



Carol George '60, president of the new Delta Gamma chapter, holding the wise old owl, symbol of the 101-year old Epsilon Lambda Sigma sorority, accepts the Delta Gamma Anchor from the national sorority's field secretary Julia Whitney at initiation ceremonies in December 1959.

The Year the Greeks Went National

Fifty years ago, Greek organizations at Pacific experienced major transitions. Three local sororities — Epsilon Lambda Sigma, Alpha Theta Tau and Tau Kappa Kappa — and Omega Phi Alpha fraternity were initiated into national organizations.

Epsilon Lambda Sigma

The oldest of the sororities, Epsilon Lambda Sigma, began as the Emendia Literary Society at Pacific's original Santa Clara campus in November 1858. Emendia was the first female literary society to be established west of the Mississippi. It later became the Epsilon Lambda Sigma Sorority, moving with the college to Stockton in 1924. In May of its 101st year, Epsilon Lambda Sigma became part of Delta Gamma national sorority.

Tau Kappa Kappa

The Athenæa Literary Society founded in 1917 was later chartered as Tau Kappa Kappa sorority. The 125 members and alumnae of Tau Kappa Kappa installed as charter members of Delta Delta Delta (Tri-Delta) national sorority in December 1959 were the largest group to join the Tri-Delta sorority at one time.

Alpha Theta Tau

The Sopholechia Literary Society was originally formed in 1881 on Pacific's San Jose campus and later became Alpha Theta Tau sorority. Active members of Alpha Theta Tau were pledged

to Kappa Alpha Theta in October 1959, with initiation taking place in December.

Omega Phi Alpha

Organized in the fall of 1920 on the San Jose campus, Omega Phi Alpha completed the first fraternity house on the new Stockton campus. Active members of the fraternity were initiated into Delta Upsilon in 1959. The fraternity severed with Delta Upsilon in 1973. It re-affiliated with Delta Upsilon as the Omega Phi Alpha chapter in 2004.

The Pacific Women's Pharmaceutical Society, which had organized nearly three years earlier, became affiliated with the international pharmaceutical sorority, Lambda Kappa Sigma.

Up to this time, Alpha Kappa Lambda, chartered in 1955, was the only national fraternity at Pacific.

Alumni of Delta Gamma, Delta Delta Delta and Kappa Alpha Theta sororities and Omega Phi Alpha/Delta Upsilon alumni are invited to return to campus on Pacific Alumni Weekend June 26–28 for a special reunion celebration. Find out more at PacificAlumni.org/Reunions.

*What was your favorite Fraternity/Sorority tradition?
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1959