

You've done a nice job of honing in on the kinds of specific examples that illustrate how different today's Greeks are from the fraternity brothers of Tech's early years.

Emily Beck
Megan Morris
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The Establishment of Fraternities on the Georgia Tech Campus Prior to 1905

In October of 1888, when the Georgia School of Technology opened its doors, the first Fraternity had already been established. In mid-1888, prior to the first day of class, Isaac Hopkins, President of Georgia Tech, granted Alpha Tau Omega (ATΩ) permission to charter the Beta Iota chapter on the college campus (Wallace). Following this, numerous national fraternities began to seek representation at Georgia Tech. These included Sigma Alpha Epsilon (1890), Kappa Sigma (1894), Sigma Nu (1896), Kappa Alpha Order (1898), Phi Delta Theta (1902), Phi Kappa Sigma (1904), Chi Phi (1904) and Pi Kappa Alpha (1904). In total, nine national fraternities established chapters at Georgia Tech between 1888 and 1905 (The Blue Print). *Be more specific*

The selection of Alpha Tau Omega as the first fraternity was not entirely unbiased. President Hopkins was made an honorary member of ATΩ while serving as an administrator at Emory College and thus helped pull the fraternity on campus prior to the start of classes (Brittain). As of 1894, after the addition of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣAE) as the second Fraternity, there were approximately 150 men in attendance at Georgia Tech and only 34 fraternity men (Alpha Tau).

At this time, many fraternities began competing to gain entrance onto the campus. Of these fraternities, Kappa Alpha, Sigma Nu, and Delta Tau Delta were the most prominent. The ΣAE's, however, favored the entrance of Kappa Sigma, as they felt they

were “a good southern frat” (Alpha Tau). The ΣAE’s proceeded to help gather a group of young men that they felt would enhance Greek life and turned them over to the nearby Kappa Sigma chapters: Alpha Beta (Mercer) and Alpha Iota (Athens, Tennessee). These KΣ chapters hastily initiated the men ~~in order~~ to beat the competition and established themselves on Tech’s campus. Though this method was not looked upon favorably by either Georgia Tech or the Grand Chapter of Kappa Sigma, the Alpha Tau Chapter of Kappa Sigma gained entrance to Georgia Tech in 1895. The official date however, is 1898, as this was when Alpha Tau was granted its charter (Alpha Tau).

Directly following the colonization of Kappa Sigma, Sigma Nu gained favor with the established Tech fraternities and initiated their first pledge class on November 25, 1896. As with all fraternities, brothers from existing chapters came to Georgia Tech to start the chapter and perform the initiation ceremony. For Sigma Nu, W.L. Kemp (initiated in 1894 at State University in Athens) directed Tech’s founding and first initiation for the Gamma Alpha chapter of Sigma Nu (Commencement Issue). *Be specific.*

Additionally, in the spring of 1903, Georgia Tech experienced a huge increase in enrollment and felt it necessary to also increase the number of fraternities available to students. This explains the addition of three new chapters, all in 1904, bringing the total number of fraternities on campus to nine (General Register). *Be specific. Remember that the purpose of a bibliography is to enable a reader to locate your source.*

When the fraternities first began meeting, chapter was held on Saturday nights, with the exception of one year, when it was moved to Friday nights. This was due to a *ref* dorm policy called “Leaves and Permits” that did not allow students to leave campus during the week. They were allowed off campus on Saturdays from conclusion of inspection until call to quarters. Additionally, the rules stated that when Greeks left their

dorms to attend fraternity meetings, one man was designated to report their departure, hour of adjournment, and return to the professor in charge (Announcements).

The first meeting places and Greek houses at Georgia Tech were positioned on Spring Street and sat almost directly where I-75/85 now runs (Alpha Tau and Sigma).

The Greek houses first began to appear at the turn of the century and brought with them strict rules governing chapter members' behavior in the house (Alpha Tau). The House

Rules for KΣ from 1904 state:

1. All unnecessary noise must be dispensed with except on Saturday, on Sunday until 6:30pm, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12 midnight to 1pm, and from 5pm to 7:15pm., and on Friday 12 midnight to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm.
2. Members will refrain from congregating in study room, and will leave upon request of the inmates
3. All brothers will exercise special care in keeping household furniture and fixtures in the best possible condition.
4. Every member will see that his lights are out before leaving his room.
5. No profanity, gambling, or intoxicating liquors will be allowed in or about the house.
6. No Card playing on Sunday will be permitted.
7. Any reasonable request of an upperclassman must be obeyed by an under classman.
8. On special occasions a unanimous vote of the house committee can overrule any of the above rules except 5 and 6.

9. All members will make it a personal matter to see that the above rules are enforced. (Alpha Tau)

Each brother contributed to the cost of the house, supplies, and chapter activities through monthly dues. The 1902 dues for Kappa Sigma were as follows:

Initiation Fee: \$15.00

Monthly Dues: \$1.50

As of 1905, the Kappa Sigma chapter owned \$50.00 in furniture, and had cash on hand totaling \$3.45 (Alpha Tau).

Once fraternities began to fully establish themselves at Georgia Tech, they began to take an interest in social activities. Their main social interest focused on the girls at Washington Seminary, *There's an interesting research topic.* which seems to have been located somewhere nearby Georgia Tech (Commencement Issue). Additionally, the fraternities began to create chapter baseball teams that played against one another (Sigma). This was a fitting activity for the fraternities, as the majority of Greeks during the late 1800's were baseball and football players for Georgia Tech (Commencement Issue).

While the fraternities did appear to get along on a social level, there were still many rivalries played out amongst chapters. In 1904, Kappa Sigma wrote in a correspondence: "The Frats get more & more sorry men as they multiply. Pi Kappa Alpha certainly let down the bar and exclaimed 'come one, come all!' We will have no trouble holding our own, as the latest entrees go after men who we would not have at all." In another Kappa Sigma letter dated 1903, Brother Hall commented that "the ATΩ's [have beaten] the fillin' out of every ΣAE who showed any fight at all..." (Alpha Tau).

In general, the fraternities at the start of The Georgia School of Technology embodied the same basic ideals of brotherhood, scholastic achievement, and character that modern day Tech fraternities still profess. While chapters are still founded on campus in much the same method as they were when Georgia Tech was established, the behavior expectations, formalities of pledgeship, and time commitment have all changed greatly over the years. Despite all these changes, the Greek system at Georgia Tech has maintained a strong, unique bond of brotherhood, which is what separates the Greek system from other organizations on campus for the past 100 years.

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