



Advisor Newsletter Fall 2015

FSL Highlights:

At this year's Leadership Retreat in Black Mountain, North Carolina our Panhellenic and Interfraternal Leadership focused on a lot of issues, participated in a lot of worthy team-building activities, and began the year long process of promoting change through goal setting. All leaders were placed in groups that were tasked to discuss the purpose of Fraternity and Sorority Life and then plan for the following year based on that purpose or belief. Many items that were established in this purpose planning activity have been utilized by both councils and are also being implemented into our Strategic Planning Process (discussed below). Chapter were able to walk away with insight from a constructive feedback activity. The councils were able to share relevant information and work with their governing body Presidents to determine best practices for a successful year. At fall retreat we will revisit some of our goals and create action items so that we can finish strong this year and prepare for transitioning our organizations in November.

Our Fall Leadership Retreat took place on August 22, 2015 on campus followed by a bonfire and cookout at Camp Broadstone.



AFLV:

All Three of our Governing Councils had representation at this year's AFLV Conference in Indianapolis. This three-day conference supplied a lot of great information, resources, and network opportunities for our campus leadership. Of course memories were made too, and fun was had by all!

One of our goals for the next five years is to establish a Leadership and Educational Programming Budget that will allow our office to create scholarships so more students can attend these types of conferences or similar ones like UIFL, LeaderShape, and Strengths Quest

Greek Week 2015:

Greek Week is always a favorite time of year for all of our students, this year was no exception. At the retreat in January, three organizations (one local, a campus-based, and a national organization) were selected to be the main focus for service and fundraising. As a community working together, so much more can be accomplished. The three organizations that we are supporting as a community this year are OASIS, The Wounded Warrior Project, and Students with Diverse Abilities. Our community also decided to work on creating scholarships in memory of two students we have lost in the last two years, Mandie Phillips and Taylor Pavlik. We were able to raise \$13,572, of this \$8,597 of which is going to assist students through scholarships for the upcoming year.



NPHC Updates:

We are happy to announce that the NPHC will be hosting a catered **Alumni Meet and Greet** at Legends following the Homecoming Football game. NPHC is also co-sponsoring an **After Party** with APPS also at Legends starting at 10pm.

Meet the Greeks:

NPCH hosted "Meet the Greeks" on August 24 at 7:30pm in the Plemmons Student Union.



NPHC Meetings:

Meetings have been moved to Wednesday nights at 7:15pm in New River of the Plemmons Student Union

New Executive Board:

President:

Tiffany Carter

Vice President:

Gabby Gabriel

Vice President of

Programming:

Whitney Parks

Vice President of Finance & Administration:

John Walrath

Vice President of

Communication:

Jaelyn Felder

Parliamentarian:

Jordan Brown



Sorority Recruitment:

We have **530** women registered for Fall 2015 Formal Recruitment, this is the largest amount of registered potential members we have ever had!

Recruitment takes place over two weekends in September.

First and Second Rounds occur the weekend of September 18.

The Third Round, Preference, and Bid Day conclude Recruitment the following weekend.



Alpha Phi hosts "Girls Night"

Focus on the 4 Pillars:

Each year we focus on 4 Pillars: Service, Scholarship, Friendship, and Leadership. All of our annual awards are based on those four categories.



Delta Chi hosts their annual "Big Bounce" raising \$1,000 for the Jimmy V Foundation.

Service & Fundraising:

As a community we were able to raise a total of \$91,757.49 through a variety of fundraising endeavors on and off campus. Our members also accumulated approximately 14,000 hours of community service.

Fast Facts:

7:

The average of completed service hours per sorority woman on campus this past spring. There were 1,185 active women and they completed 8,785.5 hours.

8:

The average of completed service hours per fraternity man on campus. 603 active members completed 5,141 hours.



We welcome Phi Kappa Tau to campus this Fall

Semester Statistics, Spring 2015:

Scholarship:

Sororities:

70% of our sorority women achieved a 3.00 or higher grade point average for the spring semester

39% achieved a 3.5 or higher gpa

80 women achieved a 4.00

Fraternities:

53% of our fraternity men achieved a 3.00 gpa or higher during the spring semester

23% achieved a 3.5 or higher

Only 17 men achieved a 4.00



We honored several FSL Leaders at the CSIL Leadership Awards last Spring

Other Facts:

Our chapters reported 292 graduates in May

11 of 12 sororities reported 100% involvement in either another club or job

48% of our registered social functions occurred at a third party vendor. 30% were house parties and 16% of the registered events were registered as dry.

Leadership:

So many of our students have taken on leadership positions over the last year and serve in a variety of capacities including Student Government Association, Club Council, Emerging Leaders, SOUL, AppolCorp, and as Campus Ambassadors

Upcoming Events and Programs:

This fall is busy as always, with recruitment activities, Hazing Prevention Week, and our usual Homecoming festivities. We are excited to announce that we are implementing some new programs and working towards a more positive image through collaborative efforts across campus.



Fraternity Recruitment:

Interfraternity Council hosted a Formal Round this year where interested men came and learned more about fraternity life on Appalachian's campus and met members of all our recognized fraternities. This took place Sunday, August 23. Men did not have to be registered for recruitment to participate in this event in hopes that it would encourage them to at least come participate and learn more about fraternal involvement.

Individual Recruitment events began with the IFC Kick-Off at Duck Pond on August 28 and concluded with Bid Day on September 12.

Expansion. We welcomed Kappa Alpha Order back to campus this year. They began their re-colonization efforts in August. We also welcomed a new organization to campus, Phi Sigma Kappa.



Hunting Ground Documentary:

The Dean of Students Office in conjunction with the new Interpersonal Violence Coordinator arranged for a viewing of "The Hunting Ground." They asked that this be mandated program. All chapters were required to have 60% participation at this event on September 8, 2015 at 7pm in the Schaefer Center. If a chapter had more than 65% participation, the event counted towards their required Risk Management Program (SOE) next spring. We are happy to announce that 928 members joined us for the screening.

Hazing Prevention Week:

This year we will be hosting our Hazing Prevention Week in October due to conflicts with Sorority Recruitment. The dates for programs are October 5 through October 9, 2015 and all money raised during the week will be donated to Gordie's Call. The highlight of the week is our guest speaker, Hugh Shannon. Hugh lost his son David in 2012 and his death is still under investigation. David was a student at UNC Chapel Hill and had just joined Chi Phi Fraternity as a first semester freshman.

Mr. Shannon will be speaking with our students on Thursday October 8, 2015.

STRIDE:

We are very excited about our new program starting this fall, STRIDE. STRIDE is a program that will be attended by all of our wonderful new members that have joined our community in 2015. STRIDE is an acronym that stands for **S**teps **T**oward **R**isk **R**eduction, **I**nclusion, **D**evelopment, and **E**ducation of Fraternal Involvement. It is our hope that by implementing this educational program, that as a community we can take greater strides towards positive growth and gain an overall understanding of the impact we have on campus and on each other. We have two key not addresses that will focus on Interpersonal Violence and Micro-Aggression, both are very hot topics within Fraternity and Sorority Life across the nation. There will also be a small group discussions and guided activities centered on mental health, good decisions and personal responsibility. We have hired two interns to work on this program: Kali Wolin from Alpha Omicron Pi and Lee Koonce from Sigma Nu. We will also be selecting STRIDE Guides that will be team leads and facilitators for our small groups during the program.

Applications have been posted for Guide positions and trainings will start in September.



Strategic Planning: A look towards the future

This coming year is an important one. We have seen a lot of change over the last three years and extreme growth. In looking at our numbers over the last five years we discovered that we have had a 37% increase in participation. With new organizations coming and some returning we will be a community of well over 2,000 soon; making up over 12% of the undergraduate population.

With consistent growth and constant change it is important to have a plan of actions and a set of goals in mind. It is also important to consider the national trends and some of the issues that so many of our organizations are facing across the country. There has been significant loss and an extreme outcry for reform when it comes to fraternal involvement in our higher education institutions. Appalachian State University is no different and we have faced several challenges over the last year that have impacted our entire Mountain-ear family

Fraternities and Sororities add irreplaceable value to our campus when they abide by and mirror their stated purpose and values. Looking ahead, we have decided that our area is one that is in need of a Strategic Plan if we want to ensure the continued presence and support of our community. The plan is necessary, but more so the buy in of our leaders, Advisors, and the overall support of our entire community will be key.

Where do we start?

At our Governing Council retreats this past January, our organizational leaders worked on "purpose planning." The dialogue that occurred centered a lot on a desire for more support on campus, for a more positive image, and an overall aspiration to have significant impact on the lives of our members and on the campus as a whole. After reviewing notes and continued discussions that lasted well into the summer months, we were able to determine that we need a complete overhaul and that isn't something that will happen overnight for even in one year.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step"
- Lao Tzu

This fall, we will begin to have structured meetings and discussions to formulate and create a document outlining a Fraternity and Sorority Life Strategic plan that will lead us toward a positive 2020. Leaders have been selected to participate in the implementation of this plan and many of you will be asked to join us for discussion as well. Our Presidents meetings will be more intentional, joint council meetings will have time set aside to plan and analyze, and we will have opportunities where campus administration will share our space and weigh in.

Much of what we are beginning to implement now will be just mere stepping stones for our future. A future we hope will be one that flaunts an enriched Fraternity and Sorority Life community of healthy, award winning chapters that are creating invested Alumni and leaders.

Where will our focus be?

Considering the relevant and priceless history of our national organizations, now is the time to recommit to our purpose and values. Through we have the "Four Pillars" that we focus on each year, other values and beliefs need to be considered when discussing the overall health of our community. More importantly, we must recommit to a purpose of developing our members through positive social interaction, educational programming, and leadership development. This means that our focus will be on reestablishing ourselves as organizations that develop good students and citizens by providing an enriched experience that is healthy and an integral part of our campus mission. We need to clearly identify programs, policies, and structures that add value and support our historic purpose.

The University understands that this is a great undertaking. That is why we need your support as invested participants and advocates for change. Your voice is important and we hope you will assist us in this endeavor.

Honorable Mentions:



Mission Work: Kappa Delta:

This past December a group of 10 Kappa Delta women traveled to Catadupa, Jamaica, in the mountains of St. James. The members of Christian Fellowship Church allowed us a room above the church where we stayed in sleeping bags for the week. We hosted a children's camp each day that filled our hearts to see their love and pure faith for God's word. In the evenings we participated in "odd jobs" around the church, helping in any way we could including painting, cleaning and repairing.



Chartering:

Delta Sigma Phi hosted their Chartering Banquet on August 22. Congratulations to them for their success and for achieving Black and Gold status this semester.



OWLS:

"The Organization of Women Looking for Sisterhood in Chi Upsilon Sigma is the interest group for Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc. - The first Independent Latin Sorority in the Nation - Latin by tradition NOT by DEFINITION. We are trying to reach women who want to educate, elevate, and empower ALL women. We are focusing on community service, as well as the development of political, educational, cultural and social awareness"

Student Voices

Finding Value in Greek Life By Kameron Kales

One of our Fraternity Presidents, Kameron Kales of Delta Chi Fraternity, recently wrote an article that has been shared amongst his peers and his National Organization. Kameron is a phenomenal leader and has face many challenges and obstacles during his first semester as a Fraternity President. He has faced them head on and believes that now is a great opportunity to make change and promote integrity in our organizations. Kameron notes, "There have been growing pains but the men I am lucky enough to call brothers are learning the value in challenging the stereotypes that often come with 'fraternity men'." It is progressive and creative leaders like Kameron who have encouraged us and hopeful that positive change and growth is possible in the very near future.

[Here is a link to Kameron's article.](#)



Why Greek Life at Appalachian State University is Special By Andrea Lazaro

"I went through recruitment my Sophomore year not knowing what I was about to get into. I did it because a friend wanted someone to do it with her, and so I agreed. I agreed, even though I was convinced I was going to hate it but I thought there was really no harm in trying. I immediately saw relationships forming during recruitment and that's when I realized that maybe Greek Life really was for me! I wrote this article wanting to shine some positive light on the Greek community because lately all people talk about are the negative things that happen. I kept seeing articles being written by people who have ever experienced Greek Life, talking about the negatives of Greek Life. How would they know it's that bad when they've never even tried it? Everyone who is not a part of Greek Life shares a very negative view about us and I really want to change that. My freshman year I was against Greek Life, I thought it was shallow and pointless because of how the media portrays it. When I actually decided to try it and experience Sisterhood is when I finally understood why people do it, why people go through the very stressful recruitment process, why they let themselves get "labeled" (as people like to call it) with Greek Letters, why they clap and chant and are obsessed with their sisters. I finally got it. The feeling you get when you are in a sorority can't be explained and really won't be understood unless you experience it for yourself. I'm proud of the person I have become this past year and I can honestly say Alpha Delta Pi has been the greatest contribution to my growth. The only thing I regret about Greek Life, is not joining it sooner.

[Here is a link to Andrea's article.](#)

Any suggestions for future issues of our newsletter?
Please email the FSL Office:
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