



Extension

Pi Beta Phi welcomes the opportunity to grow our sisterhood and connect with campuses and communities interested in establishing a new chapter. Following a Panhellenic vote to open for extension, each campus is thoughtfully reviewed as we learn more about the community and its students.

The Extension Process

Extension—the process of establishing new Pi Beta Phi chapters—has always been at the heart of Pi Beta Phi. One year after the Fraternity’s founding at Monmouth College, Libbie Brook Gaddis established the second Pi Phi chapter at Iowa Wesleyan University. Today, Pi Beta Phi’s extension philosophy remains rooted in its earliest purpose: to pursue opportunities that complement Pi Beta Phi’s academic, social

and philanthropic mission. Pi Phi looks for growing institutions with a strong reputation for fostering the Personal and Intellectual Growth of their students.

The I.C.s gathered for the Fraternity’s first convention during the summer of 1867. **EMMA BROWNLEE KILGORE** reported that “well laid plans were made of how we would extend the I.C. reputation of being the first women’s secret society; how we

would enter other colleges; no high schools were to be considered; and we also unanimously decided that no college fraternity among the young men should be better, wiser or stronger than ours.”

In 1868, **LIBBIE BROOK GADDIS**, enrolled at Iowa Wesleyan University in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and formed a second chapter. The next year, **NANCY BLACK WALLACE** founded the chapter at Mount Pleasant Female

Seminary, and in 1870, Indiana Alpha **KATE F. PRESTON** left Mount Pleasant and founded the chapter at Indiana Asbury University (now DePauw University). Notably, Pi Beta Phi was the first organization in the National Panhellenic Conference to expand beyond its founding campus in 1868. When Kappa Kappa Gamma made its official debut at Monmouth College in October 1870, four chapters of I.C. Sorosis had been established.

Until 1881, only four groups –Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Pi Beta Phi–attempted to start chapters beyond their founding campuses. Early expansion efforts were much simpler than today’s extension process. In many cases, only a few interested women were needed to start a chapter. Methods included sending an initiated member to another institution to recruit members, encouraging friends and relatives to start chapters at other schools, contacting women students through college directories and seeking recommendations from professors.

Over the years, the extension process became more formalized, especially after the founding of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) in 1902. During the early 1900s through the mid-1930s, the primary way Pi Phi established new chapters was through local organizations petitioning for a charter. This process was often time-consuming and expensive. Chapters chartered during this period may have petition books in their archives, often including



letters from college officials, local alumnae and women from other NPC groups, along with member profiles and photographs.

After meeting specific criteria, local groups were officially voted on at convention. In the 1940s, however, Grand Council assumed responsibility for voting on charters rather than requiring organizations to wait for convention. Following World War II, some chapters were established with support from nearby Pi Phi collegians and transfer students who helped build new chapters. Today, Pi Beta Phi Consultants assist in establishing new chapters, and nearby chapters are often invited to support recruitment efforts.





Installation of Florida Epsilon Adds 59 Pi Phis

by SONDRA BROWN GOTT

"I now declare you a duly initiated member of Pi Beta Phi." This was heard by fifty-nine women at the January 9-11, 1981, installation of the Florida Epsilon chapter of Pi Beta Phi. Our 116 chapter is located at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

With the addition of the Pi Phi U.C.F. now has five national territories.

Policies and Procedures

To ensure fairness among NPC groups, all member organizations follow specific NPC extension policies when starting a new chapter. If NPC groups already exist on campus, these organizations must first determine whether there is a need for another sorority. It is then up to the campus community to select the organization that best fits its Panhellenic community.

Once the College Panhellenic officially opens the campus for extension, the review process begins. Pi Beta Phi looks at several factors when evaluating extension opportunities, including:

- Growing enrollment trends and recruitment registration numbers within the Panhellenic community
- The size of the overall Panhellenic community and individual Panhellenic chapters
- The strength and reputation of the fraternity and sorority community
- Staff support structure for the fraternity and sorority community
- Housing availability and requirements
- Local alumnae support
- Alignment with Pi Beta Phi's mission and values



When Pi Beta Phi is interested in joining an institution open for extension, the first step is creating an application for the college's extension committee. The committee reviews submitted applications and typically selects two or three NPC organizations to make formal presentations. Members of the broader fraternity and sorority community are often invited to attend. Following

presentations and committee recommendations, the institution invites one organization to join its community.

In preparation for the establishing recruitment, the Resident Consultant(s) and assisting Traveling Consultants arrive on campus in the weeks prior to recruitment. During recruitment and pledging, a team of Pi Beta Phi alumnae

and Headquarters staff support the process. Together, they strive to build a member class that reflects a variety of class years, creating balance and continuity that set the new chapter up for success. Academic achievement, campus involvement, interest in community service and enthusiasm to build a new chapter are all important qualities Pi Phi looks for in founding members. ✨

