

Fraternity and Sorority Excellence

Valdosta State University

January –December 2014

The Fraternity/Sorority Excellence Program is designed to highlight chapter achievements that promote the founding values of each organization and further the mission and vision of the Fraternity/Sorority Community at Valdosta State University. While success can be defined differently to each chapter member, leader, council and national organization, the impact that a chapter can have on its members, our campus and the surrounding community should not go unrecognized.

A well balanced fraternity/sorority experience should be provided to each member of our community on an annual basis. In order to provide such an experience, chapters should focus their efforts on programing/events/initiatives/participation and excellence in the following areas:

- **Academic Success**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Member Education (New and Continuing)**
- **Brotherhood/Sisterhood**
- **Fraternal Relations (Collaboration with other fraternity/sorority chapters)**
- **Community Service**
- **Philanthropy**
- **Celebration of Ritual**

Within our community there are men and women that have earned the distinction of ‘leader’. It is important to acknowledge and celebrate that the extraordinary acts of select women and men on our campus help to advance their chapters and our community. Individual awards, sponsored by Greek Ambassadors and Order of Omega are outlined below. **Individual Award** applications are due no later than April 3, 2015.

Any chapter receiving of the possible 140/160 points or more will be invited to give a presentation to compete for **“Chapter of the Year”**. The presentations shall be a maximum of 30 minutes each. No more than 10 chapter members may attend. No other parameters shall be set.

Eligibility: The packet of information submitted will reflect only the events/activities/data that occurred between January and December of a given year. All materials must reflect that time period. A participating chapter must be recognized as a registered student organization and in good standing with the Greek Life Office and their National Office in order to participate. Completed Excellence packets must be physically submitted to the Office of Student Life by 5:00pm on February 1, 2015 in order to be considered. No late exceptions will be granted.

Guidelines for Disqualification: Any packet submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Applications that include any false or misleading information will be disqualified from consideration.

Review and Selection: Select faculty/staff/students will review all chapter excellence packets and individual awards and award a point value for each category. Any person serving as a judge will not be allowed to issue a score for a chapter to which they are personally affiliated. Points will be totaled by the Assistant Director of Student Life and checked for accuracy by the Graduate Assistants for Student Life.

Guidelines for Submission:

- Award packets should be organized in a way that aligns with each award category.
- Clearly marked sections/categories should be separated.
- All materials should be able to fit within the following categories. Any combinations of the categories are allowed and encouraged.
 - o Three-ring binder including print materials
 - o Photographs
 - o Video footage limited to 15 minutes in length
 - o Physical display no larger than a tri-fold display board
- The final submission should include a cover page with the following information:
 - o Name of chapter
 - o Name of individual primarily responsible for compiling submission
 - o Signature of chapter president certifying that all information contained within submission is accurate.
 - o Signature of chapter advisor certifying that all information contained within submission is accurate.
 - o Total number of pages/items included in submission
 - o Date and time stamp (INTERNAL USE) of submission.
 - o Self-evaluation conducted by chapter president for each category including but not limited to points anticipated to receive out of total possible points.

Chapter Excellence Categories

Academic Success

(20 possible points)

Chapter GPA for each semester falls into the following categories:

- High GPA- Top 1/3 of sororities/fraternities (5 points per semester)
- Median GPA- Between top 1/3 of fraternities/sororities and bottom 1/3 of fraternities/sororities (3 points per semester)
- Low GPA- Bottom 1/3 of sororities/fraternities (1 point per semester)

In a medium of your choice, please answer the following:

- Does your chapter recognize members for high or improved academic success? How?
- Does your chapter assist members who fail to meet academic standards? How?
- Does your chapter encourage members to make academic success a priority? How?

Leadership Development

(20 possible points)

In a medium of your choice, please answer the following: (15 points)

- How does your chapter's leadership incorporate your organizational values into their style of leading and in teaching leadership to younger members?
- How does your chapter's leadership promote/encourage accountability to your organizational values?
- How does your chapter leadership develop and implement new programs to keep the chapter constantly improving?
- How does the leadership of your chapter maintain active participation among chapter members?
- How does your chapter foster leadership in the VSU community outside of your organization?
- How does your chapter continue to develop members into leaders?

Chapter Leadership Recognition: (5 points)

Please include a letter/email from your National Office outlining any local, regional or national awards that your chapter or its members have been given.

Member Education (New and Continuing)

(20 possible points)

In a medium of your choice, please highlight the following:

- All educational programming for new and active members which includes the history/values/ritual of your organization.
- Methods of internal accountability for your chapter (i.e. standards, personnel, judicial, etc.)

- Method of chapter leaders to educate and promote understanding of chapter and university risk management policies.
- Officer transition program/training process.

Brotherhood/Sisterhood

(20 possible points)

In a medium of your choice, please highlight the following:

- Your chapter's brotherhood/sisterhood
- Any brotherhood/sisterhood programming or events that your chapter hosts
- Ways in which your membership incorporates new members into the brotherhood/sisterhood of the chapter

Fraternal Relations

(20 possible points)

Fraternal relations shall include collaboration with other fraternity/sorority chapters on our campus

In a medium of your choice, please highlight the following:

- Any collaborations/partnerships with chapter from a different council in events/programming/etc.
- Any programming your chapter hosts/co-hosts/attends with another fraternity/sorority on our campus.
- Ways in which your chapter and its members promote positive relations with chapter within your council.
- Ways in which your chapter and its members promote positive relations with chapters in other councils.

Community Service

(20 possible points)

Community Service Excellence shall be determined based on a combination of the time, energy and effort dedicated to a particular activity/ event.

In a medium of your choice, please highlight the following:

- Community Service opportunities your chapter provides its members
- Any campus-wide service projects in which your chapter has participated
- Any service your chapter provides to the community outside Valdosta State

Please include a print out from Campus Connect of your chapter totals for both the fall and spring semesters. Spring dates shall include service from January 1-June 30. Fall dates shall include service from July 1-December 31.

Philanthropy

(20 possible points)

Philanthropy Excellence shall be based on monetary or item donations.

In a medium of your choice, please highlight the following:

- The cause/purpose/organization of your chapter philanthropy
- The impact your chapter philanthropic efforts have had on the recipients
- In what ways your chapter participates in the philanthropies of other fraternities/sororities
- In what ways your chapter participates in campus-wide philanthropies

Celebration of Ritual

(20 possible points)

In a medium of your choice, please highlight the following:

- The values of your organization and how your members uphold them
- Ways in which your chapter reflects upon your Ritual outside of ceremonies (i.e. workshops, continuing education, debriefing with new members following initiation, etc.)
- Ways in which your organizational values contribute to the betterment of our VSU Fraternity/Sorority Community as a whole

Individual Award Applications

Outstanding Greek Achiever Award

The ***Greek Achiever Award*** is designed to recognize a member of the Greek Community who has demonstrated outstanding involvement and achievement within the Valdosta State community and the Lowndes County community while upholding the values of their Greek organization. ***Please attach a letter of recommendation from the chapter president and/or advisor.***

Please submit an application with the following information:

Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Sorority/Fraternity _____ Date Initiated _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student ID Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Expected Graduation _____

Please *type and attach* information addressing the following five areas:

1. *Community Involvement and Accomplishments.* List and describe the applicant's involvement and accomplishments in philanthropic/service activities and civic involvement, etc.
2. *Campus Involvement and Accomplishments.* List offices held, organizations, and activities involved in on campus that are non-Greek related.
3. *Greek Leadership.* List offices held, committees, and chairships including dates.
4. *Jobs and Internships.* List and describe the various jobs and internships the applicant has held while attending VSU.
5. *Essay.* Please describe, in 100 words or less, why the applicant deserves the Outstanding Greek Achiever Award.

New Member of the Year Award

The ***New Member of the Year Award*** is designed to recognize new members of the Greek community who have demonstrated outstanding achievement during their first year of membership. In order to be eligible for this award, affiliation must have occurred during the current academic year. One New Member from each Greek Council will be selected. ***Please attach a letter of recommendation from the chapter president and/or advisor.***

Please submit an application with the following information:

Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Sorority/Fraternity _____ Date Initiated _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student ID Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Expected Graduation _____

Please *type and attach* information addressing the following five areas:

1. *Community Involvement and Accomplishments.* List and describe the applicant's involvement and accomplishments in philanthropic/service activities and civic involvement, etc.
2. *Campus Involvement and Accomplishments.* List offices held, organizations, and activities involved in on campus that are non-Greek related.
3. *Greek Leadership.* Describe how you have promoted positive Greek activities and Greek Unity since you joined your organization.

Greek Advisor of the Year Award

The *Advisor of the Year Award* is designed to recognize an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the organization which he/she advises and the Greek community as a whole. He/she is a role model, ethical leader, and embodies the principles of their brotherhood/sisterhood.

Please submit an application with the following information:

Name of Nominee _____

Affiliation _____ Years of Service to your Chapter _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please address each of the following areas.

1. List the advisor's major accomplishments.
2. Describe the way this nominee serves as a role model for collegiate Greek members.
3. Describe why this nominee should be awarded the Advisor of the Year.

Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award

The ***Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award*** is designed to recognize a faculty or staff member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to education and students at Valdosta State University. He/she is a role model, ethical leader, and has had a positive impact on Greek Life.

Please submit an application with the following information:

Name of Nominee _____

Position Title _____ Department _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please address each of the following areas.

1. List the faculty/staff member's major contributions to the Valdosta State University community and the Greek Life community.
2. Describe the way this nominee serves as a role model for collegiate Greek members.
3. Describe why this nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award.

Outstanding Greek President of the Year Award

The ***Greek President Award*** is designed to recognize an organization's **President** who has demonstrated outstanding achievement on campus and within the Greek community, as well as within their chapter during the academic year. ***Please attach a letter of recommendation from the chapter advisor.***

Please submit an application with the following information:

Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Sorority/Fraternity _____ Date Initiated _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student ID Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Expected Graduation _____

Please *type and attach* information addressing the following areas:

1. ***Chapter Leadership.*** List offices held, committees, and chairs within your organization including dates. Please discuss your leadership style and your approach to leading your chapter as President.
2. ***Chapter Management.*** Please describe any personal/chapter goals attained during your tenure as president. Please discuss any chapter weaknesses that were overcome during your tenure.
3. ***Campus Leadership.*** List offices held, organizations, and activities involved in on campus that are non-Greek related.
4. ***Essay.*** Please describe, in 100 words or less, why you deserve the Outstanding Greek President Award.

Order of Omega Woman of the Year Award

The ***Order of Omega Woman of the Year Award*** is designed to recognize an individual who has demonstrated outstanding involvement and achievement within the Greek community while maintaining a well-balanced life. ***Please attach a letter of recommendation from the chapter president and/or advisor.*** Note: You **Do Not** have to be a member of Order of Omega to apply for this award.

Please submit an application with the following information:

Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Fraternity _____ Date Initiated _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student ID Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Expected Graduation _____

Please *type and attach* information addressing the following five areas:

1. ***Greek Achievements.*** List and describe the applicant’s accomplishments in programming, committee work, policies, membership, etc.
2. ***Sorority Leadership.*** List all offices, committees, positions and dates of positions.
3. ***Recognition.*** List all honors and awards that have been bestowed upon the applicant by the Fraternity/Sorority and/or local entities.
4. ***CPC/NPHC Involvement.*** List and describe the applicant’s involvement and participation with and in CPC and NPHC.
5. ***Essay.*** Please describe, in 100 words or less, why the applicant deserves the Order of Omega Woman of the Year award.

Order of Omega Man of the Year

The ***Order of Omega Man of the Year Award*** is designed to recognize an individual who has demonstrated outstanding involvement and achievement within the Greek community while maintaining a well-balanced life. ***Please attach a letter of recommendation from the chapter president and/or advisor. Note: You Do Not have to be a member of Order of Omega to apply for this award.***

Please submit an application with the following information:

Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Fraternity _____ Date Initiated _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student ID Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Expected Graduation _____

Please *type and attach* information addressing the following five areas:

1. ***Greek Achievements.*** List and describe the applicant's accomplishments in programming, committee work, policies, membership, etc.
2. ***Fraternity Leadership.*** List all offices, committees, positions and dates of positions.
3. ***Recognition.*** List all honors and awards that have been bestowed upon the applicant by the Fraternity/Sorority and/or local entities.
4. ***IFC/NPHC Involvement.*** List and describe the applicant's involvement and participation within IFC and/or NPHC.
5. ***Essay.*** Please describe, in 100 words or less, why the applicant deserves the Order of Omega Man of the Year award.