

# THE GREEK ALUMNI CONNECTION

STUDENT AFFAIRS

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GREEK DIRECTOR'S DESK



The Spring 2016 Semester wrapped up well, and Summer has begun with our leadership looking toward Fall. Many of our chapters have representatives attending conventions or leadership conferences all over the country. New Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council Officers transitioned into their roles, and they have started some new initiatives. One of these initiatives includes the development of a diversity and outreach officer for the councils.

Minnesota State Mankato Dance Marathon, largely coordinated by the Greek Community, was definitely a semester highlight. This year's event raised more than \$26,000 for Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare/Children's Miracle Network. The planning for Dance Marathon 2017 is already under way!

At the annual Greek Banquet, the community recognized the many accomplishments of its chapters and members. This year was the first year for new chapter awards criteria. The new process will allow for more chapters to be recognized for various levels of achievement, and it also raises the bar, in terms of expectations. It means that there may be years when there is not a chapter of the year named. This new process was developed by student leaders and unanimously approved by chapters in Spring 2015.

The following award recipients were recognized:

- John & Kristy Buck Leadership Scholarship: Connor Donohue (Phi Kappa Psi) and Sara Jancoski (Alpha Chi Omega)
- Order of Omega Staff Member of the Year: Lenny Koupal, Centennial Student Union Communications Coordinator
- Gea Stanger Memorial Woman of Influence: Ashley Strom, Assistant Director of Student Activities
- Public Relations & Marketing Award: Sigma Sigma Sigma
- Scholars of the Year: Cam Klade (Sigma Chi) and Katelyn Telthoester (Alpha Chi Omega)
- Vawracz Award for Community Service: Jordan Arbo (Sigma Sigma Sigma)
- Outstanding Alumnus Volunteer Award: Molly Grove (Alpha Sigma Alpha)
- Sorority and Fraternity President of the Year: Nolan Brinkman (Sigma Nu) and Michelle Fetter (Alpha Sigma Alpha)
- Rissa Amen-Reif Award for Advocacy and Awareness: Alex Simonieg (Alpha Chi Omega) and Austin Raebel (Sigma Nu)
- PHC & IFC Exec Officers of the Year: Alex Simonieg (Community Service & Philanthropy) and Connor Donohue (Risk Management)
- Outstanding New Members: Harley Ries (Lambda Chi Alpha) and Leah Kellogg (Sigma Sigma Sigma)
- Marie Bruce Fraternity Man and Sorority Woman of the Year: Na Chum (Lambda Chi Alpha) and Nikki Kramer (Sigma Sigma Sigma)
- Sisterhood and Brotherhood Awards: Alpha Sigma Alpha and Sigma Chi
- Sorority Chapter of the Year: Alpha Chi Omega
- 2016 Greek Week Champions: Gamma Phi Beta

## GAMMA PHI BETA CELEBRATES 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Locally founded on February 5, 1966, Gamma Phi Beta's Gamma Pi Chapter recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The celebration took place over the weekend of February 5-6, 2016 with an ice cream social at the University Friday night and a Gala on Saturday night. Brianna Bergsbaken, a junior at Minnesota State Mankato and Gamma Phi Beta Alumnae Chairwoman, said that during the ice cream social many alumnae were reminiscing about their days as active members, of which many had lived in the Gamma Phi house at the time.

On Saturday, alumnae from all over the United States made their way back to Mankato and the University. For many, campus has changed quite a bit from when they were students, so tours were offered to explore and reminisce. That evening concluded with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Approximately 200 alumnae were in attendance including Barbara Temme Lundervold, Gamma Phi Beta's first Chapter President at Minnesota State

Mankato. Other speakers included Nicole Johnson, Chapter President, Haley Severson, Chapter Public Relations Chair, Maureen Sigler, Gamma Phi Beta Alumna, Dr. David Jones, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Brianna Bergsbaken, the evening's emcee. The Gala also included an award ceremony, a dance and a silent action. The Chapter raised about \$4,000 to put into savings for future housing projects. "It was an eventful weekend and it was very nice to get back in touch with ladies who have been gone for years and even decades," Bergsbaken said.

Gamma Phi Beta Actives and Alumnae gather for the informal ice cream social during their anniversary weekend, Feb. 5-6, 2016.



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## Greek Community Mission Statement

The Fraternities and Sororities at Minnesota State University, Mankato take pride in serving the University and the greater Mankato area. We are a community of campus leaders committed to excellence in scholarship and to promoting dynamic personal growth of members, focusing on the development of experiential leadership and the fostering of lasting relationships.

## Greek Community Core Values

- Leadership
- Friendship
- Scholarship
- Service



# We want to hear from YOU!

### Update your profile!

Have you recently updated your contact information with Alumni Relations? To do so, visit [www.mnsu.edu/alumni/update](http://www.mnsu.edu/alumni/update)

### Share your stories!

We want to hear about your fond memories from being a member in the Greek community. Email your stories: [student-affairs@mnsu.edu](mailto:student-affairs@mnsu.edu) or visit: [www.mnsu.edu/student/greekalums/](http://www.mnsu.edu/student/greekalums/)

### Support Greek Programs!

Want to find a way to give back your brothers or sisters? Visit [www.mnsu.edu/giving/waystogive/](http://www.mnsu.edu/giving/waystogive/)

## GREEK HOUSING UPDATE

The investigation into the possibility of Greek Housing or another physical presence continues.

With the help of staff in the Department of Residential Life, the University has engaged in work with Anderson-Strickler, a housing consultancy firm, to conduct focus groups and a written survey of both active and alumni members. These focus groups and surveys are intended to gauge interest and desires, as it pertains to the potential development of a physical presence for Greek Life on or near campus. All alumni, for whom the records on file with the Alumni Association include an email address, received a link to participate in the survey. Thanks to those who completed it. At this time, we await the recommendation/update from Anderson-Strickler.

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