



Greek Task Force

'Tis the Season to Be Generous

Your support of a charitable organization is not only a sign of generosity - it's also a mark of your desire to help shape the future.

We have made significant progress toward rebuilding the Greek community at UM. While membership numbers are less than what they need to be for a truly viable, stable Greek system capable of sustaining itself in perpetuity, indications of significant improvement are everywhere. The most meaningful way we can support our student Greeks and attract interest in the Greek system is to continue

to offer more and larger scholarships designated for Greek students. Not only are these scholarships a compelling recruitment tool, their presence reaffirms our commitment to a positive Greek culture where scholarship and leadership are held most dear.

We ask that every Greek alum contribute to the UM GTF Scholarship Fund. A contribution of any amount is appreciated but if you're trying to find an appropriate starting amount, consider \$1 for every year since you were an initiated Greek.

All donations are tax-

deductible and managed through the UM Foundation. You may donate via the [UM Foundation Web site](#) or by mailing a check to UM Foundation at PO Box 7159, Missoula MT 59807. Make sure you indicate on your check or online contribution "UM GTF Scholarship Fund" so the funds can be appropriately reserved. By supporting our active Greeks we can show the non-Greek community that we believe in our organizations and the leadership, scholarship, and outreach opportunities that are available at UM. Thank you! Ω



Special points of interest:

- 'Tis the Season to Give Thanks and Be Generous
- Greek recognition
- Recruitment never ends!
- "Why I'm Greek"
- Featured chapters: Kappa Kappa Gamma and Phi Gamma Delta

And 'Tis the Season to Give Thanks

To All Greek Alumni:
As 2007 is coming to an end, we are thankful to the many Greek alumni who supported the UM Greek community and the efforts to revitalize the University's Greek system by way of their contributions of time or treasure this past year. Of particular note is the tremendous role the ΣΑΕ and ΣΧ alumni played, not only to their own chapters but also to the revitalization effort through the remodeling of their respective facilities. In doing so, they evidenced the faith they have in the UM Greek system and its future by committing their physical and financial energy and resources to rehabilitate those wonderful buildings on Gerald Avenue, thus assuring their future.

Such efforts together with

increasing numbers of UM Greek members, energized recruiting efforts, the dedication of many Greek alumni, and support both financial and personal of the various fraternities and sororities, evidence the improvement in the Greek system this year. This was topped off by the University's decision to make the Greek Life position a full-time equivalency position to ensure the needed oversight tasks are performed—a key accomplishment of the Greek revitalization effort. The effect this is having on Greek students showed in the results of the first Greek retreat held at UM in early October, which brought together current Greeks, alumni, and administrators to lay the groundwork for dealing with issues critical to the system's development and stabilization.

The ultimate objective of giving current and future UM students the choice of "going Greek" in a stable Greek community is attainable. The results of the efforts to date are heartening, as is the support of the UM administration, the Alumni Association, the Greek Life Office, and all of you who have helped in any way.

We also thank all who gave of their time and donations at UM's Homecoming events to share the Greek message and to help drive awareness and build the UM GTF Scholarship Fund. Please consider this fund in your plans for year-end charitable contributions and help make your mark on Greek life at UM.

Very truly yours,
Brian Dirnberger
President
Greek Task Force Ω

Learn More...

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In 2008, Resolve to Support "Greeks: The Network for Life!"

From the moment we pledged ourselves to our respective Greek organizations, we learned that our affiliation was based on brotherhood or sisterhood. Indeed, one of the reasons we chose to join was to have the experiences that would prepare us for a fuller, more mature appreciation of life and opportunity, as well as to build those life-long relationships.

As initiated members our appreciation of our Greek membership matured. We learned that our relationships in college were the foundation upon which our life-long friendships were based. Now, as alumni, we know how true that is. Our college brothers and sisters are our post-college colleagues, employers, teachers, spouses, clergy, and best friends. We are Greek: The Network for Life.

We ask you to renew your commitment to Greek life. Your contribution to the Greek Task Force (GTF) Scholarship Fund is one way in which you can directly give back to the Greek system that has hopefully given you so much. GTF scholarships are a valuable recruiting tool, enabling Greek life to attract some of the best that Montana's colleges have to offer, thereby broadening and strengthening our network and helping us sustain a Montana Greek life tradition that is more than 100 years old. If you would like to donate, please complete the form below and send it to the UM Foundation according to the instructions below. Your contribution to supporting the Montana Greek life "Network for Life" is tax-deductible and any amount is appreciated. Thank you! Ω

Data to be shown on the UM Greek Task Force Roster of Supporters:

Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Greek Affiliation _____ Years at UM _____

Make a GTF Scholarship Donation in the amount of \$ _____

(Please clearly designate that your donation is for the benefit of the GTF Scholarship Fund)

Method 1. Check: The University of Montana Foundation, PO Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807

Method 2. Credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____ CV # (3or4-digit code on card) _____ Exp. Date _____

Method 3. Give online at <http://umfoundation.onlinemontana.com>

Method 4. Call the UM Foundation at 1-800-443-2593

Signature _____



Aristotle

Aristotle Says...

Did you know that Greek life at UM is an almost 104-year-old tradition? More than 20 social Greek organizations have called UM home since 1904. Greek life also has been present on MSU's campus since 1917 and continues to exist there today!

Featured Chapters: KKI and FIJI

Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Anyone who has ever taken a journey down Gerald has probably been struck by the Kappa Kappa Gamma facility with its architectural charm reminiscent of another era. The Kappa Kappa Gamma House at 1005 Gerald Ave was built in 1902. John Toole, the original owner, was a Montana industrialist and Legislator. A few years after it was built, on February 24, 1905, six girls met and organized the first local sorority in Missoula. The



Beta Phi chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma was nationally adopted on March 20, 1909. Little did the Beta Phi chapter think at the time that the home on Gerald would be theirs!

Two Toole daughters, grand daughters, great-grand daughters, and a daughter-in-law were members of Kappa Kappa Gamma. In 1931, Anna Hardenbrooke Toole, widow of John R., donated the facility to the chapter. In 1983, the John R. Toole/Kappa Kappa Gamma house was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Phi Gamma Delta. The Upsilon Mu chapter of Phi Gamma Delta was founded on UM in 1987. The chapter's home was the facility



(formerly the Alpha Omicron Pi house) on 220 Daly Avenue, located behind Kappa Alpha Theta. The FIJIs were probably best known for having great volleyball games during weekend barbeques. Thriving for almost 20 years, it initiated hundreds of young men to be campus, state, and national leaders. Although in 2005 the chapter closed due to financial and recruitment challenges, the contributions of FIJI members continue to be felt at UM and throughout Montana.Ω

Why I'm Greek (contributed by Timberly Marek)

Every so often, someone will ask, bewildered, "where does all your time go?" Apparently they think that when I'm not working, crafting, or mothering, I must be whiling away my time relaxing, indulging at a day spa. Would it be that these notions were true!

Truth be told, I'm Greek. That's Greek as in "Alpha Kappa Mu Mu" (the name my non-Greek brother gave my sorority because he thought it sounded funny), not Greek as in "My Big Fat Wedding." To the "uninitiated," I don't talk much about my Greek-ness not because it's unimportant to me, but simply because the involvement of an adult woman in a college Greek organization tends to raise some questioning brows.

Had Kermit the Frog been a member of a Greek organization, he might've sung "It's Not Easy Being Greek." In many ways, it's true. After all, if you aren't blond, a member of the modern wealthy landed gentry, and Southern, do you really belong in a sorority? And if you dare mention you were Greek in college, will people think you are an unfettered crazy partier?

Hopefully not! At the core of every Greek organization's mission statement is a descriptor basically meaning "libertie, equalitie, fraternitie," and a commitment to scholarship and personal excellence. In no organization's write-up have I seen "blitzed," "bling," or "toilet papering." Maybe it's because those organizations didn't try to recruit me!

The most surprising part about revealing my Greek membership is response I get when people "find out": It is either, "YOU were in a sorority?" or "you were in a **SORORITY?**" The inflection on the response indicates strongly in few uncertain terms what that person thinks about me and my Greek membership.

"YOU were in a sorority?" = You're not blonde or hot, and you're not what I picture a sorority member to be. *How on earth did you get in?*

"You were in a **SORORITY?**" = You're not blonde or hot, and you're not what I picture a sorority member to be. *Why on earth did you pledge?*

Either way, it's generally not complimentary.

The answer to "Why did you pledge?" and "how did you get in?" is the same. My organization saw in me, the same thing that I see in it: The desire, ability, and opportunity to nurture leadership in young women, myself included.

Granted, many organizations can build leadership but not many of them are dedicated to young women, and not all organizations have the opportunity and organization to recruit broad scale at our nation's institutions of higher learning. Coupled with the additional benefits of a lifelong personal and professional network and bond of sisterhood to others who are all committed to the same and you have a compelling argument for "going Greek."

Sure, being Greek comes with the additional trappings of

any organization: jewelry (like religious organizations), robes (like the House of Parliament), sometimes a dedicated facility/house (like honors colleges), parties (similar to corporate mixers), and other paid-for extras. It also may come with some problems, and they are the problems that are native to the existence of a young person. Let me tell you, college Greeks didn't invent crazy parties. It's just our leadership abilities that make us so darn good at organizing them! (Disclaimer: That was a joke.)

My point is that being Greek offers the opportunity to give younger college students a leadership experience under the advice and counsel of older collegians and, even better, under the guidance of an international organization and chapter advisors. Some chapters are better than others, and organizations vary from school to school. But that's how it works with any organization. Hopefully these groups are led by people who help them succeed, even though it doesn't always work out that way. Fraternities and sororities are no more and no less failure-proof than any other human-led organization.

There aren't many organizations intended for college-aged youth that accommodate the blend of the quasi-professional and the academic, understanding and even encouraging students to put their school first and volunteer work second. Greek groups also help students

understand, even on a relatively micro scale, what it means to be a small part of a bigger whole and of a history that may extend hundreds of years back that they can directly shape for the future. Here's one thing I know: Every Greek member, no matter how "insignificant" his or her participation, can make or break a chapter, an organization, or even lead to the elevation or destruction of the entire campus Greek system. Greek organizations can help shape student leaders by demanding responsibility and accountability while providing opportunities to every person to showcase their best aptitudes while doing good for their organization and causes, even if it is under the guise of a seemingly vacuous t-shirt sale or volleyball game.

I'm not so naive that I think it actually works like that at all times, and I realize this is a little pie in the sky. But this is how it can work – how it should work.

So, really, why do I continue to volunteer for a sorority that (as it's traditionally understood with chapter meetings and parties) stopped being relevant for me when I graduated college, more than 10 years ago? It's because I truly believe that we are responsible for helping others achieve their life's passion and enabling them with the tools to make their little corner of the world a little better. How else can we enable our future's leaders unless we put them into real life situations where showing up, paying bills, and fulfilling your word matter what are what really count? That's why I'm Greek, and that's why Greek life will always be relevant. Ω

Items of Interest

If You Go Online...

View a great 5-minute video about the homes that comprise the University of Montana University District, presented by UM alum Don Oliver. <http://tinyurl.com/33zvjr>

Do you live outside Missoula? Look for alumni get-togethers nearby you by visiting the UM Alumni Association's website with information on alumni events. <http://tinyurl.com/2jd8m5>

Did You Know...

Did you know that several of the UM Alumni Association's board members are Greek? It probably doesn't surprise too many people who are used to "leadership" and "Greek" going hand-in-hand! Just a few of those Greek leaders are listed below.

Howard Hansen, ΣΑΕ

Marcia Holland, ΑΦ (Current President)

Linda Knoblock, ΚΑΘ

Dawn Lochridge, ΑΦ

Keli McQuiston, ΑΦ

Marnie Prigge, ΚΚΓ

Geannine Rapp, ΚΚΓ

Pat Risken, ΦΔΘ

Bob Ross, ΘΧ

Bernd Schulte, ΦΔΘ

Marcia Yury, ΑΦ

Are you interested in learning more about the UM Alumni Association and its efforts in keeping alumni in contact with University activities, events, and networking? Visit <http://www.umontanaalumni.org/> today!

Recruitment Never Ends!

At UM's growing Greek organizations, recruitment never ends! Most chapters

on campus are engaged in ongoing year-round recruitment activities, known as Continuous Open Bidding (COB). While COB isn't as structured as traditional recruitment, it provides the opportunity for members to spend a little more time experiencing the "courtship" process with a specific chapter. If someone you know is interested in learning more about a chapter, encourage them to contact the Office of Greek Life by visiting <http://www.umt.edu/greek/contact.htm>

Greek Greats

It's a little overdue but better late than never! During the April 2007 Greek Life Awards banquet, the following UM individuals and chapters were recognized for their accomplishments:

Chapter Awards:

Kappa Kappa Gamma: Philanthropy and Service; Risk Management and House Operations.

Kappa Sigma: Scholastic and Academic Programming.

Delta Gamma: Public Relations.

Kappa Alpha Theta: New Member Programming.

Sigma Chi: Alumni Relations and Chapter Development.

Delta Gamma: Chapter of the Year.

Individuals:

Greek Man of the Year: Jose Diaz, Kappa Sigma

Greek Woman of the Year: Stephanie Weiskopf, Delta Gamma

Outstanding New Members: Andrew Dusek, Sigma Phi Epsilon; Madison Judkins, Delta Gamma.

Outstanding Campus Involvement Award: Grace Harris, Delta Gamma.

Outstanding Seniors: Kevin Molm, Kappa Sigma; Jennifer Hepner, Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Community Outreach Award: Paige Browning, Delta Gamma.

Outstanding Chapter Presidents: Tyler Henneman, Sigma Chi; Ryan Hamilton, Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Calling All Alumni!

Your college chapter needs to hear from you! Most chapters are in need of advisors, which is a great way for you to give a little time back that will yield great rewards. If you have a little time or talent to spare, contact the UM Greek Life office at (406) 243-2005 to get connected. Time commitment varies from small to significant, with roles ranging from scholarship support to event planning to being a guest speaker to helping coach members through how to network and have a successful recruitment. If you have the desire, there's probably a way for you to contribute to a positive Greek life experience at UM — call the UM Greek Life office today!

Congratulations to Kappa!

Congratulations are due to the Beta Phi chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma which was ranked #1 in academic achievement among all Greek chapters on the UM campus. With a GPA of 3.1, the chapter was above the campus all-women's GPA, too. Great job, Kappas! Ω



Aristotle

Aristotle Says...

You can always learn more about what's happening on campus by visiting these online resources:

- Office of Greek Life: <http://www.umt.edu/greek/>
- UM Foundation: <http://www.umt.edu/umf/campaign/default.htm>
- UM Home: <http://www.umt.edu/>

Greek Task Force



209B University Center
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2005 phone
(406) 243-4340 fax
<http://www.umt.edu/greek/>

Who Is the Greek Task Force?

The Greek Task Force is an organization of UM Greek men and women, primarily alumni, who work to perpetuate Greek life on The University of Montana campus, a legacy extending back more than 100 years. We do this through supporting, nurturing, and advancing Greek ideals, promoting recruitment, and helping build a strong Greek student body at The University of Montana.

We believe that Greek life offers students a unique opportunity to have a balanced college life with a focus on academic excellence, brotherhood/sisterhood, community service, and responsible social interaction. It allows students to make lasting friendships with individuals holding similar ideals and common purposes.

For more information about UM Greek Life or the Greek Task Force, please contact one of the individuals listed on the cover page.

IT'S GREAT TO BE GREEK!

— Since 1904 —



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