

Greek Alumni E-Newsletter

Fall 2005

Homecoming 2005

BGSU's, Homecoming will be held the week of September 25th with the Homecoming game occurring on Saturday, October 1st against Temple. Many fraternities and sororities will be hosting alumni activities during the weekend. These events include receptions at the houses and many tents at Tent City next to the stadium. For a complete list of events, please visit <http://homecoming.bgsu.edu/>.

Director's Message

Dr. Ron Binder '86, Director of Greek Affairs

Fall is an exciting time on a college campus as students returning to school create a "buzz" on campus. Add to this the excitement of joining a fraternity or sorority and things can get very exciting. In Greek Affairs we look forward to our students returning to campus and working with them to enhance their undergraduate experience. This year we are concentrating on four overall initiatives: Scholarship, Recruitment, Retention & Facilities. These four initiatives will be our focus with our students and staff this year.

At the heart of what we do is scholarship. It is the principle reason for our students to be at BGSU and we strive to enhance the academic experience for our 1,600 members. Our goal will be to raise the Greek GPA above the Undergraduate GPA, as measured by the Greek Report (included in this issue). New this fall is increased GPA requirements for our groups and for chapter presidents (both being raised to a 2.50). Along with our academic programming, our hope is that we will achieve the goal during this academic year.

Recruiting students into Greek groups is always a high priority. Our focus this year will be on recruiting students who embody our core values of Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Brotherhood/Sisterhood. We will be working with our groups this year on identifying those students, both new and returning, who share our values and who will make life-long members.

Greek groups spend a great deal of time and energy recruiting new members. In addition to recruitment, we will focus on retaining these new members through graduation. To emphasize this new initiative, we will be adding a new column to the Greek Report that reports a chapter's retention rate for new members and will be working with groups on meeting their member's needs for their entire four years.

Finally, we are focusing on enhancing our Greek houses. Since BGSU manages the fraternity and sorority houses, we continually renovate them, annually spending over \$500,000. In addition, many students have taken us up on our offer to let them paint their individual rooms as a way to personalize their space. Through renovations and painting, we hope our houses become a home away from home for our students.

Alumni play a key role in our success with these four initiatives. If at anytime you have any concerns, please contact me at 419-409-0731.

Greek Council Updates

The BGSU Greek Community has four student run governing councils: GIB, IFC, Panhellenic, and NPHC. Below are the fall semester reports for these councils.

Greek Independent Board

Lindsey Levinson '04
Greek Independent Board President

This upcoming year, the Greek Independent Board has set several goals and plans of action to achieve those goals. Our most important aspiration is to make the Greek Independent Board's presence known throughout the Greek Community as well as the BGSU campus. We plan to do this through heavy attendance at campus and Greek sponsored events as well as hosting our own GIB sponsored events. This year we are determined to develop several philanthropies and fundraisers that will help to support the community and that will hopefully remain a tradition for the Greek Independent Board. It has been made a personal goal for the chapters within GIB to form stronger bonds and strengthen the lines of communication between the chapters. Each chapter will work together to raise grades and academic performance by implementing study programs and incentives. We hope to grow as a governing board, not only in size, but in activeness within the community. Through all of this, the Greek Independent Board hopes to reach their goals of becoming more well-known on campus as well as increasing the levels of communication between GIB chapters.

Interfraternity Council (IFC)

Andrew Crockett '05
Interfraternity Council President

The Interfraternity Council is excited for the coming school year and we have many plans for the fall semester. The executive committee and cabinet had their annual retreat in late July where several goals were outlined including strong recruitment, a high retention rate, and an increase in scholarship. Dave Chambliss, Director of Recruitment, has been working very hard this summer in promoting IFC to new students along with members of the Go Greek Team. We are also encouraging chapters to have as many recruitment events as they can in order to continue increasing numbers. Beyond recruitment, we are also putting a great focus on retention. We want to assess our programming to ensure they are the best they can be for our membership. Academics are also something we are looking at improving. We want to enhance our current programs and offer more services in order to increase our GPA. Our community is also welcoming back Alpha Tau Omega to our campus as they will be starting a new colony this semester. Our current expansion plan ends next fall so we will be forming a committee to develop a new plan for the future. We look forward to the new school year and know our chapters will continue their success!

IFC Expansion Update

As reported last spring, IFC has initiated an aggressive expansion program to bring more fraternities back to BGSU. Alpha Tau Omega has already made plans to hold recruitment workshops during the month of October (2005). Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity will wait until fall 2006 to begin expansion efforts. As with any expansion effort, the key is finding good alumni who are willing to serve as advisors. If you wish to find out more about serving as a volunteer advisor, call us at 419.372.8890. In the near future IFC will convene a task force to determine which groups to bring back beginning fall 2007. Look for more information about IFC expansion in the future.

Panhellenic

Fay Coleman '05 Panhellenic Council President

On behalf of the officers and member chapters of the Panhellenic Council, thank you for your time and interest in the Greek community. Throughout the summer, the Panhellenic Council has worked extremely hard to make fall recruitment a success! While recruitment is a main focus for the upcoming semester, Panhellenic has been working on planning out the remainder of the semester.

While the Panhellenic Council will be joining up with the other Greek councils to plan events such as New Member Greek Week, we are also working on sponsoring our own event. One of the council's main goals for the fall semester is to increase awareness on issues dealing with risk management, and therefore has decided to bring Mark Sterner, a national speaker to BGSU's campus. Sterner's program, entitled: "DUI: A Powerful Lesson," gives insight on an important message regarding a bad decision that ended the lives of his friends and furthermore changed his life forever. The council is currently working on getting co-sponsorships for this event, which will take place October 24, 2005 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Ballroom.

The Panhellenic Council was excited to start a new semester and was even more excited for Panhellenic Bid Day on September 18th when we welcomed so many new women into our Greek community!

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

Patricia Perry '05 National Pan-Hellenic Council President

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, NPHC, was established on May 10, 1930, on the campus of Howard University, in Washington DC. The stated purpose of this council is "Unanimity of thought and action as far as possible in the conduct of Greek letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations." The council is composed of nine African American Sororities and Fraternities (also known as the Divine Nine):

1906 Cornell University Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
1908 Howard University Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
1911 Indiana University Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
1911 Howard University Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
1913 Howard University Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
1914 Howard University Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
1920 Howard University Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
1922 Butler University Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority
1963 Morgan State University Iota Phi Theta Fraternity

The NPHC Council on the campus of Bowling Green State University is ready for an exciting school year. Most people stereotype African American Sororities and Fraternities as organizations who party and have conflicts within. What most people do not know is that all of our organizations main focuses are scholarship, serving our community, brotherhood, and sisterhood. In promoting the values that our organizations are founded upon, we are focusing on four major goals for this school year:

1. Provide better service to the community.
2. Create unity amongst individuals within the council
3. Educate members of the BGSU community about the history and the purpose of NPHC.
4. Assist social adjustment of African American students.

THIS WILL BE A NEW EXCITING AND EDUCATING YEAR FOR THE NPHC CHAPTERS AT BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY!!

Recruitment

Even though fraternity and sorority formal recruitment just ended, open recruitment just began. Sororities are trying to reach a chapter ceiling of 85 by holding these open recruitment events. During formal recruitment 200 women joined Panhellenic sororities, which was up slightly from last year. In terms of bid preference, 77% of women going through recruitment received their first choice. Sororities were also successful in reaching quota of 15 except for one sorority.

September 23 is the initial deadline to submit fall recruitment numbers for the IFC fraternities. While recruitment is 365 days a year, this deadline is offered to provide some structure to the process and is used for grade release forms. Based on preliminary numbers, we are anticipating over 200 men to join fraternities in the fall, an increase from last year.

The GIB and NPHC chapters hosted a Meet the Greeks event on September 12 in which approximately 100 potential members attended. Chapters had display tables and there was a panel presentation to give participants more information about the chapters. Additional information sessions will occur throughout the year.

Conklin Housing Renovations

Kevin Thompson
Graduate Assistant for Housing and Finance

Over this past summer, our Greek housing in the Conklin quadrangle underwent a number of changes. As many of you are aware, BGSU was required to close the roof deck patios on these houses at the end of the 2004-2005 academic year due to safety and facility damage concerns. These areas had sustained a significant amount of damage over the years from frequent use and were in much need of a substantial renovation. With these patios closed, BGSU spent most of the summer months completing these needed renovations. Taking feedback gathered during a meeting with a group of representative students from these houses last semester, Greek Affairs worked closely with BGSU Facilities staff to create some new outdoor spaces for our chapters on the ground level in time for our students' arrival this fall.

In time for Greek early move-in, each chapter received a newly constructed patio including new landscaping, a flagpole, and a sitting area. We hope that these new patios will be used during these waning warm days of the fall semester for chapter events as well as individual relaxation. Thanks for your support and good luck to all of our students for an excellent semester and year at BGSU!

Fire Safety

Kevin Thompson
Graduate Assistant for Housing and Finance

Keeping our students safe is our first concern in our Greek houses. As such, Greek Affairs makes the fire safety of our houses a top priority. To meet this goal, our live-in Greek House staff participated in an extensive fire safety training program before the start of the year. Fire safety training consisted of running fire drills in our buildings, hands on fire extinguisher training putting out actual fires, and in-depth coverage of best practices for keeping our residents safe.

In addition to this training, fire extinguishers are located in easily identified locations throughout each Greek house, fire-resistant university-owned furniture is present in all resident rooms, and an extensive fire detection system, including smoke detectors in each room in addition to those in common spaces combined with heat sensors, links our houses directly to University Police 24 hours a day, all year long.

This year, our house staff consists of 25 graduate students and 3 undergraduate students. We are proud to share that we have one of the most talented staff we have ever had and are looking forward to an exciting year working with our chapters. For information on off-campus housing fire safety and resources, please visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/fire/> or call 419-372-2171. We look forward to continuing to serve your students throughout this academic year and ensure our houses are a safe place for our community to live and learn!

Upcoming Events

For a complete calendar of upcoming events for the Greek community at BGSU, please visit:

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/greekaffairs/greek_calendar.htm

Latest Stats on BGSU Greeks

We encourage alumni to check out the progress of their chapters by viewing the Greek Report that we post on our website. Greek Affairs compiles this report each semester with a wide range of information including: number of chapter members, GPA's, service hours, philanthropy dollars raised, percentage of involvement of Greeks at BGSU, chapter attendance at leadership schools, etc. This report is a great measuring instrument to gauge how well fraternities and sororities fulfill their founding values of Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Brotherhood/Sisterhood. The Greek Report is widely publicized in the BG News, the Parents Newsletter (mailed to all parents of Greeks at BGSU), at recruitment functions, etc. This report is also used for the Greek Awards in the spring.

On the Greek Affairs web site is a copy of the latest report, along with previous reports (www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/greekaffairs/reports.html).

Greek Awards 2005

Last year, BGSU's Greek Community had a successful year in terms of awards. Please view our website (www.GreekBGSU.com) for a complete list of individual and chapter awards from last spring. Also, several chapters received International and National Awards this summer. Congratulations to the following chapters:

Alpha Chi Omega Sorority for receiving:

- National Council Trophy Finalist
- Hollis A. Philanthropy Award

Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority for receiving:

- Ruby Award for top 20% of all Alpha Omicron Pi chapters
- Initiation Honor Roll
- Quota Honor Roll
- Alumnae Advisory Committee Outstanding Performance
- Housing Corporation Board Outstanding Performance
- 100% participation in senior class giving to Alpha Omicron Pi Foundation
- Beverly Hatcher named Outstanding Alpha Omicron Pi Chapter Adviser

Alpha Xi Delta Sorority for receiving:

- Order of Quill
- Financial Efficiency
- Chapter Quota
- 100% participation with Senior Challenge
- Second highest senior contribution to National Fraternity
- All A's Scholar Disc – Megan Houghtaling for 2003-2004 academic year
- 2005 Alpha Xi Delta Foundation Kathryn Faul Wallace Award for Outstanding Financial Advisor – Jill Bortel
- 2004-2005 Alumnae Appreciation Award – Jill Bortel
- 2005 Advisor Excellence Award – Jill Bortel

Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity:

- Scholastic Achievement Citation
- Parent Relations Citation
- Campus Involvement Citation
- Brotherhood Development Citation
- Service Citation

Delta Chi Fraternity for receiving:

- Most Man Hours Region Six
- Most Points Region Six

Delta Zeta Sorority for receiving:

- Best Attendance
- Delta Zeta Sorority Region V Most Improved G.P.A. Award
- Delta Zeta Region V Membership Award
- Delta Zeta Pride of Region V

Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority for receiving:

- Kappa Kappa Gamma Public Relations Award
- Ohio Reads Award

Lambda Chi Alpha

- North American Food Drive Award
- Chapter Involvement Award

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity for receiving:

- General Headquarters Trophy
- Improvement Citation
- House Improvement Award

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for receiving:

- Zetas Helping Other People to Excel (Z-Hope) Award
- Outstanding Chapter Report Award
- Most Chapter Member Attendance Award

BGSU Greek Staff

The Greek Community at BGSU is supported with a large Greek Affairs staff. At many institutions, the office of Geek Affairs has only one or two staff members. However, at BGSU the Greek Affairs office houses 13 staff

members. The large staff allows a closer working relationship with the community for a positive experience. This Year's Staff includes:

Dr. Ron Binder '86, Director of Greek Affairs
Gordy Heminger '99, '02, Coordinator for Greek Affairs
Karri Moore, Coordinator for Greek Affairs
Meagon Shaffer, Secretary for Greek Affairs
Aliya Beavers, Grad Advisor for GIB and Judicial
Jenni Glick, Grad Advisor for Assessment and Scholarship
Josh Harraman, Grad Advisor for IFC
Johanne Jensen, Grad Advisor for Leadership
Jen Lambdin, Grad Advisor for Panhellenic
Roy Lowdenback, Grad Advisor for Public Relations
Melinda McIntire, Grad Advisor for Staff Development and Recruitment
Andrea Obrochta, Grad Advisor for NPHC
Kevin Thompson, Grad Advisor for Housing