



The University of Montana

Greek Task Force

Volume 1, Issue 1

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An Introduction to the Greek Task Force

Welcome! This is the inaugural issue of the UM Greek Task Force newsletter. It is and will be published through the volunteer efforts of Greek Task Force (GTF) members and with input from our readers.

The GTF is dedicated to strengthening and expanding the Greek community at UM (too long almost dormant) in concert with our sister school, MSU. Both schools have embarked on similar efforts, in belated recognition of the value of the Greek experience to a university student body and the value of interested Greek alumni who have shared the benefits of their Greek experiences through numerous contributions to their universities.

Our History. After years of declining number of members, losses of chapters, and an increasingly unhealthy community, the University's Greek system was struggling. Consequently, the UM, through self-analysis and a challenge from Greek alumni, determined to "right the ship," realizing that the absence of a strong Greek community left a void in the university experience. Greeks and UM administrators alike agreed that a positive Greek life experience should be available to students to help continue the strong relationships

with each other and the school that all hoped students would maintain after graduation.

Our Founding. President Dennison's written commitment to the revitalization effort that followed the challenge of Greek alumni was the impetus that started the process "rolling." UM administrators, the Greek community, and Greek alumni, as well as the Alumni Association (UMAA) communication resulted in a meeting held at UM which precipitated the founding of the Greek Task Force (GTF). The GTF is comprised of UM administrators including those from Student Affairs, UMAA representation through Bill Johnston and his staff, active Greek fraternity and sorority members, and Greek alumni representing fraternities and sororities still active or which at one time were active at UM.

What We've Accomplished. Although only in its formative years, the GTF has been very successful through the efforts of its volunteer work force and the support of UM administration, UMAA, and the UM Greek Life Advisor. Our accomplishments include:

- Establishing annual scholarships to be given to deserving undergraduates to encourage joining the Greek community

- Increasing significantly the number of men and women who have gone through Greek recruitment, accepted bids, and initiated
- Encouraging chapter scholarship with the result that all chapters have academic averages above the student body average
- Partnering with UM Enrollment Services to make information on Greek life available to college applicants.

Our Next Steps. With such success behind us, the next question is, "what comes next?"

We want you to be involved. There are many possibilities whether you are an alum or student—including simply sharing your positive Greek experiences with young adults considering college to writing a letter of recommendation to being a chapter advisor where opportunities exist ... or beyond!

If interested in learning more, use the contact information at right or contact your chapter's advisory board president or chapter president. Thank you for your interest in being part of the future of Greek life at Montana campuses! Interfraternally Yours,

The Greek Life Task ForceΩ



Special points of interest:

- Introduction to the Greek Task Force
- Recruitment as preparation for the "real world"
- Upcoming activities and involvement opportunities
- Featured chapters: Kappa Alpha Theta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Learn More...

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Recruitment Is Preparation for the Real World

While some think spring is the season that holds the hint of promise in every plant's budding, there are others who find that type of energizing exhilaration in autumn. As the apples ripen and the leaves fall, another quintessential rite of autumn occurs: the beginning of school. Some dread it, but many feel at least a little anticipation at returning to school knowing there's a clean slate ahead with new instructors, new classes, and new people. This little burst of anticipation is especially true for those involved in Greek recruitment, occurring at most college campuses during the fall term.

Descriptions of recruitment range from animated and auspicious to zany and zealous, with everything in between. Yet, no matter how many times we've been through the ritual of inviting new members to be part of our brother- and sisterhood, it's exiting every time to find out who will soon join our ranks as our newest members.

But beware anyone who derides the recruitment process as absurd and wanting. Some find that recruitment is preparation for the real world. Except whereas in college it's called *matching* and *rushing*, in the professional world, it's called *researching* and *networking*.

Liz Handlin, CEO of Ultimate Resumes, LLC, addresses this same topic in her blog post, "*Lessons from Sorority Rush that Can Be Applied to Successful Job Interviews.*" In her online article, Ms. Handlin notes that the parallels between recruitment and finding the "right" employer are many. Here are a couple excerpts and illustrations from Ms. Handlin's articles:

Recruit Knowledgeably. "*Do your home-*

work before interviewing and behave enthusiastically about jobs for which you are interviewing.

"Potential new sorority members who enter the house smiling, happy, and poised have a better chance of impressing [initiated members] than those who look scared, unhappy, or unsure of themselves."

Whether as a hiring manager or an applicant, those with "real world" experience know that an air of confidence, combined with good presentation, clear communication, and knowledge about and appreciation of the audience to whom the message is directed get a lot farther in the job search than those who do not.

Maintain Energy Level and Listen to Others.

This isn't just a lesson in courtesy. It's reinforcement that no one knows if the last Potential New Member (PNM, formerly known as *rushee*) or job applicant may be the most desired one of all. You want them to have a good impression of your organization, too, so that they'll want to come back.

Keep in mind that these tips aren't just relegated to those who are looking for a career in the corporate world. Whether trying to engage a sponsor to support a philanthropic event, working with volunteers, or defending a thesis, these are all critical skills.

Be a Good Big Brother/Big Sister.

In Greek life, every new member (formerly known as *pledge*) is partnered with an older member as his/her big brother/big sister. This relationship illustrates that all newcomers need someone to show them the ropes — just like "old comers" can benefit from learning through teaching. In the "real world", this is called mentoring and it's a powerful tool for bringing promising talent up through the ranks — as well as building those relationships that last a lifetime. Ω



Aristotle

Aristotle Says...

Read more by visiting Liz Handlin's blog:

<http://ultimate-resumes.blogspot.com/2007/08/what-sorority-rush-can-teach-us-about.html>

<http://ultimate-resumes.blogspot.com/2007/08/importance-of-having-mentor-more.html>

Upcoming Activities & Involvement

Move Your Phi't. The Chi chapter of Alpha Phi (including the 20 new members) would like to remind everyone about and invite all to the Move You Phi't Walk-a-Thon on Friday, September 28 at 9:00 a.m.. The route will be a walk from 1107 Gerald (A-Phi facility) through the University district, around the Adams Center, over the Oval and down University Ave back to Gerald. Everyone is invited to attend. Donations of any size to the Alpha Phi Foundation are appreciated. Come for a walk and chat with friends, some old and some new.

SAE Anniversary Celebration. Montana Beta chapter of SAE turns 80 this year, and the gentlemen of SAE are organizing several days of events to commemorate. Events include a fly fishing extravaganza on Thursday, golf outing and open house on Friday, pre-game

breakfast buffet, a cocktail reception, and 80th anniversary dinner on Saturday, and a Sunday ritual and remembrance event. For information on locations, times, and cost, where applicable, contact John Greener at (815) 459-0099.

Sig Eps Commemorate Homecoming. Homecoming at the University of Montana is more than just a football game. It is a chance for all former and current students to gather over the course of a weekend and celebrate the one thing that bonds us together: our University and the memories it provides us every year. Being a Sig Ep takes this experience to a different level with a series of events planned, including the homecoming float build, open house and BBQ for parents, and football game tailgate. Contact Colin Boyle at (406) 721-2591 or cboyle30@msn.com

Greek Task Force Wants You! We welcome anyone interested in the future of Greek life at Montana's schools to join our Greek community work sessions on October 2nd and 3rd. Contact Emily Yaksitch at emily.yaksitch@umontana.edu or Bernd Schulte at Flyingfinn42@aol.com. Not available then? Contact us anyway. We need support from recommending young men and women to Greek life to contributing an article to this newsletter to everything in between!

Other Greek Homecoming Events. Many of the fraternities and sororities are sponsoring open house activities and other events over the weekend and following homecoming on Saturday. Stop by and meet-and-greet your newest and not as new brothers and sisters. Contact a local chapter for details. Ω

How Can You Help Montana Greek Life? *You Decide!*

- Share with others your positive Greek life experiences.
- Write a letter of recommendation for a young man or woman interested in Greek recruitment. Contact the local Greek Life office or your fraternity/sorority for more instruction.
- Make a donation to the Greek Task Force scholarship fund, earmarked for high achieving Greeks.
- Consider being a chapter advisor. Contact your national/international organization for details. Often, no experience is needed, just a desire to help and foster excellence in others!
- Author an article for an upcoming issue of this newsletter.
- Listen in on the weekly GTF Kitchen Cabinet teleconferences and help where able/needed.

Featured Chapters: KΑΘ and ΣΑΕ

Kappa Alpha Theta. The Alpha Nu chapter of the ladies known as "Thetas" was founded in 1909 when the only known Theta in Montana transitioned the ladies of Theta Phi, a local sorority, to the 39th chapter represented by the kite and pansy. The chapter has experienced and seen much change in the almost 100 years since it was granted its charter. Its past

residences include Main Hall and the old Library Building before moving into its current home off Gerald in the early 1940s.

In the picture shown, the sisters of the Alpha Nu chapter are exhibiting their expertise with yard tools as they enjoy some fall frivolity while working to keep the place tidy.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The Montana Beta chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon is celebrating its 80th birthday at The University of Montana with a little bit of housework. UM alumni brothers Dave Hafer (right, on tractor) and Dick Ford (left), work with collegiate members from Montana Beta to prepare the

recently renovated facility for fall occupancy. The major renovation was the first done since 1932 and was programmed to cost \$500,000. These activities were part of a work weekend where initiated brothers from Montana Beta were joined by brothers from Montana Alpha at Montana State University who traveled three hours from Bozeman to assist their Missoula brothers. The house was reoccupied on August 1st 2007 as planned and is prepared to welcome a new year's of members. Ω

