

August 31, 2009

Dear Parent:

Taking part in co-curricular activities can enhance a student's overall college experience. Therefore, the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership encourages students to consider exploring the opportunities available to them to become actively involved in campus life. Since one of the choices available to your son or daughter is joining a fraternity or sorority, I'd like to take this opportunity to provide you with some specific information about the Greek community at Albany.

For many parents, Greek life on a college campus conjures up images like those in the movie "Animal House" or "Old School". However, the reality is that the majority of Albany's fraternity and sorority members are serious about their studies, engage in meaningful community service activities, enjoy a supportive peer network and develop strong leadership skills. At present the University recognizes more than 30 fraternity and sorority chapters that have a combined membership that, as of September 2008, is about 3% of the undergraduate student body.

The University at Albany has in place policies and procedures that specifically pertain to Greek Life. One is that **freshmen are not allowed to pledge or join a fraternity or sorority until their second semester at the University**. The intent of this policy is to help first year students to focus on the transition to the academic challenges of University life before joining an organization requiring a substantial commitment of time and energy. Another policy I wish to bring to your attention requires that all fraternity and sorority intake programs and member education activities conclude no later than three weeks before the last day of classes.

A list of fraternity and sorority chapters currently recognized by the University may be found at <http://www.albany.edu/involvement/greeks/gc.html>. Any chapter that does not meet the standards for continued University recognition and/or has failed to meet the requirements established by their national headquarters, is no longer recognized by the University. These chapters are also listed on the web site and have been notified by the University and/or their national office to cease all activities and operations including recruitment, new member education programs and the sponsorship or co-sponsorship of campus events and programs. In addition, it is important to note that **it is a violation of the University's student code of conduct for students to affiliate with organizations that have had their recognition suspended or permanently revoked by the University.**

If you or your son or daughter have any questions or wish additional information about fraternity or sorority life at the University at Albany, please contact me at (518) 442-5566 or via e-mail at cbrewer@uamail.albany.edu. We look forward to assisting your son or daughter in having a successful experience at the University at Albany.

Sincerely,



Michael Jaromin
Director of Student Involvement & Leadership