



SEEDS OF UNITY: IOTA PHI THETA

BY YAYA, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

The Alpha Rho Chapter of Iota Phi Theta organized the event “Umoja.” Umoja is a term that symbolizes the strive for maintaining unity in a family, community, nation and/or race. The purpose of the event was to highlight African roots in Latin America through a cultural awareness seminar. The seminar which was co-sponsored by The African Students Association (ASA), Black Student Union (BSU), Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) and Cygnets had a diverse audience, ranging from both race and gender. Unfortunately due to outside factors, Dr. Abeze: a professor for African studies and Dr. Toro-Morn: a professor in Latino studies had to cancel. Yet despite the guest-speakers being unable to attend, Uriel Saenz led a contentious yet smooth dialogue with the audience after showing clips of the documentary titled “Black in Latin America.”

The documentary features the many African influences in Latin American music, food, dances and traditions. An interesting aspect of the documentary was the emphasis on how differently African slaves were treated in Latin America as opposed

to The United States. “There was always a prevalent connotation of slaves in Latin America being more than “slaves,” they were part of the family, they were a blend.” Stated a woman in the documentary. Brazil is a perfect paradigm for this matter, the country is a racial democracy where everyone is perceived as “black” and distinguish themselves with shades only. In Brazil they don’t separate themselves from having more Spaniard blood, more Portuguese blood nor African, they simply compare each other as “A little darker” or “a little lighter.”

The dialogue within the audience was riveting and refreshing. Students discussed about both racial struggles between the two groups in the past as well as the racial struggle between African-Americans and Latinos in today’s society. When asked what lead the men of Iota Phi Theta to organize such an event, Robert Edwards said he was interested in enlightening others about the history of African influence in Latin America because he is both Puerto Rican and African-American. He stated their mission is to make others more knowledgeable on the fact that we’re all in essence one culture divided by the unknown. Edwards says he and his fraternity brothers plan on holding more events with this aim to both unite our campus and make the minorities on our campus more aware of these similarities.

SPRING RECRUITMENT WITH D PHI L!

BY SHAUNDA BROOKS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The ladies of Delta Phi Lambda Sorority have been working hard planning and throwing some amazing events for their Pi Class Spring Recruitment, which started on January 29 and ended on February 15. I had the opportunity to sit down with Whitney Newton, a member of the sorority, who told me all about it:



Scope: Hi Whitney, so what's your sorority name and information?

Whitney: My sorority name is Airyn and I crossed into the Sorority in spring 2010.

Scope: Can you tell me more about Delta Phi Lambda?

Whitney: Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. is ISU's first and only Asian-interest sorority. We advocate Asian awareness and empower women leaders through value-based programs. We have 15 chapters in the Midwest, East Coast, and Southeast. The Sorority was founded at the University of Georgia in 1998, and chartered at ISU on November 24, 2002, meaning we just celebrated our ten year anniversary. We have seven virtues that we live by: Loyalty, Honesty, Respect, Dedication, Integrity, Discipline, and Academic Excellence.

Scope: How is recruitment going so far?

Whitney: We are currently in our second week of spring recruitment. We had a meet and greet at Fusion Brew and informational last week, and this week we started with a philanthropy event. Our philanthropy is Osteoporosis awareness and prevention, and we are partnered with Best Bones Forever. For the philanthropy, we gave a presentation on what Osteoporosis is, how it can be prevented, had a trivia portion, and gave out free cookies and milk. For the remainder of recruitment we have an anime movie night, Ramen night with the Sisters, a social potluck with NAACP, and our second informational.

Scope: How do you go about choosing girls for your sorority?

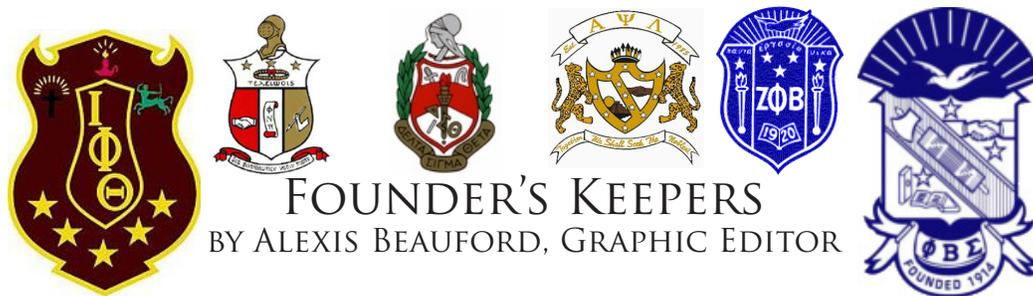
Whitney: We invite all female undergraduates to come out to recruitment. We are not Asian-exclusive, and we do have Non-Discriminatory Policy that can be found on our website (isu.deltaphilambda.org). We are looking for Dedicated Female Leaders who share our virtues and want to help raise Asian awareness as well as celebrate diversity and culture.

Scope: What are the benefits of joining a sorority, preferably yours?

Whitney: The benefit Greek life offers is innumerable. I came to ISU as someone who was anti-sorority, and now joining is one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life. Delta Phi Lambda helps develop leadership skills. I went from being the person that sat in the back of the classroom and hated speaking in public, to being a person that responds to the questions professors ask in class, and volunteering to be the group members that presents. Being a smaller group, every member gets the opportunity to take on a leadership position. You learn time management, organization, and how to network. We've had so many once in a lifetime opportunities because of the connections we have established. In just three years, I've crossed out more items on a bucket list than some people do in a lifetime. I also wouldn't have the letters of recommendations that I do, if it wasn't through the networking connections I established through the sorority.

I grew up in a town that was very diverse, so coming to ISU was a culture shock for me. Delta Phi Lambda has allowed for me to promote diversity on campus and to celebrate cultural differences. It has allowed for me to make a difference on campus, in the community, and nationwide. In the Sorority, we also do a lot of philanthropy events and service work. A lot of the work we've done has allowed me to become more compassionate, selfless, and to strive for the better. It becomes a way of life as opposed to just a bonus on a resume.

Delta Phi Lambda also serves as a home away from home for many of the girls. Because we are so small, we have developed a strong bond with every one of our sisters. We have supportive alumni network and an equally supportive network with sisters at other chapters. Even when meeting a Sister for the first time, there's an instant connection and it feels like you've known them forever.



FOUNDER'S KEEPERS

BY ALEXIS BEAUFORD, GRAPHIC EDITOR

After a bittersweet break coming back to school our Greeks at ISU brought in the New Year celebrating their Founder's Days. The men of Iota Phi Theta celebrated their Chapter Founder's Day January 29th this year. The men of Iota Phi Theta along with their Iota Sweethearts put on together events for that week. Some of those events included selling hot chocolate and Krispy Kreme Donuts on the quad as well as an event called UMOJA which means: "to strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race." This event was meant to highlight the significance of the diverse cultures we have here at ISU. They wrapped that week up with a Super Bowl Party where they provided food and a great time. When we asked chapter President Kenneth Leggin how he felt being able to experience another Founder's Day, he had this to say, "It feels good to be able to experience another founder days with my chapter brothers. We were able to meet up with one of our chapter founders, Corey Hardin and reflect on the memories of Alpha Rho from where it has been and what it has become since the reactivation of the chapter in 2008 by Vance Vladi Goldbold and Terri Brooks." Make sure to look out for big things from the men of Iota Phi Theta for their organizations Founder's Day the week of April 14th.

The men of Phi Beta Sigma also recently celebrated their chapter Founder's Day on January 26th as well as their organization's Founder's Day on January 9th. With everyone being back around the time of their chapter Founder's Day, they planned events around that week. Some of those events included bowling and billiards at the BBC, a seminar for one of their national programs and a banquet featuring a step show from multiple generations of Epsilon Chi Phi Beta Sigma's. Celebrating a chapter Founder's Day as well as an organization's Founder's Day can be looked at similarly. Phi Beta Sigma member Joe Green expressed his insight on the two days, "I believe both Founders Days are significant in their own way. The Chapter's Founders day is special because you gather with brothers from the same chapter as you and can share stories with brothers who have been in similar experiences as you. The organization's founders is the reason why there is a brotherhood and is special because you know members from all over the world are celebrating on that very day. Both have significance and have their special moments." The men of Phi Beta Sigma have a pageant coming up February 23rd at 1pm in the Circus Room and they want you to be on the lookout for that, tickets can be purchased from any Phi Beta Sigma member or pageant contestant.

Other organizations that recently had a Founder's Day include: Kappa Alpha Psi on January 5th celebrating their 102nd year, Delta Sigma Theta on January 13th celebrating their centennial (100th year), Zeta Phi Beta on January 16th celebrates their 93rd year and Alpha Psi Lambda on February 11th celebrating their 28th year.