**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MICAELA ISLER**

Hello everyone and thank you for being here today. This is a very special occasion for all of us as a sisterhood, for Alpha Xi Delta as a vital community, and, of course, for me as well. It's an incredible honor to have been named as National President of this (**use the term you feel comfortable using.... in my research I've seen sorority and fraternal organization**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one that has meant so much to me throughout most of my life. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge (**Thank any organizers, board members or hosts that should be recognized**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for that very generous introduction. For those of you that know me, you know of my personal commitment to this wonderful organization, and for those of you that may not know me **yet**.... don't worry... you will... soon enough!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Alpha Xi Delta has been an integral part of my life since I was seventeen years old. As I began college at the University of Texas, in the midst of orienting myself to a new environment, I was accepted with open arms, a constructive foundation, and the seeds of friendship and bonding that have lasted for most of my lifetime. The connections forged within our network are precious.... they are solid, enduring, practical, and generous, and as I have always done, I am here to dedicate whatever I can of my personal enthusiasm, experience, and partnership to see to it that all of my sisters.... and that's a pretty big number...150,000 strong and growing... have a fulfilling, gratifying, and sustained relationship with AXD (**not sure of accepted abbreviation**).

I am thrilled to see so many of you present today. And I know that if you're here, you **care**. You've experienced the tangible value of connecting to some of the brightest, most enthusiastic, and genuine women you will ever have the opportunity to meet.... and **THEY** think the same of **YOU**. Our trajectory spans around the world... which means that your potential for participation also extends that far. And to think.... this all started as a "**What if?**".... back in 1893 when a group of female students got together at Lombard College in Illinois to organize the power and the potential they innately felt that occurred when women got together.... and through the importance of education and the connection of friendship, our founders envisioned a society in which we all learn, support one another, serve others, and grow. It's now 124 years later.... and the impact of that early vision is mind boggling!!! Their inspiration and example have touched the lives of millions of female students through the years and around the world. Their seeds have sewn incredible results, and their legacy is immeasurable.

The dictionary defines legacy as, "anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor." In college life and in Greek life, legacy has several connotations, but pardon the pun, each road... each definition... "leads back to Rome... or **Greece**, as the case may be." (**Wait for the laugh).** As sisters in AXD,we have all really hit the mother lode of bequests, and it is up to each one of us to do our part to keep that quill prepared and ready to make its mark on this world, and to welcome the next generations of our sisters. Patti Davis said, "...That is your legacy on this Earth. When you Leave this Earth: how many hearts you touched." We can see from the dedication of our founding sisters...Cora Bollinger Block, Alice Bartlett Bruner, Julia Maude Foster... and the rest of their visionary partners, that they were willing to take the steps to **make a difference** in the world... even before that expression was coined.... and even before it was acceptable and **ALLOWED** for women to exert their intelligence and power. Please don't forget that. Please don't take your capabilities and permissions for granted.... and please use your "super powers" for good....

My own history with Alpha Xi Delta began at the very beginning of my college career. As I mentioned, I was new at the University of Texas. I was only seventeen years old..... and in the trifecta of weird conditions, my family was living overseas.... ugh.... it was enough to give my teenaged self.... (**if you can think of a better word for you, please replace**).... the WILLIES... for all intents and purposes, I was alone.... on my own for the first time in my life... just out of high school... but I found my home away from home... I made friends that are still with me (**if any are present, please acknowledge them**)... great friends like, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I connected with mentors and guides.... I honed my leadership skills, and while I was having an amazing time, I also learned of the absolute necessity to **give back**. No matter what we think we do or don't have in this life, each one of us is **blessed**. We have **enough**.... and it's through the action of giving to others that we really do **find** ourselves and how much we have to give.... and to give even more..... Benjamin Franklin said, "If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." As members of this sorority, and as citizens of our society, the question we must keep asking ourselves.... no matter if we are a student or an alumna.... What do **I** want to be known for? You've accepted to walk in the footsteps of our founding sisters.... the time has arrived for us to come together and create new and unprecedented legacies.

So many people have a notion.... or a preconceived set of images, of what Greek life is like. And although the more "convivial" aspects of participation have been increasingly in focus in the recent past.... and I **could be** referring to recent news articles or anyone drowning in candy pastels like Chanel on "

Scream Queens" (**Wait for the laugh**)... or worse... it is up to each one of us to uphold the vision, mission, and purpose of our founding sisters while we apply their ethics to today's lifestyle and evolving academic and social demands. I am here to lead us in doing **GOOD** as we inspire and encourage others to share our mission.

We have a lot of work to do and our mandate is clear... we have to come together and work as a cohesive unit to build a better future for our sorority members and our world. If anyone doubts the impact a group of dedicated sisters can make when they get together, take a look at the impact we've had with Autism Speaks. Over the years, Alpha Xi Delta has collectively raised over $5 million for the organization and even BEYOND the financial benefit, can you imagine the information and education we're sharing about this condition? Can you imagine the outreach of tens of thousands of YOUR sisters sharing about autism... and with each discussion, the stigma diminishes... with each bit of information we share, and with each dollar we raise, understanding increases and proactivity and discovery abounds.

Alpha Xi Delta has a vision.... "Inspiring women to realize their potential." We hold as our mission... to enrich the life of every Alpha Xi Delta member. Both the vision and the mission are simple and organic....we have come together and continue to build a context of empowerment and possibility for ALL MEMBERS from now into the future. One hundred and twenty-four years ago, ten women had an idea. Their success was only as effective and as powerful as their commitment and involvement ... and we know that although not everyone performs at the same level with the same intensity and the same determination and skill set, it is in the mix of personalities, experience, talents, and drive that will determine our continued success. We have built an incredible network of friendship, empowerment, and potential, and as I said earlier, I will do whatever I can to honor this organization and guide us all into the future, but one person doesn't do it all.... I am merely the "chatelaine..." the keeper of the keys... and I am honored to serve.

I stand here as a representative of what it means to have Alpha Xi Delta in one's DNA. My mother was initiated as an alumna in 1993 and has been a mentor. I just gave birth to a daughter last year. I have a vision of my daughter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ inheriting her place in this sisterhood..... and I intend that she discover the welcoming, nurturing, selfless spirit of mutual support and fulfillment of potential.... and I wish the same for all of you... and to whatever degree and depth of participation you choose, know that Alpha Xi Delta is not only a context for growth... it is a mirror of change.... for ourselves and the world around us. Let's come together to make sure we are around, connected, and impactful for many years to come....

Thank you all!!