

### **III. Sorority Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***What is a sorority?***

Sororities are organizations of women with chapters at accredited colleges and universities. They function as extended family units, providing warm, caring atmospheres that encourage individual development. Sororities promote high scholarship, leadership ability, good citizenship, high moral conduct, and lifelong friendships.

#### ***Does it cost a lot to be in a sorority?***

Sororities are not expensive, particularly Local/Regional sororities, such as Sigma Alpha Zeta. They are self-supported through dues paid by their members, and all of the money put in goes directly to events and programming put on by you. Their costs are competitive with other campus organizations. A complete financial sheet is available for those interested in membership.

#### ***I want to succeed academically. How will sorority membership help my grades?***

Getting good grades in college can be tough. It takes hard work, commitment, and the right resources. In a sorority you can use the network of members to find out about classes, campus resources available to you, and for tutoring. Sororities maintain GPA requirements and have formal programs in place that encourage members to excel and offer academic assistance. Financial scholarships and other rewards are available to students who do well and members with strong scholarship have the opportunity to join honorary organizations such as Order of Omega.

#### ***What do sorority members do?***

Sorority members meet weekly for programs that cover all aspects of a woman's life. In addition to academics, topics covered include career planning, self-development, and interpersonal communication. Community service is also an important part of the sorority experience. Whether raising funds for a particular charitable organization or volunteering your time to help others in the community, helping others will make you feel good about yourself and your sorority.

#### ***What's all this about community service? I thought fraternities and sororities are social organizations?***

Community service is very much a part of Greek-letter social organizations. The word social does not necessarily mean party. These organizations give back to the communities in which they operate. On any given day, you'll find members

of fraternities and sororities raising funds for charitable organizations, volunteering at a local elementary school, servicing a blood drive, passing out condoms, and participating in new students. Community service is a vital part of fraternity and sorority life.

***What types of people join fraternities and sororities?***

All types. While many students join their first and second years, many transfers and juniors also join. It's a great way to connect with others regardless of your year at the university. Students from various backgrounds join fraternities and sororities. Each individual is able to offer his or her own talents toward the betterment of all individuals within the organization.

***How much time will be expected of me?***

This depends upon your willingness to get involved and make a difference. Like any organization, the fraternity or sorority will have general expectations of you. Most importantly, you will be expected to attend meetings and events. Through your fraternity or sorority involvement, you'll learn to manage your time and balance your academic load, work, and social commitments.

***I go to school and work, so I don't have time to be in a sorority.***

About 90% of our girls work and go to school. Many of us have 2 jobs, or work full time. We understand busy schedules, and we make an effort to compromise with all of our girls.

***What happens once I join?***

You are going to make many new friends. It will be exciting for you... electing new officers... planning socials... doing community service... studying with partners... going on retreats... learning sorority history... discovering facts about the members of the organization... and finding out more about yourself and how you function in a group. You'll be as busy as you choose - learning, having fun, and growing during your college years.