

April 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

We, as women of the Lambda chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, here at the University of Vermont, pride ourselves on our dedication to the nobler womanhood. Every member of the Lambda chapter is an embodiment of each of the four points of the Theta kite--personal excellence, leadership potential, commitment to service, and intellectual curiosity. Each of our members are diverse, driven, and enthusiastic members of the UVM community, each bringing something special and unique to our sisterhood.

As Thetas, we are constantly and consistently working towards a greater good, serving both the UVM and Burlington community, as well as our national philanthropies Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Theta Foundation, and The Friendship Fund. This semester semester alone, the women of the Lambda chapter performed 1,360 service hours and raised over \$7,000 for philanthropy. Our members are involved in a variety of clubs and organizations within the UVM community and beyond, and as a chapter we maintain one of the highest GPA's on campus. As students and as alumnae, we strive for social, intellectual, and moral growth.

In terms of our housing, and as you already know, Greek Life has a long and unique history on UVM's campus, which is a source of pride for our community. The Lambda Chapter has an interesting history of its own. We were not only the first sorority at UVM, but our house was also the Alpha, or first, house of our organization. More than a century of Theta women lived in the same house our members live in today, a source of both pride and nostalgia for our headquarters, our alumnae, and our current members. Each year twenty-five women vie for a spot to live in our house. We take into account GPA, positions held, and each member's dedication to our organization and the values we strive to uphold in deciding who gets the opportunity to live-in.

In my experience of living in our house for the past year, this is not only a facility, but it is our home. It brings together our members in love, friendship, and also provides a meeting place. Our house hosts educational programming, sisterhood events, our recruitment, and also numerous service and philanthropy events. We not only host our own sisters within this house, but also members of the community. For example, for our Theta Thanksgiving philanthropy event we served over 200 members of the UVM and Burlington community to raise money for CASA and children going through the foster care system. We also use this facility for scholarship purposes, hosting weekly study hours and scholarship initiatives.

Above all else, this house has served as the home to a long legacy of Thetas. Our chapter members and alumnae have lived in our facility for over a century! Every year alumnae and their families return for Homecoming, house tours, and other events, and share their stories and their legacies with current members. It is my hope that these traditions will continue for another 100 years within this household!

Vermont's current property tax exemption for collegiate organizations was intended to help keep the costs of pursuing higher education degrees as low as possible for students. If the tax exempt status is revoked, the increase will be reflected directly in the living expenses of our members. For Kappa Alpha Theta, based on how many members live in our facility, it would mean an overall increase in education expenses of \$580 - \$770 per year. This could be detrimental to our chapter, its members, and our Greek community.

Loyally,

Lauren Giery
Chief Executive Officer
Lambda Chapter
Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity