

# CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF GREEK STUDENTS AT BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

## Connecting with You

## Greetings

Parents, Family members, and Friends of the fraternity and sorority members at Ball State University,

The members of the Greek Connections Team, the public relations committee for the Ball State Greek community, is happy to present you with the first edition of the new parent newsletter. The newsletter was created in order to keep you connected with the experiences of your Greek student. The newsletter will be published once per semester.

We hope this issue of *Connection* will keep you informed and up-to-date. We are dedicated to making this your personal newsletter with articles you find interesting and informative. Your comments and feedback are welcomed and encouraged. We also encourage you to send stories of your experiences as a family member of a Greek student. Please email these to [cwluyster@bsu.edu](mailto:cwluyster@bsu.edu).

Sincerely,

The Greek Connections Team

## Giving back

Greeks contributed 4,735 community service hours, donated \$92,379.85



Ashley Budde / Alpha Xi Delta

Students paint a fence as part of the Greek Alternative Spring Break service project. The students traveled to the Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky to assist the US Forest Service.

By Carson Lance, FIJI

The fall 2008 semester proved to be a great year for Ball State University's Greek Life. The entire Greek system provided the Muncie area with a total of 4,735 community service hours. All fraternities and sororities contributed by volunteering at several local organizations. College Mentors for Kids, Habitat for Humanity, Minnetrista, and the Muncie Children's Museum were some of the organizations utilized by the Greek community this semester. Theta Chi, Phi Gamma Delta, and Sigma

Phi Epsilon provided the most amount of hours for fraternities. Pi Beta Phi, Delta Zeta, and Chi Omega provided the most hours for sororities respectively. According to the most recent data available, an hour of community service was valued at \$19.51. Based upon this finding, fraternity and sorority members contributed \$92,379.85 worth of community service to Ball State, Muncie, and surrounding areas.

In addition to community service hours, the Ball State University Greek community participated in many philanthropic events

throughout the fall 2008 semester. The semester held events such as Theta Chi's "Waterdaze", Alpha Chi Omega/Delta Tau Delta's "Watermelon Bust", and Chi Omega's "Yippie-Chi-O".

Sigma Chi, Delta Tau Delta, and Sigma Phi Epsilon donated the most money to charities for fraternities. Chi Omega, Delta Zeta, and Alpha Chi Omega donated the most money to charities for sororities. The grand total for the Greek Life community this fall 2008 semester was \$43,500.88.

# Greek 101

## Introducing new members to life as a Greek student at Ball State University

The Ball State University Greek Councils, comprised of Greek undergraduate students, planned and executed Greek 101 on Sunday, March 1. Greek 101 is an educational workshop for fraternity and sorority new members, more commonly referred to as “pledges.” This semester’s workshop included a large group icebreaker, presentations on the BSU Greek community, risk management presentations, and concluded with an ice cream social. The objectives of the workshop were to: (1) Provide meaningful education utilizing talented and skilled facilitators from the university community to educate new members

of the fraternity and sorority community; (2) Communicate to participants the history of fraternities and sororities globally and at Ball State University, including the structure and operation of the three separate councils; and (3) Develop a strong sense of community through discussion and interaction on topics including personal ethics/values/citizenship, personal health decisions, scholarship, diversity, and media ethics.

This semester’s Greek 101 welcomed nationally recognized speaker David Westol to BSU. Mr. Westol has made presentations regarding hazing, risk management, motivation, values and ideals, and leadership on over 370 campuses and at

over 250 national men’s and women’s fraternity and sorority leadership events. Mr. Westol is currently the CEO of Limberlost Consulting in Carmel, Indiana, and has been a long-time supporter of the Ball State Greek community.

The event was a huge success and students appreciated the opportunity to attend the educational workshop. There were 93 new members in attendance for the three-hour workshop, which was an outstanding 94% of the new member population. In order to build upon the success of this semester’s event, the BSU Greek Councils and the Office of Student Life will soon begin planning for this fall’s Greek 101.

## Office hosts training sessions for educators

The Office of Student Life hosted two New Member Educator Workshops in January. The workshops provided training and education to fraternity and sorority new member educators, who are the officers responsible for preparing new members for membership into the fraternity or sorority. The workshop covered a variety of topics including the purpose of new member

education, hazing, big brother and big sister programs, leadership development opportunities, and the expectations of both new members and initiated members.

There were 20 out of 21 chapter officers in attendance for each of the two workshops. These students were able to discuss the difficulties and problems facing their chapters’ new member education program

and provided ideas to help repair those issues. In addition, the officers became more educated in the different areas of new member education as well as ideas to implement in their chapters’ new member education program. Overall, the workshop provided them an opportunity to “get their feet wet” so they better know what to expect this semester.

# Student spotlight

## Meet Interfraternity Council President Brandon Steinbrook

“Greek life has been the best experience of my life thus far.” That is what the new president of the Interfraternity Council, Brandon Steinbrook, said about being Greek. Beginning as a nervous freshman joining Theta Chi, Brandon has gone on to win several awards within his chapter as well as become the chapter president. Brandon stated being Greek enabled him to develop several skills. “I’ve gained more confidence in front of crowds, better time management, and I’ve become extremely organized.”

As president of Theta Chi, Brandon led his chapter to winning an international award for outstanding chapter operations. This past year, Brandon’s chapter presented him with the “Alpha Man of the Year” award. He explained, “it is given to the brother that best fits our values and lives every day by them.” Academically, Brandon has made Dean’s List and recently received an internship with an actuarial firm in Fort Wayne. Brandon stated the experience of being Greek at Ball State will definitely impact the rest of his life.



Brandon Steinbrook

## Did you know?

**Fraternity and sorority members graduate at higher rates compared to their non-Greek peers.**

For more information on how fraternities and sororities support members’ academic achievement, visit:

[www.bsu.edu/greeklife](http://www.bsu.edu/greeklife)