

THE GREEK ALUMNI CONNECTION

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

SPRING 2019

GREEK ADVISOR'S CORNER



Spring is Finally Here!

I hope this newsletter finds you starting to enjoy a break in the harsh winter we've experienced! It's nice to see the sun and some above-freezing temperatures around Mankato! The Spring semester is a busy time for the Fraternity and Sorority Community.

A quick recap of some of the goings-on with our organizations and community:

- The fraternity and sorority community achieved a cumulative 3.18 GPA during the Fall semester of 2018. This matched the Spring 2018 mark and is the highest the community has ever collectively achieved. Both the fraternities and sororities significantly outperform the general men and women populations, respectively.
- Homecoming 2018 celebrated the university's 150th Anniversary. It was great to see a lot of alumni around for the festivities.

- The annual Greek Week will be celebrated April 8-12, and our Fraternity & Sorority Life Awards Banquet will take place on April 14. Be on the lookout for the list of this year's award recipients in a future edition of this newsletter!
- During the weekend of May 17-19, Phi Kappa Psi will be celebrating the chapter's 50th Anniversary on campus. These milestones are big for our organizations. We look forward to welcoming alumni and friends back for this event. I've been told that an inter-generational planning committee has been formed. If you're part of Phi Psi, and if the chapter has contact information for you, you should be receiving information about the celebration weekend by April 1. If you have not, please reach out to Matt McDavid at matthew.mc david@mnsu.edu.

I hope Spring treats you well. Should you be on campus for anything, please stop by and say hi!

John Bulcock

Mavathon Raises \$27,000 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare

"Mavathon," Minnesota State Mankato's Dance Marathon, had another successful year. Nearly \$27,000 was raised for CMN Hospitals, with Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare being the local hospital benefiting from our students' efforts.

In the 8 years since its return, Dance Marathon has raised more than \$150,000 "For the Kids." The event is the biggest Dance Marathon in the state of Minnesota, and it has become the most successful student-run philanthropic event at Minnesota State Mankato. Throughout the year, the planning committee puts in a lot of work to plan the big event, and the participating teams host a variety of fundraisers to work towards the goal. Local families whose kids are Gillette patients attend the actual Mavathon event. They look forward to being there and sharing what Gillette has meant to them.

The Executive Committee for the event is chaired by the Vice Presidents of Community Service and Philanthropy for the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils, but significant effort has been made to reach out to and involve non-Fraternity/Sorority members. In early April, the Executive Committee for Mavathon 2020 will be selected.



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2019 Greek Week Brings Community Together and Celebrates Accomplishments & Contributions

Greek Week 2019 was celebrated, with a "Game of Greeks" theme, coinciding with the season premiere of the hit HBO series, "Game of Thrones."

The week kicked off with the ever-popular community cookout, which invited all members of the university community to stop by for a free hot dog lunch.

The cardboard boat regatta featured some great and not-so-great engineering of boats made from nothing but cardboard and duct tape.

Lip Sync is always a highlight of the event, with Sigma Nu repeating as champions.

More than \$300 was raised in support of Mavathon and the Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society.

Overall, Alpha Chi Omega took first in Greek Week, Alpha Sigma Alpha took second, and Sigma Nu took third.

The annual awards banquet featured guest speaker Dr. Mari Ann Callais. Many award recipients were recognized for accomplishments during calendar year 2018.

The list of award recipients includes:

John and Kristy Buck Leadership Scholarship Presentation

James Kearney, Phi Kappa Psi
Alyssa Zenz, Alpha Chi Omega

Reichert Family Leadership Scholarship

Jesse Sellner, Phi Delta Theta

Stephen C. Jensen Scholarship

Sam Hovick and Seth Nilsen, Phi Delta Theta

Order of Omega Faculty/Staff Member of the Year

Lori Marti, Student Health Services

Public Relations & Marketing Award

Alpha Chi Omega

Scholars of the Year

Wyatt Bauer, Phi Kappa Psi
Eryn Zuiker, Alpha Sigma Alpha

Vawracz Award for Community Service

Alexis Ashton, Alpha Chi Omega



Chapters and individuals, alike, were recognized at the Fraternity & Sorority Life Awards Banquet on April 14, 2019.



Outstanding Alumnus Volunteer Award

Dan Hallgren, Sigma Nu

Sorority & Fraternity Chapter Presidents of the Year

Matt McDavid, Phi Kappa Psi
Abby Streetar, Alpha Chi Omega

Rissa Amen-Reif Award for Advocacy and Awareness

Brianna Anick, Alpha Sigma Alpha

PHC & IFC Executive Board Members of the Year

Breckin Grinnell, VP of Diversity & Outreach, IFC
Kevin Hines, VP of Recruitment, IFC
Cat Nelson, VP of Risk Management, PHC

Outstanding New Members

Brianna Anick, Alpha Sigma Alpha
Zane Coyle, Tau Kappa Epsilon

Marie Bruce Sorority Woman & Fraternity Man of the Year

Courtney Kranz, Alpha Sigma Alpha
Matt McDavid, Phi Kappa Psi

Brotherhood and Sisterhood Awards

Sigma Nu and Sigma Sigma Sigma

Most Improved Chapter Award

Sigma Nu

Chapters of the Year

Alpha Chi Omega
Sigma Nu



Members of Sigma Chi entertain the crowd during the annual Greek Week Lip Sync competition on April 11.



On a cold February day, members of Phi Kappa Psi, and other chapters who call the Lincoln Park neighborhood home, got out and helped neighbors out by shoveling sidewalks and driveways. This February was the snowiest February on record in the state of Minnesota, so there were plenty of opportunities to help out.

Recent Grad Hired as HQ Staffer



Charlotte Pfingsten, a Fall 2018 Minnesota State Mankato Graduate and member of Gamma Phi Beta has been selected to serve as a Collegiate Leadership Consultant for the International Organization. This two-year commitment will put Charlotte on the road visiting, evaluating, and providing guidance to other Gamma Phi Beta chapters throughout the country. While an undergraduate, Charlotte served the Panhellenic Council as Vice President of Recruitment and her chapter as President, among other roles. As of now, after working for Gamma Phi Beta, Charlotte plans to pursue a graduate degree in Higher Education Administration and continue on the path towards a career in Student Affairs. This opportunity to serve Gamma Phi Beta will give her some great related experience that will benefit her as both a graduate student and a professional.

Minnesota State Mankato has a significant history of fraternity/sorority graduates going on to either work for or serve in significant volunteer roles for their international organizations. In just the last ten years, no fewer than six of our community's alumni have served as staff members or elected/appointed regional or national volunteers for their organizations. Several of our members also go on to work in the field of Higher Education. Many credit their Minnesota State Mankato Fraternity/Sorority experience for helping drive the desire to pursue this career path.

Greek Community Mission Statement

The Fraternities and Sororities at Minnesota State University, Mankato take pride in serving the University and the greater Mankato area. We are a community of campus leaders committed to excellence in scholarship and to promoting dynamic personal growth of members, focusing on the development of experiential leadership and the fostering of lasting relationships.

Greek Community Core Values

- Leadership
- Friendship
- Scholarship
- Service



HELP SUPPORT THE MARIE BRUCE AWARD

In previous newsletters, we have put out a call for support of the Marie Bruce Award. We are immensely thankful to the alumni and friends who have made gifts to further support this award, ensuring that it will be awarded for at least the next three years.

This award, the highest honor a member of our community can receive, is named after Marie Bruce, our university's former Dean of Women. She was instrumental in developing Fraternity & Sorority Life here, and it is she who was tasked with courting national organizations, encouraging them to establish chapters on our campus. Recipients of this award have been benefitting from an endowment that was established at the time of Ms. Bruce's death. For several years, each recipient was awarded a \$250 scholarship. Last year, thanks to generous gifts, we were able to award two \$500 scholarships, and we plan to do the same this year.

Additional support is needed in order to continue awarding the scholarship beyond the next three years. If you are interested in honoring Marie Bruce's legacy and helping us continue to honor the best our Fraternity & Sorority Community has to offer, please consider a gift to the Marie Bruce fund, which is administered by the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation. Gifts may be made online at www.mnsu.edu/giving, or they may be sent to:

Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation
126 Alumni Foundation Center
Mankato, MN 56001

Please reference "Marie Bruce-335020" when making your gift. There is an immediate need for contributions that can be awarded from the fund annually for the next 3-5 years.

As college costs have risen, the \$500 award we're able to provide may not cover even the cost of a student's books for a semester. We would love to be able to increase this award to \$1,000-1,500 and be able to present it to one man and one woman perpetually. In order to reach that level, the scholarship endowment must increase by \$40,000-65,000. If you are interested in discussing the potential for a larger gift that would substantially bolster the endowment, allowing us to increase the scholarship award and ensure its long-term sustainability, please contact John Bulcock, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Fraternity & Sorority Life, at john.bulcock@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6076.

Contact Us:

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