



## Fanning the Flames



They say It's something that happens to every student group. Momentum is high at the beginning of the year as students feel there way about campus and are genuinely excited to get involved in campus ventures. Then the first wave of exams hit and commitment begins to wane. By the time finals come around, many groups are looking at numbers roughly the same they ended with last year. Well that may be 'ok' for some campus groups, or churches, perhaps, but not Greek IMPACT!

Our challenge this Fall has been to engage Greeks in such a way that they want to make Greek IMPACT - and also their regular walk with the Lord - a priority in their life. **It is our desire that Monday nights become a 'non-negotiable' in students lives**, much like a Carolina basketball game, review session or chapter meeting might be. We know this is an uphill battle, but it's one that we're willing to fight.

To that end, we have been intentional about how we engage the Greek community this semester. In our Monday meetings we have been talking about what it means to be "Alive! in the Greek System," based on the notion that *'the glory of God is man fully alive,'* (St. Irenaeus) and that Jesus came so that we may *'have life and have it to the full'* (John 10:10). I have



Joining the Greek IMPACT community last fall and now having served on the leadership team, I have both regained and continued to build upon my faith that was somewhat lost in my transition into college. Although I will be far from the Greek IMPACT community while I am studying in London next semester, I am confident and enthusiastic because I know that I have this personal relationship with God that will remain strong wherever I may be.

*Tina Williamson, junior Chi Omega*

challenged students that they can walk with God **and** thrive in the Greek system at the same time - these are not competing lifestyles. Students have responded, as between 40-60 Greeks routinely show up on a Monday night.

We have had fewer, **yet more intentional events** - a cookout on frat court, a relaxing Greek Getaway at the beach, an all-Greek service project, and a free Thanksgiving Dinner. A five student Follow-Up team has been

intentionally engaging and encouraging the community, which has freed the Vision Team up to plan these events well and spiritually guide the community.

I believe that God is doing great things on campus and is growing a community of Greeks who do *"not conform to the patterns of the Greek system*, but are transformed by the renewing of their minds." (Romans 12:2 loosely).

## Financial Update

Dear Generous Supporters,

December is traditionally the most charitable time of the year, as folks think about buying gifts for loved ones across the globe. It is also typically a time that families give extra gifts to ministries and other charitable donations - whether in keeping with the giving spirit or to reap the tax-benefits at the end of another tax cycle. While I personally and this ministry have been very blessed by many financial gifts in the past, I typically find that I am running a deficit by the end of the year. This happens as monthly supporters miss a month here and there and as people's financial situations change for a myriad of reasons.

It is my goal to be fully funded for the first time ever BEFORE the end of our typical giving cycle - June 30th. Would you consider giving a year-end gift to this ministry?

Know that your gifts directly affect the things that have been happening on campus over the last three years. If you feel led to give, there are several ways that you can support this ministry. In addition to returning the enclosed business reply envelope, you can also donate online with a credit or debit card by visiting [www.ivcf.org/donate](http://www.ivcf.org/donate). As always, your gifts to this ministry are fully tax-deductible.

Thank you for your prayers and support. They provide a critical foundation for the success of this ministry.

The Website is updated regularly. Follow the latest news, reflections and student stories at

[www.greekimpact.net](http://www.greekimpact.net)

[Yep...there's tons more inside!](#)



# Greeks Provide Christmas Joy for Children Worldwide

This year Greek IMPACT took the lead mobilizing Greek students at Carolina to serve others this holiday season. We challenged Greeks to make Christmas Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child – a ministry aimed at providing Christmas presents to children in impoverished countries around the world – and students responded. We served hot chocolate and cookies to fraternity and sorority students outside of Delta Kappa Epsilon and collected 225 shoeboxes and over \$1,300 to ship the boxes across the globe. An average shoebox costs \$10 to make, so over \$3,000 was raised for Operation Christmas Child this year. This was a great opportunity to take the lead in a Greek-wide charity and for our leaders to step up and lead their peers.

Greek Impact has been an amazing journey this semester in expanding my walk with Christ and trying to become fully alive. One of my proudest moments was this past month with our involvement in Operation Christmas Child. We set up as a collecting agent for all the Greek houses to bring their boxes too. We had quite an event with hot chocolate, cookies, and good fellowship between many houses. We collected over 175 boxes from houses all over the Greek system. It was a truly moving experience to see all the different houses come together for an exciting cause.

*Trey Adams, senior Delta Kappa Epsilon*



## Freshmen Reflect on 1st Semester

I have only been involved with Greek IMPACT since September, but already I feel like I have found my niche within a bigger niche. I felt good about my decision to rush in August, and I love being involved in the Greek System. But going one step further and deeper into a different organization has helped me to grow in ways I never thought I would. I have been pleasantly surprised by my eagerness to be involved, and have never felt anything but accepted by GI and its members. I see God in everyone there and it is so nice to have that fill my Monday nights.

Through my FOCUS group with Amy and a good friend from home, Megan, I've been able to grow more personally in my faith, and have a fellowship which I've come to depend on. I cannot wait to see how else Greek Impact will affect me, and I truly looking forward to my next three and a half years with the organization.

*Breck Fisher, freshman Delta Delta Delta*



Coming into Chapel Hill I knew I wanted to be involved in a campus ministry. I heard about Greek IMPACT from my brother who is involved with the Intersarsity chapter at N.C. State. However, when I came to Greek Impact for the first time in September, I immediately felt at home. It was comforting to know that all of us were dealing with the same issues within the Greek Community. Within weeks, I became involved with a Focus group. The discussions I've had with the girls in my Focus group have challenged me to really see how God is working through every aspect of my life- good and bad.

I know I will stay involved in Greek Impact for all of my years as a Carolina student- it's already a huge part of my life, and I'm only a freshman. I hope to become involved in the leadership staff and to help Greek Impact grow even further as a community.

*Megan McHenry, freshman Alpha Chi Omega*

Things are moving at the speed of sound at the Shepley household. Two of our closest friends had twins just last week, so we are trying to pitch in and help them in any way that we can. Two other close friends in North Carolina are due with a son in late December, so our lives will take a further turn as 4 of our "Suppers of Six" group will be 'with child!' This is helpful to both of us—both in our preparation for children down the road, as well as our comfort-level in not needing kids 'right now.' We are sure that three children will require many a diaper change, a meal cooked for Mom and Dad and tender-loving care in these next few months. On another note, the holiday season is a time for us to travel together! Thanks to a generous student supporter family, we will be heading to Blowing Rock (in the mountains of NW North Carolina) for four days to hang out together and perhaps learn how to ski (for Dave) in preparation for Ski Greek '06. We hope this will be a good time for us to be together away from the norms of Chapel Hill/Durham and recharge our batteries together. Shortly thereafter (hopefully after we watch Indiana defeat UNC-Charlotte), we will head to Florida for the annual Shepley vacation at Fort Myers Beach, Florida. We are eager to spend time with Dave's parents as well as his sister-Claire-and her fiancé Jij as they return home from a six-month tour of India, east Asia, France and England. Thank you all for your prayers and support his holiday season!



## On the HomeFront

# GI Unplugged

By Amy Grantham, sophomore Alpha Chi Omega

When I came back from Rockbridge this summer, I was so excited about sharing the good news of Christ's love with others- especially the girls in my house. During that week I learned ways to lead small groups and even council someone on a one-on-one basis. I felt strongly called to start this up as soon as school began. This is how FOCUS in Greek Impact began. I currently meet with two freshman girls every week. We are reading *Captivating* by John and Stasi Eldredge. This time has become so valuable to me and rewarding for all three of us as we learn together what the life of a godly woman should look like. Not only have we grown closer to God, but closer to each other as well.



FOCUS is an excellent addition to GI. It is definitely something the Bible supports and God blesses. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus says that "Where two or more gather in my name, I am there." It allows anyone to come and "take a closer look" at who they are, who God is, and how that all fits together. It is a smaller setting that allows more personal interactions. God continues to bless me through my FOCUS group as I learn about myself and who God wants me to be as "his crown of creation." I look forward to seeing what God has in store for FOCUS!

There is often a focus on Greek IMPACT as a Monday night meeting. But the beauty of this ministry is to see the dedication and work of God of those outside of the scheduled weekly meetings. Due to class conflict I have not been able to make it on Mondays, but through the efforts of those active in GI I have been able to stay a strong part of the community, feel the love and grace of God, as well as serve and receive spiritual food. The work of the community to keep me a part of the community beyond Monday nights has been a great anchor for my faith as a balance being apart of the Greek system, school work, and faith.

*Paul Tunnell, sophomore, Kappa Alpha*

When my mom passed away last October, I knew that I needed God back in my life to get through the rough times ahead. A girl in my sorority suggested that I come to a Greek IMPACT meeting, and I have been going ever since. It has been such a great way for me to keep growing my relationship with God. Greek IMPACT helped me

keep my faith through a very tough time in my life, and I have truly enjoyed my involvement over the past year.

*Caroline Parker, sophomore Chi Omega*



## What a Feast!

What do you get when you put 80 students in a 500 square foot space for a massive Thanksgiving Feast? As I pondered this fact early Monday morning on Nov. 22nd, (with a turkey slip sliding across my kitchen floor!) thoughts of mass chaos began to enter my mind. After all, at last years Bring Your Buddies Thanksgiving Feast we served 30 students and all the cooking and house space was provided for us by a generous local supporter.

This year the Vision Team decided to serve the Feast, so an E-Vite was sent out to our membership. At first, 20 folks responded, then 10 more, then another 10. By Friday, Nov. 19th 55 students had responded - and many said they were 'bringing buddies.'

So we purchased the birds (a 22-pounder and 3 13-pounders), stuffing, potatoes, cider, sweet potato pie and ingredients for deviled eggs, green bean casse- role, cranberry compote and Kim's famous ooey gooey pumpkin bars - and the Shepley's and students went to work on preparing the Feast.



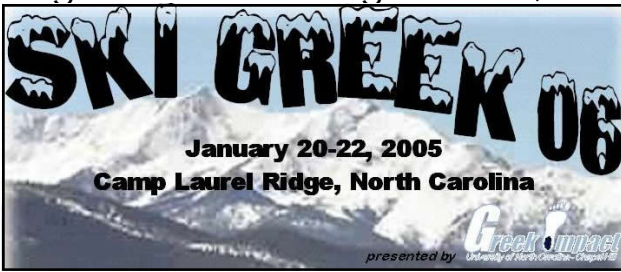
By 5PM Monday evening perhaps the most impressive collection of student prepared food had arrived at the house of a senior student -



Dave Mathews. With a turkey on the table and a couple birds being deep fried out back, students began to arrive in spite of the day long rain and enjoy the feast. By 8PM that evening we had served at least 80 students over a 2 hour period, and even had leftovers to take to the local homeless shelter.

As I reflected to the Vision Team later that evening, it was perhaps the greatest task Greek IMPACT had ever undertaken, and it was a complete success. Thanks to all of you who invested prayer time into this event.

2 ground-breaking events, many opportunities to impact a culture...



Greek IMPACT will hit the ground running in 2006 with two huge events in the first two months of school. Please be praying for these two events as they begin to unfold over the next several weeks. For more information, visit [www.greekimpact.net](http://www.greekimpact.net).

'Ski Greek 06' is a ski weekend created by Carolina Greeks for Carolina Greeks. We hope that students will invite their friends who are not involved in ministry to come and join us on this weekend in the mountains. In addition to a day of skiing, we will have a special guest speaker to share what a relationship with Christ looks like in the midst of the Greek system.

Greek Conference is InterVarsity's annual training and leadership development conference. It is typically also a weekend where students make significant faith decisions – whether that be recommitting their life to Christ or meeting Him for the first time, being empowered to start or carry on ministry in their chapter, or learn more intentional ways to pursue Jesus in the midst of their Greek experience. I have been entrusted the role of Conference Director this year and am excited to serve more than 500 students, staff and volunteers from the east and south coasts.

*Please be praying about the following upcoming events:*

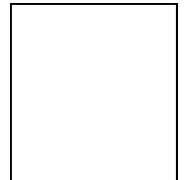
- 12.12—Semester-end Discipleship & Leadership Dinner
- 12.13-16—Regional Staff Conference (Lexington, VA)
- 12.31—Please pray for generous end of year giving
- 1.9.06—2nd semester begins on campus

- 1.20-22 — 'Ski Greek 06' retreat
- 2.17-19—Charlotte Greek Conference
- 3.1—Leadership Process for the 05-06 school year begins



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As a sophomore, I have become more involved in Greek IMPACT, and my experiences have quickly made a powerful impression on my life. It is truly a blessing to be a part of a group of people from different fraternities and sororities that come together to fellowship as a community of believers. There is nothing like spending time with people who love God, find their identity in Christ, and see Christ in you. We honor one another as we all walk in love. We encourage each other as fellow student Greeks who face the same struggles and experiences. We pray for one another, worship together, and hold each other accountable. I love being part of Greek IMPACT and I look forward to new memorable experiences.

*Hollie Edwards, sophomore Alpha Chi Omega*