

BETA THETA CHAPTER INSTALLED AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

On Sunday, March 1, 2009 the Beta Theta Chapter at Virginia Commonwealth University became Alpha Epsilon Phi's 103rd chartered chapter and the first to be installed in our Centennial year.

The six founding sisters of Beta Theta, [Robyn Ackerman](#), [Julie Bunson](#), [Michelle Levine](#), [Jessica Robertson](#), [Allison Singer](#) and [Arielle Vergales](#), shared a similar vision to our founders – to form a club to share common interests that would be dominated by the ideals of true friendship. In April 2007, these six women took the challenge of starting something new and formed the AEPi Colony at VCU. They came together looking for camaraderie and sisterhood in a culturally Jewish setting. They were looking for a home away from home and a smaller community on VCU's large campus. With assistance from then Director of New Group Development [Alissa Krutoff \(Nu\)](#), the women learned the history, heritage, values and traditions of AEPi and were initiated in September 2007.

During its time as a colony, the group received outstanding support the Colonies Team, NPC Delegate [Dana Parkans Katz \(Epsilon Eta\)](#), Director of Extension [Amy Feldman Chmar \(Alpha Gamma\)](#) and TECs [Michelle Kaplan \(Epsilon Phi\)](#), [Lauren Reinfeld \(Beta Beta\)](#) and [Shannon Cohen \(Beta Beta\)](#). Local AEPi assistance also came from chapter advisors [Michelle Manieri Anderson \(Epsilon Theta\)](#) and [Karin Wartella \(Phi Theta\)](#).

The partnership on campus exhibited by Associate Director of Programs and Educational Services, Dr. Carrie Whittier and Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life Cara Jenkins has been exemplary. Under their guidance, the entire Greek community welcomed and supported Alpha Epsilon Phi from day one.

The installation ceremony and brunch was held at the Omni Hotel. National Council was joined by members of the VCU Greek community, Cara Jenkins, Vice Provost and Dean of Students Dr. Rueben Rodriguez and many family and friends. Also attending were Past National Presidents [Susan Rudd Cohen \(Beta\)](#) and [Lynna Taylor Klaidman \(Alpha Chi\)](#) and Foundation Vice-President [Lynn Kassalow Prosten \(Alpha Mu\)](#).

National President [Jamie Gray Light](#) presented the charter to president Julie Bunson. Additional gifts were presented by the members of National Council. Cara Jenkins and the Panhellenic president made a special presentation to the group – in honor of the chartering of the chapter, the Panhellenic will be sponsoring one member of the chapter to attend AEPi's Centennial Convention.

The presentations ended with Julie speaking on behalf of the Beta Theta founders and the newly chartered chapter. The excitement and sense of accomplishment expressed by this group was felt by all present.

Following brunch, the celebration ended with a traditional friendship circle.

Congratulations to the women of Beta Theta Chapter!