



## Alpha Upsilon Alpha Honor Society of the International Literacy Association

# INITIATION CEREMONY AND INSTALLATION OUTLINE

**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Ladies and Gentlemen: Our purpose today is to initiate individuals into the Honor Society of Alpha Upsilon Alpha. These persons have been nominated on the basis of scholarship, service, and leadership. We have honored them with our invitation to membership, and they have honored us with their acceptance.

The goals of Alpha Upsilon Alpha are

- To recognize high academic scholarship, and specifically in the field of reading/ language arts
- To develop the qualities of personal and professional leadership
- To honor service to the reading profession

The extent to which we, as an Honor Society, attain these goals and contribute to the field of reading/language arts depends upon each of us working interdependently and cooperatively to the best of our abilities. I charge each of you to recognize the responsibilities of membership and to be of service to each other and to the profession.

The bylaws of this Chapter, approved and operating within the framework of the guidelines, specify certain conditions to be observed.

These conditions are as follows:

### **Undergraduates**

- Shall have completed 5 semesters of undergraduate study or its equivalent.
- Shall be elected from the upper 25% of their class in scholarship.
- Shall have completed at least one course in reading/language arts and be recommended by a faculty member in this field.

### **Graduates**

- Shall be a major in the field of reading and/or language arts or a closely related field.
- Shall have completed a minimum of nine semester hours in reading/language arts.
- Shall have a GPA of 3.5 in all graduate work and specifically in the field of reading/ language arts.
- Shall be recommended by a faculty member.

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## AUA INITIATION CEREMONY AND INSTALLATION OUTLINE (CONTINUED)

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### **Faculty and Alumni**

- Faculty and alumni may also be members of the Honor Society. Those being initiated today are faculty members whose major area of responsibility is in reading/language arts or a closely related field. Alumni are those with degrees in reading/language arts who have met the academic requirements. Both have submitted their applications to the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Steering Committee and have been approved.

I shall announce the names of the candidates for membership by categories. As I call the name of each candidate, they will rise and remain standing until all those in their particular category have been named. The group will then be seated, and the process will be repeated in turn for each group.

*(Direction: The names of the alumni/professional candidates should be called. Following this group will come the faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. If there are no candidates in a particular group, then it shall be omitted. Following the introduction of all groups, the Faculty Advisor will ask all candidates to stand.)*

**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Will the candidates, in unison, repeat this pledge after me:

"I do solemnly promise...that as a member of Alpha Upsilon Alpha...I will honor and promote the ideals and goals of the Honor Society."

*(Direction: Ask the candidates to be seated.)*

It is appropriate that candidates about to be initiated know certain facts about the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Honor Society.

In 1984, at the Atlanta, Georgia, Annual Conference of the International Reading Association (IRA, now the International Literacy Association ILA), a reception for college and university faculty who were active in the promotion of student membership was held. During the reception, several in attendance indicated that there was a need for the recognition of scholarship within the field of reading and language arts. The question was also raised as to why the field of reading did not have an Honor Society, since many other fields of study use such organizations to recognize scholarship. An advisory group was then appointed to assume responsibility for further action, with a faculty representative from the University of Northern Iowa and a staff representative from IRA to provide leadership.

In January 1985, the advisory group made a recommendation to the IRA Board of Directors that the proposed Honor Society be placed on the agenda for the 1985 IRA Delegates Assembly. The proposal was presented, and the Assembly approved the establishment of the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Honor Society. The initial meeting of the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Steering Committee was held in May of that year. The first chapters were approved by the Committee and IRA in April 1986.

**The name of the Honor Society:** Alpha Upsilon Alpha derived from the initial letter of three Greek word.

The first A stands for *Anagnosis*, meaning "reading"; the U stands for *Upotrophia*, meaning "scholarship"; and the second A stands for *Archon*, meaning "leadership."

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## AUA INITIATION CEREMONY AND INSTALLATION OUTLINE (CONTINUED)

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Alpha Upsilon Alpha's motto is the Horace quote "*Lege sapere aude,*" which translates as "**Read, dare to be wise.**"

*(Direction: The Faculty Advisor will now move to the right side of the table with the Dean on their right.)*

Now, for the conclusion of these rites, will the candidates please rise.

**FACULTY ADVISOR:** At this time, it is my pleasure to read to you a letter from Calista Koval, Past Chairperson of the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Steering Committee.

**To the Candidates for Membership in Alpha Upsilon Alpha:**

By endorsing the purposes of Alpha Upsilon Alpha and pledging your loyalty to its ideals, it is my privilege, as Chairperson of the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Steering Committee, to declare you to be members in good standing. May you always continue to merit this high honor and to seek the realization of our motto, "Read, dare to be wise." I congratulate you and wish you well.

Today, we have a second purpose, and that is to officially charter this Chapter. You have met all requirements of the Honor Society. Your bylaws, which will govern your actions and operations, have been approved. Therefore, as founders of this Chapter, you are charged with carrying out the activities of Alpha Upsilon Alpha in conformity with the provisions of the Honor Society and those set forth in your bylaws.

In accordance with our custom of naming each succeeding Chapter in the Honor Society with the appropriate letter of the Greek alphabet, I declare the *(name of Chapter)* Chapter of Alpha Upsilon Alpha duly chartered and a part of the Honor Society. Do you accept these responsibilities for the *(name of Chapter)* Chapter? The answer is, "I will."

**FOUNDING MEMBERS ANSWER:** "I WILL."

On behalf of the Committee, I salute you as founders and members of the *(name of Chapter)* Chapter. May the Honor Society bring you intellectual stimulation, professional growth, and opportunities for both leadership and service to the profession.

**As Faculty Advisor, I, too, congratulate you and wish you well. As I call your name, come forward to receive your certificate of membership and then sign the register as a charter member of the *(name of Chapter)* Chapter.**

*(Direction: The newly initiated will first shake the hand of the Faculty Advisor, who will present them with their certificate, pin, and cords. They will shake the hand of the Dean and move to the small table where the register is located. As soon as they have signed the register, they should return to their seats for the installation of officers.)*

**DEAN\*:** Will the officers of the *(name of Chapter)* Chapter please step forward? You have been chosen to manage the affairs of this Chapter for the coming year. While you have been honored by your selection, you have also been given the responsibility of maintaining the Chapter and upholding the goals of the Honor Society.

By answering "I will" as I call your name and office, you pledge to fulfill the duties assigned you: *(name)*, President; *(name)*, Vice President; *(name)*, Secretary; *(name)*, Treasurer.

\*If the Dean is unable to attend, the Academic Vice President or a designated representative may act on their behalf.

## AUA INITIATION CEREMONY AND INSTALLATION OUTLINE (CONTINUED)

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The Chapter members are fully confident of your abilities, your integrity, and your willingness to serve. They pledge their loyalty, their cooperation, and their full support to you. I congratulate you and declare you to be installed as the officers of the (*name of Chapter*) Chapter of the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Honor Society.

*(Direction: This concludes the initiation ceremony. The Faculty Advisor should provide the audience with the information regarding the celebration following the ceremony if attendance is open to all, and extend thanks to all those who participated in and assisted with the initiation ceremony.)*

### PRE-CEREMONY DIRECTIONS

Candidates should assemble in a nearby room prior to the ceremony. Since the candidates will be inducted by groups—faculty, alumni, students—they should be seated in the room in alphabetical order according to groups. At the appropriate time, the candidates will be led, by the Faculty Advisor, into the room where the ceremony will take place.

Academic dress is strongly recommended for the participating officers. For this ceremony, that would be the Faculty Advisor and the Dean.

The initiation ceremony should be made as impressive as possible and be followed by a dinner or reception, if possible.

The Faculty Advisor, before holding the initiation ceremony, should conduct a practice to assure that all will go smoothly.

No additions or omissions should be made to these ceremonies without the approval of the International Literacy Association.

Each Chapter should secure, prior to the ceremony, a register in which the names of all initiates will be recorded. The register should be of sufficient length to include not only the charter ceremony but also ongoing initiation ceremonies.

Chapters are urged to have a photographer to record portions of the ceremony as well as group pictures of those being inducted. Copies of a few select photos should be sent to ILA Headquarters for inclusion in the Honor Society's archives.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INITIATION

*Materials required to carry out the initiation ceremony:*

- A register (and pen) ready for the signatures of the new members
- Three white candles at least 8" tall (and matches). Light the candles before the ceremony.
- A large table covered with a white cloth
- A small table upon which the register will be placed
- Individual membership certificates arranged alphabetically by groups and membership pins and AUA Honor Cords
- Two copies of the initiation ceremony

## AUA INITIATION CEREMONY AND INSTALLATION OUTLINE (CONTINUED)

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**Arrangements:** The charter should be placed on the large table (center front), the three white candles arranged in a triangle immediately behind the charter, and the membership certificates and pins (arranged by groups) on the right side of the Faculty Advisor, who shall stand at the rear of the table and immediately to the left of the Dean. The smaller table containing the register to be signed by the candidates should be conveniently placed.

*NOTE: The candidates should be seated immediately in front of the table by groups.*

**Participants:** Because the ceremony involves three parts—initiation of members, charter presentations, and installation of officers—the Faculty Advisor shall act as the presiding officer and be assisted by the Dean.