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Laura Parks
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The Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1900-2000:
A Demographic and Cultural Study

Through the years, DePauw University has proved to be a fertile ground for the development of Greek life. A few of the first fraternities were founded in this soil as well as many of the early chapters installed on this campus. This environment conducive for Greek life inspired the women of Alpha Phi to pursue the idea of establishing a chapter on DePauw's campus. The chapter, founded in 1887, has undergone many changes through the years.¹ With six original women, the membership has since grown to over 100 women in the collegiate chapter today with alumnae across the country. The lives of these women, what they studied, their campus activities, and their life after DePauw has also changed through the years. In order to understand these changes, the lives of the women of Alpha Phi from the years 1900 to 2000 will be examined, looking particularly at the make-up of the chapter in 1900, 1950 and 2000. The lives of the women in this chapter during those years will provide insights into the many changes not only in the Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi, but also on DePauw University's campus and patterns and trends in the United States at the time. Initially hoping to prove that the trends of marital and career patterns as well as general community trends did not apply to this set of women attending a university in the Midwest, the research instead revealed that the lives of these women followed the national patterns conveyed by scholars such as Stephanie Coontz and Steven Mintz.

During the first Alpha Phi national convention, the women of the Beta chapter of Alpha Phi at Northwestern University began to make inquiries about the women at DePauw University

¹ The Alpha chapter of Alpha Phi was founded at Syracuse University in 1872.

and whether the time was right to found a new chapter of Alpha Phi. Corresponding with the principal of DePauw Preparatory School, Doctor Thomas Bassett, they were informed as to the nature of DePauw's Greek life and also told of a number of women who were seeking a Greek affiliation.² This prompted the women of Northwestern to correspond directly with these women at DePauw. Upon examining their character, the women of the Beta chapter unanimously decided that the women were worthy of being initiated into Alpha Phi Fraternity.

Throughout the process of inquiry and initiation, both the women of the Beta chapter and the women at DePauw upheld the greatest secrecy in the matter of the founding of a new fraternity at DePauw. With no Pan-Hellenic spirit among the sororities on campus, namely Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma, the women of Alpha Phi feared that if word got around that a new chapter was being installed that every obstacle would be put in their path. As one of the first members of the Gamma chapter indicated, "Whenever I recall the struggles of our little group of charter founders and our temerity in establishing a chapter at DePauw in 1887, I have an attack of the jitters.... It was dog eat dog".³ Though they feared the campus response, the women of DePauw University were initiated on September 3 of 1887 in the home of one of the initiates, thus installing the Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi at DePauw University. Six women were the founders of the Gamma chapter: Maggie Pulse, Florence Hays, Alice McKnight, Marie Nutt, Gertrude Simison, and Bessie Barnes.⁴ Now that these women had secretly banded together to form a new fraternity, it was time to make known to the rest of the campus that a new chapter was in town. The women decided to use the morning chapel as the time to display their new affiliation. Wearing the proud colors of silver and Bordeaux, the official colors of Alpha

² Alice Morgan Roedel, *History of Alpha Phi Fraternity: From the founding in 1872 through the Year 1951* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1951), 18.

³ *History of Alpha Phi Fraternity: From the founding in 1872 through the year 1902* (Massachusetts, The Alpha Phi International Fraternity, 1943), 85.

⁴ *The History of Alpha Phi Fraternity 1872-1922* (New York: The Century Co., 1923), 160.

Phi, and their pins, the women of the Gamma chapter marched into chapel much to the astonishment of their peers. The only congratulations extended to the new chapter came from the recently initiated men of Delta Upsilon, founded at DePauw just two months before Alpha Phi.⁵ This friendly response began the brother-sister relationship between these two fraternities that exists to this day.

A final important note regarding the founding of Alpha Phi on DePauw's campus relates to the letter of the chapter, Gamma. The official third chapter of Alpha Phi was founded in 1883, four years prior to the founding of the chapter at DePauw University. The women of this chapter at Boston University requested that their chapter be given the title of Eta, due to the fact that there were four charter members. This is how the Gamma chapter at DePauw came to be known as the Gamma chapter.⁶

Five of the original six members of the Gamma chapter were Greencastle residents. They were therefore able to conduct chapter meetings and rituals comfortably in one of their own homes. As the years progressed, however, the women of the Gamma chapter were not so fortunate. The need for a house in which to conduct these exercises was present in 1893 when the women rented a house for their chapter. This house cost \$698.50 in rent coupled with nearly \$28 in household expenses.⁷ As membership increased, the need for a bigger house became apparent, leading the women to purchase a home on East Seminary Street, neighboring their brother fraternity Delta Upsilon. This new house marked the chapter of Alpha Phi as the first women's chapter to own a house on DePauw's campus.⁸ In 1939, the chapter moved once more to its current location on 202 East Hanna Street.

⁵ Roedel, *History of Alpha Phi Fraternity*, 19.

⁶ Roedel, *History of Alpha Phi Fraternity*, 16.

⁷ *History of Alpha Phi Fraternity*, 223 and 247.

⁸ Roedel, *History of Alpha Phi Fraternity*, 20.

The changes that the Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi went through during these years also reflect many of the changes of Greek life at DePauw University. With Greek life beginning at DePauw with Beta Theta Pi joining the campus in 1857, the men were met with much opposition from the literary societies at DePauw. Though there was some dislike of this organization, another fraternity joined them shortly after on campus, Phi Gamma Delta. As these organizations came to be more accepted, women wanted their own alternatives. Being denied membership in the men's organizations, several women banded together to form the first women's fraternity, Kappa Alpha Theta in 1870.⁹ Through the next several decades, many other fraternities were established at DePauw, leading for a move to regulate the recruitment process. As involvement in these organizations represented the minority of students, many fraternity members engaged in a practice known as "spiking". Spiking entailed meeting the freshmen carriages as they arrived at DePauw, taking several freshmen directly from the carriages to the chapter house and formally pledging them in the fraternity.¹⁰ This induced the Greek community to develop a governing body over these organizations, now known as the National Pan-Hellenic Council for women and Intra-Fraternity Council for men. Eventually in 1907, the recruitment process was fully regulated for the women, allowing for the freshmen women to be entertained by each house before being induced to join one of them.¹¹

Having examined the founding of the Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi and the Greek environment at DePauw, it is now time to delve into the lives of the women during a one hundred year span. Life in a fraternity was not an unknown experience for many women in 1900. The Abbott sisters, Inez and Edith, followed their older sister by joining Alpha Phi in

⁹ George B. Manhart, *DePauw Through the Years*, vol. 1 (Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1962), 134.

¹⁰ Clinton J. Phillips and John J. Baughman, *DePauw: A Pictorial History* (Greencastle: DePauw University, 1987), 89.

¹¹ Manhart, *DePauw Through the Years*, 254.

1898 and 1901 respectively. Intelligent women, these two sisters enjoyed the fellowship of their sisters of Alpha Phi and the emphasis placed on scholarship. Both graduated with the high honor of being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa upon graduation and went on to get married and begin a career in education. Inez Abbott began her teaching career, instructing German and Latin to high school students in Indiana. Edith Abbott graduated and immediately assumed the post of principal and German teacher for Zionsville High School in Indiana, a post she would hold for another five years before devoting herself to her children.

Though these are just the stories of two women, they are indicative of their peers as well. The members of the Gamma chapter in 1900 shared many similar experiences with the Abbott sisters.¹² The women of the Gamma chapter totaled nearly forty at this time, with an average pledge class of ten women.¹³ At this time at DePauw, there were five women's fraternities on campus, including Alpha Phi. Records do not exist for all of these women as many did graduate from DePauw University. The majority of those that did graduate from DePauw at this time went on to get married and become homemakers with fifty-seven percent marrying after graduation.¹⁴ Predominantly from Indiana with the rest from the Midwest, these women stayed in Indiana as they started a family.¹⁵ The most popular profession, aside from homemaking, for this set of women was in the field of education with fifty percent of the women involved at one point or another as educators, whether as teachers or principals. One member of this group of women became a missionary nurse and traveled to China to provide medical aid.¹⁶ Upon starting

¹² The information regarding the members of the Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi in 1900 are scattered and not precise. There is only a complete set of data for fourteen of these women, though they were many more members of the house at this time. The reason for this discrepancy is the fact that not all women received a degree from DePauw University and are therefore not in any of the Alumni Directories. Though this sample is quite small, it is the best that can be made with the data that is available.

¹³ See Table 1.

¹⁴ See Table 7.

¹⁵ DePauw University, *Alumni Directory 1915* (Greencastle: DePauw University, 1915). See also Chart 1.

¹⁶ DePauw University, *Alumni Directory 1915*. See also Table 8.

a family, however, the women left the work force. This emphasis on marriage and childrearing is reflected in greater family trends in the United States. There was much anxiety about girls not becoming ladies at this time due to their increased access to education and social mobility.¹⁷ The women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi reflected some independence in pursuing advanced education and a career, but most ultimately integrated into the cultural norm of becoming a wife and mother.

The most popular degree achieved by these women was a Bachelor of Philosophy with one member graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in German and English, another with a Bachelor of Science and a final member graduating with a degree in Music.¹⁸ The Bachelor of Philosophy was the degree given to those that pursued a major in any of the following specialties: Greek, Philosophy, Political Science, History, English, Oratory, German, or French.¹⁹ On top of completing their requirements for the majors, the women at DePauw University were required to take at least one course in Philosophy, Mathematics and Bible, two courses in English, three classes in either Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, or other science classes, as well as six classes in any of the foreign languages offered at DePauw.²⁰ The clubs and organizations available to the women of the Gamma chapter do not list each individual member aside from officers, but there were several options for these women. Some of the organizations include working on the *Mirage* staff, literary societies, Latin societies, newspapers, Pan-Hellenic Council, and departmental associations, such as the Biological Association.²¹ Varsity athletics were not an option for these women, as educators felt that female physical activity should be

¹⁷ Steven Mintz, *Huck's Raft: A History of American Childhood* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2004), 193.

¹⁸ DePauw University, "Commencement Exercises: DePauw University 1900-1903," DePauw University Archives, Greencastle, IN. See also Table 6.

¹⁹ DePauw University, *DePauw University Catalog 1900-1901* (Greencastle: DePauw University, 1900), 57.

²⁰ DePauw University, *Yearbook of DePauw University 1900-1901*, 30.

²¹ *Mirage* (DePauw University yearbook), 1950, p. 139-154.

inclusive and not competitive.²² These women were attending DePauw University at a time when gender roles and perceptions were clearly established and equality was not necessarily the order of the day.

The membership of Alpha Phi continued to grow over the next several decades leading to a house size of 72 women with ten other sororities on DePauw's campus in 1950 with an average pledge class size of almost twenty-four and the largest pledge class numbering twenty-six.²³ During these years, there was an interesting shift in the hometowns of these women. The women of the Gamma chapter in 1900 hailed predominantly from the state of Indiana. Seventy-two percent of these women in 1950, however, lived in the Midwest region with a few living in the East Coast.²⁴ These women also had a great number of opportunities with various clubs and organizations on campus. Twenty-four percent of the women of the Gamma chapter were engaged in three clubs and organizations and some members up to as many as nine clubs or organizations during their collegiate career.²⁵ Ann Broad, a graduate of the class of 1953, was involved in the AWS, a dorm adviser, WRA, YWCA, the Physical Education Club, the Sailing Club, and the Naiad.²⁶ A Physical Education major, she used the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities on campus in order to prepare herself for her future career as a physical therapist. The most popular organizations for these women were the YWCA, an organization that promoted religious living as well as physical education, the AWS, the Association of Women Students that offered a sounding board for women's campus needs, and clubs associated

²² Mintz, *Huck's Raft*, 194.

²³ See Table 1.

²⁴ *Mirage*, 1950-1953, p. 158-195, 141-172, 66-96, 135-161. See Chart 2. The Midwest consists in this study in the states: Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin and Kentucky.

²⁵ See Table 2.

²⁶ *Mirage*, 1953, p 137.

with various major fields of study, from the Physical Education Club and the Home Economics Club to the Philosophy Club.²⁷

To give an idea of the popularity of these clubs, over 76% of the women in the chapter at this time were involved in the YWCA, another 57% involved in the AWS with 31% involved in the clubs of their major fields of study. The WRA also proved to be a popular choice for women with 51% of the house involved in this organization. The Women's Recreation Association provided women with the opportunity to engage in intramural sports as no varsity collegiate sports teams existed for women at this time. This indicates that the gender perceptions and roles of the 1900s still existed concerning women's physical abilities. In other words, gender norms were still being imposed on these women in the 1950s.²⁸ Another favorite sporting activity was the Naiad, a water ballet organization. Other favorite clubs included Toynbee, an organization devoted to the study of Sociology and the recent publications within the field. Furthermore, the women at this time were also involved in various musical performances, ranging from opera, orchestra, theater, and radio performances. A final interesting note about these women is that three of them studied abroad during the DePauw collegiate experience, two of them heading to a university in Mexico and another in a university in Switzerland.²⁹

This variety and diversity of interests is also reflected in the major fields of study for these women. The majority of women, all but one woman in this sample, received their degree from the College of Liberal Arts.³⁰ The most popular major within this group of women was Sociology along with English, both Composition and Literature. An important note regarding the popularity of the Sociology major was the emphasis placed on family, community and

²⁷ *Mirage*, 1950, p. 41-94. See also Table 3.

²⁸ Mintz, *Huck's Raft*, 281.

²⁹ *Mirage*, 1952, p. 67.

³⁰ See Table 6.

childrearing at this time in the United States. Wanting to provide a better future for the next generation, these women studied and analyzed their own communities so that they could improve them someday.³¹ Physical Education and Home Economics proved also to be popular majors for these women. Home Economics was an interesting and popular choice for many of these women as all but one of them would eventually go on to be married and twenty-seven of these women would become housewives. At this time, there were six women who chose to pursue two different majors.³² Furthermore, four women of the Gamma chapter from 19050 to 1953 were initiated into Phi Beta Kappa on graduation.³³ This data indicates that the women in the chapter at this time were highly involved in campus life, physically active and pursued excellence in their scholarly endeavors.

The interesting correlation between these women and their majors is the fact that many of the women who majored in Home Economics did not necessarily proceed directly into the housewife role. Two women in this major married after graduation and continued to work, one in sales and the other as a nurse. Though being a housewife was the most common profession among this set of women, there were other sectors represented in this group. There were a few women who entered the business world in various capacities from sales positions to secretaries and supervisors.³⁴ Still others entered into the field of medicine primarily as nurses and physical therapists. Three women from this group of women became social workers. The number of social workers is also indicative of aforementioned trends in the desire to improve the lives of the

³¹ Mintz, *Huck's Raft*, 280.

³² See Table 5.

³³ *Mirage*, 1950-1953, pg. 158-195, 141-172, 66-96, 135-161.

³⁴ DePauw University, *Alumni Directory 1962* (Greencastle: DePauw University, 1962).

next generation and assist them whenever possible. Education was surprisingly not as popular among these women with only two women engaged as teachers twelve years after graduation.³⁵

Each of these numbers indicates a great many things about life in the Gamma chapter as well as trends within the greater DePauw community. At this time DePauw came to be known as the marriage market of the Midwest. This proves to be true with the fact that all but one woman from this sample did in fact marry after graduation.³⁶ The reputation held by the Gamma chapter at DePauw today proves to be true for this group of women. “You marry a Phi” is the popular refrain today and can be seen as the trend among these women in the 1950s. Scholar Stephanie Coontz in her book *Marriage, A History* speaks to the high number of marriages at this time and the prevalence of the male breadwinner household. With this model, marriage became the universal experience and women left the workforce to be the best housewife that they could be. She even went so far as to state, “Any departure from this model—whether it was late marriage, nonmarriage, divorce, single motherhood, or even delayed childbearing—was considered deviant.”³⁷ These patterns are clearly evidenced in the marital and career patterns of the women of the Gamma chapter at DePauw University, who chose to marry early and leave their profession to start a family. Though there are women in this data set who married and continued to work, it is unknown whether or not they had started a family yet or if they were planning to do so. What can be stated is that these women placed a high emphasis on marriage and on family, believing that it was the woman’s role to be the stay at home mother. Whether or not this trend proved true fifty years later with the members of the class of 2000 will not be examined.

³⁵ See Table 8.

³⁶ See Table 7.

³⁷ Stephanie Coontz, *Marriage, A History: How Love Conquered Marriage* (New York: Penguin Books, 2005), 230.

Seven years after graduating from DePauw, thirty-four women from the years 2000-2003 were married with a recorded thirty-nine women as single.³⁸ An interesting shift from earlier patterns in Alpha Phi as well as DePauw, these years mark a shift from pursuing marital bliss right after graduation to pursuing a career. Further changes can be seen in the membership size of Alpha Phi at this time. In 2000, there were seven sororities on campus each with a stable house size of nearly one hundred. The house size was well over 100, nearing 150, with an average pledge class size of over thirty-five women with one African American member and the rest Caucasian.³⁹ These numbers indicate a complete transformation from the status of Greek life in 1900 on DePauw's campus. Initially a house with around forty women, the Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi was recruiting and initiating a pledge class of nearly equal size or larger each year. This indicates that the popularity of the Greek organizations was now fixed on DePauw's campus, transforming from the minority of students in 1900 to the majority of students in 2000.

It is difficult to assess the activities of the women in the Gamma chapter during the year 2000 as the *Mirage* does not provide a listing of the activities of each individual graduate as it did in years past. What is interesting to note about this change in tactics for the yearbook is the fact that the only club recognition these women received was in their varsity athletic endeavors and participation in university bands and choirs. Members of other organizations, including theater and intramurals were not recognized unless the member had the privilege of being in a photograph in the yearbook. Of those that are recognized, nineteen of the one hundred members at this time were involved in varsity sports. There are a few women who engaged in two sports,

³⁸ There are twenty-seven unknowns in this particular category.

³⁹ See Table 1. The range of this data can be explained by the low recruitment numbers for particular years. The numbers do not necessarily indicate that Alpha Phi had poor recruitment, but that there were fewer women choosing to go through recruitment. There has recently been a significant swing in pledge class size at DePauw today with last year's slightly over thirty women in each house and the projections for recruitment of 2008 being nearly fifty women in each pledge class.

but only counted once for this category. Four were involved in various musical or performance organizations, yet the majority of the activities of these women are unknown.⁴⁰ This marks an interesting change from years past when women were not allowed to engage in varsity competition. Viewed as the weaker gender, women were not permitted to compete in varsity competition in 1900 and 1950. The importance was instead placed on organizations that provided further learning opportunities, be it the Shakespeare Club or the Botany Club. These clubs sought to provide women and men with the opportunity to further their knowledge and engage it in discussions and debates on a variety of subjects. In the year 2000, academic clubs practically ceased to exist. Most of the clubs dealt with issues of justice and the concerns of ethnic groups, from Latino Concerns to Asian students. As these organizations did not provide membership information in the yearbook, this information is impossible to locate for these women.⁴¹ The women at DePauw University in 2000 felt a need to better their world and recognized their ability to change it, not in a passive manner, but as direct agents. Their academic needs were met in the classroom so they spent time on issues of justice and global issues. Unlike their sisters of 1950, their focus was global over local, looking to the world as opposed to the home.

The hometowns of these women follow earlier trends with a high number of Indiana residents and Midwest residents. Nearly half of the women in the Gamma chapter in 2000 were from the state of Indiana. Thirty-four women hailed from the various states that make up the Midwest region. The surprising numbers in this data set has to do with the women who came from other regions. Considering the East as anything east of Ohio and the West as anything West of Illinois, there were a high number of women from the western states, including

⁴⁰ See Table 4.

⁴¹ *Mirage*, 2000-2003, p. 62-95, 46-99, 47-99, 56-129.

Colorado, California and New Mexico. Yet only two women hailed from the East with residences in Massachusetts and Virginia.⁴² This suggests greater mobility and independence for these women, as they were able to attend a school far from home.

Just as the women hailed from diverse locations, they also studied a variety of subjects. With twelve women studying in two different fields, the majority of the women at this time chose English as their major, in both Writing and Literature, a major that was also popular in the 1950s. Communications and Sports Sciences were also popular majors along with Elementary Education and Psychology.⁴³ There was an increase in the number of women who studied science, both Biology and Chemistry, from two in 1950 to five in 2000. This is reflected later in the high number of women entering the medical field after graduating as doctors. Science was not considered solely a male major, but women were studying and graduating with degrees in Chemistry as well as Biology during the 2000s. The surprising rise in Elementary Education majors from two to nine is a surprising shift from earlier trends. Due to the emphasis on improving the youth of the day, one who have postulated that there were a high number of women pursuing a degree in education. This, however, was not the case for these women. Instead, the women of 2000 majored in education and entered the education sector at higher numbers than the 1950s. An interesting trend across all threetime sets is the fact that there are hardly any Music majors in the chapter. Perhaps due to the time commitment of a Music major was not compatible with sorority life. Whatever the reason, the number of women who majored in Music never exceeded more than 5% of the chapter in any of these years. The majors of the women correspond to the majors of the 1950s, following the trend to major in the humanities and soft sciences. Fifteen women of the Gamma chapter from 2000 to 2003 received the honor of

⁴² DePauw University, "Annual Commencement Ceremonies 2000-2003," DePauw University Archives, Greencastle, IN. See Chart 3.

⁴³ See Table 5.

being initiated into Phi Beta Kappa on their graduation.⁴⁴ As DePauw seeks to prove that they prepare their graduates for success in the future, these women pursued careers in a multitude of fields. Twenty-one members entered in the education sector as teachers, counselors and principals while another twenty pursued careers in the business world with professions ranging from accountants to managers.⁴⁵ At this time there were also a few doctors and lawyers with many women engaged in various creative professions, such as fashion designing and acting. Though there are a variety of professions represented in this group, there are still a large number of unknowns in this data set.⁴⁶ What can be noted is that a desire to work with and improve the next generation is apparent in the high number of educators. A representative of this sample of women is a graduate of the class of 2003. Lora Alvery hailed from Indiana and pursued a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. Playing volleyball during her years at DePauw and graduating Phi Beta Kappa, she entered medical school and became a doctor. Her career has of yet to offer the chance of marriage so she remains single to this day. This emphasis on career can be seen in the lives of all these women as all were pursuing a career at this time, including those who were married.

Examining the lives of women in the Gamma chapter during the years 1900, 1950 and 2000 present many interesting transformations of the lives of these women as well as the trends of campus life at DePauw University. Women in the 1900s did not have as many opportunities as women in the 1950s and 2000s in terms of campus activities or majors. Their campus involvement centered on academic activities with departmental organizations or other journalist activities. They were also more likely to marry and raise a family in their hometowns, remaining in the workforce until they started a family. These marriage and work pattern continued in the

⁴⁴ DePauw University, "Annual Commencement Ceremonies 2000-2003."

⁴⁵ DePauw University, *Alumni Directory 2007* (Greencastle: DePauw University, 2007).

⁴⁶ See Table 8.

1950s when nearly all the women were married and devoting themselves to husband and family. If they worked, their professional life was short and ended once the women started a family, depending on their husband's income. This proves true the research of Stephanie Coontz on the marital and familial patterns of the 1950s. Furthermore, these women did not have the opportunity to engage in varsity competition, only being allowed to participate in intramural and recreational sports. They were able to participate in a number of organizations covering a variety of interests and duly recognized for their involvement. They placed a high emphasis on local community issues and ways to help the next generation of Americans pass through adolescence unscathed. In the 2000s, the exact opposite was true. The women were able to participate in varsity athletics, but received no recognition for their involvement in literary societies, the DePauw or the Mirage. The only recognition they received was for their athletic involvement and if they happened to be in the photograph representing the specific organizations. Their focus shifted from local and family issues to global issues of disease and justice. They also had greater equality with men than the women of 1900 and 1950, as they were no longer denied participation in varsity athletics and other organizations.

As the campus lives of these women changed, the values of Alpha Phi remained. The high value placed on scholarship is apparent in the number of women initiated into Phi Beta Kappa as well as their involvement in campus activities. The membership in the house eventually grew from six original founders to a stable house of well over one hundred members. Starting with pledge classes of less than ten women to initiating nearly forty women in 2000, the Gamma chapter has grown and prospered at DePauw University, attracting intelligent and active women into its sisterhood.

Appendix: Methodology

With each data set of women analyzed, more data was available. There was an immense amount of difficulty in tracking the women from the years 1900-1903. Not all graduated from DePauw in four years if at all. There were forty members of Alpha Phi at this time, but information can only be gleaned for fifteen of them. The research started by looking at the Alpha Phi initiation records to ascertain who joined the house in what years. This list was then researched further in the *Mirage*, the *Alumni Directory* of each respective year, and Commencement Records to uncover the lives of the women of Alpha Phi during these times. Through this process, many of these women were eliminated, as they did not graduate from the university. That is to say that all women mentioned in this study received a degree from DePauw University. Another difficulty that arose was the discrepancy between the Alpha Phi records and university records. The lists provided in the *Mirage* did not correspond with the Alpha Phi records at times, which could indicate that initiation rituals in terms of registering their membership were not as adhered to then as it is now.

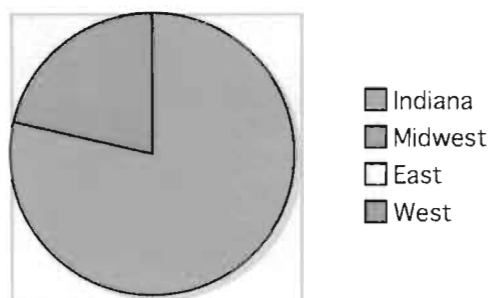
An important note regarding the research deals with how pledge class size was determined. Alpha Phi has a separate formal initiation process that requires some measure of registration. Those that pledge may not choose to initiate. The register of pledges was analyzed in this case over the initiation records. The pledge class size here is meant to highlight the growing popularity of the Greek system and therefore relies strictly on this list. For one year, however, this list is absent, the year 2002. In order to ascertain the pledge class size, the initiation registry was used.

Another important note regarding the research deal with the professions of the women. In some cases, the *Alumni Directory* of that particular year provided a brief history of the

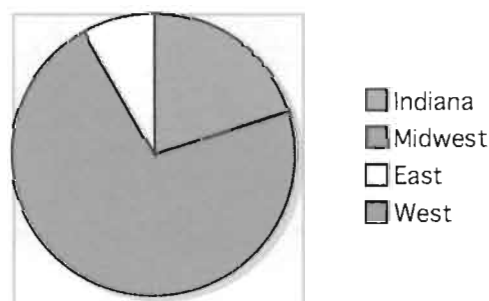
profession of that particular person. In that case, the woman is listed twice in the profession table. The profession categories are broad, but each respective profession of the women does fit into one specific category. The business category includes those who were involved in sales, marketing, management, and several other professions. The artistic profession was for those involved in fashion designing and acting.

A final important note regards the combining of organizations for the 1950 data set. Publications refers to those that worked for the Mirage and Boulder, Performance refers to musical endeavors as well as involvement in radio and media, and Politics contains the International Relations Club and student government among others. The Other category contains those clubs and organizations that did not fit into another category, such as the Dad's Club and dorm advisers. Though the research was at times frustrating with the lack of information regarding some women, but there proved to be some interesting trends with majors, marital status and a number of other factors.

Charts and Tables

Chart One: Hometowns of the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1900-1903⁴⁷

Hometown	Number of Women	Percent
Indiana	11	78.6
Midwest	3	21.4
East	0	0
West	0	0
Total	14	100

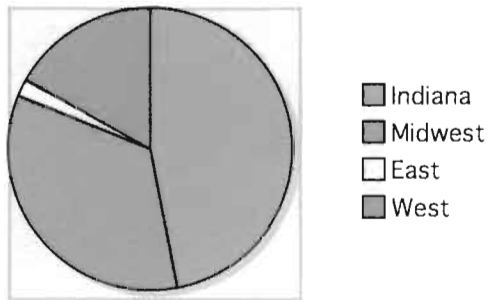
Chart Two: Hometowns of the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1950-1953⁴⁸

Hometown	Number of Women	Percent
Indiana	10	20
Midwest	36	72
East	4	8
West	0	0
Total	50	100

⁴⁷ *Constitution and Records of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi* (Greencastle: Alpha Phi, 1887).

⁴⁸ *Mirage*, 1950-1953, p. 158-195, 141-172, 66-96, 135-161.

Chart Three: Hometowns of the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 2000-2003⁴⁹



Hometown	Number of Women	Percent
Indiana	47	47
Midwest	34	34
East	2	2
West	17	17
Total	100	100

⁴⁹ DePauw University, "Annual Commencement Ceremonies 2000-2003." DePauw University Archives, Greencastle, IN.

Table 1

Pledge Class Size of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1900-2000⁴⁵

Year	Pledge Class Size	Percent in House*
1900	11	28.2
1901	10	25.6
1902	8	20.5
1903	10	25.6
Total	39	99.9
Average (Mean)	9.8	
1950	23	24.2
1951	21	22.1
1952	26	27.4
1953	25	26.3
Total	95	100
Average (Mean)	23.8	
2000	41	29.1
2001	33	23.4
2002	38	27
2003	29	20.6
Total	141	100.1
Average (Mean)	35.3	

45 Constitution and Records of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi (Greencastle : Alpha Phi, 1887).

Though the chart states that the end date is 2000, this is not meant to exclude the following years. This chart and the ones that follow provide a snap shot of the make-up of the Gamma chapter in 2000, with that graduating class representing the seniors. This is why the years 2001-2003 appear on the charts.

*The Percent category in these tables is the percent frequency distribution.

Table 2: Involvement of the Women of the Gamma Chapter in Clubs and organizations from 1950-1953⁴⁶

Number of Clubs	Number of Women	Percent
1	3	6.7
2	2	4.4
3	11	24.4
4	10	22.2
5	8	17.8
6	4	8.9
7	2	4.4
8	2	4.4
9	3	6.7
Total	45	99.9

46 Mirage, 1950-1953, p. 158-195, 141-172, 66-94, 133-161.

Table 3: Percentage of the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi involved in particular organizations⁴⁷

Club	Numer of Women	Percent
Publications	15	33.3
Performance	14	31.1
Major Clubs	14	31.1
Academic	7	15.6
WRA	23	51.1
YWCA	34	76.6
Politics	6	13.3
Toynbee	8	17.8
Naiad	6	13.3
AWS	26	57.8
Honors	11	24.4
Panhel	3	6.7
Other	17	37.8

47 Mirage, 1950-1953, p. 158-195, 141-172, 66-94, 133-161.

Table 4: Club involvement of the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi from 2000-2003⁴⁸

Club	Numer of Women	Percent
Music	4	4
Sports	19	19
Theater	1	1
Unknown	76	76
Total	100	100

48 Mirage, 2000-2003

Table 5

Major Fields of Study for the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1950-1953 and 2000-2003 ⁴⁹

Major	Women in 1950-1953	Percent	Women in 2000-2003	Percent
Anthropology	0	0	3	2.8
Art	2	4	1	0.93
Communications	1	2	11	10.2
Computer Science	0	0	2	1.9
East Asian Studies	0	0	4	3.7
Economics	2	4	6	5.6
Elementary Education	2	4	9	8.4
English	7	14	20	18.7
History	2	4	6	5.6
Home Economics	6	12	0	0
Mathematics	1	2	1	0.93
Music	1	2	5	4.7
Philosophy	2	4	1	0.93
Political Science	0	0	3	2.8
Psychology	4	8	9	8.4
Romance Languages	4	8	6	5.6
Science	2	4	5	4.7
Sociology	8	16	5	4.7
Sports Science	6	12	10	9.3
Total	50	100	107	99.89

⁴⁹ Mirage, 1950-1953, p. 158-195, 141-172, 106-94, 135-141.
 DePauw University, "Annual Commencement Ceremonies 2000-2003."

Table 4
Degrees Earned by the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1900-2000 50

Degree	1900-1903	Percent	1950-1953	Percent	2000-2003	Percent
College of Liberal Arts	13	93	44	97.8	95	95
School of Music	1	7	1	2.2	5	5
Total	14	100	45	100	100	100

50 DePauw University, "Commencement Exercises: DePauw University 1900-1903," DePauw University Archives, Greencastle, IN.

Mirage, 1950-1953, p. 158-195, 141-172, 46-96, 135-141

DePauw University, "Annual Commencement Ceremonies 2000-2003. "

Table 7
 Marital Status of the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1900-2000 51

Marital Status	1900-1903	Percent	1950-1953	Percent	2000-2003	Percent
Married	8	57.1	44	97.7	34	34
Single	4	28.6	1	2.3	39	39
Unknown	2	14.3	0	0	27	27
Total	14	100	45	100	100	100

51 DEPAUW UNIVERSITY, Alumni Directory 1915.
 DEPAUW UNIVERSITY, Alumni Directory 1942.
 DEPAUW UNIVERSITY, Alumni Directory 2007.

Table 8

Professions of the Women of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi: 1900-2000 ⁵²

Profession	1900-1903	Percent	1950-1953	Percent	2000-2003	Percent
Artistic	0	0	0	0	6	6
Business	0	0	6	12	20	20
Education	8	50	2	4	21	21
Housewife	7	43.7	27	54	0	0
Law	0	0	0	0	5	5
Medicine	1	6.3	4	8	12	12
Social Work	0	0	3	6	0	0
Unknown	0	0	8	16	36	36
Total	16	100	50	100	100	100

⁵² Depauw Universitys Alumni Directory 1915.
 Depauw University, Alumni Directory, 1942.
 Depauw University, Alumni Directory, 2007.

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