

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

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We have found that the most useful interviews are conducted in the following manner:

- Sit person being interviewed in a comfortable chair.
- Attach the microphone that will go into the camera.
- Advise the person being interviewed that she is to talk with the person sitting across from her. Don't worry about the camera or anyone else in the room. Talk to the person asking questions. (This requires that the videographer align the chair in the direction she wants the pictures.)
- Advise the person ahead of time what some of the questions might be. This gives her a chance to collect her thoughts or look up specific events and dates. However, don't let the person hold papers. The sound will overtake the voice or you will have shuffling sounds in the video.
- Explain that the questions will be asked in such a way that the person being interviewed needs to answer with a complete sentence and subject topic such as "I have attended twelve KD conventions and I have served as philanthropy director." (The hope is that the interviewer will be in a minimum amount of the conversation.)
- All interviews begin with "My name is My Kappa Delta chapter is" This is useful for videos but also for cataloguing purposes.
- Once several questions are asked, the person usually relaxes, understands the process and will talk more openly.
- The list of questions is only a guide. Also, do your homework. Know the years the person worked in the sorority, know the positions held. She may not remember specific dates so the person interviewing needs to have those available.
- At the end of the interview it might be appropriate to let anyone else in the room ask a question. There may be something good that has been forgotten. Unless the person being interviewed requests it, no one else should be in the room while the interview is in progress.
- If you are working on a specific topic (philanthropy, sisterhood, etc.) create a separate set of questions dealing only with that topic.
- Don't forget to thank the person who was interviewed.
- Interviews with multiple people involved yield very little useful material for a video. Topics bounce around; pictures aren't as good, close ups are difficult. Interview one person at a time. When interviewing at a convention or other gathering set up a pre-planned schedule and try to follow it.
- Well-crafted, open-ended questions are the best. **The sets of questions below are just a starter point.**

*I usually talk with the person being interviewed for a few minutes before commencing. I start with something familiar. "Mary, I know you served on the Foundation Board

when it was first started. Let's make sure we discuss that." It shows an interest and breaks the ice.

Questionnaire – General

Pick four or five of these questions to begin.

1. Where were you born?
2. How was it different growing up than it would be today?
3. What did you do as a teenager?
4. Who were your childhood heroes?
5. Where did you go to college? What was your chapter name?
6. Why did you pick that school?
7. Did you live in a dorm? Did you share a room? What was your room like? (Size, decoration, colors, etc.)
8. What did college students do for fun?
9. What is a favorite event on campus? Why was it a favorite?
10. What was your favorite thing to do? What was your least favorite?
11. What world events had the most impact on you while you were in college? Did any of them personally affect you or your family? (War, civil rights, etc.) How did it affect your campus? (What specific historical events occurred during your college years?)
12. What was school like for you? What was your favorite subject? What was your major?
13. In what school activities or sports did you participate? (Besides Kappa Delta)
14. How did you celebrate holidays at school (Christmas, birthdays, etc.)?
15. Do you remember any fads from your college days? (Popular hairstyles, clothes, etc.)
16. What were some favorite songs and music? Or musical artists?
17. What are your most vivid memories of your college years?
18. What advice could you give a college student from today?
19. How is the world today different from what it was like when you were young?
20. How has life changed specifically for women since you were in college?
21. What personal accomplishments are you most proud?
22. What is the one thing you most want people to remember about your leadership in Kappa Delta?

KAPPA DELTA QUESTIONS

23. Why did you join Kappa Delta?
24. Did you have any other family members in Kappa Delta?
25. What Kappa Delta college experiences are your favorites?
26. What are some Kappa Delta activities you remember? What chapter traditions do you remember?
27. What is a favorite memory from working on KD boards or nationally?
28. Do you have a favorite story about one of your KD peers that served on NC with you?
29. How many Kappa Delta Conventions have you attended?
30. Do you have a favorite Kappa Delta song?

31. Why and how do you think Kappa Delta has had an influence your life?
32. What has been your involvement in Kappa Delta as an alumna?
33. Do you have a favorite Convention memory?
34. What accomplishments in KD are you most proud?
35. What would you consider the most trying or difficult time while you were in KD leadership?
36. Overall, how has Kappa Delta influenced your life?
37. What one piece of advice would you like to pass on to younger Kappa Delta sisters?
38. Is there anything else that you want to say about your Kappa Delta experience?

Word Response Test: First thoughts after hearing word

Leadership	Philanthropy (importance)
Sisterhood	Alumnae
Shamrock	Panhellenic
KD most admired	KD Foundation
Education	Convention experience
What Kappa Delta means to me....	
Specific name of KDs who were involved during her time period	

QUESTIONNAIRE #2

Kappa Delta Collegian Experience

Where did you go to college? Chapter? Tell us your Kappa Delta pledge story. Discuss how the college experience was different from today. (Dorm experience, favorite event on campus)

Discuss some society differences from your college years and today. (Even fads) What world events had the most impact on you while you were in college? Did any of them personally affect you or your family? (War, civil rights, etc.) How did it affect your campus?

Major – other activities besides Kappa Delta

What was a typical date like during college?

Did you have other family members in Kappa Delta?

What overall Kappa Delta experiences do you remember on campus?

Do you have any memories of meeting national officers? If so, who?

What item invented or created in the 20th or 21st century or during your life time do you think has made the biggest impact on society? (washing machine, “the pill,” the computer, cell phone, etc.)

Were you in the military?

Kappa Delta Experience in National Organization

Explain how you became involved in the national organization.

Name some or all of the positions you have held.

Proudest accomplishment within national work

Discuss your favorite Convention memory.

Why or how do you think Kappa Delta has had an influence your life?

Have you received any Kappa Delta scholarships or awards?

Discuss one or two reasons you are glad you are a Kappa Delta.

Why do you think you have such a strong desire to give to and to serve Kappa Delta?

What one piece of advice would you like to pass on to younger Kappa Delta sisters?

Who is your Kappa Delta heroine? Why?

Any other thoughts to share

Interview questions #3 – Possible questions to draw from:

1. What is your full name and why were you named that? (Include maiden name for women.)
2. Were you named after someone else?
3. Did you have a nickname when you were growing up? If so, what was it and why were called that?
4. Have you had any other nicknames as an adult?
5. What do your family members call you now?
6. When and where were you born?
7. Where was your first home?
8. In what other homes/places have you lived?
9. What were your earliest memories of your home?
10. Could you tell me a story or any memory of your brothers and sisters?
11. What are the full names of your brothers and sisters?
12. What did your family do for fun when you were a child?
13. Was there a chore you really hated doing as a child?
14. What kinds of books did you like to read?
15. Do you remember having a favorite nursery rhyme or bedtime story? What was it?
16. What were your favorite toys and what were they like?
17. What were your favorite childhood games?
18. Were there any fads during your youth that you remember vividly?
19. Where did you attend grade school?
20. Where did you attend high school?
21. What were your schools like?
22. How did you like school?
23. What was your favorite subject in school and why?
24. What subject in school was the easiest for you?
25. What was your least favorite subject in school and why?

26. Who was your favorite teacher and why was he/she special?
27. How do your fellow classmates from school remember you best?
28. Did you get good grades?
29. What did you wear to school? Describe it.
30. What school activities and sports did you participate in?
31. Did you and your friends have a special hangout where you liked to spend time?
32. Where was it and what did you do there?
33. Were you ever given any special awards for your studies or school activities?
34. How many years of education have you completed?
35. Do you have a college degree(s)?
36. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
37. What was your first job?
38. How did you decide on a career?
39. What jobs have you had?
40. If you served in the military, when and where did you serve and what were your duties?
Rank?
41. Were you ever injured in the line of duty?
42. How old were you when you started dating?
43. Do you remember your first date? Could you tell me something about it?
44. When, where and how did you first meet your present spouse?
45. Do you remember where you went on the first date with your spouse?
46. How long did you know him/her before you got married?
47. Describe your wedding proposal.
48. Where and when did you get married? (Include date, place, church, etc.)
49. Describe your wedding ceremony.
50. Who was there? Were there a best man, a bridesmaid, other wedding party members and who were they?
51. What advice would you give/did you give to your child or grandchild on his/her wedding day?
69. Do you remember hearing your grandparents describe their lives? What did they say?
70. Do you remember your great-grandparents?
71. Who was the oldest person you remember as a child?
72. Did you have any of the childhood diseases?
73. Do you have any health problems that are considered hereditary?
74. What do you do regularly for exercise?
75. What would you consider the most important inventions during your lifetime?
76. Do you remember the first time you saw a television; a car; a refrigerator?
77. How is the world different from what it was like when you were a child?
78. Do you remember your family discussing world events and politics?
79. How would you describe yourself politically? Are you conservative or liberal, and why?
80. How did you react to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?
81. What wars have been fought during your lifetime?
82. How did the Vietnam War affect you?
83. Name a good friend you have known the longest. How many years have you been friends?
84. What were the hardest choices you ever had to make?

85. What person really changed the course of your life by something he/she did?
86. Do you remember any advice or comments that had a big impact on how you lived your life?
87. What kinds of musical instruments have you learned to play?
88. Would you consider yourself creative?
89. How would you describe your sense of humor?
90. What activities have you especially enjoyed as an adult?
91. What are your hobbies?
92. What did you like to do when you were not working?
93. What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?
94. Have you ever met any famous people?
95. Who were your parents? Please give full names.
96. Who were your grandparents? Please give full names.
97. Where were they from?
98. How do you feel about the choices you made in school or career?
99. What organizations or groups have you belonged to?
Have you ever won any special awards or prizes as an adult?
What were they for?
100. What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited and what was it like?
101. What is the longest trip that you have ever gone on? Where did you go?
102. What has been your favorite vacation? Where did you go and why was it special?
103. What was the favorite place you ever visited and what was it like?
104. What pets have you had? Do you have a favorite story about a pet?
105. What is the single most memorable moment of your life?
106. What or who is your favorite:
 - Artist?
 - Athlete?
 - Author?
 - Board game?
 - Book?
 - Color?
 - Flavor of ice cream?
 - Flower?
 - Fruit?
 - Holiday?
 - Meal?
 - Movie star?
 - Musical group?
 - Painting?
 - Poem?
 - Poet?
 - Season?
 - Song?
 - Sport?
 - TV program?