

Part III

HISTORY OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

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The history of local chapters was obtained from the 2nd edition of the ATA Manual and supplemental material provided by chapters. Chapters attending the 1995 Conclave had an opportunity to review the preliminary copy of the 1996 manual. Some information has been updated and syntactically corrected.

Alpha - University of Illinois

The history of Alpha Chapter coincides with the beginning of the Alpha Tau Alpha organization. A.W. Nolan, Head of the Agricultural Education Department and professor of Agricultural Education at the University of Illinois, received the idea during the winter of 1921 as a result of counseling with some of his majors who were preparing to teach vocational agriculture and who recognized a need for participation in leadership and social activities.

Alpha Chapter became a reality on October 27, 1921, with A.W. Nolan and 15 of his students as charter members. The original officers were Paul Sanders, president; Howard Wilson, vice-president; Dan Ward, secretary; and Charles Huxel, treasurer.

A.W. Nolan served as the national president of Alpha Tau Alpha from 1924, when the permit for a national constitution was granted, until reactivation of the organization in 1946 following World War II. H.J. Rucker served as national secretary-treasurer during a corresponding period.

Four additional members of Alpha Chapter served as vice-presidents of the national organization: H.M. Hamlin, 1946-51; A. H. Krebs, 1960-64; David W. Williams, 1972-76; and Edward W. Osborne, 1984-88. The late Lowell F. Hillen served as secretary-treasurer for several months following the 1977 National Conclave.

Beta - University of Nebraska

Beta was the second chapter to join the organization. It was installed on April 11, 1925, under the leadership of H. E. Bradford, Chairman of Vocational Education.

The chapter became inactive after one year and continued to be inactive until February 19, 1956, when it was reinstalled by R. W. Canada, National President. Forty-six new members were added during the year under the leadership of H. W. Deems, who was formerly a member of Nu Chapter.

Activities of the chapter have included the following:
(1) conducting state recruitment of prospective teachers, (2) assisting with state judging contests, (3) preparing a brochure on Agricultural Education, (4) preparing display boards depicting vocational programs

and opportunities for majors in Agricultural Education, (5) publishing an annual newsletter, (6) conducting cooperative activities with other university organizations, (7) providing a refreshment stand at the spring band concert, and (8) sponsoring an open house for FFA members during the State FFA Convention.

Gamma - University of California-Davis

On April 11, 1925, after some correspondence with Alpha Chapter, a group of students and faculty members met at a luncheon, elected temporary officers and set a date for initiation and installation. The chapter was installed a week later, on April 18, by A. W. Nolan, National President. F. E. Griffin served as original advisor of the chapter.

Gamma Chapter became inactive the following year and continued to be inactive until reinstalled by R. W. Canada, Zeta Chapter, May 4, 1951. Meetings for all alumni have been held annually.

Former members of Gamma Chapter have held prominent positions: A. E. Lee held the position of Dean of Education of the University of California, Los Angeles; A. K. Getman served as State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, and later as Director of California State Polytechnic College at San Luis Obispo for a number of years; O. E. Thompson was national secretary-treasurer of Alpha Tau Alpha, 1962-1965; and James Leising served as vice-president from 1978-82.

Delta - George Peabody College, Tennessee

On July 12, 1928, Delta Chapter was established at the George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee. The installation ceremony was conducted by H. J. Rucker, National Secretary. There were 23 charter members headed by K. C. Davis, who also served as national vice-president from 1928-36. The chapter was transferred later to the University of Tennessee and then to Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Technological University).

When the School of Agriculture was closed in 1936, the chapter became inactive until it was transferred to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville on August 31, 1939. A. J. Paulas, a charter member of Kappa Chapter, and E. B. Knight, a former member of Nu Chapter, were the first members on the list at the University of Tennessee. N. E. Fitzgerald was the advisor.

The chapter at the University of Tennessee became inactive and by the consent of all other ATA chapters was transferred to Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, on March 28, 1950, under the advisorship of E. B. Knight. Between the dates of transfer and 1957, the chapter added 144 members and was very active.

Delta Chapter at Tennessee Polytech became inactive in 1958. The institution has not engaged in training teachers of vocational agriculture in recent years.

Epsilon - University of Florida

A team from Delta Chapter at George Peabody College installed Epsilon Chapter, with 16 charter members, on July 9, 1929. E. W. Garris was the original advisor. The officers were J. C. McIntire, president; G. W. Dansby, vice-president; F. K. Knight, secretary; G. C. Smith, treasurer; and O. M. Edwards, reporter.

The chapter brought about the organization of the Florida Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. It has been very active in the recruitment of teachers and in improving the professional attitude of teachers.

Several former members have served in the state legislature. Others have served in the positions of State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, teacher educator, and department chair.

The last reported initiation for Epsilon Chapter was in November, 1963.

Zeta - Colorado State University

G. A. Schmidt, long-time Head of Agricultural Education and prominent author, headed the list of 36 charter members when Zeta Chapter was installed at the Colorado Agricultural College in Fort Collins by H. J. Rucker, National Secretary, on February 22, 1930. Leonard Johnson, Cecil Staver, and Leslie Gibbons served as president, vice-president, and secretary of the new chapter, respectively.

Over the years Zeta Chapter has been consistent in its growth and activities and has played a vital part in the preparation of teachers of vocational agriculture. A scholarship for prospective teachers has been financed by the chapter.

Many former members have held important state and national positions. A partial list includes E. J. Johnson, Regional Agent for Agricultural Education, USOE; C. H. Lane, Chief, Agricultural Education, USOE; M. G. Linson, State Director, Vocational Education, Colorado; Glen Strain, State Director, Vocational Education, Nebraska; Wm. Paul Gray, National Executive Secretary, FFA; Parker Woodul, President, NVATA; and W. A. Ross, National Executive Secretary, FFA.

The chapter has furnished five national officers for Alpha Tau Alpha: G. A. Schmidt, second vice-president, 1930-36; E. J. F. Early, secretary-treasurer, 1949-53; R. W. Canada, vice-president, 1946-52 and president, 1955-59; I. C. Cross, vice-president, 1967-70; and R. M. Groves, president, 1975-79.

Eta - The Pennsylvania State University

On March 9, 1931, Eta Chapter, with 19 charter members, was installed on the campus of what was at that time The Pennsylvania State College by A. W. Nolan, National President.

The original officers were John L. Stookey, president; John L. Kratzert, vice-president; Clair W. Criswell, secretary; and Norman P. Manners, treasurer. C. S. Anderson was the original advisor.

Eta Chapter initiated the move to have Eta-A Chapter established in the Philippines. R. B. Dickerson, C. S. Anderson, and G. M. Love, Eta Chapter members, were in the Philippines in 1957 and headed the initiation team for Eta-A.

In 1968, Eta Chapter installed Alpha Zeta Chapter at Rutgers University.

The growth of the chapter has been continuous. It has added valuable leadership experiences to its members. During its history, three members of the chapter served in four national offices: C. S. Anderson, president, 1947-50; D. R. McClay, vice-president, 1953-56; and N. K. Hoover, president, 1959-63, and vice-president, 1968-72.

Theta - University of Wyoming

Theta Chapter was organized at the University of Wyoming, August 5, 1931, under the leadership of C. G. Howard, who was State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. The chapter was installed by H. J. Rucker, National Secretary. The original chapter, with 21 charter members, was made up of teachers of vocational agriculture.

C. G. Howard left Wyoming in 1935 to become a professor of Agricultural Education at the University of Idaho and the Theta Chapter became inactive.

Under the leadership of Jack Ruch, Head of Agricultural Education at the University of Wyoming, the chapter was reactivated January 30, 1949. Since that time it has played an important part each year in the preparation of teachers of vocational agriculture. Among the many accomplishments of Theta Chapter was the development of the lapel recognition button. It was adopted by the National ATA at the 1959 Conclave.

James Durkee, teacher education staff and advisor of ATA, served as president of NVATA in 1966.

Iota - Louisiana State University

Iota Chapter was installed February 6, 1932, by C. S. Anderson of The Pennsylvania State University. R. L. Davenport was Head of the Agriculture Department and first advisor of the chapter, which had 36 charter members.

The original officers were B. G. St. Romain, president; A. A. LeBlanc, vice-president; C. O. Duhon, secretary; and C. C. Moss, treasurer.

The growth of Iota Chapter has been constant and consistent. The program of work has been set up each year to challenge members to grow through participating in worthwhile activities.

Former members with outstanding distinction include six college deans, a college president, a director of foreign missions, a general in the U.S. Army, a director of foreign office, Eli Lilly Company, and two chancellors of colleges.

M. C. Gaar of Iota served as national secretary-treasurer from 1946-49, and as national vice-president from 1955-58. J. C. Atherton served as first vice-president from 1965-68.

Kappa - Clemson University, South Carolina

Kappa Chapter was installed at the Clemson A & M College on May 28, 1932, by H. J. Rucker, National Secretary. J. W. Talbert served as the first president of the chapter. The charter listing 34 members was the tenth to be granted by the organization.

Kappa Chapter has been responsible for a scholarship fund and has awarded a key annually to the senior with the highest scholastic record. It has promoted a visitation day for prospective students.

In 1977, Kappa Chapter sent a delegation to install Alpha Pi Chapter at Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Georgia. Also in 1977, Floyd D. Johnson received the AVA Outstanding Service Award at the AVA Convention.

Former members of Kappa Chapter have served as members of the Teacher Education and State Supervisory staffs. Floyd Johnson, a former teacher at York, South Carolina, was a member of the President's Advisory Study Committee for Vocational Education. He also served as president of NVATA and of AVA.

Many members of the teacher education staff have attended one or more Conclaves of the organization. W. L. Crandall was national vice-president during 1942-46.

Lambda - Arkansas State Teachers College

Lambda Chapter, with 17 charter members, was installed April 14, 1933, by H. J. Rucker, National Secretary. The last members were initiated into Lambda in March, 1938. The chapter became inactive in 1941 because the Agricultural Education Department was closed.

Mu - Texas A & I University

R. J. Cook was instrumental in establishing the Mu Chapter at the Texas College of Arts and Industries. With 16 charter members, the chapter was installed by A. W. Nolan, National President, on January 29, 1934. The original officers were Carl Huser, president; C. D. Sadler, secretary; and J. A. Hagler, treasurer.

One of the very worthy projects of the chapter has been the development of "Mesquite Grove", which is a recreational area built up with dance slab, bandstand, and barbecue pit.

Two members have served as national vice-presidents: C. D. Parker, 1937-46, and F. B. Wines, 1953-55.

Nu - University of Missouri

Nu Chapter was the 13th to be granted a charter. The chapter, with 19 charter members, was installed May 18, 1934, by A. W. Nolan, National President. Sherman Dickinson, Head of Agricultural Education, was largely instrumental in getting the chapter established and served as advisor until his retirement from the university. He attended all early Conclaves and was quite active in affairs of the organization. Carl Humphrey, State Director of Agricultural Education, was one of the original chapter officers.

The chapter has cooperated in the activities of the State FFA Conventions and contests throughout the year. Members have assisted in conducting the various contests and have directed the courtesy corps and stage crew. A number of activities have been conducted in cooperation with the Collegiate FFA. Because of the proximity to Kansas City, the chapter has provided paraphernalia for use at the National Conclaves.

Three persons have been recognized with honorary membership: Dr. G. F. Ekstrom, Professor C. V. Roderick and Russell Weathers.

Six representatives from the chapter have been national officers: Sherman Dickinson was elected as vice-president at the 1935 Conclave and served through 1937; G. F. Ekstrom was president from 1950-55; Kenneth E. James served as vice-president in 1966-67 and president from 1967-71; Bob R. Stewart served as secretary-treasurer from 1973-77; Don Claycomb, president, 1979-83; and Bryan L. Garton, vice-president, 1993-96.

Xi - Illinois State University

Xi Chapter, with 42 charter members, was installed March 25, 1935, by the national officers, A. W. Nolan, and H. J. Rucker, with the assistance of a team from Alpha Chapter. The original officers were Howard Morse, president; Clarence Kuster, vice-president; Henry Knetsch, secretary; and Milton Dunk, treasurer. T. R. Douglass was the original advisor.

The chapter has sponsored several activities including the Annual Western Horse Show and the Annual Invitational Livestock Judging Contests for FFA members.

Kenneth E. James, a professor of Agricultural Education at Illinois State University, served as national vice-president of ATA during 1966-67 and as national president from 1967-71. His original ATA membership was with Nu Chapter at the University of Missouri.

The last reported initiation for Xi Chapter was in October, 1980.

Omicron - Mississippi State University

Omicron Chapter was installed at Mississippi State University on May 13, 1938, by A. W. Nolan, National President, assisted by R. L. Davenport and members of Iota Chapter.

Omicron was an active chapter and grew to 349 members by April, 1954. No initiations were held for several years, with the chapter becoming inactive in 1956.

On March 3, 1978, Omicron Chapter was reactivated under the leadership of Jasper S. Lee, with the assistance of Lloyd J. Phipps of Alpha Chapter. Seventeen members were initiated into membership during a special banquet held as part of the centennial celebration of Mississippi State University.

The last reported initiation for Omicron Chapter was in March, 1983.

Pi - New Mexico State University

Carl G. Howard, New Mexico A & M College, knew the advantages of ATA because of his previous experiences as advisor of Theta Chapter at the University of Wyoming. As a result of his leadership, Pi Chapter was installed April 4, 1940, with 12 charter members. According to records available, C. G. Howard is the only advisor who has organized more than one local chapter.

The chapter, when active, provided the Dana and Edith Bennett Scholarship to a sophomore, junior or senior major in Agricultural Education and a plaque to the outstanding ATA member.

The last reported initiation for Pi Chapter was in May, 1972.

Rho - University of Puerto Rico

Rho Chapter with 24 charter members was the first to be established off the main continent. The installation ceremony was conducted by A. W. Nolan, National President, on May 11, 1940.

It was difficult to keep in touch with chapters on the continent and to participate in National Conclaves and, as a result, the chapter lapsed into inactive status in December, 1954.

Sigma - Utah State University

L. R. Humphreys, who for several years had advised a collegiate chapter of Future Farmers on the campus at Utah State College, observed that many Agricultural Education majors did not get the opportunities needed by prospective teachers. He worked with these young men in organizing a local chapter of ATA.

Sigma Chapter was installed on November 11, 1950, by E. J. F. Early, National Secretary-Treasurer, assisted by members of Zeta Chapter, Colorado State University. Sixty students became charter members, a record number to be initiated at one time in ATA. The original officers were Wesley T. Maughan, president; Dale Cummings, secretary-treasurer; and Richard Harper, parliamentarian.

Sigma Chapter developed the initiation emblem, which was officially adopted in 1952 and revised the initiation ritual, which was approved at the 1994 Conclave.

Several former members have received doctoral degrees and many have become school administrators. The majority have remained as successful teachers of vocational agriculture.

The chapter has had one member who served in three national offices: S. S. Richardson served as vice-president in 1952-53, secretary-treasurer from 1953-57, and president from 1963-66.

Tau - West Virginia University

A team of associate members (teachers and area supervisors from Eta Chapter) conducted the installation ceremony for Tau Chapter on April 5, 1950, when 33 candidates became charter members. The original officers were B. L. Coffindaffer, president; James Kesecker and

Rodney Engle, vice-presidents; I. E. Wilson, secretary; John Hill, treasurer; and George Chadock, reporter. The late Dr. D. W. Parsons was the first advisor.

Dr. R. C. Butler (professor emeritus) was the second advisor and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1972. He served as national vice-president, 1956-60. Dr. Warren G. Kelly has also held the position of advisor.

Some activities of the chapter have included an annual spring banquet honoring members and parents, an annual newsletter, a Christmas party and spring outing in cooperation with the Collegiate FFA chapter, and ATA members assisting faculty in conducting the State Vo-Ag Judging Contests.

Special awards have been presented to the outstanding ATA member, the graduating senior with the highest G.P.A. (name engraved on a plaque), and the member with the highest G.P.A. for first and second semesters (a cash award).

Other representatives as national officers have been M. L. Kimmons, secretary-treasurer, 1978-81, and K. S. Odell, secretary-treasurer, 1987-89.

Upsilon - Washington State University

On January 27, 1951, 44 members were initiated into Upsilon Chapter by members of Zeta (Colorado), Theta (Wyoming), and Sigma (Utah) chapters with National Secretary-Treasurer, E. J. F. Early of Zeta Chapter, in charge.

The original officers were John Westergreen, president; Roy Goss and Leslie Adams, vice-presidents; Eugene Forrester, secretary; and Glen Chamberlain, treasurer. The advisor was C. O. Loreen.

Two former members, Bob Wallenstein and Harlan Heglar, have served as presidents of community colleges.

The last reported initiation for Upsilon Chapter was in April, 1981.

Phi - University of Arizona

Phi Chapter with 12 charter members was installed June 16, 1951, by Carl G. Howard and members of Pi Chapter from New Mexico State University. The original officers included Bob Taylor, president; Cecil Willis, vice-president; James Willis, secretary-treasurer; and Page Bakarich, reporter. R. W. Cline and W. A. Schafer were the chapter advisors.

Robert E. (Bob) Taylor has served as State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in Arizona and as Director of the National Center for Vocational and Technical Education at The Ohio State University. Other members of Phi Chapter

have served as teacher educators in agriculture, state supervisors, teachers of vocational agriculture, and school administrators. Dr. David Cox, University of Arizona faculty member and alumnus of Phi chapter, has served on the Board of Directors for the National FFA. Past chapter advisors include J. R. Williams, J. B. Hamilton, P. R. Zurbrick, David Cox, and Jack Elliot.

The chapter has been represented on the national level by J. R. Williams, who served as national secretary-treasurer of ATA during the years 1957-61. Phillip R. Zurbrick served as national vice-president from 1974-78.

Chi - University of Arkansas

Denver B. Hutson, a former member of Nu Chapter, was instrumental, along with others at the University of Arkansas, in establishing Chi Chapter.

G. F. Ekstrom, University of Missouri, National President of ATA, and members of Nu Chapter from Missouri initiated 34 charter members of Chi Chapter on October 19, 1954. The first officers were Jarrell D. Gray, president; Joe Dickerson and Robert Windland, vice-presidents; Ralph Blythe, secretary; Milburn Brewster, treasurer; David Timberlake, reporter; and J. W. Lehman, parliamentarian.

The advisor and members of Chi Chapter have installed two additional chapters: Alpha Beta, Oklahoma State University; and Alpha Gamma, Arkansas State University.

D. B. Hutson served as vice-president of the national organization from 1958-62, and E. L. Love served in the same position from 1970-74.

Psi - Southern University, Louisiana

The installation of Psi Chapter with 19 charter members was conducted on April 15, 1955, by G. F. Ekstrom, National President, assisted by H. J. Braud and several members of Iota Chapter. The officers of the new chapter included LeRoy Barton, president; and G. E. McDowell, secretary-treasurer. C. H. Chapman was chapter advisor.

Eta-A - University of Philippines

Eta-A Chapter was sponsored by Eta Chapter, The Pennsylvania State University. The chapter, with 76 charter members, was installed at the College of Agriculture, Los Banos, on November 16, 1957.

Russell B. Dickerson, of The Pennsylvania State University and Team Leader, Cornell University Contract, served as chairman of the

initiation team. He was assisted by personnel from the College of Agriculture and from the Bureau of Public Schools at Manila.

The original officers of Eta-A Chapter included A. J. Manuel, president; G. C. Fernandez, secretary; P. D. Evangelista, treasurer; and Miss Deloris Barile, advisor.

The last reported initiation for Eta-A Chapter was in October, 1966.

Omega - Purdue University, Indiana

Paul Hemp from the University of Illinois served as installing officer of Omega Chapter, inducting 28 charter members on November 5, 1962. Robert Plunkett was the first president of the chapter. Philip Teske and Bill Roach were the original advisors.

Omega Chapter has made considerable progress during its history. Chapter members established a breakfast at the annual vocational conference to honor outstanding teachers. Visuals have been purchased and distributed, a newsletter published and a "judges service" maintained in connection with district and state FFA activities.

Among former active members, Walter Penrod has served as State Director of Vocational Rehabilitation, Don Gentry as Executive Officer and State Director of the Indiana State Board for Vocational and Technical Education, and James Clouse as a member of the National FFA Foundation Board of Directors and past National FFA Alumni President. Ralph Bentley, Professor Emeritus, made significant research contributions as a member of Purdue staff; and Edgar E. Clanin, Professor Emeritus, has made a significant contribution to the teacher education program in Indiana.

The last reported initiation for Omega Chapter was in October, 1979.

Alpha Alpha - University of Minnesota

Alpha Alpha Chapter was established April 9, 1963, with 16 charter members. Two honorary members of the teacher education staff, Milo Peterson and Gordon Swanson, along with Lewis Taylor of Gamma Chapter, served as installing officers. Records reveal an exchange of correspondence dating back to 1932 between A. W. Nolan, National President, and Roland Brooks, Minneapolis, regarding interest in establishing an ATA chapter in Minnesota.

The original officers were Rodger E. Palmer, president; Dave Ufford and George Copa, vice-presidents; Roger Reuhling, secretary; Dan VonBank, treasurer; Larry Whitson, reporter; Tom Hovde, sergeant-at-arms; and Stan Nelson, parliamentarian. Lewis C. Taylor was the original chapter advisor. Martin McMillion and Roland Peterson have also served in that position.

Alpha Alpha Chapter has been very active in recruiting students into the Agricultural Education major by a series of meetings and publications. The chapter has also granted a Proven Sire Award to teachers who have the greatest number of high school students enrolled in that major. Fundraising activities have enabled the chapter to help finance the trip of several members to the National Conclave.

The chapter has been active in recent years in updating the ATA initiation ceremony to reflect the inclusion of women in membership of the organization.

On the national level, Martin B. McMillion, chapter advisor at the time, was elected secretary-treasurer and served from 1969-73. George Wardlow served in the same position from 1989-92.

Alpha Beta - Oklahoma State University

The petition for Alpha Beta Chapter was approved at the 1963 National Conclave. The chapter was formally installed on October 30, 1963, by Chi Chapter with Denver B. Hutson in charge. There were 20 active members and three associate members in the charter group, including Everett Edington, advisor.

Alpha Beta Chapter has been quite active in the recruitment of teachers. All members of the chapter are also members of the Collegiate FFA. The two organizations function in a dual capacity by helping conduct State FFA Interscholastic Contests and serving as hosts for the State FFA Convention. The state administrative and supervisory staffs for vocational agriculture are located near the campus, and contribute to programs and other activities of the chapter.

E. D. Edington, 1964-65, and William Weeks, 1990-93, each served as vice-president of the national organization; and R. R. Price was national president in 1966-67. Byrle Killian received honorary membership at the national level in 1973.

Alpha Gamma - Arkansas State University

Alpha Gamma Chapter at Arkansas State University was installed on November 9, 1964, by Denver B. Hutson, assisted by members of Chi Chapter from the University of Arkansas.

The original officers were Jim L. Fowler, president; J. B. Penn, secretary; and Charles Collier, treasurer. O. P. Nail and A. B. Rougeau served as the original advisors.

Officers and members of Alpha Gamma installed a chapter at the Arkansas A M & N College, Pine Bluff, in 1967, the third chapter in the state.

Alpha Gamma has been very active among organizations on campus. Concrete benches have been constructed and placed at convenient places by the chapter.

Former member William L. Currie was appointed by the Governor in 1965 as a member of the Pardons and Parole Board for the State of Arkansas.

The chapter has been represented at the national level with these vice-presidents: A. B. Rougeau, 1982-86; Eugene Aist, 1986-90; Timothy Wiggins, 1988-90; and David Agnew, 1990-92.

Alpha Delta - Kansas State University

Alpha Delta Chapter, with 23 charter members, was installed February 15, 1965. The ceremony was conducted by G. F. Ekstrom and other members of Nu Chapter, University of Missouri. The original officers were Gerald Schmitt, president; Jim Zwonitzer and Larry Kendall, vice-presidents; Merle Soeken, secretary; and Vern Lohmann, treasurer. Raymond Agan was the advisor.

The program of Alpha Delta Chapter has placed emphasis on the recruitment of Agricultural Education trainees by ATA visitation teams. ATA members have presented programs on campus, ushered at College of Agriculture activities, and assisted with State FFA and Young Farmer Association activities.

National honorary members of Alpha Tau Alpha are KSU Dean of Agriculture, Carroll V. Hess, 1972; and Agricultural Education professor, Howard Bradley, 1973.

Alpha Delta Chapter has been represented at the national level by Raymond J. Agan as secretary-treasurer from 1965-69; James J. Albracht as national president from 1971-75, and secretary-treasurer from 1981-84; John Parmley as secretary-treasurer, 1984-87; and Steven Harbstreit, president-elect for 1989-90 and president from 1990-93.

Alpha Epsilon - University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff

The new chapter at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (formerly A M & N College) was the third active chapter in Arkansas. An earlier chapter of the organization was organized at the Arkansas State Teachers College in 1933 (now the University of Central Arkansas in Conway). This chapter was discontinued a few years later when agriculture was dropped from the curriculum.

Alpha Epsilon Chapter was installed April 15, 1966, by a team from Alpha Gamma Chapter, Arkansas State University. Robert C. Haynie was the first advisor of the chapter. The first officers were Albert Byles, president; Lewis Rivers and George Wingfield, vice-presidents; and Robert Spears, secretary-treasurer.

Activities of Alpha Epsilon have included recruitment of high school graduates as majors in Agricultural Education, preparation and distribution of Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to needy families, entering a float in the homecoming parade, and contributing articles for the campus newspaper.

Alpha Epsilon Chapter has served as host to the Southeast District FFA Contest. The chapter assumed responsibility for making it pleasant for FFA members and their advisors attending the meeting. The largest project for Alpha Epsilon has been landscaping Woodard Hall (the agriculture building).

The last reported initiation for Alpha Epsilon Chapter was in May, 1980.

Alpha Zeta - Rutgers University, New Jersey

Alpha Zeta Chapter was installed April 1, 1968, by members of Eta Chapter and advisor, Dr. Norman K. Hoover, who journeyed from The Pennsylvania State University to initiate the charter members into Alpha Tau Alpha. A survey after graduation of the 11 charter members revealed that five became teachers, with two in agricultural education; two farmed; one served as a state FFA executive secretary; one served as a county agricultural agent; and one became an agribusinessman.

One hundred four members were initiated into the chapter during the first nine years. Nearly half of the undergraduate membership since that time has been comprised of women. In addition to Agricultural Education preservice teacher memberships, Alpha Zeta Chapter officers and members have recognized and rewarded outstanding teaching and agricultural leadership through the use of associate and honorary memberships. An unusually fine organizational spirit has existed among agriculture and Agricultural Education in this small, highly-populated state.

Two annual highlights relative to chapter activities have been the initiation of new members followed by a reception and social for the total membership, and a spring banquet honoring the student teachers and their cooperating teachers.

Dr. Charles C. Drawbaugh and Dr. William G. Smith have served as co-advisors of Alpha Zeta Chapter.

The last reported initiation for Alpha Zeta Chapter was in May, 1981.

Alpha Eta - Prairie View A & M University, Texas

Alpha Eta Chapter, with 13 charter members, was installed February 5, 1969, by Earl S. Webb of Texas A & M University, a former member of Nu Chapter, University of Missouri. Dr. S. Strickland served as chapter advisor. The original officers were John Edmond, president; Gilbert Franklin, vice-president; Arnold Brown, secretary; and Johnny Dews, treasurer.

The program of Alpha Eta chapter has included conducting leadership institutes at area schools, operating a teacher resource center, and conducting drives for canned food for needy families.

Alpha Theta - Florida A & M University

Alpha Theta Chapter was installed at Florida A & M University on June 3, 1969, by members of Epsilon Chapter, University of Florida. The original roll included 14 active members. The first officers were Kenneth James, president; Samuel Haywood, vice-president; James Stubbs, secretary; Fred Hadley, treasurer; and J. D. Brown, advisor.

Alpha Theta Chapter has been active in the recruitment and professional improvement of teachers. Good relations have been maintained with the FFA as well as with many other groups.

The last reported initiation for Alpha Theta Chapter was in April, 1976.

Alpha Iota - University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Alpha Iota Chapter was installed at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore (UMES), Princess Anne, Maryland, on April 30, 1971, by Dr. R. C. Butler and the officers of Tau Chapter from West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia. The charter members of Alpha Iota Chapter were Jerry Kennedy, George Webster, Benjamin Titus, Percy Willett, Wilson Perdue, Isaac Hayward, Gregory Williams, Ralph Bunting, Stephen Smith, Dr. Harrell Smith, and Dr. Claud C. Marion.

Dr. Claud C. Marion was responsible for organizing the chapter and served as advisor. The original officers were Benjamin Titus, president; Percy Willett, first vice-president; Isaac Hayward, second vice-president; George Webster, secretary; Stephen Smith, treasurer; Ralph Bunting, reporter; and Wilson Perdue, sergeant-at-arms.

An annual highlight of the chapter has been the initiation of new members followed by a reception with their spouses and sweethearts. Many of the original members have participated in the initiation and banquet festivities over the years. Members of the Eastern Shore area who have graduated have also been invited to participate in the festivities.

The last reported initiation for Alpha Iota was in May, 1978.

Alpha Kappa - California State University-Fresno

Alpha Kappa Chapter of ATA was installed on October 12, 1971. The charter was made possible by the leadership of the 14 original members: James A. Schulte, Darrell Cordova, Charles L. Stone, Ernest H. Martzen, Bobby E. Ragsdale, Robert D. Vandeneon, Steve Gomes, Harvey N. Stidston, Dwight Dutschke, Nick Bowles, James M. Petrucelli, Ricki E. Dryden, Arthur A. Parham, and Jack J. Brumley.

Alpha Kappa placed high emphasis on members' participation in FFA events such as the state conventions, field days held on the Fresno campus, and various other agricultural events.

Alpha Kappa Chapter became inactive a few years later. In 1976 the club became active again. The last reported initiation for the chapter was in November, 1982.

Alpha Lambda - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Alpha Lambda Chapter was installed at Blacksburg, Virginia, on April 15, 1972, by Dr. R. C. Butler, the advisor of Tau Chapter, West Virginia, and members of that chapter. Seventeen charter members were initiated. Dr. John R. Crunkilton of VPI & SU was responsible for organizing the chapter. The original officers were David Shiflett, president; Rusty Hall, first vice-president; Dan Hubbard, second vice-president; George Anderson, secretary; L. C. Harold, treasurer; Carroll Anderson, reporter; and Joe Harper, sergeant-at-arms. Dr. Martin McMillion and Dr. Larry Miller were the first advisors of the chapter. With the help of other Alpha Lambda members, Dr. McMillion and Dr. Miller installed Alpha Xi Chapter at North Carolina A & T State University.

Martin McMillion served from 1969-73 as national secretary-treasurer: three years while advisor of Alpha Alpha (Minnesota) Chapter and one year while advisor at VPI & SU. McMillion then represented Alpha Lambda Chapter as national vice-president from 1976-80.

Alpha Mu - University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Alpha Mu Chapter, with 18 charter members, was installed October 12, 1972. The installation ceremony was conducted by Roland Peterson and other members of Alpha Alpha Chapter, University of Minnesota. The original officers were Edward Rusch, president; Ron Wicklace and Nate Splett, vice-presidents; Gene Potratz, secretary; James Kuntz, treasurer; and Steven Olson, reporter. Gerald R. Matteson and Marvin D. Thompson were advisors.

The program of Alpha Mu Chapter has placed emphasis upon activities related to the Agricultural Education Department and the Wisconsin FFA Association. Members have provided undergraduate Agricultural Education majors assistance in program development and responded to individual requests. This was accomplished through the Big Brother/Big Sister effort. Members also have assisted in FFA parliamentary procedure workshops and demonstration, in addition to judging the FFA district, sectional, and state contests. Assistance has been provided for the state-wide Agricultural Technology Contest, hosted annually by the Agricultural Education Department.

Former members of Alpha Mu Chapter have been prominent in various organizations. Many members have taught Agricultural Education while others have served in related occupations such as Farmers Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service, University of Wisconsin Extension Service, and private business.

Alpha Mu Chapter has been represented at the national level by Richard A. Jensen, who served as president from 1983-87.

Alpha Nu - Alcorn State University, Mississippi

Alpha Nu Chapter, with 29 members, was installed on May 7, 1973, by Psi Chapter of Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with Mr. L. V. Virdue, advisor.

E. N. Elliott was the original advisor, and the officers were Grady Mitchell, president; Jerrell Harris, first vice-president; Augustus Russ, second vice-president; Ex Earl Nash, secretary; Edwin Washington, reporter; and William Parker, sergeant-at-arms.

The twelve charter members were Claudis Abram, Thomas Joe Griffith, Thomas Lee, Milo Love, Birl Lowery, August Marshall, Kermit Milloy, Grady Mitchell, Dwight Norris, Johnny Page, Edwin Washington, and James Wells.

Alpha Nu Chapter has been represented at the national level by two members serving in the position of vice-president: E. N. Elliott, 1980-84, and Charles Tillman, 1992-94.

Alpha Xi - North Carolina A & T State University

Another "first" in the life of Agricultural Education at A & T University occurred on December 7, 1973, when Alpha Xi Chapter of Alpha Tau Alpha was installed.

The installation team from Virginia Polytechnic Institute consisted of Dr. Martin B. McMillion, National Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Larry Miller, professor of Agricultural Education; and Larry Powell and Bobby Waddell, student members. They were assisted by Dr. A. P. Bell, Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Education at A & T. Dr. Bell was initiated into the organization as a graduate student at The Pennsylvania State University. Sixteen charter members were inducted into the organization. Included were Henry Revell, Jr., Agricultural Extension Agent, and I. C. Rogers, associate professor in Agricultural Education.

Connie Baggett, a graduate student, was elected the first chapter president. Mr. Baggett and Dr. Bell were instrumental in the idea, organization, and establishment of the chapter. Other original officers included Blannie Bowen, secretary, and Clifton Spaulding, treasurer.

Several organization members have made, and are still making, worthwhile contributions to Agricultural Education on the state and national levels: Willie J. Walls, as a State Consultant for Agricultural Education; Dr. A. P. Bell has served as chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws of the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture and as a member of the McGraw-Hill Book Company National Advisory Committee for Agribusiness and Natural Resources; and Dr. I. C. Rogers was elected to the National Student Teachers' Conference Program Committee as the official representative of the North Atlantic Region for 1976.

Alpha Xi Chapter has worked closely with other agricultural organizations and participated in various campus functions and activities.

Alpha Omicron - South Dakota State University

Alpha Omicron Chapter of Alpha Tau Alpha was installed November 12, 1975, at the National Conclave. It is the only chapter to have been installed at an ATA Conclave. Dr. Marion Kimmons and Paul Fixen spurred interest to charter the Honorary Agricultural Education Organization. The 12 charter members were Paul Fixen, president; Dennis Parsley, vice-president; Steve Sutura, secretary-treasurer; Rick Veldkamp, reporter; and Terry Jaspers, Bob Jaskulka, Kevin Dykstra, Ralph Owens, Alan Fenner, Stan Freisan, Duane Auch, and Meredith Van Sambeek.

Dr. Marion Kimmons and Dr. Dean Dearborn have been elected to honorary membership. Charter members have served as teachers of agriculture, farm loan officers, pesticide workers, Co-Op managers, agricultural extension workers, and completed advanced degrees.

Alpha Omicron Chapter has participated in many activities. For one important fund-raiser, the chapter supervised the "barn" or sleeping quarters during the State FFA Convention for South Dakota. A noon luncheon has been held annually to which all department heads in the College of Agriculture and the Dean of Home Economics have been invited. Once a semester, a seminar has been conducted for student teachers in which they could learn methods of teaching FFA leadership activities. The chapter has sponsored an Ag Queen candidate to the Ag-Bio Prexy Council. Teaching units were prepared for the FFA and distributed to South Dakota teachers of agriculture.

In the fall semester of 1978, Alpha Omicron Chapter instituted an ATA Scholarship of \$200. In that same year, a Junior Membership program was implemented.

Alpha Pi - Fort Valley State College, Georgia

Alpha Pi Chapter was installed on April 16, 1977, at Fort Valley State by Dr. Lloyd Blanton, assisted by members of Kappa Chapter from Clemson University.

Alpha Pi Chapter became a reality with Dr. Ira Hicks, professor of Agricultural Education, as advisor, and 11 of his students as charter members. The original officers were Ted Hurst, president; Jacqueline Ivey, vice-president; Flora Nobles, secretary; Charlie Williams, treasurer; Samuel Baker, reporter; and Royce James, sergeant-at-arms.

Alpha Pi Chapter was the 41st chapter to be installed in the organization. The chapter has placed heavy emphasis on recruiting high school graduates as majors in Agricultural Education and maintaining good relationships with FFA and other agricultural organizations.

Alpha Rho - Northwest Missouri State University

The Agricultural Education program was started at Northwest Missouri State University in 1975. Upon the arrival of Marvin R. Hoskey in the fall of 1978 as head of the Agricultural Education program, he and his students began an investigation of organizations that would provide an opportunity for recognition and leadership development of Agricultural Education majors. In November, 1978, they attended the National Student Teachers Conference in Kansas City where they visited some National ATA sessions. During the next several months, a constitution was developed, officers were elected, and application was made to the National ATA for a charter.

On April 26, 1979, officers and members of Beta Chapter, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, initiated 19 charter members into Alpha Rho Chapter. The original officers were Paul Baessler, president; Bob Claycamp, Jr., vice-president; Brad Ross, secretary; Joe Pickard, treasurer; Ron Alden, reporter; and Sydney Winqvist, sergeant-at-arms. Marvin R. Hoskey and Mervin Bettis served as the original advisors.

Alpha Rho Chapter has participated in such campus activities as Homecoming competition, blood donation, and recycling projects. Their Homecoming House Decoration has placed within the top three entries since 1987, receiving First Place three of those times. Sponsoring a needy family at Christmas has been a community service project. The Mid-Way Conference Banquet (held "mid-way" through the student teaching experience) has been an annual event sponsored for student teachers and alumni to share their experiences in the classroom with each other and with undergraduates in the chapter. An undergraduate scholarship has been established to be awarded annually.

Notable members include Tom Paulsen, Outstanding New Vocational Teacher, American Vocational Association, 1991; Ed Windsor, Outstanding Young Member, Missouri Vocational Association, 1994; and Marvin R. Hoskey, Outstanding Vocational Educator, Missouri Vocational Association, 1995.

Marvin R. Hoskey represented Alpha Rho Chapter at the national level as president-elect for 1992-93, and as president from 1993-95.

Alpha Sigma - Auburn University, Alabama

Fourteen members were initiated into Alpha Sigma Chapter on November 7, 1979. The last reported initiation for the chapter was in June, 1984.

Alpha Tau - North Carolina State University

On April 10, 1980, Alpha Tau Chapter was installed by the Alpha Lambda Chapter, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The 14 charter members were Gerald K. Barlowe, Michael E. Bayne, Gregg Danford, Bill Danger, Michael K. Edmonds, Randy Evans, Kevin S. Fisher,

Terry Gause, Donald R. Herring, David L. Mooring, James F. Radintz, Mike Rogers, Joe Sanderson, and Timothy W. Warren. The first advisor was Larry R. Jewell.

Alpha Tau won the National ATA Debate Contest in both 1988 and 1994. The members of the winning teams were Lisa Bryan and Jones Loflin in 1988, and Kay Becton, Kevin Franklin, Louie Johnson, and Becky Mizelle in 1994.

Two representatives from Alpha Tau have served at the national level: James L. Flowers, president, 1987-90; and Gary E. Moore, president-elect, 1994-95, and president, 1995-97.

Alpha Upsilon - California Polytechnic State University

The 45th chapter of Alpha Tau Alpha, Alpha Upsilon, was installed on February 25, 1983 by Gamma Chapter members from the University of California-Davis. Impetus for forming an ATA chapter at Cal Poly came as a result of a senior project conducted by an Agricultural Sciences major. The first advisors were Mrs. Katy Murphy and Dr. Glen Casey, and 34 charter members were initiated.

At Cal Poly, Alpha Upsilon Chapter has served as the capstone organization for students planning to enter the teaching profession. The professional organization has complemented a very active Collegiate FFA chapter and has served the needs of undergraduate and graduate students entering the teaching profession.

Activities have been professional in nature and focused on meeting the needs of the students. Monthly meetings have included guest speakers and have focused on current topics in agricultural education and the teaching profession. A yearly activity has been the hosting of student teacher breakfasts. The annual initiation and installation banquet has traditionally been conducted during January and has served as a springboard for the new student teaching class into their chosen profession.

Besides an impressive list of active members, the chapter has annually honored supportive individuals by inducting them into honorary membership. Dr. Bill Kellogg has served as chapter advisor.

Alpha Phi - Iowa State University

Alpha Phi Chapter was officially installed on February 26, 1988, during a special program prior to the Annual Agricultural Education Banquet. Thirteen charter members were initiated with Dr. Robert A. Martin as the original advisor.

Alpha Phi Chapter has been recognized as a "true honorary" at Iowa State University based on the following criteria: potential members must have a 3.00 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.00 system, be active dues-paying members of the ISU Agricultural Education

Club, show evidence of leadership in the Agricultural Education Club and hold junior, senior or graduate student classification. The honor of membership in ATA at Iowa State University has been reserved to those invited to make application to be considered for such membership. Approximately 10 to 15 percent of the Agricultural Education Club membership has qualified for ATA membership each year.

Initiation ceremonies have been held annually along with a reception in honor of the initiates. The chapter has also co-sponsored the Annual Agricultural Education Banquet and has assisted with the ISU College of Agriculture Exhibit at the National FFA Career Show.

Representing Alpha Phi Chapter at the national level, Robert A. Martin served as secretary-treasurer from 1992-95, and Greg Miller as vice-president, 1993-95.

Alpha Chi - Southwest Texas State

At the time of the printing of this manual, Alpha Chi Chapter had been approved for admittance into the National Alpha Tau Alpha. However, the chapter was still in the organizational stage and installation had not yet taken place. Michael Stapper has served as the charter advisor.

Alpha Psi - University of Georgia

At the time of the printing of this manual, Alpha Psi Chapter had been approved for admittance into the National Alpha Tau Alpha. However, the chapter was still in the organizational stage and installation had not yet taken place. Maynard Iverson has served as the charter advisor. W. Warren. The first advisor was Larry R. Jewell.