

*Has the Fraternity ever initiated alumnae as the other NPC groups do today?* Yes, in 1897 Kappa began initiating alumnae only in specific situations. That was when the second chapter at the University of California, Berkeley, was installed and alumna members of the local that became Pi Deuteron were initiated. This practice continues today when a local chapter becomes a Kappa chapter. The most recent alumna initiations took place in 2007 when the chapter at Loyola University Chicago was installed.

The 1930 *History of Kappa Kappa Gamma* says that the first Pi Chapter, *UC Berkeley*, was established by a Grand Charter from Epsilon, *Illinois Wesleyan*, May 22, 1880; in the spring of 1885, it came to an end. As the wave of fraternity prejudice gradually died out in the college world, conditions at California became more favorable for women's organizations. Theta established a chapter in 1890 and, at the same time, a group of women applied for a Kappa charter. When the second group was approved and recommended by both the Stanford chapter and by the members of the original Pi living in the San Francisco Bay region, the women persisted in their purpose.

Since the Kappa charter was slow in coming, they formed a local society called Sorosis, organized under the patronage of San Francisco Sorosis in 1894. For three years, until the Kappa charter was granted, Sorosis continued to grow, prosper and make a prominent place for itself in scholarship, college activities and social affairs. Twelve years after the California chapter closed, a second Pi—Pi Deuteron—was installed on the Berkeley campus. Nine alumna members of Sorosis were charter members when the second Pi was installed on August 5, 1897.

Since 1897, nearly 1,000 Kappas have been alumna initiates. Some of the women were initiated at the time their chapter was installed or later by proxy at another chapter. According to Article X, Section 2., C., 3., in the *Bylaws of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity 2008*, "At the discretion of the Fraternity Council, alumna members or sponsors of the petitioning organization may be initiated, provided such alumnae or sponsors have completed one year in the college or university, completed a period of Fraternity education, and have met their financial obligations." Section 2., C., 4., states: "Alumnae, who did not attend the chapter installation or first Initiation, may be initiated within a period of time established by the Fraternity Council for such initiations. Alumna members of a group that becomes a chapter of the Fraternity may be initiated by some other chapter specified by the Fraternity Council. Such alumnae, initiated by proxy, shall become members of the original chapter."

A local group may form to petition Kappa for a charter and establish a Kappa chapter on its campus. Or, it might have been a long-standing local group on a campus that had not been open to national women's fraternities. Seventy-five of our 166 active and inactive chapters were established by petitioning the Fraternity for a charter; the other 91 were established through Recruitment.

On September 24, 1977, the Athenian Club, founded at Baylor University in 1935, was installed as Epsilon Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma. A total of eight initiations were conducted that weekend by Fraternity President Jean Hess Wells, *Georgia*, and nearly 400 Athenians became Kappas, 226 of whom were alumnae.

*The Key*, December 1929, Pages 468 to 486, contains an article about Honorary Members, another category of alumna initiates, which existed between 1874 and 1884. Ten chapters initiated 28 such members. These initiates included university presidents' wives, deans of women, prominent women in the chapter's town and women well known nationally. Lucy Webb Hayes, *Ohio Wesleyan*, wife of U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes, and Julia Ward Howe, *Boston*, advocate for the abolition of slavery, woman's suffrage, prison reform and peace, as well as poet and author, were among this group. Julia Howe was 65 years old when she was initiated and enjoyed her Fraternity membership. She sent a letter of greeting to the 1896 Convention, and wrote a poem for the one in 1890. At the first Panhellenic meeting in Boston in 1891, she welcomed the representatives from the other six fraternities.

In a 1930 California newspaper interview, Belle Stewart Hammack, Founder Minnie Stewart's older sister, said she translated the choice of the motto into Greek for the Founders. However, since Belle had graduated before the founding of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she did not become a member. Gamma Xi Chapter, *UCLA*, lobbied for her to be initiated. This special exception was accorded to her by the Grand Council in honor of Founder Minnie Stewart. And so it was on October 25, 1930, that Isabella Stewart Hammack was initiated at the age of 80, almost 60 years after her sister walked into the chapel at Monmouth College.

Through the years, alumna initiates have been active members serving on Fraternity committees, in leadership positions in their alumnae associations and as province directors.