

ALPHA SIGMA DELTA, established on 21 January 1989, at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, by Steven Dale Ritchie, Michael Todd Loose, Kevin Paul Lenox, Donald Jeffrey Ray, William Frederick Walker. Gamma, Wilbur Stauch Hattendorf Jr., AΔ'69, Σ'82, H'83; Zeta, Donald Eugene Beeson, Σ'82, ΥΔ'86, and Michael Kosusko, Ξ'77.

THE GREEK SYSTEM at Duke University has enjoyed a long and established history. Fraternities and sororities have been a part of Duke campus life since the late nineteenth century and have remained a popular way of life up to the present. Currently about forty-five percent of the men and forty percent of the women choose to affiliate themselves with one of the twenty-one fraternities or thirteen sororities officially recognized by the University. Even for those who remain independent, Duke Greeks are usually a prime focus of social life on campus.

Yet the popularity of the Greek way at Duke is not without its flaws. Some freshmen initially interested in rushing become disillusioned and alienated by the overwhelming process and decline to pursue Greek affiliation. In the fall of 1986, however, six Duke freshmen decided to take issue with the problems of the Greek system as they perceived them and to create their own Brotherhood. These men would be the Founders of Sigma Delta of Chi Psi.

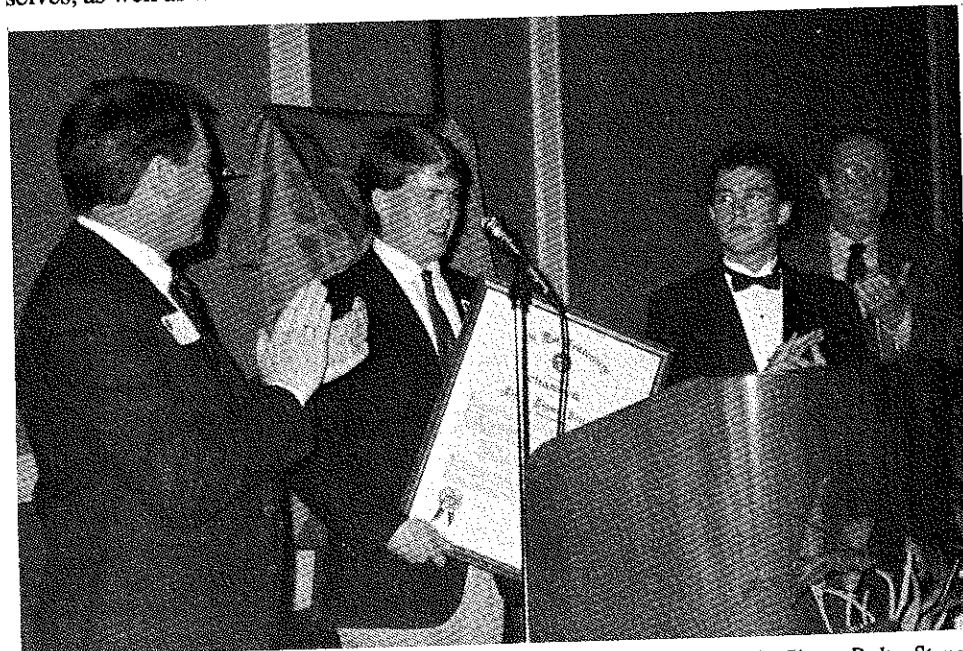
Much credit must be given to Steven Dale Ritchie '90, who was the driving force behind the organization of the founders and the search for an interested national fraternity. Yet largely unbeknownst to even him, Chi Psi had been periodically inquiring as to the chances of an extension to the Duke campus throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. In fact, just before Ritchie had contacted the Chi Psi Central Office in January 1987 requesting information about an extension, Joe Hughes, B'84, at the Office had been trying to arrange a meeting between local alumni and Duke's Dean of Student Life about the very same issue! The time seemed perfect to pursue colonization at Duke.

The six men who were to become the founders—Ritchie, Michael Todd Loose '90, Kevin Paul Lenox '90, Donald Jeffrey Ray '90, William Frederick Walker '90, and Andrew Kenneth Jones '90—were a varied

group who knew each other chiefly through dormitory living and Navy ROTC. Nonetheless, with the aid of the local alumni these few freshmen bravely undertook the formidable task of founding an Alpha of Chi Psi. Donald E. Beeson, Sigma '82, helped especially in the preparations for petitioning for colony status, which was granted in the spring of 1987 by the Executive Council, meeting then at Wake Forest University. The six founders then underwent pledging ceremonies at Alpha Sigma in Chapel Hill under the guidance of Michael Kosusko, Ξ'77, another local alumnus who had been helpful in the colony's formation. Shortly thereafter, the Sigma Delta colony was represented for the first time at the Region II conference at Rutgers University. Yet apart from the technical aspect of becoming an Alpha, the founders spent the semester becoming a Brotherhood as well. Interaction with themselves, as well as with Brothers from Alpha

Sigma and Upsilon Delta who were gracious hosts to the six, occupied the spring. At a barbecue for alumni and others interested in the fraternity held in the Sarah P. Duke Gardens at the University, the first officers were elected: Ritchie as #1, Jones as #2, Loose as #3, and Ray as #4.

The 146th Convention in Atlanta, at which Ritchie represented Sigma Delta, approved the Executive Council's decision to colonize at Duke, so plans to establish Chi Psi in Duke life proceeded at an energetic pace when school resumed. Four rushes were held that year, three under the guidance of Walker and the fourth under Robert Helvey Owens '90, which resulted in winning twenty-one more quality men into the new colony. Because Chi Psi was not officially recognized by the University nor, therefore, by the Duke Interfraternity Council, the colony pursued its own brand of rush, designed to curb the faults the founders had seen in the



Several members of the Chi Psi Executive Council applaud the first #1 of Alpha Sigma Delta, Steven Ritchie, as he accepts the charter for the new Alpha at Duke University during a banquet on 21 January 1989 at Durham, North Carolina. From left are W. S. Hattendorf, Jr., AΔ'69; Brother Ritchie; Region III Representative Jeffrey C. Jaynes, Γ'89; and Carleton A. Holstrom, Ψ'57.

DUKE UNIVERSITY

established system: focus on interaction with area alumni and the members of Alpha Sigma, off-campus dinners, closed parties, and intramural games. Response to Chi Psi rush was so enthusiastic that, although recognition by Duke's IFC was an eventful goal, Sigma Delta's members agreed that it would be sought only with the understanding that their non-traditional brand of rush could continue.

The next summer, having spent the entire year developing a successful rush system, expanding community service projects, laying the foundations for an intrafraternity academic support system, and fortifying the already strong brotherhood, the delegation from the Sigma Delta Colony petitioned the 147th Convention in Portland, Maine for designation as the thirty-third active Alpha of Chi Psi. Representatives Ritchie, Walker, Lenox, Timothy F. Checko '90, Mark Allen Potts '90, Michael Thomas Sullivan '90, and James Andrew Shelley '90, campaigned diligently to convince the Convention that Sigma Delta had indeed built a strong base on which a successful Alpha could be constructed; their efforts were rewarded as Sigma Delta was granted Alpha status on 13 August 1988.

As soon as possible the next fall, some of Alpha Sigma Delta's members underwent formal pledging at Alpha Sigma, again assisted by Brother Kosusko. Another successful rush produced seven more men eager to join Chi Psi at Duke. The members strove that semester to bring, if not official recognition, then at least social recognition and respectability to Alpha Sigma Delta in the University community. The lack of a Lodge, however, provided a perennial obstacle to efforts at a close-knit membership, especially since the membership was growing at a rapid rate. Yet Alpha Sigma Delta found creative ways to overcome the lack of communal living space. In response to the common keg parties that dominated traditional Duke rush, Alpha Sigma Delta initiated the Friday night wine and cheese parties, which have become a favorite Chi Psi at Duke tradition that allows the membership to interact as well as meet new people in a congenial yet dignified social atmosphere. In fact, an expanded social calendar did much to keep the members truly in touch with each other.

Finally, at the Washington Duke Inn on

ALPHA SIGMA DELTA HISTORY

21 January 1989, Alpha Sigma Delta was granted its charter. Michael C. Illuzzi, Π'77, and Carl Holstrom, Ψ'57, made the official presentation. The first members of Sigma Delta became the first initiated Brothers of the Alpha at the Lodge of Alpha Sigma with Bill Hattendorf, AΔ'69, Σ'82, H'83, presiding over the ceremony and Donald Eugene Beeson, Σ'82, ΥΔ'86, and Michael Kosusko, Ξ'77, assisting. In attendance, also, were representatives from other Alphas, as well as local alumni and, of course, the Brothers of Alpha Sigma. Then, on 25 February 1989, the new Brothers conducted the initiation of the next ten Brothers. Another successful spring rush produced ten new pledges, which were then initiated along with the fall pledge class on 29 April. Alpha Sigma Delta developed rapidly, much to the excitement of its proud Brothers and Founders.

The 1989-1990 school year, with Brother Jones replacing Brother Ritchie as #1, was another important one in the development of the new Alpha. Once again, rush that semester produced ten strong men. However, the Alpha suffered a setback when efforts to buy a Lodge of our own fell through. The decision had to be made whether or not to pursue official University recognition, by which we could obtain a reserved section in a dormi-

tory, as had the other fraternities at Duke. Yet after a hot debate, the measure was narrowly defeated by one vote, primarily because the members felt that the integrity of Alpha Sigma Delta as it had grown in the past two years could not be maintained under IFC regulation, with particular regards to their different methods of rush. There was reasonable worry that this lack of University recognition might engender instability in the Alpha, especially since twenty-seven of the Brothers including the six founders would graduate in the spring, but these fears were mightily assuaged when a phenomenal spring rush, lead by rush chairs Brent Long '91, and Alex McIntosh '91, produced an amazing twenty-four new pledges.

The future of Alpha Sigma Delta looks extremely encouraging. The Brotherhood has proven itself to be a solid, enduring unit, able to overcome the temporary disadvantages of a lack of a Lodge. Alpha Sigma Delta, Incorporated, was formed in 1990 with Brother Kosusko as its president, which promises to provide another stabilizing factor for our Brotherhood. We as Brothers have nothing but grand expectations for our Alpha, and we are confident that the immediate future will see the fruition of our many goals. —Sean Christopher Arbuckle '92

Duke University

DUKE UNIVERSITY was created by James Buchanan Duke as a memorial to his father, Washington Duke. The Duke family, who built a world-wide financial empire, long had been interested in Trinity College, a Methodist institution founded in 1859 but tracing its roots to Union Institute founded in 1838. In December 1924 the college's trustees gratefully accepted the provisions of the indenture creating Duke's philanthropic organization, the Duke Endowment, and Trinity College was reorganized to become Duke University.

The original Durham campus, distinguished by its stately Georgian architecture, became known as East Campus, and a new West campus was built, distinguished by its Gothic architecture and dominated by the soaring tower of Duke Chapel. East Campus served as the home of the Woman's College of Duke University until 1972, when the men's and women's colleges

merged. Though distinctly southern, Duke is the one great university below the Mason-Dixon Line that most resembles their Ivy League cousins to the North, both physically and philosophically.

Ever since James Duke charged the school with a mission of doing "great things for God and humanity," Duke has been a university of national stature. Located in the lush foothills of the North Carolina Piedmont, the school is a major research university with an emphasis on undergraduate education. Only 15 percent of students come from North Carolina, and most undergraduates live on campus. Fraternities and sororities thrive at Duke, with close to 45 percent of students pledging. Fraternities are generally housed in designated areas of college dormitories. Basketball is the biggest sport in the region, and archrival UNC is just a few miles down the road from Duke's Blue Devils.