

IU's Greek Community: Changing for the Better

If you haven't looked at the Greek community in Bloomington lately, you're in for a bit of a shock when you do. The last few years have been hectic if nothing else, with chapters coming and going, and moving in to and out of houses.

Many traditionally strong and steady IU fraternities and sororities have been or are on the move. The Fiji, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Kappa Psi fraternities have built or are building brand new houses. The Delta Tau Delta fraternity is doubling the size of its house, which will likely be complete by the fall semester. And our old friendly across 17th St. – Alpha Gamma Delta – is actually leasing a vacant Phi Psi (recently suspended but returning to campus in 2017) house for a year while its sorority house is being redesigned and rebuilt.

Just take a drive down Third St., head up to Jordan and then through the extension to see all the progress the IU Greek community has made.

But, as we all need to realize, a house isn't a prerequisite for a successful fraternity at IU. There are 71 fraternities and sororities on campus, and many don't have leased or owned properties. In fact, Pi Kappa Alpha was named by IFC/PHC as the most outstanding fraternity on campus last year...without a house. And Phi Sigma Kappa received their national fraternity's National Outstanding Chapter award for two consecutive years *before* moving into their new house...and actually didn't earn the honor once they did.

If you know any IU students or alumni who have been part of the Greek system in the past 10 years or so, I encourage you to ask them for their take. Their headline will likely be all the new houses popping up, but they also likely recognize the momentum and power that focused off-campus fraternities can achieve.

As we recolonize, we'll have plenty of guidance and assistance from the Chi Phi national fraternity, as well as IU, which created its "Statement of Vision for the ideal Fraternity and Sorority Community".

The meat – important deadlines and mandates of all Greek chapters – are on pages 2-7 and page 11. A separate document specifically for fraternities and sororities with houses has not yet been released.

We urge you to become familiar with the entire statement as we begin the re-colonization process, and here are some key points to consider in the meantime:

- The Dean of Students will require a professional live-in residential adviser in chapter houses.
- The Dean of Students will require one adviser for every 50 active members to increase support and accountability.
- The Student Life and Learning organization will establish adviser training that outlines standards, expectations and generational differences in learning styles by December.
- Chapters will have effective social event monitors and training programs by December.
- The Dean of Students, in co-ordination with the Greek councils, will create criteria and establish an independent review team of stakeholders to accredit each fraternity and sorority via a comprehensive evaluation every three years by July 2017.

- The Student Life and Learning organization will conduct an annual Chapter Greek Academic Achievement Plan (GAAP). Annual evaluation will be used in the accreditation program by December.
- Greek Councils are working to eliminate hard alcohol and open parties by hosting ticketed and guest list parties. Police also now have full authority to enter a Chapter house.

You've probably seen many fraternity and sorority controversies over the years, and things are getting even more intense with the proliferation of social media. And we're all probably at least a little bit uneasy about the idea of establishing a fraternity at IU without a chapter house.

But the tools to build a successful fraternity – with or without a chapter house – are there for us to lean on. As we use these to build a new base of quality young men, we look forward to the day that Iota Delta emerges as one of the finest fraternities on campus.