There’s an App for That

By Laura McKeon

Cell phones are essential for everyday life for a lot of people. And now with so many technological advances, it is possible for University of Maryland students to learn all about sorority life from the palm of their hand. That’s right...there is now an app for even that. The app is called TerpLife and is free to download.

The app allows students to download guides of campus activities so they have a wealth of information at their fingertips whenever they need it. For example, the Sorority Life guide has a map of all of the sorority houses on campus, and a brief synopsis of each organization. The app also contains contact information and website links for all organizations. This will be especially useful for students considering joining a sorority. During recruitment, it can be difficult to remember the symbols, nicknames, mottos and locations of each organization. Now, anyone can easily find all this information on a smartphone. Guidebook sponsors and created the app. Part of their philosophy is that “more and more people are relying on their smartphones and tablets for information about what’s going on and how to get the most out of the experience once they get there.” The Office of Student Affairs contacted Guidebook in order to make a lot of information about the university’s many organizations and activities easily accessible to the intended audience: you, the UMD student.

There’s a guide for several things the university has to offer, from Greek life to dining services to career and internship fairs, anyone can find a guide that would be applicable and useful to him or her. It’s just a few clicks away.

Meet the New PHA Graduate Assistant, Lindsey Conklin

Where did you attend undergrad?
Lindsey (LC): Maryland is my 14th move/home and I’ve travelled to 47 countries!

What is an interesting fact about you?
LC: Maryland is my 14th move/home and I’ve travelled to 47 countries!

What is your favorite part about UMD?
LC: The people! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my writing professors, my team within the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life and of course, my 32 new roommates [Lindsey is the resident director for Kappa Alpha Order], who in spite of their suggestion to make Friday themed, “Beak Stuff Fridays,” (a proposal that has thankfully remained hypothetical) have been absolutely fabulous!

Everything You Want to Know About the IFC Tailgates

By Rachel Hoffman

As the University of Maryland adjusts to moving into the Big Ten, the IFC has also adjusted to moving on-campus for tailgates. The IFC decided to sponsor on-campus tailgates for a number of reasons. The IFC VP of External Affairs, Chris Frye, gave us the inside scoop on the reasoning behind IFC tailgating.

Frye explained that the IFC decided to sponsor on-campus tailgates to promote positive changes within the community. On-campus tailgating alleviates the problem of tailgating in Old Town College Park, which improves relations between the IFC and city residents,” Frye said. In addition to enhancing the relationship between College Park locals and students, Frye explains that on-campus tailgating is also “much safer for students. Safety is vital within the College Park community and anything that helps maximize safety is a good cause.” Lastly, Frye said on-campus tailgating “helps to build support for our athletic programs and promote school support as (our school) transitions into the Big Ten. In a nutshell (or a Testudo shell), on-campus tailgating helps to build relationships with College Park locals, protect students and support our team as we assimilate into the Big Ten.

“Now successful have on-campus tailgates been so far?” one may ask. “So far, the IFC tailgating initiative has been very successful,” Frye said. He also mentioned that chapters have been very receptive to the policies and regulations and that there was a solid showing by Greek life at the first football game. Samantha Conklin, a student, agreed with Frye: “The on-campus tailgate was really fun. I think as time progresses, more and more people will start to come to the IFC-sponsored tailgates.”

Overall, the on-campus tailgates are helping to build the community between fraternities and seem to have the interest of the athletic team as well as the UMD community at heart. Frye remarked, “a culture change is happening on this campus, and it’s very exciting!” So, stay tuned folks, this is going to be a new experience for us all.

Q&A with an Adviser

By Phoebe Dinner

Nathan Barrera-Bunch started working as the adviser for the National Pan-Hellenic Conference (NPHC) and the United Greek Council (UGC) at UMD in August. Barrera-Bunch received his Bachelor of Arts in sociology and Mexican American studies in 2011 from The University of Texas, Austin and went on to get his M.S. in Higher Education from The Florida State University. He is a brother of Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Incorporated.

Q: How did you get into DFSL at Maryland?
A: It was my fraternity experiences that led me to look into the field of student affairs. I actually heard about this position a couple of years ago and when I saw that it was open I was so excited to apply. It sounds cliché, but this position is actually my dream position for entry-level work.

Q: What specifically is your job on campus?
A: My job on campus is to enhance the relationship between College Park locals and the university’s Greek life. On-campus tailgates are one avenue to do so. On-campus tailgates is a proposal that has thankfully remained hypothetical because I have been absolutely fabulous!

Q: What are some of your goals in this position?
A: There is a lot of the organizations can stand to learn from each other in the way in which they recruit members. That’s also one of my goals, which is to take the strengths of NPHC and UGC and offer that up to any PHA or IFC community. I also really want to focus on educational and cultural programming.
What You Need to Know About Sorority Extension

By Erin O’Keefe

In the fall of 2012 the Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta returned to the University of Maryland. In its two years here, the Beta Eta Chapter has experienced wide success and support from the entire Greek community. Next year, the University of Maryland will welcome another sorority chapter.

Panhel available to campus. Currently the Panhellenic community is at its largest size. If chapters become too large, they can lose their sense of sisterhood, decrease chapter involvement, and make chapters less manageable, according to Robin Dunbar who has done research on the idea that humans can only hold about 150 meaningful relationships. Housing capacity is another issue with large chapter sizes. If chapters become too large it becomes a challenge to hold meals, meetings, rituals, philanthropy, or recruitment events in houses. The Panhellenic community expressed a strong desire to keep houses relevant to Greek life with the capacity to accommodate the entire chapter membership. The extension process offers a solution to the capacity problems facing the Panhellenic community at Maryland. The extension process has gotten off to a great start this year, with a PHA Extension Committee already formed and three chapters selected for further consideration. The 10-person extension committee is comprised of recent alumnae from PHA chapters at Maryland, a few chapter advisors, a Panhellenic officer, a staff member at Maryland, and a few undergraduate students selected from a large pool of applicants. The extension committee recently announced that they invited Phi Mu, Kappa Gamma, and Gamma Phi Beta to campus for presentations to continue the extension process.

Each will visit for a day on campus and there will be multiple opportunities to meet with the representatives to hear about their national organization. Phi Mu will visit on Nov. 4, Kappa Kappa Gamma will visit on Nov. 5, and Gamma Phi Beta will visit on Nov. 6. There will be open presentations during these evenings for any students to attend and provide feedback. After these presentations the extension committee will recommend which group they feel is most suited to start a UMD chapter and PHA Delegates will vote on the recommendation. The new chapter will form on campus in the fall of 2015 or spring of 2016 depending on the national organization’s preference. A housing location for the new chapter has yet to be determined but there are several potential options being looked into.

This is an exciting time for Maryland’s Panhellenic community and chapters should be on the lookout for more information from their PHA Delegates regarding the process and how they can stay involved.

Get to Know the Potential New Chapters

Phi Mu

Founded: March 4, 1852 at Wesleyan Female College
Philanthropy: Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals
Colors: Rose and white
Symbol: Barbed quatrefoil
Flower: Rose-colored carnation
Mascot: Lion
Values: Love, honor, and truth
Open Motto: Les sœurs fideles--The faithful sisters
Visiting UMD: Nov. 4

Gamma Phi Beta

Founded: Nov. 11, 1874 at Syracuse University
Philanthropy: Camp Fire, Girl Guides of Canada, Girls on the Run
Nickname: Gamma Phi
Colors: Light and dark brown
Symbol: Crescent moon
Flower: Pink carnation
Values: Love, labor, learning, and loyalty
Open Motto: Founded upon a rock
Visiting UMD: Nov. 5

Kappa Kappa Gamma

Founded: Oct. 13, 1870 at Monmouth College
Philanthropy: Reading is Fundamental
Nickname: Kappa
Colors: Dark blue and light blue
Symbol: Key
Mascot: Owl
Flower: Fleur-de-lis
Jewel: Sapphire
Open Motto: Tradition of leadership
Visiting UMD: Nov. 6