Introduction to the new Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life, Jason Biggs:

Greetings, I wanted to take this opportunity to say hello and to provide you with a little information about myself and the direction I see the UNT Greek community moving toward. There are a few things that are very important to me that I feel translate well when discussing the Greek community. Those three things are Family, Foundation, and Future. My personal family life is full and rich. I am married to a wonderful wife Stephani, and we have been blessed with two outstanding children, a four year old boy and an eleven month daughter. Family is a very important aspect of Greek life as well. We call each other brothers and sisters, these terms bring with them a sense of commitment, an obligation to keep each other safe as well as the desire to see the family grow and be successful as individuals and as an organization.

A strong foundation is vital to success! I began my journey into Greek Life as an undergraduate member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Texas State University in 1998. I held many offices as an undergrad, and continued my fraternal experience as an alumni volunteer traveling the country talking with chapters about risk management and member education. I started advising fraternities in 2002 as a graduate assistant at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls Texas. Most recently I served Texas Tech as a Greek Life professional for the past seven years. These experiences have led me to the UNT and have provided me with the knowledge and ability to lead a Greek community filled with outstanding undergraduates.

It is wonderful to be able to write about the foundation of the UNT Greek community to an audience of alumni members. You are truly a large part of the foundation of Greek Life at UNT, you provided a history that our current members want to know, you are also a link to life after undergraduate days and this aspect of your interactions with our students could really shape their future success. Greek Life is founded in the values expressed in our initiation ceremonies and displayed on national organization websites; however the foundation of a strong Greek campus lies also on the shoulders of its alumni members. You are where this community came from; you are the history and traditions. I want you to know that it is my desire to have you be a part of the present Greek community. The University of North Texas Greek Center opens in the spring and I hope if you are able you visit us and say hello, until that time please feel free to contact me personally with questions or comments.

The Greek Life Center is a wonderful way to transition into my final focal point, Future. I would like you to know that the future of the UNT Greek Life community is strong! The administration has come to the table and the construction of the first of its kind stand-alone structure for Greek life has begun. This building will be a physical manifestation of the spirit of Greek life on campus. It represents one place for all, which feeds into our goal of creating a unified Greek community were men and women are darn proud to represent not only individual organizations but the entire Greek community. The future is indeed bright, and in the near future I hope that I can meet and talk with as many of you as possible. If the office of Greek Life can be of service to you please let me know.

- Jason Biggs
**IFC Recruitment:**

This fall, the number of students registering for Inter-Fraternity Council recruitment on-line continued to increase. Council leaders continued to raise awareness about chapters’ philanthropy such as including community service as a part of recruitment week activities. A total of 338 men registered for recruitment and the IFC distributed 192 bids. IFC held Bid Day at Apogee Stadium and the excitement was unparalleled. The IFC continues to encourage open bidding and more men are expected to receive bids throughout the fall semester. A total of 338 men registered for recruitment and the IFC distributed 192 bids. IFC held Bid Day at Apogee Stadium and the excitement was unparalleled. The IFC continues to encourage open bidding and more men are expected to receive bids throughout the fall semester.

**When Great Women go Greek!**

The Greek Life Office at the University of North Texas is proud to announce the success of this year’s fall recruitment. After many long days of hard work put in by the Panhellenic Executive members and the recruitment team, the Greek Life Office had one of the most successful recruitments to date. On September 3rd, 319 potential new members pledged to their new homes. It was because of the large increase in potential new members this fall that each chapter was blessed to welcome at least 38 new members. Chapter total remains at 100 for now but the council is looking towards increasing to align with the greater interest in Greek Life. Chapters are now ranging anywhere from 100-122! Greek Life at the University of North Texas is continuously growing. Just 2 years ago, Chapter total consisted of 85 members. We are pleased to see this growth in our Greek community and hope that it continues to flourish for many years to come.

**Creation of GAMMA**

In an effort to encourage brothers and sisters to make educated decisions regarding alcohol, members of Greek Life are planning to implement a GAMMA (Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol) chapter at UNT. GAMMA is about motivated fraternity and sorority members forming a peer education group that works as a team to identify high-risk student behavior and then creatively develops ways to educate members so that they can succeed at college and contribute in positive ways to the chapter. Our goal is to have a fully functioning GAMMA chapter by Fall 2014.
Moore, Oklahoma Trip

In the summer of 2013 many of the MGC organizations felt the need to go to Moore, Oklahoma after the devastating tornadoes. The organizations included Kappa Delta Chi, Omega Delta Phi, Lambda Theta Phi, Sigma Lambda Beta, and Sigma Lambda Gamma. Upon arriving the organizations went to a volunteer location and were given places to they picked up debris left over from the storm. They then went back to the volunteer location and were bused out to the neighborhoods. During this time they went knocking door to door to have residents sign waivers of permission to work on their homes.

Following this assignment the students were assigned address to walk to and assist residents with cleanups of their home. At this time the organizations walked through the neighborhoods that were hit the hardest of the storm. They went to several houses and talked to many residents about what happened. They moved out the ruined furniture and cleared out all the debris and trash.

This experience impacted the lives of the volunteers who went to help. It was a time when the Multicultural Greek Council felt the need to unite and give back to the community.

When men join a fraternity

Most say they joined because they wanted to be part of something greater than themselves. For a Pi Kappa Phi, that opportunity not only comes from the fraternity experience, but from Journey of Hope. This event is a 4000 mile cycling event organized by our philanthropy, Push America. As a team we travel the country with brothers from across the nation to spread acceptance for people with disabilities. My team traveled from Long Beach, California to Washington D.C. over about 2 months.

What makes Journey of Hope special is not just the physical challenges, but getting the opportunity to meet people with disabilities through what we call Friendship Visits. Through these visits we get to spend time dancing, singing, cheering, talking, or simply just sitting quietly with some of the most amazing and able-minded people we will ever meet. I will always remember meeting Nicki in Virginia and getting her to dance for the first time, or Sam from Alabama and him crying as the cyclist left, or Martha from Snyder, Texas, and her phone calls every Monday until we got to D.C., just to make sure we were safe.

Through this experience, I got to see the nation from a whole new perspective with fraternity brothers from across the nation, but it is so much more than that. I got to see what it truly means to be a Fraternity man, and more so, what it truly means to be a Pi Kappa Phi.
This past spring the UNT National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) began a new initiative of bringing new members together to unify and educate them within the council. The council hosted the inaugural Neo Nights program geared for all NPHC new members commonly referred to as neophytes. This evening was spent educating the new members on the 3 other Greek councils and building collaboration. The main focus on the night was to unify the new members through highlighting the purpose and foundation of NPHC. Alumni members spoke to the new members about challenges and success they encountered as students and challenged them with expectations of being a Greek leader within their council, Greek community and UNT. The Neo Night idea came from the need of a new member retreat tailored specifically for NPHC members. Being a traditionally smaller council, members wanted to create a unified bond amongst new members as well as provide a forum for education the importance the council has to every member organization and the historical aspect. The council has already begun planning for this year’s Neo Night with plans to continue to grow the program each year as an annual event for new members.