

GREEK FORUM

SPRING 2005

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY AFFAIRS

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PRESIDENTS RETREAT

On August 24, 2004, current chapter presidents attended the annual Presidents' Retreat held at the beautiful Fontainebleau Inn on Cayuta Lake. Each student received a copy of James Kouzes and Barry Posner's book, *The Leadership Challenge Handbook*. Students were encouraged to follow the "Five Principles of

Exemplary Leadership" which include: Model the way, Inspire a shared vision, Challenge the process, Enable others to act, and Encourage the heart. Students also participated in a debate regarding current issues within the Greek community. In small groups, they identified important community priorities and ways to

address them during the academic year.

Suzu Nelson, Lisa Blockus, Lennon Jackson, Leo Pedraza, Brian Strahine, and Tony Cashen facilitated the retreat. As Leo Pedraza was leaving for a new professional opportunity, students thanked him for his dedication and commitment to Cornell.

EMERGING LEADERS RETREAT

On October 2-3, 2004, 38 up-and-coming leaders participated in the annual Emerging Leaders' Retreat. The theme for this year's retreat, hosted at the White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, NY, was "Creating Visionary Leaders through CommUnity." Student facilitators Jeff Massa, Stephanie Wedekind, Tiffany Brutus and Katherine Button worked with OFSA staff members Lisa Blockus, Brian Strahine and Lennon Jackson to develop the leadership and

communication skills of the sophomore and junior representatives from more than 20 organizations. The Highland Consultant group also facilitated a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) session

in which participants were able to learn about their personality preferences and understand how these preferences apply to Leadership Roles.



Participants of the 2004 Emerging Leaders Retreat



“The purpose of this initiative is threefold: 1) to provide chapters with more alumni, faculty and staff mentors; 2) to offer chapter programming around cultural awareness, intellectual development, civic responsibility and leadership development; and 3) to improve chapter facility and financial operations.”

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

Dear Friends:

As we gear up to begin another semester, I want to welcome all newly elected officers and pause to thank those student and alumni leaders who have dedicated so much of their time toward improving the Greek experience on Cornell’s campus.

We can be proud of our many accomplishments as we aim to make fraternity and sorority living a premier opportunity for leadership, fellowship and learning. As part of the campus Residential Initiative, the Creating Chapters of Excellence Pilot has been a true success story. The purpose of this initiative is threefold: 1) to provide chapters with more alumni, faculty and staff mentors; 2) to offer chapter programming around cultural awareness, intellectual development, civic responsibility and leadership development; and 3) to improve chapter facility and financial operations. What we have learned is that this program can’t be structured as a “one size fits all” model.

However, what all groups have in common is the desire to complement their current social program with events and opportunities that will enrich their members’ lives. The pilot serves to pave the way for a broader roll out of the program to the entire Greek system. To learn more about how your chapter can become involved in Creating Chapters of Excellence, please plan on attending our “kick off” presentation at the AD White Leadership Conference on February 12, 2004 at 2:30 PM in the Statler. If you plan to attend, **please respond to Lisa Blockus at lmb57@cornell.edu or Marrie Neumer at mn58@cornell.edu.** Our goal is to recruit nine to eighteen additional groups for 2005-06 year, and to add organizations annually until all chapters are participating in Creating Chapters of Excellence by the 2009-2010 year.

In concert with the roll out, we are reexamining the Strategic Plan as we look to define the expectations and

standards for our Greek organizations into the next decade. Our Strategic Plan, drafted in 1995, has served us well, but it is time to update the Plan in order to raise the bar even higher. Currently, over 80% of our chapters comply with the Strategic Plan, and in 2003-04, 18 of our chapters exceeded our expectations. While the chapters that are ranked a one (I) have grown in number, several chapters are consistently ranked a four (IV) or five (V), indicating performance that is below expectations. In our privatized Greek system, it is the obligation of each fraternal organization to make its own way, and while this office is eager to support any group that wants to improve, our staff cannot “revitalize” an organization that has no desire to change. Therefore the vision for improving our Greek community is to keep our eye on the possibilities by having each organization reach for their potential, not be held back by past failures.

NELSON, CONTINUED FROM P. 2

This academic year a team of students and staff have been working on updating the Strategic Plan, keeping in mind that we want the goals and initiatives of the Greek system to be aligned with the overarching mission and vision of the campus Residential Initiative. We invite you to take a look, offer your feedback, and be a part of the process to improve not only individual Greek

organizations, but the entire community as well. For a more complete listing of the Creating Chapters of Excellence Goals and Initiatives, please see pages 6 and 7.

As we look to a new semester, be sure to get involved in making your chapter and the Greek community the best that it can be. Inside this newsletter are many opportunities for making that happen, so I encourage your

active participation throughout the spring semester.

Fraternally,

Suzy M. Nelson
Robert G. Engel
Associate Dean of Students

GREEK WEEK PROMOTES UNITY AND FUN!

The Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, and Multicultural Greek Letter Council collaborated on their annual Greek Week, during the week of September 12-17, 2004. Greek Week 2004 consisted of six days of festivities and events, including a Scholastic Bowl, a Service Auction a Recycling Drive and two days of Greek Olympics, designed to introduce and promote Greek life.

This year participating chapters earned points at each event and had the

opportunity to earn bonus points throughout the week by volunteering and participating in Greek week contests.

The chapters with

the most points at the end of the week were awarded cash prizes to be used toward a charity of their choice.

Members of Kappa Phi Lambda strolling at the Kick-Off event.

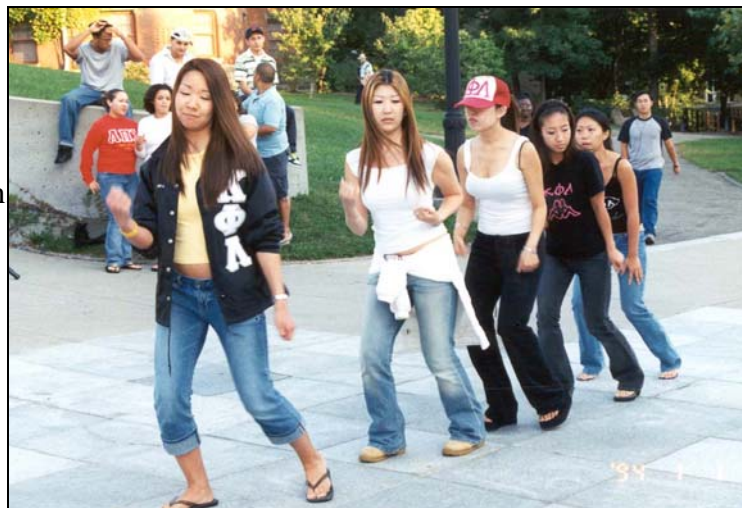


Photo provided by Beth Lasoff

2004 GREEK WEEK WINNERS

Multicultural Greek Letter Council

1st Place
alpha Kappa Delta Phi

2nd Place
Lambda Pi Chi

3rd Place
Lambda Theta Phi

Panhellenic Association

1st Place
Alpha Phi

2nd Place
Kappa Alpha Theta

3rd Place
Kappa Delta

Interfraternity Council

1st Place
Chi Phi

2nd Place
Sigma Alpha Epsilon

3rd Place
Pi Kappa Phi

2004 Spirit Award *Pi Beta Phi*

Greek Week Chairs:
Rebecca Macy
PA VP Programming

James Thomson
IFC VP Programming

Lynn Chao
MGLC VP University and
Community Relations

**OFSA WELCOMES
NEW STAFF**



Brian Strahine '01
Assistant Dean,
Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

Brian returns to Cornell after serving for 2 years in the Peace Corps. He currently advises the Interfraternity Council and oversees the development of chapter programming.



Dale Williams
Assistant Dean,
Facilities and Finance

Dale joins our office with 25 years of service at Cornell. In his previous job with Campus Life Business Services, Dale assisted management in making business decisions and performing data analysis. He will be working primarily with the university-owned chapters to aid student leaders and alumni in their fiscal and financial operations.

NEWS BRIEFS

**New Council Officers
Elected for 2005**

The Multicultural Greek Letter Council, Panhellenic Association, and Interfraternity Council elected new officers for 2005. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers:

**Multicultural Greek
Letter Council**

President
Tiffany Brutus, *Omega Phi Beta*

Executive Vice President
Patrick Pierre-Louis, *Iota Phi Theta*

VP Communications
Jocelyn Merced, *Lambda Pi Chi*

VP Finance
Susan Huang, *Kappa Phi Lambda*

VP University and
Community Relations
Nicole Clark, *Sigma Gamma Rho*

VP Judicial
Tiffany Southerland,
Delta Sigma Theta

Panhellenic Association
President
Ashley Higgins, *Alpha Epsilon Phi*

Executive Vice President
Samara Fetto, *Kappa Kappa Gamma*

VP Communications
Megan Malone, *Delta Delta Delta*

VP Finance
Ashleigh Walker, *Pi Beta Phi*

VP Formal Membership
Recruitment
Melissa Kiedrowicz,
Delta Delta Delta

VP Judicial Affairs and
Standards
Elizabeth Durkin, *Delta Gamma*

VP Programming
Erica Kerman, *Pi Beta Phi*

VP Publicity, Recruitment
and Extension
Rachel Easton, *Alpha Chi Omega*

VP University and
Community Relations
Kristen Rich, *Kappa Delta*

Interfraternity Council
President
Alex Deyle, *Sigma Pi*

Executive Vice President
Chase Nielsen, *Sigma Alpha Epsilon*

VP Judicial Affairs
Mike Hirschfield, *Sigma Nu*

VP Recruitment
Matthew Salerno, *Chi Phi*

VP University and
Community Relations
Rick Griffith, *Psi U*

VP Finance
Steve Grossman, *Lambda Chi Alpha*

VP Programming
Sameer Mittal, *FIJI*
VP Communications

Brian Rosenberg, *Pi Kappa Alpha*

**Stay Connected with
your Greek chapter
through Cornell's
Career Services**

Greek undergraduate and alumni members can now access an online system that provides an opportunity to give and receive career advice in areas of work, academics, and life after graduation. Under the *Alumni* tab at www.career.cornell.edu, this virtual networking service can be found by selecting *Cornell's Career Contact Network* and proceeding to the registration page.

Annual Report

The Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council 2003-2004 Annual Report is now available on our website at www.greeks.cornell.edu.

**Tompkins County
Public Library Initiative**

The Panhellenic Executive Board has established a partnership with the Tompkins County Public Library to help raise funds for the development of a children's foreign language media section. On December 4th and 6th, 2004, the PA board introduced the first annual "Score for More" Benefit Basketball Tournament & Raffle.

PRESIDENT LEHMAN SPEAKS AT FACULTY APPRECIATION RECEPTION

The annual Faculty Appreciation Reception was held on November 2, 2004, at the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity house. The purpose of this year's reception was to recognize faculty members who truly inspired their students. President Jeffrey Lehman's keynote address included some of his own experiences

as a Cornell student. He talked about the professors who inspired him to reach his personal and academic goals.

Faculty members were recognized from each of the seven undergraduate colleges and schools. Also, Greek Scholar Awards were given to three students who exemplified academic

excellence, outstanding leadership, and university and community involvement.

Thank you to Katie Button, Dave Rimshnick, and Jason Lee for their hard work and dedication in making this a successful event!

Katie Button (Pi Beta Phi), President Jeffrey Lehman, and Dave Rimshnick (Acacia) enjoy their time together.



Photos provided by Jon Reis Photo + Design



Left: Students Kasey Diserens (Kappa Delta) and Caitlin Chaves (Kappa Delta) honor Professor John Henderson.

Right: Danielle Williams (Alpha Kappa Alpha), the Multicultural Greek Letter Council Greek Scholar.

2004 FACULTY APPRECIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Agriculture and Life Sciences
Dale A. Grossman

Architecture, Art, and Planning
Kenneth Reardon

Arts and Sciences
John Henderson

Engineering
John Callister

Hotel Administration
Mark McCarthy

Human Ecology
Anita Racine

Industrial and Labor Relations
David Lipsky

2004 GREEK SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Multicultural Greek Letter Council
Danielle Williams

Panhellenic Association
Lauren Jacobs

Interfraternity Council
Jeffrey Massa



CREATING CHAPTERS OF EXCELLENCE GOALS AND INITIATIVES

Goal 1: Self-Governance

Encourage students, alumni, and faculty to assume responsibility for the living-learning environment

Initiative 1: Chapter management and operations

Initiative 2: Relationship with national headquarters

Initiative 3: Chapter Standards Board

Initiative 4: Financial responsibility

Goal 2: Healthy Environment

Create a living-learning environment capable of attracting students, alumni, and faculty

Initiative 1: Attractive living facilities conducive to learning

Initiative 2: Recruitment and retention of members

Initiative 3: Promotion and positive public relations

Initiative 4: Social responsibility

Goal 3: Building Community

Enrich students' sense of community at Cornell

Initiative 1: Greek community involvement

Initiative 2: Campus involvement

Initiative 3: Ithaca community involvement

Initiative 4: Civic-mindedness and responsibility

Goal 4: Faculty-Student Interaction

Foster opportunities for faculty-student interaction

Initiative 1: Active faculty fellow

Initiative 2: Positive faculty-student relations

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Over the past year-and-a-half, the fraternity and sorority community has been working hard to redefine the Greek experience at Cornell. Through the Creating Chapters of Excellence pilot and the inclusion of the Greek system into Cornell's Residential Initiative, a new template to define chapter success is being created. This template

can be found on the side columns of pages 6 and 7. While not final, these goals and initiatives in addition to ways to measure chapter excellence have been an integral part of three annual retreats that included the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs staff, the chapter presidents, and chapter emerging leaders. This academic year, a team of students, alumni,

faculty, and staff will refine these goals, ask the entire Greek community to rally behind them, and develop ways in which to measure and reward chapter success. We invite you to take a look, offer your feedback, and be a part of the process to improve not only individual Greek organizations, but the entire community as well.



Jared Herretes (SAE), Matt Maloney (Sigma Pi), Aaron Brown, News Anchor from CNN, Rachel Brenner (Kappa Delta), Alex Cox-Cussi (Kappa Kappa Gamma), Drew Albertson (FIJI), and Charlie Kunken (SAE).

Photo provided by Jon Reis Photo + Design

GREEK ALUMNI NETWORKING SESSION

On Friday, October 15, 2004, the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Association, and the Multicultural Greek Letter Council

sponsored an All-Greek Alumni Networking Session for junior and senior Greek members. About 25 alumni presented career testimonials in areas of

law, business, finance, and engineering. They gave tips on effective ways to network and were on hand to offer advice and answer questions to members of the audience.

Alpha Chi Omega purchased and remodeled a larger home for its members (509 Wyckoff Rd). Sigma Alpha Mu has moved into 10 Sission Place, formerly Chi Omega's house.

colonized on campus and is now living in the former Delta Phi Epsilon house (115 The Knoll). Pi Delta Psi, an Asian interest chapter, has moved into the former Alpha Chi Omega house (124 Triphammer), and

FACILITY UPDATE

Related to facility upgrades and moves, Sigma Chi returned to their beautiful home in Cayuga Heights after successfully completing a two million dollar renovation. Alpha Xi Delta recently

sprinkler system: Delta Gamma, Pi Beta Phi, Kappa Delta, Sigma Chi, and Chi Psi (as part of their 2003 2.4 million dollar renovation). More chapters are planning to do this work in the near future as we strive to have all of our chapter facilities install a full

sprinkler system by 2008. This remains an area of concern until all chapter facilities provide this important life-safety feature (10 privately-owned facilities have no sprinkler system; 12 have a partial system; and 16 have a full system).

SPRINKLER UPDATE

All but two of the university-owned Greek facilities have completely upgraded their sprinkler system, and the remaining two will be completed in the summer of 2005. Also several privately-owned chapters have installed or updated their



Photo provided by Beth Lasoff

Students from the Multicultural Greek Letter Council pose for a group photo at the 2004 Meet the Greeks.

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Goal 5: Intellectual Life

Engage students in the intellectual life and the mission of the university

Initiative 1: Support for members' academic lives

Initiative 2: Alignment with the university mission

Initiative 3: Cultural opportunities and diversity

Goal 6: Lifelong Connections

Promote strong lifetime ties to the organization and the university

Initiative 1: Alumni relations

Initiative 2: Advisory

Board/Alumni Advisors

Initiative 3: Alumni annual giving

Goal 7: Membership Development

Promote the continuing education and the personal development of its members

Initiative 1: Leadership and professional development

Initiative 2: Personal and ethical development

Initiative 3: Personal health and wellness

Initiative 4: Positive new member education

Goal 8: Integrity

Alignment to and respect for the organization's history, mission, values and ritual

Initiative 1: Meaningful traditions

Initiative 2: Ritual

Initiative 3: Alignment with the mission

Initiative 4: Annual assessment

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2005

January 17-23
Panhellenic Recruitment

January 17-25
IFC Recruitment

January 28
Chapter Facts Due

Social Policy Agreement Due

First day to host social events

February 4
John S. Dyson Citizenship Award Nominations Due

February 14
Rosters Due

March 18
Greek Award Nominations Due

EOY Evaluations Due

March 31
House Mgr. Training

April 15
Dyson Scholarship Self-Nominations Due

April 16
New Member Initiation Deadline

UPCOMING EVENTS

Delta Series

The Delta Series programs are designed to provide new members with a strong foundation for commitment, understanding, and leadership in the fraternity and sorority community. The program series will kick off with a *Tri-Council Welcome* on **February 7th**. Other events will include:

- An Anti-Hazing Roundtable
- Reaching Out to Friends in Distress
- Queer Eye for the Straight Ally
- The MGLC History and Strolling Workshop

A.D. White Leadership Conference

The conference will begin at 8:30 am at the Statler Hotel on **February 12, 2005**. The keynote speakers will be Drs. Ken and Marjorie Blanchard. Chapter officers, faculty fellows, alumni, advisors, and corporation presidents are invited to attend.

Awards Ceremony

This annual ceremony honors the contributions of Greek students, staff, faculty, and alumni. All members of the Greek community are invited to attend. Please complete the End-of-Year Evaluation and submit your award nominations to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs by March 18th. This year's ceremony will be held at Kennedy Hall's Trillium Dining on **April 17th at 4:00pm**.



Photo provided by Jon Reis Photo + Design

The Tri-council executive boards wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2005!

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