



The Gap Between Freshmen & Seniors

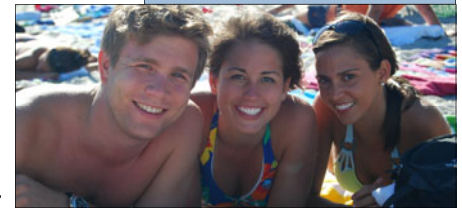


An interesting dynamic is happening this fall as for the first time we have a huge group of seniors. Several of them have been involved all four years now, while others have trickled in throughout their college experience. It's these late comers that have caught my heart this semester, especially those who just started coming. Catie Winslow is a Delta Delta Delta who has lived with one of our key leaders for years, but never felt comfortable growing her faith in college. Until this year. Catie shares:

"Getting involved in Greek IMPACT as a senior was something I was hesitant about doing at first. But after the first Monday night session, I knew it would be something I could count as a way for me to step outside of my busy schedule and stay grounded in what really matters. I'm grateful the Greek IMPACT community welcomed me into their family. It is both comforting and encouraging to see so many familiar faces from the Greek world open up to their peers to grow in their faith. I look forward to growing as a Christian through Greek IMPACT and continuing to develop richer, more meaningful relationships with the other Greeks involved. I just wish I had come sooner!"

I was so excited to learn about Greek Getaway, so I could connect with other Greeks who share similar beliefs as me. When I got there everyone was so nice and welcoming that I didn't feel like a newcomer at all. I would recommend anyone to go because you get fellowship, friendship and memories that will last next year when I graduate from college.

- Jessica Brenton,
 senior Zeta Tau Alpha



While seniors like Catie and Jessica (quote on right) have to overcome a lot of misconceptions and fear to walk through our doors, there is a healthy dose of energy and excitement as freshmen come every Fall, hoping to replicate the communities they found in high school. Phi Delta Theta Brent Blonkvist came to Carolina from San Antonio, TX knowing no one, having a strong and developing faith, and wanting to specifically impact the Greek system. Says Brent:

"The transition from high school to college, especially to fraternity life, has been full of both exciting and testing times, specifically for my faith. Greek IMPACT, and my weekly meetings Dave have been such a blessing. Not only do the meetings keep me accountable to my daily walk with Jesus, but the constant reminder that other kids like me are prevalent throughout the Greek system provides reassurance."



Similarly Kappa Delta Caroline Peterson came from Knoxville, TN with few friends, yet is finding great community through GI. "Coming to Carolina was not what I expected at all. I have learned that it is really important to surround yourself with people who bring out positive characteristics in yourself," says Caroline (pictured with Alpha Delta Pi's Sally Lacy & Copeland Barnes at Greek Getaway). "Greek IMPACT is a great community to be honest about our lives, and be there for each other. It's a place where I feel comfortable, and at the start of college, there aren't many places like that!"

Getting freshmen to check Greek IMPACT out is rarely a problem. Keeping them involved as the semester progresses is a greater challenge, as other organizations compete for time and lifestyle choices often leave students with false feelings of guilt and having to 'have it all together' before coming back to the ministry. But what a blessing to see students both at 18 and 22 realize the need for a committed community of Christ followers to challenge, engage and encourage them as they try to navigate their faith and their Greek experience!

Reflections & Prayers

- ✝ Pray for our many seniors as they interview for jobs and prepare for a transition to post-college life.
- ✝ For freshmen men as pledging wraps up and they have more time to seek out other communities—that GI would be a place they get involved.
- ✝ For our Intern Krystal as she adjusts to Carolina culture.



and...there's more on the back! →

Even more online.....

www.greekimpact.net

Gearing Up for Greek Conference

Greek Conference is once again consuming a lot of my passions, creativity and interests this winter. The 'Connect' theme was created this summer by myself and a team of staff from around the nation. The idea of 'connecting' is a social phenomena that plays out regularly among Greeks:

- Recruitment (rush) is all about connections.
- Social functions are all about connecting to a particular fraternity or sorority.
- Greeks spend hours connecting via Facebook, instant message, text, telephone, Skype and other social networks
- Greeks connect with each other and society to know what's 'now' in culture, television, music and pop culture.
- Coffee shops and bars have become social hotbeds where Greeks regularly connect.

Greeks are very active in student life and campus leadership but the biggest disconnect we often find in students is the faith and Greek connection. However, when students 'connect the dots' to how faith and Greek life can co-exist, they thrive and provide a huge impact in their fraternity or sorority. We hope that Greek Conference Greensboro will be a place where students begin to connect the pieces of their fragmented lives and begin to see a greater picture of the wholly integrated (connected) life that God desires.



2/1-3 Indianapolis, IN | 2/22-24 Greensboro, NC
Greensboro is a new city so pray for the transition!

Pray for volunteer recruitment

Pray for 400+ student attendees

Pray for staff as they plan ministry content



Clemson Chapter Plant Update

It has been neat to work with Dusty for the past few months as he establishes Greek ministry at Clemson University. He has a keen sense of mission and a heart for Greeks, and is applying many of the principles he learned as he helped grow Greek IMPACT at Carolina. Pray for Dusty as he adjusts to a new town, a new marriage (Oct. 6th), and the intensity comes with meeting tons of new students and establishing a ministry presence in a very culturally Christian community.

“Much like missionaries arriving in a new country, I have spent a lot of time learning the culture, “language” and “lay of the land” at Clemson. I believe it is important to be in a posture of learning and familiarize myself with my surroundings and build trust with those around me (students, administrators, pastors, etc). I pray as more students hop on board with the vision this approach will establish firm roots for Greek ministry to thrive at Clemson for many years to come.”

- Dusty Harrison, UNC-CH Alum & Clemson Greek IV Staff

The Students Speak: Hunter Culbertson, senior Alpha Tau Omega

I've had the great opportunity to start a Bible study in my fraternity house this fall. Ever since I returned from a missions trip to Africa, I have wanted to lead a study for my fellow ATO's. Various reasons, mostly being too nervous to ever actually start it, kept me from beginning the study until recently. Dave really encouraged me to start it this year, and when we decided to meet weekly to do our own study and preparation on the same passage I would lead, it finally happened. I decided to do a series of studies on different parables in the New Testament. I figured parables were a good place to start, because they are interesting stories, can teach us a lot, and of course came straight from Jesus' mouth. As the time approached for the first study, I was very nervous. I was afraid that I would not know what to say or that I would not be a good leader. However, I studied, prayed, and gave it to the Lord, trusting that He would lead the study through me. The study has been a huge success. I've held it four times now and the numbers grow every week. The same guys are consistently coming and new ones show up as well. The discussion has been open, honest, and productive. I have received a lot of thanks from the brothers and have noticed the study's influence on their lives. In fact, after studying a parable in which one son told his father that he would work in the vineyard, but did not do so, a brother who didn't follow through on a promise said "Sorry, I know I was like the second son." The Lord has used this study to help my fraternity brothers and I grow spiritually and come together to delve into His Word.

This semester has gotten off to an amazing start. Perhaps more than ever, I am keenly aware of how blessed Greek Impact is to have so many talented and spiritually gifted individuals. In the past couple of months, God has truly moved my heart and it's so exciting to see where this ministry is being led. The events we've had this semester such as Greek Cookout and Greek Getaway have been fantastic (due in no small measure to a lot of people's hard work and God's persistent help), and allowed us the opportunity to facilitate outreach efforts while also deepening our relationships with one another. We look forward to the rest of the semester as we are encouraged by the truths and blessings God has and is continuing to reveal to us.

- Kyle Hoidal, President, Senior Alpha Tau Omega

From the V-Team



Connecting with Kim & On the Homefront will return in December

But you can see what we're doing at shepleys.googlepages.com