While looking for ways to grow and improve the Greek community at SHSU, the IFC executive board felt adding a fraternity that was extremely successful could possibly attract more student leaders to the Greek community and the fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta also known as FIJI was a cut above the rest. After contacting the fraternity and finding out there was mutual interest from FIJI in having a chapter at SHSU, both parties worked tirelessly to make it happen by the end of the spring 2013 semester. Establishing a fraternity isn’t something a myriad of people can say that they have accomplished, but the founding fathers of Phi Gamma Delta at SHSU certainly can. Ryan and his brothers desire to build the chapter to be SHSU’s top fraternity in the next 5 to 10 years and hope the fraternity continues to stick to their ideals and not be stereotypical Greeks. FIJI is here to exceed expectations. Graduate relations and council delegate for the SHSU chapter of FIJI, Ryan Caycoya, had been exposed to many potential fraternities prior to FIJI’s expansion. Ryan choose to join FIJI because he wanted to be apart of something new and go down in the history as a founder of a soon to be great fraternity in the Greek community at SHSU. Gaining 20 plus brothers that he can count on and that would support him was what reassured him he made the right decision. The fraternity is big on giving their members leadership opportunities and producing real gentlemen that are involved on campus and community. Ryan and his brothers desire to build the chapter to be SHSU’s top fraternity in the next 5 to 10 years and hope the fraternity continues to stick to their ideals and not be stereotypical Greeks. FIJI is here to exceed expectations.

Sneak Peek @ Greek

The Greek Life Office will be hosting, “Sneak Peek at Greek,” on Monday, August 26, 2013 from 3pm -5pm in the LSC Ballroom. The event will consist of music, food, and the opportunity to mingle with members of SHSU’s Greek Life community. Each Greek organization will have information tables to educate incoming and/or returning bearkats about their fraternities and sororities. Don’t miss this opportunity to get to know the university’s student leaders.

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Celebrated SHSU Greek Life Accomplishments:

- SHSU Greeks completed 13,884 community service hours in the 2012-2013 school year
- SHSU Greeks raised $37,441 for various charities in the 2012-203 school year
- The previous and current SGA President, Miss Sam Houston, and Homecoming Queens are members of the SHSU Greek community
On April 17th, the university acknowledged students and staff who have done great things on and off campus at the 19th annual Sammy Awards. Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority’s Angelic Ortiz, Phi Gamma Delta fraternity’s Andrew Colarusso, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority’s Alexis Bloomer, Alpha Delta Pi sorority’s Meagan Morrison, the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and the Alpha Delta Pi sorority all received awards. Their accomplishments continue to add to the legacy of Greek student leaders and organizations truly being the university’s champions of leadership and service.

A few weeks later, on May 2nd, Greek Life held the 3rd annual Pantheon awards where Greek chapters receive awards based on the Greek Life’s STAR Program, that accesses the work their organizations in regards to leadership, service, scholarship, organizational management, campus involvement, and recruitment. Awards were also given based on the Greek students nominating and voting for their fellow Greek student leaders. Almost 200 awards were given to Greek students, advisors, and organizations with there being several performances throughout the event by Greek students and other talented bearkats.

The Sigma Kappa Omega and Lambda Theta Alpha sororities of the Multicultural Greek Council were dominant at this year’s awards show taking home several chapter and individual student leader awards, most notably was the 5 Star Chapter Award. It is the highest honor a Greek organization can receive from the Greek Life office for achieving excellence in all components of the STAR program. This year marked the 2nd consecutive year Sigma Kappa Omega sorority earned 5 star chapter status, cementing them as the standard of excellence in the Greek community at SHSU.

Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Tau Alpha, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Alpha Delta Pi sororities all earned 4 star chapter awards at the Pantheon. Seasoned Greek student leaders Chelsea Crane, Kat Colvin, Raymond Berry, and Craig McCrary were inducted into the Greek Life Hall of Fame for their hard work and dedication not only to their respective chapter, their Greek council, and the entire Greek community at SHSU. The Greek Life honor society, the Order of Omega, is charged with coordinate the awards showcase and they are over time creating a longstanding tradition at for the Greek community at SHSU.

Sorority formal recruitment will take place August 28th - 31st, 2013. Fall recruitment is a formal process for prospective sorority members to meet women of the four Panhellenic Association chapters at SHSU and for the Greek women to meet the potential new members. It also is a time for potential new members to learn what it means to be a member of the Panhellenic Association and the SHSU Greek community. It is the perfect time to learn about the principles, standards, traditions, and programming of each individual sorority. Some chapters may also recruit after the formal recruitment period during a period called Continuous Open Bidding (COB) or informal recruitment (which takes place after formal recruitment or during the spring semester). The process during informal recruitment varies from chapter to chapter. For more information on Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment and to register please visit: www.shsu.edu/~org_npc

Panhellicnic Association Recruitment
Inter-Fraternity Council Recruitment Week

IFC Recruitment Week will take place September 10th-14th, 2013. Recruitment is open to any male student attending SHSU that is in good standing with the university. All returning SHSU students as well as transfer students must have a 2.4 or higher cumulative grade point average. There is a $20 registration fee, but students will be refunded $5 if they attend all of the week’s activities.

To obtain more detailed information on IFC Recruitment and to register we encourage you to visit our website samgreeks.com. You may also visit the IFC table at Passport to Sam and talk to IFC’s executive board members during Sneak Peek at Greek on August 26th. Fraternities are ethical and value-based organizations where strong bonds form and life-long friendships are developed. While IFC fraternities will provide valuable professional networking across the country in the future, they provide interested young men with a family of like-minded and similarly motivated men immediately and throughout their four years as an undergraduate at SHSU.

Multicultural Greek Council’s Showcase

MGC Showcase will take place on September 10, 2013 at 7pm in the LSC Ballroom. MGC Showcase provides those students who are interested in learning more about the different aspects of Multicultural Greek Life and an opportunity to meet members from the organizations and learn specific information about each of the seven chapters that make up the Multicultural Greek Council. The Multicultural Greek Council prides themselves on service to the community and spreading diversity throughout the Huntsville community. Though they are the youngest of the four Greek councils, their organizations have been very successful at SHSU. The Multicultural Greek Council is currently the fastest growing council currently and with two additional organizations expanding to SHSU in the Fall 2013 semester giving them a total of nine chapters. They are truly a council on the rise.

National Pan-Hellenic Council’s Greek Assembly

National Pan-Hellenic Council at SHSU will be sponsoring their bi-annual informational session called NPHC Greek Assembly in the LSC Ballroom at 5pm on September 9, 2013. Each NPHC member organization will give a brief overview of the history, programs, and membership requirements for their organization as well as provide a better understanding of the NPHC Greek experience. Information is also presented on current university policies regarding hazing. After the program is over, there will be a designated location in the LSC for refreshments and the chance to meet and interact with members of each of the NPHC organizations. Attendance at the NPHC Greek Assembly is required for all students interested in being considered for membership in a NPHC fraternity or sorority. If you have any questions about how to join any of these organizations, this is definitely a program you don’t want to miss. Please be on time and dress in business attire as this program is a professional event.
Kim Novak to deliver keynote address during S.A.F.E. Week

September 3rd – September 6th, the Greek Life office will collaborate with the university’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Initiative in sponsoring S.A.F.E. Week, a risk management week which will address hazing, underage drinking, safe driving practices, general campus safety practices, and education of resources the campus and university police department provide for students.

The week will feature guest speakers from the University Police Department, the university’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Initiative, and a keynote anti-hazing speaker, Kim Novak. Kim is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Novak Talks. She is recognized as national expert in student-focused risk management, engaging students in campus safety and hazing prevention. She has presented at national conferences and on campuses around the country on a variety of topics including: effective accountability models, critical decision-making strategies, hazing prevention, current issues in higher education law and policy, campus safety efforts that engage students, as well as proactive risk management. Prior to founding Novak Talks, Kim served as the Program Coordinator for Risk Management and Organizational Development at Texas A&M University. While there she led the implementation of the University's internationally recognized proactive risk management plan for student organizations.

Kim will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Sam Houston State University community. With college students across the nation continuously being involved in many risk management issues, SHSU’s Greek Life office wants to be proactive in educating not only the SHSU Greek community, but all SHSU students on the proper risk management practices they should adopt for their safety.

Contact Us

We hope this issue is helpful to you and welcome your contributions, comments, and suggestions concerning this newsletter. It is our hope that this newsletter will help keep the community informed and connected to Greek Life. Please direct your questions and comments to the editor of The Olympian:

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