

The Fraternity and Sorority Connection



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO
FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

SPRING 2021

We apologize for the need to resend this newsletter. The version previously sent was a draft containing substantive errors. Please enjoy this updated and corrected version.

FROM THE FRATERNITY & SORORITY ADVISOR

This year has been unlike any other we've experienced. I'm proud to work with a great group of students committed to living out their organizations' purposes and to providing members with a great experience while giving back to the community. We look forward to a more normal Fall semester this coming year.

I want to take a chance to give a shout-out to the men of Tau Kappa Epsilon, who are celebrating their chapter's 60th anniversary in May. This marks not only 60 years of TKE, but also 60 years of inter/national fraternity and sorority presence at our university. On May 13, 1961, TKE became the first national group to charter on campus. Congrats to them and to our longstanding community.

For this edition of our alumni newsletter, I wanted to give our students the chance to tell their current story. What you'll find contained here has come directly from our governing council and chapter presidents. Enjoy!

Fraternally,
John Bulcock
Assistant Director of Student Activities



Spring 2021 Fraternity & Sorority Community Graduates gather at the FSL graduation ceremony in April 2021.

HELP SUPPORT THE MARIE BRUCE AWARD

Previously, we have put out calls 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. Recipients of this award have been benefiting from an endowment that was established at the time of Ms. Bruce's death. For several years, each recipient was awarded a \$250 scholarship. For the past two years, thanks to generous gifts, we were able to award two \$750 scholarships, and we hope to continue this and ultimately double that amount.

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
121 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 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 \$1000-1500 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 a larger gift or pledge that would bolster the endowment and allow us to increase the scholarship award and ensure its long-term sustainability, please contact Dustin Sedars, Director of Development for Student Affairs, at dustin.sedars@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6180.

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At the annual Fraternity & Sorority Life Awards banquet, held on Sunday, April 18, the following organizations, community members, and alumni were recognized for achievements and contributions, and they were presented with awards.

John and Kristy Buck Leadership Scholarship for Phi Kappa Psi & Alpha Chi Omega

- Cameron Jahns, Phi Kappa Psi
- Skylar Samples, Alpha Chi Omega

Reichert Family Leadership Scholarship for Phi Delta Theta

- Ryan DeRoo, Phi Delta Theta
- Preston Lyon, Phi Delta Theta

Stephen C. Jensen Scholarship for Phi Delta Theta

- Weston Bring, Phi Delta Theta
- Samuel Ellis, Phi Delta Theta
- Tyler Lorbeski, Phi Delta Theta

Award Recipients Recognized for Achievements and Contributions During 2020

Order of Omega Faculty/Staff Member of the Year

- Lindsey Nelson, University Scheduling & Conference Services

Vawracz Award for Community Service

- Molly Nhean, Gamma Phi Beta

Outstanding Alumnus Volunteer Award

- Luke Romness, Sigma Nu

Rissa Amen-Reif Award for Advocacy and Awareness

- Molly Nhean, Gamma Phi Beta

Gea Stanger Memorial Woman of Influence Award

- Marinda Phandanouvong, Alpha Sigma Alpha

Scholars of the Year

- Sari Halabi, Sigma Nu
- Hope Wickert, Alpha Sigma Alpha

Sorority & Fraternity Chapter Presidents of the Year

- Clare Kasten, Alpha Sigma Alpha
- Ryan McCormick, Sigma Nu

Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council Executive Board Members of the Year

- Joey Casey, Phi Kappa Psi
- Hanna Jack, Gamma Phi Beta

Outstanding New Members

- Joshbir Bedi, Sigma Nu
- Katie Baumann, Gamma Phi Beta

Marie Bruce Fraternity Man and Sorority Woman of the Year

- Win Yuong, Sigma Chi
- Hope Wickert, Alpha Sigma Alpha

Public Relations & Marketing Award

- Sigma Chi Fraternity

Brotherhood and Sisterhood Awards

- Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
- Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority

Most Improved Chapter Award

- Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority

2021 Greek Week Winners

- First Place: Sigma Sigma Sigma
- Second Place: Alpha Sigma Alpha
- Third Place: Phi Kappa Psi

Chapter Achievement Awards

- Alpha Chi Omega Sorority
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the areas of
 - ◊ Fraternity & Sorority Community Involvement
 - ◊ Recruitment & Retention
 - ◊ Risk Management
 - ◊ Scholarship
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement with honors in the area of
 - ◊ Community Service & Philanthropy
- Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the areas of
 - ◊ Campus Involvement
 - ◊ Scholarship
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement with honors in the area of

- ◊ Community Service & Philanthropy
- ◊ Fraternity & Sorority Community Involvement
- ◊ Member Education & Development
- ◊ Recruitment & Retention
- ◊ Risk Management

- Gamma Phi Beta Sorority
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the area of
 - ◊ Fraternity & Sorority Community Involvement
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the areas of
 - ◊ Member Education & Development
 - ◊ Recruitment & Retention
 - ◊ Risk Management
 - ◊ Scholarship

- Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the areas of
 - ◊ Fraternity & Sorority Community Involvement
 - ◊ Recruitment & Retention
 - ◊ Risk Management
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement with honors in the area of
 - ◊ Community Service & Philanthropy

- Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the areas of
 - ◊ Recruitment & Retention
 - ◊ Risk Management
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement with honors in the areas of
 - ◊ Community Service & Philanthropy
 - ◊ Fraternity & Sorority Community Involvement
 - ◊ Member Education & Development

- Sigma Chi Fraternity
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the areas of
 - ◊ Community Service & Philanthropy
 - ◊ Recruitment & Retention
 - ◊ Risk Management
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement with honors in the area of
 - ◊ Scholarship

- Sigma Nu Fraternity
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement in the areas of
 - ◊ Community Service & Philanthropy
 - ◊ Fraternity & Sorority Community Involvement
 - ◊ Member Education & Development
 - ◊ Recognized for achievement with honors in the areas of
 - ◊ Recruitment & Retention
 - ◊ Risk Management
 - ◊ Scholarship

Chapters of the Year

- Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority
- Sigma Nu Fraternity

PANHELLENIC COUNCIL & INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

Clare Kasten, PHC President Max Mahoney, IFC President
Clare.kasten@mnsu.edu Maxwell.mahoney@mnsu.edu

This past year has been crazy, and we've been learning how to lead in a pandemic. Even though it's been different we have been able to hold events whether they be virtual or small in-person gatherings. It's a testament to our FSL community and our ability to adapt and work together to persevere. Things were not perfect in the beginning but as time went on, we were able to work with what we had. We are proud of our community and our strength during this difficult time.

ALPHA CHI OMEGA SORORITY

Jordan Quam, President
Jordan.quam@mnsu.edu

Alpha Chi Omega continues to thrive even through tough times. This past semester we were able to transfer over to some of our events being held in person, including our philanthropy event for CADA (the Committee Against Domestic Abuse). We are excited to continue hosting sisterhoods, socials, and growing our chapter. We are excited for the fall and are looking forward to recruitment.



LADIES OF ALPHA CHI OMEGA

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA SORORITY

Anna Thevenot, President
Anna.thevenot@mnsu.edu

The pandemic did not slow down the women of Alpha Sigma Alpha. This past fall, even though quite a bit of our events were virtual, we were very successful with our recruitment efforts and ended up initiating 17 women into our chapter. This spring, we were glad to take the steps we took to hold more in person events and start adjusting to our new normal. We welcomed 6 new members into our chapter and had a very successful semester with our service work. We participated in the Mavathon kickoff event, and For the Kidz week. We raised over \$300 for the local fire department as well as donating some supplies to them. We cheered on the runners in the Girls on the Run 5K and took the plunge for Special Olympics. We ended up taking home 2nd place in Greek Week, and won the 2020 Chapter of the Year Award. Even though we are ready for summer, we cannot wait to be back in person in the Fall.



LADIES OF ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA

GAMMA PHI BETA SORORITY

Hanna Jack, President
Hanna.jack@mnsu.edu

Even though this pandemic was a bit tough, it was quite the reset for GPhi! When was the last time you sat down and hand written a letter? Well, the ladies of Gamma Phi sent dozens of letters to each other over the summer. This is just one example of how we thought outside the box in order to keep our sisterhood strong. In the fall we quickly bonded over the wifi glitching on Zoom and our many other technology issues. As the Covid guidelines loosened, we were able to accomplish many of our goals, one of which included welcoming many new members. In the spring we were even able to hold an in-person initiation for them. The cherry on top of this Covid year was that three Gamma Phi Beta women took home FSL awards! We as a chapter are grateful that we get to represent Minnesota State University, Mankato and our community!



GAMMA PHI BETA RECOGNIZES THEIR SPRING 2021 GRADUATES.

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

Dylan Foy, President
Dylan.foy@mnsu.edu

Despite the pandemic, our chapter was able to accomplish a lot. This past spring, most of our events were held over Zoom, but we still recruited 2 new members and held our annual philanthropy for Echo Food Shelf. We had a great time helping out in Greek Week and even won the volleyball tournament and egg toss. That being said, we've put in place a strong plan for summer recruitment, and we look forward to next year!



MEMBERS OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA COMPETE IN THE GREEK WEEK VOLLEYBALL GAME.

PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY

Tyler Lorbeski, President
Tyler.lorbeski@mnsu.edu

This year was tough, but despite the pandemic we were able to accomplish a lot as a chapter. This spring we held our philanthropy event, Phi Delta Theta Car Smash to raise money for ALS research. We received the best brotherhood award at the Greek awards banquet. This past fall we had the highest overall GPA for fraternities, and we initiated 5 new members. We look forward to being on campus more and have plans for a strong recruitment in the fall.



PHI DELTS GATHER FOR THEIR ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY EVENT.

PHI KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY

Joey Casey, President
joseph.casey@mnsu.edu

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic affecting our in person operations, our ability to adapt has allowed us to accomplish many goals we are extremely proud of. In the fall we were able to have our annual "Fall-antrophy" and managed to recruit seven great new members. In the spring we spent a great deal of time getting back on campus with community service and our 3rd place finish at Greek Week. Currently, we're working hard on our summer recruitment plan to propel ourselves even further on our current course. Phi Psi to the moon!



MEMBERS OF PHI PSI GATHER FOR A CHAPTER EVENT.

TAU KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY

Zane Coyle, President
Zane.coyle@mnsu.edu

Throughout this pandemic, we have felt the hardships of trying to stay on top of our obligations. Even though we have felt this pressure, Tau Kappa Epsilon still succeeded in accomplishing the tasks set for us. Over this last year we have worked with the local Kiwanis Club many times, doing volunteer work with them. We also put on a 24-hour live stream to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Those are just two examples of projects we've worked on this semester. We understand that in this time, the need to help others is more important than ever. We are grateful for the opportunities we've had this semester to work on our goals. We know that despite our own struggles with this pandemic, that if we work hard and remember the importance of this work, we will always accomplish our tasks.

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

Brad Phillips, President
Bradley.phillips@mnsu.edu

Sigma Chi has had a successful past year, despite the pandemic. We were able to recruit 6 very promising new members into our chapter and are excited to watch these men grow. In the fall we adapted to doing a majority of our events virtually. Throughout the year we were still able to give back to the community through Rake the Town, Highway Cleanup, and contributing to Mavathon. In the spring we have enjoyed doing more events in-person by holding initiation and formal. We are looking forward to growing our chapter throughout the upcoming months and can't wait to have people join us next year for our annual Flapjack Feast and Derby Days.



SIGMA CHI MEMBERS SHOW OFF THE HARDWARE THEY TOOK HOME AT THE ANNUAL FSL AWARDS BANQUET.

SIGMA NU FRATERNITY

Jack Lutz, President
Jack.lutz@mnsu.edu

Despite the pandemic, our chapter was able to accomplish a lot. This past fall, most of our things were virtual, but we still recruited 9 new members and placed 2nd in intramural softball. This spring, we were happy to be back in person for some things. Our actives and new members helped put on our annual Shakes & Fries with the Sigma Nu Guys to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity while participating in multiple community service events. Through the strength of our chapter, we were able to secure Chapter of the Year for the third year in a row: 2018, 2019, and 2020. We've put in place a strong plan for summer recruitment, and we look forward to reaching new heights.



SIGMA NU'S SPRING 2021 INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL TEAM.

SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA SORORITY

Lisbeth Magdaleno-Garcia, President

Lisbeth.magdaleno-garcia@mnsu.edu

This pandemic was an obstacle I never thought we would have to face. With this pandemic, we had to do a lot of adapting and just go with the flow. This past year we have had to do a lot of virtual events like sisterhoods, socials, and meetings. The first in-person event that we had was our philanthropy this spring. This philanthropy was one of the biggest and most successful philanthropies we have had in a while raising over \$2,500. This event really made us pumped for more events and won 1st place in Greek Week. Now we are just preparing for this upcoming semester for recruitment and more activities with the rest of Greek Life.



MEMBERS OF TRI-SIGMA GET READY TO COMPETE IN THE GREEK WEEK CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA.



MEMBERS OF TAU KAPPA EPSILON VOLUNTEER WITH THE MANKATO KIWANIS CLUB.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Fraternity and Sorority Life 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.

Fraternity and Sorority Life Community Core Values

- Leadership
- Friendship
- Scholarship
- Service



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE



Membership in Phi Delta Theta and the Minnesota State Fraternity and Sorority Community, completely changed my life. I built lifelong relationships with my brothers and community members that I will cherish forever. Various positions within my chapter, as well as on the Interfraternity Council, helped me apply knowledge and skills acquired from classes right into the real world – something not many other organizations on campus can provide. Being a fraternity man has helped me grow as a leader and an individual. I've been able to learn about myself and challenge myself in ways I would've never thought possible.

Being named a recipient of the Marie Bruce Fraternity Man of the Year Award was a huge honor. Not only did the scholarship provide additional support to furthering myself academically, it also provided motivation for me to continue to working toward becoming the greatest version of myself – both in the classroom and in the fraternity.

Brett Marshall, 2019 Graduate and Marie Bruce Fraternity Man of the Year Award and Scholarship Recipient

Contact Us:

Division of Student Affairs
228 Wigley Administration Center
Minnesota State Mankato
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2121

Fraternity and Sorority Life
173 Centennial Student Union
Minnesota State University
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-6076

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED TO AFI 26/AF127

228 Wigley Administration Center
Mankato, MN 56001