

Alumnae Initiation Opens Doors for New Members



Davis Lowrey Gardner, Epsilon-University of Kentucky; Kelly Smith Foshee, Theta Beta-Auburn University at Montgomery; Diane Humphrey Gordon, Epsilon; Winifred Berckman Humphrey, Epsilon and Tammy Hudson Pruitt, Theta Beta smile after Diane's alumnae initiation into Epsilon-University of Kentucky on November 7, 2004. A surprise was orchestrated for Diane's mother, Winifred, by fellow Alpha Gam sisters who managed to keep Diane's alumnae initiation a secret until the day of her initiation. Wini was thoroughly surprised and excited!

The recruitment of talented, quality women is one of the most important steps in ensuring a viable future for the Fraternity.

Oftentimes, recruitment is associated solely with our collegiate chapters. However, another important opportunity to welcome outstanding women into the Fraternity exists—alumnae initiation.

Contrary to popular belief, a woman need not be a collegian to be initiated into the Fraternity. Alumnae initiation allows any worthy woman—regardless of age, education or background—to become an Alpha Gamma Delta.

Alumnae initiates come from all walks of life. They may be mothers or relatives of current members, former new members who were never initiated or devoted volunteers who would make excellent advisors to a collegiate chapter. Some may have attended a university without an Alpha Gamma Delta chapter and others may have simply realized the countless benefits of being an Alpha Gam later in life.

Alumnae women invited to membership are not “honorary” members. These women become full alumnae members of the Fraternity with the same rights, responsibilities and privileges granted to all members. Alpha Gam alumnae initiates have gone on to accomplish great things within the Fraternity—they have become dedicated volunteers, honored Distinguished Citizens and esteemed members of International Council.

Membership in the Fraternity is always an honor, not to be conferred without careful consideration of its requirements and responsibilities, as well as its privileges. An alumna initiate must be willing to acquire knowledge of the Fraternity and its procedures, she must be willing to give time to the Fraternity to make her membership meaningful and she must have demonstrated her interest in collegiate women and given service in community affairs.

Collegiate or alumnae members who know of a woman who they think would be an ideal candidate for alumnae initiation can contact an alumnae chapter or club or a collegiate chapter for more information on the alumnae initiation process. Additional information can also be found in the Alpha Gamma Delta *Membership Handbook*. ■

Did You Know?

- A college education is not required of an alumna initiate. Alumnae initiates must be outstanding women who are ready to actively contribute to the Fraternity—a degree is not a necessity.
- While a select few women are initiated as alumnae at each Convention, alumnae initiations can take place at any collegiate chapter at any other time throughout the year. Alumnae initiates may take part in Firesides, Feast of Roses and other activities planned prior to and following collegiate initiations throughout the year.
- The Fraternity does not initiate alumnae simply to serve as advisors for chapters. While alumnae initiation does help collegiate chapters that are in need of advisors, women are chosen for initiation because they possess and understand Alpha Gamma Delta's values and standards, not because of a vacant position.
- Alumnae initiates have all of the rights and responsibilities of other members. There are no “honorary” members in Alpha Gamma Delta!
- No woman who has been initiated into a National Panhellenic Conference or National Pan-Hellenic Council Fraternity may be initiated into Alpha Gamma Delta. However, members of local sororities are eligible for alumnae initiation.