Kappa Delta
of the
Women’s Panhellenic Association
of
The Ohio State University
invites

Mary Carolyn McCleaf
to become a member
at
Informal Pledging
Monday, January 15, 1962
after
seven o’clock p.m.
Kappa Delta rejoins greek system after lack of pledges led to closing

By Karen S. Kostelnik
Lantern staff writer

One of the country's largest sororities did not waste much time becoming an active organization at Ohio State, again.

After being absent from the OSU greek system for a year and a half, the Kappa Delta sorority had its first chapter meeting a week ago.

With the help of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, they produced a float for the homecoming parade.

Kappa Delta's National Secretary, Gale Fuller, said lack of membership forced the chapter to close in mid-1983.

"We could no longer compete in rush with the other sororities," she said.

Although there were 105 openings this year, Kappa Delta pledged only 82 members.

"We took mostly freshmen and sophomores, a few juniors and only five seniors," Patty Perkins, the in-house graduate counselor said.

"We have 23 openings and we may pledge a few members next quarter, although not many," she said.

The reorganization planning of the sorority began shortly after the closing, Perkins said.

Earlier this October, nearly 70 Kappa Delta members, representing chapters from Indiana, Miami of Ohio and Toledo, came to the OSU campus and helped with this year's rush.

Fifteen national officers and 30 alumnae were also present to help kick off the reorganizational proceedings.

The pledges will be officially initiated and Kappa Delta will become an active greek organization in February, Perkins said.

Fifteen members are expected to move into the newly redecorated house next quarter.

"Most the girls have housing contracts and leases, and for now we're taking them into the house on a first come first serve basis," Perkins said. "There's room for 40 girls but we only need 15 to hire the cook."

Perkins, a Kappa Delta member from Monmouth College in Illinois, is currently an active alumna.

She said her role as in-house counselor is to act as an adviser, pledge educator, to oversee elections, and to just be there for the girls for any reason.

When Kappa Delta closed, the existing members were given alumni status. Since then, most have graduated, Perkins said.

"They are eligible for alumni scholarships and memberships in any of the 400 Kappa Delta alumna organizations," she added.
Kappa Delta revived after '84 closing

By Maggie Hermant
Lantern staff writer

In 1984, the Kappa Delta sorority closed its doors, gave all its members alumni status and bid Ohio State farewell.

But now Kappa Delta is back and doing well.

There were 40 women in the sorority when it closed in 1984. Today, the chapter has 104 members at Ohio State.

Kappa Delta National President Corre Steggall said the decision to close the sorority was made when the chapter became too small that all their efforts went to recruitment.

“Our house was so small that they weren’t able to function as a unit,” Steggall said. When the sorority became too costly for the members to handle, it was closed down, she said.

“When you wipe the slate clear,” Steggall said, “there’s an attraction to a lot of women to have a hand in forming something new.”

Patty Perkins, Kappa Delta graduate counselor, agreed with the national chapter’s decision, even though some members at the time were angry.

“The sorority was having a hard time competing with other greeks and a fresh start would make us more competitive,” Perkins said. “It would have been too hard to mix new and former members because new girls would want to do new things and the old girls would want to keep their traditions.”

When the decision was made, she said, an understanding was reached with the Women’s Panhellenic Association to bring back the sorority when the chapter was ready.

While national headquarters was deciding when that time would be, the sorority house was being fixed up, Perkins said.

Chapter alumni borrowed money from national headquarters and hired an interior decorator, she said. The house was newly painted, upholstered, wallpapered and carpeted.

The decision to re-open the house was made in 1985 and Kappa Delta began informal pledge proceedings on Oct. 3, 1985, Perkins said.

The Women’s Panhellenic Association “was so much help through all this,” she said. “They sent over all the girls who said they were interested in Kappa Delta.”

The first pledge class had 69 members and today they have enough to fill the 40 living spaces in the house, Perkins added.

Kappa Delta President Joan Kane said the chapter is becoming more known around campus because of the larger number of members and because of their enthusiasm.

“We’re just trying to be aggressive and put on a positive image to the campus,” she said.

Steggall said she is glad Kappa Delta is back on the Ohio State campus.

“Ohio State is a marvelous school,” she said, “and it was definitely someplace we wanted to be.”