

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

Accreditation Report

2007-2008

Scholarship

- In the area of scholarship, Kappa Alpha Theta had a fall 2007 GPA of 3.053, which put them 8th among sororities. The chapter had a 3.085 spring 2008 GPA, which again places them 8th among sororities. The chapter GPA for both semesters is below the All Women's and All Sorority averages.
- The chapter had a 2.905 spring new member GPA, which placed them 7th out of the sororities.
- Kappa Alpha Theta placed 26% of their chapter members on Dean's list in the fall semester and 18% in the spring semester.
- From the recommendations that the chapter received last year, the committee feels that Kappa Alpha Theta has put an academic plan in place.
- The committee recommends that the chapter takes a look at increasing the 2.3 grade point average criteria that has been put in the plan. The standard could be a bit higher and the chapter needs to be more proactive in assisting members on the lowest end of the academic spectrum.
- The chapter's alumna advisor, Elizabeth Markulin, sets the probationary terms for each sister who is put on scholastic probation
- The committee recommends that the chapter looks at options other than study hours for their academic sanctions
- The chapter has implemented a number of innovative practices. They have revamped their scholarship awards, their scholarship dinner, and also their faculty mocktails
- For academic incentives and motivation, the chapter passes around a "skippy jar" at chapter meetings, and each member who attended all classes for the week enters her name; one person's name is drawn each week, and she wins a small prize.
- The chapter has a board in the house library, which is designated as a 24-hour study room, where sisters can "brag" about accomplishments, either their own or another sister's, and a list of everyone who made Dean's List.
- The chapter has revamped their point system due to a public relations initiative decided on by the chapter. In order to avoid overwhelming the sisters, the public relations point program also rewards scholastic activities, such as meeting with a professor outside of class.
- The chapter secured a Kappa Alpha Theta alum as their faculty advisor. Kate Crassons is a professor in the English department
- The chapter has a new education and scholarship advisor. Liz Markulin, who is a Theta and Lehigh alumna. She offers support and oversight to both the Vice President Education and the Scholarship Chair, especially Academics, New Member Education and Ritual.

- The committee would like to Best Practice the chapter's faculty mocktails program.
- The chapter's scholarship modules include tests, books and other resources like MCATs, LSATs and GREs. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter holds study breaks during finals times to recognize sisters based on scholastic achievement.
- Each week the chapter's Scholarship Chair presents a scholarship module at chapter meeting. The modules range from study and time management skills to the best study snacks to resume tips. These modules are meant to give sisters quick ideas regarding how to improve upon current study and work habits.
- The chapter has a scholarship dinner to recognize sisters for their achievement for the previous semester. The house chef prepared a nice dinner for the women which included lobster tails, crab cakes and steak.
- During the scholarship dinner, awards and certificates were given to sisters who made Dean's List in the Spring 2007 semester, to the sisters with the most-improved GPA from the junior and senior classes, and the highest Big-Little GPA pair.
- The 24 hours study room is a good resource for the chapter to have

If they see a spring semester spike in grades we will consider rereviewing and looking at gold and we will take a good look at their new member GPA. Right now they are Silver but with a lot of credit and a lot of commendation.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Kappa Alpha Theta to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Leadership

- The committee would like to best practice the chapter's job sale board that describes each chapter position and the pros and cons of each.
- Each chapter officer has various chairs and other positions under her supervision. This shows the level of leadership involvement each chapter members has
- Chapter members attended the Professional Dining Etiquette and Networking Skills Dinner hosted by the Office of the First Year Experience.
- The chapter hosted two Educational Leadership Consultants (ELC's) during the academic year.
- The chapter is involved with numerous campus organizations/activities including: Alpha Phi Omega, Phi Eta Sigma, World Affairs Club, Order of Omega, Asian Cultural Society, Global Citizenship, and the National Society of Leadership and Success
- The chapter would like to Best Practice the chapter's presentation to Panhel for the details of a Continuous Open Bidding (COB) process.
- After the COB process was over in the fall, the chapter conducted a survey with the newly initiated sisters to ask for their input about the overall process and ways to improve it. The chapter conducted a similar survey after formal recruitment in the spring.
- The chapter held various recruitment workshops throughout the fall semester in order to help all chapter members practice and prepare for informal and formal recruitment, with the main goals as follows: communicating all ideas to the chapter, announcing

recruitment plans, teaching procedures and the fraternity's membership selection process, as well as stating Panhellenic rules and regulations.

- The chapter's New Member Plan was used as an example for other chapters to follow.
- The chapter has formalized leadership positions for their new members which gives them experience and exposure to the fraternity at an early stage of their membership.
- The chapter applied for five awards for their annual National Convention. These awards include: Improvement in Administration, College Chapter Public Relations, Improvement in Ritual Appreciation, Improvement in Advisory Board, and Chapter Website awards.
- The committee would like to commend the chapter for creating a positive recruitment culture. The chapter had 27 women accepts bid, which is more than they have had in a very long time.
- The chapter attended their yearly District Leadership Conference where the chapter president was asked to address the entire general body about the chapter improvements made over the past year.
- A recommendation that they meet with OSLD regarding retreats and chapter planning now that they have their executive board in place.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Kappa Alpha Theta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Citizenship

- Each chapter member is involved with one or more internal committees.
- The chapter created a new program that requires sisters to complete a minimum of 3 hours of service in a Theta approved program
- The chapter participated in numerous service and philanthropic efforts including: weekly homework club and animal shelter trips, various smaller Community Service Office projects, Spooktacular, Parent's Night Out, and Livin' La Vida Lehigh
- The chapter's annual philanthropy event, Rock la Casa, was the best the chapter has ever witnessed. The attendance increased the amount raised nearly tripled, raising over \$1600.
- Numerous sisters participated in the Hydrocephalus Walk in Philly to support a fellow sister who suffered from the disease.
- The chapter hosted their 2nd annual accessory sale which helped to fund their Adopt-a-Family gifts
- The chapter held a CD and DVD drives for the U.S. Troops in Iraq
- The chapter held a canned food drive to help a local Bethlehem soup kitchen.
- The chapter's Service Chair continually posted the Community Spotlight of the Week to encourage sister's to volunteer more of their time in different and unique opportunities
- Each month the service chair totals up the total number of hours a sister has completed during the month. This includes not only hours done through a Theta registered event, but also hours completed on sister's own volition. The sister with the most hours wins a Sunday treat of their choice.

- The chapter worked with Carolina Hernandez on a service plan that helped the chapter focus on the needs of the Bethlehem community
- The chapter participated in Lehigh's Relay for Life for the 3rd year.
- The chapter has implemented a Public Relations points system as an incentive to our members to positively represent Kappa Alpha Theta to the Lehigh community. The goal is to improve our image on campus by representing ourselves positively as well as accurately.
- The chapter's Executive Board put together binders for every member, in addition to the binders that each officer has for their specific position. The general member binders include the Member Development Manual, chapter Bylaws, as well as other important documents and contact information

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Kappa Alpha Theta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Partnership

- The committee would like to commend that chapter for their alumni relationship award
- The committee would like to commend the chapter for reaching out and working with other national chapters which is something new for them, especially in the area of recruitment.
- The chapter is making a very intentional effort to reach out to parents, alumnae, and faculty through their bi-annual newsletter
- The chapter has continued to develop their website, utilizing it to keep constituents up to date with what's going on with the chapter and at Lehigh.
- The chapter hosted Dean Mulvihill to discuss the Medical Amnesty Policy.
- The chapter hosted both an Alumnae Brunch and a Parent's Weekend Brunch.
- The chapter partnered with the Theta Chapter from Washington and Jefferson College and Syracuse University to discuss recruitment practices.
- The committee would like to commend that chapter for really reaching out with other chapters, for all their partnerships with: Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Gamma Delta, Phi Sigma Kappa and Healthy Hawks and Delta Upsilon.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Kappa Alpha Theta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Stewardship

- The chapter regularly submits yearly reports to their Inter/National Office in order to be compiled for chapter history
- The committee would like to commend the chapter for setting up a new risk management plan.
- Each week the VP of Public Relations chooses a day for sister to wear their letters around campus.
- Senior officers were allowed to live off campus as long as they maintained office hours at the chapter facility.

- All chapter members must wear “badge” attire to chapter meetings.
- Due to the fact that the chapter has four members disaffiliate unexpectedly, the chapter responded with a chapter survey that included questions related to chapter programming, communication, and chapter operations.
- The chapter the idea of a fireside as a way for members of its chapters to communicate with one another
- The committee would like to commend the chapter for the executive board and chapter, the suggestion box and envelope and the sisterhood workshop.
- The chapter reviews a part of the Ritual at every chapter meeting
- The chapter is in good financial standing with the FMA
- The committee would like to best practice the chapter’s ritual proficiency and the value they place on it.

In the area of **Stewardship**, the committee rated Kappa Alpha Theta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Kappa Alpha Theta received an overall rating of **Silver** for the 2007-08 academic year. Overall a great job in taking our recommendations and taking a huge step – huge confidence builder for Theta. If the chapter continues adhering to their academic plan, the committee expects the chapter to quickly and consistently perform as a top level chapter.

Kappa Alpha Theta

Recommendations

- The committee recommends that the chapter takes a look at increasing the 2.3 grade point average criteria that has been put in the plan. The standard could be a bit higher and the chapter needs to be more proactive in assisting members on the lowest end of the academic spectrum.
- A recommendation that they meet with OSLD regarding retreats and chapter planning now that they have their executive board in place.

Best Practices

- The committee would like to Best Practice the chapter’s faculty mocktails program.
- The chapter’s scholarship modules include tests, books and other resources like MCATs, LSATs and GREs. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The committee would like to Best Practice the chapter’s ritual proficiency and the value they place on it.
- The committee would like to best practice the chapter’s job sale board that describes each chapter position and the pros and cons of each.
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