Ins & Outs of Greek Life

Nabila Khouri
With over one in every three UR students going Greek each year, there is no question Greek life is a prominent part of campus life at the University of Richmond.

According to the latest analysis done by the university in the spring of 2013, of the 3,176 undergraduate students enrolled, 38 percent were members of a Greek organization. There are currently seven national sororities and seven national fraternities represented on campus. Each has their own set of traditions and activities but what all Greek organizations have in common, is their commitment to philanthropy.

Each fraternity and sorority recognizes an organization as their national philanthropy but also commit to hosting other events in support of local charities.

“As a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority we always strive to support our national philanthropy, Reading Is Fundamental Inc. but we also support local organizations as well,” Sofia Quinonez, a senior, said. “This year we were involved with Church Hill Activities and Tutoring, mentoring and tutoring young girls and boys in the Richmond community.”

With the vast differences among each sorority and fraternity, the leaders of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Panhellenic Council, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) aim to unite all Greek organizations.

“One of IFC’s main goals is to build and maintain this unity amongst fraternities. Sometimes it is difficult when specific fraternity chapters have their own philanthropic goals, however, we aim to have fraternity life viewed and operated as a single entity on campus,” said Will Plumb, a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and the IFC president.

Even before the end of the spring semester, Greek organizations begin planning the approaching recruitment period. During the first week of the spring semester, each sorority and fraternity will commence the recruitment process.

“A lot goes into the sorority recruitment process,” Jessie Barford said. “We want to make sure that anyone going through the process has a good experience.”

Barford is a junior and a member of the sorority, Delta Delta Delta.

“When coming to campus for the first time it can be a little intimidating when faced with many different options,” Plumb said. “Each fraternity is unique and as a freshman it is in your best interest to get to know as many as you can.”

Just so you know:
- **Fraternities**: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha, Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Theta Chi
- **Sororities**: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Gamma, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, Pi Beta Phi