

Spring 2009

# The Parthenon

A Publication of the Office of Greek Life

## Go Blazers! Go GREEK!!!

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The Fraternity and Sorority community makes up just over 11% of the undergraduate population at Valdosta State University. We are so proud of our 22 Greek-letter social organizations and our three Greek Honors Societies.

This year we raised a total of \$115,567.00 for philanthropic causes and performed more than 8,630 hours of community

service! Not only does our community achieve excellence in community service, we are also above the all student grade point average. Currently, the all sorority average is 3.06 and the all Greek average is a 2.91. In addition, Strategic Research and Analysis reports that the 4-year retention and graduation rates for Greek students are 14% higher than its non-affiliated counterparts.

Next fall we are looking forward to extending our campus by two sororities and two fraternities. It is such an exciting time for Greeks at VSU, Go Blazers and Go Greek!

Jennifer Jones, M.Ed.

Assistant Director of Student Life for Greek Life and Organizational Development

### Greek Week



Greek Week is a week set aside for fraternity and sorority members to come together to compete in real athletic competition, serve the Valdosta community, and most importantly, have fun. Through a strong sense of community, Greek Week strives to promote academic excellence, athletics, and service. Each fraternity and sorority member works hard all year long to prepare for this exciting week! Greek Week,

held the week of April 13 through the 19, is for each council and society to show their athletic abilities. The events included: basketball, dodgeball, volleyball, tug, flag football, and softball. Because the competition was so close this year the second place overall winners of Greek Week were decided by the number of an individual team's first place wins! Greek week was not only about competition, it was

also about raising money for our community. This year proceeds from the Greek Week t-shirts went to Take Back the Night, a sexual assault awareness event. We are so proud that over 800 people came out to cheer on their teams! Through service, hard work and dedication Greek Week 2009 was a great success and brought Greek Unity to the VSU campus.

#### Overall Winners

Interfraternity Council:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Sigma Nu
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Pi Kappa Phi
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Kappa Sigma

College Panhellenic Council and women's National Pan-Hellenic Council:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Kappa Delta
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Chi Omega
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Phi Mu

**CONGRATS!**

## CPC Steppin' for a Good Cause

The College Panhellenic Council's Annual Step Show is an event that the entire Greek community looks forward to all year and this year on April 8, 2009 CPC held its 3rd Annual Step Show in the PE Complex. The turnout was great, we had of over 800 people in attendance. Zeta Tau Alpha, Chi Omega, Kappa Delta, and Phi Mu all did an amazing job with their routines. Needless to say, the crowd was very entertained!

Because of the high number of attendees, CPC was able to raise over \$4000.00. The funds that were generated was donated to the first, second and third place winner's philanthropic causes, the local Valdosta Cancer Fund, and the prevention of sexual assault. Kappa Delta was the 2009 Step Show winner receiving \$1,000.00 towards their national philanthropy. Phi Mu was the first runner up receiving 500 dollars and Chi Omega

was the second runner up receiving 250 dollars towards their charity of choice.

We had four judges that judged the competition. Three are in the graduate chapters for our NPHC Sororities and one was a faculty member here on campus.

Next year, we plan to invite local high school teams to participate in our show making this annual competition an even greater success.



## Safe Spring Break

Greeks Advocating for the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA), a new student organization composed of social and risk management chair from each sorority and fraternity, encouraged students to prepare for the safest spring break possible with tips, pamphlets, and free condoms. Students were encouraged to stay in groups for safety and secure their homes before jour-

neying. Hints that can easily be forgotten such as sunscreen and remembering to hydrate were given.



GAMMA seeks to educate Greek-lettered organizations and students about alcohol related issues, promote sexual awareness, to encourage learning more about general health issues, and to promote a better life for Valdosta State University students by providing programs in conjunction with various campus departments in the upcoming fall semester.





## Interfraternity Council

During the spring semester, IFC has accomplished and participated in many events throughout the campus and the community. IFC participated in Safe Spring Break, an alcohol awareness program teaching students how to be responsible with alcohol. The IFC chapters on the campus have also helped raise thousands of dollars for charitable organizations by hosting different types of events such as a softball tournament, Philanthropy Week, a home run derby, and also a bowling tournament. IFC will also participate in the annual Relay for Life walk, held to raise money for cancer research.

The men of IFC have also helped the community by donating time and energy to help the city in a time of need by helping the water and sewage plant hold off flood waters. Without these efforts more than half the city of Valdosta would have been without clean water.

IFC has been changing this past semester, and will continue to change. Attending the Southeast Interfraternity Conference has taught the IFC executive council a great deal about how to better the council. With the hard work and dedication that these men have devoted, the changes put forth will continue to better the council now and in the future.



### Want to be a chapter advisor?

The following organizations are looking for an on-campus advisor.

- \*Delta Chi
- \*Phi Sigma Kappa
- \*Sigma Nu
- \*Sigma Gamma Rho

## College Panhellenic Council

The women of the CPC have been extremely busy this semester. Each of the five chapters have planned or held their annual philanthropy and have all done a wonderful job, raising funds for their respective charities. The women of CPC also participated in the annual step show, the show was held in April and fundraising event. The proceeds will be given back to each chapter's philanthropies and Take Back the Night. In March, the CPC Executive Board attended the South Eastern Panhellenic Conference in Atlanta for three days. At the conference, the board attended many helpful and interesting sessions with keynote speakers that provided each officer with information to bring back to our campus and share with the chapters. The officers learned pointers on how to make rituals "real", keeping

your body healthy, recruitment sessions, and the dangers of drinking and driving. Over 1,000 other Panhellenic women attended the conference from all over the South. It was beneficial to talk to other councils and exchange ideas on how to improve our council. CPC is getting excited for recruitment with the addition of our new Gamma Chi's to assist and guide potential new members during the recruitment process. Recruitment will be held on campus this year, a new challenge for our chapters, but we believe this change will benefit both the potential new members and the chapters. The extension process is still in the developing stages, but we are looking forward to new prospective chapters visiting our campus.



### 2009 Executive Board

Meg Kesler	President
Lauren Lyautey	VP Panhellenic Development
Allie Sanders	VP Communications
Alex Yarbrough	VP Recruitment
Brittany Wallace	VP Community Service
Aubrey DePriest	VP Finance



# National Pan-hellenic Council

The National Pan-Hellenic has had quite a busy 2008-2009 year and is currently preparing for Fall 2009. In April the new executive council was voted in by their peers. This new executive council is reworking the current NPHC constitution and executive board position descriptions to be enacted the Fall of 2009. Already the board is planning for more NPHC events as well as a guest speaker to speak on the history and mission of the NPHC. Congratulations to our newest executive board!



**President: Michael Gibson Vice President: Brandie Allen Vice President Secretary: Jamie Dekle Treasurer: Desmond Holmnes Parliamentarian: LaRon Connely.** Thanks to all our past officers and members for a outstanding year! Bring together the members of NPHC to focus on the mission and vision of our organizations and pushing us to strive for excellence in all that we do.

## Greek Stock 2009

Once a year the Greek community gets together for some music, food, fun and games. This year Greek Stock was hosted by the Greek Ambassadors and all councils were in attendance to celebrate our Greek community. The students had a cookout accompanied by the band RedLine. The event took place on the front lawn of Valdosta State University from 4pm to 9pm on March 5th. Games such as cornhole, latter golf, horseshoes, Frisbee, football and volleyball covered the front lawn. Next year the students are planning to host this event in the early fall after CPC recruitment in order to introduce the newest members of our Greek community to VSU. It is the hopes of the Greek Ambassadors to make this an annual event at the beginning of the academic year to kick off each school year together as one Greek community.



## IFC Chapter Highlights

### Kappa Sigma

Kappa Sigma was announced as the Fraternity of the Year, receiving the 2008 President's Cup Award. We have won the past 5 of 6 President's Cup Awards and have high hopes for a 6<sup>th</sup> this year. Kappa Sigma at VSU is also recognized nationally as an "Action Chapter," which means we are considered a model chapter by our Nationals in dealing with Fellowship, Scholarship, Leadership and Service. New renovations to our house, that took place during the summer, lead to one of the greatest Recruitments Kappa Sigma has ever participated in at VSU, in which we received the biggest pledge class on campus and ended up initiating 27 gentlemen into Kappa Sigma, proving once again that we are "Number One...Second to None." During this past year we held our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Philanthropy Week. This is the most important week all year for us. We were able to raise over \$5,000 for The American Cancer Society and The Haven, which is a local shelter for abused women. Also, we are proud of our strong academic tradition. Continuing this tradition we maintained the highest cumulative GPA this last school year among all fraternities, and our GPA is higher than the all male undergraduate average.





# *CPC Chapter Highlights*

## **Alpha Delta Pi**

The sisters of the Delta Theta chapter of Alpha Delta Pi at VSU have accomplished many great things this year. We are blessed to have acquired a wonderful 2008 pledge class with some amazing girls! During our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Hoops N' Hogs basketball and Bar-B-Que tournament our chapter raised over \$14,000.00 for our philanthropy, The Ronald McDonald House in Macon. We rose over \$1,000.00 in our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual car wash hosted with the brothers of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. We are now working on raising money for flood victims around Valdosta and the surrounding communities. Alpha Delta Pi is getting very excited for recruitment 2009 and looking forward to another great year!

## **Chi Omega**

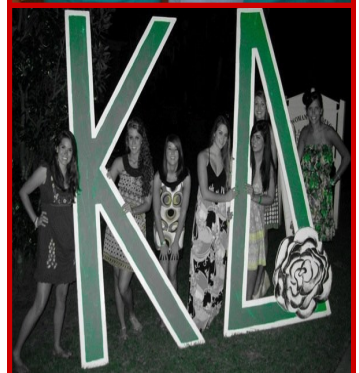
Chi Omega has had another busy semester this spring! We started the semester off by initiating our Fall pledge class into the sisterhood of Chi O! In February, we celebrated Chi Omega's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Valdosta State University by inviting all of our Alumni down for an Anniversary Ball. We also kept up with the Chi O tradition of participating in as many community service events as available! We hosted Fit for Life with Delta Sigma Theta, raising money for the American Heart Association. We also hosted "Cookies for Cops", where we delivered hundreds of cookies to cops around the Valdosta area. Chi Omega won the attendance breaker award at the VSU Men's Basketball game, and was rewarded with a dinner hosted by the VSU President. Our step team worked very hard this semester, and placed in the annual CPC step show. Currently we are preparing for Greek Week and Relay for Life! We know Chi Omega will be successful in both of these events! Over the Summer, Chi O will be preparing for Recruitment 2009, and an exciting Fall semester!

## **Kappa Delta**

Kappa Delta Sorority started off another exciting semester! From sisterhoods and social to serving VSY and the community of Valdosta, Kappa Delta is continuing its success. This semester Kappa Delta has participated in many events and service projects such as the Children's Advocacy Center Clay Shoot, Kappa Sigma's Philanthropy Week, and Girl Scout events. Kappa Delta also held its annual Shamrock flag football tournament to raise money for Prevent Child Abuse America. Hosting nearly 34 teams from Valdosta and surrounding areas, Kappa Delta raised over \$15,000.00. Proceeds will be donated to the Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County and the National Kappa Delta Prevention of Child Abuse Foundation. Kappa Delta continues to flourish at VSU and looks forward to more great semesters to come.

## **Phi Mu**

The ladies of Phi Mu have been busy this year! We have a wonderful new pledge class and received Student Life Organization of the Year. As an organization that benefits our philanthropy, we raised \$12,958.00 for Children's Miracle Network at our annual volleyball tournament. We also won the Kappa Sigma Philanthropy week. Phi Mu also boasts the highest grade point average among all the panhellenic community for two consecutive semesters. We are excited about bringing Dance Marathon to VSU and having six of our sisters on the executive board. As Phi Mu ladies, we pride ourselves in contributing to the community, having fun and staying classy at the same time. We constantly strive to be the best we can be nu leading our lives according to Phi Mu's ideals of Love, Honor, and Truth. All of the sisters are looking forward to recruitment 2009 and the year to come!



# *GREEK LIFE*

*Going strong for 50 years at VSU!*



## ***NPHC Chapter Highlights***

### **Alpha Kappa Alpha**

The Kaptivating Kappa Upsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has been inspiring change on and off the Valdosta State University campus. The ladies of AKA have been contributing to the Lowndes County community through service by working with children through programs like the Ivy Reading Program. This program teaches the importance of comprehension and vocabulary skills to elementary age children. The Economic Advancement through Technology Program promotes computer skills by teaching high school students how to use Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and other computer systems. This semester alone Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has donated over \$1000 for Relay for Life. In addition to our many programs and philanthropy AKA has volunteered hundreds of hours by working hand in hand with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Lake Haven Nursing Home and The City of Valdosta Parks and Recreations. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has also hosted several campus events that include Enriching Your Spiritual Purpose, Footsteps towards Your Future, and AKA Week 2009. The Ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. are excited about our work in the community and look forward to more sisterhood and service.



### **Delta Sigma Theta**

This Spring Semester The Theta Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has exemplified the true meaning of community service. In coalition with the Boys and Girls Club the Theta Tau Chapter has launched the Smart Girls Program. The Smart Girls Program is a bi-weekly program where the chapter meets with teenage girls, ages 13-18, and discusses topics of etiquette, manners, health, education, and appearance. The sorority has field trips twice a month with the "Smart Girls" to places where they can exercise what they have learned. This semester Theta Tau has also debuted the "Delta Sigma Theta Education is the Key to Success" scholarship. With our fundraisers we have given a percentage to two high school graduates from Lowndes County and Valdosta High schools, who plan to attend college or university. The winner of the book scholarship will be announced during Delta week 2009 and will aid in financial assistance. The sorority has also committed their service to Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life, LAMP, and helping Flood Victims in the city of Valdosta. The chapter has also participated with other organizations during Greek week.



### **Zeta Phi Beta**

The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Alpha Theta Chapter have had yet another busy semester. During this semester, the ladies continued to build on their community service projects. For their SMART Girls group at Lake Laurie Boys and Girls Club, they had a Fashion Show (which was co-sponsored by VSU Fusion Models), a Valentine's Day party, a Black History month education seminar, and a Food Pyramid construction day! This semester, the ladies hosted a Black History Candlelight Vigil with African American Studies Department and Black Student League. The President of the University was the keynote speaker and the event made the front page of the newspaper. As part of the chapter's philanthropy events, they helped plan and execute the March of Dimes, March for Babies Walk for the City of Valdosta. They also have a Relay for Life team and will have a tent during VSU's Relay for Life event. During Zeta Week, the chapter will host a Fashion Show entitled "Natural Beauty." Participants in the show are members of various CPC and NPHC Sororities at VSU. During their week, they will also have an event called "Be a College Kid for a Day" where middle school kids from the local schools will come to VSU and get a tour of the campus. The kids will have the opportunity to learn life styles in a fun and energetic way while interacting with VSU students. This semester has been very successful for the chapter. The chapter has been working very hard this school year and their efforts have not gone unnoticed, they have received awards on the national, regional, state, and school level!





# ***NPHC Chapter Highlights Cont.***

## **Kappa Alpha Psi**

This has been an outstanding year for the men of Kappa Alpha Psi. At the close of last semester (fall 08) the men of Kappa Alpha Psi participated in the national World Aids day which is held on December 1<sup>st</sup> nationwide. Kappa Alpha Psi brought this event to Valdosta State University in an attempt to spread the word about the HIV/AIDS around campus. The men put together packets containing valuable knowledge for the students here at Valdosta State University. This semester the men came back ready to work; completing more than nine hours a piece for community services through community and campus wide clean ups. Kappa week, which was hosted on March 1<sup>st</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, was a total success, and another way for the men of Kappa Alpha Psi could be seen throughout the community. One of the days for Kappa week consisted of the men going to a middle school speaking to some 8<sup>th</sup> graders who were about to take the next step to high school; we called this “ The next step motivational speaking program”. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the men of Kappa Alpha Psi teamed up with SIFE, an organization here at VSU, to co- host a community Easter egg hunt for the kids at Ora- lee West projects. The kids enjoyed the time with the Kappas. The following day we went to the YMCA to help fill bags for the flood victims. Way to go Kappa Alpha Psi.

## **Omega Psi Phi:**

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc have been doing a lot for the community this semester. Here are just a few of the many activities we have did. We volunteer at the local Boys and Girls Club located on Toombs St. year round. The program at the boys and girls club is called Homework with the Omegas. We visit the Boys and Girls club several times a week to help the kids with homework ranging from the ages 5-14. Another event that we participated in is the Trash pick up on Patterson St. An upcoming event that is scheduled for the first week in May is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cookout for Kids at that boys and girls club.



# **Congratulations on a great 2008-2009 school year!!!**

Have a great  
Summer!



See you in  
the fall!



## *Greek Assembly*

The Greek Excellence Packet is an end-of-the-year report turned in by each chapter president that highlights academic and scholarship, community service and philanthropic activities, chapter development and reporting, and campus involvement and leadership. From each of these topics, an Interfraternity Council chapter, College Panhellenic Council chapter, and National Pan-Hellenic Council chapter are awarded with the best score in each of seven categories. Congratulations to all chapter winners and all chapters nominated.

**Academic and Scholarship- Kappa Sigma, Phi Mu, Alpha Kappa Alpha**

**Overall Highest GPA- Kappa Sigma, Phi Mu, Alpha Kappa Alpha**

**Most Improved GPA- Sigma Nu, Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Psi**

**Highest New Member GPA- Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Phi Alpha**

**Community Service and Philanthropic Activities- Kappa Sigma, Kappa Delta, Alpha Kappa Alpha**

**Campus Involvement and Leadership- Tau Kappa Epsilon, Chi Omega, Delta Sigma Theta**

**Chapter Development and Reporting- Kappa Sigma, Phi Mu, Zeta Phi Beta**

Each chapter is awarded and given a rank of chapter development, meets standards, Merit, or Excellence. A chapter of Merit is one who has scored at least 80% overall and reached merit in four out of five sections. A chapter of Excellence is one who has scored at least 90% overall and reach excellence in all sections as well as having a GPA above the all student and all chapter average.

**Chapters of Merit- Alpha Kappa Alpha, Chi Omega, Zeta Phi Beta**

**Chapters of Excellence- Kappa Sigma, Sigma Nu, Phi Mu, Alpha Delta Pi, Kappa Delta**

Along with chapter awards, individual awards were given out as well. For New Member of the Year an individual member who displays great leadership and success in their first year of being in a Greek chapter is awarded. The next area of achievement given was in the area of Woman, Man, and Member of the year. These individuals strived and gave their best efforts to help out wherever needed. Outstanding Greek President was another award that was given to those chapter president's who made a big impact within their chapter as well as on campus and in the Valdosta Community. The next prestigious award, Outstanding Male and Female Achiever was awarded to those individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty. These individuals were always reliable and dependable. For the last individual award, chapter advisors were recognized for their leadership and guidance to each chapter.

**New Member of the Year- Cory Harrell, Lacey Hansen,  
Whitney Goings**

**CPC Woman of the Year- Whitney Johnson**

**IFC Man of the Year- Brandon Burgess**

**NPHC Member of the Year- Jarette Moran**

**Outstanding President- Alex Friedl, Cassandra Murphy**

**Outstanding Achiever- Chris Nish, Karen Gramlich**



**Advisor of the Year- Timothy Reisenwitz (Kappa Sigma),  
Vallye Blanton (Phi Mu)**

**Hayden Jacques Award- Chris Nish (Tau Kappa Epsilon), Jessica  
Jane Ashcraft (Alpha Delta Pi)**

The President's Cup honor is given to the chapters who showed creativity, individualism, and inspiration through a visual presentation. Judges from within the Valdosta community were chosen to evaluate and choose which IFC, CPC, and NPHC chapters excelled in the criteria and encompassed the characteristics of an outstanding chapter.

**2008-2009 President's Cup**

**Kappa Sigma, Alpha Delta Pi, Zeta Phi Beta**