Alumni Spotlight:
Mark Vanyo

This month we would like to introduce Mark Vanyo, Tau Kappa Epsilon alum. After graduating from MSUM with a major in Health and Physical Education and minors in business and coaching, Mark was a military policeman, health and physical education teacher, coach, and then he went into real estate. He is currently the President of Coldwell Banker First Realty of North Dakota.

While in Tau Kappa Epsilon, Mark served as the pledge trainer by providing the pledges with different assignments and tests such as how to act appropriately in formal situations, proper etiquette, and MSUM and fraternity history. He was also involved with student senate and other committees on campus.

Tau Kappa Epsilon was a thriving fraternity. “When we bought our house, you were not allowed to have alcohol in the house, and there was no hazing. We were more about finding projects on campus and in the neighborhood to help with.”

One of his fondest memories includes the Greek Weeks that they would hold three times a year. “SongFest had amazing participation, and a lot of people came to see it. There would be big football guys dancing and singing at SongFest, and then ice sculpture competitions with sculptures so large you could walk into them. It was very fun.” Mark also enjoyed the time spent at Nemzek Hall. “Our basketball team was so good that we would go in dressing goofy, banging on garbage can lids. I’ll always remember the participation at those events.”

Valuable friendships are a large reward of Greek Life. “You had 20-40 people that you were really close to, because you spent time with them in the house. Today, the people I hunt and fish with, and attend their kid’s weddings are all people from TKE. They are still my best friends.” Mark said that they still have reunions and plans to possibly start up the fraternity again. He is also connected to Greek Life in that his wife is a Gamma Phi. His involvement with past fraternity members is strong today due to those friendships. “We’ve been fishing

Did you know...

- 85% of the Fortune 500 key executives are Greek.
- Greeks head 86% of the nation’s 50 largest corporations.
- 76% of Who’s Who in America are Greek.
- Both women elected to the U.S Supreme Court were sorority members.
- 70% of the U.S. Presidents’ cabinet members since 1900 have been Greek.
Student Spotlight:
Marisa Gonzalez

This month’s Student Spotlight is on Marisa Gonzalez, a member of Delta Zeta at MSUM. Marisa is a senior, majoring in Social Work. She will graduate in the Fall of 2011.

Marisa has served as the Academics and Internal Social Chair. As the Academic Chair, she is responsible for reporting grades to Nationals, hosting study nights, and helping members to succeed academically. As the Internal Social Chair she was responsible for planning and hosting the Annual Killarney Ball which consists of a formal dinner and dance.

When asked why students should “Go Greek” Marisa responded, “Going Greek has really changed my college experience in a positive way. I am very involved in campus functions and activities; I have learned how to utilize campus and community resources; and it has given me a very supportive network of friends. In my opinion, anyone who joins Delta Zeta, or any Greek house, has the opportunity to have these same experiences.”

The Delta Zetas recently held the “Pie a Delta Zeta” event at their house. The event was held in order to raise money to sponsor the education of a young woman in Uganda. “This event really showed me the power that Greek Life has because we received so much support from MSUM faculty, students, and NDSU Greeks. We were able to raise well over $200, which is enough to pay for her room and board for an entire school year. It was my idea to have this particular event, and my main thought after it was over was that had I not be in Delta Zeta, I would never have been able to carry it out so successfully.”

Alumni Spotlight continued...

Martha “Mark” Dalby, TKE

Mark gained valuable life skills from his experiences in Greek Life and at MSUM, “I truly believe that the connections and people skills that I learned while here at MSUM and in the fraternity helped me in my career. It was truly an education within the education of the university.”

Fraternity life taught Mark to be an involved citizen. “I’ve kept my involvement both here at MSUM and within the community since I’ve graduated. It was a stepping stone.” Mark has been involved with DragonFire for 28 years, the Alumni Foundation Board for 9 years (including one year serving as President), and he is currently serving on the Athletic Advisory Committee. He has also served as President of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Association of Realtors, Treasurer and President of the Minnesota State Association of Realtors, and as a board member of the National Association of Realtors.

When asked if he had any recommendations for students interested in Greek Life, Mark responded, “Do it, and pick the right one for you. They aren’t all the same. Don’t make it such a huge issue, just do it.” He also wants students to know “There are many opportunities for philanthropy. We teach and encourage involvement. We also want members to get good grades and graduate on time. You are primarily here for an education, and we keep tabs on it.”