

## **I. Why Rush?**

Rush is a period of time for you to come and explore what sorority life is all about. There are many sororities to choose from, and each has something unique to offer. People join sororities for a variety of reasons. What can SAZ offer you? Listed below are some great qualities SAZ prides itself on.

### **Sisterhood**

SAZ has always thrived on its outstanding sisterhood. This has been the cornerstone of our sorority ever since it's founding in 1992. Because of the variety of things you do together, sisters get to know each other really well and on many levels. The close-knit bonds that develop here are truly remarkable. Sigma Sisters form an unbreakable bond that starts the day they choose to pledge and carry it on throughout their lives. We are there for each other, in times of great jubilation and deep sorrow. We are proud and honored to share these times with our sisters, and our loyalty to our sorority will never waiver.

Being a member of Sigma Alpha Zeta means knowing that no matter where you go or what you do, you will have the support of your sisters. Sigma Alpha Zeta is about friendships that last a lifetime.

### **Academic Achievement**

While some people may believe that joining a sorority will harm your grades, the reverse is actually the case. Many sorority sisters assist each other in their studies. Older sisters can advise younger sisters and help them with classes they have already taken. This has led to SAZ chapter's overall GPA to be consistently higher than the all-women's average on each of our campus'. Also, sisters are motivated to do well in school not only by their own personal goals, but also by sorority encouragement and awards. SAZ places great concern on academic performance and provides a positive environment that encourages strong study habits.

### **Leadership**

One of the most common attributes employees look for when hiring is leadership. Since the real goal of any college student is to earn an education to obtain a good job, leadership becomes an important aspect of collegiate development. SAZ offers many internal leadership opportunities such as our executive board and various chair positions. Also, our members are often involved in leadership positions throughout campus. Whether it's through Student Government, the Interfraternity Council, with political groups, or any other academic or social clubs, you can be sure Sigmas are involved.

It has certainly been proven that the social and organizational skills that are learned while being a Sigma has molded our women into more successful and motivated business people.

## **Networking**

Finding a Job: it's all who you know right? It definitely helps, and the more people you know, the better chance of getting a foot in the door. Who better to help you into your first job than a sister? Using Alumnae contacts has proven to be quite helpful to recent graduates in the job market.

Although sorority and fraternity alumni are less than 2% of the population, they make up 52% of the U.S. Senate, 33% of the House Of Representatives and 75% of the top executives of the 500 largest business corporations. With alumni support like this behind any sister, future sisters are sure to succeed in all that they do.

## **Socials**

Many college graduates feel that those years away at school were the best of their life. We feel that they certainly can be. With good time management skills one can easily excel in school and also have a great social life. The sorority supports many social functions throughout the year including parties, tailgates, formals, mixers, socials, road trips, sisterhood events, national conventions, and just hanging with the sisters. SAZ provides many great opportunities to have a good time.

## **Community Service**

Volunteering is at the heart of SAZ's activities. We are always looking for ways to help other individuals, our communities, and our country. There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, including hosting activities that benefit youth, the elderly, and the environment. In 2000, SAZ adopted the fight against Domestic Violence as its official national philanthropy. Since then, we have demonstrated a strong commitment to issues surrounding domestic violence and the rights of abused women and children. Additionally, we strongly support our fellow Greeks and other organizations in their philanthropic efforts, and often join them in their events on campus and in the community.

Participation in community service builds character through the realization of the needs of others. In terms of career growth, many service activities provide students with the opportunity to explore possible careers, experience the "real-world" of their chosen career field, develop professional skills and contacts, build their resume, and put into practice the information they have learned in academic settings.

## **Diversity**

Students come to universities at a critical stage of their development; a time during which they define themselves in relation to others and experiment with different social roles before making permanent commitments to occupations, social groups, and intimate personal relationships. In addition, for many students, college is the first exposure to an environment other than their home communities.

As a multicultural sorority, SAZ sisters promote the benefits of learning in a racially and ethnically diverse environment, both with respect to exposure to new perspectives and in willingness to examine our own personal perspectives. Students learn more and think in deeper, more complex ways in a diverse educational environment. Such diversity promotes racial tolerance, improves academic performance, breaks down barriers among individuals of different races, and contributes to the robust exchange of ideas, which is so essential to a quality system of education.

Having such a broad base of friends like those you will meet in SAZ is truly an advantage in college and throughout your life.

## **Athletics**

SAZ participates in several facets of university athletics. Whether it's competing in intramurals or creating our own tournaments with other organizations, competing in these events not only promotes fitness and sportsmanship but also fosters sisterhood and teamwork. A little friendly competition is also fun, and we enjoy the good times and camaraderie together.

## **Pledgeship**

Sigma Alpha Zeta has an extremely rewarding pledge program. It is a time to grow as an individual while developing lifelong relationships. SAZ allows you to display the true person that you are. We are known for having the most quality pledges, and for displaying leadership, drive and ambition. While participating in our award winning New Member Education program, you will be able to learn about Greek life on your campus, sorority history, and sisterhood, while participating in community service, social events and academic strengthening. These activities provide an easy transition to Active Membership, and once you are a member of SAZ you will undoubtedly become a vital member of our organization.

## **Personal Growth**

SAZ offers a chance to learn the value of teamwork; to learn leadership by doing; to develop a sense of responsibility by taking it on. Fine-tuning your professional and organizational skills, follow-through, speech making, and presentations in front of groups are a big part of your Sigma experience, as are the opportunity to learn from the advice and experience of older sisters and your alumni. The challenge is to hold yourself to a higher standard, to stand out and make the most of the opportunities the college experience presents. Competition, pride and superior organization drive the members of Sigma Alpha Zeta to hold themselves to a higher standard - often, the results are historic. College is what you make of it; the competitive edge drives Sigmas to lead the sorority world, and individuals to accomplish great things.

A Sigma sister lives a balanced life. Read any biography of a successful woman. What you will very quickly discover is a highly motivated, multi-faceted, creative, hardworking and deeply committed individual. Women who achieve greatness are successful in their careers, knowledgeable in matters of science, philosophy, history, and literature, appreciate art and music, and yet are committed to family and friends, work at maintaining physical and mental strength, and live spiritual lives. We recruit well-rounded young women who display great qualities of scholarship, leadership, and maturity.

## **Benefits of Sorority Membership**

- You'll have a support system of friends to help you make the adjustments to college.
- You'll have excellent scholarship resources available.
- You'll learn valuable leadership skills and have the chance to practice them as a chapter officer or committee member.
- You'll be encouraged to get involved in campus organizations such as student government, academic honoraries, and sports clubs.
- You'll get to help others through community service projects.
- When you graduate from college you will be part of a network of women that includes over 500 members!

During rush we invite you to come and see if Sigma Alpha Zeta is the right sorority for you.