COLUMNS
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Greeks roll out the red carpet

Homecoming to feature movie theme
by Christina Posa

Movie genres are the theme for this year’s Homecoming events, held from Oct. 9 - 14. Each sorority and fraternity will be placed into teams who will compete against the others in a series of events that will challenge their creativity, teamwork, determination and school spirit.

Each sorority and fraternity will have an opportunity to get to know their match-up at a pre-Homecoming week athletic event. Usually this is a men’s soccer game where the teams begin to practice their enthusiasm and unity.

There is also a community service event, which mirrors last year’s Homecoming event as it was such a success. Homecoming teams will also paint and decorate dumpsters around campus, a community service event, to draw attention to the importance of keeping a clean environment.

To become Homecoming champions, each team must compete to win points at as many events as possible throughout the week.

These competitive events will kick off on Oct. 9 with Olympics on Fraternity Row. Athletics, which will consist of a variety of sports such as flag football, kickball and volleyball, will start the next day.

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, the match-ups’ imagination and drama will be put to the test as they compete at Cole Field House for the judges’ votes on their prepared skits and corresponding backdrops. No competitions will be held on Thursday. Instead, performers will have the chance to sit back and watch Aziz Ansari perform a comedy show.

Jump to Homecoming, 2

From the Editor
by Taylor Griffith, Editor

As Greeks, we know that the beginning of a new semester means rush parties, philanthropy events and Big-Little bonding. If you’re looking for a way to navigate it all, turn to Columns.

Columns is UMD’s resource for all Greek news. Sponsored by the PanHellenic Association, Columns covers PHA, IFC, UGC and Phi.

If you have any story ideas, or are interested in writing for Columns, please email the editor at tmgrrf@terpmail.umd.edu

Jump to Award, 2

Alpha Phi, FIJI host event after father dies of cancer
by Sarah Pulas

On Oct. 2, Alpha Phi and Phi Gamma Delta -- FIJI -- will host the Patient 9 Crabwalk in honor of an Alpha Phi’s father who died the summer of 2011 from skin cancer.

Jenna Winarick, a senior, spent her summer struggling with the painful loss of her father, Ron Winarick, to melanoma.

Melanoma is one of the deadliest forms of skin cancer.

The event will include a 5k walk/run in the morning, followed by a crab fest in the afternoon. The proceeds from the event will go to the Patient 9 Foundation, created to raise funds for cancer research.

In 2008, Winarick’s father was diagnosed with melanoma, according to the Patient 9 website. The cancer was originally detected when cancerous tumors were discovered in his chest, many of which were removed during surgery. By June of 2009, a new tumor was detected in his lung.

Eight months later, Winarick’s liver failed.

Although his condition had seemed to improve, by September of 2010 an MRI showed 5 cancerous lesions in Winarick’s brain.

Right when the disease took a turn for the worst, Jenna Winarick’s brother, Cole Winarick, founded the Patient 9 Foundation.

Cole Winarick, a sophomore at the University of Delaware, began the foundation as a way of raising money to support an experimental clinical trial their father was a part of. There is no known cure for melanoma, and chemotherapy is ineffective in treatment.

A trial run by Melanoma Specialist Dr. Stephen Hodi at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston has been testing a new autoimmunie drug that is a potential alternative to chemotherapy.

Winarick was accepted into the trial as the ninth patient in his particular section of the trial, hence the name of the foundation.

At the time the foundation was created, the trial was running out of funding, despite promising results up until that point. This inspired Cole Winarick to find a way to allow the trial to continue its work.

Patient 9’s second fundraising event, the first was a golf outing run by Cole Winarick’s fraternity, Sigma Chi, at the University of Delaware last year. The event raised more than $20,000. The brothers expected the event to raise approximately $25,000.

Members of the Greek community cheer for their match-up during the Jiffy Pita 5K Fun Run/Walk at the University of Delaware on Oct. 12.

Sigma Kappa wins nat’l award
by Sarah Gibbons

The Sigma Kappa National Council awarded the sisters of the Beta Zeta chapter the Founder’s Award this summer.

U of Md SigKap wins nat’l award
by Sarah Gibbons

The Beta Zeta chapter of Sigma Kappa received the first-ever Founder’s Award at the 2011 Sigma Kappa Collegiate Officer Training School Awards Reception in June.

To receive the award, the chapter must have the highest rating (three stars) for Standards of Excellence, excellent overall chapter reporting for a year, and it must best represent the values of the founders, and the chapter that best represents the values of the founders.

High standards of the written chapter report made Beta Zeta a contender for the award.

The thorough reporting of 2010 Chapter President Tina Scott and Ritual Chair Andrea Jacobs, and the completion of goals set at the beginning of the school year helped make Beta Zeta the strongest contender for the award.

“Sigma Kappa works very hard to uphold its members to our four founding values by stressing the importance of these qualities throughout our programming,” Pamela Herald, executive vice president, said.

Jump to Award, 2

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The team with the most members attending this show will win points toward Homecoming week championship.

Kaitlyn Stiefvater, senior of Alpha Phi, said ski and backpack is usually the most anticipated event, because this is where the most teamwork and creativity come in to play.

"Last Homecoming, a lot of match-ups let the floats go until the last minute and kind of scrambled to throw something together, but I think everyone is much more prepared this year, and I can’t wait to see what everyone has to offer," Stiefvater said.

The championship round of events will take place on Oct. 14, Friday.

"We have already started preparations for this show, supporting our school spirit and Greek pride," Melanie Willins, junior and a member of Alpha Delta Pi, said.

Although Homecoming is an opportunity for Greeks and non-Greeks to show their school spirit, it’s also an opportunity for the Greek community to show what they have to offer.

"We often get a bad rep," Stiefvater said, "but I think Homecoming is our chance to really get involved with the University and show them and the community that we’re not all about our stigmas.

UGC elects new exec. board by Deborah Kim

The United Greek Council – UGC – is made up of 13 chapters. The Executive Board has seven members; the president, vice president external, vice president internal, secretary, treasurer, vice president of programming and judicial officer.

Each newly-elected official has specific goals for this academic year.

"My goals for the UGC as a whole are to have more active chapter participation in cross-council events," President Dana Robinson said. She is also concerned with "keeping our chapters moving in a positive direction. I would like to see our grades improved, intake numbers increased, increased advertisement, and an uprising in the amount of programs our chapters put on."

Shannon Lee, secretary, also wants to "get (UGC’s) name out there and have more involvement within the PHA/IFC community as well as have the individual chapters within UGC become more unitied and tight-knit."

"To close the gap between the four Greek councils, Christian Del Cid, vice president of programming, hopes to "advertise UGC when possible and co-sponsoring events within the council and with other councils" will help achieve these goals.

"Each board member has a certain title and objectives for that title, but in the end, we are all working towards the same goal," Pratik Sarpalli, treasurer, said. "Therefore, we need to be active in all events planned and show support for everything UGC as well as the chapters within our council."

"We need the chapters to work and understand what everyone has to offer," said Stiefvater.

The chapter plans to have the crab walk already gathered support from students and busi-nesses alike.

"According to Jenn Money, President of Alpha Phi, various spon-sors have already con-tributed to the event such as Musclemilk, Monster, and Hawaiian Tropic, who will be donating a plethora of sunscreen."

The event will kick-off with the 5k registration at Ritchie Coliseum at 10am. A maryland crab fest will follow on FIJI’s lawn at 7:001 Hop-kins Ave. The crab fest will also provide veggie burgers as an alternative option.

All proceeds from the event will go to Pa-tient 9.

The foundation focuses on raising funds, but also in educating people about the importance of sun safety.

"People don’t realize how harmful the sun can be, especially our age group," Jenna Winarick said. "They don’t take into account that this is the deadliest form of skin cancer."

"Winarick stressed that preventative mea-sures are key in the fight against skin cancer, add-

Chair gives tips for charity event success by Lana Marcon

In the tradition of Greek founding, each member dedicates time, money and efforts to the betterment of their chapter’s philanthropic cause.

Last year, all of Greek community vol-unteered approximately 4,316 hours of commu-nity service, according to Matt Supple, Director of the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Throughout the year, the entire Greek community host and take part in countless philanthropic events.

Some chapters, such as Zeta Tau Alpha, are known to promote their cause for an entire month. In October, Breast Cancer Aware-

ness and Education Month, the sisters of ZTA will be recognizing their national philanthropy by hosting Think Pink events starting on Oct. 1.

Last May, Alpha Tau Omega and Pi Kappa Al-pha held a joint event, Kid Power Field Day, to benefit ATO’s philanthropy, Kid Power Inc., a non-profit organization which helps underprivi-leged school children.

This event was a huge success and hosted activities for more than 100 underprivileged children from the Wash-ington, D.C. area, totaling for the academic year. ATO raised $35,308, according to Jack Rudy, philanthropy chair. This semester, they will continue their support through the program Kid Power Tutoring.

The UGC elected executive board officials for the 2011-2012 academic year. Left to right: Shannon Lee, secretary, Deborah Kim, vice president external; Dana Robinson, president, Christian Del Cid, vice president of programming; Pratik Sarpalli, treasurer; David Morris, judicial officer; and Michelle Yu, vice president internal.

October Philanthropy Events

Patient 9 Crabwalk Oct. 2 – AΦ, FIJI

Think Pink Blowout Oct. 5 – ZTA

Park Invasive Plant Removal Oct. 8 – AΦO

Domestic Violence Oct. 8 – AXO

Wigman Oct. 21 – AΦF

Derby Days Oct. 23 – 2Φ

Casino Night Oct. 28 – 2Κ

Award puts SigKap on the right track

The chapter plans to bring their national success back to the local level this year.

"We need to translate that success nationally to the university level, and [we] are hoping to win back President’s Cup this year," Emily Mize, president, said.

With a brand new philanthropy event – Sigma Kappa Casino Night – to support the Alzheimer’s Foundation and Alzheimer’s research and a philanthropic grant being used by the Zeta Chi Chapter's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the chapter is working to be more active both in the chapter and the university.

"Be careful about being checked by a dermatologist once a year. I don’t want to see what happened to my dad happen to anyone else I know."


Donations may also be made on the Patient 9 website at any time.

Fundraiser benefits Patient 9

"If someone who has cancer steps up into the role of leader, it’s a huge difference," Lee said. "It’s a huge difference because it’s a personal battle, and they can relate to the people who are going through it."

EGS looks to bring more people into the community.

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"[Support] each other and help each other through academics and community service."
Philanthropy events must ‘be student-friendly’ philanthropy chair said
disputed, according to various PHA philanthropy chairs, the key to hosting a successful charity event lies in three main areas: appeal, organization, and appreciation.

“There are certain things to remind yourself about college students, especially Greeks, that are crucial to planning an event: we are restless, we are cheap, we love food, and we love free stuff,” Dana Elkins, a Sigma Delta Tau, said.

Because students are the target population, make sure to gear your event towards them. To ensure the event is student-friendly, Piesch recommends making sure the event is young and fun, the prices are low enough for students to attend, but high enough to raise a decent amount of money, and there is an additional incentive for participants such as prizes and food. Advertising the event should also be thorough to ensure the use of listservs, social media and fliering is also essential, she said.

Delegating tasks is also key to hosting a successful charity event, said Rachel Engster, Sigma Kappa philanthropy chair.

“When planning an event for your chapter, it’s easy to get overwhelmed quickly,” she said. “Amain recruitment program committee members is key...by giving members responsibilities in planning they will feel a part of the event - and after all, they should be.” She also suggests planning a semester ahead to ensure that details are carefully made and fully thought-through.

Once an event is over, it is courteous to thank the community to whom ever contributed, Engster said. Just as people want to feel like they are making a difference, they want to know that their efforts were recognized and appreciated. Whether they donated time, their money, or their talents - make sure to send thank you notes.

“Any one was obligated to contribute to the success of your event,” she said. “And, to be honest, it wouldn’t have been great without their support!”

‘Balanced Man’ to unite brothers
by Naveed Siddiqui

In August, Cornell University President David Skorton wrote in the New York Times asking Greek organizations to end hazing and implement new member development programs that foster fraternal bonds and personal growth.

In the editorial, Skorton specifically mentioned Sigma Phi Epsilon’s Balanced Man Program — RMP — as an effective alternative to the traditional pledging process.

The Balanced Man Program was implemented in 1991 after hazing and alcohol issues made the national fraternity realize it was not living up to its values, Gene Schur, chapter advisor, said. After starting with two pilot chapters, the program is now in use by more than 80 percent of SigEp chapters nationwide.

Schur, a SigEp alumnus from Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia, said BMP aims to provide educational opportunities in the pledging process.

“As long as a group of men have power over another group, someone will take advantage of that power,” he said.

Along with the abuse of power, Schurargued pledging also does not build strong bonds across a chapter. “Pledging builds strong pledge classes, not a strong chapter,” he said.

BMP takes power away from one man and puts new members to work with people Schur calls “brothers from day one.”

A member goes through three main stages of the BMP during his college experience: Sigma, Phi and Epsilon. During the Sigma period, new brothers learn about the fraternity’s history, along with time management and leadership skills they are encouraged to contribute to the fraternity from the start.

In the Phi challenge, brothers are taught to balance their strengths and weaknesses and become active members of their campus community.

During Epsilon, members become lifetime brothers and are expected to be leaders in the chapter and mentors to younger brothers. They learn professional skills so they may succeed in their careers beyond college.

A member goes through three main stages of the BMP during his college experience: Sigma, Phi and Epsilon. During the Sigma period, new brothers learn about the fraternity’s history and start using it so that everyone starts rising,” he said. “If everyone is doing it, it’ll make our program even better.”

“I think others in our Greek system have to see the benefits of the Balanced Man Program and start using it so that everyone starts rising,” he said. “If everyone is doing it, it’ll make our program even better.”

Presidential Profile: Phi Sigma Sigma
by Michelle Ruth

At first glance, Dana Babij, a junior elementary education major, does not stand out as someone who would want to tackle the intense job of president of her sorority. She is kind and at times shy, but when I asked Babij, the president of Phi Sigma Sigma, why she decided to take on this task, she shared that her bashfulness was the exact reason why she took on this position.

“I’m not the kind of person to run for a position like president since I usually just like to blend in,” Babij said. “But once I made the decision to run for the position, it turned out to be something I really cared about and truly enjoyed doing.”

Since her election, Babij’s main focus has been on thephi’s national chapter from Phi Sig’s house on College Ave., to the Alpha Xi Delta house. She had to work closely with the Phi Sig House Corporation, the advisors, both the new and old house directors and Alpha Phi in order to come up with rules that would ensure that both chapters could live cohesive.

Howver, stressful situations that may have been, Babij explains that there were still perks to her job, since she was able to learn from the advisors and allow women to get any questions answered,” Babij said.

Look out for fliers regarding specific dates, times and places for the events.

COLOPHON
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