



## I joined Greek Life because

By: Aja Heinlein, Sigma Delta Tau Sorority (ΣΔΤ)

When I think back on my first year at Oneonta, I can say for a fact that I did not ever plan on pledging a sorority. I did not think I was the “sorority type” and never intended to be. I was using the picture painted by television and movies guide my mind towards the stereotypical “sorority girl” image; one that I definitely did not fit. It was actually my roommate who was initially contacted by our former president. I encouraged her to hang out with her and go to some of the events she was inviting us to. I also met another sister in a club that we were both in on campus and after going to a few recruitment events, I felt more comfortable talking to her during our meetings. I began to recognize some other sisters around campus and they would acknowledge me; and for the first time, I felt like I was being included. Like they actually wanted to be my friend and that meant the world to me. I was eventually invited to their preference party, and even though I had no idea what that meant, I could tell it was important. After the preference party, I spoke to some of the girls I would end up pledging with and they clued

me in to what was going on. I suddenly got really nervous, what if the girls didn't like me? What if I wasn't going to get a bid? Why was I so oblivious to what was going on? There were so many questions swirling around in my head, that when the recruitment chair called me to offer me a bid, I really had no idea what I was going to say. I told her that I'd have to think about it and during the day, that's exactly what I did. I thought about all the benefits I would gain from joining a sorority; sisters for life (being an only child, the concept of a sister was pretty foreign to me); connections beyond college, and all the opportunities it would bring forth for me were just a few of the things I came up with. But then what if it took up too much time or what if I ended up not fitting in? When it came down to it, I realized that not only did the pros outweigh the cons, but that I had finally found a group of girls that I felt totally comfortable with.

Now that I've been in Sigma Delta Tau for 2 years, I realize that it was the right choice for me. Not only have I gained so much leadership experience and learned so many lessons about myself; but most importantly I gained sisters. I found where I fit in, which should be the most important factor in deciding whether or not to go Greek.