leaving a Legacy

Leaving a legacy – our theme for the 2008-2009 year. We incorporated this into our retreats, leadership development programming and individual interactions with students. This was a year to remember – in part due to the amazing new programs and initiatives within the chapters and community and in part for the behavior of our members that asked us to question what kind of legacy our community is leaving.

The Greek Life Annual Report is intended to highlight the achievements of the Greek community over the past year, as well as identify areas for growth and development to enhance the experience for all members of the community. We hope that you will read this report and realize how you have contributed to our achievements and how you can consider being involved in creating positive changes in the community for the future.

This was the inaugural year of The Commons, a living and learning experience for first-year students. This is one of the most important initiatives in the history of the University and had a tremendous impact on all undergraduate students. The level of faculty engagement experienced by first year students on the Commons will be something that they expect within their overall collegiate experience, making Greek programming with faculty even more important in the future.

There were a number of points of pride for the community this year. The Greek LEAD emerging leaders program was restructured leading to an amazing experience for the participants. In its second year, the Tri-Council Circle program continued to foster positive relationships between chapters by emphasizing collaborative opportunities to engage in community service, social activities and educational programming. Many campus organizations are being led by fraternity and sorority members, including the Student Government president and vice president.

While there were many programs and individuals that contributed positively to the Greek community, we would be remiss to not address the challenges that we have faced this year. Our issues were not simply isolated to a few chapters, rather they were systemic cultural issues primarily caused by a lack of commitment to fraternal values. Substance abuse, hazing, poor decision making, inappropriate behavior and dishonesty have plagued the Greek community this year. While the university environment is changing, the Greek community has held on to traditions and activities that are inconsistent with the mission of the institution. In the coming year, we will ask that all of our constituents – students, alumni, parents and national organizations – collaborate with us as true partners in creating and implementing the necessary changes for the Greek community to thrive in the future.

We thank you for your support and enthusiasm for the Greek experience and hope that you will continue your involvement in the future.

Warmest Regards,

Kristin Torrey
Director

Tanner Marcantel
Assistant Director
## Our Chapters

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* Kappa Sigma recolonized in the fall 2008, therefore did not have the full reporting year for the Standards.

** Phi Delta Theta colony was reorganized in late spring 2009.

*** Sigma Phi Epsilon colony was closed in January 2009.
During the past year, fraternities and sororities extended their classroom learning outside of the traditional academic setting. Many organizations built relationships with faculty members and campus departments by hosting lectures, dinner discussions, recognition programs, and scholarship awards.

**Faculty Program Grants**

Increased collaboration between faculty members and students is an important emphasis in the University community. As such, the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Greek Life introduced Greek Life Faculty Program Grants during the Spring 2008 semester. Funding was made available for fraternities and sororities to host programs and events that involve and engage faculty members.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, over $2500 in grants were awarded to chapters for these innovative programs. We will continue this program in the future as a way to promote involvement and interaction with faculty members and Greek organizations.

**Dr. Harris D. Riley, Jr. Gamma Scholarship**

In addition to programs funded through the grants, chapters also engaged the academic community in various other activities. This year the Delta Kappa Epsilon Alumni Association announced the creation of the Dr. Harris D. Riley Jr. Gamma Scholarship that will be given to a deserving undergraduate member of the Gamma chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. This scholarship is named honoring one of the chapter’s most loyal alumni, Dr. Harris D. Riley Jr. Dr. Riley was honored at a reception held over Homecoming weekend 2008 where his son, Mark Riley, VU ’77, accepted a gift from the alumni association and chapter on behalf of his father.

Dr. Riley graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1945, served his country in World War II and the Korean War and went on to a very distinguished career in Pediatrics. He has written hundreds of articles which have been published in medical journals, and has been a very loyal and active Vanderbilt alumnus – most notably serving on the Board of Trust and as the President of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association. Throughout all of his professional achievements, Dr. Riley remained involved with the Gamma Chapter Alumni Association and served as the chapter advisor for many years. His devotion to his fraternity exemplifies lifetime membership and is an example for all undergraduates and alumni.

As a professor, perhaps the first thing I notice about students who participate in Greek Life at Vanderbilt is that, as a group, their grades are higher on average than those of students who are not a part of a fraternity or sorority. Academic excellence may not be the first thing that comes to mind when people think of Greek organizations, but the data is clear: according to the 2007-2008 Annual Report from the Office of Greek Life, in addition to substantial service within and outside the Vanderbilt community and a commitment to upholding the VU Fraternity and Sorority Standards that have been in place since 2005, our Greek community also leads its peers in overall GPAs. This, perhaps more than any other factor of Greek life I can think of, demonstrates the high standards that our Greek community sets for itself and for the campus-wide community.

James Lovensheimer  
Professor, Blair School of Music  
2009 Greek Community Faculty Member of the Year
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52% of Greeks on spring Dean’s List

1442 students
Greek LEAD Program
Spring 2009 marked the second year that the Greek LEAD program was offered to sophomore and junior Greek students. The program’s purpose is to enhance the leadership skills and capabilities of Greek students through self-evaluation, understanding of chapter and community values, goal-setting as well as education addressing common problems such as conflict, motivation, and communication.

Several changes were made to the program this year. First, 7 student coordinators were selected to plan the curriculum and serve as mentors to participants. The coordinators were upperclassmen who were past Greek LEAD participants, council officers and chapter presidents. The coordinators were integral in determining the learning outcomes and shaping the session content. The structure of the program also changed. Greek LEAD began with an overnight retreat followed by six 1-hour sessions.

Greek LEAD covered the following topics: personal leadership style, team building, goal-setting, ethics and values, effective communication, conflict resolution, and accountability. Lectures, self-evaluations, group activities and discussion were used to educate students on their own leadership style and how to best utilize their skills in the Greek community. Over 60 students applied, and 34 student were accepted for the program. Students from 14 chapters within all 3 councils were represented.

We are planning to use student coordinators again and offer Greek LEAD in spring 2010. Student coordinators will be selected in the fall and will plan the curriculum. We are hoping to increase participation numbers and commitment from all participants.

Greek Leaders Retreat
The annual Greek Leaders Retreat was held in Ocoee, TN, August 20-21, 2008. This retreat served as an important opportunity for council officers and chapter presidents to gather and start the year off on the right foot. This year we focused on our theme for the year, asking the question: What will your legacy be? The curriculum for the retreat centered around perceptions and stereotypes that exist within the Greek community, the reasons for them, how the leadership within the community needs to change to continue a strong Greek legacy at Vanderbilt. Each chapter president wrote a legacy statement about how they hoped to change their chapter for the better through their leadership.

Leadership is something you practice everyday, it requires patience, passion, and confidence. A great leader takes the time to learn patience, use their passion, and along the way gains the confidence to lead.

Beth Melendez
Greek LEAD Coordinator
class of 2010
ΑΟΠ
leadership role and a letter to their successor that will be shared with the new officers at the retreat in August 2009.

Executive Board Kick Off
As a follow up to the Greek Leaders retreat, the Office of Greek Life hosted an Executive Board Kick-Off event on August 30, 2008. Eight officers from each chapter gathered to hear remarks from Mark Bandas, Dean of Students, review the VU Fraternity & Sorority Standards Guide, set goals as an executive board for the year; get to know other members of their Tri-Council Circle and learn about the legacy statement from their chapter presidents.

Officer Training Sessions
In order to better prepare chapter officers for their leadership positions in the Greek community, the Office of Greek Life, in collaboration with the governing councils, hosted a series of Officer Training Sessions throughout the spring semester. These training sessions served to inform chapter officers about resources that can help in their role, outlined expectations for their positions and provided an opportunity to share ideas and network with other members of the Greek community that serve in a similar role. Officer Training Sessions were held for Alumni Relations Chairs, Treasurers, Community Service & Philanthropy Chairs, Risk Managers and Social Chairs.

Order of Omega
Order of Omega is the national Greek leadership honor society. Members must have at least a 3.5 grade point average, junior or senior standing and be an involved leader in the Greek and campus communities. This year, the organization initiated 47 new members into the Order of Omega, which brought total membership to 130 students.

This year’s Order of Omega created care packages for the fraternities and sororities that were delivered to the chapters during final exams in the first semester. This was the first year that Order of Omega was responsible for organizing the Chancellor Heard Greek Awards. The officers handled the preparation of the event, including the creation of the script, and also served as the hosts for the event.

Order of Omega’s largest program this year was held in February and specifically targeted upper-class Greek members. The group partnered with IFC, Panhellenic, and NPHC to host Brad Karsh of JobBound for his presentation, “Where are the Jobs? – Finding Work in Today’s Economy.” Over 300 students attended the program which focused on the importance of networking, maintaining relationships, and avoiding simple mistakes that can cost students a chance at a job.

Nashville Unity Workshop
The 3rd annual National Pan-Hellenic Council Unity Workshop was hosted at Vanderbilt on September 20, 2008. Undergraduate students from TSU, Fisk, Belmont, MTSU and Vanderbilt spent the day participating in 5 workshops that sought to accomplish three goals: (1) provide common leadership tools that can be used both in local Councils and affiliate organizations; (2) provide a forum for increased cross-campus, cross-organization, and city-wide networking; and (3) encourage a better understanding of the ideals, mission, and purpose of the NPHC. Graduate and alumni members of NPHC organizations facilitated the educational sessions for over 50 Greek participants. Session topics included council collaboration, building a positive image, budget management, and relationship building between undergraduate students and graduate advisors. The National Director of the Sigma Leadership Academy, Dr. Bennie L. Harris of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. delivered the keynote address discussing the importance of servant leadership in African American Greek letter organizations. Students not only learned from the workshops, but also networked with their peers to enhance their leadership skills and programs on their campus.
Interfraternity Council Delta Force

In early February, Sigma Chi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon hosted a recruitment workshop with Dave Westol from Limberlost Consulting and Ben Pendry from the North American Interfraternity Conference. As a result of the dialogue and brainstorming that occurred in the workshop, the Interfraternity Council created a recruitment task force, known as the Delta Force. The Delta Force was comprised of 10 fraternity leaders who met several times a week for a month to address the most pressing issues within the IFC community related to recruitment. They researched other institutions, reviewed registration and joining trends from the IFC community, assessed the data from the recruitment surveys distributed to all men who registered for recruitment, and considered feedback from various faculty members and administrators about the IFC recruitment process. The group worked diligently to prepare a report that included recommendations for changes to the IFC recruitment process at Vanderbilt. The proposal was presented to all IFC presidents who had a week to review and offer suggested changes before the presidents voted on the proposals. Almost all recommendations made from the Delta Force were accepted and a few were revised. Below are the highlights of the changes that will be made to the IFC recruitment process in 2009:

- Increase minimum GPA requirement of potential members from a 2.3 to a 2.5
- Each chapter must sponsor at least 3 community service events that are open and advertised to potential members
- Potential members must attend at least 2 community service events with a fraternity and/or complete 3 community service hours at fraternity service events throughout the fall
- Institute a formalized, structured recruitment process in January. The fall will remain an open contact period for fraternity members and potential members, but selections will be made during the formal process in January
- Chapters will receive a minimum $5000 fine for hosting parties during orientation, having potential members at the Winter Formal or giving bids to ineligible men
- Implementation of the Greek Legacy Fund. All IFC fraternity members will pay $5 per semester towards the fund to be used for need-based dues scholarships for fraternity members.
- Enhanced opportunities for involvement with first year students at the beginning of the semester will include a Greek Life Information Session on the first day of classes, an IFC Information fair with all chapters the Sunday after classes begin and an open house event in the Greek area on the second Sunday.
- Increased publicity and awareness of positive fraternity accomplishments and activities through the student newspaper and presentations

These are important changes that will greatly impact the future of the fraternity community at Vanderbilt. As we move into the implementation stage, it will be imperative that all fraternity members embrace the changes that were decided upon by the leaders in the community and adjust the way they think about the recruitment process at Vanderbilt.

My experience as a part of the Vanderbilt Greek community has been tremendously rewarding and an invaluable part of my college career. As president of my chapter, I learned how to manage and lead over 80 men through thick and thin, develop meaningful relationships with peers and members of the administration, and apply my strengths and personality toward positive growth or change. Being Greek opened me up to organizations like Dance Marathon that truly make a difference in the Nashville community, while being on the Interfraternity Council has forced me to practice professionalism while making difficult decisions. I have learned how to effectively network and get the most out of a community that spans every organization, cause, and class on campus. With experience dealing with problem solving, risk management, tough choices, and public speaking, my Greek experience has not only given me best friends for life and unforgettable times, but also prepared me for life after college as a Naval officer.

Patrick Frailey
Class of 2010
BΩΠ
Through collaboration between the Office of Greek Life staff, chapter presidents, advisors, alumni and national organization representatives, the Vanderbilt University Fraternity & Sorority Standards were created in 2005. This document includes 30 standards statements in the areas of Campus Involvement, Chapter Operations, Community Service and Philanthropy, Education, Intellectual Development, Leadership, Risk Management and Values Integration. Chapters are expected to meet 27 of the 30 standards statements each year. Chapters that fail to meet 27 standards met with the Greek Excellence Review Board in October to review their Action Plans for improvement. This board consists of council presidents, alumni representatives, faculty and staff. These meetings were instrumental in assisting chapters to focus their efforts on achieving the standards in the future.

For the March 2009 submission, we continued to utilize the online tool for submitting both the Standards reports and awards applications. We are continuing to enhance and improve the online system and it will include new features next year to improve functionality for users. Read-only access is available for chapter advisors and national organization representatives.

We strongly believe that implementation of the VU Fraternity & Sorority Standards will allow our chapters to maximize their potential and enhance the experience provided for its members. We will continue to challenge the chapters not only to meet the minimum, but to strive for excellence in all areas of programming and operations.
Fraternity and sorority members involved in Alternative Break Programs

182

Total dollars raised by chapters for charities locally, nationally, and internationally.

$342,536

64,988 Hours of community service performed by fraternity and sorority members.

Total contributed to the playground project at the Lower Murrell School

$50,000
Service is a primary value of all Greek organizations. This is exemplified in the Vanderbilt Greek community through the high expectations that our chapters have for members to engage in community service and philanthropic activities. The hours engaged in community service and money raised for charity all support causes both nationally and in the Nashville area.

Beta Theta Pi, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon led the Kickoff Cookoff, a charity event benefitting the Fannie Battle Day Home for Children. Delta Sigma Theta and Alpha Phi Alpha regularly participate in mentoring programs for local children. The annual Zeta Beta Tau Conway Kickoff supports a memorial fund for a deceased brother, and Sigma Chi’s Derby Days supports the Children’s Miracle Network. Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Tau Omega cosponsored the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s annual Lock-Up. For many decades, the Panhellenic sororities have sponsored benefits for their national philanthropic causes. The chapters raised money for agencies such as the Ronald McDonald House, National Arthritis Foundation, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, Make-A-Wish Foundation, the YWCA, and the Tennessee School for the Blind.

Fraternity and sorority members also take advantage of service opportunities available through other campus organizations such as Manna International, Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. This year saw 182 Greek students involved in Alternative Spring Break, a program that places groups of students at various service sites around North and South America during the week of spring break. That’s an impressive 44% of the students engaged in the ASB opportunities.

In addition to the national and global communities, fraternity and sorority members also focus a great deal of attention to local Nashville citizens. The National Pan-Hellenic Council began a mentoring relationship with Stratford High School during the annual NPHC Week. Members of the fraternities and sororities hosted 25 Stratford juniors and seniors for a day experiencing college life. The visiting students shadowed the Vanderbilt Greek members, and attended classes, student activities, and campus events in order to get a picture of the typical day in the life of a college student.

Vanderbilt Greek members also partnered with Belmont University, Montgomery Bell Academy and the University School of Nashville to renovate the playground space of the Murrell School in Edgehill. The Murrell School serves students certified as emotionally challenged and learning disabled in grades K-7. It is important that Murrell’s students have the opportunity to expend excess energy and benefit from daily physical education. The Playground Project was born out of a desire to not only improve the school’s playground, but to change the conditions to one of hope, kindness and ownership by creating a space these children deserve and are proud to call their own.

There has always been the stereotype that collegiate greek life is nothing more than a ticket to parties and notoriety, but records show that our fraternities and sororities are very interested in much more than that. We are interested in helping and empowering those in need. My fraternal membership allowed me to go above and beyond the ranks of just being able to help people. Rather, I got to know these individuals; I was awarded a small glimpse into their lives. Nothing is more important to me than helping others and I believe Vanderbilt fosters a genuine sense of great service to our community and world.

Alex Echols
class of 2009
ΑΦΑ
2008-2009 saw many chapters creating new events and programs worthy of recognition. These new initiatives, born out of the desire to achieve more than the minimum requirements, led to great collaborative efforts and lasting relationships.

**Trick or Treat with Greeks & Athletes**
Greek leaders partnered with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee to host a safe and fun Halloween event for faculty and staff families, as well as children from the Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee. With the help of the Vanderbilt Police Department and the Office of Traffic & Parking, Kensington Avenue and 24th Avenue were closed to ensure the safety of all children attending. Many families attended, and the community intends to continue this program in the future.

**Alpha Delta Pi Mentoring Program**
Each fall the Alpha Delta Pi chapter pairs one alumna with one senior to engage in a year-long mentoring program. Generally, members are paired with alumnae who share their desired career field or other interest. The program begins with a picnic where the members meet the alumnae and continues with weekly or biweekly meetings between the member and their mentor. Senior members receive advice and assistance with post-graduation plans and have an easier transition to alumnae life. The program creates a smoother transition to life after college, and provides a solid foundation for the alumnae experience.

**Lambda Chi Alpha Lecture Series**
The Lambda Chi Alpha Lecture Series was this year’s Outstanding Educational Program. The focus of the lectures was the future of health care in America. Their first speaker was Dr. Marc Shelton, Chair of the American College of Cardiology and Dr. Marian McBay, a Medicine Health and Society professor at Vanderbilt. The lecture was attended by approximately sixty students. Dr. Shelton spoke about cardiovascular surgery and the future of health care in America. Dr. McBay followed and discussed medical ethics, providing some insight into its history and the progression of values likely to continue to rise over time. At the second lecture, Dr. Ken Holbert, President of the Tennessee College of Emergency Physicians, and Economics Professor Malcolm Getz focused their discussion on financing America’s health care.

**Order of Omega Scholarships**
This year two Vanderbilt students were selected nationally by the Order of Omega to received undergraduate scholarship and graduate fellowships. Noah Schwartz of Alpha Epsilon Pi won a Patrick W. Halloran Award and Elizabeth Warner of Chi Omega was awarded with a Graduate Assistant Fellowship. The National Order of Omega promotes scholarship, leadership, and service within the top 5% of fraternity and sorority members. It is an honor to be selected as a member, and an even greater accomplishment to receive one of the many coveted scholarships. We are extremely proud to have two Vanderbilt Greeks receiving these awards.

**Deltas for a Change**
Alpha Delta Pi, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, Delta Sigma Theta and Kappa Delta joined together for a very creative community service event – “Deltas for a Change.” The city-wide service day had a huge impact on the larger Nashville community, and included sites such as the College Fair, Estoy Aprendiendo, Feed the Children, Meals on Wheels, and various COCINA donation sites.
Outstanding Community Service Project
NPHC: Alpha Phi Alpha
Panhellenic: Pi Beta Phi

Outstanding Philanthropy Project
IFC: Lambda Chi Alpha
NPHC: Omega Psi Phi
Panhellenic: Chi Omega

Outstanding Educational Program
IFC: Lambda Chi Alpha
NPHC: Alpha Phi Alpha
Panhellenic: Sigma Lambda Gamma

Outstanding Campus Involvement
IFC: Beta Chi Theta
NPHC: Delta Sigma Theta
Panhellenic: Sigma Lambda Gamma

Outstanding Faculty Relations Program
IFC: Sigma Alpha Epsilon
NPHC: Delta Sigma Theta
Panhellenic: Alpha Delta Pi

Outstanding Alumni/ae Relations Program
IFC: Beta Chi Theta
NPHC: Zeta Phi Beta
Panhellenic: Alpha Delta Pi

Outstanding Collaborative Program
IFC: “Kickoff Cook-Off”
Beta Theta Pi, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Panhellenic: “Deltas for a Change”
Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Delta, and Alpha Delta Pi

Order of Omega Academic Excellence Awards
Spring 2008: Alpha Epsilon Pi
Omega Psi Phi
Alpha Delta Pi
Fall 2008: Alpha Epsilon Pi
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Kappa Alpha Theta

Outstanding Tri-Council Circle: Blue Circle
Alpha Omicron Pi, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Omega Psi Phi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Nu, and Zeta Phi Beta

Greek Man of the Year
Jeremy Gunn, Alpha Phi Alpha

Greek Woman of the Year
Melissa Shearer, Kappa Kappa Gamma

Outstanding Fraternity New Member
Jake Masters, Sigma Nu

Outstanding Sorority New Member
Nicole Gunasekera, Alpha Delta Pi

Outstanding Community Servant ~ Fraternity
Alex Echols, Alpha Phi Alpha

Outstanding Community Servant ~ Sorority
Laila Hassam-Malani, Alpha Chi Omega

Outstanding Faculty Advisor
Angelo Lee, Alpha Phi Alpha

Outstanding Sorority Advisor
Rebecca Bowman, Alpha Delta Pi

Dene Donald Outstanding House Director
Adelle Chester, Chi Omega

Faculty Member of the Year
Jim Lovensheimer
Blair School of Music

Most Improved Chapters
IFC: Beta Theta Pi
NPHC: Alpha Kappa Alpha
Panhellenic: Kappa Alpha Theta

Interfraternity Council Chapter of the Year
Lambda Chi Alpha

National Pan-Hellenic Council Chapter of the Year
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Panhellenic Association Chapter of the Year
Delta Delta Delta
Partnerships

Our Greek community relies heavily on the help and support of our chapter advisors, local alumni, international headquarters and Vanderbilt campus partners. We would like to thank the following offices and departments for their continued support of the Greek experience at Vanderbilt...

Bishop Joseph Johnson Black
   Cultural Center
Development & Alumni Relations
Faculty & Staff of the Blair School of Music
Faculty & Staff of the College of Arts & Science
Faculty & Staff of the College of Engineering
Faculty & Staff of Peabody College
Housing & Residential Education
LGBTQI Life
Leadership Development & Intercultural Affairs
Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center
NPHC of Nashville
Office of Active Citizenship & Service
Office of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drug Prevention
Office of the Chancellor
Office of the Provost
Office of the Dean of Students
Office of the Dean of The Commons
Office of the General Counsel
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Office of Traffic & Parking
Plant Operations
Psychological & Counseling Center
Student Conduct & Academic Integrity
Vanderbilt Career Center
Vanderbilt Dining
Vanderbilt Police Department
Student Athletics
Student Health Center

Looking back at my undergraduate career, nothing defined my college experience or shaped my character more than involvement in the Greek Community. I realized that one community committed to academic excellence, servanthood, and friendship can enact more positive change than even the most ambitious of individuals. It is that contagious spirit among Greeks that encouraged me to do more for humanity and to be more than I was before. Yes, it is recruiting talented members, using time and resources effectively, and working well with others, but it is so much more. It is respecting your role and time in an organization with long-standing traditions and eternal principles; it is staying true to your creed or mission statement; it is setting the highest standards possible - and still exceeding them. Even at this moment, as a Young Alumni Trustee on the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust and MD/MBA candidate at Baylor College of Medicine, it is apparent how Greek Life has prepared me to be a leader of the future. As a proud alumnus of this great university, I am thankful for my constant connection to Vanderbilt through my fraternity brothers and outstanding Greek community.

Andrew Wilson
class of 2008
ΑΤΩ
Office of Greek Life Staff
The Office of Greek Life staff will be growing again this year. Luke Gill from the College of William & Mary will join the staff as the advisor for the Interfraternity Council and Kristin Jarrett from Spelman College has joined the staff as the advisor for the NPHC Council. Joe Gurreri will return in his second year as the advisor to the Panhellenic Council. All 3 graduate assistants will work collaboratively on educational programming efforts for chapters and provide oversight for the executive board officers for the three governing councils. Karen Seezen will continue as the Administrative Assistant and will manage all budgeting and student workers.

Kristin Torrey, Director of Greek Life, will have primary responsibility for Interfraternity Council chapters, leadership development, alumni and parent relations and other strategic initiatives. Tanner Marcantel, Assistant Director of Greek Life, will have primary responsibility for Panhellenic and NPHC chapters, along with the Greek Programming Board, Order of Omega and all office publications. We will be making some changes to the advising structure in order to devote more time to strategic initiatives and develop stronger relationships between chapter leaders to enhance peer to peer learning and interfraternalism.

A Call to Action and A Commitment to Change
The 2008 – 2009 academic year was a tumultuous one for the Vanderbilt University Greek community. Substance abuse, hazing, poor decision making, inappropriate behavior and dishonesty have plagued the Greek community. These issues are not isolated to a few chapters; rather they are systemic issues that are contrary to fraternal values. While the university environment is changing, the Greek community has held on to traditions and activities that are inconsistent with the mission of the institution. Many of these behaviors represent activities which are illegal, unethical, and incongruent with the stated mission and purpose of our fraternal organization and of our institution and must change immediately.

As a result of the multitude of issues that have surrounded the Greek community this year, a community meeting was held on April 14 with student leaders, alumni, advisors and representatives from international and national organizations. This meeting was an opportunity for all present to communicate the issues that they felt were the most pressing in the community and needed to be changed. The intent of this meeting was to provide an opportunity for all constituents to understand the need for change and to ask all constituents to be involved as partners in creating change in the community. The university does not wish to make changes alone or in a vacuum, instead a collaborative approach between administrators, students, alumni and our international organization partners will be implemented to create the necessary changes for the Greek community to thrive in the future.

To assist in the change process, the Office of the Dean of Students employed an outside firm to research best practices at similar institutions. This report offers insight and ideas regarding leadership development, new member education, judicial policies and other ways to strengthen Greek communities. In addition to the this report, the Office of Greek Life is hosting a series of small group discussions over the summer for alumni and students to identify critical issues and brainstorm potential solutions that will lead to cultural change in the community. The community leadership and Greek Life staff will determine a process for taking ideas generated through these small groups and at the Greek Leaders retreat in August to a change initiative document. This will likely include additional sub-committees to tackle specific issues that need to be addressed. There are some changes that have already been implemented and others that have yet to be decided. It is our hope that by the end of the Fall 2009 semester that decisions are made that will result in sustainable cultural change in the community to be implemented by January 2010.

The Greek community at Vanderbilt has been in existence for over 150 years and there are many positive aspects to having such a long history. However, there are some traditions that must change in order for the Greek community to remain relevant in an ever-evolving society. We implore you to be our partner in this change process. No matter your role – student, alumni, faculty member, advisor, parent or friend of the Vanderbilt Greek community, you have a part to play in creating change in our community. We hope that you will join us in leaving a legacy for another 150 years!