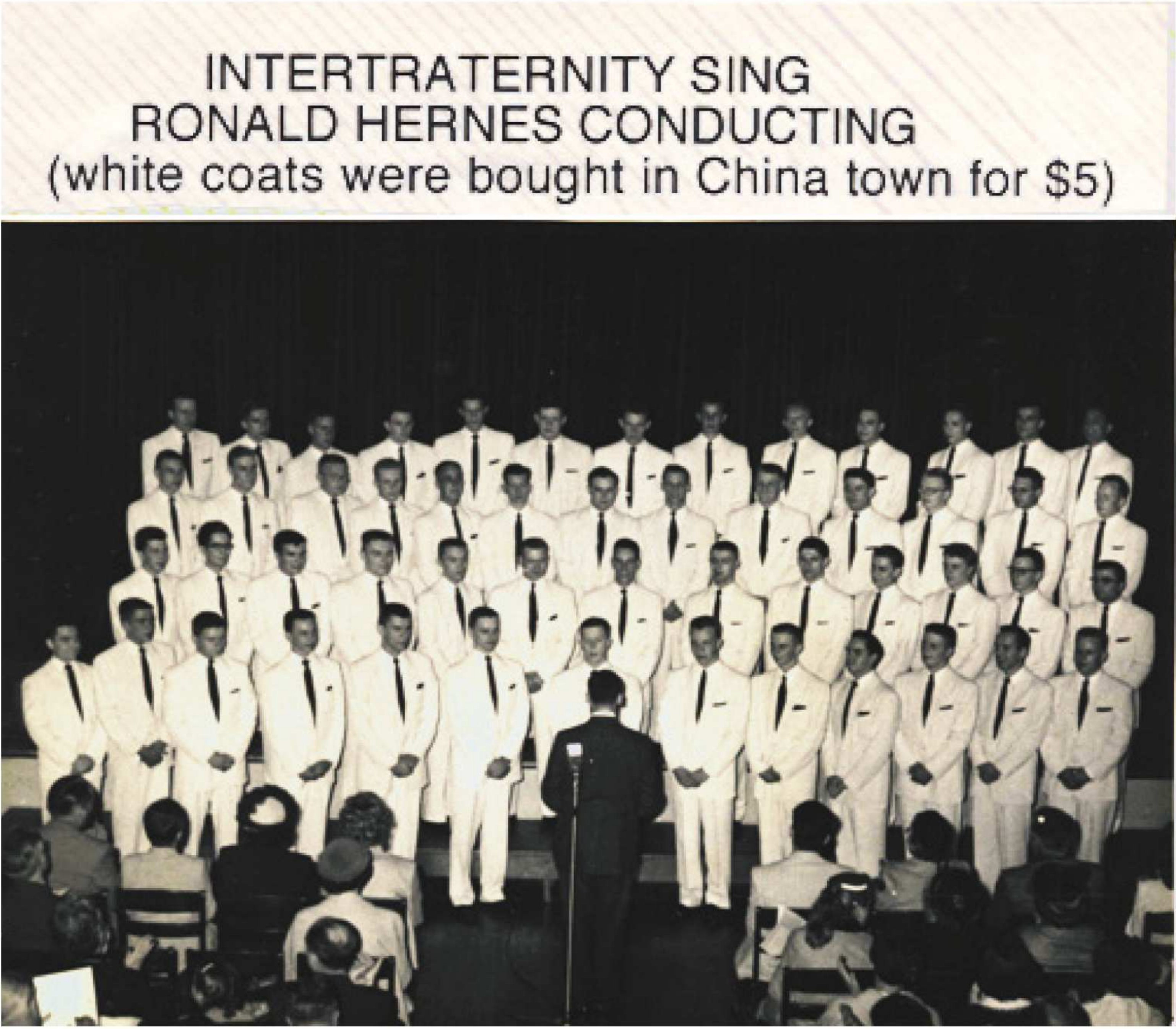




# IIT GREEK COUNCIL



Left: IFC Sing-1950s. Right: Egg Toss of Greek Week 2009

## IIT Greek Week

A TIME OF CELEBRATION

By Clay Houser  
GREEK WEEK CHAIR

The weather is getting nice outside, school is drawing to a close. April is here and full of wonderful things for IIT students to do. But this week is a very special week for Greek students. This week is Greek Week, a time where we can all gather as a group and celebrate our livelihood. It is a chance to find time away from our busy schedules to meet up and enjoy each other's company. It is a time to engage in healthy competition that promotes our sense of community, as well as a time for individual Chapters to be proud and show others who they are. It is like a second homecoming.

Greek Week has been around for over 50

years. In the late 1950s there was a Greek Week and an Interfraternity Council competition. In the IFC competitions, fraternities competed against each other in a number of events including football, baseball, and IFC sing. This is very similar to Greek Football now, but there was a much larger number of events that Greeks competed in. Greek Week existed in a similar manner as it does now. These coincided until the early 1990s when some of the IFC events merged with Greek Week, making it what we participate in today.

Today, chapters spend time preparing skits, banners, and dance routines for Greek Week.

There are events during the lunch break and in the evening, so that everyone has a chance to attend. Every Chapter chooses a theme for the week that represents them in some way. Most of the themes are meant to be comical, but some inspire competition as well. The question, "what should our Greek Week theme be this year?" is asked almost year round.

So, if you see a group of people gathering on the Quad or FAAR field, come out and join us. If you have friends that are Greek go on over and cheer them on. In the end, us celebrating our community is also a celebration of the IIT community, something that we are all a part of.

## GRΣΣK WEEK SCHEDULE

This is the Schedule for Greek Week. Most of these events take place on either FAAR Field or the Quad, with the exception of Quiz Bowl, and Cart Race. Quiz Bowl is going to be held in Hermann Hall Auditorium, and Cart Race is going to be held outside of Hermann Hall. Feel Free to attend any of these events to cheer on your Greek friends or take part in the festivities.

| TUESDAY, APRIL 12  | WEDNESDAY APRIL 13   | THURSDAY, APRIL 14  |
|--|--|---|
| 1:00 pm : Egg Toss   | 1:00 pm : Leg Tunnel   | 1:00 pm : 8-Man   |
| 9:20 pm : Quiz Bowl  | 9:30 pm : Greek Council  | 9:20 pm : Obstacle Course   |
| FRIDAY, APRIL 15   | SATURDAY, APRIL 16   | SUNDAY, APRIL 17  |
| 1:00 pm :  Greek Picnic | 1:00 pm :  Cart Race | 1:00 pm :  Dance Off |



## ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA

We are the Zeta Phi chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha. We got our start as The Women's Interest Group (TWIG) and were installed as a chapter on October 23rd, 1999. In 2000, we moved into the first sorority house in the city of Chicago (previously prohibited by Brothel Law—look it up!). Since our installment at IIT, we have had strong presence on campus. Our sisters serve as executive board members in other student organizations, including Union Board, EWB-Haiti Outreach, Honors Medical Society, Illinois Tech Acappella and SGA. In each of the last two years, our national organization has named us a Four Star Chapter in recognition of our successes and overall development. This is an honor presented to only a few chapters annually.

Every fall Alpha Sigma Alpha organizes a philanthropy event, Queen of the Quad, in order to raise money for the S. June Smith Center, a facility that helps children with disabilities and their families. The event consists of men dressing up as women and competing in a beauty pageant (complete with a swimsuit competition). Spectators vote for their favorite contestant by donating money. The contestant who raises the most is crowned Queen of the Quad.

As women, we are a close knit group of friends. We enjoy impromptu Disney movie or The Big Bang Theory marathons and playing Just Dance on the Wii. We take epic Alpha Sushi Alpha outings to Sushi Para Tu. Around our house, a group



bursting song or friendly jibes are not unusual occurrences. To add some more fun and motivation to our academics, we have divided into teams and started a House Cup competition, à la Harry Potter. We earn points for class attendance and A's.

Alpha Sigma Alpha is the only national sorority on IIT's campus. We were founded in 1901 at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia by five women dedicated to the development of women of poise and purpose. We fill our time

trying to balance our four aims of Physical, Spiritual, Intellectual and Social development. Our motto is "Aspire, Seek, Attain." Our vision is to cultivate values and ideals in women who are known for their character and concern for others. Alpha Sigma Alpha inspires women to lead, to serve and most of all to make a difference.

As sisters, we push each other. If a member is skipping classes and falling behind academically we are there to pick her up. Individual chapters, and the Greek

Community as a whole, are uniquely fit to fill this purpose. Our familial relationships allow us to be supportive and when the time calls for it, critical. Our chapter is a family and support system away from home for many of us. Without a support system, college can be a scary place. Some people find this support system in friends, either who live on their floor or within their major. Either way it is an important part of college and without it, students can end up floundering.

## ALPHA SIGMA PHI

Founded at Yale in 1845 by Louis Manigault, Horace Spangler Weiser and Stephen Ormsby Rhea, Alpha Sigma Phi is one of the oldest national fraternities. From the onset the organization has been committed to the awesome power for individual and social good that can be achieved when men of good character band together as brothers.

Far from the stereotype of fraternities in recent years, Alpha Sigma Phi provides its undergraduates with character and leadership development programs that are second to none. Each year the President's Academy of Leadership offers our next generation of chapter officers and the alumni advisors who support their efforts a hands-on educational experience designed to enhance their strengths and support values based leadership. Additionally the award winning Ralph F. Burns Leadership Institute offers an annual opportunity for our newest members to examine the values of the fraternity and challenges them to emulate the program's namesake by living life in pursuit of our Purpose: To Better the Man, through the creation and perpetuation of Brotherhood founded upon the virtues of character...Silence, Purity, Charity, Honor, Patriotism.

Silence: He has the strength to embrace silence and the will to build an interior life founded upon an honest desire to truly listen to others. Trust in silence transcends

the gulf that is created when men feel the need to compete in action or rhetoric. He is introspective and self-reliant.

Charity: He is charitable in the broadest sense of the word. A man who strives for a life of charity and service is more patient, kinder, and more forgiving of the flaws of others. A charitable man sacrifices

of himself to help others and seeks no recognition in return. He is humble, reverent, and generous.

Purity: He consistently strives for purity of mind, body, and soul. The man who is pure of thought, word, and deed does not shrink from adversity or lofty goals. There is no self-pity, rationalizations, or

apologies. He is moral and a gentleman in the finest sense of the word.

Honor: He lives a life of personal integrity, thereby accruing honor. An honorable man lives up to promises made—to others and to himself. A man of honor is not vain, and is willing to endure scorn or ostracism rather than conform to the pressures of peers, superiors, or the fashion of the day. He is ethical, honest, and trustworthy. Patriotism: He loves his country, remaining consistently engaged in its affairs. He seeks to know his country and to pass that knowledge on to others. He is devoted to the principles of personal freedom, justice, and civic responsibility embedded in the U.S. Constitution that have made our country. He is loyal, proud, and humble.

Alpha Sigma Phi has been a chapter at IIT since 1939, and is closing in on celebrating its 75th anniversary. One of the most important activities of the fraternity is recruitment, and we are happy that we initiated six new brothers into our brotherhood this past weekend. The Alpha XI chapter here at IIT has seen some scary times in the past few years, but just like our phoenix mascot, we are determined to once again rise from the ashes to become a great fraternity of brothers dedicated to our values, and committed to improving the world around us.





## DELTA TAU DELTA

When it comes down to it, Delta Tau Delta just wants one thing from its members: to commit themselves to lives of excellence. This can be done however one chooses. Try new things, do what you love, make an effort to help everything a little, or commit to making one thing spectacular. Anything works, just as long as you put in the time and effort to make it excellent. This is made possible through the exercise of our four fundamental principles of truth, courage, faith, and power. We believe that each of these principles will mean something different to every member, which allows for a trading of ideas and a blending of values that is not normally found in other student groups. We can spend time talking about our accomplishments and the amount of impact that we have, but that becomes apparent when we live our principles. That is visible when we commit ourselves to lives of excellence.

One member had this to say:

Two triangles with a T in between. Our history is interesting and our values are poetic, ask me about them and I'll talk your ear off. I'll be honest; the letters themselves are not special in and of themselves. My fraternity is not inherently greater than any other. However, Deltas at IIT are special to me for our shared brotherhood. The always elusive definition of 'brotherhood' escapes me, but what I can tell you is that it is the jokes, the gags, sharing a house, putting projects together, planning events, having someone who has

been there before, being the someone who has been there before, facing problems, and banding together to make our college lives have some meaning beyond a piece of paper. I didn't join because I knew what was in store for me; I joined because I thought I saw a glimmer of what I now think of as 'brotherhood'. I stayed because it was what I was looking for.

Delta Tau Delta. It connects majors, pushes excellence, and prides itself in campus involvement. Had I never met a recent graduate, I would never have found my passion for all things quantum computing. I would not have sought out philanthropy to find that I enjoy it. Maybe I am the extreme case, but just like any organization, we have something to offer

those who are willing to put in the time. What makes fraternities and sororities special is what we offer. We offer lifelong brotherhood or sisterhood. Deltas offer our unique brand of humor, our love of campus involvement, our friendship, and our brotherhood - Alex Welk.



## KAPPA PHI DELTA

Kappa Phi Delta was founded at the Lewis Institute (which later merged with the Armour Institute to create IIT) on November 16, 1904. We are proud to hold the title of the oldest sorority on IIT's campus and one of the oldest local sororities in the nation. We have been going strong for almost 107 years without any national representation!

Our motto in Latin is *Kale Philia Dunimus*, which means, "Noble Friendship is Power." Kappa's flower is the Jac rose, and our colors are crimson and black.

Our purposes define our organization.

They are: To promote friendship and love within the sorority, to develop dependability, cooperation, and tactfulness, and to promote intellectual accomplishment and scholarship.

Kappa Phi Delta is a sisterhood made up of many diverse personalities that work together as a whole. Each personality enriches Kappa; each sister brings something unique into Kappa. Not only are the members of Kappa sisters and friends, but we are a support network for each other in many ways. We realize the importance of a well-rounded college experience.

For example, we organize study groups and do homework together to promote academic excellence. At IIT, sorority grade point averages are usually higher than campus-wide female GPAs and sisters of Kappa are required to keep at least a 2.5 to stay active in the sorority. For the past 4 semesters, Kappa has kept the highest GPA on the IIT campus when compared against the other fraternities and sororities, as well as IIT's dorm population. Prior to that, Kappa's GPA was constantly ranked either second or third-highest in the Greek community. In addition to keeping their grades up in

a variety of majors, the members of our sorority are heavily involved both on and off campus. From participating in academic organizations to volunteering with non-profits to seeking out leadership opportunities and internships, Kappas are active in both the IIT and Chicago communities. We have members in countless organizations in addition to Kappa!

Every year, Kappa Phi Delta supports our chosen philanthropy, the Susan G. Komen foundation. We have held a variety of fundraisers that benefit this charity, and we volunteer annually at Chicago's Race for the Cure to help in the fight against breast cancer. In addition to this, Kappa members collectively complete an average of 1400 service hours per year.

Kappa Phi Delta acquired a chapter house in 2004, the year of our hundredth anniversary, on the Quad at IIT. It is not required to live in the house to be an active member of the sorority. About two thirds of Kappa lives in the house, and the remaining third live in the dorms at IIT and off campus.

The sisterhood of Kappa does not end upon graduation. We have a strong relationship with our alumnae chapter, which has over 100 members. Kappas live all over the world and are friends, sisters, and colleagues for life.

If you are interested in meeting sisters of Kappa Phi Delta or learning more about Greek life, please contact Elaine Erwin at [frstvice@kappaphidelta.com](mailto:frstvice@kappaphidelta.com).





Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε  
Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ζ Ο Ξ Ι Α Η Υ Χ Ω Γ Β Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ζ Ο Ξ Ι Α Η Υ Χ Ω Γ Β Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω

# OMEGA DELTA

Omega Delta is a young fraternity looking for men that are seeking to become future leaders. Since becoming a chapter at IIT in 2003, the Epsilon Chapter of Omega Delta has been making its mark around campus. Omega Delta offers a balance between academic and social success.

We, the Brothers of Omega Delta, strive for academic excellence while at the same time knowing when and how to have fun. We are fortunate to have a large networking base made up of brothers within the chapter, brothers from other chapters, and alumni. This network gives us opportunities to find internships, jobs, and also take leadership roles in other organizations.

The Brothers of Omega Delta believe brotherhood is very important and it keeps the organization thriving. This brotherhood is strong within the chapter, but it is

also strong with other chapters as well. There are six chapters currently active within Illinois and Wisconsin, three of which are located in Chicago. The bonds between the chapters are so strong that when any member travels to another chapter, they know they have brothers that they can instantly rely on and feel accepted with. As previously stated, Omega Delta is still a young fraternity and the Epsilon Chapter is even younger, which allows opportunity for change. New members have many opportunities to become leaders, innovate how the fraternity is operated in the future, and even leave a lasting impact on the fraternity. Omega Delta teaches its members to become more professional and develops leadership skills that can be utilized in the professional field.



Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ζ Ο Ξ Ι Α Η Υ Χ Ω Γ Β Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ζ Ο Ξ Ι Α Η Υ Χ Ω Γ Β Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω

# PHI KAPPA SIGMA

The Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma is the oldest fraternity chapter on IIT's campus. Since the Chapter was chartered in 1898, it has produced numerous leaders and scholars who have moved on to excel in their fields and in all transactions of life. Among these great men are included members of the House of Representatives, several CEO's, a Secretary of the Air Force and even an Apollo astronaut. Two of our Chapter's alumni actually serve on the executive board of the International Fraternity as the Grand Theta (supervisor of undergraduate Chapters) and the Grand Alpha (president), along with another alumnus who serves as the Grand Delta (regional supervisor). One of Alpha Epsilon's most notable alumni, Carroll K. Simons, left the Chapter with a generous multi-million dollar endowment, to be used for the betterment of the Chapter, its members and the University itself. This money is used for various reasons, like providing the members with free books and the Carroll K. Simons scholarships, given to active Brothers every year. This past year over one-hundred thousand dollars was given out to members based on both need and merit.

Our Fraternity was founded by Dr. Samuel Wylie Brown Mitchell, along with Charles Hare Hutchinson, Alfred Victor du Pont, Andrew Adams Ripka, James Bayard Hodge, John Thorne Stone, and Duane Williams. These men met together at the University of Pennsylvania, and on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1850, they conceived the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

The Fraternity was then officially founded on October 19<sup>th</sup>, based on the core values of Trust, Honor, Respect, Knowledge, Wisdom, Responsibility, and Integrity. All active members of Phi Kappa Sigma strive to exhibit these traits in their daily lives.

The Alpha Epsilon Chapter was the first of all of Phi Kappa Sigma Chapters to implement substance-free housing, a move later adopted by the International Fraternity. This was done to preserve the integrity of both our house and our members. By upholding this policy, we continue

to strive toward our fraternal values and principles unhindered by the distractions and risks of alcohol and substance abuse. Because of this, our Chapter has been able to maintain a stable and productive position within the University and International Fraternity.

One event that many Alpha Epsilon alums and current members are especially proud of is the Chapter's semi-annual alumni event, Smoker. Alpha Epsilon's alumni Smoker is the second oldest tradition on the campus of IIT, second only to graduation. It serves to allow alumni who have since graduated from IIT to return to the Chapter and see how the current undergraduate Chapter is doing. It also allows for the current members of the Chapter to hear how life in the Chapter and on the University was in years past, and how things have changed.

The Brothers of Alpha Epsilon Chapter are devoted to helping the community they are involved in, and do numerous philanthropy events throughout to help in any way they can. Every year, the Chapter volunteers for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Event. This event raises awareness of the two diseases and serves as a fundraiser for the society so that cancer research can be continued. This year, the Brothers of Alpha Epsilon Chapter worked hard on the planning of the Chapter's annual SausageFest, in tandem with the Office of Service Learning's Big Event, to benefit education projects for children in Haiti.



Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ζ Ο Ξ Ι Α Η Υ Χ Ω Γ Β Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω Δ Π Σ Φ Ε Φ Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ζ Ο Ξ Ι Α Η Υ Χ Ω Γ Β Δ Τ Δ Κ Φ Δ Δ Σ Α Ω

# PI KAPPA PHI

The Alpha Phi chapter of Pi Kappa Phi here at IIT is built on three principles; C.L.A.S.S, diversity, and philanthropy. The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi define themselves as men of C.L.A.S.S., an acronym standing for: character, leadership, academics, sportsmanship, and service. These five objectives are what make Pi Kappa Phi an elite fraternity. All members of Pi Kappa Phi strive to be men of C.L.A.S.S at all times.

The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are proud to be members of a diverse fraternity of people from different ethnicities, races, religions, majors, and sexualities. Amidst these differences are opportunities for growth and kinship. The men of Pi Kappa Phi acknowledge and respect one another and strive to unify under the motto: We will lead.

Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy organization, PUSH America, helps raise

money and awareness for people with disabilities. The brothers get a sense of joy and accomplishment working and volunteering for this cause, including participating in national PUSH America sponsored events such as Give-A-Push weekend and Gear Up Florida. Many brothers spend time out of their weekends throughout the school year to volunteer at local organizations that assist people with disabilities, like the Chicago based Neumann Association.

From humble origins in Charleston, South Carolina, Pi Kappa Phi has grown to encompass a nation of brothers and associates over a hundred thousand strong. We strive to be no less than leaders of men and, like those multitudes that have come before us we hope to exemplify the virtues of brotherhood and manhood as prodigiously as our founding fathers.





# SIGMA PHI EPSILON

SigEp's ideal is "the Balanced Man" and when you visit the SigEp Fraternity you will find a chapter of balanced men. The national fraternity started in 1901 was founded on the idea that "this fraternity will be different" and quickly grew to be the largest fraternity in the country. SigEp was the first fraternity to charter a chapter in all 50 states, and the first to build an endowment greater than \$11 million for our Educational Foundation. In 1948, SigEp came to IIT as IL Beta and has been here ever since. We believe that every member has the ability to be a scholar, a gentleman, and an athlete. Each member spends his few years as an active undergraduate SigEp at IIT lead by his older brothers to become a better scholar, gentleman, athlete, philanthropist, and leader through the fraternity ideals of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love.

At IIT you can find SigEps excelling in almost every major, in addition to ROTC, Varsity Sports, Student Government, Greek Council, and a variety of clubs, organizations, and internships across the country. Almost all 50 members live in the fraternity house on the quad, and spend most of the week studying, working, building, relaxing, and socializing together, meaning at any moment of the day you can find a brother to join you for a game, help you with a homework assignment, or talk with you about anything.

Every year Greek Council puts on a week of inter-greek competitions called

Greek Week where every fraternity and sorority on campus is tested physically and mentally; Since Greek Week began, SigEps have participated wholeheartedly, and for the last 5 years we have been declared the winners.

In general, Greek GPAs are higher than those of the rest of the school, as every fraternity holds their members to high standards of academic achievement, acknowledging our priorities to the university before the Fraternity. This last

semester, SigEps had the highest GPA of all Fraternities and a higher GPA than the all male average at the school.

For many years the SigEps have lacked in philanthropy, doing what they can with small events such as Blood Drives, fundraisers, Marathons, Haunted Houses, etc. However this year, SigEp is hosting a karaoke event to raise money for the B + Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting terminally ill children. Already raising over \$500, the SigEps plan to make this an annual fraternity philanthropy on par with the Skulls' Sausage Fest and the PiKapp's Push America in an effort to raise our community service from hundreds of hours per semester, to hundreds of hours plus thousands of dollars donated each semester.

Being one of the larger fraternities on campus and the largest national fraternity, it is easy to imagine the alumni network that SigEp has to offer, and every year almost every member is sent to leadership conferences around the country to develop as a leader in our fraternity, our university, and our country. Being one of the first fraternities to be non-hazing, and the first fraternity to remove race and sexual orientation from membership requirements, SigEps have grown as a national and local fraternity by the principles of brotherly love, rather than abuse, making it the strong and powerful fraternity it is today.



# TRIANGLE

On IIT's campus, Triangle members are involved in many on-campus organizations and activities, as well as having a great time with each other whenever we hang out. We do, however, always keep our academics in mind. We also host fun events during the school year too. Examples from this semester include Chicago Indoor Racing, Nerf Wars, and Laser Quest. Some of the philanthropic organizations that we are involved with, both on a national and local level, include Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and volunteering with FIRST Robotics. Recently, some of our members have become very involved in Engineers Without Borders, serving on both executive board and project teams. A couple of our members have actually gone down to Haiti to work on the implementation of a project in the past couple of years. But this is only our chapter, one of many.

Triangle Fraternity is a social Fraternity of Engineers, Architects, and Scientists. We were founded in 1907 at the University of Illinois by a group of 16 Civil Engineers that were just planning on living together in the following year. But Triangle has evolved into much more than just a group of men living together. We now accept all types of

engineering majors, along with architects and members from the science community. Our chapters have grown very quickly to over 35 chapters nationwide, and we recently had our 25,000th man initiated into brotherhood. Triangle's mindset is summarized in our Code of Ethics (which can be found in its entirety on triangle.org), which every member of Triangle strives to maintain. Its main points include keeping our Ritual present in our everyday lives, creating an environment in which enduring friendships can be formed, keeping scholastics as a top priority, as well as putting forth an honest effort in accomplishing anything that you set your mind to. These values are what define a Triangle man. Regardless of background or current skill set, we are all striving for the same goals in life and we have each other to help reach those goals.

So if you would like to learn more about Triangle, either on a national or local level, you can check out one of our websites (triangle.org or iit.edu/~triangle/ ), come over to the house for a meal or a tour, or just talk to any member walking around that you might see.



# ZETA PI OMEGA

**ZΠΩ**

Zeta Pi Omega is a local sorority that embodies the motto "Friends Like Sisters". The strength of sisterhood lies within the bonds of friendship. The sisters of Zeta Pi Omega pride themselves on achieving academic excellence. Zeta Pi Omega women strive to have a positive influence on "their members, IIT, and the community through its primary values of laughter, loyalty, and pride."

## GREEK COUNCIL CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

WEBSITE:  
<http://omega.cs.iit.edu/~greek>

EMAIL ADDRESSES:  
[greek@iit.edu](mailto:greek@iit.edu)  
[President@iitgreek.com](mailto:President@iitgreek.com)



# Greek Week Skits



Kappa Phi Delta-Harry Potter



Phi Kappa Sigma-Captain Planet



Alpha Sigma Alpha-The Real Disney Princesses



# Greek Skits 2011 IIT

*Top: Triangle-Boy Banding*

*Middle: Sigma Phi Epsilon-*

*Power Rangers*

*Bottom: Delta Tau Delta- RUSH week*

**Not Pictured:**

*Pi Kappa Phi-Zombie Week*

*Zeta Pi Omega- Mistress Vanessa Helsing*

*vs. Countess Dracula*

*(All photos by Anne Brask)*





# Mythbusters: Greek Life

## An in-depth look at challenges that face modern day Greeks.

Throughout the years, there have been many myths that have surrounded the Greek community. These myths have transformed themselves into stigmas that falsely advertise and harm Greeks. It's easy to see how these myths have evolved. Decades ago, there was a very different model for Greek life. This model can very classically be seen in such films as Animal House, Old School, or Sorority Boys. As time has gone by, the model for Greek life has changed, but the way that we are viewed is not. I would like to take the time here to address some of the myths that affect the Greek community one by one.

**MYTH 1:** Being of a different race, religion, or sexual orientation than other members in a Greek Chapter is not what we look for in a member.

**FACT:** Diversity one of IIT's best qualities and it definitely shows in the Greek Community. No chapter on IIT's campus discriminates based on race, religion, or sexual orientation. The truth is that many chapters celebrate that they are diverse and tolerant of everyone. Our definition of brotherhood and sisterhood transcends discrimination. Brotherhood and sisterhood is about bonding with a group of your peers who share the same values, principles, and qualities. It is something that everyone shares, regardless of color, creed, or culture. Diversity within our chapters helps to continuously develop new and innovative ways of doing things. I would like to use the members of Phi Kappa Sigma as an example. Combining Sausagefest with The Big Event is something that had not been done in the past, and through hard work and new ideas, this was able to happen.

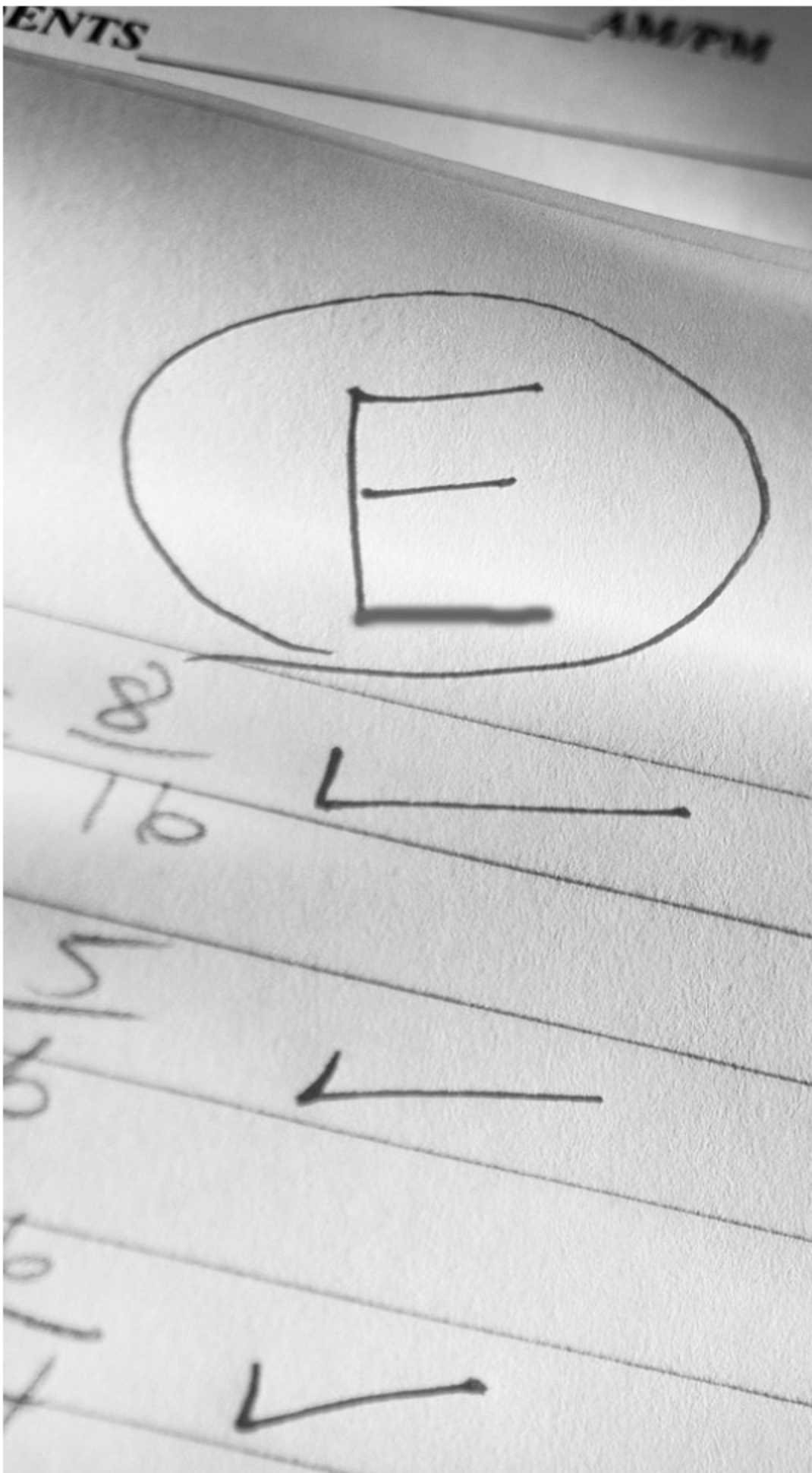


### MYTH 3:

When it comes to academics, Greeks know that they don't need to excel to get a job.

**FACT:** Academics come first no matter the chapter. Along with all of the other responsibilities that come with membership, academic achievement is heavily stressed.

Each chapter demands academic excellence in different ways. Many chapters have a grade requirement for good standing. The usual requirement is around a 2.5 cumulative GPA, though the actual requirement will differ from chapter to chapter. Many chapters also have policies set in place for promoting an academic atmosphere. For example, there are quiet hours in the Delt House from 7:00pm until 9:00pm every night from Sunday until Thursday. Members compete against each other in an academic draft every semester. Last semester, three teams competed for the overall highest GPA. This semester we also created a points system to measure how individuals are doing the right things to succeed. Members can earn points for studying, going to every class, and attending special lectures or seminars, to name a few. This points system helps to inspire members to compete against each other academically, as well as track their own progress. For those members that are struggling, our Director of Academic Affairs (DAA) sits down with these members every week and helps them to get organized, find resources, and make a plan of attack for the week. These measures help to keep those that are academically strong focused, and those that are struggling to get back on the right track.



**MYTH 4:** As Greeks, we serve our own community every day. Helping other communities is not our priority.

**FACT:** Greeks are heavily involved all around campus. It is very hard to go anywhere and not find a Greek working, playing, or involving them in something.

I like to think that as a Greek Community, our involvement is our greatest strength. The Greek community has members that are involved in professional and honor societies, varsity and intramural athletics, support and awareness organizations, and programming organizations. Many Greeks are involved in Student Government and Union Board, organizations that bring the IIT community together in a number of ways. Both of these organizations have had Greeks as their president in the past year.

When it comes to service, Greeks try to always do their part. Community Service is something required of every Greek. Different chapters require different amounts of community service, and some have regular communities that they serve, but the message is always the same: help out and do your part, whatever it may be. Days of Service have a strong Greek presence. The Big Event had an extremely large Greek attendance; there were Greeks at every location. This, along with the hundreds of hours of service that each chapter puts in every semester should describe Greek commitment to the other communities we are a part of.

I understand that while these myths may not affect the Greek community at IIT as much as they affect the Greeks at other campuses, it is still a real issue. If you would like to know more, feel free to contact the Greek Council President Dan Kelly at [president@iitgreek.com](mailto:president@iitgreek.com).



A line of sandwich makers hard at work for Greeks Feed the Homeless 2010. Photo courtesy of Delta Tau Delta.

### MYTH 2:

Greeks are wild partiers that freely partake in drugs and alcohol, with ill regard to the consequences of their abuse.

**FACT:** Greeks spend more time talking about drug and alcohol use and abuse than almost every other organization combined. Because of this, Greeks understand the effects of drugs and alcohol on the human body better than the average student. This also ensures that Greeks treat alcohol with more respect than the average student.

Every year, there are alcohol seminars talking about how to safely act around and enjoy alcohol. In the past year, there have been at least three. Because of the correlation between alcohol and sexual assault, some chapters are required by their National Offices to have a sexual assault seminar every year as well. At every registered alcoholic social event, there are bar monitors, door guards, bathroom monitors, and roamers. All of these security positions are sober for the entire night, and most of them are TIPS trained. TIPS is an alcohol awareness program designed to teach how to identify people that are abusing alcohol and make sure they are safe. TIPS also teaches peer mediation techniques so that individuals can quickly and peacefully resolve conflicts. For the past year, the Greek community has taken huge strides to make more of our members TIPS trained than ever before. By the end of this semester, more than 70 undergraduate Greeks will be TIPS trained. This is in addition to all of the Greeks TIPS trained previously. Along with the 70 undergraduates, alumni from almost every chapter will also be TIPS trained. Clearly, when it comes to drugs and alcohol, Greeks go out of their way to be safe.



**MYTH 5:** Hazing is a common occurrence in the Greek Community. It is completely normal and just part of the process.

**FACT:** Like any organization at IIT, hazing is absolutely prohibited. All of IIT's Greek chapters abide by this rule, and there haven't been any instances of hazing found for as long as any Greek here can remember.

Hazing is largely a thing of the past. It was very alive in the 80's and 90's when involvement followed an older method of Greek Life. It was based around seniority, tradition, and the idea that "If I had to do it, so do they." There was also a strong mindset that hazing made better members. Nowadays, this is not a sustainable model for Fraternity living. In order to remain strong and diverse organizations, organizations based around moral and ethical principles that create leaders and successful members of society, hazing cannot exist. Also, through the development of new member education programs that motivate new members to be involved and succeed in all of their endeavors, the need for hazing to make good members has vanished.

Hazing has multiple definitions, but Greeks use this one: Hazing is anything that causes mental or physical distress upon a person or group of people. This definition allows for many things to be considered as such, and this is also why Greeks take hazing so seriously. For example, the women of Alpha Sigma Alpha take many precautions to make sure that they do not haze. There is no pledging period for ASA. Instead, there is a Phoenix Ceremony and then new members are treated as equals to older members. Any event that is required of new members is required of older members as well. This helps to illustrate how hazing is treated on IIT's campus.

Although the Greek Community does not support hazing, this is not to say that hazing doesn't exist. There are still instances of hazing around the country on college campuses. Although these instances are much more infrequent than they used to be, they are looked at with more seriousness than ever before. I am a member of Delta Tau Delta, and in the past two years I have seen two Delt chapters shut down for hazing. I am ashamed to say that I am brothers with those people. I feel more offended at the thought of hazing than I did before I joined my Fraternity, and I believe this sentiment to be shared by any Greek.