

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

WKU Archives Records

WKU Archives

6-5-1990

UA12/2/7 WKU Sorority System Annual Report

Elizabeth Button

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records



Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Organizational Communication Commons](#), [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
SORORITY SYSTEM
ANNUAL REPORT
FALL 1989 - SPRING 1990

BY
ELIZABETH E. BUTTON
PANHELLENIC ADVISOR
JUNE 5, 1990

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. 1990 Panhellenic Council Officers
2. WKU Sorority Membership Totals - Five Year Fall Totals
3. WKU Sorority Membership Totals - Five Year Spring Totals
4. Chapter Membership Total - Five Year Averages
5. Chapter Membership Total - Fall 1989
6. Chapter Membership Total - Spring 1990
7. RUSH Statistics - Fall 1989
8. Chapter Grades - Fall 1989
9. Chapter Grades - Spring 1990
10. Chapter GPA for Five Years - Fall Semester
11. Chapter GPA for Five Years - Spring Semester
12. Academic Banquet Program
13. Academic Certificate
14. Greek Leadership Conference Program
15. Greek Week Awards Convocation Program
16. Sorority RUSH Brochure

Introduction

- A. The 1989-90 school year has been another excellent one for the WKU Panhellenic system. The system has experienced tremendous growth both in membership and involvement. This report will provide an assessment of the year's activities and a review of the status of the total sorority system at Western, including its strengths and weaknesses.
- B. Panhellenic Council Assessment - The women who have served the WKU Panhellenic in the past year have been excellent. The new officers (elected Dec. 1989) show great enthusiasm for their jobs and were given excellent guidance into their offices by last years officers. This year the council only has two previous Panhellenic officers serving. While this slowed down the transition, it has brought a great deal of excitement to the council.
- C. Programs, Activities, Honors
1. FORMAL RUSH: This year's formal rush was executed extremely well. The Panhellenic RUSH chairman did an excellent job in her second term. A record number of girls began RUSH, and all went well until bid matching began. During bid matching, it was discovered, due to a Panhellenic miscalculation, that the quota of 49 was too low, and a record number of unmatched girls resulted.
 2. MOCKTAIL: This program in its second year was co-sponsored by the IFC/Panhellenic. MOCKTAIL dealt with the issue of alcohol awareness, and this year due to the tremendous success in the Fall, with an attendance of over 400, IFC and Panhellenic also sponsored the program in the spring. At these events IFC and Panhellenic offices serve as bartenders and waitresses for the non-alcoholic drinks that are served. A special speaker is invited from Alcoholics Anonymous and afterwards music is played and everyone is encouraged to stay and mingle.
 3. GREEK LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: The 10th Annual Greek Leadership Conference was a great success, with good attendance and great speakers. This years line-up of speakers was perhaps the most impressive ever with many national and regional officers from national sororities and fraternities sharing a great deal of knowledge with the WKU greek system. An additional event was the MOCKTRIAL which was held in the afternoon. This program was intended to address the issue of legal liability when underage members or guests are allowed to drink. A judge and two lawyers were obtained from the community and an actual trial took place. Afterwards a panel discussion was held and many questions were answered dealing with specific alcohol liability laws.

4. **Academic Banquet:** The 13th Annual Academic Banquet was very successful and enjoyed by an attendance of approximately 300 students and faculty. Dr. Luther Hughes, head of the WKU Agriculture Department was the keynote speaker. Chapters and individuals were recognized for their academic achievements with plaques and flowers. Due to its great success and important purpose, IFC and Panhellenic will continue to sponsor this event.
5. **JR. PANHELLENIC WEEK:** This week, which took place in the fall was a fun filled time for the sorority pledges on campus. During this week many events such as a movie night and a popcorn social were sponsored. The highlight of the week was pledge olympics. This event encouraged friendly competition between sorority and fraternity pledge classes as they participate in crazy games.
6. **PANHELLENIC WEEK:** This year's Panhellenic Week was a huge success. The events included were: a banner and balloon day, an ice cream social, a greek talent show, and a mocktail party. This year the goal of the week was to encourage everyone to simply have fun, meet new people in the sorority system and to discourage unfriendly competition between the chapters.
7. **GREEK WEEK:** This annual event gets better each year. This year along with the usual events such as spring sing, blood drive, tug, faculty tea and penny toss, an obstacle course was added to the competition, with a huge cookout that included hot dogs, cokes and great music. The cookout was a great success and a great deal of socializing was done. The awards convocation which ended the week was very successful with the keynote speaker being Ed King. Mr. King is one of the top five greek speakers in the country, and he addressed the purpose of being greek.
8. **THE SOUTHEASTERN PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE -SEPC** was held this year in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the University of Tennessee. Eleven delegates attended from Western, and a wonderful time was had by all. The group brought back many great ideas, and many of these will be used in the upcoming school year.
9. **SPRING RUSH PICNIC:** This event was sponsored by Panhellenic to encourage upperclassmen to participate in RUSH. All groups participated, and over 100 women attended.
10. **PRESIDENT ROUNDTABLE:** These meeting held bi-monthly were used in order to distribute material and share information between the chapter presidents and the Student Activities Office.

11. ADVISOR ROUNDTABLE: These meetings in the form of luncheons were held once a month to share information between the advisor and the Panhellenic office. These have been successful, and there are plans to continue this program in the fall.
12. NPC AWARD: 1989 was the first year that the WKU Panhellenic has applied for a national award and were quite surprised as well as pleased to receive one of the few awards given by the National Panhellenic Conference. Western placed second in the Fraternity Month Award, an award for programming and scholarship.

D. Strengths

After reviewing the many activities it is easy to see that WKU has many strengths. The Panhellenic executive officers are an enthusiastic group who are always willing to work to improve present programs and start new ones. Not only are the officers excited, but chapters have showed renewed interest and attendance to Panhellenic meetings and events has been incredible.

Formal RUSH is another area that Panhellenic is very strong. The Rush team is well trained in the spring semester and always comes back in the fall ready to work hard making RUSH run smoothly. Unfortunately, no matter how much advanced planning is done, it is impossible to match every girl to a sorority and this year due to a miscalculation, 75 girls were unmatched. This year, Panhellenic will be making an extra effort to follow NPC guidelines so that more women will be placed in the sorority of their choice.

Another improvement which Panhellenic made, along with the IFC, was to rewrite and reevaluate all the annual awards for chapter achievements. These awards now will be granted to all chapters who reach the criteria.

E. Weakness

The predominately black sororities at Western were not as involved as Panhellenic would like. Even though their attendances at Panhellenic meetings and events has improved, black greek involvement remains a problem.

Sorority scholarship for 1989-90 did not meet the full-time undergraduate women's GPA. It is unfortunate that students have not recognized the fact that education is the reason they are attending college. Many groups are working on improving scholarship through new programs, and hopefully, the results will soon show.

Another weakness that has already been mentioned that is the number of women who were unmatched during formal RUSH. NPC guidelines will be strictly followed this year in order to match as many women as possible, and this effort should remedy the problem.

SORORITY SYSTEM REPORT

The 1989-90 school year showed an increase of 56 women participating in rush over the 1988-89 figure. The total number of full time undergraduate sorority women is 752. This number does not reflect part-time students, non-due paying members, or alumni of chapters that are either fifth year seniors or graduate students. Therefore the number is actually higher than number reported above. This membership is an alltime high for the WKU sorority system. This increase is due not only to an increase in enrollment but also to added recruitment of women going through rush!

Section A EXPANSION/COLONIZATION

Due to the increased interest of participation in rush, this year Western added a 10th chapter to the campus. Alpha Gamma Delta colonized at Western immediately following formal RUSH. Alpha Gamma Delta pledged 95 women and had a very successful first semester. The chapter was installed in January 1990. Alpha Gamma Delta's colonization brought a great deal of interest and opened the door to further expansion in the near future.

Section B GREEK WOMEN'S GPA

The GPA again fell below the undergraduate women's GPA for the fall 1989 and spring 1990 semesters. This trend, which started three years ago, is greatly disturbing. While many chapters are working on new scholarship programs and hopefully results will soon show, all chapters must address this problem in order for the system to benefit.

Section C HOUSING

Housing continues to be a problem for chapters in Bowling Green. Many chapters have funds for the purchase of housing but because of zoning and other limitations, have had no success in purchasing property. The university has proposed a Panhellenic Residence Hall to be built in the next two years and a University District has been defined by the city. These two developments will greatly benefit the sorority housing.

Section D COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service projects are a sorority's most important work. Listed below is a partial listing of activities sponsored by chapters as well as the sorority system as a whole. Note: This is only a partial listing.

1. Sorority participation in the WKU Phonathon raised \$99,360. This amount has 79% of the total money raised, and an increase of \$49,680 over the 1988-89 Phonathon.
2. Alpha Delta Pi donated 220 man hours and \$1,567.47 to the Ronald McDonald House with their "Hunk of the Hill" contest.
3. Alpha Kappa Alpha donated \$100.00 to the WKU Scholarship fund.
4. Alpha Gamma Delta sponsored an aerobics marathon for juvenile diabetes.
5. Alpha Xi Delta donated \$200.00 to the Red Cross.
6. Chi Omega donated 1,344 hours and \$3,345.00 to the Bowling Green Boys Club with the Chi Omega Golf Classic.
7. Delta Sigma Theta donated \$100.00 to the WKU scholarship fund.
8. Kappa Delta donated 416 hours and \$3,500 to the Bowling Green Child Protection Agency.
9. Phi Mu donated 101 man hours and \$65.00 to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Bowling Green with a Halloween serenade.
10. Sigma Kappa donated 119 man hours and \$300.00 to Alzheimers by selling suckers.
11. Alpha Omicron Pi donated 508 man hours and \$1,620.00 with their Up, Up, and Away project.
12. The Greek Week Blood Drive raised 809 units of blood.

CONCERNS

Section A MEMBERSHIP

Western's sorority system continues to expand at a rapid rate, leaving chapters with over 100 members. Many of these large chapters have not been able to handle this rapid growth, and the result has been many women getting "lost in the crowd." Even after the expansion of the system, the numbers continue to climb bringing about the problem of not only large chapters, but also of not having housing facilities or rooms for RUSH. Therefore, our expansion efforts must continue by adding one more and possibly two more chapters in the next five years."

Section B SMALL CHAPTERS

The WKU sorority system is still facing the problem of two chapters that are significantly under ceiling. Neither chapter has reached quota in several years and must struggle all year trying to recruit members. While the national organizations have shown more concern this school year, not enough has been done. While both continue to participate in Panhellenic and campus activities, neither will be able to continue much longer in this fashion. It is time that their national organization take steps to help these chapters.

Section C HOUSING

While the prospect for housing in the community of Bowling Green is still grim, the prospect of housing on campus is much more promising. Western has made plans to construct a Panhellenic Residence Hall which will house four chapters. This dorm will sleep 200 and will have four large chapter rooms. Panhellenic is very excited about this residence hall.

Section D INTERGRATION OF MINORITIES

This year for the first time a black woman was pledged by a traditionally white sorority at Western. This group can be commended for taking this step that will hopefully spark other groups to make a move toward integration. The NPHC groups have also grown by having lines this spring. Both have become more involved in Panhellenic and the NPHC vice-president has been reactivated due to this interest. Integrating minorities into our system and our chapters is the first step in combating racism.

Section E GREEK ADVISOR

The Panhellenic Council is currently advised by a part-time faculty/staff member. This position is extremely time consuming, and the pay (\$425.00) per month is not adequate. The position would be better served by a fulltime faculty/staff member who would advise the Interfraternity Council. This would add more continuity to the position which has not had the same person in it for more than two years. If something is not done soon this inconsistency could hurt our award winning Greek system.

CONCLUSION

The WKU Panhellenic has continued to be extremely successful over the 1989-90 school year. The many hours of hard work and great programming has paid off with a National Panhellenic Conference Award. While there continues to be weaknesses in the system, the enthusiasm that has been shown for Panhellenic is assuring and leads to the conclusion that these problems will be addressed and hopefully solved.

The Panhellenic is only as strong as its weakest link and with hard work, the Panhellenic at Western can improve its system to be better than ever. Panhellenic hopes to do this through helping the small chapters with membership and by helping the large chapters by continued extension.

SORORITY MEMBERSHIP TOTALS SPRING 1990

	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>PLEDGES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ALPHA DELTA PI	112	9	121
ALPHA GAMMA DELTA	72	12	85
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA	8	-	8
ALPHA OMICRON PI	120	4	124
ALPHA XI DELTA	43	14	57
DELTA SIGMA THETA	8	3	11
CHI OMEGA	108	5	113
KAPPA DELTA	104	4	108
PHI MU	17	2	19
SIGMA KAPPA	98	8	106
<u>TOTAL</u>			752

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
SORORITY SYSTEM
MEMBERSHIP FIGURES - FALL 1989

	<u>ACTIVES</u>	<u>PLEDGES</u>	<u>COMBINED</u>
ALPHA DELTA PI	84	49	133
ALPHA GAMMA DELTA	*	95	95
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA	15	*	15
ALPHA OMICRON PI	83	49	132
ALPHA XI DELTA	29	27	56
CHI OMEGA	85	49	134
DELTA SIGMA THETA	11	*	11
KAPPA DELTA	66	49	115
PHI MU	12	8	20
SIGMA KAPPA	75	49	124
<u>TOTAL</u>			835

SPRING 1990 PRELIMINARY
GRADE RANKING

	<u>ACTIVES</u>	<u>PLEDGES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ALPHA DELTA PI	2.8897(2)	2.6412(2)	2.8705(3)
ALPHA GAMMA DELTA	2.8112(4)	2.3088(9)	2.7544(5)
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA	2.1152(10)	2.3580(6)	2.2606(10)
ALPHA OMICRON PI	2.8884(3)	2.3208(8)	2.8716(2)
ALPHA XI DELTA	2.6362(8)	2.3067(10)	2.5532(8)
DELTA SIGMA THETA	2.2860(9)	2.4722(3)	2.3172(9)
CHI OMEGA	2.7492(6)	2.3651(5)	2.7344(7)
KAPPA DELTA	2.9306(1)	2.3704(4)	2.7975(4)
PHI MU	2.6683(7)	3.5714(1)	2.7975(4)
SIGMA KAPPA	2.7675(5)	2.3418(7)	2.7446(6)

All Greek Women's GPA 2.7320

All Undergraduate Women's GPA