Despite a well anticipated vacation exodus from the Oneonta campus this Friday the 18th of February, there were a few stragglers that stuck around that afternoon. Keeping their lonely RA’s and RD company was just a bonus however, as these six members of Alpha Phi Delta Fraternity had bigger plans in mind. Sacrificing a head start on our well cherished vacation, Pete Donaghy, Alex Lubichich, Thomas Napoli, Alex Stroh, David Graham, and Michael Vanzo, members of the organization’s executive board, waited until Saturday morning to flee Oneonta and descend upon Marist College, home of the Delta Theta chapter of Alpha Phi Delta. This was a very special visit, because this was the chapter the founders completed their New Member Education Process with, and it was the first time they were able to visit as full brothers.

This visit was not all fun and games however; the Delta Theta chapter was hosting its annual Leadership Conference for chapters in the Hudson Valley District. Among those in attendance were Manhattan College (BB Chapter), Utica College (BI Chapter), and Pace University Pleasantville (ΓI Chapter). It was easy to see the advantages of being part of a National Organization such as Alpha Phi Delta. The conference was filled with a diverse set of individuals from all over the tri-state area eager to share their experiences, as well as the do’s and don’ts of fraternity management. As always, there was plenty of laughter and playful jar-ring at one another as well.

Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the presentation and discussion facilitation by the National Vice President of the fraternity, Nicholas Franki, ΓΛ Chapter ’87. A man of immense presence and a powerful orator, Brother Franki’s presentation on Dr. John Maxwell’s 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership provoked deep thought and reconsideration of member’s concepts of what makes a powerful, respectable leader, whether it be of a fraternity chapter, a business, or even the United States of America. Brother Franki mixed together personal stories of fellow brothers and even U.S. economic icons that rose from obscurity to influence to help inspire and retain his doctrine in those who were present at the conference. With business taken care of, the Hudson Valley District devoured over two hundred dollars of pizza and enjoyed each other’s company before heading back to their prospective colleges, well, with the exception of the Oneonta brothers who have a well deserved week at home.
Greek Conference a Success by Marissa Katz—Greek Intern

Each spring semester Greeks from all organizations get together to discuss, learn, and eat with one another. This past Friday, February 11, the Greek community once again came together and had a successful Greek Conference. When arriving to the ballroom on Friday, students were greeted by IGC E-Board members to be signed in and given their schedule for the day. After opening announcements everyone split up into different breakout sessions to start the learning experience!

The conference hosted many great presenters at each of the breakout sessions. The conference covered many topics including Branding, Recognized Greek Life, Resumes and Interviewing, Stress Management, the LGBT Community, Community Service, Greeks in a Larger Community, Recruitment, and Inter-Greek Relations. Students were allowed to choose the discussion they wanted to learn about for each break out session. Feedback from those who attended showed that they were happy with their experience overall. Greek life students really seemed to enjoy and learn a lot from each of the sessions. Each session had its own unique information to learn and activity to do. This conference was not only for Greeks to help their own organization, but for students to pick up skills to better themselves as well.

The stress management session was definitely a big hit because as we all know Greeks take on a lot and are always on the go. Other sessions, like the Recruitment Workshop with AnneMarie Cucci and Zach Silver, were educational and informative to help all organizations. These are just two examples of the types of educational and helpful breakout sessions that were hosted.

A very exciting part of the Greek Conference was when Mayor Dick Miller came to speak to students attending the conference, as well as the new members. While sitting in the ballroom listening to him speak, everyone was able to gain a new appreciation for him and Greek life as a whole. The Mayor discussed his personal experiences with Greek life as well as his professional relationship with the Greek community. After listening to him speak and having dinner with him I learned how accepting and appreciative the Mayor is of the Greek community. Overall the Greek conference was extremely successful. A big thank you goes out to all the presenters, David Lucas, the IGC E-Board, and Angie Eichler for all their hard work and dedication. People were able to learn, laugh, and spread the love for Greek life!

Greek Life Battles Diabetes by David Lucas-ΦΚΨ Community Relations

Sunday, February 13, the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity and Sigma Gamma Phi Sorority co-hosted a walk for the American Diabetes Association. The walk was well attended and allowed valuable insight into what Diabetes is, as well as provide a fun and enlightening time to those who participated.

The walk had an array of attendants, ranging from Greek Life, to sports teams, and even interested individuals from the local and college community. The attendance far surpassed the expected number. As the day progressed, we saw our fundraising efforts for this cause skyrocket. Outside of the registration fees, individuals helped to raise an enormous amount of money themselves. Pi Delta Chi, Food and Nutrition Association, as well as OSES hosted tables to raise money, and both Dr. Walsh and RSO made significant donations to the cause. A friend of Sigma Gamma Phi in California hosted their own fundraiser to donate to us, which contributed an amazing $482 to the effort. Overall we were able to raise $1,254 for the American Diabetes Association.

We have many people to thank for the success of this walk and look forward to doing it every year. If it weren’t for the generosity of our friends and families, this walk would not have been as successful as it was. With that, thank you to all who supported us at our event.
Congratulations to the new members of the Order of Omega! Initiation will be March 30 at 6 p.m. in the Waterfront.

Progressing Towards New Beginnings by TJ Doka-ΦΚΨ

As each semester continues, we, as recognized Greek organizations, try to better ourselves. Whether it includes community service, academics, or the overall goals of the chapter, everyone is striving to make this semester better than the last. Phi Kappa Psi is no different; we aim to better our chapter each semester by learning from our successes, and attempting to mend our mistakes.

In Fall 2010 we completed 1,600 hours of community service through Habitat for Humanity, replanting the Memorial Garden at Oneonta High School, Punt Pass Kick at Neahwa Park, cleaning a highway we adopted, and the Greek Ambassadors program. Our contribution was not just that of each individual but more of our chapter as a whole. This semester we plan on attaining 4,000 hours of community service (an additional 2,400 hours) for the year. Most of which will come through highway cleanings, a diabetes walk, a testicular cancer walk, and a clothing drive.

Currently we are at 43 total members, and have five new promising new members that we hope to initiate. Our goal is still to reach the grand chapter number of 50 members; however, we may have to wait for another new member class to complete that ambition. Lastly, one of our biggest successes, the "Phi Kappa Psi Car Smash," was held last semester and all proceeds were donated to Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). We expect to hold a similar event this semester, so we look forward to seeing you all participate!

Oneonta Greek Life Expands by David Lucas-Greek Intern

January 19-28 marked SUNY Oneonta’s recruitment period for Recognized Greek Life. The Spring semester is always exciting as it marks larger new member classes due to deferred recruitment. This semester really held up to that standard as 85 bids were extended to men and women on campus, 82 of which accepted. This was one of our largest recruitments, and many thanks go to our Recruitment Chairs, Zach Silver and AnneMarie Cucci.

Although membership is increasing, we must also note the increase in organizations. This year, we welcomed Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. They have been very involved on campus, both within Greek Life, and outside. Expansion still continues to be on the front of our minds as we are approached by an interest group from Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, who wants to become recognized.