PHA Welcomed KJ McNamara from “Phired Up” as Fall 2013 Speaker

By Courtney Hoff

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, PHA hosted Kayley-Jean (KJ) McNamara, of Phired Up, a production company designed to help fraternities and sororities grow and succeed, for their Fall speaker who discussed recruitment tips and social excellence.

Before the actual presentation, KJ hosted an open forum for new and old executive boards to come ask her questions with a focus on recruitment. Here she discussed topics such as bump groups, morale, overcoming stereotypes, and she also told funny recruitment stories. One funny story she told was about how she was visiting a chapter at UCLA, she found sisters in a closet working on the bulletin boards for house. Then, when a sister gave KJ a house tour and passed the bulletin boards, the sister didn’t even talk about how hard her sisters have been working on them. Once the presentation began, she focused on conversation skills, such as types of questions to ask.

Her main point was that women don’t join sororities, they join you, and therefore it is important to make a good, genuine, first impression, because that is what potential new members will remember throughout recruitment.

To emphasize this point, she told stories of her own recruitment, and conversations that she still remembers even years later.

To help us learn the points that she was making, she had us find a partner that we did not already know, and we practiced asking meaningful open-ended questions to find out more about each other.

Overall, it was a very helpful presentation and everyone in attendance could walk away feeling more prepared for upcoming recruitment.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated’s Coming Out Show

By Jessica Evans

On Nov. 20 the Theta Nu chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, introduced Maryland’s National Pan-Hellenic Council’s largest chapter and single new member class in history at their coming out show where they introduced 70 new members to the Maryland community. Traditionally, it is a secret when women are pledging AKA, and so the coming out show is the big reveal to friends and family that they are members of AKA.

For the show, the women wore black outfits with bright pink gloves, green head scarves and sunglasses; pink and green are their chapter’s colors. During the show, the AKA women would recite the sorority’s history in unison and gave shoutouts to recognize other NPHC chapters.

Traditionally in NPHC chapters, they have “lines,” which are equivalent to pledge classes, where each member is given a number. The number represents their place in the line by height order. They always have that number so when they meet members of other chapters who have the same number, it is a great way to bond. During the show, the new sisters would announce themselves in line order and they would take their scarves and sunglasses off. After all the members revealed themselves, AKA stepped.

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“The Theta Nu chapter was founded on March 2, 1974 by 13 women. AKA was nationally founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University, becoming the first Greek lettered sorority for women of color, according to their website. The 16 original founders organized AKA because they envisioned an organization, which would promote social and economic betterment on the local, state, national and international levels.”

Photo by Jessica Evans

Alpha Theta Gamma Multicultural Sorority, Inc. MASH-UP: Unity in Diversity

By Moriel Daniel

November 12th, 2013 marked the third annual MASH-UP: Unity in Diversity event sponsored by Alpha Theta Gamma Multicultural Sorority, Incorporated. This year, four Pan-Hellenic chapters cosponsored the event and attendance comprised of members from all Greek councils. To start off the event, members were asked to raise their hands if statements applied to them, sharing common experiences between attendees. Groups were divided by various factors, such as family structure, gender and race among others. Leaders were from different areas of campus, acting as distinctive conversation starters. Students discussed stereotypes on campus and how using different identities can affect how one acts around peers. To wrap up the event, each participant wrote down something that holds them back – using clichés and identities together. Holding hands, participants ran across the line created by those things holding them back, signifying the idea that together, stereotypes can be broken down.
IFC On-Campus Tailgates Creates Sense of Community

By Elyssa Morris

The University of Maryland is paving the way for new traditions after hosting its first on-campus tailgates for students this semester. With the university’s upcoming entrance into the Big Ten, the school has shown interest in matching the level of school spirit and sense of community much like the other schools within the division do.

The tailgate, co-sponsored by the Interfraternity Council, the Student Government Association, University Police, and the athletic department, drew many curious and excited students. There were five main missions for the on-campus tailgate including increasing student attendance at games, decreasing disturbances in Old Town College Park, improving trust between the student body and police department, creating a safe model for future on-campus tailgating, and unifying the community. One of the main concerns was to insure the safety of the students. Michael Sikorski, IFC external affairs vice president reflected, “From a reflection of IFC, we thought it was an extremely successful event. There were absolutely no safety or behavior related issues.”

A major positive that came along with moving tailgating to an on-campush location was the impact on the local college park community. The tailgating format is beneficial to both students and the surrounding community. There are fewer disturbances within the local community and students also have a controlled environment to tailgate. Lauren Morton, vice president of risk management and logistics for her sorority commented, “I definitely find this reassuring; the idea of controlled drinking and a safer tailgating environment,”

Covering the safety aspects further, Sikorski added, “Everybody who attended for the most part followed the guidelines and rules.”

Above everything, the on-campus tailgate has given the Greek community another avenue to come together and celebrate as a community. It will continue to make bonds within our own community as well as outside our community stronger.

Fall Intersorority Events

Starting on Nov. 15 and lasting through the week, PHA chapters were matched up with each other to have a community service event to create new friendships and celebrate Panhellenic sisterhood!

Photos by Hannah Klein

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