

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

- Last year, our members performed more than 8,500 hours of community service and donated more than \$115,000 to philanthropic causes!

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Homecoming	2
Greek Ambassadors	2
Council News	3
Chapter Highlights	4
Chapter Highlights	5
Chapter Highlights	6
Recruitment	7
A word from Jennifer Jones	7

The Parthenon

VOLUME I, ISSUE IV

FALL 2009

Greek Life: Sense of Community

VSU is home to 23 diverse Greek-Letter social organizations. In the 2009-2010 year we are looking to increase our NPHC council by one sorority and fraternity. Our IFC council is looking to charter two colonies within the year. Additionally, our CPC council has voted on a new addition! Alpha Sigma Alpha will be on campus this spring! We are looking to increase our campus by four National Greek organizations by May 2010. Greek Chapters have

played an active role in the campus environment since 1953, and continue to provide a wealth of personal and social development opportunities for our students to this day.

Our fraternities and sororities offer an environment that enhances the learning experiences available on our campus. They highlight some of the finest qualities among our undergraduate men and women: academic excellence, a sense of community, life-long friendships, and a responsibility for the improve-

ment and happiness of others.

Jennifer Jones, M. Ed.

Assistant Director of Student Life, Greek Life at Valdosta State University **229.333.5674**

Greek Honors proud to be at VSU

VSU is proud to offer the Greek Community three nationally recognized honors societies, the National Order of Omega, Gamma Sigma Alpha, and Rho Lambda. Each organization focuses on scholastic achievement of members, but remains distinct in their history and qualifications.

To join The National Order of Omega applicants must have junior or senior status. Only the top 3 percent of the Greek Community will be accepted.

Applications for Order of Omega are accepted during early fall. The 2009 initiation will be held on November 3.

Gamma Sigma Alpha applicants must have junior or senior status and a 3.5 cumulative GPA. GSA will be accepting applications in the spring. Rho Lambda is to honor outstanding Greek women. Applicants must have a 2.5 GPA, junior or senior status, and leadership in their chapter. Membership is limited to the top 10 percent of Greek

women and applications will be accepted in the spring.

These organizations work together for the purpose of scholastic achievement and to support VSU and the surrounding community. Please call Keri Guined in the Office of Student Life at 333-5674 or email kfguined@valdosta.edu if you are interested in joining any of these organizations.



Greek Life is currently looking for advisors to provide support for the new and established chapters on campus. Contact Jennifer Jones if you are interested! 229.333.5674

Homecoming... Are you Reddie for the Blazer Nation?

This October meant a favorite for all Greeks at VSU: Homecoming Week! Tradition overtakes this time every year with competitions like sidewalk chalk, step shows, can structures, lip sync and the Homecoming Parade! Each chapter is teamed up with one or two others, promoting inter-Greek relations while allowing the chapter to get to know each other. Sororities tend to

agree that it's helpful to have the guys around to help assemble such elaborate floats for the parade! And the fraternities would agree that the lip sync would not be as entertaining without the women. An alumni tailgating event brought together tons of alumni for a fun day of food, friends, and a Blazer football game! Several chapters hosted events with our 200 alumni and friends in attendance. Greek Life hosted a tailgate before the football game and

many chapters had events Friday as well as Saturday



evening. Of course, the Blazers won against Henderson State 33-20. Way to go, Blazers! Homecoming week, Greeks can agree, was a huge success and a blast. The Greek organizations are looking forward to continuing this tradition next year!



Greek Ambassadors

Greek Ambassadors is a part of Valdosta State University's campus that encourages new or active members of the Greek System to get involved and help the Greek system flourish. Greek ambassador's goals are to promote and increase the enrollment of Greek Life, change negative perspectives of the Greek

community, further connect the Greek organizations, change the outlook of the faculty, staff, and students in regards to Greek Life, and show the benefits of Greek Life. Greek Ambassadors is an organization made up of six committees, each dealing with an event involving Greek Life and the Valdosta State and Lowndes county community. The committees and events include Greek Stock, Recruitment Booklet, New Member Education, Greek Newsletter, Greek Week, and Greek Assembly. Each of these committees is made up of a team of members that strive to complete the goals



that were set for them. For the fall 2009 semester, Greek Ambassadors worked hard and held a successful Greek Stock and New Member Education Seminar. Greek Stock was for those student's across campus that were interested in the recruitment process and wanted to see firsthand just how great our Greek community is. The New Member Education Seminar is a seminar that takes place each fall and spring semester and is designed to educate each chapter's new members about alcohol, hazing, and each council. Greek Ambassador's has many event's coming up this spring, and we are anxious to get started working on them!

Interfraternity Council

To start off the semester, IFC had formal fall rush, in which we brought in over 150 new members into the IFC chapters. This is a huge success compared to the amount of men who joined last fall and the years before. During the fall 2009 semester, the Interfraternity Council will be hosting and participating in many different events around campus. IFC chapters will be participating in different events to raise money for charitable organizations such as a flag football tournament, River Cleanups, Fall Fes-

tival benefiting the Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta, CF Week, and multiple walks. The Alzheimer Memory Walk and the Cystic Fibrosis Walk will be the two main events that will be held in order to raise money. Last semester Greek men and women collectively raised over \$110,000 and completed more than 8,000 community service hours. IFC also plans on attending the Alcohol Awareness seminar in October, where professionals will be discussing the dangers of the

misuse of alcohol.

Last semester was a success thanks to the hard work and dedication put forth by the IFC Executive Council and chapters and with the changes that were made and are being made, this semester is going to be even more successful.



College Panhellenic Council

College Panhellenic Council would like to congratulate all the chapters on a successful recruitment! This year, CPC had a record number of women sign up for recruitment and a record number of women were placed in chapters. The transition to holding recruitment on campus was a success and turned out to be an exciting change for CPC.

CPC also held a new member orientation for the first time this semester, new members were reminded of rules and the ideals that CPC women live by. We look forward to the many homecoming festivities and Grand Chapter later on this semester.



CPC Chapter Highlights

Alpha Delta Pi

Alpha Delta Pi is excited for another fall semester and had a wonderful recruitment. The chapter welcomed 48 new Alphas to Delta Theta! Delta Theta is already busy planning community service events such as, reading to children at S.L. Mason, tutoring, participating in giving blood, working with the Crescent's garden club, and volunteering with philanthropy the Ronald McDonald House in Macon. They wish the students and the blazers a successful semester. Go blazers!

Chi Omega

Striving to be all we can be, Chi Omega is so excited about all the events going on this semester. With one of the largest Fall 2009 CPC pledge classes (51 members!), Chi O is looking forward to all that's in store. Their most recent charity event, "Charity Denim" was a huge success! All proceeds were donated to the Make a Wish Foundation. On Oct. 25th, Chi Omega hosted a charity Kickball Tournament "Kickin' it with Chi O, where the community is encourages to enter teams and raise money! The proceeds also go to the Make-A-Wish foundation. Chi Omega will also help co-host the 4th Annual Justin T. Hobdy Flag Football Tournament with Kappa Alpha. These ladies always strive to be not only great sisters, but accomplished community members all while



having fun for a good cause!

Kappa Delta

Kappa Delta Sorority welcomed 48 new girls in the 2009 pledge class in August and is having another successful semester. This semester

Kappa Delta has participated in many events such as volunteering at VSU volley ball games, participating in intramurals, and staying actively involved in Valdosta service projects.

Kappa Delta celebrated National Women's Friendship Month in September to appreciate the friendship's women share. KD's brought Dove products to donate to the women at the Haven. KD looks forward to the rest of the semester and will continue to strive for that which is honorable, beautiful, and highest.

Phi Mu

The Kappa Beta chapter of Phi Mu is excited to start this semester with the addition of 49 new Phis. Last semester Phi



and getting their new girls ready for initiation. They plan to take a trip to Shands Hospital in Gainesville and continue weekly bible study. The ladies

of Phi Mu pride themselves in contributing to the community, having fun and staying classy at the same time.

Zeta Tau Alpha

The sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha have had a great start to the fall semester by welcoming 50 new and amazing women to the chapter. Every fall semester, the month of October is dedicated to awareness of their philanthropy, Breast Cancer Education and Awareness. They start off by Painting the Campus Pink, where they encourage the entire VSU campus to wear pink. ZTA also has their annual Big Man on Campus, 2nd annual Pink Out and their very first Think Pink 5K Race! Last year during this month alone, ZTA raised over \$8,000 for Breast Cancer Education and Awareness and hope to help the cause even more this year! The Ladies of ZTA look forward to a great rest of the semester and all of the exciting events to come!



Mu was awarded VSU's Organization on Campus and has also earned the highest sorority grade point average on campus for the past three semesters. This semester, they are participating in the first annual Dance Marathon on VSU's Campus, raising money for their philanthropy (Children's Miracle Network)



IFC Chapter Highlights

Kappa Sigma

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity has kicked off yet another successful school year. In the Fall 2009 Rush they were able to acquire 37 potential



new members. They volunteered at the VSU Centennial 5K fun run and donated \$150 to Kappa Alpha for their Justin Hobdy Football Tournament. Their most recent accomplishment was our fundraiser in which they raised over \$3,200 for the VSU Athletic Foundation in which \$500 was given by our Kappa Sigma Chapter alone. On November 7th they held their annual Founder's Day event at the Rainwater Conference Center which brings a great portion of their alumni back into town. The Kappa Sigma Chapter also started a new annual tradition of helping The Crescent, a historic Valdosta landmark, with their community and philanthropic activities. This is just the beginning of what they hope to be the best year ever at Valdosta State University.

Phi Sigma Kappa

The Valdosta State Colony of Phi Sigma Kappa is building the foundation for a tradition of excellence.

They were the first new fra-



ternity to come to Valdosta State since the mid 90s. Along with all this, they will be signing their charter as founding fathers of the Psi Septaton Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa in the spring of 2010. Their annual comedy show "One Night Stand" has donated over \$2000 to the American Stroke Association. They have also given their time and money to countless other charitable organizations such as Children's Miracle Network, the Salvation Army, the Haven Shelter for Battered Women, and the American Cancer Society. At their most recent National Convention they received Presidential Special Achievement Awards for our efforts in Risk Management, Chapter Operations, Community Service, Campus Involvement, and Philanthropy. Phi Sigma Kappa is looking forward to becoming a solid part of what is growing into a very prosperous Greek community here at Valdosta State University.

Pi Kappa Phi

Pi Kappa Phi is a fraternity comprised of leaders by choice. This year the Beta Tau chapter of Pi Kappa Phi celebrates our 50th Anniversary of being established here on the Valdosta State campus. They have over 870 initiated brothers in to the Beta Tau Chapter. They are the only Fraternity on campus, and in the nation, with its own national philanthropy, which is PUSH America. They have and will continue to do many fundraisers for our philanthropy, with all benefits going to the severely handicapped. Pi Kappa Phi has thrived in Athletics to win 2 out of the past 3 Greek Week Championships. They are also the reigning



All-Greek and All-Campus Champions of Intramural football. Pi Kappa Phi's commitment to leadership dates back more than 100 years to our humble roots at the College of Charleston where their founders exemplified leadership in the classroom, on the athletic field, in campus politics and within the community. The Beta Tau chapter at Valdosta State University is striving to instill these values into our brotherhood and continue the Pi Kappa Phi tradition of excellence.

Sigma Nu

The men of Sigma Nu engaged in an extremely active semester that include several philanthropic and community service around the Valdosta area, brotherhood retreats and formals, as well as coming together to win our 6th Greek Week in 8 years. The brothers of Sigma Nu also had the honor of accumulating a total of 4,450 hours of community service. They also hosted their 9th Annual Bowling for Breast Cancer, where they raised \$5,783 that went to aid in breast cancer research. They had a very successful recruitment, and honorably added 19 new Candidates to our growing chapter. This semester, they have already participated in several organizations that include

the Student Government Association and GAMMA. They will be hosting our 6th Annual Male Review on November 10 and all proceeds will go directly to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. They are also participating in the Cystic Fibrosis Walk on Nov. 7 and the Community Fall Festival on Oct. 25. Next semester, Sigma Nu plans to continue to keep moving along the path in the direction its heading, and hopes that it will continue to show people the true values that each Sigma Nu has.

Tau Kappa Epsilon

The brothers of the Zeta Nu Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon at VSU have accomplished many wonderful things in the last year. On January 17, they celebrated their 50th anniversary on campus and initiated 20 new brothers who are all rising leaders on campus and in our surrounding communities. Their new gain in members



puts them at 42 brothers strong. During their annual Car Bash we raised over \$3000 for the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Association. They have raised \$2000 for Relay for Life, and have worked with Habitat for Humanity. They are ready for the future and are happy about the direction in which our fraternity is going!

NPHC Chapter Highlights

Alpha Kappa Alpha

The Kaptivating Kappa Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has been working diligently to be supreme in service to all mankind by continuing to contribute to the Valdosta State University Campus and the Lowndes County community. Programs like Ivy Reading allow them to go out into the community and teach the importance reading to elementary children. The Economic Advancement through Technology Program promotes computer skills. Campus forums like Enriching Your

Spiritual Purpose, The Game of Life, and AKAdemics bring awareness to important topics such as domestic violence, women's health, and economic empowerment. The women Kappa Upsilon also host the annual Think Pink Week to raise money and awareness for the fight against breast cancer. In addition to their many programs and philanthropic service, AKA has volunteered hundreds of hours. The Ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. are passionate about their work in the community and look forward to continuing their strong legacy of sisterhood and service.

Delta Sigma Theta

In any attempt to stop them, they would tell you that the feat is seemingly impossible. The women of the Theta Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. were

named The Spectator's "Greeks of the Week," and with some of Val-

dosta State University's most commendable grade point averages, these women are still able to orchestrate a plethora of weekly informational forums, fundraisers, and community service events. The young women kicked off the semester with their first forum: "A Fresh Beginning: The Δ Way." Other events they have hosted have been the "So You Want to Be Greek?" And "Sister 2 Sister Chat" forums. The Theta Tau Chapter has arranged successful bake sales, car washes, and Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraisers that will contribute to their annual scholarship fund available to local high school students. The Theta Tau Chapter has volunteered with Freshman Move-In Day, Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, Heritage Nursing Home, luncheons with VEGA, and Student Health Center. Keep your eyes open because there is definitely more to come from this vibrant group of young, positive women.

Kappa Alpha Psi

The men of Kappa Alpha Psi are on their way. This school year, the men of Kappa Alpha Psi have planned out what is to become the greatest semester ever. The men helped the freshmen move into their dorms. They also put together the best Diamonds and Pearls ball on September 25, 2009. Along with that we had an Etiquette/ Dress code forum. The next step for the men of Kappa is to help the community celebrate homecoming by providing community service, and

better serve the VUS community. In November it's time to give back to the community. They will be having community wide fruit basket give away. The list continues to grow as they continue to strive to be the best.

Zeta Phi Beta

The Alpha Theta Chapter has started off another exciting semester! From social events, serving the community of Valdosta, to exemplifying Finer Womanhood, scholarship, service and sisterly Love. Members of Zeta Phi Beta participated in volunteer Valdosta, Adopt-a-highway, Bagging groceries at Harvey's, and Lowndes County Feed the Hungry Day Event. The Chapter hosts a SMART (Skills, Mastery, and Resistance Training) Girls Program. This program is dedicated to teach young girls about various life skills and obtain a Zeta member as a mentor. This semester, the chapter has completed over 200 hours of community service! The chapter also helped host a "How to be Safe on Campus Information Fair" in Palms Quad. The chapters' signature event Fall Social is Sweet TreatZ. During this event, all sororities from CPC and NPHC come together to socialize while enjoying sweet desserts. In conjunction with VSU Police Department, the chapter also hosted "How to be Safe on Campus Information Fair."



College Panhellenic Recruitment

Panhellenic Recruitment was another great success here at VSU! With awesome leadership from every chapter, it became the biggest and best that VSU has ever seen. Women's recruitment was held on VSU's campus this year, and had a record breaking number of potential new members sign up at over 300! As Greek women we strive for the best and this year we truly achieved our goal of reaching out and getting the best women possible.

Every chapter gained a new pledge class of 48 to 52, which are the largest VSU has EVER seen. With these outstanding numbers and new additions, the leadership and overall quality of every chapter here has reached its highest potential. This year more women received their first choice chapter, and we had the highest percentage EVER to complete the recruitment process and become a new member to one of our five amazing sororities.

Recruitment is a GREAT way to meet new people and become a part of something that you will cherish forever. We encourage everyone to take part in this awesome experience that will only enhance your college experience!



Final Thoughts from Jennifer Jones...

Studies have shown that men and women who join a fraternity or sorority are more pleased with their college experience, attain higher grades, graduate at a higher level than other students, and remain active and loyal Blazer alumni after graduation. For example, in the spring semester of 2009, the all Greek GPA is higher than the all student GPA! Not to mention that retention rates are 14% higher for members of Greek organizations than their non-affiliated counterparts. Each Valdosta State fraternity and sorority share a deep commitment toward success as an individual, as well as the success of the entire organization.

Throughout the past year, our Greeks have committed themselves to raising Greek standards in areas of scholarship, community and philanthropic service, leadership, programming, and campus involvement. Chapters encourage members to participate in clubs and organizations outside of their fraternity and sorority, such as Student Government Association, religious organizations, honor societies, and the Campus newspaper. As you can see, being Greek provides students with many wonderful opportunities to make a difference in college and beyond.

GO BLAZERS AND GREEK

