



Greek Alumni Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2007

GREEK FAST FACTS

-)= There are currently 10 IFC fraternities.
-)= BSU is home to 11 Panhellenic sororities.
-)= 6 NPHC chapters are currently active on BSU's campus.
-)= 8% of Ball State students are Greek.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from University President	1
Greek Community Program Fund	2
Greek Community Strategic Plan	2
Riverside Ave. Makeover	3
Fraternity Expansion	3
Fraternity & Sorority Highlights	3

Welcome from President Jo Ann Gora

Since arriving at Ball State University nearly three years ago, a favorite part of my job continues to be interacting with students and meeting alumni. During my travels, I have heard many wonderful stories from our alumni reminiscing about their great experiences as undergraduate students and the positive impact Greek membership had on their lives. I understand and appreciate the valuable role fraternities and sororities play on our campus and in the lives of our students. In fact, the positive impact of Greek Life can be seen in higher graduation and retention rates for Greek members.



We are very committed to having a healthy and viable Greek community. As we move forward in growing and improving our fraternities and sororities, it is important that we do this in partnership with our alumni and national organizations. We do not underestimate the positive influence alumni have in shaping outstanding undergraduate chapters. The expertise and interest from alumni are invaluable resources to helping us build an excellent future for our Greek community.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Gora, President

Keeping Greek Alumni in the Loop

It is our pleasure to proudly introduce the first edition of the Ball State University *Greek Alumni Newsletter*. The newsletter was conceptualized and developed by staff members in the Office of Student Life to inform and educate you on what's occurring in the Greek

community, and provide you with resources and details to stay connected. It is our goal to highlight as many activities and accomplishments in all three councils, which include: Interfraternity Council (IFC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and the Panhellenic Council (PHC). As we move

forward in our efforts to communicate more with alumni about the Greek community, we are open to feedback and suggestions from you which we will apply to future issues. We hope you enjoy the *Greek Alumni Newsletter*.

New Fund Benefits Greek Organizations

During the fall 2006 semester, a \$1,000 anonymous gift to the Ball State University Foundation was given to provide support for fraternity and sorority programming efforts on campus. The Greek Community Program Fund will be used to support program and development efforts of the Greek organizations at Ball State. Programs that will be supported through this fund include leadership development, recruitment, and risk management. Greek organization programs benefit more than 1,100 students belonging to 27 national or international fraternities and sororities. For more information or to contribute to the fund, contact Jennifer Harding, fund stewardship assistant of the Ball State University Foundation, at (765) 285-8312.



The 2006 Interfraternity Council Executive Board Officers.

The strategic plan will address nine areas of Greek life including values, alumni involvement, housing, recruitment, risk reduction and academics.

The 2006 Panhellenic Council Executive Board Officers.



Greek Community 5 Year Strategic Plan

In November 2005, an external consultant was hired by the Division of Student Affairs to assess the Ball State Greek community. He conducted formal and informal interviews with over 120 Greek and non Greek students, administrators, alumni, advisors, community members and reviewed 43 pertinent documents. The final report included many recommendations which would ultimately assist in developing a five year strategic plan for the Greek community. A strategic planning committee comprised of Office of Student Life staff, Greek alumni, advisors and students was charged with creating the groundwork of the plan. The strategic plan will address nine areas of Greek life including Greek values, alumni involvement, housing, recruitment, risk reduction and academics among others. As the committee moves forward in the strategic planning process it will become increasingly important to engage more students and alumni in the process and obtain feedback from others.

As a result a website has been created to keep undergraduates, advisors and alumni updated on the Greek community strategic planning process. Please visit the site at www.bsu.edu/greeklife/stratplan for more information. Questions and feedback can be sent through the feedback form located on the website or by contacting Cara Luyster at 765-285-2621 or cwluyster@bsu.edu.

The unveiling of the 5 year plan is scheduled to occur this spring!

Letter From the Office of Student Life

Student Life is the university office responsible for advising and providing resources to the fraternity and sorority community at Ball State University. The Office of Student Life is committed to ensuring a positive and healthy Greek community exists at Ball State and has taken many steps recently to demonstrate this commitment.

This year the university provided two full time and six graduate student staff members to assist the fraternities and sororities, nearly doubling the Greek staff from the previous year. A Greek leadership retreat, new member leadership workshop, support to attend regional and national conferences among other various leadership development opportunities is provided on an annual basis. In addition, regular communication with advisors and alumni has increased over the last twelve months through forums such as this newsletter or the improved Greek life website.

The staff recognizes the value of partnerships with Greek life alumni. Please feel free to contact Cara Luyster, Assistant Director of Student Life, at 765-285-2621 or cwluyster@bsu.edu **with feedback**.

Extreme Makeover: Riverside



Theta Chi house at 1100 Riverside Avenue.

Over the past two years Riverside Avenue has taken on a different look due to some big changes.

The Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity moved in August 2005 from Beechwood Ave to Riverside. Members now live in the former Theta Xi house. While ZBT was busy moving, members of Theta Chi were doing some packing of their own. They moved across the street and now reside in the former Delta Chi house.

This past fall started out with just as much action! Phi Gamma Delta completed renovations on the former Beta Theta Pi house and moved in shortly before the fall semester began.

While the FIJI's were hanging letters, the former Sigma Tau Gamma and Theta Chi houses were demolished to make way for a new privately owned Sigma Phi Epsilon house. In addition, the Lambda Chi Alpha house was torn down. Currently no plans exist for this lot.

As you can tell there have been many changes to the look of "fraternity row." Next time you are visiting Ball State drive down Riverside and see what else has changed!

Three new fraternities will join and two will re-join the Ball State Greek community over the next 7 years.

Growing Greek Community

Growth of both individual chapters and the Greek community is a top priority in the Greek strategic planning process. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. returned to the National Pan-Hellenic Council in the fall of 2006 .

The Interfraternity Council embarked on an aggressive

expansion process. After conducting research and listening to individual presentations, an Expansion Committee comprised of representatives from each IFC fraternity selected the following 5 fraternities. The expansion process will begin at Ball State starting in the spring 2007.

Delta Sigma Phi— Spring 2007

Pi Kappa Phi— Fall 2008

Lambda Chi Alpha— Spring 2010 (returning)

Phi Kappa Psi—Fall 2011

Alpha Tau Omega—Spring 2013 (returning)

Please direct questions to Cara Luyster, Assistant Director of Student Life.

Philanthropic and Community Service Events Raise Money and Awareness

Philanthropic and community service events continue to be a major component of Greek life. During the 2006 calendar year, fraternities and sororities raised \$53,922.27, and provided 7,676 hours of community service. Several notable events this year raised both money and awareness of various causes.

The men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. held their 12th

annual "Sigma Sleep-Out for the Homeless" fundraiser. The men camped out at the Scramble Light for 24 hours to raise money for the Muncie Mission and awareness about homelessness. The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted a blood drive in collaboration with the Muncie Red Cross.

This past fall, several other fraternities and sororities held

their annual philanthropic events. Kappa Delta, Delta Zeta, Sigma Kappa, Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Chi Omega and Delta Tau Delta all hosted very successful events during the fall 2006 semester. Sigma Nu fraternity brought back its annual Miss Greek pageant and Theta Chi hosted Water Daze for the first time in several years.



Alpha Phi's having fun!

**What do you
think of the
Greek Alumni
Newsletter?**

**If you have any
questions, concerns
or comments, please
direct them to Cara
Luyster, Assistant
Director of Student
Life**

cwluyster@bsu.edu

765-285-2621

Ball State University

Office of Student Life
2000 W. University Ave.
Muncie, Indiana 47306
Phone: 765.285.2621
Fax: 765.285.2855
E-mail: cwluyster@bsu.edu

Expect your next edition of the Greek
Alumni Newsletter in May 2007!

To look for upcoming events, please visit:

[www.bsu.edu/
greeklife](http://www.bsu.edu/greeklife)