



COLUMNS



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Photo courtesy of Shegaw Productions

Students are given instructions for activities surrounding identity and privilege at Alpha Theta Gamma's Mash Up.

ATG event sparks Greek camaraderie on campus

by Deborah Kim

Alpha Theta Gamma's Mash Up was one of the biggest collaborated events the United Greek Council has ever seen. The event was designed to help break down barriers and unite people -- Greek and non-Greek -- on campus. Moby Dick House of Kabob provided free food for approximately 200 guests.

The event was designed "for the sake of connection and to bring the inequalities to light in order to make progression and alliance possible," said Sontenish Myers, a member of Alpha Theta Gamma and a facilitator of the event.

According to Myers, the Mash Up was organized into two parts, with two themes.

"The first half had a theme of vulnerability while the second half was themed by connection," she said.

During each section there were different activities designed to spark conversation about the respective theme. A Privilege Walk and Corners Activity were just two activities

at the event designed to make students aware of their backgrounds and identity.

Many Greek and non-Greek organizations, such as Alpha Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Chi, Gamma Phi Sigma, Alpha Phi Alpha, the Office of Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy and the Multiracial and Biracial Student Association co-sponsored the event.

All four Greek councils were involved in making this event a success.

"It was truly amazing to see different organizations, Greek and otherwise, come together and work towards breaking down barriers," said Felicia Davenport, the president of Alpha Theta Gamma. "I think some people look at the Greek community as so segregated, but this event showed me that there is hope of being the unified Greek community that Maryland Terp Greeks claim to be."

With the success of the Mash Up, ATG has a goal to make this an annual event.

Circle of Sisterhood unifies PHA women

Speaker educated sororities on female oppression

by Annika McGinnis

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, Ginny Carroll asked University of Maryland sorority members to sit down if they were aware of any of the statistics she was about to read.

"Did you know that 60 - 100 million females are missing in the world simply because they were girls?" she said.

Almost everybody remained standing. The room was silent.

"More girls have been killed in the past 50 years simply because they were girls than men killed in all of the wars of the 20th Cen-

tury," Carroll continued. "Women do 2/3 of the world's work, yet earn only 5 percent of the income. 70 percent of out-of-school youth are girls."

Still, only a few students were sitting. Students glanced around uncomfortably, making sure they were not alone.

UMD sorority women were gathered in Ritchie Coliseum to listen to Ginny Carroll, the founder of the Circle of Sisterhood and the Panhellenic Association's fall speaker. PHA is a recent member of Circle of Sisterhood, an international sorority-based

charity working to give girls around the world access to education. PHA joined the group led by the efforts of Vice President of Administrative Affairs Priyanka Gokhale.

Gokhale attributes her inspiration to Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's *Half the Sky*, a book chronicling the oppression of women in underdeveloped nations. The book was also Carroll's initial inspiration.

"[Circle of Sisterhood] was established to leverage the collective wisdom and influence of sorority women to uplift women from poverty

and oppression," said Carroll.

Since its founding in April 2010, the organization has already made a difference, building homes and providing scholarships, school supplies, teachers, and other resources to girls in Tanzania, Cambodia, Zambia, Mexico, Thailand and Ethiopia. By providing education to girls in developing nations, Carroll hopes to decrease human trafficking, poverty, brutality, HIV and other issues striking women.

"When women are educated, they are em-

Sororities, 2

Clothesline Project gives voice to violence victims

by Taylor Griffith, Editor

For one day every fall and spring semester, Hornbake Plaza is transformed into a place of healing.

Shirts hanging from clotheslines are strewn across the plaza, each representing a person who was a victim of sexual violence.

From declarations of hatred to proclamations of conquering hurt, students, faculty and staff literally aired their dirty laundry for the University of Maryland community to see on Oct. 11.

Known as the Clothesline Project, the public art exhibition is sponsored by the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Pro-



Photo courtesy of Taylor Griffith

Greek chapters assist with the Clothesline Project to raise awareness within the community and honor survivors.

gram and the University Health Center as a medium for healing and a way to raise awareness of the threat of sexual violence on the UMD campus.

According to SARPP coordinator Allison Bennett, "any student group is a perfect storm [for sexual violence]. If you add in social time, alco-

hol and sex, the situation is now high risk."

These student groups range from athletic teams to Greek life.

"Research says there are certain high-risk situations perpetrators look for when targeting victims," Bennett said. "It just so happens that Greek life encompasses

many of those characteristics: easy access to alcohol, a closeness within the social structure and an expectation to pair-off."

In the growing collection of approximately 550 shirts, only about 40 shirts -- less than 10 percent -- specifically target Greek life.

The Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life and SARPP have been working together to ensure the Greek community is educated about sexual violence so members can protect themselves and know when to step in to protect others. DFSL has implemented requirements on the entire Greek community to ensure chapters are educated and safe.

Project, 2

College Park's University Shop sells more than Greek apparel

by Cara LaMaina

As people pass through College Park Shopping Center on Rt. 1 on their way to Noodles and Company and RUGGED Warehouse, they often overlook The University Shop.

Located at 7346 Baltimore Ave., the store is generally only known to members of the Greek community. However, the store sells more than just Greek apparel: it also contains nick-



Photo courtesy of Taylor Griffith

The University Shop, located in College Park Shopping Center, sells Greek and Maryland Terps apparel.

nacks, officially licensed Maryland Terps gear, and American Apparel clothes.

The store has been

in business since 1993. Since its opening, four competitors have opened and closed their doors in the College Park area.

The University Shop is one of the largest Greek stores around. Store manager, Derek Martino, said most competitors who see the store are astounded by its size and wide range of inventory.

Selling Greek apparel is seasonal business, most sales taking place during recruitment seasons in the spring, making it hard to keep the store in business.

Martino said The University Shop has

stayed above water due to the large size of Greek life at UMD. The next closest Greek apparel store is in Delaware, which helps The University Shop attract business from other colleges, such as American University and George Washington University.

In their efforts to appeal to a wide range of Greek communities, the store carries products for chapters that don't exist at UMD.

The University

Shop's online component, www.umdgreekgreekstore.weebly.com, also contributes to their sales outside of UMD students.

Although the store isn't offering any new products this year, Martino is not worried about going out of business.

The University Shop is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. The store is available via phone, 301-277-3662, and on Twitter, @UMDGreekStore.

Sororities in 'unique position' to help women around the world

Continued from page 1

powered and more confident, and they'll often stick up for themselves," she said. "So all the studies indicate that education will eradicate poverty, and education is the answer to most global issues around women."

During her speech, Carroll emphasized the unique significance of sororities in implementing her initiatives. She described the historical creation of sororities as a way for women to unify against oppression of women across the world.

"When women began to attend colleges, they were ostracized and ridiculed and treated very poorly," said Carroll. "Sororities appeared because women felt that if they did it together, they could get through it."

Carroll praised the pre-existing initiatives on this campus and encouraged the sorority women to continue their efforts, elaborating on the true impact of just a few dollars raised.

"You can feed a girl in the developing world school lunch every day for a year for \$3.30," said Carroll. "In developing countries, it's \$50 to send a girl to school for a year, and she has everything she needs— a uniform, books, tuition, everything. To us, that's dinner out."

To many UMD sorority women, Carroll's presentation was an eye-opening and inspiring experience. PHA collected names of students who wanted to become involved with the Circle of Sisterhood, and the line of women stretched out the door.

"I think it's amazing," said senior supply chain management major Bonnie Butler. "When she said those facts, I really had no idea. I plan on checking out the website tonight and maybe even sending information to my mom, my aunts and my sister about it. It was extremely touching."

"After reading [*Half the Sky*], I went on the book's website and donated ... and got really into it," said junior accounting and communication double major Kelly Grover. "I didn't know anybody cared about the things that I did, so just to know that I'm not the only one who ... read the book and ... cared about it is just awesome."

At the beginning of the presentation, PHA presented Carroll with a \$4,500 check, the larg-

est donation her organization has ever received from a university. Individual chapters raised money for Circle of Sisterhood through fundraising campaigns.

Half the Sky, the university's First Year Book for the 2010-2011 school year, raised awareness of female oppression on campus.

After hearing of her interest in the book, PHA advisor Liz Brown suggested Gokhale look at Circle of Sisterhood.

"When I got the position [of VP of Administrative Affairs], I was like, 'Done. This is something I have to bring here; it's too important to not do,'" Gokhale said.

Among other initiatives, Gokhale wants to organize volunteering at local women's shelters, including those for vic-

tims of human trafficking.

"I think it's really important for a woman to do things globally, but I think we need to realize that there are a lot of problems where we live, and getting people more involved in the community will get them more personally affiliated with these issues," said Gokhale. "But if you're actually volunteering in the shelter, you're directly touching people's lives."

Gokhale also hopes the Circle of Sisterhood initiatives at UMD will help to unite the different Greek organizations, as well as other student groups, under a common movement.

"I know there's an intrinsic competitiveness between the sororities, but I have watched this past year...sorority

communities around the country pull together and -- in the spirit of women's sisterhood -- fundraise and create awareness around the global issues relating to girls and women," said Carroll. "It's amazing to see it. It's phenomenal."

By becoming involved with the Circle of Sisterhood, Gokhale wants to enlighten sorority members to the true impact of problems that are often unknown or dismissed.

"We tend to write off [these problems] as 'Oh, it doesn't impact me,' but as a person it does impact each and every one of us," she said. "I hope that having our chapters be involved with the Circle of Sisterhood will help people realize that we can make a difference for the better."

Project 'breaks silence' of sexual violence

Continued from page 1

Some of the shirts in the project target specific Greek chapters with members that are perpetrators. Instead of running from the realization, Bennett said most chapters "take this information and think 'What can we do to help?' I think this shows bravery, integrity, and these people are really living the values of their organizations."

Multicultural sorority Sigma Psi Zeta is one such organization that has consistently helped with the Clothesline Project because it coincides with their national philanthropy, Combat Violence Against Women.

Sigma Psi Zeta sis-

ters helped SARPP set up and clean up the event, and also tabled about domestic violence, handing out pamphlets and ribbons.

"Our involvement with the Project shows that the Greek community can really help make a difference and help make [the campus community] aware of certain issues," Deborah Kim, a sister of Sigma Psi Zeta and the United Greek Council's Vice President of External Relations, said. "If our sorority, which is a chapter in UGC, can help this cause, imagine how big this can get when more Greeks help out."

The number of Greeks who are unaware of sexual violence problems on campus is



The Clothesline Project is a public art exhibition that helps victims of sexual violence heal, and also raises awareness of a larger problem within the community, according to SARPP Coordinator Allison Bennett. "The project is a catalyst through which people come to realize a problem of violence within their organization," she said.

shrinking, and Bennett said that is largely due to the "ripple effect" the Clothesline Project has.

"Many of our shirts are made in honor of a survivor by family or friends who are impacted."

Bennett said the Greek community takes this issue to heart: "Chapters participate in ...the Project, and they are doing it with intent. Each shirt is one person. Each shirt is a part of UMD."



Photos courtesy of Taylor Griffith

Sigma Kappa wins grant for hospital toys, books

by Sarah Gibbons

The Maryland chapter of Sigma Kappa received a grant to collect toys, books and games for the Children's National Medical Center.

Once a year, the national Sigma Kappa gives the 1874 Giving Circle Grant to a chapter that is working with an organization outside of the philanthropies the sorority supports nationally.

Children's National cares for more than 360,000 patients a year, according to the center's website. They provide more than \$50 million in uncompensated medical

care to pediatric patients. The center provides care for emergencies, trauma, cancer, cardiac and critical care as well as neonatology, orthopaedic surgery, neurology, and neurosurgery.

In addition to the medical care Children's National provides, the center does its best to promote a nurturing and fun environment for its patients. There are multiple play rooms on each floor of the hospital which are restricted to doctors and parents; a safe haven for the children to ease the fear of the hospital and make them feel more at home.

Maryland's SigKap

executive board toured Children's National to better understand the charity behind Terp Thon -- the campus-wide dance marathon that benefits the hospital -- and were inspired by the atmosphere of the hospital and the lengths at which they go to make the patients comfortable.

Sigma Kappa plans to turn their efforts into a community-wide effort to better the lives of the patients at Children's National.

"We hope to educate people on the mission of the hospital and how these toys and books will help the patients there," Rachel Engster, philan-



**Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals**

Photo courtesy of www.childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org

Several Greek organizations at Maryland host events benefitting the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

thropy chair of SigKap, said. "Giving these children the newest toys will inspire them during their treatment. We also want to inspire others to donate and make this a community-wide effort."

The toy drive will take place in November. Registration for Terp Thon 2012 began on Sept. 30.

Presidential Profile: Phi Sigma Kappa

by Michelle Ruth

A group of people exist who believe that Greek life isn't for them, and when senior finance and supply chain management double major Jay Gobeil came to the University of Maryland, he was one of them.

However unlikely it seemed at the time, Gobeil is now the president of Phi Sigma Kappa and has been for the past two and a half years.

When I asked Gobeil to explain why he decided to take on this task, his story was not that of an ordinary chapter president.

Gobeil saw the role of being president as an opportunity to help create an outstanding organization.

"I had a vision of PSK as an organization that would challenge its members to grow as individuals, contribute to the university community, and attain a reputation for excellence," he said.

However, since PSK is only a colony -- a new chapter of a fraternity or sorority that has not received its charter yet -- on campus, Gobeil was appointed as president

a mere two minutes after he was initiated to the fraternity in April of 2009.

Since Gobeil became president he has dealt with the challenging task of attaining recognition from the national Phi Sigma Kappa organization and trying to achieve acknowledgment as a chapter from the Interfraternity Council.

Throughout the past few years, these tasks have presented many challenges for Gobeil. He explained that the biggest issue PSK faced was in establishing how their organization should function.

"We had to build a fraternity from scratch, and we had no older members to go off of in terms of learning how to run a fraternity," Gobeil said.

Being the president of a colony has put Gobeil in a unique position as chapter president. But through all the challenges, Gobeil advised future chapter presidents to "never forget that you were elected to serve the fraternity, and always strive to bring out the best from both yourself and your brothers."

To rush, or not to rush? Advice for PNM's

by Kayleigh Schultz

Fraternities and sororities hold events to get to know potential new members, spread information about their organizations, and prepare to take new pledge classes each semester. This process is known as recruitment, or rushing.

Every member of a fraternity and sorority has gone through recruitment and understands how scary, fun and exciting recruitment can be. During recruitment, people learn what they are looking for in a fraternity or sorority, what they value in

a house, what they hope to get out of Greek life, and the skills and opportunities Greek life can offer them.

Talking to different people and learning information about fraternities and sororities can be overwhelming, but current members say it's worth it in the long run.

"Recruitment was really stressful, but I'm so happy I went through it because I love the sorority I'm in," said Kelly Renehan, a sophomore criminology major and member of Alpha Omicron Pi.

However, fall and spring recruitment are

very different. Formal recruitment for sororities in the spring forces potential new members to learn about every house. While this process can be tedious, it's designed to be helpful.

Kelly MacDougal, a sophomore of AOPi, said "it was helpful to go through during the spring because I got to see all the houses and know I was making the right choice. It helped me to make an informed decision."

Going through recruitment also helps students better understand what they want to gain from joining Greek life.

"I was really interested in getting involved in philanthropy and realized that joining Greek life could open up a lot of opportunities for me," Renehan said.

MacDougal had a similar experience: "I wanted to have a big group of girlfriends and get to know people. Going through recruitment helped me to get involved and meet people I never would have met before."

Whether you're set on pledging or rushing to determine if Greek life is for you, recruitment is a potentially life-changing experience.

AOPi proves balancing athletics, sorority is doable

by Morgan Lash

Even without extra-curricular activities, many students may become easily overwhelmed by the stress of schoolwork at a prestigious university. Despite this, many students still have the urge to get involved in various activities around campus.

Two of the most time-consuming organizations on campus

are arguably university athletics and the Greek system. Each requires time and dedication from their members. For most, managing Greek life, and university athletics with school is challenging, but worth the effort.

Senior Demetra Dooros has been a member of University of Maryland's cheerleading team since her freshman year. She is also an active member

of Maryland's chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi.

Dooros said it can often be hard to manage both activities, especially with her schoolwork.

Although the division of time between her sorority and her teammates could potentially cause problems, Dooros said there is rarely an issue.

"There isn't really ever any tension [between my two commitments] because

my sorority sisters are very understanding that cheerleading must come first, so if I ever miss an event because of cheer it is understandable and excused."

A strong support group from both the athletic team and her sisters is necessary in order for Dooros, or any Greek-athlete, to succeed.

While Jamie Little, coach of the cheerleading team, is happy

Dooros can remain active in her sorority, cheerleading remains "a mandatory obligation and must always be the first priority."

With support from her sorority, teammates and coach, Dooros finds juggling all of her time-intensive activities to be much easier.

"I feel that always being active in sports has helped me build good time management skills. I always

put my commitment to cheerleading first, but I also make sure to give sufficient time to my sorority's activities."

While maintaining an acceptable grade point average, participating in sports and being involved in a sorority or fraternity is difficult to handle, with the help of her sisters, coach and teammates, Demetra Dooros proves that it is feasible.