

Fraternity & Sorority History

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The Beginning of American 'Fraternity'



College of William & Mary

College/universities prohibited students to discuss any thing other than prescribed work focused around the 'classics'

Organizations were formed to create an avenue for discussion, thought, and social activities

- Academic Class Societies
- Secret Literary Societies

The College of William & Mary

- The Flat Hat Club Society (1750)
- The P.D.A. Society (1751)
- Phi Beta Kappa Society

Meetings were held in secret

They had their own secret colors, symbols, and mottos and elected officers

The Flat Hat Club (1750)

- F.H.C. Society – Latin - "Fraternitas, Humanitas, et Cognitio"
- Incorporated social activities as a part of its intended purpose
- Membership included Thomas Jefferson
- No record of the Flat Hat Club's existence since 1772

The P.D.A. Society (1751)

- "Please Don't Ask"
- Members had little regard for scholarship, and preferred social aspects
- Refused to admit anyone who considered himself a "Greek" scholar



Phi Beta Kappa Society (1776) – first Greek-letter Society

- Had all characteristics of the present-day fraternity (secrecy, a ritual, oath, grip, motto, badge, high idealism, nation-wide expansion)
- Founded at the College of William & Mary and spread in the Northeast - CT, MA, NH

Era I of Modern American Fraternities (1825-1859)

The College Environment

- Almost exclusively for white Anglo-Saxon wealthy protestant upper-class males studying for the ministry, medicine, and the legal professions
- Beginning fraternities were founded by undergraduates without any assistance from adults
- Most of these fraternities were founded as a protest against domination of student activities. As one group formed, others sprang up to compete

- Groups developed because students wanted some control over their lives and wanted to create an organization that would **complement** and **enhance** what they learned in the classroom, often allowing free discussion of "controversial material .
- **Highly secretive.** Faculty were threatened by these groups and would enforce retribution, including expulsion.
- All of these groups were sectarian – narrowly focused/selective /elite– not inclusive

College life included highly structured days, meager physical environments, and inflexible social rules and regulations.

Curriculum was prescribed and focused largely around the "Classics" and Egyptian Classics history

Consider what is on your own fraternity/sorority items - crests, shields, badges, etc.

The Union Triad – Union College, NY 'Mother of Fraternities'

Kappa Alpha Society (1825)

Sigma Phi Society (1827)

- First of the social college fraternities to establish a branch chapter at Hamilton College (NY)
- Oldest social fraternity in continued existence

Delta Phi Fraternity (1827)

- First secret organization to use the name of fraternity instead of society.

Three more organizations founded here 1833-1847: Psi Upsilon, Chi Psi, and Theta Delta Chi Fraternities

The Miami Triad – Miami University, OH 'Mother of Fraternities'

Beta Theta Pi (1839)

Phi Delta Theta (1848)

Sigma Chi (1855)

Other Greek organizations founded at Miami:

Delta Zeta Sorority (1902)

Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity (1906)

Delta Sigma Epsilon Sorority (1914) – merged with DZ nationally in 1956

Fraternities founded after 1831

Alpha Delta Phi (1832) – Hamilton College, NY

- First college social fraternity to establish a chapter outside of New England, at Miami University, Oxford, OH in 1833

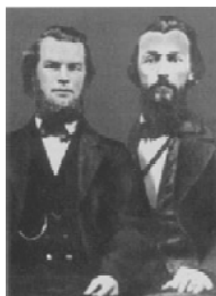
The Social Fraternity of William's College (1834) - MA

- Formed as an anti-secret organization
- Has no secret grip, ritual or oath.
- Now non-secret (as opposed to anti-secret) and is known today as Delta Upsilon



The Mystical 7 (1837) – Wesleyan University, CT

- First fraternity to admit women (1840s)
- Emory University, GA (1841) – 1st chapter in the South



Phi Kappa Psi (1852) – Jefferson College, PA

- 2 founders tending to sick of the town (typhoid) came to understand “the great joy of serving others”
- Intention was to found an order that would grow to include men of honor and good will at colleges throughout America



Theta Chi (1856) - Norwich University, VT

- A Chi Psi helped select the secret motto and the design of the badge
- Strong influence of a religious denomination – the initiation is influenced by the Episcopal worship service

Era II of Modern Fraternities (1860-1899)

The Changing College Environment

- Creation of land-grant colleges by the Morrill Act of 1862 diversified the curriculum, adding agriculture, engineering, and the sciences to the traditional classics, theology and liberal arts
- Faculty began to welcome student self-government
- Enrollment grew rapidly and institutions could not house and feed everyone

- The **Civil War** had closed many southern chapters and organizations were reluctant to return to the south. A few fraternities were formed specifically to expand in the south and capitalize on the absence of chapters that were once powerful.
- The population of the US began to diversify even faster and this eventually was reflected in the college population.
- Diversify population = Diverse campus growth = The creation of...Drexel Institute of Technology in 1891

The Lexington Triad – Virginia

The Reconstruction Period of Southern Fraternity

Alpha Tau Omega (1865) – Virginia Military Institute

- 1st fraternity founded after the Civil War
- First founded as a national organization

Kappa Alpha Order (1865) - Washington & Lee University

Sigma Nu (1869) – Virginia Military Institute

Also part of the 'Virginia Circle':

Kappa Sigma (1919) – University of Virginia

Pi Kappa Alpha (1868) – University of Virginia

Sigma Phi Epsilon (1901) – Richmond College

Fraternities of Era II



Pi Kappa Alpha (1868) – University of Virginia, VA

- For the first 42 years all chapters were established in the south
- Wanted to perpetuate friendships after the war

Alpha Chi Rho (1895) – Trinity College, CT

- 4 students and an Episcopal clergyman who was a member of Psi Upsilon founded this group



Tau Kappa Epsilon (1899) – Illinois Wesleyan, IL

- Founded as the Knights of Classic Lore – an organization which should 'aid development of character and ability of its members'
- At one point had over 300 chapters – the most in fraternity & sorority history

Delta Sigma Phi (1899) – City College of New York, NY

- Were founded because they as a group of Jewish and Christian men could not join the same fraternity
- First chapter was referred to as *Insula* because of its location in Manhattan
- In 1909, 8 Jewish men tried to join the fraternity at Columbia but were denied and founded national group Phi Sigma Delta; in 1914 amended constitution to only allow Christians (amended again in 1949 to allow all religions and races)

Era III of Modern Fraternities (1900-Present)

The New College Environment



- Population of campuses was becoming more racially, culturally, and religiously diverse
- Many campuses began allowing women to attend in the first years of the century
(Note: Drexel was founded in 1891 as co-ed!)

Fraternities of Era III

Sigma Phi Epsilon (1901) – Richmond College, VA

- 12 founders were studying for the ministry
- After an unsuccessful attempt to get a Chi Phi charter, the group decided to form a new national

Pi Kappa Phi (1904) – College of Charleston, SC

- Founded by 3 friends at the College of Charleston

Religiously-focused Fraternities

- **Sigma Alpha Mu (1909)** - College of the City of New York, NY
 - Founded by 8 sophomores
 - First wanted to call them Kappa Phi Omega
- **Alpha Epsilon Pi (1913)** - New York University, NY
 - 11 founders were all Jewish and attended night classes
- Others: **Zeta Beta Tau, Tau Epsilon Phi**
- Sororities: **Alpha Epsilon Phi, Delta Pi, Sigma Delta Tau, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi**

North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)

- Founded in 1909
- Represents 74 inter/national fraternities (including some NPHC and multicultural fraternities) as of January 2011



Women's Fraternities



AΣA Drexel (approx. 1925)

“Sorority”

- From the Latin word soror, meaning sister
- Coined by a Latin professor, who believed using the term “Fraternity” was not wise
- Many women's groups still go by the title of ‘women's fraternity’ because that is how they were incorporated

The 3 Firsts

- Alpha Delta Pi (1851)** – Wesleyan Female College, GA
 - First female secret society, a book club
 - Founded as the Adelphean Society – adopted Greek letters in 1905
- Pi Beta Phi (1867)** – Monmouth College, IL
 - Founded as I.C. Sororsis, adopted Greek letters ΠΒΦ in 1888
- Kappa Alpha Theta (1870)** – Indiana Asbury/DePauw, IN
 - First Greek letter women’s organization

Sorority Growth

- Phi Mu (1852)** - Wesleyan Female College, GA
 - Nationally founded as the Philomathean Society
 - 2nd oldest to ADP (1851) at Wesleyan College
- Delta Zeta (1902)** - Miami University, OH
 - Assisted by Dr. Guy Potter Benton, ΦΔΘ
 - Merged with a number of national sororities over the years

The Syracuse Triad – New York



- Alpha Phi (1872)
- Gamma Phi Beta (1874)
- Alpha Gamma Delta (1904)

Farmville Four – State Female Normal School (now Longwood University), VA

- Sigma Sigma Sigma (1898)**
 - Began as secret society, S.S.S. Club; in 1915 absorbed regional organization Sigma Delta Chi
 - Kappa Delta (1898)**
 - Founded by roommate of Tri-Sigma founder
 - Zeta Tau Alpha (1898)**
 - Third largest NPC organization
 - Alpha Sigma Alpha (1901)**
 - Had only 1 chapter left by 1913; turned to ΔΔΔ founder Ida Shaw Martin who suggested they install ΠΑΤ chapter at Miami OH; she served as national pres. of ΑΣΑ until 1930
- *At Longwood there is a 4-faced clock on campus dedicated to these groups



- Phi Sigma Sigma (1913)** - Hunter College, NY
 - First non-sectarian sorority (open to all religions)
- Delta Phi Epsilon – (1917)** – New York University, NY
 - Law School
 - Non-sectarian ritual as well

National Panhellenic Conference

- Founded in 1902
- Oversees 26 National Sororities
- No new groups added since 1951



National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Organizations



NPHC Fraternities



Alpha Phi Alpha (1906)

- Founded for black men not being admitted to existing college fraternities because of their race
- Founded at Cornell University, NY

Kappa Alpha Psi (1911)

- Founded at Indiana University as Kappa Alpha Nu; HQ located in Philadelphia

Omega Psi Phi (1911)

- Howard University, Washington D.C.
- First fraternity founded at an HBCU

Phi Beta Sigma (1914)

- A predominantly African-American fraternity founded by 3 black undergraduates at Howard University
- Now, nationally the most diverse of the NPHC groups

Iota Phi Theta (1963)

- Founded at Morgan State University, Baltimore, in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement
- More radical than other NPHC groups – inspired by Malcolm X and Black Panthers

NPHC Sororities



Alpha Kappa Alpha (1908) -Howard University, DC

- First African-American sorority

Delta Sigma Theta (1913) - Howard University, DC

- Founded by 22 former members of AKA

Zeta Phi Beta (1920) - Howard University, DC

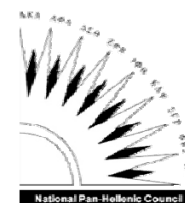
- Sister organization to Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
- 1923 – first black sorority in Texas

Sigma Gamma Rho (1922) - Butler University, IN

- Only NPHC sorority founded at predominantly white campus

Governing Council (NPHC)

- Founded in 1930
- Known as the 'Divine Nine'
- Originally just 8 groups, Iota Phi Theta was not admitted until 1997
- Graduate initiation/graduate chapters



Culturally-based Greeks



Early Cultural Greeks

- Founded in 1900s to 1970s
- Created to support small minority population on campuses
- Cultural minorities were unable to join 'traditional groups'

Early Cultural Greeks

Examples:

- Rho Psi (1916, Cornell)– 1st Asian fraternity – said to be inspired by founding of Alpha Phi Alpha – now a professional society
- Chi Alpha Delta Sorority (1929, UCLA) – Asian-American
- Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity (1931, RPI) – oldest active Latino fraternity
- Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority (1975, Kean, NJ) - Latina

Later Cultural Greeks

- Founded in late 1970s to present
- Created to celebrate various cultures
- Cultural minorities were becoming larger in numbers at universities across the country
- Asian F/S founded mostly in New York and Texas

Later Cultural Greeks

Examples:

- Chi Upsilon Sigma (1980, Rutgers)
- Lambda Upsilon Lambda (1982, Cornell)
- Iota Nu Delta Fraternity (1994, Binghamton U) – 1st South-Asian fraternity
- Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority (1994, U of Albany) – 1st Asian interest sorority founded on the East coast
- Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity (1996, Penn) – multicultural
- Delta Phi Omega Sorority (1998, U of Houston) – South-Asian
- Delta Epsilon Psi Fraternity (1998, UT Austin) – South-Asian
- Kappa Phi Gamma Sorority (1998, UT Austin) – South-Asian

Later Cultural Greeks




Now national groups to celebrate all cultures:

- Latino/Hispanic (Lambda Theta Phi)
- Native American (Alpha Pi Omega)
- Christian (Alpha Delta Chi)
- Muslim (Gamma Gamma Chi)
- Multicultural (Mu Sigma Upsilon)
- LGBT (Delta Lambda Phi)

Later Cultural Greeks

Umbrella Organizations

- *NAPA – 2004 – 9 organizations
- *NALFO – 1998 – 20 organizations
- *NMGC – 1998 – 10 organizations

The Dark Years


(1970/80's to mid 1990's)





Characterized by...

- Kegs
- Hazing
- Chapter Closing
- Little Support
- Policy creation & implementation
- Few values-based discussions



The Call for Values Congruence

In 2001, university presidents, leaders of higher education organizations and inter/national Greek organizations joined to develop a presidential initiative to transform the collegiate Greek environment


It outlines a specific set of strategies that campuses with negative Greek behavioral issues should use to close the gap between what fraternities/sororities espouse and what their chapters do and hold them accountable and includes specific standards for Greek communities

The Call for Values Congruence

1. **Reaffirm focus on academics as first priority**
 - Five-day academic week
 - Campus-based advisors
 - Academic Requirements
 - Recognize contributions of groups to the campus
2. **Communicate expectations of groups clearly**
 - Improve communication
 - Enforce alcohol policies
 - Chapter and university engage in conversations
3. **Encourage and develop alcohol policies and education**
4. **Utilize 'certification' process to hold chapters accountable to set community-wide standards**
5. **Promote healthy lifestyles**
6. **Adopt clear recognition policy including expectations & policies**

Drexel Greek History

(1900-present)



Panhellenic Council (1929)

Drexel Fraternities (IFC)

1900 – Lambda Upsilon Delta (C-1908) – First Fraternity

1905 – Tau Rho Delta (C-1915)
 1909 – Alpha Phi (C-1911)
 1919 – Kappa Sigma Delta >1933> **Pi Kappa Phi** (rc 2008)
 1919 – Phi Kappa Beta >1939> **Tau Kappa Epsilon**
 1921 – Kappa Phi Delta >1947> **Sigma Alpha Mu** (rc 2009)
 1924 – Alpha Upsilon Mu >1941> **Lambda Chi Alpha** (rc 2009)
 1927 – Delta Sigma Alpha >1940> **Theta Chi**
 1935 – **Alpha Pi Lambda** (rc 2006)
 1948 – Phi Tau Delta >1950> Sigma Pi (C)
 1949 – Delta Kappa Rho >1965> Phi Sigma Kappa (C)

1953 – Phi Omega >1956> **Delta Sigma Phi** (C-2008; rc 2011)
 1954 – Alpha Beta Delta >1955> Tau Epsilon Phi (C)
 1962 – Delta Iota >1965> Pi Lambda Phi (C)
 1963 – Beta Nu (C-1968)
 1966 – Sigma Alpha Theta >1971> Sigma Alpha Epsilon (rc 2007; C-2010)
 1983 – Phi Kappa Sigma (C)
 1992 – **Alpha Chi Rho**
 (rc 1997)
 1995 – **Alpha Epsilon Pi**
 1999 – **Sigma Phi Epsilon**
 2001 – **Phi Kappa Psi**
 2001 – **Pi Kappa Alpha**



AXA (1974)

Drexel Sororities (PHC)

1921 - Phi Delta Mu >> **Sigma Sigma Sigma** (C - 1974; rc 2011)
 1922 – Omega Delta Epsilon >> **Alpha Sigma Alpha**
 1924 – Kappa Delta Gamma >> Delta Sigma Epsilon >> **Delta Zeta**
 1934 – Pi Sigma Gamma (C)
 1941 – Sigma Omicron Pi (C)
 1947 – **Delta Phi Epsilon** (rc 2003)
 1954 – **Phi Mu**
 1959 – Omega Phi >> **Phi Sigma Sigma**



AZ (1960's)



ΦM (1960's)

Drexel Multicultural Greeks (MGC)

1920 – Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (C-2007; rc fall 2011)*
 1945 - **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority** (rc 2008)*
 1952 – **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity***
 1966 – **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** (rc 2008)*
 1988 – Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity(C)*
 1996 – Iota Phi Theta Fraternity (C)
 1997 – **Chi Upsilon Sigma Sorority**
 1997 – **Iota Nu Delta Fraternity** (rc 2008)
 1998 – Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity (C)
 2000 – **Delta Phi Omega Sorority***
 2002 – **Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority**
 2002 – **Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity** (rc 2008)
 2004 – Sigma Lambda Upsilon Sorority (C)
 2005 – Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (C-2008)
 2010 – **Delta Epsilon Psi Fraternity**
 2011 – **Kappa Phi Gamma Sorority**