

Brianna Perry interviewing Marlene Hurtt-Dunkley clip 2

Topic: Delta Sigma Theta

Interviewer: So, I heard you were a founding member of the first African American frat on campus, can you tell me about that?

Marlene Hurtt-Dunkley: Okay yeah we chartered back in 1975, well actually yeah '75 but we started the process in January. It took almost ten months before we were actually, we became Deltas because of the process. I wasn't as involved with the process as some of my other line sisters, but because we were the first African American sorority we had to like pave the way in terms of the mindset of the University and how they viewed us, some of the students and just how they viewed just an all African American group or sorority. They wanted us to sort of assimilate and become a part of who they were versus a part of who we were because it was a national organization so there were plenty of rules and regulations that applied to us and couldn't be applied to the University of Delaware and their set of rules. They wanted us to be a part of their Panhellenic, but it's like some of the things were not conducive to what we were doing. I remember when we were pledging because our pledge process was a lot different that some of the white students would mock what we were doing and tease our steps and say all kinds of things, but we handled it. We always handled it. If the process was a lot different, the reception after time was a little, a lot different than when we first started out. We did have to like pave the way and then we had the frats come on, the Qs, the Kappa's, the AKAs came. It was a process and it wasn't easy. It's never easy being the first of anything.