Looking Around Campus
An Eagle-eye View

Our student body hit a very important landmark this year by reaching over 37,000 total enrollment. Likewise, our Greek community is growing. We are excited to report that Greeks now make up 7 percent of the student body thanks to the largest recruitment and intake efforts by each council to date. Once again, the Student Government Association is led by Greek students, President Adam Alattr of Pi Kappa Phi, and VP Christopher Lee of Pi Kappa Alpha.

The campus itself is growing as well. Our new centerpiece, the remastered University Union, opened on November 9th, and is set to be fully functional by spring 2016. Much like the previous building, it will be capable of hosting large events for campus and student organizations, something many of our chapters are excited to do once again. Pictures of the construction can be seen below, but the Union is planning a big reveal soon, so check out the UNT and Union office website and social media to see more!

www.studentaffairs.unt.edu/university-union

www.facebook.com/untunion

Pictures provided courtesy of University Union Marketing.
Updates From Our Councils

NPHC Pushes Onward With Dedication

The stated purpose and mission of the National Pan-Hellenic Council in 1930 was “Unanimity of thought and action as far as possible in the conduct of Greek letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations.” This statement is a true depiction of the NPHC at the University of North Texas, something that will surely be passed on to the 70 new members from this semester’s intake.

The organizations have shown these actions through not only support of each organization, but also through academic excellence, community service, activism, and leadership. In fall 2015, the individual chapters of the NPHC participated in “Boo Bash,” a program that allows elementary school students to take part in fun activities in a safe and enclosed area.

The fraternity and sorority community are very happy and eager for the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated to complete their membership process. Through the years, AKA has used the Sisterhood as a grand lever to raise the status of African-Americans, particularly women. AKA has enriched minds and encouraged life-long learning; provided aid for the poor, the sick, and underserved; initiated social action to advance human and civil rights; worked collaboratively with other groups to maximize outreach on progressive endeavors; and continually produced leaders to continue its credo of service. To continue our dedication to success, NPHC will be hosting a council summit on February 6th. We look forward to the opportunity.

The IFC Summit Moves Us Towards Progress

As the fall semester moved forward, the Interfraternity Council held its first ever IFC summit in the new Greek Life Center. Each chapter’s leadership was joined by active members and alumni to bring forward new ideas and a wide variety of viewpoints. The meeting started with recognizing the efforts of each chapter in the recent success in recruitment. This fall, 252 men accepted bids.

The summit brought up a healthy collection of actionable steps to improve the council and its individual chapters. More opportunities for chapter collaboration, more accountability on member and chapter levels, and open discussion between university staff, chapter members and council chairs were top on the list.

The university and the Greek Life staff remain dedicated to the student success of all of our councils and chapters. In the coming semester, each other council will have a similar meeting to address their individual concerns and goals, and we aim to continue these meetings in the future to keep our community on the right track to constant improvement.
Serving the Community, the MGC way

The Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) was founded with great significance placed on giving back to the community. The members of the UNT campus are no different. They participate in many service and fund-raising endeavors such as Habitat for Humanity, SPAN, Race for the Cure, American Red Cross, and Youth and Family Services. On November 3rd, 2015 the MGC had a fundraiser at CiCi’s pizza that allows for the MGC to provide community assistance and to program for events that are for organizations and individuals on and off campus.

Chapters of the MGC can almost always be found throughout the campus raising money for local or national charities and non-profits. Whether through simply requesting some spare change from the passing crowds of students, or volunteering to get hit with a comically large whip cream pie, they always wear a smile and well represent their letters. We are proud to welcome 32 new initiated members to the community this fall.

The council’s summit will be taking place on February 20th. If you have interest in getting involved, contact the undergraduate members of your chapter, or the Greek Life Staff.

Panhellenic Recruitment Sees Positive Change

This year’s Panhellenic Fall formal recruitment saw some various small but beneficial changes. For one, there was programming prior to the recruitment week to allow for more education about the Panhellenic experience. These programs occurred during the University’s First Flight week as pre-recruitment workshops titled Panhellenic 101. The sessions focused on different topics including areas such as scholarship and academics, service and philanthropy, and sorority finances.

As with the other councils, Panhellenic is planning a summit for the spring. Alumni are welcome to join, just contact your chapter or the Greek Life staff. The summit is planned for January 30th.

This was also the first year that Round 1 of Recruitment was split into 2 evenings allowing for PNM’s and chapters to focus on only 4 open house events for the evening rather than the traditional 8. For the average chapter member, this change took a 13+ hour day to just 6 hours. The Panhellenic community continued to see rising growth through recruitment. We are excited to share the 2015 recruitment statistics below.

**2015 Recruitment Figures**

- 352 – Women Starting Recruitment
- 335 – Women Receiving Bids
- 40 – Fall 2015 Quota
- 120 – Average Chapter Size
In spring of 2015 the leadership from our four councils worked with the Greek Programming Board to start a new tradition. Unity Fest was sadly put on hold due to the impossible to predict Texas weather, but we were all very excited to see it launch this past September.

The event brought members from every council out to build connections and bridge gaps. We packed the Onstead Promenade/Library Mall with bounce houses, food, and even a dunk tank featuring the Greek Life staff. Starting a new tradition is always fun, and this one promises to keep that fun going for years to come.

In honor of unity and diversity between and within each council, the presidents worked together to formulate this statement showing dedication to these values:

"On behalf of all the Greek organizations at the University of North Texas, the Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Panhellenic Council, and Multicultural Greek Council do not support racism or exclusion in any way. We are a diverse Greek Life community based upon the same four pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and brotherhood/sisterhood. We are truly saddened by the events that have taken place in other Greek communities, and while we do not believe this is a reflection upon the Greek Life community at North Texas, we do recognize the issues of racism and the consequences it brings. Thus, we are further committed to creating a more unified and welcoming community."

Greek Emerging Leaders (GEL) is a six week series that is co-instructed in collaboration with the Center for Leadership and Service. The series is designed to develop the future leaders within our Greek community and develop the necessary skills for leading a values-based organization. We just wrapped up the Fall GEL series with 15 leaders successfully completing the course. These 15 leaders represented 12 different chapters and 3 different councils.

Greek Emerging Leaders made me aware of the specific leadership skills that I have and taught me how I can use them to better my chapter," said Colbi Bennett, Chi Omega, GEL Fall 2015 graduate. GEL will be offered again in the spring 2016 semester, and we encourage all chapters to nominate a member for participation.
New In The Building

The Art of our Greek Life Center

When you have a chance to come visit us and see all the new sights on campus, be sure to take a look at our GLC’s beautiful Springer Family Rotunda. Joelle Dietrick, in partnership with Owen Mundy, created a print for us titled “Packet Switching.” The piece uses the familiar shapes of the center and other UNT buildings, historical architectural masterpieces from around the world, numbers, and Greek letters.

According to the artist, the various buildings represent important centers of thought for humanity through the years. Time’s constant passing is shown by the flow of the numbers through the artwork. The Greek letters are actually an excerpt from the famous philosophical text, Plato’s “Republic,” reading, “The object of education is to teach us to love what is beautiful.”

The art aims to inspire our students, and remind us all of the journey that humanity has made to reach this point. “At UNT, multitudes of experiences await and form us, empowering us to both leave a legacy for the next generation and go forth into the world to fill in that open space.”
Greek Life Staff Corner

In October, we welcomed two new team members to our growing office. Kari White and Chrisshele Griffin both showed up with a smile, and continue to keep it shining as the days go by.

Kari White started his Greek career as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha in Anniston/Talladega, Alabama, and has since advised chapters and councils in 4 states. Kari has experience in not just Greek Life, but Residence Life, Campus Life, and Judicial Affairs. He also holds membership in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Order of Omega, and the National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi). We are excited to have him here to work with staff, faculty, advisors and community members to build upon the excellence our campus holds. Kari will take over as coordinator of NPHC, MGC, and risk management.

Chrisshele Griffin joined Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in Culver City, California. She came to Texas looking for a restart, and a change of pace. Chrisshele is easy going and a pleasure to be around. “UNT & the Greek Life Center spoke to my spirit and I just knew it was my job,” said Chrisshele. “This campus seems lively yet comfortable and I felt right at home!” We happily welcome her to the team and our community. Chrisshele will be managing the administrative needs of the Greek Life Center.

We hope that you will get a chance to stop by and meet our new staff members. As always, alumni and their families are welcome here any time. Additionally, if you have interest in hosting a student or alumni event in the GLC, feel free to contact us! We’d love to have you. And as always, Go Mean Green!

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