Greetings From The Office

The end of the semester has come, and the summer is just kicking off. For our students, it means summer jobs, internships, and hopefully a little relaxation as well! For our office, it is a time of reflection on the past year, and preparation for the year that awaits us.

While this year was filled with plenty of negative press from FSL misconduct at the national level, we have much to be proud of here at UW-L. We had several chapters and individuals receive national recognition, we launched a new state-wide leadership conference, and our community surpassed their community service and philanthropic giving levels from last year.

There is a question that is being presented to FSL communities and organizations across the country: are we relevant? The university landscape has changed dramatically since our organizations first emerged, but have we? It is our responsibility to critically think about our answer, and reflect on the experiences we are providing to our members. Is this truly the life-changing, impactful organization that we tell potential new members it is, or is simply just another club, something that we do to pass the time or add on our resume?

Our goal for our members and organizations is to be able to answer with a resounding YES, that we are even more needed today than we were decades ago. However, we need to back this up with action, not just emotion. We continue to look for active ways for students to connect with the values of our community, and live them out each and every day. We are guided by our strategic plan (check out our progress here!), and are excited about the progress that has been made in just a year. While there is plenty of work to be done, the future is looking bright here at UW-L!

As always, if there is anything I can do to support your organization, or if you have any questions, please be sure to let me know!

Best Regards,
Alex Brown
National Recognitions for UW-L FSL Community

Our members and organizations had an impressive year, garnering awards and recognitions at the highest levels. We are so proud of their hard work and accomplishments!

- Alpha Phi was awarded the Betsy Mullins Jones Panhellenic Award
- Alpha Xi Delta earned a National Academic Achievement Award
- Chi Phi received the highest accreditation score of any Chi Phi chapter in the nation
- Delta Sigma Phi was awarded the National Pyramid of Excellence, which recognizes the best Delta Sigma Phi chapters in the country
- Order of Omega Honor Society was a finalist for a national Outstanding Chapter Award
- Abigail Gnewikow and Jon Miles were awarded scholarships to participate in the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute
- Cameron Carey was a finalist for the North American Interfraternity Conference’s Undergraduate Award of Distinction

Looking Back: A Year In Photos

Members of AXiD with Chancellor Gow

Sig Tau members warm up after their Polar Plunge

Men of Chi Phi supporting their “Sara Softball” event

DSP leaders ready to make a difference in their chapter and our community

Alpha Phi representing at their “Red Dress Brunch.”

Members of SAE participating in their annual “Paddy Murphy” event, a send-off to graduating members of the chapter.

Abigail Gnewikow and Rachel Weigand participated in the National College Panhellenic Academy, designed to improve the impact and Panhellenic presence on campus.
Lessons Learned

Over the past two years, I’ve had the pleasure of serving as the UW-La Crosse fraternity and sorority graduate adviser while I completed my Master’s Degree in Student Affairs Administration. During the past two years, I have seen fraternity and sorority life develop into a true community. I am so proud of the community and our students for all their hard work and dedication for improving themselves, their chapter, and the fraternity and sorority community.

As I move on from UW-L, I wanted to share a few lessons I’ve learned from my time here:

- The importance of patience: some times when we start a new project or begin advising a new group we are eager to make changes based on our beliefs, knowledge, and assumptions. I think it’s important to slow down, take time to get to know those you serve and what’s important to them, and build relationships first.

- The importance of kindness and empathy: the quote “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle” comes to mind. No matter what mood we may be in, we should always aim to be kind to one another.

- The importance of being “comfortable with the uncomfortable and uncomfortable with the too comfortable.” throughout my time and education at UW-L, I am reminded to be an ally and advocate for all my students, their experiences, and their needs.

I am excited to announce that I have accepted the Assistant Director of Leadership and Greek Life at York College of Pennsylvania. I am going to miss UW-L and the community very much, but I can’t wait to see what they achieve in the future!

Service, Philanthropic Giving Increases

Our FSL community participated in 5,113 hours of service (roughly 22.5 hours per member) and raised $19,300 dollars (roughly $85 per member) this year! This is a 70% increase in service and a 42% increase in giving from the previous year!

FSL G.P.A. Above All Campus Averages...Again!

The Spring 2015 G.P.A. has been compiled, and we are pleased to share that our FSL community once again earned higher marks than the average UW-L student. This is the 6th straight semester where the Fraternity, Sorority, and All FSL averages were above their respective campus categories. While we enjoy this success, we know we have much more work to be done to continue to improve the academics of our community!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Service Hours</th>
<th>Philanthropic Dollars Raised</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Phi</td>
<td>1,476</td>
<td>$3,194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha Xi Delta</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>$5,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chi Phi</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>$5,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delta Sigma Phi</td>
<td>1621</td>
<td>$960</td>
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<td>Sigma Alpha Epsilon</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>$4,048</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sigma Tau Gamma</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>G.P.A.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Phi</td>
<td>3.233</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha Xi Delta</td>
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The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Fraternity and Sorority Community is rooted in the values that unite all of our organizations. We will foster and develop friendships between members and organizations, support leadership development and involvement opportunities for all members of our community, commit to meaningful service to others, and to promote and achieve academic excellence. The Fraternity and Sorority Community will work to create an environment that encourages each student to reach their fullest potential, while living their values every day. Membership in our fraternal community will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills that will benefit individuals, their organizations, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and the local and global community.

Wanted: Alumni Advisers

The UW-La Crosse Fraternity & Sorority Life office is looking for alumni volunteers to serve as chapter advisers. Our office believes having strong alumni and advisory support is the best resource a chapter can have. We have noticed chapters that have local and consistent advisory support are stronger organizations all around. Each chapter has their own adviser roles as part of the chapter advisory board; in general, advisory boards include recruitment, ritual, alumni, financial, and general chapter advisers, along with UW-L faculty/staff advisers. By agreeing to serve as a chapter adviser, you will demonstrate your firm commitment to the fraternal movement, your national organization, and to the education of our students at UW-L. You have an opportunity to enrich the experience of our fraternity and sorority students that is truly a rewarding experience in return. Check out the Student Organizations Adviser Manual for more information becoming an adviser at UW-L. If you are interested in volunteering, send us an email! We’d be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Keep up on all the latest with our community on social media!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UWLGreek/
Twitter: @UWL_FSL
LinkedIn: UW-L Fraternity & Sorority Community