Greeks Complete Summer of Service

Diana Zhang
Dartmouth’s Greek population has spent a busy summer term planning a flurry of events intended for service and community outreach. With the hope of furthering their contributions to campus and the community, fraternity and sorority houses have put an extraordinary amount of time and energy into organizing various events and fundraisers. A conscious effort was made this term to offer a variety of events in order to attract an above average number of participants and donors.

Aside from large fundraisers such as the Dodgeball Tournament and the Greek Olympics, both held to benefit the United Way, Greek houses have also organized countless more regular opportunities for member participation. Some are the continuation of traditions: Kappa Kappa Gamma and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, for example, continued to make their joint, biweekly trips to David’s House to cook dinner on Friday afternoons. Alpha Phi Alpha brothers maintained their relationship with the Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color by co-sponsoring an African Story Telling Day. Several houses also contributed to the annual Consensual Sex Day which was held July 30th on Webster Avenue.

Many Greek houses hosted lunches and dinners for the participants and volunteers of Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD), a 10-day program that has been given to the College since 2000. The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha added to the SEAD students’ experiences by facilitating a discussion concerning identity. House philanthropy chairs were also able to make new connections and collaborative efforts with the surrounding community’s service programs: The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Kappa Gamma said that they hope to continue this trend in the future.

ORL Hosts Another Successful Greek 101

Orinola Gbadebo-Smith
Amongst all the lighter events of a Dartmouth sophomore summer term, this ‘06 class enjoyed the continuation of the Office of Residential Life’s (ORL) 4th annual Greek 101 Series. Within ORL, the Co-ed Fraternity, Sorority and Sisterhood (CFS) administration spearheaded the four-part leadership sequence, which focuses on a subset of the seven guiding principles of Dartmouth’s Greek community. This year the session topics were leadership, scholarship, inclusivity, and brotherhood/sisterhood. Greek 101 improved on its prior record of success when its coordinators actively gauged the needs of its participants and incorporated them into the program’s curriculum. The result was a more focused and effective program with a greater impact on the community.

“Support of the Greek community is the backbone of Dartmouth’s Greek population, and one way we hope to support our Greek students is by providing them with a greater understanding of the expectations and responsibilities that come with their Greek affiliation.” Clayton Smith, an ‘05 of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., “The team Deb had running the show this year definitely maintained the high standard set by the Greek 101 team last year.” The 2004 student team, which consisted of Orinola Gbadebo-Smith (Alpha Phi Alpha) and Meredith Liu (Delta Delta Delta), managed to send representatives to each session. “This was the first year that each house was able to garner creative ideas from Megan Johnson, the new Assistant Director of CFS Administration, Tommy Lee Woon, the director of Dartmouth’s Office of Pluralism And Leadership (OPAL), and Foad Saleet, community director and CFS liaison. The diverse group was able to garner creative ideas for the sessions, leading to impressive attendance at all events. “Achieving full attendance through the entire program has been a goal of Greek 101 organizers since its inception. This was the first year that each house managed to send representatives to each session.”

Dodgeball Tournament Serves Up a Big Hit

Dino Hall
Playing upon the popularity of Ben Stiller’s summer blockbuster, The Inter Fraternity Council sponsored the first annual “Grab Life by the Ball” Dodgeball Tournament on August 6th to benefit the United Way. The brothers of Theta Delta Chi fraternity took home the grand prize, six golden dodgeballs, after defeating Gamma Delta Chi fraternity in the final round. Other notable teams included one comprised of students from the Tuck Business School and an independent team composed of all football players, both of which made it to the semi-final round.

The event, held in Leede Arena, attracted over 250 cheering onlookers and 150 participants. Twenty-five teams, made up of Greeks and non-Greeks alike, participated in the tournament, which raised $1,000 for the charity.

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Howard Dean Rocks EKT

Cayelan Carey and Meredith Raucher

On August 6th, Howard Dean, one-time Democratic presidential candidate and former governor of Vermont, was invited to speak at a barbecue hosted by Epsilon Kappa Theta and co-sponsored by Alpha Delta.

Over two hundred undergraduates, family members, and faculty attended the event, enjoying delicious hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs grilled by AD members, and tasty delights prepared by Thetas. After mingling and posing for pictures with students, Dr. Dean addressed the crowd on Political Engagement in the 21st Century.

Commencing with, “I know that I was told to give a bipartisan speech, but I can tell you right now that it’s going to be very partisan,” Dr. Dean failed to disappoint the politically diverse crowd with his ideas for political involvement among America’s youth.

In his discourse, Dean described his new program, Democracy for America, and how political involvement at the community level is fundamental for the future of the Democratic Party. Involvement of ordinary people in the political process is essential, beyond mere monetary donations.

This “involvement” could come in the form of something as small as working in one’s local school board. After he finished speaking, Dean fielded questions for over thirty minutes. Specific topics included his opinion on the political future of the Middle East, his thoughts on the outcome of the upcoming election, and his views on President George W. Bush.

However, his final point was the most poignant. Stressing to the students before him that their political participation is more crucial than ever before, Dean challenged Dartmouth students to run for office at as many levels of government as possible.

The event was highly successful, and Epsilon Kappa Theta looks forward to inviting Dr. Dean back in the future.

Cayelan Carey poses for a photo with sisters of Epsilon Kappa Theta sorority after his speech at the house.

New Omega Class Gets Off to an Early Start

Meredith Liu

Each sophomore summer, a new group of students is selected for membership in Order of Omega, the national Greek honor society. Students become eligible to compete for membership within the CFS community this summer. The variety of diverse community programs, service opportunities, and leadership pursuits that Greek members have embarked on is amazing. We are proud to share these accomplishments as we strive to promote the unique and beneficial opportunities that Greek life brings to the College.

The Order of Omega is not only an honor society, but also an active service organization. Previous Omega activities have included a faculty reception at Dean James Larimore’s house, the publication of a manual for CFS scholarship chairs, the annual Greek awards ceremony, and the United Way fundraising campaign.

In the past, Order of Omega has not been active in the summer due to the absence of older members. However, this year, under the leadership of two rising junior Omegans, Brian Burgess (Sigma Phi Epsilon) and Brad Frese (Alpha Theta), all new inductees were required to contribute to an Omega project before their initiation in the Fall.

The initiative was a huge success, allowing the new class of Omegans to connect with each other and give back to the CFS community and the campus at large. Summer projects included a fundraising bake sale to benefit the United Way campaign, the creation of an Order of Omega website, faculty appreciation letters, and the continuation of this publication.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ORDER OF OMEGA CLASS OF 2006

Greeks Assemble from Across the Nation

Sean Anthony

Dartmouth sent eleven delegates to this summer’s Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI), a national program devoted to helping fraternity and sorority leaders transform their communities through values-based action. Started in 1990, the program works with Greek members to develop leadership skills, personal awareness, values, and define their personal commitments to their respective fraternities and sororities throughout the program.

After this summer, more than 6,200 fraternity and sorority leaders will have graduated from the program, representing over 125 different fraternal affiliations, and over 300 colleges and universities.

The Dean’s Office funded the trip for all of Dartmouth’s delegates, who spent five full days participating in a broad range of hands-on activities and discussions. There were both large group sessions and smaller, more intimate “chapter” meetings that aided in “exploring ideas continued on page 4

Greeks Assemble from Across the Nation

Meredith Liu

This summer marked the first ever Greek Leadership and Inclusivity Retreat, a two-day event aimed to help new Greek members develop leadership skills and gain awareness of diversity and inclusivity needs in their community.

The retreat was designed not only to benefit individual participants, but also the Greek community as a whole, as those individuals who attended were able to take their expertise back to their respective houses.

The organizers of the event specifically intended for it to take place during sophomore summer because this time was identified as a critical developmental period for those students in the Greek community. Typically, sophomore summer is the first term that Greeks can hold leadership positions in their houses. Therefore, this term provides an opportunity to reach out to emerging leaders early in their Greek careers. The small student population, and thus smaller membership in organizations, is conducive to relationship building within the community.

The retreat took place at Pierce’s Inn in Etna, NH during the third week of the term. Representatives from nineteen Greek organizations attended the retreat - all six Panhellenic sororities, eleven IFC fraternities, one Co-Ed fraternity, as well as a representative of the Greek Leadership Council. The broad organizational representation gave participants a unique opportunity to meet members of many different houses and strengthen inter-house ties.

ORL has traditionally been the sole supporting office for the Greek community, but this retreat marked the beginning of a significant commitment to aiding Greeks by both the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity and the Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPL).

The event was facilitated by Dean Tommy Woon, an experienced and passionate facilitator, as well as an advocate of Greek life. He has worked with several Greek organizations in the past and currently serves as advisor to Tri-Kap fraternity.

The retreat was a mix of fun ice-breakers, creative skill-building exercises, and intense dialogue. One of the highlights of the retreat was “Crossing the Line,” a diversity awareness program that has been a mainstay of Dean Woon’s programming repertoire. The program seeks to celebrate both similarity and difference by having participants step over a physical line to indicate membership in a certain group or agreement with a certain statement. The topics covered include family life, race, culture, religion, politics, stance, and sexuality. Participants then discuss insights from the activity.

The experience proved to be both surprising and powerful for the retreat participants. Like several other events at the retreat, “Crossing the Line” is offered as a programming option offered by OPL to organizations including Greek houses. Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Alpha, and Tri-Kap fraternities have already used this program for their own memberships.

The highly successful retreat, which received praise from all participants, is certain to become an annual event.

Greeks’ Spirit of Service Stays Strong

Phi Delta Alpha contributed manpower, dinner for, and working at the Prouty Bike Race to fight cancer, a benefit held for the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Alpha Xi Delta helped with the Tucker Foundation’s Dollar-for-Dollar campaign to rebuild an orphanage in Bangladesh by helping to raise funds and attending to administrative aspects of the project. The sisters also traveled to The Edgerton House in conjunction with Students Fighting Hunger, to prepare dinner for underprivileged families in the Upper Valley. Psi U hosted a joint bake sale/barbecue fundraiser with Kappa over Tubestock weekend for Hannah House, a teen pregnancy center in Lebanon. Kappa has also started serving summer dinners there. Kappa Delta Epsilon and Kappa co-sponsored a jewelry sale at KDE in early August. All benefits went to a women’s shelter in the nearby area. Finally, Delta Delta Delta organized a team of sisters to spend a day building with Habitat for Humanity.

These events are only a sampling of what the Greeks contributed to this summer, but clearly demonstrate the motivation and dedication to service within the community. The spirit of service certainly remains strong within the CFS organizations.

Olympics Take Over Webster Avenue

Lauren Pfister

The Panhellenic Council successfully organized the Summer Olympics on Webster Ave on Saturday, August 21. Created as a fundraiser for the United Way, the Olympic Games involved each of the six sororities that created, organized, and ran their own events as well as helped with onsite logistics and scoring. This event was a unique and entertaining opportunity for everyone on campus to come together and compete for a great cause one last time before the end of sophomore summer. “We were all so excited to get this competition under way and could not wait to see the results. The general consensus around campus is that it was a blast,” said Kelsey Weigman, ‘06, a member of Kappa Delta Epsilon.

The idea of a Greek Olympics is common among Greek communities nationwide. Dartmouth, until now, has been one of the few affiliated institutions without an event of this kind. At the end of spring term, representatives from the United Way approached the Greek community asking if there might be interest in initiating a student-run fundraising campaign. The Panhellenic Council felt that this request lent itself perfectly to the creation of the Summer Olympics. It was an excellent chance to support a great cause and bring a widely-recognized event to campus.

The Olympics were a mix of many different events aimed at attracting students with a variety of skills and abilities. The events ranged from playful competition in the Silly Relay Races to goal-seeking and team-building skills in the Brain Teaser Competition. Leading off the games was a poker tournament held Friday night at Sigma Delta sorority house. The next afternoon, a commencement ceremony opened the day’s events. Along with the games, Reaction Speaks played and a free barbecue was held at Chi Gamma. The events drew to an end with a lipsyncing contest and a tug of war match.

Closing the games was an awards ceremony, during which a number of prizes were awarded to teams that displayed extraordinary enthusiasm throughout the day. A team composed of John Timmer, Ryan Alberts, Daniel Rich, Kevin Abraham, Krzyzstof Nida, Jon Raffensperger, Will Osborn, Kevin Brown, Ed Novis, Daniel Yi, and Daniel Lee did so well they ended up bringing home the grand prize, a big screen TV. Maile Carter, ‘06, summed up the feelings of many about what took place by saying, “I hope this event can become a celebrated tradition in the future of Dartmouth because I think it is a wonderful idea and has the potential to be so awesome for everyone involved.”
Greeks connect with SEAD Students

Anne Delehanty

Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD) sponsors high school students from underprivileged backgrounds and brings them to Dartmouth for classes, college preparation, and fun. The program has grown each year since its inception in 2001. SEAD is funded by the Tucker Foundation and the Education Department. However, with the money necessary to fund the many activities and educational programs, in addition to bringing students to Dartmouth from places as far away as Oklahoma, the program depends on the help of other organizations. According to Ali Kelley, the student director for SEAD this summer, “it would be a financial strain on the program” if SEAD had to provide meals for every student during each of the two-week programs. SEAD relies “on donations to keep the program free for the students,” all of whom qualify for federally free or reduced fee school lunch. This summer twenty-one Greek houses hosted meals for the SEAD program in their living rooms or on their lawns. When it was impossible for the SEAD students to come to the houses, Greek community members brought lunch or dinner to the dorms. Without the help of the Greek community, the SEAD program would not have been able to offer a variety of unique courses and activities such as hiking on Mount Moosilauke, roller-skating in West Lebanon, attending the Big Apple Circus, and experiencing other opportunities that might not exist for them in their hometowns.

Ali Kelley emphasized that “beyond just providing food, there were a lot of fun interactions between the SEAD students and the Greek members. Students played football on the lawn of Sig Ep, met the Phi Delt puppy, taught impromptu break dance lessons at Alpha Xi, and played horseshoes at TDX. These interactions continued, as many Greek members made a point to stay involved in SEAD. A group of Alpha Chi’s came to the SEAD III talent show and were even convinced to perform a guitar act.” Joe Killefer, a member of Theta Delta Chi, said the SEAD meal hosted at the house was a huge success. “Pretty much everybody in the house was there for the dinner...Some brothers came out with a football and a rugby ball and started playing around on our lawn and the kids quickly jumped in. We all thought the kids were really funny and extremely outgoing.”

The interaction with so many Dartmouth students was wonderful, and the meals hosted by the Greek community were consistently the most fun, varied, and vibrant meals the SEAD students experienced.

UIF Conference gives broad prospective on greek issues

Nicholas Dejulio ’06, a member of Sig Ep who attended the conference, remarked, “At times I felt very out of place at the conference. Students I met in Bloomington often came from Greek communities where shockingly intense hazing took place, and, largely due to their tradition of freshman fall rush, seemed to view the Greek system as a more fundamental aspect of their lives. “At the same time, however, it was very interesting to meet so many fellow Greeks from around the country, each of whom gave me new perspective regarding the role of our organizations at the national level,” Dejulio continued.

Barclay continued, “The most important and pertinent thing, I believe, that the UIFI facilitators exposed was the fact that no matter what our individual affiliations may be, we are all Greek. We are a community where the actions of any one house reflect back on the whole. So as leaders, while we have the responsibility to ensure the good times and to not let the old traditions fail, we do need to ensure that our Greek community continues to better our campus and organizations on the individual level as much whole.”

Greek 101 membership continues to grow, diversify

Ben Silverman
Ryan Taylor

Many Greek houses will be undergoing renovations this upcoming year in order to become compliant with current safety codes and regulations and meet the conditions of the College’s Fuller Audits.

Phi Delta Alpha

Phi Delt is planning to break ground this fall on a project to make their house compliant with both current fire codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act. This project includes building an enclosed second means of egress in the rear of the house and installing handicapped ramps on the side. Phi Delt also plans to turn a third floor kitchen into more living space and add a kitchen on the first floor.

Gamma Delta Chi

Gamma Delta also has plans to make renovations in order to bring their house up to code. The house recently refurbished a formerly dilapidated first floor room into an office complete with new carpet and paint. In addition, a third floor wall was knocked out in order to transform storage space into more living space. Gamma delt is currently in the process of installing fire sprinklers.

Sigma Phi Epsilon

The brothers of Sig Ep plan to make renovations to the existing house on 11 Webster Avenue. The fraternity hopes that these renovations will begin in the summer of 2005, though the actual start date is uncertain. The external structure of the house will remain essentially the same, while the interior of the house will be significantly altered.

Kappa Kappa Kappa

Tri-Kap has begun to discuss preliminary plans to renovate the house at 1 Webster Avenue, although the plans have yet to be finalized.

As of now the members of the house and the alumni board is still deciding on the extent of the renovations and the potential date of construction. However, “The addition of the staircase and bathroom [on the east side of the house] is almost certainly going to happen,” said Tri-Kap Vice President Paul Rosania ’05.

Scaffolding covers Sigma Nu fraternity.

The house plans on combining some of its single rooms into doubles, renovating the current rooms, and making one continuous staircase. The house will also undergo electrical and plumbing updates, and the fraternity hopes to add both a handicap accessible bathroom and another room to the first floor.

Unlike many other social houses on campus, Sig Ep does not have a bathroom in the basement. The fraternity hopes that the renovations will include the addition of the needed bathroom as well as new boilers.

Alpha Chi Alpha

Alpha Chi Alpha is closed this summer due to renovations.