

Greek Life 411

Delta Chi Pins 18 Associate Members

Eighteen Associate Members were welcomed in to the Delta Chi Fraternity on Wednesday evening during the first associate member pinning ceremony of the UF colony. National Leadership Consultants Rusty Williams and Justin

Roberts organized the ceremony, which was held at the Delta Zeta Sorority house. A few UF chapter alumni and an active member from the University of South Florida chapter were also in attendance. During the ceremony, Associ-

ate Members were introduced to the values and expectations of the Delta Chi Fraternity, the symbolism of the associate member pin, and each was given a copy of The Cornerstone: the fraternity's new member education manual.



Office of Sorority & Fraternity Affairs (OSFA), University of Florida

Friday, February 10, 2006

Volume 4, Issue 4

Contact Info:

Office Phone: 352-846-3171

Office Fax: 352-392-6450

Chris Bullins

Director

bullins@ufl.edu

Anthony Crenshaw

Assistant Director

acrensha@ufl.edu

Lisa Kendall

Assistant Director

ljk@ufl.edu

Betsy Dunn

Graduate Assistant

betsyd@union.ufl.edu

Barbara Breen

Senior Secretary

barbarab@union.ufl.edu

Upcoming Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Friday, February 10	House Corp Meeting RSVP Deadline	5:00pm	(send email to bar-barab@union.ufl.edu)
Thurs, February 16	Alumni Relations Training	7:00pm	Emerson Alumni Hall
Saturday, Feb 18	Spring House Corporation Meeting	10:00am	J. Wayne Reitz Union Basement Rooms 74 & 75



Check the website for a full list of dates updated daily!

Tip of the Week...Alumni Relations:

Alumni/ae are more than just ATMs. They can play an important role in assisting the chapter in achieving its goals, by advocating on behalf of the chapter to the University and national organization, and keeping unproductive alumni in check.

To foster an effective relationship with alumni/ae, think about memorable experiences that occur in your chapter and how you can use these experiences to rekindle memories for alumni/ae of their undergraduate experience.

Think of sparking memories by providing information on:

*a former pledge class/line *a room in the house that has been updated or has historical significance *a traditional program

For more tips on alumni events, join us for Alumni Relations training on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 in Emerson Alumni Hall.

Campus Chatter:

What is a Pi Chi?!

Pi Chi, or Panhellenic Counselor, is the term for the women of the UF Panhellenic community who are trained to assist Potential New Members through the Panhellenic formal recruitment process in August.

Pi Chis are selected by the Panhellenic Recruitment Executive Board in late fall on the basis of leadership potential. They participate in a class during the spring semester in which they learn about the values of Greek life and the Florida Greek community, while also honing their leadership and counseling skills so that they may be of assistance throughout the recruitment process.

During formal recruitment, Pi Chis are responsible for a group of about 30 Potential New Members. By voluntarily disaffiliating from their respective chapters, Pi Chis are able to provide fair and unbiased advice and reduce any pressure for the Potential New Members with whom they have contact.

Mark Your Calendars:
Florida Greek
Service Day
April 8, 2006!

MGC Works Together, Sculpts a Winner

Adapted from www.alligator.org

Students built sculptures out of cans of castles, penguins and Greek letters on the Reitz Union Colonnade Wednesday afternoon.

Twelve campus organizations used the cans of food they collected for ExtravaCANza!, Florida Rotaract's second annual drive.

Organizations arrived as early as 8 a.m. to begin building. From 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., Reitz Union passersby voted for their favorite sculpture.

ExtravaCANza! awarded two trophies, one for the best sculpture and the

other for the most cans collected.

The Multicultural Greek Council walked away with both. Their castle won the best sculpture, and they collected the most cans - 750 out of the 2,752 total cans donated.

Director of ExtravaCANza! Kendra Levine said the number of cans collected this year was more than four times the 600 donated last year.

"The support behind the event was much greater than last year," Levine said. "It's really exciting to watch how excited they

are."

The food will be donated to the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, she said, which helps feed six counties in Florida.

Freshman pre-pharmacy major David Galvez, a member of the Multicultural Greek Council, is looking forward to participating again next year.

"It's a lot of fun. It's for a good cause," he said. "It's worth it."

Chi Omega and Kappa Delta Sororities also participated in this innovative philanthropic effort.

NPHC Pays Tribute

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, led by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, paid tribute to the late Coretta Scott King (1927-2006) at a tribute service on Thursday, before the Dr. Eric Dyson speech, a Black History Month event.

Mrs. King, the wife of the late Dr. Martin Luther King,

was an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. Before her passing, she was founding President and CEO of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. in Atlanta. The center is a living memorial to Dr. King, preserving the legacy of leadership he

provided to the human rights movement.

The tribute consisted of a biographical sketch of Mrs. King, reading of an original poem, and an Elders Tribute—a traditional ceremony to commemorate the heritage and celebrate the legacy of a wise mentor.

Shout Outs...

Thanks and good luck to Pi Kappa Phi and Alpha Tau Omega Fraternities—the latest chapters to volunteer with the City of Gainesville's Department of Recreation through the youth baseball program.

FLORIDA GREEK
IFC MGC NPHC Panhellenic

Around the Nation

Article and comments can be found at:

<http://insidehighered.com/news/2006/02/06/alabama>

Integration Later

Written by Rob Capriccioso

Administrators at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa say they are working hard to overcome racial segregation, but scrutiny of the Greek system has some professors and students arguing that they must do more.

Many had thought that the integration of the university's sororities and fraternities would progress after Carla Ferguson, an African-American student, was offered membership in the Gamma Phi Beta sorority in 2003. More than two years later, Ferguson remains the only black woman to have been accepted into any of the

15 "traditionally white" sororities. The situation is similar at the approximately 30 "traditionally white" fraternities on campus, where students say that only one or two African-American males have ever been admitted.

"Most kids in the Greek system [here] have strange boundaries," said Samantha Perry, a senior and former member of Alpha Delta Pi. "Their mentality is like, 'I'm not racist, I have black friends - but I don't want to recognize them as a sister or brother.'"

Race is a sensitive and important issue in Alabama, where the university's segregationist past is well known and where black undergraduate enrollment now stands at 2,000 (out of a total undergraduate enrollment of about 17,000). The Greek system, with approximately 4,100 undergraduates, tends to play a major role in influencing social issues.

Because Perry has chosen to speak out on the racial issues she sees in the system - and has been vocal in *The Crimson White* student newspaper about Ferguson's experience - she has violated the sorority's oath. She hasn't been officially asked to renounce her national membership, but said she no longer personally identifies with the sorority.

She explained Friday that she was at a chapter meeting in 2003 where sisters in the Greek system debated whether to allow Ferguson to get a bid at one of the campuses white sororities. After an initial vote to block Ferguson's admittance, "people talked and decided to keep her around to boost public image," said Perry. "To not appear racist."

Ferguson's admittance to a sorority was

widely hailed by Alabama officials at the time - so the discussion of exactly what transpired at the time does not convey the image of progress the university has wanted to put forward.

Another sorority sister - who wished not to be identified because she remains in good standing - explained that Ferguson's admittance has done little to rectify the segregation problem in the Greek system at Alabama. "If anything, now Greeks [here] have used Carla as a poster child," said the sister. "But the same issues as before never went away."

According to the sorority sister, racism and sexism are prominent among those issues. "Basically, if we let one black friend in," she said, "we're not strong enough, socially, to support that member."

The sister explained that fraternities and sororities on campus have "swaps," where they host parties for each other. Both the sister and Perry said that many students in sororities believe that admitting a black student tends to limit a sorority's swapping ability and, in turn, limits its popularity. The *Crimson White* also recently interviewed women with similar allegations.

Perry said that the situation is indicative of not only racism, but also sexism. "Frats aren't the be all, end all, of the status you have," she said. "If a sorority was truly committed to its ideals, they wouldn't allow frats to push them around."

Leaders with both the fraternity and sorority systems on campus did not return calls and e-mail messages for comment throughout the weekend. In the past, leaders have argued that the Greek system at Alabama is open to diversity and that integration is a slow process.

Despite the fact that frats and sororities are private organizations, paid for by student dues, some say that administrators should be taking on integration issues more directly.

"Integration hasn't happened," said David Roskos-Ewoldsen, a professor of psychology who has been at the university for 15 years. "And the university hasn't made the kind of commitment to it that it should."

He is especially concerned that most sororities and fraternities are able to rent buildings from the university at a very low rate, in some cases as low as \$1 per year. "We might not be able to say, 'You have to integrate,'" said Roskos-Ewoldsen. "But we can say that we're not going to underwrite racism. As a public

university, we have an obligation to make all sororities and fraternities open to all people, if we're going to charter them."

Despite the professor's ideas, Perry is cautious about administration involvement. "If administrators were to try to force [integration]," said Perry, "it would probably have an adverse impact on any black students who were let in."

Administrators, too, want to err on the side of caution. "I think we've had a lot of progress," said Kathleen Cramer, senior associate vice president for student affairs at the university. "We see integration [in the Greek system] as something that we would never want to force."

Instead, Cramer said that the university has pursued Greek "multicultural awareness" programs that will "help students understand that they are the ones who have to make the change." The programs encourage Greeks to think about minority issues and to invite speakers on racial issues.

Cramer also noted that the university has "other options" for minority students who wish to be part of the Greek system. There are four traditionally black sororities and four traditionally black fraternities at the university, she said. There are also two multicultural sororities and a Latino fraternity is currently in the process of being established.

"I'm proud of our system," said Cramer. "Our goal is to have the best Greek system in the country, with a wide variety of options for students."

"I don't think this is a case of student racism," added Cramer. "I think that as they interact more, it will take care of itself."

Norm Baldwin, a professor of political science at the university who has pushed for Greek integration for several years, isn't so sure that unmediated interaction will be the cure all.

He said that the university should be doing more to help break down the "institutional racism" surrounding rush times. Black sororities tend to hold rush in the winter, while white sororities do so in the early fall. "The university permits the separation of the rushes," said Baldwin. "And it doesn't have to be that way."

"I'm not satisfied with the state of progress," added Baldwin. "But I know our administrators don't want this issue to be resolved in the press. There's a lot of concern about legacy."