zeta Pi Chapter

Kappa Alpha Theta became the first National Panhellenic Conference group to install on the Furman University campus in Greenville, S.C. on February 12, 1994. With that installation, 63 young women—including 48 members of the local group Alpha Kappa Theta—were initiated as new members of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Furman's local women's groups had considered the idea of seeking NPC affiliation since the Spring of 1992 when Furman University opened its doors to an international Greek system. In 1993 the Inter-Club Council, representing the seven local women's clubs, decided to move forward and seek Panhellenic association.

Furman junior Jennifer Harris, who was a part of the decision making process, says, "I felt the Panhellenic system would expand and strengthen the system that already existed on the Furman campus. Greater resources, alumnae support, reputation and the idea of a broad-reaching sisterhood were ideas that appealed to us."

All clubs endured a marathon of NPC presentations the weekend of January 8-9, 1994. Following group discussions, each individual member ranked her choices of NPC organizations and each club's votes were compiled. A bid matching process was used to pair local groups with NPC groups, and all seven local chapters



were affiliated. The results were announced on January 9, and Theta's presentation team gave the prospective chapter members T-shirts to commemorate the day.

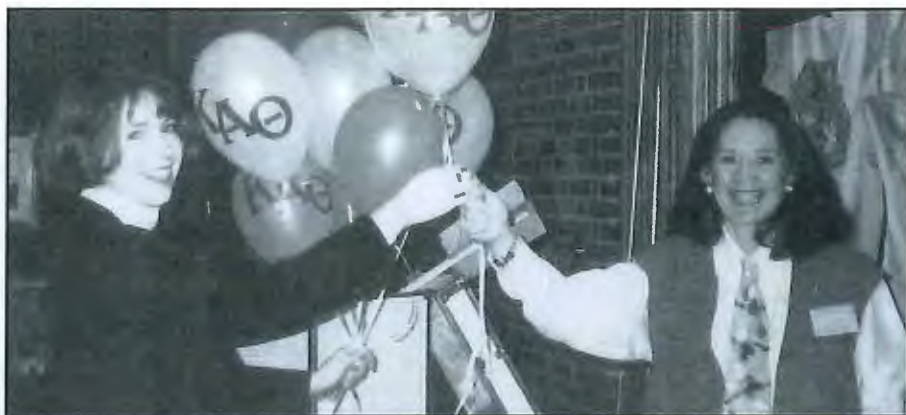
When asked why she chose Kappa Alpha Theta, President Wendy Hemingway replies, "The genuineness of the presentation struck us. It showed through every aspect of the presentation. Theta was interested in us as a group and the way we were before we became (Thetas)."

Others were struck by the Fraternity's philanthropic focus and the Friendship Fund, says senior Kelli Stewart. "That really drove home the sisterhood for life idea for me. It's always there providing a support group for women who need it. I'm looking forward to having

that connection and support beyond my time at Furman."

Forty-eight members of the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Theta pledged themselves to become members of Kappa Alpha Theta during formal pledging on January 10. A cake reception was held immediately following and more gifts of cups, notebooks, and other Theta items were presented. The chapter members' enthusiasm was contagious. They were excited to begin the process of learning about Kappa Alpha Theta and to develop new traditions for their group.

The next four weeks were hectic. Prior to the installation of NPC groups on the campus, the rush process had left a large disparity in the number of members among the



Chapter Consultant Sarah Scharber and Former Council member Sue Blair prepare for presentations at Furman. A team of Fraternity officers and staff organized a question answer period, a video presentation and a service project to benefit a local CASA program.

groups. As a smaller group, Theta was given the opportunity to expand its membership without a formal rush process. Quick expansion was a new concept for this group. Since its founding in 1981, the women had always prided themselves on being a close-knit organization, whose motto was "All Committed Together," with the purpose of service to the community. Member Wendy Hemingway admits she was concerned about how the group would hold together, but says she is proud of the increase in the chapter's size. "To say that in the spring of 1993 we were half the size that we are now is just incredible."

Prior to installation, the chapter pledged an additional fifteen members, bringing their total number to 63. One of the newest members, pledged in January, freshman Melody Silvers says, "People were really friendly and willing to get to know me. They welcomed me readily into their group and I got a good feeling from them."

Sophomore Donna-Leigh Eichor, another of the newest members, says, "Theta, locally, is such a diverse group that I felt it wouldn't limit me, but instead would give me a chance to do more. Its values appealed to me. They are based on things that I already believe in."

The Fraternity's member orientation program gave the new members an introduction to Kappa Alpha Theta. Many particularly enjoyed the history portion of the program. Vice-President Development Jennifer Harris was impressed with the values of Theta's founders and how they apply to women today. Most of the women didn't know what to expect, but were pleased with the program. Sopho-

more Becki Davis says, "I was very excited...I've been having fun since it started. It's neat to say that you are a part of the first (Greek-letter) fraternity for women."

Theta's Zeta Eta Chapter at Wofford assisted with an inspiration week activity and led the group in favorite songs. Many members of the Wofford chapter also shared what Theta means to them and what they hoped the new chapter would find through their association with Kappa Alpha Theta.

Installation weekend was scheduled for February 11-13, 1994, and rough winter weather was forecasted for that weekend. An ice storm hit the Greenville, S.C. area, causing power outages at Furman. President Carryl Krohne was to arrive in Greenville on February 11, but snow in New Hampshire made her travel at that time impossible. Installation team members faced delays and other travel dilemmas.

Despite the inconveniences, the Loyalty Service was held Friday night as planned, followed by songs and gifts to the chapter. On Saturday, former Grand President Lissa Bradford filled in for Carryl Krohne at the initiation ceremony. Zeta Eta at Wofford and Delta Phi at Clemson were assisting chapters.

Sunday the new Zeta Pi Chapter was honored at a banquet, held at the Commerce Club in downtown Greenville. Parents and university officials were in attendance, as well as the Zeta Pi members and local alumnae. President Carryl Krohne, who arrived in Greenville late Saturday night, spoke at the banquet. The Charter Service was held and each Zeta Pi member added her name to the charter.

The weekend was a big success and

one that the Zeta Pi members aren't soon to forget. Jennifer Harris sums up the feelings of her fellow chapter members: "I think Theta has strengthened the things that already made our local (organization) so special and so different. The group that we will become with Theta now...will stand out and draw special people who will each enjoy an important place in our group."

by Sarah Scharber  
Chapter Consultant

### Zeta Pi Installation Team

President Carryl Krohne  
NPC Delegate  
Lissa Bradford  
Former Council Member  
Sue Blair  
Executive Director  
Marcia Bond  
College District President  
Floy Daugherty  
Alumnae District President  
Corinne Bergmann  
Director of Development  
Nancy Frick  
Director of Chapter Services  
Betsy Sierk  
Chapter Consultant  
Sarah Scharber  
Assisting Chapter Consultant  
Julie Ruffolo  
Installation Chairman  
Marilyn Schmid

