Greek Life Exposed

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Alumni Spotlight:
Craig Kittelson

This month we would like to introduce Craig Kittelson, a Sigma Tau Gamma alumnus from MSUM. Craig is now the CFO and Vice President of Finance at Augustana Care, a non-profit senior health care corporation in the Twin Cities.

Craig was very involved with Greek Life. He served as treasurer, secretary, and he sat on the Inter Greek Council. In addition to holding offices, Craig was quite involved with a fundraising event called SongFest. SongFest was an annual event where each organization on campus had to put together a fifteen-minute song and dance around whatever the theme was for that year. All proceeds went to scholarships. Organizing this event was one of Craig’s favorite things to do in Greek Life because it would usually sell out, and it was entertaining to watch all the funny skits and dances.

When asked what the best part about being in a fraternity is, Craig responded, “The friends that I made.

There is a group of us that still get together for fishing opener, a golf tournament, and trips. We thoroughly enjoyed each other’s company then, and we still get along today.” Craig relates a funny story from a fishing trip where some of the guys tried to buy frozen fish and pass them off as ones that they had caught. Craig and the others caught on right away. “We know them too well,” he laughed.

Craig pointed out current issues with Greek Life stereotypes, “It’s not all about parties, and that is a popular misconception. We would have contests to see who had the highest GPA. If you had your head on straight, and realized that there was a balance between social and academic life, then you did real well.” He also mentioned that many of the men in his fraternity were extremely good role models and went on to graduate school and good careers.

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Did You Know...

The Panhellenic Council is a student organization on campus that is comprised of elected members of Gamma Phi Beta and Delta Zeta. The Panhellenic Association runs formal recruitment. This organization also participates in various philanthropic events throughout the year.
Student Spotlight: Katie Johnson

This month we would like to introduce Katie Johnson of Delta Zeta. Katie is currently a junior at MSUM, majoring in computer information technology.

Katie is Vice President of New Member Education and House Manager for Delta Zeta. Her mission as VP of New Member Education is to be available, be organized, and be passionate. “I want them [new recruits] to realize that one only gets out of Delta Zeta what they put in, and that if you give her your best...your very best self, she has so much to give in return. It’s my passion for the chapter that will really start that flame burning deep within the new members so that one day, they may become thriving, involved, and beautiful active members.”

When asked why college students should “Go Greek,” Katie responded, “I’m going to be honest; I was the last person who even considered Greek Life.” She had the impression that it was the stereotypical contest for popularity, but she soon realized she was wrong.

“I love my sisters, and I wouldn’t trade the experiences and opportunities Greek Life has given me for the world.”

“Greek life teaches us the importance of community and working together towards a common goal. I think students should join Greek Life, not just for the social aspects of the organizations, but to help benefit the community we live in, and to see the world a bit differently.”

There are many exciting activities coming up in Delta Zeta. They have their Annual Pancake Feed on April 14th. They are also planning a “Pie a DZ” event, which will benefit Dr. Karen Brandon, a professor at MSUM, and her goal to help send a woman in Africa to school.

Katie also added, “I know that this area seems to have a negative image of Greek Life, so I’d like to encourage students who may be interested to talk to either the women of Delta Zeta or Gamma Phi Beta, Becky Boyle Jones (Greek Life Advisor for the Panhellenic Council), or Veronica Michael (Delta Zeta Advisor) to really get the scoop. If you’d like more information on Delta Zeta, please feel free to contact us at dzmsum@gmail.com. I love my sisters, and I wouldn’t trade the experiences and opportunities Greek Life has given me for the world.”

Alumni Spotlight continued...

When asked about advice for students thinking to join Greek Life, Craig recommended, “Visit all the houses and get a feel for them, because you learn what their strengths are. Also, check out their nationals websites, because they tell you on there exactly what type of students they are looking for.”

Craig has learned a lot from his Greek Life experience. “Being involved in all kinds of things prepared me for being involved in several different professional organizations. It helped me to become a better participant. I may not have had that interest if I hadn’t gone there [Sigma Tau Gamma].” He also gained skills from both MSUM and Greek Life that prepared him for his career such as organization, leadership, and communication.

“The biggest advantage of Greek Life is maintaining all of the friendships.” He mentioned that just recently he had been speaking with his daughter’s softball coach when he learned that the coach had been in his freshman dorm and that they knew each other from Greek Life. He is still making connections after all these years.