We are in the midst of rebranding! Follow us! @OhioStateGreeks

Staying Focused for Finals
We are in the midst of Finals weeks! Learn how to stay prepared for the stressful weeks ahead!

How to Close Your Chapter House
Closing your house for Winter Break can be a difficult if you don’t have the correct resources in place. Find out what you need to do to make sure your house is ready for break.

Remember to Recognize Advisors
Advisors do all that they can for our chapters throughout the year, take some time and make sure to recognize them for the hard work that they do for our community

Message from the Staff
Sharrell Hassell-Goodman, Director - Sorority and Fraternity Life

Greetings Sorority and Fraternity Community Members!

While the semester is winding down and you are focused on finals, I ask that you take a moment and reflect on your accomplishments over the past several months. Our chapters have been busy over the Fall semester of 2014, engaging in philanthropy events, community services, sisterhood and brotherhood activities, leadership programming, Standards of Excellence events, collaborating with other organizations on campus as well as engaging in social justice initiatives. We have much for which we are both proud and thankful.

• Our community continues to expand with the addition of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity (IFC), Delta Sigma Iota Fraternity, Inc. (MCGC) as well as the colonization of Chi Phi Fraternity (IFC).
• 54 new members participated in Buckeye Greek Leadership Institute to develop the skills necessary to begin making their mark as exemplary leaders within the Ohio State sorority/fraternity community.
• A group of 63 sorority and fraternity members engaged in challenging conversations about social justice, inclusion, privilege and oppression at the Vice President for Student Life Greek Diversity Retreat.
• Sorority and fraternity members have been activists and social change agents on campus and beyond at addressing issues of injustice.
• Our community has thought critically about risk management and how we can better support and manage our chapters in hopes of creating a safer environment.
• We piloted the Student Wellness Center’s program of Sisters Creating Change, to ensure that our sorority women are talking about issues of sexual violence, interpersonal violence and healthy relationships.

Overall, I am most impressed with our chapters’ individual development, several organizations have prioritized the development of improving chapter operations and management. Chapter officers have worked diligently to ensure the success of their chapters. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as Director of Sorority and Fraternity Life within the Office of Student Life at The Ohio State University. Our community is one that is rooted and tradition, but we strive to be progressive!

Interfraternally,
Sharrell Hassell-Goodman
SLSFL Spotlight!

Katrina Lazarte  
Kappa Alpha Lambda

Katrina Lazarte or better known as Kat is a devoted sister of Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. as well as the Vice President of the Multicultural Greek Council. Kat has been an integral component of the growth and development of our community assisting with building continued systems of accountability. Kat is a Psychology major with a dual minor in Education and Sexuality Studies and hopes to attend graduate school to continue her educational journey. Kat is constantly working to advocate for MCGC and create meaningful opportunities for collaboration between the Multicultural Greek Council and the other three governing councils. Kat continues to exemplify leadership in her actions and that is why we recognize her today!

Staying Focused for Finals

As the semester comes to an end, it is imperative that chapter members stay motivated both in and out of the classroom. Keeping an active and engaged chapter while still providing ample time for studying is a key balance to find, during the weeks leading up to finals. Be sure not to over book the chapter’s social and business calendar as too many commitments before a week of tests can cause more unneeded stress. It is a chapter’s responsibility to be there to support the members as they study. There are many ways to encourage great study habit from members during this time, such as setting extra study hours, having study break activities at the chapter house, creating quiet spaces in the house, reserving study rooms and creating study groups.

Closing Your Chapter House

While December is a month filled with an assortment of activities with many of the month’s hours being devoted to studying for exams and making travel plans for holiday festivities, it is essential that chapters make preparations to secure and close the chapter house as members leave for the holidays. With so much on our minds during the Holiday season it is easy to forget some house closing musts, but attention to detail will prevent damage, theft and vandalism from ruining your chapter’s winter.

Be sure to
Unplug all non-essential appliance and electronics
Secure premise – lock all doors and windows
Have routine maintenance on furnace completed
Set furnace at or above 60 degrees
Provide House Director with master key
Inspect all rooms for:
    Trash
    Animals
    Valuables
    Plugged in appliances
    Lights off and doors/windows locked
Even during this hectic time it is important to remember those who are close to you and guide your paths as leaders within your chapter. Advisors volunteer tirelessly supporting our chapters through the good and bad of times, asking for very little in return. It is important to show each of the advisors to your chapter that their time is much appreciated and needed. Not all recognitions must be expensive to be meaningful. Ongoing and thoughtful acknowledgements provide effective ways of raising morale, encouraging great performance and showing appreciation. Many chapters show their appreciation through the purchase of flowers, thank you cards, and/or gift cards but the same old thank you gifts can become over used and meaningless especially if an advisor stays with the chapter for many years. Advisors should be recognized at the end of each semester to make sure we are supporting them and thanking them for all the work they have done for the chapter. New ideas don’t need to be extravagant just fresh and personal. Some ideas include making thank you cards from many chapter members who have been helped or supported by the advisor, inviting them to chapter dinner and recognizing them in front of the whole chapter, inviting them out to dinner with the executive board, nominating them for various chapter advisor awards throughout the community and nationally, sending birthday and holiday cards to show you are thinking of them out side of their advisor role, creating personalized gift baskets, and having members create personalized gifts for advisors they are close with. Try getting to know your advisors on a personal level making it easier to recognize on a personal level.

Remember to Recognize Advisors