



2018 - 2019 Annual Report

Introduction

The 2018-2019 school year was a record-setting and productive year for the fraternity and sorority community at Western Kentucky University. Membership numbers are amongst the highest in WKU's Greek history, with our fall 2018 numbers being the 3rd highest ever and our Spring 2019 numbers being the 2nd highest ever. Grade-wise, our All Fraternity Average and All Sorority Average are the highest in WKU's Greek history for both the fall and spring semesters; both are well above the all-men's and all women's GPA. Lastly, the WKU Greek community set records for the number of service hours (70,000+) and philanthropic dollars raised (\$351,000).

Recruitment and Membership

Our Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council's main method of increasing and welcoming new members is through Formal Recruitment, which takes place in August.

Panhellenic Formal Recruitment in 2018 had 514 women participate in the first round, with 421 women attending Preference. 414 women were matched through the formal process, representing 77% of the women who participated in Go Greek Round (first round). 19 women were released through recruitment and 81 women withdrew. 339 women were matched with their first choice and 56 women were matched with their second choice. Quota was 42 new members, a decrease from 46 in fall 2017. The National Panhellenic Conference approved the automatic reset of Chapter Total at the conclusion of Formal Recruitment in 2014, resulting in Chapter Total being set at 151 in fall 2018, compared to 154 for fall 2017. All chapters met quota during the formal recruitment process, which is relatively uncommon at WKU! Our Panhellenic sorority membership in the fall 2018 semester was at 1490 women, a decrease from fall 2017's 1551 women. In late fall 2015, the National Panhellenic Conference approved the reestablishment of total before classes in the non-primary recruitment semester (spring semester). They also strongly encouraged campuses to adopt the median chapter size as the determination for chapter total. This resulted in total lowering from 151 to 142, based off the membership numbers of the 5th largest chapter. For spring 2019, that was Alpha Gamma Delta with 142. Because of this reset of total, only four NPC chapters participated in continuous open bidding (COB): Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, and Sigma Kappa. Overall, the NPC sorority community welcomed 20 women in the spring 2019 semester and 26 counting Sigma Alpha's new members (Sigma Alpha is not part of NPC, but is part of the WKU Panhellenic community).

Exactly 323 men signed bids in fall 2018, one of the largest totals in WKU history. This is up from the 291 who signed during the fall of 2017. The fall 2018 fraternity membership was 973 men. This is up from fall 2017, where membership was at 953. Part of the reason for the increase was the recolonization of Delta Tau Delta, who signed 57 men during the fall semester. For Spring 2019, fraternity membership was 890 men. This is up from Spring 2018, where membership was at 881.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities and sororities increased their membership. NPHC membership this spring was 89 members (33 men and 56 women). The fall 2018 average NPHC fraternity chapter size was 3.5. The spring 2019 average NPHC fraternity chapter size was 6.6 members. The fall 2018 average NPHC sorority chapter size was 9 members. The spring 2019 average

NPHC sorority chapter size was 14. The organizations have embraced the WKU Intake Packet and the recreation of the required Greek 101 workshop for students interested in joining.

Philanthropy Report

With 70,000+ service hours and \$351,000+ donated to various causes in 2018-2019, the fraternity and sorority community remained committed to service and philanthropy in this record setting year! Each organization spends time and money supporting the causes that are near and dear to them. The Greek Week Blood Drive is one of the largest collegiate blood drives in the country. This year, we celebrated 33 years of the WKU Greek Blood Drive by collecting 1,490 pints of blood, allowing the Greek community to potentially help save over 4,000+ lives. This total was the highest in 8 years. **During Philanthropy Day of Greek Week, the Greek community collected 132,000+ canned goods for several Bowling Green food pantries and numerous school backpack food programs. The 132,000 canned food items collected was an increase of approximately 71,000 cans from the previous year and set a record for number of canned food items collected!** The Greek community continues to be a large supporter of Midnight on the Hill (formerly Up 'til Dawn), Dance Big Red, and the Student United Way.

Scholarship

Our Greek community set GPA records the 3rd straight semester (both our fraternity men and sorority women)! The overall fraternity and sorority averages continue to exceed the All Men's and Women's averages. The All-Sorority average was 3.347 during fall 2018 and 3.343 during spring 2019 as compared to the All-Women's average of 3.051 during fall 2018 and 3.085 during spring 2019. The All-Fraternity average was 2.900 during fall 2018 and 2.954 during spring 2019 as compared to the All-Men's average of 2.715 during fall 2018 and 2.815 during spring 2019. **Our sorority women are roughly a quarter point above the All Women's Average and our fraternity men are nearly two tenths above the All Men's Average.**

Greek Week

Greek Week is one of the largest student run programs in the Greek Affairs Office. The Greek Committee consisted of 32 students from 18 organizations. Events included Spring Sing, Banner, Blood Drive, Greek Feud, Faculty Appreciation, Events Day, Tug, Philanthropy Day and Awards Convocation. Greek Week continues to be a success. Over 3,500 people attended Spring Sing in Diddle Arena. 1,490 pints of blood were donated to the American Red Cross during the Blood Drive. Approximately 800 people attended Events Day at the football stadium. Tug saw approximately 1,500 people attend to watch the day's action. Awards convocation was attended by approximately 1,750 people – this year in Diddle Arena as it's the only venue large enough to host all of our greeks. Philanthropy Day saw us collecting 132,000+ cans, over 71,000 more cans than were collected in 2018 (this represented an all-time high). Greek Week ended with the annual Awards Convocation which included the following awards:

Greek Hall of Fame: The following were inducted into the WKU Greek Hall of Fame this year

- **Alpha Delta Pi:** Anna Baldree, Nicole Childress, Haley Lord, Mackenzie Pettus
- **Alpha Gamma Delta:** Mary Beth Childers, Imagine McCollum
- **Alpha Kappa Alpha:** Michaela Carter, Ciara Futrell
- **Alpha Omicron Pi:** Megan DeVore, Grace Johnson, MacKenzie Moore
- **Alpha Xi Delta:** Ashtin Seaton, Katrina Stark
- **Chi Omega:** Katie Antle, Michaela Brangers, Claire Ottman, Kelly Peterson
- **Delta Sigma Theta:** Courtney Hurst
- **Delta Tau Delta:** James Hill, Matthew Wine
- **Delta Zeta:** Sabrina Adams
- **FarmHouse:** Garrett Cobb
- **Kappa Delta:** Kathrine, Gaiko, Riley Jones, Aubrey Kelley, Emma Mirabelli, Janae Wellum
- **Kappa Sigma:** Kody Okert
- **Lambda Chi Alpha:** Nathan Seged
- **Omega Phi Alpha:** Harlee Havens, Lyn Dawson Steenbergen
- **Phi Delta Theta:** Jacob Cash, Bailey Dahnquist, Cody Lunsford, Colton McGlone
- **Phi Gamma Delta:** Jonathan Greene, Nikil Ravishankar
- **Pi Kappa Alpha:** Wood Brown
- **Phi Mu:** Kayla Ditto, Catherine Hines, Allison Hoey
- **Sigma Alpha Epsilon:** Clay Groce
- **Sigma Kappa:** Maria Long, Savannah Molyneaux
- **Sigma Phi Epsilon:** Evan Heichelbech, Juan Pinilla, Jeff Williams

Greek Week Award Winners:

The following won awards for placing at various Greek Week activities (*sorority listed first, then fraternity*):

Spring Sing

- 4th place – Alpha Xi Delta
- 3rd place – Alpha Omicron Pi
- 2nd place – Phi Mu
- 1st place – Kappa Delta

- 4th place – Lambda Chi Alpha
- 3rd place – Phi Gamma Delta
- 2nd place – Sigma Phi Epsilon
- 1st place – Phi Delta Theta

Banner

- 3rd place – Kappa Delta
- 2nd place – Chi Omega
- 1st place – Phi Mu

- 3rd place – Alpha Gamma Rho
- 2nd place – Sigma Phi Epsilon
- 1st place – Kappa Sigma

Events Day

- 3rd place – Chi Omega
- 2nd place – Kappa Delta
- 1st place – Alpha Omicron Pi

- 3rd place – Kappa Alpha
- 2nd place – Kappa Sigma
- 1st place – Phi Gamma Delta

Blood Drive

- 3rd place – Alpha Delta Pi
 - 2nd place – Chi Omega
 - 1st place – Kappa Delta
-
- 3rd place – FarmHouse
 - 2nd place – Delta Tau Delta
 - 1st place – Alpha Gamma Rho

Greek Feud

- 3rd place – Alpha Omicron Pi
 - 2nd place – Alpha Gamma Delta
 - 1st place – Chi Omega
-
- 3rd place – Sigma Nu
 - 2nd place – Sigma Phi Epsilon
 - 1st place – Phi Delta Theta

Tug

- 4th place – Delta Zeta
 - 3rd place – Chi Omega
 - 2nd place – Phi Mu
 - 1st place – Alpha Xi Delta
-
- 4th place – Sigma Phi Epsilon
 - 3rd place – Alpha Gamma Rho
 - 2nd place – Alpha Tau Omega
 - 1st place – FarmHouse

Canstruct for Cause

- 3rd place – Alpha Delta Pi
 - 2nd place – Alpha Xi Delta
 - 1st place – Kappa Delta
-
- 3rd place – Sigma Nu
 - 2nd place – Phi Delta Theta
 - 1st place – Phi Gamma Delta

Philanthropy Day Cans donated (per member)

- 3rd place – Chi Omega
- 2nd place – Alpha Omicron Pi
- 1st place – Kappa Delta

- 3rd place – Sigma Phi Epsilon
- 2nd place – Phi Delta Theta
- 1st place – Alpha Gamma Rho

Greek Week Overall

- 3rd Place – Phi Mu
- 2nd Place – Chi Omega
- 1st Place – Kappa Delta

- 3rd Place – Sigma Phi Epsilon
- 2nd Place – Alpha Gamma Rho
- 1st Place – Phi Delta Theta

Chapter Achievement Awards:

Alumni Development Award:

Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Xi Delta
Chi Omega
Kappa Delta
Lambda Chi Alpha
Phi Delta Theta
Phi Gamma Delta
Phi Mu
Sigma Chi
Sigma Kappa
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Outstanding Intramurals Award:

Alpha Xi Delta
Kappa Delta
Phi Delta Theta
Phi Gamma Delta
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Outstanding New Member Program:

Sigma Kappa
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Philanthropic Service Award:

Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Gamma Delta
Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Xi Delta
Kappa Delta
Phi Delta Theta
Phi Gamma Delta
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Chapter Development Award:

Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Xi Delta
Delta Zeta
Kappa Delta
Phi Delta Theta
Phi Gamma Delta
Sigma Kappa
Sigma Nu
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Scholastic Achievement Award:

Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Gamma Delta
Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Xi Delta
Chi Omega
Delta Tau Delta
Delta Zeta
Kappa Delta
Omega Phi Alpha
Phi Delta Theta
Phi Gamma Delta
Phi Mu
Sigma Kappa
Sigma Nu
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Campus Involvement and Leadership Award:

Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Xi Delta
Chi Omega
Delta Tau Delta
Delta Zeta
Kappa Delta
Phi Delta Theta

Phi Gamma Delta
Phi Mu
Sigma Kappa
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Greek Involvement Award:

Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Gamma Delta
Alpha Gamma Rho
Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Xi Delta
Chi Omega
Delta Zeta
Kappa Delta
Kappa Sigma
Phi Delta Theta
Phi Gamma Delta
Phi Mu
Sigma Kappa
Sigma Nu
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Most Improved Fraternity: Alpha Gamma Rho

Most Improved Sorority: Alpha Xi Delta

Sorority Outstanding New Member: Amanda Harder, Alpha Xi Delta

Fraternity Outstanding New Member: Kody Okert, Kappa Sigma

Sorority Outstanding Advisor Award: Eva Hutcheson, Sigma Kappa

Fraternity Outstanding Advisor Award: David Serafini, Sigma Phi Epsilon

Howard Bailey Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Sharron Francis, Alpha Delta Pi

Charley Pride Spirit Award: Haley Lord, Alpha Delta Pi and Juan Pinilla, Sigma Phi Epsilon

Greek Man of the Year: Ben Hopper, Sigma Phi Epsilon

Greek Woman of the Year: Savannah Brant, Alpha Gamma Delta and Kylie Schaefer, Kappa Delta

Karen Towell Sisterhood Award: Alpha Omicron Pi

M. Reed Morgan Award: Sigma Phi Epsilon

Scott Taylor Chapter Achievement Award: Sigma Phi Epsilon

Greek Programming

New Member Symposium: On Saturday, September 15th, 550 new members of the WKU Greek community came together for a morning of pertinent breakout sessions and a keynote by Charlotte Elder, WKU Communications Professor and expert in social media marketing. The students divided into smaller groups where they attended two breakout sessions hosted by Fraternity/Sorority Headquarters Staff, Judicial Affairs, Student Activities, and the IFC/Panhellenic Officers.

Greek Leadership Symposium: On Saturday, February 9th, 650 Greek students participated in the Greek Leadership Symposium. The keynote was led by Gerron Hurt, MasterChef Season 9 winner and WKU Greek Alum; his keynote was about entrepreneurship and his experiences as a young entrepreneur. The students then attended three breakout sessions of their choosing on various topics such as: mental health, financial management, networking, relationship issues, and transferrable skills such as home buying and navigating oneself as a young professional.

Leadership and Volunteerism Programming: Many of our Greek students participate in Leadership and Volunteerism programs throughout the year. Numerous Greeks participate in the Dynamic Leadership Institute, a 4 phase leadership program designed to hone one's leadership skills. Several sorority women participated in the Alternative Spring Break trips and nearly everyone on Midnight on the Hill and Student United Way (volunteerism boards) are greek. Greek Life is committed to recruiting for Leadership & Volunteerism initiatives and setting Leadership & Volunteerism events as part of the Greek calendar. Likewise, Leadership & Volunteerism is a terrific partner in facilitating for various symposiums or chapter developments.

Greek Academic Banquet: On Wednesday, March 20th, 575 students attended the annual Greek Academic Banquet at Carol Knicely Center. This program recognized the scholastic success of our organizations and individuals. To be invited, a student must have a 3.6 GPA or above. In previous years, students had to have a 3.5 or above to attend, however, the GPA was raised to a 3.6+ because over 1,000 students qualified using the 3.6 GPA and capacity for the venue was only 600 people.

Highlights

Academic Milestones: *For the third consecutive semester, our greek men and greek women earned the highest ever grade point average in WKU Greek History when comparing to previous fall and spring semester grades.* The All-Sorority average was 3.347 during fall 2018 and 3.343 during spring 2019 as compared to the All-Women's average of 3.051 during fall 2018 and 3.085 during spring 2019. The All-Fraternity average was 2.900 during fall 2018 and 2.954 during spring 2019 as compared to the All-Men's average of 2.715 during fall 2018 and 2.815 during spring 2019. **Our sorority women are roughly a quarter point above the All Women's Average and our fraternity men are nearly two tenths above the All Men's Average.**

Service and Philanthropic Dollars Donated Record Broken: With 70,000+ service hours and \$351,000+ donated during the 2018-2019 school year, the fraternity and sorority community broke records for both the amount of service hours and dollars donated! Outside of dollars donated the Greek Week Blood Drive is one of the largest collegiate blood drives in the country. This year, we celebrated 33 years of the WKU Greeks Blood Drive by collecting 1,490 pints of blood, allowing the Greek community to potentially help save over 4,000+ lives. This total was the highest in 8 years. **During Philanthropy Day of Greek Week, the Greek community collected 132,000+ canned goods for various local Bowling Green food pantries, an increase of approximately 71,000 cans from the previous record number collected!**

Walk a Mile: On Wednesday, April 3rd, the Interfraternity Council hosted the 9th annual Walk-a-Mile fundraiser to raise awareness about sexual violence and raise money for the local rape and crisis center, Hope Harbor. ***125 men walked up and down the Hill in heels, the most who have ever walked this event; the event also raised \$3,500 for Hope Harbor, the highest amount ever donated.*** This event got terrific news coverage from the College Heights Herald and local TV stations, WBKO and WNKY.

Council and Advisor Recognition at the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference (SEIFC): This year, 10 students and staff traveled to Atlanta from Thursday, February 21st through Sunday, February 24th for the SEIFC conference. **The InterFraternity Council won the Excellence in Outstanding Academic & Scholarships Programing, Excellence in Outstanding Service Project, and Excellence in Outstanding Recruitment Award at the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference (SEIFC). Advisor Andrew Rash won the Dr. Tom Shoemaker Award for Advisor of the Year. In addition, IFC executive council members Kody Okert (Kappa Sigma) and Will Downey (Phi Delta Theta) placed third in the Order of Omega Case Study Competition.**

Issues/Concerns from 2017-2018 School Year:

Communication between Councils: This issue has not improved in any measurable way. Currently, the only time all three council presidents meet up is during the Greek Presidents' Roundtable each month. This past year, there were no programs there were co-sponsored by an NPHC group and an IFC/Panhellenic group.

A larger issue stems from the fact that there are few programs that draw all three councils together. Traditional programs designed for members of all three councils such as Homecoming, New Member Symposium, Greek Leadership Symposium, Greek Week, and Convocation have, for the most part, only appealed to IFC and Panhellenic fraternities and sororities. Likewise, programming that gathers lots of NPHC interest such as the Step Show and probate shows, only appeals to NPHC fraternities and sororities.

With the creation of the Greek Presidents' Retreat, one hope is that more chapter presidents will communicate and come up with creative ideas that appeal to members of all three councils or between NPHC/IFC and NPHC/Panhellenic groups. NPHC has also been asked if they want to host their NPHC awards during the Greek Convocation, thus highlighting ALL Greek fraternities and sororities. We are still awaiting an answer from NPHC to see if this is something they would consider. Further work must be done to create a Greek system that is more collaborative with each other.

Nationwide Risk Management Issues: Nationwide high-level risk management issues still persist, although probably fewer notable cases occurred during the 2018-19 school year as compared to the previous couple of years.

WKU continues to combat risk management issues through education in a multitude of ways such as:

- Using programs such as the New Member Symposium and Greek Leadership Symposium to talk about Consent, WKU policies (presented by the Office of Student Conduct), working with the police (presented by the WKU Police), mental health issues, etc.
- Having the Office of Student Conduct speak with all potential new members to discuss hazing, what it is, and whom they can contact should there ever be an issue.
- Continually educate our chapter advisors and presidents about WKU policies and what our expectation is if a chapter faces a potential risk management incident. This is discussed at Greek Advisors' Roundtables, Greek Presidents' Roundtables, and the newly created Greek Presidents' Retreat in January.

WKU has looked at creating a task force made up of undergraduates, chapter advisors, WKU faculty and staff, and police to look at our policies and various facts about WKU Greek Life to see if there are any improvements to be made. This has yet to be implemented, however, we have looked at what other peer and aspirant schools to decide how this would best be implemented. Ultimately, getting buy-in from all constituents (chapter members, alumni (ae) advisors, and WKU faculty/staff) would be paramount in making potential changes to the Greek system should a task force be created.

Public Relations regarding Greek Perception: Public perception amongst WKU Greek Life was overall very positive this year. There were very few incidents that created any negative PR for the WKU Greek system. On the contrary, several positive stories occurred such as:

- **Record setting GPA's by BOTH our fraternity men and sorority women**
- **Fall to Spring retention for Freshman joining WKU Greek Life was 94%**
- **Record setting number of service hours and philanthropy dollars donated**
 - **Several chapters received positive PR from the WKU Herald, local news stations, and even national recognition (Kappa Delta Shenanigans – \$30,000+ Philanthropy, Alpha Xi Delta Blue Tie Philanthropy – \$25,000+ Philanthropy, Kappa Delta Shamrock Shootout – \$20,000 Philanthropy, FIJI Bike4Alz – \$50,000 Philanthropy)**
- **IFC being recognized at their regional conference (SEIFC) for numerous awards**
- **IFC Advisor, Andrew Rash, recognized as the SEIFC Advisor of the Year**
- **Walk-A-Mile setting records for most participants and most dollars raised**
- **Several chapters (Sigma Phi Epsilon, Delta Zeta, Alpha Omicron Pi, and Lambda Chi Alpha) have started building new fraternity/sorority houses**
- **Greek Week Philanthropic Endeavors**
 - **1,490 pints donated for the American Red cross – this is the largest Blood Drive in the Kentucky/Tennessee area**
 - **132,000 canned food items donated to local Bowling Green food banks and school backpack programs in the SOKY region.**

This has been an outstanding year of positive PR. This has primarily been done through the use of social media accounts, press releases, etc. Bragging about any and all positive things on a consistent basis and keeping members, alumni (ae), and faculty/staff informed helps build a positive brand for WKU Greeks. Further improvements can come from newsletters emailed to Greek alumni (ae) with the help of the Alumni Office.

Issues/Concerns from 2018-2019 School Year:

Communication between Councils: This was an issue from last year and was not improved in any measureable way. Everything discussed above would be applicable this year in ways to improve communication and interaction between councils, especially with IFC/ NPHC or Panhellenic/NPHC.

Staffing Issues: With the number of WKU Greeks being in the 2250-2450 range this past school year, we are having staffing issues with regards to the amount of programs and magnitude of programs. Currently, we have 1 full-time Coordinator of Greek Life (yours truly, Andrew Rash) and have 1 Assistant Director who spends part of his time advising NPHC only (amongst SGA, registered student organizations, Campus Activities Board, etc.). We are at a point where having 2 full-time dedicated staff is necessarily to manage the size of the WKU Greek system, magnitude of programs, and amount of programs.

Programs now are immensely larger than they were 10 years ago. Recruitment has nearly doubled, Greek Week has more logistical things to plan around because of the sheer size of events, and the amount of communication, preparation, assessing, and accommodating becomes both cumbersome and exhaustive. To put it succinctly, having 1.25 people for 2,250-2,450 students is not near enough staff, especially given the retention and graduation power that joining a Greek organization has. A good rule of thumb in the Fraternity/Sorority world is 1 full time person per 1,000 people. A more realistic model moving forward would be an Assistant Director for Greek Life along with a Coordinator of Greek Life.

Chapter Meeting/Room Reservation Space: Chapter meeting and room reservation space has been a slight issue the past few years. Having 34 groups, with roughly three-quarters using meeting space outside of their chapter house/Meredith Hall, creates a small nightmare for those scheduling meetings. Our chapters consistently use the Downing Student Union (DSU) for chapter meetings, discipline meetings, philanthropies, probate shows, and even educational programming. Our chapters sometimes get disgruntled with student union policy of so many meetings per week or for only a certain length of time. While chapters have to understand that there are over 350+ student organizations and student union policies are necessary, I feel this issue will be magnified even more with Meredith hall no longer being used for sorority housing and sorority meeting spaces.

Fall 2020 sorority recruitment will have to be carefully planned well ahead of time to avoid room reservation issues. Chapters that once used Meredith will also have to find spaces on campus for their chapter meetings, sisterhood, Spring Sing practices, etc. This will put further schedule pressure for DSU and other spaces large enough for our chapters.

Our office has communicated the importance for groups building new houses to building a chapter meeting space in their new facility. Our office will have to further educate groups about meeting spaces outside of DSU that can be reserved. I'm sure we will also have to champion for our groups to be able to use such spaces outside of DSU (some spaces have informed Greeks that they do not take reservations for Greek groups). In order for our Greek groups to maintain their high level of production, finding solid meeting spaces will be important.