

A Blog by Natalia - Stevens Colony of Theta Phi Alpha

Written by Natalia Kafel

Sunday, 23 October 2011 19:12 - Last Updated Saturday, 14 January 2012 16:37

Hi, I'm Natalia and I am proud to call myself a fellow pledge sister to the lovely ladies of Theta Phi Alpha of Stevens Institute of Tech. I don't really know what to talk about so I guess my story on how I got to this point is the best idea. If someone told me two years ago that I would be in this position (a charter member of Theta Phi Alpha at Stevens) I would of said it was time to get off the drugs. I was never the kind of girl who wanted to fit in, I just wanted to be me and be loved for just that, me.

As a freshman at Stevens I made friends and joined clubs and tried to find my home away from home. I was looking for my family, a group that I could always rely on and know they have my back. What can I say, I'm a family girl. It was one of my closest friends, Allie, who introduced me to Greek life. She was my first friend when I moved to Vernon in the sixth grade, she sat behind me in homeroom. She sat next to me at eighth grade and high school graduation, and yes we intend on sitting next to each other when we graduate Stevens together. Allie was the one who said, "Get up, we are going to the formal recruitment events, and I don't want to hear any complaining!" She told me I would regret it if I didn't give it a shot, that I needed to see what Greek life is really about before I just believe it is portrayed on TV. I did it, surprisingly, I went through formal recruitment and I thought I knew which sorority was for me. When I didn't receive a bid from the sorority I had my heart set on, I was crushed. It was my first time ever feeling so badly rejected. I thought I wasn't good enough for that sorority. I did receive a snap bid from another sorority, Omicron Pi, the one in my opinion had the nicest sisters but I didn't know many of them. The president, Nancy, reached out to me and told me her story of not getting a bid from the sorority she wanted but she gave Omicron Pi a chance. Her story touched me because I could relate to her completely.

I went home that weekend, in tears, because I couldn't bear to be on campus and I just really needed a hug from my mom. My parents could see that I really was hurt from not getting a bid from the sorority I wanted, but they told me I had two options. Try again next semester, or give OPi a chance this semester. My mom said that sometimes God has other plans for you. What you might want is not necessarily what you need or what's good for you. At first it might seem like the worst situation in the world, but later on, once you listen to God, you will see that it's much better than you ever expected. She told me that I will never know unless I go for it. So I did, and I am forever thankful for her wise words to me when I needed a little guidance.

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I pledged and soon fell in love with all the sisters. It's as if someone up above placed some of the nicest and sweetest girls in the same sorority, all different but all with hearts of gold. I cried at my initiation because I realized how much I loved all my sisters. It really helps to know you have somebody there for you, anytime; there will always be a sister ready to comfort me when needed it. I learned that sisters should love you for who you are and that the bond we share is true. We truly do care for each other and this is exactly what I was looking for, I finally found my family, my home away from home.

These amazing ladies and I decided that it was time to make our sisterhood, ever loyal, and ever lasting by finally taking the big plunge and becoming national, a very tough but fantastic decision. We decided that Omicron Pi would become stronger if we built off of it and affiliated with Theta Phi Alpha. A decision none of us have regretted because we can all feel the difference it has had on the sisterhood.

As my fellow pledge sisters and I continue on our journey towards becoming sisters and a chapter, I have finally realized why things happened the way they did. I was to be part of something more than just another pledge class, but to be the first and be considered a charter member of the Stevens Chapter of Theta Phi Alpha. I am making history at the age of eighteen and it feels exhilarating knowing that the future Theta Phi's of Stevens will know my name and learn about the hard work all of us in the sisterhood put in to it to make it happen. Every day I learn more and more about my sisters and Theta Phi and I love every moment of it. I am so blessed to have such lovely ladies as my sisters. Some people question how does it feel to change your sorority, but I just respond that I never did. We are making what we love stronger and better than before, we are not knocking down our home, we are improving it. I might have only been a Theta Phi since August but I eat, breath, live Theta Phi Alpha!! If I could say anything to me a few years back I would tell me to just go with it. You are in for a ride, but that's what makes life worth living for. I want to thank all my pledge sisters for being with me on this ride, without them it would not be the same.

-Peace, Love, and Kielbasa, Pol-tastic