

MX - Mu Chi

The Dartmouth College Chapter

February 14, 1987



Mu Chi was chartered on February 14, 1987, at [Dartmouth College](#) in Hanover, New Hampshire. It is the first chapter of the fraternity to be chartered in the state of New Hampshire and the fifth charter awarded to a member institution of the Ivy League. The chapter is inactive but falls under the jurisdiction of [Boston \(MA\) Alumni](#).

The alumni of Mu Chi maintain a digital presence [online](#), on [Twitter](#), and on [Instagram](#). They also maintain a private presence on [Facebook](#) (access requires an affiliation with [Dartmouth College](#) and [Kappa Alpha Psi](#)).

Early History

A [Kappa Alpha Psi](#) presence was first established at [Dartmouth College](#) in 1919, when [Theodore M. Selden](#) (Epsilon, 1915) transferred from Lincoln University after earning his first bachelor's degree. At the time, it was not unusual for graduates of historically black colleges to pursue a second degree. Graduate schools often required a transcript from "more reputable" institutions of higher learning to assure that the student could maintain the rigorous pace of academic achievement. In Selden's case, his graduation from Dartmouth, second in the class of 1921 and earning *Phi Beta Kappa* honors, resulted in his admissions to the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Following in his footsteps was and [Emile Holley](#) (Omicron, 1922), who, in 1925, [earned](#) *Phi Beta Kappa* honors at Middlebury College in Vermont. Together, they are revered as members of Kappa Alpha Psi who planted early seeds of black achievement in northern New England.

Modern History

The foundation for the modern era of Kappa Alpha Psi at Dartmouth was laid in 1949 when Harrison B. Wilson, Jr. (Alpha Upsilon, 1948) presided over the initiation of Leonard Thomas (Alpha Upsilon, 1949) at Kentucky State University. The two remained close friends for many years so it came as no surprise that when Wilson enrolled his sons in the A Better Chance program in Hanover, New Hampshire, Thomas

would do the same with his sons. The fledgling program promised to open doors of opportunity for young people of color, and both men took advantage. Thomas eldest son, Ben, was accepted to Dartmouth College in 1969 and Leonard's second son, Reginald, followed him there two years later. Ben's brothers, Harrison III and John, would follow he and Reginald, to Dartmouth. After graduation All but Ben would follow in their father's footsteps to pursue initiation into Kappa Alpha Psi.

In 1980, Wilson's youngest son, Richard, enrolled at Dartmouth, and decided that he didn't want to pursue initiation at the graduate level. As a freshman, he collaborated with St. Louis native Anthony Hilliard, the son of Alphonse Hilliard (Alpha Mu, 1945); and Oakland native David Townsend to form the nucleus of an interest group. Together, they organized a total of seven men to develop a lasting [Kappa Alpha Psi](#) presence at Dartmouth College. The initiation of [Mystique](#), the charter pledge line, on May 1, 1982, established the Dartmouth Colony of [Theta Iota](#). Under the direction of 18th Northeastern Province Polemarch **Richard A. Scott** (Alpha Iota, 1966) and then-Senior Province Vice Province **Samuel C. Hamilton**, (Beta Tau, 1955), the colony submitted an application for a charter to Northeastern Province. In October 1986, the request was approved by 19th Northeastern Province Polemarch **Harold Adams** (Gamma Omega, 1954), and the Mu Chi charter was awarded on February 14, 1987.

Throughout the chapter's 21 years, its 53 members offered academic, civic, cultural and social programming on the Dartmouth campus and in the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. Its signature program was a voter registration drive, which gave students, especially incoming freshmen, a voice in selecting the next President of the United States. The chapter also offered mentoring to minority students who transferred to Hanover High School through the *A Better Chance* program. Chapter members were also leaders on campus, including members of the school president's advisory council, presidents of the African-American Society, the school's black student association; publishers of the school's newspapers and yearbook; club leaders, inductees to the school's honor and secret societies, and other college loyalists.

From 1990 to 1996, Dartmouth experienced a drop in minority enrollment, which resulted in more competition for quality minority candidates and lower yields for all fraternities on campus. This, coupled with a series of national and regional moratoriums on pledging and intake, caused the fraternity's membership to dwindle. In 2000, the last initiate of Mu Chi graduated. Three years later, the Mu Chi charter was revoked; despite numerous attempts to reactivate the undergraduate chapter, it remains inactive.

Recent History

In 2012, the 50 members initiated at the undergraduate level, together with the nine Dartmouth graduates who were initiated into the fraternity at the alumni level, formed a coalition to maintain a bond of fraternity under the banner [Dartmouth Nupes](#). They meet at least once, annually, to maintain the bond of fraternity and to make themselves available should the university or the fraternity desire to bring [Kappa Alpha Psi](#) back to the Upper Valley.