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Greek Column, 1996 Fall (2/3)

Eastern Illinois University. Interfraternity Council

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Delta Sigs busy

Fraternity undergoes improvements for a successful future for brotherhood

• **By Jim Kanichirayil, Delta Sigma Phi**

The Delta Sigs have been, hard at work making several improvements over the course of the past year. The improvements range from internal issues like brotherhood, scholarship and active participation to external issues like inter-fraternal relations, campus relations and philanthropy.

Proposed changes had been planned for a few semesters but finally were initiated when the executive board took office. The efforts at massive restructuring were undertaken in response to several factors, the most prominent being alumni and national.

The chapter has been working hard on making across-the-board changes, and sometimes the results have been slow in surfacing, but with the dawn of a new semester there has been a renewed enthusiasm in the chapter's efforts.

This semester and those following, the Delta Sigs hope to continue their efforts and are planning to gear-up several new ideas, and events dealing with philanthropy and community service.

Through the strong brotherhood of the chapter and the hard work of its brothers, the Delta Psi chapter of Delta Sigma Phi has its eyes focused toward the future and continued success.



The Sig Pi's are fixing up

• **By Rigo Zamudio, Sigma Pi**

Sigma Pi brothers have called 956 Sixth St. home since 1954. Many renovations have been done since then, with the largest renovation being done on the house now. The upstairs bathroom has been remodeled, and carpets and doors are being installed.

Being members of the community, the brothers swept Sixth Street for Homecoming. They held a Halloween party for underprivileged children. Thanksgiving was a time for sharing with a food drive for needy families. Planning is underway for Christmas. Since we have been part of the community for so long, we always like to give back.

A change in our advisory took place this year. Eli Sidwell, a brother and long-time advisor, stepped down from his position and gave Denny Stewart a chance to help advise. Boyd Bradshaw took the role of faculty advisor. All of the changes have been a success.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority aids campus and city

• **By Tamiko Cooley, Sigma Gamma Rho**

So far this semester, my sorority has served the campus and community by having a FREE car wash, FREE all campus Bar-B-Que and inviting a speaker from the Red Cross in September to come help Eastern's campus to know the importance of being a bone marrow donor.

We donated blood and volunteered time for the Red Cross Blood Drive here on campus and donated money to help Habitat for Humanity also.

Getting bone marrow donors and Habitat for Humanity are Sigma Gamma Rho's national affiliated service projects.

At the end of October, we will participate in a telethon to help raise scholarship money for minority students.

Throughout the rest of the semester, we will be donating our time to nursing homes and senior day care centers throughout Charleston on Saturdays.

What's New

From Alpha to Omega

Sigma Slam 'n' Jam a success

• By Jessica Patlan, Sigma Sigma Sigma

On October 5 and 6, the ladies of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority held their first annual Sigma Slam 'n' Jam three-on-three basketball tournament.

The games were played in a street style manner, with the exception of a time keeper. Either the first team to get fifteen points, or the first team that was in the lead by twenty minutes won the game.

Fraternities were allowed to have up to five teams with an alternate for each team. This year the tournament was only open to fraternities, in attempt to see how it would work out for our first year.

Next year, we will most likely be opening it up to the entire campus.

Why this tournament you ask? Well, the Sigmas are always thinking of great ideas and the tournament was just one of them. Every year we try and raise money to give to our

national philanthropy, the Robbie Page Memorial. We wanted to try and make fundraising fun too.

The fraternities that partici-



pated were: Delta Chi, Delta Tau Delta, Delta Sigma Phi, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Those fraternities that did not participate gave us a generous donation for our philanthropy.

The games were fun, yet long and tiresome for the guys, but they were rewarded for their efforts with lunch from Papa John's!

The tournament ended with three fraternities placing. Sigma Phi Epsilon took first place, Delta Sigma Phi took second, and the men of Delta Tau Delta took third. To show our gratitude from all the support, we held a "celebration" on Oct. 10 at Ted's. The winning teams were awarded with their trophies at that time.

The Alpha Psi chapter of Tri-Sigma would like to thank all the fraternities for their donations and their support for our philanthropy. Our first annual Sigma Slam 'n' Jam was a success and we hope to see everyone on the courts next year!

Panhel Exec Board

1996

PresidentDiane Schmelzel
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Vice President
New MemberJill Bruggeman
Vice President Standards.Sarah Kijewski
Cabinet Director.....Beth Romano
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Director Michele Spellman
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High Honors go to Delta Chi

• **By David Null,
Delta Chi**

The 50th Delta Chi International Conference was held last summer in Dallas, Texas.

The Eastern Illinois University chapter was well represented with members Jeff Cozzo, Pete Henderson, Matt Grimm and John Petrenko attending the conference.

The Eastern chapter walked away with the President's Cup for the second year in a row. This

is the highest honor a Delta Chi chapter can receive.

They also received the Award of Excellence, which is given to chapters that exemplify high ideals and outstanding programs. The standards for this award are used to choose the winner of the President's Cup.

Some other chapter awards Eastern won were outstanding ABT, Chapter Advisor, financial management and membership recruitment.

The EIU Delta Chi chapter was proud to have a reception for executive directors of the

international fraternity, as well as past and current international executive officers.

Eastern's Delta Chi President Jeff Cozzo said, "The purpose of the convention was for brothers to gather from all over the world to recognize outstanding chapters and brothers. It was also held to enhance brotherhood and leadership skills."

The next convention will be held in St. Louis in 1998 because the international convention is a biannual event that spans five days.

Alpha Phi: Yesterday & Today

• **By Debi Gagliardo and Katie Himes,
Alpha Phi**

With each passing year, Alpha Phi grows closer, wiser and stronger. It is our colorful and longstanding traditions that allow the Zeta Alpha Chapter to advance. For our solid background, we have our Founders to thank.

The first chapter of Alpha Phi was installed in 1872 at Syracuse University as "a tie which should unite and form a circle of friends." On October 10, 1996, Alpha Phi's throughout North America celebrated the initiation of the day with a semi-formal dinner at the chapter house followed by an evening of dancing at which each sister and her escort enjoyed themselves.

A good time was had by both active and alumni members at our chapter's celebration of 20 years at Eastern Illinois University last spring. Alumni enriched our sense of history, describing past Alpha Phi residences, activities and establishments frequently visited. It was an opportunity for Alpha Phis past and present to renew their appreciation of strong sisterhood.

Fraternity "adopts a highway"

• **By Benjamin Valadez,
Lambda Chi Alpha**

The Phi Alpha Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha is starting something new this semester in community service. The Lambda Chi's have decided to adopt a highway.



"Adopt A Highway" is a program sponsored by the Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles. The program deals with the clean-up of non-major highways. The Lambda Chi's will be picking up refuse on Route 130 starting from the Charleston High school down to the curve before Lake Charleston.

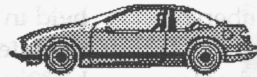
Lambda Chi's decided this project would be an easy way to give something back to the community of Charleston. The organizations involved with the "Adopt A Highway" program are accountable for their highway for two years, and they can renew the project after that. The Lambda Chi's encourage other Greek organizations to participate.

Sigma Chi's install new designated driver program

The men of Sigma Chi recently celebrated their 25th anniversary here at the Eta Mu chapter at Eastern Illinois. The celebration was a great success for all that attended.

During the ceremony, President Bob McLaughlin announced the start of a new designated driver program in memory of Brother Paul Knox.

The designated driver program is an opportunity to help save a life, or at least, get someone home safely. Sigma Chi is proud of the new program and hopes it will be a continued success.



As always, Derby Days went extremely well, and the men of Sigma Chi would like to thank everyone who participated.

Congratulations to Liz Uphues of Sigma Sigma Sigma on winning the 1996 Derby Darling, and to the ladies of Sigma Kappa for their overall first place performance.

Through Derby Days, Sigma Chi has been able to be a yearly contributor to the Make -A -Wish Foundation. Once again, thanks to everyone that was apart of the Sigma Chi festivities.

Sig Eps looking to maintain growth

• By Dave Barista,
Sigma Phi Epsilon

This past summer, the Illinois Nu chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon lost someone for whom we will miss dearly. Alex Kusmanoff, who's been a part of our fraternal life for nearly four years, has graduated from EIU as one of the first to do so with a double major.

For this we are proud of Alex, and we are proud of our chapter for helping and encouraging Alex to succeed. We want to wish Alex best of luck in the future.

Once again, the Sig Ep Grand Slam was a success in raising nearly \$300 for local United Way. We would like to thank all participating sororities, without your help the Grand Slam would not be possible. Sig Ep's were also involved in raising \$1,120 for the East Central Chapter of the Autism Society, and volunteered for both the Special Olympics last semester and the Special Olympics Family Festival this past September.

Our main goal is to continue growth in the Illinois Nu chapter well into the future, not only in manpower, but also in brotherhood.

BGC announces new chairs

•By Ryan Willerton, BGC Graduate Advisor

The Black Greek Council is proud to announce its 1996-97 standing committee chairs. One of the overall goals of the committee structure is for each committee to work on improving relations with NPC and IFC organizations. The following committees are:

SOCIAL	Melinda Whittley	ZΦB	581-8195
SERVICE	Tamara Merritt	ΔΣΘ	581-8023
FUND RAISING	E. Darnell Williams	AΦA	581-2081
PUBLIC RELATIONS	James Robinson III	ΦΒΣ	581-2936
SCHOLARSHIP	Kris Carter	ΣΓP	581-5128

BGC Vice President Derick Edwards (AΦA) oversees the work of the committees. If any individual Greek organizations are interested in working on a co-sponsorship in any of the listed fields, please feel free to contact the appropriate committee chair. Any overall questions can be directed to Derick (345-6055) or BGC Committee Advisor Ryan Willerton (581-3829).

TKE:

Busy making improvements

- **By Matt Wilson,
Tau Kappa Epsilon**

The Gamma Omega chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon made great strides last year and is seeing continued success early this year.

A big accomplishment made Spring Semester was being named the most improved fraternity at Eastern. Our pledge class got the highest grade point average and we came in second for grades overall (missing first by .048).

The addition of our new house has been a great asset. It is located at 509 Lincoln Ave. next to Ike's. Brotherhood and inter-fraternity involvement have reached new heights. The Teke house is quickly becoming a social haven that is being enjoyed by everyone at Eastern.

We've had great participation in community and university events this year. We participated in the Special Olympics Family Festival in Mattoon. We have members involved in Student Government, Eastern athletics and student publications.

The Tekes also have achieved athletic recognition early this year, too. The intramural football team reflected some of this success. In only our first official season, the team finished the regular season with a 5-1 mark in second place.

We finished the Sigma Sigma Sigma Slam n' Jam basketball competition as one of the five teams to play on the second day.

Currently we are in the long process of applying for our charter, which we should receive in early December.

Zeta Phi Beta

Never tiring in our efforts

- **By Angela Grimes,
Zeta Phi Beta**

A year ago, our chapter established a mentoring program with innercity children. Working with city youth groups, we have given young women a chance to experience college life. Earlier, we saw our program grow with a second visit from young ladies from the suburban area.

They arrived on campus with negative attitudes of a higher education. Although they didn't see their future in college at first, the various workshops held throughout the weekend enlightened them. Each sorority member created a relationship with a particular individual. Other members expressed their views of how to be a finer woman, to respect themselves as women and to maintain personal hygiene without hurting anyone's feelings.

Interaction between the young ladies and the women of Zeta Phi Beta was a great experience. Members received the experience of becoming role models, and the young ladies re-evaluated their future plans. Kellie Shannon, overseer of the program, commended our sorority for putting forth the effort to make a difference and provide service. Our sorority committed our time to this program and we are thankful for the success and wish other organizations will take the time to focus on our future as well.

Tri-Sigmas travel to Great America to raise funds

- **Danielle LaFayette,
Sigma Sigma Sigma**

As a fundraiser, 50 of us went to Six Flags Great America in Gurnee. Several sisters live in the area, so we stayed at their houses.

A special thanks goes to the

parents who took care of us and made wonderful dinners after our hard day of work.

We worked Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. in different areas of the park including sales, games and foods.

This is the second year that Alpha Psi has done this

popular fundraiser. Sigmas that work receive a ticket to the park. Altogether, we raised more than \$2,000 for the house.

"This fundraiser was a huge success; we made a lot of money for the house and the girls had a lot of fun," said Kathy Fischer, who attended.



Alpha Sigma Tau brings home gold

The Beta Pi chapter of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority received many awards this summer at its national convention, which was held at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza in Phoenix, Arizona. Nominated to represent their sisters at convention were Vice President Melissa Murray, Treasurer Gina Shaw, Panhellenic Delegate Jenny Uphoff, Corresponding Secretary



Aimee Sullivan, and Sergeant at Arms Diane Schmelzel. Chapter advisor Julie Montgomery represented the Beta Pi chapter. Chapters from across the United States attended to meet, to share ideas, to learn leadership skills and to recognize outstanding performance. Beta Pi member Jennifer Buske wrote and composed "Anchored for Life," which won most original song and was used for the convention theme. Alpha Sigma Tau received the Anchor Award for donations made to our National Headquarters. The Beta Pi chapter was ranked third in chapter excellency among all chapters in the country.

Diane Schmelzel was nominated by her sisters to represent the Beta Pi chapter as the queen. We are very proud of her!

Gameball is growing

• By Ryan Coder,
Sigma Nu

The Lambda Gamma Chapter of Sigma Nu recently completed its annual Gameball Bike Philanthropy. With Western's Kappa Alpha chapter we have participated in this philanthropy for six years. Depending on where the Eastern-Western football game is, a chapter bikes the gameball from their chapter home to the capitol in Springfield. The other picks it up and bikes it to the location of the game. In past years Secretary of State George Ryan, Gov. Jim Edgar and a host of other government officials have done the "hand-off" from chapter to chapter. This year Mary Durbin, wife of Senate candidate Dick Durbin, completed the hand-off.

Since 1990, the first Gameball Bike, we've raised nearly \$24,000 for charities such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the March of Dimes, due to support from the Charleston and Greek communities. The Gameball Bike not only benefits charities but also Sigma Nu's.

The Gameball Run will continue and possibly be expand to include other chapters. We are trying to make it a statewide Sigma Nu philanthropy, including Northwestern, Bradley and Southern.

Greeks 'sparkle' at Homecoming events

• By Katie
Kalbfleisch,
Alpha Sigma Tau

"Legends of the Silver Screen," set the stage for Eastern's 1996 Homecoming coronation Monday, Oct. 14. McAfee Gym was a vision of silver stars and lights as Eastern gathered to crown the newly elected Homecoming Court.

Beaming rays spotlighted Donna Cuisia of Alpha Sigma

Alpha and Jeff Zilch of Delta Tau Delta Homecoming Queen and King. Brooke Hood of Alpha Gamma Delta was first runner-up for Queen, and Jason Royal of the Black Student Union and Black Greek Council was first runner-up for King. Second runners-up were Dan Dierking of Sigma Pi and Lisa Vashkelis of Sigma Kappa. Andrea Herzog of Alpha Phi, and Jeremy Jalivay of the Black Student Union and Black Greek Council, were elected freshman attendants.

In addition to the royal

announcements, results of the window-painting contest were revealed: Alpha Phi and Sigma Pi, first place; Carman Hall, second place; and Alpha Sigma Alpha and Lambda Chi Alpha, and Lincoln Hall were tied for third.

However, the sparkle and glitz of crowns and awards at Homecoming coronation merely highlights the Greek Community. The spirit and pride exemplified by each sorority and fraternity is what truly allows the Greek System to shine.

Alphas volley it up

• **By Donna Cuisia,
Alpha Sigma Alpha**

The women of Alpha Sigma Alpha hosted their annual philanthropic event Side-Out with the Alphas volleyball tournament from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 27, in the McAfee Gym.

Lambda Chi Alpha, Delta Chi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Chi, Sigma Pi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Nu, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Delta Theta and Delta Tau Delta fraternities participated in the fundraising event.

Three fraternities entered two teams each, totaling 13 teams in



the tournament, said Nicole Casavechia, Alpha Sigma Alpha philanthropic chair.

"I was impressed with all the fraternities' sportsmanship, team unity and athletic abilities," Casavechia said.

First round games lasted 25 minutes each.

Second round games were played for 35 minutes each. Third round games lasted 45

minutes each. And, the finals game was played for one hour and 15 minutes.

Funds raised from this year's Side-Out with the Alphas were donated to the S. June Smith Center, a home for handicapped children founded by an alumni

VACATIONS



Nov. 22–Dec. 1



Dec. 13–Jan. 10

Phi Sigs host paintball fun

• **By Theresa Gavlin,
Phi Sigma Sigma**



Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority held a Paintball/Bombardment Tournament during midterms week to help organizations blow off steam and have fun at the same time.

The theme for the tournament, "Hit Me With Your Best Shot—It's Not a Kid's Game Anymore" reflected the tournament's non-traditionalism. Each team of 10 people was placed at opposite ends of the playing field, and each team rushed to the center of the field after a whistle was blown to get to the paintballs first.

Each team tries eliminating members of the other by hitting them with the paint balls, and the winner is the one with the most people left standing.

Heather Buckley, coordinator of the tournament, said the idea for the tournament came

while in a friend's room thinking of possible philanthropic events.

Buckley said the paint wars came up, but were decided against because the paint guns would not be allowed. Then the idea of bombardment with paint balls came up and everyone thought it was a good idea.

The tournament was open to Eastern's Greek Community as well as residence halls.

The tournament was divided into two different leagues, a men's and women's league.

The women's tournament was held Tuesday, Oct. 22, and the men's tournament on Oct. 23, on the tundra. Finals were Thursday, Oct. 23.

After the finals on Thursday, presidents from Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, as well as Student Body President Jason Anselment, and other presidents of Greek organizations plus President Jorns and Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Hencken were invited to play one last game.

Delta Zeta helping community

Members sponsoring book drives and collect items for needy

• **Shannon Tracy,
Delta Zeta**

The Gamma Nu Chapter of Delta Zeta prides itself in helping out the community in any way possible. To start off the year, the members of Delta Zeta sponsored a book drive for the chil-



dren of Carl Sandburg and Jefferson Elementary schools. Our chapter purchased dozens of books, which we then delivered to the children. The book drive was so successful that Delta Zeta is currently planning a donation of various art supplies.

With the coming holiday season, Delta Zeta is getting into the holiday spirit by helping out

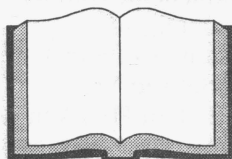
others. We began by collecting and distributing non-perishable canned goods to needy families around the Charleston area. With Christmas right around the corner Delta Zeta and their families are purchasing toys and other things for a local family we sponsor. We are glad our chapter has been able to make a difference in lives.

The Black Greek Council (BGC) is proud to announce its 1996-97 Executive Board. The Executive Board Members are:

*President Lutalo McGee of ΦΒΣ
Vice President Derick Edwards of ΑΦΑ
Treasurer Adrienne Coleman of ΖΦΒ
Secretary Luciana M. Goldstein of ΔΣΘ
Parliamentarian Chris Lewis of ΦΒΣ
Historian Jeanine Woods of ΔΣΘ*

Any questions or concerns regarding the Black Greek Council can be directed towards any of the Executive Board members during their Executive Meeting on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Kansas Room. Weekly Executive Board Meetings are held on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Martinsville Room of the Martin Luther King Jr., University Union.

BGC encourages all Greeks to come and find out what BGC has to offer!



Good luck with finals!

Dec. 9 through 13

Greek organizations getting on the Web

• By Tiffany R. Abbott,
Phi Sigma Sigma



Who would have thought 10 years ago Greek organizations would be so easily accessible via computers?! Don't think anyone from our parents' generation or even our generation would have thought about such a magnificent concept.

Well, nowadays it's uncommon for an organization not to have a "web page" on the Internet.

Jason Maulding, one of the newest Greek Court Counselors, is currently working on his Masters in Guidance and Counseling, with an emphasis on College and Student Personnel (otherwise known as CSP). One of his projects for his practicum is to create new web pages for Greek organizations on EIU's campus.

He discussed this with Assistant Director of Student Life Becky Marushak, and she loved the idea. So, currently Jason is working with members of all eight sororities and seven of the 11 fraternities, and BGC to get each chapter on the Web.

Six fraternities, Sigma Nu, Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Epsilon, Delta Sigma Phi, Phi Delta Theta, and Delta Chi already have their web pages completed.

Eventually, by May of 1997, Jason will have these web pages up, running and ready to be utilized worldwide. We thank him for all his hard work, and we wish him loads of luck!!

1996 Black Greek Council Fall Informational Rush's focus: 'Unity, Service and Success'

• By Luciana Goldstein,
Delta Sigma Theta

Hello everyone, my name is Luciana Goldstein, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Black Greek Council (BGC) Secretary, and this year's coordinator for BGC's Fall Informational Rush.

The theme for the Rush was "Focusing on Unity, Service and Success," which took place in the University's Grand Ballroom on Thursday evening, September 26, 1996.

Annually, the BGC Fall Rush provides new and returning students with an opportunity to experience Greek Life. The purpose of the Rush is to educate students on aspects of Greek Life — brotherhood, sisterhood, scholarship, service and programming.

This year's Rush consisted of various types of programs such as: a mini-step show, mini-fashion show, slide show, presentation of chapter speakers and display tables featuring members of the 8 BGC chapters: ΔΣΘ, ΖΦΒ, ΣΓΡ, ΑΦΑ, ΒΦΠ, ΦΒΣ, ΚΑΨ and ΩΨΦ. This year's BGC Rush was a GREAT SUCCESS with 200+ students in attendance.

Plans are under way for a Spring BGC Informational Rush. For more information regarding Black Greek Council, please contact the Student Activities Center, University Union Room 201, 581-5034.

Sig Kaps win Sorority Superbowl

• By David Null,
Delta Chi

Delta Chi held the 5th annual Sorority Superbowl October 3-5. The Sigma Kappa Sorority won for the second year in a row by defeating Alpha Sigma Tau in the



championship game.

The Sorority Superbowl is Delta Chi's philanthropy project that benefits Charleston High School's special education program. Delta Chi raised over \$350, and they are still selling T-shirts for \$12. Sorority Superbowl coordinator Ryan Coffey said, "Despite the rain in

the championship game, it went very well. We raised a lot of money for our philanthropy, and that's what counts."

Delta Chi also held a function at Ted's Warehouse for those who participated. Delta Chi would also like to thank all sororities for making this project a success.

Greeks' philanthropy benefits entire Charleston community

• By Ann Paulek,
Alpha Sigma Tau

Margaret Meade once said, "Never underestimate the ability of a small, dedicated group of people to change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The Greek System at Eastern has contributed to the community. Charleston should feel honored to work with such a dynamic and dedicated group of people. Not only do fraternities and sororities raise money for their philanthropies, they also find time to visit senior citizens in nursing homes, organize canned food drives for food pantries and spend time with Charleston's children, among other things.

Eastern's Greek System needs to stop and take a second to realize just how much they have given to the Charleston area. Fraternities and sororities should pride themselves in their community service efforts!

Greek impact on city and campus is a vital focus

• By Bill Buckley,
Delta Sigma Phi

The Greek System at EIU is one of the best nationwide and regularly receives awards for its excellence in various facets of Greek Life. Year after year, Greeks on campus and nationwide raise thousands of dollars for various philanthropies, and both indirectly and directly affect thousands of people's lives. The impact Greeks have on these organizations and, more importantly, the people these organizations help is enormous, and I feel these efforts should be more actively recognized and praised.

Greeks also display their altruism on campus and in the community with the myriad of service projects they undertake on a regular basis. Greeks need to concentrate on surpassing their previous successes nationally and locally, and must continue making an impact on their philanthropies and community service projects. We are Greek, united and influential. Let's make a positive impact on all.

Convention trip enlightening for Delta Zeta member

• By Mandy DesReMaux,
Delta Zeta

Over the past few months I've been thinking a lot about not only my individual chapter but also about my national affiliation. This past summer I had the honor of attending the Delta Zeta National Convention. I met with National officers, alumnae and collegians. This has opened my eyes to so much more than I could have ever expected.

When I went through Rush here at EIU, I had expectations of having a good time and getting involved. Never once did I envision I would be in Palm Springs as a member of national organization, discussing the state of our colleges and universities, current problems within our Greek Systems and concerns and ideas about our sorority.

None of these conversations were held with women from Eastern Illinois University. They were with women from all over the country, different ages and many different backgrounds. The one thing we did have in common: Delta Zeta.

Our founders had this vision. They believed that men and women could become members of a group, and form firm bonds with others based on common goals and interests. Many members realize when they visit other schools and find it easy to approach a fellow "sister/brother." Others notice this when they participate in their national philanthropy or when working to reconstruct national bylaws or constitutions.

Each and every chapter has a history, a ritual, and a specific basis upon which they were founded. Sometimes this becomes merely an aspect to think about at certain times throughout the year. Attending Convention showed me more what it means to be a lifetime member in an organization; not just to belong but to be an integral part in its success.

Sororities and fraternities have become an important aspect in each one of our lives. There was a specific reason you pledged and initiated your sorority/fraternity and have continued your membership. This should be the reason to continue giving to something from which you have gotten so much.