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Fraternities, sororities open to having more diversity

ANA RUIZ BRICHTSON
Staff Writer

Baylor fraternities and sororities have been working to achieve as much diversity as possible within their organizations to help people from different cultures, races and ethnicities feel included.

Fraternity and sorority presidents and vice presidents opened up about their goals to create a more diverse culture and a more inclusive environment within their organizations.

Grant Williams, Houston junior and vice president of Delta Tau Delta, said there are many stereotypes regarding the failure of fraternities to be diverse. He said his fraternity has looked at the subject and understands that including other perspectives allows everyone to learn from one another and have a deeper sense of worldviews.

“I think that one of the greatest things is we’re constantly striving to improve and better our chapter in terms of diversity,” Williams said. “We’re always looking for ways to develop that constant and establish that culture.”

Williams estimated that over a third of the brothers in the fraternity come from different cultures.

Daniela Rivera, Guatemala sophomore and member of Alpha Phi, said diversity within her sorority has shown there are people from other cultures included in the organization.

“There’s not really a stereotype to define an A Phi girl,” Rivera said. “We’re all really different and super unique. That’s something I like because obviously, Alpha Phi looks for certain values, but they are more as a person — not the way you look or where you come from but the type of person you are.”

Rivera said it helped her to have a “big” who is half Puerto Rican and could help her get that sense of culture and feel more included.

Marcos Acosta, Waco senior and president of Omega Delta Phi, said his fraternity is the only Latino-based fraternity on campus. It has been at Baylor since 2003 and continually encourages Latinos to join and have the opportunity of meeting other people from their culture.

Although it is a Latino-based fraternity, Acosta said Omega Delta Phi has always been open to including people from other races, cultures and ethnicities. Mia Robertson, New Orleans senior and president of Sigma Gamma Rho, said the same thing goes for her sorority.

“Over the years, we’ve been opened to having members from all different backgrounds,” Robertson said.

Forche Bridges, Fresno senior and president of Zeta Phi Beta, said even though Zeta Phi Beta is a historically African American sorority, it is open to accepting people of different cultural backgrounds.

In Gamma Alpha Omega — a Latina-founded but not exclusive sorority — members take time to talk about their historical backgrounds.

“We’re always looking for ways to develop that constant and establish that culture. We’re always looking for ways to develop that constant and establish that culture.”

GRANT WILLIAMS | VICE PRESIDENT OF DELTA TAU DELTA

SISTERS FOR LIFE Gamma Alpha Omega is one sorority working to improve its diversity. Pictured here from left to right: Brownsville senior Sophia Garza, San Antonio senior Elizabeth Reyes, Baylor alumna Angelica Torres and San Antonio senior Emily Rager.

“We celebrate everyone’s cultures, even though they might not be Latin American,” Sophia Garza, Brownsville senior and treasurer and new member educator of Gamma Alpha Omega, said. “But currently, we do really have an emphasis on practicing each other’s cultures.”

Within the Greek Life vision at Baylor, there are five pillars - telling the story of Greek Life, celebrating diversity, advisor engagement, providing safe spaces to gather and continued training and advocacy - that have the purpose of creating change. This is currently part of Baylor’s mission to create transparency within these organizations.
Recruitment to hold virtual open house

LEXI MASARWEH  
Staff Writer

Virtual open house is returning for Panhellenic spring recruitment. The sessions will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Jan. 10 over Zoom.

"Open house is virtual this year because we want to make sure all PNMs [potential new members] and actives get a negative COVID-19 test result before participating in recruitment," said Demi York, Aurora, Colo., junior and recruitment director of Kappa Alpha Theta.

York said that only unvaccinated individuals will be tested and that she thinks virtual open house is best for everyone’s safety. However, she also said virtual open house might be tough on some PNMs.

"It’s hard to understand how the process works, especially with open house being virtual and only 15 minutes long per party, but it’ll give them a good idea as to how the rest of the week will go and build up anticipation and excitement," York said.

Alex Francis, Houston senior and vice president of membership and recruitment of Zeta Tau Alpha, said everyone is arriving on Jan. 8 and unvaccinated individuals will be tested on Jan. 9. Francis said that if only for open house day do we have the most PNMs coming into the building ... but also it gives us enough time to get those test results back to make sure no one has COVID-19 from traveling from home," Francis said.

Francis said that is why open house is over Zoom while the rest of recruitment is not. She also said she sees the pros and cons of virtual open house.

"I definitely think that this is the best option over the other ones that we were throwing around," Francis said. "One of the reasons behind this is because at Baylor — since we deferred rush — Panhellenic was kind of thinking that like this someone who will go and because the PNMs get to go to Welcome Back Bash and Howdy and Kappa Carnival. We have a lot of opportunities for them to meet girls in every sorority.”

"Not only for open house is critical for state schools because their rush is during the first week, so their students do not get many opportunities to meet members of different Greek organizations like Baylor’s students do.

"For us, as long as we give them a video — like a short little clip with the basics of our chapter like dues and our GPA — I think that is sufficient for open house day because most of them already know us at that point," Francis said.

Francis said virtual open house is standard for sororities across the board.

"Panhellenic shoots a video for us, so it’ll include details about our chapter," Francis said. "It’s the standard basic things that were covered in the video at last year’s recruitment. The recruitment chair and president talk, and then we will be doing pledge songs this year — which is really exciting but pre-recorded of course — and then we’ll probably just answer some frequently asked questions from PNMs."

Francis said the rest of recruitment being in person will make up for open house being virtual.

PNMs may refer to the Baylor University Panhellenic PNM Guidebook for more information regarding recruitment.

POINTER OF VIEW

Gender ratios at parties are obscene

MICHAEL HAAG  
Sports Writer

Have you tried attending a fraternity party only to find out that you are not allowed in because of gender ratios? The point of gender ratios is to maintain a higher number of women than men, often to the “benefit” of fraternity members. Doing this lessens their competition and gives them the “pick of the litter.” From what I have seen, fraternities often implement ratios as high as 5:1. The way I look at it, this is a disrespectful approach and is completely unethical.

Sometimes all you want to do on a weekend is let loose and enjoy the party that everyone is talking about, but that simply isn’t a possibility. Quite honestly, it’s not your fault, and there’s nothing you can do about it. It’s pretty common to see gender ratios at fraternity parties on campus, as it’s essentially the “norm.”

Having a group of friends helps, but if you are a guy with a bunch of other guy friends, then the likelihood of getting into one of these restricted parties is slim-to-none. In some instances, this causes guys to bring girls into their friend groups, which is good in theory; however, a more natural integration of would be better — just not becoming friends with girls to be able to get into parties that have gender ratios.

Fraternities have every right to limit who they let into their parties. I am not disputing that. The ethics of gender ratios are what bother me the most, as gender ratios propose an objectifiable belief imposed on women. Looking at it from the outside, I feel as if gender ratios are a way for fraternity members to “get more girls” without the concern of competition. Nonetheless, this may not be the case, and I may be ignorant to some other reasoning behind it, such as safety.

Amid gender ratios and even some allegations against certain fraternities, tens of people are still out and about attending parties. The old rule of “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” can be applied to the logic of gender ratios. Fraternity parties aren’t losing attendees, and they’re getting more women than men, making it a win-win for the hosts.

Personally, I do not party willingly. Gender ratios do not affect me, but I know many people who would be directly impacted by them. While gender ratios are unethical and disrespectful, fraternities do what they want to ensure the environment of their choosing, whether that’s female- or male-dominated. They have every right to do what they want, but it is up to us to make choices on how we react in order to change what they do or create something better.
Official sorority recruitment is coming

MARIAH BENNETT
Staff Writer

Baylor’s Panhellenic sorority recruitment registration ends at 11:59 p.m. Dec. 5. Spring 2022 recruitment week, also known as rush week, begins on Jan. 9, but preparation and organization starts months in advance for potential new members, also known as PNMs.

PNM orientation is on Jan. 10, and recruitment rounds are four days long. The first day is Open House, the second is Philanthropy, the third is Sisterhood and the fourth is Preference Day. PNMs receive their bids on Jan. 15.

There are nine Panhellenic sororities at Baylor: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Phi, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Pi Beta Phi and Zeta Tau Alpha.

Each day, PNMs visit fewer sororities. They start with nine and then go down to seven, five and two. This is because of Baylor’s mutual selection recruitment, meaning both sororities and PNMs have the opportunity to speak to who they would like to see the following day of recruitment, taking in both preferences.

Before recruitment, PNMs need to submit their registration. While Baylor Panhellenic doesn’t require letters of recommendation, individual sororities may have their own requirements.

Letters of recommendation are written by alumnae of a sorority and recommend a woman for membership. While there are no page limits or specific information requirements, letters of recommendation from the Baylor University Panhellenic PNM guidebook are one page and can include a person’s name, hometown, GPA, extracurriculars, hobbies, employment, leadership positions and community involvement.

Hallie Conrad, Orange County, Calif., senior and active member of Alpha Phi, said that during rush week, a PNMs time to shine is when she is being asked questions.

“Talk about things you’re interested in,” Conrad said. “I talked about photography just because I’m a very artistic person. It’s my way of gravitating to other parts of myself that, in my opinion, are interesting.”

Lucy Sandoval, San Diego, Calif., junior and active member of Zeta Tau Alpha, said her best tip for a PNMs is to be herself but also to try to be outgoing.

“Just try your best to be as outgoing as you can be, just so that you’re talking to as many girls as you can,” Sandoval said.

Trina Wilson, Fort Worth senior and active member of Alpha Delta Pi, said a PNMs should make connections early on to see where she fits best.

“Getting to have those conversations and make those connections was very helpful in making me feel at home and a lot less tense,” Wilson said.

Conrad said Open House is a baseline day when sororities give surface-level information, including their values and philanthropy. After the first day, a PNMs is asked to cut a number of sororities from her selections.

Next is Philanthropy Day, when sororities speak more in depth about their philanthropies and events, including community service and fundraising projects.

Conrad said Philanthropy Day was the most important round to her, as her sorority’s philanthropy had more personal significance.

Conrad said Sisterhood Day is about getting to know the individual girl, in addition to exploring sororities’ values, sisterhood and bonding events.

Conrad said Preference Day can lead to deeply personal conversation, although it depends on the girl.

“You’re trying to be very empathetic to what their needs are and what’s important to them,” Conrad said. “Rush is 100% like a speed-dating process.”

Conrad said that during rush, a PNMs should bring water and stay hydrated. Wilson said that throughout the week, she brought a notebook to take notes in, which is fun to look back on over the years. Wilson also said not to panic about outfits for rounds and that there are recommendations in the PNMs guidebook.

“At the end of the day, as long as you look nice and you’re presenting your best self, it’s going to be fine,” Wilson said. “It’s more important what you bring to the table as a person rather than what’s on the outside.”

Interfraternity Council (IFC)

Alpha Tau Omega
Philanthropy: CoHope
Instagram: @ato_baylor

Beta Theta Pi
Philanthropy: Mission Waco
Instagram: @betabaylor

Beta Upsilon Chi
Philanthropy: Living Water
Instagram: @baylorbyx

Delta Tau Delta
Philanthropy: JDRF- Type 1 diabetes
Instagram: @baylorldelt

Kappa Alpha Order
Philanthropy: Muscular Dystrophy Association
Instagram: @kappaalphabaylor

Kappa Phi
Philanthropy: The Ability Experience
Instagram: @baylor_kapp

Kappa Sigma
Philanthropy: Veterans One Stop
Instagram: @baylor_kappasigma

Kappa Delta
Philanthropy: United Service Organization
Instagram: @baylor_fiji

Pi Kappa Phi
Philanthropy: The Ability Experience
Instagram: @baylor_kapp

Sigma Chi
Philanthropy: Huntsman Cancer Institute
Instagram: @baylor_sigmachi

Sigma Phi Epsilon
Philanthropy: Fisher House
Instagram: @baysigep

Sigma Delta Tau
Philanthropy: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Instagram: @baylor_tke

Pi Beta Phi
Philanthropy: Breast Cancer Education and Awareness
Instagram: @baylorzta

Panhellenic Council (PHC)

Alpha Chi Omega
Philanthropy: Waco Family Abuse Center
Instagram: @alphachibaylor

Alpha Delta Pi
Philanthropy: Ronald McDonald House Charities
Instagram: @adpi.baylor

Alpha Phi
Philanthropy: Women’s heart health
Instagram: @alphaphi.baylor

Chi Omega
Philanthropy: Make-A-Wish North Texas Foundation
Instagram: @chiomega.baylor

Delta Delta Delta
Philanthropy: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Instagram: @trideltabaylor

Kappa Alpha Theta
Philanthropy: CASA
Instagram: @thetabaylor

Kappa Kappa Gamma
Philanthropy: Reading Is Fundamental
Instagram: @kkgbaylor

Pi Beta Phi
Philanthropy: Read > Lead > Achieve®
Instagram: @pibi_baylor

Zeta Tau Alpha
Philanthropy: Breast Cancer Education and Awareness
Instagram: @baylorzta
How to make baskets on a budget

AVA DUNWOODY
Editor-in-Chief

There’s nothing like the joy of taking in a "little,” but the stress of making the perfect baskets for basket week can sometimes overshadow it. Have no fear. Here are three tips from a self-proclaimed basket expert that will ensure your little will feel loved and spoiled this upcoming big/little season.

1. Shop smarter, not harder

One of my biggest concerns when it came to basket week was the cost. I had heard about people spending hundreds of dollars on baskets and while I wished I could, that just wasn’t in my budget. So what did I do? I went to Dollar Tree, Five Below and other discount stores to buy the bulk of my items. Snacks, candy, decorations, balloons, stuffed animals and more were all available at a reasonable price. I started shopping early (like, before recruitment) so I could spread out my spending and avoid breaking the bank all at once. That way, when it was time to pull everything out of my closet and put the baskets together, I was more ready than I thought and I didn’t have to buy as much. I do, however, recommend saving up for a few big-ticket items. I made sure each basket had at least one nice sweatshirt and a fun Delta Delta Delta item like a cup, earrings, key chains or flags from Spice Village, which were on the pricier side. When you balance out the high-cost and the low-cost items, baskets come together quickly and for a much more affordable price.

2. There’s no shame in the hand-me-down game

Hand-me-downs are going to be your best friend. There’s only so much you can buy new and when it comes down to it, there is a lot of space at the bottom of the baskets. If you look at mine, all the fun items like cups, snacks, stickers and decorations are at the top. If the whole basket was filled with top-tier items, the baskets would be much smaller and I would have no money. Don’t be afraid to use those old sorority shirts tucked away in your closet to fill the bottom. Ask your big for any of her extras and look out for chapter-wide pass downs where you can get more for cheap. Maybe they aren’t the cutest shirts, but they are a glimpse into the sorority’s past life and are a part of the basket tradition. To make it more fun to open, tuck away some extra treats in the shirts on the bottom for a surprise.

3. Add a little bit of *spice*

Don’t forget to include family traditions. For example, one of the traditions in my family is to pass down an H-E-B shopping basket. Other families have special items they hold on to, like garden gnomes or tiaras. Don’t have any traditions? Make one. Something I added to my family tradition was a scrapbook so we could keep track of our family lineage. I used a dollar store binder and simply printed out a page I made on Canva.com about me and added it in. Now it’s my little’s turn to do the same and in all the years to come, new family members can flip back and see who they are related to. I also tried to stick to a color theme each day and build up the week by making baskets a little bigger every time.

Use these three tips to get started on your little-loving baskets and you’re sure to make her feel special. Don’t forget, though, that it doesn’t really matter what your baskets look like. She’s going to be your little, meaning she’s here for you. One week of baskets isn’t going to make or break your friendship, so let go of the stress and remember to have fun with it. All the funny packs and Comfort Colors in the world couldn’t replace the special bond you’ll share as big and little.

Photos Courtesy of Ava Dunwoody

DAY 1 Ava Dunwoody (left) surprises her “little,” Dallas sophomore Catherine Leftwich with a basket on Big/Little Reveal Day.

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5
In 1906, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the first Greek-letter organization for African American men, was founded at Cornell University. Two years later, the first Greek-letter sorority for African American women, Alpha Kappa Alpha, was founded at Howard University.

Over 100 years later, these organizations are still thriving at colleges across the nation, providing a space to celebrate African American culture and serve communities. Today, nine historically Black fraternities and sororities constitute the National Pan-Hellenic Council, known as the “Divine Nine.”

“Not only are we primarily focused on being aware of what’s going on in the community, but we’re very focused on putting action behind that,” Bridges said. She said Zeta Phi Beta has partnered with many of the NPHC groups are much smaller and tight-knit brotherhood.

"Being a part of the NPHC was founded in 1930 by black students. Over 100 years later, these organizations give back to Waco community."

"A lot of times it's hard to see Black men doing big things like that. If you can't see it, you can't picture yourself doing it. Back at home, I didn't have any Black male role models. So to be able to see people like me doing things that I aspire to do, that was very helpful."

"I was always raised to attend to others, give to others what you don't have. You always just provide what you can and help others in any way," Martin said. "I was always raised to attend to others, give to others what you don't have. You always just provide what you can and help others in any way," Martin said. "I also joined because I wanted to develop myself as a Black man, learn more about myself and be more involved in the Black community."

"We're at a PWI, so there's not a lot of African American people here. Even with all the ones that are here, not everyone is interested in Greek life. So it's a matter of finding those who are interested and letting them know about us," Burrage-Burton said. "If somebody wants to join or attend to join the organization, they would have to do their research beforehand and then come to get to know us as members and as people so they can learn what [the group] is about."

Although the organizations are historically Black, Burrage-Burton said they are open to people of all races, and one of the charter members of the Tau Alpha chapter was white. Martin said her time in AKA was a lot of work behind the scenes just putting on the events. “Being a part of the NPHC, we represent a lot of people of a different skin color is cool,” Deutsch said. “Something that I learned when I joined is that not every great man is a Sigma, but every Sigma is a great man.”

"Divine Nine give back to Waco community."

"A common thought is that you have to be Black to join us, and you don't. You can be anybody," Deutsch said. "It's a historically Black fraternity because back in 1914, a lot of Black people in college weren't allowed to join fraternities and sororities that were already existing. So they made their own, and they've lasted the test of time."
## Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sorority/Sorority Chapter</th>
<th>Fraternity/Fraternity Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Chapter: Gamma</td>
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<td>Chapter: Nu</td>
<td>Chapter: Alpha Eta</td>
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## National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

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## Local Organizations

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<td>Kappa Omega Tau</td>
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## 2021-2022 PHC Chapter Dues

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Information Courtesy of Panhellenic PNM Guidebook for 2021-2022 Spring Recruitment

Want to learn more about Baylor Greek Life or sign up for recruitment? Scan here!
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