

# THE CHAPTER

*A Publication of the Interfraternity, National Pan-Hellenic, and Panhellenic Councils at Vanderbilt University*

## A Return to the 90s highlighted Greek Week 2008 *by Rhodes Amaker*

The annual Greek Week festivities once again provided members from various NPHC, IFC, and Panhellenic organizations the opportunity to get to know one another within a competitive and exciting atmosphere. Chapters were organized as teams using their Tri-Council Circle affiliation. This ensures an even distribution of members from the different councils.

The week started off with a day of community service on Tuesday. Students served the Friends of Warner Parks by assisting with outdoor park maintenance. A group also went to ThriftSmart to unload and organize thousands of donations to the store. The remaining volunteers lent a hand at Feed the Children, where they boxed care packages for families around the world. Service Day was followed by the Faculty Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday morning when a representative from each chapter delivered bagels and cream cheese to various academic departments.

Wednesday evening, each team entered the Trivia Night competition. Following the theme of Greek Week, "I Love the 90s," all questions were derived from

pop culture, news, and sports from the 1990s. The Green Circle took first place; followed by the Yellow Circle in second, and the Orange Circle in third.

Tom McGill, the owner of Quizno's, hosted the annual Lip Sync on Thursday evening. The Blue Circle won the event with their version of the Backstreet Boys' hit "Everybody." The red Circle captured second place, while the Green Circle took third.

The Greek Week Concert on Friday had more audience attendance than any concert in the past. Popular recording artist, Sister Hazel headlined with an opening performance by local country favorite, Dustin Lynch. The winning tri-council Circle was announced, and the Red Circle took the title. A large part of winning Greek Week was participation, and the Red Circle consistently had a strong showing throughout the week! Overall, Greek Week 2008 met its goal of encouraging tri-council camaraderie through activities that required team work, and also representing a positive image of Greek Life through service and cooperation. ♦

## Mentoring programs a focus in Annual NPHC Week *by Morgan Turner*

This year the National Pan-Hellenic Council held their annual week of events to kick off the new school year. The council used this week to foster relationships with off campus partners in the Nashville community.

Events began on Sunday with a community church service attended by members of the NPHC fraternities and sororities. On Monday, September 8 the council held Greek Mystique, an informational meet-and-greet with all the fraternities and sororities of the council. This was the first time ever that all nine NPHC organizations participated in Greek Mystique. Having Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity alumni present gave a strong unified showing of the black Greek-letter organizations available to interested students. *continued on pg. 4*



Members of the Blue Circle perform their winning routine to the Backstreet Boys hit "Everybody" at the Thursday Lip Sync competition.

*Francis Simpson / The Vanderbilt Hustler*

## Former Chapter President reflects on his service in Africa, fraternity leadership *by Kris Stensland*

I'm pretty sure my parents had a heart attack when I told them I was going to Africa over the summer. Even after my assurances that many people have wonderful experiences and come back sans malaria and AIDS, they weren't exactly thrilled about my month in Moshi, Tanzania.

Now that I've returned (and my blood tests have come back), I think they've begun to appreciate my trip a bit more. I spent my month working in a small hospital a few minutes walk outside of downtown, where I worked as a nurse. While running IVs, prepping patients for surgery, and working in a hospital lab may not sound thrilling, pre-med students such as myself jump at the opportunity to work with real patients.

Aside from learning new medical techniques, I had the grand idea that I could also learn to speak Swahili in a month. I believe the only words

that have stuck with me are "I'm so sorry" (pole sana), and "what's up" (mambo). This made patient care an interesting endeavor, in trying to communicate with limited English on their part and nonexistent Swahili on mine. Not to mention being an absolute minority for the first time in my life; being a white American made me stick out for about the first time in my life.

Overall, I learned a lot from my trip. I think it's interesting to apply what I saw and experienced abroad and apply it back here at Vanderbilt, and specifically to Greek Life. I drew a lot from my experiences as a fraternity president—handling difficult situations, assessing and meeting the needs of a group of people, and interacting with new and diverse people. I encountered all of these situations during my time at the clinic, and drew upon my social and leadership development

from Lambda Chi Alpha to inform my daily interactions.

I believe that my experiences have given me a new personal outlook, beyond the cliché of appreciating what we have. I gained so much knowledge from going someplace that makes you uncomfortable. You can finally begin to understand what it feels like to be completely different, or even just wide-eyed and uncomfortable like a freshman once again. It's easy to become accustomed to our lives as they are; I'm starting to think that getting back on your toes once in a while is a great idea.

Kris is a senior in the College of Arts & Science. ♦



## Greeks & Athletes offer fun, safe space for trick-or-treating

*by Caitlin Brannigan*

On Friday October 31st, Panhellenic, IFC and NPHC, along with the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, will host a Halloween event on Greek row. During "Trick-or-Treat with Greeks and Athletes" each chapter house will welcome trick-or-treaters. Chapters without a facility will pair with a member of their Tri-Council Circle to help pass out candy and hold a game on their lawn. Members of the SAAC and other student athletes will bring a group of children from the Boys

and Girls Club to the event and will spend the evening with them playing games and celebrating the holiday. In addition to The Boys and Girls Club, the event welcomes Vanderbilt Faculty children and grandchildren, as well as each chapter's local alumni associations and their families. "Trick-or-Treat with Greeks and Athletes" promises to be a lot of fun, as well as a great way for the Greek and athletic organizations to connect with the Vanderbilt and local communities. ♦

**Halloween**  
**Trick-or-Treat**  
**Friday, October 31**  
**25th Avenue &**  
**Kensington Avenue**  
**5 - 7 pm**

### Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority gains approval from NPHC

by Morgan Turner

By a unanimous vote taken at the general body meeting of the National Pan-Hellenic Council on September 18, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority was formally invited to begin the process of establishing a chapter at Vanderbilt University. This is a momentous occasion for the NPHC community, as the council adds the fourth and final historically African American sorority to campus.



Five years ago the sorority attempted to form chapter at Vanderbilt. Times have changed, and the graduate chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho is already working to make this a reality.

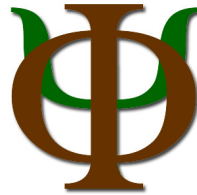
Having eight of the nine NPHC organizations present at Vanderbilt will strengthen the black Greek community, and enhance overall the student culture. ♦

### Phi Kappa Psi holds charity golf tournament

by Eric Asher

Phi Kappa Psi fraternity held their annual charity golf tournament benefiting Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis research on Saturday, September 20th. The tournament drew four four-man teams, each

playing a scramble. These rules involve each player playing their ball next to the best previous shot of the foursome. The winning team after 18 holes was comprised of members Sam Neel, Ryan Rau, Randy Smith and Eric Asher, finishing with a score of four under par. The highlight of the round was an eagle on the par four 16th vaulting the team into first place.



In addition to the scramble, the chapter also held a long drive competition and a closest to the pin contest. Steve Soloway won the long drive with a 300 yard bomb, and the tournament organizer, Blake Bennett, won closest to the pin with a shot eight feet from the hole.

With great play for a great cause, the tournament was a success, and the members are looking forward to their father-son tournament in the spring. ♦

### DKE & Kappa combine efforts for charity

by Laura Calabrese

On September 11, members of Delta Kappa Epsilon and Kappa Kappa Gamma hosted a Carnival, held on Alumni Lawn. The Carnival included a wiffle ball tournament between students from different campus organizations, as well as a dunk tank, a pie in the face, a live band, and Jersey Mike's subs for sale.

DKE and KKG raised money through the wiffle ball team registration fee, the one dollar charge to dunk or pie any guest, ticket sales, and donations. Additionally, Jersey Mike's donated 10% of their profit from the event. Winners of the wiffle ball tournament received prizes from Nashville area merchants. The winner of the men's bracket was awarded a free pontoon boat rental while the winner of the women's bracket received a three course lunch for nine at T's Tuscan Bar and Grill.

The event raised \$1,500 to be donated to the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund. Families of Freedom was created in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attack to fund higher education for young adults who lost a parent in the 9/11 tragedy. ♦

### 4th Annual 'Kick It' tournament benefits Links to Literacy

by Lauren Grossman

Pi Beta Phi held their fourth annual kickball tournament, Kick it with Pi Phi, on Saturday, September 20th. The tournament, which took place on the Sports Club Fields, was a fun-filled day of food, music, and kickball! Fourteen sororities and fraternities participated in the event. Tri Delta won the girl's bracket and Sigma Chi, after facing tough competition, won the tournament for the men's bracket. In total, Pi Phi raised \$1561, all of which will benefit Links-to-Literacy, the chapter's national philanthropy. ♦

## CHAPTER NEWS

### **KD Kosmo raises over \$3000 for Prevent Child Abuse TN** *by Jenna Polakiewicz*

This year, Kappa Delta's annual fall benefit, Kappa Delta Kosmopolitan, took place on Sunday, September 28 on Wyatt Lawn. This benefit raises money and awareness for Prevent Child Abuse of Tennessee, one of Kappa Delta's local philanthropy organizations. Nearly 300 people attended the event, allowing Kappa Delta to raise \$3980 for this charity. All proceeds from tickets sales are donated directly to the organization.

This year's Kosmo was held outdoors, and included sushi from

Goten, a chocolate fondue fountain catered by Ribbons of Chocolate, and fizzy mocktails. In addition, Kosmopolitan provided fun, live entertainment by the Elliston Jazz Band, the Dodecs, and the Swingin' Dorees making the benefit a very classy and delightful fundraiser. The Kappa Delta sisters would like to thank all students and faculty who attended the benefit to help raise money for this wonderful organization. ♦

### **AKA & SLG partner for Komen Foundation** *by Morgan Turner*

In honor of breast cancer awareness month, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Lambda Gamma

National Sorority Inc. cosponsored 'Pink Out', a philanthropic event. The goal of the event was to raise awareness about the devastating breast cancer disease—which continues to claim thousands of women's lives—as well as raise money to donate to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Approximately 500 Pink Out T-shirts were sold for 10 dollars each as the means for the Susan G. Komen donation. The shirts were worn on October 4th at the Vanderbilt vs. Auburn, in attempts to "Pink Out" the stadium. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc., and the Vanderbilt community collaborated to give a generous donation totaling over \$2500 in support of breast cancer awareness. ♦

### **NPHC** *(continued from pg. 1)*

Three chapters of the Boys & Girls Club came to campus for games and carnival treats on Tuesday. Over 50 children came to Alumni Lawn for this fun event that helped strengthen the relationship between the Clubs and NPHC.

Wednesday evening, 8 graduate members of various NPHC organizations offered their knowledge and skills to the undergraduate population through a career panel. Career advice from the fields of education, non-profit management, medical research, and financial banking was offered, and many questions were asked of the participants. "This was the highlight of the week, in my opinion," stated

Charles Stanley, senior in Alpha Phi Alpha. "It helped us to ask questions of real people working in these fields, and gain insight into how best to prepare for a career in those fields."

For the first time, the council sponsored a mentoring program with Stratford High School. Thirty students visited Vanderbilt University, escorted by members of NPHC. Visiting students attended a class, as well as experienced the campus culture during the morning and afternoon. "Music on Rand," a yearly event where NPHC members played music

and perform strolls, was a highlight of these events. ♦



Students from the Boys & Girls club enjoy the Play Day activities during NPHC Week with members of the fraternities and sororities.

## Third Annual Kickoff Cookoff supports Fannie Battle Day Home for Children *by Wyatt Smith*

On September 3, Vanderbilt students gathered together to celebrate the start of a new school year and raise money for charity with the 3rd Annual Kickoff Cookoff event. Hosted by Kappa Alpha Theta and Delta Delta Delta sororities, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Beta Theta Pi fraternities, and the Vandy Fanatics, the event brought Greeks and non-Greeks together for a tailgating festival on Olin Lawn. Surrounded by the excitement of the home-opening game against the University of South Carolina, the 2008 Kickoff Cookoff hosted over 1000 people and raised over \$12,000 for the Fannie Battle Day Home for Children in Nashville.

The main fundraising premise behind the event was a competition between some of the area's top barbecue and chicken restaurants to determine who had the "best tailgating food in Nashville". After paying an entrance fee, attendees enjoyed unlimited food from Calhoun's Barbecue, Pig and Pie, Martin's Barbecue, Hogg Heaven, Corky's, Joe's BBQ, Jim N Nick's Barbecue, Otter's Chicken, and McDougal's Chicken Fingers and Wings, who competed for catering contracts from the four sponsoring

Greek chapters. Event attendees voted Jim N Nick's Barbecue and McDougal's Chicken Fingers and Wings as the two "best tastes in Nashville", and their owners were honored on stage.

New and returning students alike clamored for Vandy Fanatics giveaways and enjoyed a fun tailgating atmosphere. As first-years mingled with upperclassmen, sampling the food and enjoying the musical entertainment of the El Dorados, Tennessee Tallboys, and Chris Hennessie Band, it became clear that student excitement was high for the Commodores' first home game.

Featuring appearances from the VU Basketball Team and Tom "The Quizno's Guy" McGill, the Kickoff Cookoff also hosted competitions between IFC, Panhellenic, and NPHC Greek houses. Fraternities and sororities competed in a rousing watermelon eating contest, won by Kappa Sigma, and a pie bake-off, in which Delta Gamma came out victorious. Since its inception three years ago, Kickoff Cookoff events have generated over \$30,000 for philanthropic causes.

Last spring, Kickoff Cookoff earned status as a student organization on campus and its officers expanded their efforts to include year-round service at the Fannie Battle Day Home for Children. "Volunteering at Fannie Battle gave our executive board the opportunity to bond together and really develop a strong commitment to working for an organization that does so much good in the Nashville community," said Senior Maggie Fesmire of Kappa Alpha Theta, co-chair of this year's event. "I think that working together allowed us a shared vision that we carried into the Fall."

Fellow Kickoff Cookoff co-chair Joel Collins, a Senior in Beta Theta Pi, agreed: "The event went beyond raising money and helped bring all of Vanderbilt, both Greeks and non-Greeks, together for a great cause. With all the excitement building for another great football season, the Kickoff Cookoff allows for people to come together and celebrate another great year ahead. I look forward to seeing how it grows in the future." ♦

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## Panhellenic Fall Recruitment places 14 new members *by Emily Kveselis*

Continuous Open Recruitment for sororities was a huge success this fall, with more than 60 sophomore and transfer students participating. Each of the ten NPC sororities hosted an informal open house the evening of Tuesday, September 16th, designed for the potential members to get to know individual members of the sororities in an informal setting.

Several chapters exceeded the campus membership total of 135, which did not allow them to extend membership bids in the informal process. However, a number of chapters continued the recruitment process with informal invitational events such as sundae making at the house and appetizers at Cabana. Come bid day on Wednesday, September 24th, the

Panhellenic community welcomed 14 new members.

Congratulations to Alpha Chi Omega and Alpha Omicron Pi on their new members! ♦

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## *Election 2008 Events*

The Election Alliance invites all students, faculty, and staff to the remaining events surrounding the Presidential Election.

College Student Debate

Thursday, October 30: 7-9pm, Board of Trust Room

Early Voting

October 15 - October 30

Shuttles to the polls will be provided; departing each day from 3-6 pm at Branscomb Quad.

Election Day Shuttles

Tuesday, November 4

7 am - 7 pm

Departing from Branscomb Quad and The Commons Center

Election Game Day

Tuesday, November 4

5:30 pm

The Commons Center

## *DUI Rights & Responsibilities*

GAMMA & the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention are presenting the annual DUI Rights and responsibilities program on **October 27 at 7:30 pm in Sarratt Cinema.**

## *Panhellenic Sorority Benefits*

October 26: Delta Underground, Sarratt Cinema 3, 5 & 7pm

October 29: Kappa Kappa Gala, SLC 6 pm

October 30: Theta BBQ: SLC 5-8 pm

November 2: Chi-O fashion Show, SLC 5pm

## *Lambda Theta Alpha Week*

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc will hold its annual Week from November 1 - 8, 2008. The showcase event is the Mighty Man Service Auction on Wednesday, November 5 at 7pm in the SLC. Admission is \$5 and proceeds benefit the Ujima House. The chapter will also hold a Healthy Relationship seminar on Thursday, November 6 in Sarratt Cinema, also at 7pm.

## *Delta Sigma Theta Health & Happiness Week*

The sisters of the Mu Rho Chapter invite you to their educational awareness programming during October 26 - November 1. The chapter will sponsor wellness events throughout the week to promote healthy lifestyles among Vanderbilt students, faculty & staff.

## *Zeta Night of Soul*

November 5, 2008

7pm at the BCC

Admission is \$5 or \$2 w/children's book

All proceeds benefit Project Z.E.A.L & Big Brothers Big Sister of Middle Tennessee

## *AKApollo*

The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority invite you the Annual AKApollo on November 13, from 7-9pm at the Student Life Center.

