

November 9, 2007

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

*From alpha to omega:
Sororities & fraternities show their letters*



Sororities: Sisterhood that lasts a lifetime

By **Melissa McFarland**
Rocket Contributor

What does it mean to “Go Greek?”

For many women on the Slippery Rock University campus, “going Greek” is an experience they wouldn’t trade for the world.

“Joining a sorority helped me grow and appreciate other people,” said Allison Wilde, the president of Delta Zeta.

But sororities on campus serve as more to their members than just a group of girls to hang out with. They also stand for the advancement of women, both socially and academically.

“It was what shaped me on this campus,” said Megan Patkalitsky, a member of Alpha Omicron Pi and the president of the Pan-Hellenic Council. “It has gotten me through good and bad times and has really changed my life.”

Another huge part of sorority life is the Pan-Hellenic Council.

“The council is the governing body that unites the sororities here on campus,” said Mallory Hodson, a member of Alpha

Sigma Tau and vice president of public relations for the Pan-Hellenic Council.

This council creates the rules that all of the sororities must follow. It also organizes such events as Greek Week, Homecoming and community service projects. Meetings also include updates of each sorority’s events.

The members of this board include President Megan Patkalitsky, Vice President of Community Service Janelle Normand, Vice President of Recruitment Bridget Kelly, Vice President of Judicial and Administrative Affairs Leslie Wehman and Hodson.

“The council acts as a liaison between administrative officials and the sororities,” Hodson said.

The sororities at SRU are active both on and off campus.

In fact, last weekend the sororities took part in an event called “Polish the Rock,” which was part of a nationwide clean-up day that was localized to Slippery Rock to help beautify the community.

Nearly all the sororities are also involved in community service projects both locally and nationwide. For instance, each sorority has a philanthropic organization for which they raise money and donate to various causes.

For many of these women, it gives them a chance to do things they might never do on their own.

“Being in a sorority has given me an opportunity to be more active on campus,” Patkalitsky said.

Besides being active in community service, the sororities are also concerned with recruitment, as new members are always welcome in the organizations.

As of spring 2007, there were 400 students involved in Greek life on campus before graduation, and this semester, 75 new members were inducted into the pledging process.

Each sister has a different reason for joining a sorority.

“Friendships in high school

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Campus frats share goal— staying charitable

By **Liz Glazier**
Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

The fraternities at SRU all do many charity activities and events around campus that prove that everything people see about frats in the movies isn’t 100 percent accurate.

Kappa Sigma, Alpha Sigma Phi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Tau Gamma and Theta Xi are the six SRU fraternities with which men can become involved at SRU.

While some of these have been fixtures on campus for more than 20 years, others are brand new to the school and are still continuing to find ways to become more involved.

Sam Raneri, a founding father of Kappa Sigma, said he wanted to join a fraternity to be involved with Greek life, to have the opportunity to network and to better himself as a person.

Kappa Sigma became a chapter at SRU last year. By Kappa Sigma national standards, in order to become an established fraternity on campus, they had to become the largest fraternity on campus. With 31 brothers, they accomplished this.

“One of the most memorable experiences of the whole process was getting the letter saying we were going to become a chapter,” said Raneri, a 20-year-old sophomore.

They now have six pledges.

Some of the activities Kappa Sigma hosted last year were a date auction and drag queen pageant. Money raised from these events help with expenses within the fraternity and is also donated to charities, such as the American Cancer Society.

Raneri said one of the most exciting parts of being a brother is the opportunities it provides both on and off campus.

“I like knowing that I can go anywhere in the country or world and know that I can find someone I can associate with,” Raneri said.

One piece of advice that Raneri had was for students to get involved and check out fraternities for themselves.

“It’s a great opportunity to better yourself and become a part of

SEE BROTHERHOOD, PAGE B-3

Ranger Challenge Team beats out Pitt, Penn State at 2nd-annual competition

By **Kacie Peterson**
Rocket Contributor

It’s always said that hard work pays off.

In the case of Slippery Rock University’s ROTC Ranger Challenge Team, that is just the case.

The Ranger Challenge Team took first place on Oct. 20 in the one rope bridge competition and earned second place in its tier and third place overall at the second-annual Brigade Eastern Region Challenge in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Cadet Maj. Jonathan Turner led the 10-person team in the nine events against 19 other teams.

These tasks demanded a high level of muscular endurance because the team was tested in several physically demanding situations.

The Ranger Challenge Team completed tasks in hand grenade assault course, rifle marksmanship, patrolling, land navigation, an obstacle course, an Army Physical Fitness Test, constructing a one-rope course, a 10-kilometer forced road march, and weapons assembly and disassembly.

The obstacle course required the team to carry a 200-pound log through a quarter-

mile course. In order to complete the forced road march, each team member must carry a 30-pound backpack the entire distance.



Cadet Emma Christensen (left) and Cadet Merle McConnell negotiate the 30-foot cargo net obstacle at the Ranger Challenge competition on Oct. 20.

Penn State and the University of Pittsburgh were among the teams that Slippery Rock’s ROTC program beat out at the competition.

Since Aug. 29, the team has been training for this year’s competition. The members are seniors Jonathan Turner, Micah Linderman and Chris Spudic, juniors Collier Wright, Bradlee Spudic, Emma Christensen and Zachary Majzun, sophomores Chad Baker and Zachary Foster and freshman Merle McConnell.

Alternates for the team were Jessica Brothers, Ruth Pippin, Michael Botjer and Patrick Plumberg.

Cadet Lt. Col. Micah Linderman, a senior, was one in the group of volunteers who chose to be a participant. Linderman said he has been involved in the Ranger Challenge Team since his freshman year at SRU.

“You hear talk around the battalion about the Ranger Challenge Team,” Linderman said. “It offers more intense physical training and you got a free T-shirt.”

Cadet 2nd Lt. Bradlee Spudic, a junior, has also been a part of the Ranger Challenge Team since he first entered the ROTC program three years ago.

“It sounded tough, and I can appreciate

a good challenge,” Spudic said.

But anyone can take part in the competition, said 2nd Lt. Andrew Sharp, who works alongside Master Sgt. Sheldon Monroe as team mentor.

“Anyone can join because we currently pull from a small pool of cadets,” Sharp said. “We’ve had a whole bunch of people try out. Different athletes and others have tried out and had fun. We welcome all people.”

In fact, individuals do not even have to be a part of the ROTC program in order to be on the team. The only requirement is taking the Military Science 101 course.

“You do fun things in the class during labs,” said Linderman, “and you are eligible for the team if you take the class.”

The individuals who finish in the top 10 spots in the tryouts are usually the most physically fit, dedicated and possess advanced technical skills.

Sharp said for the most part, those that make the team are well-rounded individuals and tend to bring everything to the table.

Team members have to be able to run, think on their feet and be athletic with motor skills that are displayed during the

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