

# THE CHAPTER

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

## Kickoff Cookoff an Unprecedented Success! *by Brad Lawrence*

On September 15, four Greek chapters showed what it really means to work together. Kappa Alpha Theta and Delta Delta Delta sororities paired with Beta Theta Pi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternities to host the 1st Annual Kickoff Cookoff on Vanderbilt's Olin Lawn. On a beautiful fall day, over 850 people attended and helped raise \$9000 for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.), and the American Cancer Society.

The main premise behind the event was a competition between some of Nashville's top BBQ restaurants to determine who really had the best food around. Whitt's, Hog Heaven, Corky's, Famous Dave's, Pig & Pie, Burr's, Calhoun's, and Vanderbilt's C.T. West were presenting sponsors of the event and each donated food and drink to serve 100 people. Attendees then voted on their favorite, and this year's winner, Hog Heaven, became the preferred barbeque provider for the four sponsoring Greek organizations.

As students, faculty, and staff sampled the delicious BBQ, it was clear that the Vanderbilt community was ready for the Commodores' first home game the next morning against Arkansas. The Vandy Fanatics, the school spirit organization on campus, also sponsored the event. They

handed out t-shirts and other items to get the attendees pumped about football season and also grilled hot dogs and hamburgers to bring a true tailgate-feel to the event. Also in attendance were the VU Cheerleaders, Dance Team, and many Varsity Athletes.

melon eating contest, won by Phi Kappa Psi, and a pie bake-off, in which Delta Gamma came out victorious. The pie bake-off was judged by VU celebrities Chancellor Gordon Gee, Vice-Chancellor David Williams, the "Quizno's Guy", and two Commodore Basketball players.

This event was heralded by many as one of the best philanthropy events ever put on by the Greek community. "I think the fact that we were able to work together for a good cause and have a great time shows that the Greek community is full of committed individuals who care much more about creating a cohesive community than the letters on their houses," said Sigma Alpha Epsilon President Evan Graybill. "The event went beyond raising money-it helped bring all of Vanderbilt together and increased awareness for how critical it is for us to think of how we can help others, no matter if we are Greek or not," added Shannon Donnelly, President of Delta Delta Delta.

The Kickoff Cookoff displayed how strong the Greek community at Vanderbilt is and how much good comes from their efforts. As the university looks to the future, the Kickoff Cookoff serves as a model of cooperation and enthusiasm for all of Vanderbilt. ♦

## Kickoff Cookoff



Multiple student acts, including Miracle Drug, the Swinging 'Dores, and the Dodecs, brought their smooth sounds to the Kickoff Cookoff as they rocked out on stage with a wide range of musical hits. Also providing entertainment were competitions between IFC, Panhellenic, and NPHC chapters. Fraternities and sororities competed in a rousing water-

## Greek Profile:

### Sydney Larson *by Tanya Alvarez*

**What brought you to Vanderbilt?** I was originally drawn to Vanderbilt because I was a Blair Double major. I play the bassoon, and when I was looking at music schools, many would not allow you to do anything in addition to music. Blair is unique in that they let you do both—play music and major in something else, which has really been great for me.

**What are the most significant things that you have done at Vanderbilt?** There are two things that I'm a part of, which have been really important to me here at Vanderbilt. First, I am the President of VUCEPT. Many changes started with VUcept from a presentation made by Dean McCarty. He asked for us to extend orientation and find VUceptors who could play more of a mentoring role to our new students, which we gladly implemented. Another significant thing is being a representative in the Common Grounds Executive Board. Its main purpose is to lead up to the Commons and the changes that we are all going to have to take in preparation, but it has also been a great way to unify the campus and establish a communication network.

**How do you think the new Commons is going to affect the Greek community?** All campus organizations need to adopt this change. This is just a direction in which Vanderbilt is heading. I don't think that the Greeks will suffer from this because the Greek system is very established here. It is impossible to know how the Commons is going to influence this campus exactly, so all organizations are going to have to make an effort to go out there and include the freshmen living there. The facilities are going to be open to all parts of the campus, and everyone should enjoy the Commons.

**How has being Greek affected your experience at Vanderbilt?** I've really enjoyed and really valued my experience in a sorority. It gave me a little community where I could feel really comfortable. Being an officer in the chapter, I learned skills that I know I will be able to take away. Not only did I learn how to put together a spreadsheet on excel and things of that nature, but I also learned a lot of the leadership and people skills that are needed in the workforce.

Sydney is a senior from Saratoga, California majoring in molecular and cellular biology. She is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi and the Blair Wind Symphony Orchestra. ♦

## Chapters Honored at National

### Conventions *by Tanner Marcantel*

Each summer thousands of fraternity and sorority members gather for their National Conventions. Undergraduates and alumni use this time to discuss business, rekindle old friendships, and even form new ones with members from across the country. They also honor their excelling chapters with various awards.

The Vanderbilt sororities did an excellent job of representing our institution this summer. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. received the Southern Region Chapter of the Year. Delta Delta Delta Sorority was honored as House of the Year for outstanding House corporation-chapter relations and as a St. Jude Shining Star for raising the second highest amount for St. Jude's Children's Hospital of all chapters. Chi Omega Sorority took several awards including Outstanding Panhellenic Relations, Outstanding Scholarship, and the Chapter Achievement Award. Alpha Delta Pi Sorority received commendations for their Excellence in Education, Finance, Recruitment, Scholarship, Total Membership Education, Chapter Achievement, and took home a Diamond Four-Point Award. Delta Gamma Sorority was honored with Outstanding New Scholarship Program, Regional Outstanding Communication Award, and Regional Outstanding Recruitment Program. Pi Beta Phi Sorority received their Beta Level of Chapter Excellence for overall chapter operations, a Recruitment Excellence, and the Pi Beta Phi Spirit Award.

The men swept up at their summer conventions as well. Alpha Tau Omega won the National Scholarship Award for the highest GPA of all ATO chapters in the country.

Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity was honored with the Mitchell Chapter Excellence Award for meeting at least 90% of the national fraternity standards, Most Improved Chapter GPA of all Phi Kappa Sigma chapters, and a Recruitment Excellence Award. Kappa Alpha Order received the Samuel Zenas Ammen Award for Chapter Excellence, and the Crimson Cross and Rose Award for the chapter with the best community service event.

Vanderbilt University is fortunate to have many of its fraternities and sororities receive such recognition on a national level. "I am thrilled to see our chapters recognized for all their hard work and dedication to the positive advancement of Fraternity and Sorority Life," stated Kristin Torrey, Director of Greek Life & Student Athlete Involvement. "It really speaks to the caliber of students we have here at Vanderbilt and their commitment to adding value to our community."

Congratulations to all our chapters! ♦



**Order of Omega  
October Hot Place to Study**

**Portland Brew  
3431 Murphy Road  
Nashville, TN 37203  
Monday-Saturday 7 AM-12 AM  
"We are the coffee house without the coffee house attitude."**

## Chi-O Fashion Show a Huge Success *by Amy Leone*

The Chi Omega Fashion Show is an annual event that benefits the chapter's national philanthropy the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This philanthropy grants wishes to children with terminal illnesses in order to bring hope and joy into their lives during their battle with the disease. Each year the goal is to raise \$5000 to grant the wish. This event creates a community feel on the Vanderbilt campus and throughout Nashville by engaging community partners. Our chapter has a wonderful opportunity to work even closer to a wish child than in past years. The money raised this year at the fashion show will go to a child

that the chapter chooses with the help of the Make-A-Wish foundation. Rather than just contributing the money in sponsorship, the members will become trained as "wish-granters" and throughout this school year help a child's wish come true.

On September 24, 2006 the senior members of Chi Omega walked the runway at our show along with entertainment from the Dodecs and Momentum. With all of these efforts throughout the last month, Chi Omega raised \$7796 that will go toward our efforts over the next semester. ♦

## Delta Days!

*by Jimica Mack*

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held "Delta Days" during September 14-16, 2006. Professor Roosevelt Noble, a distinguished alumnus and professor in Vanderbilt's Sociology department, spoke about first and second year students, and getting involved with campus life while maintaining academic excellence. In conjunction with the Black Cultural Center, Delta Sigma Theta launched "The Delta Library." The Delta library collection consists of donated African American Literature that can be checked out by any Vanderbilt student. Soror Rebecca Dixon, Ph.D., a professor in the Dept of Language, Literature, and Philosophy at Tennessee State University lead this dedication. The chapter concluded the events with "Community Service with the Deltas." We took many students and traveled with the Outdoor Recreation office to Beaman Park, where we cleaned up trails and road sides. ♦

## ADPi benefits the Ronald McDonald House

*by Sara Rasmussen*

On Sunday, September 17, the Zeta Rho chapter of Alpha Delta Pi at Vanderbilt University held the third annual Diamonds in the Delta Benefit, benefiting the Ronald McDonald House. A pink and green balloon arch welcomed hundreds of students to the event, where they were invited to line dance to the live country band County Line, eat delicious southern desserts, and get to know the ladies of the chapter. This year ADPi also entertained some of the staff of the Nashville Ronald McDonald House. The volunteer coordinator, Kirra Menees, gave a presentation explaining the mission of the Ronald McDonald House and suggesting ways students could get involved in volunteering. The event was a huge success, raising well over \$5,000 for the Ronald McDonald House and increasing awareness for the chapter's philanthropy on Vanderbilt's campus. ♦

## Omega Promotes Values of Uplift and Perseverance

*by Daryl Grayer*

This past week was the annual week of the Theta Beta chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. which included events to benefit Vanderbilt and Nashville. The title of this year's week "It's a Doggy Dawg World" really displayed to the community just how hard, through perseverance, a chapter with two members can and will work to serve.

Our cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift are the ideals in which we strive to supply both Vanderbilt and Nashville. Events such as the Symposium, The Achievement Gap, and the Aids Awareness packets served to touch the Vanderbilt community as we uplifted minds on social and health issues that affect the African-American community. We wanted to create different opportunities for students to step outside their comfort zone and interact with an array of students.

We would to thank the different Vanderbilt faculty and staff that supported our week. More specifically, we appreciate the three Greek councils and for their presence and hand in friendship with our week. ♦



The ladies of Delta Gamma enjoy the festivities of Lambda Chi Alpha's annual Watermelon Bust.

## Bustin' Out! *by Steven Elliott*

Walking down Greek Row on a Tuesday evening in mid-September, one might notice something—peculiar—about the sorority houses. Sisters hanging green and red banners and streamers, meticulously stacking canned food in their front lawns, or arranging bowls of punch and trays of cookies. Then, as a group of gentlemen turns the corner, the sororities erupt in shouts or cheers or song. It is the beginning of Watermelon Bust, a week-long annual philanthropy event organized by Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at Vanderbilt. The event benefits the American Red Cross and the North American Food Drive, Lambda Chi Alpha's national philanthropy and the largest single-day philanthropy of any collegiate organization, raising over 3 million pounds of food in 2005.

The house decorating contest is only one of the events of the week in which sororities compete against

each other to raise awareness, food, and money for Lambda Chi Alpha's charities. The week also includes a penny drop competition encouraging each sorority and the campus as a whole to raise money for the Red Cross, a food drive in which sororities compete to donate the largest poundage of food, a barbecue with proceeds donated to charity, and of course, a field events day when sororities compete in watermelon-themed games on Alumni Lawn such as a watermelon toss and a tug-of-war competition over a pile of smashed watermelon.

For the past two years, Lambda Chi Alpha has teamed up with CHEERS for their annual Koala Week, including a mocktails competition in our

events and encouraging sororities to wear yellow ribbons for the week to indicate support for the decision to not drink alcohol.

This year's Watermelon Bust raised over \$1000 and 3,000 pounds of food for its charities. Delta Gamma Sorority won in an extremely close race, edging out Kappa Kappa Gamma, which won second, and Delta Delta Delta, which came in third. Kappa Kappa Gamma deserves special recognition for winning first place in both the penny drop and the food drive, donating over \$200 and 1600 pounds of food.

All sororities are to be congratulated for another successful Watermelon Bust, and the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha hope to see them all again next year! ♦



## Chapters Compete for Bragging Rights, Pride *by Steph Harz*

On September 8th and 9th of 2006 Vanderbilt University Greek Life held its first ever Greek Fest. Greek Fest took the place of the Greek Week that occurred in the past years.

After much deliberation by the fraternity and sorority leaders, the decision to change the week of events to two days was met with great enthusiasm. "The two day event allows chapters to participate in a more intense way with fewer disruptions to their daily commitments", stated Robin Fleishman, Greek Life graduate assistant and advisor to the Greek Fest chairs. "Classes and other co curricular activities are given the attention they deserve. Overall, this was a great decision made by the council leaders."

The Fest started off with a faculty

appreciation breakfast, where students delivered bagels to academic departments around campus. The event continued with a volleyball tournament, community service activities at sights around the Metro-Nashville area, a lip-sync competition, and concert. Games on Alumni lawn included an obstacle course, mummy wrap and a pie eating contest. "All of the Greek chapters did a wonderful job of coming together to instill a sense of spirit and pride in their organizations, as well as promoting inter-Greek cooperation and unity", stated Steph Harz, Panhellenic Activities Chair.

Erik Johnson, Interfraternity Council Activities Chair and Daryl Grayer, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc Secretary also helped to plan and coordinate this event. All three Greek

Fest would like to thank the fraternities and sororities for their participation, and congratulate the winners! ♦

2006 GREEK FEST WINNERS!

**First Place**  
Team 5  
ΔΔΔ ΦΒΣ ΣΦΕ  
ΠΚΑ

**Second Place**  
Team 3  
ΑΟΠ ΚΑΨ ΖΒΤ

**Third Place**  
Team 8  
ΚΑ ΑΤΩ ΒΧΘ