Greeks compete for a bloody good cause

By Vanessa Garcia

UF junior and member of Delta Gamma Sorority Nicki Pizzo scrunched her eyes shut as a LifeSouth technician prepared the needle for her blood donation.

“I can’t stand needles,” she said while gripping the armrest of her seat. “But after my mom had to have a blood transfusion during chemotherapy, I realized how important it is to give blood.”

Pizzo joined more than 200 blood donors from the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Greek councils during the Fall Greek Blood Drive, which has been held for more than 20 years running to increase blood donations on the UF campus and to promote unity throughout the Greek community.

Members from all Greek houses have already participated in the event, which began Oct. 18 and ends in a celebration at Norman Field on Oct. 26 at 6 p.m.

Buses are stationed on campus during the day and will visit three Greek houses each night until the event ends to collect donations.

Each fraternity and sorority has the opportunity to win the event in two categories. They can win for the greatest number of donations and percentage of donations contributed depending on the size of the house. Winners of each category will be awarded a trophy known as the Blood Bucket, a social at The Swamp Restaurant and a Publix gift certificate.

Michele Simmons, donor consultant for UF LifeSouth, said she is constantly amazed by the success of the blood drive and motivation of students to contribute their time and energy.

“By the end of the event, we should have over 500 donors,” she said. “That’s over 15,000 lives saved or impacted”

As of Oct. 21, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, the defending champion of the Blood Bucket for the past two years, is in the lead among fraternities with 48 donations. Kappa Kappa Gamma leads in total donations among sororites, she said.

“Only 5 percent of the eligible population donates blood,” she said. “Once one person gets on the bus, it’s a great day.”

Simmons said 75 percent of all blood collected at UF comes in during the event. The blood is used to supply Shands at AGH, North Florida Regional Medical Center, Veterans Administration Medical Center and 110 local medical facilities.

“Gainesville is a tiny community and we must support huge hospitals’ needs,” she said. “The blood drive has a huge impact on our yearly collection.”

Simmons said that the recent chain of devastating storms motivated students to donate.

“When people see broken communities, they want to give of themselves,” she said. “This is a life-saving venture, and donors should be commended.”
Fundraising has never tasted sweeter

By Nicole Cardassi

On Friday Oct. 21, Georgia Seagle Hall, Delta Delta Delta’s temporary residence, was the last place someone trying to watch their weight should have been. However, someone with a sweet tooth looking to raise money for a good cause would have looked no further.

Delta Delta Delta recently hosted its annual “Delta Desserts,” an original philanthropy created by Tri Delta’s Alpha Psi chapter. Designed to raise funds for St. Jude Children’s Hospital, the event has lasted for more than a decade. Each member of the sorority is required to provide a dessert, allowing young women to bond with family and friends over tasty treats.

The sorority has supported St. Jude Children’s Hospital nationally during the past several years, helping children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Tri Delta national’s pledged to raise $1 million through philanthropies, such as “Tri Delta Triple Play” and “Delta Desserts” to build a teen wing at St. Jude. After reaching their goal last year, they continue to lift children’s spirits and support the hospital today.

The event fell during Tri Delta family weekend, giving members the chance to meet one another’s families; however, families weren’t the only ones present. For a mere $5, anyone could have enjoyed the food and company of the Tri-Deltas.

“Being with family and realizing how lucky we all are makes you realize how good it feels to make a difference by supporting such a great cause,” said Alyssa Cameron, an Alpha Psi member.

Delta Desserts was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season with family and friends. Georgia Seagle Hall offered a close, intimate setting for a very personal event close to the sorority’s heart. All of the treats and baked goods paid off, along with the hard work of Julie Anne McAdams and Blaire Eadie, Delta Desserts coordinators. In the end the event raised a total of $2,000. That’s one successful bake sale! Combined with Tri Delta Triple Play, Delta Delta Delta has raised almost $7,000 this year for the benefit of St. Jude.

Fraternity men rock the mic at Alpha Delta Pi’s annual philanthropy

By Shanna Groom

Sing it, boys. On Oct. 19, men representing their respective fraternities took the stage singing and dancing for Alpha Delta Pi’s philanthropy, Rock the Mic. It was a great success, as everyone had a blast while raising money for the Ronald McDonald House. The fraternities participated in a karaoke/dance competition, penny voting and T-shirt sales. TKE won overall, and Chi Phi earned first place in the karaoke dance portion. The event was held at Sky, and students from all organizations came to cheer on the competitors. “All the guys were very enthusiastic and seemed to be having a great time,” said Julie Cessna, a coach for one of the fraternity teams. Alpha Delta Pi would like to congratulate all the men on a job well done and thank everyone who participated in the philanthropy.
The sisters of Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., is proud to announce that Sandy Chiu also known as Cypher, has been bestowed the honor of Greek of the Month for September 2005.

Although a newly-crossed sister, Sandy has improved the UF Kappa Phi Lambda Colony in many ways. As the Alumni Relations chair, she started the first alumni newsletter at UF’s colony. She keeps in touch with alumni with a monthly electronic newsletter, calls them at least once a week and updates the colony at chapter meetings with any new announcements from graduated members.

As Asian American Student Union President, she acts as the liaison to the diverse sub-organizations of AASU and encourages every member to be active not only in one organization, but in all, reminding us that as an active Asian-American student in AASU, we are all working toward the same goals of equality and empowerment. Finally, and most importantly, no matter how demanding her major, extracurricular or personal affairs may get, Sandy ultimately embodies what sisterhood is – she is always there, not only her sorority sisters, but for all who need a friend to laugh with, an ear to listen or support for a good cause.

Sandy stands as an example for all students, not only Asian-Americans, at the University of Florida. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Sandy volunteered with the Center of Leadership and Service to collect monetary donations by canning in Turlington, as well as placing donation cans at every AASU-sponsored event during the past month.

She is Co-Director of Gatorship 2006 and is overseeing the programming, solicitations, logistics and publicity of the three-day retreat of 60 diverse student leaders that will focus on sensitive social issues. Sandy was also a prominent voice agains the what she believed to be offensive Alligator cartoon and supported African-American student groups to advocate for the end of discrimination and stereotyping of all people.

Sandy gives back every day to the UF community just by being a naturally caring and concerned individual. She fights for an educated student body and does what she can for equal student rights.

REMINDER

Chapter Presidents please RSVP for the 2005 Greek Awards Banquet! RSVPs should be emailed to allgreekawards2005@gmail.com. Please include the names of people attending and their meal preference. All RSVPs and payments are due by November 4.
Growl 2005 a success thanks in part to ambitious Theta

By Susan Malove

Kappa Alpha Theta member Mary Beth Lorincz is still catching up with schoolwork after homecoming week. However, the health science junior didn’t spend the week celebrating along side her sisters, she spent it preparing for the largest student-run pep rally in the world.

Lorincz was selected for the position of Gator Growl Show Director during first-round director interviews held in Spring of 2005. Her responsibilities began with weekly meetings to start planning the show and brainstorming with other members of Growl’s creative team.

“By summer I had contacted everyone to be in the show, like the band, cheerleaders, Mr. Two-Bits, the guy who does the voice of Albert,” she said. “I kept in constant correspondence with everyone while the creative team worked on the skits.”

As show director, her task was to plan and organize all aspects of the Gator Growl show.

“The biggest job was to make the show block and show book, it’s the bible to Growl,” Lorincz said. “It’s has everything about the entire show, 90 plus pages of details on lighting, sound, cameras, video and all the performers in the show.”

Lorincz worked along side the technology director to coordinate lighting, sound, and stage cues for the show.

“He made my job a lot easier,” she said.

In addition to piecing together all facets of the show, she was responsible for planning show rehearsals.

“It was kind of rough this year because it rained, we didn’t really have full rehearsals,” she said. “On the day of the show I was very worried it was going to rain, but I had a backup plan prepared.”

During the event, Lorincz was stationed in a skybox in the stadium where she directed her assistants via headset with cues for all of show’s performers.

“Everything went so well; it was really stressful, I didn’t sleep, but it was super rewarding,” she said.

Now that Growl is over, she has returned to her many other responsibilities. Lorincz currently holds the position of Vice President of Administration for her sorority. In this position, she serves as the president’s deputy, coordinates elections, revises the bylaws and is responsible for all other general mechanics of the chapter.

“I know how our chapter is supposed to run,” she said, “and that’s something I didn’t know before.”

She also has served as Theta’s assistant social chair, a director in the pre-health honor society Alpha Epsilon Delta, a Pi Chi during Panhellenic Recruitment 2005 and is a member of American Medical Students’ Association and Golden Key International Honor Society.

“I definitely look forward to being involved with both Growl and Theta again next year,” she said. “They have both been great, great experiences.”
Homecoming

Photos submitted by Ansley Dreadin and Christine Bainer