

# WILDCAT CHAT

## Fraternity & Sorority Life Newsletter

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## Greek Awards



It is time for Fraternity and Sorority Life annual Greek Awards! Applications for awards are due 5pm March 9<sup>th</sup> through OrgSync. Within the four award categories are Individual Awards, Event Awards, Chapter Awards, and the Dean's Cup. These awards are judged by the effort and achievement conveyed through the applications of the chapter's work, so we encourage every chapter to apply for awards! The individual awards seek to highlight outstanding Chapter Advisor, House Director, Professor, Greek Man & Woman of the Year, and recognize alumni members with the Alumni Hall of Fame award. Event awards including outstanding Service and Philanthropy event and Educational Program, while Chapter Awards distinguish outstanding Membership Development, Member Wellness, Chapter Growth, and Academic Excellence. Finally, the Dean's Cup is given to one chapter in each council designated to highlight an organization who has made significant improvement from the previous year. Chapter Advisors are invited to the ceremony Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3pm in Jacob's Science Building, more information to come!

## Staff Spotlight | Nick Kehrwald, Dean of Students

Dean Kehrwald joined University of Kentucky in December 2014 having worked at University Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Kansas within student conduct roles. He previously held positions of Associate Dean and Interim Dean of Students before becoming Dean in September 2017. Dean of Students is a division of Student and Academic Life and hosts quite a few familiar organizations under its umbrella, including Student Organizations and Activities, Office of Student Conduct, Residence Life, and Fraternity and Sorority Life. The Dean of Students and related departments' mission is to provide educationally-purposeful programs and activities that can engage all students and support positive community behavior. In the changing landscape of higher education, the Dean of Students Office is forever evaluating how we serve all students, and create a safe, inclusive campus environment. Fraternity and Sorority Life is an important part of that mission in continuing to evaluate how it can connect with more students through Chapter and Council growth, providing and supporting Chapters / Councils with member education that mirrors the four pillars of student success of the University (Academic Success, Student Health and Wellness, Financial Stability, Belonging and Engagement), and reducing high-risk behavior.

## Chapter Feature | Phi Mu



Phi Mu is celebrating 166 years this week! Members of the National Panhellenic Council, Phi Mu was founded in 1852 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. They are recognized as the second oldest sorority in the nation! This women's organization provides personal and academic development, service to others, commitment to excellence and lifelong friendship through a shared tradition. Phi Mu promotes vibrant living through encouraging members to achieve their personal best, and our UK Rho Iota chapter is no exception! Since colonizing in 2011, they have flourished to a thriving chapter in our Greek community. Each year, they host BonnaMu, a spinoff of the music festival Bonnaroo, where the community participates in a *Battle of the Bands* type of philanthropy benefitting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. They also have members involved in 35+ other organizations around the campus and the Lexington community and strive to live their values of love, honor, and truth.

## Educational Topic | Member Recognition

by Robert Smith, FSL House Director

Every chapter wants to have members who doing their best academically. Sometimes, however, there are students who exceed well and those students who may struggle for one reason or another. One of the keys to chapter academic success is not only setting good goals with the chapter making sure that you are within the standards set by the organization to be considered active but also being educated on the tools and resources available to chapter members who may behaving difficulty. Here are some questions and strategies to consider.

*Who works with the undergraduate academic chairperson/officer?*

Consider having a member of the alumni serve as a resource for the academic chair/officer on goals, programming, and accountability. This is especially important when ensuring the student chair/officer is academically qualified to hold the position themselves and it also creates a relationship where the student has someone older to talk to who can present a different perspective.

*Create a culture of encouragement.*

Do members feel that their academic success is important? Does your chapter have and use an academic committee? Do chapter officers and advisors know how to have conversations centered on member academics? These are just a few of the questions that can help you create a chapter culture where academic success is of paramount importance.

*Educate yourself on programs and resources that the university offers to students.*

There are number of offices on campus that exist to help students academically. Check out the Transformative Learning [website](#) to see the wide variety of programs and seminars that the office can do for the chapter. These can range from constructing papers and presentations to assisting with particular subjects

Ultimately, it is up to the student to find his or her motivation for academic achievement. Please feel free to reach out to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life with questions or concerns. We will be happy to point you in the right direction or introduce you to someone who may be able to help you or your chapter.

## Policy Focus | Code of Conduct

Since Spring Break is next week, we wanted to provide a refresher on the Student Code of Conduct. The University is committed to promoting a safe, healthy, student-centered, and inclusive community. The student conduct process supports UK's goals, core values, and works to represent and embrace the rights of students. Students can be subject to Restorative Action plans if they exhibit or engage in any of the 27 violations of laws, published UK policies, rules, and regulations. Those violations can be viewed [here](#), along with all rights and responsibilities of a student.