

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY GREEK LIFE ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

Overview

The 2002-2003 academic year brought significant changes and progress in several areas in the Vanderbilt Greek community. Chancellor Gee and Vice Chancellor Williams continue to strongly endorse the fraternity and sorority experience through their active participation in Greek events and programs as well as their determination for the Vanderbilt Greek community to become one of the best in the Nation.

The Division of Student Life continues to play an integral role in the further development of the Vanderbilt community. The Student Life mission statement, which will be announced in the coming months, will further shape our vision of a student centered experience that further entrenches Greek Life within the fabric of the University. New partnerships will be created throughout the Division that will perpetuate the further development of our Greek community.

This year also brought two new faces to the Greek "scene." After three years of service to Vanderbilt, Kate Tanis left the University in the summer of 2002. A quick search found an outstanding new Greek Advisor, Kristin Torrey. Kristin came to Vanderbilt from Bowling Green State University, where she received her Masters Degree in College Student Personnel. While at Bowling Green, Kristin advised the National Pan-Hellenic Council and lived in both the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity house and the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority house. In addition, Mona Hicks, Senior Director for Student Activities, is the new supervisor of Greek Life, Student Government, Student Organizations, and various functions of the Student Activities cluster. Mona brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm from Rice University where she served in a similar capacity.

Membership

Membership numbers for the Greek community increased again this year as did the size of the student population. However the percent of students who are Greek remains fairly constant. Membership in fraternities and sororities comprised 42% of the undergraduate population; 31% of the men are Greek, which is down slightly from last year, reflecting the loss of two fraternities; and 53% of the women are members of sororities. The Interfraternity Council (IFC) fraternities range in size from 45 to 95 men. The Panhellenic groups vary between 134 and 190 women. NPHC groups are typically smaller and range in size from 5 to 11 members. The two Latina/o groups have 5 and 7 members, respectively.

Governing Councils– IFC, Panhellenic, and NPHC

The fraternities and sororities at Vanderbilt are led by three governing bodies: the Interfraternity Council (IFC) to manage IFC fraternities, the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) to lead the historically African American Greek organizations, and the Panhellenic Council to oversee the Panhellenic sororities. Each council has demonstrated extraordinary leadership to improve Greek Life on campus. Here are some highlights of their accomplishments this year.

Interfraternity Council (IFC) Highlights:

- ~~✍~~ Under the first year of the new housing program passed by the IFC, the fraternities were able to reduce the debt owed to Vanderbilt by \$200,000. In addition, they continue to make improvements in the houses and have witnessed a renewed interest by some alumni groups to support this movement. The Housing Chairman, a new position created this year on IFC, works directly with the house managers on issues pertaining to the program and the fraternity facilities.
- ~~✍~~ For the first time in many years, fraternity new members' GPA surpassed the All-Freshmen Men's Average. The IFC has worked very closely with each fraternity to develop new member programs that emphasize academics as the top priority.
- ~~✍~~ The IFC Executive Board attended the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference Leadership Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. This provided them an opportunity to interact with Greek leaders from across the southeast. In addition, the IFC Recruitment Chair is attending "Recruitment Boot Camp" in July, with hopes of bringing back some great ideas to improve our recruitment program.
- ~~✍~~ This was the first year for the education and philanthropy policies, which were passed during spring 2002. The policies require all fraternity members to do a minimum of three hours of community service and attend two educational programs each semester. The IFC Philanthropy Chair oversaw these new policies and worked with the chapters to make sure the standards were achieved.
- ~~✍~~ After dealing with some significant alcohol issues, the IFC led a process with Panhellenic to rewrite the Greek Alcohol Policy. Whereas the policies used to be separate, there is now one joint policy that will be followed by all member organizations.
- ~~✍~~ The IFC Publicity Officer is now working with *The Hustler*, the Vanderbilt student newspaper, on a new section of the paper, "Greek Voice." This new partnership has enabled significant news about the Greek community to reach our student body in a very reputable way.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Highlights:

- ~~✍~~ The most exciting highlight for the NPHC community this year was the addition of the NPHC fraternities to Greek Row. This shared housing facility brought local and national attention to the Vanderbilt NPHC, as this kind of arrangement does not exist anywhere else.
- ~~✍~~ Members of the NPHC community performed a unity step at the Board of Trust meeting in October. The BOT members were very impressed and it was a great opportunity to teach others about the history of stepping within NPHC organizations.
- ~~✍~~ The Homecoming King, Jerel Smith, and Homecoming Queen, Ashley Moore, are both members of the NPHC community.
- ~~✍~~ The NPHC unanimously voted to allow Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. to begin expansion efforts on Vanderbilt's campus. We are looking for these efforts to take off in the Fall 2003 semester.
- ~~✍~~ NPHC advisors began meeting together to help create a more cohesive community with better organization. Their support and active involvement in the chapters will help to ensure continued success in the future.
- ~~✍~~ The NPHC educational programming requirement was met during the second semester with a creative and interactive hazing program presented by the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and attended by most members of the NPHC community.
- ~~✍~~ The annual Step Show during Minority Student Recruitment Weekend was a huge success. Chapters put on a fantastic show to a sold out Langford Auditorium. Both the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor of Student Life were in attendance and gave great reviews.

Panhellenic Council Highlights:

- ~~✍~~ After significant research and evaluation of the rotation system, the Panhellenic chapters voted to change the Panhellenic Council Executive Board Officer selection process from rotation to a slating/election. This process will allow women to be placed in positions that best fit their skills and interests to benefit the Panhellenic community.
- ~~✍~~ The Recruitment Task Force convened in February to discuss and critically evaluate the recruitment practices of the Panhellenic groups.
- ~~✍~~ The Panhellenic Executive Board attended the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference in Atlanta, GA in March to network and attend educational sessions with other Panhellenic leaders from across the Southeast. The Vanderbilt Panhellenic Council received SEPC awards for Public Relations for the "Food for Thought" program and an award for Women's Issues for the "Student Body" eating disorders program.
- ~~✍~~ The "Food for Thought" program was a joint effort between Panhellenic and IFC that gathered Greek students, faculty, and staff members for meaningful discussion while sharing a catered meal at chapter houses. It was a good opportunity to dialogue about campus and Greek issues while dispelling some of the stereotypes that faculty members and Greek students have about one another.
- ~~✍~~ All chapters were paired up with an athletic team to show support and encouragement for our student athletes. The Athletic Department, coaches, and players were thankful for the sororities' involvement.
- ~~✍~~ The sister sorority program continued and chapters did programs and activities together to foster a greater sense of Panhellenic spirit.
- ~~✍~~ The chapters passed the Fraternity Philanthropy Resolution, which emphasized the importance of contributing to the community while maintaining a positive image of sorority women, and setting standards for appropriate activities for philanthropic events.

Alcohol Policy

After several unfortunate incidents involving the misuse of alcohol at the beginning of the spring semester, the Panhellenic and IFC chapter presidents and executive boards worked together to create a new joint alcohol policy. Greek leaders gathered examples of policies from other campuses, national organization policies and the Fraternal Information and Programming Group (FIG) risk management policies to create a policy that would benefit the Vanderbilt Greek community. Discussions between Greek leaders brought forth several revisions with a final product that was passed by both Panhellenic and IFC in April. Students created the policy and the implementation and enforcement will be peer driven through the governing councils. To view the policy, please visit www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life/policies.html.

Membership Recruitment

Panhellenic Recruitment continued the recent addition of the Display Round to Formal Recruitment. Because of the recent addition of the Display Round, NPC Release Figures expert, Betty Woods, prepared customized release figures for all chapters based on past statistics. This process was successful and we will continue to utilize it in the future with small modifications. All in all, Panhellenic recruitment was a success with 83% of women who participated in recruitment being placed in the ten participating Panhellenic groups. A total of 457 women were placed in the formal recruitment process in January.

The Recruitment Task Force was held in February to evaluate the entire recruitment process at Vanderbilt. Beth Stathos, a member of the Chi Omega National Panhellenic Delegation, served as the facilitator of the initial conversation between advisors, past and future recruitment chairs, and members of the Panhellenic Executive Board. The Task Force emphasized the importance of ethics and trust within the

Panhellenic community to create a better recruitment process for both potential new members and chapters. Outcomes of the Task Force included a new set of standing recruitment rules and a code of ethics for all Greek women to sign. The members of the Task Force worked hard to make significant changes that we should see beginning in the fall semester 2003.

The Interfraternity Council continues to reevaluate its recruitment process to make it friendlier for the prospective members. Meetings with fraternity recruitment chairs at the end of the spring yielded some changes for the upcoming year. Mike Stacy, IFC Recruitment Chairman, will be attending "Recruitment Boot Camp," a program sponsored by Campus Speak. Changes that are being considered include:

- ~~✍~~ IFC coordinated barbecue to follow the recruitment registration
- ~~✍~~ Open houses the week following recruitment registration
- ~~✍~~ Marketing strategy in residence halls to include posters reflecting a more positive image of Greek Life and information about the recruitment process for men
- ~~✍~~ Meetings with fraternity recruitment chairs on an individual basis to assess chapter-specific needs.

The IFC will continue to evaluate this process, understanding that there are some issues that need to be addressed to keep our numbers at a healthy level and to perpetuate a thriving Greek community.

Academics

The overall mission of any Student Life department at Vanderbilt that encourages co-curricular involvement is to support students in their academic achievement as well as encourage involvement in activities outside the classroom. Greek organizations at Vanderbilt aspire to achieve average GPAs above the All-Men's or All-Women's average each year.

The All-Undergraduate average for Vanderbilt University for Spring 2003 was 3.198, with the All-Women's average reaching 3.286 and the All-Men's average at 3.103. All eleven Panhellenic sororities were above the All-Women's average according to their spring semester's grade report, which is up from nine last year. Eight of the fourteen IFC fraternities, which are two more than last year, exceed the All-Men's Average. All six NPHC organizations fell below these averages, some with very low academic averages. This is an area that will be a priority for the organizations and the Office of Greek Life.

SORORITY ACADEMIC REPORT

All-Undergraduate Average	3.198
All-Women's Average	3.286
All-Sorority Average	3.328
All-Freshmen Women	3.118
All-Sorority New Members	3.170
11 of 11 Panhellenic Sororities were above the All-Women's Average	
7 of 10 Panhellenic Sororities' New Member Class Averages were greater than the All-Freshmen Women's Average	
0 of 3 NPHC Sororities were above the All-Women's Average	
0 of 3 NPHC Sororities' New Member Class average was greater than the All-Freshmen Women's Average	

FRATERNITY ACADEMIC REPORT

All-Undergraduate Average	3.198
All-Men's Average	3.103
All-Fraternity Average	3.084
All-Freshmen Men	2.949
All-Fraternity New Members	2.954
8 of 14 IFC Fraternities were above the All-Men's Average	
7 of 14 IFC Fraternities' New Member Class Averages were greater than the All-Freshmen Men's Average	
0 of 3 NPHC Fraternities were above the All-Men's Average	
0 of 3 NPHC Fraternities' New Member Class Averages were greater than the All-Freshmen Men's Average	

The Office of Greek Life, along with the governing councils of the fraternities and sororities, will not be satisfied until each group maintains a GPA higher than the campus average. Of particular importance are the grades of new members. Realizing that this must be a top priority of the Greek community, IFC adopted a Scholarship Policy that requires each new member class to make equal to or greater than the All-Freshmen Male Average. We are excited to announce that, for the first time in a while, IFC fraternity new members achieved a higher GPA than the All-Freshmen average (2.968 compared to 2.949)! This is an exciting statistic and one that should be built upon in the future. It is important that we continue to be able to tell incoming students and parents that membership in a fraternity will not decrease grades. The governing councils and the Office of Greek Life will work with those fraternities that struggle academically to implement scholarship programs for their new members.

Greek Housing

The University allocated one million dollars for emergency repairs to fraternity houses to bring them up to a habitable standard during the summer of 2001 through reserve funds within the Division of Student Life. Included in that gift was the installation of state-of-the-art fire detection systems in all fraternity and sorority houses. Another million dollars was provided for continued maintenance and housekeeping for fraternities throughout the year. As a result, fraternity houses were maintained at a much higher standard, and damage to the buildings decreased significantly.

In the spring of 2002, the Interfraternity Council unanimously supported the implementation of a new model of housing. Included in this program are the following services:

- ~~///~~ Routine Maintenance
- ~~///~~ Utilities
- ~~///~~ Housekeeping
- ~~///~~ Grounds (lawn care, landscaping, and outside trash removal)
- ~~///~~ Property and Liability Insurance
- ~~///~~ Emergency Management System monitoring
- ~~///~~ Possible elimination of Real Estate Taxes
- ~~///~~ \$20,000/year returned to each fraternity's account to pay down debts, re-pay loans and fund future renovations
- ~~///~~ Optional \$50 fee per member to go into participating fraternity's Rental Account

To pay for these services, each fraternity house resident paid \$2,905/semester in rent, and each member not living in the house paid \$190/semester as a facility management fee. These charges were billed directly to each member's student account to ensure the money was collected. This removes the burden from the fraternity for collecting the necessary revenue to pay for maintaining the houses.

In one short year, the fraternity community was able to decrease the debt owed to the University by \$200,000! This program protects the viability of the Greek community at Vanderbilt by providing a mechanism to address debt, maintain higher standards and protect the future investments of alumni and the University. The University is currently working with the fraternities and their house corporations to create a new long-term agreement between Vanderbilt and the fraternity community that will memorialize this new partnership.

In addition to the fraternities, Delta Gamma and the NPHC fraternities participated in the housing program. Delta Gamma now resides in one of the West Side Row houses. The houses were built in the late 1800's as one of Vanderbilt's first residence halls. Delta Gamma's house serves as a residence to four Delta Gamma members, as well as a venue for numerous social activities. The NPHC fraternities resided in the previous Kappa Alpha house. This provided some much needed visibility for our NPHC organizations and an institutional commitment exists to continue this into the future.

Greek House Renovations

Pi Kappa Alpha recently completed its renovation and is in the midst of a fundraising campaign. Other Greek chapters, including Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Delta Delta, Alpha Epsilon Pi and Sigma Chi have upcoming plans for renovation and are currently engaged in fundraising efforts.

Greek Awards

The 2003 Chancellor Heard Greek Awards Ceremony was held on April 7, 2003 in the Sarratt Cinema, with a reception following in Kirkland Hall hosted by Chancellor Gee. Chapters submitted their awards packet before spring break. Congratulations to the following recipients:

CHAPTER AWARDS

Excellence in Chapter Operations

Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Lambda Chi Alpha

Excellence in Education & Leadership

Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Lambda Chi Alpha

Excellence in Risk Management

Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Excellence in Scholarship

Chi Omega, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Excellence in Community Service & Philanthropy

Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Sigma Chi

Excellence in Diversity Initiatives

Lambda Theta Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Lambda Theta Phi

Excellence in Campus Involvement

Chi Omega, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Lambda Chi Alpha

Panhellenic Sorority of the Year

Chi Omega

NPHC Organization of the Year

Alpha Phi Alpha

IFC Fraternity of the Year

Lambda Chi Alpha

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Outstanding House Director

Joyce Barksdale of Alpha Omicron Pi

Outstanding Advisors

Cara Sutcliffe of Pi Beta Phi and Lawson Allen of Sigma Chi

Outstanding New Members

Kate Morgan of Chi Omega and David Barry of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Outstanding Community Servants

Ashley Thomas of Chi Omega and Jacob Brewer of Beta Theta Pi

Greek Man of the Year

Joe Stevens of Phi Kappa Psi

Greek Woman of the Year

Kelly Leo of Pi Beta Phi and Blanca Torres of Lambda Theta Alpha

Conclusion

As this report indicates, this has been another exciting year for the Vanderbilt Greek community. In order to keep all constituents up-to-date, the Office of Greek Life is excited to announce the launch of a new website, http://www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life. This site will provide a more seamless way to communicate with undergraduates, alumni, parents, and other shareholders in our community.

Finally, by receiving this report, we recognize you as a having a vested interest in our Greek community and appreciate your never-ending support. We thank you for playing a significant role in our quest to become the best Greek community in the nation!

Kristin Torrey
Greek Advisor

Mona Hicks
Senior Director, Student Activities

Clayton Arrington
Greek Advisor

Revised 7/15/2003