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Greek Column, 1999 Spring (2/2)

Eastern Illinois University. Interfraternity Council

Eastern Illinois University. Panhellenic Council

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Senior Reflections

From Undergraduate to Alumna

By: Sara Groom, Delta Zeta

As I sit here and write this, I have come to the realization that many in my shoes are coming, too. In 40 short days, I along with my fellow seniors will take that walk across the stage in Lantz Gymnasium, marking the completion of my Eastern undergraduate experience. Along with my passing of my undergrad days, I will also take the next step through Delta Zeta. I will no longer be an undergrad; I will be an alumnus. Scary, huh?

This time in our lives is filled with an array of emotions: happy, relieved, scared and sad. This will mark the ending of the carefree days of our lives. Have we learned what we're supposed to in the past four, five -- or even six years that we have been here? Did we find ourselves and achieve what we thought we would? How did we do it? What friends did we find? For me, it was my best friends.

In my E-mail a while back, a very good friend sent me the lessons in life poem. It starts, "Sometimes people come into your live and you know right away they were meant to be there." The friends that you have made through your experiences, Greek or not, were meant to be there, let us never forget the friendships and what they have done for us. "Nothing happens by chance or by means of good or bad luck. Illness, injury, love, lost moments of true greatness and sheer stupidity all occur to test the limits of our soul." Did we pass our tests? Did we become the people we wanted to become here? "Without these small tests, if they be events, illness, or relationships, life would be smoothly paved, a straight, flat road to nowhere. Safe and comfortable, but dull and utterly pointless." Do not let your road be completely smooth. We need the bumps because it builds who and what we are meant to be. It's when things get tough that we learn to ask for help and lean on those that are there for us, which for many of us are the 50 to 100 people we sit next to each Sunday in chapter meetings or on a bar stool at our favorite local establishments.

"If someone hurts you, betrays you or breaks your heart, forgive them, for they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious to who you open your life to." Do not be so cautious that you let opportunities fly through your life because you are too scared to challenge yourself and those around you. Relationships are the trickiest things that we may all encounter, but these are the things from which we will learn.

"Make every day count. Appreciate every moment and take from it everything that you possibly can, for you may never be able to experience it again." The message I, a graduating senior, have for you is to make everything that you do at EIU count. It flies by and these days are supposed to be some of the best moments.

In my final reflection, I think we all have some thanks we can give to those around us. A sorority, fraternity and Greek community can make a difference, and I think it is safe to say, it has made a difference in every one of us. Never forget that, because it is here we learned some of the most precious lessons in life.



**From our house to yours, the ladies of
Tri-Sigma would like to wish everyone
the best of luck on finals!**

Senior Reflections

ROADS

By: David C. Souza, Sigma Nu

Everyone makes decisions in their lives, which either greatly influence the roads that their lives will take or, in effect, determine their destinies. The day I chose to accept an invitation to join the Sigma Nu Fraternity was the beginning of a long journey on the road to success, a destiny which I have long aspired for all my life.

Being a member of Sigma Nu has done more for me than any other singular college experience. I've learned skills I will not only apply in the workplace, but in my everyday life. Several times, I was granted the honor of being a leader in my house, given the responsibilities of handling such important programs, such as Greek Sing and other group related activities. These experiences have taught me how to handle large groups and to deal with the dynamics of working with a diverse set of individuals. I served as the house secretary for two years, which gave me an opportunity to sharpen my clerical and executive skills. Sigma Nu opened the door for other such opportunities, such as leadership in organizations outside of the fraternity, new friends and interpersonal networking, which has proved itself to be most important in our society. Being an involved member taught me other skills such as time management, organizational skills and some very necessary social skills needed to interact with different people.

One of the more important aspects of Sigma Nu was the chance to make a difference. With being a member of the Lambda Gamma Chapter comes certain duties such as doing regular philanthropy work. I was able to do community work through the chapter, and in the true nature of my major and calling, help those who were less fortunate. Many of the older members of my house agree that graduating will be difficult since we will be leaving the house we built. In the short time that we were here, we help to further a chapter whose renowned brotherhood can only ensure their success in the future. We made a difference within the house as well as outside the doors of our chapter.

Sigma Nu has strengthened ideals within me, which will help me in my quest in the long road of life. I will have many decisions to make after I am handed that diploma in early May, but I am confident that because of my experiences here, at Eastern, and especially with the brotherhood of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, I will come upon the road that will lead to success and happiness.

Sigma Nu

As a freshman, I came to ECU with high hopes and dreams. The first two years had a story for me. Since then, the story has continued. I have learned that life is not just about the present, but about the future. I have learned that the challenges of life are not just about the present, but about the future. I have learned that the challenges of life are not just about the present, but about the future. I have learned that the challenges of life are not just about the present, but about the future.

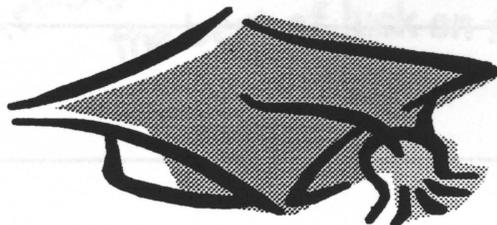
Senior Reflections

Days to Remember: A Reflection Upon Graduation

By: Angie Click, Sigma Sigma Sigma

It hardly seems like it has been almost four years since I came to Eastern, thinking that it would be impossible to master this campus. Now that I am graduating in May and looking back on the last four years, I wonder what happened to that nervous and intimidated girl who thought she would never make it to graduation. That girl is still a part of me—she is the part I recall when I am faced with a task that seems too big to accomplish. I know I have been able to make it this far because of the support I received from my sorority sisters, friends and family. When I came to college, I expected to learn only academics. Instead, I learned important lessons and gained knowledge about life from those around me. These are just a few of the lessons that I have learned:

- ❖ I have learned that in 10 years people are going to appreciate me for who I have become and not because of the competitions my sorority won.
- ❖ I have learned what it feels like to unintentionally hurt someone and then have to look them in the eye and tell them why I hurt them.
- ❖ I have learned that with each year of college, my parents are the ones who are getting smarter.
- ❖ I have learned to never make snap judgements about other people because if you refuse to open your heart and mind to others, then you will miss out on an opportunity to know exceptional people.
- ❖ I have learned I have and will make mistakes and no matter what excuses I use, I am still at fault.
- ❖ I have learned that no matter how bad your craving is, TCBY still closes at 11 p.m.
- ❖ I have learned that once you become a part of an organization, you are representing that organization and all of the people that belong to it. How you carry yourself and the actions you take will have a profound impact upon how the organization is seen. It is important to always be yourself and make sure you are someone that you respect. Show that you have the class and sophistication that upholds – and exceeds – the standards of the organization, and you will then achieve the respect of others.
- ❖ Most importantly, I have learned from a close sister, that we are here for a good time, and not a long time, so do what you can to make these days to remember. Never again will you be a part of something so close and so special. Invest in it with all that you are and you will leave a little piece of yourself behind, which will remind others of the impact that you made on the sorority.
- ❖ As a final thought, I leave Eastern and my Tri-Sigma sisters with the following lines from a song by Natalie Merchant:
“These are the days to remember. Never before and never since, I promise, will your whole world be known as this. And, as you feel it, you’ll know it’s true, that you, are blessed and lucky. It’s true, that you, are touched by something that will grow and bloom in you.”



Senior Reflections

Memories that Will Never be Forgotten

By: Amy McGoogan, Kappa Delta

The best thing that I want to remember about my college career is my exciting last two years as a Kappa Delta. Most importantly, I will never forget this last year living in the KΔ house.

Being a council member last fall, I was luckily granted a room in the house. Unlike last year, the chapter now had a common meeting place, our gorgeous chapter room, where we soon gathered every afternoon to watch the favorite TV shows on TLC. Another favorite pastime in the Kappa Delta house was our weekly sisterhoods. Keeping the sisterhood bonds strong, we had a variety of activities. My favorite was our pajama party in the chapter room. We had some memorable functions, including roller-skating with the Delta Sigs; four o'clock clubs with the Delta Chis, Delts and Taus; and, my favorite function with the Shamrock Project winners, the Sig Eps, Delta Sigs, and the Tekes, all of which lead me to another event I will never forget.

Being the Shamrock Project assistant chair, I helped to organize Capture-a-Kay Dee tournament at Riley Creek. As part of the project, the chapter also held a can shake in the community and raised \$1,600 to donate to our national philanthropy, The National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. Another part of Greek life Kappa Delta and I are actively involved in is I-M's.

We have been a strong force since last year when we picked up the intramural softball championship, continuing through our most recent win at the swim meet. To end my last semester here, as a Kappa Delta, I am looking forward to the White Rose Formal, Senior Send-off and our senior tradition, "One Last Round".

MORE THAN JUST AN EDUCATION

By: Rocky Carey, Pi Kappa Alpha

Four years ago, I came to Eastern Illinois University to get an education and soon I will be leaving with much more. The fraternity experiences I have encountered at Eastern, I truly believe have prepared me for life after college. People say you only get out of something what you put into it, and I couldn't agree more. I have been the president, vice president, stood on Judicial Board, and organized community service events for the fraternity. Through these offices and events, I have learned many skills that will help me in the future. I have been able to run meetings, learn time management skills and enhance my ability to work with others. Fraternity life has also been a great opportunity to meet and work with a lot of great people within my own fraternity and throughout the Greek community at Eastern. Although the Pike chapter has enjoyed many ups and downs, I wouldn't change anything about my experiences in Pi Kappa Alpha. Being Greek is a choice, and it is one I am glad I made.

Opportunities Through Involvement

By: Crystal Jones, Alpha Gamma Delta

Reflection upon the past four years with Alpha Gam brings me to a multitude of mixed emotions. Though many of us suffer from "senioritis" and cannot wait to graduate, a feeling of dismay comes over me. Alpha Gam has given me an abundance of memories and opportunities. As the end of the semester approaches, walking away from the family that has supported me throughout the past four years is becoming tremendously harder to do.

As a freshman, I came to EIU with little or no idea of what the next four years had in store for me! Since then, the people I have met and the obstacles thrown at me have made me into the person I am today. I have learned that although we may be from different backgrounds, everyone has their own story and something unique to bring into life. Alpha Gamma Delta has fulfilled my years at EIU with opportunity and love. It has given me the self-confidence and strength to face the challenges of life. Alpha Gam has taught me to take charge of the impossible, strive for perfection and settle for nothing less than excellence.

Senior Reflections

You Know You're Graduating When...

By: Juliette DeLos Reyes, Alpha Phi

Even though Senior status at Eastern Illinois University lasts about a year (or two for some of us), I never really felt like a soon-to-be alumna more than I do in these final weeks. As graduation quickly approaches, I am beginning to realize that my life waiting for me in Elk Grove Village isn't going to be like the life I have had here for the past three years.

You know you're graduating when your daily attire can no longer include comfy sweatshirts and baseball caps. The more I think about it, the more scared I get about this whole graduation thing. Not only can I not wear what I wore to bed as the "outfit of the day" anymore (corporate America's dress code doesn't exactly include flannel pants), but how am I supposed to get through a whole day of work without a nap?

You know you're graduating when you cannot depend on sister-set-up parties to get a date. Excuse me, what? There is no such thing as a beer breakfast in the real world. When I first came to Eastern as a sophomore, I decided to join Alpha Phi as something to do. However, it evolved into a way of life for me. Chapter meetings, sisterhoods, philanthropies and functions are a pretty big package to give up in one day. My life revolved around Alpha Phi because I wanted it to, and how am I supposed to live a life without it all of the sudden?

What has really hit me hard is when the friends I am about to leave behind start talking about next year's plans, and I am not a part of them. It is even more heartbreaking when they do include me because they have forgotten I will not be here. **You know you're graduating when you've made unrealistic promises to visit 10 weekends in a row just to be a part of their plans.**

Even though the little town of Charleston has never offered as much as the Chicago area, Eastern Illinois University and the Greek community have definitely provided me with a great amount of experiences and memories, ones I wish to relive. **You know you're graduating when you start wishing you were a freshman again, but this time without all the classes!**

Brotherhood of a Lifetime

By: Brandon Hanfland, Delta Tau Delta

As the month of May nears, I look back at the years I have spent at Eastern Illinois University. With the exception of the first two weeks of my college career, I have been a member of the Zeta Rho Chapter of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. I did not understand what I was getting myself into at first.

I thought I was just joining a fraternity to hang out with a good group of guys. Through my pledgship and the semesters since, I now realize the magnitude of my decision. I joined an organization that had 130 different chapters across the US and Canada. I am in the same brotherhood with thousands of undergraduates and alumni. This was all hard to fathom at first; but, after four years, it is all starting to become clear.

I started out not being very involved except in the most minimal ways. I don't know what started it, but the next year I ran for executive board and have not looked back since. I went from one extreme to the next. The positions I have held gave me the skills and abilities that will help me for the rest of my life. The fraternity gave me the confidence to succeed at anything I put my mind to.

I do believe that without my fraternity, I would not be the man I am today. This chapter took a scared kid out of high school and helped mold him into the man that I am today. Isn't that the purpose of all fraternities everywhere?

New Members

An Early Start on Excellence

By: Kristin Dietrich, Junior Greek Council

This year's Junior Greek Council has received the National Panhellenic Award for last semester's "Clothesline Across Campus". This is a great honor and the entire council worked very hard to achieve it. Again, Junior Greek Council has participated in AIDS Awareness Week by attending many educationals. A new study skill booklet has been created and given to all members of the spring new member classes. A plaque was given to the fraternity and sorority with the highest GPA. In February, a fundraiser was held to sell "Crush Cans" for Valentine's Day. Exam Snacks sales have begun for this semester and will be distributed the week of finals to replenish students before their exams. Arrangements are being made for a banquet with Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Junior Greek Council and Black Greek Council in April. Pop-tops are being collected from the new member classes to support the Ronald McDonald House. We are scheduling a community service project with the Charleston Teen Reach. Junior Greek Council plans to support the Cystic Fibrosis Walk-a-Thon and a "Walk for Unity" both which will take place in April.

We hope all of the events and fundraisers go as planned. Junior Greek Council would like to thank everyone who contributes to the fundraisers and especially to those that donated to the award winning "Clothesline Across Campus".

The Importance of a Sorority

By: Meg McNichols, Alpha Phi

This stuff is all new to me. The meetings, new friends, dues and functions, sometimes it is all so crazy. Airband, intramurals; I took high school basketball super-sectionals less seriously than Greek intramurals. It's okay, though, because in the end, we are all friends. Right? This first year as a new member of Alpha Phi has been overwhelming, exciting and crazy; but, most of all, it has been fun. Upon coming to EIU, some of us nerdy freshman were afraid that our only companion would be our RA and TV. Some of us decided to rush and we met people besides the RA, yet TV is still a great companion. So, now Alpha Phi has given me the friendships that will last me a lifetime, the opportunities for leadership within the Greek community and on campus, and a black hole in my checkbook! Just kidding!

Alpha Phi has done these important things and more. I never realized how important community service was until I began collecting clothes I have not worn in years that someone else will appreciate. I never knew what a Natural Tie was, until I found myself having a conversation with Alpha Phi's Natural Tie, Paul at the barndance.

I have begun to understand and appreciate that the EIU Greek system is more than the fun of formals and functions. Greek life and Alpha Phi have taught its new members a new appreciation for the advantages of leadership, the importance of sisterhood and the most important value of never forgetting the most important people are the ones you have not met yet.

Junior Greek Council

New Members

Dedication for School and Fraternity

By: Patrick Loechl, Pi Kappa Alpha

The pledging experience in the fraternity is one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had in my life. You find a fraternity is very special to all of its members including the new members learning what the fraternity is all about. It gives me a chance to be included in a group of people that became very close to me and help me through life on campus. The fraternity has helped me to make new and close friends I had never had before. It has disciplined me to work harder in school and life, and has shown me something very special I never had before.

My pledging period has helped me meet 90 plus new friends I never had before. I transferred onto campus knowing only a few friends I could spend time with. Once I joined Pi Kappa Alpha, I gained so many more friends I could now spend time with. I learned what friendship means and what good friends I can have in a new place. These new friends have helped me to make a better transition into the campus life and enjoy the school on a better level. I always know who to turn to if I have a problem or need something to do.

On a scholastic level, the fraternity has enabled me to become more disciplined in my studies. Despite everything going on within the fraternity, studies are always the top priority. During pledging, I had study tables twice a week; these are where everyone takes advantage of quiet time to get homework done and to get help from others in the house. I get a sense of focus to get homework and school activities done, all while being involved in the enjoyment of fraternity life and good friends.

My Greek experience has been one of the best experiences in my life so far, and I can only expect it to get better. I get a feeling of dedication toward school and friends. I find myself working harder to better myself. I started taking on new roles in life such as pledge class President and other services that will help me within leadership roles in the real world. I wouldn't change my experience for anything at this point.

A lot Can Happen in a Year

By: Becky Furlan, Kappa Delta

A lot can happen in a year. I can definitely vouch for that. This past year offered many firsts for me. I started college, moved away from home and left all of my friends to begin a new life for myself, by myself. It was scary for me but at the same time exciting.

When I came to school and started meeting people, the first thing people asked me was, "Are you going to rush?" I always answered, "I don't know". I was very skeptical. The only things I had ever heard about sororities were by no means flattering. I wasn't sure if I wanted to affiliate myself with "that kind of organization"? Although I wasn't positive rushing a sorority was for me, I decided it couldn't hurt to try. If it really wasn't for me, I knew I could always drop out. After two long weeks of rushing, I decided Kappa Delta was the chapter for me.

My first memory of Kappa Delta was meeting my new sisters in the middle of Greek Court. It was awesome to walk into their warm greeting knowing they were my new sisters. The weeks to follow were long, but well worth it. Between pledge meetings, educationals and everything else required of pledges, I soon got to know my sisters. I made bonds with girls I would have never met had I not pledged Kappa Delta.

Looking back over the past year, I am glad I decided to rush Kappa Delta. Had I not, I might not have made some of the friendships I now hold very dear to me. Kappa Delta has taught me a lot about being there for others and being able to rely on others, as well. It's just one of the many new things I have experienced this year and one of the most special to me. I wish everyone could understand how special my sisters are to me and how much I appreciate the way they have been there for me in good times, as well as bad. They are all one memory I won't soon forget.

New Members

Sorority Life is Not Like Television

By: Nicole Kubek, Alpha Sigma Alpha

As an incoming member to a sorority, most girls do not know what they are really getting themselves into. The only things most girls know about sorority life is what they see in movies: the parties, the boys and the everlasting friendships that are perfect with every member of the house. Movies tend to leave out the time and dedication members have to put forth towards the chapter. Movies fail to mention the fact that members are held to a high standard of integrity and intellectual status in order to attend these "great" parties. Movies leave out the fact that no matter where someone goes, it will not always be peaches and cream, due to varying personalities and different outlooks on a variety of issues. Once an individual becomes an active member of the sorority, she then learns the true side of how things really are and that the movies leave out important facts about sorority life as a whole.

As a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, I have learned a lot of things in just the short time I have been in the chapter. As a new member, I was hit hard and fast about the reality of what it is to be a "sorority girl"?

I learned it is impossible to get along with all 100 girls, yet everyone remains a sister to each other. I have met a group of people I can identify with and get along with through thick and thin: girls that are not only called sisters, but also friends. I learned that the older girls that hound the younger ones about grades have a valid point. If these members didn't teach the younger ones: if we don't get good grades, then these study habits will not be there in the future. Those fun philanthropy events that are thrown every year aren't social events; rather they are a time to help others that do not have the ability to do the things a college student might. It helps to bring joy to their life for at least one day. One learns how things are actually run to help the chapter survive and to strive to be the best. In just this short amount of time, an individual will hopefully have learned this much and not take it for granted.

Everything that has happened within the membership of a sorority has happened or will happen for a reason. Members need to cherish every moment they have. Members must put back everything taken out of the sorority and then one day look back at what she has learned and experienced. Hopefully, one will see that through the good and bad times, they have learned a lot about themselves and that she is proud that what has happened is not like the movies. This is all because she will have a sisterhood that any member would treasure for the rest of both college and graduate life.

Outstanding New Member

Michael T. Dibble, Delta Sigma Phi

I was very happy and honored when I learned the chapter had chosen me as its outstanding new member. The Delta Sigs have changed my life in many ways. It has made me a better man because of the experiences I have gone through as part of a fraternity. The brotherhood I received has been like nothing else before. I now have 60 men I would consider my best friends. Friends I will keep throughout my life and bonds that will never be broken. The Delta Sigs have given me leadership opportunities that could not easily be found elsewhere. I was elected as my pledge class President, a task I did not take lightly. It was my responsibility to make sure I got everyone where they were supposed to be, when they were supposed to be there. This helped me to grow as an individual and to learn to better work as a team. Shortly after I went active, there became a vacancy at the position of Sergeant At Arms. This is one of six positions on the executive board. It is rare for someone so new to be a part of the executive board, but I pursued the job. The Sergeant At Arms is in charge of discipline and order within the chapter. Our entire executive board works together and we get things accomplished as a team. Delta Sigma Phi has shaped and formed me into a better person.

Outstanding Members

A Great Leader and Friend

By: Krissie Kindel, Alpha Gamma Delta

This year's Outstanding Senior of the Year for Alpha Gamma Delta is an individual who possesses a strong sense of leadership and dedication. Throughout her four years of college, she has maintained excellent grades, as well as excellent relationships among her sisters. She has influenced the younger members and impressed the older ones. Speaking as one of her closest friends, she has amazed me with how much she can take on and still come out a success.

I have lived with this individual for all four years of her college career. She is the only person I know that can juggle classes, practices, numerous meetings, daily workouts, an awesome boyfriend and a fun social life. She has proved that she can be a great leader by the number of organizations that she is in. This woman is an elementary education major who will make an excellent teacher some day. This individual I am writing about has recently received the highest honor any Alpha Gam can get, she is the Alpha Gam Dream Girl and her name is Crystal Jones. Congratulations, Crystal, on all of your accomplishments and good luck as you begin another successful part of you life as a teacher!

Gaining Knowledge and Experience through Greek Life

By: Elise Lesko, Alpha Sigma Tau

As a member of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority for over three years, I can positively say the Greek system has had a large impact on my life. I remember rushing as a scared, insecure freshman, not fully knowing what to expect out of sorority life. I joined Alpha Sigma Tau full of questions and concerns, hopes and fears. After only a short time in the sorority, I realized Greek life was everything I expected and more.

I gained over 100 new friends, a big sister, a mom and more clothes to pick from than I ever imagined! I learned girls can play football, too, and that no guy is worth fighting over, if it is going to cost a friendship. Because of Alpha Sigma Tau, I have matured into the woman I am today.

Alpha Sigma Tau has taught me responsibility and dedication, as well as what it takes to carry out a project, through the positions of Midnight Madness chair and social director. As with joining any kind of group, there come responsibilities; and these responsibilities, along with a great deal of social interaction, are what have molded me into the strong confident woman I am today; instead of the scared, insecure freshman I once was.

I feel the experiences I have gained through sorority life have given me the ability to succeed in the "real world." When I leave Eastern, I will take with me the knowledge I have gained as being a member of Alpha Sigma Tau. Over the years, as I look back on my college experience, the one thing that will bring me the fondest memories, are the sorority and all the friends I had there. These women are more than just friends, they are my sisters; and every day I thank God for that.

Outstanding Members

EXCEEDING THE AVERAGE

By: Jonathon Moberly, Sigma Nu

When I arrived at EIU in the Fall of 1995, I knew I wanted to make a difference, but I did not know where to start. I chose EIU primarily to play football, but I wanted to continue to be involved in other activities, as I was in high school. During the first weeks of the Fall 1995 semester, I was deeply involved. Balancing football and classes was hard, but being involved with Circle K and the LEAD program for Student Government made my life even harder. Circle K is a community service group on campus I was involved in for the next three years, where I did a lot of work with the Big Brother Big Sister Program, Kiwanis and the Depot Clothing Pantry. Former Student Body President Jason Anselment conducted the LEAD program for Student Government, which was an introduction to the structure of Student Government, as well as University Board.

During the third week of classes, I was invited over to a house on Greek Court for Fall Rush. I really liked the guys at my friend's fraternity, but I decided to check out other chapters. The final place I stopped at was Sigma Nu, and when I first stepped foot in the house, I felt at home. Every guy I talked to, I felt as if I knew them my whole life. I went back to Sigma Nu every night afterwards, and when I was given my bid on Thursday night, I didn't have to think twice about signing it. When I signed that bid, I knew my life would change from that point, and it did indeed.

During my pledge period and that spring, I became really involved in Sigma Nu and campus. After going active I got a position on the IFC cabinet, and during Greek Week that year I won the Thomas Grud Memorial Scholarship. I began to see all of the opportunities on campus for me, which made me come to a difficult decision. If I stayed with football, I would have no time for campus activities or my fraternity. I did not want to be another "Rudy," so I decided to let football go. It was definitely hard to let go of a sport I had lived and breathed the past six years of my life, but I am glad I did.

My sophomore year I began to get deeply involved on campus and in my fraternity. I became risk reduction chair and chaplain for my fraternity in the fall; where I was the youngest member of our executive board. In the Spring, I became vice president. I joined the Human Potential Committee for University Board, which plans events, that promote cultural diversity. I also became Student Government Liaison for IFC, which I kept until November of my junior year. I still continued my involvement in Circle K and the Pre-Law Society. In the Spring I ran for Student Government on a party, which swept the elections, the NOW party. We had people, such as Kim Harris, Steve Zielinski, Victoria Markely, Jason Amato and Sarah Bordenkircher. That summer I studied abroad in Spain at the University of Madrid.

My junior year was when I made my mark as a campus leader. Along with vice president of my fraternity, I continued involvement with University Board, Circle K, Pre-Law Society, IFC Cabinet and Student Government. In November, I was elected to another executive position in my chapter, alumni contact, and I moved up to an executive position on IFC, VP Standards, where I was able to apply my high interest in law to training justices and making the Greek Standards Board Rules of Operation more fair for chapters. In December, I was selected to be a member of the Honorary Order of Omega, which was indeed a great honor. During Greek Week, I was selected as one of the "Top Ten Greek Men," and a week later I was selected to Mortar Board, Inc. This is the only senior honorary at EIU that represents the top 35 seniors at EIU, based on campus involvement, academics and community service. That summer, I interned with the Coles County State's Attorney's Office.

Continued on next page

Outstanding Members

"Exceeding the Average", Continued from page 24

This year has been the best year thus far. I was able to revise the Greek Standards Board Rules of Operation, as well as hold risk reduction workshops for chapter presidents on chapter liability. In the Fall, I was the recipient of a Grant In Aid Award from the Student Life Office for my outstanding contributions to EIU. I continued to work hard with my alumni contact position for my chapter, and had the largest alumni turnout for Homecoming in years. I was also appointed to the International Studies Advisory Board, as well as continuing involvement with the Pre-Law Society. This Spring, I was selected to be a member of the Greek Week Steering Committee, as a Blood Drive Co-Coordinator. I have also been working on a welcome dinner for President Surles for Order of Omega. I have also just been one of 36 EIU students chosen to "Who's Who Among Students of American Colleges and Universities".

Throughout these years of involvement, I have maintained a 3.3 GPA. I am now waiting results from my applications to law schools; hopefully, one of the 15 I applied to will pan out. Overall, the EIU Greek system has given everything to me: leadership, strength, communication and confrontation skills--all of which are valuable characteristics that will help me stand out in my future endeavors.

Kelly Wieckorek, an Outstanding Woman

By: Julie Ferguson, Sigma Kappa

Sigma Kappa has nominated Kelly Wieczorek as the chapters 1999 Greek Woman of the Year. Kelly is a senior majoring in Elementary Education. She is a woman who has shown extraordinary involvement in the EIU, Greek and Charleston community in her last four years at Eastern.

Kelly was the president of Sigma Kappa in 1998, and has held the position of Special Events chair for the chapter. In addition, she has worked with Junior Greek Council and Panhellenic Council.

Her academics are outstanding, as she has obtained a 3.57/4.00 cumulative grade point average. She is a three-year member of the Honorary Order of Omega and has received the Greek Academic Achievement Award for obtaining a high grade point average for three years in a row. Kelly has also been a member of Sigma Rho Epsilon, which is Special Education Honorary Society. In 1998, Kelly was honored as "Who's Who Among American Students in Universities and Colleges".

Kelly helps the Charleston community by volunteering for the Special Olympics and the Family Fun Festival. She was also a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army in 1997 and participated in the "Adopt-A-Student" program. Not only has Kelly made outstanding accomplishments but also she continues to be an outstanding person whom everyone can admire. Probably the most important event Kelly has been a part of is the Andrea Will Memorial Scholarship.

Kelly helped raise \$10,000 for the Andrea Will scholarship, created in memory her memory. The success of this scholarship is all due to Kelly Wieczorek and her determination to raise the money. The chapter thanks her for everything she has done and wants to let her know that she is an inspiration to all of us.

Outstanding Members

Victoria Markley: The Model Student, Sister, and Friend

By: Melanie Busby, Sigma Sigma Sigma

Tri-Sigma has been blessed over the years with many extraordinary women. Many women are involved in on-campus activities, others within the chapter. Some women are motivators for the chapter to improve and others make their contributions quietly. This year the chapter is sending a woman out into the real world with all of these qualities mentioned above—and more. This woman is Victoria Markley.

Within the chapter, Victoria has greatly contributed to the upward movement of the house over the last four years. As a sophomore, she was elected as vice president for Alpha Psi. Vice president has a variety of responsibilities, but above all the others in importance is new member educator. Victoria taught the women in the 1997 pledge class to become active in the chapter and helped create leaders for the future. Since then, Victoria works with younger, less experienced members, as well as the executive board to improve Alpha Psi's women. She held the RSO chair last semester and worked to get the chapter's members into other organizations on campus that, without her, they would not have known about.

In addition to her many contributions within the chapter, Victoria strives to better herself as well as Eastern's Campus through on-campus involvement. She has served the Greek system on Panhellenic Council as third vice president of Standards. In order to improve the campus as a whole, she has been involved in Student Government. She moved up through the ranks first as a student senator, then as secretary of Student Senate and Appropriations chair, and she currently holds the position of vice president of Student Affairs. In her position of VP of Student Affairs, she was instrumental in creating a winter homecoming, which was quite successful. Victoria is also involved in various honorary organizations including Omicron Delta Kappa, a junior/senior honorary, of which she is treasurer, and Mortar Board, a senior honorary, of which she is vice president.

Victoria is Tri-Sigma's Greek woman of the year for her wide variety of involvements both within the chapter and also on campus. She has demonstrated to many women of the chapter and Eastern how to be involved and make a difference in college and also how to be a leader, not a follower. She has added a lot to the quality of the chapter and also Eastern's campus, and will greatly be missed. The chapter would like to wish her the best of luck in the future.



*The editors would like to wish all 1999
graduates the best of luck in the future!
Congratulations!*

