

# ALPHA to OMEGA

A Newsletter Published by the IFC & Panhellenic Council of Bucknell University

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## Lead with Your Letters

CHIP MARRARA, ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

In the spring I attended the Northeast Greek Leadership Academy with 10 of our Bucknell University Greek leaders. One program I attended at the academy spoke to and discussed the notion of Greek students and how they pride themselves on being better than the average university student. Part of the program was that as Greeks we speak of, claim to practice, and initiate ourselves into our organizations under the pretenses that we will strive to and achieve successes in all areas of campus life because of our founding ritual, core values, oaths, and principles of our Greek organizations. Essentially what we are saying is that we will take the undergraduate lead of becoming better on our campus because we are Greek and leading with our letters.

When leading in life no matter where, it is imperative to lead by example. Actions of individuals and organizations are clearly stronger than words. Leading is not easy and should seldom be popular. Leadership is about doing the right thing, not the most popular thing. As Greek leaders you have a commitment to your peers, your organization and our academic institution to do better than average. In time individuals will appreciate and understand the unpopular decision but in the long run, the correct one.

Leading with your letters and as Greeks does not involve poor academic pursuits and the misuse and abuse of drugs and alcohol. Leadership is neither selfish nor unkind. Leaders contribute locally to their communities through community service and philanthropic endeavors. Leadership does not involve the questioning of university administration but rather working with them. Leaders don't joke or make fun of those different than themselves. Instead they expand their personal boundaries to extend their own knowledge in order to gain a new and different perspective. They don't mock health, sexual assault, gender and sexuality issues whether it be in writing, person or via the internet. Mocking is a form of failure to understand. This is not the trait of the leader.

As Greeks we need to reflect regularly on our organizational founding ritual, core values, oaths, and principles and decide what we currently are as individuals and organizations and what we want to become for the future. If we are true Greeks we will all lead with our letters as we took a verbal pledge to become better men and women and making ourselves and our organizations better than we/they were when we joined.

In quoting my good friend and President of the Alumni Greek Council, Dr. Bill Lenker (BU '56 and Kappa Sigma), leaders have three choices; "they can make things happen, watch them happen or wake one morning and say, what the heck happened?" As a Greek what type of leader do you and your organization want to become? It is entirely and solely up to you.

## Letter from the Editors

As we have looked over past editions of Alpha to Omega we recognize that each year the editors write things along the lines of “this has been the most successful year to date.” A trend has been observed of consistent improvement of the Bucknell Greek Life, and the Greek Community has made great strides over the past years. However, we honestly believe that this year has been one of the most standout years for the Bucknell Greek Community. The individual chapter statistics, as part of the Plan for Prominence, are truly phenomenal, with academics, community service, and philanthropy at an all time high. The entire Bucknell Community, as well as the outside community witnessed the remarkable achievements of the Greek System and felt the reverberations of its positive impact.

At the end of March we held our annual Greek Week, a celebration of Greek Life open to the entire campus. To kickoff the week was the annual Wing Fest, a chance for local businesses to interact with the Bucknell Greek System and for the Greeks to raise philanthropy for the Million Penny Project. This year several local businesses as well as chapters donated wings and a notable \$2,000+ was raised, with proceeds going towards Community Harvest, a local soup kitchen. Another standout event during this years’ 2006 Greek Week was the first ever Academic Bowl, a chance for chapters to compete against each other in an academic realm. The chapters buzzed in to answer trivia and academic related questions as the crowd actively participated as well. We hope that this becomes an annual Greek Week tradition, as it allows for the outside community to experience Greek Life in a different light. The Chariot Races also proved to be a sensation and once again we were impressed with the talent within the Greek Community as exhibited in the Greek God and Goddess Competition. We would like to congratulate Sigma Phi Epsilon as the overall winners of Greek Week with Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Alpha Chi Omega tied for 2nd Place and Tau Kappa Epsilon coming in at 3rd Place.

During our second semester serving as Vice Presidents of External Affairs we hope to market the Bucknell Greek Community as an example of a thriving, strongly developed Greek System with great moral values out of which tremendous bonds are formed and young men and young women learn to become the leaders of tomorrow. This will be done through incorporating our voice into more publications and working with many other campus organizations.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of Alpha to Omega and celebrate and appreciate the good that has come out of this system. Alpha to Omega allows the individual chapters, as well as the officers of both councils to shine, and as alumna we hope that this allows you to join us in saluting the Bucknell Greek Community.

### DAVID MYERS AND CAITLIN TROW

VICE PRESIDENTS OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INTER-FRATERNITY AND PANHELLENIC COUNCILS



## Community Service

DAVID QUINN,  
COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR, IFC

In 2005, the Greek community volunteered almost 22,000 community service hours and raised over \$96,000 in philanthropy. They are committed to continuing their service and philanthropy responsibilities through out the spring semester. IFC has donated \$200 to Mikey’s Way Foundation, which was founded by the younger brother of a Bucknell Student. Mikey’s Way helps young cancer patients cope with treatment by giving gifts. IFC is also working with the Bucknell brigade to help them with their fundraising for a Nicaragua relief trip.

The Greek community has done a great job of coming together and going beyond individual chapter projects. Both weekly downtown clean ups and the Million Penny Project are great examples of the success that the Greek community has achieved. Last semester the Greek community was proud to present Camp Victory with the \$10,000, bringing a successful close to the 2005 Million Penny Project campaign. We appreciate everyone’s hard work and support, but look forward to beginning a new year with Community Harvest, our new MPP benefactor. The fundraising officially began with the Greek Week Wing Fest last semester and will continue with 2006’s Greek Iron Chef Competition.

## Recruitment: Fraternities Reload

MARK C. KOHLER, IFC CHAIR OF RECRUITMENT, TAU KAPPA EPSILON

Formal recruitment was once again a smooth success as 226 men joined the ranks in Bucknell’s elite organizations. Chapters hosted events from the “Bloomsburg Fair comes to Lewisburg” to their traditional pig roasts. Going through the process, many sophomores gathered that Fraternity Life was much more than mixers and parties, but a bonded group of men. Realizing this, many quickly became much more interested. While the sophomore class contained less men than previous classes, many recruitment chairs and “rushees” were excited about the high quality of their new members.

This year’s formal recruitment also brought back many greek alumni with the recolonization of Delta Upsilon. Headed by Lloyd Jones, Charles Pollock, and DU national consultant Colin Finn, the attempt was more than successful gaining 11 new members. My congratulations to to gentlemen who worked on this and my luck to the newly renewed chapter.

However now as these new men learn the insides of their new organizations, they must remember it is now their turn to recruit potential brothers. While formal recruitment does not begin until next August for the freshmen class, the opinions and stereotypes set forth by all will echo in their minds as they travel through the first few rounds. On that note, I will leave you with this; “A great man shows his greatness by the way he treats little men”.

## Panhellenic GAMMA Chair

ALISON FAUX

We have been planning for National Alcohol Awareness Week since last spring. National Alcohol Awareness Week is scheduled for October 16th through October 20th. Since our Fall Break is at the beginning of that week, we have decided to plan events starting Thursday, October 19th through Tuesday, October 24th.

As the GAMMA chairs, Jon Shahrabani and I have been working closely with Bob Thomas, at Student Health Services, Dean Marrara and Mrs. Landis to make this week interesting and important to students. This year we are very excited to have CALVIN and HOBBS hosting an event. We are starting off the week with Kevin Price speaking on Thursday, October 19th. We are very thrilled to have this KDR alum come back to Bucknell to speak with us. Several years ago, Kevin was in a DUI accident. He served his time in a New Jersey jail. Kevin desperately wanted to share his experience with the students of Bucknell. His first visit back to Bucknell was in an orange jumpsuit and shackles. We are fortunate enough to have Kevin come back to Bucknell to share his story with the current Greeks on campus.

Friday night, October 20th, will be filled with sorority and fraternity hosted non-alcoholic events. This Plan for Prominence event provides the whole Bucknell campus with alternative plans on Friday and Saturday nights. The sororities and fraternities are very eager to host their events to allow the campus to get to know the members better. On Monday, October 23rd, Rick Barnes will be speaking to the entire Greek community about hazing within the Greek system. Barnes is a nationally acclaimed campus speaker who likes to work hard to appeal to the common sense of Greeks.

The week will be wrapped up with an evening filled with snacks, games, and music at Uptown hosted by CALVIN and HOBBS. They want to create an evening that shows alternative games and activities rather than drinking. Throughout the whole week, there will be a table in the LC mall providing flyers, facts, and a chance to try on the “beer goggles” provided by Bob Thomas from Student Health Services.

1,700 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including car crashes (Hingson et al., 2005). We believe that the combination of our events, speakers, and publications during Alcohol Awareness week will make students more informed about their decisions when they are out.

## Sorority Recruitment

This year’s sorority Recruitment had the best turn-out Bucknell University has ever seen. With over 380 women registered, the Recruitment Staff and all members of the 6 sororities on campus worked diligently to create the best experience possible for everyone involved.

Similar to past years, there were four rounds of Recruitment. Beginning on Friday, August 25th, Potential New Members visited all 6 sororities, learned about their sisterhood, values, activities around campus, and major philanthropies. After a week of hard work and long hours, all of the sororities were excited to greet their New Members on Friday, September 1st. Now that everyone has found their “perfect fit” in a sorority, we are looking forward to a great year on Bucknell’s campus. Thank you to everyone who helped out with Recruitment. We never could have done it without you!

# Fraternity & Sorority Updates

## Alpha Chi Omega

BETTY KIRWIN

Alpha Chi Omega is very excited about the 2006 Fall semester! We started our semester strong with a very successful recruitment process. The women of Alpha Chi enjoyed spending long hours together preparing for the week of recruitment rounds. We found, as we do every year, that the hectic schedule brings our sisters closer and prepares us to welcome a new class. Our hard work paid off with a wonderful group of sophomores who we cannot wait to share our sisterhood. We would also like to thank Panhel and the recruitment staff for all their work during the recruitment process.

We have already started working on one of our traditional philanthropy projects. Every Fall we work on a different Lyre project which is a great way to kick start sister bonding and giving back to the community. Traditionally the new class unites to lead this project. This year the sisters of Alpha Chi are creating beaded jewelry that we will sell at the Homecoming football game. All the proceeds will be donated to support women of domestic violence. This is a cause that chapters of Alpha Chi Omega support all across the nation. The money will be donated to SVWIT (Susquehanna Valley Women in Transition) which supports local victims of domestic violence.

This semester we look forward to welcoming home our alumnae for homecoming, participating in the traditional Iron Chef dinner to raise money for this year's MPP, and working with our new sisters to create revitalized community service, faculty relations, and nonalcoholic events.

## Chi Omega

KARLA OCCHIPINTI

Chi Omega concluded the 2005-2006 school year with an impressive record. Our recent Spring clothing drive, which benefited Haven Ministries, raised approximately \$4,500 towards philanthropy. In addition to monetary donations, the sisters have continued to donate their time to various organizations throughout the local community. Our sisters regularly volunteer at The Ronald McDonald House, T&D's Cats of the World, Community Harvest, and the Lewisburg Food Pantry. Additionally, the sisters have expanded their involvement in the local community through a continued endeavor with an assisted-living facility, the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. These efforts contributed to our successful Plan for Prominence record. Chi Omega received Silver Star Standing for the 2005 school year. Our accomplishment of Silver Star Standing aided in the renovation of our suite.

Although we miss our recent graduates, we are excited to be back at Bucknell to welcome old and new faces. Recruitment proved to be fruitful, as our seventh new member class is the largest in Chi Mu's history. We are thrilled to see our chapter continue to grow and flourish, and we are excited to welcome them to our sisterhood.

Currently, we are preparing for this semester's community service and philanthropy events. Our largest philanthropy event is The Make-A-Wish Auction, which will be held on Saturday, October 28th, during Parent's Weekend. The auction benefits Chi Omega's national philanthropy, The Make-A-Wish Foundation, and all proceeds from the auction will be used to grant a wish for a local child. Chi

Omega will continue to update the community on the auction and other future events.

## Chi Phi

MICHAEL AMBROSI, HISTORIAN

The fall semester has been immensely positive for Chi Phi. We obtained 20 new members during formal recruitment, bringing our total chapter size to 60. Only less than two years ago, Chi Phi had 17 brothers. Our growth has been astounding, and we only look to the future for recruiting more quality men. As of October 20th, the new members become full-time brothers. Our new member education program has been revamped and is now better than ever.

At the end of spring semester, our chapter Phi Lambda Theta was awarded by Bucknell University 3 distinct honors: New Member Education, Risk Management, and Community Service Awards. Over the summer, our chapter was nationally recognized by Chi Phi and took home three more awards. The Thomas A. Gehring Award goes to the most outstanding and most improved chapters across the country. We also received the Campus Involvement and Risk Management Awards. We are all very proud of all the hard work the brothers put into the chapter to earn these magnificent achievements.

The rest of the semester looks bright and packed with tons of things, including our chapter's large community service project, the Special Olympics. We host athletes from Central Pennsylvania to come compete in various events. Other events we have hosted include dinners with invited sororities specially prepared by our cook, Mark. All of us would like to thank everyone who has helped us earn recognition for all the remarkable

things we have accomplished and look forward to building more relationships in the future.

## Delta Gamma

Delta Gamma has numerous achievements to be proud of from last semester to today. Our annual AnchorSplash was a huge success, raising over \$5,000 to donate to Delta Gamma's national philanthropy project Service for Sight. This hard work was even recognized by Delta Gamma Nationals when Cindy Lowe and Amanda Stewart attended National Convention this summer, held in Orlando, Florida, with acceptance of the Silver, Philanthropic Award of Distinction. We were also proud recipients of the Patricia Peterson-Danielson award, as well as an Outstanding PR Plan, and recognition of our hard work in the Golden Anchor Program. This semester has gotten off to a great start as we welcome 49 New Members to Delta Gamma already active in numerous community service projects! Delta Gamma looks forward to great things in the future as we continue to "Do Good."

## Kappa Alpha Psi

The Xi Kappa Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. transitions into the fall 2006 semester on high note. Last semester culminated with a bang as the chapter hosted its first "Kappa Week" in years. The week started with a showing of "She Hate Me", a Spike Lee Joint and following discussions pertaining to race and sexuality ensued. The next event was "Women's Appreciation Day", a time when the ladies of the Bucknell Community got a chance to be appreciated for the little and enormous things that they don't get appreciated for on a daily basis. The week finished with the first Xi Kappa Chapter Reunion, which coincided with Chrysalis and the 17th Anniversary of the chapter. Alumni young and old returned to the yard in

the spirit of Kappa and to wish the graduating seniors farewell.

The fall semester marked a large transition for the Xi Kappa Chapter. Four of the members graduated, leaving James Tucker as the lone member. This has not deterred or slowed the progress of the chapter. The first event held was the annual "Back To Kampus Kookout", which received great success. Scores of students gathered at 7th Street House to welcome in the new semester. The next big event the chapter is looking forward to is the annual "Homecoming Komedly Show" on Homecoming Weekend. Four top comedians will grace the stage in Vaughan Lit Homecoming Saturday, in one of the chapter's largest events of the year.

## Kappa Alpha Theta

The sisters of the Epsilon Pi chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta here at Bucknell started our fall 2006 semester extremely well by acquiring 52 new members during recruitment. It was our highest new member count yet! The seniors and juniors are thrilled to welcome the new sophomore members into Theta and are already planning some events for the fall semester.

The sisters of Theta hope to continue their successes in campus activities, philanthropy, and academics as the fall 2006 semester begins. Our main philanthropy event of the fall, the Pancake Brunch, will likely be a success as it is every year when it is held in October over Parents' weekend. We look forward to this event every year as it is one of our most successful philanthropy activities of the year. With our new member class, we've already started to plan sisterhood events such as trips to the Freez, lunches and dinners on campus, and other fun activities. More activities will be planned for the future as we start to bond with our new sisters. In the past semester, sisters of Theta have also put together several intramural teams such as beach

volleyball, basketball and softball. We've been having a good time and doing pretty well. The non-alcoholic events we hosted last semester, including karaoke and a Chipwich party, were great successes that we might possibly repeat this semester.

One of our favorite ways to come together as a sisterhood is to participate in community service. Last semester, Theta obtained 1125 service hours and we hope to equal or exceed this amount in the coming semester. The sisters plan on participating in service projects such as Best Buddies, Riverwoods, the Girl Scouts, Community Harvest, Friendship boxes, and the food bank, to name a few.

One of our greatest achievements of the past semester was maintaining a 3.57 cumulative GPA, putting us in the number one spot among sororities for spring 2006. We're proud of this accomplishment, and with the help of our 52 new members we hope to achieve a high GPA for the fall semester as well. Fall 2006 has a lot of potential for Theta and we hope to continue our success.

## Kappa Kappa Gamma

The sisters of the Delta Phi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, founded on the basis of friendship, mutual support, self-growth, intellectual development, and positive principles, spent the last year focusing on strengthening their bonds of sisterhood.

The sisters of Kappa Kappa Gamma now look to the future and an exciting semester ahead. After finishing a successful recruitment season with 49 amazing new-members, the chapter is looking forward to strengthening their bonds as sisters and focusing on the ideals on which Kappa was founded. The chapter will host a Homecoming and Parents Weekend Tailgate, Initiation of the new members, and the Founder's Day Celebration. Besides these annual events, the chapter will try other fun activities for the first time, like a class versus class kickball game.

We continue our strong commitment to community service and philanthropy, requiring each member to give at least 10 hours of their time per semester. Many women exceed this requirement. On top of all this fun, the chapter excels academically, boasting one of the highest GPAs of any Greek organization on campus, with a 3.52 average for the last academic year.

At the beginning of the spring semester, a new chapter council began working towards continuing the excellence of Delta Phi. After reviewing the most recent chapter survey, the council decided to focus its attention on what they viewed as their weakest areas. These goals all include improving the relationships with our alumnae. We understand the potential of 1,500 strong, united women and the hope to begin to involve them on the Bucknell campus.

### **Lambda Chi Alpha**

The last year of Lambda Chi Alpha was a resounding success. Our brothers have exhibited qualities that project the fraternity's mission statement, which focuses on academic endeavors, social opportunities, spiritual growth and leadership development. Last semester Lambda Chi Alpha hosted a benefit concert with Students for Fair Trade, where our brothers generously donated time to help set up and clean up the event. Furthermore we hosted an alumni gathering on February 25, following Bucknell Basketball completion of an undefeated regular season campaign against Army. Our alumni coordinator Rich Sherman rented a box in Sojka Pavilion for the game, which brought back close to twenty five brothers helped to rekindle old friendship and make new ones. Also, one of our graduating seniors instituted a recycling plan in our fraternity making sure that our cans and bottles are properly taken care of, while setting a simple way to encourage brothers to follow his lead. House Party

weekend went over well, as our parties on Friday and Saturday night were well attended and received great remarks from the school and public safety.

Looking forward, our fraternity has an exciting and eventful year ahead, fueled by our new associate members. Lambda Chi Alpha's class of 2009 is twenty seven strong, all of whom are fully capable of upholding our traditions, principles and ideals. Our annual 5K race is planned for next month giving our brothers another chance to reach out to the community. We hope to include the Nephcure foundation in our event and will also look to local businesses for cooperation.

We plan to have an alumni gathering on Homecoming weekend starting with a gathering on Friday, and then Saturday afternoon, we will host a reception with a live band in our backyard. Finally, we are trying to have a blood drive sometime during the fall semester, which is something our brothers have been eager to do for years and will have a lasting impact on the community.

### **Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji)**

The year got into full swing quickly as formal recruitment quickly fell upon us all this semester. Rush ended with Fiji gaining ten new members who are excited to learn about the fun and excitement of Greek life at Bucknell. Fiji has also started off quickly with regards to service, as we have recently been helping Habitat for Humanity with their newest project in New Berlin. Fiji is anxious to continue to help Habitat throughout the year and looks forward to the cooperation between the two organizations.

Later this semester Fiji will also be hosting their biannual Luigi Fiji Italian Dinner at the house. We'll be looking to bring back the old spirit of Luigi Fiji by making it a true event on campus. Students, faculty and Lewisburg residents will be encouraged to come enjoy the food prepared by the brothers of Phi

Gamma Delta. In addition, Fiji will be looking to host a number of non-alcoholic events this semester to provide an alternative to the normal weekend social scene. Good luck to everyone on the coming semester.

### **Phi Kappa Psi**

The Pennsylvania Gamma Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi has continued to strive for excellence with the addition 29 pledges this fall. A successful rush highlighted with a pig roast and popular casino night resulted in 156 meal preferences.

Spring Break '06 found 12 members of the chapter in Cabo San Lucas Mexico for a week filled with insight from successful business men in addition to plenty of night life. Cabo also allowed our chapter to interact with other chapters around the nation exchanging ideas on how to run a more successful chapter.

This past summer was our bi-annual Grand Arch Council meeting in New Orleans. Andrew Shea, 08', attended for Penn Gamma. It was here that our chapter received national recognition for academic excellence. Penn Gamma was awarded the Dr. Thomas D. Myers scholarship award as well as the award for academic excellence in our district.

In closing, we would like to thank the brothers and alumni for an already successful year and to having an equally successful upcoming semester.

### **Pi Beta Phi**

Pi Phi is off to a great start this semester! We received an award from nationals for our strong recruitment record, and all of our hard work certainly paid off. With recruitment behind us, we now have 50 wonderful new members, making us the largest sorority currently on campus. We look forward to the amazing contributions our sophomores are sure to make to Pi Phi!

Community service and Philanthropy are also well under way. 15 girls will be

helping out with the upcoming Senior Olympic Games in which senior citizens participate and compete in throwing competitions, walking, basketball, and badminton. This will be Pi Phi's second year volunteering and we're very excited about it. Also in September is our annual Chili Cook-off with Kappa Delta Rho. We're all looking forward to making (and eating!) plenty of delicious chili, the proceeds of which will go to Milton's Relay for Life.

Pi Phi is also excited about upcoming social events, such as a non-alcoholic Pumpkin Carving scheduled for October, just in time for Halloween. Big/Little week is also right around the corner and the junior class has been working hard to be ready to welcome their new little sisters into the family!

With so much going on, we're sure to be busy in the upcoming months. Soon it will be time for a new Executive Board to take over and continue the hard work and success our chapter has experienced!

### **Sigma Alpha Epsilon**

**STEVEN MARINO**, EMINENT ARCHON

First and foremost I would like to commend our Recruitment Chairs, Steven Studnicky and Andrew Cooper, for their hard work and dedication during rush. As a result of their efforts, Sigma Alpha Epsilon recently welcomed 34 young men into our pledge class. Over the next eight weeks, these men will learn the True Gentlemen values of Sigma Alpha Epsilon through numerous community service, philanthropy, and brotherhood events. With a diverse group of men, I am confident that we have selected the best men to lead our fraternity in the future, as well as the entire Bucknell community.

Although rush has concluded, this semester is still a very busy and exciting time for our brotherhood. We recently hired a new chef, Bob Hayes, who was the former chef at the Blue Plate on Market Street. With homecoming



slowly approaching, the brotherhood is working on creating our individual chapter's newsletter, The IRIS, which will be sent via e-mail to over 700 alumni. Over the course of the entire semester, we are looking to build off our successful spring performance in which brothers accumulated 680 community service hours as well as raising \$18,000. Jackson Noel, philanthropy chair, is working on planning our annual Campus Movie Project. Additionally, we are working in conjunction with a fellow brother, Timothy O'Neill, in hosting/sponsoring a staytough.fightHARD benefit, a battle against Lou Gehrig's disease.

As the new school year has begun with great success, we are motivated to represent SAE with the respect our organization deserves. I look forward to reporting future progress, and would like to thank all of those responsible for the achievements of the Penn Zeta Chapter.

### **Sigma Alpha Mu**

**SIGMA PHI CHAPTER**

Sigma Phi's sense of community and altruism continues to endure today. This year, the chapter aims to achieve Gold Standard in all its programming of community service, philanthropy,

and social events. The chapter hopes to impact its community through such events as the Crispy Crème fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association, volunteering for the Lewisburg Arts Festival, The Red Cross Lewisburg clean ups, and more. Furthermore, the chapter is working very hard to become recognized as not only a philanthropic force on campus, but also a fraternity of high scholarly repute.

Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity values brotherhood ardently. The past two years have seen tremendous growth in chapter size, with recent pledge classes doubling chapter numbers. This fall's rush events yielded the addition, to the chapter, of a league of highly spirited gentlemen who are committed to leadership and helping its brotherhood serve the community further.

### **Sigma Chi**

In the few short weeks of the fall 2006 semester, Sigma Chi's Kappa chapter at Bucknell University has accomplished significant goals and has set new ones for the coming year. A group of Kappa executives and emerging leaders attended the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop (BLTW) at Ball State University. They wanted to evaluate the healthiness of the fraternity,

re-focus its intentions, and spell-out defined goals. One such goal is to run a more orderly rushing and pledging process this fall. Rush has since come to a successful end, commencing with the distribution of twenty-two bids to potential pledges. All of the sophomores accepted their bids and have become pledges.

Kappa's restructured pledging process focuses on strengthening pledge-to-pledge and pledge-to-brother relationships. The Chapter assigned pops and sons very early in the pledging process so as to begin forming brotherly bonds as soon as possible. Kappa is also holding weekly communal pop-son events.

Kappa also recognizes the accomplishments of past efforts to strengthen the chapter. Two of Kappa's long-term goals from last semester have been attained. The first of which was to improve the chapter's Peterson (a document that explains the ins and outs of the fraternity; measuring its healthiness and progress). As a result of the brothers' efforts, Kappa was honored with the Bash award at BLTW. The award is given annually to Chapters who have submitted greatly improved Petersons. Kappa's second goal was to fulfill Bucknell's requirement for philanthropy during the first semester of the their allotted year. Kappa has since reached and surpassed the requirement, earning Silver Star recognition.

Kappa knows that a good pledge class and the classes' positive pledging experience is the most integral element to future success of the chapter. As such, the brothers are currently directing their efforts to the 2006 pledge class.

### **Sigma Phi Epsilon**

**BRIAN MULLIGAN,**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

The Penn Kappa chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon welcomes thirty-two new

members in this past fall rush. The diverse class consists of student involved in all facets of Bucknell life including BSG, Orientation and Varsity Athletics. Additionally, the new brothers hail from across the globe from California to Colorado to Florida and add a new dimension to this ever-growing fraternity.

New member development will teach the new members about the history and principles of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Also, the sophomore class will give back to the house through house projects and to the community through a large service event. All these experiences are part of a year long education process that will introduce them to all parts of the fraternity.

Sigma Phi Epsilon is excited about the upcoming philanthropy and community service opportunities. The brothers will be hosting the second annual philanthropy golf tournament and long-drive competition, which will include both current brothers and alumni. We hope to top last year's \$10,000 raised with the help of families and the community and strengthen ties between the past and present brothers.

The success of last year's event actually reached CBS's Early Show, where President Patrick O'Malley '07 and past Vice President of Programming Brian Troast '06 had a time to highlight their success. The Penn Kappa chapter donation was matched through Kiehl's College Challenge to benefit YouthAIDS, so in total, O'Malley and Troast presented YouthAIDS with a \$20,000 check.

Serving the community is also at the forefront of our goals for the fall semester, and the brotherhood will give back by working at Haven Ministries and after-school programs. Furthermore, the Penn Kappa chapter is planning to spend their Fall Break working with the Paterson Habitat for Humanity in New Jersey, building and repairing houses in depressed neighborhoods.

Over the past spring semester, the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon posted the best GPA nationally of any chapter with a 3.48 and also had the best GPA of any fraternal organization on the Bucknell campus. The brotherhood plans to continue to strive for excellence inside the classroom along with other extra-circular pursuits.

The Penn Kappa chapter hopes to continue their excellence, while maintaining a balanced mind, body and soul throughout all their endeavors this fall semester.

### **Tau Kappa Epsilon**

A year ago at our by annual international meeting in New Orleans, the Beta Mu chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon was honored as Top Teke chapter. This recognition from our national headquarters recognized our work in community service, philanthropy, new member education and recruitment, and academics. Last year we also received the Silver Star award from Bucknell for completion of plan for prominence requirements.

The Brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity have yet again completed a very successful recruitment season. Our rush events included the annual pig roast, a whiffle ball home run derby, and a bar-b-que complete with volleyball, horseshoes, and bocce ball. With the return of new chapters to campus, recruitment was very competitive this year. Fortunately, we were able to bring in 18 top quality gentlemen who are capable of helping keep Tau Kappa Epsilon among the top TKE chapters nationwide. We are very excited about our new class, and are looking forward to seeing where these men can take the chapter in the future.

We are also holding our third annual Ronald Regan Run for Alzheimer's. Each year the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon run in a relay from the steps of our chapter house to Washington DC to

raise money for the Ronald Regan National Alzheimer's Research foundation. The run spans 180 miles and is run over three days of fall break. The past two years we were able to raise \$13,000 and \$20,000 for Alzheimer's research. Anyone interested in donating can contact Bradford Bentzen at [bbentzen@bucknell.edu](mailto:bbentzen@bucknell.edu).

### **Theta Chi**

It has been a thrilling time on campus for Theta Chi Fraternity. The fifteen men who make up the Gamma Eta interest group have successfully moved

back into their house. Also, Theta Chi Fraternity celebrated 150 years of existence this past spring.

The men continue to excel in scholarship as they posted a remarkable 3.38 in the spring semester. The men of Theta Chi also hosted several very successful events in the spring. They hosted a Family Guy marathon to raise funds for the Million Penny Project. The Brothers also held a Super Bowl party and a Euchre Tournament. However, one of the most memorable was their BBQ to kick off House Party weekend. Hundreds of Bucknellians

were fed and none walked away hungry.

The Theta Chi brothers are incredibly excited to finally have their house back and are filled with great ideas for the future of the fraternity. They continue to work closely with their alumni and continue to grow their presence on campus. Overall, the brothers are very excited about the academic year and all the resources and potential that are at their disposal to make this one of the best years yet for Theta Chi Fraternity at Bucknell University.

## **Making a Difference in the Lives of Others**

**KAREN LANDIS,** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY AFFAIRS

The Greek image on our campus is only as good as we make it. The image of your individual chapter and those of the system as a whole is dependent upon the actions of each organization. In case you haven't noticed, some individuals on our campus as well as those in the local community view being Greek as purely a social obligation. As an insider, I know the countless hours spent helping those less fortunate and the amount of money given to so many worthy local organizations. We need to get the word out about the positive impact that those in the Greek system have on our community. We need to get back to doing this valuable community service as a chapter. There is no comparison to an organization wearing their fraternity or sorority letters out serving others in the community. We are so much more than social entities formulated to have a good time, we are proud to serve others while being Greek.

As a member of the Greek System at Bucknell University there is an expectation through the Plan for Prominence to serve others. The Plan for Prominence specifically states that as a member of a fraternity or sorority you will:

- serve as a lifelong volunteer in both community and University service;
- learn and strive to understand the value of participating in community service activities as a member of the fraternity and sorority community.

We're all about serving others but let's attach our Greek Letters to that service. You are leaders in the University community and should be leaders in the surrounding community as well. This can only translate into future leaders of our society. Leadership through service comes naturally to our brothers and sisters in the Bucknell Greek system as we cultivate personal growth by seeking opportunities to serve. As you commit yourself to giving back, know that you are making this the best possible place for us all to live. By helping those less fortunate in your own neighborhood the results are seen immediately. You will create a positive image for your chapter and the Greek community as a whole. Let's prove that the stereotypes about being Greek are not true. The members of our Greek community have more substance than the Friday or Saturday night party. We will concentrate on the positive things that we can do in order to change the mindset of so many. I cannot emphasize enough that serving the community as a chapter while wearing your letters proud will make a greater impact than individuals in your chapter doing an hour here or there. Service to your community is a lifelong commitment regardless of where you live. Begin now and show those on campus and in the community that we are Greek, proud and ready to give.



# From the IFC President



The Bucknell Greek system is coming off of another record breaking year in 2005, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those individuals who worked to making last year a success. The student leaders, members of the Alumni Greek Council, Council on Greek Life, and Deans of students and their staff have poured themselves into making the system better in every aspect. Additionally, I would like to challenge the incoming leaders to use the past two years as inspiration to continue to improve. The past leaders have paved the way for us and we have a tremendous opportunity to build on their efforts and take the system as a whole to the next level.

The Interfraternity Council is a twelve member council that serves as the governing body of the twelve fraternities in the Bucknell system. We work directly with the Panhellenic council to coordinate the Greek-wide events such as Meet the Greeks and Greek week, which will both occur in late March. Additionally, we serve the individual chapters by holding them accountable for the Plan for Prominence and providing a forum to discuss issues facing our chapters.

As President of the council I have been working with all of the members to design and help facilitate their individual goals, as well as shaping the goals for the system as a whole. The spring semester came to a close with yet again fantastic statistics across the board and many successful all Greek events. This year's Meet the Greeks, Greek Week, and Houseparty all were hugely successful. I would like to thank the members of both councils and the members within the individual houses for their efforts in making these events run so smoothly. The goals for the fall semester fall into two general categories, improving communication and public relations. We have taken many steps to improve the communication within the council, from the council to the Presidents, and from the council to the campus community. We have also been trying to promote our accomplishments to the campus community and to the Greek community nationally. We have increased our integration with the general Bucknell community through working with BSG, RHA, and other prominent student organizations, and we hope to begin presenting our system to Greek Life conferences in the upcoming months.

In closing, Bucknell Greeks should be proud of the Greek system that they are a part of. This campus offers many amazing opportunities, but few are as life changing as being Greek. My involvement in Greek life has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my life and has certainly defined my Bucknell experience. I look forward to working with my council to take it one step further.

**BENJAMIN S. PORTMAN '07**, PRESIDENT, INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

## IFC Alumni Liaison NICK PANARO

The Alumni Greek Council met on January 15, 2006, for its regular spring semester meeting. Some of the Alumni in attendance included AGC President, Dr. William Lenker (ΚΣ), VP Carol Tevis (ΠΒΦ), and Treasurer Hood Johnston (ΤΚΕ). One issue raised was the universal chapter involvement at these meetings which would now total two major meetings and one minor one each year. The alumni are very interested in seeing at least one representative from each chapter present, whether it is an alumnus, chapter president, or both. A budget report was given; there was an MPP discussion, as well as a review of the Fall 2005 chapter statistics. In general, Dr. Lenker, as well as the other attending alumni were very happy with the current state of the Greek System, even calling BU a model University for Greek Life.

There Fall semester AGC meeting is scheduled for the middle of September. Also, October 6th and 7th will be Homecoming weekend in which I look forward to meeting with many Greek Alumni. It looks to be an excellent semester, one with even increased Alumni involvement.

## IFC

**PETE ALFANO**, VICE PRESIDENT

The spring semester is always very busy for The IFC. Every officer is helping prepare for Greek week, House party and meet the Greeks. Also there have been many registered parties so far this spring, and the Greek monitoring team (GMT) has been in full force every weekend monitoring the parties. The goal of the GMT is to work with the chapters to create a safe and fun environment. I have just completed the training of the GMT, where I try to instill this message in all of the officers.

I am very excited for the rest of the semester. I know that all of the officers have been spending much time and energy into organizing and preparing for the spring and fall events. I hope that the rest of the Greek community comes and supports us throughout the year.

# From the Panhellenic President

With the start of a new semester and a fresh academic year, it is a nice opportunity to stop and reflect upon my goals as a leader of a powerful organizations much larger than myself. Last semester I proudly took on a new level of responsibility and involvement in the Bucknell Greek system, and with that challenge and the new experiences that came along with it, I finally started to realize what it means to "be Greek." All too often Greeks are stereotyped by the media to be the large conglomeration of individuals donning three ancient letters across their chest, only to signify that they like to party and ultimately disrupt the peace of their surrounding community. The image of Greeks nationally has rarely been a positive one, but I am proud to say that Bucknell Greeks go above and beyond the requirements of even the Plan for Prominence in efforts to defy that generalization. Greek organizations on our campus hold true to a higher standard than most, every year increasing our academic GPA, donating more money to both local and national philanthropies, and serving countless hours to the greater Lewisburg community. Many of our members take pride in the fact that we do tremendous things as a chapter that positively affect society in general. In terms of academics, 2005 was a tremendous year for Greeks, achieving an impressive 3.36 GPA overall; this is up more than 0.12 since 2003, showing that members of our Greek community are driven for excellence in the classroom, setting higher and higher standards for ourselves to improve. The true values of the Greek system focuses on the idealization of social-service oriented organizations, committed to serving not only ourselves but those around us. In 2005 alone, members of the Bucknell

Greek system managed to raise nearly \$97,000 towards a number of local and national philanthropies and served almost 22,000 hours of service to the Bucknell community. With these statistics in mind, it is clear that Bucknell Greeks take the commitment to joining a Greek organization seriously, and demonstrate the core values we all pledge to our organizations when going through Recruitment.

Now you may wonder why I speak so generically about the Greek system at large and don't focus on the accomplishments of the sororities specifically; that is because over the past year the fraternities and sororities have taken great strides to bridge the gaps between the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils. We have stressed the importance of having a close and cooperative working relationship with clear and open lines of communication, because ultimately we are all working towards the same goals. People who generally stereotype Greeks rarely are concerned with what specific letters that are adorned upon the T-shirts and sweatshirts we wear, but clump us all into a category of "Greek" in their minds; the actions of each of our organizations reflects upon all the others, for better or worse. Besides working towards the annual challenge of the Million Penny Project, both the IFC and Panhellenic Council are working to forge stronger relationships with the Bucknell faculty and staff. It has been a great challenge for years to win the approval and acceptance of the faculty, and to gain their respect as not only supporters but advisers to our chapters. This is the primary "platform" that Ben Portman and myself have made a strong commitment to pursuing over our term as leaders of our individual councils. Last semester we embarked

upon meetings with President Mitchell and the Provost, and now come the start of the Fall semester, we hope to make a formal presentation to the faculty, highlighting the improvements and accomplishments of the Greek system over the past few years, and express our interest to reach out to them for support.

My only hope is that the Greek system continues to flourish as it has since my time here at Bucknell, outdoing itself year-after-year. With our continued improvements, it is hard to imagine such a strong tradition going anywhere. Greek life is truly alive and well here at Bucknell, and as President of the Panhellenic I will continue to serve the Greek community and improve our public reputation! If you, as alumni, have any questions or feedback for our Panhellenic Council, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

**MICHELLE WIRKUS**  
PANHELLENIC COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
PI BETA PHI, '07



# ALPHA to OMEGA

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**Bucknell**