



inside this issue

Where to from Here?-A Perspective on the Future of Greek Life

page 1 & 4

Chapter Trends

page 2-3

“If you don't watch out, you'll end up where you're going.”

-Frank Sullivan

Think about it.

Where is your chapter going?

Where to from here?

by Larry Lunsford

As we begin a new century, undergraduate chapters must be challenged to look to the future and determine where they are going and how they are going to get there--undergraduates and alumni/alumnae together.

Writer Frank Sullivan once said, "If you don't watch out, you'll end up where you're going." Think about it. *Where is your chapter going?* Where are you as undergraduates headed in a society, which places more responsibility on the individual than in any other time in history? Do not fear innovation and change, or you will end up where you are going. The only thing worse than changing times is the inability to change with them.

In this new century, membership recruitment must remain a priority. Some chapters may have to amend their recruitment process. Continually innovate your chapter programs, particularly recruitment and pledge/associate member/new member education. Recognize that people change each year and appreciate this by adapting your programs to new times and new people.

Undergraduates often hear speeches encouraging them to return to the ideals and standards established and followed by their founders. They are

also encouraged to remember the basic values and ethics taught by their parents.

It bothers me that throughout the country, the basic fraternal movement philosophy adopted by the press and others is one of physical and mental humiliation of pledges, active social programs, all-night drinking, and academic dishonesty. Only we can change our image. In the widely

acclaimed comic strip, "Pogo," by the late Walt Kelly, one of the inhabitants of the Okefenokee Swamp, says, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." Nowhere is that eloquent twisting of a cliché more applicable than in the fraternal world.

That is why it is crucial to keep up with the times and complement formal education with scholarly

programs. *Will Greeks remain an active and vital part of American higher education in the future?* Greeks must develop stronger relationships with their alumni and university officials by sharing the positive things they do.

Former National Panhellenic Conference officer, Betty Mullins Jones, said, "The destiny of the university and the destiny of the fraternity are intertwined irredeemingly. We have grown side-by-side. We have not always agreed. We have not always been good to

(continued on page 4)



Chapter Trends

University of Southern Mississippi



Phi Mu, Sigma Nu, and Pi Kappa Alpha sponsored "bobbin' for apples."

Frostburg State University

"Our chapter is one of many student organizations adding diversity and enthusiasm to our campus.."

Florida Southern College

"The Omega Delta chapter has been very active in several programs and activities this year. "

On October 28, 1999, the chapter sponsored "Trick or Treat on Greek Street." Each Greek organization joined with another and chose a theme for the house they hosted. Children of Pinehaven, Aldersgate Mission, elementary schools in three counties, and area day care centers were invited. .

At the event, children and their parents walked along fraternity row visiting each house. Each group sponsored a different game or event, where children could play and receive candy. Activities included a costume contest, space walk, dunking booth, bobbin' for apples, musical chairs, face painting, and a bean bag toss. This night was truly enjoyed by everyone.

On November 6, 1999, the USM football team traveled to the University of Alabama. Order of Omega organized a group of students to support the team at the game. Tickets were reserved prior to the beginning of school and were sold to over 50 students who traveled by caravan to the game and sat together.

Prior to the game, we had a tailgate party with the Hattiesburg Alumni Association and the Tuscaloosa Area Alumni Association. A pep rally was also held featuring the Southern Miss Cheerleaders and the Pride Band.

The chapter would like to continue to sponsor the event in the future.

-Submitted by Casey Guyton

In a wide array of events, from Parent's Weekend to Homecoming, our chapter is one of many student organizations adding diversity and enthusiasm to our campus.

At Homecoming, our chapter won first place in the Banner Competition. This is the first time the chapter has won any student competition.

Our chapter is composed of our Greek community's best and brightest, including members from Pi Lambda Pi, Alpha Sigma Tau, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, and Phi Mu. With the recent initiation of six new members, our

chapter has grown in both size and strength.

Our main goal this spring includes continuing the interaction between and education of Greek organizations. To this end, our chapter hosts C.H. O.I.C.E.S. (Choosing Healthy Options in Collegiate Experiences). This is a day-long series of seminars and activities geared toward interactive learning about important issues, from responsible drinking to date rape.

-Submitted by David Gurzick

The Omega Delta chapter has been very active in the several programs and activities this year.

First, the chapter awards a \$100 scholarship for books to the sorority and fraternity, which earns the highest GPA. The recipient sorority or fraternity then gives the award to their member with the highest GPA in recognition of their efforts and success.

Chapter members will also help FSC's Interfraternity and Panhellenic Public Relations Chairs create an all-

Greek newsletter.

The annual Greek awards will be also presented this spring. Each chapter gives a PowerPoint presentation. Then, members of Order of Omega deliberate and select the most improved fraternity or sorority, the most outstanding fraternity or sorority, and the best philanthropic program overall at FSU.

-Submitted by Kimberly Williams

f Omega chapters around the country

Chapter Trends

University of Ohio

“The Zeta Gamma chapter has come a long way in the last year to become a leading campus organization.”

University of Southern Florida

“Members sacrificed part of their Christmas Break to make a difference.”

The Zeta Gamma chapter has come a long way in the last year to become a leading campus organization. We have increased our membership from only 5 to 31 in the last year, and are currently preparing for another recruitment effort this quarter.

On October 18, during the week of Homecoming, our chapter hosted the first ever “Omegamouth” lip sync contest. Ten teams competed. They had two hours to develop a choreographed routine complete with costumes and props to a pre-selected song. More than 900 students attended, and we raised over \$1,000 for the Athens chapter of Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The event was so

successful that it earned a permanent spot during Homecoming week on the Greek calendar.

For the first time, we will host the Greek Awards Banquet in the spring, and it is likely become a permanent activity for our chapter.

We congratulate Becky Ramseyer, an undergraduate member of Chi Omega, on receiving a National Order of Omega scholarship. We also congratulate Brian Perry, our chapter advisor and a graduate student, on his Omega Fellowship Award, and thank him for paving the way to our chapter’s new-found success.

-Submitted by Darcie Kindred

The Beta Lambda Chapter participated in a 30 day community service project called “Honor Wrap” during November and December, 1999.

Members sacrificed part of their Christmas Break to make a difference. The community service consisted of wrapping presents at the Citrus Park Town Center Mall. The event successfully raised \$7,229 for the Spring of Tampa Bay, a domestic violence shelter for women and children, and \$675 for Honor Scholarships at USF.

“Honor Wrap” was sponsored by the Council of Honor Societies and

coordinated by Ted Rivera, Beta Lambda Chapter President, and Teresa Martin, Beta Lambda Chapter Advisor. A total of 100 students from different honor societies and student organizations participated in “Honor Wrap.”

The following Order of Omega members helped make this event possible: Erika Jasen, Alexia Shemroske, Kelley Cason, Randy Moss, Cathy Bailey, Sofia Fernandez, Raiza Calderon, Maria Ortiz, Jason Runkles, Casey Simmons, Tracy Dace, Marnie MacLaren, and Paolo Amato.

-Submitted by Ted Rivera

You’re a member, but do you have the shirt?

Show your membership with an official Order of Omega T-shirt. These shirts come in Large and XL and are only \$8.50 each.

Contact the National Order of Omega to order your shirt.

1408 W. Abram St., Ste. 205
Arlington, TX 76013

Where to from Here?

each other, but we have been good for each other." *How long will it take to realize respect and loyalty are earned commodities?*

Undergraduates have the chance to select a group of men or women to associate with and of which they can be proud. These friends have a lasting impact on their goals, activities, and interests.

Greek organizations help students adjust to the college environment.

Developing friendships, finding oneself, and adjusting to school are among the many benefits of Greek membership. Through scholastic programs, academic records can be developed along with social

consciousness. Greek membership gives a person a sense of belonging in new surroundings, while allowing the person their individuality. Greek membership develops these personal ideas and beliefs to a much higher degree. Students also learn a major life skill, how to get along with others!

Greeks and leadership go hand-in-hand. A fraternity or sorority truly offers an outstanding opportunity to develop this quality. Leading business people, scientists, and educators are largely comprised of fraternity and sorority

members. Undergraduates can learn from these excellent examples.

Hopefully, Greek leaders will accept this most difficult challenge ahead of them. Do not be afraid to try something new, change the old, and innovate everything you do. Albert Schweitzer gave us the very simple answer.

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing." Be an example!

Undergraduate Greeks are challenged and depended on to continue the standard of excellence set in the past. I am hopeful you will have the courage, the vision, and the foresight to set your sights and goals high and perform beyond mediocrity.



-Larry Lunsford is the University Ombudsman and Associate Dean of Students at Florida International University and a member of the Order of Omega National Board of Directors. A member of Pi Kappa Alpha, Larry has served his fraternity as International Vice President; North Atlantic Region President; Educational Commission Member; Foundation Scholarship Committee Member; and Nominating Committee Member.

www.orderofomega.org

Need an answer to an Order of Omega question???

Visit us on the web!

The National
Order of Omega
1408 W. Abram St.,
Suite 205
Arlington, TX
76013-1789
(817) 265-4074
Fax: (817) 459-3355
E-Mail:
hq@orderofomega.org

Omega Trends is printed on recycled paper.



Graduating?

Show your Order of Omega membership at graduation with Order of Omega Honor Cords. Cords are just \$6 each. Please send a check and your address to the National Office to order yours today!

